

# APUA: DROUGHT HAS HALVED GROUND WATER SUPPLY



APUA reveals that the ongoing drought has depleted ground water supply in the country by more than 50 percent. This, in part, they claim, is responsible for the nation's water shortage. *Story on Page 2*

# Drought conditions have significantly reduced ground water

Ground water that APUA relies on to serve consumers has decreased by more than half due to drought conditions, APUA's Water Business Unit Manager, Ian Lewis has revealed.

Water is supplied throughout the country through desalination, surface and from the ground, 60, 30 and 10 percent respectively. But the lack of rainfall is severely hampering the 10% of ground water, and now the utilities company is yielding less than half of what it usually harvests.

"The ground water normally adds up to be about between 800,000 to about a million gallons per day when it's really good," Mr. Lewis explained.

"But within the last few months, our groundwater production has dropped to just about 400,000 gallons per day. So, it's less than half of what it normally is."

He said the unavailability of surface water and a reduction in groundwater, have them relying on desalination plants to make up for the shortfall and supplying the required eight million gallons of the scarce commodity



APUA's Water Business Unit Manager, Ian Lewis daily.

Ian Lewis revealed it has been more than a year since their water catchments have benefitted from significant rainfall and this is further compounding the problem they are facing.

"Unless we have rainfall that produces runoff, it doesn't mean anything to us. The last real rainfall we had according to APUA, was in 2020, November, I think it was the 10th or 11th. Since then, we have not had any rainfall that has produced any runoff that would have caused any accumulation of water within any of our reservoirs," the water business unit manager pointed out.

ed out.

APUA has come in for harsh criticism for not providing adequate water supply to residents and also for not honouring the water distribution schedule it publishes, as it struggles to meet consumer demands. But Ian Lewis explained there is a reason why some people continue to experience difficulties when water becomes available.



"We have challenges trying to serve people at the high elevations of these areas. Presently, based on the situation with not being sure when water will be on, most customers are in the storage mode, meaning as soon as water comes on, they want to fill every pot and pan and tank and everything."

When this is happening, Mr. Lewis stated APUA experiences difficulty in providing enough pressure to supply residents on high elevations.

Government has assured it is working to resolve the water crisis by the end of 2022 or sooner, with the commissioning of several Reverse Osmosis Plants.

Thu 21 | Day


**83°** 


 20%  
 E 13 mph

A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny.  
High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.

 Humidity  
**63%**



 UV Index  
**Extreme**

 Sunrise  
**5:47 am**


 Sunset  
**6:24 pm**


Thu 21 | Night

**75°** 

 24%  
 ENE 13 mph

Partly cloudy skies. Low near 75F. Winds  
ENE at 10 to 15 mph.

 Humidity  
**75%**

 UV Index  
**0 of 10**

 Moonrise  
**11:47 pm**

 Moonset  
**9:59 am**

 Waning Gibbous



## PM Browne to receive AFUWI Legacy Award today

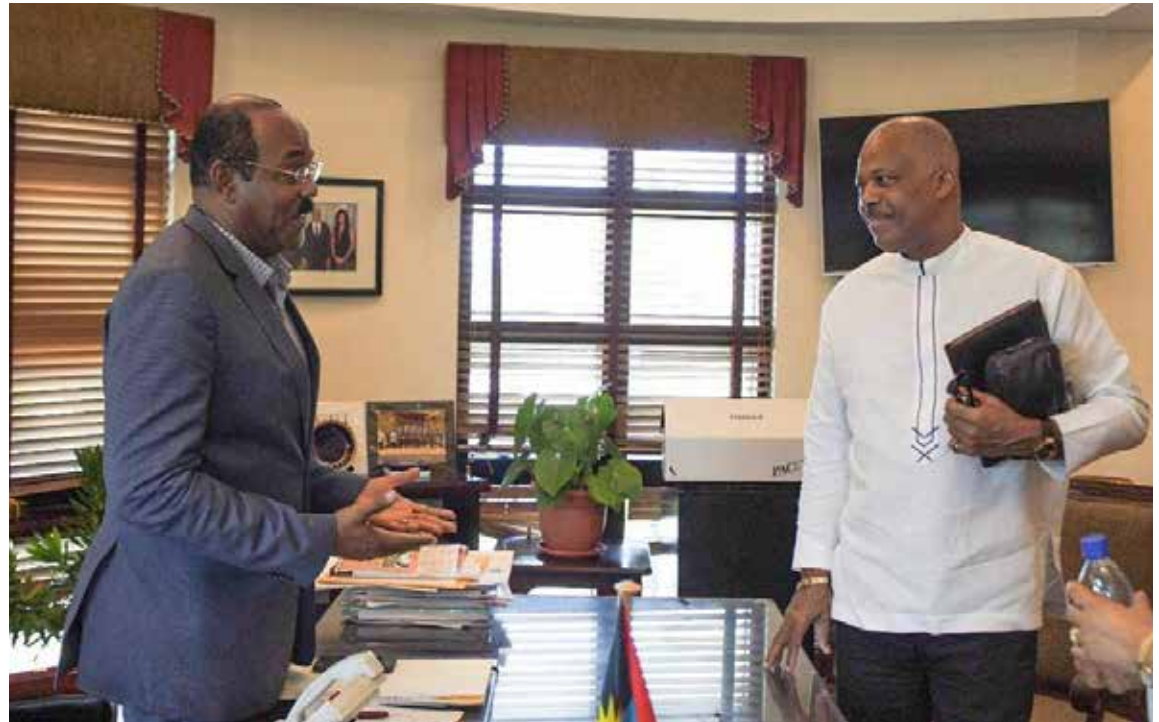
Prime Minister Gaston Browne will receive the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies' (AFUWI) prestigious Legacy Award for his leadership.

An earlier statement noted that PM Browne's leadership in government has facilitated nation-building, strengthened regional alliances, and created a legacy upon which future generations can build.

In written correspondence to Prime Minister Browne, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Sir Hilary Beckles, said, "AFUWI is proud of Prime Minister Browne's stellar accomplishments as Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Corporate Governance.

"Your passion and commitment to improving the lives of the people of your country are evidenced by the many initiatives you and your administration have implemented to address matters germane to nation-building."

Sir Hilary went on that these include increasing the housing stock, reducing unemployment, improving health care via the upgrade of plants and equipment, increasing the number of medical practitioners, infrastructure upgrades of airports and seaports, funding for venture capital and



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne during a meeting with UWI Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles at the Office of the Prime Minister in 2019.*

entrepreneurial endeavours, and increasing investment in building a robust and competitive tourism industry.

The UWI Vice-Chancellor also noted their shared interest in increasing access to education for all Caribbean nationals and the vital role education plays in advancing the development agenda.

"Increases in the capacity in primary and secondary schools and upgrade of physical plants are stark testimony of your commitment. It is, therefore, no wonder that Antigua and Barbuda is the site of The UWI's fifth campus housed on lands at Five Islands. This facility provides easier access to tertiary education

for your citizens and citizens from the other OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States)."

The Awards Gala in New York City is being held under the theme "Together, through our resilience and determination, we can conquer any adversity" which, Sir Hilary remarked, is "a perfect background due to Prime Minister Browne's forceful and unapologetic discourse on the issue of Climate Change.

"Part of your abiding legacy will be the ability of the people of Antigua and Barbuda to leverage their resilience and determination to overcome challenges and to be better for it in the aftermath. The remarkable resurgence of your country's

economy, post the devastation caused by hurricanes Maria and Irma also stand as a formidable reference in the annals of history," Sir Hilary said.

The UWI Vice-Chancellor commended Prime Minister Browne for his "signature brand of excellence and leadership" in his role as prime minister.

Upon receipt of the award, Prime Minister Browne will join a small group of Caribbean leaders who have also received the honour. These include Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson, Allen M. Chastanet, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Dr. Hubert Alexander Minnis, P.J. Patterson, Tillman J. Thomas, and the late David Thompson.

# Local News



## First group of hospitality workers heading to Jersey

The first group of hospitality professionals from Antigua and Barbuda is heading to Jersey this month to work in several positions at various properties on that island.

The opportunity comes following the recent signing of an MoU between both governments.

Fifteen hospitality professionals will spend six months in Jersey gaining work experience and international exposure.

The candidates were presented with their EASE (Exceeding all Service Expectations) certificates and pins during a pinning ceremony on Tuesday hosted by the Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association.

While congratulating the candidates, Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez remarked, "You are all now Ambassadors for Antigua and Barbuda, paving the way for others to follow. As the first cohort, you have a very important role, because the future of other Antiguan and Barbudans being able to gain from this unique global experience lies with you."

Focus on this as an exciting opportunity designed to allow you to learn new approaches, demonstrate your skill set and introduce the hospitality businesses you will be immersed in, to



Antigua and Barbuda. Gain knowledge and experience that once acquired, can be shared with your colleagues upon your return to Antigua and Barbuda".

The Jersey Government experienced a shortage of employees due to Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. To fill that void, they approached the High Commissioner's Office in the United Kingdom to forge a partnership, whereby Antiguan and Barbudans can fill key roles to include chefs, middle operation management roles in hotels and in restaurants and front-line staff across multiple disciplines including, but not exclusive to: Food & Beverage, Housekeeping and Front of House.

The partnership is viewed as ideal, since Jersey's high season for tourism is April to September, Antigua and Barbuda's traditional off season.

All the candidates were required to participate in the EASE Training programme

Consultant Shirlene Nibbs.

Hospitality professionals who qualified for the Jersey work experience programme were required to be recent graduates of the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, working at one of the members' properties of the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, or a hospitality professional with at least three years experience.

conducted by Corporate Training and Development

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## A&B to mark Vaccination Week in the Americas

Vaccination Week in the Americas is being commemorated this year under the theme, “Are You Fully Vaccinated? #GetAllYourShots.”

The annual event, now in its 20th year, is being marked from 23rd to 30th April, 2022.

The week, intended to bring awareness to the importance of immunization, is organised by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) in collaboration with countries across the Caribbean and Latin America. As such, Antigua and Barbuda’s Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment will partner with PAHO to stage a number of immunisation awareness activities over the course of the week.

These include messages that will be read in churches at the beginning of the week on 23rd and 24th April.

Following the opening ceremony on



Monday, a series of activities including literature distribution, in person presentations at clinics and a virtual immunisation session are planned. A street fair on Nevis Street near Joe Mike’s will conclude the week of activities.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, healthcare workers were singled out for recognition of their work on the

frontline.

“The Ministry takes this opportunity to salute all nurses throughout the region but especially those living in Antigua and Barbuda.

“You place your life on the line for others; you who are solely responsible for primary health care; you are a gift to be treasured. Thank you for your sacrificial service.”

## PAHO urges members to maintain COVID-19 vaccination momentum, celebrates vaccination rate

With 61,815 people fully vaccinated, Antigua and Barbuda has played its part in helping Latin America and the Caribbean to reach the goal of having two thirds of its population of 644 million people fully inoculated against COVID-19.

Ahead of Vaccination Awareness Week in the Americas, which begins on 23rd April, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Carissa Etienne, hailed the achievement as one to be proud of, as many countries in other regions of the world have not yet vaccinated fifty percent of their populations.

Appealing to those who have not yet become vaccinated to do so, Dr. Etienne

said on Wednesday, “COVID-19 vaccines work and are very safe. They are protecting most people in our region from the worst consequences of COVID-19 infection.

“If you or a family member have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, talk to your healthcare provider about your questions and doubts.

“Vaccination is a family affair, and it’s up to all of us to make sure our loved ones are protected.”

While countries including Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and Turks and Caicos have achieved commendable rates of vaccination, others have not performed quite as well.

In Haiti, only 30 percent of the country’s population of approximately 11 million people has been fully vaccinated. Jamaica (23%), St. Lucia, (29%), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (27%) and Grenada (38%) have not fared quite as well.

According to Dr. Etienne, PAHO is working with countries such as these to close the vaccination gap.

The PAHO director also urged governments to incorporate COVID-19 vaccines into its immunisation schedule, so that it is offered alongside other routinely administered vaccines including those for polio, measles, mumps, tetanus and influenza.

While vaccination for all



Director of PAHO, Dr. Carissa Etienne

is the goal, with PAHO setting a minimum target of 70 percent for its member countries, it encourages the prioritisation of individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, the elderly, health care workers and expectant mothers.

## DNA leader bats for young people at candidates' launch

The importance of young people being involved in the decision making process was touted by the leader of the Democratic National Alliance during a launch of the party's candidates on Tuesday evening.

The party unveiled 16 candidates, including leader Joanne Massiah, who will vie for the St. Philip South seat in the next general election, constitutionally due in 2023.

Highlighting the nation's youth, the DNA leader noted it is time they be given the attention they deserve and the opportunity to be heard.

"Our young people must be a part of the governance of this country, and take their rightful seats at the decision-making table...and we believe that the young people

must no longer be disengaged politically. We must end their disillusionment with the politics, and when they see the DNA slate of candidates, they're going to feel encouraged and inspired and want to be a part of this movement, this change that is going to transform the nation of Antigua and Barbuda," Massiah told supporters.

There is mixed reaction to the young people who have entered the political arena. Some people are of the opinion that they are too young and inexperienced for the task that lies ahead, while others believe they should be given a chance.

Many of the candidates on the party's slate are former members of the main opposition United Progressive Par-

ty, including Joanne Massiah, former senator and minister of agriculture in the Baldwin Spencer Administration and former senators Anthony Stuart and Malaka Parker. Also included in the DNA team are former UPP members Gatesworth James and Trevor Young. Young contested the St. John's Rural East seat for the UPP in the last general elections and lost. Shortly after, he fell out with the party and joined the DNA. Young is named as the DNA's candidate for St. John's Rural East.

The retired police inspector who served as a security detail for former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, will come up against cousins Maria Bird-Browne of the ABLP and Sean Bird of the UPP.

At Tuesday evening's launch, Joanne Massiah expressed confidence that her team was the best to champion the cause of Antiguan and



Joanne Massiah  
Barbudans.

"These women and men who are presenting themselves to this nation to serve at the highest level, to be a part of a movement, a revolution, to reposition our economy and restructure our society, they are brave at heart. They have families.

"Some of them are mothers and fathers, and grandmothers and grandfathers. They have decided to put it all on the line, because at this point in our nation's history, you need the best, you need the brightest, you need the fearless to represent the interests of the people of Antigua and Barbuda."

## 45 active COVID-19 cases reported

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed twenty-eight (28) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 16th April, 2022 at 6pm.

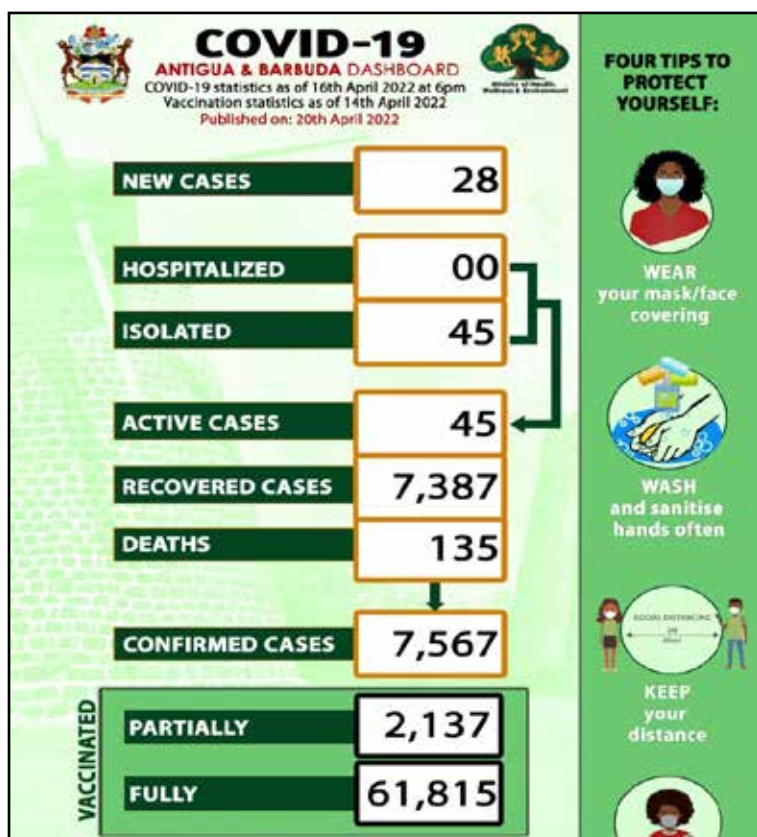
One (1) case was recorded on April 14th, twenty-five (25) on April 15th and two (2) on April 16th.

One hundred and six-

ty-seven (167) samples were processed.

Ten (10) 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 sixty-seven (7,567); which is inclusive of forty-five (45) active cases. There are no hospitalised cases.





## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

**Applications are invited by the Financial Services Regulatory Commission of Antigua and Barbuda (FSRC) for two (2) Positions of Regulatory Team Support.**

**Pre-requisites:- As a pre-requisite the successful candidates will be required to have the following:-**

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Banking, Finance, Economics or Accounting.
2. Supplemental Professional and Technical Training in related areas would be an asset. That includes CFE, CPA, CFA and ACCA.
3. AML/ CFT Certification.
4. Ability to speak and understand Spanish would be an asset.

### **Experience:**

1. Such as may have been gained through public or private employment **(with a minimum of 3 years)** involving the conduct of off-site supervision and on-site examinations of the financial records of financial institutions.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education

Regulatory Team Support provides support to Regulatory Team Leaders and Regulatory Directors/Manager on the onsite and off-site examination of a portfolio of financial institutions.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. To perform tasks incidental to the conduct of off-site supervision and on-site examinations of the operations, books and records of a portfolio of financial institutions for the purpose of ascertaining their ability to meet obligations and compliance with applicable Laws, Regulations, International prudential and other requirements and to do related work as required.
2. To work under the general supervision of a Regulatory Directors/Manager.
3. To review and examine applications, and conduct preliminary work as directed by a Regulatory Team Leader or Regulatory Directors/Manager relating to applications for licensing of financial institutions.
4. To prepare high quality reports within the stipulated time frame following the onsite and offsite examination of a portfolio financial institutions.
5. To conduct research work from time to time.
6. May deputize from time to time for a Regulatory Team Leader.
7. To do related work from time to time as instructed by a Regulatory Team Leader, Regulatory Directors or Executives.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT: KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND CAPACITIES:**

1. A working knowledge of auditing principles and methods applicable in performing routine tasks incidental to the examination of the financial condition and affairs of licensed financial institutions.
2. Familiarity with the Laws and Regulations, International Prudential Standards and other requirements governing institutions under the regulatory and supervisory purview of the Commission.
3. The ability to carry out written and oral instructions.
4. The ability to assist in the preparation of reports relating to financial institutions.
5. A high level of motivation, initiative and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.
6. Strong analytical and critical thinking skills.
7. Good time management skills.
8. The ability to deliver high quality work and multitask under different situations.
9. Good interpersonal and communication skills.
10. A working knowledge of computerized business applications such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint.

- The completed application along with supporting documents must be sent to The Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box 2674, St. John's, Antigua or via email to [Janice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag](mailto:Janice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag) no later than 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- Only candidates who are shortlisted for the selection process will be contacted.
- Shortlisted candidates will be required to undertake various assessments.



# Opinion



## Carry your own head on your body; be a republic

By James E. Knight

Empire's heir, or vampire's heir. In our historical experience, they have had the same meaning. A malevolent kidnapper who has sucked our lifeblood without remorse, and has left us to perish, while they enjoy the vitality, the vigour and the absolute luxury that the iniquitous transfusion has made possible.

It's not just a matter of Britain's major role in the greatest crime against humanity, and the great wealth and industrial development which it brought that coun-

try, at our expense. The truth is that the Royal Family of England participated directly in the trafficking and enslavement of African people and amassed a tremendous fortune, which they continue to enjoy most lavishly until this day. They owned slave ships and slaves on plantations.

Then after slavery, as the kingdom continued to extract our marrow through colonial domination, members of the British royal family continued to hold estates in our region.

The multimillion bank

accounts of these royals, the hundreds of millions of Queen Elizabeth and the many billions of the Crown Estate, are certainly not common wealth. They have it all. Yet we, along with their country, belong to a 'Commonwealth' and the head of their family is always our head of state.

So here we are, after all these centuries, still Her Majesty's this, and on the brink of becoming His Majesty's that. Worse yet, we are still paying for it with the precious few pennies that we barely have at times

in our treasuries. We pay locals to represent the British monarch as our Head of State and finance the entire operations of that office. The money does not come from the Queen.

But now and then, she or one of her family members, even a grandchild, drops in to remind us that we must admire and exalt them for all that they have done to us. A chance to wave, or a precious opportunity to touch their golden hands, through a wire fence, is something that should bring us great joy.

Prince William, an heir to the throne, and automatically to our office of Head of State, came to the Caribbean, and as politically correct as the monarchy could afford to be, he delivered a carefully scripted bit of deadpan drivel, claiming to feel deep sorrow for what happened during slavery. Full stop.

Smile, and be glad to cheer me, in all of your historically imposed poverty and suffering. I just happen to be fortunate – and, of course, superior. I look forward to being your Head of State.

For a people coming predominantly from the slave plantation, the dignity of having one's own Head of State, instead of the historical absentee owner, is not just a noble aspiration, but a corrective and collective historical responsibility.



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

**Sunday**  
**10:00AM-3:00PM**



## Netflix hints at password sharing crackdown as subscribers fall

BBC - Netflix has hinted it will crack down on households sharing passwords as it seeks to sign up new members following a sharp fall in subscribers.

The number of households using the streaming service fell by 200,000 in the first three months of the year as it faced stiff competition from rivals.

It was also hit after it raised prices in some countries and left Russia.

Netflix warned shareholders another two million subscribers were likely to leave in the three months to July.

“Our revenue growth has slowed considerably,” the firm told shareholders on Tuesday after publishing its first quarter results.

“Our relatively high household penetration - when including the large number of households sharing accounts - combined with competition, is creating revenue growth headwinds.”

The streaming giant estimates more than 100 million households are breaking its rules by sharing passwords.

Boss Reed Hastings previously described the practice as “something you have to learn to live with”, adding that much of it is “legitimate” between family members. The firm also said account sharing had probably fuelled its growth by getting more people using Netflix.

But on Tuesday, Mr Hastings said it was making it hard to attract new subscribers in some countries.

“When we were growing fast, it wasn’t a high priority to work on [account sharing]. And now we’re working super hard on it,” he told shareholders.

The firm said payment plans it is testing to curb password sharing in Latin America could be rolled out to



other countries.

Since last month, account holders in Chile, Costa Rica and Peru must pay to add user profiles for people outside their household (the company currently allows people who live together to share their Netflix account).

Users can add up to two extra profiles for \$2-\$3 a month each, on top of their regular fee.

Netflix - which did not say how it would enforce the rule - said it was seeking a “customer centric” solution.

“The principle way we have is asking our members to pay a bit more to share the service outside their homes,” said Greg Peters, Netflix’s chief product officer.

Dominic Sunnebo, an analyst at research firm Kantar, warned the plan could backfire at a time when consumers were looking for ways to save money.

“If the schemes to counter password sharing move too fast and too aggressively, it also risks alienating a potential future audience - many who password-share beyond the household are not actually aware they’re breaking the terms of their subscription.”

Netflix said that pulling out of

Russia in March in response to the Ukraine war had cost it 700,000 subscribers.

And another 600,000 people stopped using its service in the US and Canada after it put up prices in January.

The firm raised prices across all of its US plans, with a basic plan increasing from \$9 to \$10 per month, and a standard from \$14 to \$15.50.

Netflix said the price rises would yield more money for the firm, despite the cancellations. But analysts say the rising cost of streaming services is wearing on households as the cost of living rises.

Seeming to acknowledge this, Mr Hastings said Netflix was looking at launching a free ad-supported service like its rivals Disney and HBO.

Analysts say it could open a significant new revenue stream for the company, which has so far shunned advertising.

Netflix’s biggest threat is intense competition from firms such as Amazon, Apple and Disney, which are pouring money into their online streaming services, according to experts.

# The World Around Us

## Why Koreans could soon become a year younger

By Sunyoung Jeong

“How old are you”? It’s a simple question with a clear answer.

But for those in South Korea, answering this question is anything but straightforward.

In South Korea, when a baby is born they are considered a year old.

Come New Year’s Day, they gain another year. This means a baby born in December would be considered to be two years old in just a few weeks.

But this “Korean age” method may soon change as the country’s president-elect Yoon Suk-yeol is pushing for this centuries-old method of counting to be abolished.

Lee Yong-ho, the chief of the president-elect’s transition committee, said the incoming administration was looking to standardise the way age is counted in order to bring South Korea in line with the rest of the world.

He said the different age calculations had resulted in “persistent confusion” and “unnecessary social and economic costs”.

The new proposal seems to have been widely embraced by some - but experts say they have doubts as to whether it will actually be implemented.

There are three ways to



*In South Korea, a baby is considered to be a year old already when born [Getty Images]*

count one’s age in Korea.

Officially, the country has used the international counting system, using a person’s birth date, in most legal definitions and administrative processes since 1962.

The country also has another official way to count age, in which babies are born at the age of 0, and gain a year every January 1.

Under this, a baby born in December 2020 would be two years old by January 2022, even if they wouldn’t officially turn two until December of that year.

This method is main-

ly used to define legal age for areas of law that affect a significant percentage of the population, including military service conscription or defining the age that juveniles that need to be protected against abuse.

And then there’s the “Korean age” method, which is used more typically by everyone in society, where everyone is automatically a year old at birth, and become a year older on New Year’s Day regardless of their birth date.

Under these methods, mega K-pop band BTS’s Kim Tae-hyung aka V, born on 30 December 1995, is

28 years old (Korean age), 26 years old (the international age) or 27 years old (another Korean official age).

And to some, it may just be a number - but age is something taken very seriously in South Korea.

“To South Koreans, figuring out if someone is older than them or not is more important than finding out somebody’s name in a social context.

“It is essential in choosing how to address that person and the honorific or title which is required.

“Shin Ji-young, professor at the Department of Kore-

*cont’d on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

an Language and Literature in Korea University said.

The Korean age-measuring tradition has its origins in China and different parts of Asia.

But South Korea is believed to be the only country that still counts age in this way.

"Globalisation has made Koreans more aware of the international age. This has an impact on young people as they feel that Koreans are being ridiculed for [these counting systems]", according to Kim Eun-ju, professor at Law and Policy at Hansung University.

But ridicule aside, the policies have also had real effects on South Koreans.

Some parents for example, have tried to cheat the birth registration system because they are worried that their December babies will be at a

disadvantage at school, and as a result, later on in life.

During the pandemic, there were also calls for age to be standardised, after health authorities used the international age and Korean age interchangeably to set the age bracket for vaccine eligibility - leading to much confusion.

Mr Lee had also earlier highlighted "unnecessary social and economic costs" brought about by the Korean age, referring to a legal case that went all the way to the Supreme Court because of confusion around age definition for extra wages and retirement.

Abandoning tradition?

This is not the first time South Korean officials have tried to come up with a unified age-counting method.

In 2019 and 2021, two lawmakers proposed bills in a similar vein

that subsequently failed to be signed into law at the Korean Assembly.

Nevertheless, experts are divided on what the new measure means for Korean society, despite agreeing with the proposal from an administrative perspective.

Jang Yoo-seung, a senior researcher at the Oriental Studies Research Centre in Dankook University told the BBC that the Korean age is a reflection of tradition.

"Our society does not seem too concerned about abandoning tradition.

"Are we at risk of abandoning our own uniqueness and culture and becoming more monotonous?"

But one thing they can all agree on is that even if the international age is adopted - it's unlikely those in Korea - whether officially or unofficially - will stop using their "Korean age" anytime soon.



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# Regional News

## Cuba: US migration policy 'incoherent' and 'differentiated'

AP – Two days before the opening of migration talks between Cuba and the United States, which have been paralyzed for four years, a high-ranking Cuban official lamented Washington's "incoherent" and "differentiated" migration policies, and exhorted Washington to comply with current agreements.

The migration meeting will take place amid a dramatic increase in arrivals of Cubans at the southern border of the United States.

"We are noticing, and now much more these days, that there is a differentiated and incoherent approach by the United States toward the migratory issue," Deputy Foreign Minister Josefin Vidal told a small group of journalists on Tuesday.

The U.S. is financially helping "many countries in the region in order to reactivate their economies, to help them create jobs," including supporting health and education projects, said Vidal. Washington's policy is exactly the opposite with Cuba, where it is applying "maximum pressure to the economic order and through coercive measures."

Cuba's Foreign Ministry said on Twitter that the meeting will be held in Washington Thursday and its delegation will be headed by deputy minister Carlos Fernández de Cossio.

The last of these meetings — which according to agreements between both countries must be held twice a year — took place in July 2018, under the administration of then President Donald Trump.

Trump ended the policy of rapprochement between both nations that his predecessor, Barack Obama, had begun.

Trump increased sanctions against



the Caribbean island, from the cancellation of permits to send remittances or cruise ships, to penalties for companies from third countries that operate in Cuba, to limitation of flights and punishment of oil tankers bound for Cuba.

These measures and the pandemic contributed to an economic crisis in Cuba, with shortages of basic products, power outages and the respective queues and rationing.

Trump withdrew embassy staff in 2017. Thousands of people were left with incomplete family reunification processes or were prevented from traveling unless they carried out visa procedures through Guyana. U.S. President Joe Biden did not relax the tough measures, despite his campaign promises.

"We do not see any justification for not giving all visas to Cuban emigrants in Havana and forcing the majority of Cubans to travel (to Guyana), with the costs that this implies," added Vidal, who was the head of negotiations for the historic rapprochement with the U.S. in 2014. The talks concluded with the reopening of diplomatic offices and Obama's trip to the island.

According to U.S. Customs and

Border Protection, in the last six months Cubans were stopped 79,800 times at the southern U.S. border, a little more than double that number seen in the entire 2021 fiscal year and five times more than in 2020.

On Tuesday, Vidal presented a gloomy picture. Cuban authorities have said that in the last five years Washington has failed to comply with the part of a bilateral agreement that establishes the delivery of 20,000 visas per year.

Sea crossings have also increased, either in rustic boats or at the hands of traffickers. From October to date, the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted 1,257 Cubans, compared with 838 in 2021.

As the figures stand, the number of departures is higher than during the so-called "rafter crisis" of 1994 when some 30,000 people arrived through the Straits of Florida and half of those who did so in the Mariel exodus in 1980, when some 124,000 Cubans left.

Vidal said there is a "historical regularity" with how these dramatic migratory peaks occur when the U.S. fails to comply with agreements, increases sanctions or puts obstacles to a more or less normal processing of visas.

*cont'd on pg 13*



## Trinidad and Tobago Opposition stages protest against fuel price increases

Opposition Leader Kamla Persad Bissessar says she intends to raise as a matter of urgent public importance in Parliament on Wednesday, the government's recent announcement of an increase in fuel prices.

The one dollar (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) per litre increase in fuel prices went into effect as of midnight on Monday and Persad Bissessar, speaking at a protest march organized by her United National Congress (UNC) in Debe, south of here, said she would raise the matter as well as the crime situation in the Parliament.

"This past weekend has been a most murderous one, mayhem, and crime. Thirteen and counting. So we are protesting about skyrocketing crime.

"Tomorrow, we meet in Parliament and we shall be raising as matters of urgent public importance, the hike in the fuel prices, and we will also be raising the increasing skyrocketing in

crime and no policies or programs"

She told supporters that Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell, who left here on Tuesday for Barbados for talks with senior United States officials, was engaged in a price of evading questions that would be put to him during the Prime Minister's question time in the Parliament.

"What does the Prime Minister do on this day? He jumps on a plane ...and gone Barbados. Tomorrow when we meet in Parliament it is supposed to be Prime Minister's questions, we have the questions for him, but he duck and run to evade. And that's not the first time...when we have a chance to have Prime Minister's questions and whatever chance that fellow gets he runs, he doesn't want to answer you the people," the Opposition Leader said.

Opposition legislator Dr. Roodal Moonilal told the UNC supporters that the increase in fuel prices will have a multiplier ef-



fect and "everything will go up because of the price increase.

"This is a direct result of the closure of the refinery, so we now have to import with scarce foreign exchange fuel to be used in Trinidad and Tobago," he said, in direct reference to the government's decision to close down the loss-making oil refinery of the state-owned PETROTRIN company two years ago.

Last week, Finance Minister Colm Imbert announced an increase in fuel prices even as it acknowledged that it is cognizant of the effect it will have on consumers.

Imbert told Parliament

that the adjustments in fuel prices were being made on the basis of factors such as the effect of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on international oil prices.

Imbert told legislators that there should be a partial adjustment of the prices of motor fuels, "not to the full market prices, but sufficient to allow an equal distribution of the cost."

As a result, the prices of premium gasoline and super gasoline will be adjusted by one Trinidad and Tobago dollar (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) per litre to TT\$6.75 and TT\$5.97 respectively, while the price of diesel will be adjusted by TT\$0.50 cents per litre to TT\$3.91 per litre.

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

### *cont'd from pg 12*

Furthermore, "the United States is exerting pressure on countries in the region to establish specific requirements for Cubans in transit, which creates additional obstacles," she said.

Vidal refused to reveal the agenda Cuba will bring to the talks, but indicated that this issue will be among those mentioned.

In recent months, Panama and Costa

Rica announced that they would require transit visas from Cubans, a different position of Nicaragua -- an ally of Cuba -- which lifted this requirement and since November became the new point of departure of Cubans heading to the United States.

Cuba has held migratory talks with countries such as Canada, Belize, and less than a month ago with Mexico, which is seeing more Cubans at its borders.

# Regional News



## Anglican archbishop Howard Gregory against resumption of hanging

Jamaica Gleaner – Anglican Bishop of Jamaica Dr Howard Gregory has dismissed calls for the resumption of hanging even as he laments how Jamaica is “soaked in blood” and struggling with high levels of social and economic inequalities.

In a wide-ranging sermon yesterday at a service to open the 151st Synod, the annual meeting of senior officials of the Anglican Church, Gregory also slammed his religious community for being reactionary in responding to national issues.

“The church through neglect, institutional preoccupation, misconduct and abuse among its pastors, and the anti-vaccination messaging of many pastors have left many in our nation confused, disillusioned, cynical, and more suspicious of the institutional church and religious belief and expression of any kind,” he said.

Noting that Jamaica’s murder rate was among the highest in the world at more than 40 per 100,000 of the population, Gregory said the solution cannot be left to the police.

The death penalty, not carried out in Jamaica since 1988, is not the answer, he argued.

“We hear some pastors offering as their Christian response the resumption of hanging as an inducement of fear and a deterrent in the minds of prospective murderers as the solution,” he said at the Cathedral of St Jago-de-la-Vega in Spanish Town, St Catherine.

According to Gregory, the issue of crime and violence is addressed in terms of anger and violence as a historical legacy that has some legitimacy.

“It misses the point as to the fracturing impact it has had on people’s



Anglican Bishop of Jamaica Dr Howard Gregory

sense of selfhood and the consequent value which the perpetrators of violence place on their own lives and those of others,” the bishop said.

## Suriname Senior minister resigns, former regional public servant appointed to Cabinet

CMC – One week after President Chandrikapersad Santokh announced plans to re-shuffle his two-year-old Cabinet, Saskia Walden, the Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation has resigned.

“For some time, I have indicated that I will put my wallet at the disposal of the President. The ministers also have the right to return their wallets. I have made use of that right, substantiated in writing,” Walden told Apintie Television.

“I will remain available to the government when



Saskia Walden

needed and will serve the community to help drive sustainable economic development,” Walden said.

She will be replaced by Rishma Kuldipsingh, who has held the position of Labor, Employment and Youth

Affairs and will join Steven McAndrew, a former free movement specialist at the Barbados-based Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME) Unit, who will be named as the appoint-

ed as Secretary of State for Labor, Employment and Youth.

McAndrew, who is expected to be sworn in later on Tuesday, has been director of the Suriname Business Association (VSB) and in that capacity, helped shape the introduction of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Decent Work program in Suriname.

At the region level, he was involved in the process of the free movement of persons under the CSME that allows for the movement of skills, labour, services and

*cont'd on pg 15*



## New Jersey Diocese settles with abuse victims for \$87.5m

BBC – The Catholic Diocese in New Jersey has agreed to pay \$87.5m (£67.04m) to hundreds of people sexually abused by the church.

In a first, the deal also paves the way for lawsuits against insurance firms that protect dioceses against charges of negligence.

It is one of the largest settlements involving the Catholic Church in the US, which has been accused of covering up decades of misdeeds.

The diocese has apologised.

The settlement funds will be distributed from a trust over the span of four years to approximately 300 victims of abuse, the diocese said.

It will also include child protection measures, which are still being finalised.

The diocese and attorneys for the victims have agreed to the settlement, but it must be still be approved by a judge because the diocese filed for bankruptcy in 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and abuse dis-



*Catholic dioceses across the US have been plagued by sexual abuse scandals [Getty Images]*

putes. However, it was “pleased that the mediation process has led to a settlement,” Bishop Dennis J Sullivan said.

“I pledge my continuing commitment to ensure that this terrible chapter in the history of the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey never happens again,” he added.

Jeff Anderson, a lawyer who represents 74 of the victims, said the settlement was “unprecedented” for another reason.

Dioceses and archdioceses in the US are registered as corporations, mean-

ing they purchase general liability insurance to protect them against charges of negligence. This often amounts to “tens of millions, or hundreds of millions, of dollars,” Mr Anderson said.

In previous abuse settlements with US Catholic institutions, insurers have been part of the deal, and have often refused to pay the full amount sought by victims.

However, the New Jersey deal is the first time a church abuse settlement has not included insurers, meaning the firms can be sued separately.

Victims would therefore be able to bring cases to press for larger compensation. Mr Anderson called it “a pivot in the child protection movement” because of the potential to hold the church and their insurers to greater account.

Since the 1980s, US Catholic dioceses have amassed complaints from over 17,000 alleged victims and paid over \$4bn in settlements.

The largest settlement saw the Archdiocese of Los Angeles pay some \$660m to more than 500 victims in 2007.

*cont'd from pg 14*

capital across the CARICOM grouping. In a press release on Monday night, the Suriname Communications Service (CDS) reiterated the government’s position that evaluation is a constant process with further changes that would be made, when and where necessary.

According to the CDS, these evaluation interviews show that there is insufficient implementation capacity at certain ministries.

Earlier this month, President Santokhi confirmed that he would be reshuffling his cabinet amid persistent rumours of an imminent reshuffling of his ministerial team.

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

Because of this appointment, the head of state was heavily criticized for what was described as a “gross form of nepotism”.

## Russia's Chernobyl seizure seen as nuclear risk 'nightmare'

AP – Here in the dirt of one of the world's most radioactive places, Russian soldiers dug trenches. Ukrainian officials worry they were, in effect, digging their own graves.

Thousands of tanks and troops rumbled into the forested Chernobyl exclusion zone in the earliest hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, churning up highly contaminated soil from the site of the 1986 accident that was the world's worst nuclear disaster.

For more than a month, some Russian soldiers bunked in the earth within sight of the massive structure built to contain radiation from the damaged Chernobyl nuclear reactor. A close inspection of their trenches was impossible because even walking on the dirt is discouraged.

As the 36th anniversary of the April 26, 1986, disaster approaches and Russia's invasion continues, it's clear that Chernobyl — a relic of the Cold War — was never prepared for this.

With scientists and others watching in disbelief from afar, Russian forces flew over the long-closed plant, ignoring the restricted airspace around it.

They held personnel still working at the plant at gunpoint during a marathon shift of more than a month, with employees sleeping

on tabletops and eating just twice a day.

Even now, weeks after the Russians left, "I need to calm down," the plant's main security engineer, Valerii Semenov, told The Associated Press. He worked 35 days straight, sleeping only three hours a night, rationing cigarettes and staying on even after the Russians allowed a shift change.

"I was afraid they would install something and damage the system," he said in an interview.

Workers kept the Russians from the most dangerous areas, but in what Semenov called the worst situation he has seen in his 30 years at Chernobyl, the plant was without electricity, relying on diesel generators to support the critical work of circulating water for cooling the spent fuel rods.

"It was very dangerous to act in this way," said Maksym Shevchuck, the deputy head of the state agency managing the exclusion zone. He was scared by it all.

Russia's invasion marks the first time that occupying a nuclear plant was part of a nation's war strategy, said Rebecca Harms, former president of the Greens group in the European Parliament, who has visited Chernobyl several times. She called it a "nightmare" scenario in which "every nu-



*Russian trenches and firing positions sit in the highly contaminated soil adjacent to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant near Chernobyl, Ukraine, Saturday, April 16, 2022. Thousands of tanks and troops rumbled into the forested exclusion zone around the plant in the earliest hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, churning up highly contaminated soil from the site of the 1986 accident that was the world's worst nuclear disaster. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)*

clear plant can be used like a pre-installed nuclear bomb."

A visit to the exclusion zone, more desolate than usual, found that the invasion risked a catastrophe worse than the original explosion and fire at Chernobyl that sent radioactive material into the atmosphere and became a symbol of the Soviet Union's stumbling final years.

Billions of dollars were spent by the international community, including Russia, to stabilize and secure the area.

Now authorities are working with Ukraine's defence ministry on ways to protect Chernobyl's most critical places. At the top of the list are anti-drone systems and anti-tank barriers, along with a system to pro-

tect against warplanes and helicopters.

None of it will matter much if Russian President Vladimir Putin resorts to nuclear weapons, which Shevchuck says he can't rule out anymore.

Chernobyl needs special international protection with a robust U.N. mandate, Harms said. As with the original disaster, the risks are not only to Ukraine but to nearby Belarus and beyond.

After watching thousands of Soviet soldiers work to contain the effects of the 1986 accident, sometimes with no protection, Harms and others were shocked at the Russian soldiers' disregard for safety, or their ignorance, in the recent invasion.



## Chinese man gets 20 years in Rwanda for whipping a local man

AP – A court in Rwanda sentenced a Chinese businessman to 20 years in prison for torture after he was filmed beating a local man last year.

Sun Shujun had been accused of beating his workers in a case that drew attention because he was filmed whipping a man tethered to a pole on the ground.

A Rwandan man, Renzaho Alexis, was sentenced to 12 years for his alleged role as an accomplice in the beatings.

The Chinese embassy in Rwanda acknowledged Tuesday's verdict in a statement Wednesday urging Chinese citizens living in Rwanda to abide by local laws.

“Meanwhile, the embassy calls

for the case to be handled appropriately in a rational, fair and just manner and requests the legitimate rights of the Chinese citizens to be properly protected,” the statement said.

Shujun's victims are reported to have been former workers at a mine he operated in the rural Rutshiro district.

They had been reportedly accused of theft.

He was arrested after the video of him beating a man, including on the head, was widely shared in August. He was later released on bail.

Rwanda courts spokesman Harrison Mutabazi said the convict has a right to appeal to a higher court.




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# Sports News



## Kieron Pollard's retirement announcement shocks cricket world

West Indies limited-overs captain Kieron Pollard has retired from international cricket, announcing the decision on social media on Wednesday, a day before his IPL franchise Mumbai Indians' game against Chennai Super Kings.

Pollard went on to call captaining West Indies "the highest honour bestowed" on him and that he led with "passion, openness, courage, and everything I could ever possibly give both on and off the field without ever compromising my principles and integrity."



Kieron Pollard

Pollard played 123 ODIs from 2007 to 2022, scoring 2706 runs at an average of 26.01 with three centuries, and took 55 wickets along the way too. In 101 T20Is, he scored 1569 runs while

striking at 135.14 with a high score of 75 not out. He never played a Test for West Indies and was one of many white-ball specialists for West Indies for more than a decade. He has played the

second-most men's international games (224) without playing a Test after David Miller.

Pollard returned to international cricket in June 2016 and was then made captain for ODIs and T20Is in 2019. He went on to lead them to series wins against Afghanistan in India, against Ireland at home, against Sri Lanka both home and away in T20Is, and against England at home earlier this year in T20Is.

Overall, he led West Indies in 61 matches in the two formats, of which they won 25 and lost 31.

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## Bill blocking trans girls from girls' sports gets Senate OK

AP - Legislation to keep transgender athletes in Louisiana from competing on college and K-12 women's and girls' sport team has been approved by the state Senate with little debate.

The Advocate reports that the bill by Republican Sen. Beth Mizell of Franklinton passed Tuesday evening on a 29-6 vote. It goes next to the state House.

Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards vetoed similar legislation last year, saying it was mean-spirited, unnecessary and could result in loss of NCAA events in



*The Louisiana state Senate has passed legislation to block transgender athletes from participating in women's and girls' events.*

the state. He has not said what he would do were the bill to pass this year.

The measure would apply to K-12 schools, as

well as colleges and universities, if they receive state funding. "Athletic teams or sporting events designated for females, girls, or

women shall not be open to students who are not biologically female," the bill states.

Opponents of the bill say there are no known transgender athletes currently competing in the state. They said it adds to discrimination against an already marginalized group.

Backers say athletes who were born biologically male have physical advantages over biological females. Mizell said the NCAA hasn't gone through with threats to pull events from states with similar law.

## Wimbledon 2022: Russian & Belarusian players banned from tournament

BBC – Russian and Belarusian players will not be allowed to compete at Wimbledon this year because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Men's world number two Daniil Medvedev of Russia and women's world number four Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus are the highest-ranked players to be affected.

The players are also banned from any of the UK grass-court tournaments.

The governing body of men's tennis said the move was "unfair" and could "set a damaging precedent for the game".

In a statement the ATP said: "Discrimination based on nationality also constitutes a violation of our agreement with Wimbledon that states that player entry is based solely on ATP rankings.

"Any course of action in response to this decision will now be assessed in consultation with our board and member councils."

Explaining its decision, the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) said it had a responsibility to "limit Russia's global influence through the strongest means possible".

Wimbledon runs from 27 June to 10 July.

"In the circumstances of such unjustified and unprecedented military aggression, it would be unacceptable for the Russian regime to derive any benefits from the involvement of Russian or Belarusian players," a statement from the AELTC read.

"It is therefore our intention, with deep regret, to decline entries from Russian and Belarusian players to Wimbledon."



*Daniil Medvedev replaced Novak Djokovic at the top of the world rankings for three weeks in 2022 [Getty Images]*

Sabalenka reached the semi-finals of last year's tournament, while Medvedev, who has been announced as one of the star draws at the grass-court warm-up event at 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands today, reached the fourth round.

Russian world number 15 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova - who called for  
*cont'd on pg 20*

# ABCF focuses on attracting and improving young cyclists

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation, St. Clair Williams, says the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) is now focusing on implementing a school or junior programme to facilitate the development of young cyclists.

As part of the junior programme, Williams said the ABCF has started to distribute ten bikes it attained through the Solidarity Programme of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the world governing body for cycling.

The UCI Solidarity Programme allows cyclists from less fortunate areas of the world to train in professional facilities, using high-quality bicycles and accessories.

“We are seeing some more youngsters coming on board. We are now getting into bringing on board our school programme or our junior Programme. We have actually distributed the first bike out of the lot that

we have and hopefully, we will be distributing more of the bikes that we got via the UCI Solidarity Programme,” Williams said.

“So cycling is on its way, the development is looking good and we are hoping that over the next year or two, we will have a good cadre of young cyclists mixing with the more seasoned cyclists so that we can continue to develop the product that we are working on here in Antigua and Barbuda.”

Williams said several other persons have expressed interests in acquiring one of the bikes.

“So far we have about six persons who have contacted the cycling federation so that they could be a part of what we are doing with respect to the bike programme and the junior programme,” Williams said.

“The numbers are growing in terms of persons who are requesting bikes to come on board to participate in what we are doing with respect to the development of



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation St. Clair Williams. (Photo: Wadadli Cycling Academy)

cycling.”

Williams also explained the requirements for applying to the ABCF for one of the bikes.

“The applicants must be of school age, not necessarily have to be in school, because I think we have at

least one or two of the members who are actually at the Antigua State College from the information that I have. Not only should they be of that age, but they should be registered with the cycling federation,” Williams said.

“Also, we continue to push for them to be a part of a club, so they must be a part of a club as well, where they will get the necessary support to groom and to hone their skills and to develop as a good cyclist. Without the club structure, it would be a little bit more difficult for them to get that development that they so desire at this time.”

## cont'd from pg 19

the war to stop earlier this year - and 18th-ranked Victoria Azarenka of Belarus will also miss out.

Russia's Andrey Rublev is eighth in the men's standings, with compatriot Karen Khachanov 26th.

Only players are banned, which means coaches, umpires and physiotherapists can be involved in the tournament.

The Lawn Tennis Association has also

banned Russian or Belarusian players from playing at any of the UK grass-court tournaments.

They will all still be able to compete at the French Open, which begins in May.

Players from both countries have been allowed to compete on the tennis tour but not under their national flags.

The ATP said Russian and Belarusian players would still be allowed to compete at its events under a neutral flag.



## Young Warriors end SKN tour on winning note

Young Warriors wrapped up their tour of St. Kitts & Nevis with a hard-fought 2-0 win over Bath United in an Under-15 contest on Tuesday.

Goals from Railique Browne and Dequan Samuel inspired the Antiguan and Barbudan youths to their only win, as they avenged an earlier defeat to their host.

Samuel setup Browne with a through ball to push around the advancing goalkeeper to make it 1-0.

Samuel, who bossed possession and created a few chances, sealed the win late in the game when he unleashed a powerful low drive pass the goalkeeper.

The win avenged a loss the previous day, as Bath bounced back from behind early in the second half with two quick fire goals, which stunned the visitors.

Warriors lost the second Under-13 affair 2-0 after Bath held them to a 2-2 draw on Sunday.

Kadame Tonge netted both goals for Warriors, but the Nevisians blunted their opponents in the second game on Tuesday night.

Warriors' senior boys were beaten in their three matches in the 'Shake The Nets' tournament, losing 4-0 on Sunday to eventual champions Cayon of St. Kitts.

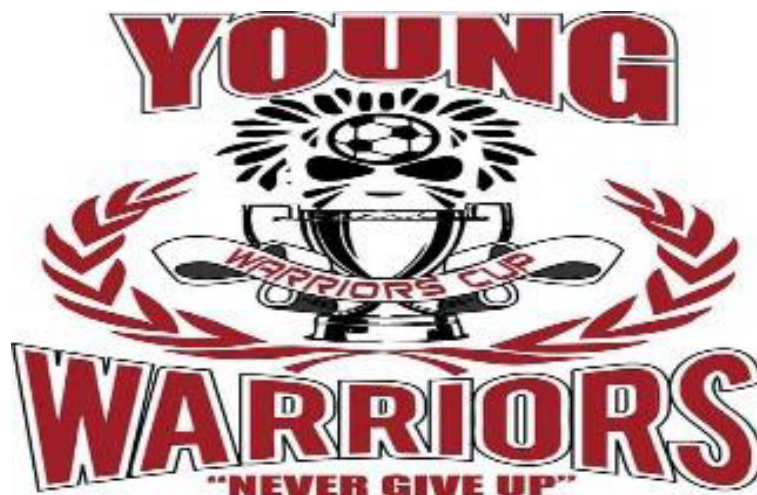
Although they matched their opponents during their games, Warriors succumbed

to Newtown 3-0 and Bath 2-0.

The Easter holiday weekend tour was the start of a developmental programme for Warriors as the club seeks to expose its players to overseas competition and scouts.

Goalkeeper Jahkeiffe Jeffers, an invited player, was named Young Warriors best player, as he produced some outstanding saves in their three matches.

Colin James, president of Young Warriors, said he was impressed with the



standard of the competition and indicated it is likely to become an annual event.

James said Young Warriors have started discus-

sions with football officials in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, regarding a four-nation tournament in Antigua and Barbuda later this year.



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## Commissioner Rodney commends Police cricket team

Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney has commended the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda's cricket team for winning the first Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League competition of the season.

Police captured the Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship by pulling off an unbeaten six-wicket victory over Freetown in the final at the Police Recreation Grounds on Saturday, 9th April.

Freetown were bundled out for a paltry 71 by Police who wrapped up the match by securing victory with 74 for 4.

Rodney, who attended the final, expressed pride at the Police's achievement as he extended congratulations to the team.

"I am very pleased to see that they have won a Parish League title. They have been practicing for a while now and they wanted to do well and I am happy to see they have achieved that," Commissioner Rodney said.

"I just want to say congratulations to them, not only to the players, but also to the support staff. There are quite a few persons behind the scenes that work with them, and even their supervisors who give them the permission and the time off to practice and to prepare for a match, so congratula-

tions is in order for them."

Rodney said the Police Force is well served by a number of sportsmen and women.

"Within the police force we have a number of sporting men and women that continue to play well, continue to perform, and that is why we will continue to advocate for their recognition and give them their rightful place in the different competitions," Commissioner Rodney said.

"We have produced some of the best cricketers Antigua have seen over the years. We are just saying it is just high time that people recognise that we are a police force and our main function is to enforce the laws of the land, but also we have the skill sets to play sports and play it well.

"So, as you can see, to win a championship, we limited Freetown to under 100 and we hit it off for the loss of a few wickets. It shows we have the potential to play good cricket."

Commissioner Rodney said the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda will continue to provide its officers with opportunities to excel in sports.

"Police officers are men and women of our community and they have a role to play in terms of their form of employment, which is policing. However, they



*Antigua and Barbuda's Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney in attendance at the Dave Joseph One Day Parish League final between Police and Freetown at the PRG on 9th April, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)*

are persons who believe in sports, actively engage in sports, love sports and we have to give them that opportunity," Commissioner Rodney said.

"So as much as we pay them to do law enforcement, we recognise that they have that sporting ability and we will continue to promote

that.

"Within the police force, whatever sports you play, we continue to assist and we continue to encourage. Within the organisation, we have our own sports clubs and we just want to participate in whatever sports are organised within Antigua and Barbuda."



## Jennings versus Ottos cricket match ends in tie

Jennings Secondary and Ottos Comprehensive Schools played to a tie in the latest round of matches in the Ministry of Sports Schools' Cricket Competition.

Batting first, Jennings made 134 for 6 off 17 overs with Tanez Francis getting 43 and Micah McKenzie scoring 23.

Scott grabbed 3 for 26 in his 4 overs.

In reply, Ottos Comprehensive were dismissed for 134 in 16.3 overs, with Thomas making 32 and Scott 20.

Andre Peters picked up 2 wickets

for 1 run in 3 balls, while Francis captured 2 for 23 and McKenzie 2 for 38.

In another encounter, the Antigua Grammar School crushed Sir Novelle Richards Academy by 10 wickets.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy were bundled out for 41 with Shamar Pereira grabbing 2 wickets for 1 run in his only over.

Xavin Peterson picked up 2 wickets for 2 runs in the 5 balls he bowled.

Matthew Miller and Paul Fairweather each captured 2 wickets for 8 runs.

Openers Pereira scored 13 not out

and Ronaldo Antigua hit an unbeaten 11 as Antigua Grammar achieved their victory target of 42 without the loss of a wicket.

The Schools' Cricket Competition will continue with three matches today.

All Saints Secondary will clash with Princess Margaret School at Mack Pond in All Saints, Ottos Comprehensive will face Glanvilles Secondary School at Rising Sun and Clare Hall Secondary will meet Pares Secondary at King George in Grays Green.

### *cont'd from pg 24*

tively, contributing to the fantastic achievements and heart shown by the national team.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation, (ABSF) Derek Marshall said, "There are no words to express how we feel right now. These young people have worked so hard for so long. They've trained in the sea, they've tried to make up pool time, they have persevered in a way that very few people, adults or otherwise, are able to do, and it has paid off.

"As the president, I am incredibly proud of them. As an Antiguan, I am just so happy to see them out there doing so well personally and on the podium.

"It's amazing to see how resilient and disciplined our athletes have been, and I hope we can rally around them and bring them home.

"Obviously, we will all continue to work hard to support their future success;

you can look at their results, you can see it in their faces, how much swimming and competing for their country means to them. They deserve kudos and every ounce of support we can muster as they move forward to chase their dreams."

An ABSF press release also stated, "This team showed it is outstanding in Antiguan and Barbudan history. The young athletes of the Antigua and Barbuda national swim team have given their all for our country, demonstrating professionalism and the power of combining talent and an incredible work ethic in the face of adversity.

"Coaches Wayne Mitchell and Nelson Molina are no less worthy of congratulations and praise, helping a large team through COVID protocols and multiple entries per day.

"Molina and Mitchell have coached Antiguan and Barbudan athletes for years at the local and international

level, and clearly demonstrated the value of their experiences and knowledge in guiding this team to results of unquestioned calibre."

Having left CARIFTA on a high, Ethan Stubbs-Green is today representing Antigua and Barbuda in the 5k Open-water Races.



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## A&B claims two more medals at CARIFTA swim meet

Antigua and Barbuda claimed two more medals on the fourth day of the 2022 CARIFTA Swimming Championships in Barbados on Tuesday.

Ethan Stubbs-Green claimed a silver medal in the Boys' 13-14 400-metre freestyle and Ellie Shaw earned a bronze medal in the Girls' 13-14 100-metre breaststroke.

These performances represent national records, age group records, and personal bests from the two outstanding athletes.

Stubbs-Green sailed to the silver with a time of 4:20.51, with 0.82 seconds separating him from Martinique's first place swimmer Christophe Maleau, a full 6 second separation from the pack.

Shaw motored her way to bronze with a time of 1:19.22, in a close 0.10 second separation from Martinique's Cyrielle Manin.

These spectacular performances marked the end of pool-based competition of the 2022 CARIFTA Games.

Tuesday's silver was the third medal won by Stubbs-Green at the 2022 CARIFTA Swimming Championships.

In a thrilling finish, with



The Antigua and Barbuda delegation at the 2022 CARIFTA Swimming Championships in Barbados. (Photo: ABSF)

a time differential of 84 milliseconds across the podium, Stubbs-Green brought home a bronze medal on Monday night in the 13-14 age group 200 metre freestyle, with a time of 2:01.95 seconds.

Earlier in the competition, on its opening day on 16th April, Stubbs-Green swam to gold in the Boys' 13-14 category of the 100 metres butterfly in a time of 58.22 seconds.

Stubbs-Green and Shaw are joined as finalists by Davina Barton, who placed 7th in the Girls' 11-12 400-metre freestyle finals, improving on her recently set personal best entry time.

In the same distance, teammate Reuben Edwards roared to his own personal best time with a 10 second decrease of 5:05.31, earning a 6th place finish and a significant personal achieve-

ment in the Boys' 11-12 category.

Davien Barton powered his way to a personal best of 4:56.62 in a strong display of heart and discipline towards the end of his race in the Boys' 13-14 age group.

In the 50-metre freestyle, Tivon Benjamin and Stubbs-Green improved their times by .37 seconds and .92 seconds respectively.

*cont'd on pg 23*