

ABLP MOVING FORWARD TO CONFIRM RAWDON TURNER

Story on Page 2



PM Browne recently endorsed the newly launched PayServ e-commerce mobile app, designed by Sherwin Jupiter (right), that connects consumers with the goods and services of local businesses. *Story on page 8.*

ABLP strategizing to advance Rawdon Turner

Despite a High Court ruling in favour of Saint Peter M. P. Asot Michael, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has again declared that Rawdon Turner will be the ABLP's candidate for that constituency.

To avoid any future entanglement with the Court, the party has returned to the drawing board and its executive has devised a plan to ensure their efforts to con-

firm Turner are not stalled going forward.

In a 13th May, 2022 judgement, High Court Justice Marissa Robertson ruled that the manner in which Turner was selected to replace Michael as the ABLP candidate for St. Peter contravened the party's constitution.

The court further ordered an injunction which bars Turner from standing

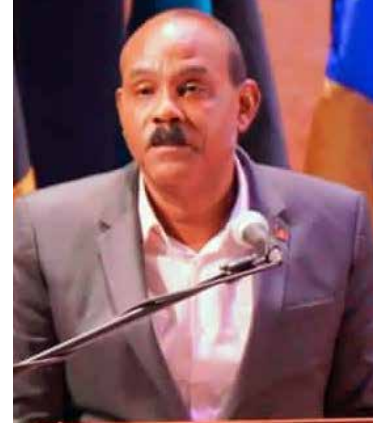
as the ABLP candidate until there is a "hearing and determination of this action or until there are fresh actions/proceedings initiated and conducted in accordance with the Revised Constitution of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party".

"Asot Michael did not win the case as how he is telling people. The case has not been heard as yet, but we know that that case can take probably take several months to a year, so we can't wait for that case to be called and to be litigated. We have to do what we have to do," said ABLP leader, Gaston Browne

"Up to last evening [Friday], the executive of the party has decided on a way forward, and to make sure that the processes are followed to a tee.

"Again we do not accept there were any initial breaches in the appointment of Turner, but out of an abundance of caution, and with full respect for the court, we are going over the process again, and to do certain things to make sure that this issue will not be a justiciable matter going forward, and to just end this charade that Asot is promoting for his own benefit," Browne said.

There are some who hold the view that Michael's continued legal actions appear to be giving him an un-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne fair advantage.

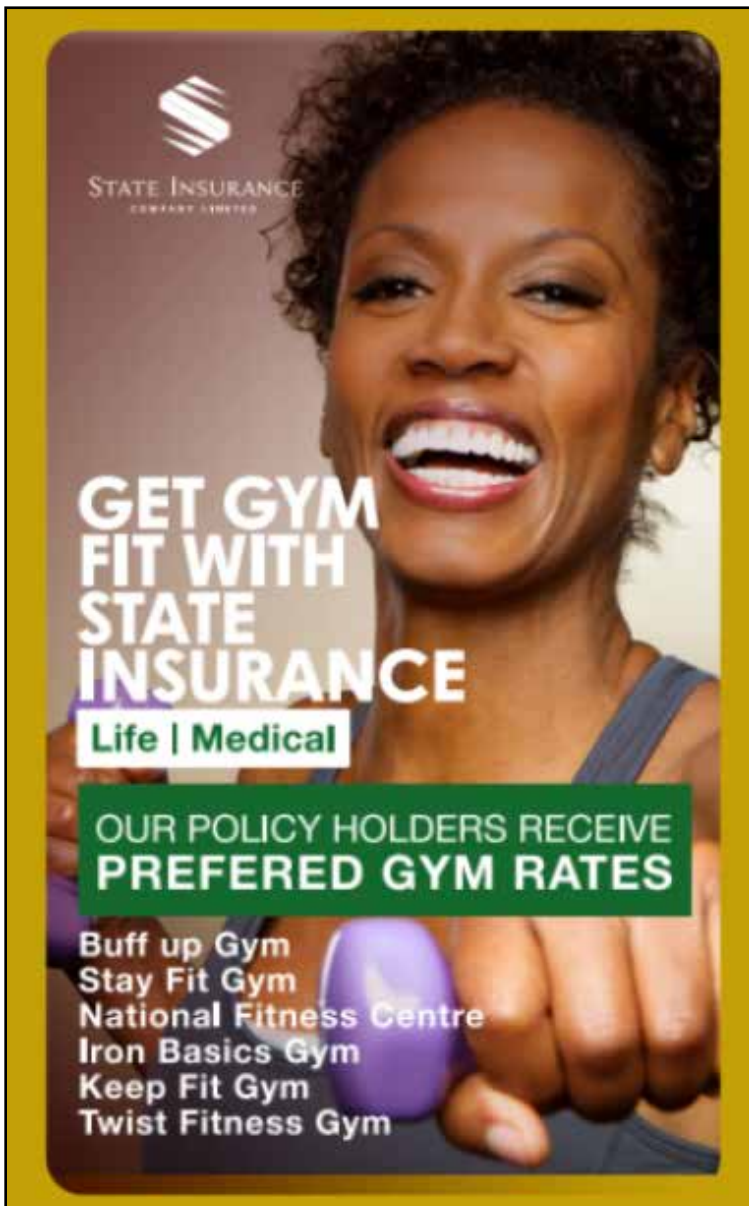
Undeterred, however, the ABLP is regrouping and Browne remains resolute that Michael's days as a political candidate on his party's ticket are over.

"I'm encouraging all of the people of St. Peter to accept Turner and to respect him as the Labour Party's candidate for that constituency.

"In so far as Asot Michael is concerned, Asot Michael is history. He will never, ever run on a Labour Party ticket, provided I am the leader of the party," Mr. Browne declared.

"And it's not a personal issue between me and him; it's because he does not meet the governance standards of the party and we have parted company."

As they seek to correct the errors that were outlined in the judgement, the ABLP leader expressed optimism that when next they move to confirm Rawdon Turner, the High Court will find favour with the party's decision.



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A&B ratifies workplace convention

Antigua and Barbuda has become the first country in the Caribbean, and the 4th in the Americas, to ratify the International Labour Organization's C190 Convention against Workplace Violence and Harassment.

A statement from the Ministry of Legal Affairs explained that Antigua and Barbuda's ratification of the convention signals the government's commitment to guaranteeing that local workplaces are free of all forms of violence and harassment, including bullying.

All workplaces in the country are expected to adhere to the tenets of C190.

Labour Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, has said work has begun to draft a national policy on workplace violence and harassment. The poli-



Labour Minister, Steadroy Benjamin

cy document will be spearheaded by the Ministry responsible for Gender Affairs, with full support from the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

Attorney General Benjamin added that in 2019, stakeholders were invited to provide input on an OECS draft

policy on sexual harassment, which he fully endorsed.

The ratification, he noted, is a further step towards a guarantee of workplace harmony.

The C190 convention covers both private and public sector spaces. It applies to all workers, irrespective of their contract status. It is a legal instrument which establishes the right of every worker to freedom from violence and harassment in the workplace and recognises violations as an infringement of a person's human rights.

Violence and harassment in the workplace, according to C190 definition, surrounds physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm, and includes gender-based violence and harassment.



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Sir Vivian Richards being considered for CARICOM's highest award

Three Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nationals, including former West Indies cricket captain, Sir Vivian Richards, are being considered for the Order of the Caribbean Community, the highest award to be given by CARICOM governments.

Apart from Richards, the others under consideration are the former Barbados government minister, Dame Billie Miller and the Trinidad and Tobago calypsonian, David Michael Rudder. The award will be bestowed during the CARICOM Summit scheduled for Suriname in July.

During their last inter-sessional summit in Belize, the CARICOM leaders had given the green light to honour Irwin LaRocque, the seventh CARICOM secretary-general, who began his service at the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat in September 2005.

The Order of the Caribbean Community is an award given to "Caribbean nationals whose legacy in the economic and cultural metamorphoses of Caribbean society is phenomenal." The award



was initiated at the English Conference of Heads of State and Governments of CARICOM in 1987 and was first bestowed in 1992.

Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, who represented the West Indies cricket team between 1974 and 1991, is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen of all time.

Richards made his test debut in 1974 against India and scored 8,540 runs in 121 Test matches at an average of 50.23, including 24 cen-

turies. He also scored 1,281 runs in World Series Cricket with five tons at an average of over 55, which was regarded as the highest and most difficult cricket ever played.

As captain, he won 27 of 50 Test matches and lost only 8. He also scored nearly 7,000 runs in One Day Internationals and more than 36,000 in first-class cricket. He was knighted for his contributions to cricket in 1999.

Dame Billie Miller is a Barbadian lawyer and a former parliamentarian and dep-
















uty prime minister.

She was re-elected member of parliament for the city of Bridgetown for the seventh time and was appointed senior minister in May 2003, retaining the portfolios of foreign affairs and foreign trade. She was also the first woman to sit on the Cabinet of Barbados.

David Rudder is known to be one of the most successful calypsonians of all time.

He sang backup vocals in a calypso tent run by Lord Kitchener, while earning his living as an accountant with the Trinidad Bus Company. In 1977, he joined Charlie's Roots, but stepped outside the band, entering the calypso tent as a solo calypsonian in 1986.

His tune "Rally 'Round the West Indies" was modified to become the anthem of West Indies cricket. (CMC)

Mon 30 Day 85°  Sunshine and clouds mixed. High near 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		Mon 30 Night 78°  Partly cloudy. Low 78F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
 24%  E 15 mph	 23%  ENE 12 mph	 Humidity 70%	 UV Index Extreme
 Sunrise 5:33 am	 Sunset 6:37 pm	 Humidity 78%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Moonrise 5:30 am	 Moonset 6:58 pm	 New Moon	

Haitians escape immigration detention facility, police launch manhunt

A nationwide search is now on for 4 men and 1 woman, all nationals of Haiti, who escaped the custody of the Department of Immigration's detention centre at the former US Air Base, Coolidge, on Friday.

According to a press statement from the Department of Immigration, Agener Rinjour, Frannyel Manuel, Sami Roodly Loiseau, Andrecin Pruneau, and the woman, Fabine Fleurant, were attempting to enter Montserrat by way of Antigua and Barbuda.

The group arrived in the country last Tuesday on a flight from Santo Domingo.

An examination of their travel documents revealed irregularities, however, and the Immigration Department moved to detain them while arrangements were made for their deportation to Haiti.

They were to have been deported

to their homeland on 28th May.

It is believed that they have not been able to make their way off of Antigua.

Further, it is believed that Rinjour may be most likely to engage with people in the community, as he is the only one in the group who is able to speak limited English.

Authorities have now launched a search for the five, and are enlisting the public's help in locating them. An investigation has also been launched to determine the circumstances that led to the Haitians escaping from the facility.

They are asking that any sightings of the Haitian fugitives be reported to the nearest police station or to the Department of Immigration by calling 774-8289 or 464-3245.

According to the Department of Immigration, they are cooperating with other local agencies in the search for the group and their counterparts in the region have also been apprised of the unfolding situation.



Sami Roodly Loiseau



Frannyel Manuel



Andrecin Pruneau



Agener Rinjour



Fabine Fleurant

Jamie Saunders elected to the executive of Inter-American Commission of Women

Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Sir Ronald Sanders, has welcomed the election yesterday, by acclamation, of the Antigua and Barbuda candidate for the Executive Committee of Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

Ambassador Sanders said that the election of Mr. Jamie Saunders of the Directorate of Gender Affairs in Antigua and Barbuda, is recognition of the pivotal role that Antigua and Barbuda has been playing on key issues at the Organization of American States (OAS).

He observed that, within 24 hours of Gender Affairs Minister, Dean Jonas, proposing Mr. Saunders as a candidate for the Executive Committee, he was elected on the strength of the



Jamie Saunders

campaigning efforts of Antigua and Barbuda’s Permanent Delegation to the OAS. Ambassador Sanders expressed his thanks to the OAS member states who supported Antigua and Barbuda’s candidate without a vote.

Established in 1928, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) was the first inter-governmental agency established to ensure recognition of women’s human rights and is the only hemispheric political forum

for women’s rights and gender equality.

Minister Dean Jonas said he was delighted at the success of Mr. Saunders’ election, “following the swift engagement by Ambassador Sanders and his team in Washington, DC, Joy-Dee Davis and Gillian Joseph”.

The Minister said that membership of the Executive Committee of the SIM “is a perfect fit with his Ministry’s efforts to promote full and equal access, participation, representation, leadership and influence of women in the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural spheres”.

Minister Jonas added “in collaboration with our Embassy in Washington, our Gender Affairs Department and Mr. Jamie Saunders will actively advance the interests of women in Antigua and Barbuda and the hemisphere”.

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Eight-year old shines at tent opening

An eight-year old calypsonian stole the show at the Sweet Benna Calypso Tent's opening at the Roadhouse Bar and Restaurant on Saturday night.

Jahrie Bakker, who performs under the calypso moniker, Mighty Bakker, wooed the audience with the delivery and overall performance of his song 'Freedom at last'.

The young entertainer, a resident of Villa and student of the Villa Primary School, was the only junior calypsonian performing at the opening of the tent.

Such was his impact that the Mighty Bakker was asked to reprise his performance at the end of the show.

Other notable performances came from De Apostle Bobby, Ras Kantu, Ma Lip Na Stick, formerly Lipstick, Black Mahdi, Singing Sudden and Destroyer Senior.

The rest of the cast included Ralph Gonsalves, Faithful, Young Squilly, Zocio and Spider.

Tent operator, Junie Edwards, said he was pleased with the opening night performances, although he identified several "teething" problems which he hopes to resolve by this weekend.

He also announced that the tent will operate at another venue this Saturday.

"We are going to the new community centre in Liberta, which also houses the We The People radio station," he revealed.

Asked if the plan is to move to a new location each week, Edwards responded that he is willing to entertain that idea if suitable venues can be found each week.

"We are looking for areas that are accessible via public transportation,



8-year-old calypsonian, Mighty Bakker and Liberta is ideal, as buses run in this area up to after midnight on the weekends," he stated.

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New e-commerce platform launches in Antigua

Technological advancements in the Caribbean have been further enhanced with the launch of the innovative platform PayServ.

Conceptualized and developed by Pivot, the mobile platform bridges the gap between service providers and customers with access to dozens of industries and facilities.

PayServ – as its name suggests – is a mobile application that offers free marketing and other exposure to suppliers and allows for service seekers to easily connect their desires to those providing the services.

Antigua and Barbuda



will serve as the launching pad for the new platform, which is set to expand in neighboring territories, of-

fering services that range from the movement of people to goods and more.

The app stands as an economic platform that allows for an ease in transactions whereby customers and suppliers can exchange revenue for services within the app itself.

The “PayServ wallet” has been amply referred to as Caribbean Apple Pay which allows users from both ends to send and receive money and – wherever necessary – cash out said revenue. Both end users can credit their virtual wallets by using any traditional visa or master card.

“We have been working on this platform for quite some time. And we are finally at a place where we feel ready to release it and bridge that gap between goods and services. We

have learnt a lot over the years and happily we are able to now present this to the public free of charge,” said Sherwin Jupiter, app developer and principal at Pivot.

Jupiter – who is also the architect behind the PayCab and PayMeal mobile apps – is revered for innovations in the technological arena, having also developed mobile applications for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and provided web and other digital platforms for scores of other organizations within and outside of the Caribbean.

“This is by far one of my most favorite projects. Because it was developed by us for us as Caribbean people. It is literally first world technology at our fin-

cont'd from pg 7

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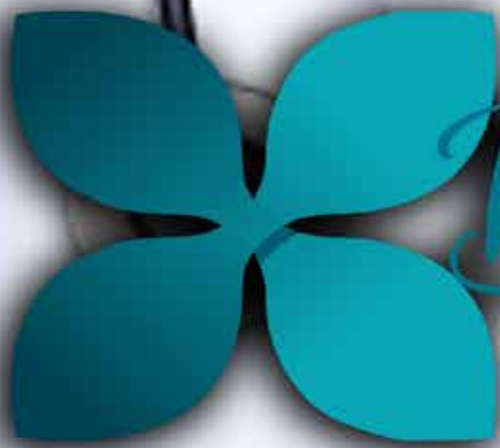
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Opinion



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gertips," he said.

As a young entrepreneur himself, Jupiter believes

strongly in the concept of networking and bridging the gap between supplier and customer without the

Weekend Puzzle Solution

SI SI?

By Oscar Puma

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red tape and – most importantly – the cost.

And with the support of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Hon. Gaston Browne, he feels even more confident in the growth and potential of the platform.

As it stands, PayServ offers services in food orders and delivery, spa and other beauty services, mechanical services, carwash, plumbing, barbering, tour and taxi operations, and much more.

There are two platforms available, one that caters to service providers and another that caters directly to consumers, allowing for appropriately different experiences.

Customers have the advantage of not only using a service but to also rate and/

or recommend these services to other users.

This creates a level of hospitality and related experiences that pushes both businesses and customers to a desired parallel of standards and integrity.

The app is free to download in the Apple iOS and Google Play stores. Service providers wishing to get listed are encouraged to explore the platform and follow a few simple steps.

LINK TO APP

PayServ User App: <https://smarturl.it/payserv>

PayServ Service Provider App: <https://smarturl.it/payserv-provider>

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Pope names 21 new cardinals, from Asia, Africa, elsewhere

By Frances D'emilio

Pope Francis named 21 new cardinals Sunday, most of them from continents other than Europe — which dominated Catholic hierarchy for most of the church's history — and further putting his mark on the group of people who might someday elect the next pontiff.

Sixteen of those who will receive the prestigious red cardinal's hat from Francis in a consistory ceremony at the Vatican on Aug. 27 are younger than 80 and thus would be eligible to vote for his successor if a conclave — in which pontiffs are secretly elected — were to be held.

Francis read out the names of his choices after delivering traditional Sunday remarks from an open window of the Apostolic Palace to the public in St. Peter's Square.

Among those tapped by the pontiff to receive the prestigious red hat will be two prelates from India and one each from Ghana, Nigeria, Singapore, East Timor, Paraguay, and Brazil, in keeping with Francis' determination to have church leaders reflect the global face of the Catholic church.

With church growth largely stagnant or at best sluggish in much of Europe and North America, the Vatican has been attentive to its flock to developing countries, including in Africa, where the number of faithful has been growing in recent decades. Only one new cardinal was named from the United States: Robert Walter McElroy, bishop of San Diego, California.

This is the eighth batch of cardinals that Francis has named since becoming pontiff in 2013. A sizable majority of those who are eligible to vote in a conclave were appointed by him, increasing the likelihood that they will



Pope Francis delivers the Regina Coeli noon prayer from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Sunday, 29, 2022. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borga)

choose as his successor someone who shares his papacy's priorities, including attention to those living on society's margins and to environmental crises.

A total of 131 cardinals would be young enough to elect a pope once the new batch are included, while the number of cardinals too old to vote will rise to 96.

Pontiffs traditionally have chosen their closest advisors and collaborators at the Vatican from among the ranks of cardinals, who have been dubbed the "princes of the church."

These are the churchmen named by Francis:

— Jean-Marc Aveline, archbishop of Marseille, France; Peter Okpaleke, bishop of Ekwulobia, Nigeria; Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, archbishop of Manaus, Brazil; Filipe Neri Antonio Sebastao di Rosario Ferrao, archbishop of Goa and Damao, India; Robert Walter McElroy, bishop of San Diego, California; Virgilio Do Carmo Da Silva, archbishop of Dili, East Timor;

Oscar Cantoni, bishop of Como, Italy; Anthony Poola, archbishop of Hyderabad, India; Paulo Cezar Costa, archbishop of Brasilia, Brazil; Richard Kuuia Baawobr, bishop of Wa, Ghana; William Goh Seng Chye, archbishop of Singapore; Adalberto Martinez Flores, archbishop of Asuncion, Paraguay; and Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In addition to those churchmen, also under 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave are three prelates who work at the Vatican: Arthur Roche of Britain, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments; Lazzaro You Heung-sik of South Korea, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy; and Fernando Vergez Alzaga of Spain, president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and president of the Vatican City State's Governorate.

Francis in his choices kept up a tradition of naming some who are too old to vote in a conclave, but whose long

cont'd on pg 12

Russia opens cases against Google, other foreign tech over data storage

Russia's communications regulator Roskomnadzor said on Friday it had opened administrative cases against Alphabet Inc's Google and six other foreign technology companies for alleged violations of personal data legislation.

Moscow has clashed with Big Tech over content, censorship, data and local representation in a simmering dispute that has erupted into a full-on information battle since Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Russia fined Google 3 million roubles (\$46,540) last year for not storing the personal data of Russian users in databases on Russian territory, and on Friday said it had opened a new case over what it called Google's



repeated failure to comply with Russian legislation.

Google, which declined to comment, could be fined between 6-18 million roubles, Roskomnadzor said.

The regulator also said it had opened cases against six other companies - Airbnb, Pinterest, Likeme, Twitch, Apple and United Parcel Service - for alleged first-time

offences carrying a potential fine of 1-6 million roubles.

Likeme could not be reached, while the other five companies had no immediate comment. (Reuters)

cont'd from pg 11

decades of dedication to the Catholic church is honoured by bestowing cardinal's rank on them. In this latest batch of nominations, they are Jorge Enrique Jimenez Carvajal, emeritus archbishop of Cartagena, Colombia; Lucas Van Looy, emeritus archbishop of Ghent, Belgium; Arrigo Miglio, emeritus archbishop of Cagliari, Sardinia; the Rev. Gianfranco Ghirlanda, a Jesuit professor of theology; and Fortunato Frezza, canon of St. Peter's Basilica.

Presiding over the consistory this summer adds to an already ambitious schedule in the months ahead for Francis, who has taken to using a wheelchair or a cane of late due to a knee

ligament problem. On Saturday, the Vatican released details of the 85-year-old pontiff's pilgrimage, from July 2 to 7, to Congo and South Sudan. He is also scheduled to make a pilgrimage to Canada later in July to apologise in person for abuse committed by churchmen and church institutions against Indigenous people in that country.

Almost as significant as those chosen to be cardinals are those who were not chosen, despite holding posts that in the past would have traditionally earned them the red hat.

In Francis' selection on Sunday, he passed over the prominent archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone. Earlier this month, Cordileone said he will no longer allow

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to receive Communion because of her support for abortion rights.

While Francis hasn't publicly weighed in on the soon-expected U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion rights, in the past he has decried the political weaponizing of Communion.

The new U.S. cardinal, McElroy, holds very different views from Cordileone.

He was among the relatively few U.S. bishops who several years ago called for U.S. church policy to better reflect Francis' concerns for the global poor. He also signed a statement last year expressing support for LGBTQ youth and denouncing the bullying directed at them.

World Bank approves funds to improve Haiti's infrastructure, resilience to disaster

By **Santana Salmon**

The World Bank has approved grant financing of US\$120 million for the Haiti Resilient Connectivity and Urban Transport Accessibility Project.

The Bank also approved additional financing of US\$11 million for the Haiti Strengthening Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience Project.

The Washington-based financial institution said the infrastructure grant will enhance rural connectivity in the South peninsula and improve climate-resilient urban mobility in Cap-Haïtien, while strengthening institutional capacity within the urban transport sector.

It said the Disaster Management Risk project will increase the emergency response and evacuation capacity of selected municipalities in high climate risk-prone areas.

“The combined effects of exposure to seismic risk and extreme weather events, and high level of environmental degradation, are key drivers of fragility, partly responsible for reversing the meagre socio-economic progress of the last decade,” said Laurent Msellati, World Bank Country Manager for



Haiti.

The World Bank said urban transport in Haiti is a major limiting factor for access to economic activities, development, and economic growth.

It said congestion levels are severe in several major cities mainly due to a combination of the poor conditions of road infrastructure; suboptimal use of public street space; frequent climate-induced related disruptions and an unregulated public transport system, which contribute to constraints accessibility and creates long travel times.

At the same time, the World Bank said while recent efforts to improve the

road network increased intercity connectivity, 50 percent of the national territory remains poorly connected, and some regions are totally isolated for days during the rainy season, which often comes with major storms and hurricanes.

It said the recent earthquake of August 2021 damaged more than 850 kilometres of primary and secondary roads in the southern region, resulting in damages to the transport sector of up to US\$160 million and leaving more than 450,000 people isolated.

It said the project will also support the modernization and professionalization

of public transport services in the targeted regions.

“As climate change is expected to increase the frequency, intensity, and impact of extreme weather events, an effective early warning system to warn citizens to prepare and be ready to evacuate when extreme weather events hit, could reduce the impact of these shocks.”

The Bank said between 1972 and 2022, Haiti has been hit by more than 110 disasters, adding that the upcoming hurricane season in the Caribbean region is predicted to be above average, with 14 to 21 named storms including three to six major hurricanes.

Regional News



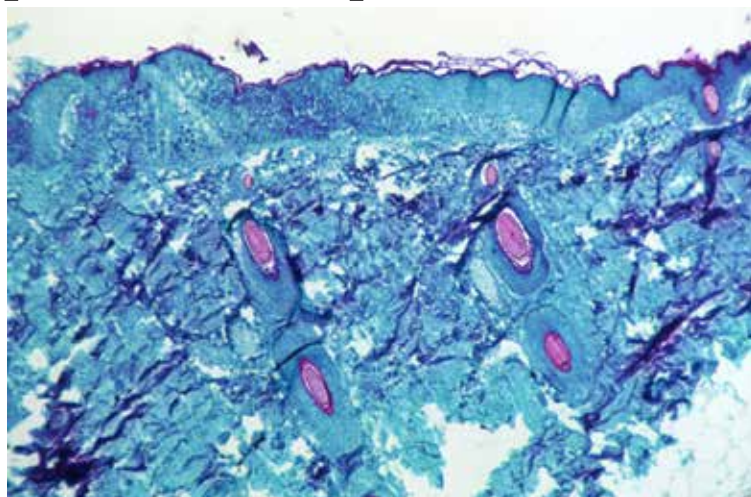
Jamaican gov't says COVID-19 measures will help prevent spread of monkeypox

CMC - The Jamaican government says the measures put in place to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will also reduce the likelihood of transmission of the monkeypox virus.

Health and Wellness Minister Dr. Christopher Tufton said while Jamaica has reported no cases of the virus "at this time, however, the public is being advised that the present COVID-19 measures of practising physical distancing, mask-wearing, and frequent hand sanitation will also reduce the likelihood of the transmission of the virus".

In a statement, the Ministry of Health and Wellness described the monkeypox virus "as a rare disease that is similar to smallpox and can be transmitted by contact and droplets".

It quoted the World



Health Organization as saying that the current outbreak of the virus, which has been detected in 11 countries, "is spreading primarily through sexual contact.

Chief Medical officer, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor McKenzie, says persons must report to the health department if fever and rash occur following recent international travel or close contact with persons who travelled within the last three weeks.

The Ministry warned

that children are at higher risk, and monkeypox during pregnancy may lead to complications or stillbirth.

"The virus is normally found in animals, but the disease may represent a risk of person-to-person transmission. There is likely to be little immunity to the infection in those travelling," the ministry warned.

Earlier this week, the main opposition People's National Party (PNP) called on the government to initi-

ate contingency planning should Jamaica record any case of the virus.

PNP spokesperson on Health Dr Morais Guy said the monkeypox disease is not well-known, and as such, every precaution should be taken to keep it from reaching Jamaica.

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with 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.

Guy in a statement said the Andrew Holness government has a responsibility to educate the public about its condition and symptoms because it poses a threat to the island.

Commonwealth heads of public service to discuss sustainable development



Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley

CMC - Barbados Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, will address the three-day second biennial Pan Commonwealth Meeting of heads of public service and cabinet secretaries that takes place starting from June 6.

The virtual conference, which will be held under the theme "Frontiers of Government Performance Management: Towards Generally Accepted Performance Principles (GAPP)", will also be addressed by the Prime Minister of Bhutan Lotay Tshering.

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Belize continues search for person who tried to poison villagers

CMC – Police in Belize are continuing the search for a person who allegedly tried to poison almost 2,000 residents of the San Vicente Village, Toledo District between Sunday and Monday last week.

On May 16, an unknown entity contaminated the water supply of San Vicente Village in the Toledo District. While one suspect was detained shortly after, police confirmed that the person was later released.

It's reported that a resident of the village had poured a bottle of an insecticide known as Malathion. The shocking act potentially exposed an entire village of around 400 persons to the harmful chemical, but the villagers became aware of what had transpired when they started to smell



Assistant Superintendent of Police, Fitzroy Yearwood

an odour emanating from their pipes that alerted them that something was amiss.

“No one has been arrested and charged for that. Investigators are still doing their best to find the orchestrator of that crime. Poisoning a water system is like a public terror. You can cause harm to more than one person and, in these villages, we know that they rely on the water system for every-

thing, so we are not letting go of that investigation,” Assistant Superintendent of Police, Fitzroy Yearwood, told a news conference.

The Pesticides Control Board (PCB) has indicated that the bottle of Malathion 57 EC formula that the person emptied into the village's water supply was not a registered formulation in Belize and had been illegally imported into the

country.

In a statement, the PCB said Malathion, the active ingredient of the formulated pesticide is, like any other pesticide, a poison whose unintended uses can be fatal or cause serious health issues for people.

Media reports said several villagers had become ill and had to seek medical treatment following the poisoning.

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The London-based Commonwealth Secretariat said delegates will have the opportunity to review the commitments made at the inaugural meeting in March 2019, discuss a range of issues relating to public service governance, examine international best practices and available toolkits for enhancing government performance, and further accelerate the implementation of policies towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Patricia Scotland, who will open the meeting, said the effectiveness of government administration is a key factor in the com-

petitive and comparative advantage of nations.

“Countries with effective and efficient governments are well placed to succeed.

“The Commonwealth's collective responsibility is the bond of trust between governments and the people they serve. My aim is to build a Commonwealth-wide network that advances good governance and encourages Commonwealth countries to work together from a position of strength.

“This meeting will be a great opportunity to discuss, share, and agree on strategies for sustaining effective performance in government, espe-

cially in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It comes at the right time, helping governments to drive action to create a better environment for effective delivery and achieve their national development goals,” she added.

The Secretariat said the meeting will also provide an opportunity to review progress made in implementing these various commitments, identify challenges in the aftermath of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and further strengthen the collaboration among Commonwealth countries to foster ambitious new initiatives for successful government performance management systems.

Landslides and floods kill at least 31 in northeast Brazil

AP - Landslides caused by heavy rains killed at least 29 people in the state of Pernambuco in northeast Brazil on Saturday, authorities said. In Alagoas, another state in the region, two people died when they were swept away in river flooding on Friday.

More than 1,000 people have been forced to leave their homes because of the flooding in Pernambuco, civil defence officials said.

The executive secretary of the civil defence agency in Pernambuco, Lt. Col. Leonardo Rodrigues, said in a video posted on Instagram that about 32,000 families live in areas at risk of landslides or flooding in the state.

Schools in the city of Recife have been opened to receive the homeless.

In Alagoas, the state government said 33 municipalities have declared



A woman stands on a bus stop bench as a driver of a Volkswagen van navigates a flooded street in Recife, state of Pernambuco, Brazil, Saturday, May 28, 2022. (AP Photo/Marlon Costa/Futura Press)

an emergency due to the effects of the heavy rains in the past several days.

President Jair Bolsonaro said on Twitter that teams from the Minis-

try of Regional Development and the Armed Forces will be sent to the state and also to Alagoas for “relief and humanitarian assistance.”

Israeli nationalists chant racist slogans in Jerusalem march

AP – Thousands of Israeli nationalists, some of them chanting “Death to Arabs,” paraded through the heart of the main Palestinian thoroughfare in Jerusalem’s Old City on Sunday, in a show of force that risked setting off a new wave of violence in the tense city.

The crowds, who were overwhelmingly young Orthodox Jewish men, were celebrating Jerusalem Day -- an Israeli holiday that marks the capture of the Old City in the 1967 Mideast war. Palestinians see the event, which passes through the heart of the Muslim Quarter, as a provocation. Last year, the parade helped trigger an 11-day war with Gaza militants, and this year’s march drew condemnations from the Palestinians and neighbouring Jordan.

Israel said it deployed thousands of police and security forces for the event, and small scuffles between Jewish and Palestinian groups erupted inside the Old City before the parade began.

As the march got underway, groups of Orthodox Jewish groups gathered outside Damascus Gate, waving flags, singing religious and nationalistic songs, and shouting “the Jewish nation lives” before entering the Muslim Quarter. One large group chanted “Death to Arabs,” and “Let your village burn down” before descend-



Members of Israeli security forces detain a Palestinian protester near Damascus Gate outside Jerusalem’s Old City as Israelis mark Jerusalem Day, an Israeli holiday celebrating the capture of the Old City during the 1967 Mideast war. Sunday, May 29, 2022. Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its capital. But Palestinians, who seek east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state, see the march as a provocation. Last year, the parade helped trigger an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants. (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

ing into the Old City.

Police cleared Palestinians out of the area, which is normally a bustling Palestinian thoroughfare. At one point, a drone flying a Palestinian flag flew overhead.

Ahead of the march, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that “flying the flag of Israel in the capital of Israel is an obvious thing” and that Israel had made this clear “from the outset.” At the same time, he asked participants to celebrate in a “responsible and respectful manner.”

Thousands of people normally take part in the march through the Muslim Quarter, including some who

shout out nationalistic or racist slogans toward the Palestinians, before making their way to the Western Wall in the Jewish Quarter on the other side of the Old City.

Last year, after weeks of Israeli-Palestinian unrest in Jerusalem, authorities changed the route of the march at the last minute to avoid the Muslim Quarter. But it was too late by then, and Hamas militants in Gaza fired a barrage of rockets toward Jerusalem as the procession was getting underway. That set off 11 days of heavy fighting.

Sunday’s march came at a time of heightened tensions. Israeli police have

repeatedly confronted stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators in the disputed compound in recent months, often firing rubber bullets and stun grenades.

At the same time, some 19 Israelis have been killed by Palestinian attackers in Israel and the occupied West Bank in recent weeks, while over 35 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank. Many of those were Palestinian militants killed in battle, but several civilians were also among the dead, including Shireen Abu Akleh, a well-known correspondent for the Al Jazeera satellite channel.

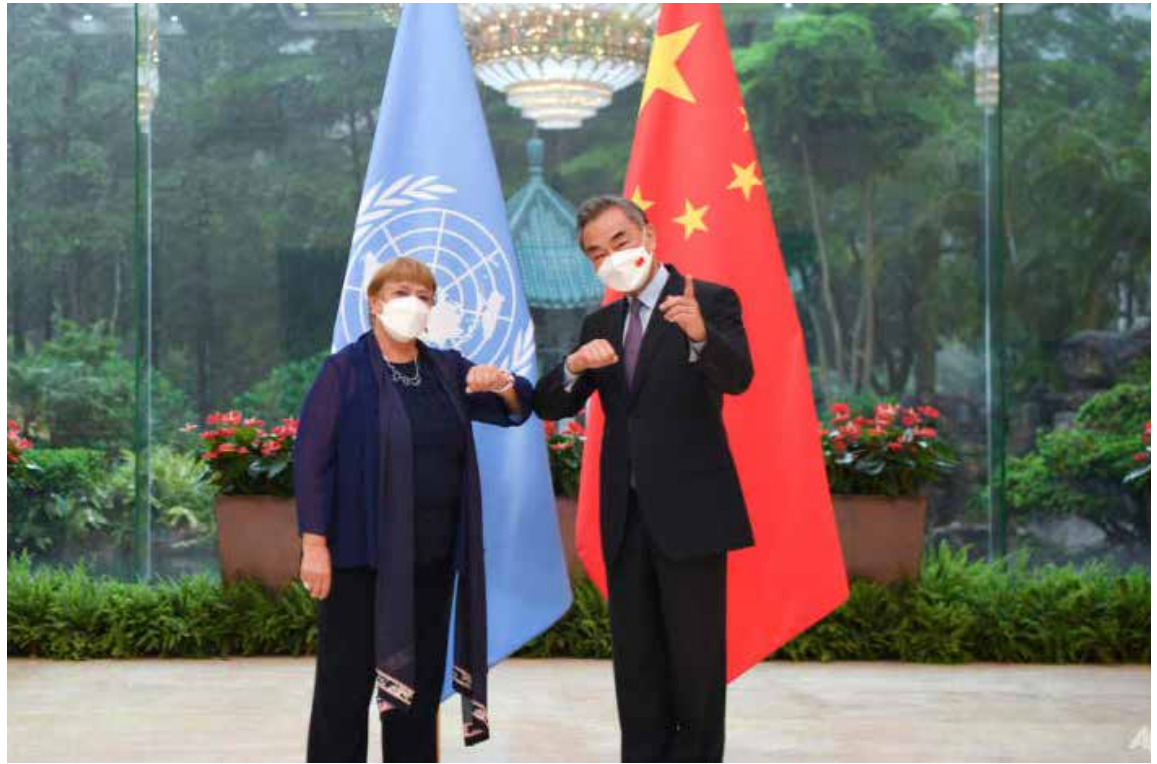
UN human rights chief asks China to rethink Uyghur policies

AP - The top U.N. human rights official said Saturday that she raised concerns with Chinese officials about the impact of the broad application of counterterrorism and deradicalization measures on the rights of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim groups in China's Xinjiang region.

Michelle Bachelet, who visited the northwestern region as part of a six-day trip to China, said the visit was not an investigation but a chance to have direct talks with senior Chinese leaders and pave the way for more regular interactions to support China in fulfilling its obligations under international human rights law.

"It provides an opportunity for me to better understand the situation in China, but also for the authorities in China to better understand our concerns and to potentially rethink policies that we believe may impact negatively on human rights," she said in a video news conference before leaving the country.

Bachelet's measured words, while expected, did not satisfy activists and likely will not sit well with governments such as the United States, which have been critical of her decision to visit Xinjiang. China's ruling Communist Party, which has vehemently de-



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right, meets with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet in Guangzhou, southern China's Guangdong Province on May 23, 2022. (Photo: Deng Hua/Xinhua via AP)

nied all reports of human rights violations and genocide in Xinjiang, showed no sign of being open to change in a government statement on the trip.

The statement, attributed to Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu, accused some Western countries and anti-China elements of fabricating sensational lies about Xinjiang under the guise of human rights. It said that the government had adopted lawful measures to combat violent terrorism and brought security, stability and prosperity to the region in China's northwest.

"The Chinese side pointed out that essentially, Xinjiang is not at all a human

rights issue, but a major issue concerning upholding national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity," the statement said. "All ethnic groups of Xinjiang belong to the family of the Chinese nation."

Agnes Callamard, the secretary general of Amnesty International, said that Bachelet should condemn human rights violations in Xinjiang, and call on China to release people arbitrarily detained and end systematic attacks on ethnic minorities in the region.

"The high commissioner's visit has been characterised by photo opportunities with senior government officials and manipulation of

her statements by Chinese state media, leaving an impression that she has walked straight into a highly predictable propaganda exercise for the Chinese government," Callamard said in a news release.

Bachelet, making the first visit by a U.N. high commissioner for human rights to China in 17 years, said she raised the lack of independent judicial oversight for a system of internment camps that swept up a million or more Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, according to estimates by experts.

China, which describes the camps as vocational

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EU unity on Russian sanctions 'starting to crumble', German minister says

Reuters – German Economy Minister Robert Habeck on Sunday expressed fears that the European Union's unity was "starting to crumble" ahead of a summit to discuss an oil embargo against Russia and plans to cut dependence on Russian energy.

EU leaders will meet on Monday and Tuesday to discuss a new sanctions package against Russia, which could also include an oil embargo, and a programme aiming to speed up ending dependence on fossil fuels, including Russian gas.

"After Russia's attack on Ukraine, we saw what can happen when Europe stands united. With a view to the summit tomorrow, let's hope it continues like this.

"But it is already starting to crumble and crumble



again," Habeck told a news conference.

On Friday, European countries scrambled to reach a deal to embargo seaborne deliveries of Russian oil but allow deliveries by pipeline, a compromise to win over Hungary and unblock new

sanctions against Moscow.

Habeck called for Germany to speak with one voice at the summit instead of abstaining from votes due to differences of opinion within the country's ruling coalition. He called for similar unity from other EU

states.

"Europe is still a huge economic area with incredible economic power. And when it stands united, it can use that power," Habeck said at the opening of the German Hannover Messe trade fair.

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training and education centres to combat extremism, says they have been closed. The government has never publicly said how many people passed through them.

Bachelet, who visited a prison and a former centre in the Xinjiang city of Kashgar, noted the reliance by police on 15 indicators to determine "tendencies towards violent extremism" that could result in detention, the allegations of use of force and reports of unduly severe restrictions on religious practices.

"It is critical that counterterrorism responses do not result in human rights violations," she said. "The ap-

plication of relevant laws and policies, and any mandatory measures imposed on individuals, need to be subject to independent judicial oversight, with greater transparency of judicial proceedings. All victims must be able to seek redress."

Bachelet described as "deeply worrying" the arrest of lawyers, activists, journalists and others under Hong Kong's national security law, noting the semi-autonomous Chinese city's reputation as a centre for human rights and independent media in Asia.

She said it is important to protect the linguistic, religious and cultural identity of Tibetans and that they be allowed to participate fully and freely

in decisions about their religious life. "I ... stressed the importance of children learning in their language and culture in the setting of their families or communities," she said.

Before her trip, Bachelet heard from Uyghur families living abroad that have lost contact with their relatives. In her meetings in China, she said she appealed to authorities to make it a priority to take steps to provide information to families.

The U.N. and China agreed to set up a working group to hold follow-up discussions on a range of issues, including the rights of minorities, counterterrorism and human rights, and legal protection, Bachelet said.

Hurricanes secure win over Volcanoes

CWI - Leeward Islands Hurricanes backed up their impressive third round victory over hosts Trinidad & Tobago Red Force with a victory over Windward Islands Volcanoes in, while the Guyana Harpy Eagles and Jamaica Scorpions encounter ended in a high scoring draw, when action concluded in Round four of the West Indies championship.

The Windwards resumed day four on 127/3 with captain Kavem Hodge (25) and 2022 West Indies U19 captain Akeme Auguste (18), as they aimed to bat as long as possible to save the game, instead of attempting to chase down the mammoth 413 run fourth innings target set by the Hur-



ricanes.

However, when Auguste fell in second over the day bowled by Rakheem Cornwall, the Volcanoes innings quickly folded, they lost their final six wickets for 67 runs in 21 overs, with

Cornwall showing his international credentials and experience as a West Indies test off-spinner, to finish with a six-wicket haul and impressive match figures of (50-20-106-11).

Reflecting on the game

where the Leewards victory was secured from a position on day one when they were 158-7 at one stage against the Volcanoes, who were bottom of the table captain Jahmar Hamilton

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Nadal advances to French Open quarter-final

BBC - Rafael Nadal set up a French Open quarter-final against long-time rival Novak Djokovic after winning an absorbing five-set battle with Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime in Paris.

Spain's Nadal, 35, dropped sets for the first time at this year's event but recovered to win 3-6 6-3 6-2 3-6 6-3.

Top seed Djokovic moved up a gear to beat 15th seed Diego Schwartzman.

The 35-year-old Serb produced his best level so far in the tournament to win 6-1 6-3 6-3 in his fourth-round match.

Fifth seed Nadal fixed up a 59th career meeting with Djokovic - a men's record - by beating ninth seed Auger-Aliassime later on Sunday.

Elsewhere, Alexander Zverev booked his place in the quarter-finals despite a patchy display against Span-



Raphael Nadal [Getty Images]

ish qualifier Bernabe Zapata Miralles as the third seed triumphed 7-6 (13-11) 7-5 6-3.

The 25-year-old German will next

face the winner of Sunday's night session encounter between Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz and Karen Khachanov.

Champions League final: UK calls for investigation into Paris stadium chaos

BBC – The UK’s culture secretary has urged UEFA to formally investigate “deeply concerning” scenes which delayed the start of the Champions League final.

French police have been criticised for firing tear gas and pepper spray at some Liverpool fans waiting to get in to the stadium in Paris on Saturday.

Nadine Dorries said it was in everyone’s interest to “learn lessons”.

European football’s governing body UEFA has said it will “review these matters urgently”.

The French sports ministry has called a meeting with UEFA, the French Football Association, stadium officials and police on Monday to “draw lessons” from the event.

French interior minister Gérald Darmanin appeared to lay the blame on British supporters, tweeting on Saturday that thousands were without proper tickets and had forced entry, while claiming some had assaulted stewards.

The kick-off at the Stade de France was delayed by 36 minutes, with UEFA initially citing the “late arrival” of fans.

But many Liverpool supporters spoke of long queues in the hours lead-



Witnesses said crowds were targeted with tear gas as they waited to get into the stadium [Getty Images]

ing up to the game and a heavy-handed police response to the build-up of fans.

UEFA later put the delay down to “security reasons” and said the turnstiles at the Liverpool end had become “blocked by thousands of fans who had purchased fake tickets which did not work”.

Real Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 in the final.

Tom Whitehurst said after arriving at the ground, he had to get his disabled son “out of the way” after they were pepper-sprayed.

“The treatment of supporters by UEFA and the police was an absolute

disgrace,” he said.

“[Fans] were indiscriminately pepper-sprayed and there were people with tickets, who arrived two-and-a-half hours early, who were queuing up and they were charged at by riot police with shields.”

Merseyside Police said its officers who were deployed in Paris and attended the match “reported the vast majority of fans behaved in an exemplary manner, arriving at turnstiles early and queuing as directed”.

Paris police said they made 105 arrests at the game, with 39 people still in custody.

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said, “[The win], it’s very pleasing you know, as we said in our team meeting, we play one game at a time we take each team at a time. Whether you’re last or first it doesn’t really matter to us, we take each opponent seriously. So, it’s all about coming into the game and just performing our skills from previous games.”

Speaking specifically

about the performances of Colin Archibald who scored his maiden first class century batting at number ten in the first innings recovery and Cornwall’s performances with the ball, Hamilton was full of praise.

“Archibald’s hundred was exceptional, I’ve had quite a few personal talks with him you know, just get yourself in, because you can make up in the end especial-

ly four-day cricket with a striking ability once you get used to the wickets bowlers would be at his mercy”, said Hamilton

He continued, “Cornwall never ceases to amaze me you know. He has been around for quite some time, and we have seen what he can do before, he’s been dwelling on his batting and I told him while he hasn’t been getting the runs he

might want, with the ball he still has a lot to offer.

“It was just Jimbo being Jimbo, he put a ball in the right areas, spun it hard and just outfoxed the batsmen.”

Leeward Islands Hurricanes will now play Jamaica Scorpions at Brian Lara Academy and Windward Islands Volcanoes will face defending champions Barbados Pride at Diego Martin Sports complex.

Sports News



Da Squad, Stoneville continue unbeaten march into finals

JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad and Stoneville kept their unbeaten runs intact after they secured their places in the finals of their respective divisions in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABA-VA) Local League on Saturday night.

Da Squad prevailed 3-1 against Jets in the second female division semi-final, while defending men's champions, Stoneville, easily brushed aside Renegades 3-0 in straight sets at the YMCA Sports Complex to advance to the finals.

Da Squad, who beat Jets 3-0 when both sides met in the preliminary encounter, made a flying start, rushing to a 2-0 lead by winning the first two sets 25-21, 25-18.

Jets reduced the deficit and forced a fourth set by prevailing 25-23 in the third, which proved to be the most keenly contested of the encounter.

But Da Squad were not going to squander their advantage, and quickly reasserted their dominance to easily take the fourth set, and the match, 25-15.

Da Squad's head coach, Carl Williams, said reaching the final where they will face defending champions Paragons, is a result of hard work and commitment by the team.

"I am really delighted.



Da Squad's athletes during a timeout in their semi-final match against Jets at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 28th May, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

The team has been working really hard. In fact, this journey started since 2020, but COVID-19 interrupted it, and after COVID, as soon as we were given a chance, the girls were eager to come out. For me, that is commitment, and the result is there to see," Williams said.

Da Squad and Paragons will clash in the women's division final on Saturday, 4th June.

Paragons, who have consistently dominated the competition for the past decade in which they won the title for 10 consecutive years, booked their spot in the final with a straight set, 25-21, 25-15, 25-12 win

over North Coast Hardware Starz1 in the first semi-final last Thursday night.

It was sweet revenge for Paragons, who were beaten by both Starz1 and Da Squad in the preliminary phase.

Stoneville remained on course for a successful defence of their men's crown by producing another commanding display to oust Renegades 25-15, 25-16, 25-14 in a lopsided semi-final affair.

Stoneville will meet Michael Freeland Enforcers in the men's division final on Saturday, 4th June.

Enforcers booked their spot in the final by over-

coming a poor start to pull off a narrow 3-2 victory against High Flyers in a keenly contested semi-final encounter last Thursday night.

After losing the first two sets 11-25, 20-25, Enforcers somehow recovered to win the remaining three sets, and the match, 25-23, 25-18, 15-10 to ground High Flyers who will meet Renegades in a playoff for third place when competition resumes at the YMCA on Thursday.

Starz1 and Jets will also clash in a battle for third place in the women's division at the same venue on Thursday at 6:30pm.

No major sponsor secured for National Bodybuilding Championships

President Hazel Went-Defreitas has said the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation (ABABWF) is yet to secure a major or title sponsor for National Championships that will be held at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre on 25th June.

“We have not been able to obtain an individual sponsor for the nationals, but we do have some corporate partners who have consented and agreed to help us out in putting on the nationals,” Went-Defreitas said.

Bodybuilding is an expensive sport, as athletes are often required to add nutrient supplements to their diets.

They also put their bodies under significant pressure through physical training in order to attain the desired muscular physique for competitions.

A total of 41 athletes have registered to compete in this year’s championships, including several athletes who will defend the titles they won at last year’s

first virtual competition.

With the overall number of competitors remaining about the same as last year’s 40, Went-Defreitas said the financial resources required to prepare an athlete for competition can deter persons from getting involved in bodybuilding.

“Yes, the expense required to get into bodybuilding can be a deterrent for some people, but aside from the expense, you have to love the sport - kind of like having it running through your veins - because if you look at the expense alone, most people wouldn’t bother because it is way too expensive,” Went-Defreitas said.

“If you have lots of responsibilities, it makes it quite challenging, not just the training, the dieting, the demands on the body and the demands on the pockets.”

Went-Defreitas said because the ABABWF functions at the amateur level, it cannot present monetary prizes to outstanding performers in its competition.



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation, Hazel Went-Defreitas. (File photo)

Over the years, however, the ABABWF’s corporate partners have assisted the federation in providing the prizes to the winners in its competitions.

“We do our best to come up with prizes for the various categories.

“As you could imagine, there is no financial rewards because we are an amateur organisation and it is an amateur sport, but we come up with as many prizes as we

can from the corporate partners and we have been doing pretty well and we hope that they will continue to assist us so that we can continue to offer incentives to the athletes for competing.”

Following the national competition, the ABABWF will select a team to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Championships in Barbados from 27th July to 1st August.

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tude to governments across the region who provided unprecedented support to CWI during the worst stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The governments, as we have always said and I have always said, are hugely important stakeholders within the game of cricket and any sports within the region and the support that

we have had from all of the governments during Covid-19 has been unprecedented,” Grave stated.

“We want to build on those relationships to get cricket West Indies and the West Indies teams and cricket as a sport thriving across every level of our pathway and pyramid structure, so from grassroots and community clubs, all the way through to

the international stage, we want to partner with governments and other stakeholders in the private sector, to make sure that we are using all the resources in a most efficient way to get cricket as the most loved sport in the Caribbean, and that’s our aim, and we can’t thank the governments enough for their unprecedented support over the last two years.”

Grave says CWI's redevelopment work at Coolidge unlikely to start before next year

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Johnny Grave, has said redevelopment of the properties it acquired at Coolidge is unlikely to start in under a year.

The properties, including the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG), the Antigua Athletic Club, the Sticky Wicket Restaurant and the Car Park, were acquired through a joint venture between CWI and the government of Antigua and Barbuda. They were acquired from the court appointed liquidators of the properties that were previously owned by disgraced Texan investor, R. Allen Stanford.

The purchase agreement for the 17.41 acres of Coolidge Cricket Ground was signed in September 2017 and executed in February, 2020.

The location is now the headquarters of CWI and also serves as a central cricket training facility. It is the home of the Cricket West Indies High Performance Player Development System.

The cricket ground has been rehabilitated to hold regional first class matches

and International Cricket Council (ICC) sanctioned matches.

Coolidge Cricket Ground became the newest ICC accredited international cricket venue on February 15th, 2021, and it is being developed into a multipurpose cricket and events centre by CWI.

However, Grave said the redevelopment is unlikely to start in under a year as several things, including raising funds to carry out the work, must take place first.

“We have just appointed the master plan designers who will take somewhere between three and six months to come up with their concept to give us the investment trigger that we would need in order to make that redevelopment a reality,” Grave told Pointe FM’s Pointe On De Streetz.

“Then we will go through the fundraising process, which is probably another three to six months. So, we are probably looking at a year before we will be able to start that work, and again, we will be doing it almost certainly in a phased approach as we look to redevelop what’s



Chief Executive Officer of Cricket West Indies, Johnny Grave. (Photo: CWI)

now over 20 acres of land down at Coolidge.”

A small hotel and a media centre will also be established as part of the redevelopment plans for the facility.

There are also plans to transform the Sticky Wicket Restaurant into a cricket museum and hall of fame. At some point, a new restaurant will be reopened elsewhere on the property.

“There are discussions to establish a restaurant at Coolidge, exactly where is

still being discussed with a number of operators,” Grave said.

“The main sticky wicket building, the plan is still to refurbish that and to create a fan experience that celebrates the rich history of West Indies cricket and celebrate everything that’s good about the Caribbean as a tourist attraction, so that is still the vision for the old sticky wicket building.”

Grave expressed grati-

cont'd on pg 23