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BORDERS OPEN TO UNVACCINATED VISITORS TODAY

Story on Page 2



Trade Minister E. P. Chet Greene and Agriculture Minister Samantha Marshall posed for a photo with the participants in Tuesday's national dialogue on quality infrastructure for agriculture and fisheries at AUA. The event was organised by the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards & CROSQ. Story on Page 4.

Local News



ABTA names new travel advisors as country welcomes unvaccinated visitors

that American Airlines is extending its daily flights to Antigua and Barbuda from New York through this summer into the early fall and winter, there has also come the announcement that the country's tourism marketing machinery has received a welcomed boost.

This week, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) announced that it has appointed nine travel advisors to its Tourism Advisory Committee.

According to ABTA Director, Dean Fenton, the travel professionals bring "a deep understanding of the industry and knowledge of the evwill "help steer the ABTA as we make decisions on activities to enhance the Antigua and Barbuda brand".

They are, Susan Berman (Berman Travel), Debra Hines-Brown (Smart-Bird World Travel), Edouard Jean (Massive Travels), Niki Rakowitz (CARE Travel), Terry Strauss (Dedham Travel), Tom Varghese (Travel Tom) Sanya Weston (Premier Travel Service Group) and Donna Borrelli (Hamden Travel) and chairperson, Brenda O'Neale (With This Ring, Wedding & Honeymoon Travel).

The ABTA added that the newly assembled committee will, "work in

On the heels of the positive news er-changing travel marketplace" and tandem on strategies to promote the destination and also explore opportunities that benefit both Antigua and Barbuda and travel advisors nationally."

> Following their appointment, the ABTA's US Sales and Marketing Manager, Norell Joseph noted that, "The pandemic reinforced the critical role travel advisors have in promoting tourism to our islands."

> These moves by the ABTA augur well for tourism in Antigua and Barbuda, which is beginning to recover from the worst impacts of the pandemic.

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Local News

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The job of the ABTA and Ministry of Tourism grew even easier when the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda announced recently that fully vaccinated will no longer be required to provide a COVID-19 test and will only be required to submit to testing if they present with possible symptoms of infection.

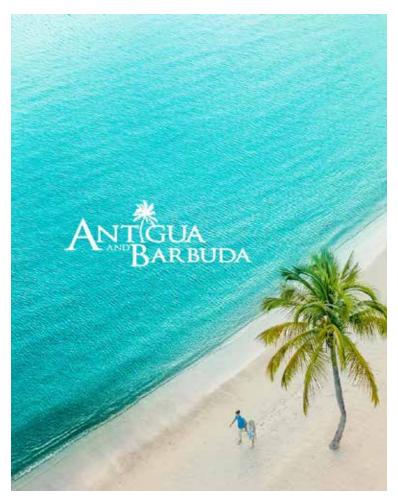
Signs that the country is embracing the 'new normal' amplified when last week, the Cabinet announced that it would lift the vaccination requirement for all travellers beginning today.

However, unvaccinated visitors will still be required to present a negative PCR test conducted no more than four days before entry.

Prior to today, only nationals and residents were able to enter the country if unvaccinated.

According to Chief Executive Officer of the ABTA, Colin James, so far this year, Antigua and Barbuda's visitor arrivals indicate the country is "steadily closing the gap" on its record 2019 overnight visitor arrivals, during which the dual-island territory hosted 202,964 overnight land-based visitors.

Elated at the progress being made in revitalising the country's tourism sector and welcoming the return of airlines and visitors, James said, "Demand is at an all-time high. We now have some remarkably strong lift coming into Antigua."





Local News



Ministers underscore the need for standards in agricultural output



Trade Minister, E. P. Chet Greene

Trade Minister, E. P. Chet Greene said Tuesday's National Quality Infrastructure dialogue ought to mark significant changes for the agricultural and fisheries sector of the national economy.

Greene was addressing

the opening of the forum held at the American University of Antigua.

The national forum was the latest in a series of similar consultations held across the Cariforum countries under the aegis of the 11th EDF arrange-



Agriculture Minister Samantha Marshall

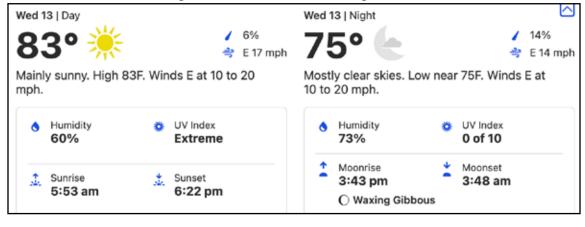
ment with the European Union.

Greene departed from his prepared text to speak directly to the seriousness he believed that the exercise demanded.

He added that it was a 'seminal' moment for the agricultural sector showed growth of three percent during 2021.

"This forum is intended to be a life-changing situation for the agricultural and fisheries sectors as we expect from this dialogue a change in the way we see, a change in the way we do, a change in the way we embrace those two important elements; agriculture and fisheries," he outlined.

The trade minister said he opted to speak extemporaneously in an effort to underscore the point of the significance of the dialogue. cont'd on pg 5



Local News

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"It is not only about changing the ethos or changing the way we project ourselves for export etc., but also how we treat imports. The dumping must stop! For exports, we need to produce more and have quality attached thereto," he emphasized.

Greene told the participants that as the government resets the national economy post-pandemic in an attempt to ensure the agriculture and fisheries sectors account for greater productivity, and count on them for export potential, national dialogue is quintessential.

Agriculture Minister Samantha Marshall, in her remarks, said the quality and standard of goods produced by the agricultural sector lie at the heart of the government's socio-economic development agenda.

"Whether for consumption or export, it is a source of national pride that we have a quality-conscious culture here in Antigua and Barbuda that demands

the best quality, safety, reliability, efficiency and interchangeability from our producers.

"In turn, consumers will enjoy from us, our best produce," she declared.

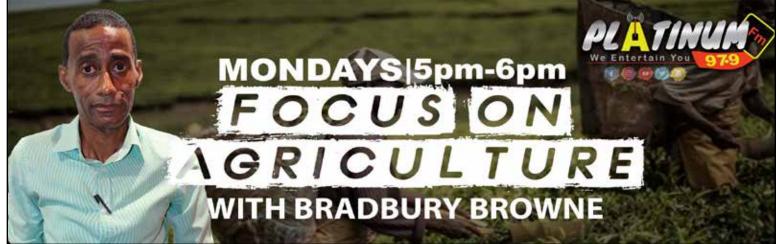
Noting that traditionally, Antigua and Barbuda has been a net importer of goods, she said what is produced for local con-

sumption often lacks the high-quality inputs required in markets abroad.

Despite the progress being made, she pointed to what she termed 'a lacklustre' appreciation for the importance of standards and quality.

"The requirements placed on goods such as agriculture because of tourism, have been less than desired for decades. Emerging from the global pandemic, along with the need for food security and economic diversity, it is of national urgency to see that we address the renewal, repurposing and resiliency of our national quality infrastructure," Marshall remarked.





Local News



Education minister welcomes TVET certification project

Minister of Education and Sports Daryll Matthew has endorsed the Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) Framework for Certification in and Barbuda, Antigua launched last week.

Funded by the Euro-

through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the project aims to improve the regulatory and strategic framework for the development of the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system,

pean Development Fund giving Antiguans and Barbudans equal opportunities to bid for jobs within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), through Caribbean Vocational Qualifications.

> Speaking at the launch of the project, Minster Daryll Matthew, said skilled TVET workers will be critical in the developmental plans for the country, as part of the government's mandate.

> "TVET has always been seen as a catalyst in the national development plans as an avenue to create a knowledgeable and capable workforce. Studies have shown that TVET in industrialized countries were able to enhance the country's economic development, industrial expansion, and competitiveness.

"Rapid development in the economy and processes demonstrate that there is need for highly skilled professionals with appropriate employability skills to meet the demands of today's dynamic labour market," Minister Matthew stated.

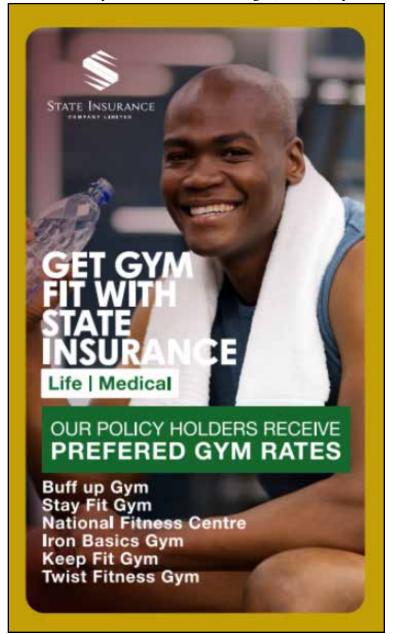
He emphasised that the project is another channel through which those who are not academically inclined can be certified.



Minister of Education and Sports Daryll Matthew

"The Project to be undertaken by the GOAB will focus primarily on the post-school training of individuals who have already established themselves in a particular field, but who do not possess the required certification that will make it possible to take advantage of the opportunities available locally and through the CSME. The benefits to enhancing the TVET programme in Antigua and Barbuda are many, with the key advantage being the GOAB's ability to align training resources more strategically to the nation's developmental priorities."

Two hundred and fifty-seven thousand, five hundred and thirty-five Euros (EUR257, 535) will be expended on the project until 30th March, 2024.





Under the distinguished patronage of Their Excellencies Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, the ABYSO and the Kanneh-Masons

present



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Local News



Deadline for nominations for the PM's EDP Award closing in

For the second year running, entrepreneurs as young as 10-years-old will be recognised for their outstanding work and receive a major publicity boost for their business through the Prime Minister's Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP).

The EDP Award is offered in collaboration with the Department of Youth Affairs and is open to nationals of Antigua and Barbuda from 10 to 35 years old. They must have a registered

business, be of good social standing and submit an executive summary of their business along with their application. The award aims to recognise young Antiguans and Barbudans who are making outstanding entrepreneurial contributions and to offer them the support required to develop and grow their business. The deadline for the receipt of application is 22nd April, 2022.

In its inaugural year, Guishonne Powell, the Chief Executive Officer of Wadadli Innovators and President of the National Youth Council of Antigua and Barbuda, became the EDP Award's first recipient. Powell's business, established in 2015, offers water, United Nations sustainable development goals compliant wind and green renewable technologies. The EDP, established by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, is run by a board. It offers access to low interest financing, training and support for business owners.



NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S EDP AWARD 2022

THE PRIME MINISTER'S ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EDP) IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS WITH ITS SPONSORSHIP OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AWARD 2022.

Requirements:

- Candidate must be a national of Antigua and Barbuda
- Candidate must fall within the age group 10 35 yrs
- Candidate must have a registered business
- Candidate must be of good social standing
- Candidate must submit an executive summary of the business (no longer than one page)

Deadline for the submission of nominations is Friday 22nd April, 2022

Nominations forms may be collected at the Office of the Prime Minister or the EDP's Secretariat, Ground Floor, Sagicor Building or request a form @ vere.aaron@ab.gov.ag



DR. HANYBAL YAZIGI CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST

DR. ALBERT ROLLE.
GENERAL PRACTITIONER WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH.

DR. DAMIAN GORDON
AESTHETIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND FAMILY
PHYSICIAN WITH POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN GENERAL AND SURGICAL
DERMATOLOGY.

SYDNEY RETEMYER

MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGISTS, CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST AND THEOLOGIAN AREAS OF THERAPY INCLUDE PSYCHOTHERAPY, PSYCHOEDUCATION, LOGOTHERAPY, RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING, SPIRITUAL COUNSELING, ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

Local News



Liberta audience wowed by Kanneh-Mason performance



A small but very appreciative audience assembled yesterday at the Liberta Empowerment Centre was thrilled by a performance from the visiting Kanneh-Mason Group, currently in Antigua for a series of performances.

The audience comprised students from the nearby Liberta primary School, visiting officials, including the London-based High Commissioner, Karen-Mae Hill, and members of the Liberta community.

Hosting the event was the area's parliamentary representative, E.P Chet Greene, who expressed delight with the performance from the world-famous group of young musicians.

"The audience was mixed with school children, young adults and seniors.

"The performance was well-received and you could tell that the group enjoyed performing for the audience as well.

"It shows the power of music and the scope for group music in our community," Greene noted.

He said discussions are underway with noted musician – Jagger Martin – to start a programme of training in instrumentation for people in the St. Paul area.

He disclosed that the Empowerment Centre will be the venue for this training programme.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the group's cellist, remarked that while the venue was not quite what they were accustomed to...the group enjoyed playing for the audience.

"It was very special for us to perform here at the Empowerment Centre because we felt that as performers, there was a special level of listening and appreciation from the audience.

"It was a special treat to perform for young children and hope that some would be inspired and for that we are grateful," he stated.

The Kanneh-Mason Group is in Antigua to perform at a fund-raising concert alongside the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra.

It takes place on Saturday at the St. John's Pentecostal House of Restoration on Lauchland Benjamin Drive.

While based in London, the group has family ties in Antigua.



Local News



May sentencing hearing for Janice Samuel

Convicted fraudster Janice Samuel has pleaded guilty to five counts of forgery and fourteen counts of obtaining money by virtue of a forged instrument.

She entered the plea yesterday during an appearance before High Court Justice Colin Williams.

Samuel, who had become a familiar voice on a local radio station, was charged in 2019 for swindling \$ 107,119.27 from her employer H2One Limited.

An audit carried out by

the company revealed that figures had been penned into blank cheques, which bore the owner's legitimate signature, without his approval.

The cheques were then passed on to a second party and cashed at a gas station.

The man said he had no knowledge that Samuel was involved in crime.

The proprietor of H2One discovered he was defrauded after Samuel was convicted for embezzlement in a separate matter in 2019. This information prompted him to review his books and,



Janice Samuel

through the audit, the scam was detected.

She was remanded to prison yesterday, until her sentencing on 4th May, 2022.

With her prior convictions, Samuel faces between one and fourteen years in prison.

In 2021, her bail was revoked and she was remanded to prison for missing a court hearing. At that time, neither her attorney nor her two sureties were able to provide information concerning her whereabouts.

Appearing in court after a bench warrant was issued for her arrest, Samuel said she had forgotten the date of the hearing and had no phone to contact anyone.

Janice Samuel is no stranger to the court.

On 1st August, 2019, she was spared jail time, receiving a two-year suspended sentence from High Court Justice Iain Morley. In that case, it was revealed she embezzled thousands of dollars in 2016 after she was given the responsibility by her employer, Shirmique Jeffers of Connie's Comfort Suites, to collect rent from tenants and to keep proper records of the financial transactions.

She began siphoning the monies and could not explain the missing funds when she was confronted by Jeffers.

Later, it was determined Janice Samuel used the money to shop, to her benefit, for furniture and appliances.

She was subsequently arrested and charged and pleaded guilty during her trial in July, 2019.

She was ordered by the court to compensate her former employer in the amount of \$5,000.





Workplace

PAGE 13

The value of performance evaluations

There is hardly an employee or manager who will tell you that they look forward to performance reviews. This practice has had a reputation of being a source of annoyance and many employees do not see the value of undergoing this arduous task, especially if there is no promotion or bonus attached to it.

The process has become even more daunting for those of us who have transitioned to remote work for all or some portion of the work week. So, as human resource (HR) professionals and business owners, are performance reviews still relevant for us today? The answer is yes. Performance evaluation is an important tool and a skill we all need to master, and it can be a valuable exercise no matter the company you work for.

The primary goal is to provide equitable measurement of an employee's contribution to the workforce. It can help employees stay motivated, give a sense of purpose, encourage professional growth, and build more meaningful communication between team leaders and their direct reports.

It is one sure way to obtain real actionable feedback that would provide insight into the challenges, issues and concerns of employees. It can also be used as guidance when offering support, mentoring or coaching while creating a space for consultation and open-minded discussions geared towards positive reinforcement. So, the process does have real value on both sides, but it must be handled in the right way.

Firstly, evaluations should be approached from a mindset of conversation rather than confrontation. Have a plan, communicate your agenda and keep an open mind allowing for freedom of expression and mutual respect.

Be ready for two-way communication and open



dialogue that encourage employees to share their challenges and successes and the impact that they had on their work. Be prepared to put into context those key elements that contributed to both the positive and negative outcomes.

Secondly, acknowledge that performance reviews are not an opportunity for you to present to employees their mistakes and shortcomings. At the core, it is about review and feedback and how you deliver cont'd on pg 14



Workplace



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the feedback matters.

It is about identifying the motivations behind unproductive behaviours and plotting a way forward for improved performance. An employee that remains silent during their evaluation may not be agreeing with what is being said but may be nervous or uncertain because time was not taken to create an atmosphere that encourages participation.

Thirdly, performance reviews are not all about numbers or business metrics. It goes beyond technical skills and abilities to account for attitude, leadership skills, levels of engagement with colleagues as well as ambition and intuition. An employee's *soft skills* should factor into the process when evaluating their overall performance rating as a well-rounded employee.

Finally, performance reviews do not have to be stressful. We know that performance reviews tend to have negative connotations as employees often expect unfavourable feedback. However, positives such as recognition for progress made and overall successes achieved should also be part of the process.

As a leader, it is important that you bring some

positive points to the discussion and be mindful of your language as you communicate with the employee. For example, instead of saying, "You did accomplish this, but you didn't do that"; try, "I noticed your leadership skills here, however, your strategy may need some work. How can I support you with that going forward?".

It is possible that for some team members, there is little constructive feedback to give.

In those instances, use the review to ask your employees where they think they can improve and what you can do to assist them. This will allow you to create meaningful goals and work towards them together.

The performance review process can indeed be challenging to navigate in this dynamic employment landscape. Still, there is great value in the process especially if, as leaders, we hope to provide the environment within which our employees can grow and develop.

Let us go beyond considering what worked, what didn't work, and how that affects salaries and benefits. Instead focus on finding practical solutions that would utilize employees' strengths and develop those areas that need improvement

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



10:00AM-3:00PM

The World Around Us

PAGE 15

What Easter means to Christians

By Mary Fairchild

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead after his crucifixion and burial. It is typically the most well-attended Sunday church service of the year.

Easter in the Bible

The biblical account of Jesus' death on the cross, or crucifixion, his burial, and his resurrection, or raising from the dead, can be found in the following passages of Scripture: Matthew 27:27-28:8; Mark 15:16-16:19; Luke 23:26-24:35; and John 19:16-20:30.

The word "Easter" does not appear in the Bible and no early church celebrations of Christ's resurrection are mentioned in Scripture. Easter, like Christmas, is a tradition that developed later in church history.

As the most solemn and preeminent celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, it's unfortunate that many of Easter's customs are mixed with pagan associations and secular commercialization.

For these reasons, many Christian churches choose to refer to the Easter holiday simply as Resurrection Day.

When Is the Easter Season?

Lent is a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline in preparation for Easter. In Western Christianity, Ash Wednes-



Holy Week around the world – Egyptian Christians celebrate Palm Sunday during a service in the Samaan el-Kharaz Church in the Mokattam district of Cairo, Egypt.

day marks the start of Lent and the Easter season. Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and the Easter season.

Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox churches begins on Monday and Ash Wednesday is not observed.

Holy Week

The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

On Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Jesus' death by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday.

Determining the Date of Easter

In Western Christianity, Easter Sunday can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon.

Since the days of early church history, determining the precise date of Easter has been a matter for continued argument and there are many misunderstandings about how the date of Easter is calculated.

At the heart of the matter lies a simple explanation: Easter is a movable feast.

The earliest believers in the church of Asia Mi-

nor wanted to keep Easter celebrations in line with the Jewish Passover since the death and resurrection of Jesus happened right after the Passover. Followers wanted Easter always to be celebrated after the Passover.

And, since the Jewish holiday calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles, each feast day is movable, with dates shifting from year to year.

Eventually, Western churches decided to establish a more standardized system for determining the date of Easter using a table of Ecclesiastical Full Moon dates.

For this reason, Eastern Orthodox churches usually celebrate Easter on a different day than Western churches.

Environment



Crapaud in crisis: Saving the 'Mountain Chicken' frog in Dominica

By Gwenith Whitford

The Crapaud, or Mountain Chicken, is one of only four amphibians found in Dominica. Formerly a common sighting, the crapaud population has been in decline since 2002 due to the chytid fungal infection which has made them an endangered species.

Where are those Big Frogs?

Most Dominicans will say that it's been several years since they've heard the distinctive mating call of the Crapaud, the local Creole name for 'Mountain Chicken' frog (Leptodactylus fallax).

This critically endangered amphibian is a national symbol that appears on Dominica's Coat of Arms. It's also one of the largest frogs in the world.

Before 2002, this big frog was a popular local dish, and many savoured its chicken-like flavour. Crapaud cuisine was also sought-after by tourists, who were curious to experience its unique taste.

However, within the past decade, it has succumbed to a fungal infection of global epidemic proportions called chytridiomycosis (chytrid). Right now, there are very few surviving in the wild, as it sadly nears extinction on the Nature Island.

The Crapaud is one of only four types of amphibians in Dominica. It is also found on Montserrat. At one



time, it did thrive on other islands, but is now extinct. Over-hunting and destruction of habitat are reported to have adversely affected this frog's population elsewhere.

Fortunately, Dominica's 'Mountain Chicken' has been protected by law for many years. Before the chytrid fungus infestation, the limited hunting season was strictly enforced and there were penalties for catching Crapaud out-of-season.

The Importance of Amphibians

Scientists assert that 'Mountain Chickens' have an important function in Dominica's eco-system. "Amphibians do more good than people realize," says Jenny Spencer, a British herpetologist (one who studies amphibians and reptiles). She is assisting Dominica's Forestry and Wildlife Division as a representative of the Zoological Society of London.

"The 'Mountain Chick-

en' frogs actually do humans a big favour," she asserts, "They eat many different kinds of invertebrates, such as cockroaches, millipedes, crickets and even small lizards." According to Ms. Spencer, the chytrid fungus has obliterated various amphibians in other countries. "Some other frogs are extinct because of it. It's a huge worldwide problem, but research is going on all the time," she discloses.

Ongoing Research

Since 2005, an ongoing international collaborative project with Dominica's Forestry and Wildlife Division continues to actively explore ways and means to protect the Crapaud from the relentless chytrid fungus infestation.

One of the participants is the Zoological Society of London, where researchers are studying ways to reduce the impact of the disease on amphibians in the wild. In Dominica, this fungus is

found everywhere in the environment and is also carried by tree frogs which do not appear to be harmed by it.

In Montserrat, where chytrid also destroyed the "Mountain Chicken" population, a recent release of some captive bred animals is underway to find out if this is a reasonable method for preventing the species' extinction in the wild.

Meanwhile, the Captive Breeding Facility in the Botanical Gardens near Roseau is nearing completion. It will either be stocked with some of the remaining wild 'Mountain Chickens' on Dominica before they are wiped out by chytrid, or with captive bred animals, whose parents were rescued and taken to Europe in the face of the epidemic. The Dominican Forestry and Wildlife Division staff is being trained to manage the frogs in captivity, including breeding techniques.

At the present time, Forestry and Wildlife officials are also monitoring areas where the very few 'Mountain Chicken' frogs are still found.

The establishment of a data- base which documents Crapaud calls and sightings is underway.

In addition, bi-monthly surveys of the three species of tree frogs will aid in monitoring population trends. As well, they are being tested for the presence of the chytrid fungus.

Regional News

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St. Lucia government at odds as fuel prices increase

CMC - Government nounced when they will and opposition on Monday traded words over fuel prices as St. Lucia became the latest Caribbean country to announce increases in the price of the commodity due mainly to the significant increase in global oil prices blamed on Russia's invasion of Ukraine last month.

Prime Minister Phillip J. Pierre defended the "marginal" increase in the price of gasoline, diesel, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) that went into effect on Monday.

"We do not control the price of fuel," he told reporters, adding that St. Lucia is not unique in that situation.

"In St. Lucia, the price went up by one dollar from today, and that is because the government is concerned that if we collect the revenue that we projected to collect from fuel prices, the fuel price would have been about \$19.95 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents)."

Opposition Leader Allen Chastanet, in a message posted on his Facebook page, urged the government to implement policies that will cushion the impact of the price increase.

"They've allowed the cost of living to go up yet again but still haven't angive you the promised EC\$1500 income support," said, Chastanet, whose government was swept out of office in July last year.

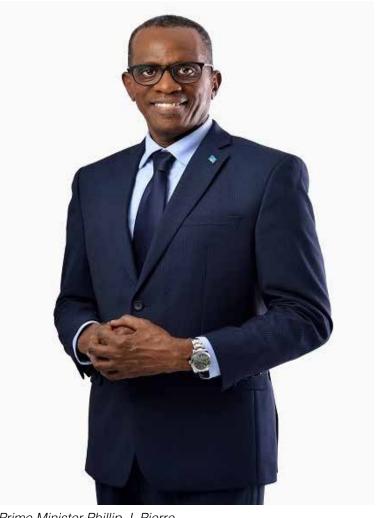
"No word on when you can expect your income tax returns or when you will no longer have to pay income tax if you earn less than EC\$4,000. Still waiting for the removal of the EC\$1.50 fuel tax for fishermen, the complete removal of property tax and the promised bonuses for frontline workers.

"Mr. Prime Minister, our people need the assistance. Please hear their cries." Chastanet added.

But Pierre recalled that the Chastanet administration had budgeted collecting an estimated four dollars in revenue on every gallon of gas, up from EC\$2.50 announced by the last St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) government.

"That EC\$1.50 ostensibly ought to have been in a lockbox where the lockbox would have been used to repair roads. I have been Minister of Finance for eight months and I have not seen that lockbox at all.

"I don't know if it is hidden, but I have not seen that lockbox. Right now, at the current price of fuel the government revenue is about EC\$0.80 cents on average which means even



Prime Minister Phillip J. Pierre

at the EC\$2.50, we are subsidizing oil basically in terms of the revenue by 80 cents minus 2.50, which is 1.70 if my arithmetic is correct," Pierre said.

"And if we had to price the oil at the four dollars revenue that was projected by the last government we're actually losing EC\$3.20 on revenue," Pierre said, adding "so whereas I understand and I feel very concerned about the effects of the price of fuel it really is inevitable, and the government is tak-

ing a real hit on revenue because we are insisting that we keep the price at a level.

"People will complain, and I expect people to complain. They have a right to complain because it's affecting their pocketbooks, but the fact is we are actually losing revenue to ensure that the price doesn't go to any level where it becomes like in Barbados it is actually BDS\$20 (One BDS dollar=US\$0.50 cents) a gallon," Pierre told reporters.

Regional News



US repatriates nearly 100 Haitians rescued at sea

CMC - The United States Coast Guard has repatriated 88 Haitians, including 26 women, who were intercepted on Tuesday, April 5 north of Sagua La Grande in Cuba.

The US Coast Guard said the illegal migrants were aboard an "excessively overloaded sailboat" which was also taking on water.

"We ask families in the United States not to encourage their loved ones in Haiti to make this dangerous journey," said Lt. Connor Ives, law enforcement officer in Coast Guard District 7, as the Haitians were being repatriated on Sunday.

"The risk of loss of life is great on these dangerous boats," he added.

This marks the fourth vessel transporting Haitian migrants the authorities have intercepted since the start of the year. Last month the US Coast Guard intercepted a vessel with 179 Haitian migrants approximately 30 miles off Andros, in The Bahamas. A wooden boat carrying over 100 Haitians ran aground in the shallow waters off the coast of Ocean Reef Club, north of Key Largo, about 300 meters from the shore a week later. In January, the US Coast Guard intercepted another boat near the Florida Keys carrying 176 Haitians, ten of whom had to be taken to hospital with symptoms of dehydration.

Figures released by US authorities show that the



number of migrants intercepted by the US Coast Guard in the past six years, totalled 6, 965.

Since October 1, 2020, the US Coast Guard said its crews have interdicted 1,152 Haitian migrants compared to 1,527 in Fiscal Year 2021; 418 in Fiscal Year 2020: 932 in Fiscal Year 2019; 609 in Fiscal Year 2018; and 419 in Fiscal Year 2017.

Haitians flee the French-speaking Caribbean country that has a high level of crime and poverty for a better life in North America as well as in some CARICOM countries such as The Bahamas.

T&T soldier charged for killing daughter

A Trinidad and Tobago man was expected to appear before a Couva Magistrate on Tuesday charged with the manslaughter of his daughter, Alliyah Alexander, which occurred on Tuesday April 5.

A police press release said that David Alexander, 36, a corporal in the Defence Force was charged by police following advice from deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Joan Honore-Paul on Monday.

Alliyah, 15, of Crown Trace, Enterprise was at her father's Claxton Bay home on Tuesday April 5, where she was allegedly being disciplined, the release said.

The teen was taken to her father to



Defence Force corporal David Alexander, charged with the manslaughter of his daughter Alliyah Alexander.

be disciplined after she was accused of being sexually active.

Following the incident, she was

found unresponsive and was taken to the Couva District Health Facility where she was pronounced dead.

Her parents initially claimed that Alliyah fell down a flight of stairs while being punished. However, the autopsy on the dead teen suggested she was beaten to death as the cause of death indicated was poly trauma, multiple blunt force injuries and shock and haemorrhage.

The man was arrested on Thursday by PC Ramnarine of the Homicide Bureau of Investigations (HBI) Region Three. Investigations were supervised by Supt Dhilpaul and Insp Maharaj, all of HBI Region Three. PC Ramnarine laid the charge against Alexander.



Regional News

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Nevis' beach "Karen" identified as Russian CIP consultant

The woman who called police on Nevisian primary school children who were preparing for the local inter-schools' competition has been identified a Russian native who resides on the island.

In an incident which has now gone viral globally, the woman is seen arguing with parents about the children running on the beach disturbing her.

She is then pictured in the video on her phone after threatening to call the police.

Shockingly the woman then ran in the path of the running children and lay on the sand in an attempt to stop them.

Reports out of Nevis say the

woman and her husband have apologised onto the students and their parents for the incident which took place last Saturday.

They have also promised to make a monetary donation to the school.

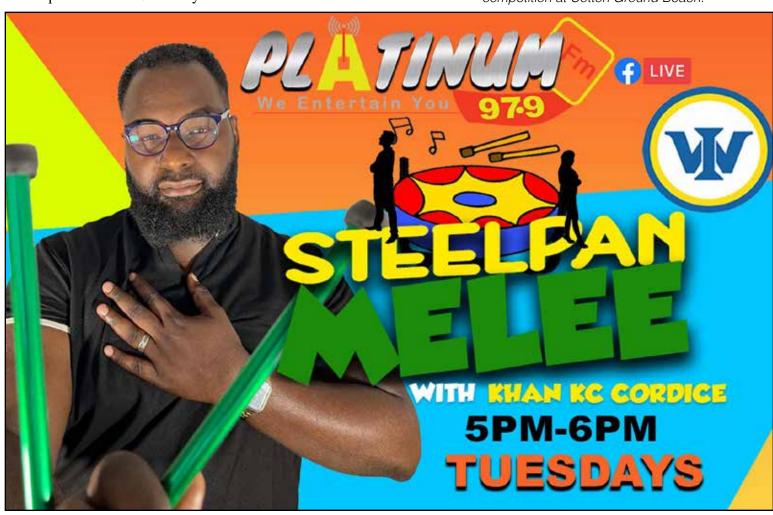
It is said the woman may have been intoxicated at the time of the incident.

Days after the nationally condemned incident, Nevis' Premier Mark Brantley issued a statement in which he made it clear that all beaches in St. Kitts and Nevis are public.

Brantley added that he has ordered the Ministry of Education to launch an investigation into the incident.



A "Karen" in Nevis is accused of calling local police on young children preparing for an athletics competition at Cotton Ground Beach.



International



Putin vows to press invasion until Russia's goals are met

AP - Vladimir Putin vowed Tuesday that Russia's bloody offensive in Ukraine would continue until its goals are fulfilled and insisted the campaign was going as planned, despite a major withdrawal in the face of stiff Ukrainian opposition and significant losses.

Russian troops, thwarted in their push toward Ukraine's capital, are now focusing on the eastern Donbas region, where Ukraine said Tuesday it was investigating a claim that a poisonous substance had been dropped on its troops. It was not clear what the substance might be, but Western officials warned that any use of chemical weapons by Russia would be a serious escalation of the already devastating war.

Russia invaded on Feb. 24, with the



Russian President Vladimir Putin

goal, according to Western officials, of taking Kyiv, toppling the government and installing a Moscow-friendly regime. In the six weeks since, Russia's ground advance stalled, its forces lost potentially thousands of fighters and the military was accused of killing civilians and other atrocities.

Putin insisted Tuesday that his invasion aimed to protect people in parts of eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed rebels and to "ensure Russia's own security."

He said Russia "had no other choice" but to launch what he calls a "special military operation," and vowed it would "continue until its full completion and the fulfilment of the tasks that have been set."

For now, Putin's forces are gearing up for a major offensive in the Donbas, which has been torn by fighting between Russian-allied separatists and Ukrainian forces since 2014, and where Russia has recognized the separatists' claims of independence. Military strategists say Russian leaders appear to hope local support, logistics and terrain in the region favour Russia's larger and better-armed military, potentially allowing its troops to finally turn the tide in their favour.

US pulls non-emergency staff from Shanghai amid COVID surge

AP - The U.S. has ordered non-emergency government staff to leave Shanghai, which is under a tight lockdown to contain a COVID-19 surge.

Many residents in the city of 26 million have been confined to their homes for up to three weeks as China maintains its "zero-COVID" strategy of handling outbreaks with strict isolation and mass testing.

But people living under the restrictions have described an increasingly desperate situation, with fami-

cont'd on pg 21



People wearing face masks walk along a road inside a residential community in Shanghai, China, Monday, April 11, 2022. The U.S. has ordered all non-emergency consular staff to leave Shanghai, which is under a tight lockdown to contain a COVID-19 surge. Many residents in the city of 26 million have been confined to their homes for up to three weeks as China maintains its "zero-COVID" strategy of handling outbreaks with strict isolation and mass testing. (AP Photo)

International

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South Africa's Durban area hit by heavy floods, 45 dead

AP - Prolonged rains and flooding in the Durban area of South Africa have claimed the lives of at least 45 people, damaging the port, major highways and surrounding areas in Kwa-Zulu-Natal province, according to local officials.

South Africa's military has been deployed to Durban and the surrounding eThekwini metropolitan area on Tuesday to assist with rescue operations as residents flee flooded areas.

Some people have been swept away by surging waters, say officials. Durban port, the largest and busiest shipping terminal in sub-Saharan Africa, has been inundated with floodwaters that carried away shipping containers and left them in a jumbled pile.

Authorities are providing shelter for several hundred people whose homes possessions washed away by the floods



People walk across a makeshift bridge over a river, after a bridge was swept away in Ntuzuma, outside Durban, South Africa, Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Prolonged rains and flooding in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province have claimed the lives of at least 20 people, according to local officials. (AP Photo/Str)

and technicians are working to restore electricity to areas where power had been knocked out.

Emergency services have for several days been responding to urgent calls for help from people stuck in their houses but the number is beginning to decrease, emergency services spokesman Robert McKenzie said.

"There are still cases of

collapsed buildings where operations are still continuing," he said.

"Most of our power stations have been flooded and our teams are working hard to restore power to the affected areas," Mxolisi Kaunda, mayor of the eThekwini metropolitan municipality, told a press briefing Tuesday.

"Our teams are on the ground to try and return the situation to normalcy," he said.

"We continue to assess the damages, we cannot be sure of the extent of the damages at the moment."

cont'd from pg 20

lies unable to leave their homes or obtain food and daily necessities, while people who test positive for the coronavirus have been forced into mass quarantine centres where conditions at times have been called crowded and unsanitary.

Authorities on Tuesday said another 23,342 people in Shanghai tested positive for the virus over the previous day, just 994 of whom displayed symptoms.

Total infections have topped more

than 200,000 in the latest wave, although no additional deaths have been reported.

The State Department said the order announced late Monday is an upgrade from the "authorized" departure advisory last week that made the decision voluntary.

The order covers non-emergency U.S. government employees at the consulate in Shanghai and their family members. Consular officers will remain on duty at the consulate.

Sports News



Chelsea bidders reveal new details as sale process heats up

AP - Final bids are being prepared for European champion Chelsea and new business figures are being added to consortia as the process to end the ownership of sanctioned Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich steps up.

Four known bids are still under consideration to buy Chelsea, which could be sold for 3 billion pounds (\$4 billion) given the interest that has emerged since Abramovich put the west London Premier League club up for sale six weeks ago.

Steve Pagliuca, co-owner of the NBA's Boston Celtics, went public for the first time on Tuesday to confirm his plans to become a Premier League team owner that could see him have to relinquish his 55% controlling stake in Serie A team Atalanta.

The American cannot control two clubs playing in the same UEFA-organized European competition, though Atalanta is not in qualifying contention for next season.

"Later this week, we will submit a substantial and credible bid proposal," Pagliuca said in a statement. "One that we expect will meet the respective requirements and regulations of the Premier League, UK Government and UEFA — and we pledge to honour our commitment to credibility and good guardianship of Chelsea Football Club from day one."

Another bid, which is led by Chicago Cubs baseball owner Tom Ricketts, has been shrouded in criticism over Islamophobic comments by his father, Joe, that featured in leaked emails three years ago. The Ricketts family has been working to distance itself from the patriarch, and another business leader was announced on Tuesday as a new leading figure involved in the bid.

Karan Bilimoria, a Chelsea fan who founded the Cobra beer company in west London in 1989 and sits in the



House of Lords, will become a director of the club if the Ricketts bid is successful, and serve as an ambassador.

"Tom and the wider group have a proven track record of running successful sports teams and a strong vision for both the club and the local community," Bilimoria said in a statement.

Bilimoria is the outgoing president of the Confederation of British Industry.

"We have always been clear that having local expertise and perspectives on our bid is vital," Tom Ricketts said in a statement. "Given Lord Bilimoria's unparalleled credentials and his love for Chelsea, he is the perfect addition to our team."

A rival bid features an existing American investor in a Premier League team: Josh Harris owns a 17% stake in south London club Crystal Palace. Harris, who is also owner of the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers, is part of a consortium fronted by former Liverpool and British Airways chairman Martin Broughton and World Athletics president Sebastian Coe.

A fourth consortium features Todd Boehly, part-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Swiss billionaire Hansjorg Wyss, and Jonathan Goldstein, a London-based property investor who is CEO of Cain International.

Abramovich has been forced to sell Chelsea after he was sanctioned in Britain and his assets were frozen as part of a crackdown on oligarchs following Russia's invasion in Ukraine.

The government has to sign off on

the sale, which is being overseen by the New York-based Raine Group merchant bank, under the terms that allow the team to continue operating since Abramovich was sanctioned. Abramovich cannot profit from the proceeds of the sale.

"Our role is to consider an application for an amended license that authorises a sale of the club when it comes forward with a preferred bidder," the British government said in a statement.

Chelsea has won 21 trophies in 19 years of Abramovich ownership, relying on his lavish investment to become one of Europe's most successful clubs.

The ability of a new owner to continue significant funding of players could help to determine which bid prevails.

"Our first focus and goal is to make strategic investments to continue competing for championships and trophies," Pagliuca said. "We will support our players and managers to make sure that Chelsea are habitual winners and title contenders, whether in the Premier League, Champions League or the Women's Super League.

"In addition, we will continue to invest in the youth academy to develop the stars of the future and we would not be in this process if we did not have an exciting and inclusive vision for Chelsea."

There is a long-term need to revamp Stamford Bridge to generate more income from fans and corporate backers. Chelsea has the smallest and most dated stadium of the Premier League's most successful clubs, with plans for a rebuild of the 41,000-capacity venue put on hold by Abramovich in 2018 as British-Russian diplomatic tensions deepened.

"Not only are we committed to remaining at the home of Chelsea, Stamford Bridge," Pagliuca said, "but we are inspired to renovate or redevelop the stadium. Chelsea is a world-class team, in a world-class city, with world-class fans: it deserves a world-class stadium."

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Djokovic loses clay-court opener at Monte Carlo Masters

AP - Novak Djokovic opened his clay-court season with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters on Tuesday.

Davidovich Fokina stunned the top-ranked Serb 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-1 in the second round to hand Djokovic another setback as he tries to move on from the controversy surrounding his refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

It makes for rare back-to-back losses for Djokovic, who had not played since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February — his only previous tournament this year after he was barred from playing at the Australian Open.

Djokovic struggled from the start as the 46th-ranked Spaniard broke him early to pull ahead 4-1 before another break handed him the first set. Davidovich Fokina kept up the pressure and led 3-0 in the second before Djokovic clawed back. But the Serb continued to struggle on his serve and was broken three times in the decider.

"He was the better player," Djokovic said. "I was hanging on the ropes the entire match."

The Serb said he was too exhausted to put up a fight in the third set.

"I collapsed," Djokovic said. "I just ran out of gas



Novak Djokovic (AP Photo/Daniel Cole)

completely ... If you can't stay in the rally, not feeling your legs on the clay, it's mission impossible."

Djokovic had beaten Davidovich Fokina in straight sets twice last year, in Rome and at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I'm so happy for the win today," Davidovich Fokina said. "I missed (Djokovic) on the tour."

Djokovic could not defend his Australian Open title in January after he was deported from the country for not being vaccinated. He had to skip tournaments in Indian Wells, California, and Miami because he couldn't travel to the United States for the same reason.

The authorities in France and Monaco lifted most COVID-19 restrictions last month, allowing people who aren't vaccinated into the country and back into restaurants, sports arenas and other venues.

son.

"I knew that it's going to take some time for me to really feel my best on the clay," Djokovic said. "I have to accept defeat and keep working ... and hopefully build my form for Roland Garros."

The French Open starts on May 22 in Paris.

Defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece eased into the third round by beating 2019 winner Fabio Fognini 6-3, 6-0.

First-round winners included David Goffin of Belgium and Taylor Fritz of the United States.



That means Djokovic

will be able to play at the

French Open, which remains

his "big goal of the clay sea-

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

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Benjamin wants coaches to work outside normal school hours

Inter-schools Football Coordinator Rohan "Porridge" Benjamin feels coaches should consider working outside normal school hours to be more effective in training their students.

Benjamin, who has been employed as a physical education teacher and football coach in the Ministry of Sports for over 30 years, said the coaches will get more contact time with players if they incorporate some training on weekends to supplement their programmes that are conducted during the normal school business hours on weekdays.

"I think that coaching on a Saturday would go a long way with the coaches getting more time to work with players than what we get to do during school hours," Benjamin said.

When asked if schools football coaches are reluctant to work with students on weekends, Benjamin admitted the answer to that question is yes.

Without going into further details, Benjamin said whenever the issue of working outside regular school hours is raised with the coaches, it has often been met with some strong resistance from some of the coaches.

Benjamin is raising some objections to the Ministry of Sports hiring more

coaches to address the problem.

He said the 15 coaches currently employed by the Ministry of Sports is the largest allocation to any school sport in Antigua and Barbuda.

Benjamin said while it would be ideal to employ a football coach at every school, it is not practical to do so.

"The ideal situation for us here in Antigua is to have a coach per school. But is this feasible?" he asked.

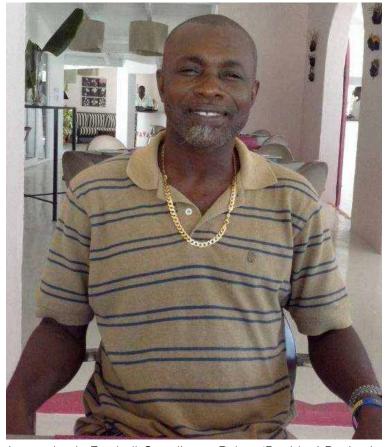
"We have to be honest and say it is not feasible that we can have a coach in every school because if you have a football coach in every school, then the other sports are also going to need a coach in every school.

"But the limited resources that we have, we have to use it effectively and I think that is maybe where the problem is. We need to get the coaches to work effectively in the programme.

"To me, I think we have a large number of coaches in terms of working within the Ministry of Sports, but we have to utilize them properly and utilize them well.

"We at the schools' football unit and probably the basketball unit in the Ministry of Sports have the largest share of coaches, but we still cannot cover everybody.

"What we try to do really in terms of football and



Inter-schools Football Coordinator Rohan 'Porridge' Benjamin. (Photo courtesy Pointe FM)

the football unit is we try to have a coach at a secondary school. That coach will also be attached to the feeder schools or primary schools that are located within the surrounding area or community."

However, Benjamin is open to the Ministry of Sports coming to an arrangement with the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) that their coaches can assist with preparations for school events.

"You have very limited time to do any training at the schools. When you look at schools such as Ottos Comprehensive and All

Saints Secondary, these are large schools on Antiguan context and they play in all five age categories in the schools' football programme.

"So, you have one coach at those schools and he would have to prepare five different teams for the schools' football competition. That coach would have to resort to get some outside help to deal with those situations," Benjamin said.

"I think it is time where we form a partnership between the government and the Antigua and Barbu-Football Association to get to utilize some of

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Freddy Rincon in critical condition after car crash

BBC - Former Colombia captain Freddy Rincon is in a critical condition with severe head injuries after being involved in a car crash in Cali.

Rincon was driving a car in which there were four other people when it was in collision with a bus early on Monday.

All passengers in the car were injured, as was the bus driver.

"Freddy Eusebio Rincon arrived in hospital this morning with a traumatic brain injury," said the Imbanaco Clinic.



He shares with Carlos

Valderrama the record for

the most World Cup finals

appearances for his coun-

Freddy Rincon

Former Real Madrid midfielder Rincon, 55, scored 17 goals for Colombia and played at three World Cups.

their scheduled hours.

"I actually raised the issue at a recent school sports coordinators meeting. We currently utilize the PE teachers to work with the various sports, but the PE teachers work from 8 o'clock in the morning to 1:30 pm, so they don't have to go beyond that if they don't want to," Benjamin said.

"We have some people who are really going above and beyond, but it is not everyone who is doing it, so I am all in favour of getting some qualified people from outside to come in and give us the help and the government give them a stipend for their assistance. But I also feel that we as coaches can do a lot more as well."

try, having played in 10 tournament games.

Rincon was part of the side that ended the nation's 28-year wait to play at the World Cup when they qualified for the 1990 finals, and scored a memorable goal in a 1-1 draw against eventual winners West Germany.

He also played for Napoli, Palmeiras and Santos, as well as leading Corinthians in 2000 to victory at the first-ever FIFA Club World Championship now the Club World Cup.

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their coaches in some form of a part time basis with the schools' football programme.

"A number of coaches have been able to receive training and get their qualifications from training programmes that have been conducted by the ABFA. However, a lot of these coaches are underutilized and, if maybe they can be given a stipend to work for a period of the schools' football programme, that is probably where we will need to look.

Benjamin said he raised the issue at a recent meeting, as some Physical Education (PE) teachers who assist coaches in schools are reluctant to work beyond





Lewis hails school beach volleyball tournament a success

Coordinator Rosalie Lewis said the volleyball unit in the Ministry of Sports hosted a successful schools' beach competitions at Fort James Beach on Sunday.

Cupholders Christ the King High School made a successful defence of their girls' title, while Sir Novelle Richards Academy captured the boys' division crown during Sunday's beach competitions.

Lewis said the beach competitions, which featured the top three girls and top four boys' teams that participated in the recent Advance Level Secondary Schools hard court contests at the indoor facility at YMCA Sports Complex, was a resounding success.

"I just want to say that our beach tournament was an absolute success. We kind of shortened it a bit in terms of only having four females and four male teams, which was the top four in the last indoors competition that was just finished. So, we then traversed to the beach and we had an awesome competition," Lewis said.

"The teams that I thought would have been successful are the ones who didn't come out the winners. One of the reasons for that is that I noticed that we had a lot of new players who were stepping up their



A Christ the King High School (white jersey) athlete attempts to volley the ball over the net during the girls final of the Schools' Beach Volleyball Competition at Fort James Beach in Antigua on Sunday, 10th April, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

game onto the beach, so we had a real successful tournament."

Lewis is also expressing her gratitude to several senior national players who showed their support to the schools' volleyball unit that comprised coaches Irvin Lewis, Olson "Karrot" Joseph, Michael St. Jean and herself.

"It was a long day for me and my coaches. There are only three coaches along with myself and we had to do all the work in organizing and refereeing. There is no coaching in the beach tournament, but it was still a lot of work.

"We did what we had to do. It was never a problem for us. There were also several persons who came out and gave us their support such as Nyota Peters, Nicky, Francess, Tessa and Farida," Lewis said.

"So, they came out and gave some support in making sure that whatever we needed them to do they were able to assist us. So, I must say thank you to them and they certainly contributed to the success of this beach tournament."

Christ the King High School retained their girls' beach title by beating Antigua Girls' High School 2-1 in the final. They took the opening set 15-12, but lost the second set 10-15 as Antigua Girls' High levelled the match 1-1 to force the deciding set.

However, with their title on the line, Christ the King showed great determination and regrouped to take the decider 15-11to retain their crown.

Antigua Girls' High had to settle for the runner-up spot, while Ottos Comprehensive claimed third place ahead of Clare Hall Secondary.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy also prevailed 2-1 in the final against Ottos Comprehensive School to capture the boys' category.

In a keenly contested affair, Sir Novelle Richards took the opening set 15-13, but lost the second set 13-15. They were, however, able to secure the title by prevailing 17-15 in the third and deciding set.

Ottos Comprehensive took second place with Princess Margaret School securing third place ahead of Pares Secondary.

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the April 16-18 CARIFTA Games.

"To me, those athletes selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the CARIFTA Games are a decent team. However, I was hoping that Antigua and Barbuda would have been represented by a larger team at CARIFTA, but you have to work with what you have," Allen said.

"I think once those athletes go down to Jamaica to compete and have the right motivation, many of them can probably achieve their personal best.

"I am not going to say that they are going to reach a final or that they are going to medal, but achieving their personal best is where I am putting down the benchmark right now.

"If they win a medal or reach a final then great, but I am not going to put pressure on any athlete to say they must reach a final or they have to medal.

"We must set realistic goals for our athletes and we should not be pressuring them to the points where we are saying 'you must win this or that.'

"Even if they don't win, when they return home, we still have to give them their flowers.

"We have to still make sure the officials are at the airport to greet them and do something to show our appreciation for them going out there and trying to do their best.

"This will let our athletes know that even if they did not win a medal, but they did their best, that we are still proud of you and that is what I am hoping for."

Allen is tempering his expectations of Antigua and Barbuda winning a medal in Jamaica this weekend since the athletes are just returning to competition following two years of being unable to compete due to the emergence of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Allen, who has been able to observe many of the

ABAA development meets since the start of the year, said a lot of the athletes were also inhibited from achieving better times by several factors, including running into a headwind and the wet conditions of the track.

Jamaica is set to host the Junior CARIFTA Track and Field Games after receiving government backing, following the cancellation of the last two editions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 event was scheduled to be held in Bermuda, but was postponed to 2021 then cancelled as a result of coronavirus-related concerns in the territory.



Sports DEWS wednesday 13TH APRIL 2022

Coach Allen supports team selected for CARIFTA Games

Track and field coach Randy Allen has given a nod of approval to the seven-member team selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 49th Junior CARIFTA Games in Jamaica this Easter Weekend.

The Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA) selected the team for the CARIFTA Games from a series of development meets it has been hosting since January 2022, at the newly laid track at the YASCO Sports Complex.

The squad includes Geolyna Dowdy of Phoenix Athletics Club. The sprinter will be contesting the Under-17 Girls 100 and 200 metre events.

Dwayne Flemming of Power Speed Endurance Track Club and the Princess Margaret School will also be contesting both sprints in the Under-17 Boys Division. Flemming will be seeking gold in the 100 and 200 metres.

Osei Gardener of CPT-SA Wings Sports Club and Princess Margaret School will be competing in the Under-17 Boys 200 and 400 metre events.

Alyssa Dyett of Para-

mount Performance Track Club will be representing the twin-island state in the Under-20 Girls' Triple Jump.

Mai McIntosh, also of Paramount Performance Track Club and Princess Margaret School, will be carrying the nation's flag as the sole competitor in the Under-20 Girls' Heptathlon.

Ajani Daley of Power Speed Endurance Track Club and Princess Margaret School, will be contesting the Under-20 Boys 100 and 200 metre races.

The other member of the squad is Craig Pendergast of School Calabar in Jamaica. He will be vying for top honours in the Under-20 Boys 400 metre hurdles.

Allen, who is also chairman of the track and field arm of the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club, commended Gardener and McIntosh on their selection.

"In track and field right now, the big thing coming up is the CARIFTA Games and Wings Sports Club must applaud our selectee Osei Gardener who has



Chairman of the track and field arm of the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club, Coach Randy Allen. (Photo courtesy Randy Allen)

been selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda and the other athletes as well.

"We also want to salute Mia McIntosh, who is also a part of the Wings Sports Club. Mia is a member of the Wings basketball sector and she has also been selected to represent Antigua at the CARIFTA Games, so she has been taking a break from basketball to focus on track and field," he said.

Allen, a former track and field athlete, said a good squad has been selected, but he was anticipating a much larger contingent being chosen to carry Antigua and Barbuda's flag at cont'd on pg 27

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