



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTX PRESS

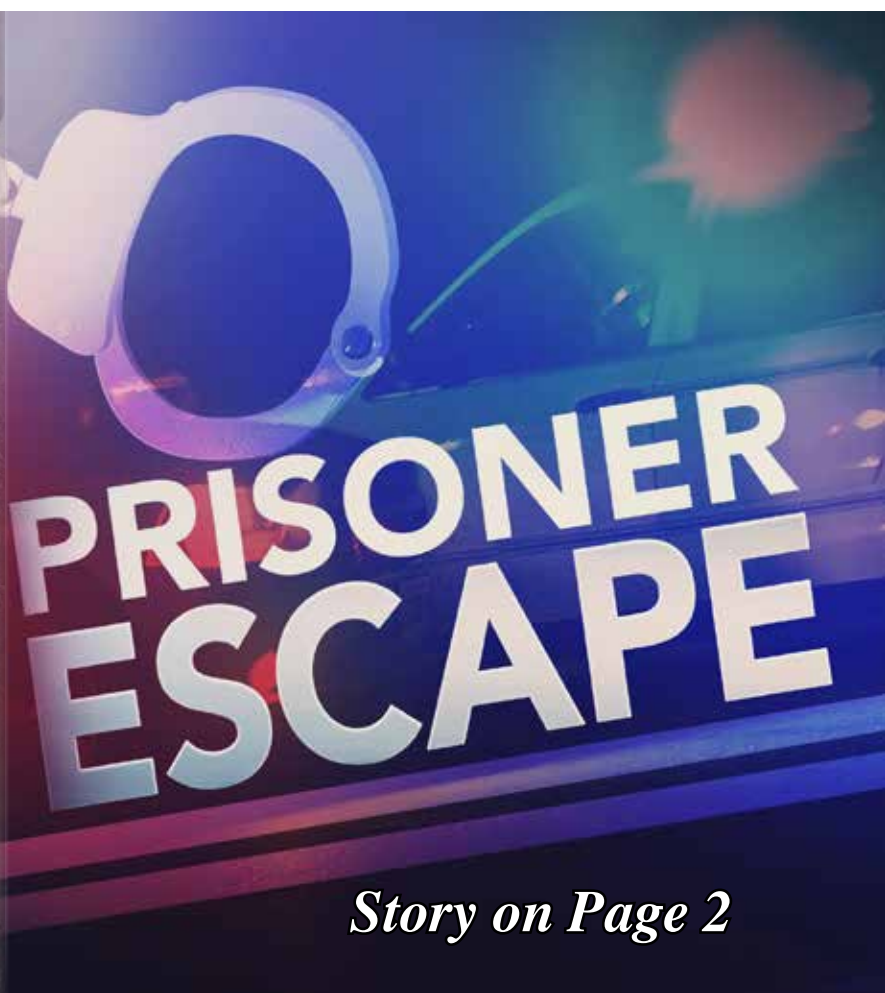
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2022

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 28

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# MANHUNT LAUNCHED FOR ESCAPED PRISONER



# Law enforcement on the hunt for escaped prisoner

The police are seeking the public's assistance in finding escaped prisoner Shanell Thomas.

According to prison officials, Thomas escaped while working on the prison farm located at Diamond Estate around noon on Tuesday.

He is described as medium built, approximately 190 lbs, 5 feet 7 inches tall and fair in complexion.

Thomas, who is serving time for a number of convictions, was scheduled to be released in November 2026.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs is appealing to



Shanell Thomas

anyone with information regarding Shanell Thomas' whereabouts, or who may have seen him, to contact the nearest police station or Her Majesty's Prison immediately.

The prison adminis-

tration is also advising inmate Thomas to turn himself in to the nearest police station.

In 2017, the escaped inmate who goes by the aliases "Mabz" and "Malice", was charged with the

kidnapping and aggravated robbery of two women.

He held the women at knife point and, in the early evening hours of 3rd March 2017, forced them into a car owned by one of the women.

Thomas then drove to a construction site where he demanded money from them.

After realising they had no cash, he demanded their mobile phones and bank cards along with their pins. He then bound the women and fled.

They later freed themselves and sought assistance.



**What are the requirements for my Learner's Permit?**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**REQUIREMENTS**

- > Valid Passport or Birth Certificate
- > 1 Passport Size Photo
- > Medical Letter from a Medical Doctor. Not an Eye Doctor; the letter is valid for one year.

**FEE \$50.00 xcd**

**THINK SAFETY FIRST**

**ASTB**  
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



## MP Chet Greene notes importance of Caribbean nationals' contributions

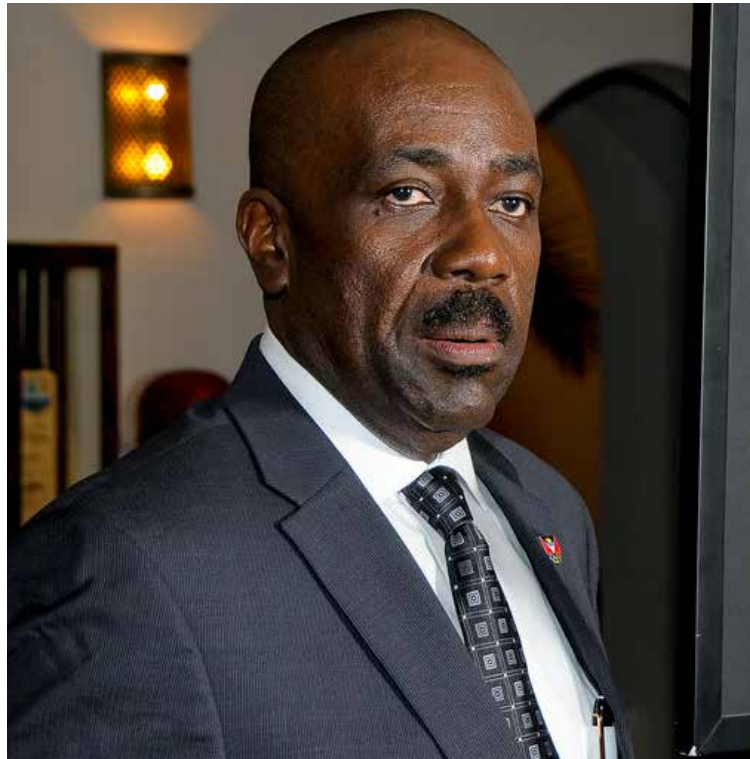
On the heels of the recently announced immigration amnesty, Minister of Immigration, E. P. Chet Greene, has underscored the importance of non-nationals, and Caribbean nationals in particular in the development of Antigua and Barbuda.

The government has from time to time over the years offered immigration amnesty to those whose status in the country may have become irregular. However, this amnesty is particularly welcome as the government acknowledged that many people may have lapsed on their immigration status due to the pandemic.

Many people found themselves out of work and suffered financial hardship which may have made it difficult to come up with the required fees. Additionally, there was the concern that members of the non-national community may have refrained from accepting the COVID-19 vaccine for fear of being discovered.

The immigration amnesty will allow individuals to regularise their status without facing penalties or threat of deportation.

In an appearance on Pointe FM on Tuesday, Minister Greene noted the long standing and close ties Antigua and Barbuda has with many of the countries whose nationals have made their home here. With the



*Minister of Immigration, E. P. Chet Greene*

many common ties that are shared, Greene pointed out that Antigua and Barbuda will continue to remain a friend to its residents from neighbouring countries.

Moreover, with the \$1.64 billion budget recently announced by Prime Minister Gaston Browne which revealed plans for major developments designed to revitalise the economy, Mr. Greene noted that the contributions of Caribbean nationals is uniquely vital.

“On this occasion we are offering an amnesty, because you would have heard the prime minister on Thursday last week, enunciate on the plans for 2022 and those plans, by their very nature are not just a one year plan. Those plans will span a number of years by virtue of

their size and scope.

“So when you look at the plans for development it makes a point very clearly... that we will need to have our critical mass enhanced. We will need to have a workforce superior to what we currently have. And to do so we are saying that the persons to do so - our Caribbean brothers and sisters who live here - should not feel in any way set upon, in any way left out. And the best way for them to do that is to allow for them to have that degree of comfort through an amnesty,” Greene said speaking to Pointe FM’s Vernon Springer.

He went on to explain that it is vital for the government to have a true picture of the composition of the entire population, includ-

ing non-nationals as this impacts the government’s ability to properly see to the needs of all its citizens and residents.

“The regularisation of persons here four years and longer who, until now, are not properly landed or properly recorded, allows the government to plan housing, plan education, plan healthcare...plan just about every aspect and facet of national life.

Greene continued that it is as a result of proper immigration and border management that the country was largely able to continue to meet the needs of the entire population throughout the worst parts of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

“The Labour Party administration over the years has been very careful in terms of our management of our borders and, notwithstanding the fact that we have so many Caribbean nationals living amongst us, I think the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the point that our policy is significant, because we managed the nation’s numbers during the pandemic, with limited resources and declining resources, we managed all of the numbers we had throughout the period.”

The immigration amnesty during which eligible non-nationals may regularise their status runs from 1st March - 30th April 2022.

## Two new blocks added to SMSS expansion

Newly constructed Administrative and Science Blocks at St. Mary's Secondary School are providing much needed capacity for its growing student population.

A dedication ceremony was held Tuesday at the school to commission the buildings which were constructed under the second basic education programme following the signing of an agreement between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean Development Bank several years ago.

Previously, St. Mary's Secondary School's capacity was capped at 200 students, with an enrolment of 182 pupils. Now, the expansion allows for 350 students with a current population of 220.

Minister of Education and Sports Daryll Mathew said the expansion of the school, and other institutions of learning, is an example of the government's commitment to education which he described as "profound".

"I need not mention our success with the University



of the West Indies being domiciled here in Antigua and Barbuda. A few weeks ago we opened a new wing at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy. Today, we are dedicating this completed facility. In a few weeks, we will be opening an Early Childhood Centre in Buckleys."

The education minister used his remarks to make a pitch for an early childhood centre to be constructed which will serve the south of the island. He proposed that this centre could be constructed on part of the nine acre St. Mary's Secondary School campus.

"The experts will let you know that a child's ability to learn is at its peak between the ages of zero and five years old and so if our children, in this case in the south, but more generally if our children in Antigua and Barbuda are to achieve the greatness that we know we have the potential to achieve, we must start at the early childhood level," Minister Matthew maintained.












Saint Mary's South Parliamentarian Samantha Marshall credited her father, former MP Hugh Marshall Sr., with foresight having convinced his Cabinet col-

leagues many decades earlier to construct a secondary school in the area.

She said schools outside of the city carried a stigma for many years, but today that image is changing with St. Mary's Secondary School serving as a prime example of the quality education offered.

"As a representative, I am one of them who have always said don't call me to tell me you don't want your child to attend the St. Mary's Secondary School. Don't call me to tell me you don't want your child to attend Jennings. As the representative, I have full confidence in the quality of education that you can get at the south school. That means I have full confidence in the principal and the teachers that are here."

Minister Marshall stated the expansion is a "positive transformation" with opportunities for future development.

Wed 09   Day		Wed 09   Night	
<b>81°</b>		<b>73°</b>	
23%	E 16 mph	16%	E 13 mph
Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		Clear skies with a few passing clouds. Low 73F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	
 Humidity <b>69%</b>	 UV Index <b>10 of 10</b>	 Humidity <b>73%</b>	 UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
 Sunrise <b>6:36 am</b>	 Sunset <b>6:06 pm</b>	 Moonrise <b>12:24 pm</b>	 Moonset <b>12:54 am</b>
 Waxing Gibbous			

## Rawdon Turner accuses UPP's Bowen & Watts of defaming his character

Antigua Barbuda Labour Party St. Peter hopeful Rawdon Turner has responded to United Progressive Party candidates, Sherfield Bowen and Algernon "Serpent" Watts' attacks on his business on radio and Facebook live streams.

Bowen the UPP candidate for St Phillip's South was charged, and later convicted of the 2003 killing of Tessa Barthley.

Bowen, who was intimately involved with Barthley, shot her in the neck on 16th December 2003 outside his office on Nevis Street. Barthley died as a result of her injury seven days later.

He was convicted of manslaughter on 22nd February 2005 and sentenced to serve 5 years in prison. This conviction was later overturned in 2007 by the Court of Appeal on the grounds that the trial judge misdirected the jury when giving instructions on the law ahead of deliberation.

Watts is part owner of Observer Media and the UPP candidate for St. George's.

Turner, on Tuesday, issued a statement refuting the claims made by Bowen and Watts describing them as "defamatory" and "seriously libelous allegations".

Mr. Turner's full statement is printed below.

### MEDIA STATEMENT

On February 5th, 2022 on the Observer Media Radio Snake Pit show, false and defamatory statements regarding my business interests were made and I find it necessary to respond to those untruths and seriously libelous allegations made by Mr Sherfield Bowen and Mr Algernon 'Serpent' Watts.

The fact, I am the owner of Marl-Stone Industries Limited an Antiguan



*Rawdon Turner*

and Barbudan company. The same ambition and drive that propelled me to work hard to provide for my family and contribute to the development of my community coupled with my experience in construction and a natural understanding of aggregates also propelled me to form Marl-Stone Industries Limited.

Further facts, because of my professional and business interests I personally set out to identify suitable and available locations that could produce aggregates of the type currently mined in Antigua. My first application for a lease of a parcel of land in 2017 was unsuccessful but upon finding a location in Bethesda, the same as identified in the live Facebook video streamed by Algernon 'Serpent' Watts on 6 February 2022, the company applied to the government for a lease. Lease negotiations ensued and were finally completed in 2020 with terms and conditions akin to similar leases granted by previous administrations including the UPP. Therefore, the lies purported by Mr Sherfield Bowen in the live video that the quarry was discovered by the government and then siphoned off to a private company for enrichment is completely unfortunate and baseless.

The lease entered into by the company was not an opportunity to deprive

the Government or the Bethesda Community as stated again by Mr Bowen and Mr Watts, but rather a lease that the company applied for like any other interested citizen whilst making significant investments and risks especially at a time when development and economic activity were uncertain.

Most importantly the deliberately erroneous statement that the company made millions of dollars from the government is total fabrication. The government has not ordered, nor have we provided any materials to the government from the quarry. My involvement in the operations of Marl-Stone Industries Limited has not been to corruptly enrich myself or anyone else. Yet the Marl Stone Industries Limited lease and my involvement was intentionally discussed with fabricated lies. The company and its operations involve hard-work, investment and risk-taking by a young local Antiguan and Barbudan.

Finally, I find it concerningly disappointing that I am personally being attacked for my hard-work and entrepreneurial spirit. I am a young man from Parham Town who was educated through my personal and family sacrifices and have kept my head down and focused to create and realize opportunities for not only myself, but others and our communities. Observer Radio, Mr Bowen and Mr Watts need to immediately retract the false and defamatory statements made about Marl-Stone Industries Limited and myself personally. Instead of crying down fellow Antiguan and Barbudans, focus on identifying and developing realistic opportunities for development and economic growth for Antigua and Barbuda. That should be the focus of your platform and the issues you wish to discuss; not personal libelous attacks.



## Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs responds to fish seizure

On Friday 4th February 2022, four unlicensed fishermen docked into the River landing site in Barbuda on an unregistered 13ft Boston whaler.

Fisheries officials were on site when they called the police for assistance when the fishermen refused to comply.

They were then transported to the Barbuda police station where 334 parrotfish fish were taken from the ice coolers.

The fishermen were fined and the fishing vessel was seized for further investigation.

The fish was distributed to the Barbuda community as the fishing of the Parrotfish is completely banned in Barbuda.

Outside fishermen need a special area permit to fish 3.5 miles inside of



Barbuda waters.

A person shall not fish or attempt to fish in Barbuda without having with them a valid Barbuda special area permit issued by the officer, except that a person who is under the age of 16 may engage in recreational fishing without such a permit, provided that he or she complies with all national and local regulations.

A person shall not take, attempt to



take, possess, place for sale, purchase, or have in his or her possession any fish form which includes the parrotfish.

## NODS facilitates consultations on CAP expansion

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is expanding the various means through which hazard warning alerts can be sent to the public through the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP).

Several radio stations have expressed an interest in being a part of the process by allowing emergency messages to interrupt regu-

lar programming.

NODS Projects Officer Delamine Andrew-Williams along with Regional CAP Technician Damian Barker from Anguilla met with representatives from four private radio stations along with the state-owned Antigua Broadcasting Service (ABS) on Monday.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Manage-



ment Agency (CDEMA) and the European Union (EU), through the Country Directed Fund (CDF) initiative, have provided funding to purchase the necessary equipment to facilitate this through a project titled "Creating an Enabling Environment for Early Warning Communications." State-owned ABS has already installed the equipment.

There is also the possibility of including cell broadcast, which is a method of sending messages to multiple cellphone users. Cell Broadcast is not affected by traffic load and is said to be very useful during a disaster as regular text messaging could cause congestion.

A meeting was also held on Tuesday with representa-

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## New facilities for Parham Police Station

Police Commissioner Atlee Rodney has approved of the new building his officers will occupy while executing their duties at Parham Police Station.

The new facility, which replaced the rundown building that was rendered uninhabitable in 2021, was handed over by the Ministry of Works during a ceremony yesterday.



Before returning to the original location, the Parham Police Station operated from the ticket booth at Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground and Coolidge Police Station.

Commissioner Rodney said the new facility represented a small step towards improving the working conditions of the Parham Police Station and all stations across Antigua and Barbuda. He added that the temporary police station will bring relief to the men and women who have over the years endured some difficult conditions.

Rodney noted the Parham Station represents a purposely built and fitted structure that holds all the components officers will need to carry out their duties efficiently. He appealed to the officers to be appreciative of the efforts that were made to bring them comfort in their working environment.

The top cop thanked the Ministry of Public Works and officials within the Ministry of Public Safety for delivering their promise. Rodney further mentioned that it is his hope that other stations around the island and in Bar-



*Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney*  
buda will also be upgraded.

The building includes a general report area, rest room for guards, private interview area, two holding cells, senior officer and inspector offices and a kitchen.

A water tank and generator were installed to ensure the building is fully functional.



**cont'd from pg 6**

tives from the telecommunications companies operating in the country who have agreed to take NODS' proposal back to their heads as

to the way forward.

According to Andrew-Williams, NODS will be hiring a legal consultant to draft the relevant legislation to guide and maintain

use of the interrupts for radio and television stations as well as the cell broadcast by telecommunications providers.

The CAP early warning

system was installed in Antigua and Barbuda in March 2018 and presently sends alerts via an app on smart phones and also through email.



# Black History Month Spotlight

## Prince Klaas - Antigua's Disputed Slave Conspiracy of 1736

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

*Continued from yesterday's issue of Pointe Xpress*

It was against this backdrop that the Antiguan slaves found a leader. The planters called him Court, a slave name that he abhorred. His African name seems to have been Kwaku Takyi. Present-day Antiguan, however, know him as Prince Klaas and consider him a national hero. Having come to the island from West Africa in 1704, at age 10, Klaas became the property of a prominent plantation owner by the name of Thomas Kerby. He evidently possessed considerable presence; Kerby raised him to the rank of "head slave" and brought him to live in the Antiguan capital, St. John's.

According to David Barry Gaspar, who has written in more detail on the subject than anybody else, Klaas was one of the masterminds behind an elaborate plot, hatched late in 1735, to overthrow white rule on Antigua. The conspiracy allegedly involved slaves on a number of large plantations, and was built around an audacious effort to destroy the island's planters in a single spectacular explosion. Taking advantage of a large ball due to be held in St. John's in October 1736, the slaves planned to smuggle a 10-gal-

lon barrel of gunpowder into the building and blow it up. The detonation was to be the signal for slaves on the surrounding plantations to rise, murder their masters and march on the capital from four directions. A general massacre would follow, and Prince Klaas himself would be enthroned as leader of a new black kingdom on the island.

The planters on Antigua had no difficulty believing the details of this conspiracy—which, as they themselves would have been well aware, bore a striking resemblance to the infamous Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Court records dating to the time state that the conspiracy was discovered only by chance, after the ball was postponed by nearly three weeks and several slaves who knew of the plan could not resist hinting that things were about to change. Their "insolence" increased "to a very Dangerous Pitch," Justice of the Peace Roberth Arbuthnot observed; a British constable reported that when he had tried to break up a crowd of slaves, one had shouted to him: "Damn you, boy, it's your turn now, but it will be mine by and by, and soon too!"

Arbuthnot was sufficiently alarmed to make inquiries,



*August 1, 1834—Emancipation Day—is celebrated in Antigua and Barbuda*

which soon turned into a full-blown criminal investigation. One slave gave sufficient details for him to begin making arrests, and under interrogation (and occasionally torture), a total of 32 slaves confessed to having some stake in the scheme.

In all, 132 were convicted of participating in it. Of this number, five, including Klaas, were broken on the wheel, six were gibbeted (hung in irons until they died

of hunger and thirst) and 77 others were burned at the stake.

In the eyes of the Antiguan government, Prince Klaas's planned rebellion was well evidenced. A stream of witnesses testified that the plot existed; Klaas himself, together with his chief lieutenant—a creole (that is, a slave born on the island) known as Tomboy, whose job it would have been to plant

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# Black History Month Spotlight

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the powder—eventually confessed to it. Events on the Danish island of St. John showed that slaves were capable of executing conspiracies, and there were other parallels as well. In Barbados, in 1675 and in 1692, the authorities uncovered plots to massacre the white community that had apparently been kept secret for as long as three years. In each of these cases, the leaders of the planned rebellions were said to have been “Coroman-tees”—slaves from what is now Ghana, the same part of West Africa from which Prince Klaas had come.

Klaas is a figure of compelling interest to historians. Gaspar and others argue that his influence over his fellow slaves went further than the Antiguan planters of the day realized, since, according to the official report on the planned uprising, “it was fully proved that he had for many Years covertly assumed among his Countrymen, the Title of King, and had been by them address’d, and treated as such.” They further identify him as an Ashanti, a member of a tribal confederation renowned for discipline and courage, not to mention abundant use of human sacrifice.

The most intriguing evidence relating to Prince Klaas concerns a public ceremony held a week before the planned rebellion. In the course of this ritual, Gaspar says, Klaas was enthroned by an “obey man”—an obeah-man, that is; a priest, shaman or sorcerer who practiced the West African folk religion known as voodoo or santería. In other Caribbean risings, it was the obeah-man who administered oaths of loyalty to would-be rebels with a mixture made of gunpowder, grave dirt and cock’s blood; strong belief in his supernatural powers helped cement loyalty. Michael Craton is not alone in arguing that the ceremony Antigua’s obeah-man presided over was actually a war dance:

“Set up by Tackey and Tomboy ‘in Mrs Dunbar Parkes’ Pasture, near the Town,’ viewed by many unsuspecting



*The cane boiling house at Betty's Hope, Antigua's first sugar plantation, pictured in about 1910. Wikimedia Commons*

whites and creole slaves... as simply a picturesque entertainment. But for many slaves it held a binding significance, for it was an authentic Ikem dance performed by an Ashanti king in front of his captains once he had decided on war."

Other evidence that Prince Klaas was really planning an uprising comes from Arbutnot's inquiry, which concluded that there had been warning signs of rebellion. Slaves had been seen congregating after midnight and heard blowing conch shells to announce their meetings. Yet —confessions aside— little physical evidence of a conspiracy was ever produced. The “10-gallon barrel of powder” that Tomboy was to have used to blow up the ball was not recovered; nor, despite extensive searches, were any weapons caches found.

All this has led researchers such as Jason Sharples and Kwasi Konadu to direct renewed attention to the slaves’ own testimonies. And here, it must be acknowledged, there is good reason to doubt that the confessions obtained by Arbutnot were wholly reliable. Konadu persuasively argues that Klaas’s “dance” was probably a familiar Ashanti ceremony acclaiming a newly chosen leader, and not a declaration of war. Sharples demonstrates that Arbutnot’s prisoners would have found it easy to exchange information and discuss what the captors wished to hear, and adds that they must have known that a confession—and the

betrayal of as many of their fellow Africans as possible—was their one hope of saving themselves.

He also supplies an especially revealing detail: that one slave, known as “Langford’s Billy,” who “escaped with his life by furnishing evidence against at least fourteen suspects” and was merely banished in consequence, turned up in New York four years later, heavily implicated in another suspected slave plot that many researchers now concede was merely a product of hysteria. Thrown into prison, Billy confided to a fellow inmate that he “understood these affairs very well” as a result of his experiences on Antigua, and that “unless he... did confess and bring in two or three, he would either be hanged or burnt.” He even offered, Sharples says, likely names “as proper ones to be accused.”

The verdict thus remains in balance. Large-scale slave rebellions did take place in the Caribbean, and plantation slaves were capable of forming elaborate plans and keeping them secret. Yet, as Jerome Handler argues in the case of the supposed Barbados plots, there is also evidence that frightened British overstated the threats they faced; perhaps Prince Klaas planned something serious, but short of the extermination of all the planters of Antigua.

Finally, it is also worth remembering a point well-made by Michael Johnson,

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# Black History Month Spotlight

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who published an influential article arguing that another renowned African “conspiracy”—the uprising supposedly planned by Denmark Vesey in Charleston in 1822—was probably the product of white panic, duress and leading questions.

Johnson showed that the very hideousness of slavery predisposes historians to search for evidence of slave conspiracies; after all, who would not have tried to rebel against such injustice and cruelty? To find no evidence of black resistance might lead some to conclude that the slaves lacked courage, rather than—as is the fairer verdict—that they had little hope, and were viciously repressed.

Whatever the truth of the Antiguan rebellion, change was slow to come to the island. Measures were put in place to prevent the free association of slaves,

but there was also a slow Christianization of the black population, with most of the work was done by the Moravians, who numbered nearly 6,000 converts by 1785. By 1798, local laws allowed “unrestrained” worship on Sundays.

Uniquely among the isles of the West Indies, Antigua emancipated all its slaves at the first opportunity; the entire plantation workforce of 32,000 souls was freed at midnight on August 1, 1834 the earliest date mandated by Britain’s act of emancipation.

“Some timorous planter families,” noted James Thome and Horace Kimball, two abolitionists who made a six month “emancipation tour” of the West Indies at the behest of the American Anti-Slavery Society, “did not go to bed on emancipation night, fearing lest the same bell which sounded freedom of the slaves might bring the death knell of their masters.” But others greeted their

former slave the next morning, “shook hands with them, and exchanged the most hearty wishes.”

The slaves faced an uncertain future—competing now with whites and with one another for work, and no longer guaranteed any sort of care in their old age. But no trouble of any sort occurred. “There was no frolicking,” Thome and Kimball reported; rather “nearly all the people went to church to ‘tank God to make a we free! There was more “religious” on dat day dan you can tink of!’” And the Antiguan writer Desmond Nicholson puts it this way: “When the clock began to strike midnight, the people of Antigua were slaves...when it ceased, they were all freemen! There had never been in the history of the world so great and instantaneous a change in the condition of so large a body of people. Freedom was like passing suddenly out of a dungeon into the light of the sun.”

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People wait outside of a food distribution in Havana, Cuba on December 21, 2021 [Reuters/Natalia Favre]

## From Havana with love

**By Belen Fernandez**

Sixty years of US embargo on Cuba have not starved the island into ‘democratisation’, the way Washington hoped.

As I was preparing to travel from Mexico to Cuba in early February for a one-month stay, a Cuban friend in Havana messaged me with some tips. If you are going to need things like milk and coffee, he said, be sure to bring them with you.

Indeed, as Cuba now marks six decades of existence under United States embargo, basic commodities are hard to come by – and that is just one aspect of the ongoing US policy of making life hell for Cubans. While the right-wing Cuban exile crowd and allied zealots like the Wall Street Journal’s Mary Anastasia O’Grady prefer to insist that there is “no blockade”, reality indicates very much otherwise.

Sixty years ago, on February 7, 1962, an “Embargo on All Trade with Cuba” entered into effect under the supervision of then-President John F Kennedy, who had taken care beforehand to procure for himself no fewer than 1,200 Cuban cigars. It continues to be the most exhaustive embargo ever imposed on any country by the US, and at the time included a ban on all sales of medicine and food.

This was two years after Kennedy’s predecessor Dwight Eisenhower had made a nifty suggestion during a White House conference. According to the writeup of the January 1960 conference that appears on the State Department website, “the President said that... we could quarantine Cuba. If they (the Cuban people) are hungry, they will throw Castro out”.

Who ever said US statesmen were not charming?

A few months after that, in April

1960, Eisenhower’s Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Lestor Mallory produced a memorandum on the subject of what was to be done about Fidel Castro now that the glory days of brutal US-backed dictatorship in Cuba had come to an end. Significantly, the very first “salient consideration” listed in the memo is that “the majority of Cubans support Castro”. So much for Washington’s favourite old “democracy” argument for regime change.

On account of this problematic majority and other salient considerations, Mallory advised that “every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba”. He continued in nefariously longwinded diplomatic jargon:

“If such a policy is adopted, it should be the result of a positive decision which would call forth a line

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# Guest Opinion

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of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.”

After all, there is nothing quite like adroit and inconspicuous starvation.

Fast forward to 2022, and the sanctions regime against Cuba is going strong, making it the longest-running embargo in US history – and one that has cost Cuba an estimated \$130bn, according to the United Nations. The punitive details have fluctuated over the years, but the US has remained committed to strangling the Cuban example: the notion that there could be a functioning nation that places things like collective wellbeing and free health care and education above soul-sucking consumerism and savage military campaigns.

Penultimate US President Donald Trump imposed 243 new sanctions on the diminutive island, while also lifting a ban on US citizens suing international companies and individuals for utilising former US-owned properties in Cuba that were nationalised by the Cuban government after the 1959 revolution. Imperial grudges die hard.

Current US President Joe Biden – who was supposed to be, you know, nicer than Trump – imposed

even more sanctions, ramping up the de facto US war on Cuba, and, in June 2021, the UN General Assembly voted for the 29th consecutive year in favour of a resolution calling for the end of the US economic blockade.

As is par for the course on such matters, it was 184 nations against the US and Israel – another country where they like to believe that blockaded and besieged people are to blame for their own plight.

In his official explanation to the General Assembly in defence of the US vote, Political Coordinator for the US Mission to the UN Rodney Hunter described sanctions as “one set of tools in our broader effort toward Cuba to advance democracy [and] promote respect for human rights”, encouraging the Assembly “to support the Cuban people in their quest to determine their own future”.

Obviously, preventing people from acquiring needed foods, medicines, and other basic goods is not the first thing that comes to mind when someone says “respect for human rights”. Nevertheless, the only democratic “future” for Cuba is, as ever, the one the US has determined the Cuban people should want.

A far sounder analysis of the Cuba situation appeared just after the UN vote, in the form of an article in *The Nation* by American actor and activist

Danny Glover, who blamed the US embargo for Cuba’s shortage of millions of syringes in the middle of a pandemic: “No company wants to be bogged down navigating the complicated banking and licensing demands the US government places on transactions with Cuba”.

To be sure, the US has placed so many onerous restrictions on Cuba – and made doing business with Cuba such a colossal headache, with potentially gargantuan legal and financial repercussions – that it all seems anything but “adroit and inconspicuous”.

Here in Havana, staple food items and other essential products are conspicuously absent. Milk is an absolute luxury, and coffee is scarce. (I myself would have been equipped with the latter commodity, had the fine folks at the Mexican airline Viva Aerobus not made me leave it on the floor of the Mexico City airport as punishment for violating the weight allowance.)

None of this is to imply, of course, that the Cuban government is flawless – but current flaws must necessarily be analysed within a context of economic asphyxiation by the global superpower. As many an observer has reasoned in response to the argument that the Cuban state uses the embargo as a scapegoat for all its malevolent mismanagement: Why not just end it, then, and deprive the

state of its excuses?

As luck would have it, my first interlocutor in Havana was a 50-year-old man who was in the process of repatriating himself to Cuba from Miami, where he had lived for the past five years working as a mechanic and truck driver. “My whole body hurts when I am in the US,” he told me in animated Cuban Spanish, “and I only begin to relax when I am on a plane out of there”.

He had concluded in his old age, he said with a wink, that he needed very few things to be happy. Life in the US was not one of them, because what he had experienced in the US was not life but rather capitalism – an “American dream” in which he never even had time to go fishing because he was always working. Yes, Cuba was crazy, but it was a craziness he understood and loved – and plus he was tired of listening to Cuban exiles in Miami endlessly plot their right-wing revolution.

Now, as the 60-year-old US embargo forces Cubans to live with less and less while imperial immunity from human decency and compassion proceeds apace, it is worth hanging on, perhaps, to Che Guevara’s words: “The true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love”.

***The views expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect Pointe Xpress’ editorial stance.***



## COVID-19: Coping with Grief and Loss

Many people are experiencing grief during the COVID-19 pandemic. Grief is a normal response to loss during or after a disaster or other traumatic event. Grief can happen in response to loss of life, as well as to drastic changes to daily routines and ways of life that usually bring us comfort and a feeling of stability. Common grief reactions include:

- Shock, disbelief, or denial

- Anxiety

- Distress

- Anger

- Periods of sadness

- Loss of sleep and loss of appetite

Some people may experience multiple losses during a disaster or large-scale emergency event. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, you might be unable to be with a loved one when they die, or unable to mourn someone's death in-person with friends and family.

Other types of loss include unemployment, or not making enough money, loss or reduction in support services, and other changes in your lifestyle.

These losses can happen at the same time, which can complicate or prolong grief and delay a person's ability to adapt, heal, and recover.

Adolescents may also experience grief in ways that are both similar to and different than children and adults.

Adolescents may experience significant changes in their sleep patterns, isolate themselves more, frequently appear irritable or frustrated, withdraw from usual activities, or engage more frequently with technology.

It is important for parents or caregivers to engage with their adolescents over their grief to promote healthy coping and acceptance.

Parents may also need to obtain



Photo credit: Shutterstock

mental health services for the adolescent and family to deal with grief.

### **If you have lost a loved one during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Grieving the loss of a loved one while coping with the fear and anxiety related to the COVID-19 pandemic can be especially overwhelming. Social distancing, "stay-at-home-orders," and limits on the size of in-person gatherings have changed the way friends and family can gather and grieve, including holding traditional funeral services, regardless of whether or not the person's death was due to COVID-19. However, these types of prevention strategies are important to slow the spread of COVID-19.

*Some actions you can take to help you cope with feelings of grief after the loss of a loved one include:*

#### **Connecting with other people**

Invite people to call you or host conference calls with family members and friends to stay connected.

Ask family and friends to share stories and pictures with you via mailed letters, email, phone, or video chat or via apps or social media that allow groups to share with each

other (e.g., group chat, group messaging, Facebook).

Coordinate a date and time for family and friends to honor your loved one by reciting a selected poem, spiritual reading, or prayer within their own households.

#### **Creating memories or rituals**

Develop a virtual memory book, blog, or webpage to remember your loved one, and ask family and friends to contribute their memories and stories.

Take part in an activity, such as planting a tree or preparing a favorite meal, that has significance to you and the loved one who died.

#### **Asking for help from others**

Seek out grief counseling or mental health services, support groups, or hotlines, especially those that can be offered over the phone or online.

Seek spiritual support from faith-based organizations, including your religious leaders and congregations, if applicable.

#### **Seek support from other trusted community leaders and friends.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the family and close friends

*cont'd on pg 14*

## cont'd from pg 13

of a person who died of COVID-19 may experience stigma, such as social avoidance or rejection. Stigma hurts everyone by creating fear or anger towards other people.

Some people may avoid contacting you, your family members, and friends when they would normally reach out to you. Stigma related to COVID-19 is less likely to occur when people know the facts and share them with extended family, friends, and others in your community.

## If you feel distress from other types of loss or change

During the COVID-19

pandemic, you may feel grief due to loss of a job; inability to connect in-person with friends, family or religious organizations; missing special events and milestones (such as graduations, weddings, vacations); and experiencing drastic changes to daily routines and ways of life that bring comfort.

You may also feel a sense of guilt for grieving over losses that seem less important than loss of life. Grief is a universal emotion; there is no right or wrong way to experience it, and all losses are significant.

## Acknowledge your losses and your feelings

## of grief.

Find ways to express your grief. Some people express grief and find comfort through art, gardening, writing, talking to friends or family, cooking, music, gardening or other creative practices.

- Consider developing new rituals in your daily routine to stay connected with your loved ones to replace those that have been lost.

- People who live together may consider playing board games and exercising together outdoors.

- People who live alone or are separated from their loved ones may consider interacting through phone calls and apps that allow for playing games together virtually.

- If you are worried about future losses, try to stay in the present and focus on aspects of your life that you have control over right now.

## Helping children cope with grief

Children may show grief differently than adults. Children may have a particularly hard time understanding and coping with the loss of a loved one. Sometimes children appear sad and talk about missing the person or act out.

Other times, they play, interact with friends, and do their usual activities. As a result of measures taken to limit the spread of COVID-19, they may also grieve over loss of routines

such as going to school and playing with friends. Parents and other caregivers play an important role in helping children process their grief.

To support a child who may be experiencing grief:

- Ask questions to determine the child's emotional state and better understand their perceptions of the event.

- Give children permission to grieve by allowing time for children to talk or to express thoughts or feelings in creative ways.

- Provide age and developmentally appropriate answers.

- Practice calming and coping strategies with your child.

- Take care of yourself and model coping strategies for your child.

- Maintain routines as much as possible.

- Spend time with your child, reading, coloring, or doing other activities they enjoy.

Signs that children may need additional assistance include changes in their behavior (such as acting out, not interested in daily activities, changes in eating and sleeping habits, persistent anxiety, sadness, or depression).

Speak to your child's healthcare provider if troubling reactions seem to go on too long, interfere with school or relationships with friends or family, or if you are unsure of or concerned about how your child is doing.

Form RLNC 6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34  
of the  
Act

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Potters & Belmont	613-1989B	79


**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE  
LOST OR DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE**

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022 by IDONA JACOBS and CASWALL JACOBS, both of Scotts Hill in the Parish of St. John, in the Island of Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda for the replacement of a Land Certificate No. 2102/86 dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1986 and issued to the said IDONA JACOBS and CASWALL JACOBS the applicants herein and being the registered Proprietors of the above-mentioned piece or parcel of Land, which Land Certificate has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022

  
Registrar of Lands

LAND REGISTRY  
JAN 17 2022  
11:42  
Antigua and Barbuda

LAND REGISTRY  
Antigua & Barbuda



## Barbados Minister of Education applauds protesting parents

Barbados Today - Minister of Education Kay McConney has heard the call of scores of protesting parents who last weekend attempted to pressure the Government to reopen schools for face-to-face classes.

McConney said, while she commended protestors who gathered last Saturday outside Government headquarters armed with placards to express their disapproval of the continuation of online school which began in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her ministry has already indicated its intention to work with all of its partners towards a February 21 return to the physical classroom.

Minister McConney commented on the development on Monday, following the ground breaking ceremony for a new track at the Springer Memorial School.

"I am very happy that we live in a country where people can freely express what their concerns are. And



Minister of Education Kay McConney  
[Photo credit: Barbados Today]

I therefore commend the initiative that was taken by those persons who thought that they needed to do so. The Ministry of Education as you are fully aware has already made our statement.

"We made that statement last week that we are intent on working across Government and with all of our partners to see how it is best for us to get to a February 21 face-to-face return to

school.

"And so again my simple comment is bravo to those who have seen it fit to exercise their democratic right in a country that is free and do know that we are looking forward to working with all of them to see how best we can make it to February 21 successfully," McConney said.

Meanwhile, the organisers of the peaceful protest said they hoped Government sticks to its promised February 21 date for students and teachers to return to face-to-face teaching, and noted that they would be considering their next move if the promise is broken.

The parents criticised Government for giving the green light for large sporting events including recent T20 cricket matches hosted in Barbados, at a time when students were still away from the classroom as a result of a spike in COVID-19 cases. School-aged children also attended the protest.

## St. Lucia's PM Philip J Pierre talks food security, imported inflation

Loop -The high cost of living brought about by the supply chain crisis globally as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has renewed calls for Saint Lucia to place greater emphasis on its food security.

As a result, there have been several shortages of basic items such as sugar and flour while in some cases the cost of basic necessities has increased significantly.

Opposition Senator,

Dominic Fedee says, "Government should consider including more zero-rated items in the supermarket so that people can find life a little easier."

On February 1, 2022, the Philip J Pierre Government, understanding the challenges faced by Saint Lucians on a daily basis extended barrel concessions from February 1 to March 31.

However, Prime Minister Philip J Pierre called on all Saint Lucians to make

a serious commitment to at least keep the island self-sufficient in food production, reducing the food import bill and creating an environment to support local businesses.

Prime Minister Pierre says there is no control over imported inflation in the country and that high prices bring into focus the need to ensure better support for local products.

"These prices come  
*cont'd on pg 16*



St. Lucia Prime Minister Philip J Pierre

# Venezuela demands probe after baby dies in migrant boat incident

Al Jazeera - A baby was killed and the mother was injured when Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard officers fired on a boat transporting migrants.

Venezuela has demanded Trinidad and Tobago launch an “exhaustive investigation” into a deadly incident at sea, in which a baby perished and his mother wounded on board a boat carrying about 40 migrants.

Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Keith Rowley said the incident occurred on Saturday when coast guard officers attempted to shoot the vessel’s engines after repeatedly ordering it to stop during what the island nation’s authorities called “security operations” involving human traffickers.

In a news release, the coastguard said the shooting was in “self-defence” and was meant to prevent a boat ramming.

Trinidadian officials said the baby, identified as Yaelvis Santoyo Sarabia, died in the arms of the mother, Darielvis Sarabia. Sarabia suffered gunshot



*A coast guard interceptor vessel stops to search a boat during a patrol in 2011 [Photo credit: Reuters]*

wounds and was taken to a hospital in stable condition. Officials did not say how the baby died.

On Monday, Caracas called for a probe “to clarify the facts surrounding this fatal incident”.

Trinidadian authorities said the vessel was traveling along a common route for Venezuelans fleeing their poverty-stricken homeland.

Venezuela has been locked in social and economic crises fuelled by international sanctions imposed after President Nicolas Maduro won a second term in 2018 elections dismissed by the Organization of American

States (OAS), the United States, and the European Union as illegitimate.

The United Nations has estimated that more than six million Venezuelans have left the country in recent years, accounting for more than 10 percent of the population. At least 40,000 Venezuelans live in Trinidad and Tobago.

A group of UN agencies on Monday said in a statement they were “deeply saddened” by Saturday’s event.

“No migrant child should ever die, whether traveling with their parents or alone. No mother wants to put the lives of her chil-

dren at risk on a small ship in the deep sea, unless she has no other option,” said Jean Gough, regional director for UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean.

“Two in three Venezuelans on the move are women and children. This tragic event is a stark reminder that they are the most vulnerable among the vulnerable. They deserve special attention, protection and safety – anywhere and anytime.”

Juan Guaido, leader of the US-backed Venezuelan opposition, on Twitter described the shooting as “unjustified”.

David Smolansky, an exiled opposition leader who coordinates the OAS’ response to Venezuela’s migrant crisis, also called on Trinidad and Tobago to investigate the situation.

Rowley, the Trinidadian prime minister, said he had spoken to Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez and expressed the “deepest sympathy on my own behalf and of all the people of Trinidad and Tobago with respect to the unfortunate loss of life of the baby”.

*cont’d from pg 15*

from goods that are bought out of the country and their increases are due to circumstances out of the country.”

He says the only control there is, are the duties and the VAT paid on those items.

According to him, the revenue col-

lected is from import duties, VAT and taxes.

Pierre says food security in Saint Lucia can be improved by consuming locally produced food.

“When I made the point about consuming local foods and I made the point about using our bananas, I was

ridiculed by people who should know better.”

He says there are two options which include the government weighing the consequences of loss of revenue vis-à-vis the cost of imported goods or consuming more local produce.



# Pope Benedict asks for forgiveness but denies wrongdoing over child sex abuse cases

CNN - Pope Benedict XVI has pushed back against accusations that he knew in 1980 that a priest under his control was an abuser, while denying he had intentionally concealed his presence at a meeting about the priest that year.

Benedict, now 94, became the first Pope in centuries to resign when he stepped down in 2013. His eight-year tenure was overshadowed by a global sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church.

Most recently, Benedict has been under fire over his time as Archbishop of Munich and Freising, between 1977 and 1982, after a Church-commissioned report into abuse by Catholic clergy there was published last month.

The report found that he had been informed of four cases of sexual abuse involving minors -- including two during his time in Munich -- but failed to act. The report also revealed Benedict had attended a meeting about an abuser identified as Priest X, though the retired pontiff's testimony to investigators denied he had been present.

Days after the report's publication, the former pope admitted he had gone to the meeting, blaming his earlier denial to investigators on "an error in the editing of his statement."

On Tuesday, four experts working for the retired pope said that although Benedict -- then known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger -- was at the meeting, he was not aware that the priest



*Pope emeritus Benedict XVI said Tuesday he is "of good cheer" as he faces "the final judge of my life."* [Photo credit: CNN]

was an abuser.

"It was exclusively a question of the accommodation of the young Priest X in Munich because he had to undergo therapy there. This request was complied with. During the meeting the reason for the therapy was not mentioned," the experts said.

The investigators' findings -- which have now directly implicated him in a failure to prevent and punish abuse -- are threatening to wreck the reputation of the former pontiff.

Despite this, Benedict also said Tuesday he is "of good cheer" as he faces "the final judge of my life," in a personal response to the accusations leveled against him in the probe.

"Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life. Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and

trembling, I am nonetheless of good cheer, for I trust firmly that the Lord is not only the just judge, but also the friend and brother who himself has already suffered for my shortcomings," the retired pope wrote in a letter released by the Vatican.

Benedict again conceded that he had attended the 1980 meeting about an abusive priest, this time calling his denial to the lawyers who compiled the report an "oversight."

"This error, which regrettably was verified, was not intentionally willed and I hope may be excused," Benedict wrote.

He also issued a general apology to survivors of abuse, writing: "Once again I can only express to all the victims of sexual abuse my profound shame, my deep sorrow and my heartfelt request for forgiveness."

## Macron says Putin pledges no new Ukraine escalation

BBC - French President Emmanuel Macron has told reporters that President Vladimir Putin assured him that Russian forces would not ramp up the crisis near Ukraine's borders.

"I secured an assurance there would be no deterioration or escalation," he said before meeting Ukraine's leader.

However, Russia said any suggestion of a guarantee was "not right".

Russia has denied any plans to invade Ukraine, but it has assembled more than 100,000 troops near its borders.

US officials believe Russia has assembled 70% of military forces needed for a full-scale invasion.

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

Moscow accuses the 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.

President Macron this



*The French president (right) held talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky after his visit to Moscow [Photo credit: Reuters]*

week is on a diplomatic tour of national capitals trying to find a solution to the crisis in Ukraine.

He arrived in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, on Tuesday after almost six hours of talks with Mr Putin in Moscow on Monday.

At a news conference with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, Mr Macron said there was now the chance to "make these negotiations move forward" between Russia and Ukraine, and that he could

see "concrete solutions" to reducing tensions.

He also said there was a "shared determination" to implement the Minsk agreement.

Any resolution to the crisis could take months, he said, but he repeated that Mr Putin had told him he would not be behind any escalation.

Mr Zelensky meanwhile said he expected "in the near future" there would be talks between Russia, France and Ger-

many about resolving the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine.

But he called on Mr Putin to take serious measures to reduce tensions. "I do not really trust words, I believe that every politician can be transparent by taking concrete steps," he said.

The Kyiv meeting came after talks between Mr Macron and Mr Putin in Moscow.

Mr Putin hinted prog-  
*cont'd on pg 19*



## UN: 13 million face hunger in Horn of Africa as drought worsens

Al Jazeera - An estimated 13 million people in the Horn of Africa are facing severe hunger, the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) has said.

Drought conditions have affected pastoral and farmer populations across southern and southeastern Ethiopia, southeastern and northern Kenya and south-central Somalia, with forecasts of below-average rainfall threatening to worsen already dire conditions in the coming months.

"Harvests are ruined, livestock are dying, and hunger is growing as recurrent droughts affect the Horn of Africa," Michael Dunford, regional director in the WFP Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa, said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The situation requires immediate humanitarian action and consistent support to build the resilience of communities for the future."



*Families are being forced from their homes, leading to increased conflict between communities [Photo credit: Michael Tewelde/WFP]*

Shortages of water and pasture due to three consecutive failed rainy seasons have decimated crops and caused abnormally high livestock deaths.

Additionally, hikes in staple food prices, inflation, and low demand for

agricultural labour have reduced people's ability to buy food.

The WFP said families are being forced from their homes, leading to increased conflict between communities.

Malnutrition rates also remain high across the region and could worsen if no immediate action is taken.

The UN has repeatedly raised alarm over prolonged drought in the fragile region prone to armed violence.

Earlier this month, its children's agency UNICEF said more than six million people in Ethiopia are

expected to need urgent humanitarian aid by mid-March.

In neighbouring Somalia, more than seven million people need urgent help, according to the Somali NGO Consortium.

Experts say extreme weather events are happening with increased frequency and intensity due to climate change.

In October last year, the UN warned that more than 100 million "extremely poor" people across Africa were being threatened by accelerating climate change that could also melt away the continent's few glaciers within 20 years.

*cont'd from pg 18*

ress had been made after those discussions, and that some of Mr Macron's proposals "could form the basis of further joint steps" - although they were "probably still too early to talk about".

A French official later told reporters that the two leaders had agreed that Russia would pull troops out of Belarus at the end of exercises taking place near Ukraine's northern borders.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov however denied any deal had occurred - although the troops were expected to return to Russia at some point, he said.

## CWI announces return of the West Indies Four-day Championship

Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced on Tuesday the West Indies Championship 2022 will start on Wednesday, February 9, marking the return of First-Class cricket in the region since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CWI has unveiled the match schedule for the first two rounds of the West Indies Championship as part of a five-round tournament schedule for the six professional regional franchises.

The West Indies Championship marks not only a return of the regional red ball competition, but also the opportunity for West Indian players to stake their claim for selection to the West Indies Test squad for the forthcoming Apex Test Series between West Indies and England in March 2022.

The first and second rounds will be played in Barbados and Trinidad from Wednesday, February 9 to Saturday, February 12; and from Tuesday, February 15 to Friday, February 18. The teams will again compete for the Headley Weekes Trophy named in honour of West Indies legends George Headley and Sir Everton Weekes.

Defending champions, Barbados Pride who won the last edition of the West Indies Championship in 2020, will face Leeward Islands Hurricanes in the first match at Kensington Oval; home team Trinidad and



Tobago Red Force host Jamaica Scorpions at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad; while the newly named Guyana Harpy Eagles face Windward Islands Volcanoes at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad.

In the second round, Barbados Pride face Jamaica Scorpions at Kensington Oval; Trinidad and Tobago Red Force take on Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy; and Guyana Harpy Eagles meet Leeward Islands Hurricanes at Queen's Park Oval.

The last three rounds of the West Indies Championship are scheduled to be contested in May. For the 2022 tournament, each squad will consist of fifteen players due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CWI is also implementing a special "player loan" system to try to ensure that each team will be able to complete their fixtures. If a team has a player(s) ruled out due to a positive COVID-19 result, they can request to use a player(s) from another team and/or

from a pool of locally registered reserve players.

Johnny Grave, CEO of CWI, commented on how the West Indies Championship is a critical part of CWI's professional cricket calendar. Jimmy Adams, CWI's Director of Cricket also welcomed the return of four-day format.

"Following detailed planning over the past six months, we are delighted to finally announce the return of the West Indies Championship. This is exciting news as we know the teams have been putting in hours of hard work in the nets, patiently waiting for the matches to be confirmed and are looking forward to being back on the field and entertaining their fans. These upcoming matches are especially crucial as we host England in the Apex Test Series in March, so the 'Championship' will be the ideal preparation for our Test players as well," Grave said.

Adams said: "I am pleased to see the re-introduction of regional four-

day cricket for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. This competition plays a critical role in our player-development pathway and, after almost two years, we are delighted to have our regional players back playing competitively in this format."

LIVE ball-by-ball scoring of each game will be available through the [www.windiescricket.com](http://www.windiescricket.com) match centre. CWI will be streaming each of the matches with commentary via the Windies Cricket, YouTube channel. The Championship will also be streamed live in India on FanCode, as part of CWI's partnership with the Indian broadcaster.

### Match Schedule

Round 1 – February 9-12

Barbados Pride v Leeward Island Hurricanes at Kensington Oval

Windward Islands Volcanoes v Guyana Harpy Eagles at Queen's Park Oval

Trinidad and Tobago v Jamaica Scorpions at Brian Lara Cricket Academy

Round 2 – February 15-18

Barbados Pride v Jamaica Scorpions at Kensington Oval

Guyana Harpy Eagles v Leeward Island Hurricanes at Queen's Park Oval

Trinidad and Tobago v Windward Islands Volcanoes at Brian Lara Cricket Academy



## Serena Williams wants to express joy through Super Bowl ad

Serena Williams is normally the one participating in a major championship matchup, but the seven-time Wimbledon winner will look forward to watching the Super Bowl along with her commercial.

"It's always good to see other athletes just go out and do their thing on such a big stage," she said in a recent interview.

"I've been on the big stage so many times, it's so cool to experience other athletes being on that stage."

Along with watching the Bengals-Rams game, Williams will be on the lookout for her Super Bowl ad. The tennis great stars in



*Serena Williams*

a Michelob ULTRA commercial along with several other superstar athletes such as Peyton Manning, Jimmy Butler and Nneka Ogwumike for a competitive game of bowling.

Williams' commercial

is part of Michelob's three-ad series. She wants it to express the meaning of joy.

"It's critical for us to continue to have that," said Williams, who starred in a Bumble commercial in 2019 and last year's Mi-

chelob ULTRA ad, which preached joy.

"I believe a big factor in success is joy," she continued. "I go back and look at the tournaments that I've invested — like the ones I've never lost a set in — I was so joyful."

Williams, who is a Compton, California, native, said the Super Bowl will help the growth of Inglewood, where Sunday's game will be played.

"It's so big for the community," she said. "With the L.A. Rams in it, it's just like 'How does this happen?' It's going to be an intense game. I think it's going to be one that will go down in history."

## England drop two veterans for the West Indies tour

England's leading wicket takers have been surprisingly omitted from the team for the up-coming tour of the West Indies.

James Anderson and Stuart Broad are out in the wake of head coach Chris Silverwood departing and a dismal Ashes series against Australia who hammered them 4-0.

There has been a push to freshen up the red-ball squad for the three-match series starting in Antigua on March 8 and that has resulted in Anderson and Broad losing their places.

Also omitted are six other players who featured in Australia: Dom Bess, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Dawid Malan and openers Roy Burns and Haris Raheem.

Andrew Strauss, who forms part of the selection panel, said the selection



*James Anderson and Stuart Broad England cricketers*

of the present squad is the start of a process and a journey to get England Test cricket back to where it needs to be and the hard work starts now.

# Sports News

POINT PRESS  
THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

## Record 31.4 million Americans to bet on Super Bowl

A record 31.4 million Americans plan to bet a combined \$7.6 billion on Sunday's Super Bowl matchup between the hometown Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals, the American Gaming Association said on Tuesday.

The number of Americans planning to bet on the NFL's title game, which is the biggest U.S. TV event of the year, is up 35% from 2021 while the estimated record value of wagers being bet is a 78% jump from last year, according to the casino industry group.

Driving the numbers is the fact that compared to last year's Super Bowl between Tampa Bay and Kan-



A view shows signage outside NFL Media headquarters next to SoFi Stadium, host venue for Super Bowl LVI, in Inglewood, California [REUTERS/Bing Guan]

sas City, 45 million more Americans can legally wager on this year's game in their home state where sports betting has since become legal.

Arizona, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maryland,

North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming have legalized sports betting in the past year, bringing the total number of states with legal sports betting to 30 plus Washing-

ton, D.C.

"The results are clear: Americans have never been more interested in legal sports wagering," AGA Chief Executive Bill Miller said in a news release.

"The growth of legal options across the country not only protects fans and the integrity of games and bets, but also puts illegal operators on notice that their time is limited."

The AGA also predicts the number of Americans who place traditional sports wagers online, at a retail sportsbook or with a bookie will rise 78% to 18.2 million while casual betting as part of an office pool or squares contest, will jump 23% to 18.5 million.

## Endrick: Brazilian, 15, matching Neymar and attracting attention from Europe's leading clubs

As Palmeiras and Oeste finished their warm-ups on 19 January, scouts from Barcelona, Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester City, Southampton, Ajax and Benfica all took their seats ready for the quarter-finals of the Copa Sao Paulo, Brazil's premier youth competition.

They were mostly there to watch Endrick. The 15-year-old striker had taken the under-21 tournament by storm, having scored four goals up to that point and making an even bigger impact than Brazil and Paris St-Germain star Neymar did at the same age.

Not even in their wildest dreams could they have anticipated, though, what they were about to see.



Endrick

In the 13th minute the ball dropped behind the Palmeiras wonderkid and, without giving it much thought, he

produced a bicycle kick from outside the box which dipped perfectly into  
*cont'd on pg 23*



## Cash prizes, real estate, and highest honours as Senegal celebrates Nations Cup heroes

President Macky Sall of Senegal awarded a special cash prize, prime real estate, and the country's highest order to the men's soccer team as the country continued to celebrate their victory in Sunday's Africa Cup of Nations final against Egypt.

Senegal's first win of the coveted trophy it has been chasing for 60 years has led to an outpouring of joy and celebrations since the 4-2 triumph in a penalty kick shootout.

Tens of thousands lined the streets of the capital Dakar from early in the morning on Monday to await the arrival of the victorious team. A ticker-tape parade through the streets went into the early hours of Tuesday.

Senegal came close to winning the trophy twice, losing to Algeria in the 2019 final and to Cameroon in the 2002 final.

Hundreds lined the surrounding avenues and



*Senegal fans celebrate and welcome the Senegal National Soccer Team as they arrive in a bus after their Africa Cup win, in Dakar, Senegal February 7, 2022. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra*

streets of the presidential palace in downtown Dakar on Tuesday evening for a reception to thank the players.

Sall awarded the players Senegal's highest order, making them Grand Officers of the National Order of the Lion.

"In addition, as a token of gratitude, and on behalf of the nation, the players and other members of the official delegation will each receive a special bonus of 50 million franc CFA (\$87,412) and a 200 square metre plot of land in Dakar," Sall said.

He added that they would also receive a 500 square metre plot for a commemorative estate in Diamniadio, a new futuristic economic and industrial hub around 45 km from Dakar where a new national soccer stadium will be inaugurated on Feb. 22.

*cont'd from pg 22*

the net.

"I think we might be seeing a very special talent emerging," said Match of the Day presenter Gary Lineker.

All of a sudden, he was being compared to Brazil striking legend Ronaldo and some of the country's other iconic attacking players.

Endrick did not stop there, going on to score in the 4-0 final win against Santos and was named the most valuable player of the Copinha, as the competition is affectionately known.

"I can't recall any other player of his age in recent history doing what he

did," his advisor Frederico Pena, chief executive of TFM - the same sports agency who work with Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr and Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli - told BBC Sport.

"The way he handled all the pressure was impressive because sometimes you see a kid having a great game and then struggling to maintain the same level of performance. That didn't happen to him. Despite contracting Covid-19 during the campaign, he actually only got better."

None of this came as a surprise, however, for those already familiar with a boy who, last year, featured

for Palmeiras in the Sao Paulo State Championship finals in the under-15, under-17 and under-20 age groups.

Many back home wanted him included in the squad the South American champions have taken to the Club World Cup in the United Arab Emirates this month. But Portuguese coach Abel Ferreira ruled out any chance of Endrick making the trip and being involved in a potential meeting with Chelsea.

Regardless of that, it seems a matter of time before he plays at a higher level and, for him, time clearly moves faster.

## Karl James awarded MBE from HRH Prince Charles

In 2019, Antiguan and Barbudan sailor Karl James made the Queen's New Year's Honours list when he was selected to be conferred the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to sailing and national development.

The investiture, originally scheduled for 2020, was delayed due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Tuesday however, the two time Olympian finally received the award from HRH Prince Charles during an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle in the UK.

The MBE is one of five classes of appointment to the Order of The British Empire.

James, who is president of the Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association, is only the second national athlete to receive the prestigious award from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The other is Sir Vivian Richards for his contributions to cricket.

James began his sailing career at age 12. He has since gone on to win awards in various sail-

ing classes, both as helmsman and professional crew and he has competed internationally in more than 75 countries.

He is well respected in the region as a pioneer in sailing education. He has also held the position of manager of the Dinghy Sailing Programme at the Antigua Yacht Club for almost 30 years.

Over the years he has devoted himself to developing a love of sailing among Antiguan and Barbudan youths from as young as age six.

He also played a major role in Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Optimist World Dinghy Championships.

Ahead of his trip to the UK, James said, "It's quite a prestigious honour for one to receive. As I looked at some of the sportsmen and women or people who have received that honour, you know, you feel that you are really being recognised at the highest level.

"That is pretty special because when one looks at all the people who practice sports and who [have] achieved in sports and to



*Antiguan and Barbudan sailor Karl James MBE.*

be the second Antiguan to receive the Queen's honours, it's extremely special.

"Just when you think that all your work may be unseen within your coun-

try and then someone from overseas would have thought that this work you have done deserves to be honoured in that way, then it's a very special thing."