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PM BROWNE CALLS MP WALKER DISHONEST OVER GDP FIGURES



Prime Minister Gaston Browne has called out Barbudan MP Trevor Walker for his dishonesty following statements made earlier this week on the country's economic growth. *Story on Page 2.*

My bank keeps me **out front.**

PM Browne labels Trevor Walker "boldfaced" and "dishonest"

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has rapped Barbudan MP Trevor Walker for his dishonesty following statements made earlier this week on the country's economic growth.

While debating the 2022 budget estimates on Tuesday, Walker accused the minister of finance of lying to the nation, when during his presentation; Mr. Browne said economic growth was recorded at 5.3 percent.

Instead, Walker said the figure was incorrect, quoting Eastern Caribbean Central Bank data and revealing that a telephone call to the bank's headquarters in Basseterre that confirmed the economy of Antigua and Barbuda grew by 1.76 percent in 2021.

His declaration led to

a swift response from the ECCB that confirmed the prime minister's information to be true.

Wrapping up debate in the House of Representatives yesterday, Prime Minister Browne said the Barbuda MP failed to inform the nation that the 1.76 percent was the estimated rate of growth as of June, 2021.

"The member for Barbuda convinced himself that because he was making reference to stats that were factual that his misinterpretation would go unchallenged and his misinterpretation was not necessarily due as a result of ignorance, it was deliberate, and that is why I think I am duty bound to address those misrepresentations."

Mr. Browne took offence to the actions of Trevor



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Walker, who went to lengths to disparage the information contained in his statement to a joint sitting of parliament on 3rd February, 2022. The head of government said the MP's actions were "deliberate, barefaced lies".

"One would expect the member for Barbuda to be more responsible with his articulations, recognizing that we live in an information age, and it is very easy for individuals to check the veracity of his statements," the finance minister noted.

Prime Minister Browne said following Mr. Walker's pronouncement, he contacted the ECCB to ascertain who would have furnished the Barbudan representative with such information and was told that no official affiliated with the central bank did so.

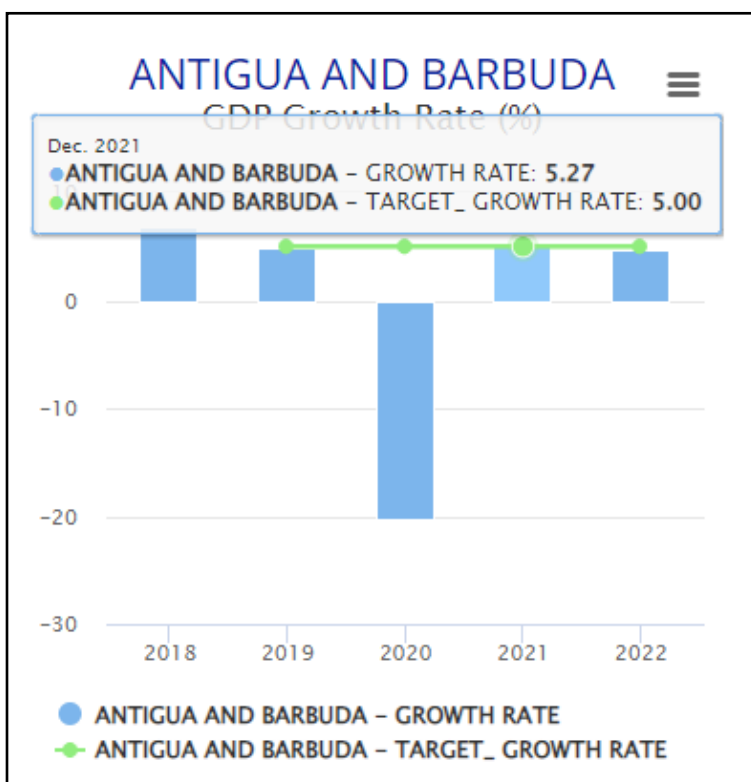
"There is no way that as responsible ministers and certainly in my case as the prime minister of this country that I could misquote the central bank, and to quote in an official publication that a

country's economy grew by 5.3 percent and to quote the central bank without repercussions. I mean evidently the information had to come from them. But it shows how mischievous the member for Barbuda has been, and the fact that he is prepared to deceive, to lie, to undermine and literally to malign," the finance minister said yesterday afternoon.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is optimistic that the country will achieve 8 percent growth in 2022. He acknowledges that greater effort is needed to achieve that objective.

The City West MP told parliament he was unimpressed by the budget debate presentations from the opposition bench, calling them "vacuous in many respects" that lacked scholarship and intellectual rigour.

The 2022 budget estimates were passed in the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon. It now heads to the Senate for further debate and passage.



Cabinet green lights the return of unvaxxed citizens

Cabinet has given its approval for unvaccinated overseas based Antiguan and Barbudans to return home, lifting a mandate that was implemented last year.

Before arriving at a decision at its weekly meeting on Wednesday, Cabinet held intense discussion, involving the Deputy Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Health Inspector.

Unvaccinated citizens were being held to the same standard as other visitors, having to show proof of vaccination before boarding flights to St. John's, as part of strict regulations to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to boost vac-

cination among the population.

At yesterday's Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, Information Minister Melford Nicholas said certain mechanisms must first go into effect before the date is announced when those who have been out of state can return.

"The travel advisory at first has to be updated, and the relevant date identified. So I'm not going to put a hard date on it but it's in the coming week, the travel advisory will be updated to reflect that persons who are citizens, those who will be carrying the Antiguan passport will be allowed through the travel advisory, the airlines will be advised that

those citizens, even though they do not have a full panel of vaccinations they ought to be allowed to come to Antigua," Nicholas told reporters.

In addition to presenting a negative PCR or Rapid Test on arrival, unvaccinated citizens will be required to spend 7 to 10 days in quarantine with a tracking bracelet and must take another test prior to joining their friends and families at the end of that period.

Cabinet believes its decision will be welcomed by many who are experiencing tough times overseas.

"The report has come in that many
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V.C. Bird Int'l to install radar system

Minister of Civil Aviation, Sir Robin Yearwood, has indicated that the V. C. Bird International Airport will soon undergo a number of technological, operations and structural upgrades.

This week, Sir Robin informed the House of Representatives that plans to install a radar system at the airport are well underway.

The radar flight tracking system will finally give local air traffic controllers a better view of the air space around Antigua and Barbuda and the objects moving through it. This in turn will greatly enhance air traffic



Minister of Civil Aviation, Sir Robin Yearwood says damage to the roof of the old airport terminal is being repaired.

safety as they will have a more precise view of the location, speed and direction of aircraft, and in the event of emergencies, be able to rapidly pinpoint and identify aircraft which find

themselves in distress.

A test run of the newly installed radar system was carried out this week with the aid of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority.

Minister Yearwood also revealed that the old airport terminal is currently under repair to address damage to some areas of the roof.

Antigua and Barbuda hosted agents of the US Transport Security Authority (TSA) who toured the V. C. Bird International Airport and made several recommendations in respect of cargo management and other security related issues.

Among the other upgrades that will soon come to the country's lone international airport are a revamped baggage handling system and resurfaced runways.

My bank keeps me **ahead.**

ABEC Chairman, Nathaniel “Paddy” James, steps down

After 20 years of service to the Antigua Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), Nathaniel “Paddy” James is stepping down as its present chairman.

The information was revealed this week by Prime Minister Gaston Browne who holds portfolio responsibility for ABEC.

According to Cabinet Notes published Thursday, Mr. James informed Prime Minister Browne, in writing, that he will be stepping down as he is nearing the age of retirement.

Cabinet declined to reveal James’ replacement because, as of yesterday, the person had not yet been informed. However, the Cabinet confirmed that this announcement will be made following their next meeting.

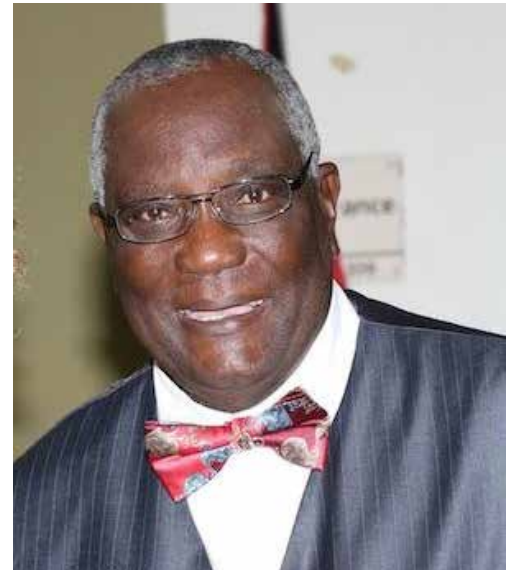
Mr. James is one of the original ABEC commissioners.

ABEC is an independent, non-par-

tisan entity with a mission to safeguard the electoral process in the twin island state.

The creation of ABEC was the result of a report that was written by the Commonwealth Observer Group following the 1999 General Elections in Antigua and Barbuda. They recommended “the establishment of an Independent Electoral Commission in Antigua and Barbuda with, among other powers, the mandate to create a completely new register, introduce a system of voter identification cards, and arrange the redrawing of constituency boundaries, and as necessary, review electoral law”.

ABEC emerged on December 3, 2001 with the Representation of the People Act (ROPA), Cap. 379 Act No. 17 of 2001. A staff complement was hired and five commissioners were ap-



Outgoing chairman of ABEC, Nathaniel “Paddy” James

pointed in April of 2002.

The first Chairman of ABEC was McClin Mathias. His Deputy Chairman was Bruce Goodwin. Bishop Ewing Dorsett, Winston Gomes and Nathaniel “Paddy” James were the other three commissioners.

James was appointed chairman of ABEC in 2015.

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WEEKEND

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ABTB
Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Guest Opinion

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US-Caribbean relations more than China and Russia

By Sir Ronald Sanders

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

There has been a troubling development in relations between the U.S. and the 14 independent nations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

In the absence of a clear U.S. government strategy for the Caribbean, on February 7, a Bill entitled, "The Western Hemisphere Security Strategy Act of 2022" from two Senators, Republican Marco Rubio and Democratic Bob Menendez, was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

This Bill was introduced with no input from Caribbean governments or any other official Caribbean representative organisations. Not surprisingly,

therefore, the interests of Caribbean countries are not reflected in the Bill.

According to Senator Rubio, this bill is being introduced "at a time when the destabilizing impact of authoritarian regimes, and transnational criminal organizations, in addition to the malign activities of state actors like China and Russia, pose risks to U.S. national security".

The authoritarian regimes in the Caribbean and Latin America, which the Bill claims are causing a "destabilizing impact" on U.S. security, are not identified. They could hardly exist in the CARICOM region, where, apart from Haiti and its very peculiar circumstances, all governments have been freely and fairly elected and adhere to both domestic and international requirements of the rule of law.

Indeed, according to Freedom House, a non-profit, majority U.S. government funded organization in Washington, D.C. that conducts research and ad-



By Sir Ronald Sanders

vocacy on democracy, political freedom, and human rights, many Caribbean countries rank ahead of the U.S. in the measurement of respect for political and civil rights.

In Freedom House's Global Freedom Score for 2021, the U.S. is rated at 83 (highest rating being 100), several points lower than Antigua and Barbuda (85), Barbados (95), Belize (87), Dominica (93), Grenada (89), St Kitts-Nevis (89), St Lucia (91), St Vincent and

the Grenadines (91) and the Bahamas (91). Significantly, all the CARICOM countries, except Haiti, are rated as "free" as is the U.S.

In the context of "authoritarian regimes", therefore, Senators Rubio and Menendez must have had in mind specific, and non-CARICOM, Caribbean countries. However, the Senators present no evidence of the "destabilizing impact" on U.S. security of any Caribbean country.

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My bank keeps me **on top.**

Guest Opinion

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Senator Rubio also identified “the malign activities of state actors like China and Russia” in the region as posing “risks to U.S. national security”. In his Media Release, Senator Rubio claimed that: “There is no greater threat in our region than the growing meddling of Russia and China in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

It is in this framework, in which drug and human trafficking are included, that these two influential Senators have introduced this bill.

It has come one year into the current administration of U.S. President Joseph Biden, and almost five years since the U.S. State Department, under former President Donald Trump, issued its “U.S. Strategy for Engagement in the Caribbean” in June 2017.

In reality, the 2017 strategy attracted no funding and existed more in word than in deed. President Trump’s Caribbean interests focussed on Cuba, as a response to Cuban-Ameri-

can exiles with whom he allied to win the State of Florida in the 2020 Presidential elections, and on Venezuela for similar reasons.

President Biden, no doubt, pre-occupied with troubling domestic and external issues that included fighting the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, recovering the U.S. economy, getting troops out of Afghanistan, and trying to restore international confidence in the U.S. government as a reliable partner to Europe in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has set out no Caribbean policy.

Therefore, such a policy, as now exists, is one that responds to Caribbean advocacy in specific areas such as providing anti-COVID-19 vaccines from the large stockpile in the U.S. For the most part, departments of the U.S. government have been working on the leftovers of the 2017 strategy.

It is into this vacuum that Senators Rubio and Menendez have stepped with their Bill that focusses the U.S. Caribbean relation-

ship only in terms of ‘U.S. security’ and, even then, in terms that takes no account of how Caribbean countries view security.

Most countries in CARICOM would not regard their relations with China and Russia as “meddling”, nor would they share the view reflected in the Bill, that “There is no greater threat in our region than the growing meddling of Russia and China”. Further, while increased assistance with “security” would be welcome, the narrow frame, as expressed in the Bill, limits the areas in which CARICOM governments have placed security.

CARICOM has adopted an approach that “security” is multi-dimensional and while it includes some of the elements that the Bill has detailed, it also crucially includes Climate Change; access to financing for development; preparing for the effects of future pandemics; tackling insecurities in food, water and energy; correcting poor terms of trade; and the consequences of increased unemployment

and poverty.

The Bill sets out its purposes as the U.S. maintaining “credible security capabilities dedicated to Latin America and the Caribbean.... to deter acts of aggression; and to respond, if necessary, to regional threats and threats to the national security of the United States”.












These objectives echo the Monroe Doctrine of a past era by which U.S. governments exercised outsize influence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Neither the U.S. administration nor CARICOM governments can sit-by, allowing the Rubio-Menendez Bill to be the principal determinant of their relationship.

And, it could easily become just that, particularly as one of the stated intentions of the Bill is that “the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the implementation of the strategy”.

Officials of both the U.S. and CARICOM governments should waste no time in ensuring that the “appropriate committees” of the U.S. Congress and Senators Rubio and Menendez appreciate that the relationship between the U.S. and the Caribbean is most secure when its economic and financial pillars are strengthened.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

Fri 18 Day		Fri 18 Night	
81°		74°	
23%	ENE 15 mph	19%	ENE 12 mph
Abundant sunshine. High 81F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.		Clear skies with a few passing clouds. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
 Humidity 70%	 UV Index 10 of 10	 Humidity 77%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 6:31 am	 Sunset 6:10 pm	 Moonrise 8:05 pm	 Moonset 7:57 am
		 Waning Gibbous	

Republic of Indonesia supports St. Paul's Empowerment Centre

The Republic of Indonesia has made a significant cash donation to the newly opened St. Paul's Empowerment Centre.

During the opening of the centre last Saturday, Indonesian Honorary Consul of the Republic of Indonesia to Antigua and Barbuda, Paul Ryan, noted that US\$87,308 had been donated to the centre to support the purchase of laptops, desktop computers, network hardware, software, air conditioning units, recording equipment and furniture.

Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Antigua and Barbuda, H. E. Tatang Budie Utama Razak, who is based in Bogota, Colombia, said in a written message that his government was very pleased to be able to support the community development effort through a tangible demonstration of friendly relations between nations.

"It is an honor for the Government of Indonesia to be directly involved in financing the Community Connect project aimed at rebuilding telecommunications and information technology infrastructure damaged by Hurricane



St. Paul's Empowerment Centre

Irma in September 2017.

"The Government of Indonesia fully feels the difficulties faced by the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda due to Hurricane Irma.

"The struggle and fortitude of the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda who collectively overcame the difficulties caused by Hurricane Irma, is amazing and deserves high appreciation.

"I hope that the assistance from the Government of Indonesia, which is specifically intended to facilitate

technical support and training in the IT field, can provide great benefits to the people of Antigua and Barbuda who use this Community Connect Center," said Ambassador Razak.

In response, MP for St. Paul's and Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene, expressed thanks to the Government and People of Indonesia for recognising and responding to the needs of the people of Antigua and Barbuda and investing in the social and educational development of the residents of St. Paul's.

cont'd from pg 3

of them are abroad and are burning scarce resources that they could hardly afford at this particular point in time, and of course many of them would probably have to come

back here to resume work as well. So that is an improvement for them," Nicholas detailed.

The vaccine requirement for tourists and other visitors will remain in place. They

will have to show proof of vaccination and present negative PCR or Rapid Tests in order to facilitate their travel.

The cabinet spokesman indicated concerns expressed by the Antigua Barbuda Ho-

tels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) on the need for a safe environment for employees and guests at their member properties will see the mandate remaining in place for now.

My bank keeps me **in charge.**

53 new cases of COVID-19 since last update

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed fifty-three (53) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 14th February, 2022 at 6pm.

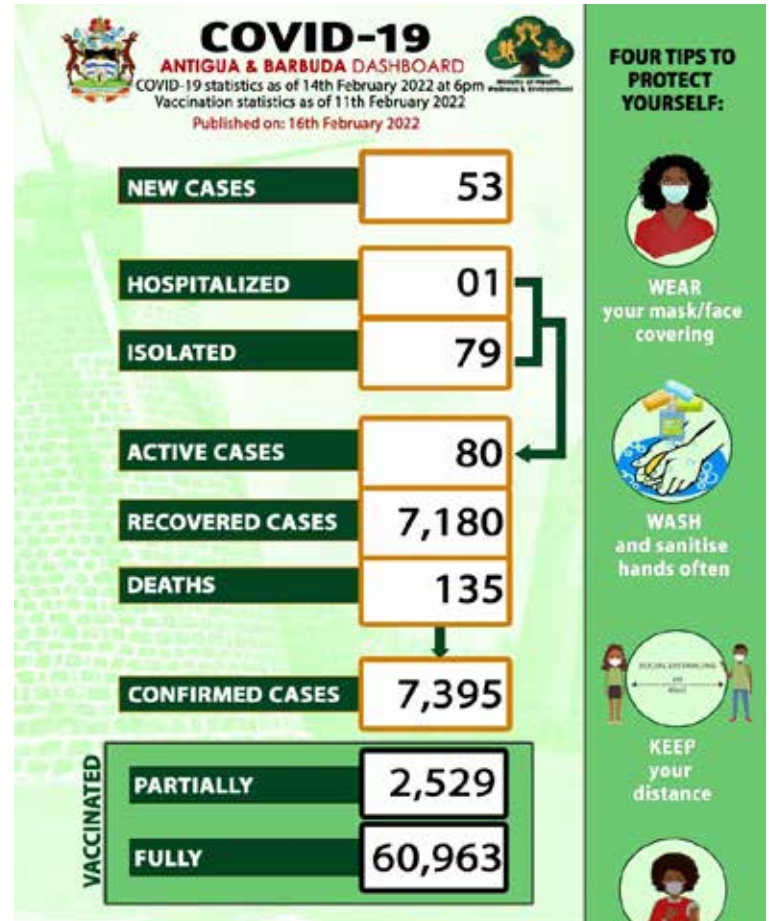
Seven (7) cases were recorded on the 10th February, fourteen (14) on the 11th, fourteen (14) on the 12th and eighteen (18) on the 14th.

Five hundred and sixty-one (561) samples were processed.

Five hundred and fifty-four (554) recovered cases were recorded.

One (1) COVID-19 related death was recorded at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven thousand three hundred and ninety-five (7,395); which is inclusive of eighty (80) active cases. There is one (1) hospitalised case which is moderate.



Sandals Foundation makes donation to Old Road Primary students

In its continued effort to ensure the nation's youth are supported in their learning development, the Sandals Foundation recently handed over educational supplies to the principal of the Old Road Primary School, Ryona Joseph.

The school received a wide variety of school supplies including pens, pencils, exercise books, art and craft

supplies and toys that will benefit the students' learning and development experience in and outside of the classroom setting.

Principal Joseph, who accepted the donation said, "The entire staff is extremely overwhelmed by the kind gesture extended by the foundation and the students are really happy to be recipients

of the gifts.

"We are also elated at the amount of things we received. The items donated have extended to all of our students. As you know, we can never have enough of these donations, as some parents cannot afford to always provide for their children and these items will go a long way in easing their strain."

The handover will directly benefit one-hundred and forty-five preschool and kindergarten students.

The donation forms part of the Sandals Foundations' effort to meet the needs of those students whose families have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The donations were handed over by Sandals Foundation brand ambassador, Leon Norville, and Environmental Coordinator, Georgia Lumley, who was on island for the Environmental Awareness Group's "Into the Wild" virtual classroom experience, a project that was funded and supported by the foundation.



Old Road Primary School students receiving their items from the Sandals Foundation.

The Christian Valley Rehabilitation Project – A work in progress

The Christian Valley Rehabilitation Project has been underway since 2021. As part of the initiative three access roads are being reconstructed with special attention being paid to the road leading away from Jolly Hill.

The work being done includes improved drainage, which will allow for better access into the valley.

“We are utilising some of the materials taken from the stream way to build the roads in this area and so we are trying to fix the drainage,” said Project Consultant, Alvin Christian.

He explained that the work crew encountered setbacks as they had to wait for the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) to complete work in the area.

“APUA has something

to do in this area so we have been at a standstill for the last three weeks,” Christian said.

As a result of the delays and slower than expected movement of the work, a completion date is unclear. However, it will be completed before the close of 2022.

Other factors contributing to the time delays include limited human resources, the lack of adequate machinery and unavailability of fuel.

Additionally, these setbacks have resulted in areas previously cleared becoming overgrown again.

Despite the issues, the road completed so far has made travelling in the area easier. The material excavated from the south eastern section of the valley was used in the construction of the new road.



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



Warri: Antigua and Barbuda is keeping this ancient board game alive

Under the shade of a wooden hut, a stone's throw from the flurry and fumes of the Antiguan capital's main bus station, a battle of wits is afoot.

Two men are bent over a handcrafted mahogany board, deep in concentration in the throes of a game of "Warri".

As the tension rises, so too does the banter from the engrossed bystanders. One player makes a rash move, and both his opponent and the crowd jeer in response.

The "chess" of Antigua and Barbuda is a mind sport, psyching out one's opponent is as critical as choosing one's next move.

The rudimentary apparatus and simple rules bely Warri's strategic depth. Bringing one's A-game means focus, acumen and unflappable resolve.

"Everyone plays, from young to old; it's been handed down from generation to generation," explains local resident Trevor Simon, who has claimed the world champion title multiple times since first entering international contests in the 1990s.

"It's an easy game to learn and it's connected to our ancestral past."

Known as "Oware" in Ghana and "Ayoayo" in Ni-



Warri is a board game popular in Antigua, and groups get together to play across the island.

geria, the game requires 48 seeds, dubbed "nickars", found on the Guilandina bush, which locals sometimes also refer to as "guilandria". Each player controls six hollows on his side of the board and turns are taken moving the counters between the holes with the aim of capturing 25 of the opponent's.

Warri has long provided a forum for discussing everything from politics to gossip. In colonial times it was banned by Europeans who feared its ability to draw Af-

rican slaves together socially, driving it underground.

In addition to its cultural significance, there is another reason Mr Simon is one of Warri's staunchest advocates. Co-founder of the country's Warri Academy, he has seen the dividends it reaps in children's mathematical ability.

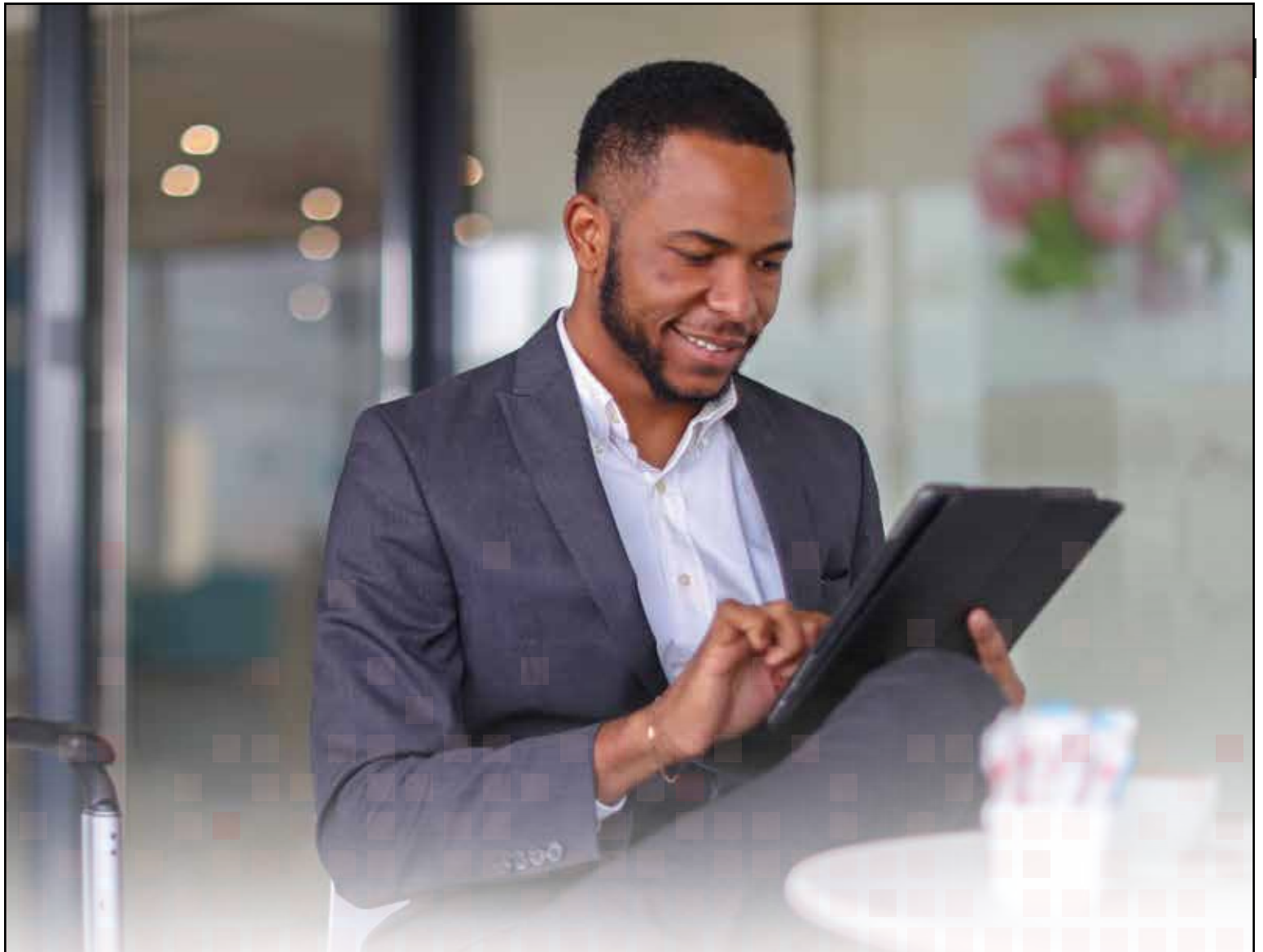
"When you teach kids to play, you don't just teach them the game but also our history and how it can help them mathematically," he tells the BBC. "We write a maths problem out for them

and show them how Warri can solve it.

"Historically, Warri was used to teach numeracy in Africa. And army generals had to be conversant in it as it shows good analytical skills; you have to focus not just on your game but also on what your opponent is doing."

"I started playing when I was six; I liked that it helped me in math. You have to strategise, use multiplication and be quick to add and subtract," she says.

"My maths was pretty
cont'd on pg 12



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Black History Month Spotlight

cont'd from pg 10

good before but I feel like it has excelled a bit more. It used to take me almost a minute to solve a problem; now it takes a few seconds.”

The youngster says playing Warri has boosted her confidence too.

“I get nervous before games but I catch myself and continue. The secret is to think it through before you start so you have a clear idea of how you’re going to

play,” she adds.

At the bus station, retired police officer Oswald Thomas says Warri helps keep his mind sharp.

“I’d been watching for years but started playing seriously recently. As you improve, you get to compete against the better players,” he says. “It’s a mind-relaxer and it keeps my brain alert.”

Mr Simon learned Warri from his mother when he was nine.

“There was a barber shop in our village where people used to congregate to play. There were two men in particular who were exciting to watch, attracting huge crowds. The energy that exuded from them is what drew me in,” he says.

His prowess in the game saw him accorded the title “Oware Grandmaster” by the Mind Sports Council in 1999.

These days, it is the rep-

artee and animation that accompany a match that he loves the most.

“Wherever we go to play and Africans are involved, there’s always excitement and commentary,” he smiles. “Other countries tend to play quieter, almost studiously.”

The ability to read an opponent’s body language is key, Mr Simon says.

“I will always remember playing a man described as the ‘Warri God of Ghana’. We played a friendly match before the tournament and he beat me,” he continues.

“When we sat down for the tournament, I looked him in the eye and told him, this is the real deal. Instantly, his body language was one of defeat. He shrank in his chair taken aback, and I won.”

Such grit just might be in Antiguan’s blood, Mr Simon thinks. It is after all a nation known for its steely-eyed cricketers like Sir Vivian Richards, a trait which spawned success on pitches the world over.

The coronavirus pandemic has temporarily put the brakes on international Warri competitions. For now, Mr Simon is turning his attention to promoting its legacy through his academy and a crusade to get the game added to the local school curriculum.

“I’ve given lectures all over the world about the importance of Warri and I’ve seen its value first-hand,” he adds. “It’s vital to get the young ones involved so, when I pass, they can carry on the tradition.” BBC



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Beyonce Ambrose is taking the fashion world by storm

Beyonce Ambrose is the stunning and statuesque daughter of Antigua and Barbuda cricket legend, Sir Curtley Ambrose.

Gracing runways in New York, London and Paris, 5' 10" Beyonce has carved out a place for herself among top icons in the international fashion industry including Naomi Campbell, with whom she shared

a runway in her international debut in 2021.

Since then, she has walked for top designers including Valentino, Carolina Herrera and Proenza Schouler. In 2021, Beyonce closed the tribute show to Alber Elbaz by AZ Factory.

She is represented by Supreme Management - Paris and is signed by the Bri'geid Agency.



Photo Credit: Beyonce Ambrose/Bri'geid Agency

Bob Marley's Exodus: An album that defined the 20th Century

By Arwa Haider

Bob Marley's album *Exodus* was released 45 years ago. As a new exhibition about the reggae star opens in London, Arwa Haider explores how his music reverberated around the world.

In the first room of the new Bob Marley One Love Experience at London's Saatchi Gallery, you're immediately hit by the Jamaican reggae megastar's extraordinary recording catalogue with his band, The Wailers. Along the wall displays, one particular golden record sleeve radiates its own regal presence: the pivotal 10th album *Exodus* (1977), created while Marley and his bandmates were living a short walk away from this Chelsea venue. Now in its 45th year, it's a work of powerful transition: arguably confirming Marley's true global status, and continually connecting with new generations of listeners.

The spirit of *Exodus* is multi-layered; its title track evokes the Old Testament tale of Moses leading his people to safety, and its parallels with Marley's Rastafarian faith. It also reflects Marley's own flight to London, amid the brutal turbulence of Jamaica's elections, and in the wake of a December 1976 assassination attempt that wounded him and his wife, vocalist Rita Marley. He would spend more than a year in the UK capital, during which *Exodus* (and its relatively breezy 1978 follow-up *Kaya*) were created.

Exodus was named the 20th Century's most important album by *Time* magazine, which hailed it as «a political and cultural nexus, drawing inspiration from the Third World and then giving voice to it the world over». In the 21st Century, the term «Third World» should be relegated to history, but this album's power certainly endures.



Bob Marley [Photo credit: Murphy Hershman]

Exodus songs infuse the One Love Experience, including the uplifting anthem that lends this exhibition its name. When I visit, Marley's daughter, creative artist and entrepreneur Cedella, is giving the Saatchi Gallery an approving once-over: "Jonathan [Shank, exhibition designer] is a visionary," she says.

"In every room, you get a little bit of Bob – and a bit of Mummy [Rita Marley] and the children and grandchildren, as well." Beyond its London run, this exhibition is on the move, via Toronto, Vancouver, LA, Chicago, NYC, Miami, Amsterdam, Seoul, Tel Aviv, Tokyo and Kingston, Jamaica; Marley's reach is planet-wide.

Exodus is not really an angry record; it's really a cry about every kind of situation he's gone through – Cedella Marley

Exodus has been reissued at various stages, including a 40th-anniversary version mixed by Cedella's brother (and sometime bandmate) Ziggy Marley. It remains a captivating listen; on vinyl, the album's distinct halves are particularly pronounced: the political

and spiritual forces of side A (from the mesmerising groove of opener *Natural Mystic* to the rousing title track with its "movement of Jah people!" refrain); the romance and optimism of side B (comprising several smash hits, such as *Jamming*; *Waiting In Vain* – a rumoured dedication to Marley's girlfriend, Cindy Breakspeare; *Three Little Birds* and the ubiquitous *One Love/People Get Ready*, which entwines Marley's songwriting with US progressive soul artist Curtis Mayfield). In digital form, it transports the listener through relatable emotions: anguish; defiance; ultimately peace and hope.

As Cedella Marley notes: "The message is still relevant. Unfortunately, not everything has changed for the better, and as I grow and my children grow, I say: 'wow'; in the late '70s, Jamaica was in turmoil. Daddy could have gone anywhere in the world to record, but for some reason he chose London. *Exodus* is not really an angry record; it's really a cry about every kind of situation he's gone through."

Bob Marley was a recognised name

cont'd on pg 15

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by the time of his London exodus; in 1975, he and The Wailers had played a packed gig at the city's Lyceum Theatre, captured in their first live album for Island Records. By 1977, London itself was in a state of flux: torn between politics, royal pageantry, and the burgeoning punk movement and disco scene; Exodus also channels that restless creative energy, and Marley's inquisitive reactions. Music writer Vivien Goldman was present for the album's recording, and captures its backdrop and atmosphere in her excellent work *The Book Of Exodus* (2006); she writes: "Exodus was a creative leap, a journey from one familiar

style and technique in search of an unknown other, retaining the music's reggae patois while making it intelligible to a broader community."

Cedella Marley recalls: "When Bob came to London. I was mad, because he left us in Jamaica... but he really did something special here. Whenever I hear the track Punky Reggae Party [originally the single B-side to Jamming; included on later versions of Exodus], I can imagine him being in a flat somewhere here in London, and just a bunch of people coming in: the smoking, the music and the vibe. He experimented with musical sounds that were not reggae, and he wasn't scared to do it."

Rebel dread

Marley's presence in London had also made a massive impact on "baby dread", DJ and budding filmmaker Don Letts, who had caught the 1975 Lyceum gig. "It was absolutely an epiphany," says Letts, who was moved to follow Marley and his crew back to their hotel, and get to know the Jamaican artist. By 1977, Letts was spinning reggae records at prototype punk club The Roxy, and his fashionable bondage trousers drew ire from Marley ("You look like one of dem nasty punk rockers") when they met on Kings Road. This culture clash is enjoyably related in a new documentary about Letts's life

and work (including his celebrated films for artists from The Clash to Marley and Elvis Costello): *Rebel Dread* (released this March).

"Bob was living around the corner from me, and we had that argument about punk; in the following months, he got more familiar with the scene, through journalists like Viv Goldman and [Marley's biographer] Chris Salewicz, and after that, a better-informed Bob was moved to write the song Punky Reggae Party," Letts tells BBC Culture. "I think the point of the story is that I had the bollocks to stand up and disagree with him. But he was dismissive of it initially – and I said: 'you've

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Wanda Sykes, Amy Schumer and Regina Hall to host the Oscars

CNN - And the Oscar host duties go to ... Wanda Sykes, Amy Schumer and Regina Hall.

On Tuesday the trio were officially named hosts of the upcoming 94th Academy Awards during the "Good Morning America" telecast.

"Good morning America I'm not sure who thought this was a good idea, but I am hosting the Oscars along with my good friends Wanda Sykes and Regina Hall," Schumer said in a video shown on "GMA."

"I better go watch some movies."

This is the first time in Oscars' history that three

women have hosted the show -- though it's not the first time more than one person has been enlisted for the job.

The most recent instance was in 2011, when actors James Franco and Anne Hathaway hosted, to harsh reviews. The Oscars has not had three hosts since Chevy Chase, Goldie Hawn and Paul Hogan teamed up for the 59th Academy Awards in 1987.

The past three ceremonies have been hostless, a trend that began in 2019 when Kevin Hart opted to step away from the gig amid controversy.

In Sykes, Schumer and Hall, the Oscars have re-



Wanda Sykes Eyed, Regina Hall, Amy Schumer. [Photo caption: Variety]

cruited three seasoned comedic entertainers and experienced hosts.

In addition to her big- and small-screen work, Schumer led the MTV Movie Awards in 2015 and Hall presided over the BET Awards in 2019.

Scene-stealer Sykes,

meanwhile, is an accomplished emcee, hosting everything from her own talk show to the 29th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. She's also guest hosted for the likes of Jimmy Kimmel and Ellen DeGeneres.

The Oscars will be held on March 27.

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got it wrong, mate; there's something going on.' And he found out there was indeed something going on.

London had this style-driven subculture that turned over every three or four years; that shit didn't happen anywhere else. It was driven by the class system, but it was a positive that came out of the negative."

Bob meant so many different things to different people, and different generations – Jonathan Shank

On Exodus, Marley set rebel music to the sweetest melodies, and influenced multi-genre tributes, from protest soundtracks to Stevie Wonder's dazzling 1980 hit Master Blaster (Jammin') to various international covers, including a 21st-Century "global singalong" of One Love featuring talents such as alt-Latin star Manu Chao, Zim-

babwean guitarist Louis Mhlanga, and LA bluesman Keb' Mo'.

It's an undeniably conflicted legacy; Marley's motifs have since featured on everything from football shirts to ice-cream flavours, and the One Love Experience includes plenty of Insta-friendly photo opportunities and lyrical slogans – Shank explains: "Bob meant so many different things to different people, and different generations at this stage. What struck me was that when you look at the lyrics printed out, the message resonates more than ever today."

At the same time, the exhibition highlights Exodus within an ongoing politically conscious journey, including Marley and The Wailers' final studio albums: Survival (1979), Uprising (1980) and Confrontation (released in 1983, two years after Marley's death

from cancer).

The songs feel vividly significant, at a time when countless people are still being uprooted from their homes, by political conflict or injustice, including the UK government's Windrush Scandal.

The music reverberates as much as it does because there is always fire blazing beneath the beauty.

Letts is characteristically direct about why Exodus strikes a timeless chord: "A lot of it is to do with the fact that the disparity between the haves and the have-nots hasn't really shifted.

His audience is always going to be massive; he's the most recognised artist on the planet – not necessarily because he's sold more, it's simply that more people without money are being fucked over. As long as those numbers stay like that, Bob's gonna be the man."

Alec Baldwin and others named in wrongful death lawsuit filed by family of Halyna Hutchins

CNN - The family of Halyna Hutchins, the cinematographer killed on the set of the movie "Rust" last fall, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Alec Baldwin, the film's production companies, its producers, and other key members of the crew.

Hutchins was fatally shot last October during a rehearsal for a scene for the film, which was being shot near Santa Fe, New Mexico. Director Joel Souza was also injured in the shooting which occurred when Baldwin practiced a draw with a revolver and fired the weapon.

The lawsuit, filed in Santa Fe, alleges numerous industry standard violations by Baldwin and others charged with safety on the set, attorney Brian Panish announced in a news conference Tuesday.

The lawsuit claims the production companies and producers "cut corners" and "chose to hire the cheapest crew available," specifically noting that they "knowingly hired a wholly unqualified armourer," and required her to split time in a second role as assistant props master.

"We continue to cooperate with the authorities to determine how live ammunition arrived on the 'Rust' set in the first place. Any claim that Alec was reckless is entirely false. He, Halyna and the rest of the crew relied on the statement by the two professionals responsible for checking the gun that it was a 'cold gun' -- meaning there is no possibility of a discharge, blank or otherwise," Aaron Dyer, attorney for Baldwin and other producers of "Rust," said in a statement to CNN.

"This protocol has worked on thousands of films, with millions of discharges, as there has never before been an incident on a set where an actual bullet harmed anyone."



Halyna Hutchins, here in 2019, was killed in a shooting incident on the set of the film "Rust" in October.

Both armourer Hannah Gutierrez Reed and prop master Sarah Zachry are named in the lawsuit, along with assistant director Dave Halls, who, according to a previously filed affidavit, handed the gun to Baldwin just prior to the shooting. Halls' attorney said he was not responsible for checking the gun.

During an interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos late last year, Baldwin said he and Hutchins were going over how she wanted to position his hand before the gun went off, saying then, "I would never point a gun at anyone and then pull the trigger."

"The gun was supposed to be empty; I was told I was handed an empty gun," Baldwin said in the interview. "There's only one question to be resolved ... only one. And that is, where did the live round come from?"

Two crew members have told CNN that Gutierrez Reed mishandled weapons on a previous film project. She did not reply to CNN's request for comment regarding those allegations. Gutierrez Reed is now su-

ing the movie's gun and ammunition supplier, accusing them of mixing up dummy rounds with live ammunition.

Safety concerns raised by the crew remained unaddressed, the lawsuit states, citing 15 specific safety protocols they allege were violated, including the use of a real gun instead of a dummy weapon, use of live ammunition on set, and improper storage.

"There are regulations and guidelines in place today that should prevent something like this from happening, but they need to be enforced," Panish said. "Had they been followed, this never would have happened."

Panish, who represents Hutchins' husband and young son, also showed a nearly 10-minute video that included a short, highly-produced, animated reenactment of the shooting that led to the "senseless and tragic death of Halyna Hutchins."

The details of the reenactment are based on "factual allegations in the complaint made by the Hutchins Family," according to a slate at the beginning of the video.

Mental health to be focal point of Jamaica's juvenile system

The Gleaner - Jamaica's Department of Correctional Services (DCS) has detailed a broken rehabilitation and reintegration system at juvenile facilities revealing that the greatest need for its children is in mental health.

With a population of 190 to 200 juveniles remanded across four institutions for crimes or detained for uncontrollable behaviour, there are only two full-time psychologists, two engaged on a sessional basis and two sessional psychiatrists.

They must provide counselling, prepare reports for the Children's Courts and deal with children who present with mental illnesses including bipolar disorder, sleeping disorder, depression, and suicidal thoughts.

"Some have attempted to harm themselves and others, most are subject to some form of sexual, physical or verbal abuse prior to admission," a DCS spokesperson said in a report presented to Parliament's Human Re-



The DCS said, to compound the problem, many of the child perpetrators are also victims of crimes, experienced the loss of loved ones or witnessed murders. [Photo credit: The Gleaner]

source and Development Committee this morning.

The DCS said, to compound the problem, many of the child perpetrators are also victims of crimes, experienced the loss of loved ones or witnessed murders.

At the same time, it is grappling with a rehabilitation and reintegration programme that has almost ground to a halt.

The academic programme is usually administered by civilian staff. But there is a high attrition rate among teachers, the DCS

reported.

It said between 2018 and 2019 alone, 16 teachers resigned and of the 48 teaching posts, 30 are vacant. The other 18 are filled.

Among those who remain, the DCS said there is limited or no supervision to ensure that there are lesson plans, timetables and the maintenance of attendance registers in accordance with the standards of the Education Ministry.

"It is difficult to recruit teachers due to disparity in salary and benefits between

the DCS and public schools. Salary and allowances are paid at the Diploma level although teachers have first degrees," said the DCS.

Now, the correctional service wants the Education Ministry to assume full responsibility for delivering the education programme in juvenile facilities.

It also wants the ministry to recruit and remunerate the teachers including specialist educators.

"This will resolve the issue relating to pay and benefits and will present the opportunity for the children to benefit from specialist intervention," said a DCS spokesperson in the report.

The DCS also wants the Education Ministry to supervise and monitor the work of the teachers. But ultimately, it wants new correctional centres, designed for the purpose of rehabilitation.

It also wants greater collaboration among state agents to strengthen the reintegration programme.

Guyana's national oil company still up for consideration

Guyana Chronicle - As Guyana continues to advance work in its oil and gas sector, Vice-President Bharrat Jagdeo has said that the establishment of a national oil company is still being considered, since a decision on the future of the remaining oil blocks is still to be made.

Speaking during Guyana's flag-

ship International Energy Conference and Expo at the Marriott Hotel, on Tuesday, Jagdeo said the idea is still active because several "large operators" have submitted expressions of interest to partner with the government on the establishment of a national oil company.

Any decision in this regard would

be simultaneous with plans for the utilisation of Guyana's available oil blocks. The government in 2021, had disclosed plans to have the remaining blocks tendered in the third quarter of 2022.

According to Vice-President Jagdeo, the government is yet to make

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Bajan Tourism officials facing bleak prospects with no cruise visitors expected

Barbados Today -Tourism stakeholders are preparing to endure the first summer, possibly in decades, where absolutely no cruise ships will be visiting this country's shores.

General Manager of Atlantis Submarines Barbados Roseanne Myers, who since February last year has been Chairing the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI), acknowledged that the outlook for the period May to September is bleak.

But she also believes that a decision on the Crop Over festival, paired with a targeted marketing strategy, could swiftly improve the industry's



General Manager of Atlantis Submarines Barbados Roseanne Myers

fortunes.

"Even though it is not a signifi-

cant number, we would normally have at least one cruise ship calling and a cruise ship calling every other week in pre-COVID times. We now don't have any cruise ships," Myers told Barbados Today.

"It's probably going to be the first time, certainly since I've been with Atlantis, that we haven't had any summer ships calling at all and that is cause for concern, because even though we may normally have one ship a week, it still is a significant business for that one day because that ship can give us two or three tours and every other week the same," stressed the executive.

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a decision on whether the blocks would be utilised for the establishment of a national oil company or tendered for independent oil and gas explorations.

As it is now, ExxonMobil is the operator of the Stabroek, Canje and Kaieteur Blocks offshore Guyana. Since 2015, the company has increased its estimated recoverable resource base in Guyana to more than 10 billion oil-equivalent barrels.

Further, CGX, together with Frontera Energy Corporation, operates the Corentyne and Demerara Blocks, and also has a share in the Berbice Block.

And already, Guyana has started to reap the benefits of its oil and gas, with direct earnings alone reaching more than US\$620 million so far.

This is reportedly just

the tip of the iceberg, as it was reported recently that ExxonMobil started production at Guyana's second offshore oil development on the Stabroek Block, Liza Phase Two, bringing the total production capacity to more than 340,000 barrels per day in only seven years since the country's first discovery.

According to a release, production at the Liza Unity Floating, Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel is expected to reach its target of 220,000 barrels of oil later this year, as operations continue to be brought safely online.

The current resource has the potential to support up to 10 projects. ExxonMobil anticipates that four FPSOs with a capacity of more than 800,000 barrels per day will be in operation on the Stabroek Block by year-end 2025.



Guyana Vice-President Bharrat Jagdeo [Photo credit: Guyana Chronicle]

Payara, the third project in the Stabroek Block, is expected to produce approximately 220,000 barrels of oil per day, using the Prosperity FPSO vessel, which is currently under construction. The field development plan and application for environmental authorisation for the Yellowtail project,

the fourth project in the block, have been submitted for government and regulatory approval.

Timely development of these additional projects, and continued exploration success offshore will enable the steady advancement of Guyanese capabilities and enhanced economic growth.

Uttar Pradesh: 13 dead after falling into well in Kushinagar

BBC - At least 13 people have died after falling into a well during a wedding ceremony in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

Police said the victims - all women and children - were sitting on a metal slab covering the well when it collapsed under their weight.

Two more people have been injured in the accident, which took place in Kushinagar district.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the deaths "heart-wrenching".

The tragedy took place on Wednesday evening during the traditional "hal-di" ceremony, in which relatives apply turmeric paste to the faces of the bride and groom as a marker of prosperity.

When the slab broke,



The guests were sitting on a metal slab covering the well. [Photo credit: ANI]

other guests ran to rescue the victims and took them to a nearby hospital. While 11 people were declared dead immediately, two oth-

ers died later during treatment, police said.

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has asked district authori-

ties to assist the families of the victims, while district magistrate S Rajalingam said they will be paid compensation.

Video showing how police treat Black and White teens in N.J mall fight sparks outrage



[Photo credit: NBC]

(CNN) - A video showing police officers breaking up a fight between a Black teenager and a White teenager at a New Jersey mall has prompted outrage over the police response.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said Wednesday that the "appearance of what is racially disparate treatment is deeply, deeply disturbing."

One video of the incident reviewed by CNN shows the boys arguing before the White teenager

points his finger at the Black teenager's face, and the Black teenager pushes the White teenager's hand back. The White teenager pushes the Black teenager, who begins to throw punches at the other boy. The White teenager punches back.

The Black teenager ends up on the ground. Two Bridgewater Township police officers arrive and separate the two boys.

The Black teenager begins to

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Mali conflict: Macron announces troops are to leave after nine years

BBC - France and its allies in a European force will withdraw their troops from Mali after almost a decade, President Emmanuel Macron has announced.

The troops have been involved in the fight against Islamist militants in the country since 2013.

Mr Macron said the decision to leave followed a breakdown in diplomatic relations, amid growing hostility from Mali's governing military junta.

The forces will be re-deployed elsewhere in Africa's Sahel region.

"We cannot remain militarily engaged alongside de-facto authorities whose strategy and hidden aims we do not share," Mr Macron told a news conference in Paris on Thursday.

He denied that the mission had been a failure and insisted that France remained committed to combating Islamist insurgencies in the region. He added that Niger had agreed to host some of the withdrawing forces.

"France has played a unifying role in this international mobilisation in favour of the Sahel," he said. "We will continue to ensure this unifying role."

The planned withdrawal, which is expected to happen over a four-to six-month period, was announced



French troops have been fighting in Mali since 2013 [Photo credit: Getty Images]

following a meeting of European and African leaders at the Élysée Palace on Wednesday night.

In a statement released on Thursday morning, countries involved in the French-led Takuba Task Force said they had agreed to set out plans on how to remain actively involved in the region, most notably in Niger and the Gulf of Guinea countries, by June.

Colonel Souleymane Dembélé, a spokesman for the ruling junta, shrugged off France's announcement, telling reporters that while European forces were in the country "terrorism engulfed the entire Malian territory".

Almost 5,000 French troops are

deployed in the Sahel region to combat Islamist insurgencies as part of Operation Barkhane, with around 2,400 of those located at three bases in northern Mali.

But relations between France and Mali, which is one of the world's poorest nations, have deteriorated since the army first seized power in a coup in August 2020.

And tensions increased further last month when the junta reneged on an agreement to arrange elections in February and vowed to hold power until 2025, ultimately leading to the expulsion of the French ambassador.

In December, more than a dozen Western nations also condemned the deployment of mercenaries from the Russia-based Wagner group to Mali.

The group has been involved in several major conflicts, including in Syria, Mozambique, Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR). A BBC investigation found links to war crimes in Libya.

Mr Macron warned on Thursday that the group had "essentially come to secure their economic interests and the junta itself".

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get up and is pinned to the ground by one officer and rolled on to his stomach, with his hands behind his back. The other officer pushes the White teenager onto a nearby couch and then assists in handcuffing the Black teenager. Eventually, officers stand the handcuffed Black teenager up.

It is unclear from the video how the incident escalated between the boys or what happened after the Black teenager

was handcuffed.

The Bridgewater Township Police Department said in a Facebook post that they know video of the incident has upset members of the community. They have asked the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office to investigate the incident.

"We recognize that this video has made members of our community upset and are calling for an internal affairs investigation," the department wrote.

Sports News

POINTE PRESS
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Puerto Rico roll over Benna Girls

Antigua and Barbuda women's senior football team was beaten 4-0 by host Puerto Rico on Wednesday in the FIFA World Cup qualifying encounter.

Featuring a young team of mostly teenagers, the Benna Girls battled hard against a more experienced and accomplished Puerto Rican team.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Technical Director, Sowerby Gomes, said the ladies tried their best to stay in form throughout the match. Gomes added he was proud of the young team's effort, especially as they battled



The Benna Girls succumbed to Puerto Rico, pictured, 4-0 on Wednesday.

to the end without backing down.

The Benna Girls next co on February 21 in the Dominican Republic.

FA warn former England player over comments



Wayne Rooney

Derby County Manager Wayne Rooney has been warned by the Football Association after saying he once wore boots with long studs "to injure someone".

The FA sought Rooney's observation after his comments about Manchester United's game at Chelsea in 2006.

Rooney's England team mate John Terry suffered a foot injury in the game, which Chelsea won 3-0.

"For that game I changed them (studs) to big long metal ones-the max-

imum length you could have," said Rooney.

The 36-year-old added, "I wanted to try and hurt someone, try and injure someone. John Terry left the stadium on crutches. I left a hole in his foot and then I signed my shirt to him after the game," Rooney added.

Responding to Rooney's comments, Terry posted a message on social media with a number of laughing emojis and said: "Is this when you left your stud in my foot?"

A dispute over the use of player agents

A few weeks ago West Indies cricket was rattled by a dispute over the use of player agents which was said to be at the heart of allegations of player victimisation,

During the England tour of the Caribbean, the con-

troversial issue was brought to the fore after all-rounder Odean Smith was dropped from the team ahead of the third T20 international. Initially the accusations were downplayed by senior members of the team hierarchy, and Cricket West Indies

president Ricky Skerritt, who attempted to distract from the claims.

West Indies Players Association Honorary General Secretary, Wayne Lewis, met with representatives of CWI to discuss the issue and it has since been con-

firmed that there are in fact a few issues to be resolved.

"The complaint was that members within the cricket West Indies set-up were calling franchises overseas and advising them that particular players would not

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Valieva stumbles into fourth place

Russian teenager Kamila Valieva surprised the figure skating world by stumbling into fourth place in the women's single event on Thursday, ensuring the Olympic medal ceremony could go ahead at the Beijing Games.

Her compatriot Anna Shcherbakova took gold with a total score of 255.95. Fellow Russian Alexandra Trusova was second at 251.73 and Japan's Kaori Sakamoto came in third with 233.13. Valieva, wearing a sparkling



Kamila Valieva

black and red dress complete with bright red gloves landed her opening quad, but faltered after her triple axel, the first of a number of stumbles in the free skate

routine to Maurice Ravel's "Bolero".

She threw her hand forward in frustration after her routine.

Valieva tested positive for a banned heart drug after the national championships on December 25 but the result was not revealed until February 8, the day after she helped the ROC win the team competition.

Valieva was only cleared to compete in the women's single event by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday.

Michael Masi loses role as Formula One's director

Michael Masi has been removed from his role as Formula One's race director in the aftermath of November's hugely controversial season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

FIA president, Mohammed Ben Sulayem, revealed in a video update release on Thursday afternoon that the post would now alternate between senior FIA officials Eduardo Frietas and Niel Wittich-assisted by ex-Charlie Whiting deputy, Herbie Blash, as part of a restructure of race control initiated following highly contentious climax to the 2022 title race between Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton.

Masi, meanwhile, is set to be of-

fered a different, as yet unspecified role within the FIA body moving forward.

The Australian was subject to staunch criticism after events in Abu Dhabi, when Hamilton was passed by rival Verstappen on the final lap at Yas Marina Circuit in controversial circumstances after only some lapped cars were allowed to pass the safety car.

Masi was accused of not following the established rules and bowing to pressure from Red Bull, much to the fury of Mercedes' Hamilton and team principal, Toto Wolff, who launched an unsuccessful protest.



Michael Masi



Odean Smith

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be given NOCs to play, and WIPA thought that was odd because they have an MOU and a protocol that covers that, that did not include anyone from that era" Lewis said.

"Players were being encouraged to change agents and align themselves with agents of CWI's choice, but the players were resisting that because they have their

own agents in place."

Lewis said the situation made some players uncomfortable so the issues needed to be addressed. He revealed that talks between the bodies continued to be cooperative but noted that a complete solution on how to address the issue had not yet been reached.

CWI said Smith's omission was simply tactical.



Antigua and Barbuda's players jog around the courts as they take part in their warm-up exercises before one of their matches at the OECS ECCB International Netball Series at Windsor Park Stadium in Dominica from 12 to 18 February, 2022. (Photo courtesy Dominica Netball Association)

Antigua lose more matches at OECS netball tournament

Antigua and Barbuda's senior national netballers continued their poor run of form when they lost an additional two matches at the second Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series at Windsor Park Stadium in Dominica on Wednesday.

After rain forced a postponement of Tuesday's

matches, the Antigua and Barbuda women were beaten 47-28 by guest team Barbados in one of two rescheduled encounters on Wednesday morning.

Goal shoot, Reyana Regis, scored 23 of her 30 attempts and goal attack Amey Lake converted 6 of 16 tries for Antigua and Barbuda.

Goal shoot Latonia Blackman scored 18 of her 21 attempts; goal shoot Faye

Agard sank 13 of her 19 tries; Brianna Holder netted 12 of 21 and Jada Smith converted 9 of her 12 shots for Barbados.

St. Lucia prevailed 47-37 over St. Kitts and Nevis in the other encounter on Wednesday morning.

Goal shoot Roxanne Snyder sank 24 of her 32 attempts and goal shoot Shem Maxwell scored 22 of her 31 shots for St. Lucia. Aaliyah

Gibson scored 12 of her 22 attempts and goal attack Rochella Challenger converted 9 of her 6 tries and goal shoot Jewel Thompson netted 6 of her 8 shots for St. Kitts and Nevis.

Antigua and Barbuda had another disappointing result on Wednesday night when they suffered a 47-33 defeat against unbeaten St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the six-team round-robin tournament.

Reyana Regis scored 24 of her 28 attempts while goal attack Amey Lake converted 9 of 15 tries for Antigua and Barbuda. Goal shoot Mary-Ann Frederick sank 40 of her 48 shots and goal attack

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tional tournament in Nigeria next year," Simon said.

"There was supposed to have been a world tournament in Turkey last year, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, everything has been set back.

"I think there has been a lull in organ-

ised national competition here in Antigua and we need to get back on track because the organisers of the Grand Masters International Oware Tournament have indicated that if Nigeria fails to meet the requirements for hosting, they would like Antigua to be the second venue that they would look at as a hosting country."

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Shellisa Davis sank 7 of her 17 shots for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Barbados also maintained their unbeaten record at the tournament by trouncing host team Dominica 67-27 in a one-sided affair on Wednesday night.

Latonia Blackman scored 26 of her 29 attempts, goal shoot Faye Agard sank 22 of her 26 tries and Jada Smith converted 19 of her 31 shots for Barbados.

Goalshoot Celena Langlais scored 18 of her 21 tries and Kyla Winston converted 8 of her 16 attempts for Dominica.

The final two matches of the tournament will be played today. Hosts Dominica will clash with St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will face St Lucia. Both matches will be followed by the closing ceremony.

Five OECS member countries are competing for the Gloria Ballantyne Championship Trophy. They are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

This year's series features Barbados, which is competing only for OECS ranking in the 12-18 February tournament.

Meanwhile, former president of the Dominica Netball Association (DNA), Ambassador Loreen Bannis Roberts, said she was able to use her influence as Dominica's first female Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) to secure funding to stage the tournament in her homeland.

In an appearance on Pointe FM's Point On De Streetz, the former netball said she was able to mobilise a group within the United Nations, which raised 95 percent of its financial goal.

"Dominica has joined, at the UN, The Group of Friends of Sports for Sustainable Development. This is like a 49 member grouping with like minds, those of us who want to push sports further.

"So I approached the group. I said, "Look, we have been talking about

gender equality, health and well-being, education for all, and there is an opportunity for us to put our money where our mouth is." I said, "Can you support this tournament or this international netball series happening in Dominica as a grouping?"

"We set a target of X amount. The chair and co-chair sent out a letter to all of the countries that are part of this grouping, and based on the target we set, we raised like 95 per cent of the financing that we had asked for as a group.

"So here it is, that this international OECS series is happening in Dominica and these countries have agreed to support.

"Because of that, we can put out a

better quality production with the OECS tournament.

"So it is not just us in the OECS, there are people willing to partner with us in the international community, but we have to present a credible project.

"I presented a credible project, it was something for women, and women issues are big at the UN, so they saw it, not just as an OECS netball tournament, but it is a sport and post pandemic, women need to play and women need to exhale and women need to excel.

"We not only need financial support, but we also need technical support as well. We need equipment and we need coaching and that will be my next approach," said Ambassador Roberts.

Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

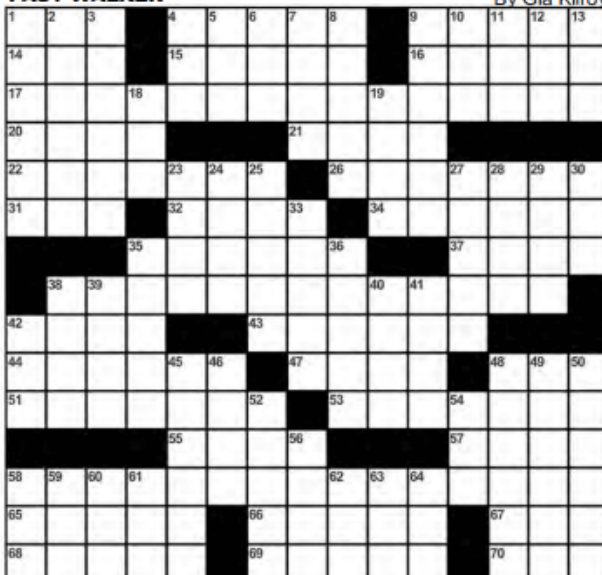
- 1) Muhammad or Laila
- 4) Tequila plant
- 9) Desert growths
- 14) Big racket
- 15) Plant root
- 16) Once more
- 17) Disappoints and then some
- 20) In ___ of (substituting for)
- 21) Cookie brand
- 22) Shuns
- 26) Hambletonian entrant
- 31) Match part
- 32) ___ and aahs
- 34) In one's abode
- 35) Historical records
- 37) Derriere
- 38) Serves as a reminder
- 42) Nat King or Natalie
- 43) It has its ups and downs
- 44) Boxer's fake-outs
- 47) Where a scene is seen?
- 48) San Diego tourist mecca
- 51) They make the man, it's said
- 53) Tuft of grass
- 55) Lamb mothers
- 57) Think tank nugget
- 58) Is inherited
- 65) Willow twig
- 66) Well-___ machine
- 67) It's more bitter than beer
- 68) Spanish snacks
- 69) Word with "truth" or "ambition"
- 70) El ___ (Spanish hero)

DOWN

- 1) Confuses
- 2) Be a go-between
- 3) Six-legged crawler
- 4) Roses-red connector
- 5) What some cars guzzle
- 6) Word in a Shakespeare comedy title
- 7) Ristorante beverage
- 8) Put forth, as effort
- 9) Collusion
- 10) Years ___ (in the past)
- 11) Upper limit
- 12) Winnerless contest
- 13) Walk-___ (clients without appointments)
- 18) "Say what?"
- 19) Red Cross collection
- 23) Billion-year stretches
- 24) "___ you be my neighbor?"
- 25) Former leaders of Iran
- 27) Lose on purpose
- 28) Take the show on the road
- 29) Small-screen award
- 30) Bodybuilder's unit
- 33) What a new parent may lack
- 35) Mulder of "The X-Files"
- 36) Herring cousin
- 38) Billy the "Piano Man"
- 39) Spiced stew
- 40) Jacob's twin, in the Old Testament
- 41) "Say hey!" sayers
- 42) Ozone-depleting compound, for short
- 45) His and hers
- 46) Stitched together
- 48) Collection of signs
- 49) Peacock-feather spots
- 50) Gave the go-ahead to
- 52) Determined to carry out
- 54) Scrooge player Alastair
- 56) Actor LaBeouf
- 58) Become decayed
- 59) Home of about 300 million
- 60) Wee bite
- 61) Large body of water
- 62) Benevolent Order member
- 63) Finder's reward
- 64) Say a bit more

FAST WALKER

By Gia Kilroy



Warri grand master wants ABWA to become more active

International Warri Grand Master, Trevor “Simple” Simon, believes it is time for the Antigua and Barbuda Warri Association (ABWA) to get its act together and become more vibrant in its administration of the mental sport in the twin-island state.

Dogged by internal wrangling, the national warri association has not been able to hold its annual general meeting or any official competitions in the past five years.

The last time the ABWA elected an executive body, Joel Carr was chosen as its president.

In 2018, Carr reported that the ABWA has been unable to get enough members to form a quorum to conduct its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

That same year, Carr also reported that since its last election, three executive members, including treasurer Elton Ryan, Belgrove Gregory and floor member Charlesworth Grant, resigned from their posts.

Simon, who is a member of the International Oware Players Association (IOPA), said the ABWA needs to get back on track in an effort to organise local competition.

“We definitely need to reactivate and get the national association going full blast again. Right now there is just this lull. I think the last time a tournament was organised it was in 2017 or 2018,” Simon explained in an appearance on Sports Overflow on Pointe FM.

“Well we have a president. I think they just need to call the troops back together in terms of having an AGM to



International Warri Grand Master Trevor ‘Simple’ Simon competes at an international tournament in April 2015. (Photo courtesy Trevor Simon Facebook)

get folks to update their memberships and get the ball rolling.

“They play every day down at West Bus Station and a lot of the participants are around in Villa, Point, Liberta - we have players from all over the country that play warri there - so it is just for the association to get going and get involved.”

Simon was the Antigua and Barbuda Sportsman of the Year in 1999. That same year he was crowned International Grand Master of Warri by the organising committee of the inaugural Mind Sports Olympiad World Championships in England.

Simon officially retired from international competition in April last year, but remains active in coaching, passing

on his skills and knowledge of warri to others via his organisation, the Antigua and Barbuda Warri Academy and as a member of the International Oware Players Association.

Simon said the game of warri, which has its origins in Africa, has been growing in popularity across the globe. He said it is important to revive the ABWA since Antigua and Barbuda is being looked at as a possible host of a major international competition in 2023.

“You have players from around the globe right now competing on a weekly basis so the game has taken off by leaps and bounds. Right now they are trying to organise a grand masters’ interna-

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