

CALLS MOUNT FOR SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY



Demands for National Sex Offender Registry as outrage over gang rape of preteen mounts

Social media was awash with the testimonies of the survivors of sexual abuse over the weekend.

The debate was triggered by the traumatic disclosure by Cabinet of the gang rape of a minor.

More details have emerged however, that have only added to the disturbing nature of the case.

Earlier, it was only disclosed that the child involved is a minor, however, it has now been confirmed that the child was between 11 and 12 years old at the time of the brutal sexual assault by a group of adult men.

The primary school girl is now pregnant as a result of the attack.

Even more harrowing are allegations that the child is believed to have been subjected to other incidences of abuse prior to the gang rape.

A number of women took to social media over the weekend to recount their stories of sexual assault as

both adults and as childhood assault survivors. Almost all of them had one theme in common; the lingering trauma they have had to live with since the attack and the lack of support for survivors of assault.

Many brave survivors said while they have found a way to continue their lives, the experience left them in constant fear for their safety and that of their families, and issues with trust and developing and nurturing healthy relationships.

Several others who said they reached out for help following their assault expressed that they felt traumatised all over in the disclosure process as they were made to feel they had contributed to their attack or were disbelieved.

More than a few of these women expressed anger, fear and disbelief that many of these attackers were never held responsible for their actions or, having served time for their crime, were allowed



to roam free without restrictions that would protect others from sharing the fate of their victims.

While the public debate over what should happen to convicted sexual predators has ranged from death to longer terms of incarceration to as much as life imprisonment, one of the more reasonable suggestions made proposes the establishment of a National Sex Offender Registry.

In other countries where Sex Offender Registries exist, certain information about persons convicted of sexu-

al offences, including their name, photo and place of residence, is entered into a data base accessible by the public. They are required to appraise authorities of any changes to this information for the safety of the public.

The court may also impose restrictions on where sexual predators can live (they may be prevented from living within a particular distance of schools or other locations children frequent) or the type of employment they are allowed to engage in.

Depending on the nature of the sexual offence, the court can also determine the length of time a person is required to remain on the registry. Last week, Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas, called for an intergovernmental approach to raising public awareness about the country's child abuse and protection laws and policies and the penalties in place for those who violate them.

<p>Mon 07 Day</p> <p>81° </p> <p>23% E 18 mph</p> <p>A few clouds from time to time. High 81F. Winds E at 15 to 25 mph.</p> <hr/> <p>Humidity 68% UV Index Extreme</p> <hr/> <p>Sunrise 6:21 am Sunset 6:15 pm</p>	<p>Mon 07 Night</p> <p>74° </p> <p>23% E 14 mph</p> <p>A few clouds from time to time. Low 74F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p> <hr/> <p>Humidity 75% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <hr/> <p>Moonrise 9:39 am Moonset 10:45 pm</p> <p> Waxing Crescent</p>
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PM Browne says Dean Jonas, Michael Browne acted without Cabinet’s approval in actions taken against public servants

On the heels of former Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) general manager walking out of court last week freed of the twelve charges of fraud brought against him, and his lawyer, Dane Hamilton QC’s declaration that the entire matter was a politically motivated witch hunt, Prime Minister Gaston Browne is removing himself, and most members of his Cabinet, from the equation.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Browne said in the case brought against Harry Josiah, Dean Jonas, who

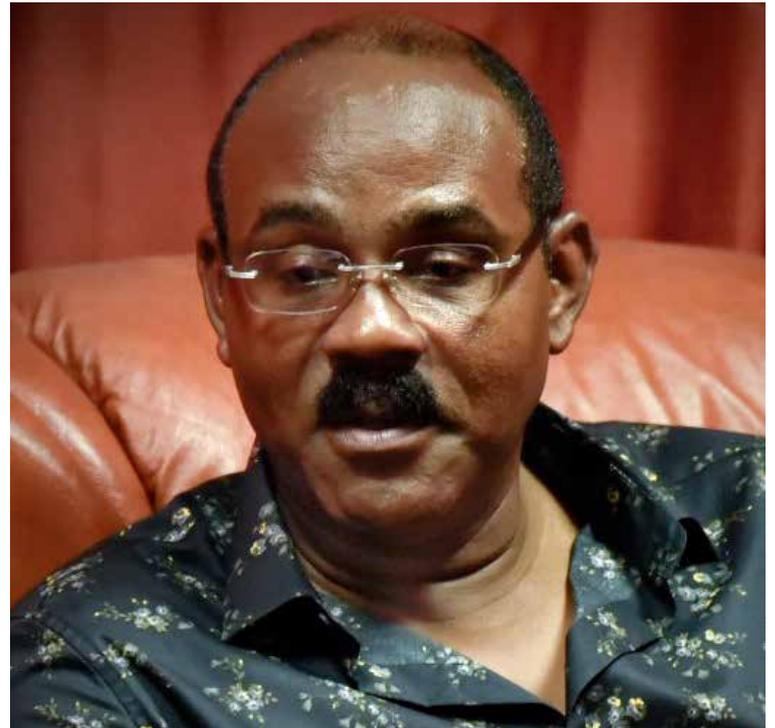
eight years ago when the matter first came to light was chairman of ABTB, was responsible for doggedly pursuing that issue.

Moreover, Browne indicated that Jonas pursued the audit of ABTB without the knowledge or approval of the Cabinet or then Minister of Transportation, Sir Robin Yearwood.

“My understanding is that Dean Jonas pursued that litigation without any involvement of the Cabinet members.

“I don’t even think his Senior Minister at the time

cont’d on pg 4



Prime Minister Gaston Browne [Photo: credit: Charles Jong]

International Womens Day

#drivesafeantigua



BREAK
theBIAS



SALUTE TO
WOMEN
BEHIND THE WHEEL



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board






STRONG WOMEN
STRONGER WORLD

Local News



cont'd from pg 3

knew. He employed the services of Mr. Kem Warner to do an investigative report. That report, as I recall, went on for nearly a year, and it's the Cabinet that discontinued it.

"Our very action years ago, in which we discontinued the investigative report, shows that my government had absolutely no interest in that litigation.

"So this claim of victimisation is nonsense. As I said, the Cabinet intervened long ago.

"Unfortunately it was already taken to court and we don't get involved in issues of the judiciary."

In September 2014,

an incomplete audit of ABTB conducted by anti-fraud specialist, Kem Warner, implied that Josiah was involved in deep rooted corruption at the statutory corporation.

Months later in 2015, Josiah was charged with eight counts of corruption and three of fraud for 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.

Last Wednesday, however, a High Court judge upheld QC Hamilton's submission for the case against his client to be dismissed

for a lack of evidence.

It was granted by the judge, a decision which effectively dismissed the case and all charges against the former ABTB general manager.

Genevieve Phillip, who was co-accused and who allegedly fraudulently acquired one of the cars and aided the corruption, also had the charges against her dismissed.

Making it clear that his administration does not espouse political victimisation, Prime Minister Browne remarked that the Josiah case is not the only "unfortunate" one to have been pursued in recent years.

"We don't victimise [but] yes, we had a couple of cases, I felt they were a little unfortunate. Even the one with Serpent and D. Giselle Isaac, I'm on public record from the onset that I didn't think they should have gone to court with them.

"And it's not that I'm saying that they did not do anything wrong, but I just felt that it didn't make any sense. It wasn't worth it.

"Again, Minister Michael Browne went outside the ambit of the Cabinet, because when that matter was raised in the Cabinet, he was told not to pursue it and the Cabinet never made any monies available for it," Browne said.

He continued, while his disclosure was not an attempt to throw anyone "under the bus" he strongly be-

lieved that the public "must know what the facts are".

Former Executive Secretary of the Board of Education, D. Giselle Isaac and radio personality, Algernon "Serpent" Watts were arrested and charged in 2015 in connection for their alleged involvement in fraudulent activities at the Board after Minister Michael Browne engaged a Canadian firm to conduct an investigation into the operations of the organisation

While in Barbados in July 2015 for the 36th annual Summit of CARICOM Heads, Prime Minister Browne commented on the charges against Watts and Isaac and the allegations of political victimisation on the part of his government when he was questioned by regional media.

"Almost invariably, especially where they have political connection, they tend to blame the government.

"I can assure you my government has absolutely no interest in interfering in the work of the DPP (Director of Public Prosecution) or the police, we have a policy of non-interference.

"Admittedly if I had my own way, the issue would not have gone that far.

"In fact she (Isaac) happens to be godmother of my son, so I really have no personal interest in pursuing her. My government has no interest in pursuing her."

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374**

Section 34
of the
Act

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Palmouth & Bethesda	34 2682 A	26

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST OR
DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE**

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on the 28th day of February, 2022 by Cosbert Cumberbatch of Cumberbatch & Associates of Upper Long Street, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of **DELVINE HEWLETT and JULIE HEWLETT**, the Applicants herein for the replacement of Land Certificate No. HL 2904R2315 dated the 7th day of April, 2014 issued to **DELVINE HEWLETT and JULIE HEWLETT**, being the owners of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 28th day of February 2022


 Registrar of Lands



PM: Observer does not decide who will be spokesperson

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has served notice that the management of Observer NewsCo will not determine who speaks on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP).

Responding to a ban imposed on Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel ‘Max’ Hurst by Observer’s Managing Director, Algernon ‘Serpent’ Watts, the prime minister made it clear that if his Chief of Staff is banned from Observer Radio, it also means there is a ban on the ABLP.

Apparently, Watts imposed the block on Hurst as he has had enough of the “misinformation being peddled” by him.

But Prime Minister Gaston Browne drew the line when he declared that Observer Radio’s management does not get to call the shots on who will represent the government in media appearances.

“Max is the Chief of Staff. He sits in the Cabinet. He’s au fait with the issues. He’s the one who writes our Cabinet notes, and in many instances, in terms of his familiarity with the issues, he is probably even more familiar than some ministers in the Cabinet, even though he is not a Cabinet minister.

“So based on his knowledge and competence, he is



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, and Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel ‘Max’ Hurst.

the one we have designated to be our spokesperson, and Observer wants to determine who our spokesperson should be! So if they ban Max, then they banning the Labour Party,” Mr. Browne asserted.

The head of the ABLP reminded Observer’s management that no one from his administration is obligated to appear on their media, and it is their prerogative, if they choose, to use their outlet as a tool with which to attack his party.

“So if they want to talk among themselves and entertain themselves and to continue to curse us 24/7, and to turn their radio station into another ‘Cursader’, well go right ahead, because I know that model cannot sustain itself. And they’re not winning the elections, so Serpent may well regret it.”

Acknowledging that Observer maintains a lev-

el of support in the country, Prime Minister Browne cautioned that if the entity becomes “rapidly partisan”,

its managing director risks “putting himself out of work after the next general elections”.

Notice

TO: Her Worship
Magistrate of District
Magistrate’s Court
Gray’s Farm
St. John’s
Antigua

TO: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s
Antigua

From: Dirk Yearwood
Belle Vue Estate
St. John’s
Antigua

3rd March, 2022

Notice of Application for A Bottle Licence for Business Registered as DJM Mini Mart

I, Dirk Yearwood, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Gray’s Farm, St. John’s, Antigua on 7th April, 2022, for a bottle licence in regards to the premises registered as DJM Mini Mart, which is located at Freeman’s Village Main Road, St. John’s, Antigua, pursuant to section (11) (3) of the Licensing Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised 1992.

Dirk Yearwood
268-732-8749

Opinion

Many miles from nowhere

By **Tony Deyal**

*Miles from nowhere
I guess I'll take my time
Oh yeah, to reach there.*

Cat Stevens

For a long part of my life, I was what Caribbean people, especially those from Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad call a “Nowherian”. Richard Allsop in his “Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage” says the term could apply to someone who is not connected to any church or lacks religious faith, a person who is not respectable or of no consequence, an unkempt looking ‘knockabout’. or someone of no fixed abode. When one of my Trini friends ran into me in the Bahamas, he exclaimed, “Boy, Tony, you is a real nowherian yes!” However, before I could say “Guilty on all counts”, a Bahamian colleague, either hard of hearing or of knowledge of the Caribbean, exclaimed, “But I didn’t know you are Norwegian!” I replied, “Actually, I’m here for the skiing and right now I am miles from nowhere.” What helped is that my response got smiles from everywhere.

Actually, when I worked in Antigua as the Corporate Secretary of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), one of the people I really liked was named “Miles”. He was the company’s “driver” so the name was appropriate and fitted even more tightly because Miles was nowhere to be

found when you needed him most. He was miles away. Almost every time I saw him, the Cat Stevens’ classic, “Miles from Nowhere” came to mind from whatever nowhere it was temporarily inhabiting. Even though the song was released on March 31, 1994 (twenty eight years ago), I still cannot resist responding to it. However, I no longer sing my favourite opening lines at the top of my lungs which, like my shoes, are extra-extra wide size twelves. I have learnt after many “Shut ups”, threats and even obscenities, especially what to do with my “Nowhereian” rear end, to resist the temptation. The reason is that while today’s people accept the concept of a bus, train, plane or car coming out of “nowhere” to do them, their vehicles or other loved ones grievous bodily harm, to imply that they themselves have emerged from “nowhere” is considered insulting.

The Trinidad calypsonian, the Mighty Douglas, in his prize-winning song about the plight of “douglas” or Afro-Indian mixtures (“I am neither one nor the other./ Six of one half-a-dozen of the other...”) sang about the little boy who, tormented by one racial group, ran to the other one for help and was asked, “Nowhereian what you come here for?”

Many years ago, miles away from Miles and high in the sky, or as high as a



Tony Deyal

propeller plane can go, I was as many miles from nowhere as one could be. As I thought of my nowhereian status, I remembered what happened to Cat Stevens after 9/11. Stevens an extremely popular pop singer converted to the Muslim faith and changed his name to Yusuff Islam. Because of that, Stevens was on a “terrorist” watch-list. When US security found his name on the passenger list of a transatlantic flight from London to Washington, they diverted the plane to a remote airfield in Maine, leaving him many, many miles from nowhere.

While my flight was not diverted, I had to create my own diversions. LIAT left late as usual and as we made the tedious trip to Barbados, I felt literally miles from nowhere. Fortunately, the flight attendant, a young Guyanese lady named Sherree, made

the trip comfortable for all of us. My wife Indranie, who is also Guyanese, insists that people from Guyana are the most hospitable in the Caribbean. I agree. Even in the midst of dire poverty, there are many Guyanese who, although lacking material wealth, will still invite you to their homes and try to press a gift on you before you leave. Perhaps Sherree’s Guyanese upbringing put her miles ahead of the others but in spite of her upbeat attitude, I continued to feel that we were all miles from nowhere.

I started to ruminate on the word “where”. It is essentially “here” with a “w”. “There” is “here” with a “t”. One hears of here, there and everywhere, whereabouts and wherewithal, wherefore, wherefrom and wherein, whereas and whereinto. But if there is no “where”, how

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can you come out of it, or be miles from it? In that case, where the heck are you? Many adolescents seem to know exactly where nowhere is. When my son George was a teenager and I asked him where he was going, he always replied, "Nowhere." I never thought of asking him where exactly nowhere was. Now the opportunity, having been missed, cannot be regained. I never got anywhere when I questioned him and now I am nowhere close to understanding.

Even the dictionaries are never clear on exactly where nowhere is. Essentially, it seems, "here", "there" and "where" are determined by one another. If you're not here, where you are is there. If you are not there, where you are is here. And if you're here today and gone tomorrow, where you've gone to is nowhere.

I have a nowhere story. It is an old tale full of racial, sexual and national stereotypes and those of you who wish can skip to the end. And those I upset

can take me apart on Facebook. But I was miles from nowhere when I remembered it. Following a shipwreck, two men and one woman from each of several nationalities were stranded on some stunning deserted islands in the middle of nowhere. One month later they were still marooned on the same islands and the following events occurred. One Italian man killed the other Italian man for the Italian woman. The two French men and the French woman were living happily together in a ménage-a-trois. The two German men had developed a strict weekly schedule of alternating visits with the German woman. The two Greek men were sleeping with each other and the Greek woman cleaned and cooked for them. The two Englishmen were anxiously continuing to wait for someone to introduce them to the English woman. The two Bulgarian men took one long look at the endless ocean, another long look at the Bulgarian woman, and started swimming. The

two Japanese men faxed Tokyo and were eagerly awaiting instructions. The two Chinese men set up a pharmacy, a liquor store, a restaurant and a laundry, and got the woman pregnant in order to supply employees for their stores. The two American men daily contemplated the virtues of suicide because the American woman complained endlessly about everything in and out of sight. The two Irish men quickly divided the island into North and South and each set up a distillery. They never remembered if sex was in the picture because it got sort of foggy after the first few litres of coconut whisky. But they were both happy that the English were definitely not having any fun. And the two Trini men were constantly wondering whether there were Venezuelan women on any of the other islands.

**Tony Deyal was last seen thinking that if Russians were there, they would first conscript the woman and then invade the other islands.*



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Dr. Nicola Bird calls for greater awareness of child abuse warning signals

The Executive Director of Integrated Health Outreach, Dr. Nicola Bird, is calling for greater public sensitivity and awareness concerning child abuse.

Late last week, the nation was rocked by the news that a young girl had been brutally assaulted by a group of adult men. The already shocking revelation was made worse by the disclosure that the child had been impregnated by one of her attackers.

In a recent appearance on Pointe FM, Dr. Bird said one of the key factors in being able to effectively address the many forms of child abuse is recognising the behavioural changes that occur in victims.

According to Dr. Bird, extensive research on the impacts of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect on child victims has shown that they are as much as thirty times more likely to develop serious behavioural, cognitive and academic challenges.

This, she said, can lead to greater issues in child abuse victims as, rather than adults recognising these changes in their child as warning signs of a possibly more sinister problem, they are likely to resort to discipline instead of

intervention.

“They’re going to act out more, and the more they act out, they’re likely to get more punished. So there is no recourse for them. They go home and they have these adverse experiences, they go into the world, they have adverse experiences, and all they’re doing is being retraumatised. And if the purpose of discipline is to have behavioural change, it won’t achieve the result,” said Dr. Bird.

She stressed that discipline is crucial in raising children to be well adjusted adults, but she added that progressively worsening patterns of behaviour that lovingly applied correction does not rectify needs to be investigated further as it could be a sign that that child is suffering from some underlying trauma.

Bird also underscored the importance of children being allowed to feel comfortable with respectfully expressing themselves without fear of punishment. Open lines of communication with trusted adults, she said, is key to cases of abuse being reported by victims or at-risk children who may not yet have been attacked but are being groomed by adult predators.



Dr. Nicola Bird

“So much of abuse and neglect is silent and the youth don’t have a voice and they’re intimidated and vulnerable. So by giving them a voice to be able to speak, their truth, their experience, and to express it in a way that they are experiencing and understanding it, that’s what we need to hear. And we need to create more spaces for children to have a voice.

“One of the [international] child rights is for children to be able to speak, and that’s often met with resistance [from] adults, because it’s misinterpreted to mean that they are rude and act out. But it is our job as adults to train them how to use their voice.”

Equally important, Bird

continued, is for people who suspect, or have witnessed abuse to speak up and report.

Noting that this can be a difficult decision to make for a number of reasons, Dr. Bird offered the assurance that local child protection agencies and the police handle these matters with the greatest discretion and confidentiality.

“When you report to Family and Social Services, all reporting is anonymous; you don’t have to give your name. It’s a very difficult thing, if you’re witnessing a child being abused. [But if we don’t take action, children are vulnerable. We all need to be invested as a community in the wellbeing of our children,” she said.

PM Browne to hold talks “soon” with Guyana’s President Ali

Guyana’s president, Dr. Irfaan Ali, announced on Sunday that he is looking forward to hosting Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston Browne in an upcoming scheduled visit.

While a date for the visit was not announced, President Ali noted “areas of mutual interests” will dominate the agenda.

“Food security, climate change, and removal of barriers are some of the matters on the agenda. We’re building a food terminal in Barbados – the Guyana/Barbados Food Terminal. We’re also working

on the building of the gold market that is outside of the cruise liners so that we can revitalise that skill in Guyana and bring Barbados into it. The same thing Antigua is also interested in.”

“I don’t want to get ahead of it until the Prime Minister and I agree that this is the agenda, but I can tell you those are the matters that we’ve already started to discuss on the agenda,” President Ali told Guyanese media yesterday.

During the 1 - 2 March 33rd Inter-Sessional Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in Belize, Dr. Ali prioritised regional food security and production systems. He presented a paper on these areas and outlined regional objectives, along with comprehensive strategies in achieving the target of reducing the Region’s food-import bill by 25 per cent by 2025.

A similar position was shared by Prime Minister Browne who, as the outgoing chairman of the group said, “Food and Nutrition Security is an achievable goal and I look forward to the recommendations on the urgent implementation of the plan from the Ministerial Task Force, which is chaired by the distinguished Presi-



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne



President of Guyana, Dr. Irfaan Ali

dent of Guyana.

“The nutrition element is vital, as we battle against Non-Communicable Diseases which are rampant in our Region and continue to deplete our human resources, as a result of the effects of debilitating illnesses and pre-mature deaths.

“As we produce and consume more regional products, we must commit to joint action, to develop reliable logistics and sustainable transportation to move goods and people within the region.”



APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Monday, 7th March 2022	Tuesday, 8th March 2022	Wednesday, 9th March 2022	Thursday, 10th March 2022	Friday, 11th March 2022
—	Section of Belle Vue Heights south of Mango Lane 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Bendals and Antigua Masonry Products 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Newgate Street and MID Church Street 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Upper Gambles east of Abbotts Plumbing and Cortsland Hotel 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	Section of Willikies west of the Reservoir 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	—	Section of Ffryes, RO Plant and Darkwood Beach 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	—

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

Cooks fire extinguished

A fire of unknown origin on the main access road to the Cooks Sanitary Landfill is now extinguished after burning for several hours on Friday.

While investigations into the blaze continue, the National Solid Waste Management Authority said Saturday the combined efforts of the fire department, NSWMA employees and private contractors among others resulted in a successful outcome.

Just before sunrise on Friday, thick smoke that could have been seen from miles away began billowing into the sky. While many felt it was the landfill on fire, fire officials said it



Photo credit: NSWMA

was a business that recycled tyres.

The fire blazed for more than five hours, while the smoke caused major disruption to neighbouring communities.

On Friday afternoon,

NSWMA reported that some burnt out areas were being covered with soil to prevent the fire from reigniting and informed residents in Five Islands and other communities that smoke will continue to af-

fect them.

Efforts continued into Saturday and by early Saturday afternoon, the situation was fully under control.

No injuries were reported.

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National Parks annual 8th of March activities highlight African soldiers

The National Parks Authority will host its annual 8th of March Project activities this week to highlight the ongoing research into the contribution of African labourers over centuries to the development of English Harbour.

The Heritage Department, for the past two years, has been engaged in an ambitious project to trace the ties of the existing families in the area to their 18th century roots.

This year, special attention will be brought to the West India Regiment, which was established in Antigua in 1795.

The intriguing recent discovery of a cemetery, where it appears nine of these soldiers were buried, is already inspiring the Heritage Department into undertaking further research into this part of Antigua and Barbuda's history.

The fact that the soldiers seemed to have maintained cultural habits and important aspects of their way of life has piqued the interest of the National Park researchers.

The cemetery is located near the Middle Ground Barracks, on the hillside just above Nelson's Dockyard.

The activities which begin today will feature appearances on local media, including Pointe FM, in an effort to educate the population.

The British High Commission in Antigua and Barbuda, recognising the value of the important exercise, is funding this year's events and is supporting upcoming upgrades in trail signage along the Middle Ground and the expansion of the 8th of March exhibit in the Dockyard Museum.

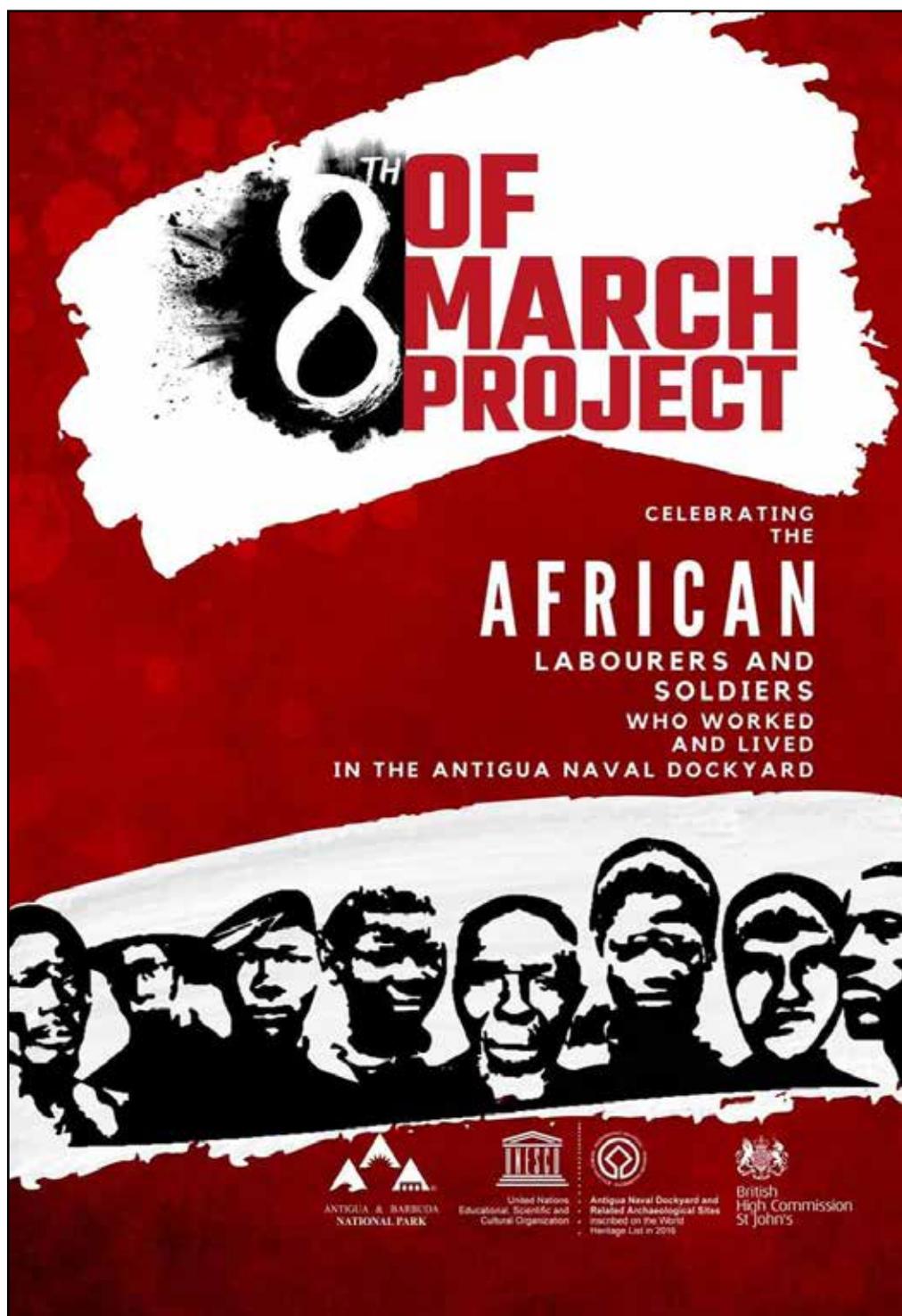
The highlight activity will take place on Sunday 13th March when a hike will take place from the Dockyard to the Middle Ground burial site for a ceremony which Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, and a number

of dignitaries and officials have been invited.

Additional hiking tours, targeting the public and other stakeholders in the National Park, have been arranged for the 17th, 20th, 24th and 27th of March.

While the concentration is on the

West India Regiment this year, the 8th of March is grounded in the tragic explosion in the Dockyard on this day in 1744 that killed eight enslaved African men. The discovery of their names has spurred the Heritage Department's ancestral research and established the annual 8th of March activities.



BARBUDA OCEAN Club

Job Fair

March 8, 2022

Police Recreation Grounds

Gates Open-8:30am

Gates Close-12:00noon

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- Utilities
- Hospitality Services
- Turf Maintenance
- Greenskeeping

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Proof of vaccination required prior to entry



If you think that glass of wine is good for you, it's time to reconsider

By Jonathan Reiner

Several years ago, at the end of a clinic visit, a long-time patient with end-stage heart disease who was nearing the end of his life asked me if it was OK to drink some wine.

The patient was a physician, and he knew what most lay people do not: Despite the widespread belief a little alcohol is good for your heart, it isn't. I thought for a moment, and told him, "Only good wine."

For thousands of years, alcohol, particularly wine, has been used for medicinal purposes. The ancient Greek physician Hippocrates promoted wine for various purposes, including reducing fevers and dressing wounds. Maimonides, the 12th century scholar, rabbi and physician also extolled the health benefits of wine in moderation. During Prohibition in the early 20th century, it was common for physicians to prescribe medicinal alcohol, which was legally dispensed at pharmacies, for ailments ranging from cancer to depression.

For many years it was thought moderate doses of alcohol were associated with a reduced risk of death, whereas higher amounts of drinking were associated with increased risk. And while there has been research to suggest a glass of wine a day can promote longevity or heart health,



[Photo credit: Warren Lockett]

the consensus on alcohol's salutary effects has started to change.

Humans metabolize alcohol mostly in the liver, where it is converted into acetaldehyde, a known carcinogen. Last July, a study published in *Lancet Oncology* estimated 4% of the world's newly diagnosed cases of cancer in 2020, totaling almost 750,000 people, were related to alcohol use. The authors of the study found the cancer risk was highest for people who drank a lot, but even more moderate drinkers still had an increased risk of developing cancer.

In 2018, the *Lancet* published a different study of alcohol use in 195 countries and found the risk of all-cause mortality, and specifically dying from cancer, rises with increasing levels of alcohol consumption. The authors noted the way to minimize

the risk was not to drink at all.

This past week, the World Heart Federation issued a policy stating no level of alcohol consumption is safe for the heart. The ironically-named Dr. Beatrix Champagne who chaired the advocacy committee which produced the report said, "In brief, our position is that studies showing a significant cardioprotective effect of alcohol consumption have by-and-large been observational, inconsistent, funded by the alcohol industry, and/or not subject to randomized control. Furthermore, any potential cardioprotective effect is negated by the well-documented risks and harms, rendering our judgment that no amount of consumption can be considered good for heart health."

In addition to its carcinogenic properties, alcohol is also a cardiotoxin, and

chronic heavy consumption can weaken the ability of the heart to contract, ultimately leading to potentially fatal congestive heart failure. Even brief episodes of binge-drinking can precipitate atrial fibrillation, a condition in which the heart rate increases and beats out of rhythm.

At a time when many Americans have increased alcohol consumption during the pandemic, how should one contextualize the World Heart Federation's dry pronouncement?

Start by having an honest conversation with your doctor about how much you drink and how it can potentially affect your health. If you drink alcohol, do so because you enjoy it, not because you believe it's good for you. The most recent data suggests it is not. And if you do enjoy alcoholic beverages, drink in moderation because there is abundant data showing the more you drink, the greater the risks to your health.

As for my patient who asked about drinking wine, several months after his death, a package was delivered to my house. It was brought by his wife, who was honoring his final instructions. In the box was a case of "only good wine." There are still a few bottles left, and each time I drink one, I savor each sip, think of him, and smile.

Deadly coral disease sweeping Caribbean linked to water from ships

A virulent and fast-moving coral disease that has swept through the Caribbean could be linked to waste or ballast water from ships, according to research.

The deadly infection, known as stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD), was first identified in Florida in 2014, and has since moved through the region, causing great concern among scientists.

It spreads faster than most coral diseases and has an unusually high mortality rate among the species most susceptible to it, making it potentially the most deadly disease ever to affect corals. More than 30 species of coral are susceptible. It was found in Jamaica in 2018, then in the Mexican Caribbean, Sint Maarten and the Bahamas, and has since been detected in 18 other countries.

In Mexico, more than 40% of reefs in one study had at least 10% of coral infected by SCTLD, and nearly a quarter had more than 30%. In Florida, regional declines in coral density approached 30% and live tissue loss was upward of 60%.

Biologist Emily Williams moves corals between tanks as researchers try to find out more about an outbreak of SCTLD in Florida in 2019



A researcher off the Virgin Islands swims past a pillar coral showing signs of stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD). [Photo credit: Lucas Jackson/Reuters]

Scientists have not yet been able to determine whether the disease is caused by a virus, a bacterium, a chemical or some other infectious agent, but the peer-reviewed study in the journal *Frontiers in Marine Science* supports the theory that ballast water from ships may be involved. Conducted in the Bahamas by scientists at the Perry Institute for Marine Science, it found that SCTLD was more prevalent in reefs that were closer to the Bahamas' main commercial ports, in Nassau and Grand Bahama, suggesting a likely link between the disease and ships.

Judith Lang, scientific

director at the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment project, which has been tracking the disease, said: "The prevailing currents in the Caribbean push seawater to Florida and not in the reverse direction, and the predominant wind direction is westward. So human dispersal [to those three territories] in 2018 seems necessary."

In 2017, the spread of deadly pathogens by ships when they discharge ballast water prompted the International Maritime Organization to implement the Ballast Water Management Convention, which requires that ships discharge their ballast water – used to maintain the ship's sta-

bility – 200 nautical miles from shore in water at least 200 metres deep before entering port, to ensure they do not bring in harmful foreign pathogens.

In the Bahamas, SCTLD has spread rapidly since first being identified in December 2019.

Krista Sherman, senior scientist at the Perry Institute and a co-author of the recently published paper, said: "The disease is spread along about 75km of reef tract, about 46 miles – so for Grand Bahama that is a large structure of reef. We're talking about mostly covering the entire southern coastline of the island."

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

The disease is also widespread in the coral reefs of New Providence, where the Bahamas' capital, Nassau, and main port are located. The study notes the presence of international container ships, cruise ships and pleasure boats at that location, as well as a fuel shipping station.

Infection rates among the most susceptible species were 23% and 45% across New Providence and Grand Bahama respectively, and recent mortality rates have reached almost 43%.

With the exception of two species, the researchers found "there was a significant relationship" between the disease and proximity of reefs to the major shipping ports. They noted "an increasing proportion of healthy colonies as distance from the port increased on both islands, and a greater proportion of

recently dead colonies closer to the port than farther away".

The locations where SCTLD is prevalent in the Bahamas are all popular with tourists, recreational fishers and divers, Sherman said.

There are concerns that the coral disease could affect the country's main fishery export, spiny lobster, said Adrian LaRoda, president of the Bahamas Commercial Fishers Alliance. Although the lobster fishers work further out to sea, the industry would be affected if the reefs die. The spiny lobster fishery brings in \$90m (£66m) a year and employs 9,000 people.

"Any negative impact on our reefs would definitely drastically affect our spiny lobsters because the mature animals migrate [from the reefs] to the fish aggregating devices [a technique for catching fish]," LaRoda said. He added that the lob-

sters' reproduction rate and the food supply for juvenile lobsters in the reef would also be affected.

The Bahamian government has set up a national taskforce to tackle the problem. Currently, the most effective treatment for the disease is the application of the antibiotic amoxicillin directly to the corals, which has seen some success in reducing mortality, but no realistic permanent solution is available.

According to Lang, rather than treating the symptoms, there is a need to tackle the possible human-made causes. "Given a chance, nature can heal naturally," she said.

The headline of this article was amended on 27 July 2021 to remove a specific reference to "wastewater", and to better reflect the content of the article in terms of different types of water from ships being linked to stony coral tissue loss disease.



ACP Cruise Ship

Calendar

Updated on February 25, 2022

March

Date	ETA	ETD	Cruise Ship	Cruise Line	Capacity*	Type	Assigned Berth*
06-Mar-22	8:00AM	9:00PM	Sea dream 1	SeaDream Yacht Club	110	T	Falmouth
06-Mar-22	9:00AM	6:00PM	Club Med 2	Club Med	239	T	Falmouth
07-Mar-22	7:30AM	7:00PM	Mein Schiff 2	TUI	2,900	T	Heritage Quay
07-Mar-22	10:00AM	6:00PM	Norwegian Dawn	Norwegian Cruise Line	2,244	T	Heritage Quay
08-Mar-22	6:00AM	5:00PM	Star Legend	Windstar Cruises	343	T	Nevis Pier
08-Mar-22	10:00AM	6:00PM	Grandeur of the seas	RCI	1,950	T	Nevis Pier
08-Mar-22	7:00AM	5:00PM	Britannia	P&O Cruises	3,611	T	Heritage Quay
08-Mar-22	9:00AM	6:00PM	Royal Clipper	Star Clippers	227	T	Falmouth
09-Mar-22	6:30AM	5:00PM	Wind Surf	Windstar Cruises	376	T	Heritage Quay
09-Mar-22	9:00AM	6:00PM	Star Flyer	Star Clippers	170	T	Barbuda
09-Mar-22	8:00AM	5:00PM	Explorer Of The Seas	RCI	3,282	T	Heritage Quay
10-Mar-22	9:00AM	6:00PM	Royal Clipper	Star Clippers	227	T	Barbuda
10-Mar-22	8:00AM	2:00PM	Silver Moon	Silversea Cruises	691	T	Heritage Quay
10-Mar-22	7:00AM	6:30PM	Star Flyer	Star Clippers	170	T	Falmouth
11-Mar-22	7:00AM	5:00PM	Marella Discovery	Marella Cruises	1,800	T	Heritage Quay

Grenadian seaman claims being beaten by T&T coast guards

CMC - An investigation has been launched by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard following another incident at sea, this time involving the crew of a vessel from Grenada.

According to reports out of Grenada, the crew of the Grenadian vessel, called "Rainia" that travels weekly to Trinidad and Tobago to conduct trade, claimed that its members encountered a "nightmare," experience with the TT Coast Guard, which resulted in the physical assault and hospitalisation of at least one crew member.

It's reported that eight crew members on the vessel were met with hostility by Coast Guard officers last week and this reportedly escalated to the assault of the crew's captain and one crew member. The report states that the crew member was seriously injured now requiring surgery.

The Grenada Broadcasting Network stated that earlier this week, a routine check was performed by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast and according to the vessel's operator, Keith Joseph the crew was met with aggression, and one officer reportedly used obscene language and pointed a gun in the direction of the crew.

"My crew members said, you have



Grenadian crew stopped by T&T coast guards. [Photo credit: CMC]

to be careful pointing that gun because you know it had an incident where a kid was accidentally shot and killed and that made it even worse," said Joseph.

Joseph said that the boat's captain was pulled off by a Coast Guard member and slapped and kicked. A second crew member, who had voiced concerns over the officer's use of a gun, was then beaten.

In response the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard said that it is aware of the reports.

"The Coast Guard takes all allegations of this nature very seriously because they affect public perception which may lead to a breakdown in trust that is a key component for its mission success. As a result, the Coast Guard launched an immediate investigation

on the same morning of the incident with the view to determining the facts of what occurred."

In a statement the coast guard said that the ongoing investigation will involve all parties concerned by the time of its completion.

"The Coast Guard wishes to assure the public that all efforts are being made to ensure that this matter is speedily resolved."

"The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard continues to provide border security and other services in the face of the threat of Covid-19 in order to maintain the safety and security of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago through the conduct of maritime security and safety patrols within our area of operations," the statement added.

Police officer shot dead, another wounded in St. Lucia



Officer Nathan Timaitre. [Photo credit: St. Lucia times]

St. Lucia Times - A police officer is dead, and another was in critical condition following a shooting incident at Bocache, Castries, on Saturday night.

Law enforcement officials have identified the deceased officer as Nathan Timaitre of the Criminal Investigation

Department (CID).

Officials told St. Lucia Times that Timaitre and another officer were doing a cash escort in civilian clothing when shooters ambushed them.

Timaitre died on the spot, while his partner, identified only as King, was rushed to hospital in critical condition.

Top US official travels to Haiti

CMC — The United States Department of State says Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Anne Witkowsky will travel to Haiti for talks with top Haitian officials and “a diverse array of Haitian stakeholders”.

On Friday, the State Department said that Witkowsky will visit the French-speaking Caribbean country from March 7-9 to meet with Prime Minister Ariel Henry and members of the Montana Group “in support of an inclusive, Haitian-led political dialogue”.

The assistant secretary will also meet “a diverse array of Haitian stakeholders” — including civil society and women leaders — “to reinforce the US Government’s long-term commitment to the Haitian people by promoting long-term stability and development, and to discuss US support for Haitian solutions to issues facing the country”.

“The assistant secretary will also highlight the United States’ ongoing support for security-sector capacity building with Haitian officials and civil society representatives, and reaffirm our commitment to a Haitian-led restoration of democratic institutions,” the statement said.

In addition, it said Witkowsky will mark International Women’s Day with United Nations staff and

Haitian women leaders “to recognise the vital role of women in conflict resolution and in the economy, and reinforce the US government’s commitment to strengthening gender equality and meaningfully engaging women as equal partners in economic, political and security decisions”.

Last month, United Nations Special Representative in Haiti, Helen La Lime, said that, despite some signs of progress in ending the political, economic and humanitarian crisis that has worsened across Haiti since the assassination of its president last year, the situation there remains “fraught and highly polarised”.

La Lime, who also heads the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), told the UN Security Council that there is need for structural reforms to tackle gang violence, address impunity and corruption, strengthen the justice system and sustainably transform the Haitian economy.

“The contours of a common vision shared by all, will ultimately depend on Haitian stakeholders placing the national interest above their own aspirations,” she said. “Success will be determined by their collective willingness to compromise”.

The Special Envoy said the relative calm observed on February 7 — the date on which late President Jovenel Moïse’s term would have officially ended — was a good



Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Anne Witkowsky [Photo credit: file photo]

sign, telling ambassadors that the new government, unveiled on November 24, appears to have appeased tensions.

And while awaiting a revised electoral calendar, the BINUH chief noted that momentum seems to be building around “an inclusive, credible and effective Provisional Electoral Council”.

Meanwhile, La Lime said gang violence “continues to plunge major urban centres into lawlessness and grief”.

“Criminal armed groups have a strong hold on the economic and social lives of millions,” she said. “Their indiscriminate use of abduction, murder, as well as

sexual and gender-based violence, as a means to terrorise local populations in the fight to extend their territorial control is particularly abhorrent.”

La Lime said that although the Haitian National Police have tried to stem the wave of violent crime, the “over-stretched, understaffed and under-resourced police force, cannot on its own curtail the alarming rise in gang-generated insecurity”.

Against this backdrop, the UN and Haitian Government have jointly resolved to strengthen international support, epitomised by the imminent creation of a

cont’d on pg 18

Regional News



cont'd from pg 17

multi-donor basket fund.

“The gang phenomenon cannot be addressed through policing alone”, said La Lime, elaborating on the need for a law-enforcement approach that incorporates greater control of illegal weapons, and is complemented by socio-economic projects and reintegration activities “aimed at generating employment and revenue in the neighbourhoods most affected by the scourge of gang violence”.

The UN official commended the Haitian authorities on a national community violence reduction strategy that has, after years of closures, resulted in the reopening of several schools in the Port-au-Prince neighbourhoods of Cité Soleil and La Saline.

“These successes offer hope that resolute and coordinated government actions will lead to the provision of additional basic services in these commu-

nities, as well as to their extension to other areas,” she said. “Our continued support is crucial to the success of this effort”.

La Lime said Haiti also needs to urgently address the intractable phenomenon of impunity.

She cited the 2020 assassination of Monferrier Dorval, the 2018 massacre in La Saline, and the “ghastly assassination” of President Moïse, whose stalled murder investigation has exacerbated “both suspicion and mistrust within the country”.

The Haitian judicial system suffers from “grave structural weaknesses”, she said, that cripple the courts’ ability to “investigate, process and try cases”.

La Lime said while modest signs of progress are encouraging, more action is needed for new penal and criminal codes, and to ensure that judicial reform can be sustained over the longer-term.

She said the devastating earthquake

of last August, which destroyed parts of the Southern Peninsula and killed 2,248 people, has added another layer of difficulty to an already dire humanitarian situation.

“It is now estimated that 4.9 million people, or 43 per cent of the country’s population, will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022,” La Lime said.

She urged all Haitian leaders to engage constructively with one another to steer the country towards elections and emerge from the “acute political and institutional crisis” in which it has been plunged.

In addition, the envoy urged the international community to continue to engage with the Haitian Government and others to create security and political conditions to hold national elections, and ensure structural reforms.

“Now is not the time to let Haiti fall off the agenda,” she stressed.

9:00am-10:30am

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Visa, Mastercard to suspend operations in Russia

Al Jazeera - Card payment companies Visa and Mastercard say they will suspend operations in Russia, joining a growing list of international companies refusing to do business with Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

The moves, following a request by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier on Saturday, deal another blow to Russia's financial sector and are set to further isolate its sanctions-hit economy.

Mastercard announced that cards issued by Russian banks would no longer be supported by its network and any card issued outside the country would not work at Russian shops or ATMs.

"We don't take this decision lightly," Mastercard said in a statement, adding that it made the move after discussions with customers, partners and governments.

Visa also said cards issued in Russia would no longer work outside the country, adding that it was working with clients and partners in Russia to cease all Visa transactions in the coming days.

"We are compelled to act following Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, and the unacceptable events that we have witnessed," Visa Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Al Kelly said in a state-



Visa and Mastercard had already announced that they were complying with US and international sanctions imposed on Russia in the wake of its attack. [Photo credit: Reuters]

ment. US President Joe Biden, in a call with Zelenskyy, welcomed the companies' decisions.

"President Biden noted his administration is urging security, humanitarian, and economic assistance to Ukraine and is working closely with Congress to secure additional funding," a White House readout of the call said.

The two credit card giants had already announced that they were complying with US and international sanctions imposed on Russia following the February 24 invasion.

Russia's major banks, including its largest lender Sberbank and the Russia

Central Bank, downplayed the effects the card suspensions would have on their clients.

"All Visa and Mastercard bank cards issued by Russian banks will continue to operate normally on Russian territory until their expiration date," the Russia Central Bank said, warning Russians travelling abroad, however, that should carry alternate means of payment.

Economist Mohamed Haidar said the decision by Visa and Mastercard would have a "real devastating effect and it may cripple a lot of businesses".

"We are talking about the sum of 210 million cardholders in Russia," he told Al Jazeera, adding that

there would be hundreds of billions of dollars in unpaid bills.

Visa's and Mastercard's announcements came hours after PayPal halted its services in Russia.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Mykhailo Fedorov tweeted a letter early Saturday from PayPal CEO Dan Schulman officially announcing: "Under the current circumstances, we are suspending PayPal services in Russia."

He added that PayPal would continue to support its staff in the region and would focus on "enabling our customers and our global employee community to support" humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

Israeli forces kill Palestinian in alleged stabbing attack

Al Jazeera – Israeli forces have shot dead a Palestinian teenager after he allegedly stabbed two officers in the Old City in occupied East Jerusalem.

The incident took place at Bab Hutta, one of the gates to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound at approximately 4:30am local time (02:30 GMT) on Sunday.

The youth was identified by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa as 19-year-old Kareem Jamal al-Qawasmī. He was pronounced dead by medical personnel who arrived at the scene shortly after.

Israeli police said the two officers were lightly wounded in the alleged stabbing.

A video circulating online shows the youth lying on the ground after being shot, before one Israeli officer stepped on him, apparently attempting to restrict him. The authenticity of the video could not be independently verified.

Israeli forces closed off all the entrances to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound after the incident, before reopening them later. The youth was a resident of the neighbourhood of al-Tur (Mount



Israeli forces closed off all the entrances to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound after the incident, before reopening them later. [Photo caption: Reuters]

of Olives) in East Jerusalem. Israeli forces raided al-Tur hours after the killing and arrested his brother and his mother, according to Wafa.

Israel occupied and annexed the eastern part of Jerusalem in 1967, in contravention of international law. Most countries consider East Jerusalem occupied territory and do not recognise Israeli sovereignty or illegal settlements there. The Palestinian Authority claims East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state in the 1967-occupied territories, to also include the West

Bank and Gaza Strip.

On March 1, the Israeli army shot dead three Palestinians in two separate incidents in the occupied West Bank.

The same day, Israeli forces violently suppressed Palestinian celebrations for the Muslim holiday of Israa and Mi'raj at Damascus Gate to the Old City.

At least 30 Palestinians, including several children, were wounded with stun grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets and physical assault, while 20 others were arrested.

14 workers confirmed dead in China coal mine collapse

AP — Fourteen workers who were trapped when a coal mine in southwest China collapsed 10 days ago had died, media reported Sunday.

A rescue operation finished Sunday noon after the bodies of the miners were retrieved, state-owned Xinhua News Agency said.

The workers were trapped after the roof of a shaft at Sanhe Shunxun coal



14 dead after mine collapsed [Photo caption: Net News]

mine in Guizhou province collapsed on Feb. 25.

The rescue operation was challenging because

the roof caved in about 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) from the entrance of the mine, and the collapsed area was considerably large, media reported.

Further investigation into the cause of the accident was underway.

China's coal mines are among the world's deadliest, regularly suffering explosions and gas leaks despite repeated safety crackdowns.

ATC step up plans to join online gaming industry

The Antigua Turf Club (ATC) is moving ahead with its plans to join the online gaming industry as a means of generating more revenue which in turn will be used to develop the sport.

The ATC's regional horse racing consultant, Jamaican Christopher Armond, visited Antigua over the weekend to form part of the Antigua Turf Club delegation that met with government officials in its quest to establish an online gaming company.

Armond is a former Director of Racing at Supreme Ventures Racing and Entertainment Limited (SVREL), formerly Caymanas Park, a sports betting company he established in Jamaica that provides simulcasts of international horse racing events, the creation of new bets and other initiatives at any of the country's sixty-two Off-Track parlours.

The move by the Antigua Turf Club to engage with the government came approximately one week after it staged its first meet in over two and a half

years at the Cassada Gardens race track on February 27th.

President of the Antigua Turf Club, Neil Cochrane, said it required significant effort, time and financial resources to prepare the facilities for the relaunch of races.

"We will continue to do the work on the facility and we have to generate revenue to be able to pay the painters, to buy fuel for the tractor to do this and do that, so it was just important to get that first race off. Now, we can begin to flow," Cochrane told Sports Overflow on Pointe FM.

He said more revenue must be generated by the club for the organisation to fulfil its commitment to developing the Cassada Gardens race track facilities, which is key to propelling the sport.

Cochrane said establishing a gaming company for the Antigua Turf Club would be a game changing revenue stream for the organisation.

"We had coming in from Jamai-



Christopher Armond is the former Director of Racing at Supreme Ventures Racing and Entertainment Limited. (Photo courtesy SVREL)

ca one of our consultants, Christopher Armond, who we will be working with in terms of changing the landscape of horseracing in this country," Cochrane said.

"The financial model that we've used has never really been a good one and gaming is what drives the horse racing industry worldwide and we have never really been that focused on gaming, so we now have, I would say, the best horseracing administrator the region has ever seen in Mr. Christopher Armond, who is consulting with us.

"He comes with a developer for gaming software that we intend to take to the government for approval so that we can begin to really invest in horse racing because that gaming initiative will certainly generate monies so that we can fund horse racing.

"We cannot look to the government to do everything, but certainly, we have to look to do things for ourselves. So he will be coming here to meet with us as we review the entire gaming situation and review the entire operation because, ultimately, it is the Antigua Turf Club that will become a directorship
cont'd on pg 22



Horses compete during a meet at the Cassada Gardens Race Track in March 2021. (Photo courtesy ATC)

No Russia no World Cup fake news

The only step that Russia has taken against the ban FIFA has imposed is filing an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS).

A post going viral on social media indicating Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that there will be no World Cup without Russia is fake.

The post read: "Russia will play at the Qatar 2022 FIFA world cup or there will be no world cup to talk about".

Pesacheck has established that the post, whose source is still mysterious, is both fake and misleading.

Pesacheck is Africa's largest indigenous fact-checking organisation,



debunking misleading claims and deciphering the often confusing number quoted by public figures in 15 African countries.

While Russia has been expelled from the 2022 World Cup, Putin has not commented on its World Cup expulsion.

Russia was scheduled to face Poland on March 24 in a World Cup play-off, but their expulsion means the match won't happen.

Poland had also said they won't play Russia in a bid to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Putin went to war with Ukraine almost two weeks ago in a move that has caused the loss of scores of lives and widespread destruction of property.

The world has responded by imposing sanctions, including denying Russia's opportunity to participate in international competitions such as the World Cup.

cont'd from pg 21

and, just like Barbados, we will have a branch that operates independently."

Cochrane said it is imperative that the Antigua Turf Club starts to operate as a business as this is the only way to ensure the sport can thrive in Antigua and Barbuda.

"We have to turn this

into a business and make it a viable entity and not just a bragging rights entity. That's what we are right now. We race horses for bragging rights and the pride of saying I beat you. And with the little 'two pence hay penny' that we make, we feed it back into the horses," Cochrane said.

"But we want to take it

to a different level. When we change the shape of the racing at the race track, we will be doing it so that we can be recognised internationally so that when it's cold in North America and in England, we are going to entice people to bring their horses down here."

He continued that Armond's experience in restructuring the sport locally will be invaluable in this regard.

"He was the first person that invited us, as a little nation without a starting gate, to the Jockey's Championship in Jamaica in 1993 or 1994 and our guys, jockeys Jeff Jacobs and Gerald De Freitas, went down and placed fourth out of 17 teams that participated.

"So this gentleman has been watching our progress over the years, and he understands our environment and we are looking forward to working with him and our

technical guy out of California, Mr. Richard Tedesco, to help us to transform horse racing."

For more than 40 years, Christopher Armond has shared his expertise, knowledge and skills with the Jamaican horse racing industry, as a trainer, commentator and an administrator.

He is regarded as the leading horse race commentator in the region and received the Press Association of Jamaica's (PAJ) Golden Microphone Award for his commentaries in 1984.

"In the meantime," Cochrane went on, "we have to put life and energy back into the sport so that the guys don't become so despondent to the point that the horse racing fraternity would die.

"So we are going to continue to race until we get everything aligned, including getting the sand from Barbuda, to start the transformation of the horse racing track."

ICC WOMEN'S CWC 2022

WEST INDIES SCHEDULE

3 MARCH	v	BAY OVAL
8 MARCH	v	UNIVERSITY OVAL
11 MARCH	v	SEDDON PARK
14 MARCH	v	BASIN RESERVE
17 MARCH	v	BAY OVAL
20 MARCH	v	SEDDON PARK
23 MARCH	v	BASIN RESERVE

Cricket community reacts to Shane Warne's death

The sporting world's biggest names are paying tribute to one of Australia's cricket icons following the sudden death of Shane Warne in Thailand.

Warne, 52, was for almost two decades one of the world's best-known cricketers whose achievements on and off the ground made sensational tabloid fodder in Britain as well as Australia.

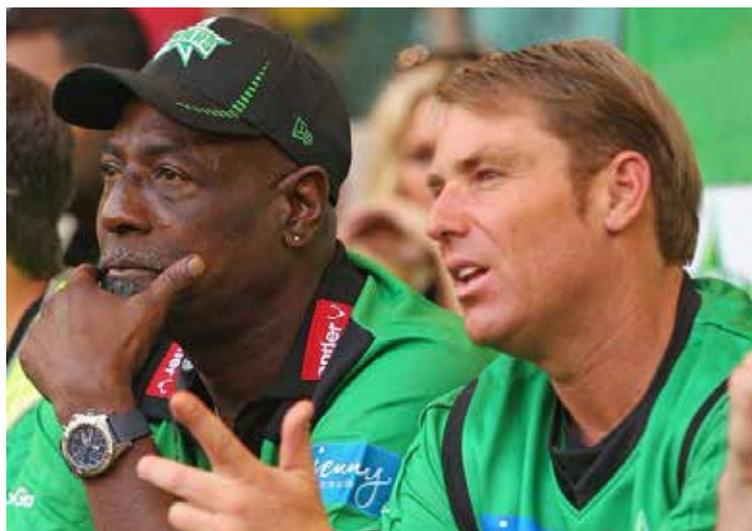
Sir Vivian Richards, named alongside Warne as one of the five greatest Test cricketers of the 20th century, said on social media he was "shocked to the core" at the news of the Australian's death.

"Unbelievable," the West Indian great said. "This can't be true.... There are no words to describe what I feel right now. A huge loss for cricket."

Brian Lara, the only man to score 400 runs in a Test innings, wrote he was both heartbroken and speechless.

He added: "I literally don't know how to sum up this situation. My friend is gone!! We have lost one of the Greatest Sportsmen of all time!! My condolences go out to his family. RIP Warnie!! You will be missed."

In Britain, where Warne's sporting star shone brightly, there was a mass outpouring of grief



Sir Vivian Richards, left, with Shane Warne.

following the release of a statement from his management.

Sir Ian Botham, an England legend, said he had lost "a great friend on and off the playing field".

"One of the best", Sir Ian said. "My thoughts are with (Warne's children) Jackson, Summer & Brooke."

Warne, who remains Australia's highest-ever wicket-taker, dominated Ashes cricket in several tours of England, beginning in 1993 with his famous "ball of the century".

He played England county cricket for Hampshire between 2000 and 2007 and was briefly engaged to British model and actress Elizabeth Hurley.

The England team held one-minute's silence in memory of Warne in Antigua, where the team is currently on tour.

Sir Andrew Strauss,

body did more to grow the game of cricket.

"There was no greater star in cricket than Shane Warne," he told the BBC. "His contribution to the game of cricket is unmatched and unrivalled, I think."

The England Cricket Board's Twitter account posted: "One of the greatest of all-time. A legend. A genius. You changed Cricket. RIP Shane Warne."

Michael Vaughan, a regular columnist in *The* **cont'd on pg 24**

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Sports News



cont'd from pg 23

Sydney Morning Herald and The Age and captain of England's 2005 Ashes-winning team, said Warne lit up "every dressing room, comm box, bar, golf club and friendship group".

"His energy and positivity was beyond anyone I have ever known, he was loyal beyond loyal," he wrote on Instagram.

"At a time I needed support he was the first to pick up the phone and over (sic) advice/help and the most utmost support. I will never ever forget the warmth he and his family

gave me this winter when I was down under for Xmas alone.

"To say I spent Warne's last Xmas with him and his family is so sad but one I will cherish."

Former England batsman Kevin Pietersen, both an ex-teammate and Ashes rival, posted an expletive and a series of crying emojis along with the hashtag #RIPKing.

The Barmy Army, England's famed travelling supporters group, which taunted Warne for years from the grandstands, posted an emotional tribute on

Twitter.

"Simply can't believe we are writing this. RIP Shane Warne, one of the game's best characters and finest bowlers. Forever etched in Ashes history," they wrote.

In Asia, which has become the centre of world cricket through the Indian Premier League and its billion-dollar television rights, Warne was also revered.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said the global cricketing community was "poorer" today with the passing of Warne.

"The BCCI mourns the loss of the champion cricketer who enriched the game with his craft," it said on Facebook.

Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar said he was "shocked, stunned & mis-

erable" at the news. The pair dominated their era like few others and were involved in several engrossing contests during their careers.

"Will miss you Warne," the most prolific run-scorer in the history of Test cricket wrote.

"There was never a dull moment with you around, on or off the field. Will always treasure our on-field duels & off-field banter. You always had a special place for India & Indians had a special place for you. Gone too young."

Pakistan great, Waqar Younis, said on social media he was "shocked and shattered".

"Simply can't believe I'm hearing this. Very very sad day for our cricket community. The biggest superstar of my generation gone."

Weekend Puzzle Solution

IN THE TRENCHES

By Jerry Berns

1	S	P	A	R		5	M	A	R	E	S		10	S	O	L	I	
14	Y	A	L	E		15	E	L	O	P	E		16	I	M	A	M	
17	N	I	S	I		18	T	O	W	I	T		19	G	A	S	P	
20	C	R	O	S	S	21	T	H	E	C	H	A	N	N	E	L		
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25	D	E	L	U	D	E				28	C	O	I	L				
30	E	R	I	E				31	S	T	O	R	E		33	S	H	E
36	M	I	N	D	I	37	I	N	T	H	E	G	U	T	T	E	R	
40	O	N	E		41	C	O	O	E	D				42	R	O	A	N
					43	W	I	S	P			44	C	R	O	W	D	S
46	L	E	A	R	N				49	B	L	O	O	P				
51	I	R	R	I	G	52	A	T	I	O	N	D	I	T	C	H		
57	T	A	R	T		58	R	I	D	O	F			59	C	U	R	E
60	U	T	A	H		61	G	E	E	S	E			62	A	N	O	N
63	P	O	S	E		64	O	R	D	E	R			65	L	A	P	S

Queretaro v Atlas: At least 22 injured as fans fight at Mexican match

BBC - At least 22 people were injured when violence broke out among the crowd at a top-flight match in Mexico.

The Liga MX encounter between Queretaro and Atlas was abandoned after 63 minutes when fighting spilled onto the field at La Corregidora stadium.

Some players attempted to calm fans down before they were sent to the locker room.

Local police said two people were seriously injured, with nine in total taken to hospital.

Visitors Atlas led 1-0 when the match was suspended.



Fighting broke out between the opposing sets of fans at the La Corregidora stadium [Photo credit: BBC]

Liga MX president Mikel Arriola said all Sunday's matches have been suspended "in solidarity with the peo-

ple affected".

"Those responsible for the lack of the security at the stadium will be exemplarily

punished," he wrote on Twitter.

"The safety of our players and fans is priority!"

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"We are going to continue playing this competition, probably right down to exam time in May. We are not hustling to finish this because, as I have said, they have been out for a while and so we are going to take our time. When it is exam time and we have to break, we will break. But as long as we get an opportunity, we will put on something for the children."

Knight said the schools' basketball unit, which he leads, designed the competition to allow players to compete against each other, while learning the fundamentals, and developing their game.

"We have been missing for two years because of the COVID-19 situation, but even in the first year of COVID-19, we started to put plans together because we realised COVID-19 was going to be with us for a long time.

"So the basketball unit got togeth-

er and we started to put plans together in terms of doing something meaningful while observing the protocols," Knight said.

"So we came up with a format that we could use the fundamentals, just like what we do when we have our all-star day. So we came up with a skills competition where we will have the players compete without anyone marking each other while displaying their skills in dribbling, shooting and passing.

"We thought this would be very good for our athletes since they have been missing for two years. Also, there would have been a number of beginners coming in, so it would not have been justice to them to put them into a game situation and when their parents and other people come to watch the game, they would complain that the standard is not good.

"So we decided to put on this skills

challenge competition where there is still fun and while they are still learning, they are also developing."

Knight said the inter-schools' basketball programme will return to its original league format next year, which he is predicting will be of a higher standard.

"Come 2023, the standard will definitely be improved and the athletes will put on a better showing so that when their parents come to watch them play, they will be proud of the product that they see on display before them," he said.

"Come 2023, we will resume the original format, which is 5x5 in the different categories, and so I can guarantee that the games we are going to see next year, the standards are going to be much higher and people are going to enjoy watching schools' basketball with the support of the world's greatest sponsors, Cool & Smooth."

Schools' basketball coordinator satisfied with skills competition

Coordinator of the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools' Basketball Programme, former national captain and point guard Carl "Bolie" Knight, is expressing his satisfaction with the skills competitions which got underway last week.

Following a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the inter-schools' basketball programme resumed on 28th February with skills competitions at the JSC Sports Complex.

Knight said the competitions, which involved the fundamentals of basketball, have been going well and is encouraging parents to support their children as they exhibit their basketball skills.

"It has been going great. The players have been having a good time and there are some parents that have been coming out and I do want to invite even more of the parents to come out, but it has been going fantastic," Knight said.

"On Thursday I saw a competition between Pares and Combined Schools, it was fantastic and I nearly lost my voice. This is what it's all about.

"Even though it's fun, it's all about repetition and so when Pares return for their next encounter, they would have probably improved just a little bit because they know now what they are going to be doing.

"I want to believe that some of them will go home and start to practice some of their skills such as dribbling between cones in their preparations for their next encounter."

Knight said the competition is us-



The Pares Secondary School contested the five-man speed relay and five-man skills challenge against Combined Schools in the Junior Boys Division of the Cool & Smooth Inter-schools' Basketball competitions at the JSC Sports Complex last Thursday. (Photo courtesy Inter-Schools Basketball League)

ing a format of two teams, comprised of five players, battling it out.

"In our competitions we have six events in one game, as we called it. So one game will consist of individual left-hand lay-ups, individual right-hand lay-ups, individual three-point shootout, two-man shootout, five-man speed relay and a five-man skills challenge, similar to what is done in the NBA in America," Knight said.

"When you win an event, you get two points. If it's a tie, you get one point and of course if you lose, there is no point. Then at the end of the season we will add up to see who has the most points and [determine] our winner."

Knight said 40 teams are taking

part in the competition across six divisions.

"We wanted to do one division, but we started late and then when the children came out at practice there were so many of them. We didn't really want to disappoint them because they were missing for two years, and so we decided to put them into different categories," he explained.

"We have a mini-boys secondary, mini-boys primary, mini-girls, and then we have girls overall, junior boys and senior boys. We have about 40 teams, but some schools have two teams so when we break it down, we have representations from over 20 schools.

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