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GOV'T HEADS STRATEGIZE TO SAVE CIPS

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Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene (centre) looked on as Prime Mister Gaston Browne (left) and Resident Coordinator for the UN Mission in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Didier Trebucq (right) signed Antigua and Barbada's Country Implementation Plan on 22nd March, 2022 during the opening of the UN's new offices in Antigua and Barbada. [Photo: Pointe Xpress/Kavi Roberts] Story on Page 8.



Gov't heads, experts meet to plan way forward for CIP

Heads of government of three of the region's leading Citizenship by Investment Programmes (CIP), along with industry experts, convened a virtual meeting on Tuesday to discuss the way forward for the industry in the face of more forceful opposition to it from the United States and European Union.

Organised by Arton Capital, the forum, 'Fight or Flight: The Future of Citizenship by Investment' saw participation from prime ministers Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. Timothy Harris of St. Kitts and Nevis and Phillip Pierre of St. Lucia.

The prime ministers were joined by policy expert, Jacobo Truan and Hilton Global Associates Security Advisor, Peter Vincent.

On 9th March, 2022, a legislative initiative report was adopted by the European Parliament, which called for a better regulation of Residency by Investment Programmes. It also put for-

Heads of government of ward several recommendate of the region's leading tions that could change the way Citizenship by Investment way Citizenship by Investment Programmes operate in the European Union and beyond.

The voting of this legislative initiative coincided with the EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus in the wake of the invasion in Ukraine.

The irony of the Caribbean's role now in navigating the crisis facing CIPs which now operate in more than 100 countries around the world is not lost, as St. Kitts and Nevis founded the world first CIP in 1984.

The revolutionary initiative changed the trajectory of the region and the world as the billion-dollar industry has allowed governments in the region to leverage their coveted geographic locations and powerful passports to improve the socio-economic situation of their countries and people.

While all elements of the EU's proposed plan are



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

not detrimental as it calls for stronger regulations and licensure of participating agencies, it also calls upon the European Commission to propose a legislative act which will call for more burdens of CBI programmes in countries with visa-free travel privileges to the EU due to perceived inherent security and other risks to the Union.

Should the plan proceed, the ordinary legislative procedure is likely to be triggered some time in 2023.

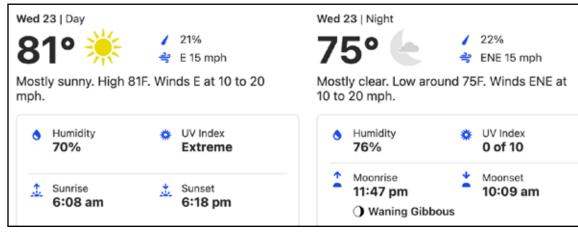
Moreover, the full

phase out of European CBI programmes will occur by 2025 and pressure on other nations' CIPs could be exerted as soon as this year.

Should this happen, and the threat of the revocation of visa waivers is carried out by members of the Schengen group, CIPs around the world would be crippled overnight as they would lose access to 27 nations.

On Tuesday morning, Prime Minister Gaston Browne told the meeting that the EU's move poses a significant threat to the economies of the Caribbean and other small island states with similar programmes as CIPs, in some instances, contribute as much as half of all the revenue generated by the region's governments.

"We must all know of the importance of these programmes to the OECS/ cont'd on pg 3



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Caribbean region. In some instances, the CBI is contributing up to as much as 40,50 percent of all revenue intake of a couple of the islands within the sub-region.

So, if the European Union were to discontinue the visa free access, then that would render our programmes less viable. In fact, I suspect that these programmes would become somewhat unviable, so the sort of revenue yields that we have benefited from over the years would drop significantly and there would be serious socio-economic consequences," said Prime Minister Browne.

Antigua and Barbuda launched its CIP in 2014. Recently, Prime Minister Browne disclosed that the country generated close to \$200 million in CIP revenue in its first year. This declined after Antigua and Barbuda, along with many other nations in the region, also lost visa free access to Canada. Since then, the country's CIP has generated an average of \$100 million in revenue annually from the programme.

With the economic threat to CIP nations in the region, and the subsequent negative impact the collapse of the CIP would have on every facet of society, Prime Minster Browne advanced that the participating OECS nations must band together to save CIPs.

He also firmly voiced his confidence in the integrity of Antigua and Barbuda's CIP as well as others in the region.

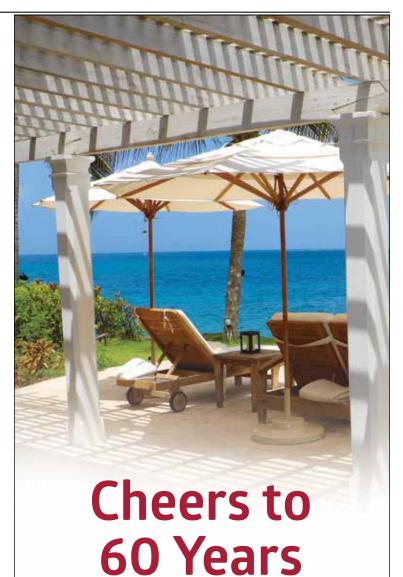
"I am of the view that we ought to come together as an OECS sub-region and to have a demarche on the European Union.

"I have written to the European Union reassuring them of the soundness of our programmes; that our programmes do not represent a risk to the European Union; that we have very extensive due diligence processes in place in order to ensure that we weed out the rotten elements from our programmes.

"We do accept that there is some level of residual risk – no system is fool proof and from time to time we may have one or two rotten elements that may slip through – but to date, there is no evidence that anyone has utilised any of our programmes to commit any act of terrorism.

"And even the concerns about those involved in financial crimes, the amount of money involved is negligible compared to the level of money laundering that is taking place in North America and Europe.

"I find that they continue to use our respective countries as scapegoats, and the issue is whether or not it's not more of a concern of a flight of capital to smaller nations and whether or not they are not trying to unfairly create an unlevel playing field so that their residency programmes can become more viable," contended Prime Minister Browne.





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Local News



AOSIS engage UN agencies on debt crisis

The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations – which now chairs the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) – has convened an urgent meeting in Antigua and Barbuda to discuss with key UN agencies solutions to the debt crisis faced by many small nations.

One of the issues almost universally facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is the fact that they are classified as "middle income" by international aid



agencies which blocks their ability to access funding and resources granted to nations with a lower socio-economic classification.

However, the impact of the pandemic coupled with climate change, which has the greatest negative impact on SIDS, has placed increasing and unsustainable economic and fiscal strain on small nations around the world.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, priority was given to the development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) that will allow all SIDS to access concessional financing.

The MVI will set parameters within which a nacont'd on pg 5



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tion's true economic vulnerability can be gauged and measure its resilience to crises including natural disasters, the effects of climate change, supply chain issues and outbreaks of disease.

Ahead of the meeting, Ambassador Dr. Aubrey Webson, Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the UN, and the Chair of AOSIS said, "The UN has acknowledged the special circumstances of SIDS for years, but things seem to be getting worse, not better and as Chair of AOSIS, I am determined that this can no longer be business as usual.

"This will not be another talk shop; all these agencies have a vested interest in SIDS' progress. We are going to have frank discussions on a clear way forward that actually work for our people."

The multi-lateral discussions follow the news that a UN Multi-Country Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will open a sub-regional office in Antigua and Barbuda.

"It shows that our small twin island country is having an out-sized influence both regionally and internationally. We are leaders in climate action and piloting innovative debt relief mechanisms, and the rest of the world is taking notice," said Dr. Webson.

Last Friday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne accepted an appointment by the President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdullah Shahid, to serve as co-chair of a high-level panel of experts on the work of the MVI.

"For decades, small island States have fought for the adoption and implementation of a universal MVI across all international financial institutions. Now, we stand on the cusp of actually achieving it.

"As we edge cautiously into a post-pandemic future, this is an important first step on a long road back to economic solvency for many islands, and I will do everything in my power to get us

over the line," said Prime Minister Browne.

The meeting's outcomes will be presented to UN member states for further action.

The meeting, which is being held at the St. James' Club, began on Tuesday and concludes today.



JOB OPPORTUNITY.

The American University of Antigua is seeking to employ a **General Maintenance Technician-Plumber.**

Job Summary and Description:

The General Maintenance Technician is responsible firstly to oversee all plumbing needs of the University and second to contribute to the upkeep of the general Campus facility. This officer is skilled in various areas to include plumbing as well as other general maintenance areas and is required to maintain the campus buildings with general repairs and installations.

The duties of a General Maintenance Technician-Plumber include but not limited to the following: -

- Install, repair and maintain general washroom facilities including face basins, urinals, toilets and showers.
- Install, repair and maintain pipes, valves, fittings, drainage systems and fixtures in and around the University.
- Install, repair and maintain tankless electric water heaters.
- Manage the University's drainage system.
- Prepare cost estimates for projects and maintenance tasks.
- Scrutinize building plans and blueprints to locate areas where maintenance and/or repairs are required.
- Collaborate with internal and external personnel to ascertain plumbing requirements on construction projects.
- Perform daily, weekly, and monthly checklists for preventative plumbing and equipment maintenance.
- Responsible for the proper storage of tools and equipment.
- Other duties as assigned by Management within the scope of work.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma and at least five years of experience in plumbing and other maintenance related position.
- Relevant skills or training certificates in plumbing and other areas of general maintenance.
- Physical ability to lift and carry heavy objects.
- Ability and knowledge of operating various tools or equipment that would be regularly required to perform maintenance tasks.

Interested persons should apply to:

hr@auamed.net

Deadline for receipt of application is March 25th, 2022.

Local News



Hurst: UPP's protest an act of desperation

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst has dismissed yesterday's picketing led by opposition political hopefuls as their desperate attempt to capitalise on any issue they believe will cause dissatisfaction among the population.

The government's recent assurance of a review of fuel prices in the coming weeks did not prevent a group of opposition United Progressive Party supporters from taking to Queen Elizabeth Highway



Ambassador Lionel Hurst on Tuesday morning to

demand the immediate re-

duction in the cost of at the pump.

Yesterday morning's cont'd on pg 7



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turnout certainly disappointed organisers who had encouraged "every right-thinking" Antiguan and Barbudan to join the picket. However, only a small group of placard bearing supporters loyal to the party responded to the call.

In addition to demanding an immediate decrease in fuel prices, the political aspirants among the group highlighted infrequent water supply to households and the lack of equipment for the fire department.

Described as the "standard bearer" for the constituency of St. John's City South, one of the organisers, Franz deFreitas wanted citizens and residents to agree that the issues raised during the protest are unacceptable.

those rights and defend our rights constitutionally in this country to say that wrong is wrong in Antigua and Barbuda."

Party leader Harold Lovell, who also joined the picket in front the Office of the Prime Minister, highlighted issues of his own, some of which were inherited by the ABLP from the UPP administration. According to Lovell, the persistent issues are the result of "a failed experiment".

"They have been given the opportunity and they have failed. This is the case of the failed experiment. Time for them to go."

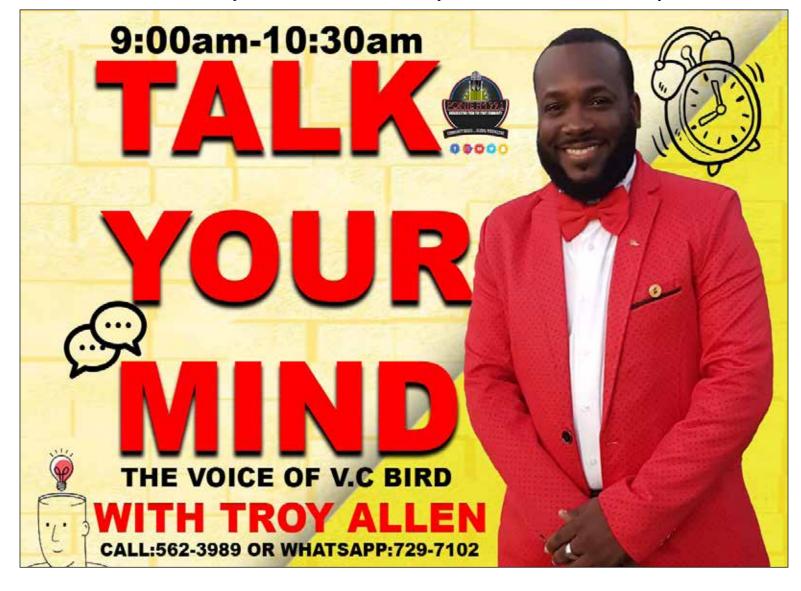
But Ambassador Hurst said the actions of the UPP amount to exploitation.

Speaking specifically to the re-"More of us need to stand up for cent increase of fuel prices, Hurst said: "If you look at the other countries in the Caribbean, we have not done too badly in terms of the way we have handled the price rise.

"On diesel, the government is virtually making nothing, and on gasoline, we are far below what Mr. Lovell himself proposed that we should be making per gallon.

"So, I dismiss them as attempting to stir up the kinds of opposition that they think might win them an election that is around the corner.

"I am disappointed again and again when I have to tell them that the election is not around the corner, and the increase in oil prices is not an Antiguan phenomenon, but one that everyone in the world is suffering at this time. So they must pick their issues wisely."



Local News



Antigua and Barbuda reaffirms its opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Antigua and Barbuda has reaffirmed its stance against the ongoing Russian invasion of its neighbour, Ukraine, with Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene describing it as an affront to the principle of sovereignty.

Greene's statement came as he addressed a ceremony to mark the formal opening of new offices to house several United Nations' agencies in Antigua and Barbuda.

"We value our membership in the United Nations and share its ideals of creating a brighter future for humanity. The UN is the bedrock of international order



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene

and has faced many challenges over its existence including the present conflict in Ukraine," the foreign minister stated.

Greene expressed the view that the UN is a "celebration" and an affirmation of multilateralism, which he

said, remains the best option for the survival of small states like Antigua and Barbuda within the global sphere.

On the issue of Ukraine, he believes that the UN has a major role to play in the eventual attainment of peace and the rebuilding of the socio-economic and political institutions of a postwar Ukraine.

"Antigua and Barbuda stands in solidarity with Ukraine in this arduous task," he declared.

During the ceremony, Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Resident Coordinator for the UN Mission in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Didier Trebucq signed Antigua and Barbuda's Country Implementation Plan (CIP). This is an initiative to deliver UN development system support within the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework.



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Savitree Dindyal found

The 39-year-old Guyanese woman reported missing on Monday has been located.

Police indicated Tuesday on that Savitree "Sabo" Dindyal was found in a supermarket in the Belmont area.

She was said to be well and unharmed.

The wife and mother, who resides



in Herberts, was reported missing by her family on Monday morning after she left home late Saturday night in her Nissan Serena and never returned.

Police say their investigations are ongoing as they seek to determine the circumstances leading up to her disappearance.

Law enforcement credited Dindyal's quick discovery to the public's prompt response to their appeals for

Sunday morning accident leaves passenger hospitalised

A vehicular accident on All Saints Road in the early hours of Sunday morning has left the passenger hospitalised with back injuries.

The driver of the white Toyota Vitz with rental license plates, reportedly lost control of the vehicle which veered off the road sometime after 3am. The collision totalled the motor car.

Social media footage showed the front seat passenger screaming in pain, while the driver appeared unconscious.

Later in the video footage, the driver appeared to regain consciousness after receiving help from passers-by.

The driver, whose name is being withheld, has since been discharged from hospital, however it is likely that he will face dangerous driving charges.

The passenger remains under observation at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

At least three accidents occurred last weekend. The most serious involved motorcyclist Shane 'Yellow' Wellcome, who died after he lost control of his motorcycle and slammed into a lamp post in Bethesda on Sunday evening. He became the country's fourth road fatality.

Meantime. famithe ly and friends of Jermaine Lester Bird Medical Centre

Browne paid their final respects to the accident victim during his funeral service yesterday morning at Spring Gardens Moravian Church.

The 25-year-old pronounced dead at the Sir after the Toyota Vitz he was driving crashed on 15th February, 2022, on Sir George Walter Highway in the vicinity of The Furniture Gallery.

The Coolidge resident is the country's third road fatality for 2022.



Local News



JCI Antigua hosts Recycle and Create competition

In celebration of World Environment Day, JCI Antigua hosted a 'Recycle and Create' Primary School Competition which challenged school-age children to be creative with recyclable materials.

The competition witnessed scores of children from primary schools throughout Antigua displaying their innovative art pieces made entirely from recyclable materials at the Multipurpose, Cultural and Exhibition Centre on 18th March 2022.

The initiative, the largest of its kind, was a collaborative project between JCI Antigua Environmental Awareness Program (EAP) and the JCI Antigua Youth **Empowerment** Program (YEP).

A total of eighty-four registered students representing twelve schools competed.

Pares Primary School copped several awards including overall winner, second place, and school with the most entries.

> Alina George from

Pares Primary School was victorious with a brilliantly designed ball gown made entirely from plastic bags, spoons, and cups. Her creativity stole the show as she modelled the friendly dress, with an accompanying handbag, also made from recycled materials. Alina also diligently explained her competition piece and spoke to the importance of recycling.

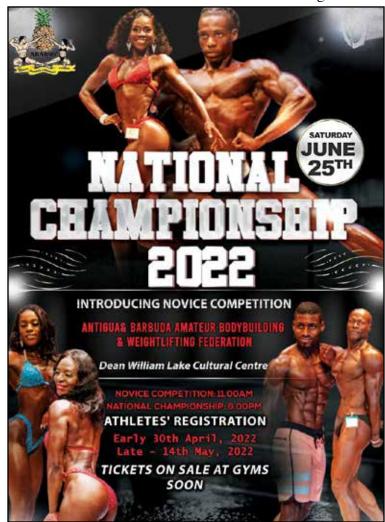
Shemarie Willaims, also from Pares Primary School, placed second, while Leon Edwards from **Primary** the Old Road

School and A'Jmarie Davis from Divine Academy placed third and fourth respectively.

Education Officer. Ms. Burton gave the highest commendations to the committee for a "well-executed project".

"Commendation to JCI Antigua for a project like this, one that is included in the curriculum. Recycle, reduce, reuse is very relevant, and this competition serves as a reinforcement to which the students are practising," Ms. Burton

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Alina George

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said during the awards ceremony.

The education officer further commended JCI Antigua for "leading the charge" in sustaining the environment.

President of JCI Antigua Shenique Barry remarked, "There is no denying that waste is enormous contributor to climate change. Especially for our children, recycling should be something taught early on and ingrained as a necessary step to preserving our planet. Teaching children to recycle is a good way to help ensure that the



Pares Primary School won several awards including the most entries.

upcoming generations will role in preserving it." grow up appreciating our planet and understand their

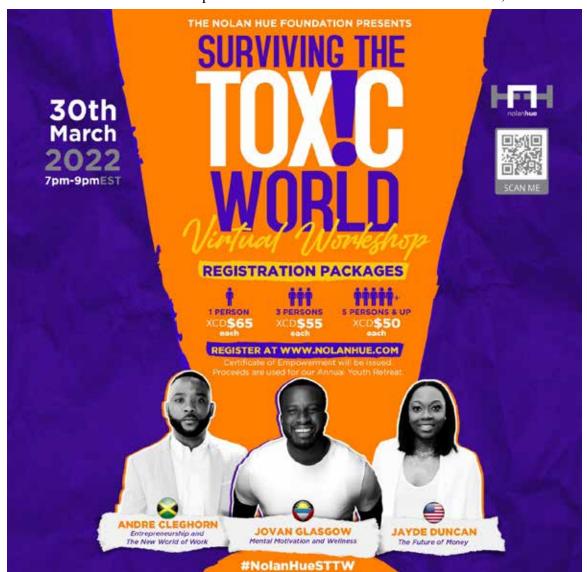
Chairman of EAP Turkessa Potter, and Chair-

man of YEP Tamorla Milette, expressed their gratitude to the schools who participated.

The winner of this year's Recycle and Create competition received a laptop, an art kit, a school bag filled with school supplies, movie tickets and a trophy made entirely from recyclable materials, compliments Andrew Phillip of Big Red Designs.

The second-place participant received a tablet, a school bag filled with supplies, and movie tickets. The third and fourth placed competitors both received baskets with school supplies and other consolation prizes. Each unplaced participant received a token of participation and certificate of participation.

The top five students will also attend a plastic waste manufacturing workshop hosted by the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation's Billy Gernertt



Feature



Increasing productivity when you can't increase pay

One of the human resource (HR) issues that has remained in sharp focus over the last two years has been the productivity of our respective workforces and how our companies are being asked to do more even with the economy doing less.

In a recent webinar hosted by the Caribbean Society of Human Resource Professionals (CSHRP) and facilitated by Krystal Tomlinson, Emotional Intelligence Coach, a few nuggets were revealed that we wish to share with our readers today.

One of the insights shared by Ms. Tomlinson was that quality pay does not always translate into quality work. Unproductivity stems from more than just a lack of motivation caused by disagreements on salaries or bonuses.

There have been instances where even though a new employee is able to negotiate a "good salary" his level of engagement does not materialise as promised.

So, what causes subpar workplace performance? Here are some of the reasons we have identified both locally and regionally. First, the employee's lack of clarity on what's important and how his work contributes to the overall success of the organisation.

Then there is stress from being overworked or from being in an environment where speed is valued over substance. This leads to inefficiency which ultimately expresses as poor performance.

We regularly see complacency manifesting itself based on an existing work culture. The value placed on hard work and how genuine effort is recognized in an organisation are important. No matter how willing and enthusiastic a new employee is, apathy will set in if the proper systems are not in place to encourage development and reward good performance.

According to Ms. Tomlinson, work is commonly cited as the source of

meaning in our lives.

While we need to do quality work and expect fair remuneration for it, we need to also have the benefit of a detoxified work environment that enables us to focus on the work that is most important and gives us the permission to prioritise. So, what creative solutions can we implement to foster an environment that breeds productivity?

Firstly, ensure that each employee is clear on why their job is important to the business and identify any hindrances that could prevent them from being their best productive selves.

Allow a safe space for feedback to occur, bearing in mind that performance management is about continuous evaluation.

Secondly, find ways to challenge your team members, understanding that stagnation leads to mediocrity. Introduce opportunities that would prevent employees from becoming robotic in their performance.

Discourage complacency by encouraging and rewarding good performance. This can be done through healthy competitions or a reward system to increase a sense of accomplishment. Be mindful though to make failure a learning process.

It is okay to praise effort and look at lessons learned along the way even if the end goal was not realised. This will keep staff motivated to keep trying and inspire them to find new ways to succeed at their tasks.

Finally, cultivate a sense of competence within your workforce. This can be accomplished through three A's. One, asking.

Do you feel like when you come to work you are doing what you are meant to do in this world? Are we making full use of your skill sets here?

Two, assessing. Ascertain if the employee you have in a specific role could be better utilised in another area. Then



consider if it's possible to cross train this person or place them with a mentor who could cultivate their particular skills for mutual benefit.

Three, aligning. Now the assessment is done, match your staff with the tasks best suited for them that would not only keep them motivated but stretch them so that they do not become complacent.

Assigning high impact work allows the worker to utilise the best they have to offer to accomplish organisational goals.

As HR practitioners, we acknowledge that people work best when they feel connected.

So, we endeavour to build trusting relationships and camaraderie based on shared agreements. Ideally, we perform best working alongside people we like and trust.

While we cannot expect every staff member to like each other, promoting mutual trust and respect would assist greatly to enhance productivity.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organisations as well as independent consultants specialising in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro. ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.



Relationships



The 'financial infidelity' that can sink couples

By Bryan Lufkin

Secrecy and dishonesty around spending creates rifts in relationships. Why aren't we talking about it more?

Three months before high-school sweethearts Tai and Talaat McNeely were about to tie the knot, Tai had learned that Talaat had been keeping a secret from her: he had sizable loans and credit-card debt. It almost ended their relationship.

"He didn't want to tell me the truth about his finances," says Tai. Even though the Chicago-based couple had gone through counselling which touched on money matters in the lead-up to their wedding, Talaat had kept his complicated financial situation hidden from Tai. To her, it was a breach of trust that almost derailed their engagement.

Talaat had committed what's known as 'financial infidelity': when a person in a couple hides or withholds money-related issues and decisions from their partner. According to a January 2022 survey by US News & World Report, as many as one in three couples deal with financial infidelity in the US alone; other surveys suggest the practice is getting more common with each passing year. The effects can be devastating: a 2018 study showed 76% of married couples involved in financial infidelity say the experience negatively impacted their relationship, and 10% got di-



vorced over it.

Experts say the reason financial infidelity is so common is because we find money matters in general hard to talk about – and things become even harder when we think we've mismanaged our money or used it in a way that our partner might disapprove of. But they also say that conquering that taboo around discussing money is key for couples to survive the fallout – or avoid it altogether.

The 'hidden' nature of financial infidelity

Financial infidelity covers a wide range of behaviours. It could be something as seemingly banal as not filling in your partner on tiny purchases here and there, like the after-work happy hours with colleagues. But it could also be something more serious: siphoning money from shared

accounts, lying about your income or debts, lending large amounts without consent, making extravagant purchases without permission, or keeping bank accounts or credit cards secret.

Michelle Jeanfreau, associate professor of child and family sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi, US, says there still isn't a lot of public awareness about financial infidelity. According to her and her colleagues' research, while 27% of people surveyed explicitly admitted to committing financial infidelity, more than half of them reported committing behaviours that could be classified as financial infidelity - suggesting many people don't know what exactly constitutes financial infidelity.

Jenny Olson, an associate professor of marketing at Indiana University, US,

who's studied the phenomenon, says two main components must exist to classify as financial infidelity. One: you have to be engaging in a financial behaviour you know your partner would disapprove of; two: you keep that behaviour a secret. "There's anticipated disapproval," she says.

While there is limited data, experts suspect that financial infidelity has been on the rise for decades since more households now have two breadwinners. "Now, people have separate bank accounts, multiple income streams, a lot of people have more than one job, a lot more people are talking about their side hustles," says Jeanfreau. "I think it's just easier to blur the lines."

It's also easier to keep it secret nowadays because "it's hidden, and it's so difcont'd on pg 15

Relationships

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ficult to observe", says Olson. "We're not managing a cheque book at the kitchen table. We're logging on [to banking apps] to see some seemingly virtual expenditures that don't feel real, depleting a pool of shared resources." So, it's easier to commit (and harder to notice) financial infidelity when your funds feel intangible and invisible.

Autonomy and avoidance

There are many reasons people might hide some or all of their spending from their partner.

Olson suggests some people commit financial infidelity as a way of reclaiming autonomy in the relationship; they use spending as a means of reasserting their power. "We have this wanting to not just be together, but separate," says Olson. "We're our own individual persons, and we like to have some autonomy with our finances as well."

But the most common reason people keep finances secret is because they want to avoid a confrontation or being made to feel embarrassed about their spending. Rather than being an act of malice, financial infidelity often occurs because the perpetrator cares so much about what their partner is going to think of them that they hide their transgressions.

Ottawa-based Melissa Houston, an accountant, says she knew her spiral of overspending was wrong, but didn't want to reveal her behaviour to her husband because he trusted her to run their finances. "There's just so much shame around mismanaging money," she says. "I was embarrassed. I was ashamed."

Houston began overspending as "an avoidance behaviour" triggered by dissatisfaction with her job as an accountant. Things came to a head when she told her husband she'd committed to the purchase of an in-ground swimming pool in the backyard. When she came clean, she says, "the look of disappointment on his face was brutal".

Beverly Harzog, credit card expert and columnist at US News & World Report, and the editor of its January 2022 financial infidelity survey, says money matters can be highly emotional. "As adults, problems with managing money can make you feel less than, and worried about what people will think of you," she says.

But our ability to discuss money can also depend on our upbringing, adds Harzog: "Was it taboo to talk about money, was it openly discussed or was it never really addressed?" Recent UK research showed less than half of the 3,000 parents surveyed talked openly with their children about money – even though encouraging financial literacy feeds into healthier spending in adult life.

Tai McNeely says even before she found about Talaat's debts, she was the more financially savvy of the two; she'd already paid off a car as a teenager and put herself through university. "I had the great credit score, he didn't. I knew how to handle all the money, he didn't."

Bouncing back

Dealing with financial infidelity as a couple can be hard – and the first challenge may be finding out about it. According to the US News & Report survey, only 8% of partners find out about it via a confession. Often, partners will only find out what's going on by noticing little things – the arrival of more boxes than usual, or the fact that their partner's holiday bonus never materialised.

Broaching the subject can also feel very hard. "I like the word 'taboo' to discuss money," says Jeanfreau. "Like, you're supposed to know what to do with it, but no one wants to talk about it." Olson adds that "we've been trained not to" bring the subject of money up, despite "finances being a huge part of our lives" and "a bedrock of a relationship".

To avoid problems, say both ex-

perts, it's important to establish a regular time to discuss spending, including setting budgets for each person. And for people who do find their partners committing financial infidelity, the experts recommend avoiding hostility or judgment, even though it can be upsetting.

"We do all make mistakes," says Harzog. "Hopefully, this person is important to you. At least put in the effort to see if you can come back from that." She says financial breaches of trust aren't usually as serious in a relationship as someone having an affair, for instance. As long as one person doesn't feel trust has been irrevocably destroyed, couples can bounce back.

In the wake of her financial infidelity, Houston changed jobs; she started her own business to empower women to take control of their money. While she and her husband are still rebuilding trust, she says that their communication around money and spending has become much more honest, open and frequent.

She believes that getting coaching or therapy to tackle the issues causing the financial behaviour, like a lack of satisfaction in other parts of life, is crucial. "It is so important, even when you get your money mindset back on track, to keep checking in on yourself," she says.

McNeely and her husband, meanwhile, have now been married for 16 years. Together they run a podcast and YouTube channel that gives financial advice to couples. McNeely says that once her husband acknowledged what he had done, they were able to work together as a team to move on. Even though his actions temporarily screeched their relationship to a halt, she realised that the complicated, awkward nature of discussing money – even with your life partner – could be more to blame than the partner himself.

"It wasn't that he didn't love me," she says. "He just didn't want to disappoint me."

Business



Pfizer recalls three blood pressure pills after finding it contains a cancer-causing impurity

By Mansur Shaheen

Three blood pressure medications manufactured by the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer have been recalled after a potential cancer-causing chemical compound was discovered in them.

Accuretic, along with two generic blood pressure medications licensed by the company, were found to have elevated levels of nitrosamine, which can put someone at risk of cancer if they are exposed to elevated levels.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports that some levels of the compounds are ok, and frequent in food and drink consumed every day, but consistent use of drugs with detected impurities can prove dangerous.

Pfizer voluntarily issued the recall on Monday and did not report any adverse events related to the impurities. The company's Canadian branch recalled another blood pressure drug, Inderal, for similar reasons last week.

'Nitrosamine impurities may increase the risk of cancer if people are exposed to them above acceptable levels and over long periods of time, but a person taking a drug that contains nitrosamines at-or-below the acceptable daily intake limits every day for 70 years is not expected to have an increased risk of cancer,' the FDA writes about nitrosamines.

Pfizer's recall includes lots of the drug that were distributed around the U.S. and Puerto Rico from November 2019 to March 2022.

The agency recommends people that are taking a drug that is discovered to have nitrosamine impurities to immediately stop.

On Tuesday, the day following the recall, the company's stock price has lost two percent of its value, down to \$53.08 per share as of 12:58 pm.

This is despite an overall strong day



Pfizer has recalled three blood pressure drugs in recent days, with the company's Canadian branch recalling Inderal for similar reasons just last week [Getty Images]

for the market as of mid-day.

Pfizer advised any current hypertension patients that were managing their condition using the recalled drug speak to a doctor about potential alternatives.

'Pfizer believes the benefit/risk profile of the products remains positive based on currently available data,' the company wrote in a statement.

'Although long- term ingestion of N-nitroso-quinapril may be associated with a potential increased cancer risk in humans, there is no immediate risk to patients taking this medication.'

Accuretic is a combination between two different drugs, quinapril and hydrochlorothiazide.

Quinapril is an ace inhibitor drug that prevents a person's blood vessels from narrowing, helping prevent high blood pressure.

Hydrochlorothiazide is a diuretic, which causes a person to urinate more. This can quickly get rid of sodium in the body, helping reduce a person's blood pressure.

Both drugs are commonly used in other blood pressure medications as well. Nitrosamines are often unintentionally found in processed foods as a by-product of a chemical reaction between different chemicals used in the process.

'There are multiple reasons why nitrosamines can be present in drugs,' according to the FDA.

'FDA found the source of nitrosamines can be related to the drug's manufacturing process or its chemical structure or even the conditions in which they are stored or packaged.'

'As foods and drugs are processed in the body, nitrosamines can also be formed.'

They can be found in anything from certain meats, alcohol, cigarettes or even makeup.

Consistent over-exposure to the compound has been tied to lung, brains, liver, kidney, bladder and stomach cancer, among others.

The FDA reports that a recent increase in drugs being recalled for containing the chemical compound is more a result of the agency and other groups having more accurate testing technology now than it had in previous years.

Regional News

PAGE 17

UWI: Caribbean must prepare for impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Loop - The Caribbean needs to prepare for the fallout that will occur following Russia's invasion of Ukraine almost three weeks ago.

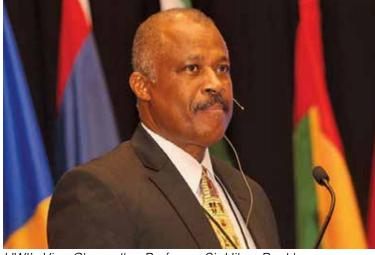
This was discussed at length at a Vice-Chancellor's Forum hosted by the University of the West Indies' Office of the Vice-Chancellor and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) on March 10.

The event sought to examine the implications for the global oil industry under the theme "Of Ukraine Oil".

During his opening remarks, the UWI's Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles said: "There remains a challenge within fine universities to accept the principle of militarism as a primary form of public management. We support in general, the notion that diplomacy is not simply intellectualism nor a low valued proposition as we entered the 21st century".

Speaking pointedly to the impact of the conflict on the Caribbean region he stated: "The world will now be called upon to engage and embrace and absorb the significance of an energy crisis and the significance of food security for these nations.

"They constitute a significant setback for nation-building in the Caribbean. Since we are vulnerable to the volatility of energy supply and prices, and we are vulnerable to the volatili-



UWI's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles

ty in the supply and prices of food."

The forum was chaired **SALISES** University Director Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee. It featured remarks by SALISES Professor of Practice Ambassador Dr Richard L Bernal, as well as Senior Director of the Economic Planning and Research Planning Institute of Jamaica James Stewart, with the keynote by the Management Consultant of the Seladon Petroleum Associates Limited Bashir Badawi.

Ambassador Bernal described the potential economic global implications including increases in the price of oil, natural gas, food, shipping and air travel alongside the rippling effects on budgets, stock exchanges and foreign exchange markets.

He cautioned: "While Russian invasion of Ukraine appears to be a European event like the First and Second World War—which were essentially European—it is going to have global implications, including an increase in global inequities, the developing countries, the poor countries, with less resilience, less capacity for recovery and reorganisation."

He added, however: "It is going to spur a renewed effort to promote the green economy and to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. It will also mean that some of the unused capacity in countries will be utilised for the production of oil and gas. We'll also see the accelerated development of new resources such as those in Guyana."

Badawi delivered a presentation illustrating the ramifications of Europe's dependency on Russian crude and natural gas along with the extended impacts for the Caribbean region.

He also spoke to managing the energy trilemma, namely energy security, energy poverty and energy sustainability. The international energy consultant said this has become the main priori-

ty of governments especially Caribbean island states that are prone to the effects of climate change.

Building on the concept, Badawi went on to highlight key considerations for Caribbean nations. These included nationally determined contributions according to the Paris accord, energy transition policies, increasing oil prices, the challenges of alternative energy, long-term geopolitical effects, inflation and the possibility of a global recession.

He called on Caribbean governments to adjust their approach stating: "It's very important for governments to understand that the oil industry must operate in a different way and governments must also change the way they approach the oil industry and work with them." He also encouraged regional leaders to look closely at the geo-political changes further afield to guarantee their oil supply and improve competitiveness.

Looking to the near future, the probable increases in import costs and the knock-on effects for other industries, Badawi said, "we are concerned about the inflationary pressure that this is causing and we are looking very closely at the next two quarters to see whether we will have a global recession as we did back in 2008."

Stewart focused on the cont'd on pg 18

Regional News



Long lines for fuel across Cuba sparking concerns over supply, rationing

Hours-long lines formed at gas stations in Cuba's capital Havana on Monday after local media reported rationing of fuel in at least one province amid a biting economic crisis that has already left food and medicine in short supply across the island.

Geobel Quintero, a program coordinator for the Matanzas provincial government, told local media that rationing had begun in that province on Sunday but downplayed the problem, blaming the shortfall primarily on distribution issues.

"This is not a consequence of a fuel deficit in the country," Quintero told state-owned provincial newspaper Giron. "This is a temporary problem."

Quintero said in the report that state-run company Transcupet, which provides fuel to the country's service stations, was working with only 62% of its delivery trucks. Logistical issues had hampered distribution, the report said.

Word of the rationing



People line up for gas in Havana, Cuba, March 21, 2022. REU-TERS/Stringer

spread quickly through the neighbouring province of Havana, where the remaining fuel was quickly snapped up Sunday, leaving little gas and diesel available at stations in Havana on Monday.

"I've been here since 7 this morning and now it's 11:30, four hours," said Jorge Paez, 53, a self-employed worker waiting in a nearly kilometre-long line to fuel up his Soviet-era motorcycle and sidecar. "This is a situation that repeats itself every three months ... and the problem is never resolved."

The Cuban government did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Officials in Cuba have previously blamed the decades-long U.S. embargo and more recent, severe sanctions under former U.S. president Donald Trump for complicating foreign imports of fuel to the island.

Cuba's ailing fuel supply is also a function of declining domestic production, limited refining capacity and reliance on ally Venezuela, which is suffering production problems of its own, according to Jorge Piñon, a professor and ener-

gy policy expert at the University of Texas at Austin.

"Cuba's current fuel challenge is as a result of low refinery production and their inability to purchase (with cash) gasoline and diesel in the international oil markets to supplement their Venezuelan oil deliveries, due to high oil prices," Piñon said.

The long lines also reflect a deepening economic crisis that flared up with the fresh U.S. sanctions in 2019 and worsened with the coronavirus pandemic.

Tourism, a key driver of foreign exchange, has also struggled to recover, leaving the country without the cash it needs to purchase much-needed food, fuel, medicine, raw materials and spare parts.

"It's getting ugly, very ugly. We don't know how this will end," said Jorge Luis Mendez, 55, a state worker who was waiting for a gas truck to arrive to replenish a station on Havana's waterfront. "There are too many problems, but well, we carry on."

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economic implications of the crisis for Jamaica: "Not surprisingly the impact of the higher crude prices, the imposition of financial sanctions and a US ban of energy imports from Russia are already being felt in Jamaica."

However, he noted that the full magnitude is largely dependent on the duration and outcome of the war concluding: "While the situation remains very fluid, it is clear that the shorter the duration the more limited the impact would be, however a victory for Russia can mean that sanctions would remain in place for an extended period, thereby worsening the impact on countries like Jamaica."

In terms of possible policy responses, Stewart recommended continued

development, implementation, and fast-tracking of initiatives to reduce the island's dependence on fossil fuels, increased productivity and mitigation of the effects on domestic inflation.

He was careful to note that although the size and duration of the conflict remain unknown, some initiatives are already in train to mitigate the impact in the short to medium term.

Regional News

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Jah Cure sentenced to six years in prison

Jamaica Observer - Reggae star Jah Cure was convicted of attempted manslaughter and sentenced to six years in prison in the Netherlands on Tuesday.

The Behind These Prison Walls singer was found not guilty of attempted murder by the court, which rejected his self-defence claim.

"The 43-years old man was sentenced to six years in prison - with credit for time served - for attempted manslaughter. The court finds him not guilty of attempted murder.

His claim of self-defence was rejected by the court," Franklin Wattimena, press officer of the Netherlands Public Prosecution Service, told OBSERVER ONLINE.

Jah Cure's legal team may choose to appeal the ruling in the Netherlands Court of Appeal.

"Both the 43-year old man and



Jah Cure

the prosecutor can appeal to the Court of Appeal within two weeks if they disagree with the court's ruling," Wattimena said.

He was arraigned in a Netherlands court last year, and spent his 43rd birthday as well as Christmas and New Year's Day behind bars.

Jah Cure, whose given name is Siccaturie Alcock, is facing attempted murder, attempted manslaughter, aggravated assault or attempted aggravated assault in relation to an alleged stabbing incident involving event promoter Nicardo 'Papa' Blake on October 1 at Dam Square, in the city centre of Amsterdam. Jah Cure was in Amsterdam for a performance.

The True Reflections singer has had previous run-ins with the law. He was charged with illegal possession of a firearm, rape and robbery with aggravation and following his conviction, received a 15-year sentence in 1999, but was released early in 2007 after serving eight years.

Four years later, he went on trial on drug possession charges after police found a small quantity of marijuana in the artiste's motor vehicle during a spot check in St Andrew.

Jah Cure is known for songs including Longing For, Call On Me, and Unconditional Love.



International



No survivors found after China's worst air disaster in more than a decade

CNN - No survivors of a China Eastern Airlines plane crash have been found after a second day of search efforts, Chinese investigators said late Tuesday.

In China's worst air disaster in more than a decade. the Boeing 737-800 -- carrying 132 people -- crashed Monday afternoon in a remote, mountainous region in the south of the country as it flew from Kunming to Guangzhou.

Communications with the crew could not be established in the final moments before the airliner crashed Chinese air crash investigators said at a Tuesday news conference.

"The flight took off from Kunming at 1:16 p.m. and was flying normally. At around 2:21 p.m., it arrived over Wuzhou city of Guangxi province. The ground station noticed that the plane had a sudden altitude change, and then it lost communication with the plane, before the plane eventually crashed,"



Rescuers head to the site of a plane crash on March 21 in China's Tengxian County.

said Sun Shiying, a representative for China Eastern Airlines. The aircraft had passed pre-flight checks and the nine crew members were qualified and healthy, added Sun.

The cause of the crash is not yet clear, an official from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said. "The investigation team will spare no effort to collect evidence from all parties and focus on search," said the CAAC official.

Investigators still haven't located the plane's black boxes, state broadcaster CCTV reported Tuesday, and are

facing difficult terrain and poor weather.

The black boxes are flight data and cockpit voice recorders which could hold crucial clues to how the disaster unfolded.

The probe into the cause of the crash will be "very difficult," warned investigators, due to how severely damaged the plane is. Photos and videos posted by state media show giant plumes of smoke rising above the mountains following the crash. Search and rescue crews wade through the thicket, scattered with debris and plane parts. Wallets, ID cards and fragments of a phone were among personal belongings strewn on the ground, China Youth Daily reported.

In the minutes before the disaster, the plane had been at a cruising altitude of 29,000 feet (about 8,900 meters), according to flight tracking data from FlightRadar24. Then, the jet nosedived so quickly that it plunged more than 25,000 feet (7,600 meters) in under two minutes.

Security footage from a mining company near the crash site shows what appears to be a plane hurtling toward the forest, nearly vertical in its rapid fall. CNN cannot independently confirm the authenticity of the video, or that the aircraft is China Eastern Flight 5735 -- but the steep decline matches the flight tracking data.

Witnesses reported seeing a fiery explosion, airplane parts and clothing tangled in the trees, and swathes of the woods aflame.

Western nations balk at Russian presence in G20

Reuters - Western nations are assessing whether Russia can remain within the Group of Twenty (G20) grouping of major economies following its invasion of Ukraine, sources involved in the discussions told Reuters on Tuesday.

The likelihood that any bid to exclude Russia outright would be vetoed by others in the club - which includes China, India, Saudi Arabia and others - raised the prospect of some countries instead skipping G20 meetings this year, the sources said.

The G20 along with the smaller central bank. Group of Seven - comprising just the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan and Britain - is a key international platform for coordinating everything from climate change action to cross-border debt.

Russia is facing an onslaught of international sanctions led by Western nations aiming to isolate it from the global economy, including notably shutting it out of the SWIFT global bank messaging system and restricting dealings by its

"There have been discussions about whether it's appropriate for Russia to be part of the G20," said a senior G7 source.

"If Russia remains a member, it will become a less useful organisation."

A European Union source separately confirmed the discussions about Russia's status at forthcoming meetings of the G20, whose rotating chair is currently held by Indonesia.

"It has been made very clear to Indonesia that Russia's presence at forthcont'd on pg 21

International

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Egypt's Suez Canal increases tolls for laden crude oil tankers

Reuters - Egypt's Suez Canal Authority said on Tuesday it will temporarily increase a surcharge levied on laden crude oil tankers and petroleum products tankers transiting the canal in both directions to 15% of normal dues from 5%, effective May 1.

It said that ballast crude oil tankers and petroleum products tankers transiting the Canal in both directions are still required to pay a surcharge of 5% of normal transit dues.

The changes come "in line with the significant growth in global trade, the improvement of ships' economics, the Suez Canal waterway development and the enhancement of the transit service", according to series of circulars published on its website on Tuesday.

The surcharge levied on laden and ballast liquefied petroleum gas tank-



Osama Rabie, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, speaks during a news conference, in Suez, Egypt February 15, 2022. REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El Ghany

ers, chemical tankers and other liquid bulk tankers will be also increased to 20% of normal transit dues, from 10% previously.

The Authority also said it will

change the surcharge levied on laden and ballast dry bulk vessels transiting the Canal in both directions, to 10% of normal transit dues, compared with 5% previously, while the surcharge levied on other vessels was amended to 14% from 7%.

"These surcharges are temporary and can be either amended or cancelled according to the maritime industry market conditions", a canal authority circular said.

The Suez Canal posted a 15.1% jump in revenue in February to \$545.5 million.

Canal revenue surged after a record rise in transit rates, with 1,713 ships passing through the waterway versus 1,532 a year earlier, Suez Canal Authority Chairman Osama Rabie said on March 1.

cont'd from pg 20

coming ministerial meetings would be highly problematic for European countries," said the source, adding there was however no clear process for excluding a country.

The G7 was expanded to a new "G8" format including Russia during a period of warmer ties in the early 2000s. But Moscow was indefinitely suspended from that club after its annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Earlier on Tuesday, Poland said it had suggested to U.S. commerce officials that it replace Russia within the G20 group, and that the suggestion had received a "positive response."

A U.S. Commerce Department spokesperson said

that a "good meeting" had been held last week between Polish Economic Development and Technology Minister Piotr Nowak and U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo but added:

"She (Raimondo) welcomed hearing Poland's views on a number of topics, including the operation of the G20, but did not express a position on behalf of the U.S. Government with respect to the Polish G20 proposal."

The G7 source said it was seen as unlikely that Indonesia, currently heading the G20, or members like India, Brazil, South Africa and China would agree to remove Russia from the group.

If G7 countries instead were to skip this year's G20



Head of delegates prepare for a meeting on the last day of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, February 18, 2022. Mast Irham / Pool via REUTERS/File Photo

meetings, that could be a powerful signal to India, the source said. It has drawn the ire of some Western nations over its failure to condemn the Russian invasion and support Western measures against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia's status at other multilateral agencies is also being questioned.

In Geneva, World Trade Organisation officials said numerous delegations there were refusing to meet their Russian counterparts in various formats.

Sports News



Paul Pogba: Burglars stole World Cup winner's medal, Man Utd and France midfielder says

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba says burglars stole his World Cup winner's medal when they broke into his home.

The France international, 29, spoke of his "family's worst nightmare" last week when his home was burgled during his side's Champions League game against Atletico Madrid.

His two young children and their nanny were in the house at the time.

"The main thing is that my children are well," he told Le Figaro.

France won the World Cup in 2018, beating Croatia 4-2 in the final in Moscow with Pogba scoring France's third goal.

Speaking about what was taken, he said: "There were jewels from my mother, my world champion medal.



Pogba is currently on international duty with France [Photo: Getty Images]

"What scared me the most was that my two children were at home with the nanny during this incident.

"She overheard erything, called my wife and security, then locked herself with the boys in a room. For several days, she was shocked."

Pogba has been at United since re-joining the club in a then-world record £89m transfer from Juventus in 2016.

the summer.

Pogba is currently away with France before friendlies against Ivory ever a source of pride."

Coast and South Africa.

"This break gives me a real breath of fresh air," he added.

"I want to have playing His contract runs out in time to come back in top form at the club. Wearing this jersey, representing my country, is more than

Phil Mickelson to miss next month's Masters

Three-time champion Phil Mickelson is set to miss the Masters next month for the first time in 28 years.

Mickelson, 51, is taking a break from the game after apologising for his criticism of Saudi Arabia's regime.

On Monday, Mickelson's name was removed from a list of active players competing at the tournament, which he last won in 2010.

The Masters, which was won last year by Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, begins at Augusta National on 7 April.

Mickelson, the US PGA champion, was involved with a Saudi Arabian-backed golf series but faced a



Phil Mickelson could face a ban from the PGA Tour after admitting he recruited three other players for the Saudi Arabian-backed super league project

backlash for comments he made in November to writer Alan Shipnuck.

Before the publication of his unauthorised biography of the American, Shipnuck released the interview last month in which Mickelson branded the Saudi regime as "scary" but said the project was a "once in a lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates".

Although Mickelson claimed his remarks were taken out of context, he admitted his comments were "reckless" and that he was "deeply sorry for his choice of words".

Mickelson said he would use his time away from golf "to work on becoming the man I want to be".

Sports News

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Julius Randle fined \$40k for swearing at referee

\$40,000 by the NBA on Tuesday for directing hostile language at a referee, bringing his total to \$130,000 in fines this season.

The latest came for his actions at the end of New York's 108-93 loss to Utah on Sunday. Randle engaged in lengthy conversations with the officials as well as shoving Jazz centre Rudy Gobert.

Last season's winner of the Most Improved Player award has lost his emotions at times in this disappointing season for the Knicks. He was fined \$50,000 earlier this month for initiating an on-court altercation by forcefully shoving Phoenix forward Cam Johnson, making contact with a

AP - Julius Randle was penalized referee in his attempt to get at the Suns swingman, and for not complying with an NBA investigation.

> He also was docked \$25,000 in January for egregious use of profanity in interviews and \$15,000 in October for throwing a ball into the stands.

> The Knicks also were penalized \$25,000 in January for violating league access rules when Randle refused to speak to the media.

> Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau was asked Tuesday if he was concerned about the outbursts from Randle, who sat out the game against the Hawks because of a sore right quadriceps tendon.

"You're human, there's going to be emotions involved in it," Thibodeau



Julius Randle

said, "but we have to make sure we're controlling our emotions."

Rafael Nadal out for up to six weeks with rib injury

BBC - Rafael Nadal has been ruled out for between four and six weeks with a stress fracture of the rib.

The injury occurred on Saturday during the Spaniard's win against Carlos Alcaraz in the Indian Wells semi-final.

The 21-time Grand Slam champion found breathing painful and said he was dizzy as he lost the final to Taylor Fritz.

Nadal, 35, is expected to miss both of next month's clay court events in Monte Carlo and Barcelona, while the French Open begins in



Nadal received treatment from the ATP Tour's trainer during his semi-final at Indian Wells

Paris on 22 May.

Nadal has won the title at Roland Garros a record 13 times.

In a post on social media, he said when he returned to

Spain he "immediately went to visit my medical team to do tests after I played with discomfort in the final".

He added: "As it turns out, I have a stress crack in

one of my ribs. This is not good news and I did not expect this."

Nadal has been the form player in the world this year, headlined by his victory in the Australian Open when he beat Daniil Medvedev in an epic final.

His defeat against Fritz in California was his first of the year, bringing a 20-match winning run to an end. Nadal is not expected to be able to start practising again for four weeks and his next tournament is set to be the Madrid Open in six weeks.

Sports DEWS WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH 2022

West Indies name unchanged 13-member squad for 3rd Apex Test



CWI - Cricket West Indies (CWI) Men's Selection Panel has named an unchanged squad for the third and final Apex Test match against England.

The match will be the series-decider and will be played at the Grenada National Stadium from March 24-28.

The three-match Apex Series is level 0-0 following draws in the first Apex Test match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua and the second Apex Test at Kensington Oval in Barbados, which ended on Sunday.

Captain Kraigg Brathwaite was named Player-of-the-Match in the second Apex Test. He scored a marathon 160 in the first innings – his 10th Test century and first on home soil and then

56 not out in the second innings on the final day.

Lead Selector, the Most Hon. Dr Desmond Haynes said: "We were very impressed with the captain Kraigg Brathwaite showing the fight in the both innings and the way he led from the front with the bat. Also, Jermaine Blackwood and the way he played in the first innings to get a century. They batted very well together.

"We really appreciated the fighting spirit from the batting department. We decided to stick with the same squad and want to see them continue to give a big effort in the third Apex Test match."

Fans in the West Indies can watch the match live on ESPN Caribbean and on BT Sport in the UK, as well as other international broadcasters around the world.

WEST INDIES TEST SQUAD

Kraigg Brathwaite (Captain)
Jermaine Blackwood (Vice Captain)
Nkrumah Bonner
Shamarh Brooks
John Campbell
Joshua Da Silva
Jason Holder
Alzarri Joseph
Kyle Mayers
Veerasammy Permaul
Anderson Phillip
Kemar Roach
Jayden Seales

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