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A&B STANDS WITH CUBA, VENEZUELA IN SoA STANDOFF

Story on Page 2



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses' Association Soria Dupie-Winston, right, accepts a cheque from Sir Vivian Richards at the Cedar Valley Golf Club House on 8th May, 2022. (Photo courtesy Sir Viv's golf charity) *Story on page 7.*

Local News



A&B out if Americas summit excludes Cuba, Maduro

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne has made it clear that the country will not be participating in the upcoming Summit of the Americas if Cuba and Venezuela continue to be "ostracised".

Among the 15-member CARICOM grouping, which is still pondering its participation in the summit, Antigua and Barbuda is one of the first to clearly state its position.

Following a meeting of the smaller Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on 7th May, Prime Minister Browne continued that Antigua and Barbuda also does not "recognise Juan Guaidó as the President of Venezuela".

On 30 April 2019, Guaidó called for an uprising against President Nicolas Maduro as part of "Operation Freedom", which ultimately failed. Guaidó



announced on 23 January 2019, that he was formally assuming the role of interim president, under Article 233 of the Constitution of Venezuela, with the backing of the National Assembly, until elections could be held. As of December 2021, Guaidó had not been able to remove Maduro from power and Maduro remains in control of the military, government institutions, and state enterprises.

The United States of America and dozens of other countries in Latin America and other areas of the world, however, recognise Guaidó. This had created tension regarding the upcoming Summit of the Americas, as many nations have indicated that they will not attend if Guaidó will appear on behalf of Venezuela.

"In those circumstances, Antigua and Barbuda will not participate," Prime Minister Browne has said.

He added however, "Despite this difference in opin-

ion, we remain respectful of President (Joe) Biden and the US administration."

Meanwhile, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, on Sunday, confirmed that the matter had been discussed by OECS leaders on Saturday and was also raised at the CARICOM Inter-Sessional Summit held in Belize in March.

"If Guaidó goes to represent Venezuela, if the Americans were to do that, it would be an act of folly, and I think it will be unlikely that Caribbean governments would go," Gonsalves said.

He went on, that there is "discussion which is currently going on whether Cuba is going to be invited or not to the summit" and added "it would be a huge mistake if Cuba was invited in 2015 and the one subsequently - even under Donald Trump when he was President of the USA."

He was noncommittal,
cont'd on pg 3

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Sir Ronald Sanders blasts US policies ahead of Summit of the Americas

Antiguan and Barbudan diplomat Sir Ronald Sanders has taken a firm position against the US just a month out from the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles.

During an April 28 webinar co-sponsored by the Caribbean Policy Consortium and Florida International University's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, Sir Ronald said when it comes to how the United States treats its Caribbean neighbours, President Joe Biden's policies aren't that much better than those of his predecessor, Donald Trump.

Biden, he said, "inherited Trump's virulent anti-Cuba posture, and an equally hostile attitude to Nicolás Maduro, the president of Venezuela."

The decision to recognise Juan Guaidó,

then-president of the National Assembly—rather than Maduro—as Venezuela's head of state, said Ambassador Sanders, "has continued to haunt US-Caribbean relations, and will be a significant issue as we approach the upcoming Summit of the Americas."

The CPC-FIU panel, moderated by Georges A. Fauriol, a senior associate at the Washington-based Center for Strategic & International Studies, also included Ambassador Thomas A. Shannon Jr., senior international policy advisor at Arnold & Porter; Jacqueline Charles, Caribbean correspondent for the Miami Herald; and Samantha S.S. Chaitram, research manager of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

According to Sanders, "Trump's interest in the rest of the Caribbean nations was only to secure



Sir Ronald Sanders

their support for his position on Venezuela, which he calculated was important to securing votes in South Florida among exile communities for his second bid for the presidency."

The only other Caribbean country Trump showed any interest in was Haiti, which Sir Ronald

said Trump "...reportedly described, along with African nations, as a 'sh**hole' country."

"His officials subsequently denied that report, but the damage had been done."

"This attitude effectively summed up his administration's perceptions of the Caribbean."

cont'd from pg 2

however, on St. Vincent and the Grenadines' attendance at the June 6-10 summit in Los Angeles, California saying, "I am not going to answer you in a determinate manner, except to say that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is very supportive clearly of Cuba being invited again and of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also being invited."

The US appears unlikely to budge, however, as it has, as yet, made no indication that an invitation will not be extended to the ninth Summit of the Americas to Venezuela's Opposition

Leader Juan Guaidó or that Miguel Díaz-Canel of Cuba will be welcomed.

The summit's theme this year is "Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future" for the hemisphere.

"As chair and host, the United States will work with the region's stakeholders towards securing leader-level commitments and concrete actions that dramatically improve pandemic response and resilience, promote a green and equitable recovery, build strong and inclusive democracies, and address the root causes of irregular migration.

"Our commitment to diversity and

inclusion will underpin our efforts," Washington has said.

The US State Department in a 4th January statement, said Washington "continues to recognise the authority of the democratically elected 2015 National Assembly as the last remaining democratic institution and Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's interim president".

CARICOM leaders have in the past reiterated their position of non-interference in the internal affairs of Venezuela and said they were prepared to mediate in the process to bring about a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Colombia ready to ramp up trade with A&B

Colombia has indicated its readiness to increase trade ties with Antigua and Barbuda, which is currently valued at just over US\$1 million annually.

That's the primary message delivered on Monday by that country's newly appointed ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. Jairo Clopatofsky during a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene. "Currently, we are doing US\$1.4 million and I believe that we can increase this amount not only in products, but also with food items. We are thinking of using one of our main ports to operate seaborne products to Antigua and Barbuda," the ambassador disclosed.

He said the current arrangement is goods bound for Antigua and Barbuda arrive via Miami in the United States.

This he explained takes a much longer time than if the products were arriving direct from Colombia. Additionally, this longer route drives up the cost of the goods.

The ambassador further



Colombian Ambassador Dr. Jairo Clopatofsky, right, paid a visit to Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene.

disclosed that his country will be hosting a tourism and shipping conference next month in Jamaica, to which he has extended an invitation to Minister Greene. At that meeting, matters related to attracting increased visitors from Colombia to the Caribbean as well as establishing shipping routes to the region will be among matters discussed.

He also raised the possibility of using Antigua and Barbuda as a hub for Colombian products for the

neighbouring Caribbean territories.

Foreign Minister Greene welcomed the possibility of direct trade links between St. John's and Bogota, noting that wherever there are possibilities to remove the 'middlemen' then it would naturally have an impact on the cost of goods. "The role of any government is to make things better for its people and to the extent that we can benefit from direct links with Colombia, we are in favour of such arrange-

ments," he stated.

In his remarks, Minister Greene noted that relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Colombia were getting closer and stronger until they were interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2017, the government removed the short-term visa requirement for Colombian citizens in an effort to increase tourism from the South American country. In November 2019, an Air Services Agreement was signed by the two countries. "Unfortunately, ongoing pandemic developments have temporarily put a damper on the potential of this bilateral initiative," Greene noted.

He also thanked the Colombian government for its assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and for the training programmes offered to civil servants here.

Tue 10 Day		Tue 10 Night	
85°	☀️	77°	☁️
22% ESE 16 mph		22% ESE 14 mph	
Partly cloudy skies. High around 85F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy skies. Low 77F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.	
💧 Humidity 69%	☀️ UV Index Extreme	💧 Humidity 80%	☀️ UV Index 0 of 10
🌅 Sunrise 5:37 am	🌇 Sunset 6:29 pm	🌙 Moonrise 1:31 pm	🌙 Moonset 1:43 am
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Local News



State of the art Early Childhood Centre for Bolans

Member of Parliament for St. Mary's South Constituency, Samantha Marshall, has confirmed that a state-of-the-art Early Childhood Centre will be constructed in Bolans.

Last Friday, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs said construction of the centre should commence shortly, and views it as critical for the development of the children of Antigua and Barbuda.

The new facility, she added, will improve the quality of care and educational support for children in Bolans and neighbouring communities.

"It's with delight that I announce that a state-of-



the-art Early Childhood Development Centre will be built in Bolans Village. The government is committed to providing quality education and care to our children, even from the foundation of

their growth and development," said Marshall.

"Moreover, this is another promise delivered in my mission to level up opportunities for children in St. Mary's South and

beyond. This new development follows the recent renovation and expansion of the St. Mary's Secondary School into one of the finest schools in Antigua and Barbuda."

DPP Armstrong returns to work

Director of Public Prosecution Anthony Armstrong returned to work yesterday, while Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh resumed duties on the bench at St. John's Magistrates' Court.

Armstrong took special leave in February, 2022, to appeal a decision by Jamaica's General Legal Council (GLC) that found him guilty of professional misconduct.

The matter was brought before

the GLC in 2019.

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin said then, that the DPP's special leave would last until the appeal is heard and a decision is returned.

In the interim, Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh was appointed to act as DPP.

Confirming Armstrong's return, AG Benjamin also confirmed that the appeal has been filed in Jamaica.

"The case is now before the Court of Appeal waiting for a hearing, and until that time, it's as though the status quo ante must remain," the AG stated.

Jamaican-born Anthony Armstrong was appointed DPP by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission in 2005.



US\$30K raised at Sir Viv's Charity event

Three healthcare associations are the beneficiaries of a donation of US\$30,000 raised by a charity event to honour cricketing legend and National Hero, Sir Vivian Richards.

The Sir Viv @70 Fundraiser Golf Tournament was held at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on Sunday involving local golfers. Sir Viv, in whose honour the event was staged to mark his 70th birthday, indicated to the organisers that he wanted an event that would raise funds for frontline healthcare workers.

The cricket legend told the presentation ceremony that usually when one thinks of war, the traditional items of war such as guns and bombs come to mind. However, in the war against COVID-19, the 'frontline soldiers' are the people dressed in PPEs and face masks.

"When we first thought about this event, I thought that it would be a good opportunity to focus on the work of those folks who have done sterling work in the past and who are likely to continue doing the same for years to come. During this 'war' against the virus, the folks with the weapons of 'mass destruction' were not the ones needed this time.

"The real folks, the folks that of-



fered help and protections were the ones to whom we turned, our frontline healthcare professionals. I am very passionate about this matter and that's why we assembled this group here today so that we can raise funds on their behalf. Someone needs to say a big Thank You to these people," he declared.

Sir Vivian made an appeal to those in attendance for their continued involvement in the event, which he hopes will become an annual fixture with the same objectives in mind.

Rahul Patil, founder of the tournament's main sponsor, LITAP, a Chicago-based company, said he grew up

in Mumbai, India, where as a boy, if he was asked for the full name of the prime minister of India he could not answer, but he knew who I.V.A Richards was.

"This is very emotional and personal for me. I started LITAP two years ago and it has been my dream. We grew up idolising Sir Viv Richards and I feel truly blessed that LITAP has sponsored this event, the first event that we have sponsored," he explained.

He thanked the local organising team, which included Mervyn Richards, Sir Viv's younger brother, and Debbie Collins for their magnificent work.

The benefitting associations each of which received US\$10,000 are the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses' Association, the Antigua and Barbuda Medical Association and the Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Medical Services Association.

During the event, a short video on the life of Sir Vivian's mother, Grethel Richards – was shown. A very emotional Sir Viv said he was moved by the video.

He also said he was especially joyful that his daughter, Masaba Richards, had journeyed from India to be in Antigua for the celebrations.



Corrupt cops get light prison sentences

Two police officers who were convicted of corruption in March this year were sentenced on Monday by High Court Justice Ann-Marie Smith, but the decision is drawing criticism from the public.

Ex-corporal Marcus Isador will spend five months at Her Majesty's Prison and has been fined \$ 80,000, which must be paid by 31st December, 2023, or he will spend two years in prison.

Additionally, the judge ordered him to pay \$ 100 for a charger he stole from his victim, or two additional months will be added to his sentence.

Constable Peter Lugay will serve two months in jail and was fined \$ 30,000 that must be paid during the same period as his accomplice. In default, he will be imprisoned for two years.

Both police officers were accused

of holding a man at gunpoint, using police-issued firearms, and confiscated his cannabis for their personal gain.

Eight pounds of cannabis were seized from the man in February 2017, and in April that same year, they confiscated another 29 pounds of the substance.

During the trial, Lugay, who opted to make an unsworn statement, denied involvement in the crime or to having a close connection with Isadore, his co-accused.

He claimed he had no interactions with Isadore, refuting prosecution claims of conspiracy between them.

Lugay maintains his implication in the matter is a case of mistaken identity.

Their judge-alone trial commenced in February, 2022.

The law enforcement officers were found guilty of three counts of corrup-



tion in March.

Their sentences have sparked public outrage, with many describing them as extremely light and a mere "slap on the wrist".

Many hold the view that if civilians were involved in a comparable situation, the end result would have been several years of prison time.



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Crypto crash: Bitcoin extends losses, drops 11% to \$30,339

By Sidhartha Shukla

The selloff in cryptocurrencies is part of a wider global flight from riskier investments.

Bitcoin extended losses, dropping below \$31,000 for the first time since July 2021, putting its decline from a November record high to more than 50% amid a global flight from riskier investments.

The world's largest digital token fell as much as 11% to \$30,339 in New York. The one-day intraday drop is the largest since Jan. 21. Ether fell as much as 11%, while Solana dropped 14% and Avalanche dipped 18%.

"We're seeing a slow motion melt-down, partially because it's mostly been long holders selling" instead of levered liquidations, said Josh Lim, head of derivatives at New York-based brokerage Genesis Global Trading. "Now that some corporate treasuries are hovering near their cost basis, markets are waiting and watching to see if shareholders will force some de-risking."

Michael Novogratz, the billionaire cryptocurrency investor who leads Galaxy Digital Holdings Ltd., warned that he expects things to get worse before they get better.

"Crypto probably trades correlated to the Nasdaq until we hit a new equilibrium," Novogratz said on Galaxy's first-quarter earnings call on Monday. "My instinct is there's some more damage to be done, and that will trade in a very choppy, volatile and difficult market for at least the next few quarters before people are getting some sense that we're at an equilibrium."

Tightening monetary policy to combat runaway inflation and ebbing liquidity are turning investors away from speculative assets across global markets.

Digital Decline

Bitcoin's drop to around lowest since 2021 leaves it oversold on RSI gauge



Bitcoin's recent decline puts it at risk of firmly dropping out of the range where it's been trading in 2022, completely reversing the most recent bull run that drove the token to a record of almost \$69,000 in November.

Do Kwon, the founder of Terraform Labs, which powers the Terra blockchain, is moving to shore up its algorithmic stablecoin after the cryptocurrency lost its peg to the dollar amid the markets rout.

Luna Foundation Guard, the association created to support the decentralized token and Terra blockchain, said it will issue loans worth about \$1.5 billion in Bitcoin and TerraUSD to help strengthen TerraUSD's peg after it dropped below a \$1 on Saturday as crypto markets continued to plummet. Kwon captured the attention of the crypto world earlier this year by pledging to buy as much as \$10 billion in Bitcoin to prop up Terra.

"We're watching carefully to see how the market fares over the next 24 hours," Steven Goulden, senior research analyst at crypto market maker Cumberland DRW, said in an email. "Including whether mechanisms being introduced to help increase reliance, such as LFG lending out Bitcoin to OTC trading firms, will be enough to hold in times of deep stress or if we need additional stabilization mechanisms."

Rising interest rates are giving individual and institutional investors pause for thought about the crypto market outlook, according to Edul Patel, chief executive officer of Mudrex, an algorithm-based crypto investment platform. Bitcoin's more than 30% decline in 2022 compares with a retreat of more than 10% in global bonds and shares, and a 2.5% advance in gold.

"The downward trend is likely to continue for the next few days," he said, adding Bitcoin could test the \$30,000 level.

Bitcoin's recent decline puts it at risk of firmly dropping out of the range where it's been trading in 2022, completely reversing the most recent bull run that drove the token to a record of almost \$69,000 in November. With its 40-day correlation with the S&P 500 stock benchmark at a record 0.82, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, any further hit to equities sentiment would risk dragging Bitcoin down as well.

A correlation of 1 means two assets move in perfect lockstep; a reading of -1 means they move in opposite directions.

Opinion



I suffer from America Fatigue Syndrome, do you?

By Andrew Mitrovica

America Fatigue Syndrome is not the figment of a neurotic imagination. The upset, weariness and recurring bouts of déjà vu it triggers are real.

I am so tired of the United States of America.

Perhaps you are tired of America, too. You may be an American who has – like many of us outside of America – become exhausted by and with America.

If it is any consolation, exhaustion is one of the tell-tale symptoms of America Fatigue Syndrome, a condition that, I suspect, much of the sentient world is suffering from – consciously or unconsciously. The other signs include a near chronic agitation, bewilderment and sense of déjà vu.

Sadly, there is, as far as I know, no cure.

America Fatigue Syndrome is not the figment of a neurotic imagination. The upset, weariness and recurring bouts of déjà vu it triggers are real.

I feel it all the time. I feel it in my bones and mind. It is a weight. An albatross. A constant. A drain. Pushing down, down. Do you feel it?

A few countries can do that to you. America is one them. America is exceptional in this regard, you might say.

Lately, more than ever, I have wanted America to go away, and, for once, be still or quiet – just for a moment. I need, perhaps like you, to come up for a gulp of air and enjoy a tiny respite from the ubiquitous presence and bane of America.

What a tonic and pleasure it would be not to have to consider or write, however briefly, about America.

It is, of course, impossible. We cannot turn America off or change the dial. The sad, infuriating, and debilitating cacophony of America is inescapable.



A woman holds up a sign during a protest in Foley Square, after the leak of a draft majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito preparing for a majority of the court to overturn the landmark Roe v Wade abortion rights decision later this year, in New York City, New York, US, May 3, 2022 [Jeenah Moon/Reuters]

America is everywhere, around the clock.

America invades us all.

Still, it appears to me at least that America's grip on our psyches and attention is even more acute these days. America dominates in the familiar ways: money, power, and the 24-hour news cycle.

And the news is bad, bad, bad. One convulsion after another. Repeated over and over in a loop, until a new convulsion arrives. Each one reverberates like an earthquake, damaging people and places in visible and invisible ways.

It has been like this for a while. From 9/11 on, in particular. Year after year. President after president. A war, then another. Death.

Lost hope and homes. Secret dungeons. Torture and other violations – big and small. Explosions of hate, violence and ignorance. Twenty-six children massacred at school. Their murders “a hoax.” A 100 percent proof

fascist riding an escalator into the presidency. More explosions of hate, violence and ignorance. A white police officer kneeling on a Black man's neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds. Disinfectants and other fantastical potions to tame a plague. An insurrection in defence of a lie.

It never ends.

The latest convulsion occurred earlier this week. Five men and one woman in black robes have apparently decided to do what they once promised, under oath, not to do: overturn a Supreme Court ruling delivered 49 years ago that guaranteed a woman's provenance over her body.

Precedent erased. Rights erased. Progress erased. Replaced by religious extremism masquerading as jurisprudence and a kind of authoritarianism that, unsurprisingly, has men dictating to women who has agency over their destiny.

In erasing Roe v Wade, Justice
cont'd on pg 11

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Samuel Alito and his rancid, right-wing confederates have revealed the other “big lie” about America – that it is a nation governed by the rule of law and not parochial passions.

Alito and evangelical company have also made this plain: The Supreme Court, like the other institutions that represent the “pillars” of democracy, is a sober-sounding farce, populated, in the main, by reactionary zealots who treat the law and constitution with contempt and who call a preening demagogue their patron saint.

More madness in a country addicted to madness.

The country – if America can be called that – is unmoored from reason. It is, instead, mired in a perpetual state of madness. Not all of it, mind you. Enlightened Americans have been made exiles inside America, watching as the rest of America goes mad.

America is fraying from the centre out – not at the edges, otherwise known as the “fringes”. When, as Yeats wrote: “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold.”

The cuckoo “fringe” is now mainstream.

This, combined with the relentless fury that is such a defining aspect of much of America, makes for a toxic and corrosive brew, eroding America’s already mythic foundations.

A black hole is devouring America. It is growing bigger and darker. Every day, more Americans – mostly,

but not only, Republicans – are being sucked into a disfiguring vortex of fury that inevitably translates into lunacy. The lunatics and their made-in-America brand of lunacy are on regular display. You know the lunatics’ names.

They are invited onto TV and radio by charlatans to share their synapse-draining musings to gin up more lunacy because lunacy plays and pays well in America.

Despite their impressive credentials and scholarly pretentiousness, Alito, Roberts, Kavanaugh, Gorsuch, Thomas and Coney Barrett

probably watch and listen and nod approvingly along – confirming, yet again, that the smart fanatics are the most dangerous of all.

Stupidly, I had hoped that given his persuasive loss in early November 2020, the lunatic-in-chief’s appeal would fade like the embers of a dying fire.

I was wrong.

The calm I longed for never came.

Today, looming beyond the not-so-distant horizon, the lunatic-in-chief waits, dangles coveted endorsements and conspires at Mar-a-Lago, ready to reclaim the

title of commander-in-chief.

He taunts us still. The prospect of four more years of convulsions is as harrowing as it is all too possible.

At this point in a column, a writer is obliged to offer a fix, a prescription, or a remedy. I am at a loss.

I do not know if there is a fix, a prescription or a remedy for the madness that courses its malevolent way through America.

It may be too late.

The views expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect Pointe Xpress’ editorial stance.



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Environment



Coral reefs provide stunning images of a world under assault

By Curt Anderson and Cody Jackson

Humans don't know what they're missing under the surface of a busy shipping channel in the "cruise capital of the world."

Just below the keels of massive ships, an underwater camera provides a live feed from another world, showing marine life that's trying its best to resist global warming.

That camera in Miami's Government Cut is just one of the many ventures of a marine biologist and a musician who've been on a 15-year mission to raise awareness about dying coral reefs by combining science and art to bring undersea life into pop culture.

Their company — Coral Morphologic — is surfacing stunning images, putting gorgeous closeups of underwater creatures on social media, setting time-lapsed video of swaying, glowing coral to music and projecting it onto buildings, even selling a coral-themed beachwear line.

"We aren't all art. We aren't all science. We aren't all tech. We are an alchemy," said Colin Foord, who defies the looks of a typical scientist, with blue hair so spiky that it seems electrically charged. He and his busi-



A variety of fluorescent and fleshy solitary stony corals are on display at the Coral Morphologic lab, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in Miami. Coral Morphologic was founded by marine biologist Colin Foord and musician J.D. McKay to raise awareness about dying coral reefs, presenting the issue through science and art. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

ness partner J.D. McKay sat down with The Associated Press to show off their work.

One of their most popular projects is the Coral City Camera, which recently passed 2 million views and usually has about 100 viewers online at any given time each day.

"We're going to actually be able to document one year of coral growth, which has never been done before in

situ on a coral reef, and that's only possible because we have this technological connection right here at the port of Miami that allows us to have power and internet," Foord said.

The livestream has already revealed that staghorn and other corals can adapt and thrive even in a highly urbanized undersea environment, along with 177 species of fish, dol-

cont'd on pg 13

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cont'd from pg 12

phins, manatees and other sea life, Foord said.

"We have these very resilient corals growing here. The primary goal of us getting it underwater was to show people there is so much marine life right here in our city," Foord said.

McKay, meanwhile, sounds like a Broadway producer as he describes how he also films the creatures in their Miami lab, growing coral in tanks to get them ready for closeups in glorious colour.

"We essentially create a set with one of these aquariums, and then obviously there's actors — coral or shrimp or whatever — and then we film it, and then I get a vibe, whatever might be happening in the scene, and then I soundtrack it with some ambient like sounds, something very oceanic," McKay explained.

Their latest production, "Coral City Flourotour," will be shown on the New World Center Wallscape this week as the Aspen Institute hosts a major climate conference in Miami Beach. Foord is speaking on a panel about how the ocean's natural systems can help humans learn to combat impacts of climate change. The talk's title? "The Ocean is a Superhero."

"I think when we can recognize that we're all this one family of life and everything is interconnected, that hopefully we can make meaningful changes

now, so that future generations don't have to live in a world of wildfires and melted ice caps and dead oceans," Foord said.

Their mission is urgent: After 500 million years on Earth, these species are under assault from climate change. The warming oceans prompt coral bleaching and raise the risk of infectious diseases that can cause mass die-offs in coral, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Stronger storms and changes in water chemistry can destroy reef structures, while altered currents sweep away food and larvae.

"Climate change is the greatest global threat to cor-

al reef ecosystems," NOAA said in a recent report.

That gets at the second part of Coral Morphologic's name. "What does it mean to be morphologic? It really means having to adapt because the environment is always changing," Foord said.

The staghorn, elkhorn and brain coral living in Government Cut provide a real-world example of how coral communities can adapt to such things as rising heat and polluted runoff, even in such an unlikely setting as the port of Miami. Their video has documented fluorescence in some of the coral, an unusual response in offshore waters that Foord said could be protecting them

from solar rays.

"The port is a priceless place for coral research," Foord said. "We have to be realistic. You won't be able to return the ecosystems to the way they were 200 years ago. The options we are left with are more radical."

Beyond the science, there's the clothes. Coral Morphologic sells a line of surf and swimwear that takes designs from flower anemones and brain coral and uses environmentally sustainable materials such as a type of nylon recycled from old fishing nets.

"We see the power of tech connecting people with nature. We are lucky as artists, and corals are benefitting," Foord said.

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Regional News



Suspect in murder of Haiti's Moise appears in U.S. court

Reuters – Former Haitian Senator John Joel Joseph, a suspect in the assassination of President Jovenel Moise last July, appeared in a U.S. court in Miami on Monday on charges of conspiracy to kill or kidnap outside the United States.

He was also charged with “providing material support to someone trying to commit that crime resulting in death,” Judge Lauren Louis said during an initial court appearance.

Joseph was identified by Haitian police as a sus-

pect in the assassination just days after gunmen stormed Moise's home and shot him dead in a brazen assault that shocked the world and plunged the country into political turmoil.

Joseph fled Haiti and was arrested in Jamaica in January. The United States said in March that it was seeking to extradite him.

U.S. prosecutors have already filed similar charges against former Colombian soldier Mario Palacios and dual Haitian-Chilean citizen Rodolphe Jaar.



Presidential honour guards place a national flag over the coffin of late Haitian President Jovenel Moise, who was shot dead, during the funeral at his family home in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, July 23, 2021. REUTERS/Ricardo Arduengo/File Photo

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PAHO establishes High-Level Commission on Mental Health, COVID-19

CMC – The Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Dr. Carissa F. Etienne has launched a High-level Commission on Mental Health and COVID-19 aimed at preparing guidelines and recommendations to reduce the impact on mental health caused by the pandemic and the related suffering in the population of the region.

According to PAHO, the commission's work will focus on five key areas: recovering from the pandemic and promoting mental health as a priority; the mental health needs of vulnerable populations; integrating mental health into universal health coverage; financing; and promoting the prevention of mental health conditions.

"We must seize the opportunity afforded by the pandemic to address long-standing weaknesses in mental health services and strengthen them for the future," said Dr. Etienne, thanking the commissioners for their work and commitment. "Now is the time to build better mental health in the Americas."

The High-level Commission on Mental Health and COVID-19 is chaired by Epsy Campbell Barr,

vice president of Costa Rica, and co-chaired by Néstor Méndez, the Belize-born assistant director general of the Washington-based Organization of American States (OAS).

It also comprises leaders of health organizations, civil society, academics, "and people with direct experience in the subject."

Campbell Barr said the mental health and well-being of millions, especially women, have been "severely affected" by the pandemic, confinements, school closures, telecommuting and care for family members.

She called for "urgently addressing mental health" and "taking steps to prevent and respond to domestic violence, including mental health services for survivors."

PAHO said the COVID-19 pandemic has had "devastating effects," adding that "many are expected to be long-term."

A scientific dossier published by the World Health Organization reported that the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25 percent in the first year of the pandemic.



Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Dr. Carissa F. Etienne

PAHO said the commissioners will prepare a report with key evidence-based recommendations to improve mental health in the Americas, including the Caribbean, and to transform mental health systems and services following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2022.

Rescuers in Cuba hotel blast hold hope of survivors as death toll climbs

Reuters – Cuban rescue workers combed through vast piles of rubble from the Hotel Saratoga in the early hours of Monday, uncovering four more bodies overnight after the hotel was hit by an explosion and bringing the death toll to at least 31, a local official said.

The massive blast on Friday at the five-star hotel, a block from the iconic

capitol building in a renovated area of historic Havana, blew the side off the hotel and collapsed its lower floors, leaving dozens trapped, killed or injured. Officials say a gas leak caused the explosion. The death toll is now at least 31.

Javier Martinez, a Havana city official, told reporters on Monday morning that the bodies of four hotel

workers were discovered overnight. He cited the official death toll, given the night before by health officials, of 31.

"There remains a group of...12, 13 people who are still missing," Martinez said after conferring with the outgoing shift of overnight rescue workers at the hotel. "The priority continues to be to try to find survivors

and to continue advancing in the search for bodies as well."

Before sunrise Monday, heavy machinery scooped up piles of debris, clearing away access to the basement of the building, where officials said they hope they could still find survivors.

The lucky few who emerged alive from the

cont'd on pg 16

Regional News



Bahamas calls on US labs to help solve deaths of three tourists

AP – Samples extracted from three American tourists who died at a resort in the Bahamas under mysterious circumstances have been sent to a lab in the United States to expedite results and help authorities understand what happened, officials said Monday.

The police commissioner of the Bahamas, Paul Rolle, said officials also collected samples from the rooms where the tourists were staying and the surrounding property to determine whether any contaminants were present.

“We really want to know what caused this,” he said.

He identified the victims as Michael Phillips, 68, and wife Robbie Phillips, 65, of Tennessee, and Vincent Paul Chiarella, 64, of Florida. Rolle declined to provide their hometowns.



The Bahamas has called on US labs to help solve deaths of three tourists

Chiarella’s wife, Donnis, was airlifted to a hospital in Florida and remains in serious condition, Rolle said.

Their bodies were found Friday morning at the Sandals Emerald Bay resort in Exuma, where the couples had been staying in two separate villas.

The samples were sent to a lab in Philadelphia, with results of the toxicology

study expected in about a week, Rolle said. He noted that the Bahamas’ Department of Environmental Health and police officers are still at the resort.

When asked what he thinks might have caused the tourists’ deaths, Rolle said: “I’m not going to speculate.”

He noted that all four tourists went to a doctor the night before their bodies

were discovered and they had complained of feeling ill. He said they went at different times and had eaten different things.

Meanwhile, Sandals Resorts said it would not comment further beyond its original statement, which noted that it is supporting the investigation and the families of those affected.

“Out of respect for the privacy of our guests, we cannot disclose further information at this time,” the company said.

The deaths come seven years after a Delaware family became seriously ill at a resort in the U.S. Virgin Islands. U.S. authorities determined that methyl bromide, a highly toxic pesticide banned for indoor residential use in 1984, was to blame and had been used at that resort several times.

cont’d from pg 15

building recalled the chaos from the explosion.

“I had no idea what was happening,” Guillermo Diaz, the hotel’s security chief, told Cuban state media.

“I began to struggle a bit, I managed to get out... I had wounds on my forehead, on my head. I had no strength and many colleagues next to me, I tried to help them, but it was totally in vain”.

Besides the human toll, the blast seriously damaged two adjoining upscale apartment buildings and inflicted lighter damage to 17 structures within a two-block radius. Local authorities said 85 people were injured. Four of the dead were children, they said. One of the dead was a Spanish tourist, another, a pregnant woman.

The neoclassical-style hotel, housed in a more than century-old building, had been closed and only workers were inside at the time of the explosion, officials have said.



Emergency personnel work in front of the Saratoga Hotel three days after it suffered an explosion, in Havana, Cuba May 9, 2022. REUTERS/Alexandre Meneghini

Dozens killed by rebels in eastern Congo's Ituri province

AP – Rebels in eastern Congo attacked a village near a mine in Ituri province, killing at least 52 people, government officials said.

Fighters with the group known as CODECO attacked the town of Kabangete on Sunday, said Jean-Pierre Bikilisende, the mayor of Mongwalu which is 7 kilometres (4 miles) away.

In addition to those killed, 100 civilians are missing, Bikilisende said.

Congo's government condemned the killings as a "barbaric and cowardly act of CODECO terrorists on innocent populations," Congo's Ministry of Communications said in a statement.

The government said it is determined to restore peace in the region.

Jean Ladis Maboso, an administrator in the affected area, called for justice.

"We condemn this killing of civilians. The militiamen executed civilians in the absence of security elements," he said.



"It is a criminal act that cannot go unnoticed."

In February, CODECO fighters attacked the Djugu area and killed at least 60 people.

Eastern Congo has been destabilized for years by attacks by several different rebel groups, including CODECO, that are vying for control of

the mineral-rich area. The ongoing violence has prompted thousands of rural residents to flee their homes for safer areas.

The latest attack comes a week after discussions were held in Kenya between the Congolese government and rebel movements to try to establish peace and stability in the area.

UK Labour leader says he'll quit if fined for office beer



Labour leader Keir Starmer makes a statement at Labour Party headquarters in London, Monday, May 9, 2022. Starmer has said he will do the "right thing" and step down if he is fined by police for breaking Covid regulations rules at Labour Party offices in Durham last year. (Yui Mok/PA via AP)

AP - The leader of Britain's main opposition party said Monday that he will resign if he is fined by police for having a beer and food with colleagues while the U.K. was under coronavirus restrictions.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has acknowledged having a takeout curry and a beer in a lawmaker's office in northeast England in April 2021. Starmer insists the meal, which took place during campaigning for a

special election, was part of a workday and broke no rules.

After days of headlines about the story in Conservative-supporting newspapers, the local police force has said it will investigate.

Starmer said Monday he was "absolutely clear that no laws were broken."

"They were followed at all times. I simply had something to eat whilst working late in the evening,"

cont'd on pg 18

Sri Lankan prime minister resigns after weeks of protests

AP – Sri Lanka's prime minister resigned Monday following weeks of protests demanding that he and his brother, the country's president, step down for dragging the nation into its worst economic crisis in decades.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said on Twitter that he submitted his resignation to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a move that followed a violent attack by government supporters on the protesters, prompting authorities to deploy armed troops in the capital, Colombo.

Four people, including a ruling party lawmaker, died in Monday's violence, police spokesman Nihal Thalduwa told the Associated Press. President Rajapaksa imposed a countrywide curfew Monday evening lasting until Wednesday morning.

For more than a month, protests have spread across the country, drawing people across ethnicities, religions and class. For the first time middle-class Sri Lankans also took to the streets in large numbers, marking a dramatic revolt by many for-



Anti-government protesters help a fellow protester who was beaten up by government supporters during a clash in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, May 9, 2022. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

mer Rajapaksa supporters, some of whom have spent weeks protesting outside the president's office.

The protests underscored a dramatic fall from favour of the Rajapaksas, Sri Lanka's most powerful political dynasty for decades. The brothers were once hailed as heroes by many of the island's Buddhist-Sinhalese majority for ending the country's 30-year civil war, and despite accusations of war atrocities, were firmly entrenched at the top of Sri

Lankan politics until now.

The prime minister's resignation comes as the country's economy has swiftly unraveled in recent weeks. Imports of everything from milk to fuel have plunged, spawning dire food shortages and rolling power cuts. People have been forced to stand in lines for hours to buy essentials. Doctors have warned of crippling shortages of life-saving drugs in hospitals, and the government has suspended payments on \$7 billion in

foreign debt due this year alone.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa initially blamed Sri Lanka's economic woes on global factors like the pandemic battering its tourism industry and the Russia-Ukraine conflict pushing up global oil prices. But both he and his brother have since admitted to mistakes that exacerbated the crisis, including conceding they should have sought an International Monetary Fund bailout sooner.

cont'd from pg 17

as any politician would do days before an election," he said.

"But if the police decide to issue me with a fixed penalty notice I would, of course, do the right thing and step down."

Starmer accused those attacking him of "trying to feed cynicism, so the

public to believe all politicians are the same."

Conservatives accuse Starmer of hypocrisy because he has called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to resign over lockdown-breaching parties in government offices.

Johnson was fined 50 pounds (\$62) by police for attending his own

surprise birthday party in 10 Downing Street in June 2020 when lockdown rules barred social gatherings.

Johnson has apologized but denies knowingly breaking the rules.

He faces the possibility of more fines over other parties and a parliamentary investigation into whether he misled lawmakers about his behaviour.

CWI names Senior Men's squad for Netherlands, Pakistan ODI tours

Three newcomers have been named in the ODI squad – fast bowlers Jayden Seales and Shermon Lewis as well as specialist batter Keacy Carty. Both Seales and Lewis have played at the Test level. Carty is the first player from St. Maarten to be selected for the West Indies Senior Men's team.

Lead Selector, the Most Hon. Dr. Desmond Haynes said: "We were impressed with Carty and the way he goes about his innings, we saw several glimpses of his ability the way he played against England earlier this year for the CWI President's XI. We hope that by giving him this opportunity he will recognize the importance of representing the West Indies. We think he is a young batsman with great promise, and this is the kind of tour he can show he fits in."

All-rounder Jason Holder is being rested to manage his workload whilst Shimron Hetmyer is also unavailable for selection to be at home for the birth of his first child. Evin Lewis was not considered for selection after failing to meet CWI's fitness criteria.

FULL SQUAD: Nicholas Pooran (Captain), Shai Hope (Vice Captain), Nkrumah Bonner, Shamarh Brooks,



The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Selection Panel announced the West Indies Senior Men's squad for the upcoming One-Day International (ODI) tours of the Netherlands and Pakistan. The West Indies will visit the Netherlands for three ODIs on May 31, June 2 and 4, followed by another three ODIs on June 8, 10 and 12 in Pakistan.

Keacy Carty, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Shermon Lewis, Kyle Mayers, Anderson Phillip, Rovman Powell, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Hayden Walsh Jr.

FULL MATCH SCHEDULE

West Indies tour of Netherlands

May 31: 1st ODI at VRA Cricket Ground, Amstelveen

June 2: 2nd ODI at VRA Cricket

Ground, Amstelveen

June 4: 3rd ODI at VRA Cricket Ground, Amstelveen

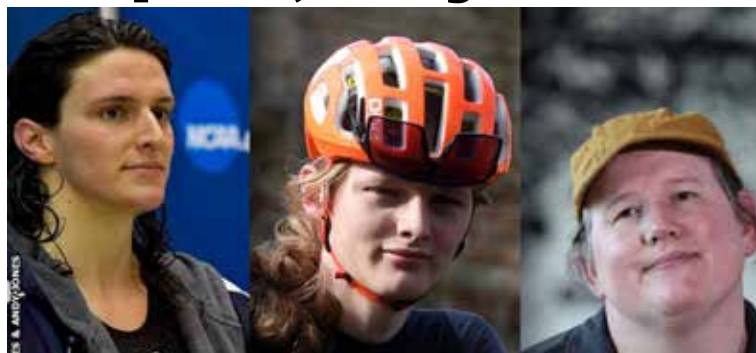
West Indies tour of Pakistan

June 8: 1st ODI at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi

June 10: 2nd ODI at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi

June 12: 3rd ODI at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi

Transgender athletes: 'Protect women's sport,' say two British elite athletes



Individual transgender athletes have been at the forefront of recent debate including US swimmer Lia Thomas, British cyclist Emily Bridges and New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard.

BBC – Transgender women should compete in an "open category" in order to "protect women's sport", say two current elite female runners.

The British athletes, one of whom is an Olympian, believe athletes should only be allowed to compete in the category of their biological sex.

The debate centres around the balance of inclusion, sporting fairness and safety in women's sport – essentially, whether trans women can compete in female categories without their biological sex giving them an unfair advantage or presenting a threat of injury to other competitors.

cont'd on pg 20

Sports News



Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp disagrees with Pep Guardiola's 'support' comment

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp says he disagrees with Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola's view that "everyone" wants Liverpool to win the Premier League.

Guardiola said the media and wider country "supports Liverpool" after his side's win over Newcastle on Sunday.

But Klopp feels Guardiola was "influenced" by the emotions of a game.

"I have no idea if the country is supporting us. It is not the feeling I get when we go to other places, it's actually the opposite," said Klopp.

"I live in Liverpool. Here a lot of people want us to win the league that's for sure. But even here it's probably only 50%."

Klopp reflected on his analysis of Tottenham after Saturday's draw with Antonio Conte's side, a result that ultimately saw Liverpool fall three points behind City in the Premier League title race



Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool trail Pep Guardiola's Manchester City by three points

by the end of the weekend.

He said his comments were an example of how emotions after a game can influence what a manager might say.

"As a manager I had this experience recently, we are obviously influenced by the game, the situation," Klopp added.

"I have said things. Would I say it again? No. I said Tottenham play how

they play but are still only fifth. It felt good at the moment but it is probably wrong.

"I don't know which situation Pep was in. Getting knocked out of the Champions League is difficult enough to take. But then Liverpool made it to the final. You say what you say."

Klopp said he may be able to recall striker Robert Firmino from injury for

Tuesday's crucial trip to Aston Villa.

Asked whether his side are now too far behind in the title race with three games remaining Klopp said: "It is clear it is not over. We have three games to play and my concern is how we can win our three games and I have no say in how City can win theirs.

"We don't stop believing, that's what we do."

cont'd from pg 19

The governing bodies of cycling and swimming are currently reviewing their transgender policies.

Many argue that transgender women should not compete in elite women's sport because of the perceived advantages they retain, but others argue that sport should be more inclusive.

In recent months, the debate has transcended sport, even drawing comment from UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson who does not believe trans-

gender women should compete in female sporting events.

The athletes who spoke to BBC podcast The Sports Desk have asked to remain anonymous for fear of social media backlash and losing sponsorship deals.

They were advised against speaking out by those closest to them - but felt they needed to "stand up".

"I believe sport needs to be kept in sex categories," said athlete A. "That's the only way it remains fair.

"The categories aren't there for

gender identity. The categories are there for sex and the difference between the two sexes."

Athlete B added: "Competition needs to be fair; it's meaningful if it's fair.

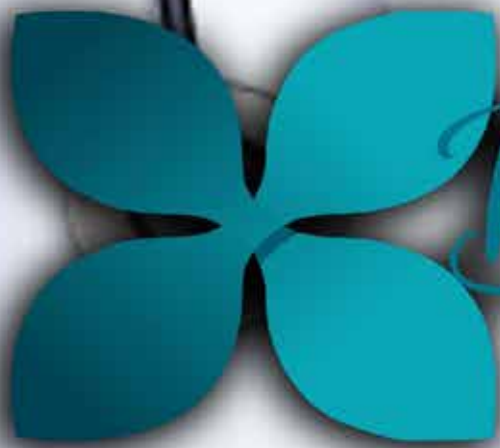
"The whole point of competition is to make a fair and level playing field and the only way to do that is to have a female category and a male open category, where trans women can compete and it's a level playing field.

"We need to protect women's sport."



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Sports News



Turf Masters win again in Over-40 league

Turf Masters maintained their impressive start to their campaign in the Antigua Over-40 Premier League by romping to another convincing win during the second round of matches on Sunday.

Following their 5-0 thrashing of Golden Grove Masters in their opening encounter, the Turf Masters came from behind to record another convincing 5-2 victory over Legacy FC in one of four second round matches at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Training Centre.

Jamary Galloway re-

corded his second successive hat-trick for Turf Masters by scoring in the 25th, 62nd and 64th minute on Sunday.

The other goals for Turf Masters were scored by Donavan Peart with a conversion from the penalty spot in the 45th minute and Paul Lampkin with a 58th minute strike.

Holister Young, who had given Legacy FC a 1-0 lead with a 21st minute conversion, scored both goals for his team when he also found the back of the net with a strike in the 60th minute.

Up & Over FC of Pigotts and Dun Bar Crew

of Hoppers also maintained their winning start to their campaign by recording their second wins in as many matches in the round-robin competition.

Up & Over FC prevailed 2-1 against West Ham FC. A Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph's 10th minute conversion gave Up & Over FC a 1-0 lead.

But West Ham FC drew level in the 22nd minute when Stefan Hughes scored with a penalty kick.

Ex-national striker Kerry "Arab" Skepple scored for the second consecutive week, when he snatched the winner for Up & Over FC with a 40th

minute conversion.

A 4th minute strike by Kenny Morgan and a Kendall Pennyfeather's conversion from the penalty spot in the 50th minute, gave Dun Bar Crew a 2-0 victory over Tun & Bang who have now lost their first two matches.

Extraordinary Men secured their first win of the competition, when a Ralston "Triss" Phillip's 24th minute conversion gave them a 1-0 victory over Golden Grove Master in the other second round encounter.

It was also Golden Groves' second defeat in as many matches.

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Sports News

cont'd from pg 24

400-metres event and Dowdy also reached the Under-17 Girls' 200-metre semi-finals event.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Browne pledged his government's commitment to improving the country's sports infrastructure to foster the athletic development of the nation's youth.

The government's commitment includes the construction of an Olympic size swimming pool to give swimmers adequate opportunities to develop their aquatic skills.

Samuel Daley, who performed coaching duties for the seven-member team that represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 2022 CARIFTA Games in Jamaica during the Easter holiday weekend, said she is encouraged by the recent pronouncements emanating from the government.

"I was very encouraged by what was said and the reception that we were given by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda. I am very much pleased to hear that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is committed to the development of these athletes and others," Samuel-Daley said.

Prime Minister Browne had also indicated that his government is prepared to invest in the personal development of the nation's athletes.

He said this could include accepting an offer from Jamaica's Prime Min-

ister Andrew Holness for Antiguan athletes to enroll in Jamaican learning institutions via athletic scholarship offers.

Samuel said she is also happy for that to happen, since she is aware that several schools in Jamaica have already extended invitations to some of the Antiguan and Barbudan athletes.

"Yes I am also looking forward to that. There are many schools in Jamaica that have reached out to some of the Antiguan athletes and that is something that we can also tap into to develop our athletes. I am really looking forward to that," the nation's Director of Sports stated.



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Director of Sports tasked with identifying summer programmes for young athletes

Antigua and Barbuda's Director of Sports, former national Olympic sprinter Heather Samuel-Daley said she has been given the responsibility to identify programmes for some of the nation's athletes to participate in during international camps this summer.

Samuel-Daley said she was given the task by Minister of Sports Daryll Matthew during a recent meeting as part of a delegation that met with the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda on May 4th, 2022.

She said if the camps cannot be held outside of the region, Jamaica will be used as an alternate country.

"So I was charged with the responsibility of putting something together to facilitate a programme that will see these young athletes and others participate in international camps during the summer," Samuel-Daley said.

"So we are looking forward to that and as soon as I possibly can, that will be presented to Minister Matthew so that the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda can see and approve.

"If it's not what I am thinking, it's going to be in the region and of course, Jamaica is the country that we are looking at.

"It will take a couple of weeks, to say the least, in putting together the programme. It is just to reach out to the programmes and look at what is most feasible and the quality that we can receive from the various programmes," she added.

The delegation, comprising the coaches and athletes that performed creditably at the CARIFTA Track and Field Games in Jamaica and the Swimming Championships in Barbados, were invited to Cabinet, where Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Minister Matthew and others commended the youngsters for their outstanding performances.

The seven athletes who were part of the delegation that met with the Cabinet included swimmer Ethan Stubbs-Green, who won three medals in the Boys 13-14 age group at this year's CARIFTA swim meet.

Stubbs-Green swam to gold in the 100-metre



Director of Sports Heather Samuel-Daley sits during a meeting with the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda on May 4th, 2022. (Photo courtesy Everton Barnes)

butterfly, he claimed a silver medal in the 400-metre freestyle and brought home a bronze medal in the 200-metre freestyle.

Also in attendance were 2022 CARIFTA track and field games athletes in sprinters Dwayne Fleming, Triple Jumper Alyssa Dyett, Mia McIntosh, Osei Gardener, Geolyn Dowdy and sprinter Ajani Daley.

Fleming won the Boys Under-17 100-metre title. Dyett won a bronze medal by finishing third in the final of the Under-20 Girls' Triple Jump.

McIntosh just missed out on a medal by finishing fourth in the Under-20 Girls' Heptathlon. Gardener made it to the semi-finals of the Under-17 Boys'

cont'd on pg 23