

**THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 2022** 

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# CABINET ENDS VACCINATION REQUIREMENT TO ENTER A&B



Packed terminals at the V. C. Bird International Airport, free of social distancing like the one pictured, are a thing of the past, but it is hoped that the government's decision to end the vaccine requirement for entry to Antigua and Barbuda will further stimulate tourism and the economy by encouraging visitor arrivals. Story on Page 2.

### **Local News**



## No vaccines needed for entry into A&B

ing steps to make it easier for people to enter into Antigua and Barbuda as COVID-19 hospitalisations and infection rates continue to decline.

In Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, the decision was made to further reduce the restrictions implemented at the height of the pandemic.

"All persons entering Antigua and Barbuda commencing next Wednesday,

The government is tak- April 13, 2022, subject to any evidence regarding any new variant, shall be allowed to enter without vaccination," the government announced.

> However, persons who are unvaccinated will be required to submit a PCR test no more than four days old before boarding their flight to Antigua and Barbuda.

> This requirement, which was already in place for nationals and residents



of Antigua and Barbuda, itors and in-transit passenwill now extend to all vis-

## **Arsonists attempt to set** Clare Hall Secondary alight

An arson attempt at Clare Hall Secondary School on Tuesday evening resulted in classes being cancelled yesterday.

Emergency services were activated early Tuesday evening after unknown persons attempted to torch the school.

According to reports, the arsonists threw a Molotov cocktail into the kitchenette of the school's staff room.



The perpetrators are believed to have entered the campus from behind one of the buildings while the security guard was posted at the front of the compound.

A source revealed the situation could have been much worse than the minor damage caused to the kitchenette.

When the incendiary device was thrown, it melted a large, plastic, drinking water bottle that was on the floor, causing the water to pour out and extinguish the fire.

Additionally, the school's motion sensor was triggered, alerting the security guard who investigated and summoned the police and fire departments.

Investigations have begun.

Overtime, Clare Hall Secondary School has been the target of burglars who have entered the principal's office, stealing the Central Processing Unit (CPU) of his computer, and caused damage to other property.

Tuesday evening's arson attempt, however, was the first act intended to



cause major damage to buildings and property belonging to the school.

### **Local News**

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### John Jarvis sworn in as new ABEC chairman

Joined by his family, career civil servant John Jarvis, on Wednesday received his formal appointment as the new Chairman of the Antigua Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC).

Jarvis assumes the position following the retirement of former chairman, Nathaniel "Paddy" James, who celebrates his 75th birthday today.

Mr. Jarvis became an ABEC commissioner in December, 2015.

Commending Mr. Jarvis

to his new position during the swearing in ceremony at Government House yesterday, Governor General H. E. Sir Rodney Williams said, "You come with a lot of experience, and we hope that you will use that experience without fear or favour, without malice or ill-will.

"In any country where there is a democracy, it is very important that the freedom which the people enjoy is kept and it is important that whatever is done from the electoral side is done



John Jarvis (centre right) was proudly joined by his wife and children for his official appointment to the position of ABEC Chairman at Government House on Wednesday. Also present to offer congratulations was Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon (not pictured). [Photo: Government House]

in such a way that it gains the confidence of the people who are the voters in the country. So, therefore, you have a serious responsibility, so ensure that this is done in Antigua and Barbuda."

Chairman Jarvis assumes the new position as the country stands poised for general elections, which can be called at any moment.

Cognizant of the task ahead he remarked, "I look forward to working with the staff at ABEC and to strengthen working relationships, while at the same time being instrumental in providing opportunities for higher education and training in the area of Electoral Management from a certificate to a post graduate level.

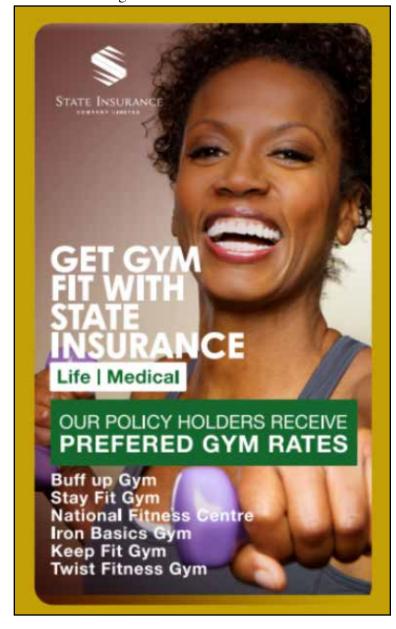
"I also look forward to us as a body having all of the necessary resources in place to conduct a successful general election, constitutionally due in 2023."

Mr. Jarvis brings a wealth of knowledge and more than four decades of experience to his new role.

He has served in government as Permanent Secretary of many ministries, including Youth Affairs and Sports; Information; Telecommunications and Technology; Health; Social Transformation and Consumer Affairs; and Industry, Trade and Commerce.

With respect to the electoral process, he has served as Lead Training Officer at ABEC and as a Returning Officer in five general elections.

He has also been part of CARICOM elections observer missions in Haiti, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.



### **Local News**



### **Distribution of Amnesty** certificates begins on Monday

The Department of Immigration has announced that the distribution of amnesty certificates will begin on 11th April, 2022.

The initiative now in its final weeks, ends on 30th April, 2022.

Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood, said those individuals who made applications for amnesty between 1st - 21st March, should report to the department's headquarters to collect their certificates beginning on Monday.

She explained that those whose applications were submitted at a later date will be advised when they can collect their document.

She further explained that the certificates do not grant automatic residency or citizenship for applicants, as there is an additional process in which they will have to apply for either status.

"The Department of Immigration does not grant citizenship; that is done by the Passport Office. What we do is we conduct the screening and then refer the information to the Passport Office," she stated.

When applicants visit the department to collect their certificates, they will have an opportunity to make appointments for interviews for residency or citizenship.

Securing the amnesty certificate is step one in the process of attaining citizenship or permanent residen-

Meanwhile, Yearwood has met with representatives of the countries with the largest immigrant populations in Antigua and Barbuda. These are Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Syria.

Also in attendance were Permanent Secretary in the ty to dispel much of the ru-



Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood and senior immigration officials met with consuls general this week to discuss the amnesty, which ends on 30th April, 2022.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Anthony Liverpool and Indian Consul, Vijay Tiwari.

During the meeting, the chief immigration officer updated the foreign representatives of the procedures involved in the amnesty and clarified any misunderstandings about the programme.

"We used the opportuni-

mours and misinformation that have been circulating within the immigrant communities about the amnesty initiative," she remarked.

Yearwood urged the consuls general to use their good offices to assist the department, by verifying their nationals' documents before applications are submitted to the immigration depart-

#### Superintendent Eric Henry has died Former HMP

Former Superintendent of Her Majesty's Prison, Eric Henry, has died at the age of 78.

According to reports, Henry was found unresponsive by relatives in his home in Liberta on Tuesday shortly after 9pm.

He was rushed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where he was pronounced dead at 9:56pm.

Henry, a former police officer, served as head of security at the V. C. Bird International Airport from 1975 to 1985. After leaving that position, he served as Superintendent of Her Maj-



Eric Henry esty's Prison for 10 years.

He was well known for his firm, yet fair style of management.

Mr. Henry worked for a time in the

Ministry of Health, before returning to HMP in November, 2006, until his retirement in 2009.

After his retirement, he went on to use his considerable law enforcement knowledge as a Security Advisor and provided private consulting services.

Mr. Henry was also a long-standing member of the Lions Club, having joined the service organisation in 1978.

While there, he served in many positions including three stints as Secretary, Vice President and President from 1993 - 1994.



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

present



## PEAYING TO INSPIRE 4

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KHAN CORDICE, STEEL PANNIST

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Available at The Larder, Woods Pharmacy, The Best of Books, Crab Hole Liquors, Sysco Pharmacy Jolly Harbour

### **Local News**



## A&B to serve as hub for St. Lucia banana trade

The St. Lucian government says it is encouraged by the talks held with an established buyer on the possibility of making Antigua and Barbuda a distribution hub for the sale of bananas to surrounding countries in the region.

"Currently, we are moving between 2000 and 2500 (boxes) per week. But we have asked for the possibility of increasing it to 8000 because we believe the opportunity exists for additional distribution to Antigua, St Kitts, St Thomas, and St Maarten," Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development Minister, Alfred Prospere said.

Prospere had last year led a delegation in a bid to secure new and existing banana markets and following the most recent research efforts by Export St. Lucia and the National



landed a new market in Antigua when the first shipment of 460 boxes arrived

Fair-Trade Organization (NFTO), it in that Caribbean island at the end of last month.

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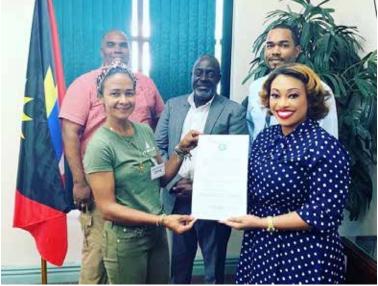
### Two more cannabis licenses granted

The Medicinal Cannabis Authority (MCA) of Antigua and Barbuda has issued two new licenses to GROW ANTIGUA & BARBUDA.

The handing over took place on Tuesday at the Office of the Prime Minister.

A statement detailed the licenses authorize the entity to dispense medicinal cannabis and open and operate a medicinal cannabis lounge in accordance with the Cannabis Act 2018 of Antigua and Barbuda.

The licenses were presented to Mrs. Yadira Moody-Stewart of GROW ANTIGUA & BARBUDA by Joy-Marie King, Head



of Commercial Diplomacy & Compliance of the MCA and Mr. Regis Burton, Head of Operations & Information Technology of the MCA. Also present were the Chairman of the MCA

Board, H.E Daven Joseph and Mr. Veldon Raguette, Head of Inspection of the MCA.

Ambassador Joseph expressed his delight regarding the issuance of the licenses which is in keeping with the Authority's mantra of making the industry the best performing of its kind in the world.

first Medicinal The Cannabis Business License was issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Medical Cannabis Authority in June, 2021, also to GROW AN-TIGUA & BARBUDA, during a ceremony in Seatons, marking the country's entry into the industry.

GROW ANTIGUA & BARBUDA is a joint initiative between the Rastafarian Food for Life, National Asset Management Company (NAMCO) and Itopia Life Antigua Ltd.

## **Technology**

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## What Elon Musk at Twitter might mean for users

#### By MATT O'BRIEN and TALI ARBEL

Tesla CEO Elon Musk now has a 9% stake in Twitter and a seat on its corporate board of directors, raising questions about how the billionaire business magnate could reshape the social media platform. He is now Twitter's biggest shareholder and has the ear of top managers.

#### DOES MUSK HAVE A HISTO-RY WITH TWITTER?

Indeed he does. Musk's 80.5 million Twitter followers make him one of the most popular figures on the platform, rivalling pop stars like Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga.

But his prolific tweeting sometimes gets him into trouble when, for instance, he uses it to promote his business ventures, rally Tesla loyalists, question pandemic mea-

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Tesla and SpaceX Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk speaks at the SATELLITE Conference and Exhibition in Washington, Monday, March 9, 2020. Musk now has a 9% stake in Twitter and a seat on its corporate board of directors, raising questions about how the billionaire business magnate could reshape the social media platform. He is now Twitter's biggest shareholder and has the ear of top managers. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

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"I applaud St. Lucia's farmers because the quality of the fruit exported was encouraging. Antigua has expressed interest in importing high-quality bananas, as we have been doing for export to the United Kingdom.

"We need now to ensure that we work toward maintaining and improving that quality so that bananas can continue to be exported to the UK and other countries in the region," Prospere said.

He said he is encouraged by the feedback from the "established buyer" in

Antigua and Barbuda due to the high level of interest shown. St. Lucia's Ministry of Agriculture said its focus remains on securing existing banana markets and expanding into new regional and international markets and that farmers are encouraged to ensure that the qual-

ity of the bananas produced remains among their highest priorities.

The Caribbean region remains one of the main exporters of high-quality bananas to the US and UK due to its tropical climate allowing for the growth of the fruit all year round.

Antigua and Barbuda's unique and strategic position at the centre of the Caribbean archipelago makes it the ideal location for this endeavour. Once established, it will also create a number of jobs locally which will benefit the country's economy.



## **Technology**



#### cont'd from pg 7

sures and pick fights with those with whom he disagrees.

In one famous example, Musk apologised to a British cave explorer who alleged the Tesla CEO had branded him a paedophile by referring to him as "pedo guy" in an angry — and subsequently deleted — tweet. The explorer filed a defamation suit, although a Los Angeles jury later cleared Musk.

He's also been locked in a long-running dispute with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over his Twitter activity. Musk and Tesla in 2018 agreed to pay \$40 million in civil fines and for Musk to have his tweets approved by a corporate lawyer after he tweeted about having the money to take Tesla private at \$420 per share — which didn't happen but caused Tesla's stock price to jump. His lawyer has contended that the SEC is infringing on Musk's free speech rights.

### WHAT DOES MUSK PLAN TO DO AT TWITTER?

Musk has described himself as a "free speech absolutist" and has made clear that he doesn't think Twitter is living up to free speech principles — an opinion shared by followers of Donald Trump and several rightwing political figures who've had their accounts suspended for violating Twitter content rules.

But what's really driving Musk's Twitter involvement isn't clear. His preoccupations with the service include arguing to make Twitter's algorithm viewable by the public, widening the availability of "verified" Twitter accounts, and blasting a profile photo initiative involving non-fungible tokens, or NFTs.

Musk has also called "crypto spam bots," which search tweets for cryptocurrency related keywords then pose as customer support to empty user crypto wallets, the "most annoying problem on twitter."

"We don't know what his goals are," said Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor and an expert on social media. "Maybe Elon Musk secretly wants to blow (Twitter) up ... maybe he wants to destroy it."

#### WHAT CAN MUSK ACTUAL-LY DO AS A BOARD MEMBER?

Musk's role as both a board member and Twitter's largest shareholder certainly gives him an outsized voice in the company's future. He's been publicly praised this week by the CEO and other board members, a sign that Twitter leadership is likely to take his ideas seriously.

But he's still just one member of a 12-person board that Twitter says has "an important advisory and feedback role" but no responsibility over day-to-day operations and decisions. That means Musk won't have the authority to add an "edit button" or to restore Donald Trump's suspended account.

"Our policy decisions are not determined by the board or shareholders, and we have no plans to reverse any policy decisions," said Twitter spokesperson Adrian Zamora.

### WHAT DO SHAREHOLDERS THINK?

Several Wall Street analysts said they were encouraged by Musk's new role at Twitter. "This is a guy that does push for change, that does, I think, refuse to have failure on his resume. A perfect guy you need on the board of directors for them," said CFRA Research analyst Angelo Zino. That's true, Zino said, even if "what exactly his ideas are, who the heck knows."

Other investors aren't so sure. Meredith Benton, founder of the investment consulting firm Whistle Stop Capital, has been pushing for shareholders at both Twitter and Tesla to back stronger policies affecting

workplace harassment and discrimination.

She describes Musk's new role as a concerning development for Twitter investors, especially given accusations by California regulators that Tesla has been discriminating against Black employees at its San Francisco Bay Area factory.

"Twitter's greatest current challenge is to navigate successfully through the societal implications of its platform's use," Benton said. "Elon Musk with his air of reckless bravado presents a risk of undermining thoughtful and strategic management of these topics."

### WHERE IS TWITTER AS A COMPANY?

There has been executive turnover since co-founder Jack Dorsey's departure in November left Twitter with a new CEO, Parag Agrawal, whose initial actions have involved reorganising divisions.

Wall Street analysts had approved of the choice of Agrawal as the new leader, but there have been no major changes to the platform yet. The company has long lagged behind its social media rivals and boasts far fewer users.

The mere fact of linking Musk's high-profile name to Twitter could get people to spend more time on the platform and help it make more money, Zino said, calling Musk "the most important individual" at Twitter.

### ISN'T MUSK A PRETTY BUSY GUY?

You wouldn't know it from his prolific posts, but he does hold several big roles, including CEO and "Technoking" of electric car company Tesla and CEO of the rocket company SpaceX. He is also the founder of The Boring Company, an underground tunnel company, and Neuralink, which wants to plant computer chips in people's brains.

## The Way We Think

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## Can you ever get over a lingering grudge?

#### By David Robson

We all have ongoing grudges. It's in our interests to get over them – so, can we?

When you spend 40 hours a week with the same people, it's not surprising that some of them will occasionally rub you up the wrong way.

One of my own lingering grudges comes from a Christmas party when I was a new, junior member of a team. Halfway through the celebrations, most of the colleagues at my table decided they wanted to go outside for a cigarette, leaving just me and a more senior journalist at the table.

"Don't leave me by myself," he said as they left. When another colleague tried to point out my presence, he cut them short. "That's what I mean," he said.

His message couldn't have been clearer: as a junior member of staff, I was a "no-one", unworthy of his company. I've since worked with this man without too much friction – but I can't say that I've ever quite forgotten his smirk or my feelings of discomfort as we sat staring at our phones.

Perhaps it's petty for me to hold on to that re-



sentment – but it's not unusual. Workplace grudges are common, and they can seriously impact our own and others' productivity. They can also have serious health implications. Perhaps due to the stress of bearing resentment, people who regularly bear grudges are more susceptible to a range of illnesses – including cardiovascular conditions, arthritis, headaches and chronic pain.

Unsurprisingly, the psychological research suggests it is far better to resolve problems with people than to sweep emotions aside or let them fester. Finding an appropriate response that feels constructive and emotionally honest can be tricky, however, but these studies do offer some strategies to heal our

hurt feelings – even if our offender offers no apology or efforts to make amends.

#### Voodoo revenge

Let's first consider retaliation. If we're nursing a grudge for a perceived wrong, we may react spitefully: by playing a prank, reacting rudely to requests for help or by maliciously gossiping about someone behind their back. There's a good reason for this: acts of retaliation may restore people's sense of justice and personal power.

Unfortunately, revenge also comes with some obvious risks — including the very real possibility of escalating the conflict. But there may be a way of gleaning some of those benefits without putting your future in jeopardy, as Lindie Liang at Wilfrid

Laurier University in Canada discovered with a recent eye-catching study.

Liang first asked her participants to recall, and visualise in detail, a time when their supervisor had acted in an abusive manner – such as being rude, insulting their ideas or failing to acknowledge their work.

Half the participants were then shown a virtual voodoo doll, which they were told represented the guilty supervisor – along with some virtual tools that allowed them to harm the doll in whatever way they saw fit. The other half – the control group – were simply shown a screenshot of the doll, which was labelled "nobody", and asked to trace the outline of the image with their computer

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## The Way We Think



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All participants were then given a fill-in-the-letters task designed to test their implicit feelings. They were presented with "un \_ \_ ual", for example – which could either form "unusual" or "unequal".

Or they saw "un \_ \_ st" - which could either spell "unjust" or "unrest". The idea is that if you feel you've been wronged, and are ruminating on the event, you are more likely to pick the words associated with injustice.

Surprisingly, the simple act of sticking the virtual pins in the virtual doll reduced the participants' feelings of injustice, meaning that the participants were more likely to choose the neutral words than those who had not been able to take part in the symbolic act of revenge.

Liang isn't seriously suggesting that we should all keep a voodoo doll locked up in our desk drawer. But until companies figure out how to tackle dysfunctional leadership – the root cause of workplace bullying - we might be able to use other forms of "symbolic retaliation" to help us to get over our grudge, she says.

We could write out an angry or insulting email to the person involved, without sending it, to vent our feelings and alleviate our feelings of injustice. It's definitely safer than seeking actual revenge.

#### Taking the high road

An imaginary act of retaliation cannot trump a genuine act of forgiveness, of course. This is hardly news - religious leaders have been endorsing forgiveness, over spite, for millennia.

Their teachings were primarily concerned with our spiritual future. But psychological science can help us to understand why forgiveness is also beneficial to our mental and physical health, and how to make it happen.

Consider a series of recent studies by Karina Schumann, director of the Conflict Resolution Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. She was interested in the ways that victimisation can make us lose our "self-humanity", which - as a psychological construct - encompasses our sense of dignity and sophistication. People who have been victimised are more likely to endorse statements such as "I felt superficial like I had no depth" or "I felt like I lacked self-restraint, like an animal", for instance.

Using questionnaires to probe people's past experiences, Schumann found acts of forgiveness were far better at restoring self-humanity than acts of revenge, and this psychological change, in turn, seemed to bring a host of emotional benefits - including more positive feelings about themselves and about the offending event itself.

To replicate the finding, Schumann next asked participants to consider a currently unresolved conflict and encouraged them to write either a vengeful or a forgiving letter to the offender.

Their experiences included everything from insults about appearance to acts of infidelity - and not everyone was able to summon up the necessary magnanimity to forgive the offence. But for those who did, the process of writing the letter increased their sense of self-humanity, and their overall psychological well being.

While revenge might leave people feeling more powerful, "it doesn't actually contribute to feeling more human", says Schumann, whose results were published earlier this year. "Forgiveness makes us feel more moral - that we've acted in this elevated way - and that restores our sense of humanness."

#### **Seeking resolution**

If you are struggling to forgive a misdeed, exercises such as "perspective taking" have been shown to ease the process, Schumann says. "You can try to immerse yourself in the other person's experience of the event and try to understand their reasoning and the contextual factors that contributed to their harmful behaviour."

You might also spend a bit of time contemplating the offender's capacity for change. In general, people seem to have two "mindsets" about personality. Some believe that it is fixed and immutable, while others believe that it can evolve and grow over time.

According to recent studies, people who believe in a "fixed mindset" are more likely to harbour grudges and seek revenge, while those with a "growth mindset" find it easier to forgive. It's not hard to imagine why this might be.

If you assume a single act of unkindness must reflect an inherent nastiness, you will perceive your offender as far less worthy of your understanding and forbearance.

Your judgements will necessarily depend on the situation at hand; even people with an extreme growth mindset could find it very hard indeed to shift their opinions about a serial bul-

If you are dealing with an isolated incident, however, you might try to question whether you have an overly fixed mindset that is leading you to be excessively pessimistic about the offender's potential for personal development – a small realisation that could open the way for forgiveness.

Few of us, after all, would like to be judged for every faux pas and ill-judged comment that we've made - without any chance of redemption. And our wellbeing may benefit enormously if we feel a little more inclined to give others the same benefit of the doubt.

It is certainly something that I'll try to remember the next time I meet my abrasive former colleague.

## Relationships

PAGE 11

## 'Single shaming': Why people jump to judge the un-partnered

By Jessica Klein

The number of singletons is increasing, yet people still insist on telling them they'll find a partner soon. What's with all the pity?

Asking why someone is 'still' single and assuring them they'll 'find their person soon' may seem like thoughtful, even sensitive, ways to check in on single friends. However, these simple phrases constitute 'single shaming' – and they're likely to be more harmful than helpful.

Single shaming results from negative biases about people who are not partnered: they must be sad and lonely for not having a partner; they're actively looking for one, but haven't found a match yet; and there must be something wrong with them that's causing them to wind up alone. All these stereotypes are driven by pressures to conform to longheld societal standards: get the partner, shared home, 2.4 kids and dog, and a person has assembled all the ingredients they need for a happy life.

While people have been steadily re-evaluating these social norms for decades, recent research suggests single shaming is still going strong. Data from a survey by dating service Match, seen by BBC Worklife, shows 52% of 1,000 single UK adults re-



ported experiencing single shaming "since the start of the pandemic", likely due to the increased focus on whom people could rely on during lockdowns. And even though 59% said they were "content with their relationship status", they still were the target of intrusive questions.

The persistence of these biases against singletons is not only demeaning, but also outdated in many countries. "Singlehood was once considered a transitional period, when people marked time until they were married or remarried," says Bella DePaulo, author of Singled Out: How Singles are Stereotyped, Stigmatised, and Ignored, and Still Live Happily Ever After. But now, she says, Americans spend more years of their adult

lives single than married. In 1970, she points out, citing US census data, 40% of US households consisted of married couples and their children, while 17% lived alone as singles. By 2012, 27% of US households consisted of singles, and just 20% were parents and children.

But even with these changing statistics, it's clear both anecdotally and in the research that people who aren't in romantic relationships continue to get a hard time from their coupled-up friends and family - and also from themselves. Even as singles seem to increasingly embrace and choose their relationship status, the pressure to find dates isn't necessarily going away. But there may be at least some progress in the offing, as the growing representation of single people in the population may begin to outweigh the stigmatisation of singlehood.

### The harms of single shaming

According to New York City-based psychotherapist Allison Abrams, single shaming is "negatively judging somebody for not being partnered up and not conforming to society's expectations... of being married at a certain age".

Shamers treat non-partnered people "differently" as a result, she says. "People tend to think that you're bored and alone when you're single," adds Paris-based Ipek Kucuk, dating expert with the dating app Happn.

In the study shared by cont'd on pg 12

## Relationships



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Match, researchers asked about the common "shaming phrases" single people have heard from others, and 35% said they were told "you'll find someone soon". Twenty-nine percent heard "you must be so lonely", while 38% reported general pity over their relationship status.

DePaulo says myths around singletons include the idea that married couples have a special mastery of life that single people don't; that the lives of singles are "tragic"; and that being single implies being selfish. (Indeed, some research supports that these are myths, including a 2018 German study suggesting that stereotypes around miserable singles and happy couples are not at all correct.)

The stereotypes about singles aren't just wrong – they can also have damaging consequences. As psychotherapist Abrams says, internalised shame from societal attitudes towards singles can negatively affect self-image. Even if a single person's friends and family aren't shaming them for their status, not hitting big life milestones like marriage and children can take a toll – especially on someone who's actively looking for a partner – because it's what society tends to expect of them.

"Many times, I've seen that play a part in depression," says Abrams. A normalised 'script' for successful life can even force those who are happy being single to reconsider that attitude, and seek out something they're fairly sure they don't want, just so they can fit in with cultural norms.

And single shaming comes from many sources beyond nosy parents and friends. Governments play a part, by offering various benefits to those who are legally married, of which single people can't take advantage. Some people believe this sends a message about the "right way" to go about life, serving as positive reinforcement for partnered people and making it very difficult for singles not to internalise the idea that they're getting adulthood wrong.

In the US, for example, an employee can add their spouse to their health care plan – but single people can't do that for important people like siblings or close friends, points out DePaulo. Couples and families also get perks not available to singles in other realms, ranging from discounts on vacations to workplaces granting special allowances for those with nuclear families.

#### Spinster versus bachelor

Like any cultural stigma, single shaming isn't equally distributed. Women tend to endure the brunt of it, and certain cultures emphasise marriage and having children more than others.

First, consider the words to describe single women as opposed to men. While men are known as 'bachelors', women are called 'spinsters'. In the late Middle Ages, the latter originated as a term to describe women who spun wool professionally, most of whom were unmarried. The lower-status job was easier for them to get, since more desirable jobs were generally reserved for married women - who, through their husbands, could afford the materials required to do higher-status work. 'Bachelors', meanwhile, are often portrayed as fun, potentially suave (if not sleazy), living their best lives and carefree - these positive connotations go all the way back to Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales.

'Spinster' has taken on even more negative connotations over time, used to disparage unmarried (and young) women in popular culture, such as in Bridget Jones's Diary (the titular character is in her early 30s with a solid job in London, yet dwells on her 'spinster' status).

"According to the conventional wisdom – which is neither wise nor

even accurate – women care more about marriage than men do," says De-Paulo. "So, I think single women are more often subjected to the annoying sorts of questions like, 'Are you seeing anyone?" Anecdotally, Abrams says more of her female clients share experiences of being single-shamed than her male clients, but caveats that her overall client population skews female

"Single men can get treated in disparaging and dismissive ways, too," DePaulo adds, such as people perceiving them as childish, unable to care for themselves or "obsessed with sex".

Cultural demographics can influence the prevalence of single shaming, too. In her practice, Abrams has found clients with certain backgrounds, like those with families from Korea, China and India, tend to experience more pronounced single shaming from family members, as do some of her clients who moved to New York from the middle of the US. These cultures tend to emphasise more traditional gender roles around marriage, and not complying with these traditions can appear particularly unconventional. heard one [client] say to me something like, [their] family feels shame for them not having a child at... 30 or even younger," says Abrams.

#### The 'power of numbers'

What it means to be single is changing, and some experts believe the shifts, both in attitudes and demographics, could help normalise single-hood – and potentially diminish the jump to judge the unpartnered.

In recent years, influential figures on social media and traditional celebrities alike have spoken out proudly about their single status. Actor Emma Watson, for example, has publicly described herself as "self-partnered", encouraging others to view their own lack of a romantic partner as positive, not negative. "As more people are em-

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## **Regional News**

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## Grenada seeking new markets for nutmeg

CMC - Grenada, which is responsible for more than 20 percent of the world's nutmeg production, second only to Indonesia, says it is pleased that trade with Argentina is developing to the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic level.

"To be specific, we are with Argentina, trading the trade with this South American nation began before COVID-19. Like most markets, we too were also affected by the slowdown of the world's economy by COVID-19 but as the world recovers, we too are recovering, and once again the Argentina market is almost back to normal," said Leo Cato, chairman of the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA).

While he has not disclosed the financial difficulties linked to the COVID-19



pandemic for the GCNA, Cato said several 40-foot containers comprising different grades of the island's nutmeg are now being sent to Argentina.

"And right now, the orders are coming more frequently, so we see this as a good market for our nutmegs, and it's just a matter of time for us to have orders that will be more than what he received before 2020," he added.

GCNA executive board

member, Byron Campbell, has described the South American market as of tremendous significance to the association, saying "it's a market that we never thought about before

"They are into a lot of food production and food processing," he said while suggesting that Grenada and by extension the region, needs to identify new markets for both importing and exporting of goods.

Besides Argentina, the

GCNA has also sold nutmegs to India, Dubai, and most recently Israel.

'The buyers from these territories made contact through our website and that has resulted in formalising new contracts. Most of the time the first order is small but as time goes the orders increase in volume," said Cato.

'We know that the nutmeg has various uses, but we are convinced that our nutmeg is mainly used in the food industry for flavouring and preserving," he added.

Nutmeg, dubbed "black gold" by locals, was introduced from the East to Grenada in 1843. Currently accounting for around nine percent of Grenada's total harvested area, the crop provides income to approximately 30 percent of the island's population.

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bracing their status as a single person, I think more people feel liberated to do the same," says Abrams.

Dating app Bumble's research from October 2021, seen by BBC Worklife, showed that 53% of the more than 8,500 Bumble users surveyed across Canada, France, Germany, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Australia, the UK and the US "realised that it's okay to be alone for a while", thanks to the pandemic. Additionally, since Covid-19, many singletons have reported positive feelings and outcomes regarding their relationship

status. Per the Match survey, 42% said they "enjoyed" being single during the pandemic.

However, this statistic implies the other 58% of respondents did not; in fact, pandemic-wrought isolation affected many singles negatively, and increased shaming for some – Match reported 37% of singles surveyed said they got more questions from "concerned friends and family" about their love lives. Indeed, Abrams suggests single shaming is "still pretty rampant", even as the ever-growing numbers of singles in countries like the US suggest a possible movement away

from this behaviour.

Still, experts are hopeful that these changing demographics will continue to evolve judgements around single-hood. DePaulo calls this uptick in singletons "the power of numbers", saying "just about every time the Census Bureau releases its latest statistics, the findings show that there are more single people, and a greater proportion of single people, than there were before".

She adds: "When whole swaths of the population are unmarried – in the US, close to half – it gets harder to insist that they all have something wrong with them."

## **Regional News**



## Bahamas Security Minister defends statements made about rape case

CNW - Bahamas National Security Minister, Wayne Munroe, has disagreed with calls for his resignation even as he "deeply" regretted comments he made last week about an unlawful sexual intercourse case involving a 14-year-old victim.

The 40-year-old accused was handed a four-year jail term following a plea deal for unlawful sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl who was also pregnant.

On completion of his prison term, the convicted man will be placed on probation for three years. But the sentence prompted outcry from some people that it was too lenient.

"I have spoken several times on the matter of a plea agreement, and I deeply regret that my answers have caused concern. I gave several interviews and I hope that pulling the salient points together in one place can be helpful to understand my position," he said in a weekend statement.

"When I provide my analysis of a legal matter, as I have done in recent interviews, I do draw upon my decades of experience practising law. But I want Bahamians to be clear, it is this experience that allows me a clear view of the path to successful law enforcement and prosecution. The goal in cases like these is to punish predatory behaviour and to deter others from engaging in such behaviour."

There have been calls for Munroe's resignation after he told reporters last Thursday that the 40-year-old convicted man had received a sentence that was too severe.

Munroe said had he defended the man, he would not have accepted a plea deal because it was not rape, and that the girl consented.

In his statement, the national security minister said anyone who has sex-



Bahamas National Security Minister, Wayne Munroe

ual intercourse with a child under 16 "is disordered," and that "anyone who does so will go to prison.

"The only question is the length of their sentence," he said, adding that "sentence lengths for the offence in question are established by the Bahamas Court of Appeal.

"For a first-time offender, the sentence is seven years if the young woman does not consent, and four years if the young woman does consent. The word 'consent' is in the text of the relevant statute – 'with or without consent.'

Munroe said plea agreements avoid court cases "and thus help clear the backlog of cases in our justice system.

"Additionally, plea bargaining spares the victim from having to give evidence thereby being forced to relive the trauma of the crime," Munroe said, adding that the government "is unified in wanting to send the clearest possible message to adults who would have sexual relationships with chil-

dren under 16 (that) your behavior will land you in jail, no matter the child's behavior."

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister, Chester Cooper, said the age of consent should be raised to 18 to "further protect minors".

Minister of Social Services and Development, Obie Wilchcombe, said the Office of the Attorney General is looking to address "inconsistencies" in law with the age of consent with legislation expected to change later this year.

In a statement posted on his Facebook page, Cooper said "public discourse can be rocky, but it can often bring about change."

"The current discussion about the age of consent should be followed by action on the part of lawmakers. I have previously called for the legal age of consent to be increased to 18 years of age, and I stand by that today.

"This will further protect minors and make clear that children who cancont'd on pg 15

## **Regional News**

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## Barbados wants mandatory reporting of child abuse

CMC - The Barbados government says it is working closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to create a legislative framework for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.

"I think this is where we have to go. This is a conversation that is now existing in draft between the chief parliamentary counsel and the Ministry. It is to make sure that we get to the point where reporting child abuse is no longer optional. You no longer have the right to say, 'I know it has happened, but I didn't feel like talking about it," said People Empowerment and Elder Affairs Minister, Kirk Humphrey.

"So, we are having that conversation . . . with the public, but I am hoping that it becomes part of the Child Protection Act that we will have before the Parliament, hopefully before the end of the year.

"The Child Justice Bill is also in the draft so that we have a more comprehensive understanding of child



protection so that we take child protection seriously," he added.

His comments came amid concerns raised by the Child Care Board (CCB) regarding the under-reporting of child abuse and the high number of physical and sexual abuse cases involving minors.

Humphrey, speaking during the launch of the inaugural Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, said according to the statistics, at least one case of child abuse is reported daily, and at least one sexual abuse case per week.

According to the latest statistics available for this year, there were 41 child abuse cases in January – 12 physical, ten sexual, and 18 cases of neglect. In February, there were 42 cases –12 physical, six sexual, and 23 cases of neglect.

The overall number of reported cases of child abuse in 2021 was 489, including 114 for physical abuse and 115 for sexual abuse – a slight increase over 2020 when there were 476 cases of reported child abuse, of which 111 were physical abuse and 106 were sexual abuse.

In 2019, there were 529 cases reported and Humphrey said while the figures may be viewed as being positive in dealing with the situation, the number of cas-

es is not increasing, as far as he is concerned, "one single case is too many".

He said the entire society has a role to play in reducing child abuse, and he urged residents to report any cases they see.

CCB director, Roseann Richards said the Board has 21 social workers and several senior childcare officers and is able to screen and investigate all reports of child abuse, noting that all may not be substantiated once the checks are made.

The CCB said it has trained officers, as recently as January, to manage the MyChild Helpline App which was launched last December.

Children can download the app on their phones and use it to contact the CCB to request counselling and other services.

Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month is being observed under the theme "Speak up, Speak Out, Report Child Abuse."

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not drink alcohol, join law enforcement, open a bank account, stand before a court as an adult or vote, for example, cannot reasonably consent to sex with an adult."

Cooper said any law that suggests otherwise is out of step with what the vast majority of those whom the law is supposed to serve believe.

"I am also for eliminating any ambiguity in the law with regard to teenage minors consenting to sex with adults — once again, they cannot.

"Laws must change as the values of society evolve and mature. Cabinet is considering measures to bring about these changes and they are long overdue," Cooper said.

## International



## Sri Lanka president won't resign despite growing protests

AP - Sri Lanka's president will not step down and instead will face the country's political and economic crisis, a key government minister said Wednesday despite continuing large protests that are demanding his resignation.

Sri Lanka has endured months of shortages of fuel and other essentials, and the protests over the economic troubles have spread nationwide and expanded to criticism of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his politically powerful family.

Rajapaksa has resisted the calls for him to resign even after members of his own coalition made them this week, with governing party lawmakers saying an interim government should replace him and failing to do so would make them responsible for violence.

Rajapaksa "will not resign. We will face this. We have the strength to face this. We are not afraid," Minister of Highways Johnston Fernando told Parliament on Wednesday.

Hours earlier, Rajapaksa revoked the state of emergency that he had declared last week after crowds of protesters—demonstrated near his home in the capital, Colombo. The widely criticised emergency declaration gave him sweeping authority to act to protect public security, including suspending



Sri Lanka's former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, centre, leaves with his younger brother, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, right, after being sworn in as the prime minister at Kelaniya Royal Buddhist temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Aug. 9, 2020. Sri Lanka's president has revoked a daysold state of emergency after huge public protests demanded he resign over the country's worst economic crisis in memory. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena, File)

any laws, authorising detentions and seizing property.

TV and social media images from Monday showed protesters storming into the offices and houses of governing party lawmakers and vandalising some premises. Lawmakers urged the Parliament speaker to ensure their safety, and Fernando said they were prepared.

"We are ready to face them if anyone comes to attack us," Fernando said in Parliament.

Protests continued Wednesday in many parts of the country demanding that Rajapaksa step down.

In Colombo, hundreds of doctors staged a protest march urging the government to solve shortages of medicine at state-run hospitals, while opposition lawmakers demonstrated in Parliament demanding that Rajapaksa resign. The protest caused a 10-minute suspension of Parliament.

Elsewhere in the country, students, lawyers and other groups protested against the government.

Rajapaksa earlier proposed a unity government be formed to handle the crisis, but the main opposition party rejected it. His Cabinet resigned Sunday night, and on Tuesday, nearly 40 governing coalition lawmakers said they would no longer vote according to coalition instructions, significantly weakening the government.

The president and his older brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa,

continue to hold power, despite their politically powerful family being the focus of public ire. Five other family members are lawmakers, including Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa and a nephew, Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa.

The family's immense political clout grew in part from Mahinda Rajapaksa being credited when he was president earlier for ending Sri Lanka's 25-year civil war with the defeat of Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009.

There are now fears the family's control over key state functions has weakened independent institutions and left the government unable to address the crisis.



## Internationa

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### **British embassy guard** charged with spying for Russia

BBC - A security guard at the British embassy in Berlin suspected of spying for Russia has been extradited to appear in court charged with nine offences under the Official Secrets Act.

David Ballantyne Smith, 57, is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court today.

The UK national was arrested by German police on 10 August.

The offences are alleged to have happened between October 2020 and August 2021.

Mr Smith, who had been living in Potsdam, in Germany, was flown back to the UK on Wednesday ahead of his appearance at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

The Metropolitan Police said the



nine charges related to the collection and communication of information useful to the Russian state.

Nick Price, head of the special crime and counter terrorism division of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), said Mr Smith was accused of seven offences of collecting information with the intent of sending it to the

Russian authorities, one of attempting communication and one of providing information to a person he believed was a member of the Russian authorities.

He said the CPS had worked closely with its German counterparts to bring Mr Smith back to the UK after obtaining an extradition warrant.



## International



## El Salvador leader says he'll cut all food for gang inmates

AP - El Salvador's president threatened Tuesday to stop providing food for imprisoned gang members as he continued his crackdown following a wave of killings that led to a state of emergency and implementation of measures that have drawn international condemnation.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony for new police officers and soldiers, President Nayib Bukele said that if the gangs "unleash a wave of crimes, we are going to cut off food in the prisons."

"There are rumours that they (gangs) want to start taking revenge on random, honest people," Bukele said.

"If they do that, there won't even be one meal in prisons. I swear to God they won't eat a grain of rice, and let's see how long they last."

"They should stay calm and let themselves be arrested; at least on the inside they will continue to live and have two meals a day," Bukele said.

Previously, Bukele had ordered food for gang members held in Salvadoran prisons be reduced to two meals per day, seized inmates' mattresses and posted a video of prisoners being frogmarched through corridors and down stairs.

Following a wave of homicides in late March, Bukele declared a state of emergency that suspended some constitutional rights



El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele speaks to the press at Mexico's National Palace after meeting with the President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador in Mexico City, March 12, 2019. El Salvador's president has threatened Tuesday, April 6, 2022, that he will cut off food for imprisoned members of street gangs if they "unleash a wave of crimes." (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte, File)

and rounded up about 6,000 street gang members.

The president also ordered a new maximum-security prison be built to hold 20,000 inmates.

The move has faced criticism from human rights organisations in El Salvador and abroad that warn the suspension of fundamental rights could open the door to human rights abuses.

El Salvador's human rights prosecutors' office said it had received 67 human rights complaints, including 33 for arbitrary arrest.

United Nations Human Rights spokeswoman Liz Throssell said Tuesday, "We are deeply concerned by the series of measures recently introduced in El Salvador in response to the rise in gang killings."

Throssell said "5,747 people have been detained without an arrest warrant and some have reportedly been subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."

Bukele, as usual, brushed off criticisms.

"I don't care what the international organisations say. Let them come here and protect our people," the president said.

"They can take their gang members if they want; we'll give them all of them."

El Salvador's Congress has also increased sentences for crimes committed by gang members. The country's notorious street gangs effectively control many neighbourhoods in the capital.

The state of emergency restricts freedom to associate, the right to be informed of rights when arrested and access to a lawyer.

The government also extended to 15 days from 72 hours the time that someone can be held without charges and allowed authorities to intercept suspects' communications without a judge's approval.

Police and soldiers have already cordoned off neighbourhoods, searching house-by-house for gang members and controlling who enters and exits areas.

In March, Bukele posted a video showing guards with billy clubs roughly forcing inmates to walk, run and even descend stairs with their arms held behind their necks or backs.

At one point, a handcuffed inmate tumbled down a flight of stairs as a guard forced him to descend running. The prisoner groaned and then was forced to his feet to continue running.

Inmates were stripped to their underwear and their mattresses were taken away.

Bukele enjoys extremely high popularity. He stepped into a political vacuum left by discredited traditional parties from the left and right.

## International

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## Rights groups charge 'ethnic cleansing' in Ethiopia's Tigray

AP - Widespread abuses against civilians in the western part of Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have charged in a new report.

The crimes were perpetrated by security officials and civilian authorities from the neighbouring Amhara region, sometimes "with the acquiescence and possible participation of Ethiopian federal forces," the rights groups say in the report released Wednesday.

The abuses are "part of a widespread and systematic attack against the Tigrayan civilian population that amount to crimes against humanity as well as war crimes," the report says.

Ethiopian federal authorities strongly refute allegations they have deliberately targeted Tigrayans for violent attacks. They said at the outbreak of the war in Nov. 2020 that their objective was to disarm the rebellious leaders of Tigray.

Ethiopian authorities said Wednesday that they are "carefully examining" allegations in the rights groups' report. While the report has "ideas that are not useful for any peace effort, the government will reaffirm its determination to investigate all human rights violations and make public the results," said a statement from the Govern-



Refugees who fled the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region ride a bus going to the Village 8 temporary shelter, near the Sudan-Ethiopia border, in Hamdayet, eastern Sudan on Dec. 1, 2020. Widespread abuses against civilians in the western part of Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have charged in a new report Wednesday, April 6, 2022. (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty, File)

ment Communication Service.

The report, the result of a months-long investigation including more than 400 interviews, charges that hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans have been forced to leave their homes in a violent campaign of unlawful killings, sexual assaults, mass arbitrary detentions, livestock pillaging, and the denial of humanitarian assistance.

Widespread atrocities have been reported in the Tigray war, with Ethiopian government troops and their allies, including troops from neighbouring Eritrea, facing most of the charges.

Fighters loyal to the party of Tigray's leaders — the Tigray People's Liberation Front, or TPLF — also have been accused of committing abuses as the war spread into

neighbouring regions. Fighters affiliated with the TPLF deliberately killed dozens of people, gang-raped dozens of women and pillaged property for a period of several weeks last year in Amhara region, Amnesty said in a report released in February.

The new report by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International focuses on attacks targeting Tigrayans in western Tigray and describes them as "ethnic cleansing," a term that refers to forcing a population from a region through expulsions and other violence, often including killings and rapes.

Publicly displayed signs in several towns across western Tigray urged Tigrayans to leave, and local officials in meetings discussed plans to remove Tigrayans, according to the report. Pamphlets appeared to give Tigrayans urgent ultimatums to leave or be killed, the report says.

"They kept saying every night, 'We will kill you ... Go out of the area,'" said one woman from the town of Baeker, speaking of threats she faced from an Amhara militia group, according to the report.

Western Tigray has long been contested territory. Amhara authorities say the area was under their control until the 1990s when the TPLF-led federal government redrew internal boundaries that put the territory within Tigray's borders. Amhara officials moved swiftly to take over the region when the war broke out.

The outbreak of the war "brought these longstanding and unaddressed grievances to the fore: Amhara regional forces, along with Ethiopian federal forces, seized these territories and displaced Tigrayan civilians in a brutal ethnic cleansing campaign," the report says.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken asserted in March 2021 that ethnic cleansing had taken place in western Tigray, marking the first time a top official in the international community openly described the situation as such. That allegation was dismissed by Ethiopian authorities as "a completely unfounded and spurious verdict against the Ethiopian government."

## **Sports News**



## Attorneys General warn NFL to improve treatment of women

AP - The attorneys general of six states have written to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, expressing concern over the league's treatment of female employees and admonishing him for a lack of improvement to the league's workplace culture.

Without improvement, the attorneys general warned of potential legal action.

The letter outlines concerns of gender discrimination ranging from the NFL's treatment of women who have experienced domestic violence to the hiring and promotion of women in NFL offices.

It comes as Congress investigates how the league has handled claims of sexual harassment in the front office of the Washington Commanders.

The letter was signed by Letitia James, the attorney general of New York, where the league is headquartered, as well as the attorneys general of Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington State. The New York Times first reported the letter being sent.

That letter also cited a Times article that included allegations from more than 30 former NFL employees who said they experienced problems, including unwanted touching from male bosses; attending parties where prostitutes were hired; being passed over for promotions based on their



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell answers questions from reporters, at a press conference after the close of the NFL owner's meeting, Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at The Breakers resort in Palm Beach, Fla. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

gender; and being pushed out for complaining about discrimination.

"The NFL must do better—pink jerseys are not a replacement for equal treatment and full inclusion of women in the workplace," the attorneys generals wrote.

"Our offices will use the full weight of our authority to investigate and prosecute allegations of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation by employers throughout our states, including at the National Football League."

In an email response to The Associated Press, NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said:

"We share the commitment of the attorneys general to ensuring that all of our workplaces - including the league office and 32 clubs

- are diverse, inclusive and free from discrimination and harassment. We have made great strides over the years in support of that commitment, but acknowledge that we, like many organisations, have more work to do. We look forward to sharing with the attorneys general the policies, practices, protocols, education programs and partnerships we have implemented to act on this commitment and confirm that the league office and our clubs maintain a respectful workplace where all our employees, including women, have an opportunity to thrive."

McCarthy pointed out such ongoing league programs as a comprehensive employee training initiative through partnerships with organisations such as RISE, GLAAD, Paradigm, and The Winters Group; and Internal Affinity Groups, in which employees can interact, learn and support each other within smaller communities like BEN (Black Engagement Network), PIN (Parents Initiative Network) and WIN (Women's Interactive Network).

Last month, the NFL changed what is known as the "Rooney Rule," designed to ensure more opportunities for women and racial minorities. Beginning this season, all 32 clubs must employ a female or a member of an ethnic or racial minority to serve as an offensive assistant coach. The person will receive a one-year contract and work closely with the head coach and offensive staff to gain experience.

## **Sports News**

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## Maradona's 'Hand of God' shirt for sale with \$5.2 M estimate

AP - It was the best of moments - or the worst of moments - in soccer history, and now sports fans with deep pockets can own a piece of it.

The shirt worn by Diego Maradona when he scored the controversial "Hand of God" goal against England in the 1986 World Cup is for sale for the first time.

Auctioneer Sotheby's said Wednesday that the jersey could fetch more than 4 million pounds (\$5.2 million) in an online auction that opens April 20.

Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of streetwear and modern collectibles, said the shirt is "on a small list of the most important sports memorabilia items in the world."

"I'll never get to handle anything this good again," Wachter said. "The moment is iconic in the history of sports."

Maradona scored two goals during the quarter-final game in Mexico City on June 22, 1986, just four years after Britain and Argentina had fought a war over the Falkland Islands. The Argentine great's first goal was ruled a header, but the ball had bounced off Maradona's fist, out of sight of the referee.

Maradona said afterward that it had been scored "a little with the head of Maradona, and a little with the hand of God."

Maradona's second goal saw him dribble the ball past almost the entire English team before beating goalkeeper Peter Shilton. In 2002, it was voted "goal of the century" in a FIFA poll.

Wachter said the two goals "balance each other brilliantly" and reveal two facets of Maradona's character.

The first "was really cunning and did involve an element of luck," he



The soccer shirt, centre, worn by Argentina's Diego Maradona in the 1986 World Cup quarter final against England is displayed at the National Football Museum in Manchester, England Nov. 26, 2020. The shirt worn by Diego Maradona when he scored the controversial "Hand of God" goal against England in the 1986 World Cup is for sale for the first time. Auctioneer Sotheby's said Wednesday, April 6, 2022 that the jersey could fetch more than 4 million pounds (\$5.2 million) in an online auction that opens April 20. (AP Photo/Jon Super, file)

said. "But then he scored a second goal, which was one of the most unbelievable - almost angelic - goals ever."

Argentina won the match 2-1 and went on to win the World Cup. Maradona, considered by many to be the greatest player of all time, struggled with cocaine abuse and other excesses and died in November 2020 at age 60.

After the game Maradona swapped shirts with England midfielder Steve Hodge, who never sold it, until now. For the past 20 years, it has been on loan to England's National Football Museum in Manchester.

The blue shirt with stripes of lighter blue was a one-off, hastily assembled because the tops Argentina's team planned to wear were judged too heavy for the Mexico City heat. The Argentinian Football Association patches were sewn on, and sparkly

numbers, including Maradona's 10, were ironed onto the back shortly before the match

Hodge said he had been a "proud owner" of a shirt that "has deep cultural meaning to the football world, the people of Argentina, and the people of England." According to Wachter, Hodge had decided "that the time is just right" to sell.

Prices for sports memorabilia have soared in recent years. The shirt could beat a record for a piece of sportswear, held by a Babe Ruth New York Yankees jersey that sold for \$5.64 million in 2019. A buyer paid \$8.8 million for the manifesto that launched the modern Olympic movement, a record for a sports item.

The shirt will be on display in Sotheby's London showroom during the April 20-May 4 bidding period.

## **Sports News**



## School volleyball beach competition begins this weekend

The top four teams in the boys and girls' divisions of the Advanced Secondary Schools will be taking their skills to the beach this weekend.

They will be competing in a one-day contest at the Fort James Beach on Sunday starting at 9am.

Three players will compete on each team in the girls' competition while the boys' competition will consist of two players.

Antigua Girls' High School, who have already won the girls' division title in the Advanced Secondary competition played at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex, heads the female teams in this weekend's competition. They will be joined by runners-up, Ottos Comprehensive School, third place finishers Clare Hall Secondary and Christ the King High School who



Ottos Comprehensive (yellow jersey) competes against Island Academy in the boys' division of the Advanced Secondary School Volleyball Competitions at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on 28th March, 2022.

won the last beach competition hosted by the inter-schools' volleyball unit.

Ottos Comprehensive School, who have been declared champions of the advanced boys' competition, will be joined by runners-up, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, third place finishers Pares Secondary and Princess Margaret School. Meanwhile, Ottos Comprehensive's boys will face Jennings Secondary in the final game of the advanced competition at the YMCA Sports Complex today.

Earlier this week, Ottos Comprehensive defeated Princess Margaret School in three sets, 25-17, 19-25, 15-11. Clare Hall and Jennings also recorded three-set wins. Clare Hall prevailed 26-24, 18-25, 15-12 over Pares Secondary while Jennings beat Island Academy 25-27, 25-21, 16-14.

Princess Margaret School also recorded a 25-13,25-23 victory over Island Academy and Sir Novelle Richards Academy were 25-16, 25-23 winners against Clare Hall Secondary.

### Walsh powers Clare Hall to victory in schools' cricket



Clare Hall Secondary School opening batsman Malique Walsh.

Opener Malique Walsh slammed a century to lead Clare Hall Secondary to an emphatic 176-run victory over Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the schools' cricket league on Tuesday.

Walsh hammered 129 off 51 balls, including 6 sixes and 16 fours, to power Clare Hall Secondary to a mammoth 205 for 2 off their 13 overs after they won the toss and opted to bat in the match at King George.

Fellow opener D Yaw contributed 38, while S Harris captured 2 for 44. D Joseph then snapped up 3 wickets for 3 runs and K Anthony grabbed 3

for 11, as Sir Novelle Richards Academy were bundled out for a paltry 29 in 5.4 overs.

Antigua Grammar School defeated Jennings Secondary by 9 wickets at the Factory Grounds. Batting first, Jennings were dismissed for 63 with Bassonia Joseph getting 32. Xavin Peterson bagged 6 wickets for 10 runs.

Shamar Pereira then struck an unbeaten 29 and Jewel Andrew hit 20 not out to guide Antigua Grammar to their victory target of 64 for the loss

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## **Sports News**

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## Boris Johnson says transgender women should not compete in women's sport

BBC - UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he does not believe transgender women should compete in female sporting events - a view he conceded may be "controversial".

The issue of transgender athletes - centred around the balance of inclusion, sporting fairness and safety in women's sport - has recently focused on the case of transgender cyclist Emily Bridges.

Bridges was recently ruled ineligible to compete in her first elite women's race by cycling's world governing body.

Johnson was speaking on a range of issues, including the government's approach to the ban on so-called conversion therapy, before adding: "I don't think biological males should be competing in female sporting events. Maybe that's a controversial thing to say, but it just seems to me to be sensible.

"I also happen to think that women should have spaces - whether it's in hospitals, prison or changing rooms - which are dedicated to women. That's as far



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson

as my thinking has developed on this issue.

"If that puts me in conflict with some others, then we have got to work it all out. It doesn't mean I'm not immensely sympathetic to people who want to change gender, to transition and it's vital we give people the maximum love and support in making those decisions.

"These are complex issues and they can't be solved with one swift, easy piece of legislation. It takes a lot of thought to get this right."

In response to Johnson's comments, LGBTQ+charity Stonewall said:

"Trans people deserve the same opportunities as everyone else to enjoy the benefits of sport and blanket exclusions on trans people participating are fundamentally unfair.

"This is a complex and fast-evolving issue and much of the science doesn't yet exist in this area.

"Inclusion policies need to be considered on a sport by sport basis and it's vital to avoid using inflammatory rhetoric, which often causes trans people to stop playing the sports they love."

Stonewall said that although elite sport "often

dominates these discussions", transgender people are also "underrepresented in community sport" where they "often feel excluded".

The organisation added: "Sport has the unique power to bring us together and it's important trans people have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of sport without facing exclusion or abuse."

Johnson's comments came as a letter signed by a group of elite female cyclists - including retired Olympians, scientists and researchers - called on cycling's world governing body, the UCI, to "rescind" its rules around transgender participation and testosterone levels and implement eligibility criteria for women "based on female biological characteristics".

The letter - referring to the Bridges situation - said there was "deep regret" at the "crisis situation", claiming female athletes in the UK "have shown you they were willing to boycott" in order for the UCI and British Cycling "to hear their concerns about fairness in their sport".

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of 1 wicket, which was captured by Tanez Francis for 29 runs.

Glanvilles Secondary also recorded an eight-wicket win over Pares Secondary at Mock Pond in All Saints. Pares Secondary were restricted to 80 for 6 off their allotted overs

and Glanvilles achieved victory by scoring the required 81 runs for the loss of two wickets.

The Ministry of Sports' Schools' Twenty20 competition will commence with four matches today.

All Saints Secondary will take on Ottos Comprehensive School at Mack

Pond in All Saints. Jennings Secondary will clash with Glanvilles Secondary at Factory Grounds.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy will meet Princess Margaret School at Rising Sun and Antigua Grammar School will face Pares Secondary at King George.

## Sports DEWS THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 2022

## Cyclists compete in road race on Sunday

Cyclists will return to competition this weekend in a road race from the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground (SVRCG) to St. James' Club at Mamora Bay.

The 22. 2 mile race will be staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) on Sunday.

The event will begin at 9am on the Ring Road at SVRCG. The cyclists will then proceed to the Sir Sydney Walling Highway and travel in an easterly direction. The route will take them pass the Service Station at Mount Joy, eastward onto the Pares Village main road, right turn onto Collins Road and then right turn onto Lyon Hill Road. They will continue pass the Potworks Dam Reservoir onto Potworks Dam Drive, then travel through Bethesda and Christian Hill. They will continue along Potworks Dam Drive, left onto St. James' Drive towards the entrance of the resort. They will then turn around and follow the same route back to the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground where the race ends.

The toughest challenge will be taken up by the Elite Male cyclists who will need to complete the route twice with the competitor with the fastest time achieving victory.

Shawn Weathered of Team Terminix is among the favourites to capture the Elite Male category after winning the class in the Avalanche Road Race on 27th March and the Individual Time Trial on 20th February.



Local cyclists will be returning to competition this weekend when they contest a road race from the Sir Vivian Richard Cricket Stadium (SVRCS) to St James' Club and Villa in Mamora Bay on Sunday morning.

Weathered will face tough competition from fellow Team Terminix colleagues, Emmanuel Gayral and Conroy Thomas.

Another Team Terminix cyclist, Delvin Peters, is also a favorite to win the Masters Class, which will be conducted over one and a half laps of the route.

Peters, who captured the Masters Class in last month's Avalanche race, is expected to face a stiff challenge from Patrick Peters and Vaughn Gomes of Team Independent.

Lindsay Duffy of Road Runners Cycling Club will hope to continue her dominance of the Elite Female Class by completing the one-lap course in the fastest time.

Duffy has dominated lone compet-

itor Zhanna Prikhodko by winning the Elite Female class in the three previous competitions this season.

Cyclists in the Sports Class and Cadets 14-17 category will vie for supremacy by completing one lap of the route.

Cyclists in the Cadets 11-13 Class will only be required to complete a half lap of the route. A half lap will involve the cyclists riding from the SVRCG and to the concrete factory at Lyons Hill Road and back.

Cyclists from Eastside Raiders, Wadadli Cycling Academy, N&R Wheelers and Andre Simon Cycling Academy are also expected to compete in Sunday's road race, which is sponsored by APUA Inet and Paradiso Water.

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