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PM BROWNE ATTENDS WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT IN DUBAI



PM Browne attends World Government Summit in Dubai

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he is attending the World Government Summit being held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

The Summit, which is being chaired by H. E. Mohammed Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, H.E. Ohoud Bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Government Development and Future and H.E. Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, will see Prime Minister Browne participate in the Global Energy Forum where he will lead discussions on Our Rising Blue Waters: Government Combatting Climate Change. The discussion will also include Wayel Ramkalawan, President of Seychelles and H. E. Faisal Naseem, Vice President of Maldives.

Prime Minister Browne stated he is looking forward to participating in the Forum as it is of vital importance that the message of small developing states is heard.

“With the last seven years being the warmest on record, coupled with the rapid increase of extreme



weather events, the impact of climate change is more visible than ever before,” he said.

He noted that the world’s land masses are projected to sink in a matter of decades, posing an existential threat to the world’s lowest-lying countries today.

“Island states are on the frontlines of climate change, where the effects of rising temperatures and sea levels demand innovative climate action,” Prime Minister Browne remarked.

In his letter of invitation to the World Government Summit, Prime Minister Browne was acknowledged as a distinguished visionary and a beacon of change.

“It is our honor to extend an invitation to you to

share your expert insights at this momentous summit, joining global leaders, decision makers and trailblazers from over 190 countries to engage in a powerful discussion on shaping the future of governance and humanity as a whole.”

The 8th edition of the World Government Summit will be held in tandem with the closing of Expo 2020 Dubai, the largest event of its kind that has brought the world together at a critical time in history.

Alongside the summit, Prime Minister Browne, accompanied by his wife and Minister of Housing, Land and Urban Renewal, Maria Browne, will attend the Global Citizen Forum high-level reception to further champion the mission

to create a united, inclusive, and sustainable future for the next generation.

“As a key voice in empowering this ambition, we are delighted to invite you to join our global community for another exceptional experience,” the letter inviting Prime Minister Browne stated.

On Monday evening, Prime Minister Browne and Minister Maria Browne attended the first international TIME 100 Gala where several global figures, including African billionaire philanthropist Tony Elumelu, beauty mogul Huda Kattan, international music star will.i.am and actor Deepika Padukone, were honoured with the TIME100 Impact Awards for building a better future.

Tenants advised landlord leniency is not unlimited

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division is cautioning that landlords' leniency with delinquent tenants is not indefinite and as such, tenants should honour their financial obligations.

During the pandemic, the government pleaded with landlords to be considerate with those who occupy their properties since many of them may have been directly impacted, experiencing job loss and other hardships.

But the understanding of landlords may have been exploited by some tenants who do not intend to pay rent.

Cemone Williams, a consumer affairs officer, says tenants should consider that landlords also have obligations they must honour.



"The landlord cannot continue to be lenient because some of them are owing to the bank, some of them are depending on that income to come in to help them out...now that they're retired.

"So even though the government has asked the landlords to be lenient, it cannot go on forever," Williams stated.

She noted that dialogue between tenants and landlords is encouraged.

In so doing, both sides will have a clear understanding of the challenges being encountered and can come to an agreement on how to proceed.

"You [tenants] as well have to be lenient with your landlord. If there comes a time that listen, I cannot

make the rent at the month, go and speak with your landlord.

"Ask them can I get a five-day grace period? Is it possible for you to wave the late fee charges?

"Speak with your landlord, dialogue with them and see where both of you can meet at a common ground [sic], because the landlord needs you and you need your landlord as well."

The Consumer Affairs Division wants the population to know that it is left up to the homeowner to decide whether to exercise leniency to tenants.

For those who are errant, eviction is likely, but landlords have been advised that it must be done through the court, especially when notice is served and tenants do not comply.

Wed 30 | Day

81°



21%
ENE 14 mph

Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 81F.
Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.

Humidity
69%

UV Index
Extreme

Sunrise
6:03 am

Sunset
6:19 pm

Wed 30 | Night

74°



33%
ENE 14 mph

Mostly clear during the evening. A few showers developing later during the night. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

Humidity
76%

UV Index
0 of 10

Moonrise
5:06 am

Moonset
5:07 pm

Waning Crescent

Harry Josiah's legal woes continue, DPP appeals his acquittal

Harry Josiah's brief period of celebration after walking free on corruption and fraud charges earlier this month came to an abrupt end on Tuesday when the office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) filed a Notice of Appeal with the High Court.

Josiah was served with notice of the DPP's intention to appeal his acquittal yesterday. The office of the DPP was taken over by former Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh recently after Anthony Armstrong's departure on administrative leave, following his implication in an almost two-decade old legal scandal in Jamaica.

Josiah's legal woes began in September 2014 when he was general manager of the Antigua Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB). Following an investigation into the operations of ABTB, the statutory body's former boss was slapped with eight counts of corruption and four of fraud in March 2015.

He was accused of allegedly performing his duties for the purpose of

obtaining company vehicles and causing the same vehicles to be transferred to other people by virtue of a forged document. Genevieve Phillip, who was charged along with Josiah and appeared as co-defendant, was accused of fraudulently acquiring one of the cars.

For seven years, the matter dragged on until this year on 4th March, when Justice Stanley John dismissed the charges against Josiah after a 'No Case' submission by his legal team led by Dane Hamilton QC.

Handing down his decision on the No Case submission, Justice John agreed that the prosecution failed to prove that the ABTB owned the vehicles or that documents were forged by Josiah.

"I am not satisfied that the Crown discharged that burden and placed before me evidence upon which I can reasonably act," Justice John said.

In relation to Philip who was only charged with abetting Josiah, Justice John continued, "Phillip did not aid and abet Harry Josiah in any corrupt act. If



Former ABTB general manager Harry Josiah's jubilation over his acquittal was extremely short lived as the office of the DPP, now led by Joanne Walsh, indicated its intent on 29th March to appeal the High Court's 4th March decision to dismiss the charges of corruption and fraud that have been looming over him since 2015.

anyone is responsible for aiding, it must be Harry Josiah."

Josiah and his attorney, QC Hamilton, both expressed the view following the acquittal that the prosecution was politically motivated.

However, shortly after Josiah's acquittal, Prime Minister Gaston Browne called the matter "unfortunate" and said his administration had no interest then, or now, in pursuing the issue. Browne pointed a finger at his cabinet colleague Dean Jonas, who was the chairman of ABTB in 2015, as being responsible for launching the Kem Warner audit that led to the police investigation, and ultimately, the charges of corruption against Josiah.

He noted, however, that the executive branch of government does not interfere with the operation of the judiciary, therefore, it is now in the hands of the court to decide the outcome.

Harry Josiah will return to court for the next chapter of his legal battle when the Court of Appeal next convenes in Antigua and Barbuda.



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Red Cross president remanded for causing grievous bodily harm

While the circumstances leading up to his actions remain unclear, additional details have emerged in the shocking jailing of the President of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross (ABRC), Elvis Murray-Watkins.

This week, the country was stunned to learn that Murray-Watkins had been arrested on 22nd March after allegedly wielding his fist against the Interim Director General of the ABRC, Viveca Shadrach.

After the initial arrest, Murray-Watkins was granted station bail and was re-

quired to present himself before the court on Monday this week when he was expected to answer to the charge against him.

Charged with causing grievous bodily harm to the victim, Acting Chief Magistrate Dexter Wason revoked the boss of the local chapter of the world's most well-known humanitarian organisation's station bail.

A charge of grievous bodily harm suggests that serious physical injury has been caused by the deliberate actions of another.

The decision to remand

Murray-Watkins was made by the magistrate taking into consideration a statement given to the court by Shadrach.

It was revealed that in addition to striking Shadrach, Murray-Watkins also allegedly used threatening language toward her and suggested that he knew her routine and where she lived.

Ag. Chief Magistrate Wason decided that Murray-Watkins should be remanded to the custody of Her Majesty's Prison until

cont'd on pg 6



ABRC President Elvis Murray-Watkins

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IICA Eastern Caribbean representative holds talks with Agriculture officials

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture's (IICA) representative for the Eastern Caribbean States, Gregg Rawlins has returned to Antigua and Barbuda for meetings with local agriculture stakeholders.

Since his arrival, he has already met with Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall, to discuss the status and future of the sector and plans for cooperation between the government and the IICA.

Minister Marshall was joined in the discussions with Mr. Rawlins by Permanent Secretary Colin O'Keiffe, Director of Agriculture Gregory Bailey and Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his visit, Mr. Rawlins also met with the United Nations agencies,



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture's representative for the Eastern Caribbean States, Gregg Rawlins.

the British High Commission, Australian High Commission, Indian High Commission, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Centre (GARD) Centre. He also visited local farmers who have benefited from IICA supported projects.

Mr. Rawlins reaffirmed the IICA's commitment to supporting Antigua and Barbuda in developing the agriculture sector in achieving food security. This support also extends to dealing with the impacts of climate change.

He noted that the IICA is also focused on helping

Antigua and Barbuda boost its small ruminant sector by developing forages and grass species, which will provide feeding for them, particularly during the dry periods.

The body also continues to cooperate with the government and agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in establishing local value chains such as the Antiguan Black Pineapple and honey production as avenues of reducing the country's food import bill and developing export products.

Greater involvement of youth and women in agriculture has also been identified as priority areas for cooperation between the government and IICA.

This was Mr. Rawlins' second visit to Antigua and Barbuda since his appointment as IICA representative for the Eastern Caribbean States in 2019.

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6th April when he will return to court. Until then, a full review of the case file will occur.

It is expected that a decision will be made at this time regarding whether Murray-Watkins will be granted bail.

The ABRC has not issued a statement concerning the arrest and jailing of the chapter's leader.

Ag. Chief Magistrate Wason is known for his zero-tolerance position on situations involving violence against women.

Also on Monday, the magistrate

jailed another man for violating a restraining order which barred him from contact with his former partner.

The man was arrested after a report was made that he went to his ex's home in Liberta where he destroyed a number of items on her property valued at about \$1,000.

He was taken into custody by officers attached to the Liberta Police station and was charged with using threatening language, trespassing and causing malicious damage.

Appearing before the court unrepresented, the man pled guilty to the

trespass charge but not guilty on the other charges.

He also admitted that he was aware of the Order of Protection granted to the complainant against him last February.

The Ag. Chief Magistrate took the position that his actions were indefensible and denied bail.

This matter has been transferred from the St. John's Magistrates' Court to the All Saints Magistrate's Court where it will resume before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards on 22nd June.

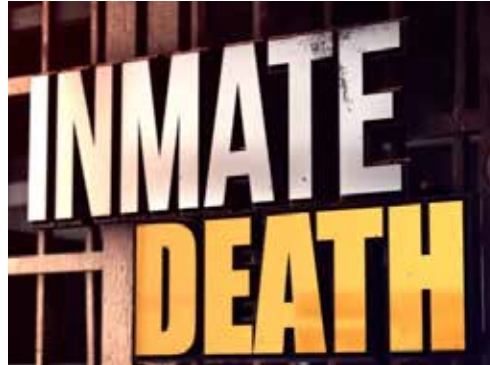
Family of man who died on remand continues to demand answers

The family of Verel Simon recently gained possession of his body, four months after he was discovered dead behind the walls of Her Majesty's Prison.

A funeral service will be held today for the 20-year-old at St. John's Pentecostal Church, as his relatives continue to press the authorities for answers surrounding his death.

Simon was on remand, charged with the murder of Corporal Clifton Common when he was found unresponsive in his cell on 22nd December, 2021.

A relative of the deceased told Pointe Xpress an autopsy was conducted on the body of the young man, and they were granted approval recently to plan his funeral after a death certificate was issued. While they did



not wish to reveal the findings of the autopsy, the family member said they are displeased with the findings of the report.

Additionally, they've only been told by police and prison officials that investigations are ongoing.

The family has vowed to leave no stone unturned in determining the circumstances that resulted in Simon's death and are taking legal action to

press those whose care he was entrusted to take responsibility for his demise.

Unconfirmed reports suggest Simon may have been electrocuted inside the prison, but another source said this is unlikely.

There are further reports that officials are dissatisfied with the initial stages of the investigation.

Verel Simon's death sparked public debate about how people with mental illness are incarcerated after they have committed crimes. Many are calling for holding facilities to be provided for the mentally ill at the prison where they are separated from the general population. There have also been calls for special training for law enforcement and prison officers in handling people suffering from mental illnesses.



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World Bipolar Day

Observed internationally on 30th March, World Bipolar Day promotes awareness and with a goal to eliminate the social stigma commonly attached to the disorder.

It commemorates the birth of Vincent Van Gogh on 30th March. After his death, he was posthumously diagnosed as having bipolar disorder.

The global observance focuses on how bipolar disorder affects the lives of many. It also serves as a tribute to those dedicated to alleviating the challenges that come with the condition. The purpose of the day is to generate global aware-

ness of bipolar disorder as well as eliminate the social stigma that comes with it.

Bipolar disorder is a brain disorder that creates unusual shifts in mood, energy and a person's activity levels. Often individuals with the condition will struggle in carrying out everyday tasks.

An estimated 1 to 2% of the entire global population have bipolar disorder. And yet the impact reaches far beyond the numbers.

The numbers gave way to multiple foundations joining forces to tackle ongoing challenges. As collaboration increases, the public is encouraged to participate



in the efforts. Hope is just around the corner.

What's remarkable about this observance is the dialogue being created between researchers and advocacy groups. They strive to continue developing solu-

tions to living with the condition. The observance is an opportunity to show those living with the day-to-day challenges of this condition that they are not alone. They have your support, and there is always hope.

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ECSE, Blockstation sign deal for digital asset platform

ECSE set to become the first regulated exchange in the Western Hemisphere to enable Tokenized IPOs

The Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange Ltd (ECSE) has signed a Master Agreement with Canadian FinTech Blockstation to launch a new blockchain-driven tokenized securities market.

The ECSE, a regional exchange representing eight Caribbean national economies, will leverage the Blockstation Ecosystem to attract a new class of issuers that is technology savvy and eager to tokenize their securities and raise capital on the open market.

A Tokenized IPO can reduce time and cost when compared to traditional workflows, driving efficiencies for all parties and positioning the ECSE as an innovation leader among regulated stock exchanges.

“By embracing tokenization of securities on the Blockchain, we send a strong signal to issuers and investors everywhere that we are ready for the next evolution in capital markets,” says Trevor Blake, ECSE’s Managing Director.

“Our partnership with Blockstation will ensure our ability to provide a safe, secure, and highly



efficient on-ramp for issuers to conduct Tokenized IPOs, raise capital, and attract the investors they need to grow and thrive.”

This Master Agreement follows a successful pilot of the Blockstation platform which involved the ECSE, the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Depository Ltd, First Citizens Investment Services Ltd, the Bank of St. Lucia Ltd, and the Grenada Co-operative Bank Ltd in 2021.

The pilot confirmed the suitability of Blockstation to provide end-to-end functionality for all stakeholders to list, trade, clear and settle tokenized securities as well as manage the compliant onboarding of issuers and investors in a regulated environment.

“We’re excited to partner with the ECSE in

creating a new securities marketplace built around Blockchain, tokenization and smart contract technology,” says Marko M. Hafez, Co-Founder and CEO of Blockstation.

“The tokenized securities market is rapidly increasing in value around the globe and a holistic, blockchain-driven solution is exactly what regulated exchanges need to modernize, attract issuers, support Tokenized IPOs, and remain competitive in today’s digital marketplace.”

The Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange Ltd (ECSE) is a fully electronic regional exchange that was promoted by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), as a part of a programme to develop money and capital markets in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

The ECSE was launched in October 2001, along with two subsidiaries, the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Registry Ltd (ECCSR) and the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Depository Ltd (ECCSD), to provide the infrastructure for the trading, clearing and settlement, and registration and transfer of financial assets on the Eastern Caribbean Securities market (ECSM) and, subsequently, the Regional Government Securities Market (RGSM).

The ECCSR was subsequently wound up, as a part of a Group rationalization exercise, and its activities subsumed into the ECCSD.

Consistent with industry norms, the ECCSD then became a full-service CSD providing a full range of post-trade services. (Loop)

Lifestyle

Puttering around: Why small tasks feel so therapeutic

By David Robson

Especially when you've got a lot on, tiny household tasks can be soothing. Why do pleasant distractions feel oddly good?

Tidying your desk, watering your plants or folding laundry – these household chores are hardly the height of hedonism. Yet I often find myself seeking pleasure and comfort in small repetitive tasks.

If I'm waiting for an important telephone call, or stuck in writer's block with a looming deadline, I'll inevitably rearrange my record collection or clear up the papers dotted around my office – and it's sometimes the most relaxed I feel all day.

I'm not alone in this. As we faced the stresses of the pandemic, many people reported finding renewed interest in looking after their homes as a way of coping with the uncertainty. On YouTube, there's even a huge audience for videos of other people going about their chores, with millions of views for some of the most popular clips.

Psychologists suggest there are many potential mechanisms that might explain the perfect pleasure of puttering – and they may well encourage you to engage in it more often.

Pleasant distractions

At the most superficial level, puttering may be useful because it occupies the mind, so that we devote fewer resources to the things that are worrying us. Even if we struggle with structured forms of meditation, for instance, we may find household tasks can anchor us in the here and now. But that will depend on where we place our focus.

In one of the few studies to examine the mental health benefits of washing the dishes, researchers at Florida State University divided 51 participants into



two groups. Half read a text that encouraged them to focus their thoughts to the sensations evoked by the activity. “While washing the dishes one should be completely aware of the fact that one is washing the dishes,” they were told. The rest read factual instructions on how to do washing up without explicitly encouraging them to focus their awareness on the sensations it produces.

Afterwards, the participants were asked to take a questionnaire about their feelings. Those who had fully engaged with the sensory experience reported a significantly better mood. This included reduced nervousness and even a sense of “inspiration”, as if the immersion in the simple activity had refreshed their minds.

Perceived control

Unlike other distracting activities – such as playing computer games or watching trashy TV – puttering also has the advantage of being proactive and useful, increasing our “perceived control”.

When we feel anxious, a sense of helplessness can heighten the physio-

logical stress response, increasing levels of hormones such as cortisol. Over the long term, the sense of helplessness can even harm the function of the immune system.

Ideally, we would deal directly with the upsetting situation itself. But research suggests we can gain a perception of control from activities that may have little effect on the situation that's bothering us.

“It doesn't necessarily have to align with actual control, as long as we believe, or feel, we have control,” says Stacey Bedwell, a psychologist at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London. Simply being able to change our environment can create a feeling of agency that is beneficial, she says – which may explain why cleaning and organising our homes can feel so therapeutic.

Some of the most intriguing evidence comes from studies of older people. Just consider a classic paper by professor Ellen Langer at Harvard University and professor Judith Rodin at

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Yale University. The study took place at a nursing home, where participants were divided into two groups. The first were allowed to make their room their own: they were allowed to arrange the furniture however they liked, and they were given a plant that they had to care for themselves. The second group, meanwhile, were told that the staff could take care of everything; they did not even have to water their plant. Over the following 18 months, the residents who were encouraged to take responsibility for their room enjoyed better physical health and were less likely to die.

It is possible that these participants were enjoying a tiny bit more exercise than the others. Given the research on the negative effects of helplessness, however, Langer and Rodin argued that the benefit was primarily psychological in origin, coming from their increased sense of control over their lives.

Tidy room, focused mind

The benefits do not end there. If your puttering takes the form of organising and decluttering, you may find that the tidier environment is itself a form of solace.

As the University of Michigan psychologist Ethan Kross writes in his book *Chatter: The Voice in Our Heads and How to Harness It*: “We’re embedded in our physical spaces, and different features of these spaces activate psychological forces inside us, which affect how

we think and feel.” If we see order outside, it helps us to feel a bit less chaotic inside, he writes. “[It] is comforting because it makes life easier to navigate and more predictable.”

Bedwell points out that this may be evident in your ability to focus. “If you are sitting at your kitchen table with your laptop surrounded by clutter, that’s a lot of visual stimuli that your brain is continuously having to process while you simultaneously try to concentrate on the task at hand,” she says. “Take away the visual clutter and you can focus much more easily.”

Brain imaging studies support this view. In general, you see much greater brain activity as you increase the number of distracting objects within a scene – with each

object vying for our attention. This may lead your brain to tire so that it struggles to maintain its focus over long periods of concentration.

Importantly, you don’t necessarily have to remove the clutter to prevent this from occurring – simply rearranging it will do. Organising objects into groups – by colour, for example – may provide the brain with more obvious cues for navigating the chaos. This reduces some of that neural confusion – and may improve our focus as a result.

Pleasant associations

By reducing anxiety, soothing stress responses, increasing focus and triggering the release of endorphins, it’s little wonder so many of us take to household chores as soon as we are faced with un-

certainty.

Like all activities, the extent of these benefits will be influenced by your personal tastes and the associations that you link with the tasks. We know, for example, that the effects of exercises like running can be moderated by people’s mindsets; those who expect to have a clear mind afterwards are the most likely to return home with a clear head. Tidying, cleaning, sorting and decluttering will be no different.

If you are housework-averse, and will only pick up a duster under duress, the pleasures of puttering may be forever elusive. But for the homebodies among us, we can now understand why our fruitful fidgeting can be such a salve for the restless mind.



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Regional News



PM Rowley wants Prince William to go beyond acknowledging slavery

CMC – Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has called on Britain's Prince William to do more than just offer words of acknowledgement that his country had played a significant role in the slave trade and ensure a level of compensation to those who had their liberties taken away as a result of the Atlantic slave trade.

Rowley, addressing the Spiritual Baptist Liberation Day organised by the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) on Monday night, on Monday night, said he was pleased to have heard Prince William acknowledge that slavery was wrong during his visit to the Caribbean last week.

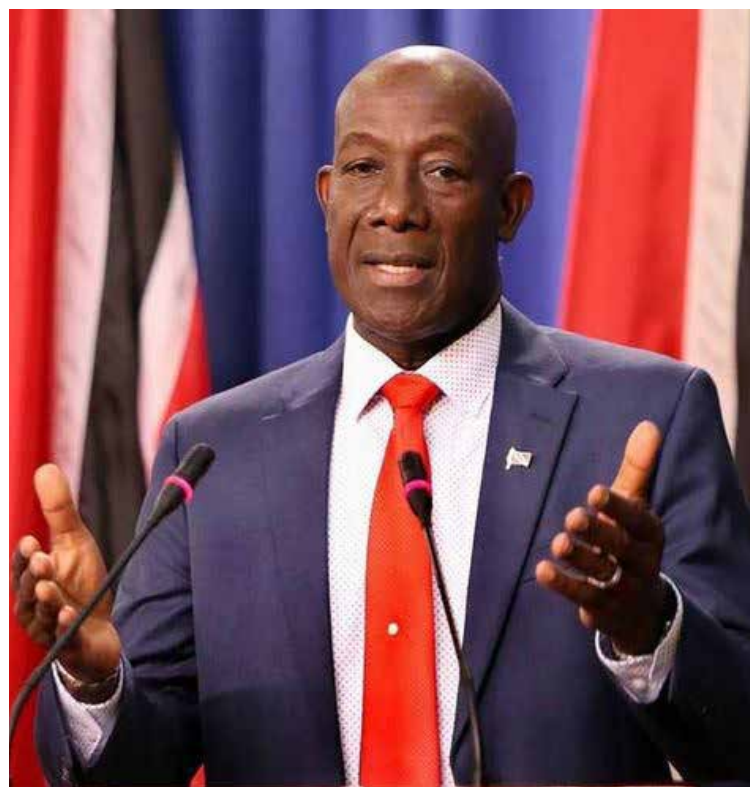
"Recently I was very pleased to hear Prince William say that he acknowledged that slavery was

wrong and that the British government, the British people, have some responsibility in that piece of unforgettable history,

"I was pleased to hear a member of the Royal household in the United Kingdom. But tonight, I want to say to Prince William, having said that, I believe you. But I will believe you more if you do what you must now do, which is the offer of some reparation to the people who were wronged in the way that you have acknowledged.

Rowley said it is not "sufficient to say that I acknowledge this, but not to seek to help those who were harmed by it.

"In the bible and in your teaching it says that there are two conditions and they go side by side. One is re-



Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley

pentance and the other, if you want to be redeemed, you have to repent, then salvation could be yours," Rowley said.

Prince William, who was accompanied by his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, to the region in celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, said in Jamaica last Thursday that he strongly agrees with his father, the Prince of Wales, "who said in Barbados last year that the appalling atrocity of slavery forever stains our history. I want to express my profound sorrow. Slavery was abhorrent. And it should never have happened".

During their visit to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas, the Royal couple were exposed to calls for reparations. Their week-long tour of the Caribbean ended on Saturday. The visit had

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Farmers in northern Haiti building resilience

CMC - The United Nations says farmers in the north of Haiti are working to build their resilience to extreme weather patterns in an attempt to better protect themselves from the loss of property and crops that often result from natural disasters.

The UN said a large majority of the mainly rural population in the north of the French-speaking Caribbean country are facing a hunger crisis according to the latest Integrated Food Security Classification Phase (IPC) report, which provides an overview of the severity and magnitude of food insecurity and malnutrition.

“The Haitian government, the World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners, have been supporting farmers in the region as they recover from a cycle of droughts and floods. Many have received payments for working on projects that have built resilience in their communities.

“Like farmers around the world, they are fiercely proud of their way of life and the crops they grow and are keen to provide a future for their families,” the UN noted.

Farmer, Mariette Samson told the UN that she lost her crops in a flood in her village in northern Haiti in January 2022.

“When our land floods, we lose all our crops. In January, I lost all my beans as well as maize, bananas, potatoes, yams and pumpkin.

“This land feeds a family of 10, but we have no stocks of food. I have been working on a neighbour’s land, so I can share some of that produce. Today, it is only my three grandchildren who have eaten; I gave them coffee and bread; and, now, I am preparing some beans for the whole family, which will be our one meal of the day.”

Samson said she has planted for the next season and will have food again later in the year, but added that “until then



we will go hungry.”

She said she also contributed to the community in Dubuisson between July and September last year to build some structures, which will make future flooding less severe, adding that that money has helped her a lot.

Another farmer, Marc Magloire told the UN that while the land in Limonade is fertile and that they receive lots of rain, “we have always found it difficult to consistently water our crops.

“We worked with WFP to dig irrigation channels across the land of our association of 200 farmers, and we can now pump water to grow a wide range of new crops, including aubergine, cabbage, spinach, spring onion and beetroot. I can now eat beetroot salad again on Sundays, a local custom that I enjoy.

“Before the irrigation, during a drought, we would eat only one meal a day, but now we can eat three times a day as well as sell food to pay for the needs of our families. I am proud to be a farmer, this is my life; it is a good life. My children will carry on the farming tradition, which is strong in this region,” said Magloire”

Elie Devil said his neighbour wanted to cut down an ancient mango tree

to make charcoal, but he prevented him from doing this, “as I know that deforestation leads to the erosion of the soil, which harms all people and especially farmers in Pilette where I live.

“I learnt about the importance of reforestation to protect the soil and prevent flooding as part of the WFP project, and I am keen to see more mango, avocado, cacao and coffee trees planted,” Devil said. “These will protect our environment and provide us with nutritious food. As a community, we worked together to build flood protection measures in the ravines which drain into the river. These prevented sediment and soil from running off the hillsides, but we need to do a lot more as recent heavy rains still caused damage in the valley.

“The weather is changing in this region; the rain is less and more unreliable, so many people like my neighbour want to cut trees to make charcoal, so they can survive,” Devils said.

“In the past, the rain was more consistent; and so, there was more to eat. And we rarely lost our crops to flooding. So, people didn’t need to make charcoal. My neighbour no longer talks to me, but I don’t care because I saved that mango tree,” he added.

Regional News



Former rapper Moses “Shyne” Barrow, elected party leader of Belize’s UDP

A Barrow is back in charge of the Belize’s United Democratic Party (UDP).

On Sunday, former Bad Boy rapper and son of former Belize Prime Minister Dean Barrow, Moses “Shyne” Barrow barely edged out Tracy Panton with 263 votes to her 256.

Barrow is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Belizean parliament.

Following his victory Barrow said, “I am extremely humbled and grateful and I definitely kudos for Hon. Panton for a hard-fought victory.

She has proven herself as a formidable political force and we are shaking hands and we have agreed to work together for the interest of the United Democratic Party.

“Thank you to all the delegates that have given me their confidence today.”

He further observed that despite the nature of campaigning, “the party is a healthy reflection of democracy” adding that he thought “we handled ourselves pretty well. There wasn’t a lot of mudslinging,

if any at all we kept it internal”.

Barrow continued that he will be focused on unifying his party.

“My position has never been to have any type of hatred towards anyone who was not supporting me. I am more concerned about people who were just occupying positions and not working, but if someone was doing an outstanding job in a particular position, just because that person may have voted for Tracy or may have been a Faber proponent, my instinct is not to get rid of anyone. That’s not how I think.”

However, he still views himself as something of an underdog, pointing out that he operated from a position of some disadvantage: “I overcame so many odds, so many historic possibilities that maybe people wanted to see a Mia Mottley, maybe people wanted to see no more Barrow – all kind of things I overcome.

“You know that I have more disadvantages because of my global currency that I operate in as you



Moses “Shyne” Barrow

so eloquently put it and I have many disadvantages because of being a Barrow, because you know there is a faction – I don’t want to get into negativity, let me stay positive.”

And he concluded that he will not try to satisfy everyone, certainly not those tainted by the ‘PUP narrative’: “...first you don’t care about Belize, you never use to talk about Belize, now you are promoting Belize, you are doing a better job than the minister of tourism, now you are doing too much. Human beings are never satisfied and if I would listen to human beings like you and the PUP, I would not be the leader of the Un-

ited Democratic Party right now.”

Barrow’s journey to this point was not smooth.

He grew up in Brooklyn, New York with his mother where he became a rapper. He was eventually signed by Bad Boy records where he enjoyed some success and seemed headed for a promising career in music. However, on the verge of releasing his debut album, he was involved in a nightclub shooting on December 27, 1999.

In June 2001 he was convicted of assault and sentenced to 10 years in prison. His 2000 debut album was still a success and he continued to record music while incarcerated.

After being released from prison in 2009, he was deported to Belize.

Shyne was elected to the Belizean House of Representatives at the 2020 general election. In February 2022, he became Leader of the Opposition.

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mixed reviews, with some calling it a failure and others a success.

In his address, Prime Minister Rowley said members of the Spiritual Shouter Baptist faith, which is indigenous to Trinidad and Tobago and is a unique religion, comprising elements of Protestant Christianity and African doctrines and rituals, should

have been compensated for the years they suffered in practising their religion.

Spiritual/Shouter Baptist Liberation Day, which is observed on March 30, is an annual public holiday and commemorates the repeal on 30 March 1951 of the 1917 Shouter Prohibition Ordinance that prohibited the activities of the Shouter or Spiritual Baptist faith.

Russia promises to scale down operations near Kyiv and north Ukraine

Reuters - Russia promised on Tuesday to scale down military operations around Kyiv and northern Ukraine as a confidence-building step, in the most tangible sign yet of progress towards negotiating an end to the war.

During talks at a palace in Istanbul, Ukraine for its part proposed adopting neutral status in the most detailed formula yet for a potential settlement to the five-week conflict.

Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion has been halted on most fronts by strong resistance, with Ukrainians recapturing territory even as civilians are trapped in besieged cities.

"In order to increase mutual trust and create the necessary conditions for further negotiations and achieving the ultimate goal of agreeing and signing (an) agreement, a decision was made to radically, by a large margin, reduce military activity in the Kyiv and Chernihiv directions," Russian Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin told reporters.

He made no mention of other areas that have seen heavy fighting, including around Mariupol in the south-east, Sumy and Kharkiv in the east and



Russian Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin

Kherson and Mykolaiv in the south.

Some analysts noted that Russia's promise to reduce fighting mostly covered areas where it has been losing ground.

"Does 'we'll drastically reduce military operations around Kyiv' = 'we're getting our ass kicked, transitioned to a hasty defense?'" tweeted Mark Hertling, a retired U.S. lieutenant general and former commander of U.S. forces in Europe.

Ukrainian negotiators said that under their proposals, Kyiv would agree not to join alliances or host bases of foreign troops, but would have security guaranteed in terms similar to "Article 5", the collective defence clause of the

transatlantic NATO military alliance.

They named Israel and NATO members Canada, Poland and Turkey as countries that may give such guarantees. Russia, the United States, Britain, Germany and Italy could also be involved.

The proposals mentioned a 15-year consultation period on the status of Russian-annexed Crimea and could come into force only in the event of a complete ceasefire, the negotiators said.

The fate of the south-eastern Donbas region, which Russia demands Ukraine cede to separatists, would be discussed by the Ukrainian and Russian leaders, they added.

Any peace deal would require a referendum in Ukraine.

The Russian delegation said it would study and present the proposals to President Vladimir Putin.

The Ukrainian negotiators called for a meeting between Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, with top Russian negotiator Vladimir Medinsky saying that could take place when foreign ministers were prepared to initial an agreement.

Passengers killed after Nigeria gang hits rail link

BBC - Seven passengers have died after gunmen attacked a busy train between Nigeria's capital, Abuja, and Kaduna city, hospital sources have told the BBC.

The gang mined the track forcing the train, carrying 970 passengers, to a stop on Monday evening.

Gunmen subsequently surrounded the carriages and opened fire, one passenger told reporters.

An unknown number of passengers were abducted from the train, considered the safest way to get between the cities.

Kidnapping for ransom has become commonplace across Nigeria.

The Abuja-Kaduna highway is one of the most dangerous roads in the country as kidnappers have been known to have ambushed vehicles at several points



Many Nigerians opt for more expensive trains to avoid the dangerous Abuja-to-Kaduna highway

along the expressway.

Over the last few years

this has pushed many to

cont'd on pg 16

Peru's Castillo survives impeachment vote in Congress

Reuters – Peruvian President Pedro Castillo survived on Monday an impeachment vote in Congress that fell short of the votes needed to oust the leftist leader eight months after he took office.

Overall, 55 lawmakers out of 130 in the unicameral Congress voted in favor of the impeachment. Congress needed 87 votes to oust Castillo.

The result will avoid a new political crisis in the short term although Castillo's administration has been turbulent anyway, with four Cabinets in less than a year in office.

Castillo, a former teacher from a peasant farming family who shot to prominence when he narrowly won election last year, has been facing accusations of graft that he strongly denies. He survived an attempt to impeach him late last year.



Peruvian President Pedro Castillo leaves congress as he faces an impeachment vote, in Lima, Peru March 28, 2022. REUTERS/Sebastian Castaneda

“Unfortunately, a bid to oust me through impeachment has become the central axis of the political and journalistic agenda since my election; this cannot continue,” Castillo said in a speech to lawmakers before the vote.

He said he had not broken the law since taking office and called for unity to deal with the political and economic crisis, citing Rus-

sia's invasion of Ukraine as exacerbating problems in the world's second biggest copper-producing country.

“I am aware we all make mistakes and have defects, but I am loyal to my commitments, values and principles,” he said. “Members of Congress, I ask that you vote for democracy, vote for Peru, vote against instability.”

Still, Castillo is facing

a plummeting approval rating, which is hovering around 25%, according to an IEP poll published over the weekend.

In a sign of the pressure Castillo is under, prosecutors earlier in the day raided the homes of some of his former officials and relatives who are under investigation for alleged corruption.

Protesters took to the streets in Lima, the capital, over the weekend calling for Castillo to be voted out of office.

“People can't take it anymore. We are fed up, the people demand justice and all the corrupt people to be gone,” said one protester, Claudia Iriarte.

The Andean country has had five presidents since 2016. In 2018, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski resigned before an impeachment vote. Martín Vizcarra was impeached in 2020.

cont'd from pg 15

avoid the 150km (93-mile) journey by road instead opting for the rail link, which opened in 2016. It is more expensive but considered safer as the trains have armed guards on board.

This is the second time the rail line between the cities has been targeted in the last six months, but is by far the most serious, says the BBC's Chris Ewokor in Abuja.

According to the BBC Hausa service, 22 people, who were injured in the attack on Monday evening, are

being treated at a military hospital in Kaduna. A senior security source told the AFP news agency that military personnel rushed to the scene.

“The attack has been repelled by the troops who deployed in time. The terrorists fled when the soldiers arrived. The train is bulletproof, this saved the passengers who lay still on the floor.”

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has suspended operations along the route.

The rail line is a gateway for mil-

lions of people in north-western states who want to travel to Abuja and further south.

The authorities in Kaduna state say they are liaising with the NRC to find out where all the passengers are and who exactly is missing.

Armed gangs carrying out killings and kidnappings for ransom have continued to unleash violence, especially in northern Nigeria despite military bombardments of their hideouts.

Just last Saturday, they attacked Kaduna's international airport.

Osaka makes Miami quarterfinals, says she's more grateful

AP – Making the quarterfinals at a tournament used to be no big deal for Naomi Osaka. It was only a shock if it didn't happen.

Things are a bit different now.

The former world No. 1 has made it through to the quarterfinals at the Miami Open — just the second time she has managed to advance that deep in any tournament over the last year. Osaka beat Alison Riske of the U.S. 6-3, 6-4 on Monday, moving into a round-of-eight matchup with Danielle Collins.

Osaka's only other quarterfinal appearance in the last year was at an Australian Open warmup tournament in Melbourne in January. Before that, her most recent quarterfinals trip was at Miami a year ago.

"It's really funny for me, because last year here I made it to the quarters, too," Osaka said. "It was after I won Australia and I wasn't that grateful. I kind of expected to win."

Wins these days just mean more, after ongoing struggles and time away from the game to deal with her mental health. Her ranking has dipped to No. 77 — it could get somewhere around No. 30 if she wins the Miami title — and she hasn't won a tournament since that Australian Open last year.

But her stay in Miami so far has been nothing but happiness, with three easy wins — all in straight sets — and the added benefit of a walkover victory in there as well.

"This is really one of the funnest times of my life," Osaka said. "I'm really grateful."

Collins, the No. 9 seed from the U.S., needed just over an hour Monday to win her fourth-round match against No. 8 Ons Jabeur, 6-2, 6-4.

The win likely ensured that Collins is locked into the top 10 when the world rankings reset early next week. She



Naomi Osaka of Japan serves to Alison Riske, during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 28, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

could be as high as No. 8 depending on how far others go in the tournament.

Collins is 0-2 in previous matches against Osaka, both straight-set losses on hard courts, one in 2018, the other in 2019.

"When Naomi is at the top of her game, she's very, very hard to beat," Collins said.

Daria Saville also got into the quarterfinals, surviving a three-hour match to beat Lucia Bronzetti 5-7, 6-4, 7-5. Saville has climbed a staggering 500 spots in the rankings in about a month and a half; she was 627th in the world in mid-February and could make the top 100 if she wins her next match against No. 22 Belinda Bencic — a 6-2, 6-3 winner Monday over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

No. 2 Iga Swiatek, who is already assured of moving to No. 1 next week, also rolled into the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 14 Coco Gauff.

Swiatek will next play No. 28 Petra Kvitova, a 7-6 (5), 6-4 winner over No. 21 Veronika Kudermetova.

No. 16 Jessica Pegula also advanced; unseeded Anhelina Kalinina retired after Pegula won the first set 6-0.

Pegula will play No. 5 Paula Badosa, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Linda Fruhvirtova in the quarterfinals.

In the men's third round, Daniil Medvedev is now two wins away from reclaiming the No. 1 ranking.

The top seed in Miami beat Spain's Pedro Martinez 6-3, 6-4. A trip to the semifinals is all it would take for Medvedev to leapfrog Novak Djokovic — who can't travel to the U.S. because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19 — and return to No. 1.

Next up for Medvedev: American Jensen Brooksby, who rallied from 0-4 down in the third set to upset No. 15 Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

No. 11 Taylor Fritz — seeking the so-called "Sunshine Double," meaning tournament wins at both Indian Wells and Miami — topped good friend Tommy Paul 7-6 (2), 6-4 in an all-American third-round matchup.

No. 3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas beat No. 25 Alex de Minaur, 6-4, 6-3. Defending champion Hubert Hurkacz also advanced, the No. 8 seed fighting past No. 29 Aslan Karatsev 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. No. 14 Carlos Alcaraz got by No. 21 Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-4.

Sports News



Russia-Ukraine war: Abramovich spotted in Istanbul peace talks

BBC- Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich has appeared at peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine in Turkey.

He was seen talking to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is mediating in the talks in Istanbul.

Reports surfaced hours earlier that Mr Abramovich and two Ukrainian negotiators had shown poisoning symptoms after talks in early March.

Mr Abramovich is known to have spent weeks in a mediation role, flying between Moscow and Kyiv.

The Chelsea football



Roman Abramovich is seen sitting at a table alongside Ibrahim Kalin - a spokesman for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

club owner was said to have suffered sore eyes and peeling skin, but had now recovered, reports say.

A Wall Street Journal report suggested he and the Ukrainian negotiators had been targeted by Russian hardliners in Kyiv on 3 March, but a Ukrainian presidential official later said the two Ukrainians were fine and one had said the story was false.

Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov poured scorn on the report on Tuesday as untrue and part of an “information war”.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, however, told national TV hours before the talks that he had advised his colleagues attending negotiations with Russia not to eat or drink anything.

Russian state news agency Ria Novosti released a picture showing Mr Abramovich talking to the Turkish president and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavu-

soglu at the meeting.

He was also spotted in Turkish TV coverage listening to a translation wearing headphones, sitting alongside Mr Erdogan’s spokesman Ibrahim Kalin. They were not at the main table of the Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

The exact nature of Mr Abramovich’s role in the talks is unclear, although Ukrainian media said he was there as a neutral party.

The Kremlin spokesman stressed he was not an official member of the Russian delegation in Istanbul but had been involved in enabling contacts between the two delegations.

Mr Abramovich put Chelsea up for sale earlier this month after the UK government sanctioned him and several other so-called oligarchs from Russia, who made their fortunes in the 1990s.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2022
SATURDAY JUNE 25TH

INTRODUCING NOVICE COMPETITION
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AMATEUR BODYBUILDING & WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION
Dean William Lake Cultural Centre

NOVICE COMPETITION: 11.00AM
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: 8.00PM
ATHLETES' REGISTRATION
Early 30th April, 2022
Late - 14th May, 2022
TICKETS ON SALE AT GYMS SOON

Red Ball four-day season to be completed in Trinidad

Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced the West Indies Championship 2022 will resume on Wednesday, May 18. CWI unveiled the match schedule for the final three rounds of the four-day first-class red ball tournament for the six professional regional franchises.

The first and second rounds were played in February ahead of the Apex Test Series which concluded yesterday with West Indies beating England 1-0 to win the newly minted Richards-Botham trophy.

The West Indies Championship returns with all matches being played in Trinidad at the Queen's Park Oval, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, and the Diego Martin Sporting Complex.

The third round will run from May 18-21, the fourth from May 25-28, with the fifth and final round from June 1-4.

Defending champions Barbados Pride lead the points table with 42 points, with Trinidad & Tobago Red Force second on 38.6 points – both recorded wins in their first two matches. They are followed by Leeward Islands Hurricanes on 24.6 points, Guyana Harpy Eagles on 21.4 points, Windward Islands Hurricanes on 10.8 points, and Jamaica Scorpions on 8.8 points.

The teams will be competing for the Headley



Weekes Trophy named in honour of West Indies legends George Headley and Sir Everton Weekes.

The current top two teams face each other in Round 4 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy with the chasing four teams aiming to win their games in round 3 of the West Indies Championship to close the points gap ahead of the concluding matches.

For the ongoing tournament, each squad will consist of 15 players due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CWI is also implementing a special "player loan" system to try to ensure that each team will be able to complete their fixtures. If a team has a player(s) ruled out due to a positive COVID-19 result, they can request to use a player(s) from another team and/or from a pool of locally registered reserve players

**FULL MATCH
SCHEDULE**

COMPLETED

Round 1 – February 9-12

Barbados Pride beat Leeward Island Hurricanes by 4 wickets at Kensington Oval

Guyana Harpy Eagles beat Windward Islands Volcanoes by 1 wicket at Queen's Park Oval

Trinidad and Tobago Red Force beat Jamaica Scorpions by 3 wickets at Brian Lara Cricket Academy

Round 2 – February 15-18

Barbados Pride beat Jamaica Scorpions by 10 wickets at Kensington Oval

Leeward Island Hurricanes beat Guyana Harpy Eagles by an innings and 57 runs at Queen's Park Oval

Trinidad and Tobago Red Force beat Windward Islands Volcanoes by an innings and 43 runs at Brian Lara Cricket Academy

TO BE PLAYED

Round 3 – May 18-21

Guyana Harpy Eagles v

Barbados Pride at Queen's Park Oval

Trinidad and Tobago Red Force v Leeward Island Hurricanes at Diego Martin

Jamaica Scorpions v Windward Islands Volcanoes at Brian Lara Cricket Academy

Round 4 – May 25-28

Trinidad and Tobago Red Force v Barbados Pride at Brian Lara Cricket Academy

Windward Islands Volcanoes v Leeward Island Hurricanes at Queen's Park Oval

Jamaica Scorpions v Guyana Harpy Eagles at Diego Martin

Round 5 – June 1-4

Windward Islands Volcanoes v Barbados Pride at Diego Martin

Trinidad and Tobago Red Force v Guyana Harpy Eagles at Queen's Park Oval

Leeward Island Hurricanes vs Jamaica Scorpions at Brian Lara Cricket Academy

Sports News



Police take unbeaten run into semis of Dave Joseph contest

Police recorded wins in their final two preliminary round matches last weekend to confirm their place as the top seed in the semi-finals of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition.

Police ensured they kept their unblemished win record intact by trouncing Newfield by 8 wickets and then securing a 24-run win over D&R Construction Sea View Farm to end the five-match preliminary round with the maximum 40 points.

The Police officers restricted Newfield to 167 for 5 off 33 overs with Edwin Jackson hitting an unbeaten 50 and Shamar Pereira getting 33.

Police then achieved victory by scoring the required 168 for the loss of 2 wickets with Malique Gerald smashing 89 and Daman Valentine chipping in with an unbeaten 33.

In a rain affected match against Sea View Farm, Police batted first and chalked up 172 for 5 off 28 overs.

Valentine top scored with 53, Jeron Jones cracked 50 and Derrick Mourillon hit 32. Nathan Willock snapped up 2 for 6 and Alfred Jarvis picked up 2 for 41.

Sea View Farm were



then restricted to 148 for 9 with Andra Samuel making 40 and Rolston Triss Phillip contributing 20. Lashorne Barnard captured 3 for 28 and Orandel Boston captured 2 for 20.

Freetown beat Sea View Farm by 3 wickets and had a share of the points in a rain affected match against Mahico that ended without a result to finish the preliminaries in second place with 28 points.

Batting first, Sea View Farm made 204 for 6 with opener Esan Warner hammering 75, Phillip hitting 33 and Mussington getting 31. Michael Harrilall claimed 2 for 18 and Geetesh Harrilall captured 2 for 43.

Freetown then achieved victory by scoring 208 for

7. Antoine Willock struck 42, Javier Drew got 39 and Geetesh Harrilall made 36.

Mahico were 135 for 5 against Freetown when rain intervened and forced the match to end without a result.

With each team receiving four points from the rain affected match, Mahico finished the preliminaries in third place with a total of 20 points.

Newfield defeated Willikies by 7 wickets but missed securing the last semi-final spot.

Osafo Bourne bagged four for 22 as Willikies were dismissed for 67 in 14.3 overs with Deran Benta getting a top score of 15.

Newfield wrapped up the match by reaching their victory target of 68 for the

loss of 3 wickets. Michael Dover cracked an unbeaten 30 and Demetrius Lucas hit 26 not out.

Willikies ended the six-team round-robin preliminary competition at the bottom of the standings without a point.

The win ensured that Newfield and Sea View Farm finished the preliminaries with 16 points each. But Sea View Farm claimed fourth place by virtue of a superior run rate, thus securing the last spot into the semi-final.

Police will host Sea View Farm at the Police Recreation Grounds in the first semi-final on Saturday, April 2nd.

The following day, Freetown will entertain Mahico at Freetown in the second semi-final.

Oleksandr Usyk v Anthony Joshua: Saudi Arabia could host heavyweight rematch in late June

BBC – Saudi Arabia could host the Oleksandr Usyk-Anthony Joshua rematch in late June, according to the Ukrainian's promoter Alexander Krassiyuk. Usyk is set to face Briton Joshua after beating him last year to be crowned unified heavyweight champion.

"Saudi is the place we are in discussions with at the moment," Krassiyuk told BBC Sport.

"Late June is the date we are looking at. Nothing has been confirmed on paper. We are working on it."

While Saudi Arabia is believed to be the front runner, Krassiyuk has not ruled out the rematch taking place elsewhere.

"There are other options but we take it step by step," he added.

A fight in Saudi Arabia is likely to provoke controversy, with the country accused of investing in sport and using high-profile events to 'sports wash' its reputation in other parts of the world amid concerns over its human rights record.

Joshua could return to Saudi Ara-



Oleksandr Usyk (left) beat Anthony Joshua by unanimous decision in September [Getty Images]

bia having regained his world title belts by beating Mexican Andy Ruiz Jr in the capital Riyadh in December 2019, after being knocked out by the Mexican in a shock knockout defeat six months earlier.

Usyk won the WBA, WBO and IBF belts from Joshua on a unanimous points decision at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in September.

The rematch with Joshua, 32, had

initially been targeted for May but was pushed back after Usyk enlisted in Ukraine's military in March following the Russian invasion.

The 35-year-old left his native Ukraine, where he had been helping to defend the country, on 23 March.

He confirmed the rematch two days later in an Instagram post, saying: "I decided to start preparing for a rematch with Anthony Joshua."

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lowing a two-year hiatus forced by the pandemic.

Coates said the event was exciting despite a late start on the opening day.

"With all matches completed in a knockout format, and awards presented to the winning teams up to 3rd place in each category, all in all, despite a late start to the Festival on Saturday morning...it was an exciting two-day event," Coates said.

Coates also expressed gratitude to the ABFA and

its president, Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves, for supporting the event.

"It was also heart-warming that the president of the ABFA, Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves made himself available to speak to the Youth Footballers at the opening of the festival.

"Sincere thanks must go out to the ABFA for allowing the organisers the use of the playing facilities," she stated.

Addressing the participants, both Coates and Gonsalves, who will stand

for re-election to the ABFA at its Annual General Meeting on April 25th, underscored the importance of allowing children to engage in football and the benefits that can be derived from participation.

St. Joseph's Academy students who will be writing CXC Physical Education exams this year were given the opportunity to receive first-hand experience of the effort required to organise, administrate, and execute a successful sporting event.

The CPTSA Wings

Sports Club also expressed thanks to the sponsors, referees, members of the club, St. Joseph's Academy administrators and Dennika Bascom for their assistance.

Additionally, CPTSA extended gratitude to the corporate citizens who made contributions to the youth festival including Grant Thornton, Frank B. Armstrong, American University of Antigua (AUA), Hutchinson (Antigua)Ltd, Anyon Wholesale, Billy's, Antigua Fisheries and Christo's Wholesale.

Fort Road win two titles at Wings Football Festival

Fort Road Earthquakes won two categories during the 9th CPTSA Wings Youth Football Festival at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Training Centre over the weekend.

Under the tutelage of former national player Arnold "Keegan" James, Fort Road Earthquakes captured top honours in the Under-13 and Under-15 categories during the two-day festival which was contested on a knockout format.

CPTSA Wings finished second and Soccer Academy claimed third place in the Under-13s while Kids on a Mission took the runners-up spot ahead of CPTSA Wings in Under-15s.

The CPTSA Wings were



Fort Road Earthquakes coach Arnold 'Keegan' James accepts the certificate for winning the Under-15 category from Chairperson of the football unit of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club Barbara Coates, left, during the Youth Football Festival at the ABFA Technical Training Centre on 27th March, 2022. (Photos courtesy CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

crowned champions of the Under-17 category with Willikies capturing second place and English Harbour finishing third.

North Coast reigned supreme in the Under-11 category. They were followed by Soccer Academy and Fort Road Earthquakes in

second and third place respectively.

The Under-9 category was won by Tamo FC ahead of Liberta Blackhawks and Pigotts Bullets, while North Coast FC captured the Under-7 division with Tamo FC finishing second ahead of Soccer Academy.

According to Barbara Coates, Chairperson of the Wings Youth Football unit of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, which organised the event, well over 100 players from 13 clubs participated in the festival, the first fol-

cont'd on pg 21



Players of Liberta Blackhawks competed against Soccer Academy during the CPTSA Wings Youth Football Festival at the ABFA Technical and Training Centre on 26th March, 2022.