

# CASHEW HILL MAN MURDERED

*Story on Page 3*



The Maypole dance that formed part of the Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation's pre-Carnival launch event at the Botanical Gardens on Saturday, Stamp 268, was wildly popular among the attendees. (Photo credit: Janyssa Humphreys) *Story on page 8.*

# PM warns of possible increases in fuel prices

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has put the nation on notice for another increase in the prices paid for fuel at the pump.

PM Browne, speaking on his weekly Browne and Browne show on Pointe FM on Saturday afternoon, said his administration has been doing its best to keep fuel prices in check, but the rising cost of oil on the international market is outside of the government's control.

"We are hoping that this war in Ukraine can come to a quick resolution as it has been driving up prices on the international markets. So for this month, we will have to pay West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) as the government's intake from the consumption tax has dropped significantly.

"Last month, our intake was a mere \$165,000.00 when the intake is usually in



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne*

the millions of dollars," the prime minister explained.

According to PM Browne, the government has been subsidising the cost of fuel at the pump by taking a lower margin in taxes.

But this, he warned, is unsustainable.

"This is not a sustainable proposition. If prices

do not go down with the next shipment, which is due within the next two weeks to a month, then the government will have no other choice but to raise taxes; not because we want to but because we have to," he remarked.

The prime minister noted that the government's revenues have not recov-



ered to pre-pandemic levels, and it is still dealing with the aftermath of the huge expenditure and borrowing that was required to keep the country afloat as it fought domestic fallout of COVID-19.

He further explained that the government is mindful of the fact that prices increased over the last two months by approximately \$2.65 per gallon for gasoline and that the government has been doing all in its powers to keep the current prices in tact with no additional increases.


The cost of fuel on the international market has risen sharply over the past two months. This has been caused, in large part, by rising demand and the absence of Russian oil from the international market due to the many sanctions placed on that country for its military invasion of Ukraine.


Mon 16 | Day


**85°** 


 11%  
 E 16 mph

Partly cloudy skies. High around 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.

 Humidity  
**68%**



 UV Index  
**Extreme**

 Sunrise  
**5:35 am**


 Sunset  
**6:32 pm**


Mon 16 | Night

**78°** 

 23%  
 E 15 mph

Mainly cloudy. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.

 Humidity  
**83%**

 UV Index  
**0 of 10**

 Moonrise  
**7:19 pm**

 Full Moon

 Moonset  
**5:49 am**



## Cashew Hill man gunned down in front his home

Five months into 2022, Antigua and Barbuda has recorded its third homicide.

According to information made public by the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, an investigation has been launched into the circumstances leading to the shooting death of 36-year-old Jonathan Manley.

Manley was gunned down as he sat outside his Cashew Hill home on Saturday at approximately 9:30pm.

He was rushed to the

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where he was pronounced dead less than an hour later at 10:14pm.

His attacker remains unidentified.

Police have issued an appeal to any member of the public who may have information about this latest murder to come forward. All information, they have assured, will be treated confidentially.

Persons can reach out to the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or Crimestoppers at

800-Tips.

Canadian fitness trainer, Christopher Smithers, 36, became the nation's second homicide victim this year after he was allegedly stabbed to death by Berle Wallace Jr. on Popehead Street on 1st March.

2022's first murder was recorded a little more than two weeks earlier when Allan Dowdie was gunned down by an unidentified assailant at the bus shed near Clare Hall Secondary School in the late afternoon hours of 11th February.



*Jonathan Manley of Cashew Hill is the country's third homicide victim.*



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# Local News



## Jerkeem Jackson's attacker in custody

As 16-year-old Jerkeem Jackson continues to make a miraculous recovery after being savagely attacked just over a week by three teen boys on All Saints Road, police revealed on Sunday that his main attacker is now in custody.

While the names of all the boys implicated in the attack are in the public domain, they cannot be published as they are minors and have not yet been charged with an offence.

Two of the three boys had been apprehended and brought in by police for questioning just over a week ago, however Jer-

keem's mother, Kareema Jackson, told local media last Sunday that she was informed by police that they had been released as neither of those boys acknowledged involvement in the attack, although they admitted to being present when the beating occurred.

According to police, however, the third boy who is accused of leading the attack on Jerkeem - a Radio Range resident - was taken into custody on Saturday and is now assisting with the investigation.

Over the weekend, the nation breathed a collective sigh of relief, when Jer-



*Jerkeem Jackson*

keem's mother reported that her son was out of the medically induced coma he had been placed in and off the

ventilator.

She shared a photo of her son, in which he was smiling and out of bed, taking his first few steps on the road to the long recovery that lies ahead.

Jerkeem's attackers were captured on surveillance camera following him while brandishing stones and glass bottles.

Moments later, the boys allegedly jumped Jerkeem, inflicting a horrendous beating with their fists, kicks to his head and loose pieces of asphalt, which left him unconscious and suffering severe head trauma and a fractured skull.

A neighbour who witnessed the attack attempted to intervene, but was unable to stave off Jerkeem's attackers.

After beating and kicking Jerkeem mercilessly for several minutes, his attackers went on to rob him of his mobile phone and money as he lay helpless in the street.



### Twist Fitness's Opening Hours

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

## Melford Nicholas: Healthcare system managing new COVID-19 cases well

Although the number of COVID-19 cases have been on the rise over the past several weeks, the government is satisfied that the healthcare system is equipped to manage these new cases.

This was the word from Cabinet Spokesman, Melford Nicholas at last week's press briefing.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment indicated that there were 58 new laboratory confirmed cases and 78 active cases as of 9th May, 2022.

Of the five people hospitalised, one was classified as being "severe" while two were "moderate" and the remaining cases "mild".

According to Nicholas, despite the increase in cases, the low number of hospitalisations is not creating a strain on the healthcare system or Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

As a result, he confirmed that reintroducing strict COVID-19 measures is not being considered by the Cabinet at this time, however, the situation will continue to be monitored closely.

"We did not look at re-establishing a mask mandate. We did note the numbers, but the more important number for us



Cabinet Spokesman, Melford Nicholas

would be the number of hospitalisations - I think they are up to five - and we did not have any report to indicate that any of those cases were serious to the point where persons' lives could be threatened.

"It has always been our aim to be in a position that the health system, the health services can manage these types of infections, and what it has demonstrated is that with the equipment and resources that we have put at the disposal of our professionals, the numbers are in a manageable frame at this point in time," said the Minister of Information.

He continued, however, "We could wake up tomorrow morning and recognise that there is a new variant and it has certain other features that will cause us to have that concern, but for now, we think that with the prevalence of the Omicron

numbers are at a manageable level and we continue to watch and observe.

"Should the numbers tip to a point of any major concern, I am satisfied that the minister of health would not allow us to have a day's rest before giving us the opportunity to consider implementing some other mandates, but for now we continue to maintain the status quo."

### AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
OTTOS NEWTOWN	610 1791B	21

Instructed by **The Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board of Control**, Long Street, St. John's, Antigua, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on **Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.** the above described property located at Ottos New Town, Antigua. The development in which the property is located is zoned as middle income residential. The area has all the infrastructures in place such as, Electricity service, Water, Telephone and paved road.

The property is registered under the absolute proprietorship under the ownership of **Christian Faith Academy Limited**. There are two single storey wooden constructed buildings. The roof covering of the buildings are constructed from galvanize sheeting; the ceiling is T1-11 plywood ceiling on 2" x 6" timber rafters. The interior walls are finish with cement plaster and paint. The land has an area of parcel 6,534 sq.ft.

The layout of the room is satisfactory.

Building No. 1 approximately 1,100 SF has the following rooms: Administration Office, toilet facility and class room.

Building No. 2 approximately 2,000 SF has the following rooms: Class room and toilet facilities.

The windows and doors – Metal entrance doors and wooden doors on the interior. Wooden shutter windows.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Additional details of the Auction and Property may be obtained from the **Mr. Trevor "Teddy" Santos, Public Auctioneer, Tel: 562-7653 / 464-7653. Website: <http://www.go-going-gone.com/> "v" "blank" [www.go-going-gone.com](http://www.go-going-gone.com/) / Instagram: [tts\\_auction\\_antigua](https://www.instagram.com/tts_auction_antigua/) / Facebook: [Auction Antigua](https://www.facebook.com/AuctionAntigua)**

Dated the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022



## Poland invited to establish an embassy in St. John's

Antigua and Barbuda has extended an invitation to the Polish government to establish an embassy in St. John's as part of its mission of "expanding its footprint" in the region.

The offer was made by Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene last Thursday during a courtesy call by the newly appointed Polish ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Pawel Wozny.

Currently, the Eastern Caribbean is served by the Polish embassy in Colombia.

Noting that the embassy is some distance away, Greene said an embassy in the Eastern Caribbean could be beneficial to Poland.

"This embassy in St John's would serve all of the Eastern Caribbean, in-

*cont'd on pg 7*



Polish Ambassador Pawel Wozny met with Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene last Thursday.



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## UK trade delegation visits Antigua and Barbuda

A trade delegation from the United Kingdom's Department for International Trade (DIT) visited Antigua and Barbuda from 9th – 13th May in a mission to explore opportunities to increase trade and investment between both nations.

The delegation, who met with many stakeholders across the public and private sector, were particularly interested in renewable energy and the blue economy.

These talks included Ministers with responsibility for Trade and Investment, E. P. Chet Greene and Energy and the Blue Economy, Dean Jonas.

Business owners were engaged in a roundtable discussion and a capacity building consultation to raise awareness of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the UK and CARIFORUM.

The delegation also participated in a virtual roundtable, organised in partnership with the Com-



*Members of the UK delegation in talks with local government and business stakeholders*

monwealth Enterprise and Investment Council and Her Excellency High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill, to introduce UK companies based in the West Midlands, where the next Commonwealth Games will be hosted, to their peers in the Caribbean.

At a reception held at

Nomad Restaurant on Tuesday evening, the delegation forged relationships with senior technicians in the government and several business partners.

Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, who hosted the delegation commented, "This has

been an action-packed week where my DIT colleagues and I have been struck at the range and breadth of opportunities for both the UK and Antigua and Barbuda.

"As a scoping visit, this was just the start of what I hope is going to be a really productive and fruitful time for both our nations."

*cont'd from pg 6*

cluding the French territories. To make the offer more attractive, the Antigua and Barbuda government will gift the land upon which the embassy will be built to the Polish government.

"This will offer opportunities to build a stronger network and stronger relations with the people of the Eastern Caribbean."

According to Greene, the Antigua and Barbuda government is exploring

opportunities for closer ties with its "non-traditional" partners.

Ambassador Wozny welcomed the idea as it would bring the Polish representative closer to the people and nations to which they are accredited. However, Poland's current geopolitical situation in which they have welcomed millions of Ukrainians fleeing the war in their country, makes the establishment of new overseas missions difficult at this time.

He noted that Poland, like other countries, has faced the challenges of inflation, rising oil prices, climate change and the coronavirus pandemic. These, he noted, have placed severe strain on his country's financial capacity.

The courtesy call by the Polish ambassador was the latest in a series of similar visits by foreign diplomats which were suspended during the height of the pandemic.



# Local News

## MCII stages successful event

The newly created Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation (MCII) continued its build up to the formal launch of Carnival 2022 this week with last week-end's Stamp 268.

Director of Culture, Khan Cordice, described Stamp 268, which was held at the Botanical Gardens, as "a wonderful afternoon of laughter and fun". He was particularly pleased with the response of young people to the traditional games staged at the event.

"It was amazing to see the young people who came out being very receptive to the 'wheeler' some of us older ones demonstrated.



One of the many displays at the Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation's Stamp 268 event on Saturday

They came out in true colours, thus contributing to the overall success of Stamp 268," he declared.

The entertainment as-  
*cont'd on pg 9*

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## Director of Education condemns youth violence

Director of Education, Clare Browne, has roundly condemned the recent upsurge in violence among young people.

In a statement issued on the weekend, Director Browne said while the Ministry of Education and Sports “recognises and appreciates the partnership of students, parents, schools and communities which support a sound education system in Antigua and Barbuda”, the frightening reality of violent youths, who also engage in other deviant behaviours and activities, must be condemned and addressed.

“The Ministry of Education and Sports strongly condemns the current level of student violence and drug use.

“These behaviours pose a significant threat to the teaching and learning experiences of students and staff of learning institutions. These societal problems also threaten the confidence parents and students place in the education system.

“The Ministry of Education and Sports is guided by



*Director of Education, Clare Browne*

its mandate to provide a solid learning experience for all students in a safe learning environment. We have over the years implemented several initiatives to curb such undesirable behaviours.

“We will be embarking on a series of other initiatives to prevent/reduce the level of violence and drug use that is emerging in our schools. We will be working collaboratively with other agencies to aid in the enforcement of these new initiatives.

“Our goal is to assist our students who are struggling with issues that cause them to be less than what they are meant to become,” said

Browne.

He further called for a community approach, involving all stakeholders, including those involved in education, law enforcement and parents, to address the troubling trend.

“The Ministry of Education and Sports is making a clarion call for a strengthening of the education partnerships to alleviate this current troubling trend.

“We are appealing to our students to maintain focus on their education and activities which positively impact the development of their minds and bodies.

“We are appealing to all parents of school-aged chil-

dren to become more vigilant in the affairs of your children.

“We are appealing to our church leaders and various sports club leaders to join in this campaign to prevent/reduce student violence and drug use. We are also appealing to communities to be positive role models and guardians for our children.

“The Ministry of Education and Sports acknowledges that there are no quick fixes or one-size-fit-all approaches to preventing/reducing deviant behaviours and the situations that contribute to them.

“We are, however, committed to providing our students with the socialisation tools and skills that they will need to navigate the world so they may become citizens/leaders of whom we are proud, today and in the future.

“We are therefore calling on every citizen and resident to look inwardly and endeavour to make the changes within each of us so that we may begin the process of helping our students and each other.”

*cont'd from pg 8*

pect of the programme, held mostly in the evening, included the band Caushon and Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra, who performed exceedingly well before an enthusiastic audience.

The Cultural Director revealed that there has been universal consen-

sus that the Maypole, one of the day's main events, was perhaps the most enjoyable for those attending Stamp 268.

“So popular was the event that some people are asking that we stage similar events more often, perhaps on a monthly basis,” he stated.

Stamp 268 is part of the MCII's

build up to the launch of Carnival 2022 this Thursday, 19th May.

Last Thursday was the official rollout of the rebranded ministry, followed by Stamp 268 on Saturday, will culminate with the launch of Carnival 2022 on Thursday at the Interpretation Centre at Dow Hill.



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# The chemicals that linger for decades in your blood

By Anna Turns

Environmental journalist Anna Turns experienced a wake-up call when she had her blood tested for toxic synthetic chemicals – and discovered that some contaminants persist for decades.

In March 2022, scientists confirmed they had found microplastics in human blood for the first time. These tiny fragments were in 80% of the 22 people tested – who were ordinary, anonymous members of the public. The sample size was small and as yet there has been no explicit confirmation that their presence causes any direct harm to human health, but with more research, time will tell.

Microplastics are the subject of a lot of scrutiny. Wherever we look for them we find them. And yet, there are perhaps other less tangible pollutants that should be hitting the headlines, and which have been in our blood for decades.

Chemical pollution has officially crossed “a planetary boundary”, threatening the Earth’s systems just as climate change and habitat loss are known to do. A recent study by scientists from Sweden, the UK, Canada, Denmark and Switzerland highlights the urgent need to turn off the tap at source. Many toxic chemicals, known as persistent organic pollutants, or POPs, don’t easily degrade. They can linger in the environment and inside us – mostly in our blood and fatty tissues – for many years.

I was curious about whether any of these chemicals were in my own blood while researching for my book, *Go Toxic Free: Easy and Sustainable Ways to Reduce Chemical Pollution*, I contacted a professor of environmental



*Much attention has been paid to microplastics in human blood, but there are other chemicals that many of us carry that last for decades [Getty Images]*

chemistry in Norway called Bert van Bavel. His research has focused on POPs that persist in bodies for more than 20, 30, sometimes 50 years and he analyses how high exposure in populations correlates to cancers, heart disease and conditions such as diabetes.

Bert van Bavel developed a blood test protocol for Safe Planet, a global awareness campaign established by the UN Environmental Programme that could be used to monitor the levels of these toxic chemicals in the global population.

Safe Planet highlights the harm caused by the production, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals such as flame retardants and pesticides, many of which have been banned. He designed a test to measure ‘body burden’ – that’s the amount of these persistent synthetic chemical pollutants that accumulate in the body. Since 2010, this test has been carried out on more than 100,000 people around the world, across Europe, North and South America, Africa and Southern Asia.

Now, it was my turn. I booked an

appointment at my local GP surgery and had my blood taken. I carefully packaged up the test tubes and couriered them to a specialist lab in Norway which spent six weeks analysing my blood for 100 or so POPs in line with this body burden test protocol.

When the results finally arrived via email, I felt quite apprehensive. The eight-page-long document detailed concentrations of so many chemicals, each with tricky-to-pronounce names. I needed help to decipher what this all meant and to work out if I should be worried about any, or if, perhaps, these levels were low enough to be insignificant.

So, I called van Bavel who explained that most of the chemicals on the list were to be expected as part of the “toxic cocktail” we all have in our bodies.

Many, but not all, of these POPs are regulated by the UN’s Stockholm Convention, a global treaty that bans or restricts the use of toxic synthetic chemicals such as certain pesticides,

*cont’d on pg 12*

# Health & Wellness



*cont'd from pg 11*

flame retardants and PCBs or polychlorinated biphenyls that were used as cooling fluids in machinery and in electrical goods in the UK until 1981.

“In your blood sample, we looked at the old traditional POPs which have been regulated and off the market, so they haven’t been used for many years,” he explained. My results showed traces of DDE, a metabolite of the pesticide DDT that was used until the 1970s as well as low levels of PCBs. “It’s a little bit frightening that if you get these chemicals in society, it’s very difficult to get rid of them.” Despite bans, these chemicals still persist, as many don’t degrade easily.

He was surprised to find relatively high levels of a chemical known as oxychlordan which is normally found at lower levels than DDT and more often in the US and Asia than in the UK. The pesticide chlordan was banned in the UK in 1981, just a year after I was born. Once in the body, it’s metabolised into oxychlordan which

was found in my blood at only 5% of the levels present in the population during the 1980s. But the ‘half life’ of this chemical – that’s the time it takes for it to halve in concentration in my blood – is about 30 years. So not only was it probably passed to me via the womb, but I will have inadvertently passed this toxic legacy on to my own two children.

The impacts of some of the most hazardous chemicals last generations and chlordan is still used in some developing countries to this day. Chlordan is toxic by design – intended to kill insects, it also harms earthworms, fish and birds. In humans, it can disrupt liver function, brain development and the immune system plus it is a possible human carcinogen. Van Bavel wasn’t alarmed by the current concentrations of oxychlordan still in my blood but he did emphasise the importance of banning toxic chemicals before they become globally prevalent and then accumulate in the human population.

But the chemicals that concerned

van Bavel the most were actually from a newer class, known as PFAS or polyfluoroalkyl substances. Thousands of different PFAS chemicals are used in everyday products to repel dirt and water – waterproof clothing, stain-resistant textiles, non-stick cookware all tend to be made with PFAS, otherwise known as “forever chemicals” because they are so persistent.

## Should I be worried?

“Your levels [of PFAS] are not that high but they are a reasonable concern. We found ones called PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid), PFNA (perfluorononanoate), and lower levels of PFOA (perfluorooctanoate) the one we normally find in blood samples. The test found the major ones at ‘a reasonable level’, not a worrying level, but the regulation is lagging behind,” commented van Bavel. He described my body burden as fairly average.

“We’re all exposed to these types of chemicals. They accumulate in our body but they shouldn’t be there. Your levels are acceptable from a human health perspective but if we didn’t have any measures in place, levels would rise and our population would see different toxicological effects. Of course, these chemicals need to be regulated and... the number of replacements is rising so we need proper measures in place [to govern them].”

This “regrettable substitution” or replacement of one banned chemical with another similar one is a worry, especially with new emerging chemical pollutants such as PFAS, as van Bavel explains: “We don’t have time to wait for research on every single chemical so we need to take a precautionary approach.”

In terms of my own body burden, there’s not much I can do to reduce the levels of toxic chemicals in my blood, according to van Bavel. “The sad thing is that it’s very difficult for us to do something about it – we should all

*cont'd on pg 13*

**BARBUDA EXPRESS**  
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

**SUNDAY**

AB 12:00 PM  
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**MONDAY**

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BA 8:00 AM

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY**

AB 7:00 AM  
BA 3:45 PM

**SATURDAY**

AB 8:00 AM  
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**MONDAY**  
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

AB 3:45 PM  
(OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA)

**TUESDAY**

BA 6:00 AM TO ST. JOHN'S

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(CRABBS DEPARTURE)

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*cont'd from pg 12*

be very eager to regulate these compounds because they're everywhere. It's very difficult as an [individual] to avoid these background levels that we see that definitely should not be in your body. That's why we should support legislation and UN conventions that remove these compounds."

## **Prevention is better than cure**

Better legislation is something Anna Lennquist, a senior toxicologist at the environmental NGO ChemSec, campaigns for. Based in Sweden, ChemSec aims to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals by influencing policy makers and encouraging companies to phase these chemicals out and opt for safer alternatives.

"We can reduce exposure but not eliminate it," agrees Lennquist. According to ChemSec, a huge 62% of the total volume of chemicals used in the EU are hazardous to human health and the environment. "[That's] why regulations are so critical and should protect us. Normal people shouldn't need to be bothered by these things – but we're not there yet.

"We can't be completely free from this, we have it with us from when we are born and it's so widespread in the environment – all of us have hundreds of [synthetic] chemicals in our blood these days," says Lennquist.

Toxic chemicals affect everything from our brain development to our hormone systems. Some can be carcinogenic. "Chemicals are working in many different ways in your body... some chemicals have delayed effects, for example ones that interact with our hormone systems. If you are exposed in the womb or during puberty, the effects can turn up many years later, even decades later, perhaps as breast cancers or different metabolic disorders."

So the outcomes depend not only on the type and level of exposure, but also whether that person is exposed

during key stages of development. Lennquist explains that because we're never just exposed to one chemical at a time, this 'toxic cocktail' effect can be complex. Some chemicals might enhance the effect of others, some can work against each other.

"These low levels of this chemical mixture that affect hormone signalling and genetic effects are much more diffuse and difficult to link exactly – so that's why we need to do large-scale studies of populations over a long time to try to figure out what's the cause and what's the reason," says Lennquist, who remains optimistic.

New EU restrictions to ban around 12,000 substances have been proposed in what the European Environmental Bureau has called the world's "largest ever ban on toxic chemicals", but changes in regulation can be incredibly slow moving.

"There is a long way to go but with the new EU chemical strategy and European Green Deal, we are hopeful that things can improve a lot. But even then, that would take a long time before that change is visible in your blood, I'm afraid."

Labels allow consumers to make a conscious choice without having to understand everything.

That's where we come in, as consumers, and more importantly, as citizens. "We can all use our voice by demanding greater transparency, clearer labelling and stricter regulation," adds Lennquist. "With pressure from consumers and everyone else within the supply chain, the chemical manufacturing industry could shift much more rapidly. And reducing toxic chemical pollution is not only good for business, but for every one of us and future generations."

## **Blood matters**

As a regular blood donor myself, I wondered whether the NHS Blood Donation service tests for POPs like the ones in my body. As expected, they

confirmed they screen for diseases such as hepatitis, not synthetic chemicals. Of course, chemical contaminants may well be the last thing on your mind if in need of a blood transfusion, but it got me thinking. Do we need to be more cautious about sharing blood and passing on legacy contaminants? Or is blood donation one way to offload toxics – because the contaminated blood flows out, and the body then produces fresh, uncontaminated blood?

Since publishing my book, new research has been published about just this. Firefighting foams are known to contain high levels of PFASs, so firefighters are exposed to higher than average levels of those chemicals. The landmark trial tested 285 Australian firefighters for PFAS in their blood over the course of one year. Some donated blood, some did not. PFAS chemicals bind to serum proteins in the blood, and researchers found that PFAS levels in the bloodstream of those donating were significantly reduced. One possible explanation is that the donors' bodies did indeed offload the PFAS-contaminated blood, and replaced it with unpolluted blood.

While it is still early days for this research, the feasibility of blood donation as a long term, scalable solution is still questionable, as Lennquist explains: "For specifically exposed persons, like firefighters, it may be an option to empty the contaminated blood and let your body produce new blood. That requires that you will not be exposed again. For the average person the exposure is quite constant, and I do not see that it could be a solution for the general population. But it definitely points to the urgency to do something about PFAS."

While removal may well be a crucial step in some cases, surely the most appropriate solution is to turn off the tap at source and prevent PFAS and other toxic chemicals entering our bodies in the first place.

# Business

## Caribbean countries register record remittances in 2021

The World Bank says remittance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) surged to US\$131 billion in 2021, up 25.3 percent from the previous year.

The Washington-based financial institution said the increase is due to the strong job recovery for foreign-born workers in the United States.

It said Haiti, with 21 percent, was the only CARICOM country to have registered double-digit growth rates while Guatemala led with 35 percent.

“Remittances are important as a source of hard currency for several countries for which these flows represent at least 20 percent of GDP (gross domestic product), including El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, and Haiti.”

According to the World Bank figures, Haiti received US\$4.4 billion in remittances last year, representing 20 percent of GDP, while Jamaica received US\$3.6 billion, representing 24 percent of GDP.

Dominica, Belize and St. Vincent and the Grenadines registered 10.2, 7.8, and seven percent of GDP last year, according to the figures.

The World Bank said for this year, remittances are estimated to grow by 9.1 percent, though downside risks remain.



It said the average cost of sending US\$200 to the region was mostly unchanged at 5.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to a year earlier.

The World Bank said officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to increase by 4.2 percent this year to reach US\$630 billion and this follows an almost record recovery of 8.6 percent in 2021.

In its latest Migration and Development Brief released Thursday, the World Bank said remittances to Ukraine, which is the largest recipient in Europe and Central Asia, are expected to rise by over 20 percent in 2022.

However, remittance

flows to many Central Asian countries, for which the main source is Russia, will likely fall dramatically. These declines, combined with rising food, fertiliser, and oil prices, are likely to increase risks to food security and exacerbate poverty in many of these countries.

“The Russian invasion of Ukraine has triggered large-scale humanitarian, migration, and refugee crises and risks for a global economy that is still dealing with the impact of the COVID pandemic,” said Michal Rutkowski, Global Director of the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice at the World Bank.

“Boosting social protection programs to protect the most vulnerable, including Ukrainians and families

in Central Asia, as well as those affected by the war’s economic impact, is a key priority to protect people from the threats of food insecurity and rising poverty.”

In 2021, remittance inflows saw strong gains in Latin America and the Caribbean (25.3 percent), Sub-Saharan Africa (14.1 percent), Europe and Central Asia (7.8 percent), the Middle East, and North Africa (7.6 percent), and South Asia (6.9 percent).

Remittances to East Asia and the Pacific fell by 3.3 percent; although excluding China, remittances grew 2.5 percent. Excluding China, remittance flows have been the largest source of external finance for LMICs since 2015. (CMC)



# Belize Barrier Reef turns 10,000 years old

By A. Binns

The world's second largest reef, the Belize Barrier Reef is celebrating its 10,000th birthday this year. This historic occasion will be commemorated at a week-long nationwide event that will culminate on June 8, 2022.

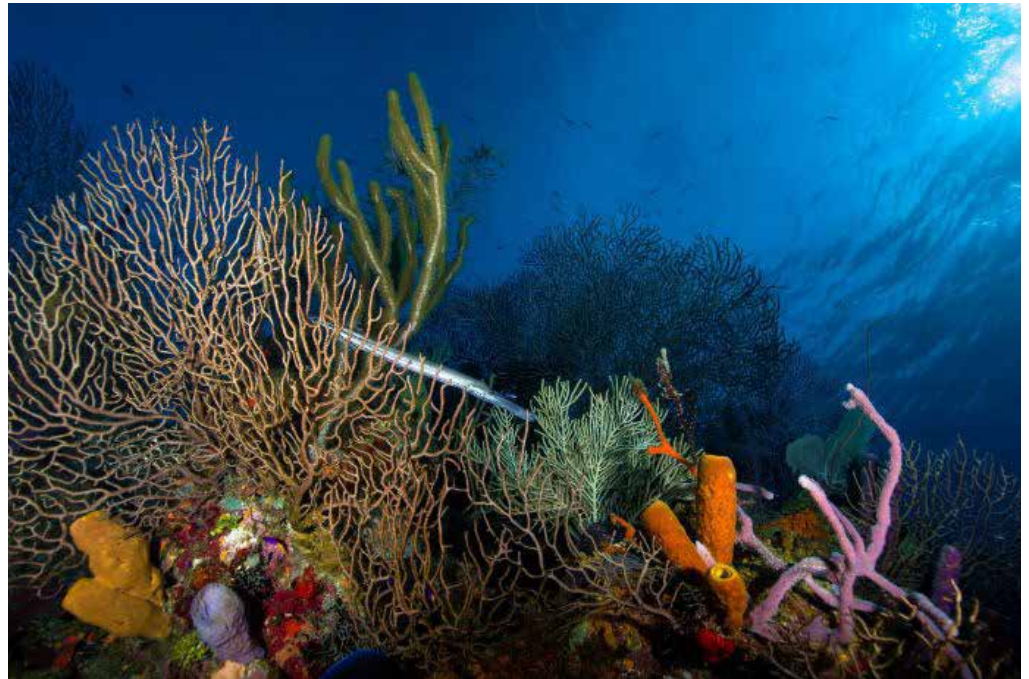
The reef, now a UNESCO World Heritage site, was removed from the United Nations' endangered places list after almost a decade due to multiple preservation efforts.

These efforts include banning off-shore drilling, designating no-take marine protected areas, establishing the "Fish Right, Eat Right" programme, and phasing out single-use plastic.

Belize has made considerable progress in enhancing its sustainability programs in recent years and is currently regarded as one of the most ecologically conscientious destinations in the Caribbean and Central America.

As part of Belize's coral restoration programme, after Hurricane Iris in 2001, the Belize Fisheries Department partnered with a non-profit organisation to transplant, by hand, fragments of destroyed coral.

This led to an increase in the coral cover of the sea floor from six percent



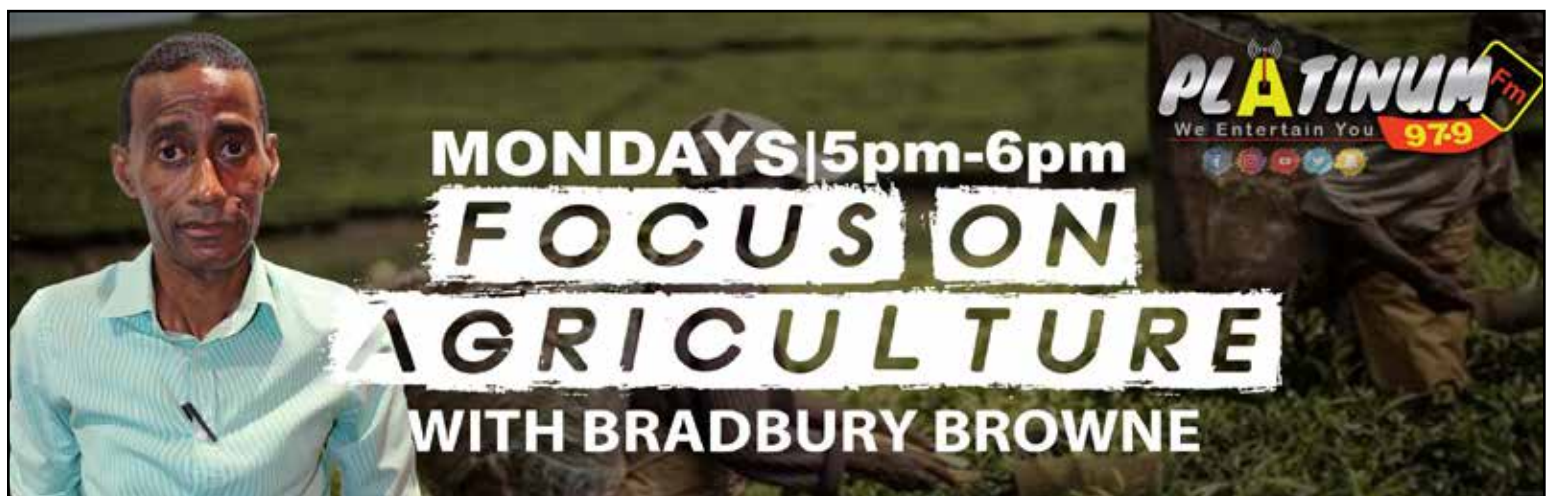
Belize Barrier Reef (Photo NY Times)

to 50 percent over a seven-year period.

The 10,000th birthday of the reef serves as a tremendous endorsement of Belize's ongoing marine conservation initiatives, establishing the country as a global leader in safeguarding the ocean and its valuable ecosystem.

The Belize Barrier Reef is one of the world's great natural wonders. The reef, which runs more than 190 miles from Mexico to Honduras, is part of

the larger Mesoamerica Barrier Reef System, and the largest reef of its type in the Northern and Western hemispheres consisting of offshore atolls, several hundred sand cays, mangrove forests, coastal lagoons and estuaries. The system's seven sites illustrate the evolutionary history of reef development and are a significant habitat for threatened species, including marine turtles, manatees and the American marine crocodile.



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## CARICOM urged to act on behalf of persons of African descent

CMC – A Barbados government legislator says the CARICOM grouping has a critical role to play in securing significant and sustained change in rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons of African descent.

Addressing the Africa-African Diaspora Dialogues on Recognition, Justice, and Development, Senator John King said that despite the several challenges facing black people across the world, organisations like CARICOM have a responsibility to continue the fight for meaningful change.

“No matter the crisis, whether it is racial discrimination, climate change, economic or the public health and compounding impacts of COVID-19, the disruption that occurs in a crisis opens the door for transformative action to be taken,” he told the event.

“Change must occur, but whether that change is for the better depends on our willingness and capacity for change as individuals, communities, and institutions. And for that change to be meaningful, it must first address the vulnerabilities of those most at risk,” he added.

The series of talks, which are being supported by the University of the West Indies, in collaboration with the Barbados government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is being held under the theme “Shaping the Present for the Future We Want”

The event seeks to identify strategies for the protection of all rights owed to persons from across the African diaspora and King said accountability must also play a key role in the solutions applied in today’s world.

“Many of our ancestors came to this side of the world forcibly and under the worst of conditions. The lin-



*Senator John King*

gering effects of that trauma and the social order of the past still hold too many of our brothers and sisters in its chilling grip.”

He said it was also important for CARICOM to continue to be at the forefront of the efforts regarding reparations for persons of African descent leading many discussions at the UN level over the past several years.

He said the lack of compensation and justice experienced by African descendants over the past few centuries because of the indirect consequences of the transatlantic slave trade, cannot be overstated or ignored.

“We must use this meeting to discuss how we can go about developing synergies between our CARICOM reparations campaign, the pursuit of the Program of Activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent, and the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable

Development Goals.

“Indeed, at the last meeting of our CARICOM Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Reparations, a decision was taken to mandate all CARICOM member states to make a concerted effort in the field of international diplomacy to advance and develop our reparations cause,” King said.

“CARICOM diplomats and ambassadors are therefore expected to utilise all channels available within the United Nations system to build international support for our reparations claim, and so it goes without saying that our CARICOM nations are keen to devise strategies to leverage the obvious synergies between the campaign for reparative justice and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the objectives of the International Decade for People of African Descent.”



## Several Haitians killed as boat capsizes off the coast of Puerto Rico

CMC – Haitian Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry said he was ‘deeply upset’ by reports that a number of Haitian nationals had died after their boat capsized off the coast of Puerto Rico.

The US Coast Guard reported that the majority of the illegal migrants, who died in the tragedy were Haitians including 11 women.

It said that 38 survivors, including 36 Haitian nationals, had been found and rescuers were continuing the search, about 10 nautical miles (19 kilometres) north of Desecheo Island, an uninhabited US territory between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

In a message on his Twitter account, Prime Minister Henry extended condolences to the relatives of those killed, adding “the news of the sinking of a boat off the coast of Puerto Rico which caused the death of 11 of our compatriots deeply upsets me”.

A Customs and Border Patrol helicopter first spotted the boat and people in the water who appeared not to be wearing life jackets around midday on Thursday.

On Thursday, the United States Coast Guard said it had repatriated 207 Haitian migrants to Cap-Haitien, Haiti, after they were intercepted 20 miles south of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“We are urging families



in the US to ask their loved ones not to risk their lives on this dangerous journey,” said Commander Anne O’Connell, of the Coast Guard Cutter, Campbell.

“These voyages are extremely hazardous and often involve rustic vessels that are overloaded, and lack food, water and basic safety equipment,” she added.

Since October 1, 2021, the US Coast Guard said its crews have intercepted 4,449 Haitian migrants compared to 1,527 in the previous year.

The US Coast Guard also said that its cutter, Joseph Tezanos, repatriated 44 Dominican Republic nationals to a Dominican Republic Navy vessel Wednesday following the interdiction of two illegal voyages in the Mona Passage near Puerto Rico.

“These interdictions are the result of ongoing local and federal multi-agency

efforts in support of the Caribbean Border Interagency Group CBIG,” the US Coast Guard said.

“To anyone looking to take part in an illegal voyage, do not take to the sea,” warned Captain Gregory H. Magee, commander of

US Coast Guard Sector San Juan.

“You will be putting your life at risk, and, if caught, you will be returned to your country of origin, or you could find yourself facing criminal prosecution in US courts.”

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

**RECHARGED**

By Oscar Puma



# Regional News

## PM John Briceno heads to Guyana as Belize peeved at trading relations within CARICOM

CMC – Prime Minister John Briceno will lead a delegation to Guyana for talks amid growing concerns regarding intra-CARICOM trade, Agriculture Minister Jose Abelardo Mai has said.

Mai said that a container of poultry remains stuck in Grenada due to permit issues, but he believes that the authorities in Grenada are protecting their personal interests.

He said CARICOM is no longer interested in purchasing approximately 180 containers of red kidneys from Belize and that it is imperative that the undermining has to stop in order to survive and foster trade in the Caribbean.

Mai said Belize will have to revisit its trade policies with CARICOM.

“This has been raised at COTED (Council for Trade and Economic Development) a number of times. We have been battling with one container of poultry into Grenada for the past six months; one container. Their justification for not allowing it is because the importer didn’t have an import permit when it arrived there.

“Apparently the permit expired because of COVID delays and it got there and they said oh, but you don’t have a permit. I said fine, no problem. Forget that one. Give me a permit now for five containers. And they could not respond to me. So obviously, they are protecting their side,” Mai said.

“Not that they have a strong poultry industry, but I am certain that there’s one or two big businessmen that import all the poultry from Tyson in the US which is cheap poultry, subsidise poultry. So when you do things like that to undermine your fellow



*Belize's Prime Minister John Briceno*

brother CARICOM state, it is not in good faith.

“When we have to take you to court because you are importing sugar from extra-regional sources and not paying the CET (Common External Tariff) then that is not in the best interest of the CARICOM brotherhood.”

Mai said that Mexico is now offering Belize the removal of 125 percent tariff on black beans and Belmopan “will need to revisit our marketing and production strategy to say guess what maybe we should produce red kidney beans only for local consumption while change to producing black beans which are consumed in Mexico and Guatemala”.

The position being taken with Guatemala comes on the heels of tariffs being lifted in Mexico and is being seen as a move to strengthen the partnership between Belize and other Central American countries.

Mai, in announcing that Prime Minister Briceño, who is also the

CARICOM chairman, will be visiting Guyana where the CARICOM Secretariat is based, maintains that the future of Belize lies in Central America.

“We have lost all confidence when it comes to trade with CARICOM. I have said this before a number of times and I have said this in the House of Representatives. Guatemala has 18 million people; Mexico has 123 million, El Salvador six and a half million.

“The future of Belize lies in Central America. So while I love our CARICOM brothers - they are our supporters, we are a part of CARICOM – it is embedded in our constitution. They supported us when we wanted independence, but when it comes to trade, I have huge reservations.

“And so, we are not saying we won’t trade with them, but we are saying to them that if my brothers in Central America and Mexico are extending the olive branch to us in terms of trade, we will accept it,” the agriculture minister added.



# Gunman who killed 10 in Buffalo supermarket attack was on authorities' radar

Reuters – New York authorities on Sunday were investigating how a white 18-year-old, who the governor said had been on the radar of authorities since high school, was able to shoot 10 people to death in a Black neighbourhood grocery store.

The suspect, Payton Gendron, surrendered to police on Saturday at the Buffalo, New York, store after what authorities called an act of “racially motivated violent extremism.” He apparently publicised a racist manifesto on the internet.

“The evidence that we have uncovered so far makes no mistake this is an absolute racist hate crime that will be prosecuted as a hate crime,” Buffalo Police Commissioner Joseph

Gramaglia told reporters on Sunday.

Eleven people struck by gunfire were Black and two were white, officials said. The racial breakdown of the dead was not made clear.

The Buffalo shooting follows other racially motivated mass murders in recent years, including a Pittsburgh synagogue attack that left 11 dead in October 2018, and the Atlanta spa shootings in March 2021 in which a white man killed eight people, targeting Asians.

Authorities said Gendron drove to Buffalo from his home several hours away to launch the afternoon attack, which he broadcast in real time on social media platform Twitch, a live video service owned by Ama-

zon.com.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said the firearm used in the killings was legally purchased but had been illegally modified with a high-capacity magazine.

On Sunday, several dozen community members held an emotional vigil for

the victims outside the Tops grocery store. Nearby at True Bethel Baptist Church, a reverend led a solemn service for a large crowd of worshipers, including some family of the victims and some who had been at the store at the time of the

*cont'd on pg 20*



Mourners react while attending a vigil for victims of the shooting at a TOPS supermarket in Buffalo, New York, U.S. May 15, 2022. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid



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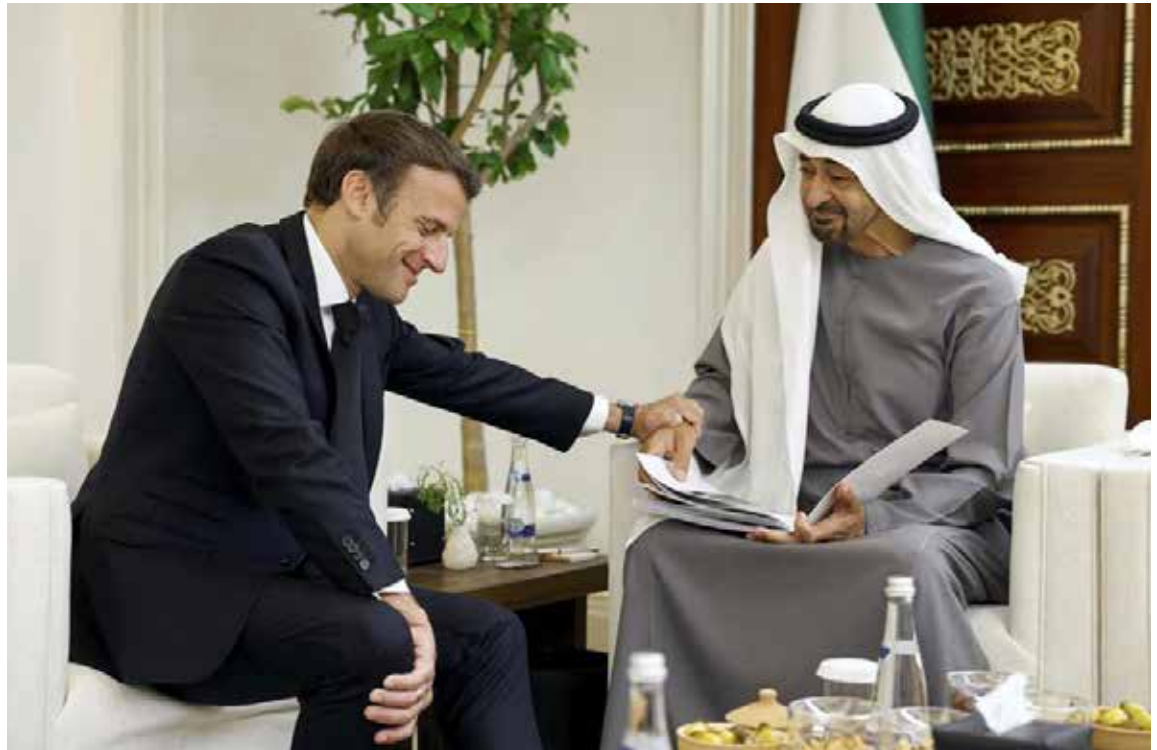
## World leaders descend on UAE to pay respects to late ruler

AP – An array of presidents and prime ministers continued to descend on the United Arab Emirates Sunday from around the world to pay their respects to the federation's late ruler. They also came to praise his successor, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan — a vivid sign of Abu Dhabi's influence in Western and Arab capitals.

The first Western leader to jet to the oil-rich emirate was French President Emmanuel Macron.

He met Sunday with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the long-ailing ruler who died Friday at the age of 73 after years presiding over the country's rapid transformation into a global business hub and regional power centre.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was expected to arrive later Sunday to offer condolences, along with other leaders including Isra-



French President Emmanuel Macron, left, meets newly-elected president of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to mourn the death of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Al Mushrif Palace in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, May 15, 2022. (Christian Hartmann, Pool via AP)

el's president after the two countries opened formal relations in 2020.

A high-profile American delegation led by Vice President Kamala Harris is due to visit the UAE on Monday, a bid to ease tensions and show support as relations between the countries

have strained under President Joe Biden. The delegation will include the U.S. secretary of state, secretary of defence and CIA director, among others.

"He was respected by all for the values of peace, openness and dialogue that he embodied," Macron

wrote on Twitter of Sheikh Khalifa, expressing "full support" for the ascension of his half-brother Sheikh Mohammed after rulers in the federation unanimously appointed him as president.

As crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed has served as the nation's de facto leader since Sheikh Khalifa suffered a stroke in 2014. He has turned the small UAE — population 10 million — into one of the most influential Arab states. With Abu Dhabi's petrodollars and substantial military along with Dubai's major firms and glitzy hotels, the UAE has come to wield outsized power across the Middle East and Africa.

**cont'd from pg 19**  
shooting.

One was Charles Everhart Sr., 65, whose grandson Zaire Goodman, 20, worked at the store. Goodman was shot in the neck but survived.

"He was pushing the carts back to the store and he was one of the first to get hit," Everhart said.

A 180-page manifesto circulating online on Saturday, believed to have been authored by Gendron, outlined "The Great

Replacement Theory" - a racist conspiracy theory that white people are being replaced by minorities in the United States and other countries.

"This manifesto tells everything to us and that is what's so bone-chilling about it," Hochul told CNN on Sunday.

Another document circulating online that appeared to have been written by Gendron sketched out a to-do list for the attack, including cleaning the gun and testing the livestream.



## Small wins buoy Ukraine; West says Russians losing momentum



Christian Orthodox worshippers and nuns attend a service at Archangel Saint Michael monastery, in Odesa, Ukraine, Sunday, May 15, 2022. Almost three months after Russia shocked the world by invading Ukraine, its military faces a bogged-down war. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

AP – Almost three months after Russia shocked the world by invading Ukraine, its military faces a bogged-down war, the prospect of a bigger NATO and an opponent buoyed Sunday by wins on and off the battlefield.

Top diplomats from NATO met in Berlin with the alliance's chief and declared that the war "is not going as Moscow had planned."

"Ukraine can win this war," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, adding that the alliance must continue to offer military support to Kyiv. He spoke by video link to the meeting as he recovers from a COVID-19 infection.

On the diplomatic front, both Finland and Sweden took steps bringing them closer to NATO membership de-

spite Russian objections.

Finland announced Sunday that it was seeking to join NATO, citing how the invasion had changed Europe's security landscape. Several hours later, Sweden's governing party endorsed the country's own bid for membership, which could lead to an application in days.

If the two nonaligned Nordic nations become part of the alliance, it would represent an affront to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has cited NATO's post-Cold War expansion in Eastern Europe as a threat to Russia. NATO says it is a purely defensive alliance.

While Moscow lost ground on the diplomatic front, Russian forces also failed to make territorial gains in eastern

Ukraine.

Ukraine said it held off Russian offensives Sunday in the east, and Western military officials said the campaign Moscow launched there after its forces failed to seize the capital of Kyiv has slowed to a snail's pace.

Ukraine, meanwhile, celebrated a morale-boosting victory in the Eurovision Song Contest.

The folk-rap ensemble Kalush Orchestra won the glitzy pan-European competition with its song "Stefania," which has become a popular anthem among Ukrainians during the war.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed that his nation would claim the customary winner's honour of hosting the next annual competition.

# Sports News



## Andrew Symonds: Former Australia cricketer dies aged 46 in car crash

BBC – Former Australia cricketer Andrew Symonds has died aged 46 after being involved in a car crash.

The all-rounder played 26 Tests, 198 one-day internationals and 14 Twenty20s for Australia between 1998 and 2009.

A powerful batter, canny bowler and fine fielder, Symonds was part of two 50-over World Cup wins and Australia's Ashes victory over England in 2006-07.

Queensland police said early information indicated Symonds' car "left the roadway and rolled".

A statement added: "Emergency services attempted to revive the 46-year-old driver and sole occupant, however, he died



Andrew Symonds attended his former team-mate Shane Warne's state memorial earlier in March [Getty Images]

of his injuries.

"The forensic crash unit is investigating."

Symonds' wife Laura told the Brisbane Courier Mail: "We are still in shock - I'm just thinking of the two kids."

Cricket Australia said it was "shocked and saddened by the news".

Born in Birmingham

but raised in Australia, Symonds played county cricket in the UK for Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire and Surrey.

He also played for Queensland for 17 seasons, and for Deccan Chargers and Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League.

Symonds' exploits with Gloucestershire, who he

had initially represented as a domestic player, earned him a call-up for an England A tour in 1995 - but he declined the offer and chose to pursue his ambitions to play for Australia, making his ODI debut three years later.

He had jointly held the record for most sixes hit in a County Championship innings - he hit 16 in a knock for Gloucestershire against Glamorgan in 1995 - until Ben Stokes bettered his total last week.

His passing is another significant loss for Australian cricket, following the deaths of former wicket-keeper Rod Marsh and legendary leg-spinner Shane Warne earlier this year.

## Novak Djokovic wins his first title of the year and sixth in Rome

BBC – World number one Novak Djokovic boosted his preparations for next week's French Open by winning his first title of the year at the Italian Open in Rome. Djokovic beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-0 7-6 (7-5) to take the clay-court title.

The Serb, 34, cruised through the first set, and then fought back after the Greek took a 4-1 lead in the second.

Djokovic will be one of the favourites as he chases a record-equalling 21st Grand Slam at the French Open, which starts next Sunday in Paris.

After a troubled start to the year, when he was deported from Australia because of his vaccination status, before going to suffer early exits in sub-



Novak Djokovic becomes the oldest winner of the Rome Masters, beating Rafael Nadal by 10 days [Getty Images]

sequent tournaments, Djokovic looks to be finding form.

By beating Tsitsipas impressively  
*cont'd on pg 23*



## Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp says he 'could not be more proud' after beating Chelsea

BBC – Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said he “could not be prouder” of his quadruple-chasing side after they beat Chelsea on penalties to win the FA Cup.

The Reds replicated their shootout win over Chelsea in the Carabao Cup final by triumphing 6-5 on spot-kicks after a goalless 90 minutes and extra time.

“I couldn’t be more proud of my boys, the shift they put in, how hard they fought,” Klopp told BBC Sport.

“It was an incredible game, a nerve-wracking shootout, my nails are gone.”

Klopp, 54, became the first German manager ever to lift the FA Cup after edging out compatriot Thomas Tuchel in a Wembley final for the second time in less than three months.

As in February’s final, the shootout went to sudden death with Alisson’s save from Mason Mount handing Liverpool the advantage before Konstantinos Tsimikas



*The FA Cup is the sixth major honour Jurgen Klopp has won as Liverpool boss, having already lifted the Premier League title, Carabao Cup, Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup [Getty Images]*

slotted home the winning penalty.

“It was intense - Chelsea would have deserved it exactly the same way we did, just like in the Carabao Cup - that’s how small the margins are,” added Klopp.

“Chelsea played outstanding but in the end there must be one winner and that was us today.”

The dramatic win kept alive Liverpool’s slim quadruple hopes - although the Premier League title may well elude them - with two

games left, they trail leaders Manchester City by three points and have a goal difference that is inferior by seven.

“The quadruple thing is absolutely outstanding that we can talk about it. It’s crazy,” added Klopp. “It’s out of this world - this was game number 60 in an intense season.”

Klopp has famously christened his side “mentality monsters” for the way they have responded to setbacks as they chase glory on

four fronts this season.

But the Reds boss said Tuchel’s Chelsea also merited that moniker after playing their part in another absorbing encounter between the two clubs.

The sides traded gilt-edged chances during a rollercoaster period of normal time and each struck the woodwork - Luis Diaz and Andy Robertson for Liverpool and Marcos Alonso for Chelsea.

“I really feel for Chelsea - for the second time, 120 minutes and you get nothing, that’s too hard. But for us I’m pretty happy,” added Klopp.

“We are mentality monsters but there were mentality monsters in blue as well - it was one penalty that was the difference.”

### *cont’d from pg 22*

in Sunday’s final, he secured a sixth title in Rome - and a record-extending 38th win in a Masters event - going through the tournament without dropping a set.

His start on the clay was rusty with a first-round exit in Monte Carlo, but he has gathered pace with the semi-final in Ma-

drid and now the Rome title in the last major tournament before Roland Garros.

Given Rafael Nadal’s foot injury issues, Djokovic’s main rival at Roland Garros could be 19-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz, who has surged to sixth in the rankings with clay-court titles in Madrid and Barcelona.

## Paragons enhance chance of reaching semi-finals

Defending champions Paragons defeated Jets 3-1 on Saturday night to enhance their chance of advancing to the semi-finals of the female division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League.

Paragons, who made a poor start to their title defence by losing their first two matches, secured back to back wins in their subsequent two encounters by prevailing 23-25, 25-19, 25-22, 25-14 against Jets at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The win ensured that Paragons joined Jets in joint third place with identical 2-2 records.

Both teams can secure their place in the semi-finals if they win their encounters in the final round of preliminary matches.

The top four teams at the end of the preliminary phase of the six-team round-robin will advance to the semi-finals.

High Flyerz moved into joint second place with Michael Freeland Enforcers by beating Renegades 3-1 in their men's division affair on Saturday night.

High Flyerz recovered from losing the opening set 19-25 to win the next three sets and the match 25-20,



*Defending female division national volleyball champions, Paragons. (Photo: Elwin Francis)*

25-21, 25-21. The win propelled High Flyerz into joint second place with Enforcers with identical 3-1 records.

JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad became the only unbeaten team in the competition by securing a commanding 3-0 straight sets win over North Coast Hardware Starz 1 in a top of the table female division encounter on Thursday.

In an eagerly anticipated and keenly contested affair, Starz 1 did not live up to expectations and surrendered rather meekly as Da Squad prevailed 25-16, 25-14, 25-19.

The result ensured that

Da Squad became the leader at the top of the standings with a perfect 4-0 record.

It was Starz1's first loss of the competition and they slipped into second place in the standings with a 3-1 record.

Reigning champions, Stoneville, also kept their 100 percent record intact by dispatching Sharks 3-0 in straight sets to remain the only unbeaten team in the men's division.

Stoneville easily prevailed 25-11, 25-11, 25-11 in a one-sided affair to solidify their position at the top of the standings with a perfect 4-0 record.

Stoneville women recorded their first win in four outings when they snatched a hard-fought 3-2 victory over North Coast Hardware Starz2 on Wednesday evening. But Starz2 made a better start to the game, winning the opening set 25-18.

Stoneville levelled the match at 1-1 by taking the second set 27-17.

Starz2 regained their lead by snatching the third set 25-21.

But Stoneville took the fourth set 25-21 to level the match once more, forcing the encounter into a decisive fifth set in which they prevailed 15-10 to claim their first win of the competition.

It was the fourth loss in as many matches for Starz2, ensuring they remain firmly rooted at the bottom of the standings.

Enforcers consolidated their second place position in the men's division by cruising to an easy 3-0 victory over JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Storming Lions.

Enforcers crushed the Storming Lions 25-08, 25-14, 25-11.

A fourth defeat in as many outings ensured that the Storming Lions remained winless and in the cellar position of the round-robin contest.



## "Bouncing" wins again!

Victory is becoming a habit for Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph, the former West Indies middle order batsman, as he secured another win at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on Sunday.

Exactly a month after tasting victory in the Patricia Matthew Easter Classic, Joseph returned with a bang to claim the top prize in the Patricia Matthew and Tucker on the Grill Mother's Day Red Jacket Masters.

For his successful efforts, the New Winthropes resident took home a trophy and the coveted Red Jacket.

The championship,



From left: Daniel Bailey, Sylvester Joseph and Walcott Haywood.

which was delayed by a week because of the Sir Vivian Richards tournament, saw Daniel "Baka" Bailey produce his personal best effort to finish as the

runner-up.

Bailey, once rated as the world's fourth fastest man, shot 86 to finish 4 shots behind the eventual champion.

Walcott "Wally" Haywood took third place.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Omorry James and the husband-and-wife pair, Newman and Michelle Wynter, prevailed.

The trio took first place in the 6th annual State Insurance and Antigua Lions Club 3-man scramble event.

They were awarded tickets to St. Kitts and three cases of Heineken.

## Police book spot in Parish League final

Police are through to their second final in as many competitions in this year's Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League domestic cricket programme.

Having already secured the Dave Joseph One Day title, Police booked their place in the final of the Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Competition by powering their way to an emphatic nine wicket victory over Mahico in the first semi-final at Police Recreation Grounds on Saturday.

Leg-spinner Lynton Africa snapped up 3 wickets for 8 runs, and off-spinner Damon Valentine grabbed 2 wickets for 6 runs as Mahico were bowled out for just 100 runs in 27.3 overs.



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Team. (File photo)

Stephen Fane top scored with 30 and Omarley Haliger contributed 26.

Valentine then starred with the bat as he hammered a quickfire unbeaten 56 to propel Police to victory at 103 for the loss of one wicket in 11 overs.

Jeron Jones chipped in with 23 and Malique Gerald was not out on 15.

Police, who are yet to lose a match in any of the Parish League competitions this season, will face the winner of the semi-final encounters between

Freetown and Newfield.

Meanwhile, the Parish League organisers have announced that the deadline for registration of teams for the ACB Caribbean Sir Viv Richards Thursday League competition is 28th May, 2022.

## Devon Thomas seeks to continue good form for Leeward Islands

Middle order batsman Devon “Boobie” Thomas is hoping to maintain his rich batting form for the Leeward Islands Hurricanes when the West Indies Four-Day Championship resumes in Trinidad & Tobago this week for the final matches.

Thomas will enter this week’s third round of matches as the current leading run scorer in the six team regional tournament.

The diminutive Thomas has so far scored an aggregate of 242 runs in three innings at an impressive average of 80.66.

Thomas started the season with a knock of 72 against Guyana Harpy Eagles in the opening encounter which the Leeward Islands won by an innings and 57 runs.

He also got scores of 58 and 112 in the Hurricanes’ four wicket loss against Barbados in the second round.

Thomas warmed up for the resumption of the West Indies Four-Day Championships by hitting a half century in a 90 over match simulation between members of the Leeward Islands Hurricane squad as part of a 5th to 14th May training camp at the Liberta Sports Complex on Friday.

The right-handed Thomas, representing the team captained by wicketkeeper/batsman Daren Benta, capitalised on batting friendly conditions after his side won the toss and decided to bat against the team skippered by Amir Jangoo.

The Daren Benta’s XI made 271 for five off 88 overs with Thomas hitting a topscore of 68 off 88 balls and



*Leeward Islands Hurricanes middle-order batsman, Devon ‘Boobie’ Thomas. (Photo: CWI)*

Opener Kieran Powell stroking 54 off 82 balls.

Thomas dominated an 83 run fifth wicket partnership with Terrance Warde, who made 32 before retiring.

Kieran Powell, also featured in the second highest partnership of the innings when he added 73 for the second wicket with Keacy Carty, who made 26.

Ross Powell also performed commendably, hitting an unbeaten 44 off 108 balls, while Kofi James was not out on 22 off 39 balls.

Opener Montcin Hodge made only

14.

Off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall snapped up 2 wickets for 2 runs in as many overs. Pacer Nino Henry claimed 1 for 15 in 5 overs, fast bowler Kevin Pitman took one for 29 in eight overs and Daniel Doram picked up 1 for 70 in 19 overs.

Following the conclusion of the training camp in Antigua, the Leeward Islands Hurricanes named their 15-member squad for their third round encounter against Trinidad and Tobago Red Force.

The squad will be skippered by Cornwall in the absence of Jahmar Hamilton.

The squad also includes batsman Keacy Carty and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr., who are both expected to be available for only the third round match against the Red Force.

Other members of the squad are Colin Archibald, Sheeno Berridge, Daniel Doram, Montcin Hodge and Amir Jangoo, Jeremiah Louis, Kian Pemberton, Kieran Powell, Ross Powell, Devon Thomas, Terrance Warde and Damion Williams.

The Hurricanes will face the Red Force at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex in Deigo Martin in one of the three third round matches that will commence on 18th May.

In the other matches, Guyana Harpy Eagles will face defending champions Barbados Pride at the Queen’s Park Oval and the Jamaica Scorpions will clash with the Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba.