



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2022

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WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

## PM WARNS RUSSIA, UKRAINE CRISIS COULD CAUSE FUEL INCREASE

Story on Page 2



A Chevrolet Camaro was totalled early Sunday morning when the female driver lost control and collided with a traffic light on Newgate Street. Both the driver and a male passenger were rescued from the car before it dramatically burst into flames. They were transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where they were both treated for minor injuries. The car was completely gutted by the fire.

# PM Browne warns fuel cost could increase if Russia-Ukraine crisis doesn't end soon

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne is the latest CARICOM leader to speak up on the war between Russia and Ukraine. Over the weekend, Prime Minister Browne said a swift resolution to the conflict is in the best interest of the Caribbean region, which he noted, will inevitably be affected by the fall out.

The immediate concern would be over an increase in petroleum products, which in turn will affect the cost of goods and services.

"We want this issue resolved as soon as possible because if it is protracted, you're going to see an increase in petroleum pricing, you're going to see an increase in food prices.

"Now petrol and food; those contribute to coinflation, and the thing about it is, the increases they affect the poor disproportionate-

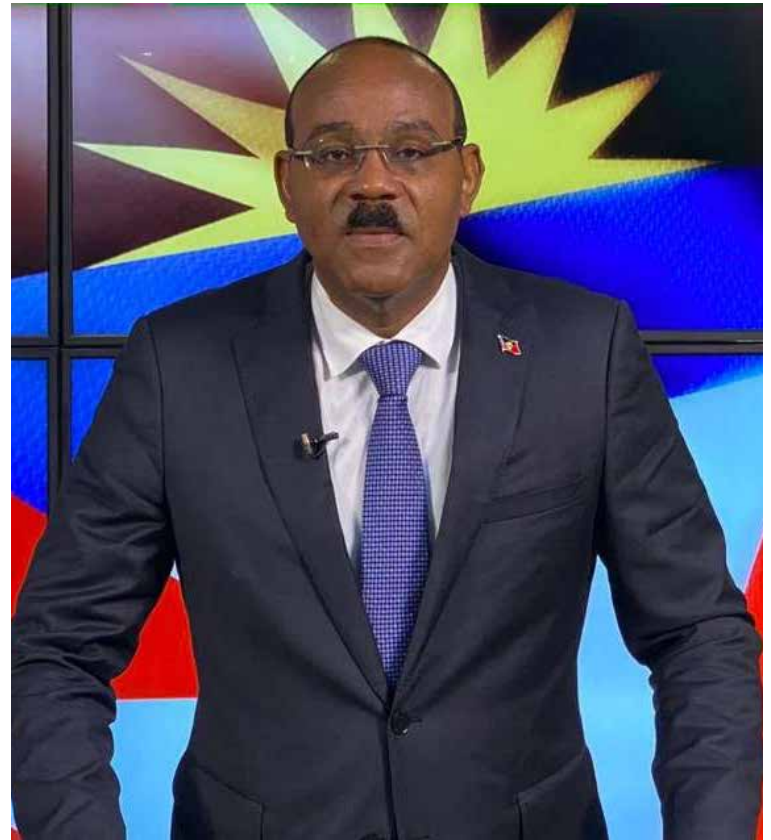
ly. This is why Antigua and Barbuda has had this price equalisation mechanism in place to control the price of petroleum at the pump.

The price equalisation mechanism referred to by the prime minister is the reason why Antiguan and Barbudans pay the lowest rate in the OECS for gasoline at the pump, EC\$12.50.

In Dominica, gasoline is EC\$14 and last week in St. Kitts and Nevis, gasoline prices jumped to EC\$16.01.

The low rate of fuel in Antigua and Barbuda results from the government's decision in 2021 to forego EC\$32 million in taxes that would normally have been levied on fuel.

However, the prime minister has warned if global petroleum prices continue to increase, it may no longer be possible for the government to continue



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

the beneficial subsidy.

"If petroleum prices continue to increase, there may come a time when we cannot continue to hold the price at \$12.50, and in that case there may have to

be a pass through at some point."

If the government is no longer able to maintain the fuel subsidy, it will also mean an increase in the local cost of electricity.



## APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Monday, 28th February 2022	Tuesday, 1st March 2022
Section of Patterson near the Horse Stable 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Section of Patterson near the Horse Stable 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
—	—

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Pointville Communications Ltd, take this opportunity to wish Sir McLean Emmanuel a happy 80th birthday!

## PM endorses move to elevate King Short Shirt to National Hero

On Sunday during a church service organised to celebrate the 80th birthday of Sir McLean “King Short Shirt” Emmanuel, Prime Minister Gaston Browne voiced his support for the move to elevate the legendary calypsonian to the status of National Hero.

According to Prime Minister Browne, King Short Shirt’s iconic contribution to Antigua and Barbuda’s economy, music, culture and its political liberation, all through his music, is well deserving of the country’s top honour.

“I do believe that Sir McLean is deserving of the title of National Hero. In fact I’m aware that an application was made to the National Honours Committee and we hope that they will do justice to the King and elevate him to the status of National Hero,” said Prime Minister Browne.

This sentiment was also expressed during the service by another former national calypso monarch, Glenmore “King Progress” Sheppard.

“I wish to nominate Sir McLean Emmanuel, King Short Shirt, Antigua’s premier cultural icon, to be elevated to the status of National Hero.

“Sir McLean’s amazing list of achievements; his impressive body of work; the impact his songs have had on the growth and de-

velopment of Antigua and Barbuda; the fight carried on behalf of the poor, oppressed and downtrodden; his invaluable contribution to Carnival; the hero worship that is evident whenever he performs, [all these] make him highly deserving of this honour,” King Progress posited.

The service in celebration of Sir McLean’s 80th birthday, which he commemorates today, took place yesterday at the Spring Gardens Moravian

Church.

In attendance were Governor General, H. E. Sir Rodney Williams, ministers of government, members of Parliament, members of Antigua and Barbuda’s large calypso fraternity, friends, family and other well wishers.

Later today, the government will hand over the title to the land at Halcyon Beach where Sir McLean Emmanuel has operated Shorty’s Beach Bar for almost five decades.

Mon 28 | Day

82°


 19%  
 E 14 mph

Mainly sunny. High 82F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.

 Humidity  
 71%

 UV Index  
 Extreme

 Sunrise  
 6:25 am

 Sunset  
 6:13 pm

Mon 28 | Night

74°


 17%  
 ESE 12 mph

Mostly clear skies. Low 74F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.

 Humidity  
 80%

 UV Index  
 0 of 10

 Moonrise  
 4:54 am

 Moonset  
 4:22 pm

Waning Crescent



## Boustany: Serpent's promise to reveal documents is a moot issue

Ambassador Gilbert Boustany has revealed he is the person political aspirant, the UPP's Algernon 'Serpent' Watts, was referring to when he recently revealed that a diplomat had taken money from an investor who has done nothing for Antigua and Barbuda.

Last Thursday during a UPP political meeting, Watts worked the party's supporters into a frenzy when he said he was investigating the details of a document in his possession.

"Find out which ambassador working on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda went and get US \$ 950,000 from a certain investor that give nothing to this country. Find out what they used to repay that investor," he said.

While he did not identify anyone by name, Watts claimed this detail was part of a wider investigation, adding "there was lots more to say".

But Boustany, who serves as Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, in a preemptive strike,



*H.E. Ambassador Gilbert Boustany*

called in to the Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM on Saturday to inform the public that he was the target of the UPP candidate.

"As Serpent knows me very well, he knows that anytime he mentions anything pertaining to myself that I am not afraid to come out and speak directly on the issue," said Ambassador Boustany.

The ambassador gave permission for Watts to call his name in relation to the matter and invited Watts to call him for information in the interest of setting the record straight.

Boustany did not provide an in-depth explanation of the matter, except to confirm there had been an issue with an investment group between 2013 and 2014, before he became an Antiguan and Barbudan diplomat.

"There was discrepancies on what he owed me

and what I owed him and that was the end of the crux of the matter, and that particular investment company wants to basically try and do the accounting to find exactly who is owed who what. But I am confident I don't owe anybody anything, not one dollar to anybody, and I've certainly not received any money from anybody while being an ambassador since September 1st, 2014 when I was appointed," Boustany asserted.

He explained his decision to speak out was in an effort to correct Watts "before he tries to go any further".

Ambassador Boustany cautioned there could be legal consequences if, after he has cleared the air, the UPP's St. George's candidate continues to discredit him. As far as the ambassador is concerned, the matter is "not news at all, it is a moot issue".

### MARCH PROMOTION

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## Top cop wants better facilities for Barbuda-based officers

Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney wants separate accommodations for the police and fire departments on Barbuda. In an appearance on the Barbuda Channel on a recent trip to the sister isle, Rodney revealed there are plans to boost the island's police complement, but this cannot move ahead unless adequate facilities are provided.

According to the top cop, with the current development taking place, Barbuda's population is expected to increase, and with it crime. Therefore, a boost in law enforcement officers is necessary, but the challenge remains adequate space for those who will be posted there to execute their functions.

"As much as we would want to put more officers, we need the accommodation," the commissioner said.

"We need the housing so that we can have them properly housed, comfortably, so that they can give better ser-



*Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney*

vice. So it is something we will continue to lobby for, something we continue to fight [for] and I would expect that even the Barbuda public can be part of that trust in seeing that we have more officers, and they have them in better working conditions."

During the opening ceremony for the reconstructed Parham Police Station earlier this month, Commissioner Rodney appealed to authorities to give

urgent attention to refurbishing police stations across the nation.

Currently on the sister isle, the fire and police departments occupy the same building, which the commissioner contends is not ideal.

"If for instance we had a very large building or a large complex that could house both entities that would be fine. But presently, having the police officers and the fire officers in the same small building is not appropriate for [the] quality service we would want to give," the COP explained.

He noted that a building is being repaired which the police will utilise, however, a renovated police station, or a new facility is most ideal for the plans Commissioner Rodney has for policing in Barbuda. For this to become possible, he says, he will be relying on the assistance of the government and other stakeholders.

### STUDENT SAFETY POLICY



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# AOSIS: SIDS survival means keeping 1.5 alive

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability makes it clear that small islands will not be able to adapt to a world that warms beyond 1.5°C, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

"We are continuing to head for a precipice – we say our eyes are open to the risks, but when you look at global emissions, if anything, we are accelerating towards the cliff edge. We are not seeing the action from the big emitters that is required to get emissions down in this critical decade — this means halving emissions by 2030 at the latest. It is clear that time is slipping away from us – which is why Antigua and Barbuda, as Chair of AOSIS, is considering formally requesting the convening of a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the cataclysmic findings of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report's Working Groups," said AOSIS Chair, H.E. Ambassador Walton Webson.

Small islands will not be able to develop or adapt if the world warms beyond 1.5°C. The science is very clear that small islands are already disproportionately experiencing climate impacts including food and water insecurity and intensifying extreme weather events. This will only get worse from here on in.

"This report spoke to the collapse and possible extinction of ecosystems if we maintain our current trajectory towards emissions reductions. We must act quickly to reduce emissions — as SIDS lives and livelihoods will be the casualties of a slow race to emissions reduction," said AOSIS' lead climate negotiator H.E. Ambassador Conrad Hunte.

More must be done on adaptation to keep pace with these impacts. Finance is mentioned multiple times in the report as both a key barrier and a necessity for successful adaptation measures. The

Glasgow Climate Pact secured a commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025 – but this must be the floor, not the ceiling.

"This report validates the fact that SIDS have suffered and will continue to suffer unprecedented damage if global temperatures continue to rise, particularly if they rise above 1.5°C. Adaptation is critical to our survival in the face of climate change, but current financing schemes are underfunded and inaccessible to the majority of SIDS. Now more than ever, it is paramount that developed nations fulfil the commitment to double adaptation finance and increase funding for SIDS and other climate-vulnerable regions as agreed to in the Glasgow Climate Pact. We call on our developed country partners, by COP27, to develop a standalone delivery and tracking plan on the mandate to double adaptation finance. Major emitters need to respond to the decisions taken and increase ambition in line with a 1.5°C pathway. Adaptation efforts will be futile unless emissions are reduced," said AOSIS Chair and Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne.

"SIDS contribute the least to global emissions while being among the most severely impacted by climate change — a lament we will continue to make because the world has yet to recognize our plight. Extreme weather, sea-level rise, floods, droughts, and ecosystem degradation and loss are all now synonymous with life on a small island. As things currently stand, SIDS' lives and economies are in jeopardy. Reducing emissions at scale and pace is no longer a requirement; rather, it is a mandate we are laying out to developed nations. Half your emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2050 at the latest — otherwise we will see a climate crisis on a scale that is unimaginable," said Ambassador Conrad Hunte.

"The report made clear that there



*AOSIS Chairperson, Walton Webson*

are some impacts we will not be able to adapt to. Loss and damage is occurring, and will continue to occur. With just transient overshoot of our targets, we will see irreversible coastal submersion and irreversible loss of coral reefs. This is completely catastrophic. Not just for SIDS who are large ocean states and entirely dependent upon the ocean but also for territories that rely on barrier reefs for protection against storm surges. The survival of ocean ecosystems, and thus the survival of SIDS, necessitates a reduction in global emissions," said Ambassador Walton Webson.

"We are losing time. The G7 and G20 must do more to reduce their emissions as quickly as possible. The solutions are there, the report shows that adaptation works. It is particularly clearer now, given the implications and vulnerability outlined in this report, that financing for loss and damage is more crucial now than ever. Dedicated finance must be provided.

"The big emitters need to realise that this issue will not go away – with every year that they delay on reducing their emissions, more is lost. But we need to see more than nice rhetoric. We need to see action," said Prime Minister Browne.



## ABWU pleased with gov't decision to establish minimum wage committee

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU) has welcomed the government's recent move to convene the National Minimum Wage Advisory Committee.

The last review of the national minimum wage took place in 2013 under the Baldwin Spencer administration, however the recommendations agreed to were not implemented until 2015 under the Gaston Browne administration.

General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union, David Massiah, says such unconscionable delays put already vulnerable workers at risk of further economic hardship.

"It is a disadvantageous position for the average person in society



David Massiah

because the real wage continues to be outstripped by the movement of economic activities in the country and that is why the Government has to review the minimum wage every two years [and bring it] in line with the consumer price index and inflation."

The ABWU also welcomed Labour Minister Steadroy Benjamin's suggestion that the committee consider a sectoral approach to the minimum wage, as opposed to "having one national minimum wage across the board".

But Massiah stated that the 2013 National Minimum Wage Advisory Committee had outlined a tiered system in its proposal to Cabinet, dated 11 February 2014, that was not implemented.

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union expressed its hope that the newly formed National Minimum Wage Advisory Committee will result in the government's implementation of a tiered minimum wage system that provides a fair and livable wage for all.

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# 8-year-old wins Cervical Cancer Awareness design competition

Jadon Smith of the Potters Primary School is the winner of the Cervical Cancer Awareness T-Shirt Design Competition held by the Cervical Cancer Taskforce of Antigua and Barbuda.

Thirteen students from seven schools participated in the competition. The students hailed from Potters Primary, St. John's Lutheran, Golden Grove Primary, Antigua Grammar School, All Saints Secondary, Holy Trinity Primary, Princess Margaret Secondary.

Second place went to Noah Yeboah of the Antigua Grammar School while third place went to Annecia Frederick of St. John's Lutheran. Fourth place went to Shanniya White of the Golden Grove Primary.

Smith, who is only 8-years-old, said his mother taught him about Cer-

vical Cancer and its dangers. He continued that he participated in the competition to help to bring awareness about the disease.

He used the opportunity to encourage persons to get screened for HPV and get the HPV vaccine.

Percy Adams, a Flow sales agent, presented Smith with a Samsung tablet.

Smith's winning design will be printed on the Cervical Cancer Awareness T-Shirts for 2023.

Cervical Cancer awareness month is observed in January.

Head of the Cervical Cancer Taskforce, Dr. Cherie Tulloch, also presented a gift basket to the Principal of the Golden Grove Primary since they were the school with the most participants.



Jadon Smith, centre, is the winner of the Cervical Cancer Awareness T-Shirt Design Competition.

**happy monday**  
begin this day with a smile on your face

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**2022**

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**#drivesafeantigua**

**Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board**



## Labour Department, Sandals collaborate to provide CSME training for staff

Sandals Grande Antigua's Learning and Development department last Wednesday collaborated with the Labour Department to host an informational session for team members regarding the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy (CSME) Free Movement of skilled nationals.

The session was facilitated by Deputy Labour Commissioner, Pascall Kentish, and Acting Free Movement Desk Officer, Trese Morris.

The facilitators with their wealth of knowledge in the field of labour matters and the CSME, focused on the CSME Skills Certificate eligibility requirements and the process of acquiring the certificate.

They also provided information on how much longer hospitality workers will have to wait to be added to the list of skill categories approved by CARICOM.

"There is a mechanism for people to move throughout the region for work, and people should take the opportunity to make use of these mechanisms to work legally. So, if you have Antiguan nationals who are eligible to apply and don't apply, then they could miss out on an opportunity to move to a participating country to work and further develop their career," Kentish explained.



*Deputy Labour Commissioner Pascall Kentish presenting at CSME Skills Certificate session at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa.*

Sandals' Learning and Development Manager Carlene Spencer said, "Many of our team members have been expressing and showing interest in joining our task force to participate in the company's Team Member Exchange Programme and work at these properties.

Others have expressed interest to work and possibly transfer to other resorts within the Sandals chain throughout the region.

"It is therefore important for them to understand the free movement policies that are established and for us to provide the team members with the opportunity to be informed and benefit from the application process."

The hour-long session

was attended by 70 Sandals team members.

Tyrl Joseph who is attached to the Sales Department said, "Sandals is a melting pot and more of these sessions are welcome. Team members are always looking for new opportunities within the company and Sandals affords us the chance to visit other countries and resorts as part of its Team Member Exchange Programme task force and it is good for us to know who are eligible to apply for these certificates and what the process to follow thereafter."

"I am presently completing my Bachelor's degree so it's a motivation for me to be more marketable within the CARICOM states. I think

the session went very well. It was words of inspiration for me," added Assistant Weddings Manager Meria Govia.

Team members expressed thanks to the Sandals Learning and Development Department for hosting the session and expressed the desire for more such sessions.

"We actually ran out of application forms for team members who attended this session. So now we are looking at possibly hosting another session shortly, to provide team members who could not get in because of space constraints and could not attend because of operational duties, a chance to get in on the information presented today," Spencer said.

# Snakes and leaders

By Tony Deyal

*Truly life is a game of snakes and ladders  
So walk wid yuh own ladder  
and a couple of snakes  
Helen-Ann Elizabeth Wilkin-  
son (Jamaica Gleaner,  
September 10, 2015)*

“Snakes and Ladders” is an extremely tough game. Every time you land on a snake and slide down, the odds are that you will land on another snake. It is then a matter of time before you hit bottom and if it is your bad luck to fall on a horsewhip, coachwhip, blue racer, spider tailed or rattler, you get your bottom whipped as well. From what I hear, some men (and even women) pay good money for that.

The good news is that if one of the ladders decides to get the “I” out of the game, it becomes an adder and would help you count the number of lashes you received. The bad news though is that most adders are poisonous and only the really old and sick ones have “ereptile” dysfunction. Whatever happens, you are “back to square one”, a term from the game of Snakes and Ladders which originated in India in the 13th Century as part of moral instruction to children. So when you hear the country’s Prime Minister being described in his nation’s Parliament as an “anaconda”, it demonstrates that the children are so well educated

they can tell the difference between that and a puffer fish.

If you think that “Snakes and Ladders” is tough, it is nothing compared to “Snakes and Leaders.” In fact, when I read that “The World’s Heaviest Snake Is A Trini”, I asked my wife whether it was the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition. Her response was, “I’m sorry for the snakes! They don’t deserve to be in that group at all.” She then added, “I prefer to deal with snakes than politicians.” A snake is defined as “A long limbless reptile which has no eyelids, a short tail, and jaws that are capable of considerable extension. Some snakes have a venomous bite.” A politician is described as “someone who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence thereafter”. As one comedian said, “Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better and more advisable to change the locks.”

Or better still, “An honest politician is one who, when he is bought, will stay bought.” So, what do you call a “snake politician”? A civil serpent. Actually, because of extremely poor leadership in most of the Caribbean, most of us are catching our asp.

Indranie and the comedians are not alone in preferring snakes to politicians. Even some politicians feel the same way. MP Andrea Leadsome, who was



Tony Deyal

sacked this year by British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, reflected, “Politics is a great game of snakes and ladders”. In her case she fell down the ladder while it was being kicked from under her. A Kentucky wit quipped, “Two-faced slithering snakes ain’t rare, not in politics anyway.” He was right. Donald Trump used a song “The Snake”, written by an African American activist and musician, to fuel anti-immigrant sentiment.

A Malaysia newspaper warned “Don’t fall for political snakes and their rubbish claims in the next polls.” An Indian newspaper advised, “Politicians are past masters of snakes and ladders. But it is now the turn of the people, who vote them in and out, to learn the rules of the game.” With just days to go before an election in Ireland,

a newspaper declared, “Let the political snakes and ladders begin.” Actually, they never really ended.

I thought of a new version of “Snakes and Ladders” that would help people identify and catalogue the politicians in their countries. One approach is to divide them into types. For example, you can have “snakes in the grass” or politicians who deceive you with promises and feigned friendship. There was one in Central Trinidad who promised the poor people there that if they voted for him they would get water in their area. His crew dropped some pipes on the roadside to show he was keeping his promise. However, early in the morning after the elections his people returned, hastily loaded the pipes back on the truck,

*cont’d on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

and were never seen in that area again. There are “snake oil salesmen” who promise “Water for all” in a country where towns and villages, children and adults, go without water for weeks or even months, “better times”, or even “reductions in taxes” one that taxes both our patience and their credibility.

Actually, if you think Allan Stanford was the worst con-artist we ever had, any thorough forensic audit, or follow-up on the Auditors Reports of Government mismanagement and waste in most countries, will prove that politics is definitely not cricket. If it were, a lot of our big-shots would be either bounced out, stumped or looking for bail. This is why I will consider the different types of snakes we have in the region and see who is fritting away our money or upon whom the fritillary (snake's head) fits. Some of them are sure to go down in “hissstery” or “hisssterics”.

While that is happening, we have the mystery of identifying the heaviest Trini snake which is not politically aligned and is supposedly the world heavyweight. It is the Green Anaconda which is native to Trinidad and Tobago, can weigh hundreds of pounds, and is capable of taking down a jaguar if it grows to be large enough.” The article adds, “However these snakes while they might seem scary, are hardly ever visible to humans...”

This is so true. We all know that our politicians are even better than any Anaconda. Whether pounds, dollars or Swiss currency our politicians are capable of not just weighing but easily “lifting” millions. And they do not just take down Jaguars they also bring down, roll-off, and roll-on Rolls, Bugatis, Lamborghinis, Mercedes AMGs and Ferraris. More, the clincher is that all of us know that they are hardly ever visible to humans, especially those who voted for them.

However, there is actually a snake in the Caribbean and the Americas which gives me hope. The “Black Cribo” is not very dangerous or venomous to humans.

What makes it not just a “Huntsman's friend” but a true comrade for the rest of us is that it feeds on other snakes, especially the venomous ones like the Fer-de-lance or Maepire Balsain. Seeing that it is not dangerous to humans, I sit here wondering how difficult it would be for me to teach the Cribo how to identify venomous human snakes and take them down. I know it is wishful thinking but I definitely won't carp like my friend Copperhead who when he heard that the Lyre snake was four-feet long insisted, “It has to be a Lyre. You have to measure snakes by the inch because they don't have feet!”

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen repeating a “Confucius-Say” – “Snake hide behind grass, politicians hide behind lies.”*



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# Letter to the Editor

## Dear Editor,

Why doesn't Asot Michael take a rest?

No Court can compel a Political Party anywhere in the democratic world to choose a candidate to run for that Party in an election.

The Political Party decides how their candidates are chosen. Each Party can determine its process - the Leader decides; an Executive Committee decides or a Poll. There is also a Primary, which many Parties have moved away from as primaries can cause divisions and bad-blood.

Both the ABLP and the UPP have faced this problem from disgruntled potential candidates. If the Party does not want you then move on and form your own party like Joanne Massiah.

So he can go to Court until the cows come home but I suppose he has deep pockets.

It is time the myth of Asot be laid to rest. His record of bad behaviour is well known and publicised.

He has claimed that the PM set him up to be arrested in London, but was it the PM's voice on the telephone call recorded by the British Police saying that his mother needed a fancy car? And is that car now parked at Dry Hill?

The people of Parham are to blame. They are easily bought and take all the abuse for a few dollars. He only gives out money at Election time and in the ensuing 4 years

he abuses them and leaves them sitting in the sun outside his house all day waiting to see him to beg. They usually get just abuse.

Now all of this and lots more is well known. So tell me WHY? WHY? WHY is he still even a consideration? Because he has money?

**Disgusted.  
Mr. Campbell**

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# BARBUDA OCEAN Club

# Job Fair

March 8, 2022

Police Recreation Grounds

Gates Open-8:30am

Gates Close-12:00noon

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- Turf Maintenance
- Greenskeeping

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# Children's Dental Health

February is National Children's Dental Health Month.

Cavities, also known as caries or tooth decay, are one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood, yet cavities are preventable.

Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't. Learn how you can protect your child's teeth from cavities with these resources.

Untreated cavities can cause pain, infections, and can lead to problems eating, speaking, and learning. More than 1 in 5 children aged 2 to 5 years has at least one cavity in their baby teeth.

Children from low-income families are more than twice as likely to have untreated cavities, compared with children from higher-income households.

However, cavities are preventable. You can protect and maintain your child's teeth by following these wise simple steps below:

## **P-E-A-R-L-S of Wisdom**

Protect tiny teeth by caring for your mouth when you're pregnant. Your child's future oral health starts with you.

Ensure to wipe your baby's gums after each meal.

Avoid putting babies to bed with a bottle.

Remember to brush your child's teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste. For children younger than 2 years, consult with your dentist or doctor about when to start using fluoride toothpaste.

Limit drinks and food with added sugars for children. Encourage your child to eat more fruits and vegetables and have fewer fruit drinks, cookies, and candies. This gives your child the best possible start to good oral health.

Schedule your child's first dental visit by their first birthday or after their first tooth appears. Their tiny teeth matter!

## **Root of It All: Are You Watching What Your Child Eats and Drinks?**

Your child's diet is very important for developing and maintaining strong and healthy teeth. It is helpful to include good sources of calcium (yoghurt, broccoli, and milk) to your child's diet to help build strong teeth.

Teaching your child about healthy eating habits is one of the best practices for a lifetime of good health. Here are some helpful tips:

Eat fruits and vegetables for snacks rather than candies and cookies.

Brush your child's teeth twice daily.

Serve water at mealtime rather than juice or soda.

**Fluoride is your friend!**  
Fluoride is a naturally



[Photo credit: Istock]

occurring element in water.

Bacteria in the mouth produce acid when a person eats sugary foods. This acid eats away minerals from the tooth's surface, making the tooth weaker and increasing the chance of developing cavities.

Cleaning teeth with fluoride toothpastes and mouthwashes rebuilds the surface of the tooth. By keeping the tooth strong and solid, fluoride protects teeth from decay.

## **Dental Sealants: A Hidden Gem**

Dental sealants are a quick, easy, and painless

way to prevent most cavities children get in the permanent back teeth where 9 in 10 cavities occur. Children aged 6 to 11 years without sealants have almost 3 times more first-molar cavities than children with sealants.

Dental sealants are an effective way to deliver this highly effective preventive intervention to children who might not receive regular dental care. Increasing sealant use among low-income children can greatly reduce tooth decay.

As a parent, ask your child's dentist to apply sealants when appropriate.





THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Claim No. ANUHCv2021/0380  
BETWEEN:

Submitted Date: 05/10/2021

Filed Date: 06/10/2021 08:30

Fees Paid: \$2.00

**WILLIAM THIBOU**  
Administrator of the Estate of Mildred Thibou, Deceased

Claimant

And

**DERRICK WARNER**  
Personal Representative of Clifton Warner, Deceased

Defendant

**FIXED DATE CLAIM FORM**

The Claimant WILLIAM THIBOU of Upper Gambles in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda is seeking an Order for possession of a parcel of land in the possession of the Defendant as Personal Representative and sole beneficiary of the Estate of Clifton Warner, Deceased, such land having been let to Clifton Warner by the Claimant. The Claimant further seeks payment of rent arrears and such further or other relief as this Honourable Court deems fit.

Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Oct, 2021

**CORT & CORT**  
Solicitors for the Claimant

**NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT -**

The First Hearing of this Claim will take place at High Court of Justice  
on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022 at 9:00 am/pm.

If you do not attend at that hearing, judgement may be entered against you in accordance with the Claim.

If you attend, the judge may -  
(a) deal with the claim; or  
(b) give directions for the preparation of the case for a further hearing

A Statement of Claim of an affidavit giving full details of the Claimant's claim should be served on you with this Claim Form. If not and there is no order permitting the Claimant not to serve the Statement of Claim of Affidavit you should contact the court office immediately.

You should complete the form of acknowledgment of service served on you with this Claim Form and deliver or send it to the court office (address below) so that they receive it within FOURTEEN/TWENTY-EIGHT days of service of this Claim Form on you. The form of acknowledgment of service may be complete by you or a solicitor acting for you.

You should consider obtaining legal advice with regard to this claim. See the notes on the back of this form or on the next page.

This Claim Form has no validity if it is not served within six months of the date below unless it is accompanied by an order extending that time.

[Seal]  
The Court office is at Parliament Drive, St. John's Antigua Telephone number 462-3744, Fax No. 462-0609. The office is open between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday to Friday except public holidays and court holidays.

Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

The Claimant's address for service is: **Cort & Cort**  
Attorneys-at-Law  
44 Church Street  
St John's  
Antigua

**NOTES FOR DEFENDANTS (FIXED DATE CLAIM)**

The Claimant is seeking an order from the Court as set out in the Claim Form on the basis of the facts or evidence set out in the Statement of Claim or Affidavit served with it. The Claimant will not be entitled to enter judgment against you without a hearing.

You may:

**A. Admit the Claim**

If so, you should complete and return the form of acknowledgement of service to the court office within FOURTEEN/TWENTY-EIGHT days stating this. You may attend the first hearing if you wish to do so.

**B. Dispute the Claim**

If so, you should complete and return the form of acknowledgement of service as under A. You should also file at the court office and serve on the Claimant's solicitor (or the Claimant if he has no solicitor):

- (a) A defence if the Claim Form has accompanied by the Claimant's Statement of Claim, OR  
(b) An Affidavit in answer if the Claim Form is accompanied by an Affidavit sworn by or on behalf of the Claimant;

within TWENTY-EIGHT/FORTY-TWO days of the day on which the Claim Form was served on you. Your defence or affidavit must set out briefly ALL the facts on which you will rely to dispute the claim made against you.

You should also attend the first hearing. If you do not the judge may deal with the claim in your absence.

**C. Make a Claim against the Claimant**

If so, you should complete and return the form of acknowledgment of service as under A. You must file a statement of claim (a counterclaim) setting out full details of what you claim against the Claimant and the facts on which you will rely, this must be done within TWENTY-EIGHT/FORTY-TWO days of the date on which the Claim Form was served on you. The statement of claim should set out ALL the facts on which you rely in disputing any part of the Claimant's claim against you.

You should also attend the first hearing. If you do not the judge may deal with the claim in your absence.

**STATEMENT OF CLAIM**

1. The Claimant is and was at all material times the lawful Administrator of the Estate of Mildred Thibou, deceased, the registered proprietor of that parcel of land located at Swetes village, Antigua and more particularly described as Registration Section: South Central; Block No.: 15-2185E; Parcel No. 163 (hereinafter called "the Land").
2. The Defendant is the personal representative and sole beneficiary of the estate of Clifton Warner, deceased who died in or around December 2010.
3. In or around January, 2010 the Claimant entered into an oral agreement with Clifton Warner of Swetes Village, now deceased, to rent the Land to the said Clifton Warner at an annual rent of EC\$1,200.00. The said Clifton Warner made payment of the agreed rent for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010.
4. Prior to his death, the said Clifton Warner remained in possession of the Land, and in control of a chattel house on the Land which was let to a tenant. The chattel house remains on the Land to date with the Defendant being the sole beneficiary of the said chattel house.
5. The Claimant made demand for payment of outstanding rent of the Land via letters to the Defendant dated 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 and 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.
6. Despite demands of the Claimant for payment of the outstanding rent due in respect of the Land, the Defendant has failed, refused or neglected to make payment thereof and to remove the said chattel house from the Land and remains in occupation of the Land.
7. By letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 together with a Notice to Quit of the same date, the Claimant's Solicitors again wrote to the Defendant on the Claimant's instructions demanding payment of the aforementioned rent arrears and requiring vacant possession of the Land on or before 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.
8. The Defendant has failed to make payment as requested or at all, and the Defendant has also failed to give possession of the Land to the Claimant.
9. By virtue of the foregoing, the Claimant has suffered loss and damage.

**PARTICULARS OF LOSS & DAMAGE**

Rent for the years 2011 to present @ EC\$1,200 per annum  
( $\$1,200 \times 10$ ) EC\$12,000.00

**AND THE PLAINTIFF CLAIMS:**

- (i) An order that the Defendant give up possession of the said Land to the Claimant;
- (ii) The sum of EC\$12,000.00;
- (iii) All mesne profits accruing to the Claimant in respect of the Land until possession is restored to the Claimant;
- (iv) Further of other relief;
- (v) Costs.

Dated the 16 day of August, 2021

**CERTIFICATE OF TRUTH**

I, William Thibou, certify that I believe that the facts stated in this Statement of Claim are true.

Signed:

Dated: 16.8.2021

**Sharon Cort-Thibou**  
Legal Practitioner for the Claimant

**Cort & Cort**  
Fitzgerald House  
44 Church Street  
St John's  
Antigua  
Tel: (268)462-5232/3  
Email: legal@corandcort.com

# Science

## Life may actually flash before your eyes on death - new study

By Holly Honderich

*New data from a scientific "accident" has suggested that life may actually flash before our eyes as we die.*

A team of scientists set out to measure the brainwaves of an 87-year-old patient who had developed epilepsy. But during the neurological recording, he suffered a fatal heart attack - offering an unexpected recording of a dying brain.

It revealed that in the 30 seconds before and after, the man's brainwaves followed the same patterns as dreaming or recalling memories.

Brain activity of this sort could suggest that a final "recall of life" may occur in a person's last moments, the team wrote in their study, published in *Frontiers*

in *Ageing Neuroscience* on Tuesday.

Dr Ajmal Zemmar, a co-author of the study, said that what the team, then based in Vancouver, Canada, accidentally got, was the first-ever recording of a dying brain.

He told the BBC: "This was actually totally by chance, we did not plan to do this experiment or record these signals."

So will we get a glimpse back at time with loved ones and other happy memories? Dr Zemmar said it was impossible to tell.

"If I were to jump to the philosophical realm, I would speculate that if the brain did a flashback, it would probably like to remind you of good things, rather than the



*What happens when you die? A new study may give some ideas [Photo credit: Getty Images]*

bad things," he said.

"But what's memorable would be different for every person."

Dr Zemmar, now a neurosurgeon at the University of Louisville, said in the 30 seconds before the patient's heart stopped supplying blood to the brain, his brain waves followed the same patterns as when we carry out high-cognitive demanding tasks, like concentrating, dreaming or recalling memories.

It continued 30 seconds after the patient's heart stopped beating - the point at which a patient is typically declared dead.

"This could possibly be a last recall of memories that we've experienced in life, and they replay through our brain in the last seconds before we die."

The study also raises questions about when, exactly, life ends - when the heart stops beating, or the brain stops functioning.

Dr Zemmar and his team have cautioned that broad conclusions can't be drawn from a study of one. The fact

that the patient was epileptic, with a bleeding and swollen brain, complicates things further.

"I never felt comfortable to report one case," Dr Zemmar said. And for years after the initial recording in 2016, he looked for similar cases to help strengthen the analysis but was unsuccessful.

But a 2013 study - carried out on healthy rats - may offer a clue. In that analysis, US researchers reported high levels of brainwaves at the point of the death until 30 seconds after the rats' hearts stopped beating - just like the findings found in Dr Zemmar's epileptic patient.

The similarities between studies are "astonishing", Dr Zemmar said. They now hope the publication of this one human case may open the door to other studies on the final moments of life.

"I think there's something mystical and spiritual about this whole near-death experience," Dr Zemmar said. "And findings like this - it's a moment that scientists live for."

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

GET YOUR FILL

By Tim Burr





## PM Gonsalves writes to Putin, Vincentian students in Ukraine contacted

CMC - St. Vincent and the Grenadines' chief personnel officer (CPO) has been in touch with Vincentian students in Russia, amid Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, while Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has written to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Prime Minister, speaking on local radio from Qatar, where he is on official business, said on Friday that there are seven or eight Vincentian students in Russia.

"[The CPO] has gotten in touch with the person who is the point person and everyone is in order," he said.

"There is no problem with them, certainly not at the moment. We have a link, a chain of communication, and I advised her to issue a statement in that regard so that the families' minds and other Vincentians' minds could be put at ease."

Russian troops bore down on Ukraine's capital on Friday, day two of the military operation, as the invasion fuelled fears of a wider war in Europe and triggered new international efforts to stop Moscow.

Prime Minister Gonsalves disclosed that he has written to President Putin but declined, at this stage, to disclose the contents of the correspondence.

"I am pretty sure that he probably would have re-



*Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves*

ceived it by now. I just want to indicate that. And we are doing work, diplomatic work, otherwise. I was just in touch with our Ambassador to the United Nations," he said.

Asked if he planned to make a statement on the Russia-Ukraine conflict when he returns to Kingstown this weekend, Gonsalves noted that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the regional bloc of which this country is a member, has already issued a statement.

"We are part of CARICOM and we are doing what we have to do at the UN and I have written a letter to President Putin," Gonsalves said. "...Each person will seek to make their best approach in all the circumstances, so I have to use my best judgement in all the circumstances.... Our

diplomatic personnel are working... but I don't have to conduct all of the diplomacy in public," he said.

Prime Minister Gonsalves also spoke about the implications of the conflict on commodity prices, including wheat products and energy.

"We have a lot of social safety net issues [that we are] addressing and then the world doesn't wait on us, nature doesn't wait on us. We see the challenges in climate change, we see the issues in public health globally, and now we see what has happened with Russia and Ukraine and the price of fuel is going up," he said, adding that Russia and Ukraine produce close to half of the world's wheat. "So you know what that means for the prices for flour, for instance, and oil, energy? The

price will go up."

In a statement on Thursday, CARICOM said it "strongly condemns the military attacks and invasion of Ukraine by The Russian Federation and calls for the immediate and complete withdrawal of the military presence and cessation of any further actions that may intensify the current perilous situation in that country".

It continued: "The hostilities against Ukraine go counter to the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of another sovereign state and the prohibition on the threat or use of force, and the peaceful resolution of disputes, which are the bedrock of this Community.

"CARICOM maintains that the principles of universal respect and adherence to these norms and principles of international law are fundamental to the maintenance of the international system and global peace and security.

CARICOM calls on all parties involved to urgently embark on intensified diplomatic dialogue to immediately de-escalate hostilities and work towards sustainable peace."

A number of heads of government within CARICOM have issued separate statements condemning Russia's aggression.



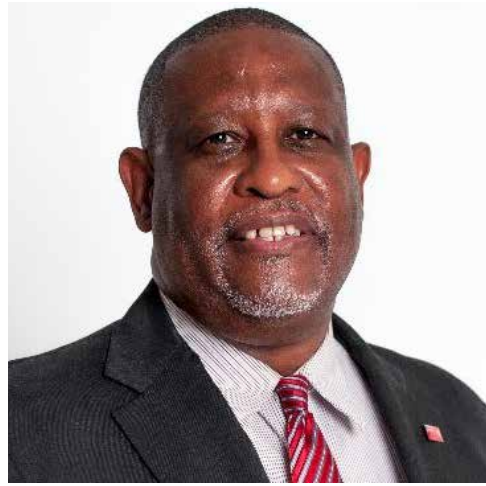
## Bermuda: Senator resigns after controversial remarks targeting youth

Loop - An opposition senator has resigned from Bermuda's Upper House after comments he made during a debate that teenagers were inviting abuse sparked uproar on social media.

Marcus Jones, who was appointed a One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) senator after he lost a bid for a seat in the House of Assembly in Pembroke West during the 2020 general election, provoked widespread outrage over his intervention in an Upper House discussion of Teen Dating Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

In response to the controversy, OBA leader Cole Simons, who has yet to name a replacement, said: "To say I am saddened by the comments made by Senator Jones is an understatement. While it was not his intent to offend anyone, his words were perceived by some as hurtful towards young people, females, and victims of assault.

"As previously stated, I do not believe that he intended to be offen-



Marcus Jones

sive, but as public servants, we are all accountable for the words we speak, whether they were well-intended, they are not always received as such. In the past, the One Bermuda Alliance has levied criticism against public servants who have used inappropriate language and our position has not changed.

"As a result, for the sake of Bermuda, Senator Jones has offered me his resignation and, with regret, I have

accepted it. I have found him to be a man of principle and at this time, I would like to thank him for his time and commitment to the country and for the good work he has done in the Upper House," Simons added.

The remarks come after Jones clashed with Lindsay Simmons, the Junior Social Development Minister, over the highly emotive issue.

The senators engaged in a heated debate about the hazards of social media and inappropriate images of young people leading to abuse.

Jones said there was imagery featuring teenagers online that would "absolutely make your hair stand on end" and asked about guidance given to mitigate the risks from social media.

Saying no one would call abuse deserved, he added: "I do believe our young people are inviting this type of behaviour because they are ignorantly getting on social media and putting themselves in harm's way."

## PAHO urges Caribbean to strengthen disease surveillance after floods

CMC - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on Friday published guidance urging Latin American and Caribbean countries to step up surveillance efforts after floods to quickly identify and control disease outbreaks with serious public health impacts.

In an Epidemiological Alert on "Post-flood public health events in the context of COVID-19 pandemic," PAHO noted that heavy rains in the region, which have already caused

severe flooding in Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, could continue through March due to the La Niña weather phenomenon.

They could also put additional burdens on overly strained health systems that are already fighting COVID-19, PAHO warned.

"Floods and landslides can cause disruptions to water supply and sewage systems, contamination of crops and foods, and displacement of popula-



tions to makeshift shelters, where they are exposed to overcrowding, poor sanitation and other risk factors," the PAHO alert said.

"Infection prevention and control measures are critical in these shelters to

reduce the probability of COVID-19 and other outbreaks," it added.

PAHO said common health events after floods and landslides include acute diarrheal diseases

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Barbadian public servants back in office from March

Loop - Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley has delivered the news to public servants that the work-from-home order that was in place due to the pandemic will come to an end on 1st March.

She said that after consultation it has been decided that the public service can resume with certain stipulations in place at the office spaces.

"It is our judgement that it is safe for persons to return fully from the 1st of March... We look forward to having a full complement again."

However, PM Mottley stressed that the safety of the employees is a number priority at the same time.

"We are in that process of removing restrictions and I will not say for us to go back to normal, because they can be no normal after COVID-19, but for us to go back to increased activity that will allow people to live and to be able to pursue their lives with vigour but at the same time safely so...



Prime Minister Mia Mottley

"Safety must be paramount but we cannot continue to live as if we have nothing else to do besides manage COVID.

"As a result, the government of Barbados would have taken the decision yesterday [25th February], the Cabinet sub-committee me with the EOC [Emergency Operation Centre] and we've agreed that there should be the return to work, by the public service from March 1, which

is Tuesday, and this is a significant departure because as you know, over the course of the last two years, for the most part, we have had some level of remote activity and even though at the, in the third quarter of 2020, we saw increased attendance back at work, once Alpha became a reality at the beginning of 2021, for the most part, last year we had remote work in the public service."

The prime minister

went on to share how the office space looks may vary from department to department though, because in some cases, with specific permission attained, some employees on flexi-time may still work from home intermittently. The offices may not always be back to full capacity physically, like before.

"What does that mean in real terms? That there will still be elements of flexible work. As you know prior to the establishment of the regime for the pandemic, the social partnership had advised and the government had accepted the regime of flexible work. And what does that mean in simple terms?

"That those persons who will partake in flexible work must receive the consent of the head of their department and the permanent secretary, but it will not be a case of all persons operating from home as has happened in certain departments before," PM Mottley explained.

*cont'd from pg 18*

and leptospirosis infections from exposure to contaminated water.

"Early and adequate treatment for these diseases can save lives," it said, recommending that countries set up early warning and response systems (EWARS) to detect outbreaks and health events that require

immediate response.

PAHO said source information for EWARS include disease surveillance, community-based surveillance, environmental and ecological observations, and health-related behavioural information such as drug and product sales.

Contaminated water after floods

will require prevention, disinfection and communication measures, said PAHO, recommending that local health authorities implement continuous monitoring of water quality for human consumption and food preparation, and provide safe water in sufficient quantities and adequate information to populations.

# The World Around Us

## Why is Russia invading Ukraine and what does Putin want?

By Paul Kirby

By air, land, and sea, Russia has launched a devastating attack on Ukraine, a European democracy of 44 million people, and its forces are on the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv.

For months, President Vladimir Putin denied he would invade his neighbour, but then he tore up a peace deal, sending forces across borders in Ukraine's north, east and south.

As the number of dead climbs, he stands accused of shattering peace in Europe. What happens next could jeopardise the continent's entire security structure.

### Why have Russian troops attacked?

Russian troops are closing in on Ukraine's capital, days after Russia's leader ordered a full-scale invasion from the north, east and south. In a pre-dawn TV address on 24 February, he declared Russia could not feel "safe, develop and exist" because of what he claimed was a constant threat from modern Ukraine.

Airports and military headquarters were hit first then tanks and troops rolled into Ukraine from Russia, Russian-annexed Crimea and ally Belarus.

Many of President Putin's arguments were false or irrational. He claimed his goal was to protect people subjected to bullying and genocide and aim for the "demilitarisation and de-Nazification" of Ukraine. There has been no genocide in Ukraine: it is a vibrant democracy, led by a president who is Jewish.

"How could I be a Nazi?" said Volodymyr Zelensky, who likened Russia's onslaught to Nazi Germany's invasion in World War Two. Ukraine's chief rabbi and the Auschwitz Memorial have also rejected Mr Putin's slur.

President Putin has frequently accused Ukraine of being taken over by extremists, ever since its pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, was ousted in 2014 after months of protests against his rule.

Russia then retaliated by seizing the southern region of Crimea and triggering a rebellion in the east, backing separatists

who have fought Ukrainian forces in a war that has claimed 14,000 lives.

Late in 2021, Russia began deploying big numbers of troops close to Ukraine's borders, while repeatedly denying it was going to attack. Then Mr Putin scrapped a 2015 peace deal for the east and recognised areas under rebel control as independent.

Russia has long resisted Ukraine's move towards the European Union and the West's defensive military alliance, Nato. Announcing Russia's invasion, he accused Nato of threatening "our historic future as a nation".

### How far will Russia go?

It is now clear that Russia is seeking to overthrow Ukraine's democratically elected government. Its aim is that Ukraine be freed from oppression and "cleansed of the Nazis".

President Zelensky said he had been warned "the enemy has designated me as target number one; my family is target number two".

This false narrative of a Ukraine seized by fascists in 2014 has been spun regularly on Kremlin-controlled TV. Mr Putin has spoken of bringing to court "those who committed numerous bloody crimes against civilians".

What Russia's plans are for Ukraine are unknown, but it faces stiff resistance from a deeply hostile population.

In January, the UK accused Moscow of plotting to install a pro-Moscow puppet to lead Ukraine's government - a claim rejected at the time by Russia as nonsense. One unconfirmed intelligence report suggested Russia aimed to split the country in two.

In the days before the invasion, when up to 200,000 troops were near Ukraine's borders, Russia's public focus was purely on the eastern areas of Luhansk and Donetsk.

By recognising the separatist areas controlled by Russian proxies as independent, Mr Putin was telling the world they were no longer part of Ukraine. Then he



Footage from Ukraine shows explosions, a missile strike and a helicopter under fire. [Photo credit: WSPA]

revealed that he supported their claims to far more Ukrainian territory.

The self-styled people's republics cover little more than a third of the whole of Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk regions, but the rebels covet the rest, too.

### How dangerous is this invasion for Europe?

These are terrifying times for the people of Ukraine and horrifying for the rest of the continent, witnessing a major power invading a European neighbour for the first time since World War Two.

Hundreds have died already in what Germany has dubbed "Putin's war", both civilians and soldiers. And for Europe's leaders, this invasion has brought some of the darkest hours since the 1940s.

France's Emmanuel Macron has spoken of a turning point in Europe's history while Germany's Olaf Scholz has warned that "Putin wants a Russian empire" - to take over Europe according to his world view. Recalling the Cold War days of the Soviet Union, Volodymyr Zelensky spoke of Ukraine's bid to avoid a new iron curtain closing Russia off from the civilised world.

For the families of both armed forces, there will be anxious days ahead. Ukrainians have already suffered a gruelling eight-year war with Russian proxies. The military has called up all reservists aged 18 to 60 years old.

Top US military official Mark Milley said the scale of Russian forces would

*cont'd on pg 21*



*cont'd from pg 20*

mean a “horrific” scenario, with conflict in dense urban areas.

This is not a war that Russia’s population was prepared for, either, as the invasion was rubber-stamped by a largely unrepresentative upper house of parliament.

The invasion has knock-on effects for many other countries bordering both Russia and Ukraine. Five countries are seeing a big influx of refugees, while the UN children’s agency says its projected scenario is for up to five million refugees. Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary are all braced for arrivals.

#### What can the West do?

Nato’s defensive alliance has made clear there are no plans to send combat troops to Ukraine itself. Instead, they have offered advisers, weapons and field hospitals.

However, it has deployed several thousand troops in the Baltic states and Poland and for the first time is activating part of its much larger rapid reaction force. Nato will not say where but some could go to Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia.

At the same time, the West is targeting Russia’s economy, financial institutions and individuals:

The EU, US, UK, Japan and Canada are cutting off key Russian banks from the international Swift payment network, which allows the smooth and rapid transfer of money across borders

Much of Europe has shut off its airspace to Russian airlines

The US, EU and UK are imposing personal sanctions on President Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

#### How much of Ukraine does Russia control?



*Institute for the Study of War (as of 25th February 2022)*

Germany has halted approval on Russia’s Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, a major investment by both Russia and European companies

The EU has already targeted 351 Russian MPs and aims to limit Russian access to finance, technology and defence

The UK says all major Russian banks will have their assets frozen, with 100 individuals and entities targeted; Russia’s national airline Aeroflot will also be banned from landing in the UK

The US is targeting 10 of Russia’s biggest financial institutions

The Russian city of St Petersburg will no longer be able to host this year’s Champions League final and the Russian Grand Prix will not take place in Sochi.

#### What does Putin want?

President Putin partly blamed his decision to attack on Nato’s eastward expansion. He earlier complained Russia had “nowhere further to retreat to - do they think we’ll just sit idly by?”

Ukraine is seeking a clear timeline to join Nato and Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister

Sergei Ryabkov explained: “For us it’s absolutely mandatory to ensure Ukraine never, ever becomes a member of Nato.”

Last year, President Putin wrote a long piece describing Russians and Ukrainians as “one nation”, and he has described the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991 as the “disintegration of historical Russia”.

He has claimed modern Ukraine was entirely created by communist Russia and is now a puppet state, controlled by the West.

President Putin has also argued that if Ukraine joined Nato, the alliance might try to recapture Crimea.

But Russia is not just focused on Ukraine. It demands that Nato return to its pre-1997 borders.

Mr Putin wants Nato to remove its forces and military infrastructure from member states that joined the alliance from 1997 and not to deploy “strike weapons near Russia’s borders”. That means Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Baltics.

In President Putin’s eyes,

the West promised back in 1990 that Nato would expand “not an inch to the east”, but did so anyway.

That was before the collapse of the Soviet Union, however, so the promise made to then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev only referred to East Germany in the context of a reunified Germany. Mr Gorbachev said later “the topic of Nato expansion was never discussed” at the time.

#### What has Nato said?

Nato is a defensive alliance with an open-door policy to new members, and its 30 member states are adamant that will not change.

There is no prospect of Ukraine joining for a long time, as Germany’s chancellor has made clear.

But the idea that any current Nato country would give up its membership is a non-starter.

Is there a diplomatic way out?

Not for now. Ukraine has called for talks, but Russia says they can only be held on condition that Kyiv agrees to surrender and demilitarise, and that will not happen.

As well as the war, any eventual deal will need to cover the status of eastern Ukraine as well as arms control with the West.

The US had offered to start talks on limiting short- and medium-range missiles, as well as on a new treaty on intercontinental missiles. Russia wanted all US nuclear arms barred from beyond their national territories.

Russia had been positive towards a proposed “transparency mechanism” of mutual checks on missile bases - two in Russia, and two in Romania and Poland.

# Ukraine, Russia agree to talks without preconditions

Ukrainian and Russian diplomats agreed to meet for negotiation talks even as Russian troops closed in on Kyiv late on Sunday.

No indication was given about exactly when and where the meeting will occur.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's office said an agreement had been reached with Alexander Lukashenko, the self-declared leader of Belarus, that negotiators from Kyiv and Moscow would meet on the Ukrainian-Belarus border.

The development marks the first possible sign of de-escalation in Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine that has claimed at least 198 Ukrainian lives so



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy chaired an urgent meeting with the leadership of the government, representatives of the defence sector and the economic bloc, in Kyiv, Ukraine February 24, 2022. Ukrainian Presidential Press Service/Hand-out

far.

"The politicians have agreed that the Ukrainian delegation will meet the Russian delegation without preconditions on the Ukrainian-Belarusian bor-

der, near the Pripyat river," read a statement on Zelensky's Facebook page on Sunday.

"Alexander Lukashenko has taken responsibility for ensuring that all planes,

helicopters and missiles stationed on Belarus territory remain on the ground during the Ukrainian delegation's travel, talks and return," the statement continued.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's office said on the Telegram messaging app that the two sides would meet at an unspecified location on the Belarusian border and did not give a precise time for the meeting.

Earlier, Mr Zelenskyy had refused for Ukraine to meet with a Russian delegation in Belarus. It comes after The US government offered to evacuate Zelensky from Kyiv — but he declined saying: "The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride."

# Putin puts Russia's nuclear forces on alert, cites sanctions

In a dramatic escalation of East-West tensions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian nuclear forces put on high alert Sunday in response to what he called "aggressive statements" by leading NATO powers.

The order means Putin wants Russia's nuclear weapons prepared for increased readiness to launch and raises the threat that Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and the West's response to it could boil over into nuclear warfare.

Amid the worrying development, the office of Ukraine's president said

a delegation would meet with Russian officials as Moscow's troops drew closer to Kyiv.

Putin, in giving the nuclear alert directive, cited not only the alleged statements by NATO members but the hard-hitting financial sanctions imposed by the West against Russia, including the Russian leader himself.

Speaking at a meeting with his top officials, Putin told his defence minister and the chief of the military's General Staff to put the nuclear deterrent forces in a "special regime of combat duty."



"Western countries aren't only taking unfriendly actions against our country in the economic sphere, but top officials from leading NATO members made aggressive statements regarding our country," Putin said in televised comments.



## North Korea fires ballistic missile in resumption of testing

North Korea launched a ballistic missile into the sea on Sunday, its neighbours said, in a resumption of weapons tests that came as the United States and its allies are focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The missile launch was the eighth of its kind this year. Some experts have said

North Korea is trying to perfect its weapons technology and pressure the United States into offering concessions like sanctions relief amid long-stalled disarmament talks. North Korea also might view the U.S. preoccupation with the Ukraine conflict as a chance to accelerate testing activity without any serious response from Washington.

Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said the North Korean missile flew about 300 kilometres (190 miles) at a maximum altitude of about 600 kilometres (370 miles) before landing off North Korea's eastern coast and outside Japan's exclusive economic zone. No damage to vessels or aircraft has been reported, he said.

"If North Korea deliberately carried out the missile launch while the international community is distracted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, such an act is absolutely unforgivable," he told reporters. "Whatever the motives are, North Korea's repeated missile launches are absolutely inexcusable and we cannot overlook considerable missile and nuclear advancement."

South Korean officials said they detected the launch from the North's capital area and expressed "deep concerns and grave regret" over it.

During an emergency National Security Council meeting, top South Korean officials said the timing of the launch, during Russia's invasion



People watch a TV showing a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news programme, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

of Ukraine, "is not desirable at all for peace and stability in the world and on the Korean Peninsula," the presidential Blue House said.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command later Sunday condemned the launch and called on North Korea to refrain from further destabilising acts. A statement said the U.S. commitment to the defence of South Korea and Japan "remains ironclad," though Sunday's launch didn't pose an immediate threat to U.S. territory and that of its allies.

The launch came a day after North Korea made its first response to the Ukraine war in the form of an article by a government analyst that expressed support for Russia and slammed the United States.

"The basic cause of the Ukraine incident lies in the high-handedness and arbitrariness of the United States, which has ignored Russia's legitimate calls for security guarantees and only sought a global hegemony and mil-

itary dominance while clinging to its sanctions campaigns," Ri Ji Song, a researcher at a North Korean state-run institute on international politics, said in a post published on the website of the Foreign Ministry.

Ri accused Washington of "arrogance" and "double standards" because it describes its rivals' defence measures as provocations or injustices.

The former Soviet Union was North Korea's biggest aid provider before its disintegration in the early 1990s. Russian President Vladimir Putin has been pushing to restore his country's ties with North Korea in what is seen as a bid to regain its traditional domains of influence and secure more allies to better deal with the United States.

Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said the Biden administration needs to show that it maintains a strategic focus on

*cont'd on pg 24*



## Experts warn that the end of the Omicron surge is not the end of the pandemic

NY Times - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shifted its guidelines on Friday to say that fewer communities were in need of coronavirus restrictions such as masks and social distancing, a change that coincided with moves by several states to drop such protections.

But the rush to return to normality in light of an improving national outlook for coronavirus cases has many public health experts concerned that the end of the Omicron surge is incorrectly being conflated with the end of the pandemic.

"Things are improving, but we still aren't at a point where we're getting out in front of this," said Dr. Lynn R. Goldman, dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University.

Dr. Goldman said the



new C.D.C. guidance was comparable to an "off ramp" from the pandemic, even though new variants could still emerge and the country's health system, and public, is not equipped for another surge in cases.

The daily average number of coronavirus cases has dropped 63 percent and the average number of hospitalizations has dropped 44 percent in the United States over the past 14 days, according to a New York Times database, continuing a steady trend of declining coronavirus num-

bers nationally. The daily average number of deaths is still roughly 1,900 — a 23 percent drop over the past two weeks — but that is expected to fall further soon because of the lag between hospitalisation and death rates.

The new C.D.C. guidelines encourage counties to not just use case rates to calculate the risk for communities, but also include hospitalisation figures. This change suggests that 70 percent of Americans could now stop wearing masks, and stop social distancing

or avoiding crowded indoor spaces.

Several experts said that the new C.D.C. guidelines were appropriate, but many have expressed concern that the recommendations do not account for the unknowns of the pandemic.

Dr. Gerald E. Harmon, the president of the American Medical Association, said in a statement in response to the new recommendations that he would continue to wear a mask "in most indoor public settings," and he urged all Americans to do the same. "We must remain adaptable and vigilant in confronting this unpredictable virus," Dr. Harmon said.

The C.D.C. guidance came after several states, including Illinois, Connecticut and New York, made moves to end or phase out mask mandates.

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the Indo-Pacific region, including by responding sternly to Pyongyang's provocations.

"North Korea is not going to do anyone the favour of staying quiet while the world deals with Russia's aggression against Ukraine," Easley said. "Pyongyang has an ambitious schedule of military modernization. The Kim regime's strength and legitimacy have become tied to testing ever-better missiles."

North Korea last month conducted seven rounds of missile tests, a record number of monthly launches since leader Kim Jong Un took power

in late 2011. North Korea halted testing activity after the start of the Winter Olympics in China, its last major ally and economic pipeline, earlier this month. Some experts had predicted it would resume launches and possibly test bigger weapons after the Games.

Kim sent a message to Chinese President Xi Jinping after the Olympics calling for further consolidating bilateral ties "into the invincible one" in the face of what he called "the undisguised hostile policy and military threat of the U.S. and its satellite forces."

Xi replied to Kim last week, saying China is ready to strengthen rela-

tions, according to North Korea's state media.

U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at convincing North Korea to give up its nuclear program in return for economic and political rewards collapsed in early 2019 when then-President Donald Trump rejected Kim's calls for extensive sanctions relief in exchange for limited denuclearization steps during their second summit in Vietnam.

U.S. officials have since repeatedly called for the resumption of talks without preconditions, but Pyongyang has said it won't return to the negotiating table unless Washington ends its hostility.

# Poland and Sweden refuse to play Russia

Poland will not play its football World Cup qualifier against Russia next month following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

President of the Polish Football Association, Cezary Kulesza, said on Saturday, "In light of the escalation of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, the Polish National team is not going to play a match against the Russian Republic. It is the correct decision."

Moscow is scheduled to host Poland in the semi-finals of its strand of the World Cup playoffs on March 24 and, if its team advances, is scheduled to host either Sweden or the Czech Republic on March 29 in the Path B final.

Kulesza added the association was in talks with Swedish and Czech associations to present a common position to FIFA.

Polish national team players also took to social media to express their support for the move. National team captain Lewandowski said he couldn't imagine playing a match with the Russian National Team in a situation when armed aggression in Ukraine continues.

"Russian footballers and fans are not responsible for this, but we can't pretend that nothing is happening," he wrote on Twitter.

Kamil Glik, Mateusz Klich, Matty Cash and other players expressed solidarity with Ukraine.

"It is not an easy decision but there are more important things in life than football," they noted. Sweden later on Saturday also announced it would not play the football World Cup qualifiers against Russia.

Swedish Football Association chairman Karl-Erik Nilsson said "The illegal and deeply unjust invasion of Ukraine currently makes all football exchanges with Russia impossible.

"We therefore urge FIFA to decide that the play-off matches in March in which

Russia participates will be cancelled. But regardless of what FIFA chooses to do, we will not play against Russia in March."

FIFA president Gianni Infantino refused to take a decision regarding the play-offs when he held a press conference hours after the invasion began on Thursday.

He said "FIFA condemns the use of force" adding he was "shocked" by what he had seen but would not be rushed into a decision over moving the matches.



Poland captain, Robert Lewandowski, centre, with his team.

A vibrant promotional poster for a cricket match between the West Indies and England. The background is a bright blue sky with a large, stylized sun. In the center, players from both teams are depicted in action, with one player in a red jersey (England) and another in a yellow jersey (West Indies) jumping. The text "WEST INDIES v ENGLAND" is prominently displayed in bold, white letters. Below it, "CRICKET IS BACK IN ANTIGUA" is written. The dates "MAR 8TH - 12TH" are shown in a yellow box, followed by "SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS CRICKET GROUNDS". A large, stylized price tag graphic on the right side of the poster advertises tickets "FROM \$54 EC PER MATCH DAY" with a "PLUS 50% OFF" for West Indies residents. At the bottom, there are logos for "IT'S OUR GAME" and "APEX", the website "windiescricket.com", and a note that "COVID-19 PROTOCOLS APPLY".



# West Indies Women dismantled by Australia

West Indies Women were dismantled by Australia losing by 90-runs in their first warm-up match of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup played in Lincoln Green, New Zealand.

Asked to bat first, Australia posted 259-7 from



Stafarnie Taylor

their 50 overs with Ellyse Perry scoring 62 off 85 deliveries and Annabel Sutherland added 54 not-

out.

Stafarnie Taylor pick-up 3-51 and Anisa Mohammed and Hayley Matthew bagged 2-45 each.

In response, West Indies reached 169-9 in 50 overs.

Taylor led from the front despite the loss with 66 from 128 deliveries, but unfortunately the rest of the batting line-up failed. Ellyse Perry took 2-6.

West Indies vice-captain Anisa Mohammed said despite the ;lost there were some positives to extract from the game.

"The bowlers bowled well putting Australia under pressure until the 45th over and captain Stafanie Taylor was solid with the bat," she said.

West Indies will play their final warm-up match against India on Tuesday at Rangiora Oval before taking on home team New Zealand in the opening match of the tournament on March 4 in Tauranga.

## ICC WOMEN'S CWC 2022

ICC WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP NEW ZEALAND 2022

IT'S OUR GAME

### WEST INDIES SCHEDULE

3 MARCH		BAY OVAL ♀
8 MARCH		UNIVERSITY OVAL ♀
11 MARCH		SEDDON PARK ♀
14 MARCH		BASIN RESERVE ♀
17 MARCH		BAY OVAL ♀
20 MARCH		SEDDON PARK ♀
23 MARCH		BASIN RESERVE ♀



## Large turnout for CAF GNFC Advance Academy trials

Over 160 boys and girls turned out for the start of trials at the third Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) Advance Academy which got underway at the Fort Road Playing Field last Tuesday, 22nd February.

The trials, which ran until Thursday, will resume on 1st March and conclude on 3rd March according to Ambassador Ricky Santos, President of the Generation Next Football Club.

Generation Next Football Club hosts the exercise which for the third year is being sponsored by the Calvin Ayre Foundation.

Santos said 168 players have so far turned out to the trials in their quest to secure a spot in the CAF Advance Academy where they will receive specialised training for several weeks.

Over the course of the trials, twenty players in each category will be selected to participate in five divisions. They are Boys Under-13, Under-16 and Under-19 and Girls.

Twenty goalkeepers will also be chosen.

Santos said the trials are being conducted by a cadre of coaches who are affiliated with the Generation Next FC and CAF Advanced Academy.



*Coaches Ken Pennyfeather, right, and Akeilah Hillhouse second right, address a group of female players at the tryouts for the Calvin Ayre Foundation Generation Next Football Club Advanced Academy at the Fort Road Playing Field on Thursday, 24 February, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)*

“The coaches are a cross-over between the two because you have some of the coaches like Desmond ‘Zeco’ Bleau, who is the head of coaching at Generation Next FC. He is also the head of coaching at the Calvin Ayre Foundation Advanced Academy and he is also the National Under-20 coach,” Santos said.

“We have Janiel Simon, who is the goalkeeping coach for the national team, he is also the goalkeeping coach for the Advanced Academy.

“We have Akeilah Hillhouse, who is also in charge of the female division. Then we have Schyan Jeffers who is also a national coach. He is also a coach for the Under-19s.

Zeco (Bleau) will coach the Under-16s in this academy and then we have George “Sour” Dublin and he will be handling the Under-13s. Dublin is also part of the Generation Next coaching staff.

“So there are two crossovers and the others come from the outside. We deliberately did it that way so that it does not appear as if it is a Generation Next programme and we wanted the more elite coaching so we have a lot of the national coaches here.”

Santos said the positive turnout to this year’s trials is an indication that clubs across Antigua and Barbuda appreciate the goal of the Advance Academy, which is to develop young

players.

When the Advance Academy launched in 2018, he noted that some clubs were reluctant to have their players participate as they feared their best performers may be scouted by Generation Next FC.

“These trials are open to the entire football fraternity in Antigua and Barbuda. One of the conditions that the players have to understand, and they have to sign a document to that effect, is that whatever clubs they come from, they have to go back and play for that club.

“We are just about assisting to help the development of the players,” Santos said.

# Roman Abramovich gives Chelsea 'stewardship' to trustees of charitable arm

Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich says he is "giving trustees of Chelsea's charitable foundation the stewardship and care" of the club.

Abramovich, who will remain the club's owner, has made the move amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The decision was made on the eve of Chelsea's Carabao Cup final match against Liverpool at Wem-

bley.

"I have always taken decisions with the club's best interest at heart," Abramovich said in a statement.

"I remain committed to these values. That is why I am today giving trustees of Chelsea's charitable Foundation the stewardship and care of Chelsea FC.

"I believe that currently they are in the best position to look after the interests of the club, players, staff, and



Roman Abramovich fans."

Following Abramovich's statement which did

not reference the invasion of Ukraine, Chelsea released another statement on Sunday which said the situation was "horrific and devastating".


"Chelsea FC's thoughts are with everyone in Ukraine. Everyone at the club is praying for peace," said the west London club.

The Chelsea Supporters' Trust said it was "seeking urgent clarification" on what Abramovich's statement on Saturday means for the running of the club.

It is not known yet if Abramovich will be sanctioned as part of the UK government's measures against Russia.

Chelsea are not for sale, and the £1.5bn loan their owner gave to the club is not being called in.

Abramovich is one of Russia's richest people and is believed to be close to Russian President Vladimir Putin.



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*cont'd from pg 30*

the project and he thinks it is something that can benefit the nation," Anderson said.

"I met with the prime minister as well when I was last here, and I know there is a meeting that is set up to meet with him again and Minister Fernandez.

"Everyone is optimistic about the project and I think they should be because this is something that will seriously bear fruit for Antigua and Barbuda.

"Antigua is well strategically placed. I am looking to build twelve international training fields right next to the football stadium.

"We are looking to build a five-star hotel and a rehab centre right next to the stadium. We will be building a stadium with 20,750 seats with 33 suites."

Anderson said since initially trying in the early 2000s to establish the tournament across several countries in the Caribbean, ISCO is finally making some advances after facing opposition from international football regulatory bodies.

"We had challenges in the early years with CONCACAF (FIFA's governing body for football in the Confederation of North Central America and Caribbean Federations) and CFU (Caribbean Football Union) and what not because everyone thought that what we were actually



*Chief financial officer and chairman of Caribbean Football Trust Limited (CFTL) and owner of ISCO, Chris Anderson. (Photo courtesy soca warriors online)*

trying to do is a Caribbean league," Anderson said.

"They misunderstood what we were trying to do but it was never in our intention to do a Caribbean league because if you are doing a Caribbean league you would have to have certain infrastructures in place.

"There is no football specific stadium in the Caribbean and this is why the Island Cup is so unique in its own way because we are building and we are making the investments in the infrastructure. We are building stadia throughout the Caribbean.

"We have just acquired the land in Tobago to build our own stadium and we are here now in Antigua negotiating with the government to partner with us to build our own private football specific stadium and we will do so in other

markets as well.

"I have already acquired land in Jamaica to build that stadium in Jamaica as well. We are basically looking to employ people who are not normally employed in football.

"We are not here to do anything other than uplifting local football in the various communities. We are trying to mobilise young players, coaches and trainers."

Anderson said Antigua and Barbuda is earmarked to host the much-anticipated Island Cup Open from July 15 to August 13, 2022.

The Sir Vivian Richards stadium will be used as the venue for the tournament.

Eight teams will participate, including the Combined Islands Sharks franchise, which will be based in Antigua for a one-month

pre-season training camp.

Sir Vivian Richards has officially been appointed as Ambassador of the Combined Islands Sharks franchise, and by extension ISCO.

Anderson said ISCO is planning to officially launch on 21st May with a Game of Legends event, which will include the British Royals Legends team versus a Rest of the World Stars featuring retired football players.

Some of the most popular international music artists of the new era will all be part of the ISCO Fete Fest.

The ISCO tournament will feature a one Cup Championship, the PLAY 4 Championship, with a cash prize of one million Euros going to the winner.

To date, ISCO has confirmed eight franchises that will participate in the inaugural event: Brazil's Samba Warriors, British Royals, Combined Islands Sharks, Colombia Tapirs, Jamaica Ruffneck, French Connections FC, TNT Soca Rivals FC and AS Espanola Manics.

Chairman/CFO Anderson-Joyeau stated the tournament is committed to maintaining the necessary financial sustainability to support the charity 'KICK POVERTY OUT (KPO).' Its objective is to help change the lives of disadvantaged youth, their families, and communities using football and entertainment as the catalyst.

## Cornelius retains presidency of ABAA

Everton Cornelius has been re-elected as president of the Antigua and Barbuda Athletic Association (ABAA) for a second successive four-year term.

Cornelius prevailed 26-18 against lone challenger for the association's top spot, Cleofoster Harris, during the election of a new executive at ABAA's Annual General Meeting last Thursday.

Former president, Dr. Philmore Benjamin, was elected as third vice-president.

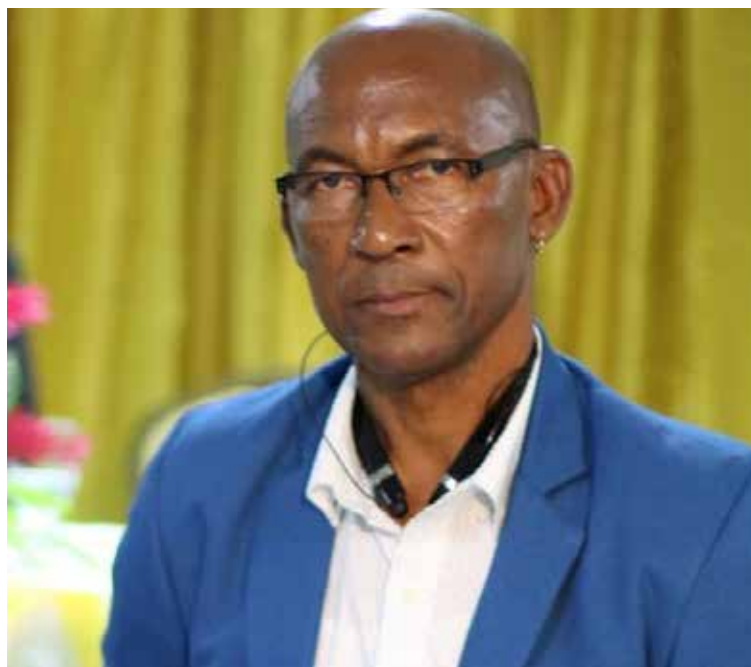
Richard Lindsay will serve as first vice-president

while Shauna Charles-Joseph was elected second vice-president.

Patricia Salmon has been chosen as treasurer, while former secretary Monica Lindsay will serve as assistant treasurer.

JoAnn Small will serve as the association's women's representative.

Serving as floor members are coach and former track athlete, Keswin Anthony; former national sprinter, Sonia Williams; former middle distance runner, Jamile Nelson; Judy King-Blackman and coach Ted Daley.



*Everton Cornelius has been re-elected as president of the Antigua and Barbuda Athletic Association (ABAA) for a second successive four-year term.*

## Gov't considers ISCO proposal for Sports Tourism project

The government of Antigua and Barbuda is considering proposals to host the inaugural Island Cup Open (ISCO) Championship Football Tournament later this year and become the headquarters of the competition.

An ISCO delegation, led by Chris Anderson, who is the Chief Financial Officer and Chairman of Caribbean Football Trust Limited (CFTL) and the owner of ISCO, recently held discussions with government ministers about the possibility of hosting the tournament here, and which they hope, will expand into a major sports tourism venture for the country.

ISCO's Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner, Paul Mohamed, also met with Minister of Tourism and Investment, Charles Fernandez and Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew to discuss staging the tournament here.

The delegation also held talks with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin regarding the construction of an ISCO Football Academy, which would include international standard training fields, a stadium, hotel and other real estate developments.

"Yes we are having a follow-up meeting [on Sunday], but I like to

see cash in the bank before I speak. Let's see what the further discussions involved are and we will be able to determine the capacity before we make any further announcement," PM Browne said on Saturday.

Speaking to Sports Overflow on Pointe FM on Friday night, Anderson expressed his optimism about the tournament and the other projects planned for Antigua and Barbuda.

"Up to this evening we had discussion with Minister of Sports, Mr. Matthew. He assured me that everything is okay. I've gotten his blessing, he likes the project, he's sold on

*cont'd on pg 29*