

WOMAN DIES UNDER CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Story on Page 3



An artistic rendering of the new ABICE campus. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne signed a memorandum of understanding between the government and the Harrison Centre for Social Mobility to support the redevelopment of ABICE. *Story on page 4.*

Local News



ABLP resolute: We don't want Asot Michael!

The leadership of the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party remains resolute that incumbent St. Peter's MP, Asot Michael, will not contest the upcoming elections on its ticket.

This position comes directly from the political party's leader, Gaston Browne, who responded to a judgement handed down by Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Judge Marissa Robertson, in the matter between Michael and the ABLP.

The judgement, which was handed down on 13th May, agreed with Asot Michael's argument that the manner in which Rawdon Turner was selected to replace Michael as the ABLP candidate for St. Peter contravened the party's constitution.

The court further ordered an injunction, which bars Turner standing as the ABLP candidate until there is a "hearing and determination of this action or until there



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

are fresh actions/proceedings initiated and conducted in accordance with the Revised Constitution of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party".

Ultimately, the court handed down its 32-page decision on the basis that the ABLP employed avenues to select a new candidate to replace MP Michael, which did not strictly adhere to the provisions within the party's Revised Constitution, which speaks to the method that must be employed to select a candidate or, in the case of multiple contenders, the process to be employed to determine a candidate.

Despite this setback, Gaston Browne made it clear when he spoke with Pointe Xpress between meetings in the UK where he is on official business, that this in no way changes the fact that the ABLP will not have Asot Michael as part of its slate of candidates.

"Asot Michael is using the court to delay the confirmation of Rawdon Turner," said Browne, "however, this

too shall pass."

"The ABLP will correct any procedural breaches that may have existed in the appointment of Comrade Turner and move immediately thereafter to confirm him as the ABLP candidate for St Peter, at the next general elections," he continued.

"We maintain that Asot Michael will not be a candidate on the ABLP slate at the upcoming polls."

A similar sentiment was also echoed by ABLP Executive Member, Lionel Hurst, who told Pointe Xpress on Tuesday, in no uncertain terms, "We just don't want him (Asot Michael) on our slate of candidates!"

"The court essentially ruled that the Labour Party had not abided by the rules governing the Labour Party in the 2005 Revised Constitution of the ABLP, and they said that if we wanted to proceed in the way that we had thus far engineered, our rules would have to say that that is okay.

cont'd on pg 3

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

**GET GYM
FIT WITH
STATE
INSURANCE**

Life | Medical

**OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE
PREFERRED GYM RATES**

Buff up Gym
Stay Fit Gym
National Fitness Centre
Iron Basics Gym
Keep Fit Gym
Twist Fitness Gym



Monica Phillip

Probe launched into death of woman

The Police have commenced an investigation into the death of 33-year-old Monica Phillip who died after she allegedly jumped through the window of a vehicle.

Police have not released any information on the incident that is said to have occurred in the Big Creek area sometime after 8pm Monday.

Allegations are Monica Phillip, who is the mother of nine young children, got into an argument with her boyfriend on his arrival home on Monday.

Not wanting to engage in an argument, he got into his vehicle in an attempt to leave when his girlfriend entered the car.

What transpired afterwards remains unknown, but the woman sustained major injuries, after supposedly jumping from his moving vehicle.

Phillip was taken to hospital by her boyfriend, where she was pronounced dead shortly after she arrived. Police said the man, who is in his 20s, is assisting them with their investigation.

cont'd from pg 2

"That was an out, as it were, so that if the Labour Party wishes to, it can alter its rules, hold the convention, and the whole thing changes."

While he was reluctant to offer a position on behalf of the party at this time concerning possible courses of action that will be considered, the senior ABLP member made it clear, "I can tell you, Asot Michael will not be the candidate...he's not someone who is suitable."

Gaston Browne is named as third defendant in the claim in his capacity as leader of the party, along with Mary-Claire Hurst in her capacity as the party's General Secretary and E. P. Chet Greene who is the party's Chairman.



TERMINAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

DEADLINE: MAY 24TH, 2022

The West Indies Oil Company Ltd (WIOC), the premier supplier of petroleum products in Antigua and Barbuda, seeks suitably qualified candidates for its Terminal Operations Apprenticeship Program. This program will run for a period of three (3) months and upon successful completion of the program, candidates may be selected for full time employment. Candidates will be exposed to training in the following areas:

- Properties and characteristics of petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Receiving and discharging of petroleum products via pipeline, truck and cargo vessels.
- Gauging and sampling of product storage tanks and performing quality assurance testing as required.
- Conducting minor maintenance on operating pumps and other equipment.
- Monitoring and reporting of issues involving pipelines, tanks and pumps
- Preparing Terminal Reports
- Emergency Response Training
- Aviation operations
- Health, Safety & Environmental Training (HSE)

The ideal candidate should possess the following:

- Holds professional / technical certification or vocational qualifications - Mechanic /Electrical Engineer
- Minimum Associates Degree, A-levels, CAPE certificate in Business, Technology or Intro Engineering
- Good working knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and maintenance systems preferred.
- Ability to use Microsoft Suite of products (MS Word, Outlook, Excel) at the working knowledge level.
- A valid class B Antiguan or International Driver's License.
- Ability to work at heights.

Application Process

Please apply by emailing your Curriculum Vitae and Cover letter in confidence to hrmanager@westindiesoil.com.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **May 24th, 2022**.

Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

P.O. BOX 230, FRIARS HILL ROAD, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

1 (268) 462 0140/1 westindiesoil.com   

Local News



Youth to benefit from opening of Social Mobility Centre

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has signed a memorandum of understanding between the Antigua and Barbuda government and the UK-based Harrison Centre for Social Mobility to support the redevelopment of the current Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE).

PM Browne is in the UK accompanied by Education Minister Daryll Matthew, where the memorandum of understanding was signed Tuesday evening.

The Harrison Centre works with hundreds of young people in the UK to provide the tuition and training they need to help them grow in confidence and secure a job. It also supports a growing number of charities and organisations that work to tackle low social mobility by working with young people and connecting them up to employment.

“The Centre in Antigua and Barbuda will be the first overseas Harrison Centre for Social Mobility. Antigua and Barbuda will benefit from a multi-million-dollar grant from David Harrison to establish the Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education. Mr Harrison, a frequent visitor to Antigua and Barbuda for the past 30 years, is recognised as one of the UK’s leading entre-



David Harrison.

preneurs and is Chairman of UK financial technology firm, True Potential,” an official statement said.

The ABICE was formed out of the amalgamation of three social programmes in 2007. It is focused on providing Technical and Vocational Education Programmes that give young people a second chance as well as lifelong learning opportunities. The financial injection from the Harrison Centre will result in a model facility for technical and vocational training that will nurture the development of critical skills in Antigua and Barbuda at world class standards.

Prime Minister Browne has expressed appreciation to David Harrison for his significant and timely sup-

port to the educational development of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Prime Minister stated, “The education landscape in Antigua and Barbuda is experiencing a period of significant and strategic growth. The development of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, the work to complete the Sir Novelle Richards Secondary and now this investment in ABICE, point to a country which is rapidly and dynamically situating itself as a Caribbean hub for academic, technical and vocational training. The Government is committed to taking those bold and visionary steps needed to build our human capacity and in so doing expand our economic prospects”.

David Harrison expressed his delight in seeing the expansion of the Harrison Centre for Social Mobility into Antigua and Barbuda, a country he regards as his second home.

He said: “I am delighted with this partnership between my foundation and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda that will lead to the first overseas Harrison Centre for Social Mobility. I am also proud to be partnering with the University of the West Indies to launch the Caribbean Youth Pledge that will engage the business community and create new pathways into employment for people across the Caribbean.

“Through our work in the UK, we are lifting young people’s sights and aspirations as well as connecting them up with employment opportunities because that is how to improve social mobility.

“It’s a model that works and I’m excited to bring it to Antigua and Barbuda, a beautiful country with great people and through this partnership, a leader in social mobility.”

Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew, spoke of the importance of social mobility that lies at the heart of the Harrison Centre’s philosophy. The Minister explained that “we

cont’d on pg 5

cont'd from pg 4

are not only setting up a new facility, we are endorsing a Caribbean Youth Pledge, under which businesses will be invited to sign the pledge to become partners with the Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education. Thus, as well as acquiring skills at the Centre, students will be connected with job opportunities in our private sector and have a clearly defined pathway into employment”.

The ceremony also included messages of endorsement from Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs at the University of the West Indies, who affirmed The UWI's interest

in expanding the Caribbean Youth Pledge more widely across the region.

Martin Cave, Chief Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce, also endorsed the pledge and shared the Chambers commitment to engage its members on adopting the pledge. Thanks were also extended to High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill for connecting the Government with David Harrison and the Harrison Centre for Social Mobility and to the Director of Education Clare Browne, the Deputy Director E Jonah Greene, ABICE Director Arlene Weste and architect Chad Knight-Alexander for developing the concept paper and design for the centre and its programme.



Drug bust at Deep Water Harbour

No arrests have been made following a drug bust at Deep Water Harbour on Monday.

A police statement detailed 54.4 pounds of cured Cannabis were seized during an operation between police and customs at Deep Water Harbour on Monday 16th May.

The illegal substance, valued at \$320,400.00, was concealed among food items inside three barrels.

The barrels were taken to police headquarters, as investigations into the matter remain ongoing.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind





SATELLITE BRANCH EBENEZER

**DO BUSINESS IN A
BETTER STATE OF MIND**


**FULL
SERVICE**


**EASY
PARKING**


**HASSLE-FREE
PAYMENTS**


**GREAT CUSTOMER
SERVICE**

(268) 481-7800/04 | info@sicantigua.com | www.sicantigua.com |

Recent increases in COVID cases get CDC attention



The recent increase in COVID-19 cases has attracted the attention of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which has now categorised Antigua and Barbuda as a Level 3 High Risk country.

Reports out of the US say Antigua and Barbuda and three other countries – South Africa, Lesotho and Taiwan – were recently ‘graduated’ to Level 3 because of their positivity rates.

The latest COVID-19 statistics from the Ministry of Health indicated there were 74 new cases reported over the past week, bringing the country’s active cases to 122.

Tourism Minister Charles “Max” Fernandez said he is not sure what impact the CDC’s ratings will have on travel, as over the past months when Antigua and Barbuda was at Level 2, demand for travel to the country remained very high.

“At this stage in the pandemic, people are going to make their own decisions about travel as there is still strong

demand for travel after more than two years of COVID-19 restrictions,” he observed.

His sentiments echoed those of CNN’s Medical Analyst, Dr. Leana Wen, who said transmission rates are just “one guidepost” for travellers’ personal risk calculations.

“We’ve moved into “a phase in the pandemic where people need to make their own decisions based on their medical circumstances as well as their risk tolerance when it comes to contracting Covid-19,” said Wen, an emergency physician and professor of Health Policy and Management at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health.

There are other factors to weigh in addition to transmission rates, according to Wen.

“Another is what precautions are required and followed in the place that you’re going and then the third is what are you planning to do once you’re there.

“Are you planning to visit a lot of

attractions and go to indoor bars? That’s very different from if you’re going somewhere where you’re planning to lie on the beach all day and not interact with anyone else. That’s very different. Those are very different levels of risk.”

Vaccination is the most significant safety factor for travel, since unvaccinated travellers are more likely to become ill and transmit COVID-19 to others, Wen said.

The CDC recently overhauled its system for assessing COVID-19 risk for travellers.

The Level 3 “high” risk category is now the top rung in terms of risk level. Level 2 is considered “moderate” risk, and Level 1 is “low” risk.

Level 4, previously the highest risk category, is now reserved only for special circumstances such as extremely high case counts, the emergence of a new variant of concern, or health care infrastructure collapses.

Under the new system, no destinations have yet been placed at Level 4.



ULTRA LOW SULPHUR DIESEL
THE CLEANER,
MORE EFFICIENT
DIESEL

Available at all West Indies Oil service stations

SAFETY • INTEGRITY • RELIABILITY • INNOVATION • EXCELLENCE



1 (268) 462 0140/1



westindiesoil.com



“Above average” hurricane season predicted

With less than two weeks before the official start of the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane season, forecasters are cautioning that this year will likely be the seventh consecutive above average on record.

The pre-season forecasts released earlier this week from the Colorado State University (CSU), led by Dr. Phil Klotzbach, predicted that there will be 19 named tropical systems, with 9 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes forecast this year.

This, according to CSU, far exceeds the average over the past 30 years.

On the long-term average, a hurricane season generally produces 14 named storms and 7 hurricanes, 3 of which become major storms.

Acting Chief Meteorologist in Antigua and Barbuda, Dale Destin, concurs with this outlook. However, as far as the chances of one of these storms impacting Antigua and Barbuda is concerned, he says, statistically speaking, the numbers are in the country’s favour.

“Given the forecast for an active hurricane season, there is a 43 percent chance/probability of a named storm passing within 105 nautical miles of Antigua or affecting (hitting or brushing) us.

“This translates into a named storm return period of 2 to 3 active years or a named storm affecting us every 2 to 3 active years, on average.

“Our last named storm during an active year was Tropical Storm Laura of 2020.

“This means statistically, we are not due one this year, if the season turns out to be active, as forecast,” the climatologist said via his blog, 268Weather.

“With an active season forecast, a named storm has a 28 percent probability of affecting us as a hur-

Probability of Antigua Being Affected by a Named Storm

Active Season	43%
Near Normal Season	23%
Below Normal Season	21%

Probability of Antigua Being Affected by a Hurricane

Active Season	28%
Near Normal Season	3%
Below Normal Season	6%

Probability of Antigua Being Affected by a Major Hurricane

Active Season	18%
Near Normal Season	0%
Below Normal Season	0%

Annually: 66% probability of a named storm; 35% probability of a hurricane and 18% probability of a major hurricane

Photo courtesy: Dale Destin/268Weather
 hurricane and an 18 percent probability of affecting us as a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher).

On average, we get a hurricane passing within 105 nautical miles of Antigua every 3 to 4 active seasons and a major hurricane every 5 to 6 active seasons.

“Our last hurricane during an active season, which was also a major hurricane, was Maria of 2017.

“It did not cause us hurricane winds, but it passed within 105 nautical miles to our southwest, affecting us with storm-force winds.

“Given we average a hurricane every 3 to 4 active years, and there has been only one active season since then, 2020; statistically, this means we are NOT due for a hurricane this year.

“Additionally, we are also NOT due a major hurricane this year,” he continued.

Despite this hopeful news, the public is still being urged to keep their guards up and prepare as normal for the approaching hurricane season.

These measures include ensuring trees and bushes around the home are pruned, establishing a hurricane

evacuation plan for the family, stocking up on adequate supplies of food, water, medicine and pet supplies and securing important documents.

Forecasters say that this above average activity is being driven by the La Niña weather phenomenon. La Niña is a weather pattern that occurs in the Pacific Ocean.

In this pattern, strong winds blow warm water at the ocean’s surface from South America to Indonesia.

As the warm water moves west, cold water from the deep rises to the surface near the coast of South America.

Historically, La Niña phases are a factor that contributes to more active tropical storms in the Atlantic Ocean, by creating an environment with low shear and warmer Atlantic Ocean waters that drive storm development.

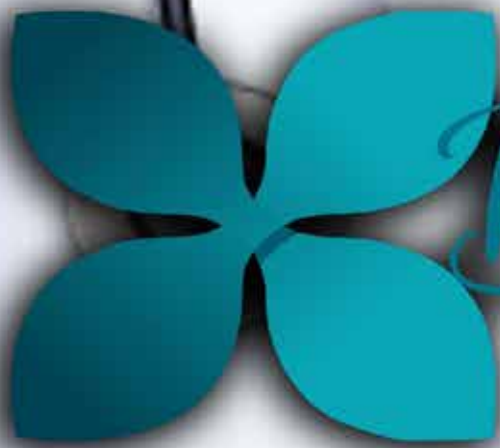
While the Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th, storms have been known to develop on either side of this period.

The Atlantic basin covers the tropical area, which includes the entire Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean region.



LET'S TALK HEALTH

**4:00pm - 6:00pm
EVERY MONDAY**



BLUE Haven
Medical Center

DR. HANYBAL YAZIGI
CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST

DR. ALBERT ROLLE.
GENERAL PRACTITIONER WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH.

DR. DAMIAN GORDON
AESTHETIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND FAMILY
PHYSICIAN WITH POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN GENERAL AND SURGICAL
DERMATOLOGY.

SYDNEY RETEMYER
MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGISTS, CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST AND THEOLOGIAN
AREAS OF THERAPY INCLUDE PSYCHOTHERAPY, PSYCHOEDUCATION,
LOGOTHERAPY, RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING, SPIRITUAL COUNSELING,
ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

Local News

Bolans Police Station gets temporary home compliments CDAL

A brief ceremony was held at Jolly Harbour yesterday to mark the opening of a temporary outpost for officers attached to the Bolans Police Station.

The building, which is located at the original main entrance of Jolly Harbour, is outfitted with a front desk, bathroom facility, kitchenette, living quarters and a temporary holding cell.

This was made possible through the partnership of the new management of Caribbean Developments (Antigua) Ltd. (CDAL), which was represented by Chief Executive Officer, Jamie Tarter and Operations Manager, Camilla Sukumaran.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, was present and expressed gratitude to CDAL for partnering with the police in such a meaningful project.

He said that through the effort and support of CDAL, the officers at Bolans can now operate from a more strategic location to provide faster and more ef-



ficient service to the communities of Bolans, Jennings, Bendals and other surrounding communities.

Commissioner Rodney also said that he believes it is a high priority to have sub-stations strategically placed within some of the larger communities, in order to provide better service to the people.

"I am happy that our friends at Caribbean Development Antigua Ltd. saw it necessary to partner with the Police to provide

this level of accommodation for our officers in this temporary facility," he added.

Rodney also took the opportunity to extend an invitation to other businesses to get on board to support the efforts of the Police in any way they can.

Media Relations Specialist for CDAL, Jamilla Kirwan, was also present at the ceremony.

"Jolly Harbour is a part of the Bolans community," Kirwan said. "And, as such,

CDAL felt a sense of responsibility to play its role as true community partners. We are happy," she continued, "to offer you a temporary home until renovations to the Bolans Police Station are complete."

According to Kirwan, CDAL made a substantial investment in renovations to the temporary Jolly Harbour location, to enable officers who will be occupying the building to perform their duties in a productive environment."

Operations at the Bolans Police Station were temporarily relocated to Johnsons Point in October 2017, to facilitate repair work on the existing structure. The building has since been demolished in order to make room for the construction of a modern facility.

Wed 18 Day		Wed 18 Night	
85°	3% E 14 mph	78°	9% E 11 mph
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High near 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 69%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 78%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:35 am	Sunset 6:32 pm	Moonrise 9:35 pm	Moonset 7:45 am
		Waning Gibbous	

Same old UPP playbook with a twist – from UPP Chair Isaac

Dear Editor,

Recently I penned a letter to your portal in which among other things I sought to indicate to the readers of all political persuasions, the failure of the United Progressive Party (UPP) to win the 2014 and 2018 general elections and the party's obdurate refusal to accept the political reality that they were soundly beaten by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP); and, that on both occasions they had been rejected by the electorate after two terms in office.

On each occasion, they had convinced themselves and their supporters that they lost both elections "because the ABLP had bought the elections by widespread bribery of the voters, and the vote of the non-national voters, who they derided as 'dem foreigners'."

Lo and behold, my attention was drawn to an article on ANR that quoted statements attributed to the UPP Chairman D. Gisele Isaac, who stated, "that the ABLP has been busy devising ways to buy the upcoming elections", which she says "will be about big spending and free concerts in order to win votes".

She further speculated "that recent trips by PM Browne are to raise funds to 'bring out' the people, especially the youth, some of whom have already been receiving inducements from ABLP operatives."

Your readers therefore can be excused for concluding that notwithstanding the UPP's idle boast of winning the elections, it is already sensing defeat, probably as a result of its poor showing on Labour Day and the conspicuous absence of young voters at their march of the Blues.

Readers can also conclude that

Isaac's statements are a pre-emptive excuse, when the UPP loses yet again.

I would suggest to Chairman Isaac, Party Leader Harold Lovell and the UPP hierarchy and base supporters, that the voting public has grown weary of its noisy talking points, which are completely devoid of policies, some of which are repeated ad nauseam.

The UPP is the party of choice (whatever this generalisation means)

The giveaway of vast amounts of the people's land

Government gave no "stimulus" (sic) to the people

The Ministers are personally enriching themselves

The failure to build 500 homes in 500 days (the government has built over 1,000 homes in 8 years inclusive of 2 years of Covid shutdown)

No water. No water. The UPP beats this drum, which they are entitled to do, but which is not a new problem and is exacerbated by the most severe drought in 100 years.

In addition, the UPP continues to insult the collective intelligence of the voting public by promising with a straight face to pay millions of dollars to Liat workers and the severed workers at Jolly Beach; neither of which are legitimate debts of the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

They have also promised to pay public servants who failed to be vaccinated and preferred to stay away from work.

They will also reduce the cost of gas at the pump, thereby subsidising the increase of gas for the rich, the poor and the in-between, to the tune of millions of dollars, including the trucks and heavy-duty equip-

ment used for commercial purposes and persons owning and driving high-end vehicles such as Mercedes, BMW, Lexus etc. In addition to all of this, the UPP will do all of these things while also reducing import duties and taxes at the Port.

It is my considered view that Isaac, Lovell and the UPP candidates must "crap or get off the potty".

They must be called upon by the voting public to provide the proof to support their accusations made against the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, and must state definitively how they propose to finance their millions in giveaways while cutting taxes.

If the ABLP Ministers have enriched themselves, it is incumbent upon the UPP to provide proof or shut up.

If the government has given away the people's land to foreigners and/or investors, a simple check at the Land Registry would provide proof to support the allegations. Bear in mind that the Yida and Seaforth lands were both privately owned; a fact that seems to escape the UPP.

The UPP has solemnly promised to pay off the Liat debt, Jolly Beach workers et al; then they must state how it will raise the funds to do so.

If the UPP seriously intends to subsidise the price of gas at the pump, no matter the price of crude on the world market, then they must explain how it will raise the funds to do so,

Finally, the UPP appears to have the magic formula for reducing inflation, which even wealthy, first world countries are grappling with, so they need to enlighten the public, and in-

cont'd on pg 12

Letter to the Editor



cont'd from pg 11

deed the world, as to how they will move from idle talk to action in this regard.

Making these elaborate and unattainable promises, knowing fully well that they cannot and will not be attainable, is political dishonesty to the highest degree, by doing so they are blatantly lying to its supporters and the voting public, which will neither forgive nor forget this political dishonesty.

Indeed, the backlash from its disappointed supporters and followers could well spell the end of the party in its present form.

In addition, the voters must demand that each UPP candidate publish a curriculum vitae (a brief account of their previous career which could assist the voters in deciding whether the candidate should be elected and is fit to be a Parliamen-

tarian and minister of government).

The current sanitised versions of the candidates' qualifications, for instance describing Pearl Quinn as a "banker" and Gloria Potter as a "restaurant manager", is disingenuous and misleading. **VOTERS MUST KNOW WHAT AND WHOM THEY ARE.**

In this regard it must be noted that the UPP candidate for St. Mary's North, Mr. Jonathan Joseph, has posted his CV, which he termed his "Professional experiences". It reads as follows:

"My professional experiences span education, hospitality and trade unionism. As a community leader I have served in several positions including Treasurer of the Antigua and Barbuda Bus Association."

This candidate, at least deserves some kudos for posting something. However, can anyone accept that the

above qualifies him for Parliamentary and Ministerial responsibilities, notwithstanding his present position in the Senate.

The public must demand that the other candidates, whether radio host, attorney or unemployed, publish an account of their respective stewardships so that one can compare same with the qualifications, experiences and results of the incumbents.

In this way the voters can make an intelligent and informed decision at the polls.

In a following letter, I will enumerate some of the outstanding accomplishments of the incumbent government under Prime Minister Browne, notwithstanding 2 years of the COVID pandemic, and the lockdown of the country with serious economic and financial repercussions.

NOMAD

PLATINUM Fm
We Entertain You **97.9**

STEELPAN MELEE
WITH **KHAN KC CORDICE**
5PM-6PM
TUESDAYS

WV

LIVE

Caribbean MSMEs must use research to grow

By Santana Salmon

The head of the Competitiveness Business Unit at the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, Kareem Guiste, says micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) should create demand for their goods and services through research.

“Entrepreneurs can create demand by taking the time to interrogate and understand the market to see if there is an appetite for a product or service.

“This allows the business owner to dissect the needs of the clients they want to serve and provide them with alternative solutions to the needs they have observed,” said Guiste, as he addressed the Jamaica Business Development Corporation’s (JBDC) Virtual Biz Zone Webinar.

The webinar last week, was the first of the agency’s Research and Innovation Series held under the theme “Using Research to Identify New Markets”.

“The risk of generating any business is the risk of the unknown. Uncovering the unknown requires investment and interrogation,” Guiste said, noting that many entrepreneurs might be intimidated by the idea of research.

But he encouraged participants that research does not always have to be formal and arduous, adding “the grassroots small business owner can conduct informal research by simply observing, asking questions to the right people, and recording responses”.

Guiste underscored the importance of Caribbean small business owners becoming proactive instead



The head of the Competitiveness Business Unit at the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, Kareem Guiste.

of reactive in their businesses.

“Research can often be a valuable non-cash method of growing your business because it causes you to become aware and subsequently understand the market.

“Research is a low-hanging fruit for improving your business and it should not intimidate entrepreneurs.”

Guiste said there are key questions and considerations entrepreneurs must ask themselves.

“Is there a demand for my product and is it possible for me to create demand for it?

“Have I adequately taken the opportunity to assess market needs and do I know who my clients are? These questions can begin to stir the entrepreneur’s mind to see how they can

get their brand into new markets.

“Entrepreneurs must appreciate what research can do for their business. It has the capacity to open new markets and allow them to build demand for their product.”

Guiste encouraged participants to “Read more, learn more and be deliberate about observing your current market and the ones you are interested in exploring,” Guiste said.

The JBDC Virtual Biz Zone webinars are geared toward stimulating entrepreneurs within the MSME sector.

The second in the two-part series on Research and Innovation which covered the topic ‘Innovation: Funding new Business/Product’ began on Tuesday, May 17.

Technology



Live streamed carnage: Tech's hard lessons from mass killings

By **Barbara Ortutay, Haleluya Hadero and Matt O'Brien**

These days, mass shooters like the one now held in the Buffalo, New York, supermarket attack don't stop with planning out their brutal attacks. They also create marketing plans while arranging to livestream their massacres on social platforms in hopes of fomenting more violence.

Sites like Twitter, Facebook and now the game-streaming platform Twitch have learned painful lessons from dealing with the violent videos that often accompany such shootings. But experts are calling for a broader discussion around livestreams, including whether they should exist at all, since once such videos go online, they're almost impossible to erase completely.

The self-described white supremacist gunman who police say killed 10 people, all of them Black, at a Buffalo supermarket Saturday had mounted a GoPro camera to his helmet to stream his assault live on Twitch, the video game streaming platform used by another shooter in 2019 who killed two people at a synagogue in Halle, Germany.

He had previously outlined his plan in a detailed but rambling set of online diary entries that were apparently posted publicly ahead of the attack, although it's not clear how many people might

have seen them. His goal: to inspire copycats and spread his racist beliefs. After all, he was a copycat himself.

He decided against streaming on Facebook, as yet another mass shooter did when he killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, three years ago. Unlike Twitch, Facebook requires users to sign up for an account in order to watch livestreams.

Still, not everything went according to plan. By most accounts the platforms responded more quickly to halt the spread of the Buffalo video than they did after the 2019 Christchurch shooting, said Megan Squire, a senior fellow and technology expert at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Another Twitch user watching the live video likely flagged it to the attention of Twitch's content moderators, she said, which would have helped Twitch pull down the stream less than two minutes after the first gunshots per a company spokesperson. Twitch has not said how the video was flagged. In a statement about the shooting Tuesday, the company expressed thanks "for the user reports that help us catch and remove harmful content in real time."

"In this case, they did pretty well," Squire said. "The fact that the video is so hard to find right now is proof of that."



A man pays his respects outside the scene of a shooting at a supermarket, in Buffalo, N.Y., Sunday, May 15, 2022. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

In 2019, the Christchurch shooting was streamed live on Facebook for 17 minutes and quickly spread to other platforms. This time, the platforms generally seemed to coordinate better, particularly by sharing digital "signatures" of the video used to detect and remove copies.

But platform algorithms can have a harder time identifying a copycat video if someone has edited it. That's created problems, such as when some internet forums users remade the Buffalo video with twisted attempts at humour. Tech companies would have needed to use "more fancy algorithms" to detect those partial matches, Squire said.

"It seems darker and more cynical," she said of the attempts to spread the shooting video in recent days.

Twitch has more than 2.5 million viewers at any given moment; roughly 8 million content creators stream video on the platform each month, according to the company.

The site uses a combination of user reports, algorithms and moderators to detect and remove any violence that occurs on the platform. The company said that it quickly removed the gunman's stream, but hasn't shared many details about what happened on Saturday — including whether the stream was reported or how many people watched the rampage live.

A Twitch spokesperson said the company shared the livestream with the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, a nonprofit group set up by tech companies to help others monitor their own platforms for rebroadcasts. But clips from the video still made their way to other platforms, including the site Streamable, where it was available for millions to view. A spokesperson for Hopin, the company that owns Streamable, said Monday that it's working to remove the videos and terminate the accounts of those who up-

cont'd on pg 15

Privy Council rules mandatory death sentence in Trinidad is constitutional

CMC - The London-based Privy Council has ruled that the mandatory sentence of death for murder in Trinidad and Tobago is constitutional, and only Parliament can rewrite the law.

“The 1976 Constitution has allocated to the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, as the democratic organ of government, the task of reforming and updating the law, including such laws. Those laws will continue to exist only so long as Parliament chooses to retain them,” it said.

The Privy Council, the country’s highest court “unanimously dismisses the appeal,” that had been filed by Jay Chandler, who was convicted in 2011 of the murder of Kirn Phillip in 2004 and was sentenced to death by hanging, which is



the mandatory sentence for murder in Trinidad and Tobago as laid down in Section 4 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1925.

His conviction and sentence were upheld on appeal by the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago and by the Privy Council in a judgement of March 12, 2018. The appellant’s sentence has since been commuted to life imprisonment.

In this appeal, Chandler mounted a constitutional challenge to the mandatory death penalty and the principal issue raised is the re-

lationship between Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the 1976 Constitution.

Section 4 of the 1976 Constitution recognizes and declares fundamental rights, including the right of the individual not to be deprived of life, liberty, and security except by due process of law. Section 5 prohibits the imposition of cruel and unusual punishment which, it is not disputed, includes the mandatory death penalty.

Section 6, the “savings clause”, provides that nothing in Sections 4 or 5 shall invalidate an existing law,

meaning a law that had an effect as part of the law of Trinidad and Tobago immediately before the commencement of the Constitution. The mandatory death penalty is one such existing law.

In its ruling, the nine-member Privy Council ruled that it is not persuaded that it should depart from its earlier decision and that the principle of legal certainty dictates that there must be very strong reasons before it will depart from such a ruling.

The Privy Council said it has “consistently adopted the approach to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the highest court for several Caribbean countries, to develop its own jurisprudence, and does not question the outcome of their decisions in two similar cases.

cont’d from pg 14
loaded them.

Looking ahead, platforms may face future moderation complications from a Texas law — reinstated by an appellate court last week — that bans big social media companies from “censoring” users’ viewpoints. The shooter “had a very specific viewpoint” and the law is unclear enough to create a risk for platforms that moderate people like him, said Jeff Kosseff, an associate professor of cybersecurity law at the U.S. Naval Academy. “It really puts the finger on the scale of keeping up harmful content,” he said.

Alexa Koenig, executive director of the Human Rights Center at the Univer-

sity of California, Berkeley, said there’s been a shift in how tech companies are responding to such events. In particular, Koenig said, coordination between the companies to create fingerprint repositories for extremist videos so they can’t be re-uploaded to other platforms “has been an incredibly important development.”

A Twitch spokesperson said the company will review how it responded to the gunman’s livestream.

Experts suggest that sites such as Twitch could exercise more control over who can livestream and when — for instance, by building in delays or whitelisting valid users while banning rules violators. More broadly, Koenig said, “there’s also a general societal conver-

sation that needs to happen around the utility of livestreaming and when it’s valuable, when it’s not, and how we put safe norms around how it’s used and what happens if you use it.”

Another option, of course, would be to end live streaming altogether. But that’s almost impossible to imagine given how much tech companies rely on live streams to attract and keep users engaged in order to bring in money.

Free speech, Koenig said, is often the reason tech platforms give for allowing this form of technology — beyond the unspoken profit component. But that should be balanced “with rights to privacy and some of the other issues that arise in this instance,” Koenig said.

Regional News

CDB & EU working to increase private sector capacity in St Vincent and the Grenadines

CMC – Director of Projects at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Daniel Best says two new projects financed by the European Union (EU) are set to advance efforts in poverty reduction and the exportability of goods and services, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines by increasing opportunities in agriculture.

The two initiatives are the National Standardisation and Certification of Exportable Services Providers Project and the Food Safety Certification System for Livestock Production and Trade in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Project.

According to Best, “It is no small task to rebound and rebalance a small open economy which has been affected by multiple shocks, a health crisis, and a volcanic eruption.

Recognizing these exigencies, the Bank through these two projects and other programmes, is keenly assisting with national recovery.”

Felipe De La Mota, Team Leader, Regional Integration and Trade at the EU says the projects “support the development of human capital in the services sector leading to the generation of income and foreign exchange, the establishment of new businesses, and the development of specialty services.

Further, the value would be derived with the creation of employment opportunities, market penetration, and expansion, economic growth, poverty reduction in rural communities, decreased unemployment, and an increase in knowledge of best practices.”

Kesal Peters, minister of state with responsibility for foreign affairs and foreign trade in St. Vincent and the Grenadines indicated at the launch on May 10 that the initiatives



will assist the private sector to enhance productivity and competitiveness and attain strong sustainable economic growth.

The education project’s training component was highlighted by the Minister of Education and National Reconciliation, Curtis King who added that an “A key component in building this new economy is the education and training of our people. The new paradigm has seen and continues to see huge sums of investment in the education and training of our people, as we seek to deliver education and training that are relevant, of high quality, accessible to all, and lifelong.”

Citing gaps that limit the person’s able to exploit the economic value in markets, the Minister welcomed the project.

Permanent Secretary at the Min-

istry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Transformation and Labour, Nerissa Gittens McMillan, also noted that farmers must expand their production facilities to a scale that allows for the production of a premium but price competitive product.

These adjustments must meet international certification standards, the Food Safety Certification System for Livestock Production and Trade in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Project will aid in this regard.

Further, the development of the burgeoning Spa Sector will prepare and position the sector for greater exportability, develop a cadre of certified musical professionals and a system of continued certification for increased professionalism and to access new markets and enhance the capacity of other CSME approved

cont’d on pg 17

Cuban authorities announce benefits for victims of Saratoga hotel tragedy

CMC – Cuba's National Institute of Social Security (INASS) is conducting a centralised process of granting pensions quickly, for all the affected workers and relatives of the victims of the accident at the Saratoga hotel, without distinction of pension rights.

A powerful explosion apparently caused by a natural gas leak killed at least 22 people and injured 40 when it blew away outer walls from the luxury hotel in the heart of Cuba's capital.

According to the general director of the INASS, Virginia Marlen Garcia Reyes, the process will have the exceptionality of the law for the granting of extraordinary pensions, taking into account that not all the relatives of the deceased are eligible for pensions on a regular basis.

"We intend to protect all the affected families without distinction, due to the transcendence and painful repercussion of the accident," she said.



Rooms are exposed at the five-star Hotel Saratoga where emergency crew work after a deadly explosion in Old Havana, Cuba, . (AP Photo)

"A survey is being carried out in order to determine the calculation of the definitive pension based on the salary of each worker," said Garcia Reyes who added that the affected areas will also be visited in order to interview family members.

"If all the information is gathered quickly, it is expected that those affected and their families will receive the definitive pen-

sion by June," she continued.

While this procedure is being conducted, specialists from the municipal branches of INASS will protect the affected workers through the payment of a provisional pension, which consists of 100 percent of the affected worker's salary.

The INASS management is working along with the Gaviota group to recon-

struct the labour file of the injured workers, as well as taking measures aimed at guaranteeing the relocation of the affected workers and their families in search of employment.

According to the INASS, in case of destruction of the deceased's employment file, an exceptional procedure will be conducted in order to immediately protect the family members.

cont'd from pg 16

vocations such as security guards and domestics.

Yvanette Baron-George, deputy programme manager, CARIFORUM says the country's decision to adopt the CARICOM food safety standards for poultry meat and meat products is a step in the right direction to increase product quality and health and wellness offerings locally and beyond.

The CDB managed Standby Facility, which is supporting the two initiatives, is part of a wider programme of support by the EU for the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which will improve innovation and intellectual property rights, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, capacity building in the areas of competition, public pro-

curement, and customs and trade facilitation.

It also supports CDB's strategic objective of reducing poverty and transforming lives through sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development.

The two grants of over EUR 376,000 have been provided to the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines for the projects.

Reversing Trump, Biden acts to deploy US troops to Somalia

President Joe Biden signed an order Monday to redeploy hundreds of U.S. troops to Somalia to counter the Islamic extremist rebel group al-Shabab, an effort that American military leaders said had been hampered by President Donald Trump's late-term decision to withdraw forces from the country.

U.S. troops will be repositioned from elsewhere in Africa to train and provide other support to Somali forces in their fight against al-Shabab, which is considered the largest and wealthiest affiliate of the al-Qaida extremist organisation.

"Our forces are not now, nor will they be, directly engaged in combat operations," said Pentagon press secretary John Kirby.

"The purpose here is to enable a more effective fight against al-Shabab by local forces."

It's a reminder that the U.S. remains engaged in the long fight against Is-



People look at destroyed shops in Mogadishu's Lido beach, Somalia, Saturday, April, 23, 2022, after a bomb blast by Somalia's Islamic extremist rebels hit a popular seaside restaurant killing at least six people. Ambulance service officials say the explosion occurred Friday evening when many patrons gathered for an Iftar meal to break the Ramadan fast. (AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

lamic extremists around the world, even if the effort has been eclipsed by the war in Ukraine and other matters.

The decision to station forces again in Somalia, rather than rotate them in and out, is intended "to maximise the safety and

effectiveness of our forces and enable them to provide more efficient support to our partners," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in announcing the redeployment.

U.S. troops in Somalia

will total "under 500" according to a senior Biden administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to brief journalists on the decision.

In addition to training Somali forces, American

cont'd on pg 19

Hezbollah, allies lose majority in Lebanon's parliament

AP – Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group and its allies lost their parliamentary majority, final elections results showed Tuesday, while more than a dozen independent newcomers gained seats. The outcome signalled a shift in a country devastated by an ongoing financial meltdown and soaring poverty.

Final results for Sunday's elections showed no clear majority for any group. That indicates a fragmented and polarised parliament divided between pro- and anti-Hezbollah lawmakers who will likely find it difficult to work together to form a new government and enact desperately needed reforms.

The Hezbollah-led coalition won 61 seats in the 128-member legislature, a drop of 10 members since the last vote was held four years ago. It's a loss largely due to setbacks suffered by the group's political partners. The loss was not expected to weaken the Iran-backed group's domination of Lebanese politics, and all 13 Hezbollah candidates who ran got elected.

Still, the results were hailed as a major breakthrough for groups opposed to Hezbollah and the country's other powerful political parties blamed for the collapse, introducing more new independent faces than was expected.

Hezbollah's most vocal opponent, the nationalist Christian Lebanese Forces party, emerged as the biggest winner, while its Christian rival, the Free Patriotic Movement founded by President Michel Aoun, suffered a political setback.



Lebanese Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi, centre, speaks during a press conference about Sunday's parliamentary elections, at the interior ministry in Beirut, Lebanon, Monday, May 16, 2022. Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group and its allies suffered losses in this weekend's parliamentary elections, with preliminary results Monday showing some of their most vocal opponents picking up more seats and several of their traditional partners routed out of the legislature. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Though Christian, the Free Patriotic Movement is an ally of the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah. The Lebanese Forces now has the largest bloc in parliament with 21 seats, overtaking the Free Patriotic Movement, which now holds 18 seats, a drop of three seats from the previous vote.

Despite the setback, Hezbollah and its main Shiite ally, the Amal group of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, retained the 27 seats allocated to the Shiite sect.

Independents and newcomers, including those from the 2019 protest movement, scooped 14 seats. That was a major achievement considering

they went into the vote fragmented and facing intimidation and threats by entrenched mainstream parties.

The results portend a sharply polarised parliament, divided between pro and anti-Hezbollah lawmakers who will find it difficult to work together to form a new government and pass laws needed to enact reforms for a financial recovery in Lebanon.

With two main blocs — Hezbollah and the Lebanese Forces — opposed to each other, analysts said the new political scene will likely see more paralysis and growing friction between the two camps at a time when unity is needed.

cont'd from pg 18

troops will also provide security to personnel from the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development as they

work with the government to emerge from years of turmoil, the official said.

Trump abruptly ordered the withdrawal of approximately 700 troops from So-

malia at the end of his term in January 2021, an extension of a broader policy of seeking to pull the U.S. out of what he derisively referred to as "endless wars"

around the world.

But military leaders said that came at a cost, wasting time, money and momentum as troops had to rotate in and out of the country.

North Korea's Kim faces 'huge dilemma' on aid as virus surges

AP – During more than a decade as North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un has made “self-reliance” his governing lynchpin, shunning international help and striving instead for domestic strategies to fix his battered economy.

But as an illness suspected to be COVID-19 sickens hundreds of thousands of his people, Kim stands at a critical crossroad: Either swallow his pride and receive foreign help to fight the disease, or go it alone, enduring potential huge fatalities that may undermine his leadership.

“Kim Jong Un is in a dilemma, a really huge dilemma,” said Lim Eul-chul, a professor at Kyungnam University's Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul. “If he accepts U.S. or Western assistance, that can shake the self-reliance stance that he has steadfastly maintained and public confidence in him could be weakened.”

Doing nothing, however, could be calamitous.

Since acknowledging a COVID-19 outbreak last week, North Korea has said “an explosively spreading fever” has killed 56 people and sickened about 1.5 million others. Outside observers suspect most of those cases were caused by the coronavirus.

Whatever North Korea's state-controlled media say about those who are sick, the outbreak is likely several times worse. North Korea lacks sufficient COVID-19 tests, and experts say it is significantly understating deaths to avoid possible public unrest that could hurt Kim politically.

Some observers say the stated death



People watch a TV screen showing a news programme reporting with an image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at a train station in Seoul, South Korea on May 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man, File)

toll is low for a country where most of the 26 million people are unvaccinated and medicine is in short supply.

The North Korean outbreak may be linked to a massive military parade in Pyongyang in late April that Kim organised to feature new weapons and loyal troops. The parade drew tens of thousands of soldiers and residents from around the country. After the event, Kim spent several days taking dozens of commemorative group photos with parade participants, all of whom were without masks. Most of the photos involved dozens or hundreds of people.

North Korea may be able to publicly hide the real number of deaths, but the country's strengthened restrictions on movement and quarantine rules could hurt its agricultural cultivation.

Its economy is already battered by more than two years of pandemic-caused border shutdowns and other curbs.

North Korea is also worried about a shortage of medical supplies and food and daily necessities that have dried up in markets during the border closures, Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies, said.

Kim has previously rebuffed millions of doses of vaccines offered by the U.N.-backed COVAX distribution programme. After the North admitted to an outbreak, South Korean and China offered to send vaccines, medicine and other medical supplies to North Korea. The United States said it supports international aid efforts, though it has no current plans to share its vaccine supplies with the North.

Woman files for protective order against Cavs' Rajon Rondo

AP - A Louisville woman has filed for an emergency protective order against Cleveland Cavaliers guard Rajon Rondo and alleges the former Kentucky star brandished a gun and threatened her life.

The woman alleges Rondo "became enraged" last week and filed for the EPO on Friday in Jefferson County Family Court, news outlets reported. She says in the EPO that Rondo was playing video games with a child when she asked the child to finish separating his laundry so she could wash the family's clothes.

When the child got up to do so, she said Rondo ripped the video game console out of the wall, went downstairs, smashed a teacup plate, knocked over several water bottles and began yelling and cursing. According to the EPO, Rondo then went outside and knocked over the trash cans, stomped on the land-

scaping lights and drove his car onto the lawn.

When the woman confronted Rondo, the EPO continued, he said, "You're dead." After briefly leaving the house, Rondo came back and beat on a window with a gun. The woman said in the EPO that the player was yelling at the kids, asking them why they were scared of him while he had a gun in his hand.

The woman called former interim Louisville Metro Police chief Yvette Gentry, who eventually arrived at the house. However, the woman said Rondo wouldn't allow Gentry inside. The woman said she locked herself in the house with the kids, and Gentry eventually told her Rondo had left and she had his gun.

Two days after the alleged incident occurred, a judge granted the woman the protective order. The judge ordered



Cleveland Cavaliers' Rajon Rondo (1) plays against the San Antonio Spurs during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Ron Schwane, File)

Rondo not to communicate and to stay at least 500 feet away from her.

Rondo played 39 games last season between the Cavaliers and Los Angeles Lakers. He has played with eight other NBA clubs, including the Boston Celtics from 2006-14 after being drafted 21st overall in 2006.

PSG player criticised for missing anti-homophobia day game

AP - A group fighting homophobia in soccer has called on the French league and Paris Saint-Germain to ask player Idrissa Gueye for an explanation after he missed a game last week amid reports that he refused to play because he did not want to wear a rainbow-colored number on the back of his jersey.

The Senegal midfielder travelled with his teammates to Montpellier last weekend for Saturday's French league game in the southern city but did not play, with PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino citing "personal reasons" to justify his absence on the field.

For the second consecutive season, professional clubs in the country had



Marseille's Matteo Guendouzi, left, duels for the ball with PSG's Idrissa Gueye during the League One soccer match between Paris Saint Germain and Marseille, at the Parc des Princes stadium, in Paris, France, Sunday, April 17, 2022. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

been invited to label their players' shirts with colored numbers using the rainbow flag, the symbol of the LGBTQ movement.

According to a person with direct knowledge of

the incident, Gueye did not play because he did not want to wear a rainbow-colored number on the back of his shirt. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the player has not

yet commented publicly on the incident.

French radio RMC first reported on the reasons why Gueye skipped the match.

The Rouge Direct group said in a message posted on Twitter that PSG and the league should not exclude the possibility of sanctioning Gueye.

Homophobic chants, often heard at French league matches, have been tolerated for a long time by many club officials, and soccer authorities have struggled to find the appropriate ways of tackling the issue. The French league, however, launched an action plan three years ago allowing spectators to report sexist, homophobic or racist incidents they witness.

Sports News



Freetown and Police to clash in another final

For the second time this year, Freetown and Police will clash in a final of the 2022 Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League.

Both teams recorded commanding victories in the semi-finals over the weekend to advance to the final of the Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Competition.

After Police beat Mahico by 9 wickets in the first semi-final at the Police Recreation Grounds on Saturday, Freetown crushed neighbours Newfield by 214 runs in the second encounter at Freetown on Sunday.

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.

Stephen Fane top scored with 30 and Omali Heyliger contributed 26.

Valentine then starred with the bat as he hammered a quick-fire unbeaten 56 to propel Police to victory at 103 for the loss of 1 wicket in 11 overs. Jeron Jones chipped in with 23 and

Malique Gerald was not out on 15.

Inspired by a century by middle-order batsman Austin Richards Jr., Freetown recovered from a dismal start to post 237 for 5 off 31 overs.

Richards slammed 112 not out and shared an unbroken fifth wicket partnership of 203 runs with Yanique Watley, who cracked 59 not out.

The pair staged their double century rescue act after coming together with Freetown reeling on 34 for 5. Medium pacer Azim Panlall bagged 2 for 29 in 7 overs and Almond Peters claimed 2 for 51 in his 7 overs.

In reply, Newfield were bundled out for just 23 runs in 12 overs, with Kareem Richards and Clever Martin grabbing five wicket hauls.

Kareem Richards captured 5 wickets for just 5 runs in 6 overs and Martin snapped up 5 wickets for 18 runs in his 6 overs.

Freetown will be seeking revenge and hand Police their first defeat of the season this weekend when both teams clash in the final of the Richie Richardson one day contest at the Police



Former national batsman Austin Richards Jr. slammed an unbeaten century to lead Freetown to a crushing victory over Newfield at Freetown on Sunday, 15th May, 2022. (Photo courtesy ACB Caribbean Parish League)

Recreation Grounds (PRG) on Saturday, 21st May.

Police, who have not lost a match this season, defeated Freetown by 6 wickets in the final to win the ACB Caribbean Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition at the PRG on 9th April.

Women on fire! Taylor takes the title while Dottin hits ton in Fairbreak Tournament



West Indies Women's captain Stafanie Taylor played a key role in guiding Tornadoes to the Fairbreak Global Invitational title, as they beat Falcons in Sunday's final at Dubai International Stadium.

The level-headed right-hander stroked an unbeaten 34 off 30 balls as Tornadoes chased down a target of 152 with five balls to spare. New Zealand opener Sophie Devine top-scored

with 51 from 35 balls while her Dutch team-mate Sterre Kalis punched 44 from 41 balls.

Taylor, the Tornadoes skipper, had earlier sent down four controlled overs of off-spin to help restrict Falcons to 151-4 from their 20 overs after they were sent in.

The innings was going nowhere at 59-4 in the 10th over before South Africa

cont'd on pg 23

Lyndon Lawrence commends Five Islands Primary School faculty

Coach Lyndon "Loudah" Lawrence has commended the faculty and staff of the Five Islands Primary School for the support they gave to him as he prepared the school's team for this year's football competition.

Coaches employed by the Ministry of Sports who are attached to schools are often hampered by limited contact time with students during regular school hours. However, Lawrence said he is heartened by the support he was given by the staff at Five Islands Primary, as he conducted football training sessions with the students.

"At Five Islands, I have gotten great support. One thing I can say, as the football coach, I have gotten the support of the principal, the teachers and all the staff at the school. They all interact with me about the football programme at the school," Lawrence stated.

"We as coaches have limited time to work with the students who play, but the teachers work along with me and made sure that I get some quality time with the players and I appreciate that."

"Going forward, I think I



Coach Lyndon 'Loudah' Lawrence, right, and the Five Islands Primary School team during the presentation ceremony of the Primary Schools' Cup at Golden Grove on 6th May, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

will try to get even a little bit more time to coach the players. Usually, we only work with the primary schools during the second term of the school year, but I will be trying to get some more time to work along with them.

"I need some more time to work with them to help them to develop a lot better. This will help the primary school competition to be a lot more competitive and even more interesting for people to come and watch."

The Primary Schools' Cup resumed this year for

the first time since the start of the pandemic.

Five Islands captured the runner-up position in the tournament after a 3-1 loss in the final on 6th May against defending champions Golden Grove, who retained the title they last won in 2019.

Lawrence said Five Islands had defensive lapses throughout this year's tournament, but he was impressed with the team's resilience.

"Throughout the tournament, we lapsed defensively. Most of the goals that were

scored against us are usually our fault, but their resilience and the never give up attitude that they have, I will give them an eight out of 10 for their overall performance throughout the tournament," Lawrence said.

"During recent years, Five Islands have been able to reach at least the semi-finals and I am hoping that we will continue that trend in the next competition."

"It was really nice to see quite a number of people coming out to watch the games, especially in the semi-finals and final. I am hoping that the crowds will continue to come out during the secondary schools' competitions."

The secondary schools' football tournament will return in the next school year, which starts this September.

cont'd from pg 22

right-hander Marizanne Kapp arrived at six to lash a pulsating 67 from 32 balls, including half-dozen fours and two of sixes.

In the third place play-off West Indies allrounder Deandra Dottin hit a dashing century.

The powerful opener made 111 off 53

balls with nine sixes as the Barmy Army Team scored 183-6 off their 20 overs. They were however outplayed by Spirit Women who replied with 183-4 off 18.5 overs.

Sophia Dunkley was the leading batter with a match-winning 123 not out off 73 balls, which included 18 fours and three sixes.

Cyclists to return to competitive racing later this month

Cyclists will return to competition when the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) stages the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union Invitational Race on Sunday, 29th May.

The return to competitive racing is welcomed, especially after the Southern Loop Race that was slated to take place last Sunday was cancelled.

President of the ABCF, St. Clair Williams, said the Southern Loop Race was cancelled as a mark of respect by the national cycling fraternity, after four cyclists were struck by a vehicle while riding on the Sir George H. Walter Highway on the morning of Sunday, 8th May.

"The Southern Loop Race was supposed to have been the latest race on our calendar. That race was slated to be held on Sunday, 15th May, and that was a race that was being put on by the Wadadli Cycling Academy.

"As a result of the events that unfolded on Sunday, 8th May, where we had this horrific accident involving four of our national cyclists, out of courtesy and out of respect, we decided to cancel that race," Wil-



Cyclists converge at the starting point of the Palm Sunday Road Race at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on 10th April, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

liams said.

Sean Weathered of Team Terminix, Tiziano Rosignoli of Road Runners Cycling Club, Ghore Coates of Wadadli Cycling Academy and Andre Simon of Andre Simon Cycling Academy were the four cyclists injured in the collision.

Weathered and Rosignoli were treated at the Lester Bird Medical Centre and released from hospital the same day.

Coates' injuries required further attention and he was kept under observation in hospital overnight then subsequently discharged.

However, due to the extent of his injuries, Simon was placed in a medically induced coma and remains in hospital for treatment. He is expected to face a long road to recovery.

Meanwhile, Williams said cyclists from Anguilla, Dominica and St. Maarten have expressed an interest in travelling here to compete later this month.

"The next race on our calendar will be on the 29th May and that will be the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union Invitational Race. That race is on schedule to go ahead and we are

looking forward to seeing the entire cycling fraternity coming out and supporting that race.

"We also have scheduled to come to Antigua, cyclists from at least three other countries, so we are certainly looking forward for that race to happen," Williams said.

The last race hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation was the 22.2-mile Palm Sunday Road Race from the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to St. James' Club & Villas in Mamora Bay and back on 10th April.