

PM BROWNE: DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CARICOM NATIONALS MUST END



Prime Minister Gaston Browne vigorously defended his government's immigration amnesty in Parliament yesterday. *Story on Page 2*

Local News

Immigration amnesty successful, PM says discrimination against CARICOM nationals will not be tolerated

An average of 80 people a day have taken advantage of the immigration amnesty extended by the government since its launch on 1st. March.

This is the word from the Immigration Department which has reported that a steady stream of non-nationals have been coming into their offices between 2pm and 8pm Monday through Friday over the last two weeks.

The government extended the amnesty to give non-nationals living in the country the opportunity to regularise lapsed immigration statuses caused by the economic hardship brought on by the pandemic.

Until 30th April, non-nationals have the opportunity to bring their immigration status up-to-date without penalty.

Rates associated with processing amnesty, residency and citizenship applications by the Immigration



Department have also been reduced.

The government made it even more affordable for lapsed non-nationals when they abandoned the old requirement for applicants to leave the state while they wait for their work permit to be processed.

Another welcomed element of the amnesty allows for non-nationals who satisfy specific requirements to fast track residency and citizenship applications.

Persons living in Anti-

gua and Barbuda for a minimum of four years but less than seven years, may now apply for residency permit, while persons who have resided in the country for more than seven years may apply for citizenship.

In both cases, applicants must not be absent from the country for more than six months at a time.

A 'walk-in' system has also been introduced to further hasten the application process. To access the service, 'walk-ins' must present











themselves to the department by 1:00 pm on the day they wish to submit their applications for the process of registering their names. This will be done on a first-come, first-served basis.

All applicants are required to present a completed application form, their passport, and a recent photograph in order to be processed.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday in Parliament, Prime Minister Gaston Browne vigorously defended his government's immigration amnesty after the claims of opposition MPs that it was extended as an election year political ploy.

The prime minister said that from its inception, the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party has been welcoming of non-nationals, particularly those from CARICOM na-

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Wed 16 Day		Wed 16 Night	
82°		75°	
7% E 17 mph		24% E 16 mph	
Sunshine. High 82F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		Clear skies. Low around 75F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	
 Humidity 65%	 UV Index Extreme	 Humidity 75%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 6:14 am	 Sunset 6:17 pm	 Moonrise 5:02 pm	 Moonset 5:15 am
		○ Waxing Gibbous	

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tions. He further contended that his administration had no need to employ tricks to receive support from the non-national community as history proves the Labour government's caring track record

"We do not have to play that game to suggest to them that the Labour Party is inclusive and that we're supportive of their development; they have lived it!

"They understand it. They know intrinsically that the administration that has helped the immigrants in this country would have been the previous Labour Party administration and this current administration," asserted Prime Minister Browne.

"In fact Mr. Speaker," he continued, "more CARICOM nationals would have qualified as citizens under the previous Labour Party administrations, and this one, than any other administration."

"The [UPP] administration has a terrible legacy of of frustrating the attempts of individuals who have been legally resident in this country to become citizens, and particularly the CARICOM nationals because of their prejudice, because they feel that [CARICOM nationals] primarily support the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party. And generally, immigrants support administrations that treat them well," said PM Browne.

On the issue of prejudice against CARICOM nationals in particular, Prime Min-

ister Browne also exposed the egregious actions of some immigration officers whom he said he has learned are deliberately frustrating the amnesty process and has warned them to stop their counterproductive actions immediately.

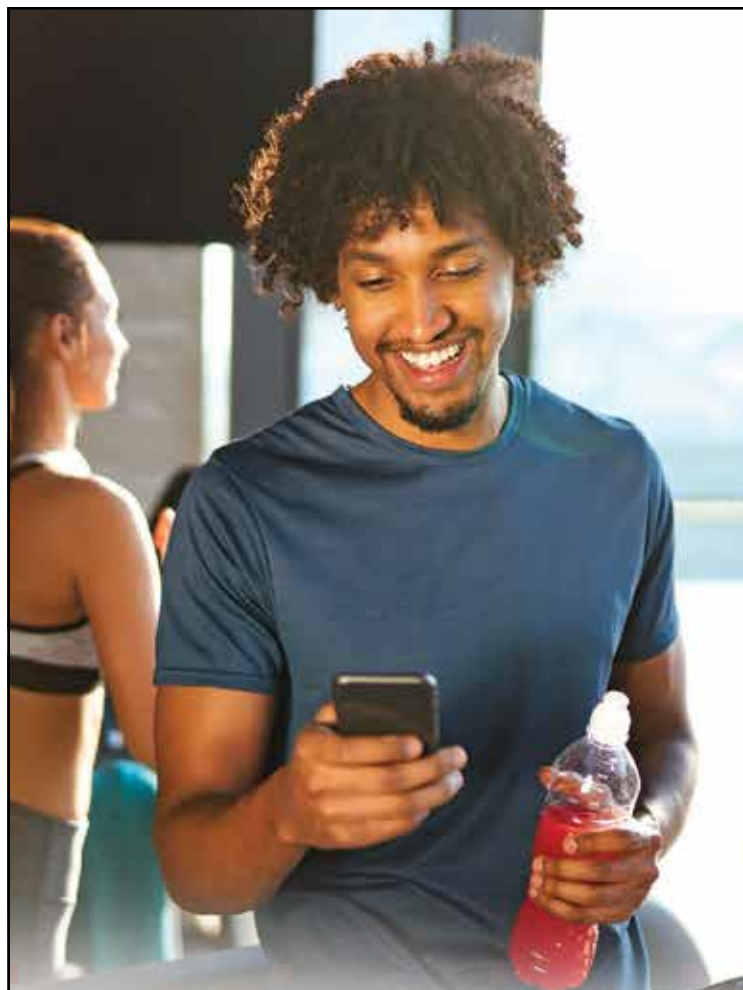
While he did not identify the offending officers by name, the prime minister said he was reliably informed that some immigration officers who personally object to the amnesty have been targeting CARICOM nationals, in one instance even calling the police on a group who were queued outside the Immigration Department waiting their turn to be seen and accusing them of loitering.

Meanwhile, the prime minister continued, other non-nationals who are not of the Caribbean diaspora, were not subjected to the same contempt.

"We want to make it abundantly clear that this administration will not preside over any such policy of discrimination. All immigrants should be treated fairly and they should all [get] respect.

"There is a prevailing prejudice among some within the Immigration Department against our Caribbean Brothers and Sisters," said Prime Minister Browne.

Making it clear that "this is not the Labour Party way", the prime minister said it is his intention today to investigate for himself why some immigration officers are "treating our Caribbean Brothers and Sisters with scorn".



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Local News



Gasoline increases to \$15.70 per gallon

The rising cost of fuel.

This has been the single largest topic on the lips of Antiguans and Barbudans over the past several days.

Speculation on the new price of gasoline at the pump ended on Tuesday, however, with the announcement that consumers will now pay \$15.70, a \$3.20 increase on the former rate of \$12.50.

Diesel on the other hand has increased \$3.30 to \$15.50 from \$12.20 per gallon.

Global fuel prices have seen a steady increase since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in Europe.

The Antigua and Barbuda government indicated shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine that the resulting instability in the cost of crude oil per barrel would inevitably lead to an increase in the cost of fuel domestically as it would no longer be able to continue the price stabilisation subsidy.

To keep the cost of fuel at \$12.50, then the lowest



in the OECS, the Gaston Browne administration waived consumption tax on fuel at the pump.

So far this month, the cost of oil per barrel has peaked at almost US\$127 per barrel. At the time of publication, the price of crude oil stands at just under US\$98 per barrel.

However, the landed cost per barrel to Antigua and Barbuda in the last several weeks has peaked at more than US\$140 according to the prime minister.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Browne said the government could not continue to absorb the \$2 - \$2.5 million payments to West Indies Oil Company

Ltd. (WIOC) if the global oil market remained volatile.

On Monday, Ministers Chet Greene and Charles Fernandez warned that a protracted war in Europe will not just affect fuel rates.

Seventy percent of the world's grain is produced in Eastern Europe where the war rages on with no end to the conflict in sight.

Trade and Foreign Affairs minister Greene cautioned ominously on Monday that the Caribbean stands to suffer increased food import costs and, in the worst case scenario, food shortages if the war drags on.

The region was forced

to confront the reality of the havoc food insecurity could cause following the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Global supply chains were crippled and shipping routes ground to a halt as countries closed their borders in an effort to control the spread of the virus.

This caused shortages in some food items in the region and whopping increases in the cost of others.

Although nations the world over are making efforts to transition to the endemic phase of COVID-19, there is still a very long way to go in respect of global logistics before a complete return to normalcy can be claimed.

This was confirmed by Tourism minister Fernandez who said this week, while Antigua and Barbuda is moving ahead with plans for what officials hope will be a successful summer tourist season, the war and its impact on fuel will result in increased air and cruise fares.

Mystery fire erupts in Booby Alley house



A fire of unknown origin broke out in this abandoned house in Booby Alley last evening, sending neighbouring residents into a panic.

They jumped into action using buckets of water to dampen the flames.

Shortly after, the fire department

responded and took control of the scene.

Frightened residents are calling on authorities to demolish abandoned structures in order to prevent incidents like last night's fire from happening again.

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Rare blood type needed for Fergus sister

The Minister of Health and Wellness has appealed for blood donations on behalf of two of the three sisters who were involved in last week's accident on Friars Hill Road.

The Fergus sisters were the occupants of a white Honda Fit that was travelling in a southerly direction on Friars Hill Road just about 1am Wednesday when the driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed outside Premier Beverages.

The sisters sustained severe injuries, however, one has been discharged, while two remain in critical condition at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Speaking in Parliament yesterday, Sir Molwyn Joseph said the public's help is being solicited as one of the hospitalised sisters has a rare blood type for which donations are being sought in order to aid her treatment



and recovery process.

"I spoke to the medical director this morning [Tuesday]. He's off island, and he gave me an updated re-

port which shows a level of optimism which is a welcomed development. The main challenge facing the efforts


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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

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Parked vehicles proving problematic for fire department

Fire Chief Elvis Weaver is calling on the relevant authorities to regulate parking to make it easier for emergency vehicles responding to calls.

He said fire tenders are experiencing great difficulty maneuvering narrow streets with vehicles parked on both sides.

This was the situation that was encountered on lower North Street last week when fire officers responded to the scene of last Thursday evening's fire in Point.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police Weaver, there are times when responding officers have had to push vehicles out of the way in order to gain access to houses that were ablaze.

"I think it's time for easy access. I know it will be difficult to say people have to park on one side of the street, but it would be a lot easier for emergency vehicles when it comes



Assistant Commissioner of Police & Fire Chief Elvis Weaver

to public safety," he said.

The fire chief admitted that he understands that residents would prefer to park close to their homes, but taking up both sides of streets

poses a challenge to the fire department in the execution of their duties.

"Some people are very inconsiderate. You know some areas you go, you find everybody park on one side of the street.

"But some people don't care about that; they want to park in front their house, their neighbour on the opposite want to park in front their house.

"We can only appeal to people. With so many wooden houses in Antigua, it could be your house, and it would be nice if everyone can.

"But as I said, the areas are so small for everyone to park on one side of the street, so at least in an emergency, the emergency vehicles can have easy access."

Mr. Weaver is also appealing to residents for their cooperation in removing their vehicles from the path of fire tenders when they are responding to emergencies.

Cruise passenger dies after excursion

A cruise passenger of German nationality died yesterday aboard the Aida Perla shortly after returning from a guided tour of the island.

The vessel was one of three that docked in Saint John's.

According to reports, the man who had underlying conditions, collapsed on the cruise ship. He was later pronounced dead and his body removed to a funeral home.

The vessel departed around 5pm.

It is believed the man



may have been traveling alone since no mention was made of family members or companions.

Following the police probe, a decision will be

made as to whether an autopsy will be conducted or if his body will be repatriated to his country of residence.

The Aida Perla is currently on a 14-day cruise that

began on 3rd March from La Romana in the Dominican Republic. Antigua and Barbuda was its final port of call before it returns to La Romana on 17th March, 2022.

OECS Assembly to convene for its sixth sitting in Antigua and Barbuda

The OECS Assembly is set to convene for its sixth (6th) sitting on March 18, 2022, at 9.30 a.m. under the theme: The Shift: Embracing New Platforms and Innovative Models for Leadership in Sustainability.

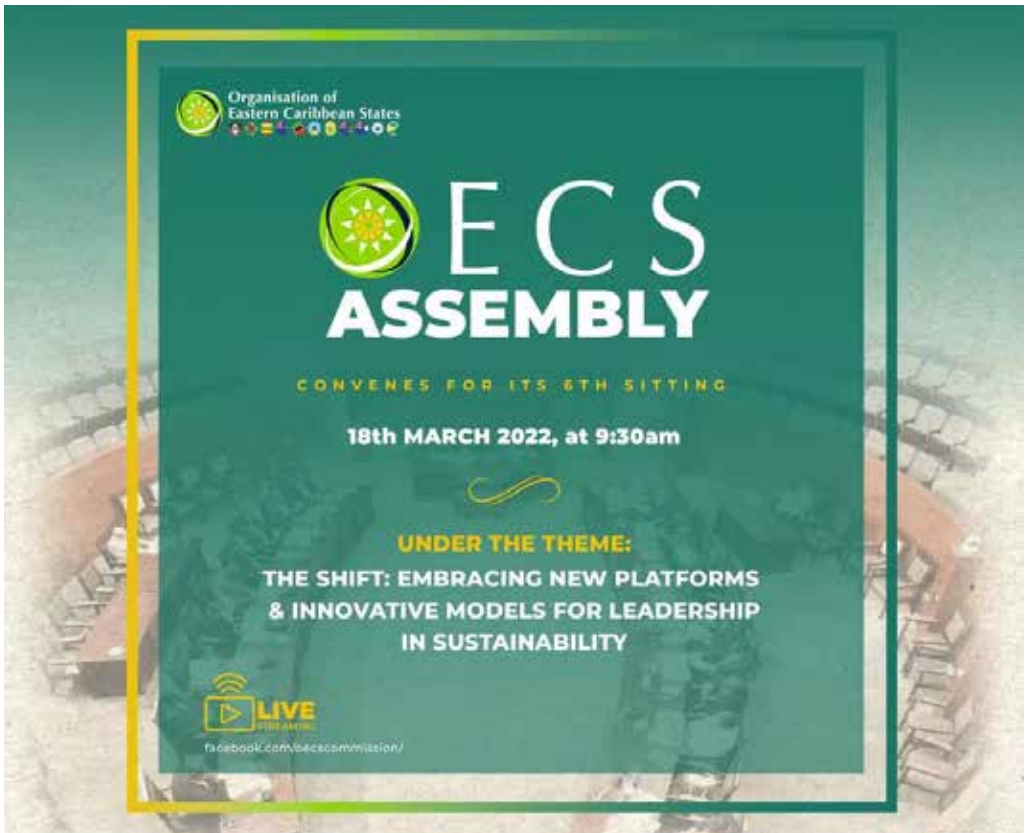
The Sitting will be a hybrid meeting with the members of the Assembly participating virtually as well as in-person, at the seat of the Assembly, being Parliament Building in St. John's Antigua. The Sitting will be live streamed on the OECS official Facebook page.

The OECS Assembly is a deliberative forum that brings together both government and opposition members of the parliaments and legislatures of the eleven (11) OECS Member States, to consider and seek common solutions to issues that affect the OECS region.

The OECS region, comprising island states, is susceptible to climate change events.

At the recently concluded United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) (Nov 21), OECS and other Caribbean states addressed their concerns to the Conference attendees.

The Caribbean islands have been identified as one of the world's top biodiversity hotspots, with both a high level of regionally unique spe-



cies and a severe degree of habitat loss and vulnerability to extinctions.

Unfortunately, conservation and sustainable management is often hampered by institutional challenges and competing goals of economic growth and national development, which are often perceived as being at odds with environmental protection and conservation.

This Assembly will elevate the discourse on the health, productivi-

ty and diversity of the region's ecosystems and biological resources as essential to economic viability and overall prosperity.

This 6th Sitting provides an avenue for further discourse on common issues and positions for the region, proposed initiatives and follow up actions for the UN Climate Change COP 27 in Egypt and the UN Biodiversity COP 15 in Kunming, China this year.

cont'd from pg 6

to provide recovery is the lack of blood."

He explained that the sibling whose injuries are most severe, has the rare blood type A negative. Therefore, Sir Molwyn issued a national appeal for people with A Negative and O Negative blood types to donate to the Sir Les-

ter Bird Medical Centre's blood bank.

Unconfirmed reports are that these suggest the three siblings had just left a popular hangout spot on Friars Hill Road moments before the accident.

Their vehicle sustained extensive damage. The impact of the collision was so forceful that the car's en-

gine was dislodged, landing several feet away.

A source told Pointe Xpress that the injuries sustained by two of the sisters are life threatening and added they were all lucky to be alive.

Sir Molwyn Joseph stated he has given the family the assurance that the sisters who remain hospi-

talised will receive the best care.

"The mother came to my office yesterday [Monday] and solicited the government's support, and I want to assure her that the government is very concerned and is doing everything that is possible to ensure they get optimum treatment," he said.

Top Cop participates in international conference

The Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney is back on island, after participating in the 9th conference of Latin America and the Caribbean sponsored by the government of France.

The event which ran from March 6 to 13, had 26 high ranking officials from the military, police and senior government officials from the region taking part. The theme for this year's event was "France and Latin America and the Caribbean, facing new security and defense challenges".

Topics on security issues affecting Climate Change; External influences in Latin America and the Caribbean, International Cooperation in



Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney participated in the 9th conference of Latin America and the Caribbean.

citizens security and Challenges of Digital and Cyber Security all formed part of the week-long discussion.

Commissioner Rodney presented on the topic: "Re-

gional Integration as a Guarantee of Stability in Latin America and the Caribbean".

He highlighted the importance and benefits of integration, and also addressed

the challenges facing the region that affects full integration.

His presentation was well received by his counterparts and the French authorities.

Rodney said the sessions were relevant to the improvement of the security landscape in Antigua and Barbuda.

He further stated that the conference provided an opportunity for knowledge-sharing, networking, and building stronger relationships among security stakeholders within the region.

Antigua and Barbuda was among several Caricom States represented at the meeting. The others were Barbados, Jamaica, Haiti, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

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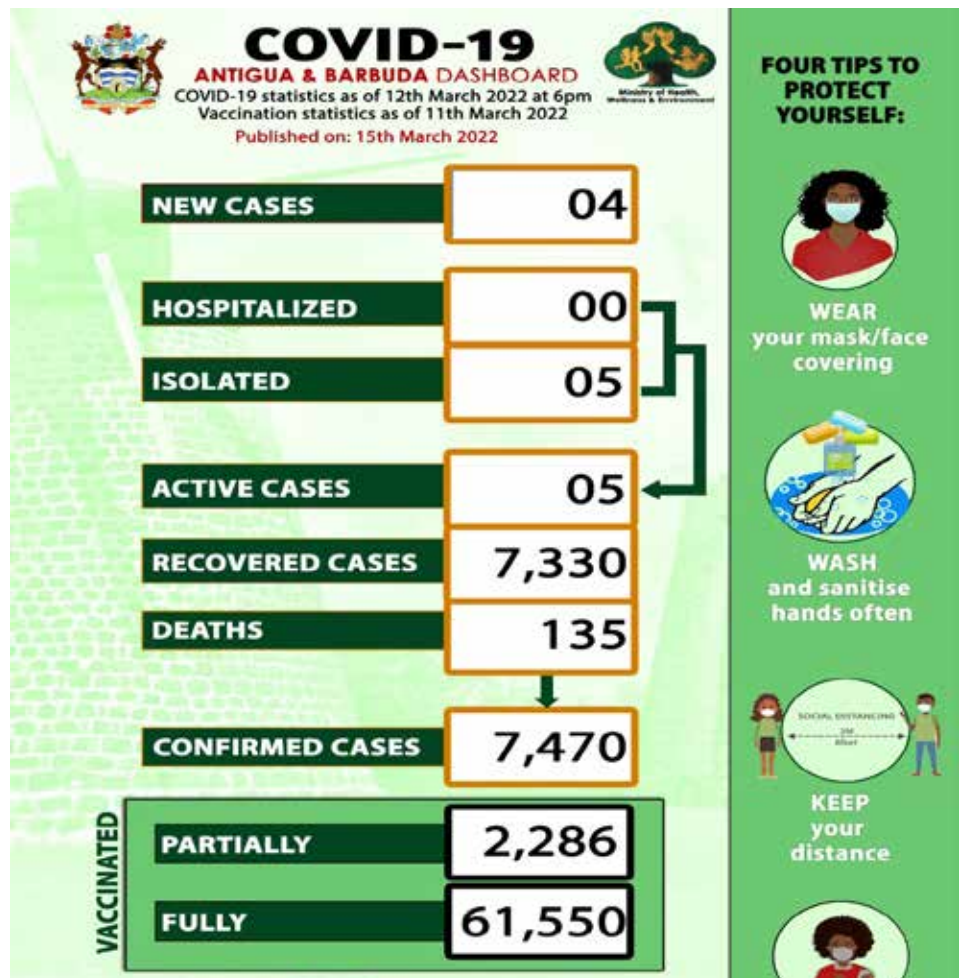
Five active COVID-19 cases as mask mandate ends

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed four (4) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 12th March, 2022 at 6pm.

One hundred and fifty-six (156) samples were processed.

Thirteen (13) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven thousand four hundred and seventy (7,470); which is inclusive of five (5) active cases. There are no hospitalised cases.



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iPhone 14 coming in four models without ‘mini’ version, Pro models with taller screen, satellite features advancing

By Filipe Espósito

Apple has just released new iPhone 13 models, but the company has already been working on iPhone 14. While 9to5Mac sources corroborated a report about the new models having different chips, we also learned that the iPhone 14 Pro models may have a taller screen due to the new design and that Apple has still been working on satellite features.

iPhone 14 details

Early iPhone 14 rumours suggested that Apple’s smartphone line-up in 2022 will have four new models but this time without a “mini” version. According to our sources, the new iPhone 14 (codenamed D27 and D28) will be available in 6.1-inch and 6.7-inch versions, and the current 5.4-inch iPhone mini form-factor will be discontinued.

These mid-range phones will have the same display resolution as the current iPhone 13 Pro and iPhone 13 Pro Max. However, the display on the flagships iPhones 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max (codenamed D73 and D74) may be slightly taller to accommodate the new “notch + pill” design that will replace the notch.

As for the chip situation, 9to5Mac’s sources confirm that there will be two new iPhone 14 models based on

the A15 chip, while two others will have a brand new chip. It’s worth noting that Apple already has two different versions of the A15 chip, one of which has an extra GPU core and 6GB of RAM (used in 13 Pro models).

Apple could use the high-end version of its A15 Bionic chip in the entry-level iPhone 14 models, as 9to5Mac also heard from our own sources that all this year’s iPhones will have 6GB of RAM. The company could even rebrand the chip as “A15X,” as it has done in

the past with the 2020 iPad Pro’s A12Z chip – which is essentially the A12X chip with an extra GPU core.

As another example, the Apple Watch Series 7 has the same CPU as the Apple Watch Series 6, but the chips are named “Apple S6” and “Apple S7” due to minor internal changes that have been made to the SoC.

Satellite features

A few weeks before the iPhone 13 announcement, some reports suggested that Apple had been working on satellite communication features for upcoming

iPhone models. Although these features were never added to the iPhone 13 line-up, 9to5Mac’s sources told us that Apple is still working on satellite communication for iPhone.

It’s unclear whether the technology will be ready for this year’s iPhone, but the company has been testing prototypes that are capable of sending text messages over satellite. That system is internally known by the codename “Stewie.”

Both iPhone 14 and 14 Pro are expected to be introduced this fall.



Sleeping with even a small amount of light may harm your health, study says

By Sandee LaMotte

Sleeping for only one night with a dim light, such as a TV set with the sound off, raised the blood sugar and heart rate of healthy young people participating in a sleep lab experiment, a new study found.

The dim light entered the eyelids and disrupted sleep despite the fact that participants slept with their eyes closed, said study author Dr. Phyllis Zee, director of the Center for Circadian and Sleep Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Heart rate typically drops at night, slowing down as the brain is busy repairing and rejuvenating the body. An elevated heart rate at night has been shown in numerous studies to be a risk factor for future heart disease and ear-



ly death.

High blood sugar levels are a sign of insulin resistance, where the body stops using glucose properly and the pancreas goes into overdrive, flooding the body with extra insulin to over-compensate until it eventually loses its ability to do so. Over time, insulin

resistance can ultimately lead to Type 2 diabetes.

Sleeping with eyes closed

Prior research has shown an association between artificial light at night and weight gain and obesity, disruptions in metabolic function, insulin

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cont'd from pg 12

secretion and the development of diabetes, and cardiovascular risk factors.

“Why would sleeping with your lights on affect your metabolism? Could that explain why there is a higher prevalence of diabetes or obesity (in society)?” Zee asked.

Zee and her team took 20 healthy people in their 20s and had them spend two nights in a sleep lab. The first night was spent in a darkened room where “you wouldn’t be able to see much, if anything, when your eyes were open,” Zee said.

All of the study participants were connected to devices monitoring a number of objective measures of sleep quality. So data could be gathered with minimal interference, they slept with an IV with long tubes that snake across the room and through a hole to the researcher’s side of the lab. The blood was drawn without ever touching the slumbering participants.

“We recorded the brainwaves and could tell what sleep stage the person was in,” Zee said. “We recorded their breathing, their heart rate, their EKG, and we also drew blood from them to measure melatonin levels while they were sleeping.” Melatonin is a hormone that regulates the body’s circadian rhythm, or sleep and wake body clock.

A randomized portion of the group repeated that same light level for a second night in the lab, while another group slept with a dim overhead light with a glow roughly equivalent to “a very, very dark, cloudy day or street lights coming in through a window,” Zee said.

“Now these people were asleep with their eyelids closed,” she explained. “In the literature the estimation is that about 5% to 10% of the light in the environment would actually get through the closed lid to the eye, so this is really not a lot of light.”

Yet even that tiny amount of light

created a deficit of slow wave and rapid eye movement sleep, the stages of slumber in which most cellular renewal occurs, Zee said.

In addition, heart rate was higher, insulin resistance rose, and the sympathetic (fight or flight) and parasympathetic (rest and relax) nervous systems were unbalanced, which has been linked to higher blood pressure in healthy people. The light was not bright enough, however, to lower levels of melatonin in the body, Zee added. The study was published Monday in the journal of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

What to do?

What advice would Zee give people based on her study and existing research in the field? Close your blinds and curtains, turn off all the lights, and consider using a sleep mask.

“I think the strength of the evidence is that you should clearly pay attention to the light in your bedroom,”

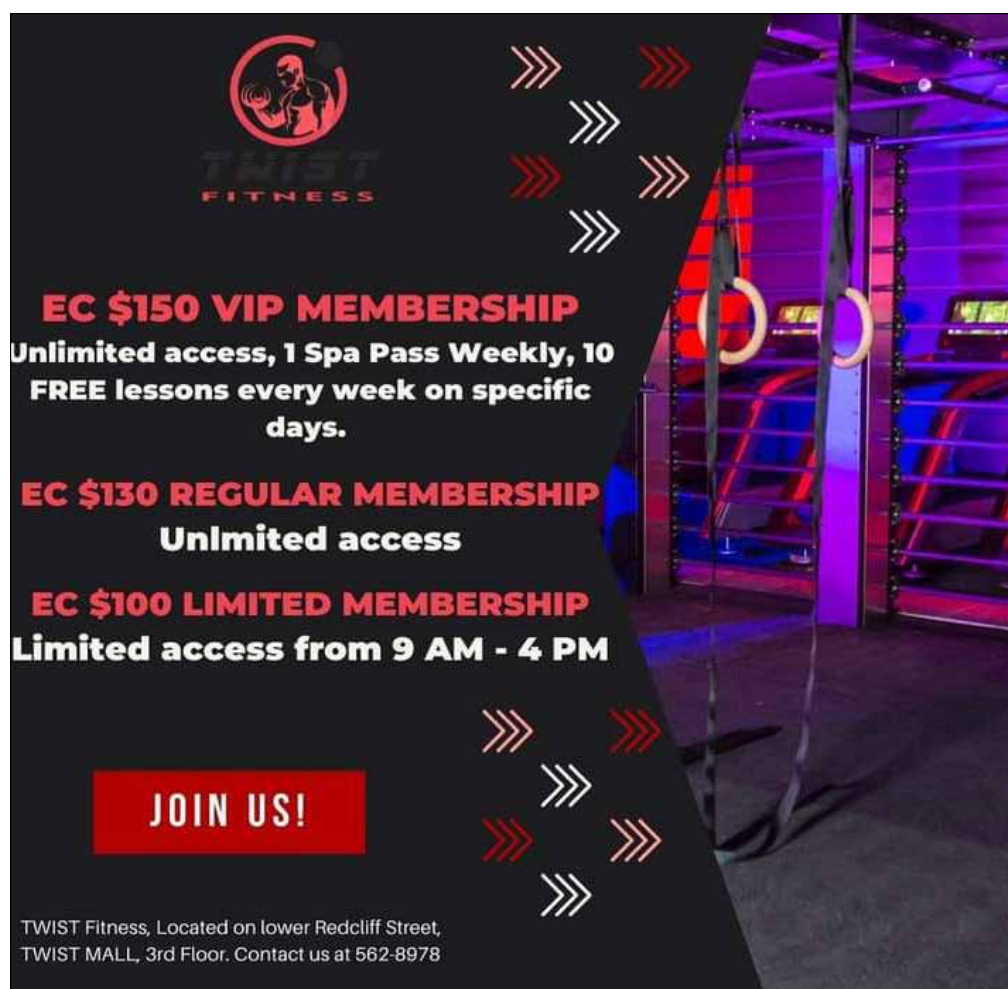
she said. “Make sure that you start dimming your lights at least an hour or two before you go to bed to prepare your environment for sleep.”

Check your bedroom for sources of light that are not necessary, she added. If a night light is needed, keep it dim and at floor level, “so that it’s more reflected rather than right next to your eye or bed level,” she suggested.

Also be aware of the type of light you have in your bedroom, she added, and ban any lights in the blue spectrum, such as those emitted by electronic devices like televisions, smartphones, tablets and laptops.

“Blue light is the most stimulating type of light,” Zee said. “If you have to have a light on for safety reasons change the colour. You want to choose lights that have more reddish or brownish tones.”

LED lights can be purchased in any colour, including red and brownish tones.



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Are we witnessing the extinction of Citizenship by Investment?

By **Stephane Tajick**

"I will harass you, I will chase you, I will hunt you down!" These are not the words of the actor Liam Neeson in the movie *Taken*, when the protagonist vows vengeance on the criminals who kidnapped his daughter. They are the words of Sophie in 't Veld, a member of the European Parliament, speaking to her fellow members and pressuring them to end RCBI in Europe.

This is the sorry state of the situation: Those who scream the loudest are the only ones being heard. When someone as experienced as Didier Reynders echoes those sentiments – which have also been voiced by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen – it will be hard for other policymakers to ignore. The powers that be have now found the ammunition they were looking for: The Russian invasion of Ukraine. Any rational opposition has now been muted. They are using the war as a catalyst, and the momentum is firmly with them.

The last few weeks have seen the EU, US, and others vow to put an end to CBI, not only in Europe but also beyond, clearly putting the Caribbean in their crosshairs. These threats have now become very real. Vanuatu has been pretty much stripped of their visa-free travel to the EU, rendering the Vanuatu CBI practically worthless.



Are we looking at an extinction event? Is this the end of CBI? The No Travel for Traffickers Act, a proposed US bi-partisan bill, could bring an end to Maltese MEIN, and if the shots fired by the US don't bring it down, the EU Parliament likely will. The added pressure on the other countries with a CIP benefiting from visa-free travel to the EU might find themselves thinking, "Well, we had a good run. Can we negotiate an amnesty period?"

CIPs are not the only ones in the crosshairs. "Golden Visas" in Europe are also being targeted to either to close or be as unattractive as possible. Already, a few Golden Visas in Europe have taken steps to shut their doors to Russian applicants; the UK going as far as to terminate its Investor Visa programme. Now, European Golden Visas are unlikely to be shut down, and I'm not too pessimistic about their ability to weather the storm. But a small change like a high minimum stay

requirement during the year could seriously affect their attractiveness. Also, now that real estate prices are soaring due to low interest rates, Golden Visa programmes that heavily rely on their Real Estate option can more easily be discarded.

Let's go back to the start

Since the first time I laid eyes on an EU parliament report on investment migration, it was apparent that the report had an archetypical "investor" in mind: the Russian oligarch, Putin's agent. Since then, every report that followed has irrationally viewed immigrant investors as a potential security threat, implying that a "bad" Russian agent would use "Putin money" to gain residency or citizenship into Europe and spy, engage in terrorist activities, or be part of organized crime and launder money.

Now, I'm not a Russian government apologist. Past and present actions have shown that the existence of a "Russian threat" to Europe

is far from being pure fiction. That said, labelling all Russian investors as a "high security risk" and all immigrant investors as "Russian" is resorting to blatant discrimination and falsehoods.

Why are those using immigrant investor programmes portrayed as more likely to be a security threat and prone to money laundering? For us experts in the field, it's maddening to hear that programmes that have a much higher level of due diligence than other immigration paths are labelled security and money-laundering risks when you can do the exact same thing with any other resident permit. As if it makes more sense for a terrorist/criminal/spy to make a half-million euro investment, wait six months for approval, and pass a high level of due diligence instead of simply applying for a tourist visa or entering illegally.

Most countries have a dozen paths to temporary residency, so if someone has the motivation and means, he can qualify for most of these paths. As a global mobility expert, I know I can land people in Europe without using an immigrant investor programme.

Portugal has blocked access to its Golden Visa for Russians, but I can still help a Russian with a bit of wealth to land in Portugal in multiple other ways:

- D7 visa: if he doesn't

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already have a stable monthly income, I'll just tell him to put his house up for rent and wait to collect a few months of stable rental income before applying.

- D2 Visa: I'll tell him to get his company to provide him with a consulting contract so he can apply as a freelancer.

- Work Visa/D3/EU Blue card: Invest in a Portuguese company, ask them to give you a position, and request a work permit.

- Startup Visa: Find him a tech project to develop in Portugal and create a business plan for him.

This applicant will get their residency permit in Portugal sooner than if he had applied to a Golden Visa, will be able to open a bank account, transfer money, and buy a property in Europe, but with a lot less scrutiny. How can policymakers making these decisions not know this?

Do Russian applicants warrant so much attention?

Russians do not constitute a sizeable enough proportion of the investment migration market to warrant this much attention. The cumulative number of Russian applications a year (in the programmes below) is roughly 550 – and that's when you generously count all Maltese "Europeans" as Russians. That's somewhere between 5% to 7% of the applications approved cumulatively under those programmes.

And forget for an instant that the reason to shut down RCBI is based on 5-7% of applicants. How many of these past Russian applicants have actually been proven to be credible security threats or criminals?

Russian proportion of RCBI applicants (latest recorded year)

- Antigua & Barbuda: 9%
- Australia Investor Stream: <1%
- Canada QIIP: <5%
- Greece: 6% Ireland: <1%
- Latvia Investor: >50% (historical high, but now the applicants can be counted in one hand)

- Malta MEIN: 45% are defined as "European"; it's unclear what proportion are Russian

- New Zealand Investor: 0.25%
- Portugal Investor: 4% (Since 2012)
- Spain Investor: 30%
- St Lucia: 17% UK Investor: 10%
- US EB5: <1%

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been used as a boogeyman to order the shutdown of every CBI out there and make all RBIs in Europe worthless.

RCBI programmes do not have a life of their own; they are a product of government policies. Their governments can amend those programmes, often at will. If a programme is not meeting its economic objectives or poses a security risk, it's not because the programme magically took on a life of its own, but usually because policymakers lack the expertise required to design and implement a worthy programme.

So, what's next?

I'd be surprised if CBIs with visa-free travel to the Schengen area are not phased out relatively soon. You might still be able to get a Turkish passport, but I'm not sure that's attractive to most people.

What might emerge after the dust has settled is "Simplified Naturalisation" – that is, countries will use existing legislation usually catering to those with a special situation (marriage, ancestry, stateless) and extend it to certain high-value investors. Simplified Naturalisation already exists around the world. In European countries, it usually requires three years of residence. If any European country were to accept such a scheme in the future, it would likely require:

High investment, deemed worthy by the country and the EU EU-wide due diligence on each case.

Special tax (donation) to an EU collective fund.

In the end, CBI will simply become RBI.

Europe's Golden Visas will survive, but if a high physical presence is

imposed throughout the year, the core demand will likely start slowly moving away from the continent. It was the death of North American RBIs that gave rise to European RBIs. Today, where would the industry shift the demand? Good question.

The US EB5 Regional Center programme is reopening. It can definitely hold a good capacity and with the spectre of the "war in Europe" looming, it won't be difficult for the programme to remarket itself. That said, it's still unclear if the processing time will ever reach acceptable levels again. The same can be said about the QIIP if it ever reopens.

Australia and New Zealand run their immigration systems better than the rest. If they feel there's a problem with their programmes, they fix it; they don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. That said, Australia's Investor Stream is already operating at high capacity.

New Zealand is very attractive in a world going bonkers and is operating at low capacity, but the programme is not accessible to the masses.

There are programmes on the fringes that might benefit from more attention in Latin America or in places like Mauritius and Fiji. And who knows? Maybe the UAE might come up with a surprise in the form of a path to naturalisation.

It would be surprising for the UK Investor Visa programme not to reopen considering the mercantile nature of that country. But if past decades have taught me anything, it's that any programme that closes or becomes "temporarily suspended" is unlikely to reopen anytime soon, if ever.

In conclusion, the battle may already be lost for CBI, but RBI in Europe can still be saved. It will require the industry to seriously come together and propose a reasonable side to the story. The best approach might not be to counter all the opposition arguments but rather to help the EU reach its objectives without compromising the competitiveness of the programmes.

Bahamas records 28 murders in Q1 of 2022

The Bahamas is forecast to record another bloody year as police reported a four per cent increase in murders for the first quarter of 2022.

Acting Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander told the media today that 28 murders were recorded from January 1 to March 14, 2022, compared to 27 for the same period last year.

This past weekend was one of the bloodiest as five men were murdered.

Fernander revealed most of the shootings were gang-related and came about as criminals engaged in a “tit for tat” for crimes committed against each other.

He said gang leaders are seeking to recruit young men to carry out their illicit activities.

The acting top cop warned family members of criminals that they simply cannot throw their hands in the air and ignore the actions of their relatives since they may lose their lives.

“When they can’t get at their target, or if you as family members, if



you are with them you also become a target. And if they can’t get at their target, they go and they target you the family,” Fernander said

“So we are asking you as parents to please try to talk to your kids. And if they are involved in the life of crime, turn them into us so that we can sit down with them and have a conversation and try to steer them in the right

direction”

Illegal fire arms continue to be the weapons of choice for criminals and they are hiding them in parcels of food in an effort to evade authorities.

But, Fernander said “we are on to them” as he sought to assure that police are doing all in their power to prevent illegal guns from making their way into Bahamian communities.

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	AIDAperla	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



Belize gets US\$25M from World Bank for Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Loop - The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved financing of US\$25 million for the Belize Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project, which will aim to increase food production capacity and the adoption of climate-smart agricultural approaches among project beneficiaries.

The project will provide over 7,000 farmers with weather data and technical information to help improve yields for crops and livestock and facilitate better planning.

The project will also provide grants to over 3,700 small farmers, enabling them to adopt climate-smart practices to improve the sustainability of their farms.

The matching grant scheme, combined with technical support for farmers, is targeted to leverage US\$18.2 million in private financing for climate-smart agricultural technology. Importantly, 30 per cent of grants will be targeted to women farmers in the project.

"I have seen firsthand how important farmers and agriculture are to Belize. Both the World Bank and Belize know the sector can be an engine of growth to support the well-being of families and communities and improve the economic prospects of the country," said Lilia Burunciuc, World Bank Country Direc-



tor for the Caribbean.

"We have witnessed the importance of food security to the region, something that has been particularly underscored throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and this project will accelerate efforts to address that in a climate-smart way."

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the challenges facing Belize's agriculture sector. It disrupted supply chains, reduced purchasing power and weakened the demand for food products, including from Belize's tourism sector.

One of the project's aims is to ensure that farmers become more resilient and produce food in an environmentally sustainable manner that meets the needs of local and international markets.

Farmers will benefit from training in improved practices, greater access to data, improved infrastructure for the sector and technical advice.

The Belize Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project will also fund capacity building for key intuitions that support the farmers, including the Min-

istry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, to better support the development of a more resilient, productive, and climate-smart agricultural sector.

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Look out for separation anxiety in students, says Jamaican specialist

Jamaica Observer – Jamaican child psychologist, Dr. Orlean Brown-Earle, is warning parents and teachers to be on the lookout for signs of separation anxiety in children as face-to-face classes resume.

Brown-Earle said this type of anxiety may present itself in students because of the almost two-year break from physical schools, due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

“They are going to face some unusual challenges. Some of them are going to have separation anxiety, they will feel anxious about leaving their home environment. Basically, for the past two years they are used to being at home, so for some of them, especially younger children, it might be stressful to be separated,” Brown-Earle stated.

At the same time, she added, if a parent or teacher notices that a child is showing signs of anxiety, such as profusely perspiring or trembling when the weather is not a factor or being disruptive in class and speaking up about attending school, the first thing that needs to be done is to validate their feelings.

“So, it’s going to be important for parents especially to stay calm and positive. If the children are telling you that they are worried and they are having some negative feelings about the school and so on, be patient with them and be understanding towards them,” Brown-Earle advised, noting that she understands that parents may also be feeling some level of anxiety, given the pandemic.

However, she cautioned that, “We want to also set the tone. Because if the parents present with anxiety then the children are going to be more anxious. The parents themselves must be in charge of their emotions.”

Additionally, she said that it is



Dr Orlean Brown-Earle

important that while at home, if the parents are in a position to do so, they should separate themselves from their children, since parents, who weren’t able to have another caregiver around, were constantly with their child.

“They (parents) can say, ‘you know what, I’m going to go down the road for 20 minutes because I have somebody else to stay with them.’ Because you know, many children for the past three years, they have clung on to [their parents]. One mother told me that because she doesn’t have a caregiver she has never got a break from her child.

“She’s a good friend of mine. I had to say, ‘you know what, send them here for a whole day’ because she lives far away from family and friends,” Brown-Earle explained.

She also noted that while separation anxiety may be seen in exam students, younger children and special needs students are mostly affected by this condition.

“We see the separation anxiety largely in the younger ones who probably went to a little part of grade one and then now they are in grade three and they are used to their parents be-

ing around them. But we also see it in some of the high school students who have special needs,” she said.

“The special needs children, we want to focus on them especially because now they already probably was very closed to their parents, many times for special needs children the parents are overprotective, and now they have to be separated to go to school. Probably it’s the first time in a new school because some of them were in grade one but now that we are out of school with the learning loss and other issues, we realise that this child is autistic, this child has some intellectual deficit and has to go to another school. So for them easing back into a school mode is going to be very important,” Brown-Earle continued.

Face-to-face learning resumed at most public schools on Monday, March 7

Brown-Earle, meanwhile, said while she was very pleased when she learned that students would return to the classroom because of the academic and socialisation implications, she was also very concerned that teachers may be “burnout” from the stress of teaching during a deadly pandemic.

“We want them to engage in self-care and we want the administrators to pay attention to teachers who are possibly burnt out because of all that they have been doing — getting enough sleep, nutrition, are they exercising and, of course, communicating with any mental health services that they need to vent and share their issues?” Brown-Earle said.

She noted, too, that signs of a teacher being burnt out can present itself as lack of enthusiasm, detachment from students and colleagues, physical health issues and reduced performance.

Putin signs law to seize foreign aircraft as sanctions impact Russian aviation

Fox - Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law Monday that would give Russian airlines the ability to seize foreign-owned airplanes so they can be re-deployed for domestic flights amid crippling sanctions that have negatively impacted its aviation industry.

The law would allow the airlines to take and operate planes leased by foreign companies that have stopped businesses operations in the country over its invasion of Ukraine, the state-owned TASS news agency reported. The planes will be certified by certification centres and test laboratories, the news outlet reported.

The move is an attempt to circumvent Western sanctions that have resulted in multiple countries, includ-

ing the United States, closing their airspace to Russian airliners.

In the U.S., the Federal Aviation Administration said it was suspending "operations of all aircraft owned, certified, operated, registered, chartered, leased, or controlled by, for, or for the benefit of, a person who is a citizen of Russia."

In response to the widening sanctions, Russia said it has banned aircraft from at least 36 countries, including all of the European Union, from entering their airspace.

Putin's move could have little effect as sanctions forbid the support or the supply of spare parts necessary for planes, as well as maintenance. As modern jets require high levels of maintenance, passengers and crew



Vladimir Putin has signed a law on the registration of rights to foreign airplanes [Photo: Mikhail Klimentyev]

members could be put at risk.

In addition, the U.S.- and European Union-led sanctions have cut off Moscow from the world's two largest plane manufacturers, Chicago-based Boeing and Airbus, which is based in the Netherlands.

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Indian court upholds hijab ban in Karnataka state

CNN - An Indian high court has upheld a ban on the wearing of hijabs or headscarves in educational institutes in Karnataka state, weeks after religious clashes erupted over the right to wear the Islamic garment in schools.

The state's top court on Tuesday ruled that the hijab was not an "essential religious practice in Islamic faith" and dismissed a set of petitions filed by Muslim students denied entry to classrooms in multiple schools and colleges across the state.

The court also ruled that the requirement for students to comply with school uniforms is a "reasonable restriction, constitutionally permissible and which the students cannot object to."

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai appealed for calm after the ruling, which authorities feared could reignite religious protests.

"I request everybody to follow the high court order and maintain peace and order," Bommai told reporters Tuesday. "And allow the children to do their education as usual."

The controversy erupted after students staged a small protest in January demanding they be allowed inside the classroom while



Protesters gather in solidarity with Muslim women who were denied entry into school for wearing hijabs, in Bangalore, India 19 February 2022.

wearing the Islamic garments.

Their demonstration prompted rival protests from right-wing Hindus carrying saffron scarves - a colour widely associated with Hinduism - and chanting a religious Hindu slogan in support of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The dispute was seen as a symbol of deepening religious tensions in the state, where authorities ordered the closure of all high schools and colleges for several days to discourage

protests in early February. Rallies in the state's capital, Bengaluru, were also banned outside educational institutions for two weeks.

Scores of women from other Indian cities, including capital Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata, also took to the streets in support of the Muslim girls.

State authorities had supported the hijab ban, citing the state's mandate on religious attire.

But experts and activists say the hijab row runs deeper than a dress code, claiming it's indicative of a wider crackdown on India's

minority Muslim population since Modi's BJP came to power almost eight years ago.

Karnataka -- where just 13% of the population is Muslim -- is governed by the BJP, and the state has already passed legislation critics say favours Hindus.

Lawyer Mohammed Tahir, who represented one group of petitioners in court said in February that Karnataka was a "hotbed" of Hindutva ideology, supported by many right-wing groups, which seeks to make India the land of the Hindus.

Pfizer CEO says fourth dose of COVID vaccine is “necessary,” submits data to FDA

CBS - Pfizer's CEO says the company is submitting data to the Food and Drug Administration on the need for a fourth dose of its COVID-19 vaccine. While the shot Pfizer is currently producing with BioNTech still protects against severe disease, the drug-maker now believes another booster is needed to ward off infections.

“Right now, the way that we have seen, it is necessary, a fourth booster right now. The protection that you are getting from the third, it is good enough, actually quite good for hospitalizations and deaths. It's not that good against infections,” Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla told “Face the Nation” in an interview that aired Sunday.

Steven Danehy, a spokesperson for Pfizer, said Bourla was referring to “early and preliminary” data and pointed to a study announced in January examining both a fourth dose of the currently-authorized formulation as well as one designed to target the Omicron variant.

“We will continue to collect and assess all available data and remain in open dialogue with regulators and health authorities to help inform a COVID-19 vaccine strategy as the virus evolves,” Danehy said in a statement.

A White House spokesperson referred inquiries about the submission to the FDA. A spokesperson for the agency declined to comment.

Bourla had previously described the company's submission as a “significant package of data about the need for a fourth dose,” in an interview with CNBC. His conclusions echo trends observed by health authorities around

the world, who have studied vaccine effectiveness during the Omicron variant wave earlier this year.

A cohort study published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month found vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 emergency room or urgent care visits had decreased to 66% among those who had received a third dose of one of the mRNA vaccines four to five months ago. The vaccine was 78% effective against COVID-19 hospitalizations among this group.

Beyond the fourth shot, Bourla said the company is attempting to create a new vaccine “that will protect against all variants, including Omicron, but also something that can protect for at least a year.”

“Omicron was the first one that was able to evade in a skilful way, the immune protection that we're giving. But also, we know that the duration of the protection doesn't last very long,” he said.

Federal health officials have previously said an additional booster shot would likely be needed to head off new waves of the virus, though potentially not until the fall for most people.

“The hope would be that after our third shots we're able to get enough time out of them that we end up on essentially a yearly COVID-19 booster,” Dr. Peter Marks, the FDA's top vaccines official, told an event hosted by the University of California San Francisco and Stanford University in January.

That timeline had been echoed by executives at Moderna, which is also racing to trial new versions of their



Pfizer CEO, Albert Bourla

COVID-19 vaccine it hopes regulators can greenlight ahead of a potential “fall booster season.”

“It is time to update the vaccine against the mutations that are currently circulating, and to improve the durability against those new variants of concern. But it does run into the challenge of those filings,” Moderna's president Stephen Hoge told investors last month.

However, officials have said the fourth dose timeline could be accelerated for groups more vulnerable to severe breakthrough infections as the virus continues to spread.

“I don't think you're going to be hearing, if you do, any kind of recommendations that would be across the board for everyone,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the president's chief medical adviser, told reporters last month.

Close to half of all vaccinated adults and more than two thirds of vaccinated American seniors have received a booster shot, according to the CDC's figures.

While the pace of new cases and hospitalizations is continuing slow nationwide in the wake of the Omicron surge earlier this year, more than a thousand COVID-19 deaths are still being reported per day on average.



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Nkrumah Bonner's superb return to international cricket after a decade out

BBC - West Indies batter Nkrumah Bonner's career is one of a high that came too soon before a low that lasted too long.

The 33-year-old, who hit a fine century in the drawn first Test against England last week, made his international debut in T20 cricket in 2011 having played just four professional games in the format.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, two poor performances against England and Australia followed and Bonner would not get a sniff of international cricket again for almost a decade, during which he went to work in construction in the United States.

Bonner says he "sometimes" wondered whether cricket was not for him.

He adds: "There have been ups and downs but I always kept the faith and finally it's paid off."

Since making his Test debut in February 2021 against Bangladesh, Bonner has made two centuries in 10 matches at an average of 49.2. His career is at an all-time high.

"During that 10-year period when I was out, there was a lot of work I put in mentally, physically and technically and I'm really happy to be reaping the rewards now," he says.

"I'm more experienced now, I understand my game a lot better.

"I always had that belief I could play international cricket. Obviously sometimes the belief goes down a little bit but I kept working and I'm really happy to have come back."

After several poor seasons with his native Jamaica, Bonner moved to Leeward Islands where he was unable to turn around his form and after two and half seasons he was released.

Rather than return home, Bonner moved to the United States and took a nine-to-five job in construction and has previously said he thought it was



Nkrumah Bonner hit his maiden Test century against Sri Lanka last year in his third match [Getty Images]

the end of his career.

However, he got "fed up" and decided to move back to Jamaica to "do what I love".

A switch was flipped. Bonner had previously averaged 24.05 in first-class cricket, but since returning from the States, he has averaged 50.8.

Bonner was re-signed by Jamaica and given a chance late in the 2018-19 season after going unselected at the start of the year.

Batting at number seven and arriving at the crease at 27-5, Bonner scored a crucial 97.

"Obviously that was the turning point of my career," he says.

From that moment the runs have not stopped. The following season his performances earned him a spot as a Test reserve for West Indies' tour of England in 2020.

Then came a debut against Bangladesh where his 86 off 245 balls helped West Indies to a historic vic-

tory as they chased down 395 to win a match best remembered for Bonner's fellow debutant, Kyle Mayers, recording an unbeaten double century.

Bonner's innings symbolised what was to come as his obdurate, resilient style was on show once again last week as his first-innings 123 came off 355 balls, before his unbeaten 38 off 138 balls in the second innings safely guided West Indies to a draw on the final day.

"My runs are always gritty," said Bonner after the match.

"I'm not a free-scoring guy, I'm very disciplined. My power is about concentration.

"It was very emotional, for sure. Getting some runs against England is always a good feeling, especially against a team under some pressure."

Bonner will be hoping for more success against England when the second Test starts in Barbados on today.

Sports News



Premier League has not 'worked through the consequences' if Chelsea are not sold

BBC - The Premier League has not "worked through the consequences" if Chelsea are not sold by 31 May but believes the club will complete this season.

The comments were made at a Digital, Culture, Media and Sport session about the role of Russian money in clubs.

Chelsea are operating under a special licence after owner Roman Abramovich was sanctioned by the UK government.

"This is an extraordinary, complex and unprecedented situation," said Premier League policy chief Helen MacNamara. "It is pretty new to all of us."

Russian Abramovich put the club up for sale but that process was halted after he had his British assets - including Chelsea - frozen as part of the UK government's response to his country's invasion of Ukraine.

On Tuesday, Abramov-



Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich has been sanctioned by the UK government [PA Media]

ich was also sanctioned by the EU, with a travel ban imposed and his assets frozen.

A special licence granted by the government is allowing Chelsea's fixtures to be fulfilled, staff to be paid and existing ticket-holders to attend matches but a new licence will need to be issued for the London club to be sold.

"At the moment, the

government has issued an operating licence which allows the club to function until the end of the season on 31 May," said McNamara.

"You can completely see, while there are grounds to allow that licence for this period of time, it can't be a thing infinitely while the club remains in Roman Abramovich's ownership so that situation has to be resolved.

"It's an exceptional thing to do if someone's assets are frozen but the Premier League is able to fund Chelsea the money that we owe them so that they can carry on paying people through this season.

"The club are already up for sale so that process is, thankfully, quite mature. We are hopeful a sale will be able to go through before that 31 May deadline.

"We haven't worked through the consequences should the club not be sold by 31 May and what that will mean."

She added: "What we're trying to do at the moment is put one foot in front of the other and try to manage the issues as they come across our desks."

Earlier on in the DCMS hearing, UK Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston said football can "manage perfectly well without Russian investment".

Parish League starts season with Dave Joseph contest

The Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Parish League 2022 domestic season commenced over the weekend with the opening round of matches in the Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition.

However, D&R Construction Sea View Farm and Newfield, made a poor start to their campaign upon their return to the Parish League programme.

Playing at home, Sea View Farm suffered a narrow seven-run loss

against the visiting Mahico team in a rain-affected encounter.

Chasing 122 to win in 21 overs, Sea View Farm could only muster 114 for eight with Rolston Triss Phillip getting 38 and K. Burton scoring 32. Omari Heyliger snapped up three for 27.

Stephen Fane cracked an unbeaten 34 and Daniel Charles struck 20 to guide Mahico to 121 for two off their 21 overs. Vishal Gobin picked up two for 21.

Newfield crashed to a much heavier defeat in their opening encounter, tumbling to 143 run defeat against their neighbours Freetown.

Set 215 for victory, Newfield were bundled out for a paltry 71 with off-spinner Geetesh Harrilall grabbing three for 13 and Austin Richards Jr. bagging three for 21.

Osafa Bourne had a top score of 14 for Newfield.

Dillon Willis had earlier ham-

cont'd on pg 25

England in West Indies: Mark Wood ruled out of second Test

BBC - England fast bowler Mark Wood has been ruled out of the second Test against West Indies in Barbados and will be replaced by Saqib Mahmood.

Wood injured an elbow on day three of the drawn first Test in Antigua.

He did not bowl in West Indies' second innings after suffering "acute pain" when trying to bowl in the nets before the start of play on day five.

Lancashire's Mahmood, 25, will make his Test debut, with the match starting on Wednesday.

Ollie Robinson, who had a lengthy session in the nets on Monday after missing the first Test because of a back injury, continues to be sidelined.

Wood was only able to bowl five overs on day three of the first Test before leaving the field.

While both bowlers will miss the second Test, neither Wood or Robinson have been ruled out of the final meeting in the three-match series.

England captain Joe Root says Wood's omission from the team will be "disappointing" for the Durham player.

"He's been exceptional for us of late," said Root. "He's a big part of this team moving forward but it gives other guys opportunities."

Root says replacement Mahmood is a "great option to have up our sleeve".

"He's very mature for a guy who



Mark Wood was only able to bowl 17 overs in the first Test and did not appear on the final day [Getty Images]

hasn't played a huge amount of international cricket and he has an understanding of how he wants to operate," said Root.

"He's been very impressive. He's got a slightly different trajectory and will give us a point of difference. He has done that when he's played in other formats.

"Clearly he has good control, es-

pecially if the ball moves with reverse swing."

England left out James Anderson and Stuart Broad, their top two leading wicket-takers in Tests, from the tour of the Caribbean.

Neither is understood to be on the list of reserves, with Warwickshire's Liam Norwell, 30, expected to be called up if required.

cont'd from pg 24

mered 61 and S. Scotland cracked 41 to propel Free-town to 214 all out.

Edwin Jackson captured three for 41 and Rowan Irish claimed three

for 59.

Willikies produced an undisciplined bowling and fielding display as they lost by two wickets to Police.

Helped by a contribution 80 extras, Police

achieved their victory target of 179 for the loss of eight wickets.

Nevil Nichols chipped in with 29 and Derek Mourillon scored 24 for Police.

Cheyonne Walsh hit

42 and Wayne Williams scored 36 in the Willikies total of 178 all out.

West Indies women's player Shawnisha Hector and Lashorn Barnard each picked up two for 51.

Sports News



Hetairos make winning debut at Superyacht Challenge Antigua

Debutant 218ft Dykstra/Reichel Pugh ketch Hetairos, skippered by Graham Newton, was among the class winners at the 11th edition of the Superyacht Challenge Antigua, which ended at the Nelson's Dockyard, English Harbour on Sunday.

Hetairos won its three races in the Superyacht Challenge Series to capture the Privateers Class during four days of exciting racing, mostly in strong windy conditions, around the picturesque southern Antigua coastline.

Hetairos was also the winner of last Thursday's opening stand-alone Round Antigua Race, setting a new record of 3 hours, 46 minutes and 8 seconds for the 48.6 nautical mile course.

Captain Newton said he hopes the new record established by Hetairos will not be broken any time soon.

"Setting a new record for the Round Antigua was a great way to start the regatta, and we hope that next year many more boats will take part in that race, but I hope that no one will beat our time for years to come," Captain Newton said.

"A big thank you to the organising committee for the regatta. Everyone has enjoyed the event tremendously and a massive thank you to our permanent crew and the Hetairos race crew, and most of all our owners



The 218ft ketch Hetairos won all its races to capture the Privateer Class during the 11th edition of the Superyacht Challenge Antigua, which ended at the Nelson's Dockyard in English Harbour on Sunday. (Photo: Claire Matches)

for inviting us here and allowing us to thrash Hetairos around the race course. It is always an honour and we look forward to the next one."

The 140ft German Frers ketch Rebecca, skippered by Rob Foxell, was runner-up behind Hetairos in the Privateers Class.

Capturing third place was the 180ft Dykstra ketch Kamaxitha, skippered by Tim Urwin.

However, Rebecca, competing in her sixth Super Superyacht Challenge Antigua, captured the Gosnell Trophy for the second time after last winning it in 2019.

Skipper Foxell expressed his appreciation for winning the Gosnell Trophy, goes to the yacht, which in the opinion of the competitors and race committee, has competed in the Spirit of

the Regatta both afloat and ashore.

"Winning the Gosnell Trophy really means a lot. The spirit of the regatta is an important thing for Rebecca's owner and all of the crew," Foxell said.

"To have our competitors vote for us makes the award so special. COVID put a dampener on things this year, but I am sure there will be many more superyachts taking part in 2023. This is a great regatta."

The two remaining classes of the Superyacht Challenge Antigua were won by Nilaya and Action.

The 112ft Baltic Nilaya, with Filip Balcaen at the helm, captured the Corsairs Class. The runner-up was Don Macpherson's Swan 90 Freya. Claiming third place was the J-Class Hanuman.

The 121ft Dykstra sloop

Action, skippered by Josh Gilchrist, won the Buccaneers Class by a one-point margin over the 112ft Sparkman & Stephens sloop Kawil skippered by Robert Lloyd.

Third place was captured by John McMonigall's Oyster 82 Zig Zag, skippered by Carl Raynes.

Ten boats competed during four day event under the ORC Superyacht Rule.

The yachts and sailors who participated in the Superyacht Challenge Antigua hailed from North America, Europe, Australasia, and the Caribbean.

The 11th edition of the Superyacht Challenge Antigua concluded with a Prize Giving at the Admiral's Inn on Sunday evening.

The event is hosted annually by the Admiral's Inn and Antigua Rigging in association with the Antigua and Barbuda's National Parks Authority.

It is managed by a Superyacht Challenge Antigua Committee, which is headed by Paul Deeth and Stan Pearson.

The Superyacht Challenge Antigua is designed to be solely for the pleasure of superyacht owners, their guests and crew.

The 12th edition of the Superyacht Challenge Antigua will take place in the second week of March 2023.



Mike Serralta (NACAC) conducts inspection at the Games venue with JAAA staff. Serralta is the Competitions Director.

Jamaica gets green light from NACAC as host for Carifta 49

Following a two-day visit of the team from the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (NACAC) to inspect preparations for the 2022 Carifta Games, a very favourable report was received.

Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Hon Mike Fennell is satisfied with the report, but noted that there is a “considerable amount of work left to be done to ensure the Games are successful.”

The report revealed “the organisational aspects of the preparation in detail is well advanced and professionally undertaken. This is noteworthy given the short time-frame available since the JAAA was approached to host following the withdrawal of Guyana.”

The report went on to indicate “there is evidence of a strong commitment to the realisation of a successful edition of the CARIFTA Games with

every effort being made to emphasise Jamaica’s proficiency in the sport and in hosting track and field competitions in the year in which the country celebrates 60 years.”

Keith Joseph, Secretary General and Michael Serralta, Competitions Directors were the two officials from NACAC.

The Rex Nettleford Hall at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus has been confirmed as the location for the athletes’ village.

Praises were also made regarding the credentials of the team.

The April 16 - 18 Carifta Games will see the 49th staging following a two-year break due to the covid 19 pandemic.

JAAA President, Garth Gayle, noted that “with most of the 27 nations completed their trials, we are excited at the opportunity for the Junior athletes to compete against each other.

The schedule for the weekend also

includes a Congress, which is scheduled for Sunday (the 17th); the location for the next year will be disclosed.

The Games are set to feature over 500 athletes from 27 nations, including hosts, Jamaica.

The Games has so far attracted support and partnership from:

NACAC
 World Athletics
 PUMA
 Ministry of Sport (SDF)
 SportsMax - TV rights holder and broadcast host
 Digicel
 Massy Distribution
 Wisynco
 Stewart’s Auto
 Recycling Partners of Jamaica
 UHWI
 KLAS FM 89

Jamaica topped the medal table with 85 medals (36 G, 33 S, 16 B) at the 2019 edition which was held in the Cayman Islands.

Team Terminix sweep Elite Male Class in Pan Am Base Circuit Race

Team Terminix made an impressive sweep of the Elite Male Class during the Pan Am Base Circuit Race on Sunday.

They dominated their division to claim the top four positions during the second race of the 2022 Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) domestic calendar.

Kohath Barton won the Elite Male Class by completing the 25-lap circuit race around the Pan American Naval Base in Coolidge in 1 hour, 34 minutes and 24.76 seconds, 21/100 seconds better than second place finisher, teammate Shawn Weathered.

Weathered, who won the elite class in the season opening Individual Time Trial on 20th February, had to settle for second place last Sunday with a time of 1 hour, 34 minutes and 24.97 seconds.

Fellow Team Terminix cyclist Emmanuel Gayral captured third place ahead of his colleague Conroy Thomas.

Lindsay Duffy of Road Runners Cycling Club completed the 15-mile circuit in 1 hour, 10 minutes and 11.86 seconds to cap-



Team Terminix Kohath Barton, centre, won the Elite Male Class ahead of teammates Shawn Weathered, left, and Emmanuel Gayral, right, during the Pan Am Base Circuit Race on Sunday. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

ture the Elite Female Class over teammate Zhanna Prikhodko.

Road Runners Cycling Club also made a clean sweep of the top four places in the Sports Class. Newell Mack completed the 15-lap circuit in 1 hour, 1 minute and 39.15 seconds to win the Sports class.

Team-mate Micah Gore took the runner-up position ahead of colleagues Tiziano Rosignoli and Tacuma Davis.

Delvin Peters of Team Terminix won the Masters Class with a time of 1

hour, 24 minutes and 53.12 seconds across the 20-lap circuit.

Neil Lloyd of N&R Wheelers took second place with a time of 1 hour, 26 minutes and 04.09 seconds, while Ken Jackson of Road Runners Cycling Club secured third place after recording 1 hour, 26 minutes and 04.22 seconds.

Arusa Murray-Watkins of Wadadli Cycling Academy clocked 32 minutes and 38 seconds over five laps to win the 11 to 13 Cadets Class in which she defeated lone competitor

Antoine Simon of the Andre Simon Cycling Academy. Simon recorded a time of 32 minutes and 58.70 seconds.

Tahje Browne of Wadadli Cycling Academy claimed the 13-17 Cadet Class in a time of 1 hour and 11.42 seconds over the 15-lap circuit.

Dejaun Francis of East-side Riders finished second ahead of team-mate Curtis Soanes. Francis recorded a time of 1 hour, 5 minutes and 13.14 seconds, while Soanes clocked a time of 1 hour, 7 minutes and 22.35 seconds.