

PRINCE EDWARD, COUNTESS SOPHIE BEGIN VISIT MONDAY



Local News



The royals are coming to town

Plans are being finalised ahead of a visit next week by two members of the royal family.

Prince Edward, the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II and his wife, Sophie, Countess of Wessex will arrive in Antigua on Monday morning as part of a tour of several countries in the southern Caribbean, celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

A schedule of activities has been organized that includes engagements between the royals and members of the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda, and a meeting with Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and his wife, Sandra Lady Williams at Government House.

Their whirlwind tour will also include visits to Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground and the National Sailing Academy in English Harbour.

Prince Edward and the Countess



Coat of Arms of Edward and Sophie, the Earl and Countess of Wessex

of Wessex will be hosted at a reception scheduled for Clarence House on Monday evening that will also include members of the Diplomatic Corps and other specially invited guests, before they continue on their Caribbean journey that will take in St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Protocols and security arrangements are a major priority to ensure

the royal couple's visit here is incident free.

On Wednesday, a mock motorcade with police escort and blaring sirens winded its way down Queen Elizabeth Highway, leaving many confused as to what was taking place.

Employees of the Central Board of Health were busy at work cutting the parapets on Sir George Walter Highway yesterday morning, while flags were being placed along the route the royals will travel on their way from V.C Bird International Airport.

Several members of the royal family are visiting countries that are part of the Commonwealth of Nations, as Queen Elizabeth II marks the 70th anniversary of her ascension to the British Throne in 1952 at 25 years old.

The longest serving British Monarch in history turned 96 years old yesterday.

Happy Mother Earth Day

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Mother earth is a living organism too. love, honor & respect her.

DID YOU KNOW?

Eco-driving can lead to cost savings, better road safety and reduced air and noise pollution through awareness of speed, deceleration, gear shift timing and tyre pressure."





ATB

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Reparations Support Commission to address reparations during royals' visit

Prince Edward and Sophie Countess of Wessex are due to visit Antigua and Barbuda next week.

The royals' tour of the Caribbean is expected to run from 22nd – 28th April.

During the visit, they will also visit St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Their visit to Antigua and Barbuda begins on 25th April.

The visit of Queen Elizabeth's youngest son and his wife follows the recently completed, highly controversial visit of his nephew, Prince William and his wife Catherine the Duchess of Cambridge to the region.

Their tour of the Caribbean on the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, was fraught with protests and cancelled events as the issues of reparations to former British colonies and countries removing the Queen as head of State to become republics took centre stage.

With the exception of the Bahamas where they were met with no resistance, Prince William and Kate faced an uncomfortable tour which also took them to Belize and Jamaica.

While in Jamaica, Prince William stopped short of issuing an apology for slavery when he expressed "profound sorrow" for the "abhorrent" stain on Britain's history that "should never have happened".

William's comments — and his omissions — sparked a debate about how the British royal family should address its historical links to slavery. William may have directly referenced the topic of slavery, which is unusual for a senior royal, but he did not heed the call from campaigners to apologise for the actions of his forebearers.



Prince Edward and Sophie Countess of Wessex

Already, St. Lucians have signalled that they will stage protests with respect to these same issues during Prince Edward and his wife's visit.

There are also similar plans here in Antigua and Barbuda, although as a nation more bound by tradition, resistance here is likely to be more subdued.

In a recent media appearance, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission, Dorbrene O'Marde, indicated that the body intends to present an open letter to the royals on the issue of reparations.

"Essentially, it supports the positions taken by other...people as far as the issue of reparation is concerned and the inability of the absence of an apology from the Crown both as family and as an institution for their role in the enslavement of African people in the slave trade and in the slavery of African people," said Mr. O'Marde.

O'Marde said that while the Commission will support calls for



Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission Dorbrene O'Marde.

reparation, it will also be guided by the fact that the royal couple is visiting as "representatives of our head of state, Queen Elizabeth II.

"The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Commission is a government-appointed Commission and the decision of the government that appointed this Commission is the invitation of these folks to visit Antigua and Barbuda."

Local News

Gov't examines feasibility of Nomad Programme as alternative to CIP

The Gaston Browne administration is seeking an alternative programme to the CIP as it appears the European Parliament's decision to go after countries with CBI's is a done deal.

During yesterday's post-cabinet press briefing, Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, admitted there isn't much the administration in St. John's may be able to do to change the minds of EU parliamentarians. They are going after nations demanding they end their CBIs by 2025, or face the removal of visa free access to countries in the Schengen region of Europe.

Despite earlier statements from Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene that ending the programme was not an option, Minister Nicholas conceded the government will have to seek out an alternative programme that will generate the revenues brought in by the CIP.

"The fact that we have a residency programme in place, which we had referred to as our Nomad Programme,

we are certainly going to look at strengthening that, and to see whether or not it will offer us another leg to stand on, should there be any precipitous decline in our particular CIP programmes," Nicholas said.

Concerns have been raised by European Union officials that Citizenship by Investment Programmes are being abused by human traffickers, international criminals, and corrupt oligarchs. Antigua and Barbuda had proposed the establishment of a regional regulatory

organization that will have oversight of the CIPs operated by various governments, to ensure strict adherence to guidelines that will eliminate skepticism on the part of those calling for the programmes to be abolished. However, it is unclear whether progress was made in that regard.

According to the Cabinet Notes, "The Antigua and Barbuda Digital Nomad Programme is one alternative that could be more fully exploited, since it does not involve alleviating tax burdens which the Organization

for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) deems to be unfair competition. The Head of the CIU and the CIP expert will return to Cabinet in three weeks with a plan that can possibly surmount the concerns of the OECD".

Antigua and Barbuda has signaled its intention to move ahead with diplomatic engagement on the issue, knowing it may not yield much success.

"Never mind whatever protocols you put in place; they sometimes have a tendency of being closed to reason on these other points. So, we will engage, we will do what is necessary to be done, but at the end of the day, if it turns that we have to diversify to remain buoyant, that is what we are seeking to study, with a view to landing on another leg to stand on," Nicholas opined.



Fri 22 Day		Fri 22 Night	
82°	19% ENE 13 mph	74°	10% ENE 9 mph
Partly cloudy skies. High 82F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 64%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 73%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:47 am	Sunset 6:24 pm	Moonrise --	Moonset 11:03 am
		Waning Gibbous	

IDB to launch efforts to manage chemicals, hazardous waste in Caribbean

IDB Lab, the innovation laboratory of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is spearheading an initiative aimed at finding creative solutions that contribute to the sustainable management of chemicals and hazardous waste in twelve Caribbean countries.

The “BlueTech for Waste Challenge,” is being undertaken in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through its Global ISLANDS programme, in order to protect human health and the environment and address the climate vulnerabilities of the region.

IDB Lab said that the initiative is aimed at start-ups with ready to implement models, small and medium-sized companies, non-governmental organisations, corporations, and other organisations in the

private sector that offer innovative solutions to face the challenge posed by waste from lubricants, tires, electrical items, and electronics, used and end-of-life vehicles, as well as industrial, organic and municipal, medical, pesticide, and plastic waste that may contain hazardous substances.

“Such solutions must be scalable, sustainable, and promote the economic and social inclusion of poor and vulnerable populations,” IDB Lab said.

It said initiatives from which the projects will be implemented can come from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

It said organisations from any of the other 48

member countries of the IDB may also participate if they do so jointly with an organisation registered and located in one of the twelve countries indicated.

“The selected proposals will be able to receive financing to implement their projects, which will be provided by the IDB/IDB Lab and the GEF – with the exception of Haiti and Ja-

maica, which will receive support from the IDB/IDB Lab.

“In addition, the selected organizations will be included in the IDB Lab network of global innovators for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, best practices, and the creation of contacts in events organized by the IDB Group and its partners.”




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Local News



Major moves by APUA to boost water supply

APUA has announced it continues to take steps toward improving the distribution of water to consumers throughout the country.

While it works to com-

mission new Reverse Osmosis Plants, the utilities company is also refurbishing existing ones.

In a statement yesterday,

APUA said the Crabbs Re-

verse Osmosis Plant formerly Sembcorp, is currently undergoing refurbishment on two units. Work on the units, which were originally commissioned in 1998, is

projected to be completed in mid-May and will increase production by an additional 1,000,000 gallons. This boost will immediately increase water production at the Crabbs RO to 4,000,000 gallons daily.

Preparatory work continues at the Fort James Reverse Osmosis Plant. The 500,000-gallon plant is expected to arrive in Antigua at the end of May to be commissioned by July, 2022. This will increase the overall production via Reverse Osmosis to 8,000,000 gallons daily. In the interim, APUA says it is improving on mainline replacement with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes and is alerting consumers that the work will likely cause temporary disruption to roads in communities. However, they are pledging to engage stakeholders, so as not to cause unnecessary disruptions.

APUA stated its goal is to increase total water production to approximately 11,500,000 gallons daily; satisfying the demands of potable water one hundred per cent via Reverse Osmosis.

The utilities' company is imploring residents to actively engage in responsible water conservation practices.

Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

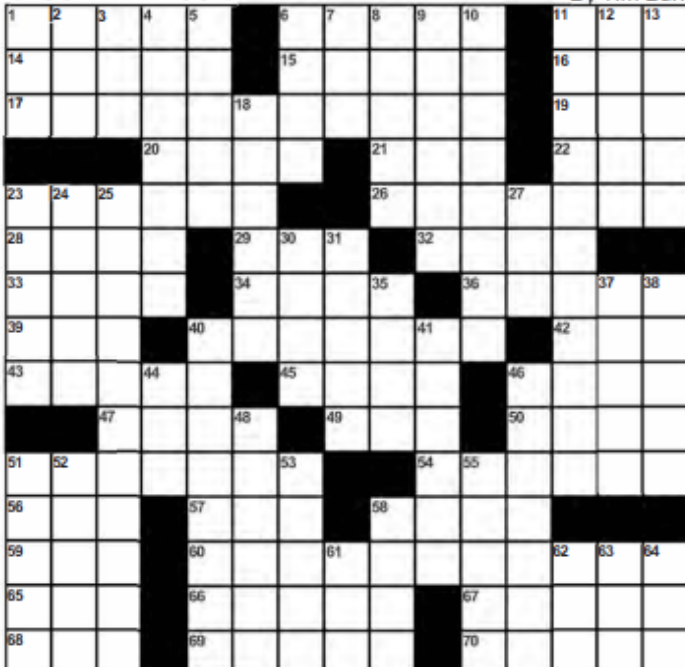
- 1) Old counters
- 6) Lock catches
- 11) "How exciting!"
- 14) Boston airport
- 15) Old Roman port
- 16) Employ
- 17) Summary statement
- 19) Can component
- 20) Glassmaker's need
- 21) Witty remark
- 22) "___ the ramparts ..."
- 23) Quantity
- 26) Chinese dish
- 28) Kind of food or music
- 29) Bank offering, for short
- 32) Penetrate slowly
- 33) Food crumbs
- 34) Broadcasts
- 36) Splash haphazardly
- 39) Discouraging words
- 40) Poker dealer's question
- 42) Tax prep. expert
- 43) "Come in!"
- 45) Pressure unit
- 46) "Sure, why not?"
- 47) Old Testament book
- 49) Fly catcher
- 50) Neural network
- 51) Out of key
- 54) Ridges on ranges
- 56) ___ chi (martial art)
- 57) Knight's title
- 58) Tightly tucked in
- 59) "I" problem
- 60) Like some rights
- 65) Amstrayed on foot
- 66) Resign one's position
- 67) Kind of personality
- 68) "___ show time!"
- 69) Demagnetize, as a tape
- 70) School jottings

DOWN

- 1) "Rumble in the Jungle" champ
- 2) "___ voyage!"
- 3) Karim of the Khans, for one
- 4) Soup buys
- 5) Store cremains
- 6) Vast multitude
- 7) ___ Wednesday
- 8) Florists cut them
- 9) Aviators
- 10) Most crude, humorwise
- 11) Certain expenses
- 12) Basket twig
- 13) John the steel-drivin' man
- 18) One-named Venetian master
- 23) All together
- 24) Definitely no Einstein
- 25) Sparsely populated posts
- 27) Fam. member
- 30) Hilariously funny thing
- 31) It points the way
- 35) Tender to the touch
- 37) Sudden outpouring
- 38) "First lady of the theater" Helen
- 40) Burr role
- 41) Refined and polished
- 44) Australian runner
- 46) Pasta sauce herb
- 48) Type of fishing boat
- 51) Where embryos develop
- 52) Annoy persistently
- 53) Kind of queen
- 55) Bad type of sentence
- 58) Locate
- 61) Sue Grafton's "___ for Lawless"
- 62) Dracula, at times
- 63) Fabrication
- 64) Triage sites, briefly

CLOSE THE DOOR!

By Tim Burr





THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
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The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

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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 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.

Opinion

The rejection of military aggression – a CARICOM achievement

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organisation of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)

CARICOM states led the way in the Organization of American States (OAS) on 21 April 2022 in a historic vote to suspend the status of the Russian Federation as a Permanent Observer to the Organization.

Eleven other CARICOM countries supported Antigua and Barbuda and Guatemala to help achieve an affirmative vote from 25 states of the 34 member states. No country voted against the resolution.

There were no winners or losers among the members and permanent observers of the OAS.

The winners are respect for the international legal order, the authority of international law and the fundamental principles of both the UN and the OAS. The Organization demonstrated that it cherishes international law, peace and freedom, and completely rejects aggression and war as legitimate means of settling disputes.

By the vote, suspending Russia as a Permanent Observer, the OAS member states recorded, beyond doubt, that they will not tolerate the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and that no state, however, powerful should believe that it should attempt such adventurism and expect not to be roundly condemned.

There is an important lesson to be learned from the votes the 12 small CARICOM states and five of their counterparts from Central America. They showed that small states, too, have a legitimate and strong voice in the hemisphere, and the world, to speak out for right and for justice.

They did so in their own voice, speaking as an echo to no one. They led; they did not follow.

In opening the debate and vote on the resolution, on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, I made it clear that we were proposing the suspension of the status of the Russian Federation as a permanent observer to our Organization of the American States, “with a heavy heart”. I explained that we would have preferred to maintain our relationship with the Russian Federation in the same way that we welcome the preservation of our relationship with other nations that we



Sir Ronald Sanders

have permitted the status of permanent observer at the OAS.

However, as events have evolved by the Russian Federation's aggression in Ukraine and the subsequent atrocities committed against civilians, including women and children, any choice we might have had in the matter had been removed.

The Charter of the OAS specifically requires strict adherence to four fundamental Principles which are: international law is the standard of conduct of States in their reciprocal relations; international order consists essentially of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of States, and the faithful fulfilment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of

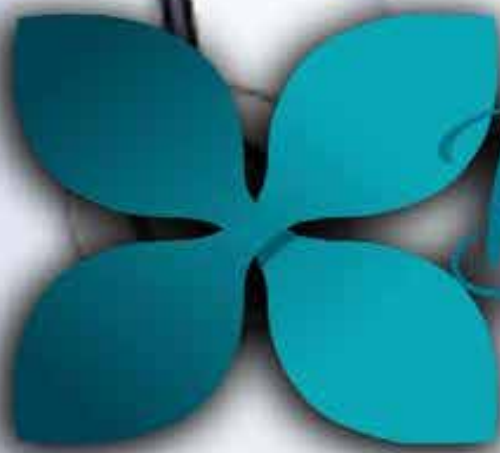
international law; recognition that every State has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the way best suited to it, and has the duty to abstain from intervening in the affairs of another State; and condemnation of wars of aggression. Adherence to these principles is required not only by the OAS member states, but also by the States that have been granted the status of permanent observer.

The Russian Federation, like every other permanent observer, was granted that status in accordance with procedures which were set out by the Permanent Council on 27th June 1984. That Resolution specifically says at

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LOGOTHERAPY, RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING, SPIRITUAL COUNSELING,
ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

Opinion



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paragraph 6: "That the Permanent Council may review the permanent observer status granted to a State when it considers that the circumstances that determined the acceptance of its request have significantly changed or no longer obtain".

It is manifestly evident by its aggression against Ukraine, and the events that followed, that the Russian Federation has violated the terms under which its status as a Permanent Observer had been granted.

The integrity of the OAS – and its authority – particularly regarding its adherence to its own rules, required the member states to send a clear message not only to Russia but to any other powerful state that their contract cannot be broken with impunity.

Beyond these considerations, the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and the violations of international law, required the OAS,

as one of the world's oldest multilateral institutions, to demonstrate its disapproval, particularly as silence would serve to embolden other governments that might harbour ambitions of territorial acquisition and military aggression against neighbouring states.

Twice since the Russian invasion of Ukraine started, the OAS formally exhorted Russia to cease hostilities in Ukraine and, instead, to engage in dialogue and diplomacy. Instead, Russia intensified military action, resulting in huge loss of life, massive destruction, and the dislocation and displacement of millions of people.

There is no doubt that small states deeply sympathize with the people of Ukraine whose country is being torn apart, its people either killed or displaced, its future bleak and unpredictable. Small states also greatly admire the people of Ukraine for their courage, even as they weep over

the destruction of their country. For, there but for fortune, go small nations.

That is why small nations of CARICOM and Central America could not remain silent or ignore the Russian aggression, and it is why they must raise their voices, now and in the future, against such aggression from wherever it comes.

A difference happened at the OAS on 21 April 2022. Small states led; raised their voices; and let it be known that they will use their collective soft power to defend and uphold the values and principles that contribute to the security and well-being of their own people. CARICOM solidarity was the core of that achievement, showing how much more its member states could attain by collective action.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronalsanders.com

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How cryptocurrencies work (and how they don't)

By **Thalia Beaty**

The first and most popular cryptocurrency, bitcoin, launched more than a decade ago. Yet for all the relentless buzz, relatively few are well versed in cryptocurrencies or the blockchain, the technology on which they're built.

Despite the evangelizing by and rising profile of some investors, a 2021 poll by Pew Research Center found that just 16% of Americans said they have ever invested in cryptocurrencies. That broadened to 31% between the ages of 18 and 29 and to 43% of men in that age range.

If you're not among those percentages, you might view these currencies with scepticism and may have avoided trying to understand the lingo or the technology.

But as cryptocurrencies and related technologies reach into politics, intertwine with the larger economy and impact the environment, everyone could use a sense of what they are, how they work and their pitfalls and potential.

I WANT TO SOUND SMART. IS IT "BLOCKCHAIN" OR "THE BLOCKCHAIN?"

It depends on usage. "Blockchain technology" is acceptable to refer to the computer code that records cryptocurrency transactions (and can be used for other things; stay with us). Standing alone, just call it the blockchain — even though there are actually multiple



A no trespassing sign is seen near a coal-fired power plant that also houses a cryptocurrency "mining" operation that relies on the plant's energy, on April 20, 2022, in Hardin, Mont. Marathon Digital Holdings has thousands of computers on the site and is planning to relocate to Texas to use power from a wind farm. (AP Photo/Matthew Brown)

(don't worry, we'll explain below).

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND THE BLOCKCHAIN?

Blockchains record cryptocurrency transactions in encrypted, digital records that live on servers all around the world. Some blockchains allow developers to build in applications and program contracts.

Also of note: Different cryptocurrencies are built on different blockchains. Bitcoin is built on the, well, bitcoin blockchain; ether is built on the Ethereum blockchain. There now are some cryptocurrencies or tokens that are essentially built on top of other cryptocurrencies — but at the most basic level, all cryptocurrencies refer back to a blockchain.

Blockchains also can be used to record other types of

information — like property records or the origins of a food item.

MY HEAD HURTS. IS THERE A SIMPLER WAY TO THINK ABOUT THIS?

Fundamentally, cryptocurrencies are digital money. The blockchain is a database for recording transactions of said digital money. This digital money isn't backed by any government or institution.

HOW ARE CRYPTOCURRENCIES MADE?

Different cryptocurrencies have different digital architectures (code) so how they work varies. As an example, let's use bitcoin, which is "mined."

In the physical world, here's how mining works: A specialized computer processor runs on electricity and produces an astonishing amount of noise and heat. In the digital world, that processor is competing to solve

a mathematical puzzle. The computer that solves the puzzle first wins newly minted bitcoin. This design is part of the open source code created by the anonymous entity that launched bitcoin in 2009.

Mining has another purpose: In the course of solving the puzzle, the most recent bitcoin transactions — the sending and receiving of the currency — are recorded on the blockchain. The system design encourages participants to spend resources (in this case money and electricity) to help maintain the record of who owns which bitcoins.

Those with more computing power are more likely to win — so the design favours well-resourced groups that can put together a lot of these specialized computers and supply them with electricity as cheaply as possible.

As a kind of check, the system is also designed to increase the difficulty of solving the mathematical puzzle as more computers compete to do so. At the same time, the amount of bitcoin successful miners win decreases automatically at predetermined intervals. Together that means entities that got into mining quite early made out with more bitcoin in return for spending fewer resources.

I THINK I ACTUALLY GOT THAT. NOW WHAT IS THIS ABOUT DECENTRALIZATION?

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Technology



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An additional feature of the blockchain's design is that the record of transactions is held on many computers that together form a global network. These computers — or nodes — constantly check with each other to confirm their records' accuracy. The replication of these records across the network is part of what prevents an incorrect or fake transaction from being logged.

Together, the decentralized and open source nature of the blockchain means that no one and no institution can control it. But actors like governments and large corporations still can limit access in certain circumstances. China outlawed cryptocurrency trading in September 2021 because of concerns they could weaken control over the financial system and were facilitating crime. More recently, a major cryptocurrency exchange, Binance, stopped processing purchases made with certain credit cards issued in Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

WHOA. SO HOW SECURE IS THE BLOCKCHAIN?

Cryptocurrency buffs consider it pretty hard to hack — that's part of its appeal. Again though, it depends which platform you're talking about.

The bitcoin blockchain has not been compromised to date, but the second largest blockchain and cryptocurrency, Ethereum, faced a major crisis in 2016 stemming from a software vulnerability. While the Ethereum blockchain itself was not hacked, some \$50 million in ether was stolen.

Many cryptocurrency-related services and technologies have been hacked or simply exploited by their designers to deceive and steal from participants.

Cryptocurrency exchanges — where people can trade cryptocurrencies for traditional currencies — have been compromised multiple times, with digital bank robbers clearing out the accounts. Memorably, in 2018, the CEO of a cryptocurrency exchange died without

relaying a crucial passcode, effectively locking customers out of millions of dollars' worth of cryptocurrencies.

Consumers have few recovery options, whether they're a victim of a scam or security breach or have simply forgotten their digital wallet's password. There is no password reset or insurance in the pre-programmed, decentralized system.

In short, the investments are backed by few protections. U.S. prosecutors do pursue outright criminal behaviour, like false advertising or stealing, but if the value of a new cryptocurrency token plummets and does not recover, that money is lost. Even the value of bitcoin, which some proponents call "digital gold," is extremely volatile.

A final thought: Cryptocurrencies remain criminals' payment of choice. Illegal drugs or other barred commodities are often exchanged for cryptocurrency, which can be transferred across distances more easily than cash and can be harder for prosecutors to trace. But for most cryptocurrencies, the record of who owns what is publicly visible, forcing criminals to become savvier in order to effectively launder cryptocurrencies obtained through theft, scams or ransomware attacks.

WHERE DOES THE "VALUE" OF CRYPTOCURRENCIES COME FROM?

This age-old question — who decides what a buck is worth? — is further complicated with cryptocurrencies. Unlike traditional currencies, no government, central bank or physical asset backs cryptocurrencies.

Their values are based on people's faith in them, as determined by the market. Backers hope that more and more people will want a digital currency that is relatively free from government oversight — and that, as people sink resources into cryptocurrencies, their value will increase over time.

Also unlike traditional currencies, some cryptocurrencies function both

as an investment and a potential unit of exchange. Some buy it hoping they can eventually sell it for a profit. Others might use a fraction of a bitcoin to, say, get a firecracker pork burrito at New Hampshire's Taco Beyondo.

WHAT ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS?

Cryptocurrency mining consumes a great deal of energy. One peer-reviewed study calculated that, as of November 2018, bitcoin's annual electricity consumption was 45.8 terawatt hours, comparable to Hong Kong's net electricity consumption in 2019, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

That doesn't even take into account energy consumed by other cryptocurrencies. And bitcoin's energy consumption has increased annually: The Bitcoin Mining Council estimated the cryptocurrency consumed 220 terawatt hours of energy in 2021.

When judging the environmental impacts of cryptocurrencies, it's important to consider the electricity's source. Miners want electricity at the lowest cost, which sometimes leads them to polluting energy sources like coal. Other times, can they find the cheapest energy from renewable sources like hydroelectric dams. It really comes down to location. Those variables make it complicated to calculate cryptocurrencies' exact energy consumption and environmental impacts.

Environmental impacts also include the energy used to cool computer processors, which heat up as they work, as well as the electronic waste produced as miners upgrade their equipment and discard older models or broken units.

WHAT'S A NONFUNGELLA ... A NONFUNGIBLE ... WHAT'S AN NFT?

For everyone's sake, let's keep this short. Nonfungible tokens are basically any digital item — like an image or video — that has been recorded on the blockchain to show who owns it.

IMF, World Bank chiefs warn of debt squeeze in poor nations

By Paul Wiseman

The heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank warned Wednesday that rising interest rates are squeezing the world's poorest countries as they struggle with the coronavirus and soaring food prices.

There is "a huge build-up of debt, especially in the poorest countries," World Bank President David Malpass said in a press conference. "As interest rates rise, the debt pressures are mounting on developing countries, and we need to move urgently towards solutions."

Malpass said the "debt crisis" is a topic of extensive discussion at this week's Spring meetings of the World Bank and IMF, already dominated by other daunting issues including the war in Ukraine, the coronavirus pandemic and a slowing global economy.

IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva told reporters Wednesday that 60% of low-income countries were in or near "debt distress" — an alarming threshold reached when their debt payments equal half the size of their national economies. Countries that strain to pay their creditors will also struggle to help their poorest citizens at a time when the Ukraine war is disrupting food shipments



Sri Lankans queue up near a fuel station to buy kerosene in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Sri Lanka is suspending its repayment of foreign debt, including bonds and government-to-government borrowings, pending the completion of a loan restructuring program with the International Monetary Fund to deal with the island nation's worst economic crisis in decades, the government said Tuesday. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

and pushing food prices higher.

Countries around the world piled on debt to shield their economies from the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdowns meant to contain it. The IMF forecasts that government debts in low-income countries will surpass 50% of gross domestic product — the broadest measure of economic output — this year, up from less than 44% in the pre-pandemic year 2019.

Globally, the massive economic assistance has worked, fuelling an unexpectedly quick recovery

from 2020's pandemic recession.

But the rebound caught businesses by surprise. They scrambled to meet surging customer demand, which overwhelmed factories, ports and freight yards. Deliveries slowed and prices rose. The IMF now forecasts that consumer prices will jump 8.7% this year in emerging-market and developing countries and 5.7% in advanced economies, most since 1984.

In response, the world's central banks — led by America's Federal Reserve — are raising interest rates to combat rising prices.

Higher rates will increase the debt burden — most painfully in the world's poorest countries.

As they climb, U.S. rates are also likely to lure investment out of poor countries and to the United States, pushing down the currencies of developing countries and forcing them to pay more for food and other imported goods.

Georgieva counselled central banks to move carefully, explain what they're doing to avoid overreactions in financial markets and stay "mindful of the spill over risks to vulnerable emerging

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WHO says global COVID cases, deaths declined again last week

The World Health Organization says that the number of reported new COVID-19 cases worldwide decreased by nearly a quarter last week, continuing a decline since the end of March.

The Geneva-based U.N. health agency said in a weekly report that nearly 5.59 million cases were reported between April 11 and 17, 24% fewer than in the previous week. The number of newly reported deaths dropped 21% to 18,215.

WHO said new cases declined in every region, though only by 2% in the Americas. The report was dated late Wednesday and sent to journalists on Thursday.

The agency said that “these trends should be inter-

preted with caution as several countries are progressively changing their COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected.”

The countries with the highest reported case numbers last week were South Korea with more than 972,000, France with over 827,000 and Germany with more than 769,000, WHO said. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported by the U.S., with 3,076, Russia with 1,784 and South Korea with 1,671.

In all, more than 502 million cases of COVID-19 and nearly 6.2 million deaths related to the coronavirus have been reported so far.



Residents get tested during their stay at a temporary hospital converted from the National Exhibition and Convention Center to quarantine COVID-positive people in Shanghai, China on April 18, 2022. Interviews with family members of people testing positive for COVID-19, a phone call with a government health official and an independent tally raise questions about how Shanghai calculates virus cases and deaths, almost certainly resulting in a marked undercount. (Chinatopix via AP)

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and developing economies.”

She and Malpass also urged a coordinated global effort to help countries struggling with their debts. Similar efforts, which were started when COVID-19 hit two years ago, have since sputtered “and must be improved in time to provide meaningful relief to countries that need it,” Marcello Estevão, the World Bank’s global director of macroeconomics, trade and investment, wrote last month in a blog post.

The trouble has already started. Sri Lanka last week said it was suspending its repayment of foreign debt, pending the completion of a loan restructuring program with the IMF to deal with the island nation’s worst economic crisis in decades.

Estevão said that up to a dozen developing countries may be unable to meet debt payments over the next year. That’s nothing like the emerging market debt crises of the 1980s and 1990s, he wrote, but “would still be significant — the largest spate of debt crises in developing economies in a generation.”



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Dominica's Jazz N' Creole Festival is back this May

By **Santana Salmon**

One of the Eastern Caribbean's top music festivals is making a comeback!

Dominica will see the return of the popular Jazz n' Creole Festival on Sunday, May 1, 2022, after a two years hiatus due to the pandemic.

This will be the 11th edition of the festival, which will feature a number of notable names from the region, from St Lucia's Teddyson John and the JSJ Trio from Guadeloupe.

Acting Festivals and Events Manager, Samantha Letang made the announcement recently.

"Born in Castries, St Lucia to a deeply spiritual home, Teddyson John started his musical journey at a young age, nurtured in the church. In 2007 he made a move to Gospel and R&B to Soca, taking his career to another dimension.

"The move earned him the Groovy Soca Monarch title in 2015 putting him on an international map that made him become a household name, locally, regionally and internationally," she stated.

According to Destination Marketing Manager, Kimberly King the return of the festival is a responsible decision following the successful



implementation of pilot events held during the carnival season.

"This year, we successfully piloted special events during what is traditionally called the carnival period and have now made the responsible decision to open up for more events. We anticipate that hosting events will attract more visitors to the island whether friends and family or leisure visitors."

Joining the regional acts will be several local artistes that are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

The first of those is a group of four local talented female Dominican group, Femme 4.

Femme 4 includes Marsha Laurent, Shalina Samuel, Marsha Augustine and Tasha Peltier.

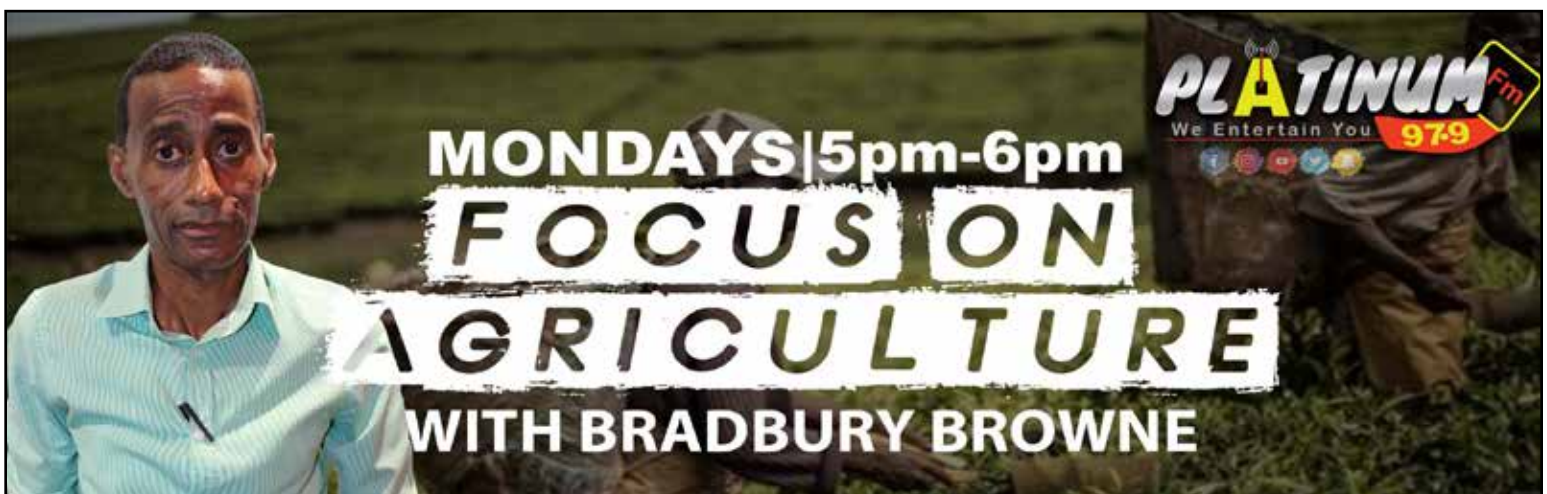
Dominica's Jazz 'n Creole is a fusion of Jazz music with Creole music, food, and culture, all in the family atmosphere of Fort Shirley in the Cabrits National Park.

Jazz n' Creole patrons will be required to provide either a vaccination card or a negative antigen test taken within 24 hours of the event.

With relaxation of the measures, visitors can breathe a sigh of relief who wish to experience this unique festival.

Pre-arrival testing and testing upon arrival for fully vaccinated travellers at all ports of entry have been removed and pre-arrival health form is no longer required.

The organizers of Jazz n' Creole, the Discover Dominica Authority through the Dominica Festivals Committee will host weekly press conferences leading up to the main event to discuss key event information, sponsors, fringe events, health protocols, exciting prizes, and more.



April 26 declared “Miya Marcano Day” in Pembroke Pines

By Sheri-Kae McLeod

The family of late Caribbean-American South Florida teen Miya Marcano was recognized by city officials in Pembroke Pines, with a special declaration.

City officials presented the key to the city of Pembroke Pines to her family this week in honour of her. Mayor of Pembroke Pines Frank Ortis also declared April 26, what would have been Miya's 20th birthday, as Miya Marcano Day in the city.

Miya was a South Florida native who graduated from Charles W. Flanagan High School in Pembroke Pines.

The 19-year-old was a student at Valencia College in Orlando at the time of her murder.

According to official police reports, the teen was likely killed by a maintenance worker at the complex where she worked and lived. Reports say he gained access to her apartment by using a master key.

In March, Florida legislators passed



Miya's family and Florida lawmakers pushed for the bill following the death of the 19-year-old Valencia College student in September 2021.

“Miya's Law”, a bill mandating stronger protections for tenants.

The bill, which was passed unanimously by the Senate on March 11, requires property owners and building managers to conduct background checks for all prospective employees.

According to the official website of the Miya Marcano Foundation, the

law also places limitations on the use of master keys by building employees “to ensure the protection of all tenants, and aid in strengthening the relationship between landlords and tenants.” The bill had also been passed unanimously by the House of Representatives on March 10.

Following the passing of the bill, Miya's father, Marlon Marcano (known among the Caribbean community as DJ EternalVibes) thanked lawmakers.

“The past few months have been unbelievable, to say the least. What my family and I have been going through, words can never explain. We send a special heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. Miya is my world. She's my baby girl, and I know today that she is smiling,” he said while speaking to reporters.

State Senator Linda Stewart, the bill's lead sponsor, said she and her colleagues want to ensure that what happened to Miya does not happen again.

A\$AP Rocky released on \$550K bond after arrest over 2021 shooting incident

By Stella Chan, Amir Vera and Taylor Romine

A\$AP Rocky was detained by police at Los Angeles International Airport on Wednesday in connection to a November 2021 shooting, according to a press release from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

The rapper was arrested on a charge of “assault with a deadly weapon (firearm)” in connection with a shooting in Hollywood last fall, the Los Angeles Police Department said in a statement on Twitter. He was released later Wednesday on a \$550,000 bond, jail records show.

On the night of November 6, two

acquaintances were arguing in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles, according to the LAPD.

“The argument escalated and resulted in the suspect firing a handgun at the victim. The victim sustained a minor injury from the incident and later sought his medical treatment. Following the shooting, the suspect and two additional males fled the area on foot,” police said.

“The suspect has been identified as 33-year-old Rakim Mayers, a Los Angeles resident, also known as music artist A\$AP Rocky,” according to police.

The case, according to the LAPD,



A\$AP Rocky

will be presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The rapper, who is the boyfriend of singer Rihanna, was returning to California from Barbados, where he was on vacation.

African cinema is more exciting than ever. Where's its wider recognition?

By Leah Asmelash

Two years ago, “Parasite” director Bong Joon Ho called out American audiences. His charge? Americans don’t know enough about movies outside their own borders.

“Once you overcome the 1-inch tall barrier of subtitles,” he said, while accepting a Golden Globe award for his film, “you will be introduced to so many more amazing films.”

Now, Americans are seemingly consuming more international art than ever before. After winning at the Golden Globes, “Parasite” went on to win the biggest award in Hollywood: best picture at the Academy Awards. Some of Netflix’s most-watched shows, like “Lupin” or “Squid Game” are from outside the US, dubbed or subtitled in English. And some of this year’s most lauded films were international offerings -- Norway’s “The Worst Person in the World” and Japan’s “Drive My Car.”

Yet one continent has seemingly found itself outside the buzz: Africa. The continent has been producing more movies than ever, with 12 countries submitting films to the Oscars in 2021 -- a record. Meanwhile, Nigeria’s commercial film industry, “Nollywood,” only just began to emerge in the 1990s -- and is now considered almost



Arie and Chuko Esiri on the set of “Eyimofe.”

as large as Hollywood.

But even as these movies are recognized abroad, recognition in the US has been slower to come. “Lingui, The Sacred Bonds,” for example, was Chad’s entry to this year’s Academy Awards for best international feature and screened at festivals all over the world, including at France’s prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Still, for those in the US, the film was difficult to find until the distribution rights were finally purchased by MUBI, thus making it available to stream.

“Just like (cinema) is a big orchestra...I just want a place for everyone to play their own music in the big orchestra,” Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, the director of “Lingui,” told CNN. “(African filmmakers) should be in the melody of the world.”

Hollywood puts Africa

in a box

The issue, in part, is one of perceptions. Many Hollywood executives thought, and continue to think, that no one is interested in seeing films focused on Black and African people, said Moradewun Adejunmobi, a professor at the University of California, Davis, who studies African literature and pop culture.

She used the success of 2018’s “Black Panther” as an example. The film, part of a popular American superhero franchise, was expected to do well. But to make \$1 billion worldwide in one month? Hollywood executives were taken aback, Adejunmobi said.

“It’s that lack of imagination, that lack of understanding, that a film looking at a Black-centred world could do well,” Adejunmobi said.

That same lack of imagination is also at play when

it comes to movies from the continent. She pointed to the Academy Awards as an example.

In 2021, 12 countries in Africa submitted movies to the Oscars’ best international feature film category -- the most African countries to ever submit. Ivory Coast’s “Night of the Kings” made the shortlist, while Tunisia’s “The Man Who Sold His Skin” received an official nomination, which goes to just five non-US movies per year. This year, 10 countries submitted to the awards. None advanced.

In the entire history of the Academy Awards, only three movies from African countries have ever won the best international feature film award. All three movies were directed by White men.

“It’s kind of a shame,” Haroun said. “A whole con-

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continent is just forgotten. I don't understand."

Just the way the award is set up makes it difficult for movies from Africa to compete, said Mamadou Dia, director of "Nafi's Father," Senegal's entry for the 2021 awards.

Everything -- from hiring a publicist, to navigate the ins and outs of Academy voting, to advertising the movie -- adds up, he explained. The Oscar run for "Nafi's Father" cost Dia tens of thousands for the first phase alone, a cost he hadn't expected.

Films submitted to the Oscars also require a commercial release -- something not every filmmaker in Africa can afford, especially considering some countries don't actually have that many theatres.

Dia rented a van, bought a projector and screen, and drove the movie around the country to play. In Matam, his hometown and where the movie was shot, some people had never seen a screen so big.

Spending all that money on an Oscars run is hard to justify, though, especially when that money could instead go toward financing another film.

But the Oscars are a path into the US market. The awards were a chance to show everyone that a movie from Senegal -- with no co-productions in Europe, shot in Dia's small hometown of Matam and completely in Fulah, the local language -- could make it all the way to Dolby Theatre. To Dia, that was worth a shot.

"All the major festivals of the world, most of the time, they pick one movie from Africa and they say 'That's it, we have enough,'" Dia said. "That's bullsh*t. Africa is 54 different states and countries and more than 2,000 different languages. You cannot just put us into a box.

Yet that's what much of US entertainment has done. Depictions of



Jude Akuwudike in "Eyimofe," a Nigerian movie following the journey of two people trying to leave the country.

Africa on TV are broadly negative, a 2018 study from the University of Southern California found, with viewers twice as likely to see negative depictions of the continent than positive ones. That is, of course, if the continent was ever mentioned.

On the film festival level though, Haroun noted that movies from Africa do receive recognition. Chuko Esiri, who co-directed "Eyimofe" with brother Arie, told CNN he didn't think there was a discernible difference in how their movie was received in the United States, having won awards at festivals in San Francisco, Seattle and Philadelphia, as well as the NAACP Image Awards.

Streaming changes everything

During the 1980s and 1990s, it was borderline impossible to find African movies. Film industries in African countries were much smaller than Hollywood, with far fewer films being made, and the technology wasn't the same back then, Adejunmobi said.

There were no DVDs or streaming services where movies from around the world were easily available to anyone.

California Newsreel, a small nonprofit film distribution company, did regularly distribute movies from Senegal, Adejunmobi said. But those

outside of academic circles may not have known about the nonprofit and, simply put, the interest wasn't there.

These days, with DVDs and YouTube, it's easier and cheaper to both make and distribute movies.

"Almost everywhere, it is possible for people to pick up some basic kind of camera, could be an iPhone, and begin to produce and shoot something," Adejunmobi said. "It's easier to produce, easier to shoot and easier to circulate."

Streaming's business model makes that circulation easier. Mainstream Hollywood's business model relies on tentpole movies that cater to a wide variety of people (think Marvel) -- which makes it difficult for films from Africa to be received in the US, Adejunmobi said.

But streaming services require a large, wide-ranging collection that can cater to many different groups. There, film and television from Africa can thrive.

It's already happening. Netflix just began production on the third season of "Blood & Water," a South African teen crime show, and distributed a rerelease of Ethiopian director Haile Gerima's landmark film "Sankofa" late last year. Hulu has Ivory

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Coast's "Night of the Kings." Kenya's "Rafiki," a gay love story, is on Showtime.

Smaller services are getting in on the action, too -- Criterion Collection will feature Nigeria's "Eyimofe," its first film from the country, and also has two films by Senegalese auteur Ousmane Sembène. In addition to "Lingui," MUBI is also streaming a collection of Haroun's earlier films.

Though it can still be difficult to find movies from the continent, even lauded ones, Adejunmobi said the landscape is much better now than in previous decades. Films from Africa can circulate, she said -- just maybe not through the big screen at your favourite neighbourhood theatre.

Still, visibility has its traps. Adejunmobi used "Tsotsi" as an example -- the 2005 South African film was the most recent from the continent to win the Academy Award for best foreign language film (as the international category was previously called). The movie, which takes place in the aftermath of apartheid, follows the story of a young gangster who steals a car, only to find a baby inside. It's a "feel-good movie about race," Adejunmobi said, and it ends with a moment of redemption.

But there were other movies made at the same time that asked harder questions about South African society and the world. The fact that "Tsotsi" became the first film from the continent to win the award in almost 30 years shows that maybe recognition from the US is only given to stories that neatly fit what American audiences want to see.

"I'm kind of ambivalent about when certain African films break out and are given entry in the American cinema space," Adejunmobi said. "Because I feel that they tend to be telling stories that are catering to what maybe certain segments of the

American audience want to hear, but they are not necessarily films that are engaging at a harder level, at a more substantive level, with the questions that people in whatever the country it is might be asking."

On the whole, though, there has been a positive shift, Esiri said.

"I do care very much about American audiences seeing ("Eyimofe")," he said. "We make stories to share our culture and people with the world. Film is the easiest way to gain an understanding of the other peoples we share this planet with. More often than not what you discover is that we are, at base, the same."

Whether Hollywood pays attention, cinema in Africa is growing. IROKOTv, a streaming service for Nigerian movies, has become one of the largest on-demand services for Nigerian movies, despite its beginnings as a YouTube channel. Now, the distributor has become so renowned that Canal+ -- one of the biggest media companies in Europe -- bought its production studio in 2019.

Smaller steps are being taken, too. One of the biggest barriers facing many movies coming out of African countries is the weakness of the film market.

In countries like Chad or Cameroon, movie theatres are basically non-existent, Haroun said. Still, his film played in 10 countries the same day, something that he said is very new. If movies from the continent can do well at home first, that could help increase their visibility.

"If you have a film, an African film, which got 1 million people in Africa, (made) \$1 million at the box office, I'm sure that everyone will be interested because maybe it will work in another country," he said. "So we have to first build an economy and a real market in Africa, and that will open more doors I think."

There are still challenges domes-

tically, though, particularly for indie or art house movies, Esiri said. Even in a country like Nigeria, home to a huge commercial film industry, promoting "Eyimofe" was difficult.

"The domestic market is saturated with explicitly commercial fare, art house or indie film was an entirely new proposition," Esiri said. "The mechanisms for marketing were not particularly effective and it will be something we shall have to continue to work on."

And still, too often, movies from the continent are linked to a single auteur rather than a broader industry, Dia said. But now, a whole generation of African filmmakers is emerging, he said, telling stories in ways that feel true using their own traditions, cultures and folktales.

That new generation, Haroun said, is tackling social and political issues in fresh ways. He pointed to Mati Diop's "Atlantique" as one example, and Dia's work in "Nafi's Father" as another. Which is to say: scarcity is not the issue. The art is there.

A cinephile culture on the continent is developing, too. The Panafrican Film Festival, commonly known as FESPACO, the Africa Movie Academy Awards, and film festivals in Durban, South Africa, Zanzibar and Egypt all award films from the continent. This, Adejunmobi said, is where the recognition is really coming from.

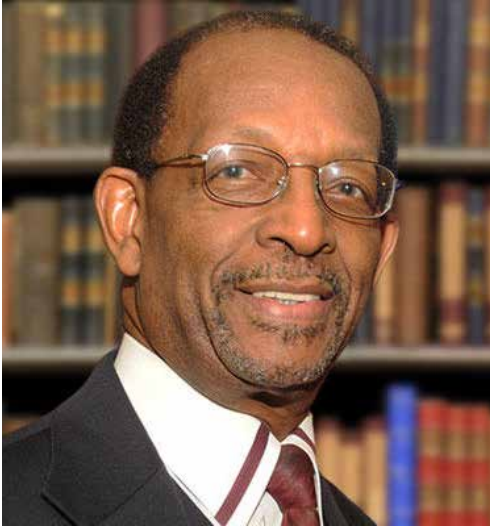
In spite of everything, film in Africa continues to grow. And the work is exquisite -- just see the rich choreography in "Night of the Kings," the soft light of "Lingui," the tension of "Nafi's Father," the challenges in "Eyimofe" deliciously depicted in 16mm film. These all just in the last few years.

African filmmakers are not waiting for Americans to offer a seat in a section. They're bringing their instruments to the orchestra anyway.

Regional News



United States and CARICOM Reparation leaders to meet today



Dr. Ron Daniels

CMC – The New York-based National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) says it will hold a special dialogue on Friday with members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Reparations Commission (CRC).

“The two commissions will examine the current state of the reparations movements in both the United States and the Caribbean, and will explore a number of joint strategies and actions to strengthen the growing global movement in the months and years ahead,” the NAAC said in a statement.

NAARC convener, Dr. Ron Daniels, said “it is important that we reflect on the impact of the milestone 2015 International Summit, as we collaborate with the CARICOM Reparations Commission to explore ways to strengthen the global reparations movement at this crucial moment in history”.

NAARC was launched in April 2015, when an estimated 200 reparations leaders from 22 countries came together “in a strong show of international solidarity” at the National/Inter-

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Six killed in Haiti as small plane crashes onto busy street

Reuters - A small plane crashed onto a busy street in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on Wednesday, killing at least six people including the pilot, officials said.

The plane took off from the Port-au-Prince airport at 3:44 p.m. ET (1944 GMT) on route to the Haitian city of Jacmel, the Haitian civil aviation authority said, adding the plane suffered engine failure and sent a distress alert at 4:04 p.m.

“I extend my sympathies to the families of the victims, who have been just plunged into the greatest desolation by this new tragedy,” Prime Minister Ariel Henry wrote on Twitter, without specifying the number of dead or wounded.

Jude Edouard Pierre,



People gather around the wreckage of a small plane that crashed onto a busy street, killing multiple people including the pilot, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti April 20, 2022. REUTERS/Lutherson Leo

mayor of the commune of Carrefour where the plane crashed, said six people had died. A government source said the pilot died after be-

ing taken to a hospital.

Videos circulating on WhatsApp showed the broken wreckage of a plane in the middle of a road along

with what appeared to the bodies of victims of the crash. Reuters was unable to independently verify the origin of the videos.

Suriname President Santokhi voices concern at new US banking rules

CMC – President Chandrikapersad Santokhi has expressed concern about the new banking legislation in the United States that he says could have a very negative effect on the financial system in the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country and the wider region.

“These are laws that have to do with compliance with legal provisions and new rules by banks. This has an impact on the Caribbean region and the member states of CARICOM because CARICOM banks have to work with correspondent banks.

“These are other foreign banks, intermediate banks, which countries, such as Suriname, need because banks in their country cannot transfer money directly,” Santokhi said ahead of his departure for Barbados where he will join other regional leaders for a roundtable discussion



President of Suriname, Chan Santokhi

on De-Risking and Correspondent Banking.

President Santokhi said the Caribbean region has been hit by new laws and regulations that the United States has adopted for US banks and that these laws have an extraterritorial effect, in the sense that they affect the American territory and beyond.

Santokhi explained that the correspondent banks are mostly American banks, to whom the new rules also apply. According

to the head of state, many correspondent banks have decided to stop cooperating with local banks because they cannot meet the standards that apply in the US.

He has warned that soon there will be banks in the Caribbean region that do not have correspondent banks.

“Then you will have a credit card that doesn’t work abroad or you have to transfer money, but it doesn’t work. Then these

countries are economically and financially isolated. There are a few countries that are already subject to the new regime and they are feeling it. We don’t know where it will end, so we have decided to talk to the US soon,” said President Santokhi.

This issue will be discussed with US Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the Chairwoman of the US House Committee on Financial Services, who along with Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley will co-chair the round table discussion.

Wednesday’s round table event will also be attended by the CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett and the Director-General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Dr. Didacus Jules as well as the President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Dr. Gene Leon.

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national Reparations Summit at York College, City University of New York.

NAARC said the highlight of the summit was “a productive in-person dialogue” between members of CRC and the new NAARC commissioners.

“Overall, the 2015 summit provided a powerful stimulus to the initiatives across Africa, Europe and Latin America,” said NAARC, adding that it is now “a group of distinguished professionals from across the country with outstanding accomplishments in

the fields of law, medicine, journalism, academia, history, civil rights, and social justice advocacy.”

The formation of NAARC came less than two years after the launch of CRC at a summit of CARICOM leaders in 2013 in Trinidad & Tobago.

Since then, the CRC has been chaired by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

“NAARC and CRC are joined at the hip in running this common race to justice. We have been training togeth-

er, sharing experiences and wisdom, and preparing for the long future,” Sir Hilary said, adding “but this moment before us is a time for deeper sharing and reflecting (and) we shall meet to sustain our souls for the struggle ahead”.

Inspired by the CRC’s 10-point Action Plan, NAARC said it has published its own 10-point Plan, which outlines a series of public policy demands.

Friday’s special dialogue will be held virtually, the NAARC added.

Regional News



More Cubans immigrating to the US by crossing from Mexico

AP - For years after leaving Cuba, the mother of two tried to get her children and parents into the U.S. through legal channels.

Finally, she decided she wouldn't wait any longer: She paid more than \$40,000 dollars to someone to help them sneak in through Mexico.

"I said to myself, 'Enough. I am going to risk everything,'" said the 30-year-old woman, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals from U.S. authorities.

Her family's story is an example of what tens of thousands of Cuban immigrants looking to escape political and economic troubles are going through as more risk their lives and arrive illegally in the United States. It's a very different reality from years ago, when Cubans enjoyed special protections that other immigrants did not have.

Her children and parents undertook a 20-day journey, starting with a plane ride from Havana to Managua, Nicaragua. From there, they took buses, vans and taxis across Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, until they arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border.

U.S. border authorities encountered Cubans almost 32,400 times in March, according to figures released Monday. That was roughly double the number in February and five times the number in October.

The increase coincided with Nicaragua's decision starting in November to stop requiring visas for Cubans to promote tourism after other countries, such as Panama and the Dominican Republic, began mandating them.

After flying to Nicaragua, Cubans travel by land to remote stretches of the U.S. border with Mexico – mainly



in Yuma, Arizona, and Del Rio, Texas – and generally turn themselves in to Border Patrol agents.

The Biden administration has been leaning on other governments to do more to stop migrants from reaching the U.S., most recently during a visit this week to Panama by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. The actions of Nicaragua, a U.S. adversary, complicates that effort.

Cuban and U.S. officials will meet Thursday in Washington for immigration talks — the first in four years.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection stopped Cubans more than 79,800 times from October through March — more than double all of 2021 and five times more than all of 2020. Overall, the Border Patrol stopped migrants of all nationalities more than 209,000 times in March, the highest monthly mark in 22 years.

Cubans who cross the U.S. border illegally face little risk of being deported or expelled under a public health law that has been used to deny asylum to thousands of migrants of other nationalities on the grounds of slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Barely 500 Cubans stopped in March, or about 2%, were subject to

Title 42 authority, named after a public health law. The Biden administration plans to end Title 42 authority on May 23.

Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University, and other experts estimate the number of Cubans leaving could exceed other mass migrations from the island, including the Mariel boatlift of 1980, when more than 124,700 Cubans came to the U.S.

"There are several intertwined factors that have produced a perfect storm for the intensification of the Cuban exodus," Duany said.

For one, Cuba is experiencing its worst economic crisis in decades due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the tightening of U.S. sanctions.

Massive street protests on July 11, 2021, and the government's response also have played a role. Nongovernmental organizations have reported more than 1,400 arrests and 500 people sentenced to up to 30 years in prison for vandalism or sedition.

Havana has not said how many Cubans have left and has accused the United States of manipulating the situation and offering perks that encourage departure.

Rights group demands probe into Sri Lanka police shooting

AP – An international human rights group urged Sri Lankan authorities to conduct a prompt and impartial probe into a police shooting that left one person dead and 13 others injured during protests over the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

New York-based Human Rights Watch asked the government to probe the "apparent use of excessive force by police" in the incident and "take appropriate steps against any wrongdoing."

Patricia Grossman, the group's associate Asia director, said the use of live ammunition by police against demonstrators "appears to be a flagrant misuse of lethal force."

"People protesting government policies that affect their lives and livelihoods shouldn't have to fear for their lives," she said in a statement late Wednesday. "International law prohibits the use of lethal force by law enforcement officers unless there is an imminent threat to life."

The group said Sri Lanka has a long history of failing to provide justice and redress to victims of human rights violations.

The statement came hours after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa pledged an impartial and transpar-



A Sri Lankan protester wears a face mask condemning the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks on the third anniversary of the attacks, protest against the country's economic crisis outside the president's office in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, April 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

ent inquiry into the shooting, which was the first by security forces during weeks of protests and reignited widespread demonstrations across the Indian Ocean island nation.

The shooting occurred in Rambukkana, 90 kilometres (55 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo. Police said the demonstrators were blocking railway tracks and roads and ignored police warnings to disperse. Police also said protesters threw rocks at them.

The calls for an investigation came as Parliament on Thursday observed a minute of silence in memory of more than 260 people killed in 2019 in Islamic State group-inspired suicide bomb attacks on

churches and tourist hotels.

Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, at a multi-religious memorial service in Colombo, reiterated his criticism of what he called the government's lack of interest in uncovering those whose alleged inaction contributed to the attacks.

Ranjith has urged authorities to investigate possible links between the attackers and some members of the state intelligence service after reports that they knew at least one of the attackers and had met with him.

Protesters who have camped outside the office of Sri Lanka's president for 13 days demanding his resignation also offered alms

to Buddhist and Christian clergy in memory of the dead.

Much of the anger expressed in weeks of growing protests has been directed at Rajapaksa and his elder brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who head an influential clan that has been in power for most of the past two decades. Five other family members are lawmakers, three of whom resigned as Cabinet ministers two weeks ago.

Sri Lanka is on the brink of bankruptcy, with nearly \$7 billion of its total \$25 billion in foreign debt due for repayment this year. A severe shortage of foreign exchange means the country lacks money to buy imported goods.

Sri Lankans have endured months of shortages of essentials such as food, cooking gas, fuel and medicine, lining up for hours to buy the limited stocks available. Fuel prices have risen several times in recent months, resulting in sharp increases in transport costs and prices of other goods. There was another round of increases earlier this week.

The government has announced it is suspending repayment of foreign loans pending talks with the International Monetary Fund on a rescue plan.

European leaders back Macron as French campaign nears end

AP – Just days before France’s crucial presidential runoff vote, the centre-left leaders of Germany, Spain and Portugal urged French voters Thursday to choose centrist President Emmanuel Macron over far-right nationalist rival Marine Le Pen.

And in another sign of the wide international influence the result of Sunday’s French presidential vote will have, imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny also spoke up a day earlier, urging French voters to back Macron and alleging that Le Pen is too closely linked to Russian authorities.

Le Pen has faced scrutiny before over a 9 million euro (\$9.7 million) loan that her party received in 2014 from the First Czech-Russian Bank and her 2017 visit to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin before the French presidential runoff that year.

In a column published Thursday in several European newspapers, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa wrote that Sunday’s vote is “critical for France and all and every one of us in Europe.”

“It’s the election between a democratic candidate who believes that France’s strength broadens in a powerful and autonomous European Union and an extreme-right candidate who openly sides with those who attack our freedom and democracy, values based on the French ideas of Enlightenment,” the joint comment said without mentioning Macron or Le Pen by name.

Social Democrat Scholz and Socialists Sánchez and Costa wrote that Europe “is facing a change of era” due



Centrist presidential candidate and French President Emmanuel Macron poses for selfie with a resident during a campaign stop Thursday, April 21, 2022 in Saint-Denis, outside Paris. French voters head to polls on Sunday in a runoff vote between centrist incumbent Emmanuel Macron and nationalist rival Marine Le Pen. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and that “populists and the extreme right” are viewing Putin “as an ideological and political model, replicating his chauvinist ideas.”

“They have echoed his attacks on minorities and diversity and his goal of nationalist uniformity,” they said, according to the article in Spain’s leading newspaper El País. “We must not forget that, no matter how much those politicians are now trying to distance themselves from the Russian aggressor.”

The column ended by appealing to unity to “maintain prosperity and well-being” in Europe: “That’s why we need France to be on our side,” the leaders wrote.

Macron is not taking any chances by being complacent, even with polling data for his camp in recent days that show a stabilized lead against his rival.

On Thursday, he was visiting with voters in the multicultural suburb of Paris of Saint Denis. Le Pen is speaking with voters in Arras ahead of her final rally there.

The two rivals clashed bitterly in Wednesday’s televised debate.

Macron argued that the loan Le Pen’s party received in 2014 from a Czech-Russian bank made her unsuitable to deal with Moscow amid its invasion of Ukraine. He also said her plans to ban Muslim women in France from wearing headscarves in public would trigger “civil war” in the country that has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe.

Le Pen, in turn, sought to appeal to voters struggling with surging prices amid the fallout of Russia’s war in Ukraine, which she criticized. She said bringing down the cost of living would be her priority if elected as France’s first woman president.

US to welcome Ukraine refugees but no longer through Mexico

AP – The Biden administration is making it easier for refugees fleeing Russia's war on Ukraine to come to the United States from Europe while trying to shut down an informal route through northern Mexico that has emerged in recent weeks.

A program announced Thursday will streamline refugee applications for Ukrainians and others fleeing the fighting, but will no longer routinely grant entry to those who show up at the U.S.-Mexico border seeking asylum, as thousands have done since the invasion ordered by Russian President Vladimir Putin began almost two months ago.

The U.S. says it expects to admit up to 100,000 refugees from Ukraine and about 15,000 have come since the Feb. 24 invasion, mostly through Mexico. Starting Monday, that route will no longer be an option except in extreme circumstances, officials said.

It's an effort for the U.S. to uphold its commitment to help Eastern European nations contend with the 5 million refugees who have fled Ukraine while trying to reduce the number of migrants seeking to cross the U.S.-Mexico border.

Complicating matters, however, the U.S. plans



President Joe Biden meets with Ukrainian refugees during a visit to PGE Narodowy Stadium, March 26, 2022, in Warsaw. The Biden administration is making it easier for refugees fleeing Russia's war on Ukraine to come to the United States from Europe while trying to shut down an informal route through Northern Mexico that has emerged in recent weeks. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

next month to lift a public health order, known as Title 42, that enables authorities to quickly turn away migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border without giving them a chance to claim asylum. The Biden administration has been exempting Ukrainian refugees, but will do so no longer.

"We are proud to deliver on President Biden's commitment to welcome 100,000 Ukrainians and others fleeing Russian aggression to the United States," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas said in a statement announcing the effort. "The Ukrainian people continue to suffer immense tragedy and loss

as a result of Putin's unprovoked and unjustified attack on their country."

U.S. officials say a majority of the Ukrainian refugees want to stay in Eastern Europe because they have family fighting in the war and eventually hope to return home.

Advocates have said the U.S. should take far more than 100,000 refugees and do more to expedite the process.

To qualify for admission to the U.S. under the new expedited program, officially known as Uniting for Ukraine, people must have been in Ukraine as of Feb. 11; have a sponsor, which could be family or an organization; com-

plete vaccinations and other public health requirements and pass background checks.

Typically, they would start the application process in their home country, but that's no longer possible because the U.S. pulled its diplomats from Ukraine. The State Department will expand resettlement operations in Eastern Europe under the new program to compensate.

Most will receive two years of residence and authorization to work in the United States under what's known as humanitarian parole.

Those who coming to the U.S. through the formal refugee process, including thousands who will come as members of religious minority groups, will have permanent legal residency.

It will be a streamlined process in Europe, but refugees won't be able to complete it in Mexico, senior administration officials told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the program before the public announcement.

Instead, Ukrainians who show up at the border will generally be turned away without being able to apply for asylum under the public health order that has been in place since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.



MATCH SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 25 - SATURDAY, MAY 7

COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUNDS

GROUP 1

1. LIBERTA BLACKHAWKS
2. NEW WINTHORPES LIONS
3. BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES
4. PIGOTTS CRUSHERS

GROUP 2

1. EMPIRE NATION
2. RISING SUN SPARTANS
3. ALL SAINTS PYTHONS
4. JENNINGS TIGERS

MONDAY, APRIL 25

- 4 PM** BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES
VS. PIGOTTS CRUSHERS
- 7 PM** LIBERTA BLACKHAWK
VS. NEW WINTHORPES LIONS

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

- 4 PM** ALL SAINTS PYTHONS
VS. JENNINGS TIGERS
- 7 PM** EMPIRE NATION
VS. RISING SUN SPARTANS

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

- 4 PM** NEW WINTHORPES LIONS
VS. BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES
- 7 PM** PIGOTTS CRUSHERS
VS. LIBERTA BLACKHAWKS

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

- 4 PM** RISING SUN SPARTANS
VS. ALL SAINTS PYTHONS
- 7 PM** JENNINGS TIGERS
VS. EMPIRE NATION

TUESDAY, MAY 3

- 4 PM** NEW WINTHORPES LIONS
VS. PIGOTTS CRUSHERS
- 7 PM** LIBERTA BLACKHAWKS
VS. BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

- 4 PM** RISING SUN SPARTANS
VS. JENNINGS TIGERS
- 7 PM** EMPIRE NATION
VS. ALL SAINTS PYTHONS

FRIDAY, MAY 6

- 4 PM** SEMI-FINAL 1
- 7 PM** SEMI-FINAL 2

SATURDAY, MAY 7

- 4 PM** THIRD PLACE MATCH
- 7 PM** FINALS

CWI thanks Kieron Pollard for his contribution to West Indies cricket

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Wednesday thanked Kieron Pollard for his service to the West Indies Men's Team for the past fifteen years, including as captain of the One Day International (ODI) and T20 International (T20I) teams since September 2019.

CWI President Ricky Skerritt said: "On behalf of everyone at CWI I would like to express our thanks to Kieron Pollard for his outstanding service to the West Indies ODI and T20I teams over the past fifteen (15) years.

"We respect his decision to retire from international cricket and are especially grateful for the high quality of leadership and commitment he invested in both West Indies teams since his appointment as our white-ball captain in September 2019. We wish him continued success in his career."

The 34-year-old allrounder an-



Kieron Pollard

nounced his retirement from international cricket on Wednesday after formally communicating his decision to CWI. During his career Pollard was one of the most powerful batters on the international stage and revolutionized the way T20 cricket was played.

This was recently demonstrated when he struck six sixes in an over against Sri Lanka at the Coolidge Cricket Ground, Antigua in March, 2021. His finest hour came in 2012

when he was a member of the West Indies team that won the ICC T20 Men's World Cup when they defeated Sri Lanka in the Final at the Premadasa Stadium.

Pollard made his international debut for West Indies during the 2007 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and played 123 ODIs. He made 2,706 runs with a top score of 119 vs India in Chennai in 2011. He also took 55 wickets.

He made his T20I debut against Australia at Kensington Oval in 2008 and appeared in 101 matches. He scored 1,569 runs – including 99 sixes, and also took 42 wickets.

His top score was 75 not out against New Zealand in Auckland in 2020; while his best figures were 4-25 against Ireland at Warner Park, St Kitts in 2020.

Ex-tennis pro Shriver: 'damaging' relationship with coach

AP – Former professional tennis player Pam Shriver, now a television commentator for ESPN and the BBC, says she "had an inappropriate and damaging relationship with my much older coach" that began when she was 17 and he was 50.

In a first-person account published Wednesday by British newspaper The Telegraph, Shriver describes a "painful and emotional journey" that included what she writes was a relationship with coach Don Candy that lasted a little more than five years.

Candy died in 2020.

"I still have conflicted feelings about Don. Yes, he and I became involved in a long and inappropriate affair. Yes, he was cheating on his wife. But there was a lot about him that was honest and authentic. And I loved him," she says. "Even so, he was the grown-up here. He should have been the trustworthy adult."

Shriver, who is now 59, turned pro in 1979, a year after she made it to the U.S. Open singles final at age 16. She beat Martina Navratilova in the semi-fi-



Former professional tennis player Pam Shriver says that she "had an inappropriate and damaging relationship with my much older coach", Don Candy, that began when she was 17 and he was 50. Candy died in 2020. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, File)

nals before losing the title match to Chris Evert.

Shriver, who is from Maryland, would later team with Navratilova to win

21 Grand Slam trophies in women's doubles.

In Wednesday's piece, Shriver writes her "main
cont'd on pg 28

Sports News



Man United hires Erik ten Hag as fifth manager in nine years

AP — Once a model of coaching stability in Alex Ferguson's long trophy-filled tenure, Manchester United hired a fifth full-time manager in nine years since his retirement by bringing in Erik ten Hag from Ajax.

Ten Hag's arrival was announced by United on Thursday, with the 52-year-old Dutchman joining at the end of the season to 2025. He is tasked with awakening a fallen superpower in European soccer that is enduring its longest trophy drought in nearly 40 years.

"I am hugely excited by the challenge ahead," ten Hag said. "I know the history of this great club and the passion of the fans, and I am absolutely determined to develop a team capable of delivering the success they deserve."

Adopting the attacking philosophy of the great Johan Cruyff, ten Hag succeeded in bringing the good times back to Ajax, leading the biggest team in the Netherlands

to two Eredivisie titles — it could be three in a few weeks — as well as the Champions League semi-finals in entertaining style in 2019.

Returning United to its former heights is set to be an even bigger job, given the team won the last of its record 20 English titles in 2013 — Ferguson's final season of his 26-year reign — and hasn't won a trophy since beating Ajax in the Europa League final in 2017. United hasn't endured such a trophy drought since the early 1980s and has slipped way behind rivals Manchester City and Liverpool despite continuing to spend heavily on players.

Nowhere was this decline more evident than this week, when United was thrashed 4-0 by Liverpool to go along with its rival's 5-0 win at Old Trafford in October.

The three-time European champion might not even return to the Champions League next season. United



Ajax coach Erik Ten Hag is interviewed at the ArenA stadium in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Friday, April 15, 2022. British and Dutch media are reporting that Ten Hag has reached a verbal agreement to coach Manchester United. (AP Photo/Peter De-jong)

is three points out of the Premier League top four with five games remaining and is already assured of ending a season without a trophy for the fifth straight year.

"In our conversations with Erik leading up to this appointment, we were deeply impressed with his long-term vision for returning Manchester United to the level we want to be competing at, and his drive and determination to achieve that," said John Murtough, United's football director.

United has been led by interim managers Michael

Carrick and currently Ralf Rangnick since Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was fired in November. The club has been speaking to candidates over recent weeks — Paris Saint-Germain coach Mauricio Pochettino was reportedly also on the shortlist — but it settled on ten Hag, who might be the biggest managerial gamble in United's turbulent post-Ferguson era.

Aside from a two-year spell with Bayern Munich's reserve team (in 2013-15, when Pep Guardiola was in charge of the first team), ten Hag has coached only in the Netherlands — with Go Ahead Eagles, Utrecht and most recently Ajax since 2017.

As such, he is untested in the Premier League and in handling the egos of some of the biggest players in world soccer — and United has some of them in Cristiano Ronaldo, Paul Pogba and Bruno Fernandes.

cont'd from pg 27

motivation is to let people know this still goes on — a lot. I believe abusive coaching relationships are alarmingly common in sport as a whole.

"My particular expertise, though, is in tennis, where I have witnessed dozens of instances in my four-and-a-bit decades as a player and commentator."

"Every time I hear about a player who is dating their coach, or I see a male phys-

io working on a female body in the gym, it sets my alarm bells ringing," she says.

Shriver says coming forward may help some younger players and "help coaches to understand that they need to not cross that boundary."

The WTA issued a statement on Wednesday, indicating that "safeguarding requires vigilance, and we are continuing to invest in education, training and resources to improve our efforts."



Spectators in attendance at an event staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association at the North Sound International Raceway in December 2017. (Photo: ABDRA)

ABDRA moves ahead with plans to increase revenue stream

President Jerome Jerry Roberts said construction of a new bathroom facility at the North Sound International Raceway, home of the Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association (ABDRA), is the first step in transforming the facility into a major revenue generator for the organisation.

Roberts, who was elected president of ABDRA at its 14th March, 2022, Annual General Meeting, said increasing the organisation's revenue is a priority of the executive during its two-year-term.

He said adding the bathroom facility to the North Sound International Raceway will allow ABDRA to utilise the venue to generate more revenue.

"In my first term as president, I would like to address our revenue stream. Most of it comes from gate receipts, but we will go out and get corporate sponsorship because we have a venue that was given to the sport and we've got to utilise it. Not just for drag racing, but so many other things that the place can be used for," Roberts said.

"So first and foremost, we have

started construction on our restroom facilities for our patrons, which I think is a must, and so when you come, you bring your family. A sponsor has started constructing the bathrooms in containers, and when they are finished, the bathrooms will be transported to the race track where they will be implemented.

"We will have a full bathroom suite, so therefore, the venue can be used by other entities other than drag racing because it will be fully equipped."

Roberts also feels two years is enough time for an executive body to make significant improvements at the North Sound International Raceway toward the development of the sport in Antigua and Barbuda.

"I think within two years, you should be able to see tangible benefits from anybody. A two-year term may sound short, but we are not reinventing the wheel. There are certain things that you need to implement, and once you implement them, and people can see that, it's the improvements that matter," Roberts said.

"We have a big track of land, we just want to see some improvements on it, an improvement to the racing surface, improvements to the rules and regulations and we can do that in two years.

"Yes, we can see improvements to the track and lighting of the facility, but it is all based on revenue.

"The lighting may not be what it should be, but it is good enough as it stands. With a few improvements, we can continue to use it at nights."

Roberts said prioritising the overall safety of drag racing is also essential to the ultimate success of the sport in Antigua and Barbuda.

"Safety has to be high priority for us because the sport is driven by safety. It is not a wild, wild west coral shootout kind of thing. You have got to be prepared, both motorcyclists and vehicle drivers, be well attired and follow the regulations," he said.

"It is and it must continue to be enforced by the powers that be, which is the executive and the other safety and track marshals. It is very important, because without it, you have no racing."

Sports News



Jets and Stoneville compete during their opening game in the women's division of the ABAVA league competition at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on 20th April, 2022. (Photo: ABAVA)

Mixed fortunes for Stoneville in volleyball league

There were mixed fortunes for Stoneville on the opening night of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Stoneville went under to Jets in straight sets in the first game of the women's division as the round robin competitions got underway on Wednesday night.

Jets beat the ladies of Stoneville 3-0, winning 25-20, 25-11, 25-16.

But Stoneville, who are the defending men's champions, made a positive start to the defence of their title by surging to a straight-set win over Cool & Smooth Storming Lions.

Stoneville won the encounter 3-0, prevailing 25-

16, 25-11, 25 -7. Matches in the competitions will be contested on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with the contests expected to be completed in June.

Six teams, including defending champions Paragons, are contesting the women's league. The other teams are Jets, Northcoast Hardware Starz (1) Nova, Cool & Smooth Da Squad, Stoneville and Northcoast Hardware Starz (2) North.

Five other teams are competing against Stoneville for the men's league title. They are Enforcers, High Flyerz, Renegades, Sharks along with Cool & Smooth Storming Lions. As is the case with other major sports in Antigua and Barbuda, volleyball leagues are making a return to the competitive national sporting calendar, following a two-year absence caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The competitions were last held in 2019.



Re: Vending at the Cool & Smooth T20 2022 (CCG)

This is an official notice from the organizers of the 2022 Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion to all vendors interested in operating during the upcoming event.

We are asking that you please contact Asha Christian-Philip at 1(268)732-1205 to confirm your interest and begin the registration process.

We look forward to hosting you at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds (CCG) for another successful year of Cool and Smooth T20 cricket.

Please see the dates of operation below:

Monday, April 25
Tuesday, April 26
Thursday, April 28
Friday, April 29
Tuesday, May 3
Wednesday, May 4
Friday, May 6 (Semi-Finals)
Saturday, May 7 (Finals)

Matches will be played at 4PM and 7PM on all match days

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"There are a lot of things that we want to have in place. There is an issue with the toilet facilities at YASCO, so we have to rent portable toilets to accommodate all the athletes.

"We are going to need tents as well and we are also working to get some form of seating at YASCO so at least the parents can be comfortable sitting down while watching their children compete."

For several years, the Wings Sports Club has been unable to host its annual road relays on Easter Monday and Whit Monday, which have been two of the other major events on its track and field programme over the years.

Allen said the Wings Sports Club is hoping to see a return of the Whit Monday road race to its calendar with the staging of the event on 6th

June.

"This year we are trying to revive two other events that have been a part of the Wings Sports Club track and field programme for a number of years.

"Those two events are the Easter Monday and Whit Monday relays, but due to a lack of manpower and financial backing, we have decided to only put on one of those races," Allen said.

"The reality is, without the financial support, it is very difficult to put on those events the way we really want to. We are hoping for a sponsor to come forward for the Whit Monday Relay as well."

Allen said Wing Sports Club has produced several top Antiguan and Barbudan track and field athletes during its more than three decades.

"I must say that the track and

field sector in Wings Sports Club has been a staple in terms of being one of the most dominant clubs in track and field here in Antigua and Barbuda," Allen said.

"We have put forward many Olympians in the form of N'Kosie Barnes, Tahir Walsh, and so on. We keep pushing our agenda in trying to get as many of our athletes into colleges in the United States.

"Even Joella Lloyd, she started out at Wings Sports Club then she branched off with her coach into the Supernova Athletic Club, and her coach Jamille Nelson, also started off in the Wings Sports Club as well.

"We have been around for 33 years. We have sent about 24 athletes on athletic scholarships, 15 of them in track and field alone, and that speaks volumes for a club to be able to do something like that."



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Reginald Samuel Classic returns to Wings track and field programme

The Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Associations (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club is revitalising its track and field programme with the staging of the Sir Reginald Samuel Classic at the end of this month.

Chairman and coach of the track and field unit of the Wings Sports Club, Randy Allen, said the programme went dormant after he left Antigua just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The pandemic went on to severely restrict sporting activities for the following two years.

However, now that he has returned home, the programme has been revived and there are plans to resume the club's annual track and field events, which include the Sir Reginald Samuel Classic on 30th April.

"The track and field arm of Wings Sports Club is going really well. We took a hiatus for a short period because I was out of the country and now that I am back, we are basically rebuilding from the ground upwards.

"One of the main events that we have coming up

for the Wings Sports Club is the Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic and that's coming up on April 30th," Allen said.

"This is the ninth instalment...and now that I am back, we have decided to revive this event.

"It has been a wonderful event over the years. One year, we were able to bring 150 athletes and officials from within the region, even as far as Trinidad to come to Antigua to compete in the Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic. We cannot thank those countries enough for coming."

As in previous years, Allen said invitations have been extended to neighbouring countries to participate in this month's event.

"The British Virgin Islands and St. Kitts/Nevis, they have always attended the event as well as Dominica. This year, I have reached out to Grenada, the British Virgin Islands and St Kitts/Nevis and I know Nevis will definitely be coming," Allen said.

"For this event, we will have athletes competing from Under-9s all the way up to seniors for one day.



Chairman and coach of the track and field unit of the Wings Sports Club Randy Allen. (File photo)

We were trying to do it for two days, but due to other events that the club is having over that timeframe, it wasn't feasible enough for us to really put on that extra day.

"Financially, it is going to be very taxing on us to host the event over two days. To put on an event like that you are asking for something like \$20,000 to put on, especially with the way the YASCO Sports Complex is set up right

now."

Allen said the Wings Sports Club is still seeking the support of a major sponsor for the event.

"We are also hoping for a major sponsor for the Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic. We are seeking anything upwards of \$5,000 and we have sent out sponsorship requests to several companies asking for some financial assistance," he said.

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