



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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DCA DEMOLISHES ANOTHER ILLEGAL STRUCTURE

Story on Page 2



Jermaine Browne, inset, is Antigua and Barbuda's most recent road fatality. *Story on Page 2*



Another illegal structure removed, DCA says consult first

The Development Control Authority is explaining why it demolished a structure yesterday constructed by the owners of “Natural Livity”, a Rastafarian restaurant located between Independence Drive and the parking area for the National School Bus System.

The proprietors reportedly erected a structure over the waterway, without the requisite approvals from the Development Control Authority (DCA).

In a statement, the DCA made clear that waterways are protected by the Environmental Protection Management Act No. 10 of 2019, and that Section 17

of the Physical Planning Act No. 6 of 2003 refers to the permission required to develop land.

The structure in question was erected out of pallets, which are deemed an environmental hazard it was noted. The structure, serving as a threat to the public, was condemned.

Despite several notices, the last issued on February 7th, 2021, Natural Livity failed to comply.

The demolition of the pallets has drawn criticism from sections of the public, but the DCA has made it known that the food business operated by Nat-

ural Livity was not affected by their actions on Wednesday.

The public is being urged to consult first with the authorities before engaging in the illegal erection of structures.

The Development Control Authority (DCA) says it fully supports entrepreneurial development, particularly those that positively impact society. However, the authority will continue to carry out its responsibilities as prescribed under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, specifically the Physical Planning Act No. 6 of 2003, in the exercise of its functions.

Third road death recorded

The latest road fatality victim has been identified by police as 25 year-old Jermaine Browne of Crystal Street, Coolidge.

Browne died from injuries sustained in an accident on the Sir George Walter Highway Tuesday evening, just a short distance from

his home.

According to police, Browne was travelling north to south on Sir George Walter Highway around

11:15pm when he lost control of his white Toyota Vitz.

Browne, who was the lone occupant in the car, veered off the western side of the road and collided with a wire fence, destroying a utility pole in the process.

The accident happened in the vicinity of The Furniture Gallery.

He was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre by Emergency Medical Services, where he was pronounced dead at 11:52pm. *cont'd on pg 3*

Thu 17 Day		Thu 17 Night	
81°	☀️	73°	☁️
22%	ENE 17 mph	24%	ENE 14 mph
Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 73F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity 69%	UV Index 10 of 10	Humidity 80%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:32 am	Sunset 6:10 pm	Moonrise 7:12 pm	Moonset 7:19 am
		○ Full Moon	

Immigration minister insists amnesty is not political maneuvering

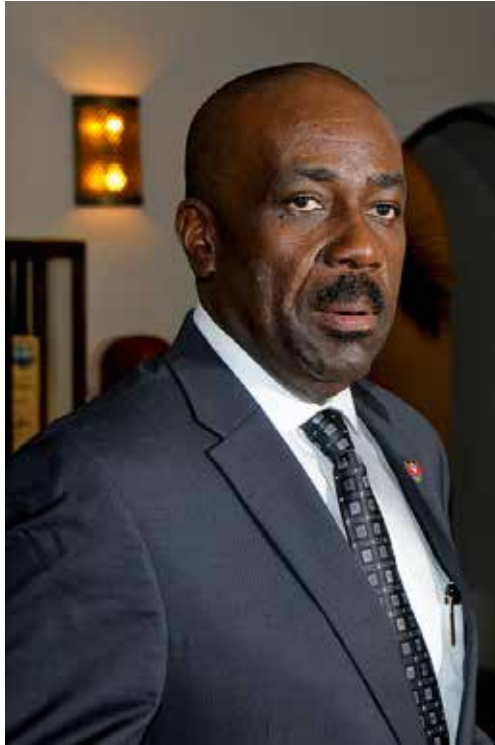
The nation's immigration and foreign affairs minister is maintaining that the government's decision to introduce an immigration amnesty is not a political gimmick.

Speaking in Parliament, Minister E. P. Chet Greene underscored the importance of the positive contributions of non-nationals. He reiterated that the amnesty, which was carefully considered, is being introduced to provide relief to those who have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and experienced difficulties updating their status.

Greene asked the House of Representatives whether the Gaston Browne administration, in good conscience, should deport entire families instead of devising solutions on behalf of struggling immigrants.

"What do you do with a young Jamaican male who has four children in Antigua with an Antiguan mother, has no criminal record, fights everyday in terms of his work, he goes out to work every day to feed his children?"

"Is it reasonable that we uproot him and his children and send them



Immigration and Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene

packing to Kingston?" Greene asked rhetorically. "Is it fair that we not recognise he has no criminal record and is making a contribution to our national development?"

Minister Greene stressed the need for adequate labour to meet the devel-

opment plans outlined in Budget 2022. Therefore, an amnesty is justified to ensure there is no void in skills and labour.

"Mr. Speaker, it makes sense, therefore, for us to grant amnesty to persons so that they can not only fulfill part of the labour needs, but that they can do so without having to import new workers into the country. In other words, I'm positing that we have amongst us, within our shores the requisite numbers, but we need to make intervention with respect to regularising their status for national good and national development," he outlined.

The immigration amnesty will begin on 1st March, 2022 and conclude on 30th April, 2022.

Applicants who have resided here continuously over four years, but who have not completed seven years, will be granted residency. Additionally, those who have resided here for more than seven years will be placed on a path to citizenship.

Minister Greene informed prospective applicants that all fees will be waived during the amnesty period.

cont'd from pg 2

Jermaine Browne is a 2015 graduate of the Antigua Grammar School.

Now his family and friends, who have taken to social media to recall the pleasant times they shared with him, are in shock and disbelief at his passing.

With the country's road fatalities now at three for 2022, the police are appealing to motorists to "desist from exceeding the speed limits, and drive with due care and attention on the roads".

Several accidents have occurred on Sir George Walter Highway over the years. In some instances, the vehicle operators escaped with their lives, but many others were not that fortunate.



MP Jonas looks to the ocean as a driver of economic growth

Minister of the Blue Economy, Dean Jonas says the government is looking to utilise the ocean's abundant store of metals as a means of diversifying Antigua and Barbuda's economy.

He made this revelation during his budget presentation earlier this week.

According to Jonas, his ministry is continuing dialogue with Odyssey Marine Exploration to determine how best the deep sea elements hidden away



Minister Jonas said a vast area, possibly containing billions of tonnes of sand, has been discovered in the ocean surrounding Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda, pictured here.

beneath the more than one hundred thousand square kilometres of ocean surrounding the twin island nation can be safely and sustainably mined.

These metals, he says, could spell billions of dollars in revenue for Antigua and Barbuda as they are in high demand for the manufacture of products including mobile phones, batteries and other electronics.

"This effort is expected to deliver billions of dollars in about three or four years from now. We are going to be delivering billions of dollars into this economy, literally.

"The investments must start now. We are already at a very advanced stage now in dealing with Odyssey Marine on this; we're now just doing some due diligence work, ready to sign off on contracts and so on, and that is going to be done very soon," said Jonas.

The minister also said undersea exploration has revealed an expanse of sand which can be mined. As it is off shore, it will in no way compromise the coastlines or marine life surrounding either Antigua or Barbuda.



Minister of the Blue Economy, Dean Jonas

"The area there around Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda, there appears to be a major sand buildup there around the islands. A lot of sand. Billions and billions of tonnes of sand. It is a resource that we have available to use that we must exploit for our own benefit, and we are going to be doing that.

"We have quite a few companies who have come to us in the Blue Economy department, and are looking to exploit this resource and we are going to be doing that," the minister explained.

These moves, Minister Jonas said, are all being undertaken with greatest consideration for preserving the oceanic environment, flora and fauna. To ensure this outcome, Centre of Excellence in Oceanography and the Blue Economy at the UWI Five Islands Campus will be involved in every step of the process.

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 26th 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 27th day of January 2022.


REGISTRAR OF LANDS

UWI hosts “Exonerating Garvey” forum

The University of the West Indies hosted a Vice-Chancellor’s forum themed, “Exonerating Garvey” on Wednesday.

It was conducted in collaboration with The P.J. Patterson Centre for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy and The Centre for Reparation Research.

It forms part of a greater drive, of which all Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to restore the reputation of Jamaican National Hero, the Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey who was convicted of mail fraud in the United States of America in 1923.

Garvey, an outspoken black nationalist and Pan-Africanist, was sentenced to five years and began his sentence at the Atlanta Penitentiary in 1925 following his conviction.

He, and many others, expressed that he was wrongly convicted because of the views he espoused at the time.

In 1927, his sentence was commuted by President Calvin Coolidge and Garvey was deported to Jamaica.

In his presentation on Wednesday morning, Vice-Chancellor of UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, described Rt. Excellent Garvey as “the father of the Caribbean civil rights movement” to whom all nationals of the region owe

a debt of gratitude.

“Mr. Garvey was undoubtedly the Father of Caribbean Civil Rights. Coming close to the centenary of the abolition of slavery, the Rt. Excellent Garvey mobilised the Caribbean people towards a vision of democracy and freedom.

“He is, indeed, a Caribbean Hero, and in my judgement, should be so recognised in every nation state, in every community in this Caribbean,” said Sir Hilary.

Also addressing the forum was former Jamaican prime minister, The Most Hon. P. J. Patterson.

He too underscored Marcus Garvey’s importance in his global movement for freedom, not just for people of African descent, but for individuals the world over who faced the injustices of racism and colonial oppression.

According to Mr. Patterson, it was for this very reason that Garvey was viewed as a serious threat to the agenda of white supremacists.

“To those in the American establishment, he was regarded as a threat to the very foundation on which their architecture of governance, and the practice of racial superiority, had been built.

“The [Federal] Bureau of Investigation feared his power, and wanted his expulsion from the USA. The



The Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey

powerful J. Edgar Hoover was determined to stop Marcus Garvey by fair means or foul.

“After many failed attempts to find criminal wrong doing, and valid reasons to deport Garvey as an undesirable alien, J. Edgar Hoover sought to imprison this man who had the audacity of launching the Black Star Line.

“He indicted Garvey, and three directors, on charges of conspiracy to use the mail in furtherance of a scheme to defraud.” explained former prime minister Patterson.

Also presenting was St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Prime Minister

Ralph Gonsalves who on February 4 called for CARICOM countries, and the rest of the world to put pressure on US President Joe Biden to exonerate Garvey whose conviction and sentencing was “unjust, flawed and dubious”.

The OECS grouping is calling for the exoneration of Garvey as this will force the US to admit that the Caribbean leader was wrongfully convicted of a crime he did not commit.

A presidential pardon falls short of achieving this goal as it leaves the question of a convicted person’s guilt open while clearing their record or providing immunity.

February distribution for Social Transformation grants

COVID-19 Relief Grants are to be provided to poor and vulnerable families later this month by the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy.

Beneficiaries of the financial support will be people, who re-registered with the Social Protection Board, are considered vulnera-

ble and have fallen on hard times, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant is made possible through a joint programme of the United Nations Response and Recovery Fund by the governments of Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Finland, New

Zealand, Croatia, Iceland, Thailand, Slovak Republic and Cambodia, together with additional financial and technical assistance from UNICEF. It complements other support already provided through the Board / Ministry to other people impacted by COVID-19.

The assistance will be distributed during the pe-

riod 21-25 February, 2022 as a one-time payment to cover the essential needs of the beneficiaries for three months.

All eligible households will be contacted by the Social Protection Board during the week of February 14th, on dates and times for the distribution of grant payments.

Another global gold award for The UWI

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has won another gold international award for its branding and marketing.

“Positioning the University’s reputation and brand strategy in the international digital space is a significant achievement that speaks to its effectiveness,” said Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, in reaction to the announcement of this latest global accolade for the University’s recent redesign of its central website www.uwi.edu.

It was earned in the 15th Annual AVA Digital Awards, administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP). The UWI brand is named on the 2022 winners list —among global brand heavyweights the likes of Virgin, Dell, DHL, AT&T, BET Network, and Al Jazeera Media Network to name a few.

This international award for excellence in digital creativity, branding and strategy comes as a high point that cements the Caribbean’s top-ranked University’s progress in nurturing a single, global brand consciousness—the very essence of Phase 1 of its Triple A Stra-

tegic Plan, covering the period 2017-2022. The redesign of The UWI website was part of a system-wide initiative to align the University’s digital communication assets with that of a modern global academy.

According to Vice-Chancellor Beckles, “The UWI has remained focused on its core business and has shown considerable resilience and commitment to its principles and purpose. This is how fine universities thrive; refusing to be distracted in the dedication to duty.”

Extending commendations to the University Director, Marketing and Communications, Dr Rhonda Jaipaul-O’Garro, the University Chief Information Officer, Mrs Brigitte Collins and their combined teams, Vice-Chancellor Beckles continued, “We celebrate this further global recognition of our excellence in the face of stiff competition and the effective migration of the Triple A Strategic Plan into the global digital marketing space. Managing and leading in the global arena require the effective mobilisation of digital tools and technologies. The UWI has risen to the challenge and has won, once again, gold star acclamation from its peers.”



He noted that “competing among major global conglomerates such as Dell, AT&T, Virgin, and BET illustrates the distance The UWI has travelled and grown in recent years. It also reflects its status as a top tier international university. It has illustrated once again its capacity to effectively enter the global space and to represent the region with dignity and determination. By remaining focused, courageous, committed and confident, The UWI has entered 2022 with the winning mindset necessary to grow and prosper.”

BARBUDA OCEAN Club

Job Fair

March 8, 2022

Police Recreation Grounds

Gates Open-8:30am

Gates Close-12:00noon

Job Opportunities In

- Construction
- Utilities
- Hospitality Services
- Turf Maintenance
- Greenskeeping

And More!

Proof of vaccination required prior to entry



The conversational habits that build better connections

By David Robson

Can you chat your way to greater social connection? Five useful steps can help us strengthen ties and avoid mistakes.

“There is no such thing as conversation,” the novelist and literary critic Rebecca West famously wrote in her collection of stories, *The Harsh Voice*. “It is an illusion. There are intersecting monologues, that is all.” In her opinion, our own words simply pass over the words of others without any profound communication taking place.

Who has not been able to empathise with this sentiment at some point in their life? Whether we’re making small talk with a barista, or meeting up with a close friend, we may hope to make a connection, only to leave the conversation feeling that our minds have failed to meet.

The pandemic has surely heightened our awareness of these sensations. After long periods of isolation, our hunger for social contact is greater than ever – and it is even more disappointing to feel that a void remains between us and others, even when rules of physical distancing have been lifted.

If this rings true for you, help may be at hand. During the past few years, psychologists studying the art of conversation have identified many of the barriers that stand in the way of a deeper



Never underestimate the power of asking questions - and indeed going in for a follow up, research shows [Photo Credit: Getty]

connection, and the ways to remove them. Read on for the top five steps to better conversation.

Ask questions

The first step might seem obvious, yet it is often forgotten: if you want to have a meaningful dialogue with someone – rather than two “intersecting monologues” – then you should make the effort to ask some questions.

Consider the research of Karen Huang, an assistant professor at Georgetown University, US. While studying for a PhD in organisational behaviour at Harvard University, Huang invited more than 130 participants into her laboratory and asked them to converse in pairs for 15 minutes through an online instant messenger. She found that, even in this short period of time, people’s rates of

question-asking varied widely, from around four or fewer at the low end to nine or more at the high end.

Throughout a series of follow-up studies, Huang found question-asking made a significant difference to people’s likeability. Analysing the conversations at a speed-dating event, for example, she found that the number of questions asked by a participant could predict their chance of securing another meeting.

Not all questions are equally charming: a follow-up that requires more information about a previous point is more appealing than a ‘switch’ that changes topic, or a ‘mirror’ that simply copies what someone has already asked you. Importantly, Huang’s findings suggested that most people

did not anticipate the effects of question asking. We enjoy talking about ourselves, but we underestimate the benefits of letting others do the same – to the detriment of our relationships.

Beware empathy

We are often told to place ourselves in other people’s shoes – but our empathy is rarely as accurate as we think it is.

One reason for this is egocentrism. “It’s when I’m using my own experience, my own mental states, as a proxy for yours,” says Nicholas Epley, a professor of behavioural science at the University of Chicago. “And we fail to differentiate sufficiently between the two.”

In its most basic guise, this egocentrism can be seen when we point to something

cont’d on pg 9

Relationships

cont'd from pg 8

in our physical surroundings and fail to recognise that it is out of the other person's line of view, or when we overestimate someone's knowledge on a topic that is familiar to us and fail to explain ourselves properly. It may also lead us to think that someone else is feeling the same mood as us, or that they hold the same opinions – whether a preference for a particular restaurant or their views on a controversial topic.

Interestingly, Epley's research has shown that our egocentrism is worse when we are with an acquaintance, rather than a stranger – a phenomenon called the “closeness-communication bias”. “We often perceive close friends and partners to be similar to us, so we assume that they know what we know,” Epley explains. With strangers, we may be a bit more cautious about making those assumptions.

You might hope to solve this problem with some conscious “perspective taking”, in which you deliberately imagine what the other person is thinking and feeling, based on your existing knowledge of them. Yet Epley's studies show that in many cases, this practice *decreases* the accuracy of our social perception, since it still relies on us making assumptions that may not be true. In general, it's far better to ask someone what they actually think and feel, he says, than trying to divine it.

Favour familiarity over originality

How about our choices for the topic of conversation?

It's natural to assume that people favour originality; we should always attempt to convey something new and exciting, rather than telling someone something they already know. But these intuitions are off kilter. According to research by Gus Cooney, a social psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania, US, we suffer a “novelty penalty” when we discuss something new, compared to a subject that is already familiar to the

listener.

During one experiment, participants were placed into groups of three. While alone, each member watched one of two short videos, which either described the intelligence of crows or the creation of specialist soda pops. The trio then met in their group, and one member – the speaker – was asked to describe the video he or she had seen, while the others listened for two minutes.

Surprisingly, the listeners preferred to hear the speaker describing the video they had already seen, while they remained distinctly underwhelmed if he spoke about the unfamiliar clip – despite the fact it was providing fresh information that they had not heard before.

Cooney argues that the novelty penalty arises from the “informational gaps” in our conversation. If we are talking about something completely new, our audience may not have enough knowledge to understand everything that we are saying. If we are talking about something already familiar to our audience, however, the listeners can fill in those gaps themselves.

The novelty penalty might explain why a description of an exotic holiday can often fall flat with your colleagues unless they have been to that location themselves. “When the experience is so vibrant in your head, and you can smell it and taste it and see all the colours, you just assume other people can do it too,” says Cooney.

Cooney suggests you might be able to overcome the novelty penalty with finely-tuned storytelling that helps to create a vivid impression of the events you're describing. “When you are aware of this, you might try a little harder to bring that experience alive,” he says. Until you've perfected your patter, however, it may be safer to pick topics of conversation that lean on shared experiences.

Don't be afraid to go deep

This need for common ground should not limit our conversation to

mundane small talk. On the contrary, many shared human experiences can be incredibly profound, and Epley's recent research shows that most people appreciate the chance to explore their innermost thoughts and feelings, even if they are talking to perfect strangers.

Epley's team asked pairs of participants, who had not met previously, to discuss questions such as, “If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, your future or anything else, what would you want to know?”.

Beforehand, most participants feared the exchanges would be painfully awkward – yet the conversation flowed far more smoothly than they had predicted. They also felt a greater sense of connection with their conversation partners than they had thought possible, and this was also accompanied by a happier mood following the exchange. In general, the participants were much more interested in their conversation partners' innermost thoughts and feelings than each had initially imagined.

“In these deep conversations you get access to the mind of another person, and you get to recognise that the other person actually cares about you,” says Epley. And that can make for a touching exchange of words, even if you will never encounter that person again.

Value tactful honesty over mindless kindness

Imagine, for a moment, you were compelled to talk with complete honesty during every social interaction. How would your relationships fare?

A few years ago, Emma Levine, an associate professor of behavioural science at the University of Chicago, and Taya Cohen, an associate professor of organisational behaviour at Carnegie Mellon University, decided to turn this thought experiment into reality. They recruited 150 participants, who were divided into three groups. The first set were asked to be “absolutely honest” in every conversation, at home and at work, for

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Why have civilians welcomed the recent coups in West Africa?

By Folahanmi Aina & Ibrahim Al-bakri Nyei

In the last two years, three fragile countries in West Africa – Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso – succumbed to instability and experienced military take-overs.

While the COVID-19 pandemic may have played a role in pushing these countries over the edge, they were on the precipice of instability long before the emergence of the virus due to deep-seated vulnerabilities such as chronic insecurity, political corruption and mass unemployment.

Indeed, in all three countries military interventions came not as a surprise but on the back of long-ignored systemic failures and growing societal discontent.

In Burkina Faso, repeat-

ed attacks by armed groups and a failure to govern (partly evidenced in the apparent ill-equipping of the country's security forces against such groups) created a security vacuum. Attacks in November and December 2021 left nearly 100 members of the security forces and community defence volunteers dead. The army blamed its failure to adequately respond to these attacks on the government. As a result, in late January 2022, what initially appeared to be a mutiny turned into a coup that toppled the country's civilian government.

In Mali, attempts by the ruling party to manipulate the results of the 2020 parliamentary elections in favour of candidates supported by the then president led to street demonstrations



Men hold a photograph of the lieutenant colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, as people gather in support of a coup that removed President Roch Kabore, dissolved government, suspended the constitution and closed borders in Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, January 25, 2022 [Photo credit: Anne Mimalut/Reuters]

during which aggrieved masses called on the government to resign. After months of impasse, the military took advantage of the situation and staged a coup in August 2020. It initially

facilitated a transitional arrangement, but overthrew that too only a few months later.

In Guinea, the September 2021 military coup was

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the next three days; the second set were told to be kind, caring and considerate for the same period, while the final third were encouraged to behave normally.

Most people predict the kind group would have the best experience – while the honest group would struggle to keep their friendships. Yet the honest participants scored just as highly on measures of pleasure and social connection throughout the three days as those who were told to be kind, and often found a lot of meaning in the exchanges.

“It seems like it would be awful,” says Cohen. “But the participants reported being happy to have had the honest conversations, even if they were hard.”

In follow-up experiments, Cohen asked pairs of friends, colleagues or spouses to open up about personal issues – such as the last time they cried or the issues with their current relationship. In each case, the honest communication proved to be far more constructive than people predicted – and the benefits of the candid disclosure on their overall wellbeing continued for at least a week afterwards. “These conversations were having downstream positive effects on the relationships,” Cohen says. “It was a valuable experience.”

It should go without saying that honesty is best served with a healthy dose of diplomacy. Cohen says that you should think carefully about the timing of your

comments, the way they are phrased and whether the person will have the opportunity to make use of the information. “Five minutes before the wedding, you don’t need to tell the bride that she looks terrible, right?” There’s no excuse for being a bully, even if you think your insults convey the truth.

When practising each of these five steps, you should always remain conscious of the other person’s mood and comfort, and be prepared to step away when your conversational gambits are not welcome. But with a little tact, sensitivity and a genuine interest in the people around you, you may often find that greater social connection is easily within your reach.

cont'd from pg 10

the consequence of a months-long political crisis, triggered by President Alpha Conde's bid to remove presidential term-limit restrictions through a constitutional referendum in March 2020 – a move that allowed him to seek a third term in office. Both the referendum and the October 2020 presidential election, which resulted in Conde's re-election, were marred by boycotts from opposition and civil society groups, and violent altercations between protesters and security forces that resulted in hundreds of deaths.

Despite all the turmoil, Conde received support from leaders of neighbouring nations, who did not hesitate to send him congratulatory messages after his re-election.

But amid widespread opposition to his rule, multiple socio-economic crises and infighting among his top military aides, even regional support did not save Conde's presidency. Less than a year after his controversial re-election, a coup removed him from power.

None of these coups, or the challenges that led to them, materialised suddenly. International development organisations and think-tanks have been pointing to the extreme security and governance challenges facing these countries for years.

Even before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, US-based think-tank The Fund for Peace had rated these countries as on “high warning” or on “alert” in its Fragile States Index, suggesting that their vulnerabilities could lead to instability if not outright armed conflict. Similarly, the Economist Intelligence Unit, in its Democracy Index of 2019, had suggested that there was a steady decline in the quality of democratic governance in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali.

Beyond the long-term threats to constitutional democracy and security they were born out of, the recent coups

in these three countries had another surprising common aspect: civilian support.

In countries with relative stability and security, as well as functioning constitutional guardrails against threats like electoral fraud, manipulation of courts, and illegal attempts at presidential tenure elongation, armed forces may stage coups, but they often fail to convincingly justify their intervention or gain the support of the majority of the population.

In Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, however, the lack of such safeguards resulted in civilian populations enthusiastically embracing the recent military interventions.

Indeed, citizens in these countries responded to the news of military takeovers with protests not against the intervening military, but the removed political leaders.

In further legitimising the putschists, citizens in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali have accused their former colonial masters of being complicit in their plight and rejected external interventions and sanctions – mainly imposed by the regional political block ECOWAS – meant to hamstring the military and compel them to accept proposed conditions for democratic elections and return to “constitutional” rule.

This reaction was a reflection of the masses' lack of faith in the state of democratic politics in their countries, and it may have significant consequences not only for Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, but the wider region.

Firstly, widespread civilian support for these coups reinforces the notion that the armed forces are the guardians of states.

Convinced that existing constitutional processes are not adequate to support good governance in their countries, citizens in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea appear to believe that the military may be a credible alternative

to the band of corrupt and unrepentant political elites that have betrayed their confidence. This sentiment could lead not only to the military retaining significant influence over politics in these countries in the long term, but also to the legitimisation of attempts to reintegrate militaries into politics across the continent.

So far, all attempts by regional bodies like ECOWAS and the AU to turn back this trend have failed, largely because such attempts focused on punishing the militaries rather than understanding and attempting to help fix the underlying causes that led to civilian populations supporting their actions. As a result, the recent wave of military coups in Africa has raised questions about the role regional and continental multilateral organisations can play in averting democratic backsliding.

Today, citizens in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea clearly feel that they have “found their voice”, and punished corrupt political elites who have long ruled their countries, by ascribing legitimacy to military takeovers.

The legitimate fears that citizens across the continent can follow their lead can put underperforming democratic rulers on their toes and push them to swiftly and efficiently address political and socioeconomic challenges facing their countries. Of course, whether this trend will have long-term consequences for the wider region will be dependent on how the militaries will choose to manage state-society relations, and whether they will be able to maintain public support.

Whatever happens in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and other African nations that have experienced coups in recent times, if the continent's democratic leaders and multilateral bodies continue to ignore the conditions that triggered this new wave of military interventions, what we have witnessed so far might very well be a foretaste of what is to come.

What are adaptive headlights and are adaptive headlights worth it?

Until recently, adaptive headlights, which make driving at night easier and safer, were mostly offered as an optional feature on up-scale, luxury brands of cars. In fact, they didn't even reach the North American market until 2003.

As the demand for adaptive headlights increases, and the cost decreases, the hope is that they will become available as a standard item on a wider variety of makes and models of cars.

According to National Safety Council data, 68 percent of fatal accidents in 2018 occurred between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m., during the latter part of the day and early morning, when it was darker out and harder to see. A driver's ability to perceive depth, recognize colours, and react to something in the road is impaired at night, not to mention headlights from oncoming traffic, which can momentarily blind a driver.

The good news is that auto technologies like adaptive headlights – sometimes called active headlights or adaptive front-lighting systems – are helping drivers to see, and be seen, better at night, resulting in a safer and more enjoyable driving experience.

What are adaptive headlights?

In short, adaptive headlights are a safety feature that uses sensors to auto-



matically adapt to low-light situations and conditions, such as when you're driving around a curve or over a hill.

Consider how standard headlights work when you come upon a bend in the road, where there are no streetlights. As you prepare to turn at the bend, standard headlights would be focused straight ahead, at what's directly in your midst, such that they illuminate the side road instead of what's around the bend.

As a result, for a long moment or two, you are literally in the dark, unable to see what's approaching as you make your turn around the bend. Is there a broken down vehicle in the middle of the street? Someone, or some animal crossing the road?

By contrast, adaptive headlights turn their beams

as you turn the steering wheel, and are synchronised so that when you make the turn, your adaptive headlights respond in kind, shedding light on the road in front of you, where you are headed, not on the side street.

What are adaptive headlights' advantages?

If you are climbing a steep hill, it's the same phenomenon: standard headlight beams will point up towards the sky instead of staying level with the road. For a long moment, you will be enshrined in darkness, unable to see whether another motorist is coming.

The genius of adaptive headlights is that they move up or down according to the position of the vehicle. They react to the speed, steering radius, and level of the surface, then automatically ad-

just to what the driver is doing and the road conditions ahead. When the driver turns the steering wheel to the left, the headlights respond by angling to the left.

It's also important to note that adaptive headlights don't just make your driving experience safer, but also benefit other motorists on the road and pedestrians. Let's return to the scenario where you turn around a bend on a darkly lit road, but this time an oncoming car is headed your way. As you round the curve, standard headlights would temporarily blind the driver.

With adaptive headlights, this won't happen because your beams stay level with the road instead of shining a bright light intrusively on an unsuspecting driver.

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

How adaptive headlights work

Here's how adaptive highlights work: Sensors monitor the speed of the car, how far you've turned the steering wheel, and other measurements, including the rotation around the vertical axis. Based on the data they have acquired, the sensors communicate with the headlights, prompting them when to rotate, in what direction, and how far.

In other words, adaptive headlights are extremely intuitive. They know, almost like an instinct, how you are driving; if you turn the steering wheel, however slightly, they will turn with you and adjust themselves accordingly, around the bend. Hit the accelerator, and your adaptive lights will recognize this movement, and automatically raise their level to enhance your visibility. Signal or apply the brakes, and the light beams will come down a level.

In an adaptive headlights system, sensors preclude the lights from turning when they don't need to. If the car is moving in reverse or not going forward, the adaptive headlights won't be triggered, ensuring that you don't unintentionally blind other drivers. If you are idling or have parked your car, the lights will turn off automatically, so other drivers and pedestrians are not caught in your headlights' bright glare.

Some drivers who want extra illumination and safety invest in cornering lights, in addition to adaptive headlights, which makes it easier to see during fast, sharp turns at night.

How adaptive headlights work is fascinating. The technology includes wheel speed sensors that detect how fast each wheel is rotating, a yaw sensor that monitors, for example, when a car turns a corner, and a steering input sensor that detects the angle of the steering wheel. The sensors feed the data to an electronic control unit, which uses it to ascertain how fast the car is going, and the angle and length



of the curve it is navigating.

Based on this, the electronic control unit communicates with the headlights' motors, prompting them to move their beams a certain range of motion – 15 and sometimes 30 degrees.

Are adaptive headlights worth it?

Currently, the vast majority of cars do not come equipped with adaptive headlights, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

"Many car makers still treat high-quality headlights as extras, rather than essential safety features," says David Aylor, manager of active safety testing at IIHS. "Leather seats and sunroofs are nice, but you need high-quality headlights to avoid hazards."

If you buy them aftermarket, it could cost you close to \$1,000. As more manufacturers begin to make adaptive headlights a standard item in new vehicles, the cost should come down and become more prevalent.

So, are adaptive headlights worth it? Ultimately that is for each driver to decide. If you have the discretionary income, investing in your safety, and that of your loved ones, is always worth it, even if the technology is imperfect.

Conventional headlights illumi-



nate the area that is straight ahead, even when the car goes around a bend or up a steep hill. At night, especially in darkly lit roads and around curves, standard headlights are woefully inadequate. In addition, they can blind unsuspecting drivers, contributing to unsafe road conditions.

It's also up to drivers to use the system appropriately and to drive attentively and safely. Adaptive headlights can't account for people who drive excessively fast or exercise poor judgment or drive while they are fatigued, intoxicated, or distracted.

That said, adaptive headlights can increase driver visibility at night and illuminate road hazards better and faster than conventional headlights. But if the driver has a slower reaction time because he is distracted, the headlights aren't going to save him.

But adaptive headlights can be a game-changer for drivers who approach driving with the seriousness that it deserves, and who employ safe driving practises whenever they step into a car. By increasing visibility at night and in low-light conditions, adaptive headlights represent an evolution in automotive technology that has the potential to make our roads safer, reduce accidents and save lives.

Dozens killed in storms near Brazil's Rio de Janeiro

Al Jazeera - At least 58 people have died in mudslides and floods when torrential rains swept a mountainous region of Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state, local authorities said, amid fears the death toll could rise as searchers continued to check damaged areas.

The city of Petropolis was slammed by a deluge on Tuesday, and Mayor Rubens Bomtempo said the number of dead could rise as searchers picked through the wreckage.

Video posted on social media showed cars and houses being dragged away by landslides, and water swirling through Petropolis and neighbouring districts. The Globo television network showed houses buried beneath mud in areas firefighters had not yet been able to access.



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said he had instructed the government to deliver immediate support to the afflicted. [Photo credit: Silvia Izquierdo/AP Photo]

The deaths come as southeastern Brazil has been punished with heavy rains since the start of the year, with more than 40 deaths recorded between incidents in Minas Gerais state in early January and Sao Paulo state later the same month.

The state fire department

said more than 180 soldiers were working in the stricken Petropolis region, which got 25.8 centimetres (more than 10 inches) of rain within three hours on Tuesday – almost as much as during the previous 30 days combined.

Petropolis's city hall said in a statement the heavy rains

left "a high number of incidents and victims" and that rescue and recovery efforts were under way.

Rosilene Virgilio, 49, was in tears as she recalled the pleas for help from a woman she couldn't save.

"Yesterday there was a woman screaming, 'Help! Get me out of here!' But we couldn't do anything; the water was gushing out, the mud was gushing out," Virgilio told the Associated Press. "Our city unfortunately is finished."

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who is on a trip to Russia, said on Twitter he had instructed the government to deliver immediate support to the afflicted. "May God comfort the family members of the victims," he wrote. Petropolis' city hall declared three days of mourning.

Public consultation on marriage equality law has begun in Cuba

AP — Cuba's leaders have launched an unusual series of neighborhood meetings across the island to debate a measure that would legalize same-sex marriage and adoption, a measure that pits the daughter of former President Raul Castro against a growing evangelical movement. The planned 78,000 meetings, which officially began at the start of February but are only now being seen in practice, were called by Cuba's parliament to discuss the content of a proposal and gather public comment by the end of April. That will be used to draft a final version to be put to a public referendum at a yet to be determined date.

While there is no debate in the meetings — comments can be expressed in

writing or verbally, with no argument or vote — the measure and others like it before have roused an unusually strong discussion in society as a whole.

While gay rights are the most debated part of the proposed law, its more than 400 articles cover all sorts of family topics, including the rights of grandparents and grandchildren, protection of the elderly, punishment of gender violence and how the law deals with marriage and parental responsibility.

It would give children gradually greater rights as they grow.

Such a vast consultation on pending legislation is rare in Cuba though a similar process preceded adoption of the country's new constitution in 2019.



Residents attend a popular consultation to discuss the draft of a new family code, in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Feb. 11, 2022. [Photo credit: AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa]

About 200 people attended a meeting in front of a house in Havana witnessed by The Associated Press. The

cont'd on pg 15

Elderly and children abandoned at hospitals ahead of festive seasons in Grenada

CMC – Grenada's Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tyhiesia Donald, Tuesday said there appears to be family members who are deliberately denying medication to elderly people and children diagnosed with non-communicable diseases (NCD) and other life-threatening ailments. She told a post Cabinet news conference that such a situation becomes most notable ahead of festive occasions on the island.

"As a matter of fact, during festive seasons family members look at the hospital as a daycare (centres), so what happens is that sometimes medication is not given, patients end up in hospital and persons who are caring are free to socialise and this is a trend we have seen over the years and it continues to happen," she added.

She said staff at the General Hospital, the main health institution on the island, have noted cases where children are also affected by this "despicable" action.

"It happens across the board; it happens with adults as well as with children. The good thing as I said, the hospital is a safe place for the kids and for the adults," Donald told reporters.



Grenada's acting Medical Director, Dr Tyhiesia Donald.

"It is a trend we have seen and it should not be something that we are to be proud of but it's something we have noted over the years, so it's across the board," said the acting CMO, who has also served as the Medical Director at the General Hospital.

In regard to the high number of NCD cases, Donald said she is urging the population to adopt a more active lifestyle including exercises so as to maintain good health.

"So, we want to implore the population to change their lifestyle," she said.

In the meantime, Grenada announced that it has made some significant changes to its entry protocols and coronavirus (COVID-19) regulations.

"Our entry protocol will now be accepting antigen testing within 24 hours

off arrival to Grenada and will continue with PCR testing within 72 hours of arrival. So that change will be antigen testing within 24 hours," Donald said.

"I know that this is a very good change for persons in the Diaspora because PCR is very difficult to access, and it has been a problem. A lot of flights have been cancelled because of the inability to get results on time. Therefore, with this new testing we expect persons will be very happy and we will have more arrival coming to Grenada," she said.

The acting CMO also announced that passengers arriving via the Maurice Bishop International Airport will not be treated differently to those who are arriving via cruise ships. All passengers entering Grenada must be vaccinated but those entering via cruise ships are not allowed to socialize outside of the tourism bubble.

"For all tourists whether you enter by sea or air you are free to walk around and experience our attractions sites," she announced.

Health Minister Nickolas Steele said the new measures go into effect immediately.

cont'd from pg 14

National Anthem was sung, the Cuban flag displayed.

Heidi Sanchez, a nursing assistant, said she like the change "because it includes everyone in the world: children, the elderly, people of the same sex. We are all human beings and Cubans. I don't see anything abnormal."

Rosmary Rivera, a 29-year-old housewife, said she was basically in favor of same-sex marriage, "as long as they maintain their privacy." She said she'd prefer not to have gay neighbors,

though, because "it looks ugly," especially "when there are children."

A prime supporter of the measure is Mariela Castro, director of the National Center for Sex Education and a promoter of rights for same-sex couples, as well as being daughter of the former president and revolutionary leader.

"It gives me much hope that in spite of how difficult and contradictory the processes of social transformation have been ... we have reached this moment of a (family) code so advanced,

so revolutionary," she told reporters recently. But beyond the revolutionary government, there's a strong strain of social conservatism in Cuba, where evangelical churches have been growing.

"There are very dangerous aspects that go against the Cuban family," the Methodist Church in Cuba warned in a statement urging members to bring that message to their communities.

In addition to marriage equality clauses, it was worried that changes to the status of parents and children could

weaken the family.

Other religious groups have even put up posters in defence of the "original family" of a man and a woman.

While Cuba was officially — and often militantly — atheist for decades after the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro — Raul's brother — it has become more tolerant of religions over the past quarter century. That has meant a greater opening not only the once-dominant Roman Catholic Church, but also to Afro-Cuban religions, protestants and Muslims.

Xi urges Hong Kong to get control as COVID-19 cases surge

HONG KONG (AP) — Coronavirus patients lay in hospital beds or open-air tents amid record numbers of infections as Hong Kong doggedly adheres to its “zero-COVID” strategy, and China’s leader Xi Jinping said the local government’s “overriding task” was to control the situation.

Hong Kong is facing its worst outbreak of the pandemic, topping 2,000 new COVID-19 cases each day this week.

The city government has already instituted strict rules banning gatherings of more than two households.

But health care facilities are beginning to overflow, and the city’s Caritas Medical Center was forced Wednesday to treat some patients in beds outside the building.

Others were waiting in tents, some appalled by the government’s response to the outbreak.

“The reason why our society has become chaotic like this today is all because of this policy.

“The organisational skill of the government has made Hong Kong people feel so hopeless,” said Dai-



Patients lie on hospital beds as they wait at a temporary holding area outside Caritas Medical Centre in Hong Kong Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022. [AP Photo Vincent Yu]

sy Ho, a 70-year-old homemaker.

Xi directed Vice Premier Han Zheng to express to Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam the concerns that Chinese Communist Party leaders have about the city’s ongoing outbreak, according to Wen Wei Po, a pro-Beijing news outlet.

Zheng said the Hong Kong government “should

earnestly assume the main responsibility and regard the rapid stabilisation and control of the epidemic as the current overriding task,” the report said.

China’s central government agencies and neighboring Guangdong province will provide Hong Kong with resources to fight the outbreak, including rapid antigen tests,

medical expertise and supplies, Zheng said.

China has been able to control the virus within its borders by maintaining a strict “zero tolerance” policy that involves total lockdowns, extensive contact tracing and mass testing millions of people.

The strategy seeks to contain outbreaks as soon as they are detected.

Police to investigate Prince Charles' charity



Clarence House said Prince Charles had "no knowledge of the alleged offer of honours or British citizenship on the basis of donation to his charities". [Getty Images]

The Metropolitan Police is to investigate claims Prince Charles' charity offered honours help to a Saudi citizen.

The force said it is investigating alleged offences under the Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act 1925.

There have been no arrests or interviews under caution, the Met said.

The Prince's Foundation said it would be "inap-

propriate to comment on an ongoing investigation". It is understood to be continuing to offer its full cooperation to the Metropolitan Police.

Clarence House reiterated its previous insistence that Prince Charles had "no knowledge of the alleged offer of honours or British citizenship on the basis of donation to his charities".

He is president of the foun-

cont'd on pg 18

South African judge dismisses Zuma's bid to appeal prosecutor ruling

Reuters - A South African judge on Wednesday dismissed a bid by former president Jacob Zuma to appeal an earlier ruling rejecting his attempt to have the prosecutor in his arms deal corruption trial taken off the case for alleged bias.

The judgement means Zuma's trial will move forward on April 11.

"The application for leave to appeal and all related applications ... are all dismissed," Pietermaritzburg High Court Judge Piet Koen said in court. "The criminal trial shall proceed," he added.

Zuma, ousted as head of state in 2018 after nine years in power, has pleaded not guilty to charges of corruption, money laundering and racketeering in a long-running case over a \$2 billion arms deal in the 1990s.

Zuma has claimed he is the victim of a political witch-hunt orchestrated by allies of President Cyril Ramaphosa, a charge Ramaphosa has denied.

"It is not within the power of the



Former South African President Jacob Zuma enters the High Court in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. [Photo credit:Jerome Delay/ Pool via Reuters]

president – and it shouldn't be within the power of the president – to initiate criminal proceedings against anyone," Ramaphosa told parliament on Wednesday, addressing the Zuma camp's accusation.

Last year Zuma was sentenced to 15 months in prison for defying an order to participate in a corruption inquiry. He was released on medical parole, but a court later ruled he should return to jail. Zuma has appealed that ruling.

Ottawa's police chief ousted amid truck protest in Canada

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Ottawa's police chief was ousted Tuesday amid criticism of his inaction against the trucker protests that have paralyzed Canada's capital for over two weeks, while the number of blockades maintained by demonstrators at the U.S. border dropped to just one.

The twin developments came a day after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked Canada's Emergencies Act and threatened to take tough legal and financial measures to end the unrest in Ottawa and beyond by protesters decrying the country's COVID-19 restrictions and Trudeau's government.

Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly lost his job after failing to move decisively against the bumper-to-bumper demonstration by hundreds of truck driv-



A white rose is secured under a bungee cord strapping a Canadian flag to the hood of a semi-trailer truck, on the 18th day of a protest against COVID-19 measures that has grown into a broader anti-government protest, in Ottawa, on Valentine's Day, Monday, Feb. 14, 2022. [Photo Credit: Justin Tang/The Canadian Press via AP]

ers.

The protests by the so-called Freedom Convoy have infuriated many residents, who have complained of being harassed and intimidated on the streets.

"Like other residents in Ottawa, I have watched

in disbelief as this carnival chaos has been allowed to continue," Diane Deans, chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board, said in announcing Sloly's departure.

She added that the protesters had turned downtown into a street

party with big screens, hot tubs and an outdoor gym.

Sloly said in a statement that he did everything possible to keep the city safe, calling it an "unprecedented and unforeseeable crisis."

Ottawa's police board said 360 vehicles remained involved in the blockade in the city's core, down from a high of roughly 4,000.

A command center was set up so that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ontario Provincial Police could assume command over the situation, apparently relegating Ottawa police to a secondary role.

Interim Ottawa Police Chief Steve Bell said he believes authorities have reached a turning point: "I believe we now have the resources and partners to put a safe end to this occupation."

cont'd from pg 17

dation but is not involved with its governance, with the charity's trustees overseeing its day-to-day activities.

The Met's decision to investigate follows its assessment of a letter it received last September relating to media reports that Prince Charles' former valet Michael Fawcett allegedly offered to help secure an honour for a Saudi citizen.

Anti-monarchy pressure group Republic reported the heir to the throne and Fawcett to the police last

September. Its chief executive Graham Smith said: "We hope the investigation will be carried out without fear or favour and be as thorough as it needs to be."

After the allegations emerged, Mr Fawcett temporarily stepped back as chief executive of The Prince's Foundation, before resigning in November. The charity announced an investigation into the allegations. The timing couldn't have been worse.

The early headlines on Wednesday were of Prince Andrew's settlement with Virginia Giuffre, of how he

pays for it and the Queen's woes.

By lunchtime, things became more complicated, with news of the Metropolitan Police's "cash for honours" investigation into Prince Charles's charity foundation.

It leaves the prospect of the heir to the throne being questioned by the police as part of this inquiry.

The businessman, Mahfouz Marei Mubarak bin Mahfouz, is reported to have donated money to restoration projects of interest to Prince Charles. Mr Mahfouz is not accused of, and denies, any wrongdoing.



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The Format

3-persons scramble

The Package

One round of 18 holes green fees
One round of 18 holes cart fees
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Newman-style Lunch Special
Two drinks tickets
Ice cold bottled water in coolers on the course

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Maginley pledges to help with tennis development in Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda's sole professional tennis player, Jodie Maginley, says he is hoping to return home to help with the development of the sport in the twin-island state.

Maginley, 26, is currently the only Antiguan player with ATP Ranking points and he is eligible to compete on the second-tier ATP Challenger Tour and third-tier ITF Men's World Tennis Tour.

Based in Florida in the United States of America, Maginley currently has an ATP men's singles ranking of 1334 and 966 in doubles as of 14 February, 2022.

Speaking to Sports Overflow, Maginley said although he doesn't have immediate solutions to some of the deep rooted problems that hinder the growth of tennis in Antigua and Barbuda, he is willing to return home in the future and offer his assistance in the development of the sport.

"I don't necessarily know the way to get a bunch of young Antiguan's interested in the sport. I remember when I was really young, we used to have tournaments and all the Halcyon team members would support each other when we were playing against oppo-

nents from the other clubs like Carlisle Bay or Curtain Bluff or Jolly Harbour. But that kind of changed the older I got, so I think competition is most important and I don't know the way to drive young Antiguan's into the sport," Maginley said.

"It is an individual sport, and [in Antigua], you have to play tennis at the hotels on their schedule and you don't necessarily have the equipment.

"It is not like one of these team sports where you can borrow your friend's bat or use the same football on the field or use someone else's shoes to run track.

"In tennis, the racquet is specific and they are expensive. The court time is not always free and someone to teach you is not always accessible, so it's just tough.

"But Antigua is not the only country in the Caribbean that has that issue. There are a lot of other countries in the Caribbean that have these issues because there are not enough players just to have steady competitions and drive the sport.

"I don't know what the solution is, but I know for sure when I have more time after my career is done, one of my goals is to come back home to Antigua and con-



Antigua and Barbuda's overseas-based professional men's tennis player Jody Maginley. (Photo courtesy Jody Maginley facebook)

tribute the best I can."

Maginley added that the Antigua and Barbuda Tennis Association (ABTA) has been very supportive of his efforts to play on the professional tennis circuit.

He noted that he will be seeking the support of the ABTA when he returns home to contribute to the development of tennis in Antigua and Barbuda.

"The whole tennis association has been very good to me. The whole executive with guys like Cordell (Williams), Peter (Quinn) and Dianne (Hillhouse) have

been very supportive of me in whichever way they can be," Maginley said.

"Whenever I write emails requesting entry for tournaments, or helping me to try and secure funding to stay on the (ATP) tour - anytime I have reached out to them - they have been supportive of me.

"I also think they respect my professionalism and my drive so I will trust that when I come back and I would like to get involved, I would hope that they would allow me to help in whichever way I can."

Cowboys pay \$2.4 million to settle cheerleaders locker-room claim

The Dallas Cowboys paid a multimillion dollar settlement to members of their cheerleading squad after allegations that a senior team executive filmed them in the AT&T stadium locker room, according to documents obtained by ESPN.

In a report published on Wednesday, ESPN said that the team paid a total of \$2.4m in the settlement, which involved four cheerleaders.

One woman alleges that she saw Richard Dalrymple, the Cowboys long-time senior vice president for public relations and communications, covertly filming them with his iPhone while they undressed after an event in 2015.

Dalrymple used his security keycard to enter the locker room through a back door, but says he was unaware the cheerleaders were present.



Richard Dalrymple

In documents obtained by ESPN, Dalrymple is also accused of taking an “upskirt” image of Charlotte Jones Anderson, a senior executive of the team, who is also the daughter of Cowboys

owner Jerry Jones.

The second incident is alleged to have occurred at the 2015 NFL draft.

Dalrymple has denied the allegations against him.

ICC doubles Women's ODI World Cup cash prizes

The ICC has doubled the prize money for the winners of the upcoming Women's ODI World Cup to \$1.32 million.

It has also increased the overall prize money pot by 75 percent, with eight teams getting a share of \$3.5 million; \$1.5 million more than

the 2017 edition which England won.

The runners-up will take home \$600,000, which is \$270,000 more than what second-placed India received in 2017. The two losing semi-finalists will receive \$300,000 each, while the four teams who will fly back home after the group stage will be awarded a sum of \$70,000 - up from the \$30,000 prize from the previous edition.

Every group stage win will also earn the teams a reward of \$25,000 per victory from a pot of \$700,000.

That makes it a rise in the prize money for consecutive editions of the Women's ODI World Cup.

The total prize money between the 2013 and the 2017 edition saw a ten-fold increase when it increased from \$200,000 to \$2 million.

England, the 2017 winners, got a reward of \$660,000, after beating India by nine runs at Lord's, to claim their fourth title.

Eight teams are participating at the World Cup this year which takes place from March 4 to April 3 in New Zealand, with a total of 28 league games to be played in a round-robin format.

Four sides will then move to the semi-finals to be played in Wellington and Christchurch, followed by the final in Christchurch.



Sports News

cont'd from pg 24

means they would have done the double.”

Olsen said he fell in love with the race, and Antigua and Barbuda, after he witnessed the first ever Atlantic Challenge organised by the original owner in 2010.

“I was here the first time in 2010 because my brother, he did the crossing, and that was how I got to know the race. I completely fell in love with the race. I was in La Gomera when they took off and I was over here in Antigua at the Nelson’s Dockyard receiving them,” he said.

“My first stay here was in St. James Club hotel and I obviously looked around here in English Harbour, Falmouth and also around the island. You know, I have been to other Caribbean islands and I think, I don’t want to say anything negative about the other Caribbean islands, but people are just extremely friendly here and chilled and open minded and I kind of like that.

“I had the idea in my head already back then, so I gave the original owner of the race a good offer in 2012 and I took over. But in 2011 the race finished in Barbados because I think he, the previous organiser of the race, had some trouble with not always remembering to pay his bills and stuff like that. So he moved away to Barbados, and I have been there as well to see the race, but it was not a difficult choice to make when I took over to bring it back to Nelson’s Dockyard in English Harbour.

“The entrance here, the natural harbour, the historical thing about the place, it is very difficult to find a similar spot for a race finish. When I took over the race, the race finish was actually out at sea, like one mile away from Nelson’s Dockyard.

“But I didn’t really like the thing that you are celebrating with the rowers on one boat, one mile from English Harbour. Now the finish line is inside



Swiss Raw, winners of the 2021 Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge pose with a sponsors’ banner after completing the 2021 race at Nelson’s Dockyard on January 16, 2022.

the marina, just outside Fort Berkeley. Now you can hear the horn from the super yachts, people can stand at the dockyard and see the flares going up and then within five to 10 minutes they row into the dock and are being celebrated one more time.

“So it really works well here in Antigua. Also I have an incredible level of cooperation with the National Parks Authority. I also stay at the Copper and Lumber Store Historic Inn.

“All the incredible staff that work there I consider as my family. So I have a great relationship with the national parks and a great relationship with the Antiguan government and all authorities, so I cannot really see in the near future that we should go anywhere else.”

Olsen said having the race in Antigua and Barbuda has been mutually beneficial as the Atlantic Challenge provides a financial boost to the nation’s economy.

“We bring in a lot of tourism and a lot of marketing and PR (public relations). I mean the numbers here in terms of the mentioning of the name Antigua and Barbuda in worldwide media, national, United States, BBC, CBS, Skysports, Fox News, CNN, The Times (in England) the New York

Times and I can go on and on. But the numbers here are sky high in the mentioning of this nation and the race, obviously, but also the amount of people we bring in because of the race,” he told Sports Overflow.

“I think this year there are between 500 and 600 tourists who are directly associated with the race. Some are family and friends of the rowers and I can see down here in English Harbour the hotels and restaurants are full.

“I went to a hotel here recently and 80 per cent of all guests in the pool area and restaurant were associated with the race. So it means something for the financial side of things here, but the island also gives a lot of love back in terms of nature, in terms of the way people are, so it is kind of a win-win situation.”

Arguably, the most impressive aspect of the Atlantic Challenge is each participating crew must raise funds for a charity of their choice to be eligible to compete in the race across the ocean.

Olsen also told Sports Overflow that sponsors have played a significant role in contributing to the success of the Atlantic Challenge over the years.

“The title sponsor of the race is Ta-

cont'd on pg 23

India win the first T20 against West Indies



India defeated West Indies by six wickets on Wednesday at Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

The host won the toss and decided to field.

The Caribbean side posted 157-7 with vice-captain Nicolas Pooran smashing 61 off 43 deliveries. Mayers and Pollard added 31 and 24 not-out respectively.

Patel and Bishnoi bagged two wickets each.

The Indians reached their target 162-4 in 18.5 overs with Captain Rohit Sharma leading from the front with 40 off 19 balls with assistance coming from Kishan 35 and Yadav unbeaten 34.

The second game will be contested on Friday 9:30am Eastern Caribbean time. Platinum FM 97.9 will carry live coverage.

Ex-Zimbabwe footballer killed in South Africa

Former Zimbabwe footballer, Charles Yohane, has died in South Africa at the age of 48 in an apparent car-jacking incident.

Defender Yohane was in the Warriors squad for their debut appearance at the Africa Cup of Nations in 2004.

Following retirement from playing, he had been working in Johannesburg as a football coach and taxi driver.

His body was found in Soweto on Monday, though it is believed he died on Saturday night.

"He was hijacked, they took his car and shot him in the head," his brother Lewis told BBC Sport.

Yohane moved from Zimbabwe to South Africa in 1996 and played for



Charles Yohane

the top-flight side, Wits, becoming captain and making a club record 268 ap-

pearances from 1997 to 2006. Yohane played for Zimbabwe 23 times.

cont'd from pg 22

lisker Whiskey. They have been title sponsor since I took over, and they are this year and one more year.

"Then we have Virgin Atlantic as our travel partner. They are also the ones who are able to give us the numbers as to how many people are flying out here because all the families and

friends are given special rates by Virgin Atlantic. They have been partnering with us since the beginning as well and they have been incredible to work with," he said.

"Then we have Gill Marine clothing brand, Base Camp Food, we have Bre-mont as our timekeeper who gives watches for the win-

ning classes which are the open class, the race class and the female class. They gave 16 watches this year and each watch is worth US\$4,000.

"There are also other proceeds given on both sides in La Gomera in Spain and here in Antigua.

"Then there are sponsorships and partnerships

that the participating rowing teams have that they will be given to the charities.

"I think the numbers that have been raised for the charities this year will beat any other year so far. I think the total numbers since 2013, which was my first race, is heading towards €20 million raised for charities."

Atlantic Campaigns embrace relations with Antigua and Barbuda

Carsten Heron Olsen, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Atlantic Campaigns, the company that owns and organises the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge, says a fruitful and harmonious relationship has been developed with the people of Antigua and Barbuda in staging the annual rowing race across the Atlantic Ocean.

Olsen, who was born in Denmark, is also the race director of the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge.

He is currently in Antigua and Barbuda, where the headquarters of Atlantic Campaign is located, and Olsen has been witnessing the arrival of the various competitors in the 2021 race as they crossed the finish line in Nelson's Dockyard, English Harbour.

The end of the fifth week since the start of the 2021 Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge was marked with the arrival of the race winners, Swiss Raw, who crossed the finish line at 6:55am on January 16, 2022.

The four-member crew comprised of Roman Mockli, Ingvar Groza, Jan Hurni and Samuel Widmer, com-

pleted the crossing in 34 days, 23 hours and 42 minutes to win the 2021 Atlantic Challenge.

They were one of 36 crews that left San Sebastian de La Gomera in the Canary Islands at the start of the race on December 12, 2021, in the 3,000-mile, unsupported rowing race across the Atlantic Ocean.

The 36 competing crews included four solos, 10 pairs, six trios, 15 fours and one five.

Olsen has been involved in ocean rowing since 2008 and since taking ownership of the race, has driven it forward making it more accessible, professional and has created the most successful, premier ocean rowing event in the world.

"Why would anyone go in a little boat and cross the Atlantic Ocean by rowing for 3000 miles is a good question to ask. But human beings like to challenge themselves.

"It is not a concept that I came up with; it is a concept that I have taken forward. There were two Norwegians that actually rowed across the north Atlantic many years ago. Now in terms of the race on the mid Atlantic,



Carsten Heron Olsen, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Atlantic Campaigns. (Photo courtesy Atlantic Campaigns)

that has been going on for more than 25 years," said Olsen during an interview with Sports Overflow on Pointe FM.

"I bought the race in 2012 and this is my eighth race. It started biannually. Now, it's annually and more and more people want to do it. We are fully booked for the next three years. We have closed off the registration for this year's race because we already have 44 teams registered to participate in the race starting in December 2022.

"Last year (2021) we

started with thirty-six rowers and one solo rower dropped out. There are still some rowers out there. So over the years the numbers of rowers taking part usually comprised a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 40 teams.

"We will be starting a new race on the Pacific Ocean in June 2023 from Monterey in California to the Garden Island in Hawaii which will be a 2,800-mile race. Antigua's Island Girls are on the entry list, and so if they do the Pacific race it

cont'd on pg 22