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CLAREVUE STAFF TO RECEIVE PAYMENT FRIDAY

Story on Page 3



Emily Guillard, (centre right) a crew member aboard the Whiplash, was one of 35 young Antiguan and Barbudans who had the opportunity to compete in Antigua Sailing Week during the Y2K event this week. *Story on page 6* [Photo: Paul Wyeth/ASW]

Local News



Clarevue workers promised payment, but want other matters resolved

Employees of Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital have been assured they will receive a percentage of monies owed to them by Friday. However, it appears to be little consolation for the long list of problems they want the authorities to address.

The workers argued with the main entrance to the

police yesterday as they took their protest for outstanding overtime, risk allowance and other forms of payment to the Ministry of Health's headquarters on their second day of staging industrial action.

They stood in front of



Ministry of Health, but were asked by the police to leave and move to the opposite side, in front of the post office. This caused a bit of a stir, but Joan Peters, president of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association told the protestors to comply with the orders of law enforcement officers.

Earlier, Peters said it was her understanding that employees at the Fiennes Institute received some of their outstanding overtime, but Clarevue workers were left out.

"Apparently last week, some money was paid to Fiennes and Clarevue has been owed even longer and that is the kind of thing that is happening. Clarevue is asking if you're paying, why don't you pay some right across the board? Let us all be fair. Let the payment be fair. If Fiennes is going to get some money, pay Clarevue. And it's Care Project that is owed as well," Peters argued.

According to the ABP-

SA president, outstanding allowances date back seven years. She highlighted other issues affecting employees in the execution of their duties, to include inadequate laundry appliances, lack of tools for landscapers, poor water supply and inadequate lighting for the psychiatric hospital.

Joan Peters said it is clear there is a lack of communication between the Ministry of Health and the psychiatric hospital's management.

"I don't know what's happening between the ministry and management there, but it's obvious something is going wrong. Either the ministry not paying attention to the management, or the management not paying attention to the ministry, but there is a gap there," she said.

Despite assurances of payment, the workers are allegedly insisting that they won't return to work, until other issues are given urgent attention.

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Former CARICOM SG appears to back Baroness Scotland for Commonwealth SG

Former CARICOM secretary general, Irwin LaRocque, says he prefers the Caribbean having a single candidate for the position of Commonwealth Secretary General.

In a recent interview on Dominica's state-owned DBS Radio, LaRocque, who stepped down as the region's top public servant last year after a ten-year stint, said, "All I want to say is that I wish the Caribbean had only one candidate and I will leave it at that."

And that was all he said but not before adding, "The region should have one candidate going forward. That's what I think should happen," he said, adding that "as far as I am aware" Baroness Scotland has performed well in her post.

"As far as I am aware, yes. I was in contact with her during my tenure as secretary general and as far as I am aware, yes. But I think I will leave it at that. There are others who will want to comment on that more extensively. I am speaking as a private citizen, but I think from the perspective of the region, I will leave it at that," said LaRocque.

Last month, Jamaica launched its campaign for the position even as the CARICOM grouping is yet to announce when a regional sub-committee will meet with the two Caribbean candidates for the post.

CARICOM leaders remain divided in their support for the two candidates, agreeing instead to appoint a sub-committee to delve further into the matter.

A three-paragraph statement issued following their deliberations on April 6 indicated that the CARICOM leaders are still divided on whether to

support the incumbent, Baroness Patricia Scotland, who has been nominated by Dominica or Kamina Johnson Smith, Jamaica's nominee.

Last month, Dominica, insisting that it is not at odds with Jamaica, said it remains confident that Scotland will be re-elected as Secretary General of the 54-member group of nations.

Most vocal of all the region's leaders is former CARICOM chairman, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who said attempts to remove Baroness Scotland run contrary to the principle of rotation between regions, and the tradition that a secretary general holds the post for two terms.

"If we are to live up to the values of the Commonwealth which we cherish and hold dear, we should eschew any attempt to pit our countries and our regions one against the other. Only in that way can the Commonwealth continue to be a beacon in this world which is beset by turmoil," said Prime Minister Browne.

"Events we have faced in recent years show we cannot afford for this Commonwealth to be divided. We must be united against the common threat of Covid, climate change and economic fallout, which will scar all our countries for the foreseeable future."

Initially, the threat came from Kenya, whose president Uhuru Kenyatta, indicated that his country would put forward their own candidate at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, (CHOGM) scheduled for the week of 20th June, 2022, in Rwanda.

That challenge was withdrawn; however, another soon came from



Commonwealth Secretary General, Baroness Patricia Scotland with former CARICOM Secretary General Irwin LaRocque

Jamaica, which announced that they would pit their Foreign Affairs Minister, Kamina Johnson-Smith, against Baroness Scotland for the post of Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Calling the move a "monumental error," Prime Minister Browne warned that Jamaica's nomination could divide the Caribbean, as the 15-member CARICOM bloc had agreed to support Baroness Scotland for re-election.

"Those who seek to divide and rule are encouraging Jamaica to present a candidate in opposition to the current Secretary General, who is serving on a CARICOM rotation," said Browne.

Baroness Scotland was elected to the post at CHOGM in Malta in 2015.

The Dominica-born Scotland is the second Secretary-General from the Caribbean and the first woman to hold the post.

Local News



Convicted fraudster receives jail time

Janice Samuel, the woman who pleaded guilty to 19 fraud charges early last month has been sentenced to six years in prison.

Samuel, who was placed on remand after pleading guilty on 12th April to five counts of forgery and 14 counts of obtaining money by virtue of a forged instrument, faced High Court Justice Colin Williams who sent her back to prison yesterday morning.

In 2019, she was spared incarceration when Justice Iain Morley handed her a two-year suspended sentence for embezzling thousands of dollars from her employer, Shirmique Jeffers of Connie's Comfort Suites.

She avoided trial by pleading

guilty to the embezzlement charge and was required to compensate Jeffers in the amount of \$ 5,000. But that did not serve as a deterrent and Samuel again found herself in legal trouble.

In 2019, she was arrested and charged with stealing \$ 107,119.27 from her new employer, H2One Limited.

An audit carried out by the company revealed that blank cheques with the owner's signature has been passed on to a secondary party with figures penned. These cheques were then cashed at a gas station.

In 2021, Samuel's bail was revoked, and she was remanded to prison for missing a court hearing. At that time, neither her attorney nor her



Janice Samuel

two sureties had information as to her whereabouts.

Appearing in court after a bench warrant was issued for her arrest, Samuel said she had forgotten the date of the hearing and had no phone to contact anyone.

ACB Caribbean opens third branch in Grenada

ACB Caribbean, a St. John's-headquartered financial institution, has continued its regional expansion with the opening of its third branch in Grenada this week.

In a statement, the bank said the move in Grenada forms part of its aim to ensure increased accessibility and innovative financial services to more customers.

During the opening ceremony of ACB Grenada at The NIS Building, Melville Street, St. George's, the bank also announced the launch of the ACB Grenada Bank Scholarship programme.

Speaking at the ceremony, General Manager, ACB Caribbean Group, Joanna Charles, said the opening of the branch was reflective of ACB Grenada Bank's commitment to providing acces-



From left to right - Sharon Matthew-Edwards, Chairperson of the Board; Acting Prime Minister of Grenada, The Honourable Minister, Gregory Bowen; Joanna Charles, ACB Caribbean Group General Manager and Kara Warner, ACB Grenada Bank Country Manager.

sible banking.

"This is our third location here in Grenada and we are extremely pleased to open our doors at St. George's, where we can offer convenient and accessible banking to the wider community. Among the

slew of services ACB Grenada Bank offers, our suite of products includes personal and business options as well as a robust online interface with innovative and convenient services accessible via the ACB Smart App. Our long-term strategy is

simple – provide excellent services and products to efficiently service our clients and potential investors."

Charles noted that ACB Caribbean Group has a 66-year legacy and said it is committed to giving back to the communities it serves.

"In Antigua and Barbuda, The ACB Caribbean Group has established itself as a responsible corporate citizen.

"In addition to investments in sports and culture, education has been a top priority for us, and we provide two annual scholarships and bursary programmes at both the Secondary and Tertiary Levels.

"This commitment to those we serve will continue here in Grenada. It is with pleasure that I announce our partnership with the St.

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Mother, daughter to join study programme in Jersey

A mother-daughter team who are graduates of the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute (ABHTI) are among approximately thirty persons who have received job offers for a work-study programme in Jersey in the United Kingdom.

The programme was announced nearly two months ago by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey as a partnership between both jurisdictions designed to support the islands' hospitality sectors

The three-year partnership will provide opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudan hospitality industry staff to work in Jersey during the Island's peak summer season.

This will provide career development opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudan hospitality professionals, as well as provide much-needed recruitment opportunities for Jersey companies.

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism



Shadae Williams

Association (ABHTA), which is assisting with coordinating the programme has confirmed that Darah Davis owner and operator of Oh! Edibles, an ABHTI alumni and the consummate professional, has received the opportunity to work at the Marina Metro Hotel, as part of the Jersey work-abroad initiative.

"I am ecstatic at gaining this opportunity to be in the first batch of candidates paving the way for future candidates for the Jersey work program," she



Darah Davis

said.

Darah, who pursued an Associate Degree in Hospitality Management at the ABHTI, and graduated with high honours in 2019, will take up the position of restaurant manager. She will utilise the skills gained during her time as a student and entrepreneur to bring the best that Antigua and Barbuda has to offer to those she will meet in Jersey.

She leaves today for her six-month assignment.

Her daughter, Shadae

Williams, has also been selected for the programme. She has received an offer to work at St. Brelade's Bay Hotel in the position of Chef de Partie. She too is a graduate of the ABHTI where she gained an associate degree in Culinary Arts. She is the owner and chef of Toast 268.

Shadae leaves on Monday for her assignment.

According to the hotel association, more than one hundred persons have qualified for the programme so far but only the approximately thirty persons have received job offers so far.

Several agencies are working together to make the undertaking a success. These include the Ministry of Tourism, the ABHTA, the ABHTI and the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union.

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George's University and advise that we have established the annual ACB Grenada Bank Scholarship Programme, designed to fund the completion of an Undergraduate Degree at SGU."

Among those attending the ceremony were Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Physical Development and

Energy and Acting Prime Minister, Gregory Bowen, ACB Grenada Bank Country Manager, Kara Warner, and St. George's Branch Manager Natasha Ottley.

ACB Caribbean is currently one of the largest indigenous commercial banks in Antigua and Barbuda and has an audited asset base of EC\$1.1 billion as at September 30th 2015.

Local News

Local youth shine during ASW

The third day of Antigua Sailing Week delivered another king-size helping of outstanding racing conditions as 15 knots of trade winds, pumping up to 18 in the gusts, gave exhilarating racing to all 15 classes at Antigua Sailing Week.

The Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day on Tuesday provided a unique opportunity for local youths to shine in the races during the world-famous regatta.

Under the banner of the Axxess Marine Y2K (Youth to Keel Boat) Programme, young Antiguan and Barbudans are inspired to develop as members of the sailing community.

Since the first regat-



Antiguan and Barbudan youth sailors [Photo: Ted Martin]

ta in 1968, Antiguan and Barbudans have been racing and winning at Antigua Sailing Week through connections made at Antigua Yacht Club, but the Y2K programme goes far deeper than offering young sailors the opportunity to take to the stage during prize giving ceremonies.

Y2K was launched in 2018 at Antigua Sailing Week and is supported by the Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association. Y2K aims to give local youth sailors keelboat experience during Antigua Sailing Week.

This year, over 35 young people actively participated in the races on several boats.

"The Y2K programme is progressing the latest crop of talented Antiguan," commented Alison Sly-Adams, Antigua Sail-

ing Week President and General Manager of the National Sailing Academy (NSA).

"Y2K opens the door for young Antiguan to enter the maritime industry by accessing the network of experienced sailors racing at Antigua Sailing Week.

"These young Antiguan learn more than just top-level racing. Potentially the Y2K programme gives them access to working in Antigua's thriving maritime industry."

Active COVID-19 cases passes 50 mark

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed twenty-eight (28) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 30th April, 2022 at 6pm.

Two (2) cases were recorded on April 28th, eighteen (18) on April 29th and eight (8) on April 30th.

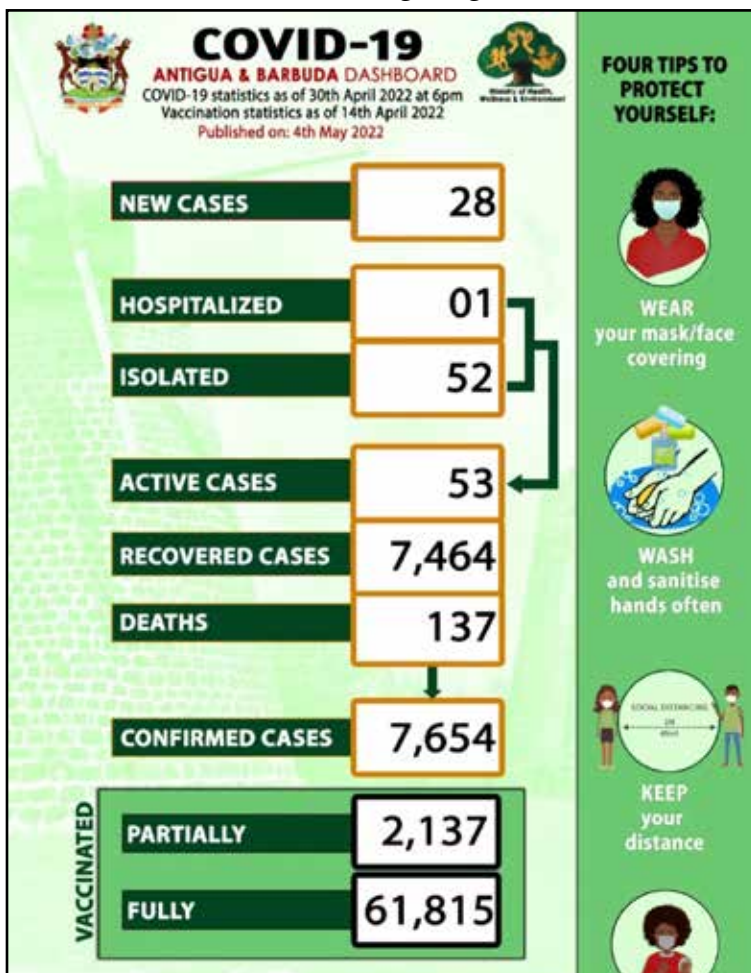
One hundred and twen-

ty-one (121) samples were processed.

Twenty-one (21) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven thousand six hundred and fifty-four (7,654); which is inclusive of fifty-three (53) active cases.

There is one (1) moderate hospitalised case.



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- Ensure wines are served at the right temperature and within the proper glassware.
- Manage wine cellar and ensure it is fully stocked.
- Train wait staff on available wines.
- To be able to explain and describe wines according to regions, vineyards and wineries.
- To design, promote and sell wine tasting packages.
- Assist the Restaurant Manager(s) with the operations of all restaurants, as required.

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Deadline for applications – May 11th 2022

Relationships



Why singles are 'pre-screening' their dates

By Katie Bishop

First dates used to be about drinks, maybe dinner. But post-pandemic singles are opting for low-key options that allow them to 'screen' potential partners.

Before the pandemic, Louise, 33, was a prolific dater. She would typically meet someone new from a dating app once a week, and her standard first date would be "a drink or three after work".

But when Covid-19 hit, and happy hour in her home city of London was replaced by virtual drinks and Zoom pub-quizzes, her dating life shifted, too. Louise found herself embracing phone calls and video dates with potential suitors – and she was surprised to find she enjoyed the change of pace.

"It was a positive move to get to know someone over a long period of time," she says. "I found the slower pace suited me. I think taking away alcohol was a big factor, as you have clearer judgement and opinions on someone. The lockdowns made me really take a step back, and look at the way I was approaching dating."

When restrictions lifted, Louise chose not to dive back into her pre-pandemic dating habits.

Instead, she wanted to take the best bits of dating at a distance and use them in a new approach to looking for love. She had particularly enjoyed going on



Virtual meet-ups are becoming more common, even as pandemic restrictions ease, so daters can pre-screen partners before getting together

walks during the months when bars and restaurants were closed but meeting outdoors was still permitted, so she continued to suggest active, outdoor dates, rather than opting for dinner and drinks.

Now, a first date for Louise is more commonly a dog walk or an activity that she would otherwise do with a friend, like a gig she's already interested in going to. She also tends to send voice notes or call potential dates before meeting in real life.

"Before Covid, I would go on dates with the mindset of 'may as well see what they're like'," she says. "But by going into dates with this attitude, the chances were that it wasn't going to be a very good match. Now that I'm back in the office, going to sports clubs and seeing friends, I don't want to waste my time on pointless, mind-

less dates – I want them to be fun, and with someone I genuinely want to get to know better. So, I make sure that I take the time to get to know someone first, to make sure that we're on the same page."

Whether it was changing careers or moving cities, the pandemic prompted many people to re-evaluate their lives – and love lives were not exempt from this reckoning. Louise is one of many singles to rethink their approach to dating since the pandemic; experts believe many people are now less willing to commit to a time-consuming, high-stakes first date.

Instead, they are scoping out potential dates with voice notes, video calls or a casual meet-up woven into activities that slide more easily into their day-to-day lives. This low-stakes pre-date is changing the way that we approach looking

for love – but does it lead to stronger and more lasting connections?

An 'explosion' of virtual dating

For many daters, a low-stakes pre-date starts long before meeting a new match in real life.

Before the pandemic, John Junior, 33, who lives in Cheshire, UK, would sometimes go on multiple dates in one day. But John still has concerns about catching the virus, and is also more wary about new people after being catfished during the pandemic. This means he now FaceTimes people before agreeing to meet up. "It's easier and more convenient," he says. "I can see if we are compatible and if they really are keen. It's been a huge positive, and it feels safer."

The rise – and subsequent staying power – of video first-dates is perhaps

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Relationships

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one of the biggest post-pandemic dating trends, and a key indicator people are looking for a first date that slots more easily into their schedule. Researchers from leading dating app Hinge say the rise of video dating has been “explosive” in recent years.

“Virtual dates are the new coffee dates – a low-pressure way to see if you and your match connect,” says Logan Ury, a behavioural scientist and director of relationship science at Hinge. “It’s a chance to see if you can carry a conversation and are excited to spend more time together in person. You get a sense of the person, from the comfort of your own home, without a long commute or expensive evening.”

The idea of not wanting to commit time, energy and money to multiple in-person first dates is certainly one that resonates with Louise. For her, changing the way that she dates is part of a wider consideration of what she wants her life to look like post-pandemic. Having more time to herself during lockdowns brought a fresh perspective; she values quality over quantity in lots of aspects of her life.

Kate Balestrieri, a licensed psychologist and sex therapist, based in the US, says this was a common reaction to lockdowns, which forced people to confront how fast-paced their lives were pre-pandemic. She

says the rise of the pre-date is part of a broader trend towards so-called “slow” or “intentional” dating that has developed over the last couple of years.

“The incessant swiping that used to dominate the dating world left people feeling burnt out and tired of inauthenticity,” she says. “Seeking more connection, many are adopting a slower and more intentional approach to dating, to ensure a good fit that does not waste their time or drain their energy.”

The idea of time-wasting is one that comes up a lot among daters embracing low-stakes first dates. During lockdowns, people had space to think about what was really important to them – and to understand what they really missed when it was taken away. If going on lots of dates wasn’t something they particularly missed, but they were still interested in finding a partner, then a low-stakes first date can be easier to fit around more valued activities.

“People have experienced a shift in their work-life balance, and are seeing

time as a more precious commodity,” says Balestrieri. “Many are now taking more care to get to know someone before allocating a lot of time and financial resources to a more formal dating process.”

A better way to find love?

Data shows post-pandemic singles are more serious about looking for love. After a lonely year or two and a slow return to ‘normal’ life, 58% of daters have shifted towards intentional dating, and 62% have become more interested in a meaningful, committed relationship. Only 11% of app daters now say that they want to date casually.

How does a low-stakes first-date fit into this increased desire to find something serious?

For Balestrieri, it’s a sign of people’s growing distaste for spending time and money on casual interactions, instead saving up these resources for dates that they can see developing into more serious relationships.

A low-stakes pre-date can help them filter through a crowded market of potential partners to find the peo-

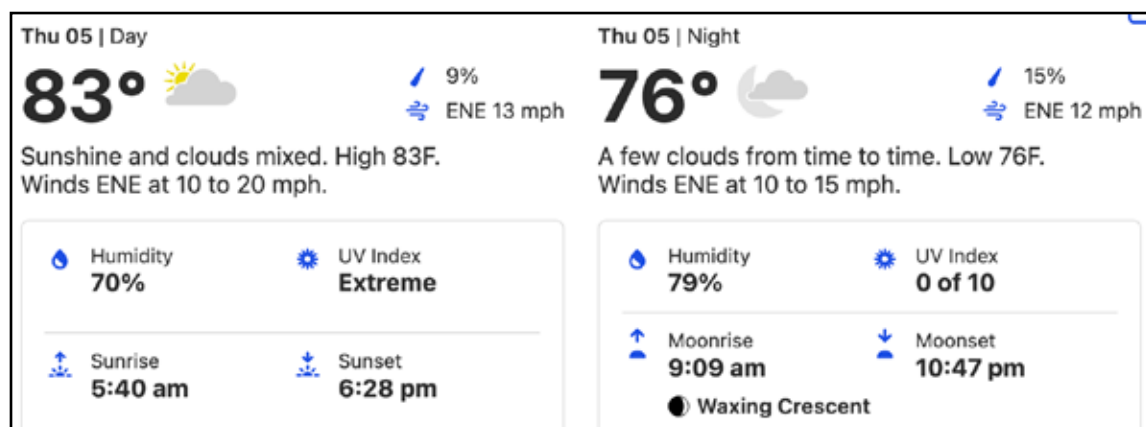
ple with whom they have a genuine connection and, in these contentious times, with whom their values align.

“Going through the pandemic has left people with a renewed sense of what is important to them, and allocating time on people who are not a good fit is no longer a noteworthy endeavour for many,” says Balestrieri.

And although there’s no guarantee that the low-stakes pre-date will lead to more lasting love, it certainly means fewer bad dates and more time to allocate to the things that truly matter.

As for Louise, the pandemic gave her a chance to reflect on not only how she wanted to date, but whom she wanted to ultimately end up with – and she hopes the low-stakes pre-date will help her to find them.

“I would like to meet someone who is genuine, and I think that by changing my habits I am giving myself a better chance,” she says. Yet, true to her slower pace of dating, Louise says she’s taking her time. “I’m in no rush to meet someone,” she says. “My life is pretty good as it is.”



Environment



For marine biologists, Haitian gangs make work dangerous

By Trenton Daniel and Pierre-Richard Luxama

AP — In a blue bay that spans the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, fishermen from both countries recently aired grievances in a rare face-to-face meeting thanks to the efforts of marine biologist Jean Wiener.

The meeting, overseen by Dominican naval officers with rifles, was no small feat for Wiener, who has been forced to work on conserving this biologically sensitive region from afar — his house in Bethesda, Maryland — because of rampant violence in Haiti, his homeland. Now the prize-winning biologist stood in the steaming Caribbean heat at the mouth of an ominously named spot called the Massacre River, trying to bring together the two sides and find a solution that will not only save their livelihoods but also vital marine resources in a region under extreme pressures from climate change.

“The constant fishing, or overfishing, in these areas has decimated an entire ecosystem,” said Rodolfo Jimenez, director of an agricultural border project in the Dominican Republic.

The Haitian fishermen, standing across from Jimenez on the beach, agreed. But they also said they were not to blame for



Agronomist and horticulturalist Frederick Payton, right, and marine biologist Jean Wiener, left centre, cross the Massacre River in order to attend a rare face-to-face meeting between fishermen from Haiti and the Dominican Republic, in Fort-Liberte, Haiti, Thursday, March 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

the damage in the Monte Cristi National Park in north western Dominican Republic.

Wiener’s work has grown in significance over the years in large part because of charcoal vendors in Haiti who hack down trees for cooking fuel and, more recently, wade into the country’s mangroves, the tropical vegetation that is a natural barrier against the Caribbean’s increasingly destructive hurricanes. With ocean storms becoming more severe, Haiti’s coastline and its biodiversity are becoming even more vulnerable.

It was the first trip for

Wiener, leader of Foundation for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity, since November 2021, his absence largely attributed to the violent gangs that have engulfed the Haitian capital in recent years and reached parts of the countryside. Nominally present already and undermined further with the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise in the bedroom of his home, the government has done little to wrest control from the brazen gangs.

For years, Wiener used to visit Haiti every month or so, but now restricts his trips to only a few times a year while being compelled

to work remotely and delegate more responsibility to staff members dispersed throughout the country. Haiti is just too dangerous otherwise. So when he does come, as he did for three weeks in March, he hopscoches the country via puddle-jumper plane; travel by road is too perilous, with major thoroughfares blocked by gangs fond of extortion. Many passengers hide in their cars by lying on the backseat.

It’s a conundrum that bedevils Jean and others like him around the world. As climate change plays a greater role in contrib-

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uting to conflicts, that in turns makes it more difficult to carry out scientific research and work on environmental projects that seek to offset the effects of climate change. The environmental group Global Witness released a report last year noting that 2020 saw a record number of environmental activists killed around the world; the death toll of 227 was the highest number recorded for a second consecutive year, with Colombia having the highest number of recorded attacks, with 65, and Mexico second, with 30.

“The extent to which failed states make it difficult for scientists and the international scientific community to work on these issues simply means it will be more difficult to solve these problems,” said Peter Gleick, president emeritus and a senior fellow with the Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based research group that focuses on water issues around the world.

Said Jessica Olcott Yllemo, senior fellow for climate security at the American Security Project, a nonpartisan group in Washington, D.C.: “If the temperatures continue to rise and you don’t have basic functions because you don’t have a functioning government, climate sort of just exacerbates all of those different threats and hazards.”

In several reports re-



A fisherman pulls his net back onto his boat in the waters surrounding Cap-Haitien, Haiti, Friday, March 11, 2022. A prize winning marine biologist is working to bring together fishermen from Haiti and the Dominican Republic and find a solution that will not only save their livelihoods but also vital marine resources in a region under extreme pressures from climate change. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

leased in October, the U.S. signalled that climate change would occupy a central role in security strategy, a policy shift that underscores how climatic changes are exacerbating long-standing problems. One of the studies identified 11 countries that were of “greatest concern,” because they were especially vulnerable to climate change and unable to deal with the attendant problems. Haiti was among them.

The Caribbean nation has the highest travel advisory—“Level 4: Do Not Travel”—from the U.S. State Department due to kidnapping, crime and civil unrest. Kidnapping, the State Department says, “is widespread and victims

regularly include U.S. citizens.” In a March newsletter, the U.S. Embassy offered U.S. citizens in Haiti a tip sheet on ways to avoid being kidnapped.

The kidnappings have persisted for years, rising significantly after the 2017 departure of a U.N. peacekeeping mission. In October, 16 U.S. citizens, including five children, and one Canadian, were part of a group of missionaries who were abducted by the dreaded 400 Mawozo gang and held for ransom for two months. An untold number of Haitian Americans have also been kidnapped.

This past week, north of the Port-au-Prince capital, fighting between 400 Mawozo and a rival gang led to the displacement of

thousands of people and the killing of at least 20, including six children. Officials warned that the main roads leading to Haiti’s northern region could be cut off as a result of the fighting, as has already happened to a thoroughfare heading south.

The March meeting Wiener set up was held at the beach of an estuary meant to be easy to reach for both parties, just a few steps on the Dominican side of the border. It was a Thursday morning, and a white mangrove provided shade to Wiener, the fishermen and their associations, a few environmental officials from the two countries and the Dominican naval officers. On the shore

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Environment



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behind them stood a string of wooden posts used to hold seines for catching eels.

A big part of the two sides' discussion was over the exact location of the border above Hispaniola, the name of the island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

"The marine border is not completely north, it is northwest," Cmdr. Irving Cabrera, of the Dominican Navy, said in the meeting.

The meeting took place at the mouth of a river with a name that harkens back to a bloody episode on the island of Hispaniola: The Massacre River, also the Dajabón River.

Though named for an earlier massacre, it's mostly known for when Dominican soldiers, under the orders of dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1937, executed thousands of Haitian families and Dominicans of Haitian descent. The weapon of choice was a machete.

"I don't think it was lost on either side of the border," said Frederick Payton, of AgroFrontera, the Dominican environmental group that worked with Wiener to organize the March meeting. Payton also helped lead the meeting. "The Río Massacre kind of represents both the tension and the integration of the economies in the border region."

The antipathy toward Haitians persists today, not least with Dominican President Luis Abinader's newly launched plan to build a multimillion-dollar, 118-mile (190-kilometer) wall along the border. Construction has already begun.

Bereft of the usual tension, let alone animosity, the beach meeting lasted a few hours, with both sides able to voice their concerns as Payton and Wiener served as peacekeepers of sorts in the absence of a strong border state. Both stressed the importance of seeking solutions instead of dwelling

on problems.

"We were trying to frame the meeting not just as a session to complain and to point fingers, but to try to look for some possible solutions that will take time," Payton said. "But will give each side hope and expectation that something will be done in the future."

Out of the meeting came the idea of creating a boat registration and a licensing for fisheries so Haitian and Dominican authorities know who is in the water and where they're going.

Perhaps Wiener's biggest achievement has been creating Haiti's first protected marine areas, including the Three Bays National Park known for its mangrove forests, coral reefs and seagrass beds, but he concedes that his work has become more difficult working remotely. Josué Celiscar, field operations director for Wiener's foundation and a graduate student in agronomy, says the same, noting the inevitable delays that accompany projects.

"When you are the director, when you are present, you are executing the project," Celiscar said. "When you aren't there, you're left with the assistant. It's not going to be the same thing."

In recent years, Wiener has seen the brother of his assistant director kidnapped and later released and spends considerable time making sure his staff is safe.

Born in Haiti, Wiener and his family fled the Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier regime when he was six months old for Queens, New York. He went back to Haiti at six while Duvalier's son and successor, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc," was in power and left again for college, studying biology at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. Haiti came calling once more, and Wiener returned at 23 and, in 1992 started his foundation. Now 57, Wiener is a married father of two

children, a boy and a girl.

In the end, the March trip to Haiti proved fortuitously uneventful—though danger wasn't far away.

When Wiener visited the southwestern part of the country, in the coastal town of Les Cayes, his driver got wind of protesters' plans to storm the local airport. The attack didn't happen until after Wiener flew out, a few days later: People ran onto the tarmac and torched a small plane owned by a U.S. missionary group. One person died and five others were injured, including four police officers, according to a police official working at the airport.

One day during his recent visit to northern Haiti, Wiener brought to the beach a group that included game wardens and university students with an interest in the environment. The idea was to get them in the water, make them feel comfortable and learn the basics of snorkelling.

Standing on the sand, Wiener gave a brief lesson on how to use a snorkel, explaining how to expel water from the breathing device. Minutes later they waded into the surf. A pufferfish floated toward them.

One man picked up the blowfish and studied it. Wiener told him to put the fish back in the water, which he did. Inflated like a ball as it bobbed supine, the puffer looked as if it were playing dead.

Wiener sloshed knee-high through the shore's lucent water, and gently picked up the prickly fish with both hands. He then walked a few steps out, toward the northern horizon, and sent the pufferfish into the ocean.

"We really know that there's a part, you know, where you can be in a classroom," Wiener said later from the hotel, where a few security guards patrolled the grounds with rifles. "But it is critically important that people actually get out and touch and see and feel the environment."



Nearly 193 million people in 53 countries faced acute food insecurity in 2021, a jump of 40 million compared with 2020.

UN: Record number of people without enough to eat in 2021

The United Nations said Wednesday that the number of people without enough to eat on a daily basis reached all-time high last year and is poised to hit “appalling” new levels as the Ukraine war affects global food production.

Almost 193 million people in 53 countries suffered acute food insecurity in 2021 due to what the U.N. said was a “toxic triple combination” of conflict, weather extremes and the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The U.N. said the total number of people without adequate food every day increased by 40 million last year, confirming a “worrisome trend” of annual in-

creases over several years.

The figures appeared in the Global Report on Food Crisis, which is produced jointly by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Program and the European Union.

Countries experiencing protracted conflicts, including Afghanistan, Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, had the most food-insecure populations, according to the report.

The report forecasts that Somalia will face one of the world’s worst food crises in 2022 due to prolonged drought, increasing food prices and persistent violence. The various factors could lead 6 million Soma-

lis into acute food crisis, the U.N. said.

“Today, if more is not done to support rural communities, the scale of the devastation in terms of hunger and lost livelihoods will be appalling,” the U.N. said. “Urgent humanitarian action is needed on a massive scale to prevent that from happening.”

The war in Ukraine poses further risks for Somalia and many other African countries that depend on Ukraine and Russia for wheat, fertilizer and other food supplies.

The United Nations previously said the war was helping to send prices for commodities such as grains and vegetable oils to record

highs, threatening millions with hunger and malnourishment.

“When we look at the consequences of what’s happening as a result of the war in Ukraine, there is real cause for concern of how this will amplify the acute food needs that exist in these food crisis countries,” said Rein Paulsen, director of the Food and Agriculture Organization’s office of emergencies and resilience.

The report called for greater investment in agriculture and appealed for \$1.5 billion to help farmers in at-risk regions with the upcoming planting season to help stabilize and increase local food production. (AP)

Regional News



Man dies, four hurt in Bermuda apartment block explosion

CMC – In Bermuda, a man died, and four others injured after an explosion, believed to be caused by a gas leak, ripped through an apartment block in Southampton parish on Monday night, police said.

The man, a well-known member of a local business and prominent church member, has not yet been identified.

Other residents reported narrowly escaping from the explosion, which was felt miles away.

One person reported on social media that their 82-year-old father was recovering after leaping from a window to avoid the blast.

Detective Chief Inspector Arthur Glasford said although it was early in the investigation, it appeared the explosion was caused by a gas leak.



Allan Doughty, who lives nearby, said he was playing the guitar on his porch when he heard a “huge boom,” which shook the ground and rattled the windows.

He went to the scene where he met a neighbour who told him she had pulled two people from the rubble.

In all, five people were taken to hospital.

Crystal Caesar, the ruling Progressive Labour Party MP for Southampton West Central, who visited the scene to support her constituents, said most of the occupants of the block were seniors.

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CARICOM “deeply concerned” at British moves to directly control affairs in BVI

CMC – The Caribbean Community, CARICOM, says it is “deeply concerned” at the recommendations by a one-man Commission of Inquiry that called for the British Virgin Islands (BVI) government to cease to exist in its current format for at least two years.

In a statement, CARICOM said it has taken “note of the release on April 29, 2022, of the Report of the British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry (COI) with its far-reaching recommendations” adding that the BVI, a British Overseas Territory, has been an Associate Member of the grouping since July 1991.

“CARICOM supports the decision of the duly elected Government of the BVI to welcome the recommendations for improving governance and their commitment to work with the United Kingdom to address the weaknesses identified in the COI report.

“CARICOM agrees that the people of BVI and their duly elected representatives have the responsibility to ensure good governance with full transparency and accountability and should work together to achieve mutually acceptable solutions to address the concerns highlighted in the COI report,” it added.

Last Friday, Governor John Rankin said the Commissioner, Sir Gary Hickinbottom, had recommended “a return to Ministerial Government and an elected House of Assembly as soon as practicable, with the Governor taking regular advice from the Advisory Council and others on the earliest practicable date on which such government can resume”, following the arrest of Premier Andrew Fahie

“Secondly, the Commissioner rec-



ommends an early and speedy review of the Constitution with the purpose of ensuring that abuses of the type he has identified do not recur.”

The governor said the COI made 45 specific recommendations on how to address each of the areas of concern that the report identifies.

On Monday, people in the BVI took to the streets outside the governor’s official residence protesting against the recommendations. Their actions coincided with planned meetings involving UK Overseas Territories Minister, Amanda Milling, with local stakeholders on the COI report.

“We come here today because we are serious and we are determined you will not suspend our Constitution... we are not going back to 1949,” said Bishop John Cline, who had organized the protest, adding “the fight is about our homes, our legacy, the fight is about our political progress, the fight is about our future.

CARICOM said it is “deeply concerned by the Report’s recommendation to suspend “those parts of the Constitution by which areas of gov-

ernment are assigned to elected representatives” and taking the retrograde step of restoring direct rule by the Governor in Council as existed in Her Majesty’s colonies during the colonial period.

“CARICOM supports the BVI government and people in their objection to this recommendation,” it said, adding that the “imposition of direct rule, and the history of such imposition in the Caribbean, was never intended to deliver democratic governance or to be an instrument of economic and social development of our countries and peoples.

“CARICOM believes that any action to suspend the House of Assembly in the BVI and impose direct rule from London would be inconsistent with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“Accordingly, CARICOM reminds the United Kingdom of its international obligations in respect of United Nations Resolution 1514 of 1960 – the United Nations Declaration on The Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.”

Regional News



T&T: Reports of abuse at children's homes leaves Minister heartbroken

CMC – Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs, Ayan-na Webster-Roy, says she is “heartbroken” after an independent investigation into children’s homes found a number of irregularities.

The report by a cabinet-appointed team chaired by retired Appeal Court judge, Judith Jones, found that among the irregularities were children at some of these residences being subjected to secret trips with unapproved adults; transactions involving narcotics for sex; gang rape initiations; and former residents living at the homes of staff members.

The report was laid in the Parliament last Friday and in a statement, Web-



Ayan-na Webster-Roy

ster-Roy said” as a mother, I am heartbroken that abuses were reported in facilities vested with the charge to care and protect the nation’s children.

“I remain resolute in my quest to ensure that this matter is addressed with urgency,” she said.

According to the Jones report, the existing legis-

lation facilitates the unequal treatment of children in community residences; and also found an unwillingness to enforce licensing requirements for children’s homes.

Among the recommendations advanced to ensure the safety of the children and to combat child abuse in children’s facilities, it listed the urgent organisational redesign of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago to improve service delivery as the first pillar on the list.

The other recommendations include the ongoing development of clear and measurable standards for all persons interacting with children in executing the National Child Protection Strategy; the standardisation of critical reports among community resi-

dences; the maintenance of caregiver to child ratio at community residences and child support centres; the training of security personnel in treating with children in Residential Care; and the establishment of a Children’s Commissioner.

It recommended that the power to issue, suspend and revoke licences, currently the responsibility of the Children’s Authority, be placed with the Children’s Commissioner who will report directly to Parliament.

The Task Force is scheduled to hold its inaugural meeting on May 4, to commence the development of the work plan, with a timeframe of six weeks from the date of commencement of the meeting to submit the completed plan to the Cabinet.

Kidnapped Dominican diplomat freed in Haiti

AP – A diplomat from the Dominican Republic had been freed four days after being kidnapped in neighbouring Haiti, the Dominican foreign minister said Wednesday.

The minister, Roberto Alvarez, said in a tweet that Carlitin Guillen Tatis had been released “safe and sound,” though he did not give further details.

The Dominican government had said in a weekend statement that Guillén Tatis, the agriculture counselor 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 Haitian capital’s Croix-des-Bouquets district — 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.

In what may have been an unrelated development, Haiti’s National Police announced that one of the top leaders of the 400 Mawozo gang, Ger-



Dominican diplomat, Carlitin Guillen Tatis, was released four days after being taken hostage

mine Joly, was extradited to the United States on Tuesday aboard an FBI plane. It said he faces U.S. charges involving smuggling, import of weapons of war and kidnapping.

Russia pounds Ukraine, targeting supply of Western arms

AP — Complaining that the West is “stuffing Ukraine with weapons,” Russia pounded railroad stations and other supply-line points across the country, as the European Union moved to further punish Moscow for the war Wednesday by proposing a ban on oil imports, a crucial source of revenue.

Heavy fighting also raged at the Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol that represented the last pocket of Ukrainian resistance in the ruined southern port city, according to the mayor. But a Russian official denied Moscow’s troops were storming the plant, as Ukrainian commanders claimed a day earlier.

The Russian military said Wednesday it used sea- and air-launched missiles to destroy electric power facilities at five railway stations across Ukraine, while artillery and aircraft also struck troop strongholds and fuel and ammunition depots.

The flurry of attacks comes as Russia prepares to celebrate Victory Day on May 9, marking the Soviet Union’s defeat of Nazi Germany. The world is watching for whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will use the occasion to declare a victory or expand what he calls a “special military operation.”

A declaration of all-out war would allow Putin to



People pay their respects during the funeral ceremony for Ukrainian serviceman Ruslan Borovyk killed by the Russian troops in a battle in St Michael cathedral in Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, May 4, 2022. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

introduce martial law and mobilize reservists to make up for significant troop losses.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the speculation as “non-sense.”

As areas across Ukraine came under renewed attack, Belarus, which Russia used as a staging ground for its invasion, announced military exercises starting Wednesday. A top Ukrainian official said the country will be ready to act

if Belarus joins the fighting.

The attacks on rail infrastructure were meant to disrupt the delivery of Western weapons, Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the West is “stuffing Ukraine with weapons.”

Western weaponry pouring into Ukraine helped its forces thwart Russia’s initial drive to seize Kyiv and seems certain to play a central role in the grow-

ing battle for the Donbas, the eastern industrial region that Moscow now says is its main objective.

Ukraine has urged the West to ramp up the supply of weapons ahead of that potentially decisive clash. Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, which had been slow at first to help arm Ukraine, said his government is considering supplying howitzers, in addition to Gepard anti-aircraft guns and other equipment it has agreed to send.

Trudeau vows to defend abortion rights after U.S. Supreme Court move

Reuters — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vowed to defend abortion rights as the decades-old battle over the issue exploded anew this week in Canada's southern neighbour, with the U.S. Supreme Court apparently set to overturn the decades-old ruling that legalized the procedure nationwide.

"A woman's free choice is a choice to be made by her alone. Every woman in Canada has the right to a legal and safe abortion," Trudeau told reporters before a meeting of Liberal lawmakers in Ottawa on Wednesday.

A draft U.S. Supreme Court decision, leaked late on Monday, showed a majority of justices prepared



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada May 2, 2022. REUTERS/Blair Gable/File Photo

to overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that protects abortion rights. The court on Tuesday confirmed the authenticity of the leaked document.

"We know that unfortunately, what we're seeing with our neighbours in the south and even in debates within the Conservative Party of Canada, that we need to ensure that there are protections in place so that we never see people backtracking on that right," Trudeau said.

He added that Canada

will consider legal options if such rights are at risk of violation in the country.

"We have asked the ministers to take a look at this (review of the legal framework) very quickly and we'll see what the timeline is for that," Trudeau said.

Canada's Supreme Court decriminalized abortion in a historic 1988 ruling. Ostensibly, since then, abortion has been a medical procedure like any other. But barriers to access persist, especially for people living outside urban areas.

Canada's top court is unlikely to re-criminalize abortion any time soon. But if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, that

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At least 20 killed in Uganda bus accident, police say

AP — Ugandan police say 20 people have been killed after a passenger bus crashed into a tea estate off a highway in western Uganda.

Police said at least seven of the victims in the Wednesday morning accident are minors.

There was no immediate information on what caused the accident, among the deadliest in Uganda in recent years.

The bus was traveling from the city of Fort Portal to the Ugandan capital, Kampala.

Photos from the scene shared on social media showed responders trying to rescue survivors from the mangled wreckage.



Deadly motor accidents are frequent in Uganda, where roads and highways are narrow and often lit-

tered with potholes. Head-on collisions involving heavy vehicles are common.

North Korea fires ballistic missile amid rising animosities

AP — North Korea launched a ballistic missile toward its eastern waters on Wednesday, South Korean and Japanese officials said, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to speed up the development of his nuclear weapons “at the fastest possible pace” and threatened to use them against rivals.

The launch, the North’s 14th round of weapons firing this year, also came six days before a new conservative South Korean president takes office for a single five-year term.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missile was fired from the North’s capital region and flew to the waters off its eastern coast. It called North Korea’s repeated ballistic missile launches “a grave threat” that would undermine international peace and security and a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions banning any ballistic launch by the North.

The statement said that Won In-Choul, the South Korean JCS chief, held a video conference about the



People watch a TV screen showing a news program reporting about North Korea's missile launch with file footage, at a train station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, May 4, 2022. North Korea has launched a ballistic missile toward its eastern waters on Wednesday, South Korean and Japanese officials said, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to bolster his nuclear arsenal “at the fastest possible pace” and threatened to use them against rivals. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

launch with Gen. Paul LaCamera, an American general who heads the South Korea-U.S. combined forces command in Seoul, and they agreed to maintain a solid joint defence posture.

Japan also detected the North Korean launch and quickly condemned it.

“North Korea’s series of actions that threatens the peace, safety and stability

of the international community are impermissible,” Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters during his visit to Rome.

Kishida said he’ll discuss the launch when he meets Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi later Wednesday. “Naturally, we will exchange views on the regional situation in the Indo-Pacific and East Asia, and I will thoroughly explain the reality of the region including the North Korean missile launch today, to gain understanding about the pressing situation in the East Asia,” he said.

Japanese Vice Defence

Minister Makoto Oniki said that the missile was believed to have landed in waters outside of the Japanese Exclusive Economic Zone. There has been no report of damage or injury reported from vessels and aircraft in the area.

It wasn’t immediately known what missile North Korea launched. South Korea’s military said the missile flew about 470 kilometres (290 miles) at the apogee of 780 kilometres (485 miles), while Oniki of Japan said it travelled about 500 kilometres (310 miles) at the maximum altitude of 800 kilometres (500 miles).

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could embolden anti-abortion movements and galvanize pro-choice activists, Canadian observers and advocates on both sides of the divisive issue noted.

U.S. President Joe Biden appealed to voters on Tuesday to protect abortion rights by backing candidates who support them in November’s mid-term elections.

Sports News



Ismael Borrero: Cuba's Olympic wrestling champion defects

BBC – Wrestling star Ismael Borrero has become the latest Cuban athlete to defect.

Borrero, who won gold in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, abandoned the Cuban delegation while they were in Mexico for the Pan-American Wrestling Championships, a Cuban official said.

Cuban athletes have a long history of defecting while competing abroad.

The Cuban Institute of Sport said his defection was “a serious indiscipline within the Cuban sports system”.

His current whereabouts are not known.

The 30-year-old athlete is one of Cuba's top Greco-Roman wrestlers, winning the world championship in

2015 and then again in 2019 - the same year Cubans elected him sports personality of the year.

The Cuban delegation had hoped that Borrero would shine at the championships in Acapulco, Mexico, after a disappointing performance at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, where he lost his second bout after twice contracting Covid.

While defections of Cuban athletes are nothing new, recent months have seen a string of them - coinciding with an economic crisis on the Communist-run island.

In March, sailors Iris Laura Manso and Carlos Miguel Expósito fled to the United States, while long jumper Lester Lescay abandoned his delegation during a competition in Spain.

In July of last year, thousands



Ismael Borrero won the Men's Greco-Roman 59kg competition at the Rio Olympics

of Cubans demonstrated across the island to voice anger over food and medicine shortages, price increases and the government's handling of the Covid pandemic.

The government cracked down hard in response, arresting hundreds of people and charging them with crimes including sedition, vandalism, theft and public disorder.

Sir Jim Ratcliffe 'not giving up' on buying Chelsea

BBC – Billionaire Sir Jim Ratcliffe says he is “not giving up” on taking over Chelsea despite “disappointing communication” over his £4.25bn offer.

Ratcliffe, the majority shareholder of chemical group Ineos, made the late bid for the Premier League club on Friday.

Earlier on Wednesday, Ineos director Tom Crotty said the offer had been rejected by the firm handling the sale.

But, speaking to BBC sports editor Dan Roan, Ratcliffe said: “Consideration should be given to a British bid.”

A consortium led by LA Dodgers owner Todd Boehly is understood to be the preferred bidder for Chelsea.

American investment firm Raine has been tasked with selling Chelsea and the UK government is expected to issue a new licence, allowing the club to be sold, once a preferred buyer has been highlighted.

Ratcliffe said his group had held “positive talks” with the UK government, but has not spoken to current Blues owner Roman Abramovich.

Abramovich announced
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LITAP EIGHTEEN

Trying to recover, Djokovic and Murray faceoff in Madrid

AP – Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray are set for a showdown at the Madrid Open on Thursday, with the winner securing a spot in the quarterfinals and taking another step toward recovery.

Djokovic and Murray are far apart in the rankings, but both have been going through similar times, trying to regain their best form after lacklustre starts to the season.

The top-ranked Djokovic is playing in only his fourth tournament after not being allowed to participate in the Australian Open because of his vaccination status.

The 78th-ranked Murray, trying to make a run back to the top, is looking to win three matches in a row for the first time since January.



Andy Murray, of Britain, returns the ball against Denis Shapovalov, of Canada, during their match at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, May 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

They haven't faced each other since Djokovic won at the Doha final of 2017.

"We've had so many great battles over the years in some of the biggest tournaments in the world," Murray said. "We played in the

final I think of all four Grand Slams, we played here in the final, and I haven't had that opportunity to play against him for a long time."

Djokovic defeated Murray in three sets in the Madrid final in 2016. The Serb

has 25 wins and 11 losses against the Briton.

"In theory I should have no chance," the 34-year-old Murray said. "He's obviously No. 1 in the world, I'm playing with a metal hip. It's a great opportunity for me to see where my game's at and to play against him again."

Murray, who was last ranked No. 1 in 2017, had hip surgeries in 2018 and 2019 and dropped to No. 839. He only returned to the top 100 in February.

"Didn't know if I ever would get that chance, so I'll enjoy it," said Murray, who hadn't played on clay in nearly two years. "I'll have a fantastic attitude in the match, give it my best and see where I'm at."

Djokovic has praised Murray in his comeback attempt.

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on 2 March he was planning to sell the club, shortly before he was sanctioned by the UK government in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Russian billionaire is understood to have strong ties to Russian president Vladimir Putin and his assets, including Chelsea, were frozen.

Ratcliffe, whose company bought the Team Sky cycling franchise in 2019 and runs French football team Nice, has pledged to invest £1.75bn into the club over 10 years.

But the offer arrived on Friday morning, weeks beyond the initial deadline for bids of 18 March.



Ratcliffe's Ineos bought the Team Sky cycling franchise in 2019, owns a third of F1 team Mercedes and runs French football team Nice [Getty Images]

Liberta, Bethesda advance to semis of T20 Explosion

Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles have joined cup holders PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks as Group 1 qualifiers in the semifinals of the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion competition.

Despite suffering a 56-run defeat against Group 1 winners Liberta in their final preliminary round match at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Tuesday evening, Bethesda advanced to the semis by finishing as runners-up in their zone, by virtue of a better net run rate than the other contenders, Pigotts Crushers and New Winthorpes Lions.

West Indies allrounder, Rahkeem “Jimbo” Cornwall, slammed a half century, as the unbeaten Liberta Black Hawks romped to a third emphatic victory in this year’s competition, completing a clean sweep by winning their three preliminary group matches.

Cornwall, who was later named Man of the Match, hammered 58 off 34 balls, including 6 towering sixes and 2 fours to propel Liberta to 155 for 7 off their allotted 20 overs, after the



Liberta Black Hawks allrounder Rahkeem Cornwall, left, accepts his Man of the Match award from APUA Inet's Trevaughn 'Lyrics Man' Weston at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on 3rd May, 2022.

Black Hawks won the toss and opted to bat.

Cornwall shared a match winning 65-run fifth wicket partnership with fellow West Indies player Hayden Walsh Jr., who made 13 off 16 balls,

after Liberta were struggling at 69 for 4.

Captain Kofi James, and fellow opener Uri Smith, each contributed 20 at the top of the Liberta batting order.

Veteran leg-spinner, Anthony “I Roots” Martin, captured 2 for 22 in his 4 overs and pacer Timmo Thomas claimed 2 for 28 in his 3 overs.

In reply, Bethesda never offered a realistic challenge in chasing their 156-run victory target and were eventually restricted to 99 for 9 off of their 20 overs.

Martin, who made a top score of 19 off 8 balls, was one of five Bethesda batsmen to reach double figures, however, neither he nor his teammates made it to the twenties.

James captured 2 for 11 in 3 overs, leg-spinner Walsh picked up 2 for 20 in his 4 overs and overseas guest player Chammiqueko Landefort claimed 2

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PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks celebrate after dismissing a CUB Bethesda Golden Eagles batsman during their match in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion competition at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on 3rd May, 2022. (Photos: Vaughn Joseph)

Goal! Maradona's 'Hand of God' shirt sets auction record

AP – The shirt worn by Diego Maradona when he scored the controversial “Hand of God” goal against England in the 1986 World Cup has sold for 7.1 million pounds (\$9.3 million), the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of sports memorabilia.

Auctioneer Sotheby's sold the shirt in an online auction that closed Wednesday. It did not identify the buyer.

Maradona scored two goals during the quarter-final game in Mexico City on June 22, 1986, just four years after Britain and Argentina had fought a war over the Falkland Islands. The Argentine great's first goal was ruled a header, but the ball had bounced off Maradona's fist, out of sight of the referee.

Maradona said afterward that it had been scored “a little with the head of Maradona, and a little with the hand of God.”

Maradona's second goal saw him dribble the



The Argentina football shirt worn by Diego Maradona in the 1986 Mexico World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between Argentina and England, is displayed for photographs at Sotheby's auction house, in London, Wednesday, April 20, 2022. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, File)

ball past almost the entire English team before beating goalkeeper Peter Shilton. In 2002, it was voted “goal of the century” in a FIFA poll.

Argentina won the game 2-1 and went on to win the World Cup.

After the game Maradona swapped shirts with England midfielder Steve Hodge, who loaned it long-term to England's National

Football Museum in Manchester before putting it up for sale.

Maradona, considered by many to be the greatest player of all time, struggled with cocaine abuse and other excesses and died in November 2020 at age 60.

After Sotheby's announced the coming sale last month, relatives of Maradona expressed doubt the blue No. 10 jersey was

the shirt the soccer star had worn in the second half of the game, when he scored both goals.

The auction house said the shirt's identity was confirmed by sports memorabilia photo-matching firm Resolution Photomatching and confirmed by Sotheby's chief science officer.

Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of streetwear and modern collectables, said the shirt was “a tangible reminder of an important moment not only in the history of sports, but in the history of the 20th century.”

The previous record for sports memorabilia was \$8.8 million paid at a December 2019 auction for the manifesto that launched the modern Olympic movement. The previous record for a piece of sportswear was \$5.64 million for a Babe Ruth New York Yankees jersey in 2019.

The sale prices include an auction house charge known as the buyer's premium.

cont'd from pg 22

for 22 in his 2 overs.

New Winthorpes Lions recorded their only win of the competition when they pulled off a four-wicket victory over neighbours Pigotts Crushers in the first encounter on Tuesday.

Set 175 to win, New Winthorpes made 178 for 6 in 18 overs, with opener Amir Jangoo smashing a top score of 39 from 21 balls, including 9 fours.

Captain Nino Henry struck 30 from 15 balls with 3 sixes and a four and opener Jermaine Otto hit 29 off 21 balls, including 3 fours and a six.

Bartlette Henry chipped in with 28 off 20 balls and Michael Palmer contributed an unbeaten 20 from 14 deliveries. Mikyle Louie captured 3 for 16 in 2.1 overs.

Earlier, Pigotts, who were sent in to bat, were restricted to 174 for 5 off

their allotted 20 overs, with Gershum Phillip hitting 42 not out off 19 balls, including 3 sixes and 2 fours, and Jadan Jones scoring 36 off 20 deliveries with 3 sixes and 2 fours.

Austin Richards Jr. chipped in with 26 off 25 balls, and captain Elroy Francis Jr. who opened the innings, made 22 off 23 balls.

Medium pacer Samuel Peters picked up 2 for 31 in his four overs.

Sports News



AGS and Clare Hall to clash in schools' cricket final

Unbeaten Antigua Grammar School (AGS) and Clare Hall Secondary will clash in the final of the Ministry of Sports Schools' Cricket Competition at Rising Sun playing field today.

Both teams booked their place in the final by recording victories in the semi-finals on Tuesday.

Jewel Andrew slammed his fourth century in the competition as Antigua Grammar kept their 100 percent unbeaten record intact by securing an emphatic 156-run victory against Ottos Comprehensive School at the Rising Sun playing field.

Andrew hammered 101, while Shamar Pereira struck



Antigua Grammar School batsman, Jewel Andrew. (File photo)

54 not out to power Antigua Grammar to 205 for 3 in their innings.

Xaveek Toppin picked up 1 for 32 in his 4 overs and Nayon Knights claimed one for 38 in his 4 overs.

Xavin Petersen then

grabbed 4 wickets for 13 runs in 4 overs, as Ottos Comprehensive School were bowled out for just 49, with Toppin getting 25.

Matthew Miller captured 2 wickets for 7 runs in his 3 overs. Pereira picked

up 2 wickets for 11 runs in his 4 overs.

However, it was much closer in the other semi-final as Clare Hall snatched a four-run victory over All Saints Secondary in their encounter at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

In a very low-scoring affair, Clare Hall batted first and made 62 all out with Brent Joseph capturing 6 wickets for 17 runs in 4 overs.

In reply, All Saints fell 5 runs short of their victory target as they crashed to 58 all out. D Yaw snapped up 4 wickets for 6 runs in 3 overs. Kimberly Anthony picked up 2 wickets for 13 runs in 3 overs.

Eastsiders record double success in netball contests

Drahz Eastsiders recorded two wins in the Kess Imports Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Community and Village League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Tuesday night.

Goal shoot, Esther Emmanuel, converted 27 of her 40 attempts to lead Eastsiders to a lopsided 35-6 triumph over Willikies Rangers in the lone female division affair of the night. Goal attack Simone Parks also scored eight of her 10 shots for the victors.

Drahz Eastsiders then secured an easy 26-4 victory against Ovals Flyballers Black Eagles in the first of two mixed division encounters.

Mikilah Willis netted 14 of her 27 attempts and Carl Kirby scored 12 of his 21 shots for Eastsiders.

Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets kept their unbeaten record intact with a comfortable 27-10 victory over John Hughes Flyers in the other encounter.

Akiel Hazelwood netted 24 from 34 tries for Ovals



Drahz Eastsiders goal shoot Esther Emmanuel, second from right, attempts to shoot during her team's village and community league encounter against Willikies Rangers at the YMCA Sports Complex on 3 May, 2022.

Red Rockets, while Jamilla Fitz scored six of her nine attempts for John Hughes Flyers.

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of Sports where he was the head of the sports department.

"I am glad that we did this meet in his honour. He always had an interest in helping the young people in athletics. I can remember in the early 1970s when I tried to put on a meet in the Antigua Recreation Grounds, I went to him at the Ministry of Sports and I said to him... I am going to need some help in putting on this meet, and he turned every stone that he probably could to make sure that I had a successful meet.

"I think it was one of the best meets that we have ever had at the recreation grounds and he was instru-

mental behind that."

Cornelius added that the meet has also played a useful role in providing an avenue in which young athletes can be meaningfully engaged.

"As for the athletes, I think it is a great opportunity for the athletes. After the CARIFTA Games, and coming into the Labour Day weekend, to have some activities going on for the athletes and invite our friends from the various territories."

This year, the TC Immortals of Nevis and Full Stride Track Club of Anguilla participated in the track meet and Cornelius said he believes there are opportunities to expand the event in the future.



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, right, congratulates an athlete while presenting medals during the 9th Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic at the YASCO Sports Complex on 30th April, 2022.

"We normally get people coming over from Tortola, but because we are hamstrung now with the flights, moving around the Caribbean becomes a challenge. Hence, that is the reason why Tortola was not here.

"Nevis managed to make it down and also Anguilla managed to send a club team," Cornelius said.

"It is something that we know we can build on and we want to continue to do that as the years progress to make sure that we can have a bigger and better meet.

"I hope that (Antigua and Barbuda) being a part of NACAC (North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Associations) that we can make this

a meet that is recognised by NACAC, whereby we can probably take it to a different level.

"We can do it over a two-day period where we can bring in bigger, senior athletes to participate in this event.

"It is always a pleasure to find competition for the young people. It is always a pleasure for me to keep them active, keep them engaged and I think track and field can do that for the younger ones.

"I just want us to keep on doing what we are doing to make sure that we engage our young people here in Antigua so that they can go out to represent us at the highest level."



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

For the upcoming ABDRA year, we are seeking support on the following teams:

- **Scrutineering**
- **Track & Grounds Maintenance**
- **Timing Tower Operation**
- **Event Staff**
- **Marketing and Public Relations**

Sign up as a member as the Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association.

For more information email: 268abdra@gmail.com

 Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association  268abdra

Governor General commends Wings club for honouring Sir Reginald

Antigua and Barbuda's Governor General Sir Rodney Williams has commended the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Associations (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club for honouring Sir Reginald Samuel.

Since 2009, the Wings Sports Club has recognised Sir Reginald's contribution to Antigua and Barbuda's development by hosting its premier track and field championships in his honour.

Sir Rodney, who presented medals to the competition's outstanding performers last Saturday, said he was honoured to be part of the event.

Governor General Williams, past president of the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA) and former president of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee, applauded Wings Sports Club for providing the opportunity for young athletes to develop their talent.

"I am very pleased to be here as a former president of the athletics association and also a former president of the Olympic association and to give a few prizes to the young people, giving them that type of support which

they need to continue the whole athletics trend and to continue the good performances that have been set by the persons who have gone before them," Sir Rodney said.

"So, I want to congratulate Wings Sports Club for organising this meet and I think it is a very good thing and I am very pleased to see the support by the number of persons and the number of athletes who have come out to participate, so congratulations!"

Sir Rodney paid tribute to Sir Reginald, a retired school teacher and designer of the national flag of Antigua and Barbuda.

"It is a great pleasure for me to be here at the Sir Reginald Samuel athletics meet. Mr. Samuel was a very important person at the Antigua Grammar School, a teacher, and he was in charge of sports. And not only that, he developed our national flag, and so he was given the knighthood because of his contribution, not only to sports, but to the nation of Antigua and Barbuda," Sir Rodney said.

"So, it is good to be able to have a meet in his honour so that his name can live on and the young people can



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, left, poses for a photo after presenting medals to some of the top performers in the Under-9 girls' competition (Photo: Wings Sports Club)

appreciate the contribution that he made to nation building."

President of the Wings Sports Club, Everton Cornelius, said he was also happy to be associated with honouring Sir Reginald.

"It is always a pleasure for me to be here whenever the Wings club has the Sir Reginald Samuel Classic. I think I was one of the founders of the Sir Reginald Samuel Classic. When we started, it was myself

and Mr. (Lucaso) Brumant, along with the other committee members, and we felt it was somewhat important to name it after someone," Cornelius said.

"I think the idea was Mr. Brumant, who said, let us use Reg Samuel because we felt the oldest games master that we could put our hands to was Reg Samuel. He started at the Antigua Grammar School, and then he was at the Ministry

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