



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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# CELL NUMBER PORTABILITY CONFIRMED FOR 2022

*Story on Page 2*



The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment received 10,800 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from the US on Tuesday. The shipment was received by Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill. Photo credit: Kavi Roberts/ Pointville Communications Inc.

# Mobile number portability a reality in 2022

Antigua and Barbuda is expected to achieve mobile number portability later this year.

This fulfils a government commitment to make this service a reality after the move was announced a few years ago.

However, no specific date was given for the introduction of the feature by Telecommunications Minister Melford Nicholas who reported to the parliament during yesterday's budget debate that plans to finalise the arrangement are in motion.

Mobile number portability will allow customers to switch telecommunications service providers, without having to change their mobile number.

"We would have signed a new agreement with DIGICEL for them to have a continuation of their license.

"We are in discussions currently with FLOW, and



Telecommunications Minister Melford Nicholas

at the end of it all, there is an obligation within those two licenses offered for them to comport with the requirements for mobile number portability," Nich-

olas said.

While he did not state the exact reason for the delay, it is believed that the renewal of operating licenses for the two compa-

nies may be a factor.

Insiders suggest that the renegotiation process has not been entirely smooth.

St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, as member states of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority achieved mobile number portability in 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda was not held to that deadline since it only has observer status with the regulatory body.

The telecommunications minister said the consultant contractor retained to facilitate the process projects it will be completed sometime in 2022.

Elsewhere in the region, customers of mobile phone companies in Trinidad and Tobago (2015) and Jamaica (2016) can retain their numbers when changing providers.

Wed 16 | Day

82°



21%

E 18 mph

Partly cloudy skies. High 82F. Winds E at 15 to 25 mph.



Humidity  
69%



UV Index  
10 of 10



Sunrise  
6:32 am



Sunset  
6:09 pm

Wed 16 | Night

74°



14%

ENE 17 mph

A mostly clear sky. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.



Humidity  
75%



UV Index  
0 of 10



Moonrise  
6:19 pm



Moonset  
6:38 am

○ Full Moon

# Maria Browne chooses high road following disparaging remarks

St. John's Rural East MP Maria Bird-Browne has shrugged off a recent verbal attack against her by a supporter of the main opposition United Progressive Party.

Last week, the man used the party's radio station to make disparaging remarks while questioning the housing minister's intellectual capacity.

The comments have drawn criticism, specifically from the St. John's Rural East Branch of the ABLP, who stoutly defended their representative.

Minister Maria Bird-Browne addressed the issue for the first time on Monday morning during an appearance on state television.

Bird-Browne said instead of being bogged down, she is focusing on fulfilling her mandate.

"My purpose is far beyond any name calling or any word throwing that they can do," she noted. "I find gratification in helping people and in doing my job, and I try my best to stay focused."



*St. John's Rural East MP Maria Bird-Browne*

She urged those who may be offended by the remarks made to use it as motivation, pointing out that once an individual knows their worth, no amount of insults can dilute it.

According to the parliamentarian, the unpleasant incident highlights the issue of misogyny in society.

"It seems as though some people may be intimidated by the glass ceilings that are being shattered in this day and age and in our own country, but I don't want any young female or girl hearing these things to be discouraged by it," the minister concluded.

My bank keeps me **on top.**



# St. Paul's Empowerment Centre officially opens

The St. Paul's Empowerment Centre, the brain-child of MP for the area, E. P. Chet Greene, formally opened its doors over the weekend.

The multipurpose facility was designed to provide a number of human resource building classes and computer and internet access at no cost to members of the community along with other community building programmes.

During the opening ceremony and tour on Saturday, Minister Greene explained

the purpose of the new facility.

"In the centre, we have here, a computer IT centre, which is the most functional room in the building because it doubles up into a training centre, a hurricane shelter and the Empowerment Centre, as we call it, because there is where just about every class you can think of will be conducted," said Greene.

Also speaking at the event was Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications & Technol-



MP for St. Paul's, E. P. Chet Greene

ogy, Melford Nicholas.

He expressed pleasure in the fact that school aged children in the St. Paul's constituency will have free

access to the IT room as a place for study and research.

"It is my expectation when we do the tour, Chet, that I would see this place become a hub for IT for students who are still struggling with access to the internet. They should be able to come here with their homework, and should be able to come here and have free access to internet," said Nicholas.

MP Greene indicated that a schedule will be published shortly with the available programmes on offer along with registration details.



The St. Paul's Empowerment Centre's IT room

## IMF staff concludes virtual visit to Antigua and Barbuda

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Varapat Chensavasdijai, met virtually with the authorities of Antigua and Barbuda during February 7-11, 2022 to discuss recent economic developments and policy priorities.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr.

Chensavasdijai issued the following statement:

"Antigua and Barbuda's economy is rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic. Real GDP growth is estimated at 4.8 percent in 2021, following a sharp contraction of 20.2 percent in 2020.

"A sustained recovery in tourism and construction activity is expected to underpin real output growth of 7 percent in 2022. Two-thirds of the population have been fully vaccinated, which is among the highest rates in the Caribbean. However, a prolonged pan-

*cont'd on pg 5*

*cont'd from pg 4*

demic (e.g., due to the emergence of new virus variants) and supply chain disruptions could put a drag on the recovery at the same time as wage and price pressures build.

“The government is determined to meet the targets under its medium-term fiscal strategy to bring public debt-to-GDP to under 70 percent by 2030. Despite the pandemic, fiscal consolidation resumed in 2021 and the primary deficit narrowed to 1.8 percent of GDP (from 3.9 percent in 2020) reflecting domestic revenue mobilization, external grants, and the reprioritization of spending.

“The 2022 budget envisages a zero primary balance, with an ambitious capital spending plan financed by higher revenues, grants and borrowing.

“The uncertain revenue outlook underscores the need to streamline tax exemptions, strengthen tax compliance, and fully implement tax and customs administration reforms. It will also be important to assess the costs and benefits of the current energy pricing

mechanisms given rising international oil prices. Containing spending on wages and transfers and improving public financial management will be essential. In addition, the authorities should prioritize clearing arrears to suppliers and creditors while avoiding the accumulation of new arrears.

“The financial sector is showing signs of recovery. Banks are well-capitalized and liquid, but credit growth has been slow, particularly to the household sector. Loans under moratoria at banks and credit unions have declined significantly in 2021 and nonperforming loan ratios have remained stable. Nonetheless, supervisors should closely monitor asset quality and ensure that loan loss provisioning is proportional to credit quality risks, especially at credit unions.

“Antigua and Barbuda is highly susceptible to climate change and natural disasters, and continues to face structural challenges related to the high costs of reconstruction from Hurricane Irma and limited access to affordable home insurance against

disasters. The National Adaptation Plan to build climate resilience is expected to be completed by year-end. There are ongoing initiatives to make homes and public infrastructure more disaster-resilient, as well as to invest in renewable energy. The Blue Economy Plan identifies new sustainable

sectors and opportunities to diversify the economy; capacity building and financing will be necessary to realize the plan’s objectives.

“The mission would like to thank the authorities and all our other counterparts for their close collaboration and for the candid and productive discussions.”

Form RLNC 6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34  
of the  
Act

**REGISTRATION SECTION**      **BLOCK**      **PARCELS**

Potters & Belmont      613-1989B      79

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE  
LOST OR DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE**

**TAKE NOTICE** that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 17th day of January 2022 by **IDONA JACOBS and CASWALL JACOBS**, both of Scotts Hill in the Parish of St. John, in the Island of Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda for the replacement of a Land Certificate No. 2102/86 dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1986 and issued to the said **IDONA JACOBS and CASWALL JACOBS** the applicants herein and being the registered Proprietors of the above-mentioned piece or parcel of Land, which Land Certificate has been lost or destroyed.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the 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 a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice

Dated this 26th day of January 2022

  
Registrar of Lands

LAND REGISTRY  
JAN 17 2022  
11:42  
Antigua and Barbuda

LAND REGISTRY  
Antigua & Barbuda

My bank keeps  
me **on top.**

- ✓ On top of my finances
- ✓ On top of my bills
- ✓ On top of the technology



# Strong pre-dawn earthquake rocks Antigua and Barbuda

Hundreds of people were jolted from sleep in the wee hours of Tuesday when a strong earthquake rocked Antigua. The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre reported that the epicentre of the magnitude 5.0 quake that hit at 4:03am was located 69 km south east of Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Guadeloupe, which was nearest to the epicentre of the quake, St. Kitts and Nevis and Montserrat were also affected.

There have been no reports of injuries or property damage in any of the impacted countries.

## Magnitude 5.0 earthquake

Affected countries: Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda

60 km from Antigua and Barbuda - 4:03 AM

St Kitts  
& Nevis

Antigua and  
Barbuda

Montserrat

Guadeloupe

Basse-Terre

In the last 30 days a total of 68 earthquakes have been recorded in the region.

Tuesday's earthquake

is the second strongest recorded this year. The strongest quake on record so far in 2022, magnitude 5.2,

took place on 29th January at 9:10am off the coast of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean Sea.



## Everything You Need to Know About Renewing Your Driver's License

### REQUIREMENT

-  Expired Driver's License
-  Passport

**Please note!**

The Antigua and Barbuda Driver's License now features **COUNTRY OF BIRTH**. As such each Driver's License holder is therefore required to **BRING ALONG YOUR VALID PASSPORT** upon your next Driver's License renewal date.



## STOP

look both ways.

## WAIT

watch for drivers.

## GO SLOW

proceed with caution.

*Be Alert. Don't Get Hurt.*



## TIME TO RENEW



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

## ABTA launches 'your favourite romantic spaces' contest

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has this week, launched a new romance campaign 'Love & Wanderlust'.

The 'Love & Wanderlust' campaign comes as the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority begins to roll out 2022 marketing programmes across their four pillars: Romance, Yachting and Sailing, Wellness and Heritage and Culture.

Special Projects and Events Manager for the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and Romance Lead Shermain Jeremy said: "with the pandemic affecting the weddings and honeymoons market substantially over the past two years, weddings and honeymoons, a US\$1.6 billion-dollar industry is poised for growth in 2022, and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority intends to position the destination as the premier choice for couples."

"The 'Love and Wanderlust' campaign will become the visual identity for Antigua and Barbuda's romance prod-

uct, playing on the idea that being in love, and the love for travel are intrinsically connected, as they both exude a feeling of euphoria. Depicting Antigua and Barbuda as the perfect fairy-tale dreamscape for two people in love, or couples who wish to get married or renew their vows, is the focus of the campaign."

A new global Facebook Timeline Contest 'Your Favourite Romantic Spaces', kicks off the first phase of the campaign. The contest launched on the Antigua Barbuda Romance Facebook page on Valentine's Day.

'Your Favourite Romantic Spaces' is a user generated content-type activation allowing lovers of Antigua and Barbuda from across the globe to post a photo or video of their most romantic space, place or experience on the twin-islands. The contest invites couples to share their romantic stories through videos and photos, sparking further awareness of the destination as the perfect dreamscape for couples.



"Highlighting the destination's most unique and alluring attributes will be the foundation of the campaign. We don't want to tell Antigua and Barbuda's love stories on our own, we want persons who have personally experienced it to share that experience with us through this contest by posting their photos and videos on the AntiguaBarbudaRomance page timeline", noted Jeremy.

Persons who wish to

share their favourite romantic spaces on Antigua and Barbuda, can click on the post link here to enter: <https://www.facebook.com/antiguabarbudaromance/posts/3090842157797560>. Persons 18 and older from across the globe can enter by replying to the post with a photo or video. The most liked photo and most watched video wins a US\$100 amazon gift card each.

The contest ends on March 28 2022.

My life is online  
and so is **my bank.**





# British High Commission launches Project with Barbuda Council

As the UK continues to strengthen its partnership with Antigua and Barbuda, the British High Commission works with many local government and community-based organisations to support education, increase climate action response, diversify the economy, reinforce border control and share resources to improve the lives of Antiguan and Barbudans.

On Monday the Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Ms. Lindsay Thompson, donated equipment valued at more than EC\$30,000 to the Barbuda Council to strengthen the island's agricultural pro-

gramme.

Barbuda in the past was known for its ability to produce high-grade quality peanuts. However, due to infrastructural damage caused by hurricane Irma, the island has not been able to resume planting this crop. The equipment that was donated will mitigate the hindrances and provide another revenue channel to the island.

During the handover that was held at the Community Centre in Barbuda, Ms Thompson noted, "I'm delighted we are able to support the people of Barbuda with their agricultural objectives and hope this project puts the



Resident British Commissioner, H. E. Lindsay Thompson and Fabian Jones, Chairman of Agriculture on Barbuda Council, with some of the donated equipment.

island back on the map for excellent local produce".

On hand to receive the donation from the British High Commissioner was Chairman of the Council, Mackenzie Frank, and the recently appointed Chairman of Agriculture, Fabian Jones.

The Chairman of Council thanked Ms Thompson for the generous donation of the British government to the people of Barbuda. He also said, "I hope this will be the beginning of a very constructive relationship as we step into the future"

## 582 active COVID-19 cases

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed eleven (11) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 9th February, 2022 at 6pm.

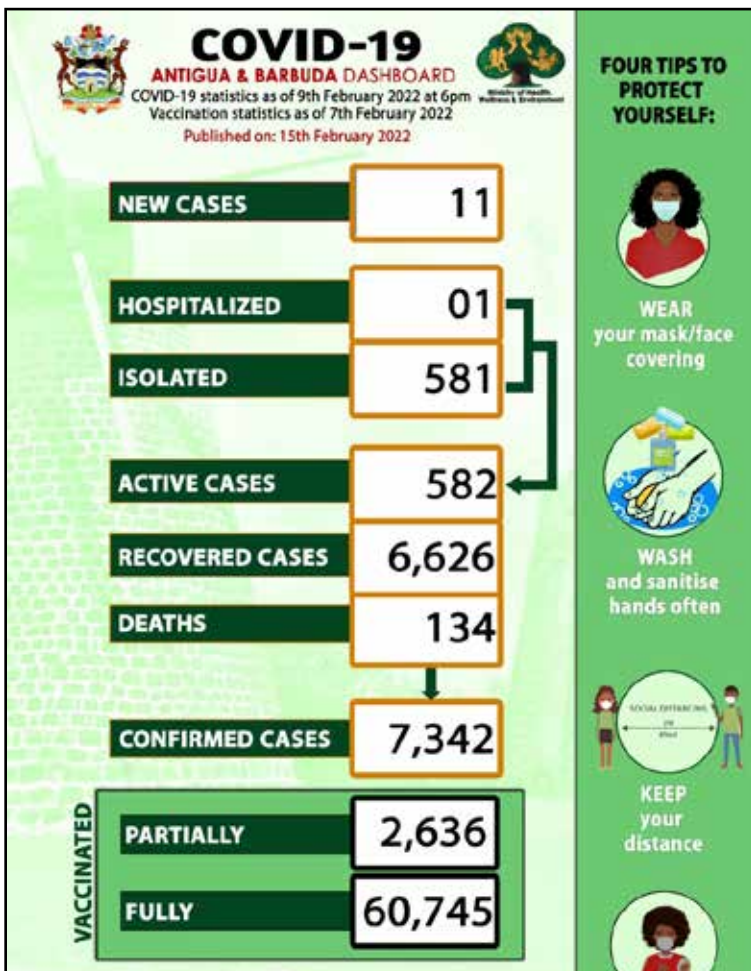
Eighty-two (82) samples were processed.

Ten (10) recovered cases

were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven thousand three hundred and forty-two (7,342); which is inclusive of five hundred and eighty-two (582) active cases.

There is one (1) hospitalised case; one (1) moderate.





## St. Lucia's police have confirmed three dead, five injured during Coolie Town gun violence

St. Lucia Times - Saint Lucia police have confirmed that three people died, and five others, including an off-duty police officer, sustained injuries in a hail of gunfire at Coolie Town, Marigot, on Sunday night.

Police listed those who died as:

Janitor – Versia Alexander, 46 of China Town, Marigot.

Store Attendant – Tamara Edmund, 27, of Barre Denis

Deejay – Kervin Joseph of Fond Mange

Officers responded to the Coolie Town shooting report about 8:30 pm and said that initial reports indicate the incident involved more than one assailant.

At Monday's news conference, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF) extended sincere condolences to the relatives, friends, and others impacted by the tragedy and disclosed that the organisation would be providing psycho-social support to those affected, including responding law enforcement officers.



Shooting victims. [Photo credit: St. Lucia Times]

Deputy Police Commissioner Wayne Charlery said there's a plan to prevent any further escalation in the gun violence.

"We are now relying heavily on the Marigot Community to give us the necessary support so what we can restore a semblance of a safe community in Marigot by limiting the ability of

the criminals to operate and the opportunities available to them," Charlery disclosed.

Police Commissioner Milton Desir, asserting that to whom much is given, much is expected, noted that despite the Coolie Town incident, there has been constant police action to bring about crime reduction.

## Landscaper charged for gruesome murder in Pearls, Grenada

Loop - A man has been arrested and charged in connection with Grenada's first homicide for 2022 which resulted in the chilling death of an elderly man at Pearls, St. Andrew.

Kelly Daniel, 27, a landscaper of Pearls, St Andrew has been charged with Non-Capital Murder.

He appeared at the

Grenville Magistrate's Court yesterday, February 15.

On February 12, a 79-year-old man of Pearls was found murdered. While police did not indicate how he died, local reports indicate he was severely chopped which led to parts of his body being dismembered.



# Convicted Surinamese ex-minister may seek justice at IAHRC

CMC - Former Finance Minister Gillmore Hoefdraad says he is looking towards the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) to appeal his 12-year conviction, claiming that he has been denied the opportunity to do so in Suriname.

Last weekend, the Court of Justice confirmed the 12-year sentence on Hoefdraad, who was convicted in absentia in December last year for violation of the Banking Act and the Anti-Corruption Act.

Hoefdraad has challenged the verdict and was due to appear in court last Friday to explain his absence during the original court hearing.

The former finance minister, who has not been seen in public since July 2020 after the Santokhi administration came into power, did not show up on Friday.

His lawyer, Murwin Dubois, told the court that he was not in a position to indicate the whereabouts of his client and that he is aware that his statement to the Court was not a reason to suspend further proceedings and postpone the case to another date.

Dubois also could not confirm whether Hoefdraad would come to court on another date and acting Attorney General Garcia Paragsingh argued against



*Former Finance Minister Gillmore Hoefdraad.*

a further delay of the proceedings.

“If the defendant’s counsel is well aware that his disclosure does not constitute grounds for adjournment of the trial, I request that the Court carry out the sentence on the basis of Section 366 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,” she told the Court.

The hearing was subsequently adjourned and after resumption, the presiding magistrate said the Court of Justice had no choice but to close the case.

Hoefdraad said that while his client is aware of the sentence imposed on December 17, 2021 his client still intends to file an

appeal. But in a statement, Hoefdraad, said that he is the victim of political persecution “and in the end, I was sentenced to a 12-year prison term for charges amounting to political grudges that are highly disproportionate, even if the charges were well founded.

“This is yet another confirmation of the lack of independence and impartiality of this court in this political persecution. If I am denied the right to appeal my case because I did not appear in person, then this court will be in violation of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, Article 8, paragraph 2, Section H, which guar-

antees the right to appeal against a verdict before a higher court.”

The former finance minister said that international law does not allow a person to be deprived of their rights “in this case the right to appeal, because the person refused to subject themselves to an unjust trial to exercise that right. For these reasons, I retain the right to appeal the ruling”.

Hoefdraad said also that he had “absolutely no regrets” that he had been part of a government that has pursued a people-oriented policy. He served in the Desi Bouterse government that lost the last election here in March last year.



## Ukraine-Russia tensions: Russia pulls some troops back from border

BBC - Russia says it is pulling back some of its troops from near Ukraine after a build-up raised fears of an invasion.

The defence ministry said that large-scale drills continued but that some units were returning to their bases.

There has been no independent confirmation of the withdrawal and international powers have reacted cautiously to the announcement.

More than 100,000 Russian troops have massed at Ukraine's border. Russia has always denied it is planning an attack.

Russia has deep cultural and historic ties with Ukraine, and has been seeking guarantees it will not join the Nato military alliance, something the



*A Russian military build-up around Ukraine has sparked alarm [Photo credit: Anadolu Agency]*

bloc has refused to promise.

Troops began gathering in large numbers last November, bringing increasingly dire warnings about Russia's intentions. In recent days the US

warned an invasion could be imminent, and moved its embassy out of the capital Kyiv.

Nato said the Russian announce-  
*cont'd on pg 12*

# CRAZY TUESDAY

1 Leg and Thigh,  
Biscuit,  
Medium Drink

\$12.00

# WOW WEDNESDAY

1 Zinger or CCB,  
1 Piece chicken,  
Fries

\$18.99

Order  
Pickup +  
Delivery on

FOR DELIVERY  
 736-7845 / 562-9444  
 or DOWNLOAD THE APP...  
 Apple Store / Google Play Store

# Prince Andrew settles US civil sex assault case

BBC - Prince Andrew has settled a civil sexual assault case brought against him in the US by Virginia Giuffre.

Giuffre had been suing the Duke of York, claiming he sexually assaulted her on three occasions when she was 17, allegations he has repeatedly denied.

A letter filed to the US district court on Tuesday said the duke and Giuffre had reached an out-of-court settlement.

It said the duke would pay an undisclosed sum to Giuffre.

His representatives said he had no comment beyond what was said in the document filed to the court. Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the settlement.

In a letter to US judge Lewis A Kaplan, Ms Giuffre's lawyer David Boies wrote jointly with Prince



*Prince Andrew, Virginia Roberts and Ghislaine Maxwell in 2001*

Andrew's lawyers to say the pair had reached "a settlement in principle".

A statement included with the letter read: "The parties will file a stipulated dismissal upon Giuffre's receipt of the settlement (the sum of which is not being disclosed)."

It said the duke would make a "substantial donation to Ms Giuffre's charity in support of victims' rights".

Prince Andrew, the statement added, had "never intended to malign Ms Giuffre's character" and he recognised she had "suffered both as an established victim of abuse and as a result of unfair public attacks".

The duke also pledged to "demonstrate his regret for his association" with the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein by supporting the "fight against the evils of sex trafficking, and by supporting its victims".

He also commended the "bravery of Giuffre and other survivors in standing up for themselves and others".

Prince Andrew makes

no admission of liability. His lawyers had previously said he was ready to go before a jury to fight Giuffre's claims, with a trial expected later this year.

Giuffre, who was previously known as Virginia Roberts, claimed she was the victim of sex trafficking and abuse by financier Epstein from the age of 16. Epstein died in prison in 2019 while awaiting a sex trafficking trial.

She said part of the abuse saw her lent out to powerful men, including Prince Andrew, who is the third child of the Queen and ninth in line to the throne.

Giuffre, now 38, claimed the duke, 61, sexually assaulted her on three occasions when she was 17 at Ghislaine Maxwell's home in London, in Epstein's mansion in New York and on Epstein's private island in the US Virgin Islands.

**cont'd from pg 11**

ment gave cause for "cautious optimism" but that they had not seen evidence of de-escalation on the ground.

In its statement, Russia's defence ministry said it was withdrawing some of the troops conducting exercises in military districts bordering Ukraine.

"A number of combat training exercises, including drills, have been conducted as planned," defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

Some exercises are continuing,

such as a large joint Russia-Belarus drill, due to end on 20 February.

A British government source said it was waiting to see the scale of the withdrawal, saying it would have to make a difference to the ability to invade to be meaningful.

But the announcement was enough for both Ukraine and Russia to claim victory in the stand-off.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he would believe the withdrawal when he sees it but "we have managed together with our part-

ners to deter Russia from any further escalation".

A Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, said the day "will go into history as the day western war propaganda failed. They have been disgraced and destroyed without a single shot being fired."

For weeks there have been regular reports of Russia increasing troop numbers near the border with Ukraine.

Now Moscow has announced that - drills over - some units are returning to base.



## US asks Honduras to arrest, extradite ex-President Hernández

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The United States formally requested the arrest and extradition of former President Juan Orlando Hernández on drug and weapons charges less than three weeks after he left office, a move that follows years of accusations about the Honduran leader's alleged links to drug traffickers.

Honduran security forces surrounded Hernández's neighborhood Monday night and on Tuesday the Supreme Court of Justice met to choose a judge to handle the extradition request.

Honduran Security Minister Ramón Sabillón, who was fired by Hernández as head of the National Police in 2014, said Tuesday that the main charges Hernández faces in the U.S. were drug trafficking, using weapons for drug trafficking and conspiracy to use weapons in drug trafficking.

Sabillón said Hernández had conspired "with cartels to traffic (drugs) and corrupt many public institutions, which led to social deterioration and undermined the application of justice in Honduras."

U.S. prosecutors in New York had repeatedly implicated Hernández as a co-conspirator during his brother's 2019 drug trafficking trial, alleging that



Former president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández

his political rise was fueled by drug profits.

His brother, Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández was sentenced to life in prison on drug and weapons charges in March 2021. At his sentencing Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Laroche characterized the crimes as "state-sponsored drug trafficking."

Nicole Navas, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Justice, declined comment Monday about the U.S. extradition request.

In a video released by Hernández's legal team, apparently from inside his home, attorney Félix Ávila said that no arrest order had yet been issued.

Hernández released an audio recording via Twitter early Tuesday thanking his supporters. "It is not an easy moment," he said. "I don't desire it for anyone."

He said the National Police had already been informed by his lawyers that "I am ready and prepared to cooperate and go voluntarily ... to face this situation and defend myself" if an arrest order is issued.

The identity of the judge chosen to handle the case was not immediately released. However, the court's president, Rolando Argueta, is known to be close to Hernández, and all 15 Supreme Court justices were selected by Congress in 2016 during Hernández's first presidential term. They serve seven-year terms, and most come from his National Party.

The U.S. moves were a long-awaited fall for a leader reviled in his home country who enjoyed support from the Trump administration but had been kept at arm's length by the

Biden White House, which has targeted Central America's endemic corruption as a root cause of migration.

Honduran criminal lawyer Marlon Duarte said that the extradition process against Hernández, if it moves ahead, would not last more than three months.

Once an arrest order is issued, Hernández would have to turn himself in or be forcibly taken into custody, he said. At an initial hearing, Hernández would be informed of the charges and he would be held on a military base.

Within two months, another hearing would be held in which the U.S. evidence would be presented and the judge would make a decision on whether he should be extradited.

If the judge rules for extradition, Hernández would have three days to appeal. Then the appellate court — also named by the Supreme Court — would decide within five days whether to confirm the extradition or overturn the judge's decision. If the judge denies extradition, the U.S. government would have an opportunity to appeal.

Hernández left office Jan. 27 with the swearing in of President Xiomara Castro. The same day, he was sworn in as Honduras' representative to the Central American Parliament.



## **STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

### **The Format**

3-persons scramble

### **The Package**

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

### **Prizes**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Net Winners – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Gross Winners**  
**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Winners**  
Closest to the pin on holes number 2, 8, 11, 13 & 15  
Closest to the line on the 18<sup>th</sup>

**THERE WILL BE LOTS OF OTHER WONDERFUL PRIZES & ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED  
AND RAFFLED AFTER PLAY!**

### **BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:**

Richie Rich Sports Management & Entertainment Services Inc.

Email: [richierichsportsmanagement@gmail.com](mailto:richierichsportsmanagement@gmail.com); Telephone: +1 268 720 7424 or +1 268 464 7424  
or +1 407 385 3095

Coach Marlon: [georgeroan35@gmail.com](mailto:georgeroan35@gmail.com); +1 268 776 6606

Patrons can also sign up and pay at Cedar Valley Club. Telephone: 268 462 0161

**Please Come & Join Us In Support Of Our Young Aspiring Golfers!**





## Mixed fortunes for A&B at OECS netball tournament

Antigua and Barbuda has experienced mixed fortunes in the second annual Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series currently being played at Windsor Park Stadium in Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda were beaten 50 - 27 by St. Lucia in their second encounter on Monday night in the six-team round robin tournament being contested from 12 - 18 February.

In other results on Monday night, St. Vincent and the Grenadines beat Dominica 74 - 23 and guest team Barbados recorded a 57 - 34 victory over St. Kitts and Nevis.

Antigua and Barbuda made a winning start to their campaign on Sunday night when they led from start to finish to record a comfortable 53 - 24 victory over hosts Dominica in their opening encounter.

Antigua and Barbuda's goal shoot, Reyana Regis, sank 46 of her 57 attempts while team mate Amey Lake converted seven of her 10 shots.

The Antigua/Barbuda national team got their campaign on the way by securing a 12 - 8 advantage at the end of the first quarter and were still ahead of their Dominican opponents with a



*Antigua and Barbuda's goal attack Amey Lake (holding ball) prepares to make a play during her team's opening encounter against hosts Dominica in the OECS ECCB International Netball Series at Windsor Park in Dominica on Sunday, 13 February, 2022. (Photo courtesy Dominica Netball Association)*

29 - 15 score at halftime.

The national team maintained their advantage in the second half and were leading 40-21 at the end of the third quarter before coasting to victory over the host nation.

For Dominica, goal-shoot Lisa James scored 17 goals out of 25 attempts, goal-attack Kyla Winston netted 6 out of 10 attempts, while Melissa Williams scored only 1 of her 4 shots.

In the other game played on Sunday's opening day of competition, St. Vincent and the Grenadines defeated St. Kitts and Nevis 62-33 in a match that was interrupted

by rain.

For St. Vincent and the Grenadines, goal-shoot Mary-Ann Frederick scored 33 out of 38 attempts, and Shellisa Davis netted 8 out of 13 tries.

Scoring for St. Kitts and Nevis, Rochella Challenger converted 20 out of 22 shots, Aaliyah Gibson scored 4 of 14 attempts while Jewel Thompson netted 1 of her 2 tries.

Barbados prevailed 41 - 35 over St. Lucia yesterday morning in a game that was postponed on the opening day due to rain.

Antigua and Barbuda were slated to meet St. Vin-

cent and the Grenadines in their third encounter of the tournament last night.

Antigua and Barbuda will play their penultimate game when they face Barbados in the only scheduled encounter today at 7:30 pm. The Antiguan will clash with St. Kitts and Nevis in their final match on Thursday at 6pm.

Platinum FM 97.9 will provide live coverage of Antigua and Barbuda's matches against Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis.

The tournament will conclude with the last round of matches and a closing ceremony on Friday night.

# Government's investments enable Dominica to host OECS netball tournament

Dominica's Director of Sports, Trevor Shillingford, has credited the Dominican government's investment over the last two years in the development of that nation's sports infrastructure, including Windsor Park, with allowing the country to be able to host the invitational netball tournament now underway.

The Commonwealth of Dominica, is hosting the second Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series at Windsor Park Stadium from 12-18 February. Five ECCB member countries are competing for the Gloria Ballantyne Championship Trophy: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

This year's series features Barbados, which is not competing for the championship trophy, but will receive OECS ranking.

In an appearance on Pointe FM's Point On De Streetz, Shillingford said the government of Dominica's investment in the country's sporting facilities has already reaped benefits with its hosting the OECS ECCB International Netball Series.

"The government of



*An aerial view of the participating teams during the opening ceremony at the Second Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series at Windsor Park Stadium in Dominica on Sunday, 13 February, 2020. (Photo courtesy Dominica Netball Association)*

Dominica has seen it fit to put some investments in sport development and this is really paying dividends with us hosting the present netball tournament. We have five other countries from the region participating along with home country Dominica," Shillingford said.

"The government of Dominica has invested a lot over the last two years in the development of our sporting infrastructure in Dominica. And the facility at the Windsor Park Stadium is one of many which have received some sort of attention over

the last two years.

"There are four courts at the Windsor Park Stadium. The government has developed three of the hard-courts facilities, and coming with that, you have the other infrastructure that would have been needed to enable participation in the various sporting disciplines.

"It is an area that is properly lit with state of the art lighting facilities there. We also have movable seating facilities to accommodate spectators and we have the various support mechanism such as washrooms for

the patrons and the change room facilities that come with it so this has enabled us to be in a position to really host court events and, in this particular instance we have netball, to host netball at regional level so we are very happy that we are able to provide that sort of infrastructure that could really help with the revival of netball in our sub-region."

President of the Dominica Netball Association (DNA), Regina Walsh, told Point On De Streetz that her organisation is excited to be

*cont'd on pg 17*



## Most male players want world cup to remain every four years

A survey by World Players Union, Fifpro, and the national players unions has found that 75% of male players want the World Cup to remain played every four years.

Fifa is proposing to cut the gap between its tournaments to every two years as part of a revamped calendar. The survey covered more than 1,000 players across six continents of more than 70 nationalities.

According to the survey, 77% of the players in both Europe and Asia supported keeping the current schedule, dropping to 63% in the Americas and 49% among African players.

The remainder were split between playing the tournament every two or three years.

However, Fifpro did acknowledge in a state-

ment that “a demand exists particularly in smaller and medium-size markets to further develop and strengthen national team competitions.

Just over four in five players 81% ranked either their domestic league or the World Cup, in its current four-year cycle, as their favorite competition.

Fifa’s plan for a revamped calendar to come into effect from 2024 has already met considerable opposition from other European bodies, with Uefa, the European Club Association and European Leagues coming out against it.

However, Fifa president Gianni Infantino said in December he remains confident a consensus could be reached over plans for a revised calendar.



*cont'd from pg 16*

hosting the six-team competition.

“We are so excited to be the ones to be hosting this tournament in Dominica. We were so excited when the government agreed and approved for us to host this tournament,” Walsh said.

“Before 2019, the ECCB supported the netball. They supported the Under-23 netball. But in 2019, they made the transition from the OECS Under-23 netball to the current international netball series.

“So the first series was played in St Vincent and the Grenadines from June 14th to 22nd in 2019 with Grenada being the winner of that first international

netball series. So we are very fortunate to be in Dominica and hosting the second international netball series.”

Former player and president of the DNA, Ambassador Loreen Bannis Roberts, who is Dominica’s first female Permanent Representative to the United Nations, says netball can play an important role in the development of women in the Caribbean.

“Netball is the number one sport for women and girls in the Caribbean. Globally, 80 million women play netball so if you have the number one sport for women and girls in our region, it means there is a significant number of women and girls playing

netball. There is no reason why we should not be playing netball, said Ambassador Roberts.

“When I played you had limited opportunities. Today the sky is the limit. You can go on to represent your country, you can go to the international tournaments, you can be qualified and educated in the field of sports. Even UWI (University of the West Indies) has a number of sporting programmes, your BScs, your masters up to your doctorate in a sporting field so there is a lot for netball so we have to continue to nurture and cherish and we have to get more women and girls involved,” she added.

# Unvaccinated Djokovic could skip French Open, Wimbledon

AP — If forced to choose, Novak Djokovic said he would skip the French Open and Wimbledon, foregoing the chance to overtake Rafael Nadal's record haul of 21 Grand Slams titles, rather than get vaccinated against COVID-19.

And the No. 1-ranked tennis player is also still smarting about being deported last month from Australia in a drama about his vaccination status that polarized opinion worldwide.

Speaking in an interview broadcast Tuesday by the BBC, the 20-time Grand Slam champion said he is still not vaccinated, and prepared to sacrifice titles to stay that way.

If need be, not defending his titles at Roland Garros and Wimbledon and missing other tournaments is



Novak Djokovic prepares to take his seat on a plane to Belgrade, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Jan. 17, 2022.

“the price that I am willing to pay,” said the 34-year-old Serb, comments likely to further boost his hero-status among some opponents of vaccination.

Djokovic said he is not opposed to vaccinations and sought to distance himself from anti-vaccination campaigners, saying: “I have

never said that I am part of that movement.”

But he said “everyone has the right to choose, to act, or say what ever they feel is appropriate for them” and that he believes in “the freedom to choose what you put into your body. And, for me, that is essential.”

“I am trying to be in tune

with my body as much as I possibly can,” he said, adding that he has always been careful about everything he ingests. “Based on all the information that I got, I decided not to take the vaccine, as of today.

“I understand the consequences of my decision,” Djokovic said. “I understand that not being vaccinated today, you know, I am unable to travel to most of the tournaments at the moment.”

Asked if he would be prepared to miss the French Open in May, he repeated: “That is the price that I am willing to pay.”

Also asked if would be ready to skip Wimbledon, he added: “Yes.”

“Because the principles of decision-making on my

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Unknown cricketer becomes Australia's highest earner in IPL

Relatively unknown cricketer, Tim David, has become Australia's highest paid cricketer in the lucrative Indian Premier League, when he became an instant millionaire after he was snapped up in the competition's player auction.

David, 25, who plays for the Hobart Hurricanes in the domestic “Big Bash League” T20 competition, will play for the Mumbai Indians after the team won a bidding war among six teams to sign him for \$1.53 million.

The figures mean David will earn

more money than Australian test captain Pat Cummins and other Australian stars including Josh Hazlewood, David Warner and Mitch Marsh.

It's the highest amount the Mumbai Club has ever paid for a non-Indian player.

The all-rounder, who was born in Singapore but grew up in Perth, tweeted, “Wow” let's gooo!” once the auction ended.

David is known for big hitting and clever bowling towards the end of an innings.



## ABCF to open 2022 cycling season with Time Trial road race

The Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) will stage its first event of 2022 with an individual Time Trial Road Race on Sunday.

The event, which will feature participants from most of the ABCF's affiliated cycling clubs, will start outside of the Jabberwock beach at 9am.

Cyclists from Road Runners Cycling Club, Wadadli Cycling Academy, Terminus Cycling Club and Eastside Raiders are expected to compete for top honours in several categories such as elite, sports cadet, juniors, female and masters'.

Second Vice-President of the ABCF, Derrick Sutherland, said due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the association is starting the season with the time trial since it is easier to manage that type of race using the health and safety protocols to safeguard against the transmission of the coronavirus during the event.

"The reason why we had to do a time trial for the first race of the season is because of COVID-19. Normally, when we have a time trial you will have somebody standing behind you that will hold up your bike so



ABCF Southern Loop Road Race, Sunday 16th May 2021 [File photo. Credit: ABCF]

that you could go, but we will not be doing that for this particular race.

"What was more important for the cycling association is for us to be able to start the (2022) season and for us to be able to demonstrate to the health department that we have all of our protocols in place as it regards to managing COVID-19. Last season we started with a time trial and this season we are starting with a time trial," Sutherland said.

Sutherland said although legendary Antiguan cyclist Robert Marsh of Eastside Raiders is unlikely to take part, some of the na-

tion's top cyclists including Neil Lloyd, Richard Lam and Shawn Weatherhead are expected to compete on Sunday.

"I am not going to say Robert Marsh because I am not sure that he will be riding, but Shawn will be on the line. Neil Lloyd will be coming out to play and when I look at my own club, (Road Runners) we are going to have Richard Lam and the likes of Jason Adams all coming out to fight on the line in an effort to control their particular class," Sutherland said.

"We are going to have elite male, elite female, we are going to have masters,

we are going to have sports class, and then we will have our cadets and also our juniors.

"What we will also have on the day is that we will have our live streaming of the race on Facebook so make sure you log on to Antigua cycling federation on Facebook so that you do not miss the start of the race.

"We have got some new equipment that will take how we record the race to another level. I am not going to say what it is, but we would like everybody to tune in and watch and see how cycling in Antigua and Barbuda is the best in the Caribbean.

"When it comes to videoing and live streaming of our races, we are definitely number one in the Caribbean."

*cont'd from pg 18*

body are more important than any title or anything else," he said.

Djokovic has won the French Open twice, including in 2021, and has six Wim-

bledon titles, including the last three.

Nadal won this year's Australian Open, giving him one more major title than Djokovic and Roger Federer. Djokovic was deported before he could play.

## A&B to welcome new Over 40 league

Antigua and Barbuda will soon welcome a new Over 40 football league that is being spearheaded by Shirville Jarvis.

Jarvis, an All Saints Village native, now resides in the United States.

Jarvis competed locally at the youth level representing the J. T. Ambrose Primary School, Ovals, and Antigua and Barbuda.

In the US, Jarvis remained active in the sport representing Mandela FC before moving on to high school.

He went on to earn a soccer scholarship to Delhi University in Buffalo State.

Speaking to Pointe Xpress Sports, Jarvis said he was motivated to start the league as many former players, some of whom he grew up watching, end their careers coaching or on the sidelines and not playing the sport they love.

"You cannot just forget about the former players and the joy and pride they brought to the sport here on the island," he noted.

The league is expected to feature five teams battling



over two rounds eleven or seven aside. The games are expected to run 80 minutes with a \$5000 prize for the champions and \$3000 and \$1500 respectively for second and third positions.

Some of the stars who will be on show are former national players Derrick "Prettyboy" Edwards, Kevin "Saxman" Watts, Zazawaki Greene, George Sowa Dublin and Cecil Daley.

The league has been sanctioned by the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association.

The league's organising committee is now awaiting permission from the ABFA to use the Technical Center at Paynters.

The league will kick off this April.



Shirville Jarvis