

# GOV'T KEEPS PROMISE, QUARRY WORKERS' OVERTIME PAID

*Story on Page 2*



The ABDF has commissioned its new Airwing Unit and the ALPHA 1 aircraft that will be used to increase security and support national essential services. *Story on Page 3.*

## Quarry workers receive overtime

Staying true to its word, the government has delivered on its promise to pay quarry workers outstanding overtime.

Employees from the Bendals and Burma Quarries, along with those who work at the hot mix plant, were receiving payments after staging industrial action last week.

Keithroy Merchant, Shop Steward at Bendals Quarry in confirming the employees were being paid yesterday, said it will make a difference.

“Everybody will welcome this good gesture with the overtime payment. We want to thank the government for making a timely payment, as cost of living is going up, fuel is high, everything. It’s a real good thing for everyone,” Merchant said.

It was unclear how much of the



outstanding figure, said to be more than two million dollars, was paid.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Gaston Browne, had promised that the government will begin honouring its commitments this week, as

it relates to the outstanding overtime.

Speaking to the media recently, Mr. Browne said consideration is being given to reducing outstanding overtime owed to public sector workers by fifty percent.



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The Village Walk Branch is not impacted by these changes.



## ABDF commissions Airwing Unit, ALPHA 1 aircraft

The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) has formally commissioned its Airwing Unit and its lone aircraft, for now, the ALPHA 1.

In addition to the hierarchy of the ABDF, the ceremony on Tuesday was attended by H. E. Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Minister of National Security Steadroy Benjamin and Minister of Aviation Sir Robin Yearwood.

According to the ABDF, the Airwing Unit and ALPHA 1 aircraft – a customised 9-seater Islander – will boost the country's aerial security capabilities.

It will also provide support services including



*The Airing Unit's customised Islander aircraft, the ALPHA 1.*

Disaster/Emergency Response, Search and Rescue Support, medical air evacuation and Maritime Space Surveillance.

Already, the Airwing

Unit has proven its value, as recently, its crew performed the medical evacuation of a severely distressed Barbudan patient who could not risk slow

extraction to the mainland by sea.

The complete round trip, including picking up the patient by ambulance in Antigua, took less than 45 minutes.

During the ceremony, Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin delivered the mandate to the unit's officers, while unit Commander Major A. Michael reported on the activities of the unit since its establishment.

The ALPHA 1 was blessed by Force Padre, Captain P. Burns.

Notably, the Airwing Unit which is already a historic achievement for the ABDF, is manned by a four-member crew which includes its lone female member, Lieutenant Natasha Goodwin.



*Officials inspect the ALPHA 1 following the commissioning ceremony.*

# CIBC FirstCaribbean supports A&B swim team's CARIFTA Games bid

Antigua and Barbuda will be represented at the 2022 CARIFTA games in Barbados this weekend by the largest ever delegation of swimmers to be assembled.

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

Ahead of their departure for the regional games, CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank offered their support to Team Antigua Barbuda with a sponsorship contribution of \$5000.

During a brief ceremony to hand over the cheque this week, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) Dr. Derek Marshall said, while there are considerable expectations of the team over the Easter weekend event, there is also the hope that youngsters will also enjoy some levity in their first major post-COVID event.

"Our swimmers will bring more glory to Antigua and Barbuda, but it is just as important that they have fun



Left to right: Country Head Ladesa James-Williams, Co-Team Captains Ariana John and Tony Goodwin and Dr. Derek Marshall, President ABSF.

and enjoy themselves.

"Our swimmers have endured a lot; first with the COVID pandemic and then the lack of training facilities, however, they have sacrificed and persevered. They deserve the highest commendations for their dedication," Dr. Marshall remarked.

CIBC FirstCaribbean's country head, Ladesa James-Williams, said it is

particularly important that Antigua and Barbuda's young athletes receive the support and encouragement they so richly deserve.

She also highlighted the importance of supporting swimming related activities as it is a reality that an alarming number of the island's ocean bound population are unable to swim.





"Maybe the time has come for a national swim-

ming pool to be built and for swimming to be offered as a subject in schools," she said.

Mrs. James-Williams added that the entire nation should be proud of the young athletes who have excelled under challenging circumstances.

The team, whose ages range 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.

The Antigua and Barbuda CARIFTA Games delegation leaves for Barbados today.

Thu 14   Day		Thu 14   Night	
<b>83°</b>		<b>75°</b>	
Plentiful sunshine. High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	14%  E 15 mph	Partly cloudy. Low near 75F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	10%  E 14 mph
Humidity <b>64%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>74%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>5:52 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:22 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>4:37 pm</b>	Moonset <b>4:26 am</b>
		○ Waxing Gibbous	



## Canada-based Antiguan takes on major role in Toastmasters International

Antigua-born Canadian, Jacklyn Cornelius-Payne was recently promoted to Regional Advisor status within the leadership organisation, Toastmasters International.

A resident of Brampton which is located just outside of Toronto, Cornelius Payne says leadership in challenging times always begin with listening. This, as she takes on the role of advising district leaders overseeing 570 Toastmasters International clubs across six U.S. states.

“In order to be a good leader, it is important to be a good listener and build a relationship of trust with your team,” says the distinguished Toastmaster and

past District 86 Director in southern Ontario.

In her new role as Region 6 South Advisor, she will support, guide and teach Toastmasters district leadership teams in districts 10, 11, 13, 40 and 63, in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. She will also share her experience to help districts achieve their mission of building new clubs and supporting all clubs in achieving excellence.

Payne, an Architectural Technologist, expects her success will hinge on her Toastmasters and professional experience in strategic planning and project

management.

“Every district has its own culture, and it is important that I am open to learn and understand the culture of the districts in order to advise them successfully,” said Payne.

Payne also recalled the change in her life after she joined Toastmasters in 2006. Her goal was to sharpen her public speaking skills. It didn’t take long for people at the office to notice positive changes as she delivered project presentations and staff training.

“I had the confidence to speak with anyone, anywhere, anytime, without hesitation,” she says.

Payne, formerly of



*Jacklyn Cornelius-Payne*

Wireless Road, regularly visits Antigua, and uses her visits home as an opportunity to attend and support as many of the local Toastmasters Club meetings as possible.

## Updated property valuations key following unforeseen disasters

Updating your property value and market value of your possessions is critical to ensuring a smooth process especially, after suffering an unforeseen disaster or event.

These words of advice came from Mark Prescott, Vice-President, Insurance Operations, for Sagicor General Insurance Inc for the Eastern Caribbean as he advised policyholders that they should always supply an accurate property valuation or market value for their contents, whenever reviewing and renewing their insurance policies.

Mr. Prescott stated that these updated valuations are not only used to determine the accurate premium rate



*Mark Prescott, Vice-President, Insurance Operations, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Sagicor General Insurance Inc*

for the upcoming year of coverage, but also to determine the rebuild or

replacement value of the property or personal possessions and to ensure that property owners can maintain the same or similar standard of living prior to the disaster.

“If a property is insured for EC\$300,000.00, for example, but the actual cost to replace it based on the current rebuilding costs is EC\$350,000.00, then it places the policyholder at a disadvantage should they suffer the unfortunate experience of losing their home to a natural disaster or some other unforeseen event, such as a fire”, said Prescott.

This is why we focus on education  
*cont'd on pg 6*

# Local News



## Tourism officials disappointed as Air Canada postpones its return

The positive strides made by Antigua and Barbuda's tourism officials to help the industry recover suffered a blow this week when Air Canada announced that it would not be returning at the end of April.

Air Canada announced earlier this year that it was suspending several flights into the region as a result of the pandemic, however it indicated that it planned to resume in 90 days which would have been 30th April.

The news that the airline has now pushed its return back to 29th October appears to have caught many tourism authorities across the region off guard as they all were preparing for the additional air lift as one territory after another continues the trend of increasingly relaxed COVID-19 travel requirements.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, Tourism Minister



Charles Fernandez said the news was disappointing.

"We were hoping they would be back online early. They have been with us for over sixty years, and we consider them an important stakeholder in the whole aspect of the tourism product for us."

This setback will not deter the efforts of the tourism ministry, howev-

er, as Minister Fernandez revealed that other options are already being explored with other airlines.

The Canadian market is not entirely closed off to Antigua and Barbuda as Westjet continues to provide regular airlift into the country.

Steady progress is being made despite this fairly significant disappointment.

This year, the Ministry of Tourism announced proudly that it broke visitor arrival records in October and November 2021 with respect to visitors from the United Kingdom.

This was credited to many people being anxious to vacation after global air travel shut down almost entirely after the pandemic began in 2020.

*cont'd from pg 5*

ing our policyholders and stress to them the importance of updating the rebuilding cost and market value of their contents on a regular basis so they do not have added stress during what can be an already stressful period." ."

Mr. Prescott, who oversees Sagcor General's insurance operations in St Lucia, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda raised the concern that the company has seen examples of individuals choosing to insure their

possessions at a lower value in an effort to save money.

However, he cautioned policyholders against this, arguing that it isn't worth the risk, especially after looking at the events of the past few years which have included hurricanes and volcanoes in the Eastern Caribbean.

"When it comes to property, more often than not we can see that building costs tend to increase, therefore if your insurance premium is based on an outdated valuation, the settle-

ment you would receive would be in line with the valuation provided and thus likely to be less than what it would cost to rebuild," Prescott stated. "The same principles apply to contents insurance with the fluctuating value of electronics, jewelry, furniture, appliances and other personal possessions."

Mr. Prescott urged individuals to reach out to a trusted insurance representative to discuss their needs and devise a plan that suits their needs best.



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Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae giving full particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to [fiveislands.hrapplications@uwi.edu](mailto:fiveislands.hrapplications@uwi.edu) and addressed to the **Human Resource Manager, Office of the Campus Principal Human Resources Unit, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua**. The final date for applications is **April 26, 2022**. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua on **August 1, 2022**.

**The University thanks all applicants. However, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**



# Local News

## No spike in COVID-19 numbers as normalcy returns

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed twelve (12) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Sunday 10th April, 2022 at 6pm.

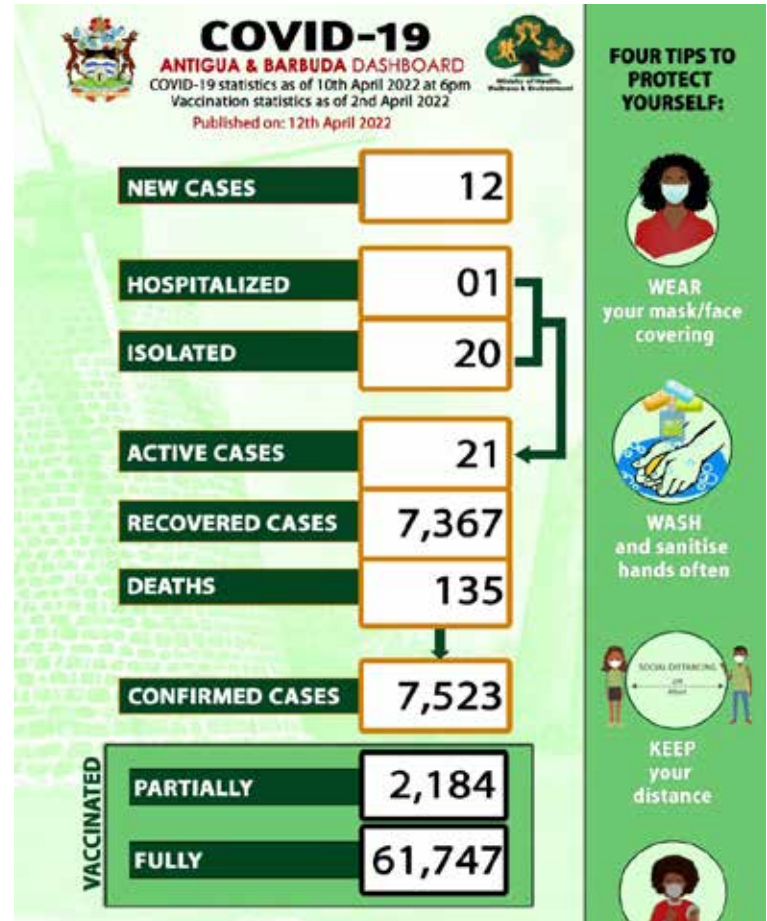
Six (6) cases were recorded on April 7th, three (3) on April 8th and three (3) on April 10th.

One hundred and six-

ty-nine (169) samples were processed.

Nine (9) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven thousand five hundred and twenty-three (7,523); which is inclusive of twenty-three (23) active cases. There is one (1) hospitalised case in mild condition.




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# Letter to the Editor

PAGE 9

**Dear Editor,**

I have noted the effort by Hon. Trevor Walker to raise a sum of EC\$70,000, to assist in funding his final appeal to London's Privy Council, in yet another versions of the "land case", having once again lost in the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal.

According to statements by Walker, the claimants have already raised EC\$100,000 but need a further EC\$70,000 to finance the appeal.

This took me back to the year 2018, and the holding of a referendum to determine whether the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda would support replacing the London Privy Council with the Caribbean Court of Justice.

To our eternal shame, our citizens rejected the move and voted to remain with the Privy Council as the country's final Appellate Court.

Needless to say, the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) strongly opposed the move and its Leader Harold Lovell, himself a lawyer, who had supported such a move in the past, and perhaps unable to convince his supporters to support the change, instead hid behind a fig leaf. He "left it up to each of his followers".

He, however, stood idly and silently by, while certain of his leadership colleagues campaigned heavily for a "NO" vote, a total failure of leadership on his part.

One of the most vociferous and dishonest persons, campaigning for a "no" vote was Pearl Quinn Williams, who in her speeches lied and deliberately misled opposition supporters and voters, even though it was crystal clear that the CCJ was clearly the easiest, best and most affordable option for the majority of the citizens.

The cost of taking a case to the Privy Council can vary between EC\$150,000 to EC\$300,000 and more. She did not tell her supporters that similar cases could be heard by the CCJ in Trinidad, not 8,000 miles away in London, for approximately EC\$30,000.

She repeated this ad nauseam, and

notwithstanding the patent stupidity in her contention, it was accepted as fact, by her mindless followers.


This brings me back to Hon. Trevor Walker's appeal for a further EC\$70,000 to complete his legal costs of EC\$170,000., which clearly gives the lie to Quinn's public dishonesty as to the cost of an Appeal to the Privy Council, which is a cost 95% of our population cannot afford.

What is even more egregious is that subsequently, in shooting off her mouth as she often does, Quinn admitted that her motive in opposing the move to the CCJ was really to "beat" the Prime Minister and to score political points, to assist her political campaign and get elected.

It had nothing to do with what was right for the people of Antigua and Barbuda. She proudly claims to be the one most responsible for the failure of the referendum. Of course, truth be told, there were others who should have known better, including a minority of lawyers, with some of seniority, who campaigned for the "no" vote.

Now that the MP for Barbuda, a political colleague of Quinn, and closely aligned to the UPP, has stated the legal cost of his appeal to the Privy Council is EC\$170,000, will Pearl Quinn apologise to the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda for her barefaced lie? Is this really the type of person that this country needs to lead it? I think not.

**Reds.**



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## Grow more vegetables in less space!

**By Robin Sweetser**

Container gardening is a fantastic way to grow vegetables, especially when you lack yard space! If you have a small gardening area or only have access to a patio, balcony, driveway, or rooftop, consider trying your hand at gardening in pots.

### Why You Should Try Container Gardening

Container gardening allows those of us who don't have room for raised beds or a huge garden plot to grow our own food, too. Want to have more control over growing conditions and fewer weeds? Container gardening is a great way to maximize your gardening space and streamline your gardening tasks.

#### Container Gardening 101

#### Where to Put a Container Garden

The beauty of a container garden is that it can be placed almost anywhere. Even if it's only one or two pots on the side of your driveway or in the corner of your balcony, gardening in containers allows you to maximize all of your available space.

Just as with a standard garden bed, consider things such as sunlight exposure, water accessibility, and protection from wind when deciding where to put your containers.

To maximize your veggie harvest, you'll want to place your pots in an area that gets full sun (i.e., 6 to 8 hours of sunlight per day). Lettuce, spinach, and other greens can grow well in less sunlight (3 to 5 hours per day), but for fruiting plants like tomatoes, peppers, squash, or eggplant, full sun should be the goal. Southern and western exposures will provide the most sunlight and warmth, while northern and eastern exposures will be shadier and cooler.

It's also a good idea to put your pots somewhere that you can reach with a watering hose. Keep in mind that con-



*Eggplants grow very easily in containers.*

tainer gardens tend to need more water than standard in-ground gardens, and there's nothing worse than having to lug a gardening can across your yard a dozen times every morning—and then having to do it again in the evening! Having an easily accessible source of water nearby will save you a lot of time and effort.

Protecting containers from direct wind keeps them from drying out as much and prevents accidental tipping over. Depending on the size of your containers and the plants you're growing, they may get top-heavy as the season goes on, which makes them more vulnerable to tipping over in strong winds. Place containers in sheltered locations or plan to secure them (e.g., with cinderblocks, stones, or ropes).

Finally, think about the microclimates that exist on your property. Microclimates are small pockets of space in which the climate of the immediate area doesn't match the greater climate of your location. For example, an asphalt driveway will hold onto warmth longer than a patch of grass will, so any pots placed on the driveway will be exposed to that extra warmth. On

one hand, this could mean that the pots dry out more quickly, but on the other hand, the plants may grow better thanks to the warmer soil.

#### Choosing the Right Container

The most fundamental part of container gardening is—surprise—picking the right container! From plastic pots and cinderblocks to whiskey barrels and wheelbarrows, almost anything that holds soil can be gardened in. However, when it comes to growing a productive container veggie garden, there are three key aspects to keep in mind while picking a suitable container:

##### 1. Drainage

A container should have a drainage hole or some other way to allow water to pass through it. Water-logged soil promotes bacterial and fungal growth, which will stunt plants' productivity or kill them outright. Your climate factors into this as well; gardeners in drier areas may want to choose containers that retain more moisture, while those in more humid environments may want containers that allow for more air flow.

##### 2. Size

*cont'd on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

In general, the more space you can offer your plants' roots, the better they will grow. For growing large vegetables such as beefsteak tomatoes or squash, large pots are recommended. However, bear in mind that larger containers will be heavier and harder to move and may be too heavy for somewhere like a balcony. Small containers, on the other hand, are more mobile and versatile, but also tend to dry out faster, requiring more attention on hot days.

### 3. Material

The final important factor to consider is what the container is made out of. These days, containers come in all sorts of types, each with its upsides and downsides. Here are a few of the most popular container materials:

**Plastic:** Plastic pots come in all sorts of shapes, colours, and sizes, which makes them one of the most popular choices for container gardening. Plastic pots also tend to be the cheapest option. They are relatively lightweight, hold in moisture well, and are easy to clean



*Tomatoes are an excellent candidate for container gardening. [Photo: Pixabay]*

and reuse for many gardening seasons down the line.

**Ceramic (terra-cotta):** Ceramic pots are another popular choice. They tend to be more decorative than plastic pots, but are also quite a bit heavier, especially when filled with soil. Ceramic pots come in glazed or unglazed styles; the main difference being that glazed pots hold in more moisture than unglazed pots. The great thing about ceramic pots is that the clay is porous, which allows some level of air and water to flow through it. This ensures that soil doesn't get overly wet, but also means that soil in (unglazed) clay pots will

dry out more quickly than in plastic pots.

**Fabric:** Fabric pots have become more popular in recent years thanks to their lightweight nature and the breathability they offer. They often come with handles, too, which makes moving them around very easy. Plus, they can be washed and reused fairly easily. The fabric allows air and water to easily flow through it, which is beneficial to plants' roots, as they are encouraged to become more fibrous and,

therefore, more efficient at taking in water and nutrients. One downside to fabric pots is that they dry out rather quickly, so consistent watering will be required.

Again, almost anything can be used as a container, so get creative! Hanging baskets make good use of extra space, and herbs and cherry tomatoes grown at eye level can be easily tended and harvested. Use whiskey barrels (a wooden half-barrel can yield an amazing amount of food), buckets, baskets, boxes, bath- and other tubs, window boxes, and troughs—anything that holds soil. Just be sure that it has drainage holes in the bottom and is a size that you can manage.

### Soil for Containers

In order to grow healthy plants, you need healthy soil. Plants in containers need the best possible nutrients, aeration, and drainage in order to encourage healthy root growth and to produce a good harvest.

Do not use soil from

*cont'd on pg 12*

## NOTICE

### Computer Classes beginning May 2nd

Beginners, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher, Photo Shop, QuickBooks, Auto Cad, Computer Repairs, Computer Networking, Computer Programming, Database Design & Analysis, Cisco Networking & more. Also, massive sale on laptop computers. @ Computer Reset. St. John's Street. 726-2980, [www.computerresets.com](http://www.computerresets.com).

## NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

April 13 2022

The Public is asked to note that the Antigua and Barbuda Civil Registry will be closed to the public at 12 noon tomorrow Thursday April 14, 2022. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday April 19, 2022. Also note that the Registry will be closed to the public on Friday April 29, 2022, for a special training activity. For any further information please contact us at Tel: 562 9687/88. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Registrar

# Lifestyle



*cont'd from pg 11*

the garden! Most garden soils are too heavy, can become easily waterlogged and compacted, and harbour disease and insects. Instead, use a “soilless” potting mix that’s specifically formulated for use in containers. It will be quick-draining and lightweight, and shouldn’t contain any diseases or pests.

Soilless potting mixes tend to consist of some combination of peat (or coconut coir), perlite, and vermiculite, as well as other additives such as ground limestone and granulated fertilizers to provide nutrients.

Got compost? Humus is a fantastic material to add to your container mix, as it contains plenty of nutrients and loosens the media.

## How to Water Containers

Because they are more exposed to sun and wind, containers tend to dry out more quickly than traditional gardens or raised beds. Especially during the hottest days of summer, many

plants grown in pots must be watered as often as twice a day!

Containers can be watered in a number of ways—hoses, watering cans, drip irrigation. Choose a method that makes the most sense for you and the size of your garden.

## A few watering pointers:

Water in the morning (or as early as possible). Ideally, container plants should be watered as early in the day as possible. Watering early in the day provides plants with enough moisture to get them through the hotter midday hours. It also ensures that their leaves dry off by the time that night falls; having moisture on leaves at night can encourage the spread of disease.

Water deeply. Plants need water at their roots, so simply spraying the surface of the soil with the hose isn’t enough. Water plants—especially those in containers—deeply and thoroughly to ensure that water reaches down to their roots. After a watering,

the soil should be saturated and water should run out the bottom of the pot. Alternatively, try watering from the bottom: Place a tray under the pot and fill it with water. The soil will absorb the water through the drainage hole(s). Repeat until no more water is absorbed, then dump out any excess water from the tray.

Don’t water too frequently! It may sound counterintuitive, but watering a plant with a small amount of water very frequently is worse than watering with a large amount infrequently. Frequent, shallow waterings encourage plants to develop weak, shallow roots, while infrequent, deep waterings encourage them to put down deeper, healthier roots. Most plants can tolerate—and actually benefit from—having a little break between deep waterings, so don’t be afraid to let the soil dry out a little bit between waterings.

Other key things to keep in mind

*cont'd on pg 13*

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*cont'd from pg 12*

are the size of the pot and the weather. Smaller pots will dry out a lot more quickly than larger pots and will require more frequent waterings. Hot, sunny days are naturally more drying than cool, cloudy ones, so expect to water more during heat waves. Overall, pay attention to the speed at which your container soil dries out as well as how your plants react; you will soon get a sense for how often you need to water!

One way to keep container plants adequately cool and moist during hot summer days is to double-pot them: Place a small pot inside a larger one and fill the space between them with sphagnum moss or crumpled newspaper. When watering the plant, also soak the filler between the pots. Caution: be sure to check your double-potted plants often, as the extra **layer can also be a nice spot for pests to hide!**

### Fertilizing Containers

Water flows through containers quickly, flushing nutrients out with it. This can be a good thing, as it will flush out any build-up of salts in the soil. However, this also means that it's necessary to replenish those nutrients by feeding container plants more regularly than those grown in the ground.

In general, we recommend adding a slow-release fertilizer to your potting mix at the start of the gardening season. This can be done by either mixing it into your potting mix at planting, or

by sprinkling fertilizer on top of the potting mix (i.e., "top-dressing") right after planting. This will give your plants a good head start on growth.

While they're actively growing, flowering, and fruiting, use a liquid fertilizer to feed container plants at least twice a month, following the instructions on the label. It's always a good idea to test your soil first, if possible, to gauge whether or not additional fertilizer is necessary. An occasional application of fish emulsion or compost will add trace elements to container soil as well.

To keep vegetable plants growing, feed them organic soil amendments, like liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, or manure tea.

### Supporting Container Plants

While we won't discourage you from chatting with your plants every now and then, in this case, we mean physical support. Support tall or climbing vegetables with trellises, stakes, netting, twine, or cages.

A teepee of bamboo stakes will hold pole beans or snap peas well. Cucumbers trained to climb up a nylon mesh fence will develop fruit that hang down and grow straight. To avoid damaging the plants or their roots, put supports in place at the time of planting.

### Which Vegetables Grow Best in Containers?

When it comes to being grown in containers, some veggies do actually do better than others. Vegetables

that can be easily transplanted are typically great candidates, as they will adjust easily to the potted environment. Transplants can be purchased from local nurseries or started at home.

In general, gravitate toward vegetable varieties that are considered "dwarf" or "container," as they tend to stay smaller and are better suited to the container lifestyle. Check in your favourite seed catalogues; many list varieties of vegetables bred specifically for growing in containers. Among tomatoes, for example, choose "bush" or "determinate" varieties, as they will grow to a set height and won't get unwieldy in a container.

To maximize space and thus your harvest, try

planting low-growers and tall climbers together in the same container. The climbers will eagerly scramble up a trellis, while the small plants spread around their base. You'll hardly need to weed because there won't be any room for weeds to gain a foothold, and during the height of summer, some low-growers (leafy greens, for example) will thrive in the shade provided by the taller plants.

Mix quick-maturing plants, such as lettuce, with longer-growing ones, like tomatoes or broccoli.

Group plants with similar needs for sun and water, such as pole beans, lettuce; cucumber, bush beans, and beets; tomatoes, basil, and onions; and peas and carrots.



## How dangerous is tongue-tie?

By Kamala Thiagarajan

Awareness of tongue-tie, and its hidden impact on children's health, is rising around the world. Here's how it can be spotted and fixed.

Purna Parmar had been looking forward to breastfeeding her son, Janav, after his birth in 2011. But whenever he latched on to her breast, she felt a searing pain. Soon, her nipples were sore, raw and bleeding. "I found it excruciatingly painful," says Parmar, a customer care executive in Mumbai, India. "And yet, I was wracked by guilt that I couldn't even do this basic thing for my child."

Everyone around her was dismissive of the problem, suggesting it was natural for new mothers to face some breastfeeding issues. Her paediatrician suggested she switch to formula. Instead, she put up with the pain and kept up with the feeding routine as best as she could. But as time passed, Parmar realised something was wrong. At parties, her son could never play with the other kids, because he was always the last to finish his meal. At home, mealtimes were draining. Janav lingered over his food, taking up to two hours to finish.

"At first, I thought he



was a sluggish eater," says Parmar. "Even his walking was slow and unsteady. And he just couldn't balance on a bike." Rushing him only created more stress. Eventually, she pureed his meals, as he couldn't chew and swallow most foods. He was constantly exhausted.

In 2019, when Janav was eight years old, the mystery was finally solved: he was diagnosed with a severe case of ankyloglossia, also known as tongue-tie, a genetic condition now gaining attention from medical experts and families around the world.

In babies born with tongue-tie, the thin strip of tissue that connects the underside of the tongue to the mouth is unusually tight. This means that instead of resting on the roof of the mouth, the tongue is tied to the floor of the mouth, which can prevent the babies from feeding properly.

The condition is thought to be genetic, and has been known for millennia, but can be hard to diagnose. In the United States, about 8% of children under one-year-

old suffer from it, according to a review published in 2020.

Experts say that awareness of it has been rising around the world in recent years, and some countries have seen a more than 10-fold increase in diagnosed cases. In the US, both the number of tongue-tie diagnoses, and tongue-tie surgeries, have soared.

However, there are still families like Parmar's suffering through years of pain and stress caused by undiagnosed tongue-tie. In developing countries like India, healthcare providers may focus on fighting more immediate threats to babies' health, such as infections, and as a consequence, leave tongue-tie unnoticed and untreated for years. Even in countries where the condition is more frequently diagnosed, it can be overlooked.

Some years ago, Kate Canavan, a mother-of-two living in Raleigh, North Carolina, noticed her younger daughter Anna's speech was not very clear. Anna was only two years

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*cont'd from pg 14*

old at the time, Canavan had not had any breastfeeding issues, and her paediatrician told her not to worry about it. It wasn't until Anna was four that another paediatrician said something could be amiss and referred them to a speech therapist.

"The speech therapist told us that she had a lip-and-tongue-tie and if those weren't addressed, the speech therapy really wouldn't be very effective because her mouth anatomy was limiting her articulation," says Canavan, meaning, her daughter couldn't move her lips and tongue freely enough to speak clearly.

### Trapped

The first signs of tongue-tie can be problems and pain during breastfeeding, as in the case of Parmar and her baby son.

"Children with tongue-tie can't extend their tongues beyond the tip of their lips. This results in ineffective

latching, sucking and swallowing, all actions that are so essential for breastfeeding," says Ju-Lee Oei, a senior neonatologist at the Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick, Australia.

As the baby tries to move the trapped tongue and clamps down on the breast to try and feed, the result can be extremely painful for the mother.

For others, like Canavan's daughter, the problems emerge later.

"Many children with tongue-tie will not have symptoms," says Amulya K Saxena, a consultant paediatric surgeon at Chelsea Children's Hospital, Chelsea and Westminster Foundation Trust and president of the European Association of Paediatric Surgeons, in an interview over email.

The tethering of the tongue itself can be hard to spot. The lingual frenulum is a strip of tissue extending from the back of the mouth to the midline of the tongue. If this tissue is restrictive, the tip of the tongue can't extend

beyond the lips, the tongue-tie can be quite evident. However, there is a more hidden kind of tongue tie, located deeper in the mouth, which requires a health professional to detect and diagnose, Saxena says.

Children living with tongue-tie may find it hard to use their tongue freely, be it to play a wind instrument, lick their lips or an ice cream, or use their tongue to help clean their teeth during the day. "In some children, it may cause cuts under the tongue if the lingual frenulum gets trapped between the lower incisor teeth," Saxena says.

The tongue's awkward position, and weaker tongue muscle as a result of the lack of movement, can cause problems beyond the mouth.

"One of the biggest issues with tongue-tie is that the air-pressure balance in the mouth is affected, and this can cause nasal breathing that disrupts sleep," says Ankita Shah, a paediatric

*cont'd on pg 16*



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# Health & Wellness



*cont'd from pg 15*

dentist and director of the Tongue Tie and Sleep Institute in Mumbai, who diagnosed Parmar's son's case.

Children with tongue-tie often contend with open-mouth breathing and snoring, she says, which affects

the quality of their sleep. They wake up frequently with a congested nose and tend to clench or grind their teeth while asleep, leading to neck and shoulder stiffness, and headaches. The constant discomfort, even if quite subtle, can affect their posture and overall

wellbeing.

"We don't realise how much the alignment of the teeth, tongue and the jaw can influence an entire range of body functions," says Shah.

## A quick fix?

In milder cases, the problem may resolve itself, says Saxena, the London-based surgeon. The connecting strip stretches as the baby feeds and moves her tongue, and over time, the tongue is less restricted. Advice on the right breastfeeding technique, massaging the frenulum, and exercising the tongue can all help resolve such mild cases, in his view. But if that doesn't work, or if the tongue-tie makes breastfeeding very difficult, he recommends the release procedure. This involves a small cut into the frenulum to help release the tongue.

However, all of these problems – struggling with feeding, eating, breathing, sleeping and speaking – can have other causes. And while in countries like India tongue-tie may be under-diagnosed, some doctors in other countries see a risk of over-diagnosing it.

"In 2017, when we had a huge surge in cases, we decided to look into it," says Oei. The Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick, Australia, where she works, records 4,500 births on average each year. Until that year, they usually had only 10 requests for tongue-tie surgery every month. "We went from 10 a month, to 10 cases per week," says Oei.

Cases at other hospitals in the area had risen too, and some practitioners were charging steep rates for the procedure. "We realised that the surgery was in high demand because it was seen as a quick-fix to correct breastfeeding troubles. However, cutting the frenulum to release the tongue doesn't magically solve all problems," she says.

The results of their global study, published in 2018, noted that the diag-

*cont'd on pg 17*

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nosis of tongue-tie had risen more than 10-fold in some countries, varied considerably around the world and that greater efforts to standardise care were needed.

Since then, the guidelines at their hospital have changed, says Oei. Every child struggling to breast-feed because of suspected tongue-tie must now be assessed by a breastfeeding consultant. Surgery is recommended only after two-to-four weeks of trying to solve the breastfeeding issues with the consultant's support.

As Oei and her colleagues note in their research paper, even the relatively simple surgery used for tongue-tie should not be carried out lightly, as "subjecting infants to a surgical procedure, no matter how minor, causes pain, stress, possibly longer-term neurological harm".

## **Surgery and 'tongue yoga'**

Saxena, the paediatric surgeon in London, has noticed that families are growing more aware of tongue-tie. "Patient support groups and professional bodies are now offering information on social media," she says.

In India, Shah has also observed a rise in the number of families seeking help, including those with older children. But she, too, advises against resorting to surgery too quickly.

Out of 10 patients who walk into her clinic, roughly only half will need surgery,

says Shah. It depends on the severity of the tongue-tie, and its impact on the body, including the airways.

"We evaluate the varying symptoms each patient has with this condition, and we ask ourselves if the problem is only because of the tongue-tie? We try to correct other associated problems first before opting for surgery."

While older children may need general anaesthesia, cases in younger children tend to be treated with local anaesthesia, Shah says. In the case of newborns, anaesthesia isn't used at all, as the risks would outweigh the benefits.

However, surgery is not the end of the treatment, says Carmelle Gentle, an independent midwife and breastfeeding consultant based in London. Gentle, who has set up a donation-based tongue-tie centre in South London, recommends that parents help the baby use and strengthen their tongue after the snip, through various exercises.

"We support babies to use their tongue in a new way," she says. "It's a bit like yoga. You may not be able to touch your toes at the beginning of the session, but regular, gentle practice helps you get there."

Kate Canavan's daughter, Anna, was helped by surgery. "Because her frenulum was so thick and muscular, and she was so young, the speech therapist and an [ear, nose and throat specialist] recommended that

the procedure be done with a surgical scissors and under general anaesthesia. That way, they would be careful to not damage surrounding tissue while releasing the tongue," says Canavan over email.

After the 15-minute procedure, Anna didn't need any pain medication and was able to eat and drink without any problems. She even went to pre-school the next day. Within a month of surgery, her speech improved dramatically.

Purna Parmar in Mum-

bai, whose son had suffered from tongue-tie for so many years, burst into tears when her doctor told her about the condition: "I was just so relieved that there was a name for what we were going through."

It then took her two years to convince her family that an operation was necessary, but it was worth it, she says. He had the surgery, and it helped. Today, Janav enjoys experimenting with different foods, can finish his meal in 20 minutes – and is then off to ride his bike.



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# WHO chief: Focus on Ukraine shows bias against black lives

By Maria Cheng

The head of the World Health Organization has slammed the global community for its focus on the war in Ukraine, arguing that crises elsewhere, including in his home country of Ethiopia, are not being given equal consideration, possibly because those suffering are not white.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus questioned “if the world really gives equal attention to black and white lives,” given that the ongoing emergencies in Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria have garnered only a “fraction” of the global concern for Ukraine. He was speaking in a virtual press briefing from Geneva on Wednesday.

Last month, Tedros said there is “nowhere on earth where the health of millions of people is more under threat” than Ethiopia’s Tigray region.

Since a truce was declared in Tigray three weeks ago, about 2,000 trucks should have been able to bring food, medicines and other essentials to the conflict-ridden area, he said. Instead, only about 20 trucks have arrived, said Tedros, a former minister of health in Ethiopia and an ethnic Tigrayan.

“As we speak, people are dying of starvation,” he said. “This is one of the longest and worst sieges by both Eritrean and Ethiopian forces in modern history.”

Tedros acknowledged that the war in Ukraine is globally significant



World Health Organization director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, slammed the global community for its focus on the war in Ukraine, arguing that crises elsewhere, including in his home country of Ethiopia, are not being given equal consideration. (Johanna Geron, Pool Photo via AP, File)

but asked if other crises are being accorded enough attention.

“I need to be blunt and honest that the world is not treating the human race the same way,” he said. “Some are more equal than others.”

Tedros described the situation in Tigray as “tragic” and said he “hopes the world comes back to its senses and treats all human life equally.” He also critiqued the press for its failure to document the ongoing atrocities in Ethiopia, noting that people had been burned alive in the region. “I don’t even know if that was taken seriously by the media.”

Earlier this year, the government of Ethiopia sent a letter to the World Health Organization, accusing Tedros of “misconduct” after his sharp criticism of the war and humanitarian crisis in the country.

The Ethiopian government said Tedros was using his office “to advance his political interest at the expense of Ethiopia” and said he continues to be an active member of the Tigray People’s Liberation Front; Tedros was Ethiopia’s foreign minister and health minister when the TPLF dominated the country’s ruling coalition.





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# Regional News



## Bermuda Ex-premier Dr. Ewart Brown says independence could end racism in Bermuda

CMC - Former Bermuda Premier, Dr Ewart Brown, believes independence could be the key to ending racism in the majority-black British Overseas Territory.

Brown, 75, in an interview with the Royal Gazette newspaper, said Black people, who account for 52 percent of the 64,000 population, are still treated as second-class citizens in Bermuda and racial discrimination was rife. Whites, the second largest ethnic group, make up 31 percent of the population.

But Brown, who was premier between 2006 and 2010, said independence — rejected overwhelmingly by voters in a 1995 referendum — could change the landscape in an island where the national debt currently stands at US\$3.1 billion.

“I do think that people who mature politically are better able to manage their affairs. You have to grow up and do things, so I think ‘yeah’.”

“The race situation in Bermuda is

as bad as it has ever been. It runs deep and wide and has never been honestly confronted. It’s a very sensitive issue and people are reluctant to discuss anything that might result in a reduction in privilege,” Brown said, adding “it is a phenomenon that has been carefully constructed and has been devastatingly impactful.”

The former head of the ruling Progressive Labour Party (PLP) said a frank discussion on the subject is the first step towards a better society.

“For Black people, and white people, it’s uncomfortable. But it takes that to take the scab off and release the pus.

“What we have done over the years is cover it up and allow scarring to occur. Every now and then it flares up, you give the patient an antibiotic and it quiets down. But we haven’t done the required surgery, which is really to open and release.”

Sir John Swan, who headed the now-defunct United Bermuda Party,



*Dr Ewart Brown*

pushed for independence in 1995, but he was rebuffed and almost three-quarters of voters rejected cutting ties with Britain. Then PLP leader Frederick Wade urged his supporters to boycott the referendum, saying the PLP wanted independence on its terms.

There has been no further attempt to change the status quo in the intervening 27 years with opinion polls regularly showing the majority still opposed to independence.

## Dominica to benefit from multi-million-dollar loans and grants from CDB

CMC - The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is providing more than EC\$200 million in grant and loan funding to Dominica for major infrastructural work on the island.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit said Dominica will receive EC\$132.6 million including a grant of US\$32.9 million from Britain for the rehabilitation of the Loubiere to Grand Bay Road network.

“It is a major investment and certainly it is topping the EC\$127 million that we are currently spending on the east of Dominica with loan funds from the World Bank.”

He said under the project, Dominica



also contracted a US\$5.5 million loan from the CDB because there are certain components of the design that had to be left out.

“So, we had to contract the loan from the CDB, and we are very grateful to the CDB for making those funds available in a very quick fashion,” he said, adding that the first phase of the project will include the construction of five bridges.

He said the procurement process is underway and it is hoped construction begins by mid-year.

Regarding the other major project, Skerit said it also involves a grant of US\$30.3 million from the United Kingdom government with the government and the Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited (DOWASCO) pro-

*cont'd on pg 21*



## ECLAC examines economic impact of COVID on Latin America and Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on employment in Latin America and the Caribbean resulted in a decline in the population's rate of participation in economic activity.

In its 2021 Statistical Yearbook, ECLAC reported that 57.8 percent of the region's population had been economically impacted by the pandemic in 2020 as against 62.5 percent in 2019.

It said also there was a higher open unemployment rate, increasing from 8.1 percent in 2019 to 10.5 percent in 2020.

"As a result, the population without their own income increased notably in the region, especially among people from 15 to 24 years of age," ECLAC said, pointing also to a "positive projection for a 6.3 percent recovery in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021 versus the -6.8 percent drop recorded at a regional level in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic".

It said these results are reflected in the average GDP per inhabitant, which amounted to US\$8,307 in 2020 and US\$8,747 dollars in 2021, marking a growth rate of 5.3 percent.

ECLAC said foreign direct investment (FDI) in the region plunged by -20.4 percent in 2020, compared with 2019, with Latin America experiencing



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a -20.7 percent decline and the Caribbean down by -10 percent.

As a percentage of GDP, FDI represented 2.1 percent in the same period, ECLAC said, adding that in 2020, intraregional exports represented 13 percent of all shipments abroad.

Regarding imports, ECLAC said intraregional purchases accounted for a 13.9 percent share of the total and that the intraregional exports fell eight percent versus 2019, while the decline in intraregional imports for the same period was 4.5 percent.

With regard to the terms of trade, ECLAC said there was a slight increase of 0.2 percent for Latin America in 2020, as compared with 2019.

In 2021, ECLAC said consumer prices rose 12.6 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the biggest contribution came from the prices for food and beverage products, which rose by 12.5 percent.

ECLAC in its 2021 Statistical Yearbook also examined several other areas of development in the region, including physical conditions; land cover; ecosystems; biodiversity; environmental quality; land; energy, water, and biological resources; emissions; disasters; human settlements; and environmental regulation and governance.

"It can be seen that since 1990, Latin America and the Caribbean have improved their energy efficiency, with a 26 percent reduction since that year in the energy intensity of GDP as a function of the primary energy supply, and a 13 percent decline in final energy consumption," ECLAC said.

The report also indicates that, since 1990, the region has increased its exports of renewable and non-renewable natural resources by 168 percent, although the share of these primary exports vis-à-vis total exports has declined by 31 percent.

"This means there is greater pressure on natural resources, which causes a negative impact on the environment," ECLAC said.

*cont'd from pg 20*

viding EC\$9.2 million to finance major water projects in the country.

He said a total of EC\$106.7 million will be spent on the water project, adding that the funds were made available to Dominica following the passage of Hurricane Maria in 2017 "and we recognize as a government

that our water system was severely exposed to elements and the question is how do we go about building greater resilience in our water system in the event of a disaster".

He said when the British offered assistance, the government felt it was not in the interest of Dominica to spend the funds across the island but to focus on the water sector.

He said all designs for the water strategy development project are complete and the tender documents submitted to the CDB with the hope that the contracts can be awarded by August.

Prime Minister Skerrett told a news conference Tuesday following talks with CDB president Dr. Gene Leon on his first official visit to the is-

land, that he was "very much fortified by the discussions and the vision which the new president has for the bank.

The St. Lucia-born Leon, the sixth president of the region's premier financial institution, told reporters he hoped that at the end of his five-year term his commitment to regional development would be better articulated.

## South Africa: Death toll reaches 259 in KwaZulu-Natal floods

Al Jazeera – The death toll resulting from intense rainfall in the eastern coastal South African province of KwaZulu-Natal has risen to 259, officials have said.

The rains which began on Monday night flooded settlements, ravaged homes, swept away roads and displaced dozens.

In a statement on Wednesday, the provincial government, which confirmed the number of dead, said the fatalities could rise further.

Disaster management teams were evacuating people in areas where mudslides occurred and where buildings had collapsed, the province's Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) had said



*A woman stands at her front door after heavy rains caused flood damage in KwaNdengezi, Durban, South Africa, on April 12, 2022 [Rogan Ward/Reuters]*

on Tuesday.

Dozens of homes were washed away and several roads had caved in, hampering transport and rescue operations. The South African National Defence Force was asked to provide aerial

support where necessary, the COGTA statement said.

The rains in KwaZulu-Natal also flooded a dam beyond capacity, making it impossible to operate a hydroelectric generator at power utility Eskom, Chief Exec-

utive Officer Andre de Ruyter said in an online briefing.

South Africa's biggest logistics and freight operator Transnet, which runs the Durban port, suspended operations across its terminals there as the deluge damaged a road and hindered access to the terminals, it said in a statement.

The South African Weather Service declined to attribute the current spate of rainfall to climate change but said such heavy rain events could become more common.

Heavy rainfall in KwaZulu-Natal will considerably weaken by Wednesday, the weather department said, but added that rains will return from Friday to Monday.

## Ukraine to receive \$1.5bn in support package from World Bank

Al Jazeera – The World Bank is preparing a \$1.5bn support package for war-torn Ukraine and plans to aid developing countries struggling to keep up with surging food and energy prices.

World Bank President David Malpass, in remarks at the Warsaw School of Economics in Poland on Tuesday, said the organisation was helping Ukraine provide critical services, including paying wages for hospital workers, pensions and social programmes.

Malpass said the package was enabled by Monday's approval of \$1bn in International Development Association (IDA) aid by donor and recipient

countries, along with a \$100m IDA payment to neighbouring Moldova.

A World Bank spokesperson said that, in addition to the \$1bn in funding from IDA's 19th replenishment round, the bank's main concessional lending arm, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), would provide \$472m in loan guarantees. The plan still needs full approval by the bank's board of directors in the coming weeks, the spokesperson said, adding that the aid would allow Ukraine to continue "essential government services during the war".

On Sunday, the World Bank forecast that the war in Ukraine would slash the country's economic output



*On Sunday, the World Bank forecast that the war in Ukraine would slash the country's economic output by 45 percent this year. [Anastasia Vlasova/Getty]*

by 45 percent this year, as half of Ukraine's businesses are closed, maritime exports are cut off and much productive capacity is destroyed.

*cont'd on pg 23*



## Police arrest suspect in New York subway shooting ‘without incident’

BBC - Police in New York City have arrested a man suspected of shooting 10 commuters in a rush hour attack at a Brooklyn subway station.

Frank James, 62, is alleged to have donned a construction worker's helmet, vest and a gas mask before throwing smoke grenades and opening fire.

A massive 30-hour manhunt was launched in the wake of the attack.

Mr James was taken into custody on Wednesday afternoon in Manhattan after police received a tip-off, they said.

“My fellow New Yorkers: we got him,” Mayor Eric Adams said via video during a news conference.

Officials said Mr James was the sole suspect in the shooting at Brooklyn's 36th Street station on Tuesday morning, in which 23 people were wounded, 10 of them from gunfire. The attack renewed calls to address violence in the city's transit system.

Keechant Sewell, New York's police commissioner, said that Mr James was arrested “without incident”. “There was nowhere left for him to run,” she said.

Police did not answer questions about the individual who called in the tip, though the Associated Press and CNN are reporting the suspect was the one who tipped off police to his location in lower Manhattan.

Mr James will be charged on several counts, authorities said, including the violation of a federal law which prohibits “terrorist and other violent attacks” against mass transit systems. He could face life in prison if found guilty.

He had nine prior arrests, police said, and he had ties to Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The search for Mr James was complicated by malfunctioning cameras inside the subway station. Officials on Wednesday were working to determine



Police arrest the suspect Frank James.

whether one or multiple cameras at the station were broken.

The suspected gunman escaped the scene but was linked to the attack through a rented U-Haul van.

The key to the van, rented in Philadelphia, was found at the scene, along with a Glock 9mm handgun, three ammunition magazines, a plastic container containing petrol, and a credit card with Mr James' name on it, police said.

An FBI affidavit said the agency believes Mr James rented the U-Haul in Philadelphia on Monday and drove it to New York, arriving the next day.

The agency said that records showed the Glock was lawfully bought in Ohio “by an individual named ‘Frank Robert James’”.

Police have not given a motive for the attack, though authorities have said Mr James had posted black nationalist rhetoric and bigoted rants online and “made various statements about the New York City subway system”, including about homeless people on the subways and “various conspiracy theories”, according to court documents.

Mr James is expected to make his first court appearance in New York on Thursday.

### *cont'd from pg 22*

The aid comes on top of about \$944m in fast-disbursing financing approved by the World Bank last month, which also includes donor country contributions. That package includes \$350m in budget support financing from the IBRD.

Malpass has previously said the bank was working on about \$3bn in total near-term aid for Ukraine.

He said the World Bank was ana-

lysing global impacts of the war, including the spike in food and energy prices, and is “preparing a surge crisis response that will provide focused support for developing countries”.

Pointing out that the spike in food prices needs immediate attention, Malpass added that for every one percentage point increase in food prices, 10 million people are expected to fall into extreme poverty.

“The rich can afford suddenly ex-

pensive staples, but the poor cannot. Malnutrition is expected to grow, and its effects will be the hardest to reverse in children,” Malpass said.

Senior economic officials from World Bank and International Monetary Fund member countries will meet in Washington next week, where spill overs from Russia's invasion will be the dominant topic of discussion, including an expected IMF downgrade of its economic growth outlook.

# Sports News



## Trinidad & Tobago to host Hero CPL matches in 2022

30th August, 2022 marks the start of Hero Caribbean Premier League. Trinidad & Tobago has been confirmed as one of the host locations for this season's CPL. There will be eight matches played in Trinidad during September 12 – 18, with home team Trinbago Knight Riders taking part in four of those games.

The Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Sport and Community Development stated: "The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is excited to partner with the Hero Caribbean Premier League, and welcomes



back the Biggest Party in Sport to the home of Carnival, as we host the 2022 edition of

the Hero CPL. This opportunity serves as an investment into positioning Trinidad & Tobago as a regional leader in sports tourism especially in this redefined sphere of sport events in the post pandemic era.

Live spectators are an essential element of sport, so fans are welcomed to return to the stands in support of their teams and favourite players. In T&T we continue to champion safe practices while having fun as all COVID-19 protocols would be adhered to during the games."

Trinidad & Tobago was the host for the Hero CPL in 2020 where the matches were played behind closed doors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With restrictions now being relaxed in Trinidad and Tobago, the unique energy and excitement of cricket fans will come alive at all the matches, bringing a return to the fantastic atmosphere the tournament has missed over

the previous two seasons.

Eager fans can expect a favourable schedule, half of the matches will be at 10am, offering great family entertainment with the Hero CPL planning to work with local schools and sports clubs to encourage young cricket fans and their families to attend.

There will also be the traditional evening games, where the Trinbago Knight Riders will play all their matches. The home team will be looking to continue their excellent form when playing in front of their passionate fans.

Pete Russell, Hero CPL's CEO, said: "Trinidad & Tobago has been a huge part of the success of Hero CPL and we are delighted to be back for 2022. The atmosphere at venues in Trinidad has always been fantastic and we know that the fans will be hugely excited to be back at the Biggest Party in Sport." (CPL)

**ANTIGUA TURF CLUB**

**SUNDAY 17TH APRIL**

# EASTER RACE MEET

MUSIC: PROFESSOR IRISH AND RENEGADE SOUNDS  
 GATES OPEN 1PM  
 FIRST RACE 3.00 PM  
**\$10** ADULTS | **\$5** CHILDREN

**LINGIES LIGHTS AND WINDOWS FLOW**



## Real Madrid and Villarreal stay alive in Champions League

AP - Two Spanish clubs. Contrasting histories in soccer. The same magical Champions League night.

Real Madrid and Villarreal both found a way to advance to the semi-finals of the European competition on Tuesday, with powerhouse Madrid surviving a comeback by defending champion Chelsea and modest Villarreal fending off German giant Bayern Munich.

There was drama in both matches as Madrid needed a goal in extra time from Karim Benzema at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium and Villarreal an 88th-minute strike by Samuel Chukwueze in Munich.

Madrid lost 3-2 but advanced on aggregate after winning the first leg in England 3-1. Villarreal's 1-1 draw was enough after it had won 1-0 at home in the first match.

"We have to be proud of what we have achieved. We had a very difficult round of 16 against Paris Saint-Germain and now again against Chelsea, so we are happy to make it to the semi-finals," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "And we are very happy for Villarreal as well. It's a great boost for Spanish soccer after many people said it wasn't at the same level of English soccer. Now we already have two Spanish clubs in the semi-finals."

Madrid, a record 13-time European champion, is in the semi-finals for the 10th time in 12 seasons. Villarreal, which won the Europa League last season for its first major title, is in the last four for the first time in 16 years.

Although Madrid is one of the biggest teams in the world, it already had a close call in the last 16 against PSG. The team was saved by a second-half hat trick from Benzema in a 3-1 victory after it had lost 1-0 in Paris and conced-



*Villarreal players celebrate end of the Champions League, second leg, quarterfinal soccer match between Bayern Munich and Villarreal at the Allianz Arena, in Munich, Germany, Tuesday, April 12, 2022. (Sven Hoppe/DPA via AP)*

ed early in the second leg at the Bernabéu.

Villarreal, based in a city of 50,000 people in southern Spain, had stunned Juventus in the round of 16 with a 3-0 win in Italy after a 1-1 draw in the first leg at home.

While Ancelotti is a three-time Champions League winner, Villarreal is coached by Unai Emery, who has thrived in the Europa League but until this season had never made it past the last 16 in the Champions League.

"We are going to enjoy the semi-finals," Emery said. "And not because people will say we are cool or nice or from a small city, but because we have a project and we have succeeded so far."

Emery and some of his players hinted they had been upset after Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann reportedly said he wanted Bayern to seal its spot in the last four in the first leg in Villarreal, when the six-time European champions were outplayed for most of the match.

"I think there was a lack of respect by their coach toward us," Villarreal midfielder Dani Parejo said after Tuesday's match.

Villarreal made it to the Champions League semi-finals for the first time in 2006, when it lost to Arsenal. The team hadn't been in the quarterfinals since 2009, when it also was eliminated by Arsenal. The club is currently in seventh place in the Spanish league, a competition it has never won.

Madrid, the current Spanish league leader, played in the Champions League semi-finals eight straight seasons before consecutive round-of-16 eliminations in 2018 and 2019. It won three consecutive European titles from 2016-18. Madrid was eliminated by Chelsea in last year's semi-finals.

"You don't play with the king," said the mosaic behind one of the goals at the Bernabéu on Tuesday.

"Once again," Ancelotti said, "the magic of this stadium, the magic of Real Madrid, helped us stay alive."

# Sports News



## Kyrie Irving leads Brooklyn Nets to play-in victory over Cavaliers

BBC – Kyrie Irving led the Brooklyn Nets to a 115-108 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers in an Eastern Conference play-in game.

Irving scored 34 points and made his first 12 shots as the Nets secured the seventh-seed spot in the play-offs.

They will now face the Boston Celtics in the first round of the play-offs.

The Nets held a “moment of reflection” before the game and donated \$50,000 to the victims of Tuesday’s subway shooting in Brooklyn.

The donation is a joint gift with the New York Liberty Foundation.

More than 20 people were injured in the shooting at Brooklyn’s 36th Street station.



Kyrie Irving joined the Brooklyn Nets in 2019

“It’s devastating,” Kevin Durant said of the shootings before the victory over the Cavaliers.

“To hear the sirens out front of the practice facility and see so much commotion going on outside, you hope and pray for the best for everybody involved.”

Nets coach Steve Nash said it was clear the community had been affected

“in a tragic, unfortunate and senseless way”.

“We saw a side of life today that is ugly, disappointing and can, I think, at times be worrisome for people in the community,” Nash said.

“But it is more important now for our community to look at how to support each other and continue to live with conviction and find ways that we can over-

come.”

Teams from seventh to 10th in the Eastern Conference and Western Conference progress to the NBA play-ins.

Two teams from each division can then secure a place in the end-of-season play-offs via the play-ins route.

The Minnesota Timberwolves secured their play-off spot with a 109-104 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Anthony Edwards scored 30 points and D’Angelo Russell 29 points as the Timberwolves won the Western Conference encounter.

It is just the second time in the past 18 seasons that the Timberwolves have reached the play-offs.

## Spanish city of Málaga to host Davis Cup Finals in 2022-23

AP – The latter stages of the Davis Cup Finals will be played in the southern Spanish city of Málaga in November, organizers said Wednesday.

The revamped tennis competition will remain in Spain after the first two editions were played in Madrid.

The group phase will be played from Sept. 14-18 in the Italian city of Bologna, the Scottish city of Glasgow, the German city of Hamburg and a fourth city yet to be an-

nounced. Innsbruck, Austria, and Turin, Italy, hosted group matches this year along with Madrid.

The quarterfinals, semi-finals and final will all be in Málaga from Nov. 21-27 on indoor hard courts. The city will also host the final stages in 2023, the International Tennis Federation and organizing group Kosmos Tennis said.

Málaga had been one of the cities chosen to host group matches this year but



it will now be replaced after being selected for the finals.

There had been speculation that Abu Dhabi would be the new host for the Davis

Cup Finals, but some players and team captains had expressed concerns with having to travel there late in the season.



## ABNA VP says netball is on the rise

Second Vice-President of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA), Olena Knight, says participation in the village and community league gives testimony to the fact that interest in the sport has increased since its return after a two-year absence.

Knight, who is responsible for coordinating the games, said the commencement of the league on 27th March at the YMCA Sports Complex, has attracted considerable interest from past and current players.

A former senior national player, Knight continued that the heightened interest is a good indication of the vibrancy of domestic netball in the aftermath of the worst of the pandemic.

“Community Village League Netball has breathed much needed life into the sport,” Knight said of the competition, which was last played in 2019.

“Games are being played amongst three divisions, three days a week at multiple venues.

“There are a total of 19 teams involved in an exciting tournament that has drawn the interest of both past and present players who have now become fans of the sport. Netball is indeed on the rise.”

The competition continued last weekend with matches at Willikies and YMCA Sports Complex.

At Willikies, in the female division, Drahz East-



Second Vice-President of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association Olena Knight. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

siders defeated Grays Green Tigers 33-13 with Esther Emmanuel scoring 21 of her 29 attempts and Chaka Grant converting 12 of her 20 shots for the victors.

Adina Andre sank 13 of her 16 tries for the losers.

Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets defeated Willikies Rangers 14-11 in their female division affair, while Drahz Eastsiders prevailed 22-16 against Ovals White

Doves in the mixed division.

At the YMCA in the female division, Wadadli Events Old Road prevailed 24-19 over Spencer's All Saints United 2. Zenta Browne scored 12 of her 17 attempts and Tasia Luke sank 11 of her 16 shots for Old Road. Anaiyah Simon scored 11 of her 17 tries for All Saints United 2.

Curtain Bluff Old Road

romped to a 23-13 victory over Spencer's All Saints United 1, with Amey Lake scoring 17 of her 32 attempts for the winners.

Curtain Bluff Old Road trounced Willikies Rangers 24-7.

In the mixed division, John Hughes Flyers prevailed 26-22 against All Saints All Stars. Calvin Carr netted 17 of his 24 shots for John Hughes while Anjis Anthony converted 15 of his 19 tries for All Saints.

Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets beat Gray's Green Tigers 22-21 and Nationals were 24-12 winners over John Hughes Flyers.

In other encounters, Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets defeated John Hughes Female Flyers 17-13 and Drahz Eastsiders prevailed 19-13 over Spencer's All Saints United in the women's division.

The Village and Community Netball League will continue with matches at the YMCA Sports Complex this evening.

Ovals Flyballers Up-rising will meet Wadadli Events Old Road and Grays Green Tigers will take on Curtain Bluff Old Road 1 in the female division.

Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets will clash with Ovals Flyballers Black Eagles, All Saints All Stars will tackle Ovals Flyballers White Doves 2 and Drahz Eastsiders will clash with Grays Green Tigers in the mixed division.

# Sports

THURSDAY 14TH APRIL 2022

DEWS

## ATC to host second meet of 2022

The Antigua Turf Club (ATC) will host its second horse racing meet this year at the Cassada Gardens Race Track on Sunday.

ATC president, Neil Cochrane, said the organisation is still finding its feet as it works to bring the sport back into full swing following the long pandemic driven break.

Five races will feature on Sunday's card, much like the year's first meet on 27th February. The February meet marked the end of horse racing's two-and-a-half-year hiatus.

According to Cochrane, familiar steeds will return to the track this weekend alongside three new horses that are expected to make their debut.

"We are looking forward to another day at the races and we are looking for a fun-filled day of horse racing. The races are scheduled for Sunday. There are five races on the cards, just like the last time and we have five new horses that are going to be racing on Sunday," Cochrane told Platinum Radio, 97.9 FM's Sports Overflow.

"Three of them have never raced before and two of them - two thoroughbreds - were racing back in 2019 when our racing took a halt. So Silent Action and Big Deal will be making a return to the track, and they should be a big deal, because they are going to be coming up against some of the top horses.

"Syrian Soca will be matched up against Big Deal and Silent Action will be going up against Unruly Union in two of the races.

"Then we have Merryland and Jezebel, which are two of the locally bred half breeds that are going to be making their debut, and they will be



*Horses competing during a meet at the Cassada Gardens Race Track in March 2021. (File photo)*

coming up against Leche D Baba and Lady Ray. So, there will be four horses in that race.

"Then we have Chosen Warrior, which is a locally bred thoroughbred that is going to be going up against Di-ego and Zury.

"Then in the final race of the day, we are going to have Lynn's Image against Playa Zaragoza, which was a really big match up last race day and created some excitement."

Cochrane said several horses are still not ready to return to competition, therefore participation in Sunday's meet will be lower than in years past. Despite this, he expressed confidence that the meet will still be exciting.

"All the horses and all the races will also be going a little bit longer distances this time, so we should really see some exciting match ups. I know that we were hoping that we could have even more horses, but some of the horses are still not quite ready. They are still trying to get to their peak, but we know the horses that are ready are going to put on a good

show," he explained.

Cochrane also expressed his gratitude to several businesses who are supporting Sunday's meet.

"There has not been any significant upgrade in major sponsorship, but I have to thank Pointe FM and Platinum FM for giving us the exposure which is very important to us," he said.

"We also want to thank Flavour FM. They are also providing us with some degree of sponsorship through promotions. Then we have FLOW who are giving us some support in term of tents.

"Lingies Lights and Windows are very important to us as well. Anything that we need such as bathroom furnishings and stuff like that, they are always there to help. We had issues with vandalism, and we were able to have Lingies replace one of the bathroom units...so we want to thank them for that."

The horse racing meet this weekend will commence with the first race at 2pm. The entrance fee is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children.