

TUESDAY 12TH APRIL 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 72 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# Gov't works to resolve water woes as CARICOF EXPRESSES DROUGHT CONCERNS



The Crabbs Reverse Osmosis Plant is one of many that the government has invested more than \$1 million in over several years to ensure that the country's water shortage can be completely resolved by 2023. [Photo: APUA] Story on Page 2

# **Local News** CariCOF: A&B at risk of long-term drought

The Antigua and Barbuda government's thrust to resolve the long-standing water shortages comes not a moment too soon, as new concerns have arisen that the drought conditions being experienced across the region could worsen.

Last month, local climatologist Orvin Paige described 2021 as the "worst year for rainfall at V. C. International Air-Bird port". With a meagre 18.5 inches of rainfall recorded last year, 2021 proved to be the worst Antigua and Barbuda has experienced since national record keeping began in 1928.



World Meteoro-On logical Day, 23rd March, Paige said the country normally averages 39.5 inches

of rainfall. However, while 2022 is off to a better start and on track with rainfall expectation, he cautioned

that the country was far from out of the woods due to the severe deficit creatcont'd on pg 3



#### POINCEXPRESS

# **Local News**

#### *cont'd from pg 2* ed in the previous year.

This concern over prolonged drought conditions has now been ominously echoed by Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF), a Barbados-based agency, which develops climate services tailored to the unique needs of the Caribbean region, singled out Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia as being most likely to face the greatest threat.

In its most recently published Caribbean Drought Bulletin, while concern was expressed for the Eastern Caribbean, and note was made of "some relief from the dry conditions experienced in recent months across many parts of the Caribbean" in February, concerns now prevail "about the prolonged drought situation".

The report continued, "There are concerns over long-term drought in the islands of the eastern Caribbean, particularly from Saint Lucia, north to Antigua. Concerns over long-term drought also exist over the ABC Islands – Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao – and parts of Belize.

"Outside of these areas, there should be monitoring of water resources in northern Bahamas, western Cuba, southern Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and southern French Guiana."

According to CariCOF, short-term drought condi-

tions developing or lasting until May are likely to impact western Cuba, Dominica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St Lucia, St. Vincent and Tobago.

However, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, southern Belize, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique and St. Lucia are at imminent risk of long-term drought conditions with the possibility of similar conditions developing in the Bahamas, Barbados, northern Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad.

"Areas ending up in long-term drought by the end of May, may experience significantly reduced water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater during the dry season," CariCOF cautioned.

This past weekend, Prime Minister Gaston Browne appealed to the public for patience as his administration works to resolve the water issues. In addition to the need for increased water production, another issue impacting the ability to meet the country's water demands is that of the aged water pipe network which suffers severe leaks resulting in water loss. With the move to bring several reverse osmosis plants on stream before the final quarter of 2022, the government has indicated that it expects that homes and businesses will have 24-hour water supply by 2023.

This will not change the fact that the country remains locked in a drought whose end cannot be predicted, therefore, appeals continue to be made for persons to take personal responsibility for their water use and implement measures to conserve the precious resource as much as possible.



# **Local News** Gov't asks for public's patience as water shortage is resolved

The ongoing water shortage being experienced by home and business owners in Antigua and Barbuda will soon be a thing of the past.

This is according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne who has reassured the public that relief is coming over the next several months, as his government has invested huge sums of money to remedy the water

shortage.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM over the weekend, the prime minister asked consumers to be patient a while longer as the government takes positive steps to relieve the water shortage.

He explained that a confluence of issues have occurred that are at the heart of the water shortage.

Life | Medical

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The upgraded reverse osmosis plant at Ffryes Beach is expected to relieve the country's water shortage along with the Fort James plant which will be commissioned later this year.

Among them, is the severe drought that the country has experienced, with 2021 being the driest year on record with record low rainfall of only 18 inches.

The situation was further frustrated by interruptions in global supply chains and shipping delays due to the pandemic which caused membranes, purchased for the reverse osmosis plants, to become stuck in foreign ports.

"Over the past year, we ordered two additional plants; one for Fort James and the other for Bethesda. I am told that the one for Fort James should be installed by the end of June and the one for Bethesda by September, producing an additional 3 million gallons of water per day," he disclosed.

Recognising that as much as 20 percent of all water produced in the country is lost to leakages, PM Browne added that new pipes have also been ordered to replace the aged ones.

The government has given a firm commitment that by the end of September, or by the end of the year at the very latest, the nation's water problem will be solved.

Speaking on the same programme, Information Minister Melford Nicholas, said the three main areas of priority for the government have been health, education and water.

Nicholas, who also promised that an end to the water shortage is in sight, reported that over \$1 million has been spent over several years to solve the problem.

Antigua's daily consumption of water is approximately eight million gallons. By the end of the year, water production from reverse osmosis sources is expected to exceed 10 million gallons daily.

POIN



### Cabinet extends utilities subsidy to egg producers; livestock, crop farmers call for inclusion

With the cost of goods skyrocketing globally, the government of Antigua and Barbuda is taking steps to shield the public from the brunt of the economic fallout.

One item that has seen an increase is chicken feed. This in turn has negatively impacted local egg farmers who have indicated that without government's intervention, the cost of this food which forms part of the average Antiguan and Barbudan diet will increase.

Last week, Cabinet met with the executive of the Poultry Farmers' Association. Coming out of those discussions, it was agreed that the Antigua Public Utilities subsidy on electricity and water provided to other categories of commercial agricultural operations will be extended to egg farmers.

Many domestic commercial egg operations originate at the Sanderson's Estate, therefore it was further agreed that Cabinet will ensure that additional infrastructure will be installed in the area to ensure that all egg farmers can benefit from APUA's services.

Praedial larceny was also among the concerns raised by the Poultry Farmers' Association, and the Cabinet agreed that it will provide solar powered lighting to them, as it already does for some other farmers who are similarly impacted.

This is welcome news in Antigua and Barbuda. Neighbouring islands' egg industries are not faring as well.

In St. Kitts and Nevis, a tray of eggs which formerly sold for EC\$20 will next week increase to \$22.50.

Egg farmers are now included



Egg farmers will now also benefit from the government approved APUA subsidies extended to some other essential sectors.

among some of the industries the government has extended subsidies to buffer the rising cost of goods and services.

Presently, registered fishermen and transportation providers have been extended as much as a 25 percent subsidy on the cost of fuel.

This subsidy began on 30th March this year in response to the increased cost of oil per barrel triggered by the war in Europe.

Government was unable to maintain its subsidy on fuel at the pump, which had been fixed at \$12.50 for gasoline and \$12.20 for diesel.

Gasoline has increased to \$15.70 while diesel rose to \$15.50.

Last month, Prime Minister Gaston Brown indicated that the cost of fuel, and the fuel subsidy, which lasts for 30 days, will be reviewed and, if warranted, adjusted in response to the state of the global market. At the moment, however, livestock and produce farmers are not covered by the existing subsidy arrangements and have cried out for inclusion.

Over the weekend, two ministers of government, E. P. Chet Greene and Melford Nicholas, responded with acknowledgement that the plight of some crop and livestock farmers is legitimate and added that the discussion of subsidies for them is not off the table.

However, they both highlighted challenges within those agricultural disciplines which are vastly different from those experienced by egg farmers.

"The majority of their cost has to do with feed, and feed is coming from external which is impacted by both transportation and fuel costs.

"Rather than have a situation *cont'd on pg 6* 

### **Local News** PAGE 6 **A&B** hosts quality infrastructure workshop

University of Antigua (AUA).

The Concept Note for the workshop said the national dialogues are being facilitated through CROSQ, "To strengthen the collaboration between the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) and the stakeholders within the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors, as well as to develop an Action Plan, which will enable the ABBS to support these target sectors in effectively meeting their goals for the markets".



ument, the National Quality Policy (NQP) of Antigua and Barbuda describes Quality Infrastructure for Antigua and Barbuda as: "The institutional framework, including its systems and people, involved in the development and implementation of standards and technical regulations, metrology, accreditation, conformity assessment services and the promotion of quality involved in strengthening the quality competitiveness of the goods and services produced or provided."

Its aim is increasing and facilitating trade; boosting industrial and State efficiency and effectiveness; promoting consumer welfare and safety and contributing to energy security and the preservation of the environment.

The national dialogue is intended to increase participants' awareness of the importance of quality in enhancing the competitiveness of businesses, increase participants' understanding of the role of QI in enhancing the development of the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors and to provide guidance to the trade and Quality Infrastructure mandate, to ensure that the services meet the needs for the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors.

Trade Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, and Director of ABBS, Dianne Lalla Rodrigues, feature among several officials who will address this morning's opening ceremony.

According to the workshop doc-

#### cont'd from pg 5

where they would be obliged to increase their cost to the point of having an inflationary impact in the market, we looked allowing them some at

cushion," said information minister Melford Nicholas on Saturday in an appearance on Pointe FM.

This was supported by foreign affairs minister, E. P. Chet Greene, who said another challenge is that many livestock and crop farmers are not registered with the Ministry of Agriculture and therefore, while they may have well established backyard operations



from which they may benefit financially, they do not strictly meet the criteria set for commercial agricultural operations.

Minister Greene said if crop and livestock farmers are to be included, it will have to be on an individually considered basis.

"It would not be a request that I would rubbish. Everybody is into some backyard farming, extended plot, you name it. I want to believe that the Ministry of Agriculture can look at [each] request," said Greene.



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# Local News Continues A A adds more flights on Antigua route

American Airlines has announced an extension of its daily service to Antigua and Barbuda commencing 16th August, 2022.

The daily service was set to end on 15th August and resume on 3rd November, however, the new schedule will result in seven weekly flights to V.C Bird International Airport from JFK International Airport, New York.

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, said the new development bodes well for the country's rebounding tourism industry.

"Demand for Antigua and Barbuda is extremely strong at this moment, and from all indications and



feedback from our airline and hotel partners who are working to keep up with the surge in consumer demand, we will have a significantly busy summer straight into winter similar to what was experienced last year."

In addition to the seven flights a week from New York, an increase from the previous one flight a week, American Airlines will also continue to operate twice weekly flights from Miami.

"We have been consistent in our lobbying efforts to the airline, encouraging them to maintain the daily service during our shoulder period when they would have normally pulled back.

"Demand is at an alltime high and we are pleased with the renewed confidence that American Airlines has placed in Antigua, by putting on these additional flights. We now have some remarkably strong lift coming into Antigua", exclaimed CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C. James.

An analysis of the reported tourism arrivals for the year-to-date show Antigua and Barbuda steadily closing the gap on the 2019 tourism arrival figures for the same period.

2019 was recorded as the best year for tourism stayover arrivals to Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda recently announced plans to further update the country's travel protocols, allowing for all unvaccinated travellers to visit Antigua and Barbuda with only a negative covid-19 test result required.

Presently vaccinated travellers can visit the country, without the need to take a covid-19 test.

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# **Local News**

#### POINCEXPRESS

# UWI nursing programme meets international standards

The nursing programme offered by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus has undergone a review that has found it to be in line with international standards.

Campus Principal, Professor Densil Williams, made the announcement on Friday evening, during the Governor General's reception on the occasion of the UWI's Executive Management Retreat.

"We were very pleased this week, through the leadership of our professor of nursing, Professor Kahwah [Eulalia], we have gone through a very rigorous process of vetting our nursing programme to make sure that it reaches international standards. And we were very pleased to have received the results of that vetting, and the results say to us that you have achieved your goal of a highly credible standard."

According to Professor Williams, the UWI FIC is approved to offer a nursing programme for the next four years.

It is all part of a plan by the UWI FIC to increase its student population and educational offerings to Antiguans and Barbudans and others within the OECS. The plan also includes the

cess of vetting our nursing expansion of the campus.

"Very soon, our prime minister will be making some significant announcements in terms of improving the infrastructure of the campus...we are now on the cusp of something great. We are now on the cusp of an infrastructural revolution at the Five Islands campus. We will be seeing great things happening at our Five Islands campus," Professor Williams remarked.

As the university prepares to observe its 75th anniversary in 2023, Vice-Chancellor, Sir Hilary Beckles said the UWI is planning for the future



through its youngest campus.

"Here, we find energy, youthful energy, enthusiasm, visioning, and a government that is committed to our university, with a sense of dignity and pride that for us is very heartwarming," Sir Hilary concluded.



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# Environment



### What's driving the huge blooms of brown seaweed piling up on Florida and Caribbean beaches?

By Professor Stephen P. Leatherman

Here's a handy geography question for your next trivia match: What is the world's only sea that doesn't have a land border?

The answer is the Sargasso Sea – a 2-million-square-nautical-mile haven of biodiversity that lies east of Bermuda in the Atlantic Ocean. Rather than beaches, it's bounded by rotating ocean currents that form the North Atlantic Subtropical Gyre.

The Sargasso is named for sargassum, a free-floating brown seaweed that grows in its calm, clear waters. In the open ocean this seaweed serves as nursery grounds and a haven for sea life.

But over the past decade, a new "Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt" has inundated the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Florida coastlines, wreaking environmental and economic havoc. It's driving away tourists, devastating local fishing industries and requires costly clean-up.

In my work as a coastal scientist, I've watched these invasions become the new normal, choking beaches and turning clear blue waters golden brown. Along with other researchers, I'm trying to understand why

Mats of Sargassum seaweed off the coast of St. Martin in April 2018. ELY Michel CC

sargassum has proliferated into this new sprawling bloom, how to deal with such massive amounts of it, and how affected countries can predict the severity of the next influx.

#### A mysterious 'golden floating rainforest'

For centuries people have viewed the Sargasso Sea with superstition and fear. Early myths described a treacherous section of the Atlantic Ocean where seaweed ensnared ships. Christopher Columbus documented this ecosystem in his 1492 expedition journals when his ships were becalmed there. His crew feared they would be dragged to the ocean floor, never returning home to Spain.

This region was sometimes called the Devil's Triangle. Sea captains mapped routes to circumvent it completely. Mysterious accidents and disappearances there prompted author Vincent Gaddis to give it a new name in 1964: the "deadly Bermuda Triangle."

But these sargassum islands also create a rich ecosystem that ocean explorer Sylvia Earle calls "a golden floating rainforest." Suspended by round "berries" filled with gas, the seaweed offers food, sanctuary and breeding grounds for crabs, shrimp, whales, migratory birds and some 120 species of fish. Mats of it form the sole spawning grounds for European and American eels and habitat for some 43 other threatened or endangered species.

Sargassum also shelters sea turtle hatchlings and juvenile fish during their early life in the open ocean. Ten endemic species live nowhere else on Earth. The Sargasso is a valuable com*cont'd on pg 13* 



# Environment

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mercial fishery worth about US\$100 million per year.

#### Noxious blooms

Enormous amounts of sargassum first engulfed Caribbean coastlines in 2011. I was there at the time, conducting research in the British Virgin Islands, and I saw huge "rafts" of this brown macroalgae extending 500 feet offshore.

Swimmers couldn't get into the water. Some boats couldn't leave port. Beaches were piled with massive mounds, some nearly as tall as I was. Nesting sea turtles couldn't lay their eggs. The seaweed isn't toxic, but as it decomposed it reeked of rotten eggs and swarmed with insects.

Small quantities of sargassum have always turned up as "beach wrack" – stuff that washes ashore. It stabilises shorelines by helping to build sand dunes and nourishes dune plants. For these reasons, it's left to naturally decompose in wild areas, such as Cape Florida State Park.

But the scale of recent coastal influxes is unprecedented. And since the 2011 event, they have occurred every year except for 2013.

Gluts of coastal seaweed have a damaging influence on the coastal environment. In large quantities, the seaweed strips oxygen from the water, killing fish and seagrasses that offer key habitat for many species. It may reduce sunlight needed by ocean plants and smother shallow coral reefs, like those in the Florida Keys.

In 2018 NASA satellites revealed the largest marine algae bloom in the world. A belt of sargassum that contained over 22 million tons of seaweed stretched some 5,500 miles across the Atlantic to West Africa. Satellite images are showing abnormally high amounts again in 2021.

#### Warmer, over-nutrified waters

Data gathered over the past decade has revealed the likely causes of these seaweed invasions: Saharan dust clouds, warming temperatures and the growing human nitrogen footprint.

Just as nutrients feed red tide blooms, they feed sargassum, which thrives in warmer water. Climate change also increases upwelling of nutrients from deep ocean waters at the other end of the sargassum belt in West Africa.

The influxes of the past decade seem to have originated along Brazil's Atlantic coast, not in the Sargasso Sea. Large amounts of fertiliser flow into the Amazon River and then to the ocean from industrial-scale agriculture and ranches. Nutrients also pour into the Gulf of Mexico from the Mississippi River. Climate change-driven downpours increase runoff.

Saharan dust clouds that extend for thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean have also contributed to this explosion of sargassum seaweed. The dust contains iron, nitrogen and phosphorus that fertilises plankton and seaweed blooms. These thick atmospheric dust plumes corresponded with a sargassum spike in 2015 and the worst incursion of sargassum in 2018.

Researchers are also exploring changes in ocean currents, which may be another contributing factor.

#### Economic and ecological harm

Sargassum threatens tourism, a major economic engine for the Caribbean and Florida. Mexico has deployed Navy ships for clean-up operations in Cancun. Some Caribbean destinations have installed floating barriers, like those used in oil spills, to keep seaweed offshore. In 2019 Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados likened the scale of the economic fallout to that of a hurricane.

There is currently no good way to dispose of such great volumes of seaweed. It's labour-intensive and expensive. Removing sargassum from 15 miles of Miami-Dade beaches cost \$45 million in 2019.

Some communities plough seaweed under the sand. Others, like Fort Lauderdale, collect it, wash off the salt and convert it to natural fertiliser or mulch.

In Mexico, some entrepreneurs are compressing it into bricks and using it, like adobe, for building construction. In the long term, lasting solutions will come only through addressing climate change and nitrogen emissions from human activities.



# Workplace **Time Management: A crucial tool** to succeed as an entrepreneur

#### By Andrew Karim

The golden rule of business says that effective time management is the key to success. Today's entrepreneurs will say it's all about the "grind" and the "hustle" - working long hours and through the night with little or no pay. It's well known that if enough work is put in, it will pay off in the end. That's the recipe.

Despite the vast amount of research, studies and tools available suggest creating a successful start-up from scratch is hard.

However, new research has revealed that the biggest obstacle that small business owners are constantly facing is poor time management. It's suggested this contributes hugely to a large portion of the 90 percent of start-ups that fail within the first 5 years.

The findings come from Instantprint's survey to 500 small business owners, and the results are staggering. In an average week, a typical business owner finds only 12 hours to pursue activities dedicated to the growth of their business. Over half (53 percent) find most of their time is allotted to work admin and report writing.

Although these are necessary tasks, they veer away from the focus of growing their business.

Lack of time is also forcing businesses to turn down opportunities. A number of senior decision makers claim they're often forced to turn down opportunities to concentrate on existing customers leaving them with no time to grow their consumer pool and build new relationships.

Given the research findings, fellow entrepreneur and co-founder of Instantprint: James Kinsella, said: "We all know how it feels to fight the clock. There are only so many hours in the day to get everything done and SMEs are feeling the squeeze. It is interesting to see from the research that it's the management

of our hours, minutes and seconds that have the biggest effect on the running of a successful enterprise. Every business is unique, but improving time management and optimising working hours can only bring positive outcomes."

Here are some tips to use time more effectively:

1) Find out your most productive work hours

Fifty-one percent of surveyed business owners claim they're most productive between the hours of 9am and 12pm compared to other hours of the day. Finding your most productive time is crucial. Things that kill productivity include: routine activities and continuous work that demotivate you. Go a maximum of two hours and then tune out to tune back in.

2) Just say no

Many of us are just too polite, but sometimes it's important to simply say no. Distractions steal your time from important tasks. People may ask you to do a quick thing here and there, but suddenly your hours disappear. If you've got an important task, keep at it, and don't let anyone interrupt. You're busy.

3) Go step-by-step

Don't think of your to-do list as one huge item to complete. It's overwhelming and will only put pressure on you. Take one thing at a time and this will allow you to give each task the attention it deserves. As a bonus tip, make sure you establish a method to classify tasks that need to take priority.

4) Know what gets you through

Some days you'll need a boost to power through your workload. Whether it's because you had a bad night sleep or you're especially busy that day, find what gets you through. Some get through with coffee or tea breaks,

5) Exercise and eat well

It may seem unrelated but taking care of yourself has a direct impact on your mood and concentration. A healthy diet with regular exercise increases dopamine in the brain, making you feel better and more alert. Sitting at a desk all day can really take a toll so it's important to get moving when you can.



# The leaked WTO COVID patent

# waiver text promises a very bad deal

By Fatima Hassan, Yousuf Vawda & Leslie London

South Africa owes it to the nations that supported its initial waiver proposal to reject the text and continue negotiations.

In October 2020, South Africa and India's governments tabled a bold proposal at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to temporarily waive intellectual property (IP) protections for producing COVID-19 vaccines and other coronavirus-related medical tools for the duration of the pandemic.

The proposal aimed to address an urgent problem: multinational pharmaceutical companies and their backers using their monopoly power to prevent vaccine and medical product manufacturers across the world from scaling up production to meet global needs.

It has been more than a year since the proposal was tabled, and the ongoing disparities in access to timely supplies of vaccines and other key technologies show the need for a waiver agreement is still as urgent as ever. However, despite 65 members co-sponsoring and a total of 110 countries backing the proposal, the WTO has still not managed to pass the waiver.

The negotiations have "dragged out" because the pharmaceutical industry and



Protesters picket outside Johnson & Johnson Offices on March 11, 2021 in Cape Town, South Africa. [Brenton Geach/Gallo Images via Getty Images]

the countries supporting it – mainly the United States and the European Union - maintained that the waiver proposal is not necessary as there already is "sufficient flexibility" in the existing rules. The reality, of course, is that the same countries and industries undermining the waiver proposal today have been opposing the use of public health flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), such as compulsory licensing and parallel importation, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. For years, they have used a combination of trade threats and litigation to suppress challenges to the worrying patent dominance of the pharma-

ceutical industry. Therefore, the so-called "flexibilities" in the existing rules are not "sufficient" at all.

The dragging out of negotiations has had a catastrophic consequence: a vaccine and treatment apartheid. Amid a global shortage, rich countries swiftly hoarded all the vaccines they needed and then some more, leaving many developing and least developed countries way behind in the queue, despite what COVAX had promised. Since the waiver proposal was first tabled, at least 5.5 million people have died, and the pandemic's "death toll has been four times higher in lower-income countries than in rich ones".

A breakthrough that is

anything but

After months of fruitless negotiations, missed deadlines and cancelled meetings, some three weeks ago, the media reported that South Africa, India, the US and the EU are close to reaching a compromise on the waiver, and published a document purported to be the "leaked" text of an agreement.

The US then said "there has been no agreement" but added that the leaked text "offers the most promising path toward achieving a concrete and meaningful outcome". While also cautioning that "not all the details of the compromise have been ironed out", WTO Director-General Ngozi Okon*cont'd on pg 16* 

# **The World Around Us**



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jo-Iweala hailed the leaked text as a "breakthrough" and even announced her intention to take it to all 164 members of the WTO for discussion. Now, WTO members are reportedly being pressured by the WTO secretariat into rubber-stamping the leaked text.

Meanwhile, civil society organisations, academics and researchers have analysed the leaked text and highlighted several fatal flaws. There is now a growing consensus among experts that this proposed "compromise" cannot produce a meaningful deal and should be rejected. Here is why:

One small step forward – several steps back

The leaked text does in-

clude one small step towards allowing some manufacturers to scale up production to meet some global needs.

The TRIPS Agreement states that compulsory licences that allow countries to suspend patents must be employed predominantly for supplying the domestic market, so only less than half of a product produced under a "compulsory licence" may be exported.

Thus, if there is no viable domestic market for the product, it would not be economically feasible for the holder of the licence to use it. The leaked text proposes to lift that requirement so that a producer may export the majority or all of the quantity produced (here, only vaccines). The leaked text, however, immediately undermines this very small step by imposing restrictions on which countries may take advantage of the lifting of the domestic use requirement.

By confining the eligibility criteria only to developing countries that "exported less than 10% of world exports in 2021", it excludes major possible vaccine and treatment suppliers, such as China. This approach may severely restrict global production capacity and prevent people in the Global South from swiftly accessing the medications and vaccines they need.

India and South Africa's waiver proposal included all COVID-19 medical technologies, but the leaked text mentions only "vaccines, and their ingredients and processes". According to the leaked text, waivers on diagnostic technologies and medicines are to be decided in the six months after the agreement is reached, though no reason is provided for this carveout. Because WTO processes move at a snail's pace, this addition may never materialise. So, while patients in the Global North are already receiving new antiviral medicines to treat COVID-19, those in the Global South are being told to wait - perhaps indefinitely.

Moreover, the leaked text does not waive patent obligations and intellectual property protections entirely – so it will be difficult to engage in local manufacturing at scale in developing countries. This could hamstring the WHO mRNA technology transfer hub in South Africa, possibly exposing it to litigation and delaying access to life-saving vaccines even further.

The leaked text contains several TRIPS-plus provisions, including the requirement for licence applicants to "list all patents" covered in their applications, imposing a huge burden on them to work through non-transparent patent landscapes (according to the document "pending patents" and "patents that may not have been published" must also be listed). The leaked text also mentions requiring the details of the entities authorised to use, the duration of the licence, and the quantities and destinations cont'd on pg 17



#### POINEXPRESS

### **The World Around Us**

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for export, to be communicated to the WTO. These are unnecessary and onerous conditions that could hinder crucial efforts to increase production and expand vaccine and treatment access around the world.

Furthermore, the leaked text does not waive current protections on "trade secrets" and other "undisclosed information", without which technology transfer will be delayed.

The only aspect of "undisclosed information" that the leaked text references is a clarification relating to "clinical trial and other data required for regulatory approval of a follow-on product", which is already available as flexibility in the TRIPS Agreement. In fact, the leaked text adds on a "necessity" test – a standard that is exceptionally difficult to satisfy in the WTO.

States should not be pressured to accept a bad deal

By bringing the waiver proposal to the WTO, South Africa – alongside India – assumed a position of global moral leadership. If it now succumbs to pressure and endorses the leaked text, it will risk losing the respect of the 110 nations that supported the proposal and sowing division among them. Such a misstep could irreparably break south-south solidarity. So too, the respect of civic groups and others that have supported the waiver for over 17 months.

Furthermore, accepting a "bad deal" now could make

it impossible to secure meaningful intellectual property reforms that would allow the world to be prepared for future pandemics.

Protecting their billion-dollar for-profit pharmaceutical industries at the WTO and other international forums has always been a priority for the EU and the US and this is unlikely to change after the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the Global South should be wary of accepting such compromises.

This is why civil society organisations and concerned individuals in South Africa recently urged South African Trade and Industry Minister Ebrahim Patel "not to surrender to US and EU on the TRIPS Waiver negotiations" in an open letter.

"The government and the negotiating team have played a critical and leading role in bringing together ... member countries of the WTO to support such a waiver and engaged the opposition from rich countries with reasoned arguments," they wrote. "President Ramaphosa stated at the AU-EU Summit that Africa would still be getting the 'crumbs from the table' of the West without the TRIPS Waiver.

"That's exactly what the leaked text is – 'crumbs' – and it is unacceptable."

Indeed, millions of peo-

ple across the Global South, including Nobel laureates, researchers, clinicians, advocates, activists and even former world leaders, did not support South Africa and its original and bold waiver proposal for the past 17 months just to settle for "crumbs".

The South African leadership now needs to do right by the people of the Global South who have long been suffering from the greed and protectionism of the Global North – it needs to reject the leaked text and insist that members go back to the drawing board to deliver a resolution that works not just for the rich and the powerful, but the entire world.



#### **Twist Fitness's Opening Hours**

Monday- Friday 5:30AM-8:30PM

Saturday 9:00AM-5:00PM 5:00PM-7:00PM (WOMENS ONLY HOURS)

> Sunday 10:00AM-3:00PM

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# **Regional News**



# Trinidad Government announces "partial" increase in fuel prices

CMC - The Trinidad and Tobago government has announced an increase in fuel prices even as it acknowledged that it is cognizant of the effect it will have on consumers.

Finance Minister Colm Imbert, speaking in the Parliament said the increase in fuel prices will take effect from April 19 and the adjustments are being made on the basis of factors such as the effect of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on international oil prices.

"The government is cognizant of the effect of an increase in the price of fuel on consumers, notwithstanding the fact that a fuel subsidy is a regressive measure.

"The government is of the view that the liability for any fuel price adjustment should be shared more or less equally. The public should be asked to pay half the cost of the increased market prices of fuel, while the Government absorbs the other half of the increased cost."

Imbert told legislators that Cabinet decided on Thursday there should be a partial adjustment of the prices of mo-



tor fuels, "not to the full market prices, but sufficient to allow an equal distribution of the cost."

Last month Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley said an increase in oil prices on the global market would not necessarily translate to a cash windfall for the oil-rich twin-island republic.

As a result, the prices of premium gasoline and super gasoline will be adjusted by one Trinidad and Tobago dollar (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents)

per litre to TT\$6.75 and TT\$5.97 respectively, while the price of diesel will be adjusted by TT\$0.50 cents per litre to TT\$3.91 per litre.

The government said the cost of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will remain fixed at TT\$21 for a 20-pound cylinder of cooking gas for domestic customers, while the price of kerosene will be adjusted to TT\$3.50 per litre which is little over half the true market price.

# Israeli medical team heads to Haiti to help burn victims



Israel's Sheba Medical burn experts arriving in Haiti (AP Photo)

CMC - The Director of the Sheba Medical Centre the National Burn Center for Israel Professor Josef Haik arrived in Haiti last week to help patients who were severely injured when a fuel tanker crashed in the north of the county last year.

During the night of December 13 to 14, a tanker truck loaded with fuel overturned, under circumstances that are still unclear, at the eastern entrance to Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second-largest city.

The fuel tank truck crashed, then exploded, killing more than 75 people.

Forty-seven more suffered burn injuries of varying degrees (20 with severe third-degree burns, 27 with light first-degree burns). Ve*cont'd on pg 19* 



# **Regional News**

# Suriname's President Santokhi to reshuffle cabinet

CMC - Suriname's President Chandrikapersad Santokhi has confirmed that he will be reshuffling his cabinet within the next two weeks.

The president made the statement following weeks of persistent rumours of an imminent reshuffling of his ministerial team.

"We are working in a good, responsible, and correct way. And I think it will be completed within two weeks," said the president who added that it is not an easy task to find better candidates.

Minister Albert Ramdin of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation hinted earlier that a reshuffle of the Council of Ministers was imminent after some directors in the president's office were replaced last week.

The minister said the government is constantly evaluating its policies. Based on that, the president's cabinet was previously reshuffled, and the cabinet ministers' performance has also been evaluated.

In the previous reshuffle of his office, Santokhi replaced his wife whom he appointed as acting director of the President's Cabinet after taking office in July 2020.

Because of this appointment, the head of state was heavily criticised for what was described as a "gross form of nepotism."

It's reported that the appointment of his wife diminished his popularity among the populace.

"We don't just look at reshuffling. We also look at better candidates. We have to get better, so those candidates also have to be better. It should not be lead for old iron," Santokhi said.

The upcoming reshuffle will not only apply to ministers.

The president said persons will also be replaced at



President-Chandrikapersad-Santokhi

various supervisory boards, district commissioners, and other institutions. He said this stems from a thorough evaluation that has taken place in recent weeks. It is not yet clear which ministers will be replaced.

Santokhi also promised that the government will start a number of projects this year.

"Now that the economy

and the exchange rate have stabilised, we are moving into the growth phase. The government has approved more than 200 projects which are due to be implemented this year.

The remaining projects will be funded by our own savings, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other donors," Santokhi said.

#### cont'd from pg 18

hicles, motorcycles, and 20 houses in the vicinity caught fire as a result of the explosion.

Haik is leading the mission incorporation with the United States Burn Advocates Network (BAN) to the hospitals that are still overwhelmed with the wounded.

Prior to departing Israel, Haik said the team is prepared to help as many burn victims as possible.

"Unfortunately, a few months ago

they had a big fire disaster, and they still have injured patients that we need to treat.

"We're going to do as many surgeries as we can to try and help their wounds. We will [also] bring equipment they are lacking and teach them how to use it and leave it there so they can continue rehabilitating Haiti," he added.

Haik, who also heads Sheba's division of plastic surgery and is a professor at Tel Aviv University, has previously brought his expertise to Haiti.

In February 2020, on the 10th anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010, Haik led an international team of burn surgeons, sponsored by BAN, to set up the first paediatric laser for treating disfiguring burn scars in children at Sacre Coeur Hospital in Milot.

Haik has often undertaken humanitarian medical missions in countries such as Ukraine, Romania, Cameroon, Congo, and Guatemala.

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# Sharif sworn in as Pakistan's new PM after week of drama

International

AP - Pakistan's parliament on Monday elected opposition lawmaker Shahbaz Sharif as the new prime minister, following a week of political turmoil that led to the weekend ouster of Premier Imran Khan.

Sharif took the oath of office inside the stately, white marble palace known as the Presidency in a brief ceremony.

But his elevation won't guarantee a peaceful path forward or solve the country's many economic problems, including high inflation and a soaring energy crisis.

Sharif, the brother of disgraced former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, won with 174 votes after more than 100 lawmakers from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or Pakistan Justice Party, resigned and walked out of the National Assembly in protest.

Those 174 votes — two more than the required simple majority — are enough to pass laws in the 342-seat assembly. If Khan's followers take to the streets, as he has vowed, it could create more pressure on lawmakers and deepen the crisis.

Khan, a former cricket star whose conservative Islamist ideology and dogged independence characterized his three years and eight months in office, was ousted early Sunday. He lost



In this photo released by the National Assembly of Pakistan, newly elected Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif addresses a National Assembly session, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday, April 11, 2022. Pakistan's parliament elected opposition lawmaker Sharif as the new prime minister Monday, following a week of political turmoil that led to the weekend ouster of Premier Imran Khan. (National Assembly of Pakistan via AP)

a no-confidence vote after being deserted by his party allies and a key coalition partner.

In a show of strength and a precursor to the political uncertainty ahead, Khan rallied hundreds of thousands of supporters in protests Sunday night, describing the new leadership as an "imposed government" that colluded with the U.S. to oust him. His backers marched in cities across Pakistan, waving large party flags and shouted slogans promising to return him to power. The crowds were dominated by youths who make up the backbone of Khan's supporters.

The political drama began April 3 when Khan sidestepped an initial no-confidence vote demanded by the opposition by dissolving parliament and calling early elections. The opposition, which accuses Khan of economic mismanagement, appealed to the Supreme Court. After four days of deliberations, the court said Khan's move was illegal and the no-confidence vote went ahead, leading to his ouster.

Khan has demanded early elections — the balloting is not due before August 2023. He has tapped into anti-American sentiment in Pakistan, accusing Washington of conspiring with his opponents to topple him. That conspiracy theory resonates with his youthful base, which often sees the U.S. war on terrorism after 9/11 as unfairly targeting Pakistan.

Khan claims Washington opposes him because of his independent foreign policy favouring China and Russia. He was criticised for a visit he made on Feb. 24 to Moscow, where he met with President Vladimir Putin as Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine.

The U.S. State Department has denied any involvement in Pakistan's internal politics.



# Internationa Biden, Modi speak as US presses for hard line on Russia

AP - President Joe Biden spoke with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday with a focus on how Russia's war in Ukraine has destabilised the food supply in parts of the world and about the clear distance between the U.S. and India on whether Russia should be punished for the invasion.

Biden opened the video conversation by emphasising the defence partnership between the two countries and by saying the U.S. and India are going to "continue our close consultation on how to manage the destabilising effects of this Russian war."

"The root of our partnership is a deep connection between our people, ties of family, of friendship and of shared values," the U.S. president said.

India's neutral stance in the war has raised concerns in Washington and earned praise from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who lauded India this month for judging "the situation in its entirety, not just in a one-sided way."

Modi on Monday called the situation in Ukraine "very worrying," and he noted that an Indian student lost his life during the war. He said he has spoken with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy,



President Joe Biden meets virtually with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus in Washington, Monday, April 11, 2022. Indian Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh is centre, Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is right. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

appealing to both of them for peace. India has condemned the killings uncovered in the city of Bucha and has called for an independent investigation.

A senior U.S. official described the Biden-Modi exchange as warm and productive, though the official stressed that India would make its own decisions on how to respond to Putin. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss the meeting.

Biden and Modi discussed how to manage the risks of global instability regarding food, humanitarian relief and climate change, and Modi candidly shared his views about some of the tight links between Russia and China that raise concerns, the official said.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Sunday that the two leaders would also discuss "strengthening the global economy and upholding a free, open, rulesbased international order to bolster security, democracy and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific."

Also Monday, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met in the morning in-person with Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was to meet later with Indi-

an External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

India has refrained from some efforts to hold Russia accountable for its invasion. India abstained when the U.N. General Assembly voted Thursday to suspend Russia from its seat on the 47-member Human Rights Council over allegations that Russian soldiers in Ukraine engaged in rights violations that the U.S. and Ukraine have called war crimes.

The vote was 93-24 with 58 abstentions.

India continues to purchase Russian energy supplies, despite pressure from cont'd on pg 22

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#### International AROUND THE WORLD



# **Corruption trial delayed against South Africa's ex-president**

AP - The corruption trial in South Africa of former President Jacob Zuma has been postponed again on Monday pending the outcome of the ex-leader's appeal to get the state prosecutor removed from his case.

Zuma was not present in the Pietermaritzburg High Court due to a "medical emergency," his lawyer Dali Mpofu told the court.

His legal representatives requested that the start of the trial be postponed until the Supreme Court of Appeal decides on Zuma's effort to have state prosecutor Billy Downer removed from the case. Zuma accuses Downer of bias against the ex-leader.

The case is set to resume on May 17.

The delay is the latest of many as it has been nearly 17 years since Zuma was first charged with corruption, fraud and money laundering related to South Africa's controversial 1999 arms deal.

He is charged alongside French arms manufacturer Thales, which is accused

#### cont'd from pg 21

Western countries to avoid buying Russian oil and gas. The U.S. has also considered sanctions on India for its recent purchase of advanced Russian air defence systems.

Last month, the state-run Indian Oil Corp. bought 3 million barrels of crude from Russia to secure its needs, resisting entreaties from the West to avoid such purchases. India isn't alone in buying Russian energy, however. Several European allies



While Zuma has publicly said he wants his day in court, he has over the years launched numerous legal actions that have delayed the start of the trial [File: Jerome Delay/Reuters]

of paying bribes to Zuma through his former financial advisor Schabir Shaik, who was convicted on related charges in 2005.

South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority opposed the application for the postponement, accusing Zuma of delaying tactics to prevent the start of the trial.

While Zuma has publicly said he wants his day in court, he has over the years launched numerous legal actions that have delayed the start of the trial.

Delivering his judgement on Monday, High Court Judge Piet Koen said while the delay of the trial could lead to frustrations, the current delay was unavoidable as the court had to await the Supreme Court of Appeal's decision.

Zuma, 79, is currently on medical parole on a

such as Germany have continued to do so, despite public pressure to end these contracts.

Indian media reports said Russia was offering a discount on oil purchases of 20% below global benchmark prices.

Iraq is India's top supplier, with a 27% share. Saudi Arabia is second at around 17%, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 13% and the U.S. at 9%, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

15-month prison sentence following his conviction last year of contempt of court for defying a Constitutional Court order to appear before a judicial commission investigating corruption during his presidential term from 2009 to 2018.

Zuma was imprisoned in July last year which set off days of rioting in the Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces in which shops, warehouses and factories were looted and many burned. More than 300 people died in the unrest.

About three months later Zuma was released on medical parole, for an undisclosed health condition. A subsequent court judgement ruled the medical parole was invalid, but his lawyers are appealing that judgement.



BBC - World number one Scottie Scheffler cemented his place as the dominant force in the men's game by winning the Masters and clinching his first major.

Scheffler won with a one-under 71, missing two short putts for a double bogey on 18, to finish 10 under par and claim the Green Jacket at Augusta.

The 25-year-old American finished three shots clear of Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, who shot an extraordinary 64.

Australia's Cameron Smith, in the last pair with Scheffler, hit a 73.

World number six Smith was aiming for a rare double of Players Championship and Masters victories, but ended up finishing third on five under alongside Ireland's Shane Lowry.

McIlroy, who started the day one over, raised hopes of a sensational comeback when he holed out of the greenside bunker amid incredible scenes on the 18th, moving within three shots of the lead.

However, Scheffler remained steady and extended his advantage, which meant his late wobble on the 18th green did not matter.

The US Ryder Cup star held a three-shot overnight lead and continued his recent dominance with another commanding performance in Sunday's final round.

Afterwards Scheffler revealed he "cried like a baby" on Sunday morning because he doubted if he was ready to win one of the sport's most iconic tournaments.

Meanwhile, away from the fight for the Green Jacket, eyes remained trained on five-time champion Tiger Woods as he continued his astonishing comeback from a life-threatening car crash.

Woods, 46, was given another



Scottie Scheffler

emotional reception after completing 72 holes at the Masters in his first competitive appearance since the accident in February last year.

There were also fears the 15-time major champion would need his right leg amputating following the single vehicle crash.

But Woods defied the odds to return to Augusta this week, despite being unsure three weeks ago if he was fit enough to walk the hilly terrain.

After announcing on Tuesday he would play, Woods shot a one-under par 71 on Thursday amid celebratory scenes.

A round of 74 on Friday ensured he would make the weekend cut, although he eventually finished 13 over par after two 78s. "It was an unbelievable feeling to have the patrons and their support out there," he said.

"I was not exactly playing my best out there and to have the support, I don't think words can really describe that given where I was and what my prospects were at that time.

"To end up here and play all four rounds, even a month ago I didn't know if I could pull this off."

Woods, wearing his iconic red shirt during the final round, was watched by his children Sam and Charlie, partner Erica and 77-year-old mother Kultida.

Woods confirmed he would play at the 150th Open Championship at St Andrews in July, but was undecided over next month's US PGA Championship.

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# Weathered wins another Elite Male class title in road cycling

Cyclist Shawn Weathered of Team Terminix captured the Elite Male class title for the third time in four races staged this season by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF).

Weathered again left the pack trailing as he surged to victory in the 22.2-mile Palm Sunday Road Race from the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to St. James' Club & Villas at Mamora Bay and back on 10th April.

He completed the two laps of the route in 2 hours, 8 minutes and 18.95 seconds to win the Elite Male class.

This victory follows his last wins in the Individual Time Trial on 20th February and the Avalanche Road Race on 27th March.

His Team Terminix teammate, Emmanuel Gayrol, once again took second place ahead of Ghere Coates of the Wadadli Cycling Academy.

Gayral, who was narrowly beaten by Weathered in the Avalanche Road Race, clocked 2 hours, 9 minutes and 08.42 seconds to capture the runner-up spot.

Coates secured third place from a field of seven cyclists with a time of 2 hours, 9 minutes and 22.22 seconds.

Patrick Peters of Inde-



Team Terminix cyclists Shawn Weathered, centre, and Emmanuel Gayral, left, and Ghere Coates of Wadadli Cycling Academy stand on the podium after claiming the top three places in the Elite Male class of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's Palm Sunday Road Race on 10th April, 2022. (Photo: ABCF)

pendent won the Masters Class. He completed the two-lap route in the fastest overall time of 1 hour, 45 minutes and 16.42 seconds.

Ken "Jarro" Jackson of Road Runners Cycling Club claimed second place, while Vaughn Gomes of Independent finished third.

Jackson clocked a time of 1 hour, 46 minutes and 30.91 seconds, while Gomes crossed the finish line in 1 hour, 49 minutes and 45.76 seconds.

Lindsay Duffy of Road Runners Cycling Club captured the Elite Female category by completing the one-lap route with a time of 1 hour, 22 minutes and 06.23 seconds. She was the lone competitor in this class.

As was the case in the last two races, Road Runners Cycling Club dominated the Sports Class capturing the top three places.

Newell Mack won the sports class for the third time this season as he was fastest to complete the one-lap route in a time of 1 hour, 5 minutes and 56.43 seconds.

Teammate Jason Adams claimed second place with a time of 1 hour and 6 minutes, 48.90 seconds and Micah Gore finished third in 1 hour and 7 minutes, 14.52 seconds.

Tahje Browne of Wadadli Cycling Academy claimed the 13-17 Cadets class in a time of 1 hour, 7 minutes and 3.75 seconds.

Dejaun Francis and Curtis Soanes of Eastside Raiders captured second and third places respectively.

Arusa Murray Watkins claimed the 11-13 Cadet Class over Antoine Simon of the Andre Simon Cycling Club.

Murray Watkins completed the half lap course in 48 minutes and 24.04 seconds.



### James leads Liberta to crushing win over Bolans

Allrounder Kofi James hit a century and captured six-wickets as PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks romped through an emphatic inning to a 385 run victory over Bolans Blasters in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) State Insurance Two-Day Competition over the weekend.

James struck 178 as Liberta amassed 468 for 7 before declaring their first inning closed.

Avier Christian scored 86, Joshua Thomas made 62 and Michael Greaves chipped in with 51.

Bolans were then blasted out for 44 in their first inning. Asked to follow 424 runs behind, Bolans were bundled out for 39 in their second inning, as James claimed 6 wickets for 12 runs, while West Indies off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall grabbed the other 4 wickets for just 4 runs.

Ex-national wicket keeper and batsman, Juari Edwards, and former Leeward Islands allrounder, Justin Athanaze, struck centuries to rescue Empire Nation, which led their team to a 10-wicket win over Massey United Combined Schools at King George.

Edwards slammed 144 off 135 balls and Athanaze hit an unbeaten 104 off just 81 balls, including 10 sixes and 5 fours, in Empire's first inning total of 276 for 5 declared in 44.1 overs.

After winning the toss



Empire Nation batsman Juari Edwards. (Photos: Cricket 268)

and electing to bat, Empire were reeling at 34 for 4, when the pair came together for their rescue act, sharing a 233-run fifth-wicket partnership.

Isiah Attwood captured 3 for 39 in 11 overs.

In reply, Combined Schools were dismissed for 173 in 67.4 overs in their first inning, with Xavaek Toppin making 70.

Right-arm medium pacer Damian Lowenfield captured 4 for 23 and medium pacer Ajahrie Joseph grabbed 3 for 11.

Asked to follow 103 runs behind, Combined Schools crashed to 109 all out in 37.3 overs with Toppin again top scoring with 41.

Athanaze bagged 5 for 47 with his right-arm offspin and captain Kenrick Scott grabbed 4 for 23 bowling his right-arm leg-spin.

Set just 7 runs to win, opener Jahiem Norde dispatched the first two balls bowled by Antoine Willock to the boundary as Empire secured victory by scoring



PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks allrounder Kofi James.

8 runs without loss in their second inning.

The other three ABCA two-day matches ended in draws. Cup holders Pigotts Crushers and Jennings Tigers fought to a draw at Pigotts.

Sent in to bat, Jennings were all out for 159 in 58 overs in their first inning, with opener Cameron Miller making 45, Kenroy Browne 42 not out and Matthew Miller, 35.

Medium pacer Kadeem Henry claimed 3 for 23, captain Elroy Francis Jr., 2 for 28 and Essan Warner, two for 31.

In reply, Pigotts were dismissed for 129 in 40.2 overs, with Francis scoring 40 and Henry, who opened the inning, getting 39.

All-rounder Omarie Joseph snapped up 4 wickets for 7 runs and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams captured 4 for 33.

After taking a first inning lead of 30 runs, Jennings made 144 all out in 38.2 overs in their second inning with former Leeward Islands middle-order batsman Orlando Peters smashing 71 off 82 balls.

Henry claimed five for 22, Jared Jno-Baptiste picked up 2 for 26 and Francis got 2 for 62.

Set 175 to win, Pigotts reached 126 for 7 in 38 overs in their second inning when the match ended.

Francis was not out on 56, while Williams bagged 3 for 31 and Joseph had 2 for 23.

New Winthorpes Lions and All Saints Pythons drew their two-day affair at New Winthorpes. All Saints made 188 in 65.4 overs in their first innings after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Demetri Lucas cracked 60, opener Michael Haynes Dover struck 59 and captain Kerry Mentore contributed 34.

Fast bowler Nino Henry took 3 for 25, leg-spinner Asher Murray Cornelius claimed 3 for 37 and pacer Chad Hampson picked up 2 for 22.

New Winthorpes replied with 102 all out in 27.1 overs in their first innings with captain Nino Henry getting 46 off 30 balls. Off-spinner Michael Marcellin grabbed 5 for 46 and Mentore claimed 2 wickets for 6 runs.

Leading by 86 runs, All Saints made 166 for 7, declared, in 37 overs in their second inning, with Murray Cornelius capturing 7 for *cont'd on pg 26* 



# Former Pakistan spinner Mohammad Hussain dies at 45

CricInfo - Mohammad Hussain, the former Pakistan left-arm spinner, has died in Lahore at the age of 45. He had been suffering from kidney-related illness for a while and was relying on dialysis. He was also a diabetic.

Hussain played two Tests and 14 ODIs for Pakistan between 1996 and 1998. He made his Test debut against Zimbabwe in Faisalabad in 1996. He had to wait for two years for his next Test appearance two years later - against Australia in Rawalpindi.

He was a regular member of the ODI squad across a 12-month period from May 1997 to April 1998 but made the playing XI in less than half of the 36 ODIs Pakistan played during that time. He took 13 wickets in the format, including a match-winning four-for against India in Dhaka during the Silver Jubi-



Mohammad Hussain

lee Independence Cup. As a handy lower-order batter, he averaged 30.80 for his 154 ODI runs.

Hussain had shot to prominence in the domestic circuit in the 1995-96 season when he was named the Player of the Tournament on the back of finishing as the joint-highest wicket-taker alongside Wasim Akram in the Wills Kings Cup, the 50-over tournament, with 19 wickets at an average of 7.21. In all, he played 92 List A games, which brought him 130 wickets at 25.74.

His first-class career spanned almost 15 years,

during which he played 131 games and took 454 wickets at an average of 23.13. With the bat, he scored 4996 runs at an average of 26.57. His tally included two centuries and 29 half-centuries. He retired from cricket in 2009, turning out for Pakistan Customs in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

#### *cont'd from pg 25* 60.

Set a victory target of 253 runs, New Winthorpes were 94 for 4 off 35 overs in their second inning when the match ended.

Opener Jermaine Otto scored 43, while Kadeem Josiah had 2 for 10 and Jewel Andrew picked up 2 for 13.

The match between Rising Sun Spartans and Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda Golden Eagles also ended in a draw at Rising Sun.

Chad Walsh struck 50 in Bethesda's first inning total of 208 in 61.1 overs. Shane Burton captured 3 for 59 and Dean Williams picked up 2 for 32. In reply, Rising Sun made 196 all out in 50.1 overs with Burton getting 66.

Right-arm medium pacer Jawakie Joseph bagged 4 for 41, Walsh took 2 for 15 and Timmo Thomas claimed 2 for 22.

Bethesda were 198 for 7 off 34.5 overs in their second inning when the match ended.

Wicketkeeper and batsman, Captain Deran Benta, hammered 71 off 54 balls, including 4 sixes and 7 fours, while Jamaul Fernandez struck 67 off 62 balls with 3 sixes and 8 fours.

The pair shared a 94-run fourth-wicket partnership, with Richie

Thomas capturing 3 for 39.

Meanwhile, the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association has postponed its two-day competition, which was scheduled for this weekend, until the conclusion of the Cool and SmoothT20 Tournament in May.

The ABCA two-day contest will resume on 14th and 15th May 2022, with the third round of matches.

The ABCA will host a Scorer's Workshop on Saturday, 16th April, 2022, at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium starting at 10am.

Interested persons are asked to contact Dane Gustave at 734 -9169 to register.

POINCEXPRESS

# **Sports News**

# UEFA orders Atlético to close section over fan's Nazi salute

AP - After UEFA investigated a fan's Nazi salute, Atlético Madrid has been ordered to close a 5,000-seat section of its stadium when it hosts Manchester City on Wednesday.

The fan was filmed making a Nazi-style gesture during Atlético's 1-0 loss at City in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal last Tuesday.

UEFA said last Friday it charged the Spanish club with "discriminatory behaviour."

On Monday, the next working day, the closure was announced by its appeals The fast-tracked process ensured Atlético serves the sanction in an equally high-profile game against the same opponent, rather than potentially waiting until next season for a group-stage

body.

game in a lower-tier competition. Atlético is fourth in La Liga, just one point ahead of the Europa League qualifying place.

The club must close a section of at least 5,000 seats at Metropolitano Stadium for the second leg and display a UEFA banner there saying "#NoToRacism."



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Manchester City's Raheem Sterling, right, is challenged by Atletico Madrid's Reinildo Mandava during the Champions League, first leg, quarterfinal soccer match between Manchester City and Atletico Madrid at the Etihad Stadium, in Manchester, Tuesday, April 5, 2022. (AP Photo/Dave Thompson)





# A&B's largest ever swim delegation to attend CARIFTA

The largest delegation ever assembled by the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) will represent the country at the 2022 CARIFTA Games in Barbados this weekend.

Thirteen swimmers, along with coaches Wayne Mitchell and Nelson Molina, will carry Antigua and Barbuda's flag at the April 16th to 20th event.

The team, ranging in age from 11 to 17, is comprised of Reuben Edwards, Davina Barton, Ethan Stubbs-Green, Tivon Benjamin, Davien Barton, Alandra Dublin, Aunjelique Liddie, Ellie Shaw, Selah Wiltshire, Tony Goodwin, Matthew Kotze, Angelique Gittens and Arianna John. Edwards will contest the boys 11 to 12 age group in the 50 and 100 metre butterfly and the 50, 100, 200 and 400 metre freestyle events.

Barton will be vying for supremacy in the girls 11 to 12 age group in the 50 and 100 metre butterfly, 50, 100, 200 and 400 metre freestyle and the 100-metre backstroke.

Ethan Stubbs-Green, Tivon Benjamin and Davien Barton will all compete in the boys 13-14 age group. Stubbs-Green will contest the 50,100 and 200 metre butterfly, and the 50, 100, 200 and 400 metre freestyle.

Benjamin will seek top honours in the 50 and 100 metre backstroke, 50, 200 and 400 metre freestyle and 50 metre butterfly.

Davien Barton will be vying for supremacy in the 50 and 100 metre backstroke, 200 Individual Medley and the 50-metre freestyle.

Alandra Dublin, Aunjelique Liddie, Ellie Shaw, and Selah Wiltshire will be contesting the girls 13-14 age group.



The largest delegation ever assembled by the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) will represent the country at the 2022 CARIFTA Games in Barbados this weekend. (Photo courtesy ABSF)

Dublin will seek top honours in 200 metre freestyle, 50 metre breaststroke and the 50, 100 and 400 metre freestyle.

Liddie will contest the 50 and 100 metre backstroke, 50, 100 and 200 metre freestyle and 50 metre butterfly. Shaw will be vying for supremacy in the 50, 100 and 200 metre breaststroke and the 400-metre freestyle. Wiltshire will compete in the 50 and 100 metre breast-stroke, 50 metre backstroke and 50 metre butterfly.

They will also contest the 13-14 girls' relays. They will be vying for supremacy in the 4x100 freestyle, 4x100 medley, 4x200 freestyle and the 4x50 freestyle relays.

Tony Goodwin, Matthew Kotze, will contest the boys 15 - 17 age group. Goodwin will contest the 50 and 100 metre butterfly, 50, 100 and 200 metre freestyle and the 50 and 100 metre breaststroke.

Kotze will also seek top honour in the 50 and 100 metre butterfly and the 50, 100, 200 and 400 metre freestyle.

Angelique Gittens and Arianna John

will vie for supremacy in the girls 15 - 17 age group. Gittens will compete in the 50 and 100 metre butterfly, 50, 100, 200 and 400 metre freestyle and 50 metre backstroke.

John will contest the 50, 100, 200 and 400 metre freestyle. Talented athlete, Sydnee Hesse, (Girls 13 - 14) is unable to attend due to personal commitments.

According to a media release from the ABSF, "These astonishing athletic endeavours are far more impressive due to the current lack of comprehensive training facilities on island, with only one working pool following COVID closures.

"Head Coaches Wayne Mitchell and Nelson Molina are very excited for the athletic showing, with the team gathering for training in the week leading up to this international event.

"The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) congratulates these young athletes on their qualification achievements and supports them wholeheartedly in their endeavours in the upcoming competition."

Editor: Eboni Brandon, Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua (268) 562-4989 Editorials: editor@pointville.ag. advertising: Sales@pointville.ag. Reporting: news@pointville.ag