

WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2022

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BODY FOUND; SUICIDE SUSPECTED

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PM confident of Privy Council win

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is confident that his government will prevail in the case of land ownership on Barbuda that was heard by the London based Privy Council yesterday morning.

Trevor Walker and McKenzie Frank are the appellants.

The case, that has been ongoing for some time, emerged from the Paradise Found Act of 2015 that altered the Barbuda Land Act of 2007, with the appellants claiming it affected communal ownership.

The matter was heard by five justices of the court, with Senior Counsel Anthony Astaphan representing

the respondents, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and Justin Simon, Q.C. appearing for the appellants.

Speaking at an event on the sister isle yesterday morning, Prime Minister Browne said the issue is stymying development on Barbuda and reminded residents that his government is seeking to empower, not deprive them. He further declared with surety that the outcome of the case will be in his administration's favour.

"I just want you all to understand the labour party's position, we are not taking anything from you. We are giving you ownership to the land. I can say categorically



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

the case at the Privy Council, we're gonna [sic] win it!" Browne affirmed.

"So, I just hope this will be the end of this nonsense about land ownership and then we can come together as a nation and to move forward and for you to cease the opportunity to empower yourselves."

Both sides have scored victories as the case moved through the courts, but the decision that will be handed down from the country's final court of appeal, will determine Barbuda's future development.

Prime Minister Browne holds that the former United Progressive Party government, failed to reveal the truth to Barbudans regarding land ownership. He said his administration has the interest of Barbudans at heart and will take decisions, some unpopular, in their best interest.

"When we decided to do away with the 2007 Barbuda Land Act, it's because it was a dangling piece of legislation which they're trying to fool you into thinking that you own the land in com-

mon."

He explained for that to have been possible, a referendum would be required, which was not advanced by the Baldwin Spencer administration or the Barbuda Council.

The prime minister contended that his government was responsible for placing Barbudans on a path to empowerment.

"The land that they occupy, give it to them for one dollar. And you know where the dollar comes in? Because you have to have legal consideration. That is why we say one dollar. So, the issue of ownership for us is real."

The Antiguan and Barbudan leader contends that contrary to popular belief, Barbudans will be the ultimate beneficiaries of a resolution to the land dispute.

No date was given by the Privy Council for a decision to be handed down in the appeal.

Both sides are required to make additional submissions to the court before deliberations begin.



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Police probe suspected suicide

Three days into the observance of Mental Health Awareness Month this May, police have confirmed that they are probing reports of the discovery of a male body just before 4pm on Tuesday.

While details remain unclear, it is believed that the Jamaican man's death may have been the result of suicide.

The body of the man, believed to be in his early 50s, was allegedly found hanging from a tree in the backyard of his Ottos home.

It is suspected that he may have died days ago as there were signs of advanced decomposition.

A neighbour made the gruesome discovery and alerted the authorities.

Information suggests he was last seen on 1st May.

He was pronounced dead by a



medical doctor shortly after 5pm yesterday.

Pointe Xpress is following this

breaking news story and will provide further details as they become available.

Caribana is back!

Chairperson of Barbuda's Tourism and Culture Committee, Calsey Beazer-Joseph has announced that plans are underway for the official launch of Caribana later this month.

Planned for 14th May, the full outline for the return of Caribana after two years will be set out.

The launch will be broadcast live on the Barbuda Channel.

Last staged in 2019, Barbuda's Caribana was also a casualty of the coronavirus pandemic, as were all mass social events.

Beazer-Joseph said the return of Caribana will see a trimmed down programme absent of many



Chairperson of the Barbuda Tourism and Culture Committee, Calsey Beazer-Joseph

events, however, several other highly anticipated events customary to the annual festival will be included.

According to Beazer-Joseph, "It's not Caribana in its entirety as you're

accustomed to, because as you know we're accustomed to hosting the queen show, calypso competition, and this year we've just toned it down a bit."

This "toning down" she said was in part due to financial and timing constraints involved in organising the June festival.

Patrons will, however, still be able to enjoy the Little Mister and Miss Barbuda pageant on the 3rd, the Johnny DeSouza Fishing Tournament and Beach Bash on the 4th, a horse racing meet and Calypso Melting Pot on the 5th.

The week-long event culminates with J'ouvert and a food fair on the 6th.

Local News



Customs Division: Improved operations led to more \$\$\$

The improved performance of Customs Division officers over the past eight years is among the key reasons for the increased revenue collection being recorded by this key government revenue centre.

That's the assessment of the Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, who has said that extensive training, coupled with new systems and approaches, have all contributed to the department collecting more revenue.

Collections at the end of April were expected to



Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu [Photo: Pointeville Communications Ltd.]

exceed collections for the same period last year by an estimated \$13 million.

"If you compare our operations from eight years

ago, you will see the difference; it's a modern-day Customs we have now," Boddu explained.

He continued that the

Customs Division is not only concerned with collecting revenue, as its responsibilities include, among other things, border protection and trade facilitation.

"For example, earlier, trade facilitation was not seen as a priority but now it is. There were times when goods were held up at the port over issues relating to declarations. However, today, that is not so as trade facilitation is an important matter as Antigua and Barbuda has signed on to world

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Cultural Dept. to launch talent search

The Cultural Department is to undertake a recruitment drive to attract new members to its affiliate groups now that it has received a charge from its new minister to stage more public performances.

Minister of the recently created Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation, Michael Browne, wants each department in the ministry to undertake a programme of activism to showcase the skills of the nation's youth.

Director of Culture, Khan Cordice, has confirmed that discussions are already underway among the department's senior staff to begin a 'talent search'.

"I have had meetings with the Deputy Director of Culture, Owen Jackson, when I raised the issue of recruiting new members for the several groups affiliated with the department. These include the National Youth Choir, the National Youth Theatre Group and



Minister of Creative Industries and Innovation, Michael Browne

the National Dance Group. We need to see more young people and people in general come out to be a part of these groupings," he revealed.

The recruitment drive will aim to attract people with 'raw talent', whatever their area of interest, and provide them with an environment in which they can hone their skills through

regular coaching sessions. In the end, their talent will be able to be showcased in public performances.

According to Cordice, now the country is returning to normalcy as the coronavirus pandemic abates, the department will endeavour to stage more performances, where the talent and skills of the youth in areas of dance,

theatre and singing can be put on display.

Over the weekend, Minister Browne announced that several of the groups affiliated with the ministry will share the former Deluxe Cinema building on High Street after it is renovated and retrofitted.

He continued, while Carnival is and will continue to be the nation's biggest show, the High Street facility will become a hive of activities during the year, featuring a variety of performances.

"On a regular basis, through sponsorship, partnership or through ticket sales, we are going to be putting on High Street and Off-High Street performances so that our young people can have an opportunity to hone their skills," Minister Browne added.

cont'd from pg 4

trade facilitation agreements and there are several measures which we have to implement to promote cross-border trade," he stated.

Customs agencies around the world had to adopt to the paradigm shift regarding their operations, and Antigua and Barbuda was no exception.

"We have to be enablers of trade, not preventers of trade," he declared.

To meet the new demands on the department, Boddu said the division has been re-organised and the staff has re-

ceived extensive training in the new procedures as part of an ongoing programme of capacity building.

"We have also established good working relationships with several external customs organisations, and we play an active role in their operations.

"These have led to much cross-agency assistance for the Customs Division staff here in Antigua and Barbuda," he added.

According to Boddu, the staff in the various departments "are maturing" in their roles, following the extensive training to which they have been exposed.

Local News



State Insurance opens branch on Barbuda

State Insurance Company Limited has opened a new office in Barbuda, extending its services to the island's residents.

During the ceremony yesterday morning to mark the occasion, an official remarked it was always the company's dream to serve Barbudans directly. Now, more than four decades on,

it has become a reality.

Andrew Knight, State Insurance Company Limited's acting CEO said he was delighted that they have become the first business in the industry to have a presence in Barbuda.

He continued that the satellite office will offer the same services to Barbudans that are available at its Anti-



gua headquarters.

"From this location, you'll be able to open and renew your policies, make payments on your premiums, submit your claims, receive payments for your claims. You can even have meetings with managers that are located in our head office through our conference facility. Our aim here is to ensure you have the same quality of service here, as you would at our head office in Saint John's, or our other satellite office in Ebenezer," Knight said.

The company's chairperson, Leslie-Ann Yearwood, spoke of the convenience of establishing a satellite office and being part of the development projected for Barbuda.

"We are aware that the economic landscape is swiftly changing in Barbuda, which demands the need of this new location. State Insurance company Limited, wants to be a part of this change in the economic

landscape. We need to be a part of this change. By providing insurance coverage to all, we would be part of the growth of the Barbuda economy."

Prime Minister Gaston Browne also attended the opening ceremony and credited his government with steering State Insurance Company Limited in its present direction.

He also reminded the gathering that his ABLP administration not only protested the proposed sale of the company several years ago, but was also instrumental in offering a solution to the dilemma.

"We said that we would have corporatize instead of divesting, and here we are today to literally benefit from this dream and certainly the Barbudan people."

The satellite office is part of the overall developmental plan for Barbuda, which seeks to close the developmental gap that exists between the two islands.

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Lobster season closed, hefty fines for breaches

The season for fishing the Caribbean Spiny Lobster is now closed.

In Antigua and Barbuda, from 1st May to 30th June, fishing or possessing the sought-after Caribbean delicacy is prohibited by law.

This annual two-month period is carved out to reduce the likelihood of overfishing and to allow the animal to spawn without the risk.

While the warm Caribbean waters allow lobsters to spawn year-round, the animal breeds most prolifically between March and August. A period of closure also ensures that females, who only breed once each year, can do so unthreatened.

Female Caribbean Spiny lobsters release 230,000 to 2.6 million eggs each time they spawn, depending on her size, however for every 50,000 eggs produced, only two lobsters will survive to the



legally allowed harvesting size.

The female carries the fertilised eggs beneath her tail “in berry” until they hatch in about three weeks.

It is illegal to possess egg bearing female lobsters at any time of year.

Caribbean spiny lobsters, which have an estimated life span of about 15 years, grow by moulting –

they vacate their old shells while simultaneously absorbing water, expanding their body size.

They moult about 25 times in their first 5 to 7 years of life, and once per year when they’re older. It takes a lobster about two years to grow to the 3-inch carapace (shell) legal harvesting size.



A notice issued recent-

ly by the Fisheries Department warned that it is illegal for a person to fish, take, place for sale, purchase or have in their possession any of these species during the closed season.

Failure to comply with the restrictions on fishing and possession of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster from May to the end of June, carries a maximum fine of EC\$50,000.

The public is also encouraged to be vigilant and report persons suspected of violating the closed season.

Reports of suspected illegal activity can be made by calling 462-1372/6106 or 462-3206/2841. Concerns can also be sent via email to fisheriesantigua@gmail.com.

Wed 04 Day		Wed 04 Night	
83°		76°	
7% Precip	ENE 13 mph	15% Precip	NE 11 mph
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 83F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy. Low 76F. Winds NE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 70%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 79%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:40 am	Sunset 6:28 pm	Moonrise 8:19 am	Moonset 9:57 pm
		● Waxing Crescent	

United Progressive Party - A Party of Noise

Dear Editor,

Some years ago, the late Vincent “Tubby” Derrick, made the following statement while being interviewed on Observer Radio:

“In Antigua there is the politics of noise and the policy of ideas”. He lamented the fact that unfortunately the policy of ideas had been overtaken by the politics of noise. Mr. Derrick was at the time speaking generally and was not being critical of any particular party. However, his words perfectly describe the present UPP, which has become a shadow of what it was under the Chairmanship of Mr. Vincent (Tubby) Derrick, and is now a party of noise totally bereft of ideas. There is no doubt that it will be soundly beaten in the upcoming elections and here are some reasons why.

1. The UPP is comprised of a group of aspiring and uninspiring persons with no discernable philosophy. A bunch of opportunists who wrongly believe that they can wrest political power from the ruling party, which they think has been weakened by the economic and social difficulties caused by the Covid pandemic, and in doing so, they target their political pitch by making elaborate “pie in the sky promises”, which they fully know, will be impossible to deliver. They appear too politically naive to understand that the electorate knows that the promises they are making are neither doable nor realistic and are just empty political rhetoric.

2. Every candidate in the UPP, except for Harold Lovell, is a neophyte, that is, new to the subject of politics and devoid of political skills. They are, for the most part, of questionable intellect and make up for this with the politics of noise. Add to this the fact that none of them can point to any past achievement, which could qualify them for political office and governance. Anyone applying for a job in a company, business or organization,

must include with their application, a curriculum vitae, i.e., an account of their qualifications, education and previous jobs. These candidates are yet to do so, rather, the electorate is bombarded with cussing and noise to convince them to “buy a pig in a bag”.

3. The UPPites come across as being envious of success and possessed of a visceral hatred of the ABLP and Hon. Gaston Browne, in particular. They persistently accuse it and him of enriching themselves, and without offering a scintilla of evidence to support their allegations. To continually accuse Gaston Browne of enriching himself when as a member of the then opposition, his declared assets to the Integrity Commission, was in excess of EC\$30,000,000., is asinine and dishonest.

4. The UPP candidates and their base supporters appear to be having a wonderful time at the public meetings that they have been holding. There is music, dancing, bullbud and all. MC Greatful Franz whips them up with much cussing and antics. His interventions are idiotic and nonsensical, if not puerile (childishly silly and immature). The problem is that these meetings are ineffectual and appeal only to the party faithful and the Observer family. If you were gaining traction and popularity, you should at this point be attracting much larger crowds and not the same old My UPP bluetiful people.

5. As poor as their candidates are, their campaign management team is even worse. How can a party put their confidence in Chester Hughes, a past candidate, who contested elections on three occasions and lost? He is a born loser who is devoid of political skills and stratagem. The UPP continues to labour under the misconception that OMG, with the likes of Greatful Franz, boring, sleepy Quinn, Serpent, Knight et al, and the same small pool of mindless Facebook supporters will ensure victory at the polls. The UPP is in for a rude awakening. It did not work

in 2014 and 2018 and will not work in the coming elections.

6. It boggles the mind how a political party can keep shouting from the rafters that they will win the coming elections when it has not to date, conducted a poll, by a recognized national, regional or international pollster, on which they can rely or base its expectations; and even then, to be cautious if the poll indicates a close election. The UPP’s fig leaf explanation that it has conducted an in-house poll is an insult to the collective intelligence of the body politic. God forbid that your in-house pollster is Winter of casuro fame as we know how accurate his polls have been in the past.

7. Finally, permit me to draw the attention of the readers to the elephant and gorilla in the room. The elephant is the failure and/or refusal of past members of the UPP, who served two terms, Dr. Error Cort et al, either to serve under Party Leader Harold Lovell, or to assist with political strategy and backroom support to the party.

The gorilla in the room is the inability of the UPP to attract new members of quality, intellect and experience and who possess resumes of success, to its ranks. The reason for this is that these types of persons are aware that the UPP cannot defeat the sitting government, led by Gaston Browne, but also there is no future for the UPP as presently constituted.

For all these reasons the UPP will be soundly rejected at the polls and may even fail to secure one seat. However, the UPP continues on its merry way, swinging the bullbud, convinced in its own empty mind that it will attain ultimate success by continuing the POLITICS OF NOISE.

*Regards,
NOMAD*

**The views expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect Pointe Xpress’ editorial stance.*



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IMF paying close attention to bank sovereign linkages in the Caribbean

By Santana Salmon

The Director for Western Hemisphere Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ilan Goldfajn, says the Washington-based financial institution is paying close attention to bank-sovereign linkages, especially where recent external shocks have significantly stretched public sector balance sheets

“Banks with highly concentrated exposures, mainly where these are systemically important institutions, can complicate recovery efforts if sovereign debt sustainability risks materialize,” said Goldfajn told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) in response to whether or not regional banks at risk of excessive sovereign exposure given the escalation of debt in the Caribbean region.

He said the risks associated with sovereign debt linkages are best mitigated by governments pursuing sustainable fiscal policies and making use of the available concessional financing opportunities.

“The Fund, as always, stands ready to support its members’ efforts in this area. It is essential that financial supervisors promptly identify pockets of excessive risk exposures, enforce and/or tighten exposure concentration limits where warranted, and ensure



IMF Director for Western Hemisphere Department, Ilan Goldfajn

banks and other financial institutions’ loss-absorbing buffers are commensurate to the risks taken,” the IMF official added.

Last month, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett, said the operationalization of an integrated country risk management framework, robust enough to strengthen social safety nets and with the capacity to adapt to shocks will allow the region to “build back better” following the various “challenges”, including the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in recent years.

“The time is opportune for country risk management to be a key Imperative for the Caribbean, as

we forge a pathway to resilience and sustainable recovery post-COVID-19 and prepare for other crises that are sure to arise,” Barnett told the inaugural Caribbean Regional Risk Conference organized jointly by the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Cayman Islands-based Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF SPC).

Asked to expand on the statement attributed to the region’s top public servant, Goldfajn told CMC that the IMF stands ready to support countries’ action in response to various shocks, in an integrated framework to provide policy advice, financial support, and capacity development.

He said the Fund’s work integrates country risk assessment with policy advice, through identifying risks, assessing their likelihood and impacts, and discussing policy responses, while capacity development supports countries in building effective economic institutions that can implement the right policies in response to shocks.

“The newly established Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), combined with the additional financing it will help catalyse, would support countries in building resilience to external shocks, including climate change and pandemic preparedness, and ensuring sustainable growth,” he added.



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*

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

Workplace



Does 'dressing for success' still matter?

By Joanna York

Workplaces once had both official and unofficial uniforms. Now that work looks completely different, is the idea of 'dress for success' even still relevant?

The idea of dressing for success used to be relatively straightforward; wear formal clothes, the smarter the better.

In traditional offices, those at the top of the pyramid would invariably be found in a suit; dressing for the job you wanted meant emulating this style.

The rise of the tech sector shifted this stereotype. Picture Silicon Valley's most high-profile leaders, and the clothes that spring to mind are jeans, hoodies and black turtlenecks.

In the tech world, success has a different kind of uniform – one markedly more casual than the suits of the past. This trend towards informality has spread to other sectors.

Then, in 2020, the widespread switch to remote work upended work dress codes altogether.

During the pandemic, workers mostly saw colleagues from the shoulders up on video calls – if they saw them at all.

From home, employees could easily put in a stellar performance in a meeting in



a collared shirt, sweatpants and slippers. If the cameras were off, they could even be in pyjamas, working under a duvet.

Now, as workers drift back into offices and companies trial new hybrid models, few firms are demanding a return to formal wear. So, what does this mean for dressing for success?

Turning up to work in a suit no longer sends the same message, but wearing a hoodie hardly feels like power dressing.

With so many different dress codes at play across companies, is it still possible to 'dress for the job you want'?

The right clothes send the right message

Dressing for success has always required a degree of subtlety.

The idea is to observe the people in your organisation who have the job you want to understand how they dress, and how you can imitate that with an individual twist.

"You're sending a message about where you position yourself and what you aspire to," says career confidence coach Sarah Archer, from CareerTree Coaching in London.

"We might dress similarly to our peers to help us feel like we belong. Or

if you're wanting to move forward in your career, you might dress as you perceive the leaders dress to show that you're ready to move into this group."

Drawing attention to similarities between yourself and more senior workers is an effective strategy. We think favourably of people we see as similar, a phenomenon known as affinity bias.

Studies have shown that managers are more likely to hire and promote people they see as similar to them, including in terms of how they present.

Aligning your style with
cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

people in more senior positions can also help you look and feel the part. Studies have shown wearing more formal attire can make workers feel more self-assured and actually improve work performance, something Archer has seen with her clients.

“For a lot of people, choosing to focus positively about how they dress and present themselves can help them feel confident about what they do and how they operate at work.”

These days, there’s another element to dressing for success: showing you’ve correctly interpreted the rules of your workplace and can adhere to them.

Before, when everyone wore formal wear, decoding the unspoken rules on dress was easier. Today, particularly in companies where dress codes are more liberal, identifying and hitting the right sartorial notes can be more nuanced – and a well-judged outfit indicates that you understand and align with the company culture.

“It shows attention to detail, commitment, consistency,” says Joey Price, based in Baltimore, US, founder of Jumpstart:HR and host of the *While We Were Working* podcast.

“It shows that you are attempting to own your personal brand and how you show up in spaces.” It also, he adds, sends a clear message to the higher-ups.

“The more you align yourself with signs and signals that represent you want to take that next step in your career within that organisation, the more that’s going to be noticed by executives.”

Getting the balance wrong by overdressing can send a negative message. An estimated 79% of workplaces in the US now have a casual dress code.

Turning up in a suit to signal ambition or promotion hopes could actually damage your reputation. “You’re going to look and feel like a fish out of

water,” says Archer.

“Overdressing shows that you haven’t read the culture, or you haven’t been observant, and that you don’t necessarily fit in.”

It’s important to note the rules around dress aren’t exactly the same for all workers. For example, some workers have more licence to show originality through clothing than others. A study investigating the “red sneaker effect” found both men and women who wore non-conforming clothing at work were attributed with higher status and competence if they worked in respected roles at prestigious organisations.

In short, bosses who already have respected status can increase that status by dressing with flair in ways that employees looking to climb the career ladder cannot.

Gender and race also play roles in unspoken dress code rules. Even a slight change in skirt length can impact how competent a female manager is seen to be, for example.

And for ethnic minority workers, deciding how much authenticity to express at work can mean navigating a clash between perceived ideals of professionalism and cultural dress.

“We can exclude people for dressing in a manner that’s authentic or that honours their customs and heritage, and that’s unfair,” says Price.

Codes still matter online

It might seem that remote work would remove both the challenge of navigating work dress codes and the chance to signal leadership ambitions through your personal presentation. After all, most workers might feel video meetings reduce opportunities for scrutiny or judgement, and allow for more casual dress.

That’s not quite right, says Archer. “If you’re not paying attention to what people can see, then you’re missing an opportunity to be remembered, because you’ve got to work harder to be

seen in the organisation.”

For workers seeking promotion, limited opportunities to see colleagues in person mean video calls are a rare chance to make an impression. “You’ve got to find a way to stand out, especially when you’re in that little box on a screen,” Archer says.

Wearing eye-catching clothes and jewellery can be one way to do this, but the same risks of over and underdressing still apply. The worker who logs in to an online meeting wearing a collared shirt when everyone else is in hoodies will stand out, not necessarily in a good way.

Online, as in person, dressing for the job you want is a tricky balance of dressing to fit in, by mirroring people in higher positions, and to stand out in the right ways by showing some character, all in the individual context of the sector and company where you work.

For all the difficulties of doing this, there is one huge caveat: even employees who crack the dress code perfectly still need the skills to back up their career ambitions.

If a manager notices an employee has aligned their wardrobe with the role they want, it is a positive sign – but perhaps nothing more.

“It is a part of the equation, but if I were to prioritise dressing for success, it would absolutely fall underneath whether the person has proven that they can do the work at a high level,” says Price.

Still, dressing the part can help position you for success – and the key to getting it right is careful observation. The right outfit might look very different in different workplaces, and showing you understand the unspoken rules of dress code could give you an edge.

“Dressing for the job you want is still good advice,” says Price. “As long as you have to impress somebody on the way up or laterally, your appearance really does play a role in that.”

Environment



A fifth of world's reptile species deemed threatened with extinction

By Will Dunham

About a fifth of reptile species - from the Galapagos tortoises to the Komodo dragon of the Indonesian islands, from West Africa's rhinoceros viper to India's gharial - are threatened with extinction, researchers said on Wednesday in the first comprehensive global status assessment for reptiles.

The study examined 10,196 reptile species including turtles, crocodilians, lizards, snakes and the tuatara, the only surviving member of a lineage dating back more than 200 million years. They found that 21% of species are critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable to extinction as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the global authority on the status of species. They also identified 31 species that already have gone extinct.

Many reptiles are being pushed to the brink, the researchers said, by factors



A Madagascar day gecko sits on a perch in the Masoal rainforest hall at the zoo in Zurich March 19, 2013. REUTERS/Arnd Wiegmann

similarly imperilling the world's other land vertebrates - amphibians, birds and mammals - namely, deforestation for agriculture, logging and development, urban encroachment and hunting by people. Climate change and invasive species also present ongoing threats, they added.

"Reptiles represent an important and diverse branch of the tree of life

and play integral roles in the ecosystems where they occur," said Bruce Young, co-leader of the study published in the journal Nature.

"This global assessment is a key beginning to understanding reptile conservation needs. Now we know where the priorities are and what the threats are that we need to ameliorate. There is no longer any excuse for leaving reptiles out

of conservation planning and implementation efforts worldwide," added Young, chief zoologist and senior conservation scientist at Arlington Virginia-based NatureServe, a biodiversity science organization.

Previous status reports found about 41% of amphibian species, 25% of mammal species and 14% of bird species were threat-

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cont'd from pg 14

ened with extinction. Species status assessments consider distribution, abundance, threats and population trends. About 27% of reptile species restricted to forested habitats were found to be threatened with extinction, compared to about 14% of species inhabiting arid habitats.

“Destruction of forests for timber and to prepare land for agriculture, including ranching, is widespread. Arid habitats have fewer natural resources and are less suitable for agriculture than forests such that, to date, they have been less altered than forested habitats,” Young said.

Some reptiles were found to be doing just fine. Australia’s saltwater crocodile, the world’s largest reptile, is listed in the category of “least concern” about extinction. Its croc cousin the gharial, on the other hand, is critically endangered.

Among some other well-known reptiles: the Komodo dragon, the world’s largest lizard, is endangered; the king cobra, the world’s longest venomous snake, is vulnerable; the leatherback, the largest sea turtle, is vulnerable; the Galapagos marine iguana is vulnerable; and the various Galapagos tortoise species range from vulnerable to extinct.

Several “hot spots” for reptile risk were documented.

In the Caribbean, for example, the Jamaican rock iguana and a lizard called the blue-tailed galliwasp are critically endangered. In West Africa, Perret’s montane chameleon is endangered and the rhinoceros viper is vulnerable. In Madagascar, the Namoroka leaf chameleon is critically endangered. In Southeast Asia, the big-headed turtle is critically endangered.

“I’ve been based in Costa Rica since the 1980s. A snake called the

black-headed bushmaster, which feeds on small forest mammals such as rats, was once widespread in the lowland rainforests along the Pacific slope of the country. Widespread deforestation, including the conversion of forests to oil palm plantations, has fragmented the habitat to the extent that the species is now categorized as vulnerable,” Young said.

Among the most seriously threatened reptiles, Young said, is Chapman’s pygmy chameleon, a small lizard inhabiting low elevation rainforests in Malawi that had been considered possibly extinct but now has been found in a few forest fragments.

“Global collaboration and commitment are a must if we are to prevent an extinction catastrophe,” said study co-leader Neil Cox, manager of the Biodiversity Assessment Unit, a joint initiative of the IUCN and the group Conservation International.



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Regional News



Dominican diplomat apparently kidnapped in Haiti

AP – A diplomat from the Dominican Republic apparently has been kidnapped in neighbouring Haiti, prompting Dominican authorities to call for his safe release.

The local newspaper El Dia reported Tuesday that the government also had beefed up its military presence on the border, though officials did not immediately have any comment on that.

The Dominican government said in a weekend statement that Carlos Guillén Tatis, the agriculture

counsellor at its embassy in Port-au-Prince, apparently was kidnapped on Friday while travelling toward a border crossing.

Ambassador Faruk Miguel Castillo said Guillén Tatis apparently was kidnapped in the Croix-des-Bouquets district of the Haitian capital. That area is a stronghold of the 400 Mawozo gang that kidnapped 17 people from a U.S. missionary group in October and held most of them until December.

Dominican authorities said they had given Hai-



Carlos Guillén Tatis

tian police evidence from phone that indicated he'd the diplomat's mobile tele- been kidnapped.

St. Kitts PM announces salary increase for public servants

CMC – Embattled Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris Monday announced a 10 percent salary increase for public sector workers benefiting more than 9,000 workers in the twin-island Federation.

"I am pleased to announce that my government has determined that our civil servants, pensioners, and STEP workers will benefit from a significant increase in wages, salaries, and pensions at the rate of ten percent and this shall be retroactive to January 2022," Harris said in a broadcast marking Labour Day here.

"This is another clear example of our investment in our people as we put more money in the pockets of a large number of our citizens and residents. These resources will translate to increase purchasing power for approximately 4,000 salaried civil servants,



Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris

1,064 government auxiliary employees, 1,365 pensioners, and 2,800 STEP workers," he added.

Harris, who faces a vote of no confidence after several members of his Team Unity coalition filed the neces-

sary documents in the Parliament last week, said the workers engaged with the Skills Training Empowerment Program (STEP) are closer to becoming government auxiliary workers that would allow them to enjoy greater job security.

He said the regularization process will continue apace over the next few months.

"The Select Committee and the Human Resource Management Department have successfully completed the work necessary to facilitate the integration of the first group of STEP workers into the public service as government auxiliary employees. Over the last two weeks, hundreds of people have received letters offering permanent employment with the government."

Harris outlined other measures
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Mexico relocates migrant camp; Haitians appear at border

AP – Mexican authorities said Tuesday they have relocated a migrant camp that sprung up in a park in the border city of Reynosa, moving about 2,000 people from Central American and Haiti to a shelter in the city, across the border from McAllen, Texas.

The camp of migrants mainly from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti sprung up after U.S. officials, citing the pandemic, invoked a health rule that denies migrants a chance to seek asylum.

Mexico's National Immigration Institute said the migrants were taken near midnight Monday to the shelter, which it said will have better hygiene and food services.

But on Monday, people in another border city, Nuevo Laredo, said hundreds of migrants, mainly Haitians, have streamed into the city, which is across the border

from Laredo, Texas. The rush apparently started after the U.S. began processing some asylum seekers there.

The Catholic bishop of Nuevo Laredo said Monday that migrant shelters there are already overcrowded, with some migrants sleeping outside in tents.

Bishop Enrique Sánchez Martínez said migrants started streaming into Nuevo Laredo in late April, though the city isn't usually popular among migrants, in part because it is dominated by the violent Northeast drug cartel.

"It is new for us because this is the last place they come, due to the conditions of our border, of our city, which are sometimes adverse for migrants," the bishop said. "But since they opened the door in the United States to asylum requests, a lot of them came in large groups."

Marvin Ajic, the direc-



Haitian migrants gather by the thousands at Texas-Mexico border in hopes of entering U.S.

tor of the Casa Nazareth shelter, said that around April 16, Mexican authorities notified the shelters that the United States would resume processing asylum claims for humanitarian reasons.

The U.S. had begun allowing more people in, especially Central American adults, to prepare for lifting Title 42 — a pandemic-era health rule that denies migrants a chance to enter the U.S. seek asylum — on

May 23. But a federal judge in Louisiana ruled last week that the government could not unwind the rule before the end date.

"The (Mexican) immigration officials organized things with the shelters, and the plan was to send people who had been waiting a long time, without any checks, basically anyone," Ajic.

That apparently drew the attention of other migrants, including Haitians.

cont'd from pg 18

that have been implemented by his government to cushion the impact of the high increase in the cost of living including the reduction in the excise tax on the importation of fuel from EC\$2.25 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) per gallon to EC\$0.95 cents per gallon effective from April to September this year.

He said the government also granted an increase in the gas station dealers' margin by EC\$0.30 cents and that the fuel subsidy program will be ex-

tended for an additional six months.

The income and disability support programs have been extended for an additional three months and will target people who remain unemployed due to job loss from the pandemic, and those whose income have been significantly reduced.

The government said that the duty-free allowance usually permitted in December has been reintroduced from May 1 to September 30, and that households will be able to import 500 lbs of food items free of duty and tax.

The government will introduce an eight-month cap on the freight cost used in the calculation of duties and taxes that are paid on the importation of goods.

"This cap will help to moderate the rising prices as a result of increased freight cost. Let me take this opportunity to make very clear this government's firm expectation that all suppliers must pass on the benefit of this concession to consumers who face rising prices," Harris said in his Labour Day message.

Slovakia, Hungary won't back EU sanctions on Russian energy

AP - Slovakia and Hungary said Tuesday that they will not support sanctions against Russian energy that the European Union is preparing over the war in Ukraine, saying they are too reliant on those supplies and there are no immediate alternatives.

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, has drafted new proposals for sanctions, which could include a phased-in embargo on Russian oil. The 27 member countries are likely to start discussing them Wednesday, but it could be several days before the measures take effect.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell tweeted that the commission wants to hit more banks, target those accused of spreading disinformation about the war, and "tackle oil imports." It's not clear whether Slovakia and Hungary would receive exemptions.

Slovak Economy Minister Richard Sulik said the country's sole refiner, Slovnaft, cannot immediately switch from Russian crude to another kind of oil. Changing the technology would



Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto attends a press conference after talks with his Serbian counterpart Nikola Selakovic, in Belgrade, Serbia, Monday, Feb. 7, 2022.

take several years, Sulik said.

"So, we will insist on the exemption, for sure," Sulik told reporters.

Slovakia is almost fully dependent on Russian oil it receives through the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline. Hungary is also heavily reliant, though Germany, another major energy importer, said it could cope if the EU banned Russian oil, with officials still noting that "it is a heavy load to bear."

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said the country will not

vote for any sanctions "that will make the transport of natural gas or oil from Russia to Hungary impossible."

"The point is simple, that Hungary's energy supply cannot be endangered because no one can expect us to allow the price of the war (in Ukraine) to be paid by Hungarians," Szijjarto said Tuesday in Kazakhstan. "It is currently physically impossible for Hungary and its economy to function without Russian oil."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has developed a reputation as Putin's closest ally in the EU and pursued deep diplomatic and economic ties with Moscow. Orban has deepened dependence on Russian fossil fuels, noting that 85% of Hungary's gas and more than 60% of its oil comes from Russia. Despite disagreement among EU members on new energy sanctions, European Council President Charles Michel vowed to "break the Russian war machine" by steering countries on the continent away from Russia's natural gas supplies.

Nigerian president says hostages being used as human shields



Security personnel stand guard in the Kukawa Village in the Karam Local Government Area of the Plateau state on April 12 after resident's houses were burnt down during an attack by bandits. [AFP/Getty Images]

AP - Dozens of passengers kidnapped five weeks ago from a train near Nigeria's capital are being used as human shields by their abductors, President Muhammadu Buhari said.

More than 100 travelers were kidnapped in late March in Nigeria's troubled northern region when a passenger train was halted by an explosion and then attacked by gunmen who killed eight people on board.

The kidnappers "are using civilians as human shields, thereby making it difficult to confront them directly," Buhari said in Abuja, the nation's capital, on Monday. "They don't care about killing their hostages if they come under attack."

The Nigerian president described the situation as a "delicate" one that requires wisdom and patience. Buhari was speaking at his of-

cont'd on pg 19

Heat wave sparks blackouts, questions on India's coal usage

AP - An unusually early and brutal heat wave is scorching parts of India, with acute power shortages affecting millions as demand for electricity surges to record levels.

Supplies of coal at many thermal power plants are running perilously low, spawning daily power outages in several states. The shortages are sparking scrutiny of India's long reliance on coal, which produces 70% of the country's electricity.

The situation highlights India's pressing need to diversify its energy sources, as demand for electricity is expected to increase more than anywhere else in the world over the next 20 years as the densely populated country develops, according to the International Energy Agency.

The shortages hit as blisteringly high temperatures are sweeping over parts of the country, prompting authorities to close schools,

sparking fires at gigantic landfills and shrivelling crops as a cool spring turned suddenly into unrelenting heat.

India recorded its hottest March since 1901, and average temperatures in April in northern and central pockets of the country were the highest in 122 years, the Indian Meteorological Department said. Temperatures breached 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in 10 cities last week, although cloudy skies and rain could bring some relief soon.

Climate change is making severe temperatures hotter and more frequent, with heat waves likely to strike India about once every four years instead of every five decades in the past, said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London. India urgently needs to prepare for record increases in power consumption as a result.

Current power cuts are hurting economic activity,



A worker quenches his thirst next to power lines as a heatwave continues to lash the capital, in New Delhi, India, Monday, May 2, 2022. An unusually early and brutal heat wave is scorching parts of India, where acute power shortages are affecting millions as demand for electricity surges to record levels. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

which had been rebounding after pandemic shutdowns, and could disrupt essential services such as hospitals, experts warn. Many states including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are experiencing blackouts of up to seven hours.

On Friday, the railways ministry cancelled more than 750 passenger train services to allow more freight trains to move coal from mines to the power plants.

Out of India's 165 coal

plants, 94 are facing critically low coal supplies while 8 are not operational as of Sunday, according to data from the Central Electricity Authority. This means stocks have dropped below 25% of normal levels.

Government rules mandate that power plants maintain 24 days' worth of coal stocks, but many routinely don't, said Vibhuti Garg, an energy economist at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

cont'd from pg 18

fices to some residents of the capital and he appeared to be responding to distraught families who have been demanding that their loved ones be freed.

"Any rescue operation that results in the death of any hostage cannot be deemed a success," he said, insisting that his aim is "to see all those in captivity safely rescued."

The passengers were kidnapped by an armed gang, one of several that have been terrorizing remote commu-

nities in north-western and central Nigeria. In addition to the train hostages, hundreds of other Nigerians are being held captive across the troubled northern region, especially in the northwest where they are being held for kidnapping ransoms, say authorities.

The attacks are often by large groups on motorcycles carried out by young men most of whom authorities have said are from the Fulani ethnic group caught up in the years-long conflict with Hausa and other ethnic

groups over land.

The conflict over access to land and water has further worsened the sectarian division between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with its 206 million people deeply divided along religious lines.

Those armed groups are now working with the jihadi extremists who have been waging a 10-year insurgency in the country's northeast, according to the Nigerian military.

Sports News



Djokovic beats Monfils to reach third round at Madrid Open

AP – Novak Djokovic got off to a good start at the Madrid Open with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Gael Monfils in the second round on Tuesday.

The top-ranked Djokovic, looking to regain his best form ahead of the French Open, saved all five break points he faced and converted the three he had against the 21st-ranked Frenchman.

It was the Serb's 18th straight win over Monfils. The match was interrupted at 2-2 in the first set as rain forced the roof on centre court to be closed.

Djokovic had needed three sets in each of his last three victories this season, all in Serbia before losing the final there to Andrey Rublev.

Djokovic had lost Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in his opening match in Monte



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball against Gael Monfils, of France, during their match at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, May 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

Carlo, which was his only other clay tournament this season.

He arrived in Madrid with a 5-3 record and had

played in only one hard-court tournament after having not been allowed to participate in the Australian Open because of his vaccination status. He lost to Jiri Vesely in the Dubai quarterfinals.

Djokovic, a three-time winner in Madrid, next faces either former No. 1 Andy Murray or Denis Shapovalov.

Earlier, Rublev reached the third round after rallying to a 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 win over 20-year-old Jack Draper of Britain.

The eighth-ranked Rublev is seeking his first Masters 1000 title. The win in Serbia last month added to his titles in Dubai and Marseille. Only Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz have also won three titles this season.

Marin Cilic defeated Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, while Americans Frances Tiafoe and Jenson Brooksby lost their first-round matches in straight sets. Tiafoe lost to Cristian Garin 6-1, 6-3 and Brooksby lost to Roberto Bautista Agut 6-0, 6-2.

Teenage sensation Alcaraz will later make his singles debut against Nikoloz Basilashvili. Nadal, returning from injury, starts his Madrid Open campaign on Wednesday.

American Jessica Pegula defeated Bianca Andreescu 7-5, 6-1 to set up a quarterfinal encounter with Spaniard Sara Sorribes Tormo, who defeated Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 to reach her third WTA 1000 quarterfinal.

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State Dept: Brittney Griner considered wrongfully detained

AP – The Biden administration has determined that WNBA star Brittney Griner is being wrongfully detained in Russia, meaning the United States will more aggressively work to secure her release even as the legal case against her plays out, the State Department said Tuesday.

“The U.S. government will continue to undertake efforts to provide appropriate support to Ms. Griner,” the department said.

Griner was detained at an airport in February after Russian authorities said a search of her bag revealed vape cartridges containing oil derived from cannabis. Since then, U.S. officials had stopped short of classifying the Phoenix Mercury player as wrongfully detained and said instead that their focus was on ensuring that she had access in jail to American consular affairs officials.

Now, though, U.S. officials have shifted supervision of her case to a State Department section — the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs — that is focused on negotiating for the release of hostages and other Americans classified as being wrongfully detained in other countries. A consular officer did visit in March.

“Brittney has been detained for 75 days and our expectation is that the White House do whatever is necessary to bring her home,”



Phoenix Mercury centre Brittney Griner

said Griner’s agent, Lindsay Kagawa Colas.

The president of the WNBA players’ union, Nneka Ogumike, noted in a separate statement that “it has been 75 days that our friend, teammate, sister, Brittney Griner, has been wrongfully detained in Russia.”

“It is time for her to come home,” Ogumike added. “Having learned that the U.S. government has now determined that BG is being wrongfully detained we are hopeful that their efforts will be significant, swift and successful.”

It was unclear what prompted the shift in approach to Griner’s case, though President Joe Biden’s administration had been under pressure from members of Congress and others to make her release a priority.

The U.S. last week secured the release of Marine veteran Trevor Reed as part of a prisoner swap that also resulted in a convicted Russian drug trafficker being freed from prison in the U.S.

iting for a friend’s wedding and was later sentenced to 16 years in prison on espionage-related charges his family says are bogus.

Meanwhile, the WNBA announced Tuesday that it would honour Griner with a floor decal and allow the Mercury to pay her without it counting against the team’s cap. The decal will feature Griner’s initials, BG, as well as her No. 42.

All 12 teams will have the decal on their home courts starting with the season opener Friday night. The Mercury open their season at home that night against the Las Vegas Aces.



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Sports News



FIFA extends investigation of underage sexual abuse in Gabon

AP – FIFA extended an investigation into alleged systematic sexual abuse of underage players in Gabon by spreading suspensions to four soccer officials on Tuesday.

FIFA said its ethics committee opened formal proceedings against Patrick Assoumou Eyî, league official Serge Mombo and coaches Triphel Mabicka and Orphée Mickala. Eyî is a former national under-17 team coach who is accused of raping boys.

The investigation was opened after British daily The Guardian in Decem-



ber reported statements by alleged victims. They said they were lured to Eyî's home which he called the "Garden of Eden."

Eyî was suspended by the Gabonese Football Association in December and FIFA has extended that ban

worldwide and provisionally to the other three officials.

"These sanctions have been imposed in connection with ongoing criminal investigations," FIFA said in a statement.

FIFA ethics investigators received a complaint

from the global players union FIFPRO, which has said abuse of underage boys in Gabon was "deeply embedded" in soccer there and was "an open secret that was not addressed for years."

The union also alleged people "with close ties" to the Gabonese FA made threats to players and witnesses during the investigation.

Gabon is the latest country investigated for systematic sexual abuse within its soccer federation. FIFA ethics judges previously banned officials in Afghanistan and Haiti.

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Captain and commissioner happy with female contributions to Police team

Commissioner of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda Atlee Rodney and Police team captain Derek Mourillon, have expressed satisfaction with the performance and meaningful contribution of female players on the cricket team.

West Indies medium pacer Shawnisha Hector, off spinner Jenisen Richards and official scorer Sweeney Bruce have all played instrumental roles in helping Police to achieve a 100 per cent win record so far in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League, 2022 domestic programme.

Police have already captured the Dave Joseph one-day title and have won their four matches so far in the current Richie Richardson Limited Overs Parish League Championship.

Mourillon said the policewomen are pulling their weight on the team.

“It has been very good actually. As far as I see, they are fellas with the team. They put out their best, they both bowl very well, they give their best when they are batting and when they are fielding and at the end of the day, we all support each other on the field and that is what matters the most,” Mourillon said.

“We are going to keep going back to the drawing board after every game and



Three police women celebrate after winning the Dave Joseph Parish League One Day title at the Police Recreation Grounds on 9th April, 2022. In the foreground from left to right: Medium pacer Shawnisha Hector, holding trophy, official scorer Sweeney Bruce, behind trophy, and female off spinner, Jenisen Richards. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

see how we can improve. No two teams play the same and no two batsmen bat the same,” he added.

Commissioner Rodney, who was on hand to witness Richards bowl and capture two wickets against Free-town in the final of the Dave Joseph competition on 9th April, said his organisation will continue to encourage policewomen to participate in sports.

“I am very proud of that. We are promoting

sports both from the male section and the female section and even today, we saw Richards bowling and taking two quick wickets. It’s heartening to see that the females within the organisation also want to play sports and we will give them the opportunity,” the commissioner said.

“I would use this opportunity to encourage other female officers to step forward and come to the practices so they too can partic-

ipate in the competitions.”

Police have been absent from the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association’s (ABCA) first class programme since 2015. Although Mourillon would like to see Police return to the ABCA competition, he said his team is in the midst of a period of rebuilding.

“Yes, there are plans to return to the ABCA competitions, but at the same time, for the last few years, we

cont’d on pg 24

School volleyball squad commences training

Head of the Volleyball Unit in the Ministry of Sports, Rosely Lewis, has reported that the players selected from the inter-schools' programme have commenced training for possible national duties.

According to Lewis, this is part of the schools' programme from which national junior teams are eventually selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda in regional and sub-regional youth competitions.

According to Lewis, the squad was chosen following the completion of the advanced secondary schools' competitions, which were held at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex in March and April this year.

"Usually, our programme entails that we would have our school competitions at the end of the second term.

"When School league is done, what we usually do is select several of the better players - and I don't want to say elite because they are not elite yet - but we would select those players who we think can go further in the sport, and I am not saying that we don't give everybody a chance, but we want to use these players to form our national junior teams," Lewis said.

"So, if the national volleyball association needs Under-16 players, we can identify those players. If they need Under-18 players, we can also provide them with those players."

Lewis said the current crop of players are participating in weekly training sessions which are being conducted by volleyball coach and national senior player, Olsen Joseph.

"So, these players would come to the YMCA Sports Complex on particular days and we would have training sessions with them so whenever the national volleyball association makes a request for 20 young girls volleyball players to represent Antigua and Barbuda in a regional competition, we already have them in training," Lewis said.

"So yes, a squad has been selected and they are currently being trained by Olsen on Tuesdays."

Lewis, a former national senior women's athlete, said the schools' programme plays an essential role in the advancement of players and the overall expansion of national volleyball.

"This way we will always have junior players who will filter down in the clubs so the national association will always have players being fed into leagues," Lewis said.



Head of the Ministry of Sports' Volleyball Unit, Rosely Lewis. (Photo: ABAVA)

"Almost all of the current senior national players, at some point in time, were a part of the inter-schools' programme.

"As long as we are able to have a school volleyball programme, there will always be players coming through to play at the club and national team levels because that is what we do.

"Once we see someone with talent, we are going to select them for training and usually, many of them go on to represent the country at the national junior and senior levels.

"Once these players are selected, they push themselves because they want to be better players and this will also help to improve the overall standard of our national volleyball programme."

cont'd from pg 23

have been going through a rebuilding process, and now, the team has been playing together for a couple of years and...we are reaping the rewards of playing together...during the rebuilding process," Mourillon said.

Commissioner Rodney confirmed that discussions

are taking place with the ABCA about the possibility of Police returning to the national first-class cricket programme.

"Yes, we have had dialogue with the ABCA already, and I think we are making some progress," Commissioner Rodney said.

"I am looking forward for that final decision, may-

be not this year, but maybe the next year or in 2024, we should be able to field a team in the ABCA first class competitions, because we have a number of young officers who are joining the force and they have potential to go far with their cricket.

"I think they should be given the opportunity to

play in the league so that their skills and talents can be recognised and be harnessed.

"So, if it is international cricket they have to go, if it is regional cricket they have to go or if it is just playing for Antigua and Barbuda, they need to be in the spotlight so that people can see them and value their worth."

cont'd from pg 26
12.50 seconds.

McIntosh, who finished fourth in the Under-20 Girls' Heptathlon at the CARIFTA Games, won three titles at the Sir Reginald Samuel Classic.

The Princess Margaret Secondary School student clocked 56.95 seconds to win the Under-20 Girls' 400-metre final.

Thalia Hinds and Frankaiha Fleming of visiting Full Stride Track Club of Anguilla captured second and third places respectively.

McIntosh captured the Under-20 Girls' 200-metre final, with a time of 25.34 seconds, with Hinds and Fleming of Anguilla again claiming the second and third positions.

McIntosh then won the Open Female 800-metre final in 2 minutes and 26.77 seconds. Hinds, of Full Stride Track Club, finished second and Hanna Charles of Hurricane Power Athletic Club followed at third.

Jared Jarvis of Panthers International Athletic Club claimed the Open Male 200-metre final in 21.50 seconds. D'Atryel Stanley of visiting TC Immortals of Nevis finished second and Terrence Thomas of Paramount Performance Track Club secured third place.

Jarvis also clocked 10.55 seconds to finish second in the Open Male 100-metre final, which was won by Barak Matthew of Phoenix Athletic Club in 10.54 seconds. Marcus Duberry of TC Immortals came third.

Zody Roberts of Paramount Performance won the Under-20 Boys' 200-metre final in 21.93 seconds. Terone Webster of Full Stride Track Club claimed second place ahead of Orlan Frederick in third place.

TC Immortals made a clean sweep of the Open Male 400-metre final, which was won by Tah'J Liburd in 50.00 seconds, ahead of Stanley D'Atryel and Safiya Maloney.

Chairman and coach of the track and field unit of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, Randy Allen, said the Sir Reginald Samuel Classic was successful.

"The meet was pretty good. We got good participation from a lot of athletes. The crowd support was also decent as well. We are happy that the weather did cooperate with us and there were many good performances as expected," Allen said.

"But the meet was very successful, and I hope we can have another great event later in the year. I am looking forward to wonderful performances at this year's inter-schools' athletics meet by most of these athletes."

Allen was also grateful for the participation of the Full Stride Track Club from Anguilla and Nevis' TC Immortals.

"The Wings Sports Club has definitely done a lot to make sure that the athletes get as much competition as possible. I also want to thank the team from Anguilla and also Nevis who came over to Antigua for this event. Most

of the team from Nevis were senior guys and Under-20 guys and they ran really well," Allen said.

"One of the guys from Nevis won the 400 metres and the other guys came second and third respectively. For Anguilla, it was Full Stride Track Club and they did fairly well in most of the Under-15 and Under-17 events."

Allen also took a moment to recognise the event's sponsors and supporters.

"We want to thank all our sponsors and contributors in the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) and State Insurance Corporation and all our partners in ABI Insurance and Knowles Trucking," he said.

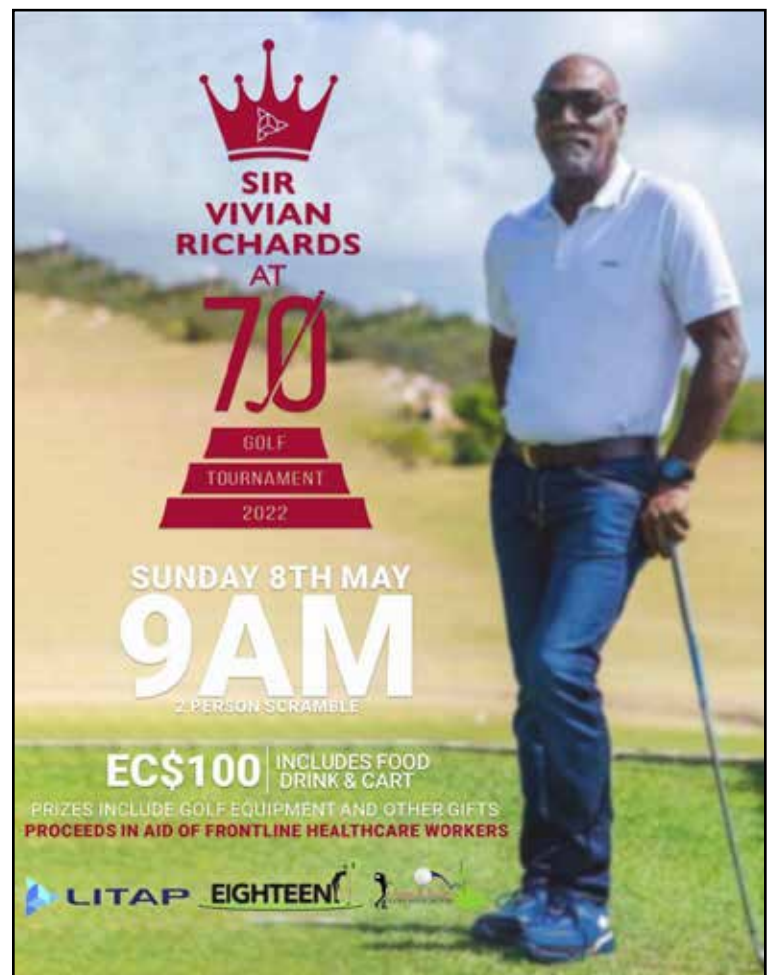
"We also want to thank

the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association for assisting us with some of the officials. We also would like to thank all the clubs who participated.

"They are Wadadli Athletic Club, Hurricane Power, Power Speed Endurance Track Club, Roots Athletic Club, Paramount Performance Track Club, Phoenix Athletics Club and Supa Nova Athletics Club and CPTSA Wings Sports Club.

"We just want to thank all those persons who contributed in any way to the success of the 9th Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic."

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams presented medals to the winners and outstanding performers.



SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS AT 70 GOLF TOURNAMENT 2022

SUNDAY 8TH MAY 9AM
2 PERSON SCRAMBLE

EC\$100 INCLUDES FOOD DRINK & CART

PRIZES INCLUDE GOLF EQUIPMENT AND OTHER GIFTS
PROCEEDS IN AID OF FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

LITAP EIGHTEEN

National athletes shine at Sir Reginald Samuel Classic

Several top national athletes were among the winners in the 9th Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic hosted by the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Associations (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club at the YASCO Sports Complex last Saturday.

Five of the seven athletes who represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 49th CARIFTA Games Track and Field Championships in Jamaica over the Easter holiday, recorded wins.

The victors included reigning CARIFTA Under-17 Boys 100-metre champions Dwayne Fleming of Power Speed Endurance Track Club, Geolynda Dowdye of Phoenix Athletics Club, Osei Gardener of CPTSA Wings Sports Club, Alyssa Dyett and Mai McIntosh of Paramount Performance Track Club.

Fresh from winning the 100-metre title in Jamaica, Fleming completed the sprint double. The Princess Margaret School student completed the Under-17 Boys' 100-metre final in 11.02 seconds.

Fellow Power Speed Endurance Track Club teammates, Kasiya Daley and Ceandre Pascall secured the second and third places, respectively.

Fleming then completed the sprint double by clocking 22.14 seconds to win the 200-metre event, ahead of Pascall and Gardener.

Dowdye left the field trailing, to win the Under-17 Girls' 100-metre final in 12.10 seconds.

Winisha Michael-Steele and Lily Eastmond of Wadadli Athletic Club, placed second and third respectively.



Sprinter Dwayne Fleming, left, Alyssa Dyett, centre, and Osei Gardener at the 9th Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic at the YASCO Sports Complex on 30th April, 2022. (Photos: CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

Gardener was victorious in the Under-17 Boys' 400-metre final, clocking 51.18 seconds to finish ahead of his Wings Sports Club colleague Deon Shaw and Dimitri Hamilton of Edu Sports.

Dyett, who won a bronze medal in the Under-20 Girls' Triple Jump at this year's CARIFTA Games, beat Janisha Spencer of Phoenix Athletic Club to win the Under-20 female 100-metre final in

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