

REGULATORY COMMISSION PROPOSED TO SAVE CIP



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Local News



Gov't proposes Regulatory Commission to save CIP

Ever thinking on its feet, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda is proposing the establishment of a Citizenship by Investment Programme Regulatory Commission as an alternative to Europe and the United

States' desire to shut down the entire industry.

As proposed by the Gaston Browne-led Cabinet, the commission would be a regional organisation that serves to set industry best practices and policies

for all CIPs in the Caribbean, in alignment with international guidelines.

The quick response comes on the heels of a European Parliament decision earlier this month that would bar countries offering CIPs from entering Schengen member nations without a visa.

This would block visa free access to 27 countries, a move which would doom CIPs in more than 100 countries.

The OECS Assembly begins meetings in St. John's today, and it is anticipated that the Antigua and Barbuda delegation will make the proposal to the group at this time.

The Cabinet further indicated on Thursday that it will make amendments

to the country's CIP legislation to further strengthen the security of the programme and the international community's confidence that CIPs will not be used by unscrupulous individuals seeking second citizenships as a loophole to enter European countries.

The Cabinet says it will also rename and reintroduce the existing 2013 legislation as the "Residency and Citizenship by Investment Programme" Bill, that will enhance the already offered Residency by Investment Programme (RBI) which allows persons to retain their birth citizenship while enjoying many of the benefits of the CIP without receiving Antigua and Barbuda citizenship.

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Fri 18 | Day

82°



24%
E 17 mph

Partly cloudy skies. High 82F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.

Humidity
69%

UV Index
Extreme

Sunrise
6:12 am

Sunset
6:17 pm

Fri 18 | Night

74°



24%
E 15 mph

Mostly clear skies. Low 74F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.

Humidity
78%

UV Index
0 of 10

Moonrise
6:50 pm
Full Moon

Moonset
6:32 am

Anguillian man given life for Antigua and Barbuda beauty queen's murder

The man convicted of the 9th September, 2019 murder of Antigua and Barbuda national, Taitu Goodwin was sentenced on Thursday to spend the rest of his natural life in prison.

Taitu, the daughter of former Ambassador to Cuba, Bruce Goodwin, was brutally assaulted in her home in Anguilla then killed by Glenville Hodge.

Following Hodge's sentencing on Thursday, Bruce Goodwin, the family's patriarch, briefly told Anguillian media that his family was relieved that his daughter had finally received justice.

Goodwin, a former Ms. Anguilla and Jaycees Caribbean Queen contestant, was a law student at the time of her death.

During the lengthy trial, evidence emerged that Hodge, with whom Goodwin had a long term relationship, had a history of abusing her, which escalated into stalking, after she ended the relationship.

On the day of her death, the then 24-year-old Hodge followed her

home from work, savagely beat and choked 27-year-old Goodwin before stabbing her to death. He then tried to conceal his crime by dumping her body in a secluded area.

Hodge's crime was discovered when his vehicle became stuck in the sandy area where he attempted to dispose of Goodwin's body and he phoned home to ask relatives for help moving the car.

It is at this time he is claimed to have confessed to killing his former girlfriend.

According to lead prosecutor for the Crown, Thomas Astaphan QC, "She had fifteen individual blows to her face which the pathologist, Dr. [Stephen] King, said was inflicted either by an open hand with much force, or by the heel of the palm of the hand.

Fifteen different blows to her face, which broke her mandible on both sides; broke off two of her teeth at the root; and caused her to have haemorrhaging in the brain; and what the doctor described as brain damage which rendered her unconscious.



Taitu Goodwin

"That is the nature of the violence inflicted on the young lady, in addition to her being throttled by the young man."

Hodge's entire defence hinged on his claim that Goodwin was the aggressor in their final confrontation which led to him being forced to defend himself and ended with him taking her life.

At the end of August 2019, less than two weeks before her death, Goodwin made a report to Anguillian police concerning Hodge's constant phone calls, WhatsApp messages, following her around and showing up to her home uninvited. Hodge was warned to discontinue all contact with her.

Hodge, now 27, was convicted of Goodwin's murder on 22nd December, 2021 following her around and showing up to her home uninvited. Hodge was warned to discontinue all contact with her.

Hodge, now 27, was convicted of Goodwin's murder on 22nd December, 2021.



Glenville Hodge, centre, flanked by his attorneys

Local News

No proof of vaccination for gyms, restaurants etc., masks still needed for healthcare facilities

The government has moved to lift additional COVID-19 restrictions with the announcement that persons will no longer need to provide proof of vaccination to enter gyms, restaurants, bars, night clubs, cinemas and sports venues.

The government implemented this requirement more than a year ago in an attempt to control the spread of COVID-19 once vaccines became available and businesses began to reopen.

This follows other eased COVID-19 regulations including mandatory mask wearing, restriction on unvaccinated persons entering government offices and a requirement for unvaccinated government employees to

be subjected to COVID-19 testing fortnightly.

While the mask mandate ended on Wednesday this week and is now optional in public spaces, Cabinet announced on Thursday that masks will continue to be

required as a condition of entry to healthcare facilities.

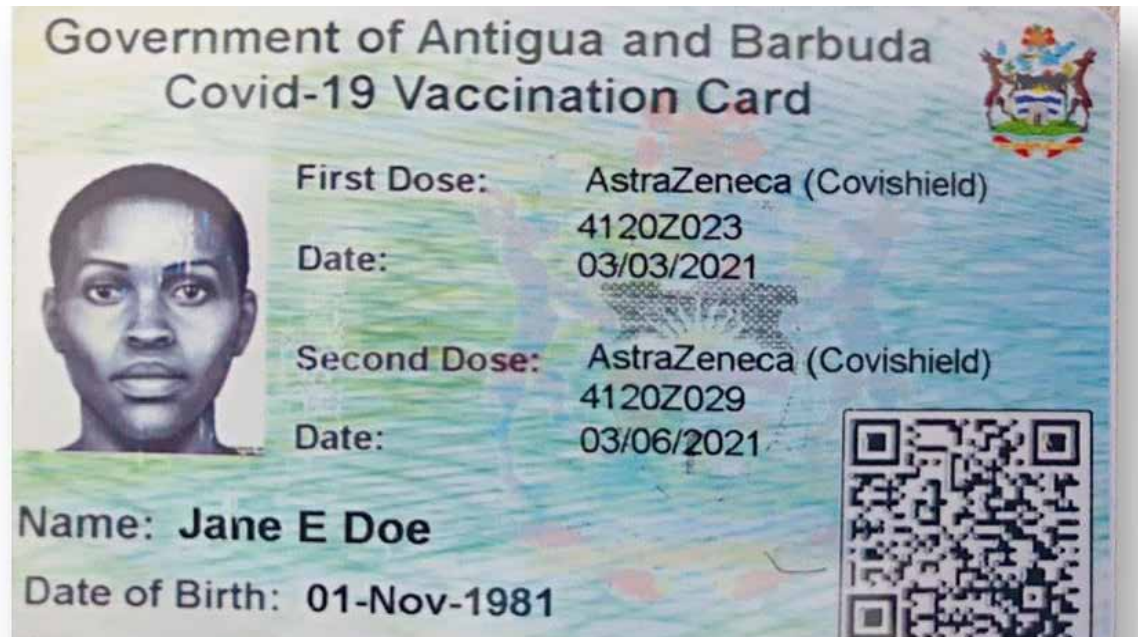
These include hospitals, clinics, private medical centres, doctors' offices and elderly care facilities.

The move to drop the

mandatory mask mandate was widely welcomed by the public, however, since being lifted it appears that most people have not abandoned their masks and continue to use them as a precautionary measure.

As far as private businesses are concerned, they maintain the right to require that customers entering their property wear a mask and comply with health and safety measures.

Even though COVID-19 numbers remain encouragingly low - only five cases were reported in the last update from the Ministry of Health and Wellness - the government is urging the public to continue to wear masks in public, wash their hands often and maintain physical distance from others when possible.





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UPDATED SCHEDULE



Two schools launched at UWI Five Islands

Two new schools have been launched by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus with the aim of building “a new kind of human resource to operate in the global market place”.

The School of Business, Science and Technology is now The School of Business and Management, and was launched simultaneously on Monday with The School of Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence.

Campus Principal, Densil Williams, told the ceremony of the major difference the two institutions will make in the lives of Antiguan and Barbudans and those within the OECS.

He spoke on the emergence of the new learner and the skills they will be required to possess, including agility, tolerance to diversity, emotional intelligence, critical thinking and being team players.

He said the schools are strategically positioned to equip students with those prerequisites in the creation of the 21st century learner.

“These two schools that we are launching today [Monday] possess all the relevant skills and capabilities to shape the pedagogy to reflect the demands of the 21st century learner who will be entering into this vast changing world of work.”

Williams pointed to a rapidly changing work environment, where it is predicted that a large percentage of current jobs will likely disappear within the next decade, and the skills learnt overtime will be obsolete, as a new economy replaces that which currently exists.

“So, our two schools...are designed precisely to contribute to an interdisciplinary way of thinking to the new developments in the global marketplace, and ensure that we at the Five Islands Campus produce the

kinds of leaders that are equipped with the relevant tools to participate in an increasingly competitive global economy,” Principal Williams said.

Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew, in endorsing the two schools, predicts they will serve to transform Antigua and Barbuda and the sub-region through students’ preparedness for the fast-paced global economy.

Additionally, he stated the establishment of the two institutions at UWI Five Islands has created a niche within the region in the area of higher education that “I firmly believe will change the entire landscape, and the development of our people here in Antigua and Barbuda, the OECS, and I dare say humanity”.

Hyram Forde is head of The School of Business and Management, while Dr. Curtis Charles heads The School of Science computing and Artificial Intelligence.

Local News



APUA begins disconnections Monday

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is urging its customers who are in arrears to go in and settle their accounts as commercial and residential disconnections commence on Monday.

Accounts that are more than thirty days overdue face the risk of disconnection.

APUA is reminding its customers that if they are faced with difficulties paying on time, or have fallen into arrears, they can speak with a credit officer to discuss the options to manage their accounts.



If accounts move to disconnection, there is a waiting period of as much as 24 to 48 hours for reconnections once the account is made current.

The coming disconnections apply to all services offered by APUA.

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XPZ arson accused to face High Court



Tianzhao "Alex" Feng leaving the court in a 2021 appearance.

The man accused of setting fire to XPZ Supermarket will face the High Court in the May Assizes.

A morose Tianzhao "Alex" Feng, now 30, told Magistrate Conliffe Clarke on Wednesday through an interpreter, that he wanted a lawyer and had "nothing to say".

He has not been represented by counsel since being charged, however, attorney Wendel Robinson has agreed to represent him moving forward.

Prosecutors told Magistrate Clarke that they had assembled ten witnesses who would testify if the matter proceeds to trial.

In his next appearance, this time before the High Court in May, Feng will have to accept responsibility for the crime or, in the event he enters a 'not guilty' plea, stand

trial.

Feng is charged with the 1st June, 2021 arson of XPZ Supermarket where he was employed.

The Chinese citizen went into hiding after the fire and was located three days later, when he was arrested and charged.

He has been on remand at Her Majesty's Prison since his arrest as the court determined he posed a significant flight risk. Feng has also been unable to provide his passport to the court and has been unable to provide two Antiguan and Barbudan sureties who are necessary to be granted bail.

Even if he can satisfy these requirements at some later point, it is unlikely bail will be granted as the Immigration Department has confirmed that his stay in the country has expired.

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 Calendar

(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



Local News

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority launches local romance writing contest

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has launched another element of the recently debuted 'Love and Wanderlust' romance campaign in the form of a local writing contest.

The contest calls for talented creative writers to help tell Antigua and Barbuda's unique love story that captures the essence of the beautiful islands as a place where love reigns. The competition is open to Antigua and Barbuda nationals who are resident in the country or who live abroad.

Submissions must be in the form of poetry or prose no more than 1200 words.

Only unpublished work is eligible and entrants will be judged by a panel composed of individuals from the private sector and the ABTA.

The winner will receive EC\$1000 cash prize and the opportunity of a lifetime. Final submissions must be made by 10th April, 2022, and a winner will be announced on 15th April.

The Antigua and Barbuda 'Love and Wanderlust' campaign was officially launched on 14th February in honour of Valentine's Day and depicts the synergy that exists between romantic love and love for travel, both of which ignite a feeling of euphoria and excitement.



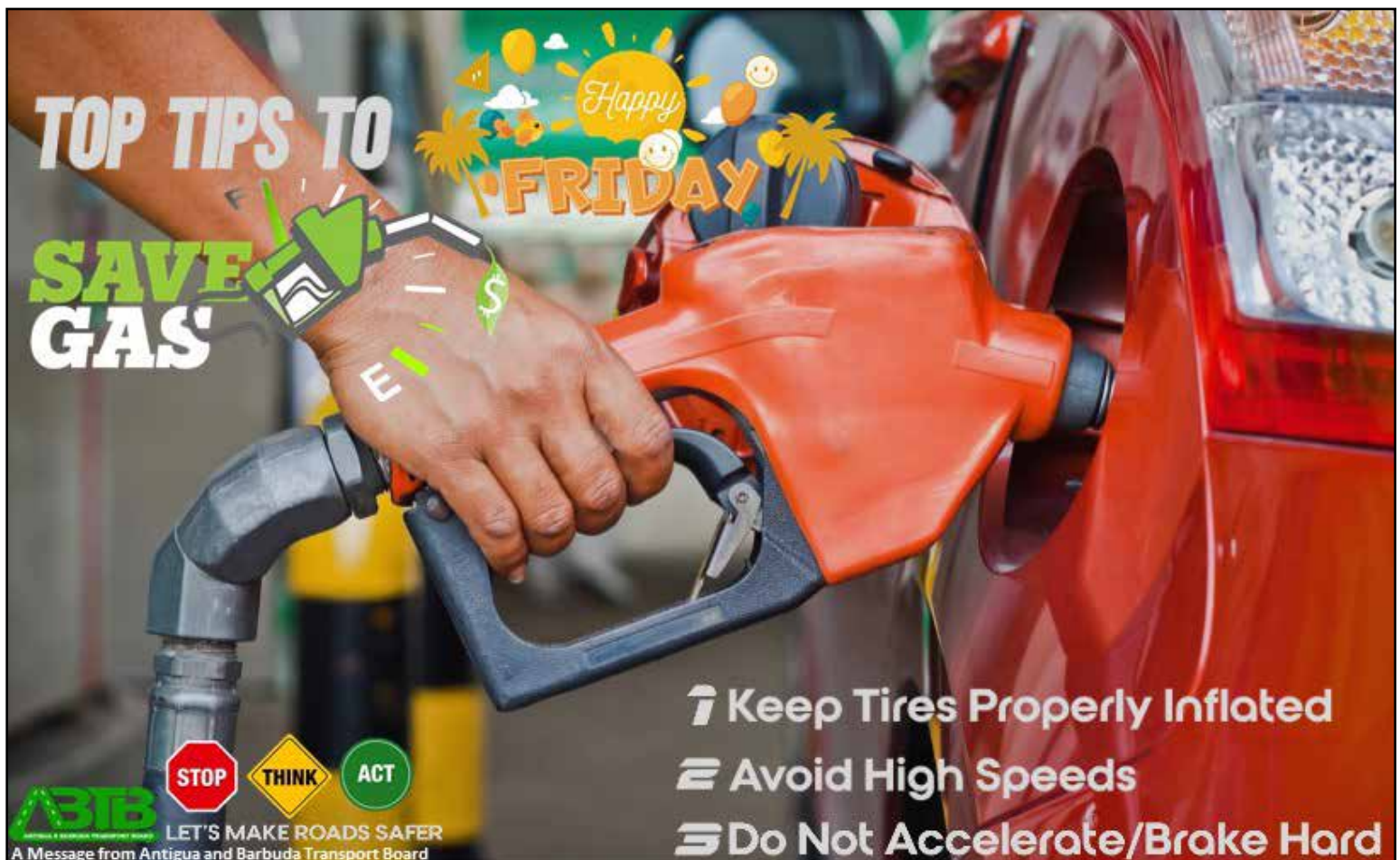
where *Love* & *Wanderlust* collide.

Writing Competition

ment.

The goal of the campaign is to show Antigua and Barbuda as a fairytale for lovers and lovers of travel.

Entrants are asked to submit their work online via the contest submission form which can be found at: <https://form.jotform.com/220415465096152>



TOP TIPS TO SAVE GAS

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2 Avoid High Speeds

3 Do Not Accelerate/Brake Hard

ABTB LET'S MAKE ROADS SAFER
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

The international order is broken – where are the enlightened leaders to remake it?

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)

The international order, which has existed, although shakily, since the end of World War II and the establishment of the Charter of the United Nations, is now severely broken.

Whether the pieces can be reassembled and strengthened to guarantee a peaceful world is uncertain. What is certain is that the world is now in a dangerous place and urgently needs visionary leadership to try to pull it back from its current perilous circumstances and to set it on a path of peace and cooperation between nations.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, threats of nuclear confrontation, unprecedented economic sanctions, high oil prices with the prospect of more increases, shortages of food supplies and attendant high costs, are the prevailing order of the day. No nation has been spared and the situation might well worsen in the coming weeks, with developing countries and small economies suffering the most, since they have the least capacity for resilience.

Every country and region will experience disruption in projected economic growth this year. The European Union has already announced that it expects much less than the 4% growth that it had expected for its 27 nations collectively.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which was conceived as the forum for guaranteeing peace by ensuring that nations would

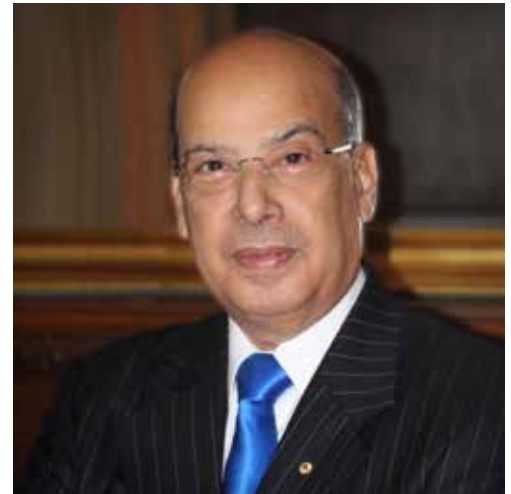
uphold and respect international law and the principles of the UN Charter, has only been effective when the vested individual interest of the five permanent members was not involved. Once any of the five – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States (US) – were affected, each of them used their anachronistic veto power to block UNSC action – the only international instrument binding on every nation.

The absurdity of the world being subjected to the veto power of one of five nations was brought into sharp focus throughout the UNSC's deliberations on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Not only did Russia make it clear that it would veto any decision it disliked, but it also presided over the proceedings as the rotating President. This unrepresentative and gravely flawed system has proved impossible to change, and it now seems set to harden.

The UNSC's role has departed from the original concept enshrined in the UN Charter, specifically articles 39 to 51 of Chapter VII, titled "Action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression". This chapter established a framework for collective security based on the use of military forces and gave the UNSC authority for enforcement.

But, since 1947, the political and military ambitions of the nations of the East and West put this chapter into abeyance. It has remained there ever since. Over the years, a more limited role described as "peace keeping" has emerged. While this role has been beneficial when it has been activated, it has been fraught with difficulties.

For instance, peacekeeping can only be launched after a conflict has



Sir Ronald Sanders

broken out; a mandate from the UNSC is required, and this depends on agreement by all 5 Permanent members of the Council (which seldom happens); no automatic or obligatory mechanism for financing peacekeeping exists, financing depends on the voluntary contributions of rich countries; and peacekeepers cannot pressure combatants to withdraw from occupied territory or to resolve the conflict in general.

In summary, the UNSC, and, consequently, the UN Charter have proven to be paralyzed and ineffective, particularly when permanent members have a vested interest, either directly or indirectly.

Since the end of 1990s, and an initial détente between the nations of the West and East, the nations of the West and Russia have developed different and contradictory approaches to peace-making. Ostensibly, the Western approach is to resolve armed conflicts through inclusive peace processes and liberal state transformation including democratisation, human rights, political freedoms and good governance. Although, it has to be said that there is more than a little hypocrisy in that stand, as was seen in

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Guest Opinion



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the US military intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the US accommodation of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory.

For its part, Russia has argued for the primacy of sovereignty, the need for strong states and political order, and the rights of government to suppress internal conflict using any means necessary. This was Russia's stance, for instance, in relation to the conflict in Syria. There is a clear pattern of rigid differences between Russia on the one hand, and the US, UK, and France on the other, with China claiming neutrality.

Russia has now taken the differences a leap further by invading a sover-

eign nation in pursuit of its own interests, with scant or no regard for the UN Security Council or the 141 members of the UN that voted in a Special Session of the UN General Assembly to condemn the invasion of Ukraine. Only 5 nations voted against, all of them headed by tyrants. Thirty-five countries abstained, including China, India and South Africa.

Many of the countries that voted in favour were fearful of being invaded themselves or recognised that, in their own interest, they had to condemn violation of international law.

Those nations that voted against might have been contemplating following the Russian action as a basis

for their own use of force in their territorial ambitions. The motivation of the abstaining nations was rooted in what they considered to be their own national interest. For a few, that included not offending Russia with which they depend for political support and military equipment.

In short, humanity now exists in a troubled world which, even before the invasion of Ukraine, faced major crises such as managing the impact of Climate Change, increasing pandemics, widening economic inequality between developed and developing nations, and restructuring the global financial architecture.

All of these issues re-

quire the involvement of all countries; none can be tackled by any one nation or group of nations.

Humanity's need for enlightened global action, with cooperation at its centre, is now more urgent than ever. It is such international cooperation that should now invigorate the world's peoples, making it clear that invasions and war are no answers. Might is not right.

Leadership based on ethics, morality, fairness, and justice is needed. Small Caribbean states must demand it, and give it, principally by insisting on respect and adherence to international law by all.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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Holi 2022: When is it celebrated and what is the festivity about?

By **Selenat Debebe**

The Hindu festival Holi, also known as the festival of colours, marks the beginning of the spring season in the Indian subcontinent.

Millions of Hindus around the world are preparing to celebrate Holi, also known as the festival of colours.

The festival marks the beginning of the spring season in the Indian subcontinent.

When is Holi celebrated?

Holi is celebrated in Phagun, the 12th month of the Hindu calendar, which corresponds to February or March in the Gregorian calendar. This year, the festival will be celebrated on March 18, though the festivities tend to run longer in some places.

With a significant fall in COVID cases after two years of battling the coronavirus in India, millions of people are getting ready to celebrate after last year's muted festivities.

What's the story behind Holi?

Holi celebrates the triumph of good over evil and there are various stories about its origin.

The most popular legend in Hindu mythology says the festival marks Lord Vishnu's triumph over King Hiranyakashyapu, who killed anyone who disobeyed him or worshipped other gods.

The king had a son called Prahlad who never worshipped his father and worshipped Vishnu instead. Hiranyakashyapu was so displeased that he conspired with his sister Holika to kill his son.

Holika agreed to kill her nephew, luring Prahlad into a pyre and trying to burn him. However, Vishnu came to Prahlad's rescue and Holika ended up burning in the pyre.



To this day, Hindu devotees celebrate Holika Dahan on the eve of Holi to mark the event by making bonfires in their neighbourhoods.

How long does Holi last?

The celebration of Holi usually lasts for two days, with Holika Dahan and a day of throwing colours on each other being its highlights.

On the day of Holi, people of all ages take to the streets to smear each other with dry or wet paint and get showered in powdered colour and water. There is a lot of dancing and singing.

"People even stand on their rooftops to throw water balloons on random people walking on the streets," Sashreek Garg, who comes from Una in India's northern Himachal Pradesh state said.

"It's my favourite festival. It binds people, cultures and even strangers together. Now that I am away from home I miss that feeling of coming together," said Garg, who is currently a university student in Qatar.

Vaamika Shrivastava, another

Indian from the central Madhya Pradesh state, also says Holi brings people together and that the festival has outgrown its religious boundaries.

Shrivastava says she lived in various places in India and everywhere she saw one constant: Holi.

"In every new place we lived, we used to have Holi parties in an open area in the neighbourhood with lots of colours, water guns and music and it was a party for everyone," she said.

"Holi is more than just the religion it comes from. It is about love and celebrating the colours of life at the onset of spring."

Where is Holi celebrated?

Holi is celebrated in most parts of India, with each region having its own traditions. The celebrations in northern India tend to be more colourful and vivid while those in the south focus mainly on religious and temple rituals.

However, even among the northern states, there is a difference in how

cont'd on pg 12

Moderna hits the gas as it begins dosing of second HIV vaccine

By Max Bayer

Moderna announced Monday it's dosed the first patient in a trial testing its second mRNA HIV jab, less than six weeks after launching human trials for its first jab in January, a proverbial starting gun in the race for a breakthrough HIV therapy that's now underway between Moderna and Excision BioTherapeutics.

Moderna's second HIV shot, mRNA-1574, takes a different approach to the first by targeting HIV envelope trimers via mRNA instead of eliciting broad antibodies against the virus.

Its trial is another collaboration between the Cambridge-based biotech and the National Institutes of Health, this time partnering with the Division of AIDS within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The trial is slated to test the candidate in 100 HIV-negative adults ages 55 and under.

It follows the January launch of the company's



Moderna hopes its two prophylactic HIV vaccines can be a breakthrough for the disease, going beyond antiretrovirals, which were first approved to treat HIV more than 30 years ago. (Moderna)

phase 1 trial for its other HIV jab, which tests sequential administration of HIV immunogens via mRNA as a way to elicit strong and durable B-cell responses.

The company's hypothesis, built upon research from William Schief, Ph.D., at Scripps University, is that B-cell response will over time develop into more broad and robust neutralizing antibodies.

The dosing of its second trial is the latest development in the race for a

new HIV therapy that now appears to be a two-horse race between Moderna and Excision BioTherapeutics, with the latter initiating its own nine-patient phase 1/2 trial at the end of January to test its CRISPR-based therapeutic that it boldly touts as a "functional cure" for the virus.

Both Moderna's and Excision's therapies come as potential breakthrough alternatives to the standard course of care for HIV-positive patients, known as antiretroviral therapy, the first of which

was approved more than 30 years ago.

Antiretroviral treatments work by reducing the viral load of HIV to an undetectable level, thus making it impossible to spread. But such treatments must be taken daily and are ultimately not a cure.

The phase 1 trials from both companies are not the only potential breakthroughs for HIV treatment.

A day before they were launched in late January, new research indicated that popular PD-1 inhibitor cancer therapy Keytruda further wrestled HIV out of its dormant state in patients on antiretroviral therapy.

The findings provided promise that future therapies could be both more effective and less frequent.

As for Moderna, a timeline for top-line data for mRNA-1574 couldn't be found, but the primary completion date of the phase 1 trial for its other vaccine is slated for April 2023.

cont'd from pg 11

long the celebrations last and what people do. Garg, for instance, has never participated in a Holika Dahan bonfire on the eve of Holi. "In Himachal, we don't do bonfires," he said.

Andre Visperas is a Hindu practitioner from the Philippines. He said

he celebrated Holi for the first time when he went to India for a pilgrimage in Uttar Pradesh state in 2009.

"Before that, I celebrated Holi on my own but I only celebrated the spiritual aspect of it rather than the celebratory traditions such as the throwing of coloured powder,"

Visperas said.

Holi is also celebrated in other South Asian countries like Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh which have a sizeable Hindu population. It is also celebrated by the Hindu diaspora in the Caribbean, United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

Jamaican Cabinet ministers, police bashed for DRMA breaches at Shenseea album launch

By Shanna Monteith, Asha Wilks, Janet Silvera, and Kimone Francis

Hours after five Jamaican Cabinet ministers appeared to flout the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) while attending an entertainment event Tuesday night, the father of a man who was thrown into prison for 30 days for mask-wearing and no-movement day breaches has chided the Government and police for class prejudice and corruption.

The breaches at the Alpha album launch of Jamaican sensation Shenseea on Campbell Boulevard in Kingston present an embarrassment for Prime Minister Andrew Holness as he is expected to review or end the controversial legislation that governs coronavirus protocols. The protocols expire today.

Devon Lambert of White Horses, St Thomas, whose son was charged under the DRMA in September 2021, could not find the funds to help pay the \$200,000 fine, resulting in the convict spending a month behind bars.

DRMA fines range up to \$1 million with a maximum prison time of one year.

Lambert said that while his family was at home on a no-movement day, his hungry son, who was maskless, went on to the road to visit an aunt for food.

On the way back home, Lambert said that his son was stopped by the police, who ignored his plea and never gave him a chance.

"We never have the money to pay, so him did have to do the time. Dem hold him in Golden Grove lock-up first then send him down a GP among murderers," Lambert, in a Gleaner interview on Wednesday, said, referring to the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre in Kingston.



Finance Minister Dr Nigel Clarke (third left) and Health Minister Dr Christopher Tufton guffaw in the background as songstress Shenseea takes a selfie with Deputy Prime Minister Dr Horace Chang and Entertainment Minister Olivia Grange at her album launch on Tuesday night. [Photo: Kenyon Hemans]

That treatment, Lambert and other Jamaicans have claimed over time, contrasts with police action towards more privileged Jamaicans.

The five Cabinet ministers at the album launch – Dr Nigel Clarke, Olivia Grange, Dr Christopher Tufton, Floyd Green, and Deputy Prime Minister Dr Horace Chang – were seen huddled together and guffawing in a party-like environment. State Minister Alando Terrelonge and Opposition Spokesperson Lisa Hanna also attended the event and had photo ops.

Only Terrelonge and Grange wore masks in widely published photos and videos.

The launch appeared to breach the gathering restrictions issued on February 22.

The optics were worsened because at least three of the high-profile ministers – Grange (entertainment), Tufton (health), and Chang (security) – have responsibility for policy governance of the DRMA.

That has caused Lambert to brand the apparent breaches at the launch as "a corruption thing".

"Same as how the likkle poorer class get charged, the bigger heads should get charged, too. But because the poorer class don't have nothing and can't help weself, so the richer man walk on them. And because they have the money, they can do anything and get away for free.

"The rich man and the poor man do the same crime, but is only one get away free ... That's just how it go."

Green, the agriculture minister who quit last September after a video went viral with him and other ruling Jamaica Labour Party officials toasting to a no-movement day during a hotel party, was reinstalled in January as a minister without portfolio.

The once-chastened minister has been tasked, according to a March 14, 2022, statement issued by the Office of the Prime Minister, with oversight

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Netflix will prompt subscribers to pay for users outside their households in new test to address unauthorised password sharing

By Todd Spangler

Netflix will soon launch a test letting primary account holders pay an additional fee for users outside their households — a new attempt by the company to address illicit password-sharing.

According to the Netflix terms of service, a customer's account "may not be shared with individuals beyond your household."

After years of turning a blind eye to password-sharing behaviour that falls outside that requirement, the company last year ran a limited test prompting users to enter their account credentials as a way to nudge freeloaders into paying for their own accounts.

Now, in an upcoming test launching in three countries — Chile, Costa Rica and Peru — Netflix will let members who share their accounts with people outside their household do so "easily and securely, while also paying a bit more," according to Chengyi Long, director of product innovation at Netflix.

The new options will roll out in the next few weeks in the three countries (and may or may not expand beyond those markets).

"We've always made it easy for people who live together to share their Netflix account, with features like separate profiles and multiple streams in our Standard and Premium plans," Long wrote in a blog post about the test.

"While these have been hugely popular, they have also created some confusion about when and how Netflix can be shared. As a result, accounts are being shared be-



tween households — impacting our ability to invest in great new TV and films for our members."

With the "add an extra member" feature, members with Netflix's Standard and Premium plans will be able to add subsidiary accounts for up to two people they don't live with, each with their own profile, personalised recommendations, login and password — for less than the cost of a separate Netflix plan.

In the test countries, the cost for adding a sub-member is 2380 CLP in Chile, \$2.99 USD in Costa Rica, and 7.9 PEN in Peru.

As with other tests the streamer has conducted, there's no guarantee that the option to pay for non-household members will end up a permanent part of the service.

"We'll be working to understand the utility of these two features for members in these three countries before making changes anywhere else in the world," Long wrote in the post.

In addition, Netflix is testing out the ability to let subscribers trans-

fer user profiles to new accounts, which would make it easier for password moochers to pay for their own plans.

Members in the three test countries can allow people who share their account to transfer profile information either to a new account or an Extra Member sub account — preserving their viewing history, My List and personalised recommendations info.

In the three test markets, Netflix over the next few weeks will notify members who share their account outside their household about the new options.

A member may be prompted to verify their account only if a device outside of their household logs in to the account; Netflix may then ask the user to verify the login from the device by sending a verification code.

Netflix ended 2021 with 221.8 million total paying subscribers worldwide. Of those, 75.2 million (34% of the total) were in the U.S. and Canada.

Cuomo wants \$125 million for 'unlawful' CNN firing

By David Bauder

Chris Cuomo wants an arbitrator to award him \$125 million for his firing from CNN, alleging his bosses knew full well how he advised his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and suggested they did the same themselves.

His filing seeking arbitration on Wednesday exposed more ugliness at the network, where Cuomo, CNN chief Jeff Zucker and his top deputy, Allison Gollust, have all been ousted in the past three months.

Zucker fired Cuomo, host of the network's most popular prime time show, in December after a New York Attorney General's report publicly revealed new details about how he helped his brother strategize to fight sexual harassment allegations.

"It should be obvious by now that Chris Cuomo did not lie to CNN about helping his brother," said his lawyer, Bryan Freedman. "In fact, as the limited information



Chris Cuomo

released from Warner Media's investigation makes clear, CNN's highest-level executives not only knew about Chris' involvement in helping his brother but also actively assisted the governor, both through Chris and directly themselves."

There was no comment Wednesday from a representative for Zucker and Gollust. The spokeswoman, Risa Heller, has denied in the past that Gollust, a former press aide to Gov. Cuomo, offered advice or coun-

sel to the governor while she worked at CNN.

CNN declined comment on the filing.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Chris Cuomo interviewed his big brother on CNN nine times — a temporary lift of the network's policy that Chris Cuomo not participate in stories concerning the governor.

In his filing Wednesday, Chris Cuomo said CNN leadership demanded the interviews even though he and

his brother had expressed reservations about them.

He said that Zucker and Gollust tried to strengthen the network's ties to his brother and pushed the New York governor not to appear on other networks. He said they requested the governor hold his daily briefings at a time CNN's ratings needed a boost.

"Network standards were changed in a calculated decision to boost ratings," Freedman said. "When those practices were called into question, Chris was made the scapegoat."

Cuomo also dragged two former colleagues into his complaint, saying Don Lemon and Jake Tapper were never disciplined for incidents seen as ethical lapses — Lemon texting Jussie Smollett when the actor was accused of making false allegations of a racist attack, and Tapper allegedly offering advice to a politician.

Networks standards were "a moving target," modified as Zucker and Gollust saw fit, the former "Cuomo Prime Time" host said in the complaint.

With his journalistic integrity "unjustifiably smeared," Cuomo will find it difficult to find work in his field in the future and seeks damages of \$125 million, the complaint said.

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of the National Partnership Council, which "addressed, among other matters, the future of the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) restrictions".

It is unclear whether Shenseea's album launch received the blessing of the security forces or central Government.

However, Senior Superintendent Marlon Nesbeth, commander of the St Andrew

Central Police Division, within whose parameters the venue was located, informed The Gleaner on Wednesday that he did not grant permission to stage the event.

He said, too, that he was not aware, beforehand, of the staging.

"I don't know of that," he said, adding that he could not comment further on any perceived breaches of the DRMA that might have occurred.

'The Gilded Age' reminds us that the Black elite existed and thrived

By Lisa Respers France

The storyline of "The Gilded Age" begins less than 20 years after slavery was abolished in the US, and so the creative forces behind the historical series would have been well within their rights to feature a Black family struggling post Reconstruction.

But, instead, there is the well-to-do Scott family, whose characterisation is a breath of fresh air to many viewers, especially African Americans.

"It means a great deal to me to have Black folks tune in to 'The Gilded Age' and to feel represented," Erica Armstrong Dunbar, the show's historical consultant and one of its producers, told CNN.

"We're in a moment where we need to see dignity, where we need to reconcile with the violence and the trauma of segregation, of anti-Blackness, but also to see how these men and women who lived in the 19th century managed to live with that and still not be dehumanized by it."

The parallels between that long ago time period and the highly-charged conversations being had in the country at the moment about race are hard to ignore.

The HBO series (HBO is owned by CNN's parent company) takes place initially in New York City in 1882, with the struggle between the "old money" families and the newly rich who want entry into the elite society at its centre.

One of the characters, Peggy Scott, played by Denée Benton, is a young Black woman who is an aspiring writer.

Viewers soon learn she is the daughter of successful parents played by stage-winning actors Audra McDonald and John Douglas Thompson.

Armstrong Dunbar said it makes



Audra McDonald and Denée Benton star in "The Gilded Age" on HBO.

sense to portray such a family in a show about wealth, especially given that the Black elite and middle class are often "not considered when we're telling this kind of larger story about America and about Black America."

"I feel like the Scott's story is a really nice counterweight to the storylines of the (wealthy and White) Russells or the van Rhijn households," she said. "And ultimately this is all about how people are attempting to find wealth, hold onto wealth and pass that wealth on to future generations."

The historian credits the show's director and executive producer Salli Richardson Whitfield (who is Black) and creator Julian Fellowes with wanting to portray the Scott family.

Fellowes is well known as the creator of "Downton Abbey" and his and Richardson Whitfield's involvement

was one of the things that inspired Baltimore Sun journalist John-John Williams IV to watch "The Gilded Age."

"I like ['The Gilded Age'] better than 'Downton Abbey' actually," Williams said. "They haven't just inserted a Black person in, like in traditional pop culture when you have the Black friend and they would have no story. They would just be on screen."

"[The character of Peggy Scott] actually has her own life and her own story and she exists independent of the white lead and I think that's really important," he added. "She's a rich character with her own secrets and her own mysteries just like everyone else on the show and I think that's ideal. That's what makes the show really, really pop."

"The Gilded Age" airs Mondays on HBO and streams on HBO Max.

Jussie Smollett ordered released from jail pending appeal

By María Luisa Paúl

As night fell over the Cook County Jail on Wednesday, two distinct but somewhat contrasting emotions exuded from the defence attorney in one of Illinois's most high-profile cases.

Nenye Uche, an attorney for 39-year-old actor Jussie Smollett, was elated that his client had been released from jail after serving six days of a 150-day sentence for staging a hate crime against himself in January 2019. On Wednesday, an appellate court ordered that Smollett should be free while he prepares an appeal. But as Uche talked to reporters, there was also palpable disappointment over what he deemed a flawed justice system.

"While everyone was focused on the sensationalism surrounding this case, people were not focused on the constitutionality of the prosecution," Uche said.

Smollett's original charges were dropped almost one month after Chicago police accused him of orchestrating the hoax — only to be taken up again by a new prosecutor assigned to the case in August 2019. This past December, Smollett was convicted on five felony counts of disorderly conduct.

Jussie Smollett testifies on his own behalf in trial



over disputed hate crime, says there 'was no hoax'

Known for his on-screen work on the television series "Empire" and his childhood role in the "Mighty Ducks" film, Smollett — who is Black and gay — claimed two masked men attacked him in January 2019. He said they shouted racist and homophobic slurs as they beat him, poured bleach on him and put a noose around his neck.

His story, however, quickly began to fall apart, detectives said. Accused of filing a false police report, he initially faced 16 disorderly conduct charges.

Nearly two months after the alleged hate crime, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx unexpectedly dismissed Smollett's charges in March 2019. But months later, Cook County Judge Michael Toomin appointed Dan Webb as a special prosecutor in the case, tasking him with investigating Foxx's handling of the case and deciding whether Smollett should be prosecuted further. The

move led to a new indictment and a trial, which Foxx criticised as "a kangaroo prosecution."

Last week, Cook County Judge James Linn ordered the actor to pay more than \$120,000 in restitution to the city of Chicago — plus a \$25,000 fine — and to serve 30 months of probation and 150 days in jail. Before rendering his sentence, Linn delivered a scathing rebuke, accusing Smollett — who has maintained his innocence — of "throwing a national pity party for yourself."

"You've turned your life upside down by your misconduct and shenanigans," Linn said. "You've destroyed your life as you knew it. You wanted to get the attention and you were so invested in issues of social justice, and you knew this was a sore spot for everybody in this country."

Smollett's stint behind bars would prove to be short-lived.

On Wednesday, the Illinois Appellate Court ordered a stay on Smollett's

jail term, pending the appeal of his sentence. The actor was required to post a personal recognizance bond of \$150,000 — which means he does not have to put down money, but instead agrees to appear in court as required.

According to court documents, the order was granted because "the defendant has been convicted on non-violent offenses" and the court "will be unable to dispose of the instant appeal before the defendant would have served his entire sentence of incarceration."

Around 8 p.m., Smollett — wearing a black T-shirt and a mask — walked out of Cook County Jail surrounded by security. As cameras clicked and reporters shouted questions, the actor got inside an awaiting gray van without speaking.

Despite the lack of a response from Smollett, Uche said the actor became emotional when he learned he would be released. The first thing he did, the defence attorney said, was push his hands on the glass between them — a sign of relief after Smollett "had nearly given up" on the justice system.

"We are pleased that sensationalism and politics will be put aside and we can finally have an intellectual discussion about our laws with our esteemed appellate court," Uche told The Washington Post in a statement.

Regional News



US Coast Guard repatriates 21 Cubans

Coast Guard Cutter Kathleen Moore's crew repatriated 21 people to Cuba on Tuesday, following two interdictions of undocumented migrants due to safety of life at sea concerns.

While on a routine patrol, Kathleen Moore's crew interdicted a sailing vessel at about 1:30 pm, Friday, approximately 46 miles south of Key West.

A good Samaritan notified Coast Guard Sector Key West watch standers, Saturday, at about 11 am, of a rustic vessel approximately 5 miles east of Islamorada.

"Navigating the seas in a less than seaworthy vessel is dangerous and could result in loss of life," said Lt Karolina Del Hierro Vega, a Coast Guard District Seven enforcement officer.

"Coast Guard crews and our local and federal law enforcement partners maintain an active presence with air and sea assets every day through the Florida Straits to help save lives by removing people from unsafe environments and deterring dangerous



A rustic vessel following an interdiction of four undocumented migrants, March 12, 2022, approximately 5 miles east of Islamorada, Florida. US Coast Guard Cutter Kathleen Moore's crew repatriated 21 people to Cuba, March 15, 2022, following two interdictions to safety of life at sea concerns. (US Coast Guard photo)

migrant voyages. We urge people not to take to the sea in unseaworthy vessels."

Since October 1, 2021, Coast Guard crews interdicted 961 Cubans compared to:

- 5,396 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2016
- 1,468 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2017
- 259 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2018
- 313 Cuban Migrants in

Fiscal Year 2019

- 49 Cuban Migrants in

Fiscal Year 2020

- 838 Cuban Migrants in

Fiscal Year 2021

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

Throughout the interdictions, Coast Guard crew members were equipped with personal protective equipment to minimize potential exposure to any possible case of COVID-19.

St. Maarten reopens, back to business as usual

Sint Maarten as of Wednesday, transitioned back to full normalcy with a halt to all measures related to the COVID-19 Prevention and Safety Plan for the Business Community of Sint Maarten.

Regular business hours will resume as established in the respective business licenses.

Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunication Roger Lawrence stated: "We are now fully open as of March 16 without



Philipsburg, St Maarten. (Photo credit: PaulMcKinnon/iStock)

any business restrictions. The lifting of measures will allow us as a country to see

a continued expansion in economic activity for the remainder of the year.

Unprecedented measures were taken in March

2020 along with the country lockdown. Two years later, we have reached the stage where we can remove the remaining business sector restrictions.

COVID-19 has not disappeared; however, cases remain low and manageable."

The ministry is also advising the public to be mindful of the precautions that allowed Sint Maarten to reach to this phase, such as washing hands, cough and sneeze etiquette and proper workplace sanitisation.

PAHO wants Caribbean countries to continue focusing on protecting most vulnerable

CMC - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Wednesday urged countries in the Americas, including the Caribbean, to continue focusing on the protection of the most vulnerable, such as the elderly, the immune-compromised, health care workers and other high-risk groups, even as coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination continues to expand in the region.

“COVID-19 infections and deaths are declining in most of our region, but there are still too many cases and deaths being reported every day – a clear indication that transmission is not yet under control,” said PAHO's Assistant Director Dr Jarbas Barbosa.

Since the first case of the virus was reported in the Americas two years ago, 149 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported and 2.6 million people have died.

The Assistant Director also warned that the current rise in cases in other regions of the world should serve as “a cautionary tale” for the Americas.

New infections have increased by 28.9 per cent in the Western Pacific region, 12.3 per cent in the African region, and almost two per cent in the European region.

“The virus puts us all at risk. That's why we must continue our efforts to close the equity gap and protect the most vulnerable with COVID-19 vaccines.”

Dr Barbosa said that while many countries and territories are on track to reach the WHO 70 per cent COVID-19 vaccination target, and eight have vaccinated more than 80

per cent of their population, 21 have yet to vaccinate half of their population.

“We still have a lot of work ahead to improve our resilience to COVID-19,” he said, noting that the pandemic response has left routine immunisation programmes decades behind, with coverage against polio and measles dropping to 1994 levels.

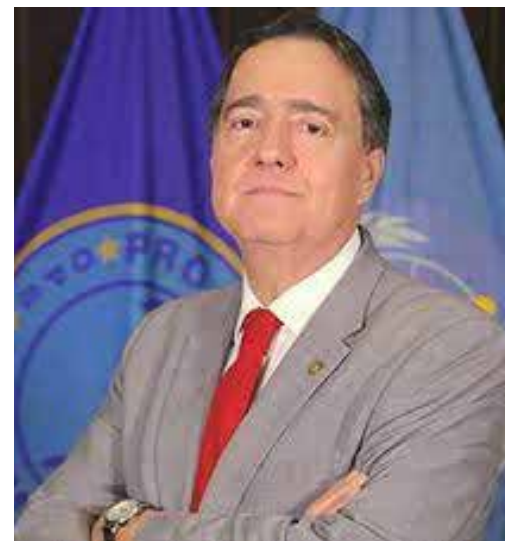
“COVID-19 showed us, once again, that vaccines are the most important tool to control infectious disease and save lives. Yet, in just two years, we've rolled back nearly three decades of progress on polio and measles.”

He said vaccine coverage for other childhood diseases has also fallen further behind, with diphtheria and yellow fever threatening to resurge unless countries take urgent action.

HPV vaccination, which prevents cervical cancer in young women and girls, has also stalled across the region due to school disruptions.

While many countries restarted campaigns against measles, rubella, and polio in 2021, and at least eight countries are planning to do follow-up measles campaigns this year, sustaining high coverage is “essential to securing our children's future and allowing our region to flourish,” he said.

The Assistant Director called for strong political and technical leadership at national and local levels to raise routine vaccination coverage and urged countries to leverage COVID-19 vaccination efforts to rapidly roll out other essential vaccines, including the influenza vaccine.



Assistant Director of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Dr Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr.

“We cannot waste time. We have the experience, tools, and know-how to catch up on missed vaccinations, prevent diseases, and protect our families today and in the future.”

He said PAHO “will work with countries across the region to run co-ordinated national campaigns during Vaccination Week in the Americas,” and the PAHO Revolving Fund stands ready to “continue to support countries with purchases of routine vaccines”.

Turning to the COVID-19 situation in the region, Dr Barbosa reported that cases in the Americas reached 901,000, a 19 per cent decrease from the previous week.

However, hikes in cases were seen in Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean Islands, where cases increased by 56.6 per cent

Deaths fell by 18.4 per cent to 15,523, with all sub-regions reporting declines – from a 6.9 per cent drop in the Caribbean to a 27.9 per cent decrease in Central America.

Regional News

Bermuda: Drugs and cash seized during police raid

Police on Bermuda seized a large quantity of drugs and cash during a raid in the Pembroke community.

Cops said the raid, which took place on March 14, was a joint operation between officers from the Tactical Operations Division supported by the Community Policing Division, who executed a Misuse of Drugs Act warrant.

Police said the drugs had a street value of over \$45,000 and the cash added up to \$38,000.

One person was arrested in connection with this incident.

In a comment Thursday, Chief Inspector Robert Cardwell said: "This is another example of BPS commitment to seize illicit drugs and the associated proceeds of the crime at every turn. We will continue to work to bring to justice any person engaged in the sale of illicit drugs."



Members of the Bermuda Police Service during Monday's raid in Pembroke. Photo: BPS

9:00am-10:30am

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Biden announces hundreds of millions in new security aid for Ukraine following Zelensky's speech

CNN - President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced an additional \$800 million in security assistance to Ukraine as he sought to answer his Ukrainian counterpart's impassioned call for help and leadership delivered to Congress earlier in the day.

"The world is united in our support for Ukraine and our determination to make (Russian President Vladimir) Putin pay a very heavy price," Biden said before signing a presidential memorandum at the White House to deliver the military assistance. "America is leading this effort, together with our allies and partners, providing an enormous level of security and humanitarian assistance that we're adding to today and we're going to continue to do more in the days and weeks ahead."

The new details about the US' military assistance to Ukraine comes hours after Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelensky, addressed US members of Congress, renewing his calls for more assistance as his homeland continues to battle Russian military's invasion.

Biden, in his remarks on Wednesday, attempted to level with Americans about the long road ahead in the war.

"I want to be honest with you," the President said. "This could be a long and difficult battle. But the American people will be steadfast in our support of the people of Ukraine in the face of Putin's immoral, unethical attacks on civilian population."

According to the White House, the \$800 million in security assistance will provide Ukraine with: 800 Stinger anti-aircraft systems, 100 drones, "over 20 million rounds of small arms ammunition and grenade launcher and mortar rounds," 25,000 sets of body armour, 25,000 helmets, 100 grenade



President Joe Biden

launchers, 5,000 rifles, 1,000 pistols, 400 machine guns, 400 shotguns, as well as "2,000 Javelin, 1,000 light anti-armour weapons, and 6,000 AT-4 anti-armour systems."

The US will specifically provide Switchblade drones to Ukraine, two sources familiar with the matter told CNN. The small, portable, so-called kamikaze drones carry warheads and detonate on impact. The smallest model can hit a target up to 6 miles away, according to the company that produces the drones, AeroVironment. It's unclear which model the US will send to Ukraine.

The Switchblade drones were added to Ukraine's extensive list of requested military and technological assistance after Ukrainian officials consulted with congressional partners over the weekend on a draft of the list.

The assistance stops short of the no-fly zone or fighter jets that Zelensky has said are necessary to sustain

Ukraine's fight against Russia.

News of the additional assistance, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal, comes as the White House continues to face intense pressure from Congress and Zelensky to find new ways to aid Ukraine.

The Ukrainian President, who remains in his country, delivered an impassioned message for Biden at the end of his remarks to Congress.

"You are the leader of your grand nation," Zelensky told Biden. "I wish you to be the leader of the world. Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace."

Biden said later Wednesday that he watched Zelensky's speech from the White House residence, calling it "convincing" and "significant."

"He speaks for a people who have shown remarkable courage and strength in the face of brutal aggression, courage and strength that's in-

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China reports another human case of H5N6 bird flu

BNO - Another person in mainland China has fallen seriously ill after testing positive for H5N6 bird flu, raising the number of cases so far this year to 17, officials say. The spike in human cases has led to calls for increased surveillance.

The latest case is a 51-year-old woman from Nanchang in Jiangxi province who developed symptoms on February 20 after exposure to live domestic poultry, according to the Hong Kong Health Department. She was hospitalized 3 days later and remains in critical condition.

Other details about the case were not released by the Chinese government, which often takes a long time to announce new cases.

Last week, China reported that a 12-year-old girl and a 79-year-old man died of H5N6 bird flu in early December.

Both lived in Liuzhou in the Guangxi region and visited a live poultry mar-

ket before falling ill. It's unknown why it took 3.5 months to report the cases.

Only 76 people have been infected with H5N6 bird flu since the first confirmed case in 2014, but the vast majority of cases were diagnosed during the past year. At least 17 cases, including five deaths, have been reported so far this year.

H5N6 bird flu is known to cause severe illness in humans of all ages and has killed nearly half of those infected, according to WHO. There are no confirmed cases of human-to-human transmission but a woman who tested positive last year denied having contact with live poultry.

"The increasing trend of human infection with avian influenza virus has become an important public health issue that cannot be ignored," researchers said in a study published by China's Center for Disease Control in September.



ber. The study highlighted several mutations in two recent cases of H5N6 bird flu.

Thijs Kuiken, professor of comparative pathology at Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, expressed concern about the rising number of cases.

"It could be that this variant is a little more infectious (to people) ... or there could be more of this virus in poultry at the moment and that's why more people are getting infected," Kuiken told Reuters in October.

Earlier that month, the World Health Organization said the risk of human-to-human transmission remains low because H5N6 has not acquired the ability for sustained transmission between humans. However, the spokesperson added that increased surveillance was "urgently required" to better understand the rising number of human cases.

cont'd from pg 21

spired not only Ukrainians, but the entire war," Biden continued.

The \$800 million in security assistance comes from the massive spending bill the President signed into law on Tuesday, which includes \$13.6 billion total in new aid to Ukraine.

The Biden administration will look to get these hundreds of millions in new aid to Ukraine as quickly as possible, with

the President noting Tuesday that it is becoming "exceedingly difficult" to get new supplies into Ukraine, though they are still able to do so.

The Biden administration is also continuing to develop sanctions targeting top Russian officials and those in President Vladimir Putin's inner circle, with plans to ramp up the number of targets in the coming days and weeks, according to multiple US officials.

Honduras judge says ex-president can be extradited to US for trial

AP - Former President Juan Orlando Hernández should be extradited to the United States to face drug trafficking and weapons charges, a Honduran judge ruled Wednesday.

The country's Supreme Court of Justice said late Wednesday via Twitter that the judge had decided to grant the U.S. extradition request.

U.S. prosecutors in the Southern District of New York have accused Hernández in recent years of funding his political rise with profits from drug traffickers in exchange for protecting their shipments. He has strongly denied any wrongdoing.

Former first lady Ana García told local journalists while leaving the court that she was confident the truth would eventually come out and her husband be exonerated.

"I regret that this happens to someone who has been an ally" of the United States, she said. "I ask myself, from this point on who else will want to work to combat drug trafficking in any country of the region or Honduras."

"If today they do this to the one who put himself out there, what can we expect?"

Before the decision was announced, court spokesman Melvin Duarte said that during a hearing earlier in the day, Hernández addressed the court.

"In general terms he argued about the motives that have led to this extradition process against him, which he and his wife have said publicly," Duarte said.

Hernández has maintained that statements against him have been made by drug traffickers extradited by his government who wanted to seek revenge against him.

He denies having any ties to drug



Former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, centre in chains, is shown to the press at the Police Headquarters in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. Police arrested Hernandez at his home, following a request by the United States government for his extradition on drug trafficking and weapons charges. (AP Photo/Elmer Martinez)

traffickers.

He will have an opportunity to appeal the extradition decision.

"We still have an appeal that must be examined," said Iván Martínez, one of Hernández's lawyers. "We have three days to analyse the decision taken today and make our case in line with law."

During the hearing, the judge presented a document sent by the U.S. Justice Department through the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa that laid out the charges against Hernández.

Hernández's lawyers also presented at least 20 pieces of evidence in his defence.

Hernández left office in January at the conclusion of his second term.

The judge had more time to reach a decision, but in 32 previous extradition cases the decision came in less than a week. All of those decisions were for extradition.

Criminal lawyer German Licona said before the announcement that if the judge ruled for extradition, Hernández could appeal to the full Supreme Court.

Hernández was arrested at his home on Feb. 15 at the request of the U.S. government.

The arrest came less than three weeks after Hernández left office and followed years of allegations by U.S. prosecutors of his alleged links to drug traffickers. His brother, Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, was sentenced to life in prison on drug and weapons charges in March 2021.

After his arrest the former president was led before cameras flanked by police, shackled at the wrists and ankles, and wearing a bulletproof jacket.

On Wednesday, he appeared in court wearing a blue suit but was similarly shackled.



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Ben Stokes century sets up England declaration before West Indies dig in

Ben Stokes made a welcome return to the ranks of Test centurion with a belligerent display against West Indies as England set a commanding first-innings total.

It had been well over 18 months and 23 Test innings without a ton for Stokes and much has happened in that time - from losing his beloved father, Ged, to a four-and-a-half-month absence from the game during which he had two operations to repair a serious finger injury and took time out to manage his mental health.

But once he got going on the second morning in Barbados, it was something to behold.

He struck four sixes and 11 fours as he reached 89 off just 92 balls by lunch, having started the day on nought after Dan Lawrence fell on the last ball of the opening day.

A quieter period ensued after the interval as Kemar Roach and Jason Holder put the lid on England's scoring for a time, but Stokes went out swinging once more, for 120, after bringing up his 11th Test hundred with a scampered single and celebrating with his crooked-fingered salute to the heavens in memory of his dad, who died in December 2020. Stokes' last Test century had come against West Indies at Old



Ben Stokes

Trafford in July of that year.

Meanwhile, his captain, Joe Root, was at the other end of the pitch for the most part, during a 129-run partnership for the fourth wicket, having brought up his second consecutive Test century the evening before, his eighth in 19 Tests since the start of 2021.

Root ended up with 153 on this occasion, before leaving Stokes to carry on and then seeing a 75-run seventh-wicket stand between Chris Woakes and Ben Foakes, allowing him to on 507 for 9 shortly after tea.

Debutant Matthew Fisher, drafted into the squad after the Ashes debacle and handed his chance when Craig Overton fell ill on the eve of this match, struck with just his second ball in international cricket

before Kraigg Brathwaite and Shamarh Brooks resisted further damage to steer West Indies to 71 for 1 at the close.

Having seen John Campbell thread his first ball to the rope through backward point, Fisher elicited a prod outside off-stump and the ball flew off the toe-end of Campbell's bat to Foakes behind the stumps.

Poignantly, as he celebrated his maiden Test wicket, Fisher raised his finger skyward in tribute to his own father, Phil, who died when Matthew was just 14.

Fisher thought he had his second wicket when Brooks jabbed in the direction of second slip, where Zak Crawley stooped very low to grab the ball in his fingertips, although he came up looking uncertain

as to whether it had been grounded in the process and replays showed it had, confirming the not-out soft signal.

Brathwaite was then given out lbw on 14, Jack Leach skidding one into his back pack - but not before it had grazed the bat, as the DRS confirmed to relieve West Indies' captain.

Earlier, Stokes and Root had England innings looking like London buses as they carried their side past 300.

That mark had evaded them for 12 innings and more than six months, until the first Test in Antigua, when they racked up 311 and 349 for 6 declared.

West Indies 71 for 1 (Brooks 31*, Brathwaite 28*) trail England 507 for 9 dec (Root 153, Stokes 120, Lawrence 91) by 436 runs

Sports News



Marcus Smart on Stephen Curry injury - 'I'm not a dirty player'

BBC - The Boston Celtics' Marcus Smart said he would never intentionally hurt another player after a collision with the Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry in Boston's 110-88 win.

Smart dived for the ball and crashed into Curry's leg, with Warriors coach Steve Kerr calling it "dangerous play".

The incident provoked anger on-court and Curry had to limp out of the game.

"I know who I am, my team-mates and my colleagues know I'm not a dirty player," Smart said. The incident in the second quarter left Curry needing an MRI scan to assess the damage.

"I thought Marcus dove into Steph's knee and that's what I was upset about," Kerr said after the game.

Kerr said he had discussed the incident with Smart and the pair were "good" but added "I thought it was a dangerous play and I let him know".



Marcus Smart has been with the Boston Celtics since 2014

Disagreeing with that assessment, Smart said: "Me and Steve have a relationship from USA basketball so he knows I'm never trying to hurt anybody. I hate to see any injury. I hope Steph's alright."

"I didn't even see him, I just dove on the ball and tried to make a play. I'm really down right now about it."

"Unfortunately sometimes injuries happen. I'm sure I'm going to get called dirty. That's their opinion."

Rafael Nadal says 18-match winning run 'impossible to imagine'

BBC - Rafael Nadal says his start to the season would have been "impossible to imagine" three months ago, and he is planning to play a full clay-court season as well as Wimbledon.

The 21-time Grand Slam champion has won 18 consecutive matches and will face Nick Kyrgios in the quarter-finals at Indian Wells.

But he admits his long-term foot problem has caused pain in recent days.

The injury allowed him



Rafael Nadal is ranked fourth in the world.

to play just one event in the second half of last year.

In an interview for BBC Sport after his fourth-round win over Reilly Opelka, Na-

dal said: "I just love playing here. My foot is holding well, but sometimes it's true in the match that I hurt."

"It's difficult to hide

that, but it's nothing new. Some days are better, some days are worse, but if I had signed a paper three months ago, it would have been to be worse than how I am today, without a doubt."

Nadal is skipping next week's Miami Masters so he can ease his way gently into the clay-court season, and seemed confident his foot would not prevent him challenging for a fourth title of the year in California.

Nadal won the first tour-
cont'd on pg 27

Aethel Partners become latest group to submit bid to buy Chelsea

BBC - Investment firm Aethel Partners are the latest group to say they have bid for Chelsea before the Friday deadline.

Headed by Portuguese entrepreneur Ricardo Silva, the London firm is pledging to put in £50m immediately.

That will serve as bridging funding to help ease financial issues the club faces and to redevelop Stamford Bridge.

Several parties have already expressed their interest in buying the Premier League club from Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.

His attempt to sell Chelsea has been halted after he was sanctioned by the UK government.

That move came in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Abramovich understood to have strong ties to Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Meanwhile, American PR executive Barbara Charone and British journalist Daniel Finkelstein have teamed up with the Hansjorg Wyss and Todd Boehlybid to buy Chelsea.

Charone is a heavyweight within the music industry, having worked with the likes of Madonna, Rod Stewart and Depeche Mode.

She has been a Chelsea sea-



Several parties have expressed interest in buying Chelsea from Roman Abramovich [Getty Images]

son-ticket holder since 1981.

Finkelstein is also a prominent lifelong Chelsea fan. He was executive editor of The Times and became a member of the House of Lords in 2013.

The bid believes having two such prominent match-going Chelsea figures as part of their team provides an authenticity before Friday's deadline for bids to be received. More than 20 credible parties are interested in buying the Premier League club.

British businessman Nick Candy said earlier this month he was exploring "a number of options for a potential bid".

Former Chelsea striker Gianluca Vialli, who co-owns Tifosy, a mergers and acquisitions company for the football sector, announced on Wednesday that he is working with Candy on his bid.

The Ricketts family, who own Major League Baseball team the Chicago Cubs, also said they are leading a bid from a group of investors, while London Olympics chief Coe joined ex-Liverpool chairman Sir Martin Broughton's bid.

Abramovich had his British assets, which includes Chelsea, frozen last week and was disqualified as a director of the club.

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namment of the year in Melbourne, the Australian Open and then the Mexican Open. Since the formation of the ATP Tour in 1990, only Novak Djokovic had made a better start to the season.

"The beginning of the season is unforgettable - something impossible to imagine two, three months

ago. Sometimes things happen that are difficult to explain, and this beginning of the season for me is one of those things," said Nadal, who also had Covid just before Christmas.

The Spaniard is now hoping to play in all of his usual clay-court events in Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Madrid and Rome before

heading to Wimbledon for the first time since 2019.

"Tennis is not about how many events you play; it's about how many matches you play," he said.

"I go week by week. My goal is to play every single event, but of course I am open to make decisions like I had to do with Miami. But it is not in my plans. On

clay, my calendar is going to be the same as usual.

"Last year, honestly, I didn't play Wimbledon because I was not able to walk during those weeks. For two weeks I was on the boat, and it was for me so difficult to move around the boat with my foot. But if I am in a normal shape, of course I want to play Wimbledon."

Sports News



ABNOC president disappointed with Women's Commission awards turnout

President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC), E. P. Chet Greene, says he was disappointed with the turn out to the organisation's awards brunch at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) at Dutchman's Bay last Sunday.

Initially staged in 2019, the Women's Commission of ABNOC hosted its second awards brunch to honour over twenty women who have made significant contributions to sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

It formed part of ABNOC's commemoration of International Women's Day, which was observed on 8th March, 2022.

In an interview on *Pointe On De Streetz* on *Pointe FM* this week, Greene said persons who are honoured should show appreciation for the effort made to recognise their contributions.

"International Women's Day went last Tuesday, but it was on Sunday we had our church service and a very powerful presentation by a female.

"Then we had this brunch at the Hotel Training School celebrating or toasting some of our wom-

en who have made outstanding contributions in sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

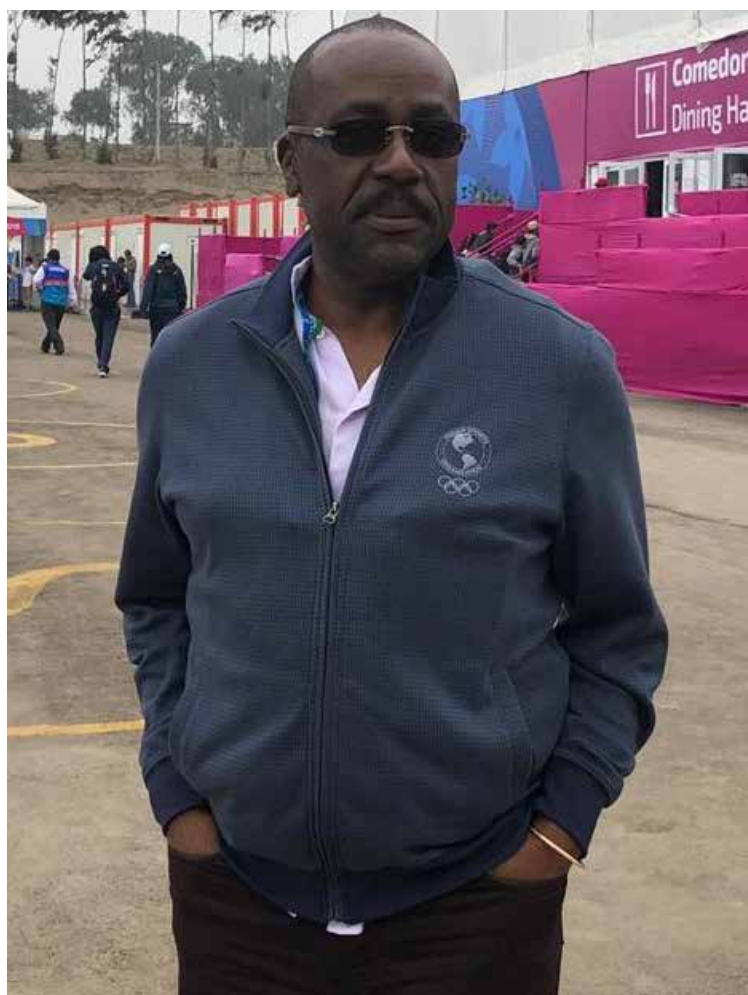
"But I must say, and say publicly though, that I was disappointed by the turnout of those who were being honoured," Greene said.

"Too often we complain that we do not recognise, salute, celebrate, say thanks or show appreciation to persons who make contributions.

"So I think in the same vein, when there are attempts made to change that particular element of our culture, and the whole question of appreciation and thanks and celebration are being offered, praise being shown for people's contributions, those persons have a responsibility and obligation, I dare say, to show some appreciation.

"So, Sunday's event was a good event, but my only disappointment was that a number of the persons who were identified for awards and recognition did not turn up."

Among those honoured this year were professional sailor Jalese Gordon, table tennis player, Ornette Gore, former president of the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation, Edith Clashing and hand-



President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee, E. P. Chet Greene. (Photo: ABNOC)

ball player, Joetta Smith.

Also receiving awards were Antigua Barbuda Tennis Association executive member, Dianne Hillhouse, tennis player, Dojn Kentish, footballers Anik Jarvis and Devikka Tittle, national netball team captain, Seymone Parkes and goalshoot Rayanna Regis and volleyballer, Tyke Hawkins.

The other awardees were Director of Sports

Heather Samuel-Daley, journalist Carlena Knight, bodybuilder, Ambassador Kimberly Percival, sprinter Joella Lloyd, veteran cyclists Lindsay Duffy and Vanessa Kelsick, members of the national fencing association Kelesha Antoine and Alicia Cabral, warrior player, Zahra Lake and domino players Marilyn Gayle and Pam Roberts.

International Women's
cont'd on pg 29

Russian media: Arrest of WNBA star Griner extended to May 19

AP - A court near Moscow has extended the detention of WNBA star Brittney Griner until May 19, according to the Russian state news agency Tass.

Griner was detained at a Moscow airport, reportedly in mid-February, after Russian authorities said a search of her luggage revealed vape cartridges allegedly containing oil derived from cannabis, which could carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

The case of the 31-year-old Griner, one of the most recognizable players in women's basketball, comes amid heightened tensions between Washington and Moscow over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The court granted the request of the investigation and extended the period of detention of the U.S. citizen Griner until May 19," the court said, according to Tass.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The U.S. State Depart-



Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton joined a growing contingent of family, friends and officials calling for her release with a "Free Brittney" tweet Wednesday.

ment has been "doing everything we can to support Brittney Griner to support her family, and to work with them to do everything we can, to see that she is treated appropriately and to seek her release," spokesman Ned Price said Tuesday at a briefing. He cited privacy considerations in not giving out more details.

Ekaterina Kalugina of the regional Public Moni-

toring Commission, a state-backed panel in Russia that monitors prisoners' conditions, told Tass that Griner was sharing a cell with two other female detainees accused of narcotics offenses.

Griner's cellmates spoke English and were helping her to communicate with staff at the pre-trial detention facility and to obtain books, Kalugina said.

"The only objective

problem has turned out to be the basketball player's height," Tass quoted Kalugina as saying of the 6-foot-9 Griner. "The beds in the cell are clearly intended for a person of lesser height."

Griner has won two Olympic gold medals with the U.S., a WNBA championship with the Phoenix Mercury and a national championship at Baylor. She is a seven-time All-Star. The WNBA season opens May 6.

She was one of a dozen WNBA players who played in Russia or Ukraine this past season. All except Griner have left since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Griner has played in Russia for the last seven years in the winter, earning over \$1 million per season — more than quadruple her WNBA salary. She last played for her Russian team UMMC Ekaterinburg on Jan. 29 before the league took a two-week break in early February for the FIBA World Cup qualifying tournaments. She was arrested in Moscow upon returning to Russia.

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Day is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, sporting and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

Greene continued that ABNOC, which conceived the plan to recog-

nise women's contributions to sport during a regional meeting, will continue to do so annually.

"The concept came out of a Caribbean meeting where Caribbean's NOCs agreed that we would share the whole question of honouring our women in this international month

for women. It is the second time we are having this event.

"We had it just before the pandemic, and for two years we could not because of the pandemic [but], I dare say that, next year in this very month of March, we will continue the event."

Parish League to livestream cricket matches this season

The Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Parish League will stream some of its matches live this season.

Parish League opened its 2022 domestic season with matches in the Dave Joseph Limited Overs contest last weekend and will begin streaming matches this weekend.

Sea View Farm will host Newfield, Police will entertain Mahico and Freetown will welcome Willikies in tomorrow's matches, while Sea View Farm will travel to Willikies, Freetown will host Police and Mahico will face Newfield at home in Clare Hall on Sunday.

Parish League member, former opening batsman Mark Charles, said live streaming matches on its online media platform is the latest addition to the programmes it produces from its studio which was established in the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Even though we had no cricket competitions for the past two years, Parish League has been able to invest in a studio and we have been able to use that studio to talk about Parish League cricket and all sorts of sports to keep the sport-

ing public engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic," Charles told Sports Overflow on Pointe FM.

"We presently produce four shows in our studios and the public can listen to them on our Facebook page, our Youtube page and our Instagram page.

"But now that we have started our cricket competitions for this season, we are going to be showing some of the local cricket live on our studio channel from 1pm until close of play every weekend during our Parish League competitions this year."

The shows which are hosted by ACB Parish League, are Talking Sports on Monday with Mervyn Richards from 5pm to 6:30pm; Showcasing Sports and Local Skills with Warri Grandmaster Trevor Simon on Tuesday from 4pm to 5:30pm; Coaches' View on Wednesday with Kenneth "Kenny" Benjamin from 3pm to 4pm, and Talking Parish League Live with Leroy John Baptiste and co-host Taddy Arrindell from 3pm to 4pm.

The shows are broadcast on the ACB Parish League's online platforms, ACB Ca-



Antigua Commercial Bank Parish League member, Mark Charles. (Photo: Mark Charles)

ibbean Parish League on Facebook, Antigua Parish League on Youtube and Antigua Parish League on Instagram. They are also broadcast on Cable Television (CTV) channel 8.

Charles said the Parish League's plans include airing local cricket matches live on CTV.

"So Parish League is aiming to bring local cricket into the homes as well because we are hoping to have our own channel on the local cable television platform sometime in the near future."

Charles also expressed deep appreciation for the support of its long-time

sponsor, the Antigua Commercial Bank, now ACB Caribbean, which has supported the Parish League for over four decades.

"I want to thank the Antigua Commercial Bank for continuing its sponsorship of the Parish League competitions this year. This is the 44th consecutive year of sponsoring the Parish League cricket programme and we are very thankful for that," Charles said.

"I mean, without the Antigua Commercial Bank for the last 44 years, we would not have had a league starting last weekend. But ACB has been there with us."