



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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## HUGH JOSEPH BOOTED AS AT&LU GENERAL SECRETARY



*Story on Page 2*

# Local News

## Hugh Joseph voted out as AT&LU general secretary

Hugh Joseph was voted out as general secretary of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union yesterday, during a special conference convened at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Grounds.

The majority of union members who participated in the process opted not to renew his mandate. Instead, they approved of Alrick Daniel who will assume the responsibilities of general secretary.

Daniel, who previously served in the position, was reportedly surprised at his selection.

Hugh Joseph was replaced a day after revealing that deep divisions exist among AT&LU's executive body, arising from differing views over the vaccine mandate implemented by the government for a period of time last year.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Mr. Joseph said the real reasons for convening the special conference were

unclear and questioned if it was being held to fulfill private and public threats made against him, other members of staff and the executive.

He also voiced his displeasure at the treatment meted out to him by AT&LU President Wigley George, describing it as disrespectful.

Yesterday's special conference went ahead, despite the former general secretary's claim that it was unconstitutional.

Following the meeting, there was no comment from Hugh Joseph, who after five years as an executive member of the union, and many more as an industrial relations officer, is now out.

A high-ranking AT&LU official told Pointe Xpress that traditionally, when general secretaries are replaced, they do not return to being industrial relations officers.

It is unclear, therefore, what Joseph's next step will be.



*Hugh Joseph*

On the sidelines of yesterday's special conference, President George revealed that the main reason for convening the conference was to allow AT&LU members to decide his [George] fate.

This, George said, was necessary as some members of the executive expressed a lack of confidence in his leadership after the union lost the court case challenging the government's vaccine mandate.

George noted that some members of the executive were of the opinion that he did not stand with their posi-

tion to oppose the mandate.

"I would have said to them before this meeting that I will call a conference and I would come to the conference as a result of you all believing that you have no further confidence in my leadership.

"Then I will come to the conference, explain to the conference, and allow the conference to decide what they're gonna do," said President George.

According to the president, such issues are resolved either by the executive or at a conference.

"I think both sides explained themselves at the conference. I would have spoken, Hugh had a chance to speak, and after that we just went straight into a resolution to suspend all other business of the conference, and that's the reason for the voting," George continued.

Three positions were carded for re-election: pres-

*cont'd on pg 3*

Thu 24 | Day

**80°**



6%  
NNE 4 mph

Sunny skies. High around 80F. Winds light and variable.

Humidity  
**60%**

UV Index  
**Extreme**

Sunrise  
**6:28 am**

Sunset  
**6:12 pm**

Thu 24 | Night

**73°**



9%  
E 5 mph

Clear skies. Low 73F. Winds light and variable.

Humidity  
**71%**

UV Index  
**0 of 10**

Moonrise  
**12:49 am**

Moonset  
**12:13 pm**

Waning Crescent

## Trial of former ABTB GM begins

The corruption and fraud trial of former general manager of the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board Harry Josiah began yesterday in the High Court of Justice.

One witness, the investigator, took the stand in the judge alone trial on the first day.

In 2014, an investigation was launched into the management of the ABTB, of which Harry Josiah was head.

The investigation initially resulted in

his suspension.

Josiah subsequently returned to his duties, but a further probe into misbehavior within the organisation resulted in the seizure of several vehicles, furniture and other items from his home.

He was arrested in 2015 and charged with several counts of larceny, corruption and uttering and obtaining vehicles through false documents.

The disgraced former ABTB general manager is now before the court to



Harry Josiah

answer to 12 charges.

The matter is being heard before Justice Stanley John. Josiah is being represented by Dane Hamilton Q.C.

*cont'd from pg 2*

ident, which went unopposed; first vice president and general secretary.

Also losing his post following the vote was Devon Jarvis, the union's former

vice president. He has been replaced by Bernard de Nully.

It was widely believed that the union's president would have announced his retirement during yesterday's special meeting, but

Wigley George has placed his departure on hold, saying there is unfinished business to attend to.

"I will be having whoever the person is [vice presi-

dent] working along with me for a couple of months, and then I will make that determination, and I want to do it without any rancor, any bad feeling or anything," Wigley George stated.



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# Antigua/Barbuda praised for its environmental sustainability initiatives

Dubai's "Green Sheikh" has commended Antigua and Barbuda for its commitment to creating a cohesive and sustainable approach to environmental challenges.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi, environmental adviser to the Ajman government, offered the praise during the recently concluded Expo 2020 Dubai.

While welcoming Antigua and Barbuda's "greening" of consumer sentiment, he also highlighted the awakening of travellers to the reality that not all claims of environmentally and socially responsible practices are true.

"Of course, not everyone takes the issue as seriously as Antigua and Barbuda does, and there are instances where perhaps efforts are

unsubstantiated and even exaggerated, and we need more transparency to mitigate skepticism and enhance consumer confidence in the industry."

The recognition of Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to reduce its environmental impact was welcomed by the local delegation which was led by Chief Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) Colin James.

"This is serious for us. We are a small island state and we depend on the marine environment. We realise that a lot of that plastic waste ends up in the ocean and our beaches, and that affects our livelihoods and longevity as a nation. We have to be very targeted in what we do and

we make sure to practice what we preach. Much like the UAE, we punch well above our weight on issues that really matter to us," James said.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Patrice Simon, Executive Director of Antigua Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association.

"We have a lot of properties that have taken their own initiative to contribute towards the sustainability movement, but we also have a very strong foundation from the Ministry of Tourism which has ensured everyone is aligned in utilising energy saving initiatives, green water to reusable packaging," Simon remarked.

This month, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) took its own progressive stance



Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi

in the battle against plastic bags. Antigua and Barbuda championed the way in this regard when it became the first country in the western hemisphere to ban plastic bags in 2016. This was followed by a total ban on all plastics and Styrofoam in 2018.

The country's environmental sustainability plans do not exclude Barbuda. To the contrary, the government of Antigua and Barbuda declared in 2017, its intention to make Barbuda the first island in the world to be totally reliant on green energy.

James explained "working in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, as well as the governments of New Zealand, the UK and the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, we have rolled out a solar initiative that allows us to harness the beautiful, free energy source that we have. By early 2023, every single household in Barbuda will be powered exclusively by green energy."





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## Immigration officials conclude training on movement of CARICOM nationals

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat concluded a two-day training session for Immigration officials on Wednesday.

The training focused on sensitising immigration officials on the movement of CARICOM nationals and the facilitation of travel.

The online training, which ran from 22 to 23 February, focused on the legal basis for the movement of Skilled Nationals; the CARICOM Complaints Procedure and the role of Immigration Departments in facilitating the Free Movement of people.

Over the course of the programme, 25 participants also explored administrative practices and procedures that govern the movement of service providers and were given an update on Antigua and Barbuda's status regarding implementation of the Free



Immigration minister, E. P. Chet Greene, centre right, members of the Immigration Department in this 2021 file photo.

Movement of People within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The training forms part of the CARICOM Secretariat's programme of activities to engage stakeholders

across the region on the CSME.

There are plans for increased interventions with CARICOM Member States as CARICOM looks forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023.

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## Minister Fernandez explains airlines' concerns

On the heels of the successfully concluded Routes Americas conference in Texas last week, Tourism Minister Charles 'Max' Fernandez has said that a number of concerns were raised by airlines in their discussions.

According to the minister, while many airlines expressed great interest in expanding routes to the region or introducing new ones, every airline had one concern in common: the region's pandemic response and recovery plans.



Tourism Minister Charles 'Max' Fernandez

This concern, the minister said, is justifiable as the profitability and viability of any route are key factors in considering whether to establish them.

Another issue raised was that of government taxes applied to travelers.

For years, both passengers and airlines have complained of the high, and widely variable taxation rate from territory to territory, which affects the overall cost of travel to the region.

"There's still some concern as to whether the taxes are high inter-regionally traveling from one island to another island.

"In addition to that they want to know how we are handling the pandemic - what's the level of vaccination, when do we see we're gonna look to remove the requirement for testing once people are vaccinated - these are concerns they have because they tell them how easy it is to sell to their clients," Minister Fernandez explained.

Among the more successful meetings held by the Antigua/Barbuda delegation during Routes Americas 2022 were those with regional carriers Caribbean Airlines and Bahamas Air.

Minister Fernandez also reported that the team had been able to secure additional airlift into the country as a result of their negotiations with several airlines during the 15th to 17th February meetings.

These new routes, he said, will be revealed very shortly once all arrangements are finalised.

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## Antiguan banker shines at Firststars Awards Ceremony

CIBC FirstCaribbean has inducted Antiguan Banker Michael Roach, along with nine other regional bankers, into the regional Hall of Fame during its recently held inaugural FirstStars Annual CEO Awards Ceremony.

“This is the second consecutive year that Michael has won this award and we are looking forward to a three-peat in 2022,” said Ladesa James-Williams, Country Head, Antigua.

“When Fiscal 2021 commenced, Michael had one goal – to exceed his 2020 sales and this he did

handsomely achieving 176% of his assigned target. It is as if Covid did not exist.

Michael has made history by being one of the last winners of the Annual Achievers Award and then becoming one of the first winners of the FirstStar Annual CEO Award.”

The other nine inductees were from Barbados, Dominica, the Bahamas and Cayman Islands.

Chief Executive Officer, Colette Delaney expressed gratitude to the inductees and noted, “To read the stories of how you



Michael Roach

got there is a study in client focus – being responsive, being advocates for our clients and collaborating with others to deliver excellence,”

Michael Roach is a

banker with 23 years of service, and is presently the bank’s Antigua Business Development Officer. His focus is on consumer loans, land and mortgage loans and credit cards.

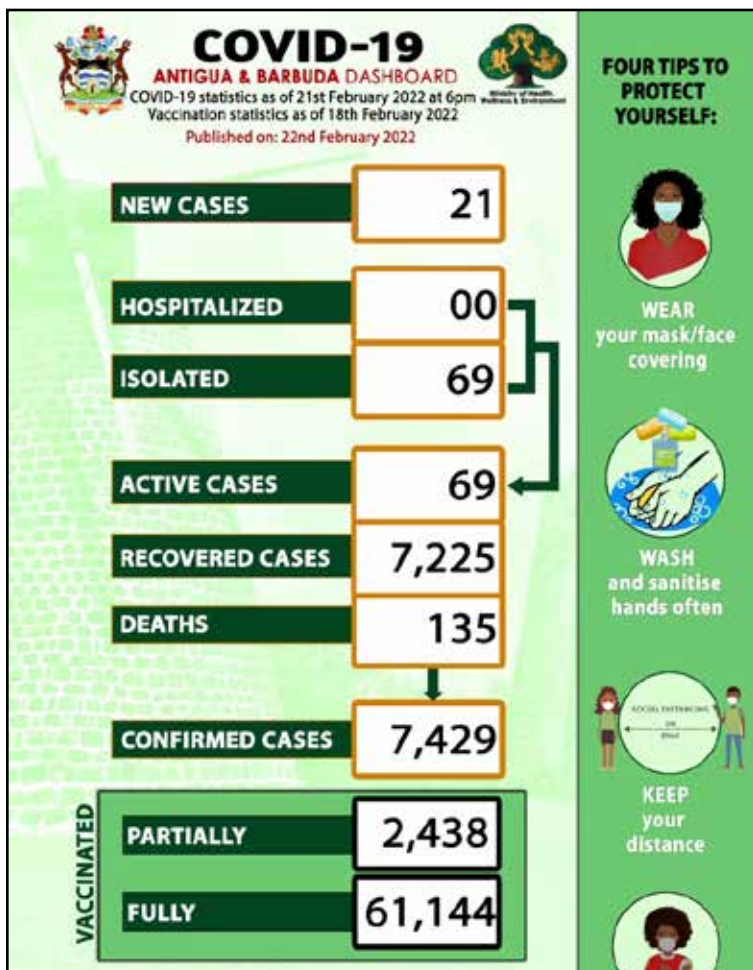
## COVID-19 numbers on the decline

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed twenty-one (21) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 21st February, 2022 at 6pm. Five hundred and seventeen (517) samples were processed.

Thirty-six (36) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven thousand four hundred and twenty-nine (7,429); which is inclusive of sixty-nine (69) active cases.

There are no hospitalized cases.





# Black History Month Spotlight

## St. George Alexander McGuire

### Life

George Alexander McGuire was born on 28 March 1866 in Swetes, Antigua. He studied in local grammar schools before moving on to the Antigua branch of Mico College for teachers. He also studied at the Moravian Miskey Seminary in the Danish West Indies. From 1888 to 1894 McGuire served as pastor of the Moravian Church in the Danish West Indies.

In 1894, McGuire immigrated to the United States. He initially joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was the first independent black denomination in the country, founded in the early nineteenth century. On 2nd January 1895, McGuire formally joined the Episcopal

Church, and two years later he was ordained as a priest.

McGuire was called to lead small, mostly black, Episcopal churches in Cincinnati, Ohio; Richmond, Virginia; and Philadelphia. St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Richmond, Virginia lists "Reverend George Alexander McGuire" as rector from April 1898 to November 1900.

By 1901 McGuire was appointed rector of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. This was the first black congregation in the Episcopal Church. Saint Thomas' served the African-American elite of Philadelphia. McGuire was rector of St. Thomas until 1905.

From 1905 to 1909, McGuire

*cont'd on pg 10*



St. George Alexander McGuire

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# Black History Month Spotlight

*cont'd from pg 8*

served as Archdeacon for Colored Work in the Diocese of Arkansas.

He was the church's highest-ranking Afro-Caribbean and the first to achieve the rank of Archdeacon. He worked to increase the number of missions in the state from one to nine.

He encountered opposition from the local Episcopal bishop, who believed blacks should be segregated from whites and placed in their own church jurisdiction.

Following the Reconstruction era, Arkansas and other southern states had imposed legal racial segregation in most public and private facilities.

At the turn of the century, Arkansas and other former Confederate states effectively disenfranchised most black citizens by raising barriers to voter registration.

Eventually McGuire resigned and moved North to Cambridge, Massachusetts. There he established St. Bartholomew's Church for West Indians who were living in the Boston area.

While in Cambridge, McGuire also studied at Boston College of Physicians and Surgeons, receiving his M.D. degree in 1910.

When his small church was not recognised by the Episcopal diocese, McGuire resigned in 1911. As he travelled across the U.S., he became more dis-



*The Holy Cross Pro-Cathedral in Harlem, New York*

couraged, believing that blacks did not have opportunities to advance in the Episcopal Church

It was at this point that he made the decision to leave.

In 1913 McGuire returned home to British-controlled Antigua and Barbuda to care for his sick mother.

While here, he volunteered at a local parish, serving as a minister in the Church of England.

He gained acclaim for practicing medicine on the island. When a strike of local sugar cane workers led

to rioting and burning of the sugar cane fields, British colonial officials urged local and religious leaders to oppose the strikes, but McGuire refused and urged officials to ensure that workers were paid decent, living wages.

## UNIA

McGuire returned to the United States in 1918 and soon afterward joined the UNIA. Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican immigrant and the president and founder of UNIA, appointed him as first Chaplain-General of the organisation, at its inaugural international

convention in New York in August 1920.

In this position McGuire wrote two important documents of UNIA, "Universal Negro Ritual", and "Universal Negro Catechism", the latter containing both religious and historical sections, reflecting his interest in religion and race history.

This was a period of black disillusionment and disenchantment with their status and with the enactment of discriminatory laws.

This was not only true in the American South, but also in the Northern cities where the discrimination was also pervasive. In this period, some black leaders promoted separate development of the races.

The mainline churches, such as the Episcopal Church (Anglican), wanted to bring faith to the Blacks, but did not want to advocate "political and social equality".

## African Orthodox Church

On 2nd September 1921, in the Church of the Good Shepherd in New York City, McGuire founded the African Orthodox Church(AOC). The new denomination was first called the Independent Episcopal Church.

A few years later at its first Conclave, or House of Bishops meeting, on 10th September 1924, the denomination was formally organised as the African

*cont'd on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

Orthodox Church (AOC).

McGuire believed that blacks who supported the Protestant Episcopal church deserved ecclesiastical independence. Based on traditional Roman Catholic doctrines, it was open to all but was under complete black leadership and control.

McGuire declared to his followers: "You must forget the white gods. Erase the white gods from your hearts. We must go back to the native church, to our own true God."

McGuire may have been attracted to the Eastern Orthodox Church because it was not associated with racism, colonialism or religious imperialism.

It was never involved in widespread missionary activity and had limited contacts with Afro-Americans and Africans. It was not perceived as racist.

The adherents of Eastern Orthodoxy were primarily southern and eastern Europeans, people who were recent immigrants to the US and not associated with the establishment.

Oriental Orthodoxy was based in what was then known as the Middle East, Egypt, Ethiopia and southern India.

The name, African Orthodox Church, "denoted its aim: to be a universal Black church in affiliation with a branch of Christianity not known for racism or colonialism."

Shortly after the UNIA convention in August 1924, McGuire broke with Marcus Garvey.

He focused on expanding the AOC church, which primarily attracted Anglican immigrants from

the West Indies[5] who were from the High Church Anglican tradition (Anglo-Catholicism).

McGuire would have liked the AOC to be designated as the official church of UNIA, but



Garvey was unwilling to grant such an exclusive privilege to any denomination. McGuire resigned from the UNIA. He ensured official "orthodox" status for his new church by arranging apostolic succession for himself.

## **AOC consolidation and growth 1924–1934**

In 1924, the newly organised conclave of AOC unanimously elected McGuire as archbishop of the church. During the remaining decade of his life, McGuire built the AOC into a thriving international church.

Branches were eventually established in Miami, Chicago, Harlem (New York), Boston, and Cambridge, Massachusetts of the US,

Canada, Barbados, Cuba, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, and elsewhere.

The official organ of AOC, The Negro Churchman, was an effective link for the far-flung organisation, with McGuire as its editor.

Endich Theological Seminary was founded shortly thereafter, as well as an Order of Deaconesses.

In 1925 McGuire founded an AOC parish in West Palm Beach, Florida.[5]

Two years after that, he consecrated Daniel William Alexander, an African clergyman, as Metropolitan Archbishop for South Africa and central and southern Africa.

At the same time McGuire was elected Patriarch of the denomination with the title Alexander I. The church spread to Uganda as well, where it grew to about 10,000 members.[5]

On 8 November 1931 McGuire dedicated Holy Cross Pro-Cathedral in Harlem, New York.[5] His church maintained its greatest strength in NYC.

## **Death**

McGuire died 10 November 1934. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York City. He was survived by his wife, Ada Robert McGuire (also a native of Antigua), and one daughter.

At the time of his death in 1934, the African Orthodox Church claimed over 30,000 members, fifty clergy, and thirty churches located on three continents: North America, South America and Africa.

George Alexander McGuire was canonised by the African Orthodox Church on 31st July 1983 and is a saint of that church.

# Why electric cars will take over sooner than you think

By Justin Rowlatt

I know, you probably haven't even driven one yet, let alone seriously contemplated buying one, so the prediction may sound a bit bold, but bear with me.

We are in the middle of the biggest revolution in motoring since Henry Ford's first production line started turning back in 1913.

And it is likely to happen much more quickly than you imagine.

Many industry observers believe we have already passed the tipping point where sales of electric vehicles (EVs) will very rapidly overwhelm petrol and diesel cars.

It is certainly what the world's big car makers think.

Volvo from 2030 and last week the British sportscar company Lotus said it would follow suit, selling only electric models from 2028.

And it isn't just premium brands.

General Motors says it will make only electric vehicles by 2035, Ford says all vehicles sold in Europe will be electric by 2030 and VW says 70% of its sales will be electric by 2030.

This isn't a fad, this isn't greenwashing.

Yes, the fact many governments around the world are setting targets to ban the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles gives impetus to the process.

But what makes the end of the internal combustion engine inevitable is a technological revolution. And technological revolutions tend to happen very quickly.

## This revolution will be electric

Look at the internet.

By my reckoning, the EV market is about where the internet was around the late 1990s or early 2000s.

Back then, there was a big buzz about this new thing with computers talking to each other.

Jeff Bezos had set up Amazon, and Google was beginning to take over from the likes of Altavista, Ask Jeeves and



Electric car sales are heading up [Photo credit: Getty Images]

Yahoo. Some of the companies involved had racked up eye-popping valuations.

For those who hadn't yet logged on it all seemed exciting and interesting but irrelevant - how useful could communicating by computer be? After all, we've got phones!

But the internet, like all successful new technologies, did not follow a linear path to world domination. It didn't gradually evolve, giving us all time to plan ahead.

Its growth was explosive and disruptive, crushing existing businesses and changing the way we do almost everything. And it followed a familiar pattern, known to technologists as an S-curve.

## Riding the internet S-curve

It's actually an elongated S.

The idea is that innovations start slowly, of interest only to the very nerdiest of nerds. EVs are on the shallow sloping bottom end of the S here.

For the internet, the graph begins at 22:30 on 29 October 1969. That's when a computer at the University of California in LA made contact with another in Stanford University a few hundred miles away.

The researchers typed an L, then an O, then a G. The system crashed before they could complete the word "login".

Like I said, nerds only.

A decade later there were still only a few hundred computers on the network but the pace of change was accelerating.

In the 1990s the more tech-savvy started buying personal computers.

As the market grew, prices fell rapidly and performance improved in leaps and bounds - encouraging more and more people to log on to the internet.

The S is beginning to sweep upwards here, growth is becoming exponential. By 1995 there were some 16 million people online. By 2001, there were 513 million people.

Now there are more than three billion. What happens next is our S begins to slope back towards the horizontal.

The rate of growth slows as virtually everybody who wants to be is now online.

## Jeremy Clarkson's disdain

We saw the same pattern of a slow start, exponential growth and then a slowdown to a mature market with smartphones, photography, even antibiotics.

The internal combustion engine at the turn of the last century followed the same trajectory.

So did steam engines and printing presses. And electric vehicles will do the same.

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*

In fact they have a more venerable lineage than the internet.

The first crude electric car was developed by the Scottish inventor Robert Anderson in the 1830s.

But it is only in the last few years that the technology has been available at the kind of prices that make it competitive.

The former Top Gear presenter and used car dealer Quentin Willson should know. He's been driving electric vehicles for well over a decade.

He test-drove General Motors' now infamous EV1 20 years ago. It cost a billion dollars to develop but was considered a dud by GM, which crushed all but a handful of the 1,000 or so vehicles it produced.

The EV1's range was dreadful - about 50 miles for a normal driver - but Mr Willson was won over. "I remember thinking this is the future," he told me.

He says he will never forget the disdain that radiated from fellow Top Gear presenter Jeremy Clarkson when he showed him his first electric car, a Citroen C-Zero, a decade later.

"It was just completely: 'You have done the most unspeakable thing and you have disgraced us all. Leave!'," he says. Though he now concedes that you couldn't have the heater on in the car because it decimated the range.

How things have changed. Mr Willson says he has no range anxiety with his latest electric car, a Tesla

Model 3.

He says it will do almost 300 miles on a single charge and accelerates from 0-60 in 3.1 seconds.

"It is supremely comfortable, it's airy, it's bright. It's just a complete joy. And I would unequivocally say to you now that I would never ever go back."

We've seen massive improvements in the motors that drive electric vehicles, the computers that control them, charging systems and car design.

But the sea-change in performance Mr Willson has experienced is largely possible because of the improvements in the non-beating heart of the vehicles, the battery.

The most striking change is in prices.

Just a decade ago, it cost \$1,000 per kilowatt hour of battery power, says Madeline Tyson, of the US-based clean energy research group, RMI. Now it is nudging \$100 (£71).

That is reckoned to be the point at which they start to become cheaper to buy than equivalent internal combustion vehicles.

But, says Ms Tyson, when you factor in the cost of fuel and servicing - EVs need much less of that - many EVs are already cheaper than the petrol or diesel alternative.

At the same time energy density - how much power you can pack into each battery - continues to rise.

They are lasting longer too.

Last year the world's first battery capable of powering a car for a million miles was

unveiled by the Chinese battery maker, CATL.

Companies that run big fleets of cars like Uber and Lyft are leading the switchover, because the savings are greatest for cars with high mileage.

But, says Ms Tyson, as prices continue to tumble, retail customers will follow soon.

## How fast will it happen?

The answer is very fast.

Like the internet in the 90s, the electric car market is already growing exponentially.

Global sales of electric cars raced forward in 2020, rising by 43% to a total of 3.2m, despite overall car sales slumping by a fifth during the coronavirus pandemic.

That is just 5% of total car sales, but it shows we're already entering the steep part of the S.

By 2025 20% of all new cars sold globally will be electric, according to the latest forecast by the investment bank UBS.

That will leap to 40% by 2030, and by 2040 virtually every new car sold globally will be electric, says UBS.

The reason is thanks to another curve - what manufacturers call the "learning curve".

The more we make something, the better we get at making it and the cheaper it gets to make.

That's why PCs, kitchen appliances and - yes - petrol and diesel cars, became so affordable.

The same thing is what has been driving down the price of batteries, and hence

electric cars.

We're on the verge of a tipping point, says Ramez Naam, the co-chair for energy and environment at the Singularity University in California.

He believes as soon as electric vehicles become cost-competitive with fossil fuel vehicles, the game will be up.

That's certainly what Tesla's self-styled techno-king, Elon Musk, believes.

Last month he was telling investors that the Model 3 has become the best-selling premium sedan in the world, and predicting that the newer, cheaper Model Y would become the best-selling car of any kind.

"We've seen a real shift in customer perception of electric vehicles, and our demand is the best we've ever seen," Mr Musk told the meeting.

There is work to be done before electric vehicles drive their petrol and diesel rivals off the road.

Most importantly, everyone needs to be able charge their cars easily and cheaply whether or not they have a driveway at their home.

That will take work and investment, but will happen, just as a vast network of petrol stations rapidly sprang up to fuel cars a century ago.

And, if you are still sceptical, I suggest you try an electric car out for yourself.

Most of the big car manufacturers now have a range of models on offer. So take one for a test drive and see if, like Quentin Willson, you find you want to be part of motor-ing's future.

## Global warming and land use change to drive more extreme wildfires

By Matt McGrath

Extreme wildfires are set to become more frequent, increasing by around 50% by the end of this century, according to a new UN report.

The report finds there's an elevated risk in the Arctic and other regions previously unaffected by fires.

The scientists define extreme fires as extraordinary conflagrations that occur roughly once in a hundred years.

Researchers say that rising temperatures and changes to the way we use land will drive the increase.

The new study calls for a radical reallocation of financial resources from fighting fires to prevention.

The scientists from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) say that large fires that burn for weeks are already becoming hotter and burning longer in many parts of the planet where wildfires have always occurred.

But they are now beginning to flare up in remote northern areas, in drying peatlands and on thawing permafrost.

This latest study says that there will be a global increase in extreme fires of up to 14% by 2030, compared to the number recorded in 2010-2020. The increase could reach 30% by 2050 and 50% by the end of the century.

"The analysis was based on the definition of a catastrophic fire being one that would occur once every 100



*A fire in a forest in Siberia - researchers are worried about the spread of extreme fires in the Arctic. [Photo credit: Getty images]*

years, so it's a very low frequency fire event," said Dr Andrew Sullivan from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Canberra, Australia.

"The result was that the potential for that sort of fire would increase by a factor of 1.3 to 1.5 times, based on global analysis of fire frequency."

The results were similar in a low or high carbon emissions scenario.

The study defines extreme conflagrations as fires that are extraordinary or unusual - but this definition can differ markedly depending on your location.

"If you imagine a peat fire in the Arctic, it's spreading at centimetres an hour. It's not necessarily a raging inferno, but it's unusual and spreading over immense areas because there's no one there to do anything about it," said Dr Sullivan.

"A fire like this in the peatlands is an extreme fire,

but it's not what you would envisage as being an extreme fire if you lived in California."

And even though the study only makes projections on extreme events, the authors believe that lesser incidents of wildfire will also increase as land use changes and populations increase. This could have significant implications for climate change as the extra burning will increase the amount of carbon emitted into the atmosphere.

But the change in frequency will vary depending on a number of local factors. The world is likely to see more fires in Arctic regions because climate change is having such a major impact in the region.

However in Africa, where about two thirds of the world's wildfires now occur, there are likely to be fewer fires in the coming decades as a growing population is clearing more forest areas for farmland.

"In Africa, the number of

fires is decreasing, because of the change in land use and the intensification of agriculture," said Dr Glynis Humphrey from the University of Cape Town.

"Our percentage of area burned is actually decreasing, and our fires are becoming smaller and smaller, because of the reduction in fuel load."

The authors are calling on governments to change their model of spending on large fires.

Right now, the study says that planning and prevention receives less than 1% of funding while firefighting takes over half of the available budget.

A villager fights a fire in Portugal in 2017 - the extreme fires that hit the country killed over 100 people

Many governments have good intentions in terms of spending more on planning and prevention - but the reality on the ground is different.

"We need to invest more in fire prevention, in full management, also in allowing fires to fulfil their ecological roles," said Prof Paulo Fernandes, from the Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro in Portugal, one of the report's authors.

"But then, when things get hot, their response will be to deviate from the policy that's supposed to be in place. In places like California they talk a lot, but then in terms of action, they put the money always in the same place, in firefighting."



## Jamaican students in Ukraine have not accepted gov't's loan offer

The Gleaner - Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamina Johnson Smith is reporting that Jamaican students in Ukraine have not taken up the government's loan offer to cover expenses to return home.

Johnson Smith said that the loan offer, which would cover airfare to Jamaica, was made on February 12 through the Embassy in Berlin.

Although seven students had requested assistance, ultimately they decided not to go this route, she noted.

"The seven Jamaican students who had indicated their interest in accepting an offer of support from us to purchase tickets for their return home, decided against returning to Jamaica.

"We understand that while some students are making private arrangements to travel to other cities in the region until the situation in Ukraine improves, others are still cautiously monitoring the situation.

"We are aware of eight students who have left thus far, with an additional five travelling from Ukraine over the course of this week."

She said the ministry has shared with the students the options available to them, for example,

through Turkey, and have highlighted concerns that travel may become even more challenging as events unfold.

The Ministry had previously indicated that there are 42 Jamaican students in Ukraine.

"Our message to them has been that they need to take immediate action if they intend to leave," said Johnson Smith.

She said the Government remains hopeful that diplomatic efforts will yield a de-escalation of tensions, but notes with concern the intensification of tensions in the region.



Kamina Johnson Smith: "Our message to them has been that they need to take immediate action if they intend to leave." [Photo credit: The Gleaner]

In the meantime, she said the Ministry remains actively engaged with the students as well as with their family members in Jamaica.





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# SKN's CMO wants more elderly vaccinated

St. Kitts and Nevis Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hazel Laws says the country's elderly remain at high risk for contracting COVID-19 and may experience severe symptoms that can ultimately lead to death.

Dr. Laws, who made the declaration during a recent press briefing, said elderly persons accounted for the majority of the COVID-19 related deaths during the fourth wave of infections within the Federation.

"Once you are over sixty (60) years old and you are unvaccinated you are vulnerable.

"You are at risk of picking up COVID-19 and you are at risk of moderate to severe disease, you are at risk of being hospitalized as a result of COVID-19

especially if you have any of these underlying medical conditions: diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, kidney or renal disease, stroke in the past and if you have been diagnosed with cancer.

"So, if you have any of these underlying conditions and you are not yet vaccinated, we really want you to reconsider your position because it is individuals like yourself who are at risk of moderate to severe infection or even dying. We want to prevent any further deaths in this regard," said Dr. Laws.

In St. Kitts and Nevis, the Ministry of Health embarked on an awareness and sensitization campaign early on to bolster trust in vaccination. Dr. Laws stressed the importance of being vaccinated against COVID-19



Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hazel Laws

and urged more persons to become vaccinated.

"If you are hesitant about the vaccine, what are the factors contributing to your hesitancy? Is it that you have concerns about the safety of the vaccine or is it that you are not convinced about the benefit of the vaccine to you? At the end of the day we want to be able to convince and have you

coming onboard in terms of having the vaccine.

"In terms of vaccine safety, in terms of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine over 10 billion doses have already been administered globally [with] very little adverse or significant side effects. In the Caribbean alone, over twenty-four million vaccine doses have been administered. In terms of St. Kitts and Nevis alone, we have had over fifty-seven thousand doses of the vaccines combined administered. So, in terms of safety, it is relatively safe," she added.

The Ministry of Health has carried out a successful vaccination campaign, receiving high praise from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for its vaccination roll-out.

As of February 16, 2022, 82.4 percent of the target adult population of the Federation had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, with 77 percent of the target population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

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## Grenada's healthcare system nearly collapsed during first COVID wave

CMC - Health Minister Nicholas Steele says the island's healthcare system was on the verge of collapse as Grenada experienced the first wave of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic during the period August to October last year.

"With regards to the effects of COVID-19, it has been significant...we survived the wave last year, our Delta wave, but I will be the first to admit and I know, and Dr (Tyhiesia) Donald (Acting Chief Medical Officer) can tell you, we came very close, like most other nations to collapsing, which was what we are trying to avoid always," he said.

"It was a lot of pressure on the team, on the facilities, etc. We have seen other nations that have succumb too, but we have watched and we have learned, we bolstered, and we put support where we had to, and we came through. We

lost a lot of Grenadians, unnecessarily, I think," said Steele, as he recalled the impact of the outbreak which resulted in the community spread of the coronavirus.

During the first outbreak, more than 100 healthcare workers including nurses and auxiliary staff became infected and had to be quarantined. At that time, Dr Carol McIntosh confirmed in an interview that some staff at the hospitals were affected, and the administrators were adjusting.

Because of the adjustment, she disclosed that elected surgeries had to be put on hold because of the outbreak. It is not known if anyone died because of failure to receive the required surgery.

Grenada's second wave began in January 2022 following the Christmas holidays.

At its peak, there were 501 positive



[Photo credit: iStock]

cases per day but as of February 20, 2022, there were only 211 active cases.

The Ministry of Health dashboard shows that the island has recorded a total of 13,526 positive cases with 214 deaths since the first case was diagnosed in March 2020. The island's vaccination program began in February 2021 and the total vaccine doses administered is 85,604. However, only 37,384 or 33.1 per cent of the population are fully vaccinated. The number of people with only one dose is 5527 while 5,309 have received a booster shot.

## 1 killed, 2 wounded as police clash with Haitian workers

AP — Men wearing police uniforms fired into a group of people at a protest and killed a journalist Wednesday after thousands of Haitian factory workers launched a new strike to demand higher wages than those the prime minister announced earlier this week.

Associated Press journalists observed the men fire from a car with police license plates as the day's protest appeared to be winding down. At least two journalists were seen to be wounded, and a third one identified as Maxihen Lazzare was killed.

"What happened today is a big hit for the press," said Oméus Romane, director of



*Factory workers protest to demand a salary increase in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, yesterday. It is the first day of a three-day strike organized by factory workers who also shut down an industrial park earlier this month to protest pay. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)*

Roi des Infos, a local digital media company for whom Lazzare worked. "If the constitution gives workers the right to protest, we as journalists are doing our job."

A police spokesperson could not be reached for comment and the condition of the

wounded people wasn't clear.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry tweeted that he deplored the killing: "I also condemn the violence that has caused injuries. I offer my condolences to the family of the deceased, as well as to the other victims of these

brutal acts."

Earlier, police had fired tear gas as protesters threw rocks at them and used trucks to block a main road near the international airport in Port-au-Prince. It was the first day of a three-day strike organised by factory workers who also shut down an industrial park earlier this month to protest pay, which then was about 500 gourdes (US\$4.80) for nine hours of work a day.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced minimum wage hikes late Sunday in an attempt to quell the protests. But the increase of 185 gourdes (US\$1.80) a day for factory workers only served to enrage them.

## Nigerian tech startup is fighting baby jaundice with solar-powered cribs

CNN - In 2015, Virtue Oboro experienced every mother's worst nightmare: at just 48 hours old, her newborn son was rushed into hospital for emergency treatment.

Her son, Tombra, was diagnosed with jaundice, a common condition affecting more than 60% of newborns worldwide. Many cases are mild and resolve on their own, but more serious cases require phototherapy, where babies are placed under blue light.

It's a simple, effective treatment -- but in some places, including Oboro's home country of Nigeria, access to the necessary equipment isn't always possible. Not getting treatment can lead to irreversible health problems including hearing loss, vision impairment, brain damage and cerebral palsy. In rare cases, it can lead to death.

Tombra's case was severe, but there were no phototherapy units available and the family waited four hours while his condition deteriorated.

Eventually, he was given an emergency blood transfusion -- a risky surgery that bought valuable time until a phototherapy unit became available. Oboro says she had to buy the bulb herself, and power outages meant the unit was off for several hours during Tombra's seven-day treatment.

Despite the many obstacles, her son, now six, made a full recovery. But Oboro says the experience was traumatising -- and it inspired her to change careers.

Driven by a new mission to save babies from jaundice, she created the Crib A'Glow: a portable, affordable, solar-powered phototherapy unit, which treats jaundice using blue LED lights.

"I felt like some of the things (I experienced) could have been avoided,



*Solar Crib [Photo credit: CNN]*

or the stress level could be reduced," she says. "I thought, is there something I could do to make the pain less for the babies and the mothers?"

Jaundice is caused by a build-up in the blood of bilirubin - a yellow compound produced when red blood cells break down. Bilirubin is usually removed by the liver, but newborns' livers are often not developed enough to do this effectively. The blue light helps to make the bilirubin easier for the liver to break down.

Oboro's experience with power outages and broken equipment isn't uncommon in Nigeria, says Hippolyte Amadi, a professor of bioengineering at Imperial College, London, who specialises in neonatal medicine and has worked with neonatal centres in Nigeria for over 20 years.

Parents often have to travel long distances to get to a hospital, not all of which have phototherapy units and neonatal specialists, says Amadi.

"One can find large numbers of obsolete or dysfunctional systems being applied at some of these centres," he says, adding that by his estimates, "less than 5% of all Nigerian facilities

has sufficient functional phototherapy devices" to serve needy patients.

This increases the likelihood of a negative outcome: it has been reported that in low and middle income countries, infants are 27 times more likely to suffer from brain damage caused by jaundice, and 119 times more likely to die compared to high income nations.

Oboro founded her company Tiny Hearts in 2016, shortly after Tombra's recovery, and began developing the phototherapy cribs.

As a visual designer, Oboro says she struggled with the medical technicalities. However, her husband had experience working with solar energy and was on hand to help. Oboro also worked with a pediatrician to make sure the device was safe and in line with current phototherapy guidelines.

According to Amadi, one of the most effective phototherapy units currently used in Nigeria costs around \$2,000, a steep sum for hospitals on a budget. But Crib A'Glow - produced in Nigeria using local materials - is able to save on added fees like import

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Western nations impose sanctions after Putin orders troops into Ukraine's breakaway regions

CNN - Western leaders announced a tranche of sanctions against Moscow after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered troops into separatist-held parts of eastern Ukraine, a move that the United States called the start of Russia's invasion of the country.

It comes as diplomatic efforts to avoid an escalation appear to have stalled after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced he had cancelled a planned meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Geneva this week.

President Joe Biden said on Tuesday the US will sanction Russia's financial institutions and oligarchs. The United Kingdom, European Union, Canada, Australia and Japan also announced fresh sanctions on Russia.

Earlier in the day, Germany said it halted certifying a \$11 billion 750-mile pipeline that connects Russia directly to Germany.



*Oil prices surge after Russia orders troops into Ukraine [Photo credit: CNN]*

The Nord Stream 2 project was completed in September but has not yet received the final green light from German regulators.

Russia sharply escalated its military campaign against Ukraine on Monday night, recognizing two pro-Russian breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine before ordering troops into the territories.

Moscow has long maintained that it has no soldiers on the ground in eastern Ukraine.

However NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Tuesday that Russia has had troops inside the regions --

known as the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) -- since they were self-declared in 2014.

Stoltenberg slammed the troop movement as a "further invasion of a country that has already been invaded."

Putin has not yet set a timeline for troops to move into the separatist regions, but in a speech Tuesday afternoon, Biden described events now underway in Ukraine as "the beginning of a Russian invasion."

"This is a flagrant violation of international law and demands a firm response

from the international community," Biden said.

In a national address on Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was still pursuing diplomacy as a way out of the crisis. Reservists would be called up for military training, he said, but there will be no general mobilization of armed forces.

"We desire peace and calm, but if we are quiet today then tomorrow we will disappear," Zelensky said.

The Ukrainian President also referred to Putin's announcement that the Minsk Agreements -- designed to end the fighting in eastern Ukraine -- no longer applied, saying that Ukraine remained committed to seeking its sovereignty and integrity.

Putin, who has steadily amassed some 150,000 military personnel near Ukraine's borders, appeared to cast doubt on the sovereignty of Russia's neighbor in an angry speech on Monday.

*cont'd from pg 18*

tax, and retails for \$360 per unit. Additionally, because it's portable and solar powered, the device can be used at home by parents living in remote areas with limited or inconsistent access to electricity.

"Seeing devices coming out that will solve that problem is very exciting," says Amadi, adding that he

would be interested in testing the technology in the practices he oversees.

He says innovations like Crib A'Glow could be used in tandem with conventional phototherapy machines, allowing babies to begin jaundice treatment in a hospital and to finish at home.

"Such technology needs to be supported and production scaled up to

tackle neonatal conditions in Nigeria," he adds.

An award-winning design

The Crib A'Glow innovation has received award grants including \$50,000 from Johnson and Johnson's Africa Innovation Award. Most recently, the device was selected as a finalist for the Royal Academy of Engineering's Africa Prize 2022.

## Indian actor arrested for tweet on Karnataka hijab row judge

BBC - An Indian actor has been arrested for tweeting against one of the judges hearing pleas against a ban on Muslim girls wearing hijabs in schools.

Chetan Kumar was arrested in the southern state of Karnataka after he criticised Justice Krishna Dixit.

The actor wondered why a judge, who has made “disturbing comments” in the past, was hearing the contentious matter.

He was referring to a 2020 order in which the judge had questioned the behaviour of a woman who alleged rape.



*The actor's arrest has sparked anger [Photo credit: BBC]*

Justice Dixit's comments were later deleted from the order after they resulted in outrage and were described

as regressive.

Mr Kumar's arrest has sparked anger, with many questioning the police's motive.

A US citizen and a Fulbright scholar, Chetan Kumar is a firebrand Dalit (formerly known as untouchable) rights activist who has been involved in several anti-right wing protests in Karnataka.

Critics say he's often targeted for his social work - the actor is already facing two police complaints for his remarks against the Brahmin community, who are at the top of India's Hindu caste hierarchy.

## Man arrested after hostage standoff at Amsterdam Apple store

BBC - A man has been arrested in Amsterdam following an hours-long hostage standoff at an Apple store.

Police say a 27-year-old gunman entered the store on Tuesday, taking one person hostage and demanding some €200m (£165m; \$230m) in cryptocurrency.

The suspect was deliberately hit by a police car after running out of the building to chase the hostage, who had managed to escape.

He was taken to hospital under police custody with serious injuries.

An investigation has been launched, but police say they have not yet established a motive.

Officers were first called to the Apple store in

the Dutch capital's Leidseplein area at about 17:40 local time (16:40 GMT) on Tuesday, after the camouflage-wearing suspect entered the building. Dozens of people fled the shop, while four hid in a cupboard.

Images circulated on Dutch media appeared to show a man waving a firearm in one hand while holding a person in his other arm. The gunman sent photos to Amsterdam TV channel AT5 appearing to show explosives strapped to his body.

After nearly five hours, the hostage managed to escape when water was delivered to the store at the request of the gunman.

Amsterdam police chief Frank Paauw said the hos-



*Armed specialist officers were deployed to the scene [Photo credit: EPA]*

tage - a Bulgarian man, not a Briton as previously reported - had played a “heroic role by forcing a breakthrough” in the stand-off.

“He acted in a split-second. Had he not done that, we could have been in for a long, nasty night,” he said.

Police have not publicly named the suspect but say he is a resident of Amster-

dam with a criminal record.

They say an investigation has found that the suspect had explosives on his body, but that they were not ready to detonate.

In a statement, Apple said it was “incredibly grateful and relieved that our employees and customers in Amsterdam are safe after this terrifying experience”.



## Walsh says female team is balanced

West Indies Women's coach, Courtney Walsh, is happy with the make-up of the squad heading to the ICC World Cup next month and has described it as the complete package and well balanced.

On Monday Cricket West Indies announced the composition of the 15-member squad which, as expected, will be led by captain Stephanie Taylor and features several experienced players including Deandra Dottin, Shermaine Campbell, and Anisa Mohammed.

The team also features a number of younger players, and Walsh believes the team is suited to performing well in all areas.

"We are trying to get



the best combination for the World Cup," the former West Indies fast bowler noted.

"We wanted the complete package with regards to bowling, batting and fielding. The selectors believe what we have selected is the best balance."

Uncapped players, Kay-sia Schulz and Jannellia Glasgow, are in the reserves

with Walsh pointing out they have adequate back-up should there be injuries.

## England bowler praying his career is not over

England's leading Test wicket-taker James Anderson says he is praying his international career is not over after being dropped for the West Indies tour.

Both Anderson, 39, and Stuart Broad, 35, were left out of the squad for the three-Test tour of the Caribbean.

Speaking on the Tailenders Podcast, Anderson, who has taken 640 wickets in 169 Tests, said it was a shock and he felt frustration and anger initially.

"I'm praying this isn't the end," he said "but if I never play for England again, I know I've got amazing people around me to support me and that's really important."

Seam bowler Anderson said he is determined to impress Lancashire when the County Championship starts in April and regain his England place this summer.

England's interim managing director Andrew Strauss, said the decision to drop Anderson and Broad does not mean the end of their international careers.



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# Sports News

## CPTSA Wings begin 2022 calendar of activities

The Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club, which is comprised of basketball, football, volleyball and track and field divisions, has launched its 2022 calendar of activities.

Although each discipline within the club is managed by a different leader, overall management of the Wings Sports Club is overseen by its president, Coach Lucaso “Lukie” Brumant.

The Wings Sports Club launched its 2022 activities with a fundraising breakfast and hike from Perry Bay to Hawksbill Hotel on 12th February.

The club will also host other events to raise money geared toward attending the annual Youth Basketball of America (YBOA) International Basketball Camp in Orlando, Florida this summer.

The club will also host a flea market and yard sale at the Christ the King High School on April 3rd followed by a raffle on May 7th. These fundraisers will offset expenses for members of its basketball team to participate in the YBOA International Basketball Camp from 16th to 24th July.

President Brumant said Wings Sports Club, for at least 10 years, has been attending the YBOA events as an alternative to the World

Youth Basketball Festival in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which no longer takes place.

In the 1990s to early 2000s, Wings Sports Club and the national junior basketball team, the Antigua and Barbuda Pitbulls, were regulars at the World Youth Basketball Festival each summer.

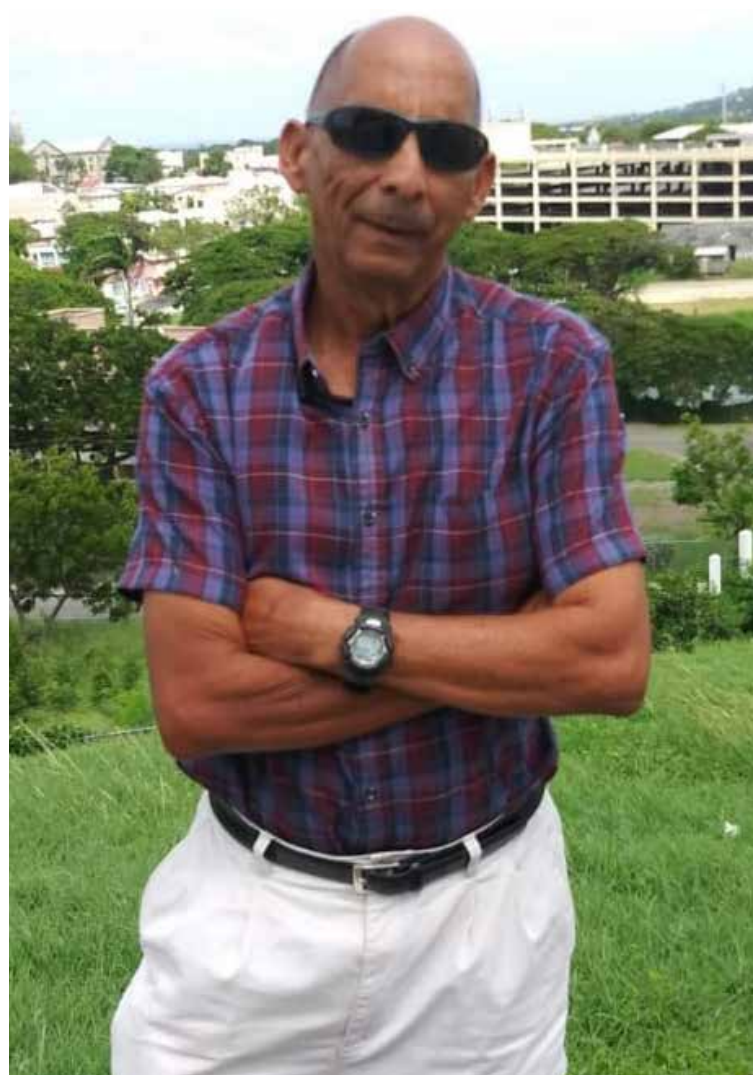
Brumant said after the World Youth Basketball Festival ended, Wings Sports Club found an alternative summer engagement for its players in the Youth Basketball of America International Basketball Tournament.

“Years ago, we used to go to the World Youth Basketball Festival in Milwaukee, and when that closed down we got in touch with some other people at Youth Basketball of America in Orlando, Florida.

“They were very good to us because from time to time they were the ones who used to donate the balls and so on that we used,” Brumant said on Sports Overflow.

Brumant said although CPTSA Wings Sports Club has attended the YBOA event on at least ten occasions, it only participated in the basketball competitions during its first two years.

The experienced coach and sports administrator said Wings was unable to



*President of the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club, Lucaso Brumant. (Photo courtesy Lucaso Brumant Facebook)*

field its strongest teams in the competition as most of its best players have been unable to participate in the tournament due to financial reasons, hence a decision was made to attend the camp in the following years.

“We have been to that at least ten times. The first two years we went, we took the boys Under-14 team, but you have to have a good team to really be competi-

tive in those tournaments.

“Most of our better players are often unable to make the trip, so we were not always competitive at the tournament during the first two years we went there,” Brumant said.

“For us to travel to the United States, it is a costly venture, so you find that the parents have to put in a lot of money for their children

*cont'd on pg 23*



## Lewis Hamilton calls for more female stewards in Formula 1

Lewis Hamilton has called for there to be more female stewards in Formula 1. The seven-time champion also believes that a bias is a problem among the current group of stewards, alleging that some travel with current drivers on the grid to race weekends.

Some of the stewards are permanent officials including the race director and starter, while a panel of stewards are appointed for every Grand Prix. Three of these are nominated by the FIA from Super Licence holders qualified for the role.

The role of the driver steward was introduced 12 years ago to ensure that at least one member of the panel had driving experience. Hamilton hopes for there to be more female voices in the stewards room, and a woman to take one of the race director roles that have been split after the removal of Michael Masi.



Lewis Hamilton

“I want to see more women in the stewards room. Last year we had maybe one or two,” Hamilton said at pre-season testing in Barcelona.

“It would be awesome to have a male and female as the two race directors. We need to make sure we’ve

got non-biased stewards. I think F1 needs people who have no biases, and are super central when it comes to making decisions.”

Hamilton lost out on a record-setting eight Drivers Championship when Max Verstappen passed him on the final lap of the season at

the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in December. The controversial ending to the race at the Yas Marina Circuit has been investigated by the FIA, which has already confirmed that Masi will be reassigned from the role of race director amid wider structural changes.

*cont'd from pg 22*

to be able to attend the tournament.

“So for the first two years, we got beaten badly and so the organisers recommended that instead of coming to play in the tournament, we can instead come and participate in the Youth Basketball of America International Basketball Camp.

“So we took their advice and we started to attend the YBOA basketball camp in the summer instead of the tournament, and to me, the camp

turned out to be much better for us because you had people from Mexico, India, Germany, you had people from all over.

“You will still play games and you will be taught the various skills from top coaches. We used to have Frank ‘Shake n Bake’ Streety of the original Harlem Globetrotters who would come around and do some demonstrations with the kids.

“It is wonderful. You had time to do a lot of stuff such as going to the

theme parks and the kids enjoyed it.”

Among the activities the Wing Sports Club will host this year are the 9th Annual Wings Youth Football Festival from March 25th to 27th, the 17th Gillian Brazier Basketball Shootout at JSC and YMCA from April 10th to 17th, the 26th Easter Monday Road/Relay on April 18th, the 9th Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic at Yasco from April 30th to May 1st and the 8th Wings Youth Basketball Festival at the YMCA on May 14th.

# Williams says ABCF makes successful start to 2022 season

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) St. Clair Williams, said the opening race of the 2022 domestic cycling season was a success.

The ABCF hosted an Individual Time Trial road race last Sunday to start the new season with Sean Weathered of Team Terminix capturing the overall title by producing a dominant display to win the Elite Male Category in a time of 21 minutes and 34.85 seconds over the two-lap circuit.

Neil Lloyd of N&R Wheelers claimed the Masters Class in a time of 24 minutes and 37.33 seconds.

Lindsay Duffy of Road Runners Cycling Club won the Female Class, the Sports Class was captured by Newell Mack of Team Independent, Tahje Browne of Wadadli Cycling Academy claimed the 13-16 Cadet Class, while Vanessa Rosignoli of Road Runners Cycling Club won the 12 and under category.

Speaking to Sports Overflow, Williams said Sunday's event was a success and it was used to get the cycling fraternity acclimatised to all the COVID-19 protocols that affect competitive cycling.

"We are happy we were able to launch our first race of the season, an individual time trial, and that was just



Experienced N&R Wheelers cyclist Neil Lloyd, centre, won the Masters Class ahead of Ken Jackson, left, and Patrick Peters of Team Independent during the Individual Time Trial hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Association on Sunday, 20 February, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABCA)

to get everybody back into the fray of racing and to acclimatise again and adhering to all the protocols in respect to competition," Williams said.

"So I am happy and I am hoping that all our viewers and listeners that we were transmitting to over our Facebook page using our live feed, are happy as well with what we were putting out on Sunday."

However, Williams said there was a decline in the number of participants in Sunday's event when compared to the opening race of the previous season.

"The numbers were down on Sunday in respect to what we had last year, but

it was largely due to a number of different reasons," Williams said.

"Some persons had work commitments and other issues. We had about 18 to 20 cyclists on the line, but what was instructive for us as the executive is that we saw some new faces coming out.

"They were from different clubs across Antigua and Barbuda so that is a good sign to see a next generation of young and new cyclists coming out and participating in the first event.

"It is something that we can be given a pat on the back for because we are trying to attract young blood to the sport and the first race

of the season demonstrated that.

"We saw young cyclists on Sunday representing Wadadli Cycling Academy, Eastside Raiders, Road Runners Cycling Club and Independent Cycling club as well.

"Actually, one of the new faces that we saw on Sunday was a young female so that is good as well.

"So we are looking to continue to develop what we have right now and we are hoping that what we saw on Sunday is a good step in the right direction."

The ABCF will stage its second race of the domestic season when they stage a circuit race on 13th March.



## Alexander Zverev withdrawn from Mexican Open after striking umpire's chair

CNN - Alexander Zverev has been withdrawn from the Mexican Open for "unsportsmanlike conduct" after striking the umpire's chair multiple times with his racket following a defeat in the doubles draw.

After losing match point to Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliövaara alongside playing partner Marcelo Melo, Zverev walked up to the umpire's chair and hit it three times.

"You f\*\*\*ing destroyed the whole f\*\*\*ing match. The whole f\*\*\*ing match, you destroyed," Zverev can be heard shouting at the umpire, before going back to his chair to hit it one more time.

Glasspool and Heliövaara can be seen flinching and stopping in their tracks while standing just behind Zverev.

The world No. 3 could also be heard calling the umpire a "f\*\*\*ing idiot" during the match, after becoming frustrated with a line call during the deciding super tiebreak.

"Due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the conclusion of his doubles match on Tuesday night, Alexander Zverev has been withdrawn from the tournament in Acapulco," an ATP statement read.



*Alexander Zverev has been withdrawn from the Mexican Open for "unsportsmanlike conduct."*  
 [Photo credit: CNN]

The ATP rulebook defines unsportsmanlike conduct as "any misconduct by a player that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the success of a tournament, ATP and/or the sport" and carries a fine of up to \$20,000.

However, incidents that are "flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament" may be referred to the ATP EVP-Rules & Competition, which would conduct an investigation.

Zverev later apologized in a post on his Instagram page.

"It is difficult to put into words how much I regret my behavior during and af-

ter the doubles match yesterday," he wrote. "I have privately apologized to the chair umpire because my outburst towards him was wrong and unacceptable, and I am only disappointed in myself.

"It just should not have happened and there is no excuse. I would also like to apologize to my fans, the tournament, and the sport that I love. As you know, I leave everything on the court. Yesterday, I left too much.

"I am going to take the coming days to reflect -- on my actions and how I can ensure that it will not happen again. I am sorry for let-

ting you down."

Zverev's removal from the tournament also includes the singles draw, in which a day earlier he had set the record for the latest finish in ATP Tour history.

The German's 3-6 7-6 6-2 victory over American Jenson Brooksby finished at 4:55 a.m. local time on Tuesday, beating the previous record of 4:34 a.m. set by Lleyton Hewitt and Marcos Baghdatis at the 2008 Australian Open.

Fellow German Peter Gojowczyk, who Zverev was scheduled to play in the next round, has received a walkover into the quarterfinals.

## Members of ABBA to elect new executive at AGM in March

A new executive who will administer the affairs of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) for the next four-years will be elected during the organisation's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22nd March, 2022.

This was confirmed by current ABBA's president, Kebra Nanton, during an interview on Pointe FM's Sports Overflow on Tuesday.

"The AGM is going to be on March 22, and at the AGM we will have the elections," Nanton said.

On 23rd October, 2018, Nanton was elected to the helm of ABBA, becoming the first woman to head the organisation.

Nanton explained her decision not to seek reelection for a second term.

"No, I will not be seeking reelection.

"I had made this announcement a couple weeks ago. Before 2022, I was seriously considering re-running at the end of the term, but I've had some recent changes happening in my professional life and, just as a result of that, I had to really make a difficult decision to make way for someone else who has the time

by stepping away for now," Nanton said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the current ABBA executive was unable to stage domestic league competitions in 2020 and 2021. A major surge in COVID-19 infections in Antigua and Barbuda at the start of this year, further curtailed plans to recommence competitive basketball activities.

Nanton hinted that not being able to stage league competitions for the past two years also played a major role in her decision, along with other members of the ABBA executive, who will also step aside.

"So because we have been on such a long pause because of the COVID-19, and me making the decision not to run again, we also decided to bring forward the AGM," Nanton said.

"The AGM would have been at the end of this year. This is our last year, but because we have been on a pause, we decided to bring forward the AGM. We had some things planned, we wanted to get going, but couldn't.

"Even for the start of this year, we had an event planned for the end of Janu-



*Incumbent President of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association, Kebra Nanton, will not seek re-election during the organisation's AGM on March 22, 2022. (Photo Courtesy ABBA)*

ary, but then we had a spike in COVID-19 cases and we had to cancel again.

"So we realised this thing is too uncertain. It keeps changing, so we all decided to call the AGM now and prepare another team to manage the return of basketball," She added.

The AGM was constitutionally due by 22nd December, 2022.

Nanton said at least 25 member clubs will be eligi-

ble to vote and elect the new ABBA executive. However, at least two member clubs must nominate each candidate seeking to contest the positions of president, first vice-president, second vice-president and treasurer.

The clubs must submit their letters of nominations to ABBA at least two weeks before the AGM in order for the candidate to be eligible to participate in the election of officers.