

# ABLP 'PREPS' SUPPORTERS FOR ELECTIONS

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## ABLP 'preps' supporters for elections

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party used the annual Labour Day solidarity rally and march to 'prep' its supporters for the upcoming general election, constitutional due by March next year.

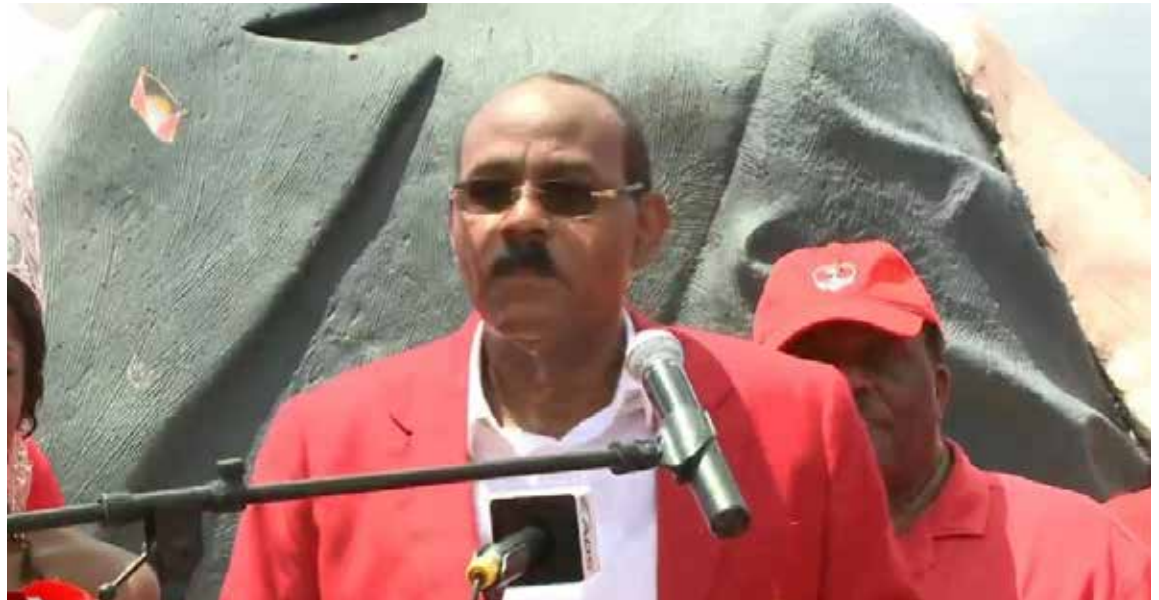
Party leaders provided glimpses of its campaign platforms to the large audience assembled to hear the speakers at yesterday's rally held at the Bust of V.C Bird on lower Market Street.

Political Leader and Prime Minister Gaston Browne extolled the ABLP Administration's management of the nation's affairs over the past eight years, emphasising that the country was in 'good hands'.

"We are here today to celebrate the achievements of workers in this country, but our opponents are trying to turn Labour Day celebrations into a political event. They are saying that their march will be a 'vote of no confidence' in the ABLP. But today, they got the answer by your turnout. This is a powerful 'vote of confidence' in the continued stewardship of the country by the ABLP," PM Browne declared.

He said it is clear that the people have shown by their turnout that they are happy with the performance of the ABLP Administration and they want to see the party continue to manage the affairs of Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne referenced



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne*

the solid foundations provided by both his predecessors – Sir V.C Bird and Sir Lester Bird – upon which his administration has used to further advance the social and economic development of the country.

"I can stand here to say without fear of contradictions that the Gaston Browne Administration has built on those successes by making strides in every aspect of human endeavor in this country. Every sector has grown under our leadership. Look at the healthcare services; we are delivering healthcare services that are superior to many other countries in the Caribbean. Today, we are offering kidney transplants; the last of which was done about a week ago," PM Browne reminded his audience.

Alongside the achievements in healthcare, the prime minister identified the successes in education as another key success for

his government, especially with the establishment of the fourth landed campus of the University of the West Indies at Five Islands, as well as the number of scholarships it has offered over the past eight years.

Other successes include the rescue and expansion of the banking sector, the developments at the cruise and cargo ports, new highways and the provision of quality homes for many in the country.

PM Browne announced that the new housing programme for those making less than \$3,000.00 per month will start in less than two months. He said these homes will be subsidized to the point where homeowners will only be required to make a mortgage payment of \$800.00 per month.

Also speaking at the rally was ABLP chairman and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, EP Chet Greene. He too pointed

to the successes of the ABLP Administration over the past eight years and in particular, its management of the coronavirus pandemic.

Among the successes were the rebound in tourist arrivals to the point where last July, a month where traditionally many hotels closed for the summer, was the best July on record, with the number of passengers arriving aboard the many airlines operating into the country.

Greene also hinted that the yachting sector also performed well during the pandemic as Antigua was viewed as a welcoming port for many who arrived aboard yachts.

Both Prime Minister Browne and Foreign Affairs Minister Greene urged the audience to continue to support the ABLP, as it was the party with the proven track record of performance on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda.

## Ambassador Murdoch leads OECS call for sustainable ocean economy

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has called for a shift to an integrated macro approach to climate adaptation and mitigation resilience measures for the maritime sector in the Eastern Caribbean region.

Head of the Permanent Delegation of the OECS in Geneva, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Colin Murdoch, addressing the fourth Oceans Forum, explained that simultaneous growth in globalisation, containerisation, and cruise

tourism has resulted in competition for berth space in many Caribbean ports.

He noted however, that port infrastructure in the Caribbean has not always kept pace with changes in the global shipping industry and this has a direct impact on the region's ability to engender sustainability and resilience in maritime supply chains.

"There is clearly a need to urgently factor climate change considerations into port development, redevelopment, operation, and management," Murdoch told the event hosted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

He said as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), there needs to be recognition that the impact of climate change will affect the fulfillment of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which necessitates a multi-layered approach to building resilience.

"In this regard, stakeholders from the private sector and the public sector need to be engaged and involved, wherever possible, in identifying threats and opportunities, and in for-



*Ambassador Colin Murdoch mulling solutions."*

Murdoch identified a need for sustainable, climate adaptivity, supportive, policy action to be integrated into what is now a compartmentalised trade network in OECS member states.

He said this shift will require technical support from development partners like UNCTAD.

"There is a pressing need for work to be continued and deepened, for example in areas of research and multi-hazard assessments, and for the work by UNCTAD to be expanded, in collaboration with others, to assess risks for all ports and airports in the OECS to develop technical and policy solutions to help build resilience."

The OECS maritime sector is of systemic and strategic importance given the region's vulnerabilities to climate-related disasters and emergencies in addition to its high susceptibility to external shocks.



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## ABPSA appeals for unity to tackle issues affecting workers

The president of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association has appealed for togetherness among the membership and support for the union as they advance the cause of government workers.

Joan Peters, in a Labour Day message, informed the ABPSA's members that support is crucial at this time as the decisions taken today will affect future generations.

She maintained that strong representation is needed to guarantee firm interactions between the union and the government.

"It is not enough to say I am a union member, or let the executive handle the situation. You too have a part and role to play in ensuring the success of our beloved institution.

"Yes, it is true that we are all facing individual issues in our respective workplaces, but it is easier to break one twig than a handful of branches.

Although it is the job of the Executive and General Council to lead the organisation, we, the members, are needed to show the government, and those who would seek to detract and destroy, that we are a force to be reckoned with," Peters asserted.

The ABPSA president said these goals can only be achieved if employees adopt the proper attitude and adjust to regularly encountered challenges while remaining productive.

Citing the global crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, Peters wants the government to give attention to issues that are causing a strain on workers and their families.

"The ABPSA is therefore calling on the government to:

1. Reconvene the negotiations process with a view to fairly and objectively assess the needs of the worker balanced with the needs of the Gov-



*President of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association, Joan Peters*

ernment who is the employer.

2. Resolve issues pertaining to Performance Appraisals, Upward mobility within the service, the lack of Increments/Cost of Living Allowances, Health Insurance coverage and Pension Benefits; especially with a view to eliminate the unfairness to the Seconded Workers at the SLBMC.

3. Revamp the Salary Scale to address the continuous anomalies that have been perpetrated over the years. There are workers who are considered "Essential" and are being paid at the bottom of the scale, this we see is an indictment against the government since a number of their employees cannot afford to live in this country.

4. Payment of salaries that were withheld from workers during the vaccine mandate period even though the parameters have changed to reflect an atmosphere of inclusion.

5. Address and remedy the diminishing access to essential services (water, health care and transportation); There is also the issue of the non-payment of the two-month salary in lieu of back-pay," still yet unpaid to a number of Civil Servants/Retirees."

Peters indicated the union's readiness to engage the government on the issues that have been outlined in the hope of bringing relief to its members.

**UPDATED SCHEDULE**

**SCHEDULE UPDATE**  
**TYPHOON EXPRESS**

**MONDAY**  
 (FROM ST. JOHN'S)  
**AB 3:45 PM**

**OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA**

**TUESDAY**  
**BA 6:00AM**

**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY**  
 (CRABBS DEPARTURE)

**AB 10:00AM**  
**BA 3:00PM**

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## Charity Henry is Miss Labour Queen 2022

Charity Henry, one of two representatives from St John’s City West constituency, emerged winner at the 2022 staging of the Labour Queen Pageant held on Saturday evening as part of the AT&LU/ABLP Labour Week activities.

The sold out show returned after a two-year pandemic-imposed hiatus. A total of eight young ladies competed in the pageant held at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre.

Henry describes herself as ‘having a passion’ for the arts and she is a member of the Dream Pageant Modeling Agency. She expressed a desire to become an entrepreneur as part of her life goals.

As winner, she will receive a cash prize of \$8,000.00, as well as a laptop computer and a scholarship.

Second place went to Brianna Anthony of St. Mary’s North who will receive a cash prize of \$5,000.00 and third place went to J’Dinique Prince of St Paul. Her cash earnings are \$3,000.00.

Organiser of the Pageant, Sharilyn James said she was very happy with the overall standard and quality of the show, noting that preparations started a mere two months ago.

“We only had the months of March and April to prepare, yet we were able to produce a show of a very high standard,” she told Pointe Xpress.

She gave kudos to the production team led by Brucella Marsh, Shane Marsh and Kim Joseph for the work they did in preparing the contestants, as well as for the members of her



team to include Clement Antonio, Gloria Benjamin, Carolyn Quimby-Jarvis and Calvin Thornhill.

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## “Evening of Drama”: A resounding success

Five short skits all focusing on the issues of love and relationships were featured on Sunday night’s ‘Evening of Drama’, an event hosted by the Cultural Department at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The dramatic pieces were performed by the National Youth Theatre Company in collaboration with drama students from the Jennings Secondary School. The event took place in the stadium’s Media Room, allowing for an intimate setting before a small but very appreciative audience.

The dialogue was created by the actors who were formed into small groups and given a theme song around which they were asked to develop their own interpretations and scripts.

Throughout the evening, first-timers to the stage were given opportunities to play lead roles and they did not disappoint the producers, as they displayed a level of seriousness and skill that placed them toe-to-toe with the more seasoned performers.

Among those in attendance were the Minister of Creative Industries, Michael Browne, Acting Permanent Secretary, Fustina Joseph, Director of Culture, Khan Cordice, and Education Officer responsible for Music and the



*Sharon Joshua, a veteran of the stage performs at the Evening of Drama*

Performing Arts in the Ministry of Education, Marion Byron.

Following the performances, Minister Browne said he was overwhelmed by the high skill-levels displayed by the actors throughout the evening, noting that his ‘heart was in his hand’ as he watched the show.

The minister recalled that shortly after his appointment, at his first meeting with the senior staff of the department, it was agreed that the ministry would do ‘all it can’ to create oppor-

tunities for young people to be able to showcase their talents and skills.

“As a team, as a ministry, we decided that we would create such opportunities on a regular basis throughout the year so that craft can be showcased, art can be showcased, theatre can be showcased across Antigua and Barbuda,” he revealed.

Browne said he did not want these talents to be showcased only on special occasions, but with such regularity

*cont’d on pg 7*



*Newcomer, a student of the Jennings Secondary School, Devianne McKoy gives a sterling performance*



*Creative Industries Minister Michael Browne speaks at the end of the performances*

## Royal Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda pact for onboard employment

Antigua and Barbuda has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Royal Caribbean International to create “thousands of job opportunities” for residents of the Caribbean nation through employment with the cruise line.

The cruise operator will participate in a local job fair seeking onboard employees in June, said officials in a statement.

The summer employment event will be open to nationals and residents of Antigua and Barbuda and feature marine sector employment opportunities including junior seaman, junior engine man and assistant electrician.

Operations sector opportunities will include storekeepers, cruise staff, youth staff, sports staff,

laundry and restaurant attendants, bar waiters, wait staff, bakers and butchers. Specialty sector vacancies include entertainers and “all positions” in casino operations.

“This initiative will not only see a huge cadre of our tourism professionals become gainfully employed while being ambassadors for our country,” said Charles Fernandez, Antigua and Barbuda’s minister of tourism and investment, “but it will further strengthen the partnership between the government and Royal Caribbean.”

“Antigua and Barbuda have enjoyed a strong rebound in cruise arrivals in January and March of this year and Royal Caribbean has been a major part of that,” said Colin James,



Minister of Tourism and Investment Charles ‘Max’ Fernandez (right) and Royal Caribbean Group, Vice President of Government Relations, Americas, Russell Benford. [Photo: Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority]

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

“This new partnership will impact hospitality employment opportunities for the destination in a positive way that goes beyond just welcoming cruise passengers to our shores.”

“We have support-

ed each other through the most challenging times,” said Russell Benford, vice president of government relations, Americas for Royal Caribbean, “and signing this agreement demonstrates the strength of our partnership and will result in boosting the tourism economy.”

*cont’d from pg 6*

that they become part of the cultural and social milieu of the country.

“This signature piece that the ministry was given the challenge to put on tonight was not only good, but it was exceptional!” he declared.

The minister spoke of what he termed the central and yet the eclectic themes that were part of the performances, which in his view, mirrored what was happening in the society.

He also announced that the Cabinet has decided that

the former Deluxe Cinema building on High Street will be renovated and retrofitted to accommodate both the National Symphony Orchestra, as well as being a home for theatre and the

performing arts in the country.

Director of the National Youth Theatre, Owen Jackson, gave top marks to the actors for their performances, noting that they

have been attending practice sessions since January, as he credited them for their dedication and professionalism. He is promising more performances of this kind in the near future.

<p>Tue 03   Day</p> <p><b>83°</b> </p> <p>5%  E 14 mph</p> <p>Cloudy early with partial sunshine expected late. High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p>		<p>Tue 03   Night</p> <p><b>76°</b> </p> <p>5%  ENE 11 mph</p> <p>Clear to partly cloudy. Low 76F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p> Humidity <b>71%</b></p>	<p> UV Index <b>10 of 10</b></p>	<p> Humidity <b>80%</b></p>	<p> UV Index <b>0 of 10</b></p>
<p> Sunrise <b>5:40 am</b></p>	<p> Sunset <b>6:27 pm</b></p>	<p> Moonrise <b>7:33 am</b></p>	<p> Moonset <b>9:04 pm</b></p>
<p> Waxing Crescent</p>			

## Rachel Lloyd dies at age 104



Rachel Lloyd

Antigua and Barbuda’s oldest citizen passed away over the weekend at age 104.

The Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division of the Ministry of Social Transformation made the announcement on Saturday evening, via social media, that Mrs. Rachael Edith ‘Amelia’ James- Lloyd, formerly of Freetown Village, passed away on 30th April, 2022.

Paying tribute, the department said, “Rachel Lloyd lived a full life and was always showered with love by her family and friends. May her family and friends find comfort in this time of bereavement.”

Rachel James-Lloyd was born on 18th November, 1917, on Freyes Estate near Willoughby

Bay, Bethesda.

A biography previously issued by the Ministry of Social Transformation said the centenarian was raised in Freetown and became known as one of the best seamstresses in the village.

She remained rooted in Freetown well into her twilight years when she relocated to Lightfoot Estate to be with her daughter due to failing eyesight.

A few years later, she was moved to a care home to receive advanced care and treatment.

Rachel James-Lloyd became the country’s oldest citizen following the death of Raymond Hughes in January, 2022, at the age of 105. There are now 24 centenarians living in Antigua and Barbuda.



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# ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK 2022 SCHEDULE

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## THURSDAY APRIL 28

9:00 AM Committee Desk Open

## FRIDAY APRIL 29

9:00 AM Registration & Committee Desk Open

3:00 PM Racing Rules of Sailing Seminar

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

## SATURDAY APRIL 30

8:00 AM Peters & May Round Antigua Race

9:00 AM Registration & Committee Desk Open

3:00 PM Bareboat Skipper Briefing @ Nelson's Dockyard

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM Steelpan recital from Original Steel Orchestra.  
Impressions are everything, so represent your crew in your best team outfits

7:00 PM 53rd Antigua Sailing Week Welcome and Peters & May Round Antigua Race Prize Giving

## SUNDAY MAY 1

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

8:00 AM Shirley Heights Lookout Breakfast @ Shirley Heights Lookout

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM English Harbour Rum Race Day 1 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

4:00 PM English Harbour Rum Cocktail Bartender Competition

*Enter teams at Committee Desk or  
[www.info@sailingweek.com](mailto:www.info@sailingweek.com)*

5:00 PM English Harbour Rum Race Day 1 Prize Giving

6:00 PM DJ Nez

## MONDAY MAY 2

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

10:00 AM ASW Race Day 2 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM ASW Race Day 2 Prize Giving

## TUESDAY MAY 3

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open @ Antigua Yacht Club

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day 3 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day 3 Prize Giving

6:00 PM 11th Edition Reggae in the Park  
(Gates open at 5:00PM)

*Tickets available on Ticketing APP*

## WEDNESDAY MAY 4

10:00 AM Committee Desk Open

12:00 PM Lay Day @ Pigeon Point – Dinghy Racing, Team & Individual Beach Game Competitions including Tug of War!

## THURSDAY MAY 5

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM Locman Italy Women's Race Day 4 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM Prize Giving Locman Italy Women's Race Day 4 Prize Giving

7:00 PM Seafood Thursday @ Nelson's Dockyard

## FRIDAY MAY 6

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Race Day 5 Starts

2:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

4:00 PM Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Race Day 5 Prize Giving

6:00 PM Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Final Awards & After-party @ Nelson's Dockyard. LIVE MUSIC!

## SATURDAY MAY 7

12:00 PM Dockyard Day - Harper's Office Depot School Art Competition Awards @ Nelson's Dockyard

# Old man and the sea

By Tony Deyal

My family decided that we would spend last weekend in a village on the North Coast of Trinidad, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Its name is pronounced “Blankey-Shears” and one of my friends, on hearing this, immediately warned me not to go there or anywhere else with a name I couldn’t spell or pronounce properly.

“Even if you refuse to take my advice,” he insisted, “be careful and don’t get into any trouble with the police because they will lock you up in some distant place with a name they know how to spell – like Toco”.

This was an old joke based on a policeman who found a dead horse on “Frederick” street in Port-of-Spain and laboriously dragged it to “Duke” street because that was easier to spell.

Over the years, as I trotted around the Caribbean, I had warned myself about loving the region but not getting spellbound. When I arrived in Barbados in 1993, people who knew me from Trinidad’s carnival expected me to participate in their “Kadooment”.

I was not sure how to pronounce it. Then I ran into “Cohoblopot.” I did not go to the event because I decided that I was not participating in anything that I could not pronounce.

I also experienced a pronounced problem in 2014 when the “chikungunya” virus, which is spread by mosquito bites, hit Jamaica and other Caribbean countries, including Antigua, where we lived.

Until I checked the spelling in a medical dictionary, I had gone along with the local pronunciation which, despite the African origin of the disease, ranged from “Chickomonía” and “Chicken Gun Man” to “Chicken Gonorhea”.

Despite my own misgivings, we ended up in Blanchisseuse (pro-

nounced “Blankey-Shears”). I had told my wife and children that more than 2000 people die at sea every year but that didn’t sink in. It was a true “conspira-sea” against me.

I even told my wife if she went there she would end up with a sea-section, but she didn’t care. Her mind was more made up than Khloe Kardashian or Boy George.

I found out that when it comes to holidays, Christmas is not the only season to be jolly with folly. For Indranie and the children it was a case of long time no sea. However, in my case I was reminded once more that regardless of where I go there is no country for old men.

If I were Moses facing the Red Sea I could have said, “Goddamit” and he would have done so, but while life is like the ocean in that it goes up and down, the ocean is not like life. I have no need for Vitamin Sea. Unlike coffee, the sea cannot be restrained.

In fact, it is only in the sea you find your true direction. Down! I like Langston Hughes for making it known, “The sea is a desert of waves, A wilderness of water” yet I was pool-hardy enough to be there. In fact, was I aware that I should go no further than that part where the land meets the sea? I shore did, or so I thought.

The first thing that happened when my son Zubin and I tried “throwing a line” is that one small fish grabbed his bait and took off. “Don’t worry,” I consoled Zubin, “there are many more fish in the sea except where the Chinese and Japanese fishing fleets have been.”

Unfortunately, we were told by a nearby banana vendor that there was a great beach just a few minutes away where he fished. He gave us the impression that it was a scion of a beach.

We didn’t know that when dealing



Tony Deyal

with fishermen there is always a catch. In this case, it was a double whammy. The banana-man’s advice proved to be slippery.

At that stage, we didn’t know or care and within minutes we were in high gear heading down what seemed to be a thousand steps to the rocky beach which, even at falling tide, was as wavy as Shirley Temple’s hairstyle.

My daughter, Jasmine, was worried about the lack of rails on the staircase and its steepness. “The longest journey,” I preached to her, “begins with a single step.” “Backward or forward?” she asked. “I going back.”

Eventually we all hit rock-bottom and by the time we reached the beach, Zubin and I had already loaded up like the Earp Brothers heading into the OK Corral.

It reminded me of a quote from “No Country For Old Men”. Clare Jean Moss asks, “What you’re going to do?” Llewelyn Moss replied “I’m fixing to do somethin’ dumbern’ hell but I’m goin’ anyways.

If I don’t come back, tell Mother I love her.” Carla Jean reminded

*cont’d on pg 11*

*cont'd from pg 10*

him, "Your mother's dead, Llewelyn." He responded, "Well, then, I'll tell her myself." I am not sure if it was my Irish blood but I knew that, ironically, the whole of Ireland, apart from Cork, is at risk from rising sea levels. However, my great-grandfather had to be from Kildare since I had a date, not with the Loch Ness Monster but a lock-neck monster and I was almost a luck-less punster.

Fortunately, I can still ask you what lies at the bottom of the sea shivering? A nervous wreck. Who lay at the bottom of the sea shivering? Me. Why was I shivering? A giant Moray Eel. Did I meet my maker or my

mother? Almost.

What follows is a whale of a tale and, if you wish, you can call me "Eel-ijah".

However, I couldn't call you. Why? My cell-phone was in my pocket and I was in deep water because my phone died before me. Had the eel gone for my chest, I would have lived because my heart was in my mouth at the time. This moved the story from No Country For Old Men to The Old Man and the Sea.

At 76, going on 77, I should have been heading for Sunset Strip instead of a watery grave. However, even though Ernest Hemingway wrote, "Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeat-

ed", I learnt that this old man's feet could have been bitten off in the sea.

My son Zubin had left to drop Jasmine back to where we were staying. I saw it as an opportunity to dump the bait he was using, what Jamaicans call "swims" (shrimps), and because we had not caught anything as yet, use the firm and bloody "Bonito" fish as bait.

I thought that the fishing would go more swimmingly. It did. The Moray, smelling the fish-blood on me and trying to get a bite, kept bobbing, weaving and coming like a crazy Energiser Bungee.

I remembered Hemingway's "Now is no time to think of what you do not

have. Think of what you can do with what there is". Seeing this wiggly, black beast coming for my foot and then, when I slipped and fell in the water, at my other parts and pieces, I kept rolling, beating my arms and kicking up my feet to scare it away.

My wife thought it was a branch floating next to me and then, when she saw the full size, believed it was "kelp" the largest group of seaweed around. I thought it was curtains.

*\*Tony Deyal was last heard singing Dean Martin's favourite song, "When an eel grabs your thigh and you think that you might die, that's a Moray! A moray!"*



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## Mexico's Caribbean Sea beaches may see worst sargassum since 2018

By Mark Stevenson

Mexican authorities say the problem of foul-smelling seaweed-like algae on the country's Caribbean coast beaches is "alarming."

The arrival of heaps of brown sargassum on the coast's normally pristine white sand beaches comes just as tourism is recovering to pre-pandemic levels, though job recovery in the country's top tourist destination has been slower.

With more algae spotted floating out at sea, experts fear that 2022 could be as bad or worse than the catastrophic year of 2018, the biggest sargassum wave to date.

"We can say the current situation is alarming," said Navy Secretary José Ojeda, who has been entrusted with the apparently hopeless task of trying to gather sargassum at sea, before it hits the beaches.

The Navy currently has 11 sargassum-collecting boats operating in the area. But the Navy's own figures show that the portion they have been able to collect before it hits the beach has been falling.

In 2020, the Navy collected 4% of sargassum at sea, while 96% was raked off beaches. But that figure fell to 3% in 2021 and about 1% so far in 2022.

Allowing the algae to reach the beaches creates not only a problem for



A boat floats on the water, surrounded by sargassum, a seaweed-like algae, in Bahía La Media Luna, near Akumal in Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Aug. 5, 2018. With more algae spotted floating out at sea, experts fear that 2022 could be as bad or worse than the catastrophic year of 2018, the biggest sargassum wave to date. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo, File)

tourists, but for the environment, said Rosa Rodríguez Martínez, a biologist in the beachside town of Puerto Morelos who studies reefs and coastal ecosystems for Mexico's National Autonomous University.

So much algae is reaching the beaches that hotels and local authorities are using bulldozers and backhoes, because the normal teams of rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows are no longer enough.

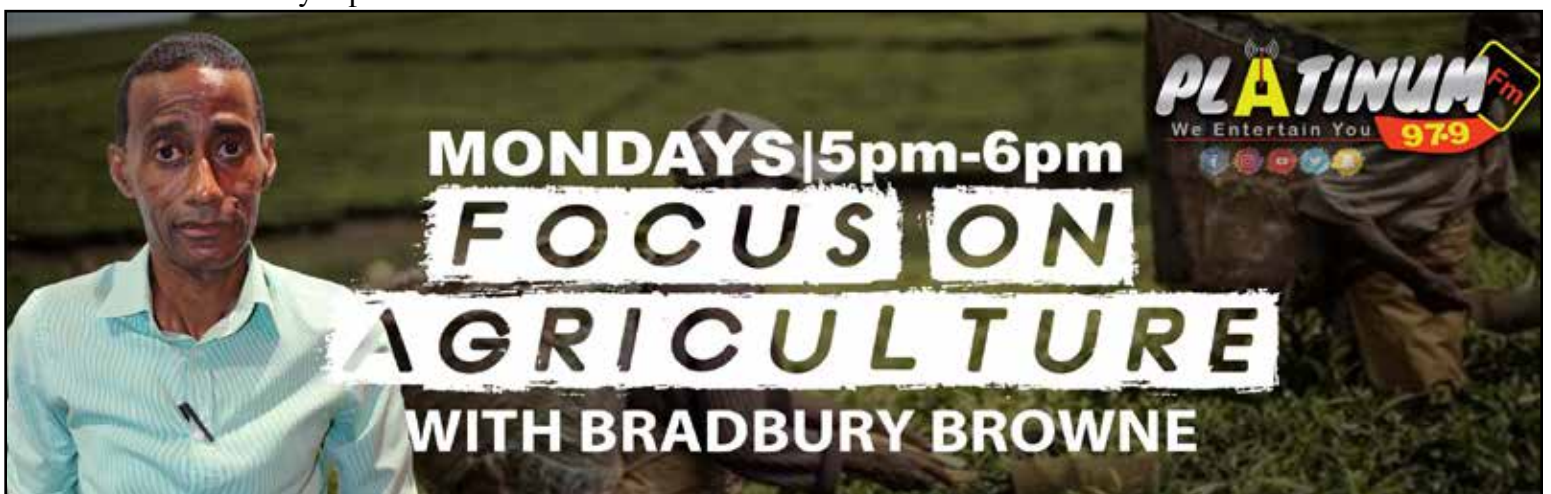
"The heavy machinery, when it picks it (sargassum) up, takes a large amount of sand with it," contributing to beach erosion, Rodríguez Martínez said.

"There is so much sargassum that you can't use small-scale equipment anymore, you have to use the heavy stuff, and when the excavators come in, they remove more sand."

Rodríguez Martínez worries that 2022 could be worse than the previous peak year. "In the last few days there have been amounts washing up, and in places, that I didn't see even in 2018," she said.

However, the University of South Florida Optical Oceanography Lab said in a report that "2022 is likely going to

*cont'd on pg 13*



MONDAYS | 5pm-6pm  
**FOCUS ON**  
**AGRICULTURE**  
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*cont'd from pg 12*

be another moderate or major sargassum year,” with observable amounts in all waters lower than in 2018 and 2021. But given the vagaries of ocean currents, it may just be a very bad year for Mexico. Rodríguez Martínez is already suffering the effects herself, at her beachside offices.

“Where I am, I’m about 50 meters (yards) from the beach and the smell is very unpleasant,” she said. “Right now my head is hurting and another friend said her head hurts, and I said it must be the (hydrogen) sulphide gas from the sargassum, no?”

The problem comes just as resorts like Cancun, Playa del Carmen and Tulum are recovering from the brutal two-year drop in tourism caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Not all beaches have been hit equally; many in Cancun and Isla Mujeres are often free of much sargassum, but much of the Riviera Maya has been hit hard.

Carlos Joaquin, governor of the coastal state of Quintana Roo, said the number of tourists arriving by air so far this year — some 3.54 million travellers — is 1.27% above 2019 levels, before the pandemic. But Joaquin said that only about 83% of the 98,000 jobs lost during the pandemic have returned.

Sergio León, the former head of the state’s employers’ federation, said the seaweed invasion “has definitely affected us, it has affected our image on the domestic and international level. Obviously, not just visually, but in term of environmental damage and pain.”

“The Navy is making an effort, but it needs more, it isn’t enough,” said León. “The ideal thing would be to gather it before it gets to our beaches.”

Rodríguez Martínez said that, given the limited number of Navy boats and funds, the best solution might be to hang floating offshore barriers and collect the sargassum

in waters closer to the shore.

But she notes another problem: what to do with the thousands of tons of stinking algae collected each year, mainly by private hotel owners. Some have simply been tossing the mounds collected from the beach into disused limestone quarries, where the salt and minerals collected in the ocean can leech into groundwater.

Other simply toss into woodlands or mangrove swamps, which is equally as bad.

“The algae has a lot of salt ... so that is not good, even for palm trees, which are pretty salt resistant,” she noted.

While some have tried

to use sargassum to create bricks or fertilizer, the lack of official policies and long term plans make it hard to obtain big investments for such plans.

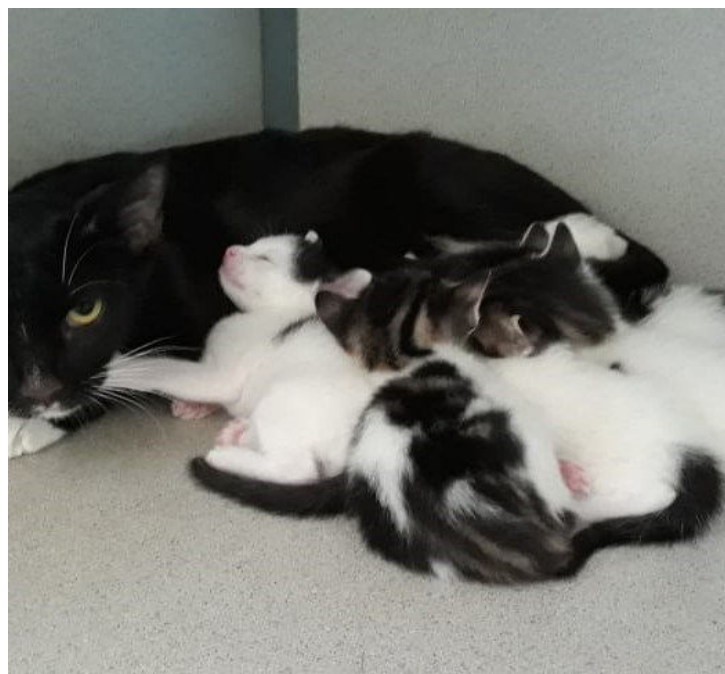
Initial reports in the 2010s suggested the masses of seaweed came from an area of the Atlantic off the northern coast of Brazil, near the mouth of the Amazon River. Increased nutrient flows from deforestation or fertilizer runoff could be feeding the algae bloom. But other causes may contribute, like nutrient flows from the Congo River, increased upwelling of nutrient-laden deeper ocean water in the tropical Atlantic and dust blowing in from Africa.

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

**LIVE IT UP** By Carla Azure

1	H	2	A	3	R	4	E	5		6	P	7	O	8	S	9	I	10		11	H	12	A	13	L	14	O	
14	E	15	X	16	I	T		17	R	18	A	19	T	20	C	H		21	O	22	V	23	I	24	D			
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39	L	40	I	41	F	42	E	43	T	44	H	45	R	46	E	47	A	48	T	49	E	50	N	51	I	52	N	G
43	A	44	G	45	E	46	S		47	A	48	V	49	I	50	O	51	N	52		53	T	54	A	55	G		
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	55	56	A	57	M	58	E	59	R	60	I	61	C	62	A		63	G	64	O	65	L	66	E	67	M		
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65	B	66	A	67	R	68	E		69	S	70	P	71	A	72	W	73	N	74		75	A	76	N	77	T	78	S
68	S	69	P	70	E	71	D		72	T	73	E	74	P	75	E	76	E	77		78	N	79	O	80	S		

## TAKE ME HOME



These beautiful kittens are now available for adoption at the Humane Society’s animal shelter in Bethesda. The adoption fee of \$80 covers worming, treating for fleas, litter box training and spaying or neutering when they are old enough, Please call us at 461-4957 for more information. We are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# Technology



## Truth Social app to be available via web browser 'end of May' – CEO

*By Helen Coster*

Former U.S. President Donald Trump's Truth Social app will launch on a web browser at the end of May, Chief Executive Devin Nunes said on Monday.

In a post on the platform, Nunes also said Truth Social has not yet been approved for launch in the Google Play store for Android devices.

"End of May we will launch PWA (Web Browser)

this will allow access from any device," Nunes wrote. "After that we will launch an Android App... pending approval from Google!"

Availability in the Google Play and Apple App stores is key to the app's ability to scale up.

Truth Social's parent company, Trump Media & Technology Group, launched with the mission of standing up to Big Tech, after Trump was kicked off Twitter, Facebook and YouTube for allegedly inciting or glorifying violence during the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riots.

Yet the social media venture is limited by its reliance on Alphabet-owned Google and Apple, which operate app stores that dominate the smartphone market.

Truth Social launched in the Apple App store on Feb. 21 and was for a time the most downloaded free app there. It was number two on that list on Monday.

Trump began posting on the site late Thursday, for the first time since he posted one "truth" – as posts are called – on Feb. 14.

TMTG is planning to go public through a merger with blank-check firm Digital World Acquisition Corp. The deal is under scrutiny by the Securities and Exchange Commission and is likely months away from being finalised.



### Twist Fitness's Opening Hours

**Monday- Friday**  
**5:30AM-8:30PM**

**Saturday**  
**9:00AM-5:00PM**  
**5:00PM-7:00PM (WOMENS ONLY HOURS)**

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

## British Virgin Islands activists protest plan for direct UK rule

Reuters – Activists in the British Virgin Islands on Monday protested against a proposal to put the overseas British territory under control of the United Kingdom, days after the BVI premier was jailed in Miami on charges of conspiring to traffic drugs.

A report released on Friday that was commissioned by Queen Elizabeth's representative to the territory said governance problems are so severe that the legislature should be suspended and the territory effectively governed from London. [read more](#)

That report came just a day after BVI premier Andrew Fahie and the territory's director of ports were jailed following a sting by the Drug Enforcement Administration in a major em-

barrassment to the United Kingdom.

Hundreds of people rallied on Monday outside the office of Governor John Rankin in the capital Road Town on the island of Tortola chanting slogans and holding signs that said "No UK rule."

"Our message to the United Kingdom government and to the world: there will be no direct rule in this land," said Luce Hodge-Smith, who has previously held positions in government and whose Facebook page says she is retired.

The rally coincided with a visit by Amanda Milling, a British member of parliament who is also Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East, to discuss the report released by the commission of inquiry.



Its report found that millions of dollars of state funds were spent each year by politicians and ministries without proper process, along with serious dishonesty in relation to sales of public property and widespread abuse of appointments.

Fahie's administration had ignored principles of good governance, witnesses had been afraid to come forward, and that "the people of the BVI have been badly served in recent years," con-

cluded the report, which is unrelated to Fahie's arrest.

The British Virgin Islands were conquered by Great Britain in the 1600s and were for centuries the site of sugar plantations worked by slaves who were forcibly brought from Africa.

The territory of about 30,000 people gained autonomy from the United Kingdom in 1967 through its first elections and the creation of its first autonomous government.

## Former Police Commissioner launches political party in Trinidad

CMC – Former commissioner of Police Gary Griffith has announced the launch of a new political party.

In a post on social media late Saturday, Griffith said he has started his National Transformation Alliance (NTA) and called for people to become registered supporters.

"Being of service has always been a bridge to the light for me and after engaging in numerous conversations, listening to many perspectives, and reading your countless contributions, I am, more than ever, committed to the mission of improving our country through



Gary Griffith

transformation and continued national service this time through the National Transformation Alliance, the NTA,"

Griffith said.

Our country has noble, progressive visionary, hard-working citizens who desire to fulfil our motto, together we aspire, together we achieve, therefore I invite every citizen of T&T to register your interest and desire to assemble under the banner of the NTA."

Griffith said this is the start of the process of national transformation.

"For those who share similar views that our nation requires immediate and urgent transformation, this is your bridge to that lighthouse," he said, displaying

*cont'd on pg 16*

# Regional News



## Two dead and one person missing after Guadeloupe floods

Reuters - Two people died and another was missing on Sunday after heavy rainfall caused flooding on the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe on Friday night, local authorities said on Twitter.

One of the deceased was found trapped in a vehicle in Gosier and the second was found dead in a vehicle in the Grand-Camp sector, the Prefecture said.



## Cubans take to streets on Worker's Day for first time in three years

Reuters – Cubans poured onto the streets in celebration of International Worker's Day on Sunday, the first such parade since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, touting fluttering flags, posters of former leader Fidel Castro and chanting "Cuba Lives and Works." Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel and former revolutionary leader Raul Castro, wearing a white mask and dressed in hallmark military fatigues, oversaw the rallies from a stage overlooking Havana's "Plaza de la Revolucion."

The marches, held each year across the Communist-run country prior to the pandemic, are rife with symbolism, a celebration of the 63-year-old Cuban rev-



*Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel and former President Raul Castro wave national flags as thousands march to Revolution Square to mark May Day, in Havana, Cuba May 1, 2022. REUTERS/Claudia Daut*

olution, but also, a government-led rebuke of the Cold War-era embargo imposed on the island by the United States.

Juana Garcia, a worker with the Cuban Institute for Philosophy who waved a

small Cuban flag on a wooden stick, said the march had far exceeded her expectations, a show of solidarity for the cause, she said.

"Despite so many difficulties, the majority of Cubans support the revolution-

ary process. We Cubans work to fix our own problems. We do not want interference of any kind," she said.

The rallies this year were also the first since anti-government protests on July 11 - the largest since Castro's 1959 revolution - rocked the nation, a major test of the island's first non-Castro led government since the start of the revolution.

There was no official estimate by mid-day of how many had marched during the early morning rallies.

Cuba, a Caribbean island of 11 million, is suffering through a grinding economic crisis that has led to food and medicine shortages and has prompted a mass exodus to its northern neighbour, the United States. Upwards of 80,000 have left the island in recent months for the United States, according to Customs and Border Protection data, making their way by plane to Nicaragua and then overland north to the U.S./Mexico border, or by boat or raft across the Florida Straits.

### cont'd from pg 15

the party's symbol, a lighthouse over an obscure image of people holding hands.

Griffith who served as commissioner of police from August 18, 2018, to August 17, 2021, claims he was improperly removed from office on the basis of unsubstantiated reports of firearm corruption.

Prior to that Griffith, served as a nation-

al security adviser, government senator, and national security minister at various times in the tenure of the United National Congress-led People's Partnership coalition between May 24, 2010, and February 2, 2015.

He was a temporary opposition senator from October 17, 2002, to September 28, 2007. He also served in the defence force for 15 years, reaching the rank of captain.



## Poland urges EU unity to slap sanctions on Russian energy

AP – Poland urged its European Union partners on Monday to unite and impose sweeping sanctions on Russia’s oil and natural gas sectors over the war in Ukraine, and not to cave in to pressure to pay for their gas in Russian rubles.

EU ministers are meeting in Brussels to discuss their response to Russia’s decision last week to cut gas supplies to Bulgaria and Poland. Energy giant Gazprom says the two countries failed to pay their bills in April.

“We will call for immediate sanctions on Russian oil and gas. This is the next, and urgent, and absolute step,” Polish Climate and Environment Minister Anna Moskwa said. “We already have coal. Now it’s time for oil, and (the) second step is for gas. The best option is take them all together.”

In a move last week branded in Europe as “blackmail,” Russian energy giant Gazprom cut supplies to Bulgaria and Poland. It came after Russian President Vladimir Putin said that “unfriendly” countries must start paying for gas in rubles, Russia’s currency.

Bulgaria and Poland have refused to do so, like most EU countries. More Gazprom bills are due on May 20, and the bloc is wary that Russia might turn off more taps then. Russia



*Tanks for producing bio gas are pictured at the harbour in Hamburg, Germany, on April 19, 2022. Germany says it’s making progress on weaning itself off Russian fossil fuels and expects to be fully independent of crude oil imports from Russia by late summer. (AP Photo/Martin Meissner, File)*

rejects the claims of blackmail.

The 27 nation EU imports around 40% of the gas it consumes from Russia. But some member countries, notably Hungary and Slovakia, are more heavily dependent on Russian supplies than others, and support for a gradual phasing in of an oil embargo is emerging.

Germany believes it could cope if supplies of Russian oil were cut off by Moscow. Economy Minister Robert Habeck said that Russian oil now accounts for 12% of total imports, down from 35% before the war, and most of it goes to the Schwedt refinery near Berlin.

“Germany is not against an oil ban from Russia. Of

course it is a heavy load to bear, but we are ready to do that,” Habeck told reporters. He said that a few more weeks or months to find oil transporting ships, and to better prepare harbours and pipelines would be useful.

“Time is helpful but I think other countries have bigger problems, and as I have asked for solidarity or understanding of the German situation, I am also of course willing to understand the maybe more difficult situation for other countries,” he said.

The bulk of Monday’s meeting is focused on shoring up gas supplies and not giving in to Putin’s demand that companies pay for gas in rubles. Around 97% of European contracts have been concluded in euros or

dollars.

The EU’s executive branch, the European Commission, has warned that companies ceding to pressure to convert euros to rubles through two accounts at Gazprombank would be in contravention of the bloc’s sanctions.

The EU has hit Russian officials, oligarchs, banks, companies and other organizations with rafts of sanctions since Russian troops invaded Ukraine in February. The commission is working on a sixth round of measures, possibly including oil restrictions, and could announce them this week.

The measures would have to be approved by the member countries, which could take several days.

## Israel demands apology after Russia says Hitler had Jewish roots



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov attends a joint news conference with Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh (not pictured) following their talks in Moscow, Russia April 27, 2022. Yuri Kochetkov/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo

Reuters – Israel lambasted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday for claiming that Adolf Hitler had Jewish origins, saying it was an “unforgivable” falsehood that debased the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust.

In a signal of sharply deteriorating relations with Moscow, the Israeli foreign ministry summoned the Russian ambassador and demanded an apology.

“Such lies are intended

to accuse the Jews themselves of the most horrific crimes in history that were committed against them,” Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement.

“The use of the Holocaust of the Jewish people for political purposes must stop immediately,” he added.

Lavrov made the assertion on Italian television on Sunday when he was asked why Russia said it needed to “denazify” Ukraine if the country’s own president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, was himself Jewish.

“When they say ‘What sort of nazification is this if we are Jews’, well I think that Hitler also had Jewish origins, so it means nothing,” Lavrov told Rete 4 channel, speaking through an Italian interpreter.

“For a long time now we’ve been hearing the wise Jewish people say that the biggest anti-Semites are the Jews themselves,” he added.

Dani Dayan, chairman of Yad Vashem, Israel’s memorial to the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, said the Russian minister’s remarks were “an insult and a severe blow to the victims of the real Nazism”.

Speaking on Kan radio, Dayan said Lavrov was spreading “an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory with no basis in fact”.

*cont'd on pg 19*

**COOL & SMOOTH**  
**2022**

**TUESDAY MAY 3**

**MATCH DAY 5**  
 COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUNDS

**MATCH 1 4PM**  
 NEW WINTHORPES LIONS VS. PIGOTTS CRUSHERS

**MATCH 2 7PM**  
 LIBERTA BLACKHAWKS VS. BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES

Artwork Takumi Media 2022

Sponsors: Tropical, ANTIGUA BARBUDA, SJDC, Apua, Global Bank of Commerce, inet, FETTER'S COMBIBOR.

## U.N. chief calls for debt relief, post-COVID investment on West Africa trip

Reuters – U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday urged debt relief for African countries and more investment to help their economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and weather the impacts of the Ukraine war.

The United Nations chief spoke in Senegal on the first leg of a trip that will also include Niger and Nigeria, where he will visit communities affected by conflict and climate change.

Supply disruptions due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine have caused simultaneous food, energy and finance crises in Africa and beyond, Guterres said.

The coronavirus pandemic pushed many poor countries into debt distress and the Ukraine war has disrupted their economic recovery, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Public debt ratios in sub-Saharan Africa are at their highest in more than two decades, the IMF said last week.

“International financial institutions must urgently put in place debt relief measures by increasing liquidity and fiscal space, so that governments can avoid default and invest in social safety nets and sustainable development,” Guterres said.

The United Nations has made proposals to the World Bank and the IMF regarding the mobilization of various



People wait to receive a dose of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine at Philippe Senghor Hospital in Dakar, amid a surge of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in Senegal July 28, 2021. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra

funds and debt relief instruments, but so far the measures taken have been insufficient, he added.

He called on wealthy countries and pharmaceutical companies to accelerate donations of COVID-19 vaccines and invest in local vaccine production, with almost 80% of the African population still not vaccinated against COVID-19.

“Beyond vaccination, we see big imbalances when it comes to investments in post-COVID recovery,” he said, adding that economic growth per capita is projected to be 75%

lower in Africa than in the rest of the world over the next five years.

Guterres said he visited a vaccine manufacturing unit in Dakar with Senegal's president Macky Sall which will soon be equipped to produce vaccines against COVID-19 and other diseases.

An executive at South Africa's Aspen Pharmacare (APNJ.J) told Reuters earlier, however, that Africa's first COVID-19 vaccination plant, touted as a trailblazer last year, now risks shutting down after receiving not a single order

*cont'd from pg 18*

The identity of one of Hitler's grandfathers is not known but there has been some speculation, never backed up by any evidence, that he might have been a Jew.

There was no immediate response for comment

from the Russian embassy to Israel or from Lavrov in Moscow.

Kyiv condemned Lavrov's words, saying his “heinous remarks” were offensive to Zelenskiy, to Israel, Ukraine and Jews.

“More broadly, they demonstrate that today's

Russia is full of hatred towards other nations,” Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Yair Lapid, whose grandfather died in the Holocaust, said that accusing Jews of being anti-Semites was “the

basest level of racism”. He also dismissed Lavrov's assertion that pro-Nazi elements held sway over the Ukrainian government and military.

A German government spokesperson said the idea Hitler had Jewish heritage was “absurd” propaganda.

## FIFA punishes Senegal for fan disorder, lasers at Salah

AP – FIFA fined Senegal’s soccer federation 175,000 Swiss francs (\$180,000) on Monday for fan disorder at a World Cup playoff game, including shining laser pointers at Egypt star Mohamed Salah in the penalty shootout.

Salah’s face was a blur of vivid green light when he prepared to take his penalty, which he blasted over the bar. Senegal went on to win the shootout in Dakar in March with Salah’s Liverpool teammate Sadio Mané scoring the decisive spot kick.

FIFA said its disciplinary committee also looked into a pitch invasion by Senegal fans, an offensive banner and the national federation’s “failure to ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadium.”

Senegal was also ordered to play a future competitive game in an empty stadium.

The FIFA disciplinary panel also judged dozens of similar cases from World Cup qualifying games played



Liverpool’s Mohamed Salah, left, leaves the field as his teammate Sadio Mané enters during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Watford at Anfield stadium in Liverpool, England, Saturday, April 2, 2022. (AP Photo/Jon Super)

since January and handed out several other fines and stadium closures.

Nigeria was punished with a 150,000 Swiss francs (\$154,000) fine and one-game stadium closure. Fans invaded the field in Abuja and there were other incidents of disorder after Nigeria was eliminated at home by Ghana in their playoff.

FIFA imposed fines of 125,000 Swiss francs (\$128,000) on Congo

and 100,000 Swiss francs (\$103,000) on Lebanon in similar cases at games against Morocco and Syria, respectively. Both got one-game stadium closures.

Discrimination by fans of Chile and Colombia at their home games, plus other offenses, resulted in total fines of 95,000 Swiss francs (\$98,000) and 55,000 Swiss francs (\$56,500), respectively.

## Andy Murray ‘not supportive’ of Wimbledon ban of Russian players but has no ‘right answer’

BBC – Andy Murray is “not supportive” of players from Russia and Belarus being banned from Wimbledon but says there is no “right answer” on the issue.

Players from the two countries cannot play at this year’s Grand Slam because of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) has also banned Russian and Belarusian players from all other UK grass-court tournaments.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal called the ban “very un-



Murray has pledged to donate his prize-money earnings for the rest of the year to help children affected by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine [Getty Images]

fair”.

Belarusian players were included in the ban because the country has supported Russia’s military action in

Ukraine.

In March, the UK government is understood to have asked national governing bodies to request written

confirmation from Russian and Belarusian players of their neutrality if they wanted to compete in events in England.

The AELTC, which organises Wimbledon, consulted the government in April about whether to allow players to compete.

When the ban was announced on 20 April, it was supported by UK Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston and Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries, and criticised by Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov.

## UEFA announces further sanctions on Russian clubs and national teams amid Ukraine invasion

BBC – Russia have been barred from competing in this summer's women's Euro 2022, while Russian clubs will also be banned from UEFA competitions next season, says Europe's football governing body.

UEFA has announced that Russia's bid to host the men's Euro 2028 or Euro 2032 tournaments is now ineligible too.

The sanctions come amid Russia's continued invasion of Ukraine.

In February, Russian clubs and national teams were suspended by FIFA and UEFA "until further notice".

On Monday, UEFA announced that Portugal - who lost to Russia in the play-offs - will replace them at Euro 2022, which takes place in July.

Russia's women's national team will also no longer compete in European qualification for the 2023 World Cup, while the men's side is barred from the 2022-23 Nations League.

They will automatically



*There have been shows of support for Ukraine at football matches since Russia launched its invasion of the country in February*

be ranked fourth in group two of League B, meaning they will be relegated at the end of the group phase.

The ban imposed on clubs means there will be no Russian teams in the men's and women's Champions League, Europa League, or Europa Conference League during the 2022-23 campaign.

In March, UEFA confirmed Russia had declared an interest in hosting Euro 2028 - as well as the UK and Ireland, and Turkey - and the

2032 edition.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Russia's interest was "beyond satire" and "beyond comprehension".

UEFA said the bid was ineligible in accordance with article 16.02 of the Bid Regulations, which states that "each bidder shall ensure that it does not act in a manner that could bring UEFA, any other bidder, the bidding procedure or European football into disrepute".

UEFA's latest sanctions

also ban Russia from the 2021-23 European Under-21 Championship, as well as youth and futsal competitions.

An updated qualifying process for the Champions League has been published, which shows benefits for Scottish teams.

The Premiership champions will go directly into the competition's group stages, while the second-placed side will now go into the third round of qualifying rather than the second.

## Mother of West Indies cricketer Permaul murdered

CMC - Police in Guyana have detained for questioning the husband of 52-year-old Waynumattie 'Datalin' Permaul, whose body was found in a shallow grave at Kilcoy Chesney, seven days after she was reported missing.

West Indies and Guyana cricketer, Veersammy Permaul, had reported his mother missing to the authorities on Thursday, telling them he had not seen

or heard from her for a week.

Police said they searched the yard of the couple's home and uncovered the shallow grave with the woman's body inside.

She and her husband lived alone at the house in Corentyne Berbice, a region along the Berbice River.

"When questioned he (the husband) reportedly 'confessed' to the po-

lice, divulging details of how he committed the heinous act on April 22 at about 02:00 hours," the police said in a statement. The police said that the husband, Avemanen "Terry" Permaul, is expected to be charged with murder as soon as their investigations continue.

Permaul, a left-arm spinner, made his test debut for West Indies in Bangladesh in 2012.

## Turf Masters make bright start in Over-40 League

Turf Masters made an impressive start to their campaign in the Antigua Over-40 Premier League on Sunday.

The Turf Masters, featuring Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne, hammered Golden Grove Masters 5-0 to record the largest margin of victory in one of four opening day matches at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) Technical Training Centre.

Jemery Galloway scored a hat-trick for Turf Masters as he found the back of the net in the 4th, 28th and 30th minute of the one-sided encounter.

Striker Markland Wright wasted no time in giving the Turf Masters the early advantage when he scored his team's first goal in only the 2nd minute of play.

A strike by James Tonge in the 36th minute was enough to complete the rout over Golden Grove Masters.

Up & Over FC of Pigotts and Dun Bar Crew of Hop-

pers also made a winning start to their campaign in the round-robin competition.

Up & Over FC beat Tun & Bang 3-1 ex-national striker Kerry "Arab" Skepple scoring in the 9th minute.

A Jermaine "Pin Up" Jarvis' 42nd minute conversion gave the Pigotts men a 2-0 advantage before former national striker Peter "Big Pete" Byers reduced the deficit by scoring what turned out to be the only goal for Tun & Bang in the 53rd minute.

A strike by Kerry Jeremy in the 60th minute was enough to seal the win for Up & Over FC.

Dun Bar Crew also prevailed by a 3-1 margin against Extraordinary Men.

Former national midfielder Rolston "Lexy" Phoenix scored in the 2nd minute and ex-national striker Tamorley "Ziggy" Thomas converted in the 21st minute to give Dun Bar Crew a 2-0 halftime advantage.

Striker Rowan "3 Fives"



Turf Masters' player Prime Minister Gaston Browne, centre, is flanked by ex-national striker, Kerry 'Arab' Skepple, left, and Up & Over FC team-mate Kerry Jeremy during a photo opt on the opening day of the Over-40 Premier League at the ABFA Technical Training Centre on 1st May, 2022. (Photo: Lestroy Skepple)

Isaac pulled a goal back for Extraordinary Men when he scored in the 45th minute, but a 54th minute strike by Jean Small completed the victory for the Hoppers crew.

There were no winners in the other encounter on Sunday as West Ham FC salvaged a 1-1 draw with Legacy FC in their keenly contested affair.

Stefan Hughes slotted home from the penalty spot to score West Ham's equal-

izer in the 60th minute after a Randolph "Etty" Burton 42nd minute strike had given Legacy FC a 1-0 lead.

The competition will continue on Saturday with the second round of matches.

Golden Grove Masters will face Extraordinary Men at 3 pm, Up & Over FC will tackle West Ham FC at 4:20 pm, Turf Masters and Legacy FC will clash at 5:40pm and Dun Bar Crew will challenge Tun & Bang at 7pm.

## Village netball league concludes this week

The curtains will come down on the Kess Imports Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Community and Village League at the YMCA Sports Complex this week.

The final matches in the competitions were rescheduled to this week after rainy conditions forced the postponement of the encounters last week.

The competition will resume this evening with four matches scheduled for the YMCA Sports Complex.

Spencer's All Saints United 1 will

take on Willikies Rangers in the lone female division encounter at 6:30pm.

This will be followed by three matches in the mixed division.

Ovals Flyballers Black Eagles will meet Ovals Flyballers White Dove and John Hughes Flyers will face Gray's Green Tigers.

The final match of the evening will feature a top of the table clash between two unbeaten teams in Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets and Drahz Eastsiders, with the winner likely to clinch

the title with one round of matches remaining.

The competitions will conclude with the final round of matches at the YMCA on Thursday evening.

Gray's Green Tigers will tackle John Hughes Female Flyers and Willikies Rangers will challenge Drahz Eastsiders in the women's division at 6:45pm.

The league will end with the last three encounters in the mixed division.

*cont'd on pg 23*

## Tschuss wins the Peters & May Trophy

The overall winner of the Peters & May Round Antigua Race after CSA time correction was the American FAST40+ Tschuss, skippered by Johnny Mordaunt.

“It was a light wind race especially at the start, but halfway round the breeze picked up and it was really enjoyable. It was quite refreshing and very interesting because after a windy Caribbean season that is the first time we have raced the boat in under 10 knots. The boss will be super-happy to receive the Peters & May Trophy,” Mordaunt said.

The Peters & May Round Antigua Race is the traditional stand-alone event before the start of Antigua Sailing Week on Sunday. Gunboat 68 Tosca, co-skippered by Ken Howery and Alex Thomson took line honours in the Multihull Class.

Back in January, Ken Howery crossed the Atlantic with Tosca to get to Antigua and was reunited with his team for their first race in the Caribbean.

“Today the conditions were not as advertised, but we had a really great sail and it was great to see the island from the water. We did have a few run-ins, including touch-



*The overall winner of the Peters & May Round Antigua Race after CSA time correction was the American FAST40+ Tschuss, skippered by Johnny Mordaunt. (Photo: Paul Wyeth)*

ing a rock, but we had a wonderful day and it is lovely to be here.

“This is my first Antigua Sailing Week and I have my family here, so I am really looking forward to sailing with my dad and my cousin,” said Howery after the race.

This is not the first Antigua Sailing Week for Vendee Globe veteran Alex Thomson, but this regatta will be the first time Thomson has ever raced a multihull inshore.

“We are really just starting with this boat so we are learning every day,” Thomson said.

“Antigua Sailing Week

is always advertised as the best racing in the Caribbean and although today did not live up to that, we are really looking forward to racing this amazing boat at the famous regatta.”

Lithuanian VO65 Ambersail 2, skippered by Raimundas Siugzdinis took line honours in the monohull class.

“It was tricky to keep the speed up, especially through the transition zone on the north east corner of Antigua,” commented Ambersail 2 Mainsail trimmer, Tomas Barakauskas.

“We were very happy to be the first to finish the race but for Antigua Sailing Week, we would like more wind please! However, during this race, we had the most amazing experience. A whale as big as the boat breached just 150 metres from us. It was just incredible.”

In the Almost Round

Antigua Race of 26 nautical miles, Walter Keenan’s Libertas from the BVI took line honours and the win on CSA corrected time.

Tommy Patterson’s Antigua First Love was second and Torben Lundgren’s Danish team racing Daisy was third. This year, two courses were in use by the Race Committee, including a 26-mile Almost Round Antigua.

Moody weather with pewter skies and tropical downpours affected this year’s race. With the wind speed varying from 16 knots to almost flat calm, the 52-mile course was shortened to a finish at Curtain Mark, just southeast of the stunning Cades Reef.

Normal trade wind service was expected to resume for the first day of Antigua Sailing Week, which started with the English Harbour Rum Race Day on 1st May, 2022.

### *cont’d from pg 22*

Grays Green Tigers will meet Ovals Flyballers White Dove, Drahz Eastsiders will face Ovals Flyballers Black Eagles and John Hughes Flyers will clash with Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets.

The ABNA will hold a community and village league closing ceremony immediately after the conclusion of Thursday’s matches.

## Stoneville continue strong volleyball title defence

Stoneville have continued to put up a rock solid defence of their men's division title in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League.

The cup holders fended off a strong challenge from the Michael Freeland Enforcers to prevail 3-2 and notched up their second win in as many outings at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night.

In a battle between two teams that could have comfortably won their opening matches, Enforcers got off to a great start winning the opening set 25-19.

Stoneville hit back, narrowly taking the second set 25-23 to level the match at 1-1.

The defending men's champions took a 2-1 lead by comfortably winning the third set 25-13.

But Enforcers levelled the match at 2-2 by winning the fourth set 25-21 to force a decider.

In the end, Stoneville prevailed taking the deciding fifth set 14-09.

Jets also recorded their second win in two outings by surging to a 3-0 straight set win over North Coast Hardware Starz 2.

Jets won the female division encounter 25-18, 25-12, 25-14.



Stoneville have won their first two matches in defense of their men's division title in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League. (Photo: ABAVA)

Twenty-four hours earlier, Renegades also maintained their 100 percent winning record in the men's competition by pulling off a 3-1 victory over Cool & Smooth Storming Lions.

Taking a 2-0 lead by winning the first two sets 25-10, 25-11, Renegades got off to a fast start.

The Lions stormed back to win a keenly contested third set 27-25.

But any hope of Storming Lions engineering a total comeback victory were quickly quelled by the Renegades who produced a superb display to claim the fourth set, and the match, 25-14.

Cool & Smooth Da Squad maintained their im-

pressive start to this year's women's division, romping to a 3-1 victory over defending champions Paragons.

Da Squad, featuring several top-quality players from Cuba and the Dominican Republic, were able to recover from a slow start after losing the opening set 23-25 to Paragons.

But they found their groove in their second set and went on to produce a dominant display to defeat the reigning champions, winning the next three sets and the match, 25-16, 25-16, 25-18.

Da Squad's second win in two matches sent Paragons tumbling to their second loss in as many out-

ings.

The cup holders will need to rebound from their disappointing start and produce better results if they are to stand any chance of retaining their title.

Paragons will not have to wait long for a chance at a change in fortunes as they return to the court in one of two matches slated to take place at YMCA when the competition resumes tomorrow.

Paragons will challenge North Coast Hardware Starz2 in the female division at 6:30pm.

This match will be followed by a men's division affair between Michael Freeland Enforcers and Sharks.



## Kieron Pollard in the running for T20 Blast stint following international retirement

CricInfo – Kieron Pollard is weighing up offers to play in the T20 Blast following his retirement from international cricket.

Pollard, who turns 35 next month, stepped back from his position as West Indies' limited-overs captain last week after two-and-a-half years in the role but will continue to play domestic T20 cricket around the world.

He was the first pick in the men's Hundred draft earlier this month and will now be available to play for London Spirit for the majority of the tournament and will consider returning to county cricket for the first time since 2011, a move which would see him spend around three months in England this summer.



*Kieron Pollard could be in line for a three-month stint in England this summer [Ashley Allen - CPL T20 / Getty]*

ESPNcricinfo understands that at least two counties have enquired about Pollard's availability for the Blast, which runs from May 25 - four days after his IPL

franchise, Mumbai Indians, play their final game in this year's IPL - until July 16.

Surrey appear to be the frontrunners at this stage, in a move which would re-

unite Pollard with his close friend and long-term teammate Sunil Narine, who has already signed for the duration of Blast as an overseas player.

Surrey had planned to use Sean Abbott as their second overseas player after his stint was cut short due to injury last year, but his involvement in Australia and Australia A's squads for their tour of Sri Lanka means he will be unavailable for the majority of the group stages and the club are expected to look for a replacement.

Pollard previously spent two seasons with Somerset in 2010 and 2011 where he was hugely successful, averaging 34.58 with the bat at a strike rate of 169.94 and taking 41 wickets in 28 appearances.

### *cont'd from pg 26*

overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

James, who shared in a 111-run first wicket stand with fellow opener Uri Smith, top scored with 69 off 42 balls, including 9 fours and 2 sixes.

Smith contributed 39 off 34 deliveries with 5 boundaries.

Gore hammered an unbeaten 58 from just 29 balls, striking 8 fours and 3 sixes.

Chasing 200 to win, Pigotts Crushers were 71 for 5 off 15 overs, when the match ended prematurely because of rain.

Gore claimed 2 wickets for 10 runs in his 3 overs, while Malique Walsh top scored for Pigotts with 22.

Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles recorded their first win of the competition by beating New Winthorpes Lions by 8 wickets in the first match last Thursday.

Kelvin Pitman snapped up 3 for 18 and veteran leg-spinner Anthony "I Roots" Martin bagged 2 for 16 to restrict New Winthorpes to 122 for 7 off their 20 overs.

Opener Amir Jangoo top scored with 29 off 26 balls, including 2 sixes and a four, while Bartlette Henry con-

tributed 25 off 19 balls.

Jermaine Otto chipped in with 21 off 25 deliveries.

Bethesda then coasted to victory at 123 for 2 in 14.1 overs.

Daren Benta struck an unbeaten 51 off 36 balls with nine boundaries.

Overseas guest player Noshtush Kenjige was not out on 35 from 27 balls with 3 boundaries.

Captain Devon "Boobie" Thomas who opened the innings, chipped in with 31 off 14 balls. He hammered away 4 boundaries along the ground and smashed 2 sixes over the boundary ropes in his quick-fire knock.

## Teams seek semi-finals berths in T20 contest

With three places still up for grabs in the semi-finals, teams will be seeking to book their spots into the final four when the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion competition resumes at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds today.

Pigotts Crushers will face New Winthorpes Lions in a Group 1 encounter at 4pm and Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles will take on cup holders PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks in a Group 2 affair at 7pm.

Crushers must beat Lions to secure their berth in the semis, while Bethesda must beat Liberta to enhance their chance of advancing to the semis.

With the top two teams at the end of the preliminaries advancing to the semi-finals, Crushers, currently in third place in Group 1, must beat the Lions, who are occupying the cellar position, to secure their spot in the final four.

The Lions, who enter their final game in the preliminaries with a slim chance of advancing to the final four, must beat Crushers by a wide margin to



*PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks celebrate the dismissal of a New Winthorpes Lions batsman during their opening match in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion competition at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on 25th April, 2022. (Photo Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion)*

maintain any hope of securing a spot in the semi-finals.

The Lions will also hope that Liberta Blackhawks - the only team to have booked a spot in the semi-finals - beat Bethesda to remain in contention for a spot in the final four.

If the Lions beat Crushers and the Black Hawks defeat the Golden Eagles, then New Winthorpes, Pigotts and Bethesda will end their Group 1 preliminary campaigns with one win each.

The team with the best net run rate will advance to the semi-finals with Group 1 winners Liberta.

The four teams in Group 2 remain in contention for a

place in the semi-finals, after both their second round preliminary matches ended with no results last Friday due to rain.

The game between Rising Sun Spartans and All Saints Pythons, as well as the encounter between Jennings Tigers and Empire Nation were rained out forcing the no result outcomes.

This means Rising Sun and Jennings will enter Wednesday's final preliminary round of matches jointly tied at the top of the Group 2 standings with seven points.

All Saints and Empire each have two points.

Rising Sun and Jennings

will clash in the first game tomorrow at 4pm and Empire will take on All Saints in the second encounter at 7pm.

The winners of tomorrow's matches will advance to the semi-finals.

Cup holders PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks became the first team to book their spot in the semi-finals with an 84-run victory, via the Duckworth/Lewis Method, over Pigotts Crushers last Thursday.

Opener Kofi James, with the support of the middle order batsmen, slammed half centuries to propel Liberta to 199 for 3 off their 20

*cont'd on pg 25*