

ANTIGUA/BARBUDA, GUYANA TO COOPERATE ON TRADE, AGRICULTURE

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Prime Minister Browne shared a light moment with a toddler and his mother on the side lines of the Caribbean-Roraima Investors Luncheon on Saturday at the Santa Fé farm in North Rupununi, Guyana. At the luncheon, Brazilian investors made presentations on their capacity and capabilities, and spoke of their intentions to collaborate with CARICOM on agricultural projects [Photo: Office of the President of Guyana].

Local News

MOU signed between Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana on Economic Cooperation

The governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), providing for economic cooperation in eight areas, including tourism, financial services, agriculture, air transportation and energy.

The MOU was signed at State House in Guyana by President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Both leaders noted that the MOU is another step in the many collaborative efforts in which Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana have been involved since the governments of the two countries, along with Barbados, launched the Caribbean Free Trade Agreement at Dickenson Bay in Antigua in 1965.

Recalling that Antigua and Barbuda has been home to a significant number of the Guyanese diaspora for decades, President Ali remarked that there is every basis for the strengthening of economic relations between the two countries, bringing benefits to their people.

"This agreement will open opportunities for the private sectors of both countries in several sectors, including tourism in which Antigua and Barbuda is regarded as a world leader", Prime Minister Browne



Guyana President Dr. Irfaan Ali of Guyana (left) and Prime Minister Gaston Browne (right).

said.

He added that financial institutions will also be able to cooperate in expanding the range of services offered to their clients.

On regional air transportation, President Ali noted that transportation was identified by CARICOM Heads of Government, who attended the Agri-Invest Forum in Guyana this week as "an important factor in achieving food security in the Caribbean".

"Therefore, we will closely examine the possibility of collaborating with Antigua and Barbuda in the provision of air transportation as an important element in moving produce from Guyana to other parts of the region".

The leaders will establish a Working Group by June 7 with a mandate to examine and make recommendations on ways to implement the areas of cooperation as early as possible.



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PM Browne highlights challenge of praedial larceny

The ongoing issue of praedial larceny has the attention of regional heads of government with the problem plaguing farmers in all of their countries.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who attended the three-day Agri-Investment Forum and Expo in Guyana that ended on Saturday, told his colleagues and agriculture experts of the pervasiveness of praedial larceny in Antigua and Barbuda and said, “my Government will have to consider introducing very harsh penalties”.

The introduction of stiffer penalties is a view shared by local farmers

who continue to suffer at the hands of thieves who steal their crops and small ruminants, causing the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the process.

The Antigua and Barbuda head of government pointed to the major financial losses being incurred and has appealed to his counterparts in the region for a united approach in dealing with the vexing problem.

“In 2010 the estimated direct losses from praedial larceny in the region amounted to US\$321 million. It was described as “the most discouraging aspect of agriculture.

“It would be useful to all our

countries, if there was a regional approach to matters such as lines of credit, crop insurance, praedial larceny, and machinery to purchase the produce of small farmers by contract. Perhaps, arising from the discussions at this meeting, there may come concrete plans to advance these considerations,” Browne said in his address during the opening ceremony of the event.

The inaugural Agri-Investment Forum and Expo was convened to formulate a plan to reduce the region’s food import bill by 25 percent by 2025 and address the growing threat of food insecurity.



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Inaugural Agri-Investment Forum and Expo in Guyana a success

CARICOM Heads of Government from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Montserrat and Trinidad and Tobago and other high-level representatives from The Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and regional and international institutions met in Guyana at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre on May 19 and 20, 2022 to participate in the “Agri-Investment Forum and Expo: Investing in Vision 25 by 2025”.

The forum was organised by the Government of Guyana in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat.

The group discussed the current grave global situation of the shortages and high prices of imported food; the shortage and increased prices of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs; and the severe problems affecting transportation and supply.

They noted with great concern that the member states of CARICOM have been deeply impacted by these developments which have resulted in a dramatic increase in the cost of food, exposing still further the region’s food insecurity due to its vulnerability to external influences.

The group recognised that, within CARICOM, member states have the capacity to attain a high level of food security for the Community as a whole, provided that urgent action is taken to establish sustainable machinery, and to adhere to the terms of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

The group agreed that its failure to implement the 2005 “Framework for the repositioning of Caribbean agriculture” which was agreed by CARICOM governments, constrained the Community’s capacity to safeguard against the impact of the present crisis.



CARICOM leaders cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Agri-Investment Expo at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre on Thursday.

As a result, they welcomed the timely vision of the agricultural development plan – [aligned with Advancing the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Agenda: Prioritising Food and Nutrition Security and the 25 by 2025 Plan] –, presented by Guyana’s President Irfaan Ali, at the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in March this year.

They resolved to recommend, for the adoption by all CARICOM Heads of Government, the following four priority areas to address food security urgently and sustainably, including through the speedy implementation of decisions:

Food insecurity

The agricultural plan, proposed by Guyana’s President Irfaan Ali to the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference in March 2022, should be fully implemented as swiftly as possible, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. In this regard, President Ali was requested to mandate the Ministerial Task Force on Food Security to propose an implementation schedule for urgent consideration by Heads of Government.

Regional Transportation

Recognizing that the lack of adequate regional transportation by sea and air is an obstacle to the transportation of food within the region, and determined that it should be overcome within the shortest possible time frame, Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, together with the Heads of Government in the quasi-Cabinet responsible for Transport (Maritime and Aviation) and Agriculture, have been requested to complete a proposal for establishing adequate and sustainable regional transportation, after consultation with the Caribbean private sector, the international donor community and multilateral development agencies, for consideration by Heads of Government in July 2022.

In making this recommendation, the Group was heartened by the advice of the Caribbean Development Bank that it is willing to use its best efforts to mobilise resources in this effort.

Trade Barriers

In considering that the biggest inhibitors to the development of agri-food systems within the region are trade barriers, particularly non-tariff

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CXC written exams begin today

Hundreds of students and private candidates in Antigua and Barbuda, and thousands more across the region, are today commencing the Caribbean Examinations Council's CSEC and CAPE written examinations.

The May/June exams were delayed by three weeks in order to give candidates in some territories adequate preparation time due to their COVID-19 regulations.

Technical Drawing 2 and Textiles, Clothing and Fashion 2 (CSEC) are scheduled for today. Chemistry for private candidates will also be administered.

For CAPE candidates, Literature in English Unit 1, Physics Unit 1 and Integrated Mathematics Paper 2 begin today.

Offering best wishes to candidates throughout the territories, CXC's Registrar, Dr. Wayne Wesley, acknowledged the hard work they have undertaken in preparing for the



examinations. He encouraged candidates to comply with all guidelines implemented by CXC, and expressed optimism that candidates will be successful as a result of their commitment.

"We are encouraging all candidates to arrive early at the examination centres, and to follow the guidelines and instructions provided by the invigilators and centres' staff," Dr. Wesley noted.

"With the continued support of

your family, guardians, teachers and friends, you are best placed to do well. Be calm and confident. You have put in the work and all will be well."

The head of the CXC is assuring that all centres will be operated in accordance with strict COVID-19 protocols.

"As you continue your final preparations, rest assured that your health and safety is paramount. All centres and invigilators will follow national health protocols as it relates to social distancing, the wearing of masks and the sanitisation of hands and surfaces."

With an updated schedule issued by CXC, candidates are encouraged to carefully check their timetables to ensure examination dates are not being overlooked.

The CXC administered examinations will conclude on 1st July, 2022. Results are expected to be released in late August or early September.

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barriers, and that this issue requires political consensus and determination to prevent it, the group recommends that a Special Committee immediately prepare proposals, with time-bound deadlines, for eliminating such trade barriers.

The Special Committee should be convened by the Minister in the quasi-Cabinet responsible for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, and its proposals for implementation should be presented at a Special Meeting of Heads of Government in the third quarter of 2022.

Women and Youth

Recognising and affirm-

ing the importance of the participation of women and youth in agriculture - both to enlarge the sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of national economies and to empower the two groups to share in the earnings that can be generated by a vibrant agricultural sector - the CARICOM Secretariat should be authorised to commission an urgent study, for consideration by the Special Meeting of Heads of Government proposed for the third quarter of this year, on ways to attract and expand the participation of youth and women by at least 20 percent by 2025.

The terms of reference

of the study should include machinery for providing credit; crop insurance; contract purchasing of produce; and training including in the use of modern technology.

The representative Group of Heads of Governments and other high-level representatives emphasised the urgency in implementing the four priority issues which they have identified as imperative, not only to surmount the current grave challenges of food shortages and high food prices that the region faces, but to overcome them in a sustainable and lasting manner.

The Group noted the work of the Ministerial Task Force on Food Pro-

duction and Food Security chaired by Guyana's Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, in advising on the development of a CARICOM food system.

They welcomed with great appreciation the important and timely initiative by Guyana's President Irfaan Ali of organising the "Agri-Investment Forum and Expo" from which these deliberations and recommendations have been made.

A follow-up "Agriculture and Food Security Forum" in Trinidad and Tobago in August this year will be staged to maintain the momentum of the Guyana Agri-Investment Forum.

Local News



Major sponsors sign on to Carnival 2022

Several major sponsors have signed on to support the planning and execution of Antigua's Carnival, 2022.

The signing of Memorandum of Understanding formed the backdrop of the official launch of Carnival 2022, which took place at the Dow's Hill Interpretation Centre near Shirley's Heights last Thursday.

Minister of Creative Industries and Innovation (MCII), Dr. Michael Browne, expressed appreciation to the private sector, which has continued to support Carnival over the years, and welcomed the

summer festival's first time sponsors.

"We thank especially our friends from the private sector. Carnival is not just the people's business; Carnival is all of our business, and we could not have done this without our partners.

"We have some traditional partners, and we have some new partners, and we want to thank you.

"Equally, based on conversations with our marketing team, I understand that there are additional partners who will be signing over the upcoming weeks," Dr. Browne remarked.

The team at the Minis-



Kevari Francis of Kennedy's Enterprises shows off the signed sponsorship agreement with Ministers Browne and Fernandez

try of Creative Industries and Innovation said it was particularly pleased to welcome indigenous telecommunications company, Inet, as a partner for Carnival 2022 and beyond.

'Inet Is Home' is part of a marketing programme that the MCII will roll out shortly to support this new partnership.

Other partners include Premier Beverages, Frank B. Armstrong and Kennedy's Enterprises. These entities will be associated with the MCII in all its activities over the coming

year, including carnival.

Other companies are listed as sponsors of Carnival 2022 only. These are State Insurance, Flavor Radio, and Anjo Wholesale.

A spokesman for the ministry said the reception from the business community to approaches from the ministry for assistance has been 'positive'.

"We are cognizant of the current economic climate in which we are operating, but nonetheless, we are happy with the support we have received so far from the business community," the spokesman stated.

Antigua's Carnival is returning after a two-year hiatus forced by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Minister Browne is urging nationals to remain vigilant as they enjoy Carnival this year, as COVID-19 is still with us.



Minister Browne, Director MCII, Petley O'Keeffe and Colvert Francis of Premier Beverages

Mon 23 Day		Mon 23 Night	
85°	☀️	77°	☁️
7% Precip	ENE 11 mph	10% Precip	ENE 9 mph
Mostly sunny skies. High near 85F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.		A few clouds. Low 77F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 68%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 77%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:34 am	Sunset 6:34 pm	Moonrise 1:06 am	Moonset 12:57 pm
		🌙 Waning Crescent	

Sexual assault case dismissed, charges filed almost 3 years after alleged incident

The High Court in St. John's has dismissed the sexual assault charges brought against a 44-year-old man who was charged two and a half years after the alleged incident occurred.

The trial lasted for four days before a mixed jury that deliberated for three hours, before returning a unanimous "not guilty" verdict last Friday.

According to court records, the man was charged with indecent assault on a woman in her 40s by alleged-



ly grabbing her vulva.

According to court re-

cords, the alleged incident occurred between 25th March and 8th April, 2018, however, the victim did not make a report to police concerning the alleged attack until December, 2020.

The complainant reported that the alleged incident happened in the presence of at least eight witnesses. Unfortunately, no one came forward to provide testimony to support her allegation against

the defendant.

This lack of evidence may have been the main factor behind the decision of the jury. Madam Justice Ann-Marie Smith presided over the trial, while defense attorney Wendel Robinson appeared for the accused.

Prosecuting the case was Shannon Jones-Gittens, Crown Counsel in the office of The Director of Public Prosecutions.

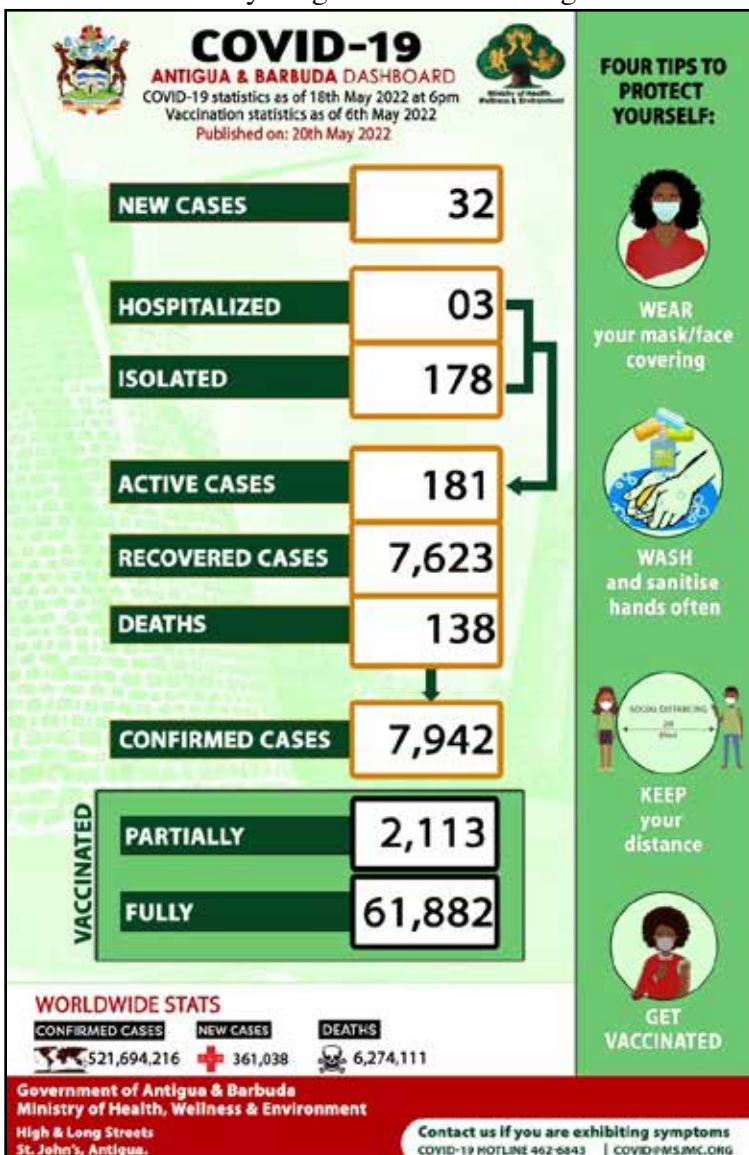
Three hospitalised as COVID cases continue to rise

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed thirty-two (32) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 18th May, 2022 at 6pm. Forty-eight (48) samples were processed.

Twenty-six (26) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven thousand nine hundred and forty-two (7,942); which is inclusive of one hundred and eighty-one (181) active cases.

There are three (3) hospitalised cases; one (1) severe and two (2) mild.



Opinion

Where there's a will

By Tony Deyal

Had I known, I could have made good money from my increasing baldness starting from the day my friend Errol looked at me and said, “Tony boy you starting to look like Tarzan!” I could have said, “Yes, I’m a swinger”, or “Not so much Tarzan as de-vine”, or even “Yes, man, I am tree-men-dous.” I didn’t know he was pulling a cheetah on me. “Nah,” he replied, “You like Tarzan. You bawling!” It was his idea of a punishing pun. When Tarzan yelled “Ahwoooooo”, some of us joked that it was a scream of pure pain because Jane was not swinging on the vine. However, we did not use the “yell” of the Americans. We said that Tarzan was “bawling”.

Actually, a Calypsonian, the great humourist, The Mighty Spoiler, in 1959 sang a calypso lamenting that because of the close resemblance between them, his twin-brother was always praised for the things Spoiler did. One verse ended with, “But ah bawl like twenty-Tarzan/ When they went and they shake my twin brother hand.” What Errol did was make fun of my hair-loss or “balding” by pronouncing it in true Trini style as “bawlin.” Given that our entire gang had gathered under the street lamp and were laughing at me, had I found out then what I learnt a few days ago, I could have

been rich enough to afford a lifetime supply of Rogaine (Minoxidil). Actually, Errol had a close shave and would have bawled till all his hair dropped out if he had tried that today.

Two Fridays ago, Black Friday, May 13 2022, an employment tribunal in West Yorkshire, England, ruled that calling a man a “bald xxxx” (four-letter word for the female genital) is sexual harassment. The panel agreed that the use of the words “not only violated the man’s dignity but created an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for him.” They believed that “commenting on a man’s baldness in the workplace is equivalent to remarking on the size of a woman’s breasts.” One question that came up was if a woman’s breast size and a man’s bald head are equivalent, what would you consider harassment?

Apart from being compared to Tarzan, I have other grounds for legal action. I was complaining to a female barber that when I was a boy my hair was thick, then it turned thin, then it turned grey and now it has turned loose and I had problems with split hair. She replied, “Well it looks like your hair split a long time ago.” Another one told me that I should value my hair because one on the head is worth two in the brush. My



Tony Deyal

older son George laughed loudly when I told him I was going to the barber and shouted for the whole house, people passing on the street and maybe the media to hear, “Make him charge you half-price!”

I tried that with a Chinese “chopper” in Montreal. I knew I was taking a chance but I had to make a presentation at a global Climate Change conference and wanted my head to look less uncontrolled than the environment. I knew I was taking a chance for two reasons. In the old days in China, barbers were also dentists and surgeons, performing tooth extractions, blood letting and surgery. In other words, the phrase “being of oriental extraction” could be both a genealogical generalization and a painful process. The

other is that I grew up in Trinidad where many of my classmates were of Chinese descent. Given the quality of their haircuts, we joked that a Chinese “trim” consisted of putting a bowl on the person’s head and cutting all the hair around it. So, the second thing I did when I entered the saloon was to make sure there was no bowl among the shears, scissors and other instruments. Then I told the barber that my son George recommended I should ask for a half-price haircut because I didn’t have much hair left. From behind the counter the barber’s wife shouted, “No! No! You should pay double. Your hair so thin it will take two times as long to cut it!”

Now, many years later, things have got worse. If my

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Opinion

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head was a job, it will not have any fringe benefits. I get asked questions like, "What do you call a barber that works only on bald people like you?" An air stylist. Or, "Tony, I hear your wife gave you a comb for your birthday and when you assured her that you would never part with it, she said, 'I know that!'" One of the worst ones was that bald men like me have holes in our pockets so we can run our fingers through our hair. And, worst of all because it's true, you wouldn't believe that when I went to the hospital a few years ago because I fell and cracked my skull in the bathroom, I was diagnosed with a receding hairline fracture. What was worse is that when I came out of the hospital, I stood in front of the bathroom mirror looking to see if anything had changed, and asked my wife, seriously, "Will you still love me when I'm old, fat, and balding?" She

answered, "I do."

However, there is what seems at first to be good news for us. It was said that bald men are more virile because we have higher levels of the male hormone, testosterone. This makes us more masculine and increases our sex drive. However, we lose our hair at a younger age than average as a result. Unfortunately for us, an article in The Harvard Gazette (January 27, 2000) was enough to scare the heck out of me. Under the headline, "Male Baldness Linked To Higher Incidence of Heart Disease, the Gazette says, "It appears that balding men have more to worry about than their vanity. The largest study to date concludes that male pattern baldness is associated with an increased risk for heart disease...The more the hair loss, the higher the possible risk." This is what is called a "mixed blessing" but I think of it as a "Barmicide Feast" which is

"a pretended banquet with no food", or "illusory generosity or hospitality." In other words, hair today and gone immediately without waiting for tomorrow.

Thinking about my hair-loss, one of the things I feel better about is that I don't have "Alopecia Areata" which is an ailment you get when the immune system attacks hair follicles and the structures in skin that form hair, especially your head and face. The only thing some people think is worse than that is getting slapped by Will Smith for joking about his wife who suffers from the disease. For me, all it proves is that where there's a Will, there's a way.

**Tony Deyal was last seen laughing when one of his friends joked, "Tony boy, it's a good thing you don't go to Church again because you would take forever to make the sign of the cross".*




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52nd Caribbean Development Bank Board of Governors Meeting set for June

The region's advancement will take centre stage in Turks and Caicos on June 13 – 16, 2022 when the development community will gather in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) for the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) Board of Governors (BOG).

The Meeting which is being hosted by the current BOG Chair, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), the Honourable Charles Misick is CDB's flagship event. According to Premier Misick, who also serves as the Bank's Governor for the British Overseas Territories, "this meeting and similar undertakings of this nature are beneficial to both the region and TCI to sustain and partner as we work to towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more importantly decreasing our vulnerabilities and building resilience."

Speaking at the press launch of the Annual Meeting in TCI on May 10, Dr Hyginus 'Gene' Leon, President of the Caribbean Development Bank said "resilience for us is one of if not the most existential factors we face... being able to build resilience, being able to drive our own future...becomes the most ethical obligation...our entire focus is on adaptation and mitigation building resilience for a brighter tomorrow."



The Annual Meeting will enable a variety of minds and interests in development to formulate solutions by looking practically and honestly at what has been accomplished and what is left undone. This will undoubtedly mould a post covid recovery inclusive of all interests with the intent of bringing Caribbean countries closer to the SDGs.

The SDGs will be examined in discussions and the region's progress in achieving set targets evaluated. Sessions for administrators, policymakers and institutions will look at the distance from the SDGs and approaches to measure and better target outcomes while managing vulnerabilities, accelerating adaptation and building resilience. The Annual Meeting is a dialogue by the Bank's highest decision-making body involving innovative, solutions-oriented discourse on current development chal-

lenges.

The Bank hosts complementary discussions with partner organisations and international experts on key issues facing the region at the event. On the agenda this year are food security, public accounting for the SDGs, the Caribbean energy transition, youth involvement and participation in development, development financing and the role of financing institutions, addressing and responding to vulnerabilities, building resilience focused on CDB's proposed Recovery Duration Adjuster and an exploration of CARICOM-Africa linkages for accelerated development.

Participants include the President of the African Development Bank – Dr Akimwumi Adesina, President of the Inter-American Development Bank – Mr Mauricio Claver-Carone, President of the European Investment Bank – Dr Werner Hoyer,

government ministers from the Bank's 19 Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs), development partners and private sector interests.

The meetings will all examine and formulate evidence-based strategies and precise actions to meet the SDGs by leveraging knowledge, innovation, and creativity to foster resilience, drive economic diversity, and increase the competitive advantage of our economies. With less than 8 years left until 2030, the region must accelerate its efforts to close the gap to the SDGs. CDB is therefore championing innovative solutions to respond to the region's social, financial, and environmental challenges.

The Annual Meeting themed, Measure Better to Target Better: Adaptation and Resilience, is reflective of the Bank's objective to propel its BMCs to align national priorities with the SDGs.

WHO expects more cases of monkeypox to emerge globally

By Jennifer Rigby

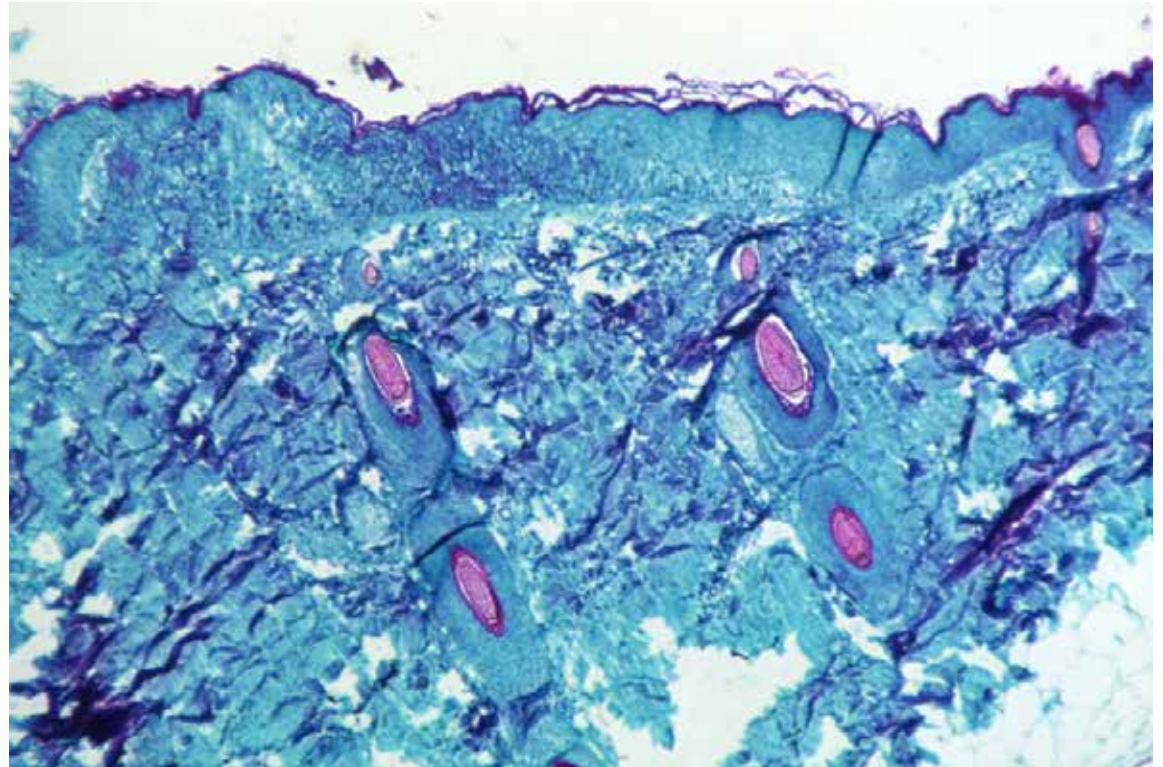
The World Health Organization said it expects to identify more cases of monkeypox as it expands surveillance in countries where the disease is not typically found.

As of Saturday, 92 confirmed cases and 28 suspected cases of monkeypox have been reported from 12 member states that are not endemic for the virus, the U.N. agency said, adding it will provide further guidance and recommendations in coming days for countries on how to mitigate the spread of monkeypox.

"Available information suggests that human-to-human transmission is occurring among people in close physical contact with cases who are symptomatic", the agency added.

Monkeypox is an infectious disease that is usually mild, and is endemic in parts of west and central Africa. It is spread by close contact, so it can be relatively easily contained through such measures as self-isolation and hygiene.

"What seems to be happening now is that it has got into the population as a sexual form, as a genital form, and is being spread as are sexually transmitted infections, which has amplified its transmission around the world," WHO official David Heymann, an infectious dis-



A section of skin tissue, harvested from a lesion on the skin of a monkey, that had been infected with monkeypox virus, is seen at 50X magnification on day four of rash development in 1968. CDC/Handout via REUTERS

ease specialist, told Reuters.

Heymann said an international committee of experts met via video conference to look at what needed to be studied about the outbreak and communicated to the public, including whether there is any asymptomatic spread, who are at most risk, and the various routes of transmission.

He said the meeting was convened "because of the urgency of the situation". The committee is not the group that would suggest declaring a public health emergency of international concern, WHO's highest form of alert, which applies to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said close contact

was the key transmission route, as lesions typical of the disease are very infectious. For example, parents caring for sick children are at risk, as are health workers, which is why some countries have started inoculating teams treating monkeypox patients using vaccines for smallpox, a related virus.

Many of the current cases have been identified at sexual health clinics.

Early genomic sequencing of a handful of the cases in Europe has suggested a similarity with the strain that spread in a limited fashion in Britain, Israel and Singapore in 2018.

Heymann said it was

"biologically plausible" the virus had been circulating outside of the countries where it is endemic, but had not led to major outbreaks as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns, social distancing and travel restrictions.

He stressed that the monkeypox outbreak did not resemble the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic because it does not transmit as easily. Those who suspect they may have been exposed or who show symptoms including bumpy rash and fever, should avoid close contact with others, he said.

"There are vaccines available, but the most important message is, you can protect yourself," he added.

Gangs strangle Haiti's capital as deaths, kidnappings soar

By Evens Sanon and Dánica Coto

It was about 6 a.m. when Venique Moïse flung open the door of her house and saw dozens of people running — their children in one hand and scant belongings in the other — as gunfire intensified.

Minutes later, she joined the crowd with her three kids and fled their neighbourhood in Haiti's capital as fires burned nearby, collapsing homes where hours later the bodies of nearly 200 men, women and children shot or mutilated with machetes by warring gangs were found alongside skulls and bones of victims set ablaze in late April.

"That Sunday, when the war started, I felt that I was going to die," Moïse said.

Gangs are fighting each other and seizing territory in the capital of Port-au-Prince with a new intensity and brutality. The violence has horrified many who feel the country is swiftly unravelling as it tries to recover from the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and the United Nations prepares to debate the future of its long-time presence in Haiti.

Experts say the scale and duration of gang clashes, the power criminals wield and the amount of territory they control has reached levels not seen before.



Children take refuge in a converted shelter after being forced to leave their homes due to clashes between armed gangs, in the Tabarre neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, April 28, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

Gangs have forced schools, businesses and hospitals to close as they raid new neighbourhoods, seize control of the main roads connecting the capital to the rest of the country and kidnap victims daily, including eight Turkish citizens still held captive, authorities say.

Gangs also are recruiting more children than before, arming them with heavy weapons and forming temporary alliances with other gangs in attempts to take over more territory for economic and political gain ahead of the country's general elections, said Jaime Vigil Recinos, the United Nations' police commissioner in Haiti.

"It's astonishing," he

told The Associated Press, noting that gang clashes are becoming protracted, ruthless affairs. "We are talking about something that Haiti hasn't experienced before."

At least 92 civilians and 96 suspected gang members were killed between April 24 and May 16, with another 113 injured, 12 missing and 49 kidnapped for ransom, according to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The office warned that the actual number of people killed "may be much higher."

Gangs also gang-raped children as young as 10 and set fire to at least a dozen homes, forcing some 9,000 people to flee and seek tem-

porary shelter in churches, public parks and shuttered schools, U.N. officials said.

Haiti's National Human Rights Defense Network said some victims were decapitated while others were thrown into wells and latrines. Gangs posted pictures of the gruesome scenes on social media to further terrorize people. The network said that most women and girls were raped before being killed.

"Armed violence has reached unimaginable and intolerable levels in Haiti," Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a May 17 statement.

Bruno Maes, UNICEF's

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representative in Haiti, told the AP that one growing concern is the lack of access to basic things like water, food and medicine because people remain trapped in certain areas while gangs continue to fight, noting that malnutrition is on the rise, affecting 1 in 5 children in the Cité Soleil neighbourhood alone.

“We are really seeing a strangulation of Port-au-Prince,” he said, adding that UNICEF has been forced to use a helicopter and now a boat to try to reach those most in need.

Staff at hospitals and clinics report they’re being stretched thin, with Doctors Without Borders noting that it treated nearly 100 people for gunshot wounds from April 24 to May 7, forcing the aid group to reopen a clinic in Cité Soleil it had closed in early April because of the violence.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry has remained largely quiet amid the escalating gang violence, while Frantz Elbé, Haiti’s new police chief, said dozens of gang members have been arrested and another 94 killed in clashes with police since he took over the department six months ago. Nearly 5,000 suspects have been accused of crimes including murder and kidnapping, Elbé said.

“I am going to continue to track down the criminals,” he pledged in a May 9 news conference, adding that Haiti’s understaffed and under-resourced police department of roughly 11,000 officers for a country of more than 11 million people was receiving training and equipment from the international community.

At least 48 killings were reported in the neighbourhood of Butte Boyer, which Edna Noël Marie fled with her husband and three children when gunfire erupted in late April.

The 44-year-old is sleeping on the concrete floor of a crowded shelter with no mattresses in increasingly unhygienic conditions while her children



Residents travel on a motorbike as they flee their home to avoid clashes between armed gangs, in the Croix-des-Mission neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, April 28, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

stay at a friend’s home.

“It’s not big enough to shelter all of us,” she explained, adding that she fears gangs will recruit her two sons and rape her daughter. “These people have no remorse, and society doesn’t really care. ... There is no civil protection. There are no authorities. Police are here today, and they’re going to be gone tomorrow.”

About 1,700 schools have shuttered amid the spike in gang violence, leaving more than half a million children without an education, with the director of some schools unable to keep paying gangs to ensure students’ safety, the U.N. said. Efforts are underway to set up an FM radio station dedicated to broadcasting classes, Maes said.

“It’s very saddening for us that children who are willing to learn and teachers willing to teach cannot do so because they feel unsafe,” he said.

The ongoing violence and kidnappings have prompted hundreds of Haitians to flee their country, often a deadly move. At least 11 Haitians died and 36 others were rescued when their human smuggling boat overturned near Puerto Rico this month. Dozens of others have died at sea in recent months.

Another concern is the lack of housing not only for the estimated 9,000 families recently forced to flee their homes, but also for the estimated 20,000 others displaced last year who are still living in overcrowded, dirty government shelters. At the same time, the country is struggling to help roughly 20,000 Haitians the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has deported in recent months amid sharp criticism.

As police try to contain the gang
cont'd on pg 14

The World Around Us



cont'd from pg 13

violence, AP journalists visited the Butte Boyer neighbourhood, where the smell of charred homes and decaying bodies spread for several blocks. Dogs gnawed on victims' remains.

Several walls and gates were scrawled with "400 Mawozo," a testament to the presence of a gang believed to have kidnapped the Turkish citizens in early May and 17 members of a U.S.-based missionary group last year, demanding \$1 million in ransom and holding most for two months.

Nailed to a wooden post, a picture of a man killed during the recent gang violence flapped in the wind.

The sign underneath read, "Thanks to the gov-

ernment of my country."

It was once a quiet neighbourhood that Lucitha Gason, 48, knows she won't return to again. She was getting ready for church when the explosion of gunfire in late April forced her to abandon her home.

She's been staying at a shuttered school, but the owner recently demanded that she and dozens of other Haitians find another place to sleep.

Gason is now trying to figure out where to go since she can't afford to leave the country.

"We can't count on the government. We can't count on organisations.

"They're all making promises that aren't coming through," she said.

"Here in Haiti, you really have to depend on yourself and what you can do for yourself. There's no such thing as what the country can do for you."

Weekend Puzzle Solution

GOING NO PLACE?

By Jill Pepper

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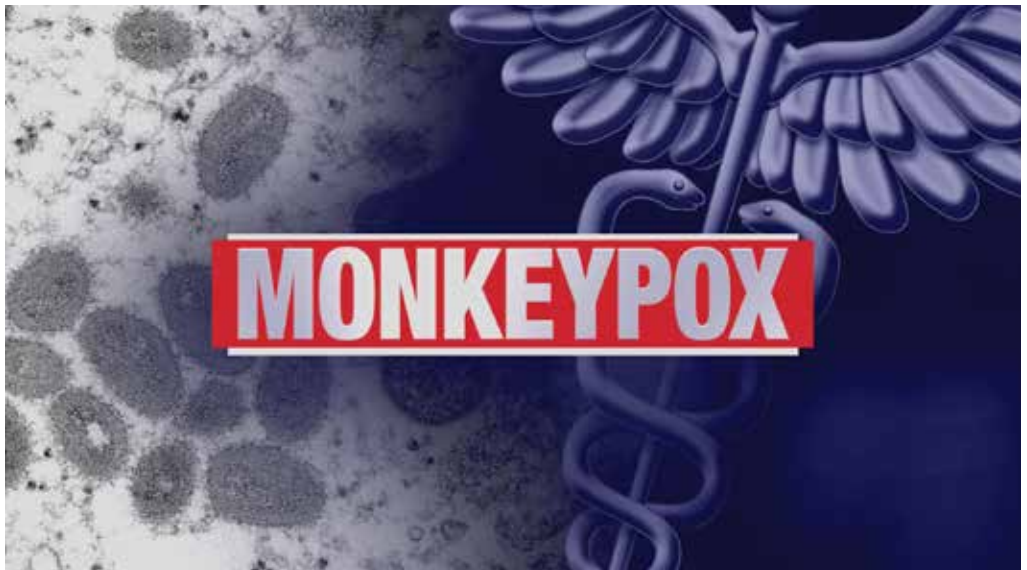
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Trinidad takes precautions regarding monkeypox virus

Health authorities in Trinidad have urged residents who have travelled to countries where the monkeypox virus has been detected and “are symptomatic” to visit their nearest health provider.

As monkeypox cases rise in Europe and other parts of the globe, health authorities are expressing concern about the unusual uptick but also pointing out that the virus is far less transmissible than the coronavirus that upended the world.

There are now more than 70 con-
cont'd on pg 16



Cuba and CARIBSAN to sign framework agreement on wastewater

CMC – Representatives of the Caribbean Cooperation for the treatment of wastewater in the natural heritage (CARIBSAN) and the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH by its Spanish acronym) are scheduled to sign a cooperation framework

agreement in Havana on Saturday.

The signing of the document will be the last action of a CARIBSAN mission that arrived in Cuba a week ago with the aim of presenting and promoting a project to improve sanitation in fragile ecosystems in its coastal areas and carrying out an institution and technique.

In presenting the details, the President of the Martinique Water office, Lucien Saliber, said the initiative that also includes Cuba, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, and Haiti, which requested to join the promotional meeting.

Saliber explained that CARIBSAN encourages the use of artificial wetland systems with planted filters

for waste processing, based on nature's purification capabilities, effectively applied for years in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

He described as advantageous the fact that it is a simpler solution, less expensive to build and maintain than the classic sanitation solutions, and with greater resistance to hydro-meteorological phenomena that impact the subregion, including cyclones during their season from June to November.

CARIBSAN receives the support of the European Territorial Cooperation Program, a financing tool for regional development, with the support of the International Office for Water (France) for this group of Antillean islands.-



CARIBSAN

THE CARIBBEAN COOPERATION
 FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT
 INSPIRED BY NATURAL HERITAGE

Guyana favours removal of barriers to regional trade

CMC – Guyana's Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo has disagreed with calls by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) for Guyana not to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Trinidad and Tobago, saying it provides a way forward to remove a range of non-tariff barriers.

"Hopefully, the MOU will go towards resolving the difficulties we have had so you have to have a pathway to solving the problem.

"You just can't complain about it, and I think that's what we're looking for," Jagdeo told the Demerara Waves Online News.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley earlier this week held talks with President Dr. Irfaan Ali and accord-



Guyana's Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo (left), Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley (right)

ing to a statement released by the government in Port of Spain, the two leaders engaged in broad, extensive bilateral talks and pledged to deepen ties between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

It was explained that the discussions focused specifically on agriculture, energy, and national security and that an MOU cov-

ering the key areas which were discussed is to be signed and released.

But in its statement, the GCCCI said it "wishes to express its disagreement with this action by the Government of Guyana.

"The Chamber's concern comes in light of the fact that there are still many non-tariff barriers (NTBs) implemented by Trinidad

and Tobago against Guyana. These NTBs prevent exports from Guyanese businesses and, by extension, inhibit the growth of Guyanese enterprises.

"Accordingly, the Chamber of Commerce, as it did in 2018 with a previous MOU of a similar nature, strongly urges the Government to refrain from signing any MOU with Trinidad and Tobago until these non-tariff barriers are removed," it added.

Jagdeo said the government wanted to hold a "discussion" with the GCCCI adding that Georgetown's "focus is on ...removing barriers to trade in agricultural products across the region".

There has been no response so far from Trinidad and Tobago regarding the complaint made by the private sector group.

cont'd from pg 15

firmed cases in Europe, according to a data tracker compiled by a collective of global health researchers, with additional infections found in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

More than 50 suspected monkeypox cases are being examined globally but have not yet been confirmed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an alert Friday urging doctors and state health departments to be vigilant

Monkeypox is most common in remote parts of Central and West Africa.

In a statement, the Trinidad Ministry of Health said while no "suspected" case has been detected on the twin island, Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh convened a high-powered meeting attended by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Roshan Parasram as well as Dr. Erica Wheeler, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) representative "to address reports of the detection of this virus" in countries overseas.

"The public is advised that the main symptoms of monkeypox are fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

The virus is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal or with contaminated material such as bedding," the ministry said.

It said the virus may also be transmitted from person to person by respiratory droplets.

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with the monkeypox virus that belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae. The Orthopoxvirus genus also includes variola virus (which causes smallpox), vaccinia virus (used in the smallpox vaccine), and cowpox virus.

US lawmakers urge binding vote on Puerto Rico status

AP – A group of mostly Democratic congress members, including the House majority leader, on Thursday proposed a binding plebiscite to decide whether Puerto Rico should become a state or gain some sort of independence.

The draft proposal unveiled at an online news conference would commit Congress to accepting Puerto Rico into the United States if voters on the island approve it. But even if the plan were to pass the Democratic-led House, the proposal appears to have little chance in the Senate, where Republicans have long opposed statehood.

Voters also could choose outright independence or independence with free association, whose terms would be defined following negotiations over foreign affairs, U.S. citizenship and use of the U.S. dollar, said Rep. Darren Soto of Florida.

If no majority emerges, a second round of voting would be held between the top two alternatives.

The measure, not yet introduced, follows months of negotiations between federal lawmakers who have long disagreed on what Puerto Rico's political status should be.

"Getting to this point has not been an easy process. Is it perfection? No," said Rep. Raúl Grijalva of



The Puerto Rican flag flies in front of Puerto Rico's Capitol as in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 29, 2015. A group of Democratic congress members, including the House majority leader, on Thursday, May 19, 2022, proposed a binding plebiscite to decide whether Puerto Rico should become a state or gain some sort of independence. (AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo, File)

Arizona, chairman of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, which oversees affairs in U.S. territories.

U.S. House Majority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland said all those involved had to make compromises, but he pledged to push the bill through. The bill has the support of Jenniffer González, Puerto Rico's congressional representative and a Republican who has limited voting powers.

Puerto Rico has held seven unilateral, non-binding referendums on the issue, but this would be the first that would not include possible continuation of the current status as a U.S. commonwealth.

No overwhelming majority for or against state-

hood emerged in earlier referendums. The last was held during the November 2020 general elections, with 53% of votes for statehood and 47% against, with only a little more than half of registered voters participating.

As a U.S. territory, Puerto Ricans have U.S. citizenship but are not allowed to vote in general elections; they have a congressional representative with limited voting powers, and they receive less money from certain federal programs than do people in U.S. states.

"Nobody can deny that the current status of Puerto Rico is undemocratic," said Gov. Pedro Pierluisi, whose New Progressive Party has long pushed for the island to become the 51st U.S. state.

The main opposition Popular Democratic Party,

which supports the status quo, rejected the proposed plebiscite because it does not include Puerto Rico's current political status.

"This project excludes those who think differently," said party president José Luis Dalmau, who is also president of Puerto Rico's Senate and vowed to fight the proposal. "This is a lack of respect."

Meanwhile, backers said the next step is to hold public hearings in Puerto Rico on the proposed bill prior to its introduction. If eventually approved, Pierluisi said the plebiscite would be held on Nov. 5, 2023.

The proposal comes at a time when Puerto Rico is trying to emerge from a lengthy bankruptcy and recover from the devastation left by Hurricane Maria in 2017.

There is also growing discontent with Puerto Rico's two main parties and ongoing government corruption scandals. The November 2020 elections were the first time that the territory's two main parties failed to reach 40% of votes. Pierluisi won with only 33% of votes.

"I know we are all sceptical because of the political dynamics in Puerto Rico," said U.S. Rep. Nydia Velázquez of New York, who supports the new proposal.

Russia's claim of Mariupol's capture fuels concern for POWs

AP – Concern mounted Saturday over Ukrainian fighters who became prisoners at the end of Russia's brutal three-month siege of Mariupol, as a Moscow-backed separatist leader vowed they would face tribunals.

Russia claimed full control of the Azovstal steel plant, which for weeks was the last holdout in Mariupol and a symbol of Ukrainian tenacity in the strategic port city, now in ruins with more than 20,000 residents feared dead. Its seizure delivers Russian President Vladimir Putin a badly wanted victory in the war he began in February.

As the West rallies behind Ukraine, Polish President Andrzej Duda arrived in Ukraine on an unannounced visit and will address the country's parliament on Sunday, his office said.

Poland, which has welcomed millions of



In this photo taken from video released by the Russian Defense Ministry on Friday, May 20, 2022, Ukrainian servicemen are pictured as they leave the besieged Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, in territory under the government of the Donetsk People's Republic, eastern Ukraine. (Russian Defense Ministry Press Service via AP)

Ukrainian refugees since the start of the war, is a strong supporter of Ukraine's desire to join the European Union. With Russia blocking Ukraine's sea ports, Poland has become a major gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons going into Ukraine and has been help-

ing Ukraine get its grain and other agricultural products to world markets.

The Russian Defense Ministry released video of Ukrainian soldiers being detained after announcing that its forces had removed the last holdouts from the Mariupol plant's extensive underground tunnels. De-

nis Pushilin, the pro-Kremlin head of an area of eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists, claimed that 2,439 people were in custody. He said on Russian state TV that the figure includes some foreign nationals, though he did not provide details.

Biden pushes economic, security aims as he ends S. Korea visit

AP – President Joe Biden tended to both business and security interests Sunday as he wrapped up a three-day trip to South Korea, first showcasing Hyundai's pledge to invest at least \$10 billion in the United States and later mingling with troops at a nearby military base.

Biden's visit to Osan Air Base, where thousands of U.S. and South

Korean service members monitor the rapidly evolving North Korean nuclear threat, was his final stop before he arrived in Tokyo later Sunday.

"You are the front line, right here in this room," the president said in a command centre with maps of the Korean Peninsula projected across screens on a wall.

It was a day that brought together

two key messages that Biden is trying to project during his first trip to Asia as president.

At a time of high inflation and simmering dissatisfaction at home, Biden emphasised his global mission to strengthen the American economy by convincing foreign companies like Hyundai to launch new operations in

cont'd on pg 19

Australia election: Anthony Albanese signals climate policy change

BBC – Australia's new leader has vowed to take the country in a new direction, with a big shift in climate policy.

Anthony Albanese, who won Saturday's election with the opposition centre-left Labour Party, said Australia could become a renewable energy superpower.

He is to be sworn in as PM today, but it is not clear whether his party will have a majority in parliament.

Climate change was a key concern for voters, after three years of record-breaking bushfire and flood events.

Outgoing PM Scott Morrison, the leader of an ousted Liberal-National coalition, thanked the "miracle of the Australian people" after conceding.

Vote counting is still going on and he is still a few seats short of the 76 that Labour needs to secure a majority in the 151-member lower house of parliament.



Australia's new prime minister, Anthony Albanese

ment.

Final results may not be known for several days, as electoral officials have just started counting nearly three million postal votes.

If the election results in a hung parliament, Greens and independents - who have been campaigning for radical climate change action - could wield

greater influence in framing the new government's policies on the issue.

Mr Albanese, who will be heading Australia's first Labour government in almost a decade, also promised to adopt more ambitious emissions targets.

However, he has so far refused calls to phase out coal use or to block the opening of new coal mines.

cont'd from pg 18

the United States. And he

wanted to demonstrate solidarity with nervous Asian

allies who live in the shadow of North Korea's nuclear

weapons and grew sceptical of U.S. security commitments while President Donald Trump was in office.

Earlier Sunday, Biden brushed aside questions about any possible provocation by North Korea, such as testing a nuclear weapon or ballistic missile during his trip, saying, "We are prepared for anything North Korea does."

Asked if he had a message for the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, Biden offered a clipped response: "Hello. Period."

It was another sharp departure from Trump, who once said he "fell in love" with Kim.



U.S. President Joe Biden eats ice cream as Biden meets with American service members and their family at Osan Air Base, Sunday, May 22, 2022, in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

French league celebrates as Mbappé decides to stay with PSG

AP – Kylian Mbappé's decision to stay with Paris Saint-Germain was widely celebrated in the French league, even by coaches who still have to defend against the prolific forward next season.

Mbappé ended months of speculation when he signed a new three-year deal on Saturday. He again snubbed Spanish giant Real Madrid, which failed to buy him in 2017 as he joined PSG from Monaco for 180 million euros (\$190 million). Madrid had the same offer for Mbappé knocked back by PSG last year, when he had only one year left on his old contract.

"I would have been sad to see him go," Nantes coach Antoine Kombouaré said. "It's brilliant that he's in the French league. It would have been a big blow for us if he had left. It's important for French football."

Nice coach Christophe Galtier's side eliminated PSG from the French Cup, drawing and beating the French champion in the league and without conceding a goal in the three games.

So Galtier found a way to keep the 28-goal league top scorer Mbappé quiet, then, but still thinks the forward's presence is "very important" to the league's development.



PSG's Kylian Mbappe reacts after scoring a goal during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint Germain and Metz at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Saturday, May 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Michel Spingler)

"He's the driving force of our championship and it will obviously give the league a lot of visibility," Galtier said. "Personally, I'm very happy that he's staying in our league for all the television viewers and all the fans coming to the stadium. It's always good to see world-class players."

France has long been known for producing outstanding young players, like Mbappe, who then join big clubs in financially far stronger leagues like the Premier League in England.

However, none of the other French clubs could afford to keep Mbappé and offer him huge wages the way PSG can.

Pereira leads PGA Championship; Woods withdraws after 79

AP – Mito Pereira spent four hours soaring and sliding at Southern Hills in the cold and wind, calling it the biggest round of his life Saturday in the PGA Championship and one that gave him an idea of what to expect Sunday.

Pereira soared to a five-

shot lead. He nearly lost it all in six holes. And when a third round as fickle as the wind finally ended, the 27-year-old from Chile stood on the cusp of fame.

He made three birdies over his last six holes, the final hole from just outside 25 feet that he called a bonus,

giving him a 1-under 69 and a three-shot lead over Matt Fitzpatrick of England and Will Zalatoris.

"It's by far the biggest tournament I play, the biggest round of golf. And tomorrow is going to be even bigger," Pereira said. "Just try and keep it simple. Try to do the

things I've been doing. Try to not even look at the people that's around me."

His inspiration for moments like this is Tiger Woods, who won't be around. Woods, limping badly on his battered right leg from his car crash 15 months

cont'd on pg 21

Women's cricket returns with the CG Insurance Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze in Guyana

The best women's cricketers in the West Indies will be back in action as Cricket West Indies (CWI) hosts the CG Insurance Super50 Cup and the T20 Blaze regional tournaments in Guyana.

The CG Insurance Super50 Cup matches will be played at three venues – Everest Cricket Club, Enmore Cricket Ground and the Guyana National Stadium from June 7 to 17. The T20 Blaze event will feature five full days of entertainment for the fans from June 19 to 25. There will be three matches per day – starting at 10am, 2:30pm and 7pm under lights at the Guyana National Stadium.

For this year's CG Insurance Super50 and the T20 Blaze several world-class players will be representing their home territories in what promises to be a keenly contested three weeks of action. Barbados are defending champions in both formats.

This will mark a significant return as the women's tournaments were not played in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that period CWI continued its investment in the development of women's players



and organised several high-performance camps at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua and also hosted international series, including an inaugural Women's "A" Team series, while the West Indies Women's team also toured England, Pakistan and South Africa.

"We are delighted to see the return of the women's regional tournament on our annual calendar as it is a crucial component of our cricket in the region. We are also pleased to have our international players in action on home soil playing with our regional

players," said Jimmy Adams, CWI's Director of Cricket.

"Our women's game is showing improvement, as was demonstrated with some good performances during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand earlier this year.

"Ideally, we want to see further demonstration of that progress as we look to upcoming bilateral series and international events. Very importantly, the regional tournament will serve to identify players who could potentially graduate to our international squads in the near future."

cont'd from pg 20

ago, withdrew from the final round after posting a 79, his highest score ever in a PGA Championship.

It was his first withdrawal from a major in his pro career, and it was not a big surprise. The pain was more noticeable than it was on the weekend at the Masters, and he was 21 shots behind.

Pereira was at 9-under

201 as he tries to become Chile's first major champion and the third player from South America.

If he lacks experience — this is his first PGA and only second major — so do the players closest to him. None of the top six have ever won a major. The leading four players have yet to win on the PGA Tour, the toughest circuit in golf.



Mito Pereira, of Chile, reacts after missing a putt on the eighth hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Southern Hills Country Club, Saturday, May 21, 2022, in Tulsa, Okla. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

Sports News



Verstappen leads Red Bull 1-2 in Spain, Leclerc abandons

AP – Max Verstappen reclaimed the Formula One points lead as the reigning world champion won the Spanish Grand Prix on Sunday for his third consecutive victory after Charles Leclerc's Ferrari broke down while he was comfortably in front.

Verstappen needed an assist from Red Bull teammate Sergio Pérez to get his fourth victory of the season, however. Pérez was leading the race after Leclerc had abandoned when his team told him to let Verstappen pass on Lap 49 of 66.

"It's unfair but OK," Pérez told his team.

Pérez, who could have taken just his third career



Red Bull driver Sergio Perez of Mexico steers his car during the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, Spain, Sunday, May 22, 2022. (AP Photo/Joan Monfort)

win, finished second ahead of Mercedes' George Russell in third.

Verstappen overtook Leclerc in the standings and now leads by six points

after six races.

"Not an easy start to the race, but we turned it around," said Verstappen, who had enjoyed previous victories in Imola and Mi-

ami. "Thanks to the team for their great job and thanks to Checo (Pérez), he is a great teammate."

Leclerc defended his pole position at the start, and Verstappen spun off the track early. But disaster struck when Leclerc's car lost power on Lap 27, as he screamed "No! No! No! What happened?"

Lewis Hamilton, who had won here for the previous five years, had a fine drive to finish fifth behind Ferrari's Carlos Sainz after the seven-time world champion was dropped to the back of the pack on Lap 1 when his Mercedes needed a tire change following a knock with Kevin Magnussen's Haas.

Croatian police fire live ammunition during soccer fan clash

AP – Outnumbered Croatian police officers fired warning shots into the air and ground with live ammunition when soccer fans returning from a match in the capital attacked them on a highway with iron bars, bats and flares, authorities said Sunday. At least 35 people were injured, including four fans with bullet wounds.

The violence late Saturday happened when a convoy of more than 260 cars and buses was transporting Hajduk Split fans under police escort after their team lost 3-1 to Dinamo Zagreb. The two teams have a fierce rivalry — Split is Croatia's second-largest city after Zagreb — and Hajduk fans may have been angry because police barred them from entering Zagreb's stadium with flares and banners.

About 2,000 fans refused to enter the stadium and remained outside throughout the match, police said. As they were travelling back to Split, which is about 355 kilometres (220 miles) south of Zagreb, a group of fans blocked traffic and started attacking officers on a section of the highway on the outskirts of the capital, police said.

The road is the main Croatian highway leading from Zagreb to the Adriatic Sea coast. Police said the fans ignored orders to disperse.

"There were no signs something like this could happen," said Damir Baric, a senior police official in charge of public security. "They blocked traffic, suddenly ran out of their vehicles and advanced on the police who were 10 times outnumbered."

Zagreb police chief Marko Rasic said that three officers tried to find shelter inside a police van, but that the fans hurled a burning flare inside the vehicle forcing them to evacuate. He said the three police officers discharged their firearms, shooting about two dozen shots mainly into the air but also into the ground. These bullets apparently ricocheted and wounded the attackers, he said.

One fan struck by a bullet was seriously wounded and none of the other injured, including the police officers, were in life-threatening condition, police said.

Police have detained 43 people who are facing charges of inciting unrest that carries prison sentences from six months to five years if they are convicted.

Da Squad, Stoneville end preliminaries unbeaten

JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad and Stoneville have both ended their campaigns unbeaten in the preliminary round of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League.

Both teams secured contrasting wins in the final preliminary round matches at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night.

Da Squad crushed Jets 3-0, prevailing 25-18, 25-16, 25-17 in the opening female division encounter, which was watched by an encouraging crowd, who cheered loudly to every point from the start to the end of the match.

The result ensured Da Squad finished unbeaten at the top of the preliminary standings with a 5-0 record in the six-team round robin competition.

Da Squad will enter this weekend's semi-finals as the top seed, while Jets ended their preliminary round campaign as the fourth seed with two wins and three losses.

Both teams will renew their acquaintance when they clash in one of two semi-finals this weekend.

On Thursday night, defending champions, Paragons, secured third place by snatching a hard-fought



JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad maintained their unbeaten record with victory over Jets in their final preliminary round match in the female division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Local League at the YMCA on Saturday, 21st May, 2022. (File photo)

3-1 win against Stoneville who did not qualify for the semi-finals.

Paragons raced into a 2-0 lead by taking the first two sets 25-17, 25-19, but Stoneville extended the match by winning the third set 25-22. Paragons were not to be denied, as they stormed back to wrap up the match by taking the fourth set 25-19.

The result ensured Paragons finished the preliminaries with a 3-2 record, while Stoneville ended their campaign second from bot-

tom of the standings with one win and four losses.

Paragons will advance to face second seed North Coast Hardware Starz1 in the first semi-final at the YMCA on Thursday at 6:30pm.

Stoneville remained on course to make a successful defence of the men's title by pulling off a hard-fought 3-2 victory over High Flyers in the second encounter on Saturday night.

Stoneville took the opening set 25-20, but High Flyers levelled the match at

1-1 by taking the second set 25-13.

Stoneville regained their lead by winning the third set 25-18; however, High Flyers drew level for the second time in the match by prevailing 27-25 in the fourth set and sent the encounter into a fifth and deciding set.

Stoneville rose to the challenge and eventually prevailed 17-15 in the decider to ensure they end their preliminary campaign with an unblemished 5-0 record and will go into the semi-finals as the top seed.

High Flyers finished their preliminary campaign with three wins and two losses and will advance to the semi-finals as the third seed.

High Flyers will face second seed Michael Free-land Enforcers in the first men's semi-finals at the YMCA on Thursday.

Enforcers beat Renegades 3-0 in their last outing in the preliminaries last Thursday. Enforcers prevailed 25-17, 23-03, 25-0 to end their preliminary campaign with a 4-1 record.

Renegades finished the preliminaries with two wins and three losses and will advance to the semi-finals as the fourth seed. They will take on top seed and reigning champions, Stoneville, in the semi-finals this weekend.

Sports News



“Kuma” Rodney retains position as President of ABCA

Leon “Kuma” Rodney has been re-elected as President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA).

Rodney was given a third consecutive term after he stood, unopposed, for the position at the ABCA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Thursday, 19th May, 2022.

Rodney was first elected as ABCA president in November of 2014, when he replaced Zorol Barthley, who did not seek re-election for the post which he had held since 2012.

Except for a few new

faces, and the switching of a few positions between incumbent members, most of the ABCA executive members retained their posts and will serve an additional two-year term.

Kenny Lewis and Fitzroy Quinland remain as first and second vice-presidents, respectively. Secretary Mariella Miller also retained her post.

Former Assistant Treasurer Radlie Baptiste has replaced Elkanah Charles as Treasurer. Charles has been elected to serve as one of the body's six directors.

Avery Henry will continue in the position of Assistant Secretary.

Newcomer Bernadette Mitchel now takes up Baptiste's former role of Assistant Treasurer.

Miles Bakker, Dane Gustave, Alex Browne and Elmore Scholar have all been retained as directors. Debutante, Regis Burton, is the sixth director.

Burton and Charles have replaced outgoing directors, Wayne Hewlett and Robert James.

The recent elections, which were constitutionally due in November 2019, were delayed by the lack of a quorum, and later, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused health authorities in Anti-



Leon 'Kuma' Rodney remains President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association. (Photo: ABCA)

gua and Barbuda to prohibit large gatherings in 2020 and 2021.

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Leeward women attend training camp in Antigua

A Leeward Islands women's team squad has assembled in Antigua and Barbuda and are now participating in a training camp at the Police Recreation Ground which began yesterday.

The squad will engage in at least two 50-overs practice matches in the 22nd May to 4th June training camp, as part of their preparation for the return of the West Indies women's cricket championships in Guyana next month.

Following the training camp, the Leeward Islands will select the squad who will travel to Guyana on 5th June.

Leon "Kuma" Rodney, who was the Leeward Islands women's coach at the West Indies Championships in 2019, the last time the tournament was held, has been retained as the team's head coach.

The best women's cricketers in the West Indies will return to action as Cricket West Indies (CWI) hosts the



The St. Kitts contingent who arrived in Antigua and Barbuda on Saturday to participate in the Leeward Islands women's training camp at the Police Recreation Grounds. (Photo courtesy LICA)

CG Insurance Super50 Cup and the T20 Blaze regional tournaments in Guyana.

The CG Insurance Super50 Cup matches will be played at three venues – Everest Cricket Club, Enmore Cricket Ground and the Guyana National Stadium from 7th to 17th June.

The T20 Blaze event will feature five full days of entertainment for the fans from 19th to 25th June.

There will be three matches per day starting at 10am, 2:30pm, and 7pm under lights, at the Guyana National Stadium.

The Leeward Islands

will open their campaign in the CG Insurance Super50 Cup against the Windward Islands at Everest Cricket Club on Tuesday, 7th June.

Barbados are the defending champions in both the CG Insurance Super50 Cup and the T20 Blaze competitions.

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Meanwhile, the Police skipper Mourillon, said although he is happy with his team's latest title, his side's performance in last Saturday's final could have been better.

"Honestly, we underperformed, but I am feeling good still. In terms of the performance, I wasn't too pleased completely with the fielding," Mourillon said.

"I think we had one or two

dropped catches, and catches win matches at the end of the day.

"The good thing is, those dropped catches didn't cost the team because by the next over, the guy was out.

"But during the semi-finals, Austin Richards got two chances and he ended up making a century not out.

"The good thing is, it didn't happen today and so I am pleased with the result and we are ready for the next competition.

"We have been working very hard over the past few years to get the team to a different level.

"It's showing in terms of the camaraderie in how we support each other in the bowling, batting and fielding aspects, and that's what made the difference.

"I mean, if one player is missing or one player has a bad day, somebody steps up. So it is as if we are not missing anyone."

Police win second Parish League title this season

Police have captured their second title in as many competitions in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League this season.

Police captured the Richie Richardson Limited Overs Championship by overcoming Freetown by 6 wickets in the final at the Police Recreation Ground (PRG) on Saturday.

After losing the toss and being sent in to bat, Freetown were dismissed for 119 in 27.5 overs, with Lashorn Barnarde snapping up 3 wickets for 10 runs, off-spinner James Cornelius grabbing 3 wickets for 26 runs and leg-spinner Lynton Africa picking up 2 wickets for 17 runs.

Captain Austin Richards Jr. top scored with 29 and Cleton Payne chipped in with 23 for Freetown.

Police then achieved victory by scoring 122 for the loss of 4 wickets in 26 overs.

Damon Valentine got 25, Africa was not out on 23, Jeron Jones scored 20 and captain Derek Mourillon was unbeaten on 13.

It was the second time



Commissioner Atlee Rodney, left, joins the Police cricket team with the ACB Caribbean Richie Richardson Limited Overs Championship trophy after winning the final at the Police Recreation Grounds on Saturday, 21st May, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

this season as well that Police, who are yet to lose a match in this year's Parish League, have prevailed over Freetown in a final.

Police won this year's first ACB Caribbean Parish League Parish League competition on 9th April, when they defeated Freetown by 6 wickets in the final to capture the ACB Caribbean Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship at the PRG.

Captain Austin Richards Jr. said Freetown contributed to their own downfall as their batsmen failed to capitalise on a

fairly good start to the encounter.

"When Cleton and myself were batting, it was pretty good going, but both of us lost our wickets in the same over and from there, no one else put their hands up and I saw some careless shots," Richards said.

"Every year, it is a Police versus Freetown final, and Police is a team that we look forward to playing.

"It is not only fun on the field, it is also off the field as well, so Police will tell you sometimes we win and sometimes they lose.

"But this year, so far, they have gotten the better of us and so we just have to go back to the drawing board and come again.

"At the end of the day, I would say it boils down to a lack of experience. Thinking about the game is a very important part of it.

"You cannot just turn up and expect to beat a team that is practising from Monday to Friday.

"That team gels together and Freetown maybe have three guys practising, so it's going to be difficult."

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