

CARIBBEAN FACES CRISIS IF EUROPEAN WAR DRAGS ON

Story on Page 2



Tourism and Investment Minister, Charles Fernandez said the increase in oil prices will directly impact air and cruise fares. *Story on Page 3*

War in Europe could cause more than increased fuel prices warns Minister Greene

Trade and Foreign Affairs minister, E. P. Chet Greene says the impacts of the war in Europe on the region could extend beyond increased fuel prices if it is not resolved quickly.

On Monday, Minister Greene said Antigua and Barbuda will remain in step with the position of the international community regarding its handling of Russian interests.

While Antigua and Barbuda does not have laws that speak specifically to the implementation of sanctions on other sovereign nations, it has indicated that it will suspend ties with Russians and Belarusians in respect of the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP).

The country has also requested a list of Russian individuals and companies named on international sanctions lists in order to

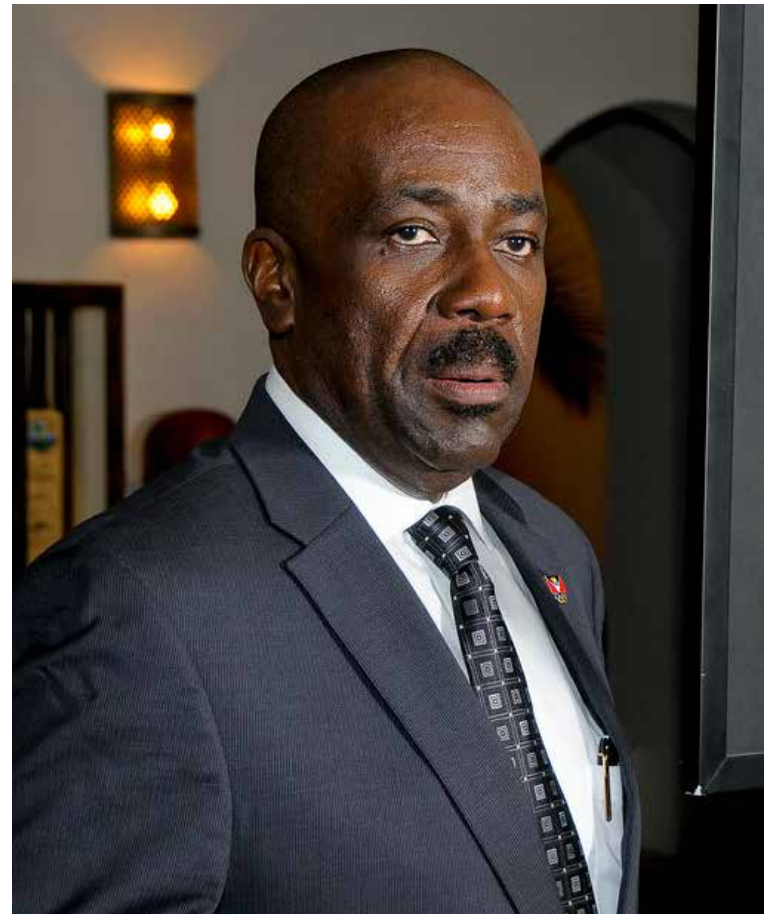
remain compliant with the international community's restrictions on these parties.

This said, the region of Europe now embroiled in the war is not just an important oil conduit; it also plays a major role in the world's food supply chain.

Minister Greene warns that lengthy conflict in the region could have economic implications for Antigua and Barbuda that extend beyond increased fuel prices.

"We also run the risk of seeing an escalation in inflation in food prices in particular, and even the possibility of food shortages.

"Russia and Ukraine account for almost 70 per cent of the world's grains, and when you look at that kind of reality, it tells you that we are in a spot of bother," Greene said.



Minister of Trade & Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene

The minister said he predicts that the Caribbean will be particularly affected by shortages created by the broken supply chain

caused by widespread travel and trade sanctions on the war-torn European region.

"We are bracing for the worst, but hoping for the best, the best meaning that the war will not be protracted and that we can see a return to some kind of normalcy where prices of oil will drop; where the potential for food shortages will not become a reality and certainly where the inflationary arrangements brought on by the pandemic are not made any worse."

Tue 15 Day		Tue 15 Night	
82°	☀️	74°	☁️
21% ENE 19 mph		17% E 16 mph	
Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High 82F. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 mph.		Mostly clear. Low 74F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity 69%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 75%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:15 am	Sunset 6:17 pm	Moonrise 4:08 pm	Moonset 4:33 am
		○ Waxing Gibbous	

Air and cruise fare increase predicted if European war is prolonged

Tourism officials are concerned that the fall-out of Russia's invasion of Ukraine risks dealing a major blow to the tourism industry if it continues.

Tourism and Investment Minister, Charles Fernandez, while noting stakeholders were anticipating a favourable summer, said the increase in oil prices will directly impact air and cruise fares at a time when the sectors are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing invasion is creating a level of uncertainty.

Despite assurances by the United States Government and several countries that they will release several

million barrels of oil from strategic reserves in order to stabilise the global market, it has done little to prevent oil prices from escalating, a situation Minister Fernandez predicts will impact the emerging industry.

"We just got through the pandemic, we believe we're just now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, we're coming through the tunnel, and then boom we're hit with this. Whatever plans we have, it could affect us in a very negative way."

Despite the concerns expressed, Minister Fernandez is satisfied at the successful rebound of the local cruise industry.

"I think Antigua in terms of cruise did better than most of the islands, if not all of them, in terms of cruise arrivals," he said.

He acknowledged there are delays in upgrades to certain infrastructure, but those are not restraining industry officials from devising a plan directed at improving the product and boosting the sector.

"We wanted to have the dredging completed, that has not happened, we are

still pursuing it. We have a meeting at the end of this month again with the Oasis Class, we will present all of the information relating to the dredging, and hopefully, with what is happening in Europe, perhaps some ships will be diverted, which was alluded to previously to the Caribbean. So, there is still that glimmer of hope, but the best thing for all of us would be for this war to end and things to get back to some form of normalcy."



Tourism and Investment Minister, Charles Fernandez

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Superyacht Challenge marred by sailor's death

An official cause of death has not yet been announced, but Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue (ABSAR) personnel have suggested that Sam Richmond suffered serious head trauma which likely caused his death during a training exercise ahead of the Superyacht Challenge.

The sailor was in Antigua and Barbuda to participate in the recently concluded Superyacht Challenge held in English Harbour when he was struck in the head by a part of his vessel's rigging in a freak accident on Tuesday.

It is believed that a part of the yacht's rigging failed, slamming into Richmond's head.

ABSAR and a nearby vessel responded and offered help to the injured British seaman. He was rushed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and evacuated to Florida shortly

after for further medical attention, however he succumbed to his injuries on Thursday.

Richmond's wife, Colette, took to social media to express her grief and that of their two young children, Maisie and Martha.

She continued that in her family's time of grief, she took comfort in the fact that she is well supported by family and friends and the kind words of those who have paid tribute to her husband.

"Over this past week, one of my few comforts has been reminiscing with friends and I would love to capture that in writing for the future.

"His infectious smile and kind soul was taken too soon. He will be missed by us all. Fair winds, our friend," she wrote.

On Sunday, the final day of the Superyacht Challenge, Richmond's



Sam Richmond

crew mates and fellow sailors honoured his memory by spelling out his name, "SAM" using the nautical flags Sierra, Alpha, Mike.

At sunset on 11th March, the yachting community sounded their horns in an act of remembrance. On 13th March, a Remembrance Procession was observed by all competing yachts before the start of the final race of the regatta.

Sam Richmond was an experienced sailor with more than 20 years under his belt. For more than a decade he was employed as a sales manager with North Sails, a UK-based sail making company.

He also managed a number of yacht racing campaigns over the years and was well established in the international yachting arena.

Richmond was to have participated in the Superyacht Challenge aboard 102ft luxury vessel, Farfalla. Farfalla did not compete in the event which ran from 10th - 13th March and was open to superyachts in excess of 30 metres.



Nautical flags spelling out "SAM"

Director of Education encourages mask wearing in schools

With the government's mask mandate becoming optional from tomorrow, the Director of Education is cautioning against complacency.

Schools reopened for full face-to-face learning yesterday, with the Cabinet announcing students are allowed to move around on school compounds without masks.

But Clare Browne said educators, students and parents should be reminded that though COVID-19 positive cases are on the decline, the country continues to operate in a pandemic and persons should not let down their guards.

"Though there would have been at the national level a relaxation of some of the COVID-19 management policies, we want to strongly encourage in our schools mask wearing."

"The government would have said as of the 16th of March, mask wearing is optional. But we in the Ministry of Education are strongly, strongly,



Clare Browne

strongly encouraging that in our schools, our students and teachers and principals and all others who operate within schools, continue to wear masks," Mr. Browne stated.

He gave the assurance that protocols which will remain in place will be followed. Additionally, the director of education is informing parents not to send their sick children to school, where they will likely expose other students to the illness they have contracted.

"If anybody comes to any school

with flu-like symptoms, then rest assured that the principal is going to call you very nicely and ask you to come get your son or daughter, and so keep them at home.

"We cannot afford for all the gains that we would have made through our stringent COVID-9 management policies, to be eroded by irresponsible behaviour."

According to the director of education, over the last two years, the education system has functioned without any major incidents; therefore, it is imperative that the status quo remains the same, which will require those involved to act responsibly.

Many of the public schools in Antigua and Barbuda had already returned to full face-to-face learning, with the exception of four public primary and nine public secondary schools. Those institutions have since joined the 35 others that had resumed regular operations.

March 2022

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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ACP Cruise Ship Weekly Calender

(March 14-20)

ETA Date	ETA Time	ETD Date	ETD Time	Type	Vessel Name	100% Capacity	Brand	Assigned Berth	Status
14 March 2022	7:00AM	14-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Azura	3,100	P&O Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
14 March 2022	8:00AM	14-Mar-22	7:00PM	Transit	Seven Seas Navigator	557	Regent Seven Seas	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
14 March 2022	8:00Am	14-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Riviera	1,258	Oceania Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
15 March 2022	7:00AM	15-Mar-22	7:00PM	Transit	Norwegian Gem	2,873	Norwegian Cruise Line	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
15 March 2022	7:00AM	15-Mar-22	7:00PM	Transit	Costa Deliziosa	3,000	Costa	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
15 March 2022	8:00AM	15-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	AIDAprera	3,250	AIDA	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
16 March 2022	7:00AM	16-Mar-22	6:00PM	Transit	Grandeur of the seas	1,950	RCI	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
16 March 2022	8:00AM	16-Mar-22	5:00Pm	Transit	Silver Spirit	540	Silversea Cruises	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
16 March 2022	8:00Am	16-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Spirit Of Adventure	999	Saga Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
17 March 2022	7:30AM	17-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Viking Sea	930	Viking Ocean Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
17 March 2022	8:00AM	17-Mar-22	11:00PM	Transit	Seabourn Odyssey	450	Seabourn Cruise Line	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
18 March 2022	8:00Am	18-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Star Legend	343	Windstar Cruises	Falmouth	Confirmed

T/A: Turnaround or Homeport

*Kindly note that this is the capacity of the ship, occupancy may vary

*Assigned berth is subject to change



Local News

National Baking Company donates US\$130K to UWI for C'bean blue economy

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and the National Baking Company Foundation have signed a memorandum of understanding to provide grant funding valued at US\$130,000 (J\$19 million) towards the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and Blue Economy (COBE).

The centre will be located at The UWI Five Islands Campus, and the grant will be used in setting up the Centre, scheduled to open on August 1, 2022.

Speaking at the grant signing ceremony held at The UWI's Regional Headquarters in Jamaica, Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles applauded the National Baking Company and its founder Gary "Butch" Hendrickson for the support of the university.



The UWI's University Registrar, Dr Maurice Smith (left), Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus Professor Densil A. Williams (centre) and Lori Anne Samuels, Executive Director of the National Baking Company Foundation (right) following the signing of the MoU which will see the Foundation giving USD 130,000 to The UWI Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and Blue Economy.

He noted that partnerships like plan to bring alignment to industry this one fit into The UWI's strategic *cont'd on pg 7*

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cont'd from pg 6
and academia.

Vice-Chancellor Beckles also noted that partnership is particularly important to implement the development of the marine and blue economy, which is critical to the future of the region.

Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor Densil A. Williams, noted that the Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and Blue Economy will be a game-changer in the diversification of the economic sectors of the region as the Caribbean looks for new areas to transform their economies.

“It is important to note

that the centre will be at the forefront of leading research and innovation on all issues related to the Blue economy so that we can find new avenues for wealth generation using our vast ocean resources in the Caribbean,” he explained.

Director of the National Baking Company Foundation, Craig Hendrickson, who delivered a virtual address at the signing, reaffirmed his organisation’s commitment to the Centre saying, “It brings us pride at National Baking Company Foundation to support the launch and early initiatives of the Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and Blue

Economy at The UWI Five Islands Campus.”

He commented that climate change affects all the islands of the Caribbean and will have implications for business—whether small businesses or large corporations, all of whom are users of the ocean in one way or another.

Minister of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy of Antigua and Barbuda, Dean Jonas, endorsed the partnership between The UWI and the National Baking Company Foundation.

Minister Jonas, who heads the International Steering Committee for the Centre, also pledged his government’s contin-

ued support for operations, noting that the Centre will bring crucial research and diversify the economies across the region, especially in a post-COVID era, through the use of ocean resources.

The concept for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and Blue Economy originated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Commonwealth Secretariat and its other agencies such as CEFAS and CWEIC and The UWI which was signed in January 2021.

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray’s Farm
St. Johns
Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. Johns
Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madame,
Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I, Rokia Tamera Henry of Buckley’s with registered business situated at Buckley’s Village, St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Gray’s Farm, St. John’s, Antigua on Thursday 7th April, 2022 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as “**TROPICAL PARADISUS (ANU)**” situated at Buckley’s Village in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 10th day of March, 2022

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray’s Farm
St. Johns
Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. Johns
Antigua.

Dear Sir/ Madame,
Re: Notice- Application for Bottle Licence

I, Sheneka Shamara Casimir of Royal Garden with registered business situated at Grays Farm, St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Gray’s Farm, St. John’s, Antigua on Thursday 7th April, 2022 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as **Green Grace Mini Mart** situated at Grays Farm in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 14th day of March, 2022

Contact 464-1070

Local News



British High Commission hosts trade talks between Antigua and Barbuda, UK

The British High Commission St John's collaborated with the High Commission for Antigua and Barbuda in the UK to continue the discourse on exploring increasing opportunities for trade between Antigua and Barbuda and the UK that are emerging.

Their Excellencies High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill and Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda Lindsay Thompson have placed this as a priority agenda envisioning significant benefits to be derived for both countries.

On 10th March, leaders in trade, commerce, education and the development sector were hosted at the Office and Official Residence of the British High Commission St John's, where Lord Jonathan Marland interacted and inspired local leaders to



High Commissioner Scott Furssedonn-Wood introduces Lord Marland to the gathering.

emerging trends and niche opportunities of trade to be negotiated.

Lord Marland is a former UK


Prime Minister's Trade Envoy and is currently the chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC).

Antigua and Barbuda became a member of CWEIC in June 2020 and this body has the official mandate from the Commonwealth Heads of Government to facilitate trade and investment in all 54 Commonwealth member nations.

Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson stated that "it was an honour to be able to facilitate this important discourse as this priority area is so important to the development of both of our countries."

It was also a pleasure to have the non-resident High Commissioner Scott Furssedonn-Wood present as a testament of how important we see this venture".

Negotiations will continue between the British High Commission St John's and the High Commission for Antigua and Barbuda to explore more opportunities to strengthen trade ties.




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WhatsApp's new browser extension is aimed at making web chats more secure



By Jon Porter

Code Verify is a new browser extension from WhatsApp parent company Meta that aims to improve the security of WhatsApp's web version, the company has announced.

The extension works by verifying that the contents of WhatsApp's web version haven't been tampered with. The aim is to make it a lot more difficult for a would-be attacker to compromise data or the privacy of WhatsApp's end-to-end encrypted messages when using the browser-based version of the service.

The extension follows the launch of WhatsApp's multi-device beta last year. This aims to make using the messaging service from devices other than your primary phone easier and more seamless.

Since the feature's launch, WhatsApp says it's seen an increase in people accessing its service through web browsers, which present new security challenges compared to an app.

There's nothing particularly new about the security methods underpinning Code Verify. Ultimately, it's just comparing a hash of the code running in your browser, with a hash held by trusted third-party Cloudflare. But its value is in automating this process, which makes it easy for anyone to understand and use regardless of their technical knowhow.

Once it's done the check, the browser extension uses a traffic light system to show you whether there are any issues. Green means everything's a-ok, but orange suggests

you might need to refresh your page or that you have a separate browser extension interfering with Code Verify. Red means there's a problem, and WhatsApp's help page says the extension will be able to help users solve it.

Meta says the extension isn't able to read or access your messages, and none of this data is sent to Cloudflare. Meta has also released the source code for Code Verify on GitHub, opening the door for other websites to make use of its security features.

The extension is available now for Chrome and Edge, and Meta says that a version of Firefox is "coming soon." There's no mention of a version for Safari in Meta's press release, but its GitHub page notes that support is on the way.

Add these fertility-boosting foods to your diet for a healthy pregnancy

By Sanyukta Baijal

Pandemic or not, everyone must focus on a healthier diet for a happier long life. And especially women if they are trying to conceive. Fertility has a lot to do with meal patterns.

Having the right kind of nutrition-packed foods can boost your reproductive health. In this article, we will look at eight fertility-boosting foods to include in your diet that could open doors for a healthy pregnancy.

Trust these fertility-boosting foods if you're planning to conceive

Dairy

Pasteurised full-fat dairy products like milk, heavy cheese, et cetera work wonders for people planning a pregnancy. This is because saturated fat is good for conception. According to a study, the ones who include full-fat lactic based products in their meals undergo lesser ovulation problems. Also, these dairy products are rich in other nutrients like vitamins A, vitamin E, vitamin D, vitamin K, and vitamin K2.

Ways to eat

Include full-fat cream milk in your regular diet. Also, you can replace low-fat yoghurt with a full-fat one. However, if you're planning to have ice cream



regularly, just stick to including it twice per week.

Tomatoes

When we talk about conceiving, needless to say, a man's reproductive health is an equal point of concern. As per the research published in Asian Journal of Andrology's article Lycopene and male infertility, a nutrient called lycopene works great in boosting male fertility. It is a power-packed antioxidant that is found in tomatoes which improve semen health.

Ways to eat

Although tomatoes in every form contain lycopene, cooked tomatoes double the quantity of this nutrient. Therefore, if you are looking for a healthy way to conceive have your

tomatoes cooked. You can have them in recipes or in form of soup and sauces as well.

Citrus fruits

Citrus fruits are one of the best fertility-boosting foods one can have, especially oranges and grapefruits which contain polyamine putrescine. This compound helps in improving the sperm quality in males and egg's potential to conceive in females.

Ways to eat

Fruits are considered best when fresh, and in this case, you can slice them and have them as salads. Or you can even churn them into a smoothie, which can go with your main course.

Beans and legumes

Lentils, legumes and beans are stuffed with fibre that works miraculously in treating hormonal imbalance. Apart from this, they contain polyamine spermidine that helps in fertilising the egg. Also, these products are considered better sources of protein than animal meat.

Ways to eat

Include lentils, legumes or beans in your regular diet. Dal and other such recipes are common in Indian households. If not as the main course, try having beans as sides in form of salads.

Egg yolks

Egg yolks are extremely rich in fertility-boosting. Omega-3 fatty acids help enhance your reproductive

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

tive health. Eggs are a powerhouse of nutrition that contain calcium, vitamins, folate, and more which are important if you are planning to conceive. And to top it all, eggs are a good source of choline, which helps reduce the chances of birth complications.

Ways to eat

Egg yolks contain nutrients that are extremely helpful for conception. Therefore, have your eggs boiled, scrambled, poached or fried but do have them with the yolk.

Cinnamon

Cinnamon is one of the must-have foods if you're facing complications due to polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS). According to a study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecol-

ogy, cinnamon can help regularise the menstrual cycle in women suffering from PCOS, which is a common female infertility issue. Cinnamon boosts your fertility chances and helps in maintaining your hormonal balance.

Ways to eat

One can include it in recipes or can add it to their morning breakfast oatmeal. You can even consume cinnamon in your tea or coffee.

Sunflower seeds

Sunflower seeds, especially the roasted and unsalted ones, are known to increase semen quality in men. Also, sunflower seeds are stuffed with folate and selenium that help female fertility as well as male fertility. These seeds even contain omega-6 fatty acids and omega-3 fatty acids.

Ways to eat

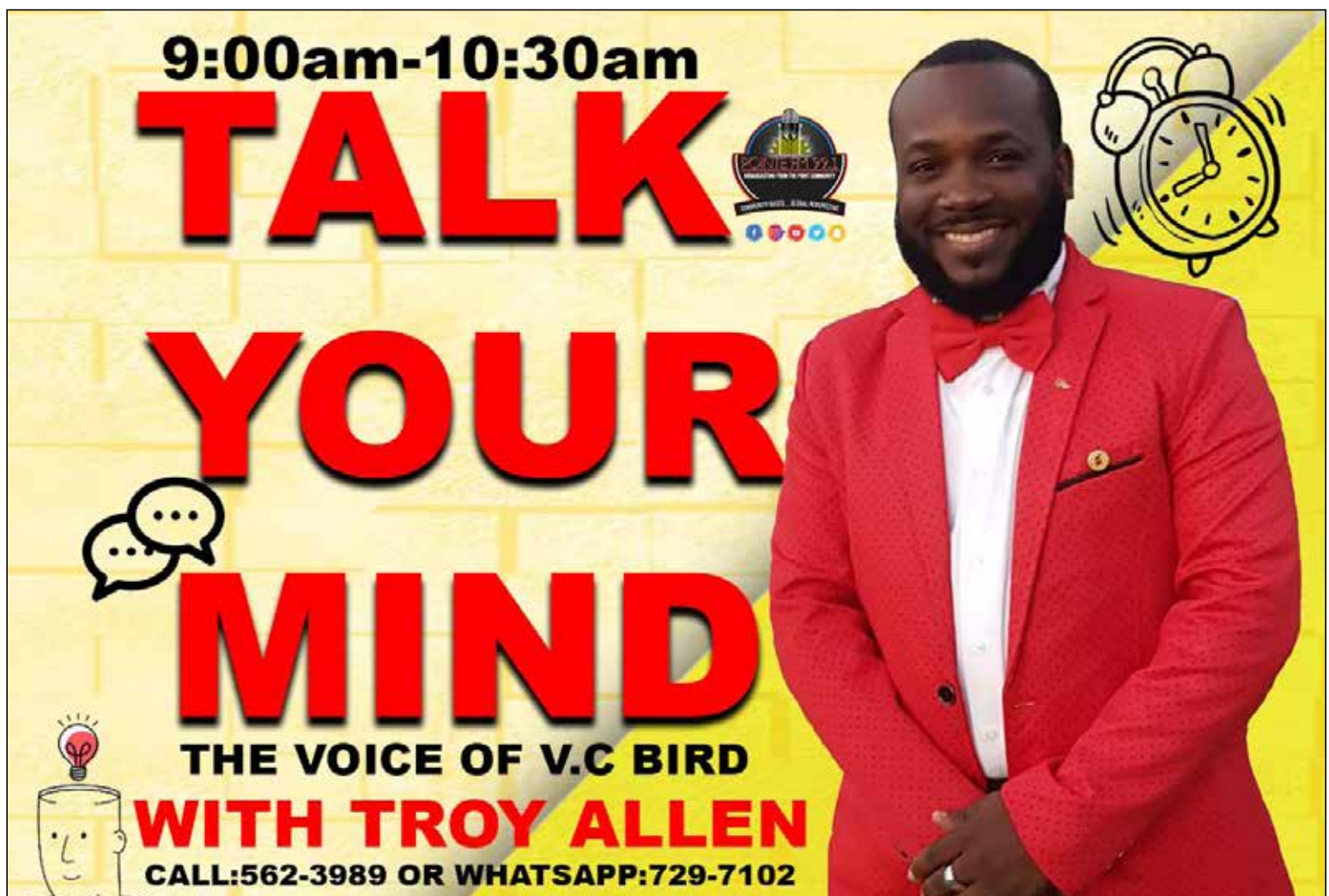
The way to incorporate sunflower seeds in your meals is by using them as dressing on your salad. You can even add a spoonful of them to a smoothie or yoghurt.

Walnuts

Walnuts are stuffed with omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids that enhance fertility. These nuts are known to increase semen quality in terms of movement and quantity. Walnuts even help in decreasing sperm abnormalities.

Ways to eat

Walnuts can be added to multiple cuisines. You can have them raw when in mood to munch on something. Meanwhile, other recipes like walnut oatmeal, walnut cakes, and more can also be good options.



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Regional News

Privy Council rules in favour of Bermuda's ban on same sex marriage

CMC - The London-based Privy Council on Monday sided with the Bermuda government in its battle to ban same-sex marriage in the British Overseas Territory.

The ruling by the Privy Council, the island's highest court, came after two days of hearings more than a year ago on the case between the Attorney-General of Bermuda and Rod Ferguson and others.

"The Board allows the appeal. Lord Hodge and Lady Arden give the judgment of the Board, with which Lord Reed and Dame Victoria Sharp agree. Lord Sales gives a dissenting judgment," the Privy Council noted.

Bermuda's Ministry of Home Affairs earlier confirmed that at least US\$411,627 from the public purse had been spent on hiring lawyers and law firms involved in the case.

The case in London marked the fi-



nal chapter in a roller-coaster saga that at one stage saw Bermuda become the first country in the world to approve same-sex marriage and then take away the right, but a series of court decisions meant that gay couples could get married on the island.

Monday's ruling will end those marriages.

Legal sources say the ruling could also set a precedent for same-sex marriage across the UK's Crown Dependencies and other Overseas Territories, as well as a host of former territories.

Jamaican doctors sue gov't over emergency-duty allowance

Jamaica Gleaner – The Association of Government Medical Consultants has taken the State to the Supreme Court seeking to get orders to have the emergency-duty allowance form part of its members' pensionable salary.

Also known as the on-call allowance, it has been paid to the medical consultants for more than 30 years.

It is different in nature from the ordinary duty allowance.

According to court documents, the allowance is paid to consultants in recognition of the inherent characteristics of their duties and responsibilities and as a mechanism for increasing their take-home salary or remuneration without creating any discrepancies between the salaries of various work-

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Cuba, Turkey look to expand bilateral ties

CNW - The governments of Cuba and Turkey have expressed interest in further expanding bilateral relations.

This was one of several issues discussed during a meeting between Cuban deputy Foreign Minister Anayansi Rodriguez with her Turkish counterpart Sedat Onal.

The Cuban diplomat is on a working visit to Turkey and both sides have reiterated the good pace of bilateral links and their interest in keeping developing such relations.

Rodriguez was in Turkey as part of a Cuban delegation to the second Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

She also met with the Minister of Tourism and Culture Mehmet Nuri Ersoy to exchange on business and investment opportunities between the two countries.

Rodriguez took part at a



Cuban deputy Foreign Minister Anayansi Rodriguez

panel on Multilateralism for Peace and Stability whose main speaker was Venezuela's vice-president Delcy Rodriguez.

She also met with diplomats from other countries represented at the forum and required debates on key aspects related to diplomacy in today's world.

Diplomatic relations between Turkey and Cuba were established in 1952. Turkey opened its first Embassy in the Caribbean in Havana in 1979.

In February 2015, Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, paid a visit to Cuba. This was the first presidential visit from Turkey to

Cuba and was a milestone for the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla visited Turkey in June 2017, which was the first Ministerial visit from Cuba to Turkey. Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu paid an official visit to Cuba in May 2019. During the visit, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with his counterpart minister Parrilla and was also received by Cuba's president, Miguel Diaz-Canel.

The bilateral trade volume between the two countries was US\$54.7 million in 2019. (Turkish exports:US\$42.9 million, Turkish imports:US\$11.8 million).

cont'd from pg 12
ers in the health sector.

The consultants state that the allowance is paid irrespective of the place at which, or number of hours, they work.

The allowance is a flat fixed sum that is subject to tax, represents more than 50 per cent of their compensation, and is larger than their basic salary.

The allowance is also paid while they are on vacation following a ruling by the Industrial Disputes Tribunal in July 2012.

They are seeking declarations that the allowance is part of the salary or remuneration and is to be treated as part of their pensionable salary or pensionable emoluments.

The defendants are the Southern Regional Health Authority, the South East Regional Health Authority, the Western Regional Health Authority, the North East Regional Health Authority, the University Hospital of the West Indies, and the attorney general.

US warns China against helping Russia

BBC - China will face consequences if it helps Russia evade sanctions in its invasion of Ukraine, the US says.

Unnamed US officials reportedly told multiple news outlets that Russia had asked China to provide military assistance after it began the invasion.

The Chinese foreign ministry accused the US of spreading disinformation. Russia denied asking Beijing for military help.

The exchanges came before top US and Chinese officials met in Rome.

US media outlets, citing Washington officials, say that Russia has in recent days asked China specifically for military equipment, including drones.

In a CNN interview, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said they were “communicating directly, privately to Beijing that there will absolutely be consequences for large-scale sanctions evasion efforts or support to Russia to backfill them”.

“We will not allow that to go forward and allow there to be a lifeline to Russia from these economic sanctions from any country, anywhere in the world,” he said.

He added that while the US believed China was aware that Russian leader Vladimir Putin was “planning something” before the invasion happened, Beijing “may not have understood



Jake Sullivan warned that the US would not allow China to provide a “lifeline” to Russia [Photo credit: EPA]

the full extent of it”.

“Because it’s very possible that [Mr] Putin lied to them the same way that he lied to Europeans and others,” Mr Sullivan said.

In response, a spokesman for the foreign ministry in Beijing, Zhao Lijian, said the US had “been spreading disinformation targeting China on the Ukraine issue, with malicious intentions”.

Asked if he could clarify whether China had received a request for military help from Russia, Mr Zhao said this was “fake news” but did not deny it directly. He added that China’s stance had always been consistent and that China was playing a constructive role in promoting talks.

President Putin’s

spokesman Dmitry Peskov said reports Russia had asked China for military assistance were not true.

“Russia possesses its own independent potential to continue the operation. As we said, it is going according to plan and will be completed on time and in full,” he said.

Mr Sullivan met Yang Jiechi, a member of China’s top decision-making body, the Politburo and head of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission, on Monday in Rome. There was no immediate word on the content of their discussions.

Before it got under way Reuters news agency quoted a US official as saying that during the meeting, Mr Sullivan would spell out the

consequences and isolation China would face if it increased support for Russia.

China has so far refrained from condemning Russia for the invasion and has said Moscow’s “legitimate security concerns” should be taken seriously.

When the United Nations General Assembly voted to condemn Russia’s invasion earlier this month, China was one of 35 countries that abstained.

But Beijing at the same time has expressed “unwavering support” for Ukraine’s sovereignty. It has also called for peace and has said it is ready to help end the war through diplomacy. Several countries have urged China to do more to stop Russia’s invasion.

Uganda military denies resignation of president's son

AlJazeera - Uganda's military has said that President Yoweri Museveni's son, a lieutenant general, who is widely believed to be trying to succeed his long-ruling father, had not, in fact, resigned.

Muhoozi Kainerugaba announced on Twitter on March 8 that he had retired from the military after almost three decades in service. His father has been president of the eastern African country since 1986.

The tweet was widely interpreted as a sign that Kainerugaba, commander of the military's land forces, was preparing to enter politics on a possible path to contest the presidency in the next election in 2026.



Major General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, left, and his wife Charlotte Kutesa Kainerugaba, right, attend a ceremony promoting Kainerugaba brigadier to major general at the military headquarters in Kampala on May 25, 2016 [File: Peter Busomoke/AFP]

"The general has not retired from the army, he is still in active service," Chris Magezi, spokesman for the land forces, told Reuters. "The army promotions and

the commissions board, which is the military body mandated with handling retirement requests, has not received his application."

According to Ugandan law, serving soldiers cannot participate in politics. Kainerugaba, 47, has himself not said whether he wants to run for president but his supporters have been conducting online and street campaigns for his candidature.

Museveni, 77, Africa's fourth-longest serving president, has long been pilloried by the opposition and rights groups for using the military to subdue his opponents through intimidation, beatings or jail terms. Officials have denied the accu-

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Iran says it won't tolerate threats emanating from Iraqi soil

Iran's foreign ministry has said the country will not tolerate security threats emanating from Iraqi soil a day after the elite Revolutionary Guards launched ballistic missiles on purported Israeli targets in the Kurdish capital, Erbil.

"It is in no way acceptable that one of our neighbours, which has deep ties with us, becomes a focal point for threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran," foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters on Monday.

He claimed Israel has repeatedly created security problems for Iran through Iraqi soil, including by organising anti-establishment rallies and "terrorist groups" in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

Prior to Sunday's missile attack, Iraq had been repeatedly warned both publicly and through diplomatic channels that it must not allow its borders to become "focal points for conspiracy, plots and sabotage" against Iran, Khatibzadeh said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran expects Iraq's central government that it will



A general view shows a damaged mansion following missile attacks in Erbil [Safin Hamed/AFP]

end this situation once and for all, and won't allow its borders to be taken advantage of, especially considering all the claims of improving ties to new levels that exist between the two countries," he said, also warning Israel that Iran is aware of its movements in the region.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Sunday claimed the missile attack in northern Iraq, saying it targeted an Israeli "strategic centre for conspiracy" in the

country.

The attack appears to have come in response to the killing of two IRGC members last week by Israel in Syria, for which Iran had promised retaliation. IRGC also warned of a "destructive response" if Israel engages in further attacks.

The state-run IRNA news website confirmed that the missiles used in the attack were of the Fateh-110 variety, with a range of 300km (186 miles), and were launched

from an IRGC base in north-western Iran, without elaborating further.

No injuries were reported in the attack, which happened in the vicinity of the US consulate.

The United States State Department spokesman, Ned Price, condemned the missile attack, adding that there was no indication it was directed at American interests.

Iraqi officials also condemned the attack as a violation of the country's sovereignty, with the foreign ministry summoning Iran's ambassador to hand him an official letter of protest.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman did not address Iraqi criticism of a violation of its sovereignty or the letter.

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sations.

He was declared the winner against his main opponent, pop star-turned-politician Bobi Wine, after an election in January last year that was marked by violence.

Wine rejected the results as fraudulent

and the United States and European Union said the polls were not free and fair.

Last December, a prominent Ugandan author was detained in December last year and subsequently charged with communications offences related to his tweets that criticised Kainerugaba and his father.



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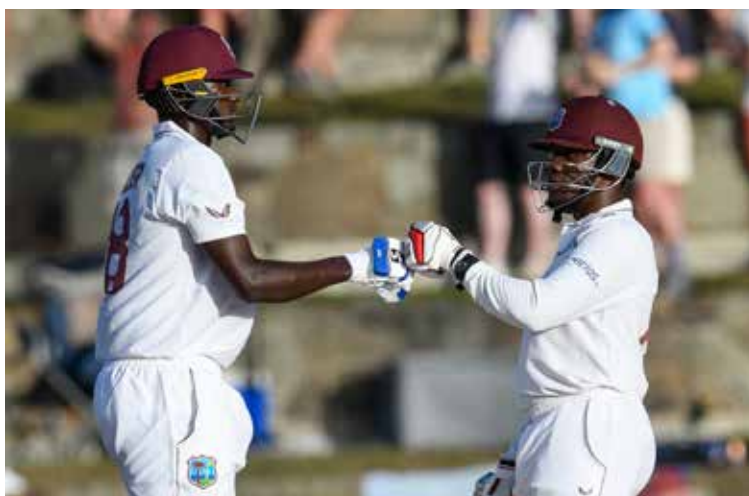
Sports News



Unchanged West Indies squad for second test

Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the selection panel named an unchanged squad for the second Apex Test match against England which will take place at the Kensington Oval from 16th - 20th March.

Tied at -0-0 following a draw at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in the first Test West Indies was unable to maintain their unbeaten record against England on Antigua soil but will look to push on from a spirited performance on a slow track. Jamaican Nkrumah Bonner was named Player-of-the-



Match. He posted a career best 123 in the first innings and stood tall in the second with 38 not-out in the second innings on the final day.

Lead selector Desmond

Haynes explained, "it was a hard fought match" and they decided to stick with the same 13 players for the second Test in Barbados.

The former West Indies

opener was high in praise for Bonner pointing to his application and mental toughness in the first game.

"He showed how Test cricket should be played," Haynes said. "He stuck to the task and I am happy for him."

West Indies squad: (Kraigg Brathwaite captain, Jermaine Blackwood vice-captain, Nkrumah Bonner, Sharmarh Brooks, John Campbell, Joshua De Silva, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kyle Mayers, Veerasammy Permaul, Anderson Phillip, Kemar Roach and Jayden Seales.

Tom Brady: NFL great makes retirement U-turn after six weeks

Tom Brady, one of the greatest players in NFL history, is coming back for his 23rd season just six weeks after announcing his retirement.

The quarterback, 44, said last month he was ending his playing career after winning a record seven Super Bowls.

But Brady has now said he has "unfinished business" and will re-join the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"These past two months I've realised my place is still on the field and not in the stands," he said on social media.

"That time will come. But it's not now. I love my team-mates, and I love my supportive family. They make it all possible. I'm

coming back for my 23rd season in Tampa."

After being selected by the New England Patriots with the 199th pick of the 2000 draft, Brady led the franchise to six Super Bowl wins.

He left for the Bucs in 2020 and helped them win the Super Bowl in his first season, being named the game's Most Valuable Player for a fifth time.

A three-time NFL season MVP, he led Tampa Bay back to the play-offs last season and still had a year remaining on his contract with the Bucs when he announced his retirement.

The franchise were yet to sign a new quarterback and, when asked about a possible return for Brady



Tom Brady

earlier this month, coach Bruce Arians said: "That door is never closed."

In his final game of the 2021 season, Brady narrowly failed to pull off a sensational comeback from 27-3 down in the play-offs as the Bucs ultimately lost 30-27

to the eventual Super Bowl winners, the Los Angeles Rams.

He amassed a career-high 5,316 passing yards last season and holds the all-time records for passing yards (84,520) and touchdowns (624).

Kevin Durant questions New York's Covid-19 rules

Kevin Durant has questioned New York's Covid-19 rules which allowed unvaccinated Brooklyn Nets teammate Kyrie Irving to attend the 110-107 victory over the New York Knicks.

Durant said the situation was "ridiculous" after scoring a season-high 53 points with Irving courtside at the Barclays Center.

Fans no longer need to show proof of vaccinations to attend indoor venues, but businesses still require workers to be vaccinated.

Irving refused to be vaccinated and was kept out of the Nets set-up until December, when they let him return to action.



Kevin Durant (right) with Kyrie Irving (left), who only returned to the Brooklyn Nets setup in December due to his stance on the Covid-19 vaccination [Getty Images]

He has not been able to play in home games because rules in New York require players to be vaccinated and has missed away games in states with sim-

ilar rules.

Sunday's match was the first home game he has attended this season.

"It's ridiculous. I don't understand it at all," said Durant, who called on New York City Mayor Eric Adams to "figure out" a solution.

"There's unvaxxed people in this building already. We got a guy who can come into the building - I guess, are they fearing for our safety?"

"Pretty much everybody in the world is confused at this point."

Los Angeles Lakers legend LeBron James tweeted that Irving being able to attend the match but not play made "absolutely zero sense".

Serbia and Australia to replace suspended Russia in Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup

Russia and Belarus have been suspended from international team competition following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Serbia and Australia are the highest ranked sides among the 2021 losing semi-finalists from each competition.

Slovakia and Belgium are also through to the Billie Jean King Cup finals.

Slovakia were due to play Australia in next month's qualifiers for the women's team event but will receive a bye, while Belgium receive a walkover as they were due to play Belarus.

The three sides will be joined by an as yet unnamed

host, last year's runner-up Switzerland and the remaining seven winners of April's qualifiers in November's finals.

In the men's Davis Cup, a wild card for the finals previously awarded to Serbia will be handed to one of the 12 nations knocked out in the qualifiers earlier this month.

The 12 winning teams from the qualifiers, 2021 finalists Croatia and wild card Britain are the other confirmed sides for the finals, which will see 16 nations competing in four groups across four cities in September.

The top eight teams will



The Russian team, led by world number one Daniil Medvedev, beat Croatia to lift the Davis Cup in November

advance to the knockout stages, which will serve as the season-ending event on the men's tennis calendar in a fifth host city at the end of November.

Russia won the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup in 2021, becoming just the fourth nation to win both competitions in the same year.

Almost 100 yachts register for Antigua Sailing Week

With less than two months to go before the start of one of the Caribbean region's premier regattas, almost 100 boats have registered to participate in Antigua Sailing Week 2022.

Following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 53rd edition of the annual event will be staged from 30th April to 6th May.

President and Commercial Director of Antigua Sailing Week, Alison "Sly" Adams, said a lot of interest is being shown in the event.

"Registration is going very well. We now have 87 boats which is above where we were at this stage in 2019, the last time we had our event nearly three years ago," said Adams during an interview with Pointe On De Streetz on Pointe FM.

"With the changes in protocols daily, we are having to completely re-look at what we may or may not be able to do shore side. But the sailors are really excited about coming for Antigua Sailing Week this year."

Adams, who is also President of the Caribbean Sailing Association, said Antigua Sailing Week is an integral part of the competitive sailing opportunities provided to sailors in the region.

"We have just seen the RORC Caribbean 600 which was an amazing event. In English Harbour you could not get in; there was not a room, literally, to rent anywhere.

"We have now got the super yacht event which started on Thursday and then the Classic Yacht Regatta at the



The Bareboat fleet, including charters from Dream Yacht Charter and Sunsail, at the start of their class off the southern coast of Antigua during Antigua Sailing Week 2019. (Photo: Paul Wyeth)

beginning of April and then Antigua Sailing week.

"It just feels great that Antigua Sailing Week is back and it has got people really excited about the sailing being offered in the Caribbean," Adams said.

"We at Antigua Sailing Week for 2022 are looking forward to welcoming back, hopefully, about 1,000 sailors at the end of April.

"The purpose of Antigua Sailing Week was to extend the yachting season in Antigua and provide a marketing brand for the island. So far, it has totally delivered on both points, it really does."

The General Manager of the National Sailing Academy (NSA), added that as was the case in 2019, a team of the academy's youth sailors will participate in Antigua Sailing Week.

"The other exciting thing, especially for me in my new role with the National Sailing Academy, is this year we will again be hoping to have about 25 youths from the academy and Antigua Yacht Club on board some of those boats in Antigua Sailing Week.

"It's a great learning and training opportunity for the kids, so we are really excited to be able to introduce our students to the international visitors and also to get visitors to learn more about the island.

"The other wonderful thing is once the international sailors get some local knowledge on the boats, that gives them a whole different perspective as well," Adams said.

The 2022 event will sail off on 30th April with the Peters & May Round Antigua Race, followed by Antigua Sailing Week from 1st - 6th May.