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JOANNE WALSH TIPPED TO BECOME ACTING DPP

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Eustace 'Gatux' Henry is one of Antigua and Barbuda's last steel pan builders. We caught Gatux on Monday, hard at work, shaping and tuning his latest creation. (Photo credit: Kavi Roberts)

Joanne Walsh tipped to become Acting DPP

While Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin declined disclosing Anthony Armstrong's replacement as Director of Public Prosecution over the weekend, a source close to the court has said that Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh is to assume the position.

Pointe Xpress was reliably informed late Monday afternoon that Magistrate Dexter Wason will act as Chief Magistrate while Chief Magistrate Walsh acts as DPP.

She will assume her new position once it is confirmed by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission based in St. Lucia.

Jamaica's General Legal Council (GLC) left DPP Armstrong disgraced at the end of January when they came to the decision that he was "guilty of professional misconduct" after he affixed his signature to a document as a witness for someone who was not physically present at the time of signing.

The GLC was very strong in its opinion, describing Armstrong's actions as "the peak of recklessness" which could «discredit the legal profession».

Armstrong's former client Michael Adams accused the Jamaican attorney of selling three properties owned by him between 1999 and 2003 without his consent while he was incarcerated.

Adams served 12 years in federal prison in the United States on marijuana and cocaine related charges.

Describing Armstrong as a "wolf", Adams further alleged in his complaint to the GLC that the attorney forged his signature on docu-



Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh will act as DPP while Anthony Armstrong is on leave.

ments to facilitate the sale of those properties.

Court records indicated that the three properties were sold for a total of JD\$10 million although they were valued at JD\$49 million. Adams claimed that he did not receive any of the money Armstrong collected from the sale of the properties.

Mr. Armstrong did however make payments to Mr. Adams totaling US\$15,450 between 2016 and 2017, purportedly toward reimbursing Adams for the sale of his properties.

But Mr. Armstrong told the GLC that those payments were made because he was being blackmailed and was embarrassed by his connection to Mr. Adams.

He was also terrified because both he and his mother were being threatened with physical harm by the complainant.

Armstrong ended the payments after his attorney advised him to stop.

Based on the opinion of an expert handwriting witness however, the GLC in its ruling stated, "We are not satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that the Complainant did not instruct the attorney to sell his three properties and that the signatures of the transfers do not belong to the complainant."

The GLC continued that they were convinced that Mr. Adams had in fact authorised Mr. Armstrong to sell the properties resulting in him being cleared of the allegation of improper actions related to the property sales.

The complaint against DPP Armstrong was brought before the GLC on 14th December, 2019.

Reports indicate that Mr. Armstrong tendered his resignation to AG Benjamin. However, pending the outcome of an appeal of the GLC's decision, it was decided that Armstrong would take administrative leave.

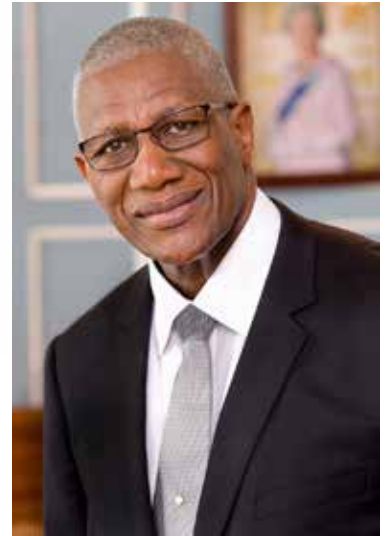
Should the appeal be incomplete by the end of that 90 day period, then Mr. Benjamin indicated that Armstrong will then use up any outstanding vacation due to him.

Mr. Benjamin said over the weekend, "As of Monday, he will no longer be in the position. He will be given an opportunity to prosecute his appeal."

"Someone has been identified to act as Director of Public Prosecutions in the interim and the office will continue to flow as it ought to in the circumstances."



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**



February 6, 2022

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Buckingham Palace
London
England

Your Majesty,

On behalf of the nation of Antigua and Barbuda, Lady Williams and I extend special congratulations to you on the commencement of the 70th year of your Reign of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Realms. Your Platinum Jubilee Anniversary attracts the attention of the globe since it not only celebrates a unique achievement but your distinguished and longstanding leadership and service to the Commonwealth. You have maintained the noble principles of this important organization to the benefit of all sectors of society regardless of creed, gender, race, economic or social status. This is noteworthy.

We are aware that it is also a time of reflection on the lives and service of your late father and husband. May the wonderful memories of their lives and contribution to the Realm also encourage you today.

It is our hope that God will continue to bless you with a year filled with good health and continued success.

Please accept, Your Majesty, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,



.....
His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KSt.J, DSc, PhD(h.c), MBBS
Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda

LIAT 2020 to take off in June

LIAT 2020 is scheduled to take to the skies within the next four months as discussions enter the final stage with potential investors.

An advertisement in yesterday's **POINTE XPRESS** and another newspaper outlined that LIAT 2020, which will be based in Antigua, is looking for experienced people to fill several positions crucial to the airline's operations. Vacancies include CEO, captains, first officers, cabin crew, maintenance and engineering, information technology and ground operations.

Minister of State within the Ministry of Finance, Lennox Weston, said the airline will become a reality and, while he did not disclose names, he said several Caribbean governments have indicated an interest in being part of the carrier. He added that discussions are also underway with potential private sector investors.

Indicating that a feasibility study revealed that Antigua and Barbuda can shoulder the financial responsibilities of the airline's operations on its own following the restructuring exercise, Weston said the administration in Saint John's does not intend to move ahead alone.

"We have about three governments who have already indicated their desire to participate and we are still in the final stages talking to two additional investors,"



Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Lennox Weston.

Minister Weston stated.

In the past, Prime Minister Gaston Browne proposed the creation of LIAT 2020 out of a restructured LIAT 1974 Limited as the alternative to liquidating the airline.

While the new carrier is taking shape, the issue of severance and other benefits claimed by former LIAT employees continue to linger.

More than one hundred workers have accepted the government's compassionate payment - fifty percent of what they are owed - but many other former staff continue to hold out in the hope that their union will be successful in getting the government to settle on paying their severance and oth-

er emoluments in full.

But Prime Minister Browne has insisted there will be no further negotiations on the issue and he has reminded the ex-LIAT staff that his government was under no legal obligation to paying the former workers at all.

Even if the government was disposed to paying off the former LIAT workers in full, Minister Weston said that would require an investor with "deep pockets" who was willing to settle all outstanding debts estimated at more than \$120 million. This figure includes taxes owed to the government which he says will prove difficult. This means any hopes of former employees receiving what they are ex-

pecting will not materialize.

"If LIAT 1974 Ltd. doesn't get that kind of level of investment, then it will be dissolved and the dissolution will take place based on the law when you dissolve a company and the benefits of the workers will be paid from the sale of the assets from LIAT 1974 Ltd.

"That is why the compassionate offer from the government we find quite attractive. But they have a different view. They believe that the assets will yield tremendous benefits and the government is trying to rob them of those benefits," Weston added.

According to Minister Weston, LIAT 2020 is the government's vision for a regional airline headquartered in Antigua, adding that LIAT 1974 Ltd. is owned by several governments and for which the receiver Cleveland Seaforth is still searching for investors.

"The Antiguan government is moving quickly ahead to form an airline LIAT 2020 that can viably and commercially provide services, which are essential to the VC. Bird Airport, and to our product and the tourism product of several regional governments."

The establishment of the new airline will allow for a clean slate where the principals are expecting to implement a management structure that will be effective and profitable.

Video sparks outrage over fisherman's arrest

An Antiguan fisherman, Jahlarnie Sylvester, was taken into police custody over the weekend in Barbuda and had both his catch and boat seized after another fisherman reported him for illegal fishing.

A source in the fisheries department says that the total catch seized tipped the scales at over 900 pounds although Sylvester has hotly disputed this claim.

In a video circulating on social media which has sparked outrage for several reasons, the fishermen clearly acknowledge that a considerable portion of the catch was comprised of 'chub fish' which is also known as parrot fish.

Onlookers were incensed because they took the view that the Antiguan was being harassed by police for fishing in Barbudan waters.

One very irate bystander shouted, "Man ah come over ya to come mek a



Jahlarnie Sylvester watches as police confiscate his catch.



Police loaded four large coolers filled with seafood into their truck

daily bread and watch ya! Who them (the police) fa go fa them nar go for! The French man and them round dey. Go for dem dey and lef lone the Antiguan and dem. Go up for the French man and dem up there and the Dominican them way na come from roun' ya."

But the issue lay not with where the man was fishing. Rather it was in what he was fishing for.

According to the Fisheries Division, it is illegal to catch parrot fish within 3 miles of the coast of Barbuda. It is also against the law to land parrot fish caught anywhere on the island. Therefore, by simply bringing his considerable catch ashore, the Antiguan fisherman had broken the law.

He has since been released although it is unclear if he was charged or if the illegally caught fish were seized and disposed of.

In a case like this, Fisheries Officers have the authority to charge fishermen in violation of the law. They



Officer 508 said Sylvester's catch was taken because Smoothie, the cameraman "chat so much"

are empowered to confiscate illegally caught seafood and to impose a fine. If the fisherman in violation is non-compliant, the matter can be brought before the court which has the jurisdiction to impose even higher fines or imprisonment for the violation.

The police also have the authority to intervene as illegal fishing contravenes the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

While the matter of the confiscation of the fish was straightforward once the facts were ascertained, the police who responded have come under fire for their handling of the situation. In particular one officer, whose badge number 508, was clearly visible.

This officer was heard loudly engaging with and goading an onlooker who was streaming the incident on Facebook.

At one point the officer was heard telling the crowd that he was going to
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CKHS students

British High Commission launches Commonwealth Competition



Resident British High Commissioner, Lindsay Thompson

The British High Commission St John's is preparing to celebrate Commonwealth Day and the Queen's Jubilee in partnership with the Ministry of Education and ABS by engaging secondary school students on both islands in a competition themed "Antigua and Barbuda benefits from being a member of the Commonwealth".

Secondary students are invited to perform in any one of three categories: spoken word (2-3 minutes), song (not exceeding 3 minutes), or drama (not exceeding 5

minutes) and email their submissions to rbc.antiguaandbarbuda@gmail.com by 25 February 2022.

Winners will receive individual prizes, be hosted at a reception along with the teachers who assisted them, and also secure a donation to their schools.

Resident British Commissioner, Lindsay Thompson, commenced school tours on Monday at the Christ the King High School to promote this competition.

In her encouragement for wide scale participation, she noted the importance of

awareness and understanding of the opportunities that are available to young people because of the partnerships and shared values that our countries have by being members of multilateral bodies like the Commonwealth.

She said, "Antigua and Barbuda is one of the 54 countries in the Commonwealth of Nations – comprising over 2.5 billion people – 60% of whom are under 30. There is a wealth of student talent here in Antigua and Barbuda and I'm really looking forward to seeing the students' entries, which will combine with their research on the benefits of Commonwealth membership with their creative and dramatic flair."

The three winning pieces will be professionally recorded and released to the nation via ABS and other national media platforms on 14 March 2022, Commonwealth Day.

Tue 08 Day		Tue 08 Night	
81°		74°	
5% ENE 15 mph		24% ENE 13 mph	
A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 81F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 64%	UV Index 10 of 10	Humidity 77%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:36 am	Sunset 6:06 pm	Moonrise 11:45 am	Moonset 12:03 am
		First Quarter	

India's High Commissioner hosts victory reception for U19 World Cup winners



High Commissioner Dr. K. J. Srinivasa hosted a reception for the World Cup winning India U19 team in Hotel Royalton Antigua on 5th February 2022.

“It’s a time honored custom where the Indian High Commissioner hosts the visiting team for a reception. This Indian young brigade has really performed very well in the U19 World Cup being unbeaten in the tournament so far.

“Their positive approach, mature thinking, coming back from adversity where nearly half the team was down with Covid shows that the future of Indian cricket is in great hands,” said the Indian diplomat.

The event was attended by H. E. Governor General of Antigua & Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams along with legends of West Indies cricket includ-

ing Sir Richie Richardson and Sir Curtly Ambrose.

Also in attendance were ICC and Cricket West Indies officials including President of CWI Ricky Skeritt; members of the diplomatic corps; government ministers Chet Greene, Daryll Matthew, Charles Fernandez and Sir Robin Yearwood.

The Indian U19 full team were of course present along with BCCI selectors and Indian cricket greats including VVS Laxman, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Sairaj Bahutule.

This event brought together people to congratulate the achievements of our young team and the team was inspired by the presence and interaction with legends.

High commissioner commended CWI and the ICC for the successful organisation of the World Cup.



cont'd from pg 5

confiscate Sylvester’s entire catch because the cameraman “chat so much”.

He is also being branded as a bully in uniform after an exchange with the cameraman where he seemed to imply that the officers’ decision to seize the cool-

ers was based on emotion because of the criticism the officers faced.

The officer continued that a lack of space in the police vehicle was the only reason he was not also arresting the cameraman, who is also a fisherman identified as “Smoothie”, and taking

his catch as well.

“Come me check yuh cooler them. You just lucky ma loaded! If ma min ha wan ‘nother pickup you woulda see! Ah you better reach up the road before me come back dung ya.

“Look you mek the man and dem two cooler get tek

way because yuh chat so much.

“Ah we go fa lef dem with the cooler, but yuh chat so much!” said the officer after he and two other police present loaded a pickup truck with about four large coolers that belonged to Sylvester.

Lennox Jervier guilty of illegal dumping

Lennox Jervier was found guilty of illegal dumping in the Magistrates' Court last Thursday and was ordered to pay EC\$3000 by April 4th, 2022.

In default, he will spend three months in prison.

On 30th July, 2021 an investigation was carried out by the Litter Control and Prevention Department based on a report received that same day.

Upon arrival at the scene in Cassada Gardens, the investigative team observed

eight garbage bags along with boxes.

After investigating the matter, it was determined that Lennox Jervier was the perpetrator.

He was called in for questioning by the Litter Control and Prevention Department where he confirmed he had arrangements with a business to dispose of their waste once per week.

A litter removal order was issued to Lennox Jervier and the area was then cleaned on the 22nd August,



Photo credit: NSWMA

2021 in the presence of Sergeant Mc. Bernie.

In the last five months, three people have been

hailed before the court for illegal dumping. In all of the cases, hefty fines were imposed on the perpetrators.

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WOW WEDNESDAY

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Prince Klass - Antigua's Disputed Slave Conspiracy of 1736

Does the evidence against Prince Klaas and his "co-conspirators" really stack up?

By Mike Dash

Note From The Editor:

As part of it's month-long celebration of Black History, and particularly Antiguans and Barbudans and others from the Caribbean and beyond who played a significant role in the liberation of Caribbean people, Pointe Xpress is exceedingly happy to present an in depth look at National Hero, Prince Klaas.

In this two part feature, we explore the history of the rebellion he led in 1736 and try to determine whether history did this great Ghanaian royal an injustice in the propagation of the narrative that he was a murderous rebel. Was he rather a powerful and visionary leader who wished to end the unjust subjugation of his people but was ultimately betrayed by the very people he sought to save?

What we do know indubitably, is that his gruesome murder, and that of his comrades, at the hands of white slave masters speaks volumes about the savagery of salvery and the insanity of the construct that one man's life holds more value than another based solely on some-

thing as superficial as the colour of his skin.

Breaking on the wheel was the most horrific punishment ever visited on a convicted criminal. It was a form of crucifixion, but with several cruel refinements; in its evolved form, a prisoner was strapped, spreadeagled, to a large cartwheel that was placed axle-first in the earth so that it formed a rotating platform a few feet above the ground. The wheel was then slowly rotated while an executioner methodically crushed the bones in the condemned man's body, starting with his fingers and toes and working inexorably inward. An experienced headsman would take pride in ensuring that his victim remained conscious throughout the procedure, and when his work was done, the wheel would be hoisted upright and fixed in the soil, leaving the condemned to hang there until he died from shock and internal bleeding a few hours or a few days later.

"Breaking" was reserved for the most dangerous of criminals: traitors, mass killers and rebellious slaves whose plots threatened the lives of their masters and their masters'



The Prince Klaas Monument on Independence Drive

families. Yet in the case of one man who endured the punishment, a slave known as Prince Klaas, doubts remain about the extent of the elaborate conspiracy he was convicted of organizing on the West Indian island of Antigua in 1736.

The planters who uncovered the plot, and who executed Klaas and 87 of his fellow slaves for conceiving of it, believed it had as its object the massacre of all 3,800 whites on the island. Most historians have agreed with their ver-

dict, but others think the panicky British rulers of the island exaggerated the dangers of a lesser plot—and a few doubt any conspiracy existed outside the minds of Antigua's magistrates.

In order to understand why there were slaves on Antigua in the 18th century, and why they might have wanted to revolt, it is first necessary to understand the Caribbean sugar trade. Before Columbus stumbled on the Americas

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Black History Month Spotlight

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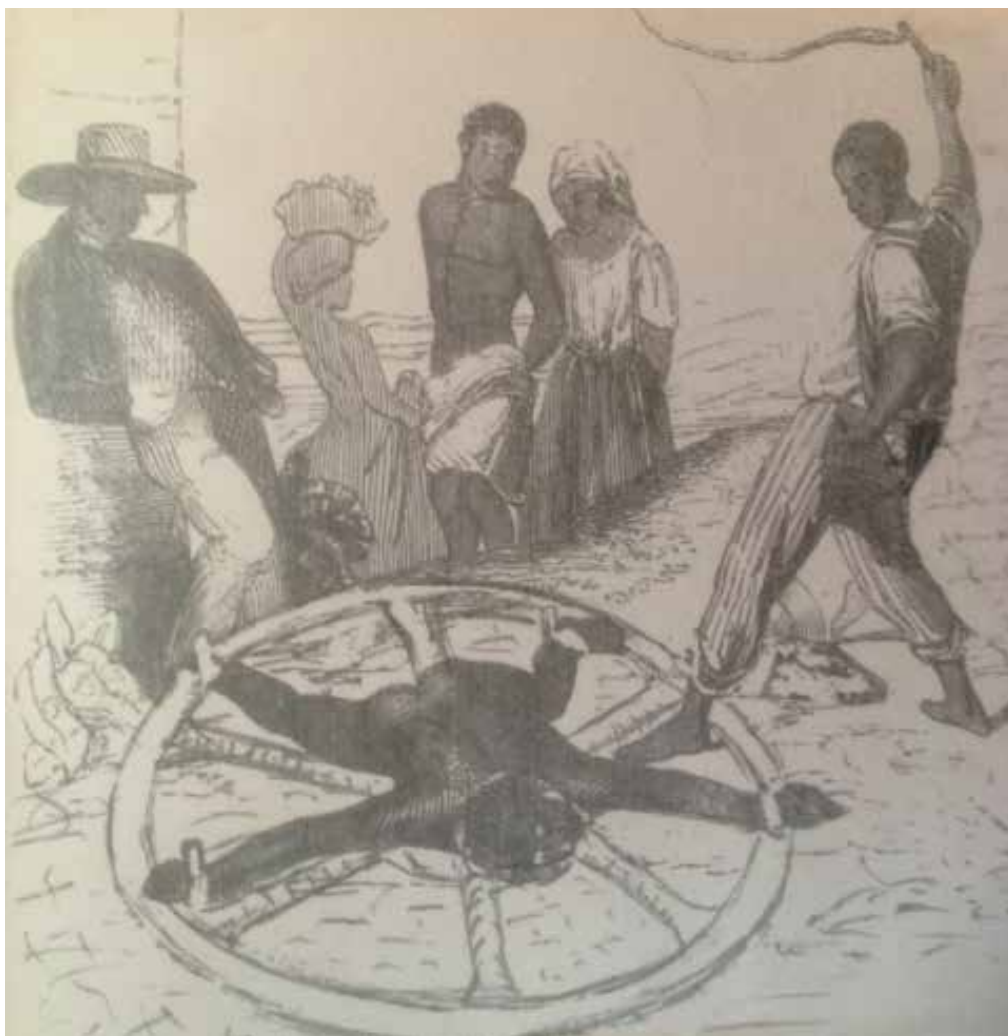
in 1492, few Europeans had ever tasted sugar. The limited supply came all the way from India, and its cost was so high that even a wealthy London merchant might consume, on average, one spoonful of the stuff a year.

Spain's discovery of the islands of the Caribbean changed all that. Conditions there proved perfect for the cultivation of sugarcane, and by the early 17th century the Spaniards and the British, Danes and Dutch were all busily cultivating cane plantations from Trinidad to Puerto Rico. Sugar ceased to be a luxury commodity—but demand soared as prices fell, leaving the new white planter class that ruled the islands among the wealthiest merchants of their day.

Antigua itself might almost have been designed for the large-scale production of sugar. Although the island is only about 12 miles across, it has a stable climate, is blessed with several excellent harbors, and lies astride reliable trade winds—which drove the windmills that processed the cane.

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Prince Klaas, leader of the supposed slave rebellion on Antigua, on the wheel. Wikimedia Commons

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The greatest difficulty that Antigua's planters faced was finding men to farm their crops. Sugar cane is tough and fibrous, and requires considerable effort to cut; sugar was then extracted in the inhuman conditions of "boiling houses," where vast fires were kept roaring day and night to heat the cane and refine its juices. At first the planters depended on indentured servants brought from home

on long-term contracts, but the work proved too hard for all but the most desperate, and the islands acquired a reputation as hotbeds of disease. Most poor whites found it easier to seek work in the fast-growing colonies of North America. When they left, the planters turned to their only other source of manpower: slaves.

Between the 16th and 19th centuries, the slave trade produced the greatest forced migration known to history. An estimated 12 million Africans were shipped across the Atlantic, and even allowing for the two million who died en voyage, a vast number of slaves survived to reach destinations that ranged from Brazil to the colonies of North America. Four million of these men, women and children finished their journeys

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in the sugar islands of the Caribbean, where—thanks to the pestilential conditions—huge numbers were required to replace those who had died. It has been calculated that more than 150,000 slaves had to be landed in Barbados to produce a stable population of just 20,000: a phenomenon known to the planters as “seasoning.”

Seasoned slaves endured a monotonous diet—the staple diet of Antigua’s Africans was “loblolly,” a sort of porridge made from pounded maize—and worked six days a week. Given the heat, ceaseless labor and harsh discipline, it might be thought remarkable that the workers on the plantations did not rise more often than they did. Slaves soon made up the majority of Antigua’s population—85 percent by 1736, when there were 24,400 of them on the island. But while the sheer weight of numbers made rebellion possible, it also made the planters cautious. They formed militias, drilled regularly, and did what they could to prevent their slaves from congregating at dances and markets where talk might turn to revolt. Fear of rebellion also led to near-hysterical brutality. The least whisper of rebellion could prompt large-scale roundups, trials and executions, for it was clear that any large-scale revolt could only be fatal for the slaves’ masters.



A yard on an Antigua sugar plantation in 1823. A windmill powers the rollers used to crush the cane before it was boiled to release its sugar. Wikimedia Commons

Slave resistance did occur on Antigua. In the 17th century, before the island was properly settled, runaways formed what were known as maroon societies—villages made up of escaped slaves who concealed themselves in the wild interior around the summit of Antigua’s extinct volcano, Boggy Peak.

English justice was harsh; when the maroons were recaptured in a round-up ordered in 1687, one slave found guilty of “mutinous behaviour” was sentenced to be “burned to ashes,” and another, who had carried messages, had a leg sawed off. This treatment was not sufficient to dissuade others, though, and in 1701 fifteen recently arrived slaves rose against their owner, Major Samuel Martin, and hacked him to death for refusing to give them Christmas off. There was even a worryingly ritual aspect to the slaves’

revenge—they removed Martin’s head, doused it in rum, and, one contemporary reported, “Triumphed Over it.”

Next, in 1729, a plot came to light involving slaves belonging to the Antigua legislator Nathaniel Crump. Contemporary records say this conspiracy was betrayed by one of the slaves, and its intention (it was alleged in court) was to kill not only Crump and his family, but also the entire white population of the island. The judge hearing the case handed down what exemplary sentences—three of Crump’s slaves were burned alive, and a fourth was hanged, drawn and quartered. Reviewing the evidence, the court added a clear warning of more trouble ahead: “The design is laid much deeper than is yet imagined.”

What followed over the next few years only increased the likelihood

of further unrest. Antigua experienced a severe depression. There was also drought and, in 1735, an earthquake. Many planters responded by cutting costs, not least those involved in feeding and housing their slaves. The resultant unrest coincided with a successful slave rebellion in the Danish Virgin Islands, 200 miles to the northwest, which resulted in the massacre of the Danish garrison of St. John, the murder of many local planters (a number fled) and the establishment of slave rule in the territory for the better part of a year.

Tomorrow we explore the events that led up to the failed Antigua rebellion of 1736 led by Prince Klaas. As we will learn, had it not been for a fluke of chance, Antigua and Barbuda’s history, and that of the entire Caribbean region, may have played out very differently.

Why are some people compelled to cheat at games?

By William Park

When it comes to unfair tactics, some of us are just better at bending the rules. But, the urge to cheat at games is easier to understand when you examine how they are designed.

There is a grey area between being a little dishonest and actively cheating. Who hasn't failed to draw attention to their presence on a rival's property in Monopoly or snuck a glance at opponents' cards in Cluedo? Even if we never intended to deceive, the little rush of adrenaline from not paying rent or gaining an edge over others feels good.

While it might lead to a few family disputes over the holidays, and perhaps the odd overturned board, cheating is a major problem in professional gaming. Coaches of Counter Strike esports teams have been handed bans for exploiting bugs and match fixing. Top esports players can earn millions of dollars, so any suggestion of cheating is hotly investigated. The worlds of professional poker and bridge have also found themselves rocked by recent cheating scandals.

But, despite attempts in both professional and amateur games alike to stop it, cheating is more common than we might think. Surprisingly, it can also be a good thing.



Photo credit: Kiko Jimenez

Whyville, created in 1999 as an educational game for children aged eight and over, might seem like an unlikely place to investigate cheating. But it is evidence that cheats appear anywhere and everywhere, says Mia Consalvo, author of *Cheating: Gaining Advantage in Videogames*, and professor in game studies and design, and communication studies at Concordia University, in Montreal, Canada.

Players complete science and maths puzzles in return for "clams" – the virtual currency used in the Whyville world. Clams could be exchanged for avatar upgrades like new facial features, haircuts or possessions, while players were able to design their own upgrades to sell at any price they wished at the trading post.

The game won plaudits for its innovative use of virtual currencies and for engaging a younger, mostly female audience in science and maths (at one point a virus – Whypox – spread across avatars' faces, and players had to work out how to stop it).

"When I heard that this game was for tween girls, I asked the developers, 'Oh, so you probably don't have any problems with cheating,'" says Consalvo. She had good reason to believe this was the case. Most of the research on cheating at that point focused on men, she says – it was thought that men cheated more than women.

But the developers of Whyville noticed something unusual – here was a game where 68% of the audience were female aged 8-13, but

in which cheating was rife. Like many games, there were cheat codes and walk-through guides.

But players also hacked each others' accounts or set up secondary accounts to scam their way to more clams, found Yasmin Kafai, a professor of learning at the University of Pennsylvania, US, and Deborah Fields, at Utah State University, US.

Consalvo was also captivated by another kind of cheating in the game – something she had rarely seen elsewhere. Using the chat function, some of the girls were manipulating the clam market by conspiring to drive up the value of their goods. Groups of girls would publicly say how rare or sought-after a particular upgrade was, and how much they would be willing

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to pay, to trick other players into overpaying for their goods. Consalvo calls this a kind of "social arbitrage", a form of market manipulation.

"That's brilliant, right?," says Consalvo, of the ingenuity of the girls. "You never can predict who is going to be doing what in a game, there will always be something new and interesting coming along."

Why were they cheating? In her book, Consalvo describes an idea called "gaming capital". Being good at a game brings a social cachet that elevates you within the community. Good players want to maintain their statuses and be sought out as experts.

"There's this knowledge that you get from deep play of a particular game... and that's something that you can share with other folks," says Consalvo. "The idea is that you have a kind of cultural capital."

But to maintain this status, sometimes players might need to cheat. Curiously, it might be the case that better players feel the need to cheat more than players who are worse than them. The fear of losing something appears to be a greater motivator to cheat than the lure of a gain.

This might be because the loss a player feels in a game is real. It hurts to have your gaming capital taken away from you, even if what you are losing are Monopoly dollars or Whyville clams.

The idea of cheating to maintain status might be supported by evidence from other areas. Kerry Ritchie, who researches how to improve teaching at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, says the majority of academic cheating is conducted by high-achieving students, (60% of offenders earned grades 80% or more). While cheating in education is not the same as cheating during play, if there are similarities it's that those at the top feel a pressure to maintain their status.

But there are other factors that influence whether we cheat or not. The more cheating friends a player has, for example, the more likely they are to cheat in the future. This could be for two reasons: social influence – where the actions of our friends causes us to alter our behaviour – or homophily, where we seek friends who are like ourselves. "People will say, 'Well, other people are cheating too, so I need every advantage that I can get,'" adds Consalvo.

So, were honest Whyvillians being egged on to cheat by their dishonest friends? Or do people who are more likely to cheat seek each other out to be friends?

There is research that indicates it could be the latter as we tend to be friends with people who show similar levels of trustworthiness. But Kafai and Fields note that market manipulation in Whyville requires a lot of social interaction, so friends might be influencing each other.

Cheating as a group might also allow some players to justify their behaviour. Players are more likely to behave dishonestly if they can say that it benefits other people as well as themselves.

In a 10-year follow up to their study of cheating in Whyville, Kafai and Fields found that (while the average age of players had increased a bit) it was still common and openly discussed among people playing the game. Kafai and Fields say that this can be a positive thing – it encourages the young players to wrestle with moral judgements, and because cheating is commonly a communal activity, it requires negotiation.

However, they also observed the negative effects of cheating. While some of the cheating was fairly innocuous, being cheated out of clams hurt players. Kafai and Fields give one example of a 12-year-old girl, Zoe, who after being scammed out of her earn-

ings turned to scamming for the first time the following day. Then, two weeks later, stopped playing altogether. The magic of the game had been ruined.

Kafai and Fields explain that scamming is an activity that is directed at other players and not the design of the game, and also speculate that it could be linked to cyberbullying. They say that the high rate of scamming in the game demonstrates the need to educate children about the effects of their actions.

Aside from multiplayer games, cheating might make single-player games better, and doesn't come at the cost of another player's enjoyment. When playing alone, cheating can repair moods, provide stress relief and satisfy psychological needs.

Consalvo puts this down to several reasons. Firstly, sometimes games are less than perfect. A small flaw or oversight might mean a player gets stuck – and that's no fun for anyone. Consalvo says that this is overwhelmingly the reason most people cheat. She compares this to reading a book. If the reader has to fully understand a chapter before moving onto the next, people might lose interest and put the book down. Many games, though, are designed so that a player has to complete a level before moving on. Unlike a book, the difficult bits can't be skipped.

Some games are boring too, says Consalvo, and it might be more fun to "play God" and experiment with the game. Players can show their creativity by finding new ways to play the game – using cheats to set new boundaries.

If all that is at stake is imaginary currency or our own pride for completing a game fairly, maybe cheating isn't so bad. The deceptive Whyvillians who manipulated the market were certainly demonstrating their creativity – let's hope that they also learned where the boundary is between right and wrong.

Is 'face-ism' spoiling your life?

By David Robson

Your face can be your fortune or your downfall - and it's not just a question of beauty. Others may be unconsciously judging your features in ways you don't realise, says David Robson.

Imagine you grew up with a non-identical twin. You have the same upbringing, the same IQ, the same education, the same interests. Both of you are equally gregarious, equally adventurous, equally interesting. You both work out at the same gym, and eat the same food.

Spiritually and mentally, you are doppelgangers. There's just one small difference: your faces. Maybe one of you has the kind of wide-eyed, childlike features of a bush baby. Maybe the other has stronger cheekbones and a more rugged (some might say Neanderthal) brow.

Over the years, how do you think your lives would play out? Would you follow the same routes in life, or would the subtle differences in your appearance help send you on alternative paths?

Sadly, the answer is the latter. Within a split-second of laying eyes on you, others will have decided whether you are competent and trustworthy; whether you are a leader or a follower. And those prejudices might shape key events in your life, determining everything from your friendships to your bank balance.

"Although we like to think we make decisions in a rational way, we are often swayed by superficial cues," says Christopher Olivola at Carnegie Mellon University. "And appearances are a particularly superficial, yet very strong cue."

In the past, this "face-ism" (as Olivola and his colleagues call it) was considered an unfortunate fact of life. But the more they come to understand its pervasive influence, the more they are beginning to wonder if it should be treated like any other prejudice. If so, it



Even small differences in appearance could send two people on different paths (Credit: Getty Images)

could be time to take action.

Given our obsession with celebrity culture, physical beauty may appear the greatest source of face-ism. Beginning as early as the 1990s, economist Daniel Hamermesh has found that more attractive people can earn 10 to 12% more – for professionals as diverse as American football players, lawyers, and even his fellow economists.

"Which is a scary thought," he says today. In fact, one of the only exceptions, he found, was armed robbers. "If he can scare you into giving you the money, he doesn't need to use violence."

Indeed, good looks aren't always a golden ticket for the law-abiding, either. A woman considered to be more beautiful, for instance, may find it harder to get a top job if the interviewers thought it undermined her credibility.

In any case, our preoccupation with beauty may have caused us to neglect the many other forms of facial prejudice, as Olivola's colleague Alexander Todorov at Princeton University found 10 years ago. He asked participants to look at photos of US politicians running for Congress and Senate for just one second and then to judge how "compe-

tent" they looked on a numerical scale. Even when he took into account other factors, such as age and attractiveness, the participants' snap judgements predicted who would win a seat with nearly 70% accuracy.

More recent studies have shown similar results, all examining how facial appearance feeds success, irrespective of your sex appeal. The more dominant you look, the more likely you are to be hired as a CEO – and the higher your pay packet, for example. In the military, meanwhile, scientists have asked people to judge faces of cadets for perceived dominance. Those with the higher ratings were more likely to climb the ranks later in life.

Honesty, in particular, is thought to show itself all over your face. When given a range of photos, participants mostly agree who looks more trustworthy – and they are more likely to lend that person money as a result. In court, an innocent face could even be your get-out-of-jail-free card; given the same evidence, people who look more trustworthy are less likely to be found guilty, one study found.

Admittedly, this centres on com-

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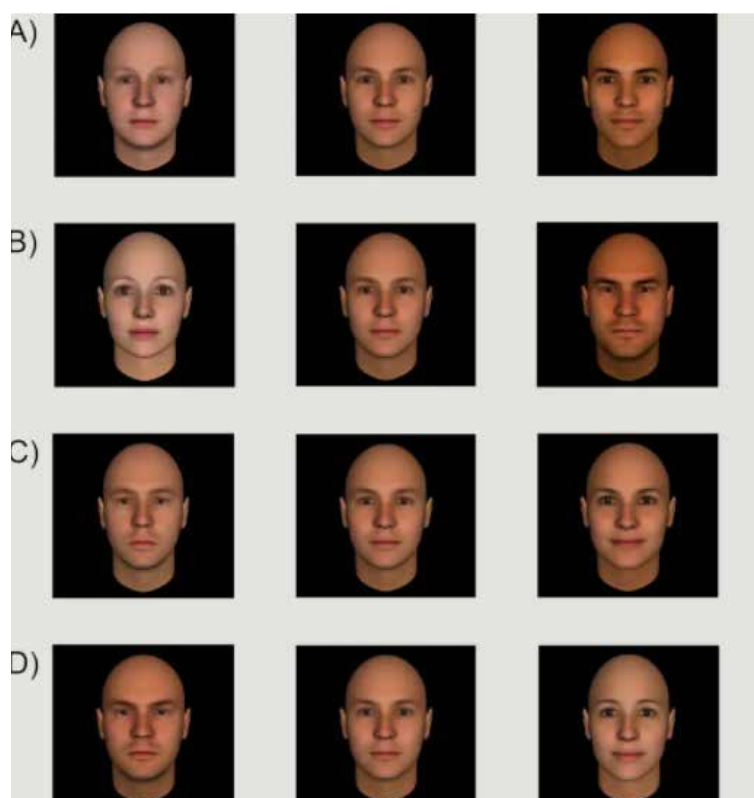
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pletely subjective reports. How do we know what makes an honest, competent or dominant face? One possibility is that we are simply responding to facial expressions – an open smile, or an angry frown. There's no doubt that it does make a difference. Even so, the evidence suggests we are also reading other, more permanent cues.

For instance, Olivola and Todorov have used carefully designed computer generated pictures with neutral expressions to control for all other factors. By asking subjects to rate them, and comparing the ratings of many different photos, the team has then been able to create a kind of digital photo-fit that best captures the subtle characteristics that signal each trait. The resulting pictures suggest that we are reacting to slight differences across the whole face – everything from the shape of the eyebrows to the underlying bone structure.

See the faces pictured above to judge whether you look particularly competent, dominant, extrovert or trustworthy.

You might like to think that you would never be so shallow – but the fact is that whenever you meet someone, you spontaneously appraise them. In fact, Todorov has shown that 40 milliseconds are all it takes to form a rapid impression of someone's personality – that's about a tenth as long as a single blink of the eye.



These faces show less or more (A) competence, (B) dominance, (C) extroversion, (D) trustworthiness (Credit: Christopher Olivola, Friederike Funk, Alexander Todorov)

What's more, it appears to be a life-long habit: even three- and four-year-olds decide who looks "mean" or "nice" based solely on appearances.

Those fleeting judgments may not be so worrying, if they were mostly accurate. And indeed, they do contain a small kernel of truth. Jean-Francois Bonnefon at CNRS in France and colleagues recently asked participants to play an economic game – in which they were given a few euros and could decide whether or not to invest it in another player, who could then choose whether to keep (the dishonest option) or share their profits (the honest option).

Based solely on a single photo, the participants turned out to be able to predict what route their competitor would take, slightly better than

that of pure chance. It raises some interesting evolutionary questions, he says.

"It's hard to understand why we might have a sign on our face saying 'don't trust me'."

Your face can also reveal secrets about the levels of your hormones or the health of your immune system.

Practically speaking, though, our accuracy is so poor it probably does more harm than good.

"People put too much weight on appearances and neglect what they already know," says Olivola.

In games measuring trust and honesty, for instance, participants are willing to trust someone with an innocent-looking face, even when there is already tangible evidence that their partner has cheated beforehand.

It's not hard to see how these kinds of rapid first impressions could begin to lead you and your imaginary twin down very different trajectories. Whether you are entering a party, meeting your in-laws, attending a job interview or applying for a bank loan – your looks could be deciding your fate. It's a particularly thorny issue in today's hyper-connected world, says Olivola.

"Nowadays, with on-line profiles, we can form impressions before we talk to someone, before we even meet them."

Suppose you are hiring a new assistant. You may have every intention of reviewing a CV objectively, but once a photo has planted a seed of bias in your mind, it may be too late.

"It can change the way we interpret the subsequent information," he says. Bonnefon agrees. "It's probably impossible to train people not to make the impressions – it's an automatic behaviour."

Given these concerns, Olivola and Todorov recently wrote a paper arguing that psychologists should begin to investigate ways to combat face-ism.

"If a decision is important, I would try to structure the information so that faces come at the end of the decision process," says Todorov. "When we interview graduate students for admission, I know whether I would like to work with them before I meet them. The most important information is in their

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Regional News

Haiti braces for further instability amid grim anniversary

(AP) — Schools and businesses across Haiti shuttered their doors on Monday and large numbers of police patrolled the streets as the country braced for a grim anniversary.

Monday marked not only seven months since President Jovenel Moïse was slain at his private residence but also the end of his term, with opponents demanding that Prime Minister Ariel Henry step down, arguing that his administration is unconstitutional.

“We’re in a situation where fear is taking over peace,” Bocchit Edmond, Haiti’s ambassador to the US, told The Associated Press.

“Our country cannot continue to live that way.”

Thousands of people opted to stay home on Monday, afraid that even greater violence would erupt as Haiti’s political instability deepens, kidnappings



Police patrol after recovering the bodies of at least two journalists slain by gangs in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, January 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph, File)

spike and gangs grow more powerful amid a crumbling economy.

Lionel Fortuné, a 33-year-old law student, was among the few who ventured outside and waited a long time for a public bus to materialise on the empty streets.

“This country has totally deteriorated,” he said. “You don’t know who you can count on, who you can

trust to lead the country to the right path.”

Henry, the prime minister, has promised to create a provisional electoral council soon to pave the way for elections that he says will occur by the end of this year as his administration tries to improve security conditions.

“The heinous assassination of President Jovenel Moïse last year has brought our country to the brink of

chaos, and our institutions are completely dysfunctional,” he wrote in an op-ed published Sunday by The Miami Herald.

“My mission and that of the government over which I preside is to get our country back on track to achieve democracy as soon as possible.”

Haiti currently has only 10 elected officials since it failed to hold legislative elections in October 2019 amid political gridlock and massive protests, with Moïse ruling by decree for more than a year before was killed. Since then, numerous opponents have challenged Henry and nominated their own leaders, moves that the prime minister has not recognised.

“A president cannot be named, appointed or selected by any group of people or organization,” Henry wrote.

“Elections are the only way forward.”

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past performance and their letters of reference.”

Olivola even suggests you could interview candidates behind a screen, although he agrees it may not be a realistic solution. Many professional orchestras, however, have found that blind auditions can reduce the influence of other prejudices – one study found they significantly improve the selection chances of female musicians, for example.

As Hamermesh argues in his book *Beauty Pays*, prejudice based on ap-

pearances could be a legal issue – if you can prove that you are not earning as much as your more-attractive colleague.

Creating and implementing new laws costs money, however, and he’s not sure that this warrants the resources when there are more pressing matters at hand.

“The question is, do we want to spend government money protecting bad looking people when – it’s my personal view – other groups merit more attention?” he says.

Certainly, no one is claiming that face-ism should eclipse our efforts to

fight other kinds of prejudices – like sexism or racism. (Although it’s possible it may in fact inflate those other biases, when they overlap.)

Whether or not we would want these issues to enter the courts, we should at least take the time to acknowledge our superficiality.

Unlike most kinds of prejudices, we are both the victims and the villains of face-ism: everyone will have judged someone else unfairly, based on their appearance, and we’ve all been judged in return. And that’s an ugly truth that’s worth facing.

Forestry sector earns US\$31M

Guyana Chronicle - In 2021, Guyana's forestry sector managed to rake in export earnings of more than US\$31 million, according to figures provided by the Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat.

The exported products include logs, lumber and round wood, derived from 377,838 cubic metres of production. The production numbers represent a 16 per cent increase when compared to the previous year.

Although securing notable revenues, the forestry sector still has much more scope for development, particularly in the area of added value.

It was only recently that Public Works Minister Juan Edghill lamented the fact that even though Guyana is the producer of world-class timber, much more can be done to boost manufacturing, particularly in the area of furniture-making.

As it relates to the ministry's plans for the forestry sector, it was noted that while production, exports and value-added products would not be able to reach capacity this year, 2022 investments are likely to initiate growth and inspire upward trends.

Already, even amid a global pandemic and months of devastating and unprecedented floods, the sector is well on its way to making a drastic turnaround, especially with the governing body, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) being brought back from the brink of bankruptcy, with a monthly income revenue of \$90 million – a notable increase when compared to a pre-pandemic period in 2019, when the commission's revenue collection stood at \$70 million.

Minister Bharrat had said that improvements in the sector can be attributed to the implementation of specific policies.

He noted that upon assuming office



Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat [Photo credit: Guyana Chronicle]

in August 2020, he met with staff and stakeholders of the forestry sector to devise and enact strategies that could “boost the financial performance and management capabilities of the Guyana Forestry Commission.”

It was noted that, following the engagement, a new policy direction was taken and the forestry sector soon began recording positive changes that demonstrate the GFC's ability to function effectively and independently.

A significant achievement, as outlined by the minister, was the ministry's ability to convince small-scale loggers to return to their operations as a means of supporting the construction boom that has taken effect across the country.

Minister Bharrat has said that currently, the local forestry sector has much, much room for increased production, especially since Guyana's log production remains well below what is prescribed.

Last year, during a programme aired on the National Communications Network (NCN), Minister Bharrat said

that, unfortunately, the forestry industry's production is 35 per cent less than what is nationally prescribed. He noted that in addition to boosting production, significant work will also go towards driving value-added initiatives. “When we have value-added industries, it means that you're creating jobs there again; you're building that Guyana brand, and that is what we want to encourage,” Minister Bharrat said.

He reasoned that significant investments will have to be made to boost the extractive sectors, because even though the petroleum industry will become a major income earner, it will not be as labour intensive as other critical productive industries.

“Oil is lucrative; we will make a lot of money as a country, from oil and gas, but our traditional productive sectors are the sectors that create the bulk of the employment, especially agriculture, logging, mining,” Bharrat said.

He noted, too, that the forestry sector also stands to benefit significantly from an ongoing Forest Inventory Pro-

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Jamaica records 229 additional COVID-19 cases, four more fatalities

The Gleaner - Four more COVID-19 deaths have been recorded in Jamaica, pushing the tally to 2,698.

The deceased are a 34-year-old woman from St Elizabeth, an 82-year-old female from St Thomas, a 54-year-old woman from Kingston and St Andrew and a 79-year-old female in St Elizabeth.

The Ministry of Health says the deaths occurred between January and February.

And one more fatality has been recorded as a co-incident death, moving the total to 209.

Meanwhile, there were

229 new cases with ages ranging from 23 days to 97 years, pushing the total to 126,222.

Of the new cases, 134 are women and 95 are men.

COVID parish breakdown: Kingston and St Andrew - 53, St Catherine - 51, St Ann - 20, Portland-18, St James - 18, Manchester - 16, St Elizabeth - 13, Clarendon - 12, Westmoreland - 12, Hanover - 7, Trelawny - 5, St Mary - 4 and St Thomas - 0

A total of 2,427 tests were conducted.

The country's positivity rate stands at 24.9%.



In the meantime, there were 184 more recoveries, increasing the total to 71,623.

Some 392 persons are in

hospital with 94 being moderately ill, 48 severely ill and 10 critically ill.

And 18,834 persons are in quarantine at home.

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gramme, which seeks to "take stock" of the forest resources.

This multi-year project, according to the Guyana Forestry Commission, will see the "updating of forest resource information that is essential for national and concession-level planning and scientific research and referencing to support the modern outlook of the National Forest Policy and the Low Carbon Development Strategy." The last time that a National Forest Inventory was executed was some 50 years ago.

Nonetheless, the ongoing implementation of the inventory will see field-data collection on state forests by administrative regions - all except for Regions Four and Five, where no state forests occur. In 2021, the GFC targeted clusters in Regions 10, Two and Three, before moving onto Regions Six and Nine.

Minister Bharrat said that the new

effort will allow for the "mapping out" of various sections of the forest, to ascertain the number of trees that it holds, the sizes of those trees, and the species to which they belong.

According to information released by the forestry commission, the inventory is also expected to provide several key benefits at the national level, including, but not limited to, the "stratification of Guyana's forests" based on the quantity and quality of forest resources in different areas, resulting in efficient zonation of forests based on intended use; identification of areas for conservation and protection; and providing baseline data for understanding the forest dynamics in these areas; allow for efficient biological and ecological research by providing preliminary baseline data on forest species, composition and distribution; integration of forest inventories with GIS/Remote Sensing technology, using empirical national forest data to

design specific technologies for the monitoring of Guyana's forests; and provide a reference dataset on forest resources for long-term monitoring and decision-making, including creating historical records of forest use for future generations.

Further, Minister Bharrat noted that the coming years would see all extractive sectors benefitting from a number of infrastructural projects, including the much-anticipated Orealla to Moleson Creek Road. "What we are doing is to spend a lot on public infrastructure...when you spend government funds on public infrastructure, it creates jobs. It means that you would have to purchase your materials from local businesses, so you find that everyone will do well once there is public spending," Minister Bharrat reasoned.

Meanwhile, the expected passage of Budget 2022 is expected to see notable investments in forestry.

Ukraine crisis: World leaders step up talks amid invasion fears

BBC - World leaders are stepping up efforts to reduce tensions over Ukraine as fears of a Russian invasion grow.

French President Emmanuel Macron is meeting Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Moscow, while US President Joe Biden hosts German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Washington.

Russia currently has more than 100,000 troops massed on Ukraine's borders.

Western powers accuse the country of planning an invasion, something Russia has repeatedly denied.

US officials said on Sunday that Russia has assembled 70% of military forces needed for a full-scale invasion.

In recent weeks, Moscow has demanded that the Western military alliance Nato ban Ukraine from ever becoming a member, and that the group cuts its troop numbers in eastern Europe.

Nato has rejected both demands. It has instead suggested talks on other areas, such as limiting nuclear weapons.

The tensions between Russia, Ukraine and the West come nearly eight years after Russia annexed Ukraine's southern Crimea peninsula and backed a bloody rebellion in the eastern Donbas region.

Moscow accuses the



Vladimir Putin (left) and Emmanuel Macron (right) held talks in Moscow on Monday [Photo credit: Reuters]

Ukrainian government of failing to implement the Minsk agreement - an international deal sponsored by Germany and France to restore peace to the east, where Russian-backed rebels control swathes of territory and at least 14,000 people have been killed since 2014.

The French president - who is expected to seek re-election in April - is speaking with Mr Putin in the Russian capital on Monday evening. The pair will then hold a joint news conference.

As talks began the Russian president praised Mr Macron for his efforts "to resolve the crisis" in Ukraine.

Mr Macron meanwhile said he hoped to "avoid a war", and that the talks

aimed to de-escalate tensions and build "elements of confidence, stability and visibility for everyone".

France currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU. On Tuesday, Mr Macron will fly on to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, for talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Ahead of the trip, Mr Macron told a French newspaper that he believed a deal over Ukraine was within reach, and said Russia had a right to raise its own security concerns.

Russia's objective was "not Ukraine, but a clarification of the rules... with Nato and the EU", he said.

But Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for President Putin, tampered down expectations for the talks on

Monday.

There has been "nothing new on the topic of security guarantees for Russia" in recent days, he said in quotes published by Reuters news agency. "The situation is too complex to expect decisive breakthroughs in the course of one meeting."

Separately, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has flown to Washington for talks with US President Joe Biden.

It comes after public criticism at home and abroad of Germany for not doing enough to support Ukraine. While Mr Scholz has said Russia would pay a "high price" for an invasion, his country has refused to send lethal weaponry to Ukraine.

Yesterday, however, *cont'd on 20*

Crippling protests in Canada over Covid-19 rules enter second week

(CNN) - Protests across Canada over a gamut of Covid-19 regulations are stretching into a second week of blocked roads and sometimes-dangerous rallies, with claims of hate-related incidents under investigation and arrests made amid reports of rocks and eggs thrown.

Sparked by truckers who drove into the heart of Ottawa on January 29 to protest new coronavirus vaccine and testing rules, more demonstrations with trucks left idling in roads sprouted over the weekend. In Toronto, trucks blocked a major intersection for hours, impeding emergency responders. Protests also erupted in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Quebec City.

Trucks and hundreds of protesters on Monday still occupy the downtown core in Ottawa, where fuel is banned from entering the protest "red zone" in front of parliament.

Of more than 60 criminal investigations underway in the capital city, most involve alleged hate crimes, property damage, thefts and mischief, police there said.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced a week ago he tested positive for Covid-19, remains isolated at an undisclosed location, with only private meetings on his schedule for the day; he is fully vaccinated and boosted.

Ottawa's city council is set to meet Monday, a day after Mayor Jim Watson



[Photo credit: CNN]

declared a state of emergency because of the "Freedom Convoy" protests. Most businesses in downtown Ottawa have been closed for more than a week or have reduced hours, with owners complaining of financial losses as customers dwindle.

"Declaring a state of emergency reflects the serious danger and threat to the safety and security of residents posed by the ongoing demonstrations and highlights the need for support from other jurisdictions and levels of government," Watson said in a statement.

The demonstrations began as an objection to a recent vaccine mandate requiring truckers entering Canada

to either be fully vaccinated or face testing and quarantine requirements. Other protesters have joined to rail against mask mandates, lockdowns, restrictions on gatherings and other Covid-19 preventative efforts.

"The whole event has gone beyond just vaccines, and it is now about the entire ordeal," protester James MacDonald told CNN, adding he's been in Ottawa since last weekend and has no plan to leave until health measures are dropped.

Canada has one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, with about 4 in every 5 Canadians fully vaccinated, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

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Germany's defence minister announced the country would send a further 350 troops to Lithuania, to add to Nato's presence there. There are already 500 German troops stationed in the country.

The US and German

leaders are likely to discuss Nord Stream 2, a key gas pipeline running from Russia to Germany. The US has threatened to stop the pipeline from opening, while Germany has only said it will not rule out imposing sanctions on the project.

Mr Biden and Mr Scholz

will also hold a news conference after their discussions on Monday.

Like Mr Macron, the German chancellor will also head to Kyiv later this week for further talks. The German foreign minister is already in the city, alongside counterparts from other Eu-

ropean nations.

UK Defence Minister Ben Wallace meanwhile announced on Monday that his country would be sending an additional 350 troops to Poland amid tensions over Ukraine, to "send a strong signal that Britain and Poland stand side by side".

Australia to open borders to vaccinated travelers on Feb. 21

AP — Australia will open its borders to all vaccinated tourists and business travelers from Feb. 21 in a further relaxation of pandemic restrictions announced Monday.

Australia imposed some of the world's toughest travel restrictions on its citizens and permanent residents in March 2020 to prevent them from bringing COVID-19 home.

When the border restrictions were relaxed in November in response to an increasing vaccination rate among the Australian population, international students and skilled migrants were prioritized over tourists in being welcomed back to Australia.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his senior ministers agreed on Monday that the border would reopen to all vaccinated visas holders from Feb. 21.

Morrison said visitors must have proof of vaccination. He referred to Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic being deported by the Australian government last month because he was not vaccinated against coronavirus.

"Events earlier in the year should have sent a very clear message, I think, to everyone around the world that that is the requirement to enter into Australia," Morrison said.



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison speaks to the media during a press conference in Canberra, yesterday. [Photo Credit: AP]

The Djokovic case demonstrated that visitors gaining visas through an automated process before setting off for Australia does not guarantee that they will meet entry requirements on arrival.

Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said visitors who could provide proof of a medical reason why they could not be vaccinated could apply for a travel exemption.

Visitors to Australia could also have to contend with various states' COVID-19 rules if they move around the country.

The strictest state border rules are enforced by Western Australia which covers a third of the island

continent.

The state allows only 265 international arrivals a week and requires a 14-day quarantine period.

Australia delayed its staged border reopening after two Australians who returned from southern Africa on Nov. 27 became the first to test positive for the omicron variant.

The arrivals of students and skilled workers were postponed by two weeks until Dec. 15.

Tourist operators have been lobbying the government to bring tourists back sooner.

The southern hemisphere summer is in its final month.

The Australian Tourism

Export Council, the peak industry body representing the nation's tourism export sector, said tourism operations were looking forward to rebuilding their markets.

"Australian tourism businesses will rejoice in the news that our borders will reopen to all international travelers," the council's managing director Peter Shelley said.

"It's been a long, hard and desperate road for every tourism business across the country and we have lost many along the way, but this news will give those who have survived a clear target to work towards and a start point for the rebuilding of the industry," Shelley added.

Hamilton returns to the public eye

Lewis Hamilton has returned to the public eye for the first time in two months following the controversial end to last year's Grand Prix world championship.

Hamilton has not spoken since losing out on a record eight world title to Red Bull's Max Verstappen in Last December's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The Mercedes driver posted on Twitter, "I've been gone. Now I'm back."

There is doubt over Hamilton's return to Formula 1 this season having lost faith in the sport's governing body.

Mercedes posted a picture of Hamilton posing in his race overalls and holding his crash helmet, accompanied by the words: "Keep rising."

All drivers are expected to meet this week with representatives of the governing body the FIA to discuss the Abu Dhabi race, their feelings about



Lewis Hamilton

what happened and the various problems that arose last season.

A number of teams expressed discomfort after the race about the way it had been handled.

Race director Michael Masi's errors in Abu Dhabi were merely the biggest and latest of a series of controversies through 2021 to do with consistency of application of the rules.

Winter Olympics: Kamila Valieva lands historic quadruple jump



Kamila Valieva

Russian 15-year-old Kamila Valieva became the first female figure skater to land a quadruple jump at an Olympic Games as she underlined her status as hot favourite for the women's event.

Competing in the team event, where the Russian Olympic Committee had already sealed the gold medal ahead of the United States and Japan, she executed a wonderful quadruple salchow at the start of her free skate.

As someone who has set records nearly every time she has competed since making her senior debut less than six months ago, it was no sur-

prise that she in fact landed a second quad later in the routine.

Quad jumps - featuring four rotations of the body mid-air - are still rare in women's figure skating although Valieva has been performing them regularly in competition this season.

Even though she later fell on an attempt at a third quad, Monday's performance scored 30 points more than the second-placed skater, Kaori Sakamoto, and came the day after she had announced her arrival on the Olympic stage with a short program that was just shy of her own world record score.

Greenwood dropped by Nike



Manchester United footballer Mason Greenwood has been dropped by sportswear giant Nike following his arrest on suspicion of rape.

The 20-year-old was also arrested on suspicion of assault and then later on suspicion of sexual assault and making threats to kill.

The forward was later released on bail by Greater Manchester Police.

Nike previously said it had suspended its relationship with him but the company has now officially ended it.

Sadio Mane on Afcon win: The best day of my life!

Sadio Mane says winning Senegal's first Africa Cup of Nations is the highlight of his career.

He scored the winning penalty in the shootout against Egypt, having seen a first-half spot kick saved as Sunday's game ended 0-0 after extra time.

The West Africans had previously lost two Na-

tions Cup finals, including a 1-0 defeat by Algeria three years ago.

"It's the best day of my life and the best trophy of my life," the 29 year-old Liverpool forward said.

"I am happy for myself, my people and all my family."

Mane was also named player of the tournament.



Sadio Mane

IOC won't decide on investigating Peng Shuai's assault allegations



Peng Shuai

International Olympic Committee spokesperson Mark Adams said it was not in a position to decide if there should be an investigation into Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai's seemingly sexual assault allegations.

Shuai described reports she accused a high ranking Chinese official of sexual assault as a "huge misunderstanding."

The former doubles world

number one said in a social media post that she was forced to have sex with former vice premier Zhang Gaoli. Her post was wiftly deleted and her subsequent silence raised fears over her safety.

Speaking to reporters from French sport paper L'Equipe in a hour long face-to-face interview Peng said

"I never said anyone had sexually assaulted me in any way."

Paul Collingwood named England interim head coach for West Indies Test series

Paul Collingwood has been appointed as England's interim men's head coach for the three-match Test series against West Indies in March.

Chris Silverwood left his role as head coach last week following England's 4-0 Ashes defeat by Australia.

Former all-rounder Collingwood took charge of England's 3-2 Twenty20 series defeat in the Caribbean last month.

"I am genuinely excited to be leading the Test team for the tour of the Caribbean," he said.

"I can't wait to get started."

The Test squad is set to be announced on Tuesday.

England will arrive in Antigua on 25 February and will play a four-day warm-up match starting on 1 March followed by three Tests.

The first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua starts on 8 March.

Collingwood, 45, was part of England's coaching staff at the T20 World Cup



Paul Collingwood played 68 Tests, 197 ODIs and 36 T20s for England - leading them to the 2010 World Twenty20 title (Credit: Getty Images)

and the Ashes.

Silverwood, director of cricket Ashley Giles and assistant coach Graham Thorpe have all stepped down following a run that has seen England win only one of their past 14 Tests.

Sir Andrew Strauss has temporarily taken over from Giles and the former captain has appointed Collingwood.

Joe Root will remain

as Test captain, with Ben Stokes as vice-captain.

"Having a challenging Test series against the West Indies straight off the back of the Ashes disappointment gives us a chance from now to reset and rebuild," said Collingwood.

"My objective is to give players clarity, direction and encouragement for them to start building some-

thing special.

"I have spoken to Joe Root and Ben Stokes, and both are excited and passionate to take the team forward in this new cycle.

"Although they know it won't be easy, they have the desire and bravery to do things differently to ensure the team can prosper.

"We have an opportunity to get back on track.