

# CYCLIST CRITICALLY INJURED

*in Mother's Day crash*

Story on Page 2



Peter's Corr's King 40 Blitz wins the Lord Nelson Trophy at the 53rd Antigua Sailing Week [Photo: Paul Wyeth/ASW] Story on page 8

# Local News



## Cyclist critical following accident

The family of national cyclist, Andre Simon, is pleading for blood donations and prayers on his behalf following an accident on Sunday morning.

Simon, and two other cyclists who were with him, were struck by a Toyota Vitz on Sunday morning on the

Sir George Walter Highway.

The circumstances surrounding the accident are still unclear and, up to press time, the police had not yet issued a statement.

Simon, a former OECS cycling champion, was seriously injured and is warded in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

On the afternoon of the accident, Simon's sister informed the public in a social media post that her brother had been placed in a medically induced coma, adding, "blood is needed urgently, please donate".

The appeal being made is for B+ blood.

The full extent of his in-



Photo Credit: ARA

juries, which included head trauma, was not revealed, but he is confirmed to be in critical condition.

A video which started making rounds on social media after the accident, showed police taking a male, believed to be the

driver of the Vitz, back to the scene of the accident.

Later in the video, police were seen cuffing the man and placing him into the vehicle while an angry cyclist, who is believed to have been with the group, shouted at the driver.



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##### APPLICATIONS

Applications can be submitted via regular mail or emailed to [human.resource@cub.ag](mailto:human.resource@cub.ag). The deadline for application is 13th May, 2022.

## OCS principal wants tougher penalties for violent teens

The Principal of Ottos Comprehensive School is calling for authorities to review the country's laws and introduce harsher penalties for teens who engage in violent behaviour.

Foster Roberts' remarks were prompted by an incident at OCS on Thursday, in which a 16-year-old student of the public institution was stabbed with a pair of scissors by an 18-year-old who also attends the same school.

Over the years, several fights have taken place at Ottos Comprehensive School in which students have violently attacked each other using weapons. Principal Roberts said the problem of violence that is permeating society is increasing in schools, and the situation must be addressed sooner rather than later to prevent far more serious outcomes.

"The situation really needs to be addressed, needs to be arrested, because I fear that one day, we'll be taking a body away from one of our plants if we do not do something immediately," the OCS principal stated.

"One of the first things that we probably need to do is to probably look at the laws and probably give a little bit more flexibility, a little more authority to the police officers, so that per-



*Foster Roberts*

sons can be charged and convicted when they commit these kinds of crimes against another person."

Previously, Mr. Roberts has addressed the need for adequate security at schools that will stop students entering with weapons, a position he maintains.

"I don't think that people are taking school security seriously. School security is a serious matter and having one security on a plant like Ottos Comprehensive School on any given day is certainly not adequate, and that is something that really needs to be addressed," he added.

Principal Roberts has singled out his teachers and Head Boy, Adrian Hazel, for their management of the incident that resulted in no disruption to the school day.

The 16-year-old student, who sustained non-life threatening injuries, was treated at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and discharged.

The 18-year-old was taken into police custody.

The future of the students' education in the public school system now rests with Director of Education, Clare Browne, who will review an incident report submitted by the OCS principal before convening a hearing.

The most severe outcome for both boys could be expulsion, or they could be allowed to return to school on probation.



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# Local News

## PM Browne hopeful talks with US VP will bear fruit

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says he hopes recent talks between United States Vice President Kamala Harris and CARICOM leaders will not turn out to be another “diplomatic exercise.”

“I would say a good first meeting. I hope it is just not one of those diplomatic exercises...some of them just want to say that they engaged the Caribbean (and) year after year you see nothing substantive coming from them.

“I hope Kamala will deliver, and I hope too that there will be a subsequent summit with President Biden,” Browne said.

Noting that the US has an obligation to improve its relations with its Caribbean neighbours, the prime minister continued, “They need to understand that...you could end up with some Caribbean people going to their shores as refugees. So, if you don’t help us to keep them here, then they will come to your shores. I am sure they don’t

want that.

This month, the Joe Biden administration renewed its commitment to the Caribbean, saying that partnership is “key” to “shared prosperity and security.”

In the virtual meeting, the Vice President Harris, who is the daughter of a Jamaica-born economist, said, “As a neighbour in the Western Hemisphere, the United States shares a common bond with the nations of the Caribbean.

“As neighbours, we know our partnership is key to our shared prosperity and security. We also know that we have common challenges.

“And that is why I’ve convened this meeting to strengthen our partnership and chart a path forward together.

“As we all know, our nations have extensive people-to-people ties. Millions of Americans have Caribbean heritage. Millions of Americans travel to the Caribbean each year for va-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, to visit friends and family, and to engage with the richness of that history.”

The meeting focused on three areas, economic recovery, security, and climate and energy, and the White House later said in a statement that the meeting “underscored the importance the Biden-Harris administration places on our partnerships throughout the Caribbean”.




Prime Minister Browne said regional leaders, who included President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader and CARICOM

Secretary General Dr. Carla Barnett, appealed to Washington to assist the region by increasing the supply of fossil fuel, given increasing oil prices on the global market, resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“We have asked for the United States to consider increasing its supply of fossil fuel so that we can increase the supply of fuel and to reduce the price.

“That is a critical requirement at this point in order to curb inflation; otherwise we are going to continue to see an escalation in inflation, which will create significant problems, especially for the poorer countries.

“So, we have asked them to give serious consideration to that, and at the same time use their influence to encourage other countries - Saudi Arabia and so on - to increase their supplies, even Venezuela.”

Mon 09   Day		Mon 09   Night	
<b>84°</b>		<b>77°</b>	
13% ESE 12 mph		21% ESE 10 mph	
A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 84F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly clear skies. Low 77F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity <b>70%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>81%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>5:38 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:29 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>12:39 pm</b>	Moonset <b>1:03 am</b>
		 Waxing Gibbous	

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- 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.
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**Deadline for applications – May 11<sup>th</sup> 2022**

# Local News

## Water conservation the only way to overcome drought, Ambassador Hurst

As the Antigua and Barbuda government works along with Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) to resolve the ongoing water crisis, in large part due to extended drought conditions, Ambassador Lionel “Max” Hurst has added his own appeal for greater water conservation efforts by the public.

According to the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, although efforts are being made to ensure that existing and new reverse osmosis plants are online and functioning by the end of this year, and with plans to increase water output to 24 hours a day by 2023, APUA will continue to struggle to meet the country’s estimated 8 million gallon a day water demand if conservation does not become a way of life.

“Most Antiguan recog-



Ambassador Lionel “Max” Hurst

nise that there is a drought, but there is the expectation that despite drought conditions, they must be able to turn the tap on and get water flowing through that tap. And the question is can we meet that expectation?

“And the answer is that’s precisely the expectation we are trying to fulfil,”

Ambassador Hurst said in

an appearance on Pointe FM on Saturday.

“It is a reasonable expectation, but we also add that we must engage in conservation. In other words, one cannot then take the water that is flowing through the tap, created by reverse osmosis to hose down the car.”

Hurst continued that the

conservation efforts can be relatively simple and suggested practical methods, including repurposing water from laundry and dishwashing for gardening.

“These kinds of practices are going to help. It’s okay to want to have water in the tap 24 hours, but it’s not okay to utilise the water as though it is a cheap substance. It is very expensive to make by reverse osmosis, and we must apply our minds to reducing waste to the extent that it is possible,” he said.

Earlier this year in an appearance on Pointe FM, Prime Minister Gaston Browne indicated that his government expects that water supply will improve by September, following the installation of reverse osmosis plants.

The Fort James plant is  
*cont’d on pg 7*

## Nurses’ Week 2022 activities now underway

Nurses in Antigua and Barbuda are observing Nurses’ Week 2022 with a series of activities planned over the next two weeks.

President of the Association, Soria Dupie-Winston said the annual observance of Nurses’ Week aims at putting into sharp focus the work done by nurses within the healthcare system and to underline their importance in overall healthcare delivery.

This year, Nurses’ Week is being held under the theme: ‘Nurses: Health systems most valuable assets’. This year’s activities run from May 7- 14.

One of the major events of the week is an Awards Banquet planned for 14 May, when the association will recognize and honour those nurses who have given upwards of 20 years of service to the profession.

According to Dupie-Winston, the association will also recognize the work of those who recently retired from the profession.

A special ‘Appreciation Luncheon’ will take place at the Nurses’ Association Building on Queen Elizabeth Highway on Tuesday (10 May).

The importance of the work of

nurses and other health care professionals has been underscored over the past year and two months as the coronavirus pandemic drastically altered the way people in societies live their lives.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda and across the globe, many nurses have made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives trying to save the lives of others stricken with the virus.

As a result, many now view the work of nurses with much gratitude and appreciation. It is against this background that Nurses’ Week 2022 is being celebrated.

## Hartman Holtmann presented with Faithful and Meritorious Award for service to the yachting industry

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, has bestowed a richly deserving honour on one of the most devoted supporters of the country's successful yachting industry.

Hartmut Holtmann recently became the recipient of the Governor General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Medal Award for a 30-year contribution to the development of the yachting sector.

Through various endeavours in the yacht chartering business, Holtmann has almost singlehandedly brought thousands of visitors to Antigua and Barbuda, mainly from Germany and Europe, to enjoy the thrill of sailing around the country's beautiful coastline.

The annual Antigua Sailing Week, which ended on Friday, has been one of the most significant beneficiaries of Holtmann's interest and love for Antigua and Barbuda.

The beginnings were quite humble at best in 1992 when his yacht charter company, KH+P, explored the bold venture of bringing sailing interests to Antigua.

Eight crews were assembled and travelled to Antigua to participate in the 25th edition of Antigua Sailing Week. The numbers grew steadily over the years and quickly ballooned



*Governor General Sir Rodney Williams presents the Faithful and Meritorious Service Medal to Hartmut Holtmann*

to an amazing 40 different crews by the 30th instalment of the annual sailing regatta.

Mr. Holtmann is a familiar face around the Nelson's Dockyard where many of his chartered vessels fill the docks every year. The National Parks Authority therefore takes special delight in congratulating him on the award and for his remarkable contribution to the yachting sector.

"Up to and including ASW 2022, Hartmut has brought more than 550 boats and 3500 sailors to Antiguan shores – just for ASW, and that does not include the Karibik Trophy, a cruising event he organises around the

region, which through the years has also come to Antigua in November," noted the Parks Commissioner Ann Marie Martin.

This does not include the numerous travel writers, journalists and television crews that he has been able to successfully encourage to travel to Antigua to provide coverage of the destination and its stunning yachting conditions.

For all this and more, Martin noted, he is certainly more than deserving of this prestigious award and the sincerest wish that his relationship with Antigua and Barbuda continues to blossom in the years to come.

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now under construction and its equipment is expected to arrive by the end of this month.

When completed, it will supply 500,000 gallons of water daily. This output will

increase to more than one million gallons in the following months.

Last Friday, the Barbados-based Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) warned of long term drought con-

ditions in the region that can "negatively" impact the Eastern Caribbean.

"Many parts of the region experienced above-normal rainfall in March, bringing some relief from dry conditions since

late 2021. Despite this, there are concerns over long term drought that can negatively impact large rivers and reservoirs, and groundwater, by the end of May," CIMH said in its most recent Caribbean Drought Bulletin.

## Antigua & Barbuda Sailing Week ends on a high

After a two-year hiatus, the 53rd edition of Antigua Sailing Week was brimming with success.

The trade winds blew all week, with the international fleet enjoying exhilarating racing in sailing paradise. The compliments from sailors from the four corners of the earth are overflowing for Antigua Sailing Week.

All of the class winners, bareboat overall and the Lord Nelson Trophy winner at Antigua Sailing Week were awarded Locman Italy watches at the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Final Awards Ceremony in Nelson's Dockyard.

Guests of Honour at the ceremony were Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, E. P. Chet Greene and Minister of Sports, Darryll Matthew.

"After two years Antigua Sailing Week is back. I commend the organisers, Alison Sly-Adams and her team, and the event sponsors. This year, there were 85 boats from 20 countries. It has been an incredible week and the Government of Antigua & Barbuda will continue to invest in Antigua Sailing Week as a main element of our chosen events. I welcome all competitors and look forward to their return in 2023," said Minister Greene to loud applause.

The overall winner of Antigua Sailing Week was Peter Corr's invincible team, racing the King 40 Blitz from St. Thomas, USVI. Scoring straight bullets in CSA 4, Peter Corr and his team lifted the Lord Nelson Trophy and was awarded a Locman Italy watch.

"This is a total surprise," commented Blitz's Peter Corr. "We have had a wonderful set of races and the team have raced hard all week to make this award happen, but it has not been easy."



Photo: Paul Wyeth

"It has been about 10 years since I have been to Antigua Sailing Week and I really don't know why it has taken so long to come back, however, I am delighted we did. A big thank you to all the people who have put this regatta together. Winning the Lord Nelson Trophy is really touching."

Special Awards Presented at Antigua Sailing Week 2022 included:

**CSA TRAVELLERS TROPHY** - GFA Caribes - La Morigane - Tristan Marmousez, awarded to the boat (not chartered) that has raced in the most Caribbean regions - north, central, south, in the most regattas with the most successful results. Caribbean Sailing Association Trophy conceived and administered by Antiguan CSA Measurer Sandy Mair

**YOUTH TROPHY** - AXXESS MARINE TROPHY - Jules Mitchell - NSA Spirt - Cork 1720

**BEST SWAN** - OMII - SEAGULL SERVICES TROPHY

**BEST CSA CARIBBEAN RACING YACHT** - Blitz - SEA BANCHE TROPHY

**BEST CSA ANTIGUAN RAC-**

**ING YACHT** - Liquid - HIGHTIDE TROPHY

**BEST BRITISH YACHT** - Scarlet Oyster - FLETCHER TROPHY

**BEST AMERICAN YACHT** - Tschuss - RICOCHET CUP

**BEST GERMAN YACHT** - KH+P Culebra - KH+P TROPHY

**BEST WOMEN'S CREW** - HOLTMAN CUP - Belafonte - Jocelyn McLaren

**ROYAL SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB INTER-YACHT CLUB CHALLENGE** - Scarlet Oyster - Ross Applebey, a challenge was put out to yacht clubs around the world by the Commodore of the Royal Southern Yacht Club to come to ASW and to compete for their inter-yacht club challenge trophy. Ten teams participated this year. **ROYAL SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB SHIELD TROPHY**

**JAN SANTOS TROPHY** - Ethlyn Phillips. The Jan Santos Trophy is awarded in honour of Jan Santos for her dedicated services to ASW for many years. Each year an individual who has shown exceptional loyalty to ASW is awarded the trophy.

## CIBC FirstCaribbean's Walk for the Cure pre-event a success

Neither rain nor the threat of rain could stop the intrepid hikers as they set off along the trails at the Wallings Nature Park. This was the start of one of the pre-events in the build-up to the eleventh anniversary edition of CIBC FirstCaribbean's Walk for the Cure.

Last Saturday 30th April, the bank hosted Hike for the Cure at the Wallings Nature Reserve. 151 persons registered for the hike.

Natasha Charles, one of the bank's organisers said that the idea of this hike started last year as due to the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic, a way had to be found to maintain the focus on the well-known cancer walk.

"We are so happy that with the apparent waning of Covid, things will return to normal so that we will once again be able to host our Walk for the Cure as usual.

"We will be hosting a number of events which, in

addition to being fundraisers, will also help to create interest for the main event which is the Walk for the Cure to be held in early October," she said.

Charles thanked all those who participated in the hike, especially the larger groups from Sagicor Life and General, Galley Bay and A.S. Bryden & Sons which registered the largest group of 40 hikers.

The region's largest cancer fundraiser, CIBC FirstCaribbean's Walk for the Cure, celebrates 11 years this year.

Walk for the Cure began as part of the celebrations to mark the bank's 10th anniversary and takes place across its 16-member footprint. It has raised millions of dollars over the past ten years.

The funds generated from the walk are used primarily to assist with the purchase and maintenance of equipment used in the diagnosis and treatment of



Hikers at the Wallings Nature Reserve cancer patients.

They are also used to provide assistance, care and counselling to patients and their families as well

as to raise awareness, and stress the importance of early detection, through education campaigns across the region.



### APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Monday, 9th May 2022	Tuesday, 10th May 2022	Wednesday, 11th May 2022	Thursday, 12th May 2022	Friday, 13th May 2022
Section of Liberta and Horsford Hill  8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Sections of Royals, Hodges Bay, Cedar Valley, and Mount Pleasant  8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Liat and Cargo Shed  8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Eastern section of Carlisle  8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Briggins north of the Race Track  8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Sugar Ridge, Coco's Ffryes and Darkwood  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM		Section of Fort Road near Old Cockle Shell Inn  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Section of Jennings and Dunnings  8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Gambles near the Cemetery  8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

# Opinion

## Why Elon Musk's Twitter might be (more) lethal

**By Susan Benesch**

*We seek the best ways to blunt the power of dangerous speech, online and offline. Musk taking over Twitter doesn't look like one of them, to say the least.*

Just before he clinched a deal to buy Twitter for about \$44bn last week, Elon Musk suggested that he might jettison the platform's limits on speech including "hateful content" and abuse. "Is someone you don't like allowed to say something you don't like?" he asked sardonically. "It's damn annoying, but that is the sign of a healthy, functioning free speech situation."

Musk didn't specify which kinds of speech he meant, but he gave us an idea two weeks later by retweeting far-right critiques of two of Twitter's executives. One contained images of Vijaya Gadde, the company's general counsel and chief of content moderation, with text implying that she was biased against conservatives.

Some of Musk's more than 84 million Twitter followers piled on, with vitriol and threats aimed at Gadde. Many of the hostile posts referred to her Indian background. Musk also replied approvingly to a tweet in which the far-right conspiracy theorist Mike Cernovich accused Twitter's deputy

general counsel of facilitating fraud.

Though Musk's followers seemed to love those posts, others found them much worse than "damn annoying". Dick Costolo, who was the company's CEO from 2010 to 2015, tweeted after Musk derided Gadde, "What's going on? You're making an executive at the company you just bought the target of harassment and threats."

Yet Costolo is no stranger to the say-what-you-like credo. About a decade ago, Costolo began referring to the platform as the "free speech wing of the free speech party," meaning that Twitter wanted to let people post as they wished, and the company avoided removing

tweets or accounts.

In subsequent years, Twitter backed away from that hands-off position, as users protested at how much people were being attacked on the platform. Among innumerable examples, Robin Williams's 25-year-old daughter Zelda received graphic, horrifying tweets blaming her for his suicide in 2014.

During that period, Twitter staff began rewriting the platform's rules to prohibit "targeted harassment" and "glorification of violence". It was under the latter that former President Donald Trump was finally removed from the platform, after the January 6, 2021 riot at the US Capitol.

Still, Twitter continues to be used to attack individuals

across the globe. And there's another ocean of harmful content: frightening, usually false information about groups of people.

I study this sort of content, which I have dubbed "dangerous speech," for its capacity to inspire violence between groups of people. Dangerous speech forms a category because it is strikingly similar from one case to another, across languages, cultures, and even time periods.

At the Dangerous Speech Project, an independent research team I founded, we have identified innumerable examples, many of which have been followed by killings and even genocide.

We seek the best ways to

*cont'd on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

blunt the power of dangerous speech, online and offline. Musk taking over Twitter doesn't look like one of them, to say the least.

Our team has found that when incendiary content goes viral, it can easily reach susceptible audiences open to committing violence offline. On Twitter, a frightening message can be boiled down into a memorable hashtag. Following such hashtags and related tweets, people around the world have been tortured and killed.

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, rumours spread on Twitter and other media in India that Muslims in the country were planning to infect Hindus with the virus.

In just over a week, nearly 300,000 tweets carrying the hashtag "CoronaJihad" were viewed 165 million times, according to Equality Labs, a digital human rights group. This led to multiple attacks.

On April 5, 2020, a Hindu mob dragged villager Mehboob Ali to a field in northern India and beat him severely with shoes and sticks. They accused him of trying to spread coronavirus because he had recently attended a Muslim religious gathering.

His attackers demanded to know who else formed part of the conspiracy. When he finally made it to a hospital to seek treatment for his wounds, Ali was isolated as a "corona suspect".

A few days later, two babies died when Indian hospitals refused to admit their labouring mothers because they were Muslim and therefore accused of spreading the virus. Such accusations persisted in India and led to the torching of 45 Muslim households near Kolkata in May.

Tweets that inspire aggression also often come from powerful government officials, which adds to their influence. During the early stage of the pandemic, a member of the Kenyan parliament

tweeted that people should stone a group of Chinese people who had allegedly violated quarantine. In Brazil, President Jair Bolsonaro and his son have repeatedly posted suggestions that LGBTQ people are paedophiles.

None of these posts were taken down under Twitter's existing rules. Under Musk, the rules are likely to loosen. Pressed on his plans, Musk has elaborated (on Twitter, of course) that "by free speech, I simply mean that which matches the law".

It should be noted that the law on freedom of speech varies greatly from country to country, and many governments enforce it selectively to their own benefit.

In practice, the relevant law for Twitter will be the platform's own rules, or rather, the Musk rules, if his deal goes through. Then we must hope that Musk learns – and chooses to care – about speech that is worse than damn annoying.



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## Recombinant COVID variants: What is Omicron XE?

By Dr Amir Khan

Since abandoning all COVID safety measures and relying on the government's "Living with COVID-19" strategy, the United Kingdom has seen a surge in the number of people becoming infected with the virus. Although numbers are coming down now, they remain at relatively high levels.

This new wave is thought to be driven by the BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron as well as waning protection from vaccines. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the BA.2 sub-variant of the original Omicron variant of coronavirus (now known as BA.1) has specific mutations that give it a growth advantage over BA.1.

When we have large volumes of two viruses that are genetically linked circulating in the population, there is a risk of a recombinant virus forming. This is thought to have been the case in the UK with the discovery of Omicron XE; a recombinant virus made up of the BA.1 and BA.2 sub-variants of Omicron.

Recombinant viruses occur in instances like this when an individual is infected by two different viruses that share similar genetic material, as is the case with BA.1 and BA.2. As both sub-variants divide rapidly inside their human



host cells, they can swap some of their genetic make-up and form a new "hybrid" sub-variant made up of both parent viruses.

Recombination is common among coronaviruses and is expected.

Omicron XE was first detected on January 19, 2022, and more than 600 cases have since been detected in England. And although it is too soon to say conclusively, according to the WHO, early tests suggest it has a growth advantage of approximately 10 percent when compared with BA.2. It continues to be monitored and there is currently no reason to believe it confers any more

serious illness than previous Omicron sub-variants or has any specific properties that mean it might evade the protection given by vaccines or previous infection.

For now, the WHO says it will classify Omicron XE under the Omicron family rather than as a new variant in its own right; this may change if evidence suggests that it harbours enough changes that affect disease severity, transmission or resistance to treatment.

Since its discovery, small numbers of XE have also been identified in China, India and Thailand.

As the sub-variant is very new, little is known about the characteristics of

the strain, but it is currently not believed to cause any new symptoms.

Omicron XE is not the only recombinant variant to have occurred. The WHO continues to monitor the XD and XF sub-variants which are both thought to be combinations of the Delta and Omicron variants of coronavirus.

Only 38 cases of XF have been identified in the UK since mid-February and no cases of XD. Just 49 cases of XD have been reported to global databases, the UK Health Security Agency said. The majority of these were found in France. Neither is thought to be any

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more transmissible than the original Omicron variant, and as a result, they have failed to make an impact on case numbers.

For now, the advice remains the same: ventilate indoor spaces, wear a mask when on public transport and in indoor public spaces, and get vaccinated.

Memory B cells persist after third COVID vaccine dose

More than two years since the pandemic began, COVID-19 still rages on with the arrival of the Omicron variant and its even more infectious sub-variant, BA.2.

Many countries are seeing a surge in the number of people testing positive, and some of them are ending up in hospital as a result. The widely used mRNA COVID vaccines, and in particular the boosters, have been shown in numerous studies to be effective in preventing serious illness from COVID infection.

Data from the United States in February 2022 showed that unvaccinated adults aged 18 to 49 were four times more likely to be hospitalised than their fully vaccinated (including having the booster) peers. Among those over 65, the unvaccinated were six times more likely to be hospitalised.

There has always been some debate about how long protection from an initial vaccine dose might last, and

what effect the boosters have. Several studies have shown that the protection from infections, including symptomatic infections, offered by vaccines wanes from 90-95 percent two months after being vaccinated, to about 60 percent for Pfizer or 70 percent for Moderna, five to six months after vaccination. There is further substantial waning after six months.

It is not just protection from vaccines that lessens; we have seen people who caught COVID in the past getting infected again. If immunity wanes quickly, millions of people may be at risk for reinfection after recovery from the virus.

The immune system is complicated, and a waning immune response is generally associated with a part of it known as neutralising antibodies. Their production is triggered by either the vaccine or natural infection.

They then circulate in the blood, keeping an eye out for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. If they encounter it, their job is to neutralise and destroy it before it gets a chance to enter and infect cells. To do this, they must be able to recognise the virus.

But mutations such as the ones seen in the Omicron variant mean they may not recognise their target so well, which may explain why we are seeing so many infections after people have been infected in the past or have had the vaccines – also known as breakthrough infections.

While the number of neutralising antibodies declines over time, there is another group of immune cells that studies have shown last longer, especially after booster shots – memory B cells.

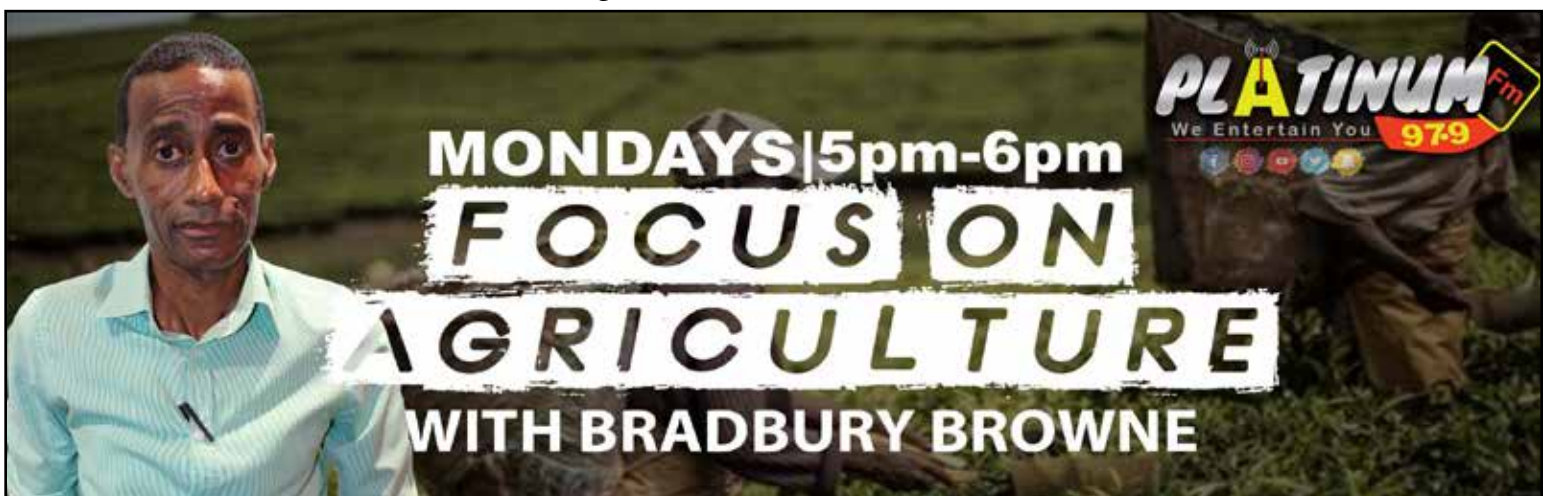
These cells remember the virus and recognise it should it try to infect the body again; they then signal the production of antibodies to kill both the virus and any cells it has already managed to infect.

It has always been unclear how long these might last and what effect boosters would have on them.

Now, a new study has shown that the third dose of the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer or Moderna increases the power of these memory B cells that were induced by the second dose of the vaccine by not just strengthening their ability to produce antibodies, but also enabling them to produce antibodies that could help better neutralise mutated versions of the virus such as the Omicron variant.

The study states the third dose of the vaccine expands and diversifies the types of memory B cells already present from previous doses, which can respond rapidly and produce antibodies capable of clearing even diversified variants.

A separate study shows the third dose of the vaccine helps stabilise the decline of antibodies and found they gave rise to longer-lasting memory B cells.



# Cool & Smooth T20



## Liberta Blackhawks crowned T20 champions



# Cool & Smooth T20



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
NURSES ASSOCIATION  
1988



# Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association

**Nurses Week 2022  
7th to 14th MAY**

**Theme:  
"Nurses,  
Health Systems  
Most Valuable  
Assets."**

## E V E N T S

### **SAT 7th MAY**

10:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Boat Cruise on Wadadli Cats  
( Price \$170.00)

### **SUN 8th MAY**

8:00 am  
Church Service at  
Spring Gardens Moravian Church

### **MON 9th MAY**

Media Awareness Day  
on Various Media Platforms

### **TUE 10th MAY**

11:30 am  
Luncheon honouring our  
Retired Nurses at  
ABNA Headquarters Building  
Queen Elizabeth Highway

### **WED 11th MAY**

8:00 am  
Educational Session  
at ABNA Headquarters Building  
Queen Elizabeth Highway

### **THU 12th MAY**

Official T-shirt/Polo day  
(Colour is Golden Yellow)  
  
9:00 am  
International Nurses Day  
distribution of Tokens  
to All ABNA Members

### **FRI 13th MAY**

6:00 pm  
Barbeque, Bingo & Socia Night.  
Grand Prize Bingo is  
an Airline Round trip to Miami

### **SAT 14th MAY**

6:30 pm  
At Sandals Grande - Award Banquet  
Honouring Nurses who contributed  
20 + years of nursing service  
to Antigua and Barbuda

5:00 pm  
Yoga Session  
with Ms Samantha Moltt

7:30 pm  
Virtual Spa Night  
with Beatrice Simon  
of Tropical Bliss Spa

## Brazil's Amazon deforestation hits April record, nearly double previous peak

By Jake Spring

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon surged to record levels for the month of April, nearly doubling the area of forest removed in that month last year -- the previous April record -- preliminary government data showed on Friday, alarming environmental campaigners.

In the first 29 days of April, deforestation in the region totalled 1,012.5 sq km (390 sq miles), according to data from national space research agency Inpe. The agency, which has compiled the monthly DETER-B data series since 2015/2016, will report data for the final day of April next week.

April is the third monthly record this year, after new highs were also observed in January and February.

Destruction of the Brazilian Amazon in the first four months of the year also hit a record for the period of 1,954 sq km (754 sq miles), an increase of 69% compared to the same period of 2021 -- clearing an area more than double the size of New York City.

Deforestation in the Amazon has soared since right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro took office in 2019 and weakened environmental protection. Bolsonaro argues that more farming and mining in the



Billows of smoke rise over a deforested plot of the Amazon jungle next to the Transamazonica national highway, in Labrea, Amazonas state, Brazil, September 1, 2021. Picture taken September 1, 2021 with a drone. REUTERS/Bruno Kelly/File Photo

Amazon will reduce poverty in the region.

"The cause of this record has a first and last name: Jair Messias Bolsonaro," said Marcio Astrini, head of Brazilian advocacy group Climate Observatory, in a statement.

Bolsonaro's office directed questions to the ministries of environment and justice.

The ministries said in a joint statement the government was making major efforts to fight environmental crimes and that police and environmental authorities were cooperating on an operation to combat deforestation in five Amazon states.

Even with deforestation already on the rise, Climate Observatory said its analysts were astounded by such a high reading

change because of the vast amount of climate-warming carbon dioxide it absorbs.

Ane Alencar, science director of the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM), said she had expected deforestation to keep rising ahead of the October presidential election, like it has in Brazil's past three election years, as officials wary of angering voters generally do less to enforce the law. Still, she called the surge in deforestation last month "absurd."

"It seems that the clearing of forests has become institutionalized in the country as something common, with record after record," Alencar said.

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

NOT ENOUGH?

By Rob Lee

1	S	2	L	3	O	4	P	5	E	6	O	7	M	8	A	9	N	10	R	11	I	12	A	13	L
14	C	15	O	16	L	17	A	18	S	19	B	20	O	21	L	22	E	23	I	24	R	25	E	26	
27	A	28	L	29	I	30	T	31	T	32	L	33	E	34	T	35	O	36	O	37	T	38	H	39	I
40	R	41	I	42	V	43	E	44		45	A	46	L	47	I	48	E	49	N	50	E	51	E	52	
53	A	54	T	55	E	56		57	A	58	S	59	I	60	F	61		62	N	63	A	64	D	65	I
66	B	67	A	68	S	69	A	70	L	71	T	72		73	S	74	E	75	S	76	T	77	I	78	N
79		80		81		82	D	83	O	84	N	85	A	86	T	87	E	88	S	89		90	A	91	L
92		93	J	94	U	95	S	96	T	97	A	98	B	99	I	100	T	101	C	102	103	R	104	A	Z
105	H	106	A	107	S	108		109		110	M	111	E	112	N	113	T	114	H	115	O	116	L	117	
118	O	119	V	120	E	121	R	122	F	123	E	124	D	125		126	A	127	B	128	129	A	130	C	131
132	P	133	A	134	S	135	E	136	O	137		138		139	P	140	A	141	L	142	E	143		144	A
145		146		147	S	148	O	149	P	150	R	151	A	152	N	153	O	154		155	O	156	N	157	C
158	S	159	O	160	M	161	E	162	T	163	H	164	I	165	N	166	G	167	T	168	O	169	G	170	O
171	E	172	V	173	E	174	N	175		176	O	177	D	178	D	179	S	180		181	A	182	L	183	L
184	W	185	A	186	T	187	T	188		189	N	190	E	191	A	192	T	193		194	T	195	E	196	A

# Regional News



## Grim search in blown-out Havana hotel, death toll at 26

Cuban rescue workers on Saturday picked through rubble for bodies and possible survivors after a Havana boutique hotel was devastated by what authorities said was a gas explosion, leaving at least 26 dead.

The blast at the Hotel Saratoga, just a block from the iconic capitol building in a renovated area of downtown Havana, seriously damaged two adjoining upscale apartment buildings and inflicted lighter damage to 17 structures within a two-block radius. Debris fell on pedestrians in the heavily travelled area and glass and debris went flying at a nearby grammar school.

Local authorities said 50 adults and 14 children were



*Rooms are exposed at the five-star Hotel Saratoga where emergency crew work after a deadly explosion in Old Havana, Cuba, Friday, May 6, 2022. (AP Photo)*

injured. Four of the dead were children, they said, providing few details. One of the dead was a Spanish tourist.

Authorities and local media said rescuers were working to get to a passage way to

the basement in hopes there were survivors. They said it was slow going as engineers had to check the stability of what remained of the building.

The hotel, housed in a more than century-old build-

ing, had been closed and only workers were inside at the time of the explosion, state-run TV said.

Residents of the adjoining apartment building often rented out to tourists.

The neoclassical-style hotel was remodelled by a British company after the fall of the Soviet Union and for many years was considered the place to stay by visiting government officials and celebrities.

Recently, it had lost some of its shine with the opening of new hotels in Havana, but was still a five-star venue just a minute away from various historic sites such as the renovated, century-old Marti Theater, which sustained moderate damage.

## Three US tourists die at Bahamas hotel after falling ill

AP – Three U.S. tourists have died at a resort in the Bahamas after falling ill, officials of the Atlantic island nation confirmed, and another was airlifted to a hospital for treatment.

Acting Prime Minister Chester Cooper issued a statement Friday saying that police are investigating and the cause of death was unknown, though foul play “is not suspected.”

Their identities were not initially made public.

The health minister, Dr Michael Darville, told Eyewitness News Bahamas on Saturday that some hotel guests went to a clinic Thursday with nausea and vomiting, were treated and



*The US State Department says it is 'closely monitoring' the situation after 3 American tourists were found dead at Sandals Emerald Bay in the Bahamas*

left. Three were later found dead. A fourth was flown to a hospital in New Providence.

He said the environmental health scientists, physicians and others were

investigating to ensure there was not a public health hazard.

“We feel that what we are seeing is an isolated case associated in a

*cont'd on pg 19*

## BVI swears in new premier

CMC - Dr. Natalio “Sowande” Wheatley was sworn in as the new Premier of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), a few hours after the House of Assembly unanimously passed a no-confidence resolution evoking the appointment of Andrew Fahie as premier of the British Overseas Territory.

Fahie, 51, was arrested last Thursday during a sting operation at the Miami Opa Locka Executive Airport, along with the managing director of the BVI Ports Authority, Oleanvine Maynard, and her son Kadeem.

On Wednesday, a United States judge ruled that Fahie can be released on a US\$500,000 bond pending his trial on cocaine trafficking conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy charges, despite a prosecutor’s arguments that he should face pre-trial detention.

Fahie would have to remain in monitored confinement in his daughters’ apartment, Judge Alicia Otazo Reyes of the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida ruled.

Wheatley had proposed

the resolution on behalf of the new National Unity government that states members lack confidence in Fahie.

The resolution noted that Fahie, who was appointed premier following the 2019 general election, had been arrested and charged with money laundering and conspiracy to import a controlled substance into the United States.

It said also that the arrest and the charges against Fahie had brought “the integrity and sanctity of the role of the premier to public and international disrepute and demonstrate a lack of character and suitability to operate in a public leadership role and manage the affairs of this government”.

The resolution noted that the “charges and the ongoing investigations and trial will undermine the international confidence and reputation of these Virgin Islands” and that Fahie has “not stepped down as premier and remains in custody outside the Virgin Islands and unavailable to perform his functions and lead the government”.

The resolution indicat-



*BVI Premier, Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley*

ed that the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007 provides that “If a motion on the Order Paper that the House of Assembly should declare a lack of confidence in the Government of the Virgin Islands receives in the House the affirmative votes of a majority of all the elected members of the House, the Governor shall, by instrument under the public seal, revoke the appointment of the Premier”

“Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands that it does declare a lack of confidence in the government led by honourable Andrew A. Fahie”.

Wheatley said he had noted the concern voiced by members of the financial services and tourism sectors about the future of the territory.

“They would have been very concerned with what they were reading in the international news,” he said, adding, “It is vital ... that we take a stand and do what is right for the people of the Virgin Islands,” he said, adding that Fahie “has lost the moral authority to lead the Virgin Islands.

“It does not mean that I condemn him, but it means that he in his private moments will have to pray to the lord and ask for repentance. He will have to accept the consequences of his actions,” Wheatley said.

Wheatley was recommended to replace Fahie by other elected officials and Governor John Rankin, confirmed him as the new premier. He was later sworn into office.

### *cont’d from pg 18*

particular area,” he said, adding that investigators are doing toxicology and blood tests to help determine the cause of the illness.

Cooper was filling in for Prime Minister Philip E. Davis, who was out of the country.

The head of communications for the

prime minister’s office, Latrae L. Rahming, tweeted that the deaths occurred at Sandals Emerald Bay in Exuma.

In a statement to People Magazine, a representative for Sandals confirmed the deaths and said the company was “actively working to support both the investigation as well as the guests’ families in every way possible.”

## 60 believed killed after school attack by Russia in east Ukraine

AlJazeera – At least 60 people are missing and feared dead in the debris of a burned-out school after a Russian air raid in eastern Ukraine.

The governor of the Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, said on Sunday that two people were confirmed dead after Russian forces dropped a bomb on the school, and 30 civilians had been pulled from the debris.

About 90 people had been sheltering in the school in the village of Bilohorivka, said Haidai, and a fire following Saturday's attack engulfed the building.

"The fire was extinguished after nearly four hours, then the rubble was



*Ukraine and the West have accused Russian forces of targeting civilians - allegations Moscow denies [File: Maxim Shemetov/Reuters]*

cleared and, unfortunately, the bodies of two people were found," Haidai wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

"Thirty people were evacuated from the rubble, seven of whom were injured. Sixty people were likely to have died under the rubble of buildings."

Video released by the Luhansk military administration showed emergency services personnel amid the burning ruins of the building.

An unidentified person can be heard saying, "It is unlikely others have survived. The crater is down to the basement. It's horrible."

Ukraine and the West have accused Russian forces of targeting civilians and war crimes, charges Moscow rejects.

## Philippines on high alert as all systems go for election

Reuters – The Philippine police and military said on Sunday they were on high alert as last-minute preparations continued for the country's general election, even as the overall situation remained "relatively peaceful".

Filipinos vote on Monday to choose President Rodrigo Duterte's successor, a vice president, 12 senators, hundreds of congressmen and thousands of governors, mayors and provincial and city councillors.

The presidential race is a rematch between Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the country's late dictator, and Leni Robredo, the human rights lawyer who narrowly beat him in the 2016 vice presidential contest.

Three months of divi-

sive campaigning ended on Saturday, with Marcos and Robredo making final bids to sway undecided voters with patriotic, upbeat messages.

Duterte did not endorse a presidential candidate, but his party backs frontrunners Marcos and his running mate, Duterte's daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio.

"We are ready for any contingencies," Armed Forces chief Lieutenant General Andres Centino told a media briefing with police officer-in-charge Lieutenant General Vicente Danao and senior election commission officials.

"We are committed... to ensure that we have a secure, accurate, free and fair elections tomorrow."

Political violence, cheating allegations and



*Staff members prepare for the national elections at the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), a command centre of the election watchdog, a day prior to the elections in Manila, Philippines, May 8, 2022. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan*

vote-buying marred previous elections in the Philippines. But the police said they have recorded far fewer poll-related offences than in the 2016 general election and 2019 mid-term polls.

"Hopefully we can maintain this tranquillity up to the last day of our elec-

toral process," Danao said.

Philippine National Police spokesperson Jean Fajardo told another briefing the pre-election situation was "relatively peaceful", with 16 election-related offences, including shootings in Nueva Ecija and Ilocos

*cont'd on pg 21*

## G7 leaders pledge further economic isolation of Russia

Reuters – The Group of Seven leaders said in a joint statement on Sunday that they will reinforce Russia's economic isolation and "elevate" a campaign against Russian elites who support President Vladimir Putin.

After meeting virtually with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the leaders said they would cut off key services on which Russia depends, reinforcing the isolation of Russia "across all sectors of its economy."

They also committed to phasing out dependency on Russian energy, including by banning imports of Russian oil.

"(W)e will continue and elevate our campaign against the financial elites and family members, who support President Putin in his war effort and squander the resources of the Russian people," the statement added.

The United States on Sunday unveiled sanctions against three Russian television stations, banned Americans from providing accounting and consulting services to Russians, and sanctioned executives from Gazprombank to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine. [read more](#)

Putin calls the invasion a "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and rid it of anti-Russian nationalism



A general view of the video screen of G7 leaders during a video-conference on Ukraine at the Elysee Palace, in Paris, France, May 8, 2022. Thibault Camus/Pool via REUTERS

fomented by the West. Ukraine and its allies say Russia launched an unprovoked war.

## U.S. Senate to vote Wednesday on abortion rights bill

Reuters – The U.S. Senate will vote on legislation to codify abortion rights into law on Wednesday in reaction to the leaked draft decision indicating the Supreme Court is poised to overturn its landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on Sunday.

"Every American will see how every senator stands," Schumer said during a news conference

with state leaders in New York. Republicans "can't duck it anymore. Republicans have tried to duck it."

The Democrat said he will file cloture on Monday and the 100-seat chamber will vote on the bill on Wednesday.

Schumer called the draft decision an "abomination," noting that a majority of Americans want to preserve the right to have an abortion and women's health care.



Protestors supporting reproductive rights demonstrate outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, U.S., May 6, 2022. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

"Choice should not be up to a handful of right-wing justices. Choice should not be up to a handful of right-wing politicians. It's a woman's right. Plain and simple," he said.

Last week a draft decision was leaked showing a majority of the country's top court would vote to overturn Roe v. Wade, the legal precedent ensuring abortion access for Americans.

**cont'd from pg 20**

Sur provinces.

Voting will be longer than usual to accommodate COVID-19 safety measures.

Guia Morris, principal at Jacinto Zamora Elementary School in Manila, said they have spent weeks cleaning and disinfecting the rooms where voting will be done.

"The teachers are all prepared, and they attended orientation and seminars about the election," she said.

# Sports News



## Hamilton visited by Michelle Obama, speaks on Roe v. Wade

AP – Lewis Hamilton dipped into the Roe v. Wade debate shortly after arriving in the United States. He protested a ban on wearing jewellery while racing by sporting three watches, eight rings and multiple necklaces in Miami.

And as the seven-time world champion prepared for Formula One's debut in South Florida, Hamilton hosted former first lady Michelle Obama in his pit for practice and qualifying.

Hamilton remains as much a change agent 16 years into his career as when he became the first Black winner in F1 in 2008. The British racer is now 37 years old, is the winningest driver in series history and is tied with Michael Schumacher with a record seven titles. Hamilton remains the only Black driver at the most elite level of motorsports.

He uses his platform to speak on issues of social justice and race, human rights and protection of the LGBTQ community. Hamilton speaks while

racing in countries with questionable human rights records, or when an issue arises in which he feels his voice can lend support.

While in New York earlier this week, Hamilton took to Instagram to speak on the potential Supreme Court decision to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision and end the nationwide right to legal abortion.

"I love being in the States, but I can't ignore what's going on right now and what some in the government are trying to do to the women who live here," Hamilton posted on his Instagram story to his almost 28 million followers.

"Everyone should have the right to choose what they do with their bodies. We can't let that choice be taken away."

The next post included names of organizations and resources that support abortion rights.

Two days later, he arrived in the paddock at Hard Rock Stadium wear-



*Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain arrives for the first practice session for the Formula One Miami Grand Prix auto race wearing various items of jewellery at the Miami International Autodrome, Friday, May 6, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)*

ing every piece of jewellery he could find.

He was protesting a decision by the FIA, the governing body of F1, to clamp down on drivers wearing jewellery while competing.

The FIA claims jewellery is a potential safety hazard; Hamilton says he's been wearing his piercings for 16 seasons in F1 and it's his right to express himself as he chooses.

## Shimron Hetmyer leaves IPL for Guyana for birth of first child

ESPN - Shimron Hetmyer has left the Rajasthan Royals to return home to Guyana for the birth of his first child. "My stuff is still left in the room," the 25-year old said, indicating that he will be returning to India to see out the rest of the IPL.

Royals are in third place and are looking like one of the better placed teams to make the playoffs which are set to begin on May 24.

Hetmyer has been a huge contributor to the Royals' surge up the points table.

As the team's finisher, he has scored 291 runs at an average of 72 (he has



*Shimron Hetmyer was the more aggressive partner in his stand with Devdutt Padikkal [Photo: BCCI]*

remained unbeaten in seven out of 11 innings). A more telling statistic of his influence is his death-overs (17-20) strike rate.

At 214.28, he is among the top-five

most destructive finishers this season (min 30 balls).

Hetmyer left Mumbai on Sunday morning on the back of another high-impact cameo - 31 not out off 16 balls against Punjab Kings that helped seal a chase of 190.

James Neesham, Daryl Mitchell, Karun Nair, Rassie van der Dussen and Nathan Coulter-Nile are all likely to be in the mix to take his spot in the batting order.

Royals have three games left in the league stage - Delhi Capitals on May 11, Lucknow Super Giants on May 15 and Chennai Super Kings on May 20.

## Djokovic playing his 'best' tennis ahead of French Open

AP – Novak Djokovic is optimistic about his game going into the French Open despite going another week without a title.

The top-ranked Djokovic is yet to win a trophy this season while trying to regain his best form after not being allowed to play in the Australian Open because he was not vaccinated for COVID-19.

Djokovic lost to young sensation Carlos Alcaraz in three sets in the semi-finals of the Madrid Open on Saturday, when he was trying to make it to his second consecutive final after losing to Andrey Rublev in Serbia last month.

Despite the loss, Djokovic said he leaves Madrid feeling good about his preparations for the upcoming French Open, where he will defend his title.

"I definitely played very good tennis, I mean, the best that I have played this year," Djokovic said. "Probably when the disappointment of losing this match passes, I will have a lot of positives to take away from this week."



*Novak Djokovic walks in the court during a men's semifinal against Carlos Alcaraz at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Saturday, May 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)*

Djokovic said he felt he could have come away with the victory against the 19-year-old Alcaraz — one the hottest players on tour this season — if he had been "able to capitalize when it mattered" during the match of more than 3 1/2 hours at the "Caja Mágica" centre court.

The Madrid Open was only his fourth tournament of the year, and third on clay. He lost to 29th-ranked Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in his first match in Monte Carlo in his only other

Masters 1000 appearance so far.

Djokovic did not play in Indian Wells and Miami. He will carry an 8-4 record on the season into Rome this week, with one of those victories coming after Andy Murray withdrew from their third-round match in Madrid because of a stomach illness.

Djokovic had opened his campaign in the Spanish capital with a two-set win over Gael Monfils. He comfortably defeated Hubert Hurkacz in two sets in the quarterfinals.

The 34-year-old Djokovic said after the match against Monfils it was "his best performance of the year" considering he hadn't played well and lacked rhythm in the few tournaments he had played.

Djokovic had reached the quarterfinals in the only other tournament he played this year, losing to 72nd-ranked Jiri Vesely in Dubai in February.

The goal now is preparing to do well in Roland Garros, where he will try to win his third French Open.

## Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce runs fastest 100m of 2022 in Nairobi

BBC – Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has run the fastest women's 100m so far this year with victory in 10.67 seconds in Nairobi.

Only four other women have ever run faster at the distance.

Eight-time Olympic medallist Fraser-Pryce won comfortably on Saturday after Namibia's Christine Mboma, the 200m Olympic silver medallist, pulled up.

"I have been doing this

for 13 years. Even time I run I set new records, it's incredible," the 35-year-old said.

Fraser-Pryce's time at the Kip Keino Classic in the Kenyan capital was just short of her personal best of 10.60, which she set in Lausanne, Switzerland, last August.

Americans Marion Jones (10.65) and Carmelita Jeter (10.64), fellow Jamaican Elaine Thompson-Herah (10.54) and the controversial



*Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, centre, won the 100m at the Kip Keino Classic as Christine Mboma, right, pulled up.*

world record holder American Florence Griffith-Joyner (10.49) are the only women to have ever run faster.

# Sports News



## Da Squad maintains unbeaten run in volleyball tourney

JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad have maintained their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League.

Da Squad beat Stoneville 3-0 in straight sets to record their third win in as many matches at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night.

As Da Squad won their latest outing 25-19, 25-14, 25-17, it ensured that Stoneville remained winless, losing for the third time in their three encounters.

After losing their opening match 2-3 to Michael Freeland Enforcers, High Flyers won their second game in three outings when they beat JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Storming Lions 3-0 in straight sets, 25-22, 25-17, 25-11 in their men's division encounter on Saturday.



*JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad have maintained their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League. (Photo by Elwin Francis)*

It was the third defeat in as many matches for the Storming Lion, having already lost to defending men's champions Stoneville and Renegades.

Stoneville maintained their strong and successful start to their men's title defence by winning their third match in three outings with a 3-1 victory over Rene-

gades on Thursday night.

Stoneville raced into a 2-0 lead by winning the first two sets 25-21, 25-15, but Renegades reduced the deficit by winning the third set 25-21.

Stoneville hit back to wrap up the match by winning the fourth set 25-22.

North Coast Hardware Starz1 also kept their 100 per cent win record intact when they prevailed 3-2 against Jets in their female division affair on Thursday. Starz1 won the encounter 25-21, 18-25, 23-25, 25-20, 15-10.

The competitions continue at the YMCA Sports Complex with two matches on Wednesday evening. Stoneville will meet North Coast Hardware Starz2 in the female division at 6:30pm.

It will be followed by a men's division affair between Enforcers and Storming Lions.

## Ovals Red Rockets claim mixed division netball trophy

Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets captured the Mixed Division crown in the Kess Imports Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Community/Village Netball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Thursday night.

Red Rockets prevailed 25-19 against Drahz Eastsiders in a top of the table match-up between two unbeaten teams.

Akiel Hazelwood scored 21 of his

25 attempts for Red Rockets while Kareem Edwards converted 14 of his 21 shots for Eastsiders.

Ovals Flyballers White Doves defeated Grays Green Tigers 19-15 to claim third place in the same division. Diandre Harris scored 14 of his 24 attempts for White Doves, while Randy Fredericks converted 8 of his 11 shots for Tigers.

Grays Green Tigers also beat John Hughes Flyers 22-16, as both teams

finished their campaign tied in third place in the women's A Division.

Adina Andre netted 13 of her 22 shots and Tyea Ladoo scored 9 of her 13 attempts for Tigers. Jamilla Fitz converted 14 of her 28 attempts for Flyers.

The women's A Division title was captured by joint winner Drahz Eastsiders and Curtain Bluff Old Road.

Wadadli Events Old Road claimed

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## AGS captures schools' T20 title

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) overcame their toughest challenge of the season, in which they went undefeated, by pulling off a 26-run victory over Clare Hall Secondary in the final to capture the Ministry of Sports Schools' T20 title at Rising Sun on 5th, May.

Set a target of 112, Clare Hall were put on course for a famous win by Malique Walsh who top scored with 43.

But when Walsh was removed by captain, off-spinner Sharmar Pereira, it effectively ended Clare Hall's challenge as they were dismissed for 85.

Pereira captured 5 wickets for 15 runs in his four overs, while Matthew Millar claimed 4 wickets for 15 runs.

With their team's leading run-getter, Jewel Andrew, faced with a rare failure, the bowling display by Pereira and Millar capped a fine all round performance by both players who earlier in the match were primarily responsible for Antigua Grammar's total of 111 for 7 off their allotted overs.

Millar struck a top score of 33 runs and Pereira contributed 19, while O. Williams picked up 2 wickets for 15 runs.

Antigua Grammar's Andrew, the leading run-scorer with four centuries in the competition, had high praise for his team, especially the bowlers, for their performance.

"I think it was a good performance by my team. I must commend the bowlers because we fought hard. The batting department didn't do as much, but we came back fighting with the



*Antigua Grammar School celebrates with their trophies after winning the Schools' T20 cricket title by beating Clare Hall in the final at the Rising Sun playing field on 5th May, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)*

ball and we won the game. That's a good result," Andrew said.

"I can say all games are not the same, and I must learn to accept failure sometimes. It's good that we got the win. Seeing the score we made, I didn't think it was a winning score, but we came back fighting hard. I must commend our coach Sylvester Joseph for taking his time out and getting this team together."

The 26-run win was the narrowest margin of victory achieved by the Antigua Grammar School against any of their opponents during this year's competition.

After the match, Coach Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph commended Clare Hall for putting up a fight against his

team.

"Let me start off by saying tough luck to Clare Hall School. I think that a final is supposed to be something like that because it keeps the fans and spectators very interested, but having said that, I think my team has shown throughout the season that we are a very good team and it is performance that counts," Joseph said.

"What I like about these youngsters is that they have heart, they believe in themselves, they always go out and try to do their best and always want to win. So it is good to see the team growing because it is a young team as well, so we have them for another two years, so it is something good to look forward to."

### **cont'd from pg 24**

the women's B Division title ahead of Spencer's All Saints 2 and Spencer's All Saints United 3 who finished in second and third place respectively. The most

improved teams in the three categories were won by John Hughes Flyers in the A Division, Spencer's All Saints United in Division B and All Saints All Stars in the Mixed Division.

The most valuable player awards in the various categories were captured by Amey Lake of Curtain Bluff Old Road in Division A, Kika Josiah of Spencer's All Saints United 2 in Division

B and Akiel Hazelwood of Ovals Flyballers Red Rocks in the Mixed Division.

Hazelwood also won the award for the most goals scored by a player in the competition.

# Sports News



## Golden Grove retain Primary Schools' Cup

Golden Grove retained the 2022 Primary Schools' Cup football title by pulling off a 3-1 victory over Five Islands in the final at the Golden Grove playing field on Friday.

A Robert Jeffery first half strike gave Golden Grove a 1-0 halftime advantage. Elijah Millar then scored shortly after the interval to double his team's lead.

An own goal scored by Shamoy Chiddick of Five Islands gave Golden Grove a 3-0 advantage and effectively put the game beyond his team's reach.

Chiddick redeemed himself somewhat when he finished off a series of well-orchestrated passes to score a consolation goal for Five Islands later in the match.

Watched by an appreciative crowd of spectators, the game was far more competitive than the final score suggested, but Golden Grove were more clinical in converting their opportunities to score, while Five Islands paid the ultimate penalty for squandering almost all the chances they created to put the ball into the back of the net.

The result rounded off Golden Grove's successful title defence, the prestige they captured in 2019, the last time the competition was held before being halted by the pandemic.

Golden Grove's coach Karen Warner said she was



*Golden Grove celebrates after defeating Five Islands in the final to retain the Primary Schools' Cup at the Golden Grove playing field on 6th May, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)*

happy that her team had been able to execute their game plan to secure the title-winning victory.

"I am pretty much excited, and yes, I am quite satisfied with how they performed in the final. Everybody worked well into the game. We went out with a game plan and everybody executed the game plan, so all in all, it was a great victory for Golden Grove Primary School," Warner said.

"It was a really good fight. I think Five Islands came out and put up a good fight, but in the end, I think the better team would have won the game."

Five Islands' coach, Lyndon "Loudah" Lawrence, said his team's failure to capitalise on their chances cost them the game and the title.

"The performance was good. I feel like we were unlucky. We didn't take our chances when we got them and, as usual, when

you don't take your chances, you get hurt in the end," Lawrence said.

After the sound of the referee's final whistle, the players of the Five Islands team were overcome with emotions, many of them with tears streaming down their faces.

Coach Lawrence said it was not a bad thing for athletes to display feelings of disappointment when they do not accomplish their goal.

"That is a good sign when you develop a winning mentality in children, and right now is the best time for them as they are growing up. It's a good thing going forward even at the national level. It goes over into schoolwork in education as well. It is that mentality that makes you feel that you can always do better than your competitor and that only helps them to grow," Lawrence said.

"Some people did not

expect their reaction to losing, but I expected it because nobody wants to lose. If you lose a final like this and showed no emotion, then you would have to question whether they really wanted to play to win or they just came to play because they were told to do so.

"So, I fully understand because I also feel a type of way, especially seeing my students so emotional because I have created a bond with them and it's like family."

Earlier in the afternoon, Villa Primary claimed third place in the Primary School Cup competition by coasting to a 3-0 victory over Jennings in a playoff match between the semi-finals losers at the same venue.

Striker Shumba Thomas scored two goals on either side of halftime and a first half conversion by J'quan Athanaze gave Villa the victory.

Thomas' goals ensured that he collected the Golden Boot Award for being the top goal scorer in the competition with a total of eight goals.

His Villa Primary teammate, J'quan Athanaze, captured the Best Goalkeeper Award.

Robert Jeffery of Golden Grove Primary was named the Most Valuable Male player, while teammate Tyeresa Barthley, took home the award for the Most Valuable Female player in the competition.

*cont'd from pg 28*

Spartans captured third place by surging to a five-wicket victory over Jennings Tigers in a battle between the losers of the semi-finals.

Led by overseas guest player Shadrach Descarte's unbeaten half century, the Spartans surpassed their 141 run target by scoring 144 for 5 to win the match with two overs to spare.

Descarte slammed 51, not out, off 20 balls with 5 fours and 3 sixes and featured in a 50-run third wicket partnership with all rounder Shane Burton, who hammered 48 off 19 balls with eight boundaries (4x4s, 4x6s).

Opener Junior Henry chipped in with 21 off 9 balls.

Morton Browne captured three for 31 in his three overs.

Overseas guest player, George Munsey, slammed a half century to provide the nucleus of Jennings Tigers' total of 140 for 5 in a match reduced to 12 overs due to wet and rainy conditions.

Munsey hammered 55 off 17 balls with 5 fours and 5 sixes and shared an opening stand of 87 with fellow opener, Orlando Peters, who contributed 28 off 17 balls with 3 sixes and a four.

Jedidiah Martin chipped in 22 off 18 balls.

In Friday's semi-finals, Liberta trounced Rising Sun by 50 runs. Half centuries by Terrance Ward and opener Uri Smith powered the Black Hawks to 195 for 4 off their 20 overs.

Ward slammed an unbeaten 70 off 43 balls with 9 fours and 2 sixes, and Smith hammered away 69 off 47 balls with 8 fours and a six.

Rahkeem Cornwall chipped in with an unbeaten 27 off 16 balls.

Shane Burton picked up 2 for 17 in his four overs.

In reply, Rising Sun were unable to capitalise on a century opening stand between Junior Henry and Captain Gian Benjamin. However, they were eventually restricted to 145 for 5.

Henry cracked 68 off 54 balls with 5 sixes and 5 fours, while Benjamin contributed 47 off 42 balls with six boundaries (4x4s, 2x6s).

Off-spinner Kadeem Phillip captured 2 for 36.

Bethesda Golden Eagles, meanwhile, snatched a one-run win over Jennings Tigers in their semi-final. Jennings fell two runs short of achieving their 130-run target as they were restricted to 128 for 7 off their 20 overs.

Opener Munsey again top scored with 47 off 37 balls with 5 fours and 2 sixes. Captain Orlando Peters made 38, not out, off 40 balls and Adrian Barron contributed a run a ball for 21.

Noshtush Kenjige took 2 wickets for 14 runs and fast bowler Nyeem Young claimed 2 for 21.

Fernandez struck 35 off 27 balls and Thomas made a run a ball 20 in Bethesda's total of 129 for 8 off their 20 overs. Morton Browne bagged 3 for 24 and Jedidiah Martin picked up

2 for 26.

During the presentation ceremony, champions Liberta collected EC\$22,000 for winning this year's title. Bethesda received EC\$10,000 for their second place finish, Rising Sun Spartans took home EC\$5,000 for capturing third place and Jennings Tigers received EC\$2,500 for finishing fourth. Karima Gore of Liberta Black Hawks captured the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament Award.

The Carl Joseph Most Disciplined Team Award was awarded to the Liberta Black Hawks.

Golden Eagles fast bowler, Nyeem Young, took the bowler with the most wickets award with seven falling victim to his aim.

George Munsey of Jennings Tigers, with a total of 206 runs, claimed the award for the most runs.

Thirteen-year-old Matthew Miller of Jennings Tigers was awarded for being the youngest player in this year's competition.



## Liberta Black Hawks keep hold of T20 title



Tournament sponsor, Amir Hourani, right, poses with Liberta Black Hawks after winning the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on 7th May, 2022. (Photo: Kavi Roberts)

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks have retained their Cool & Smooth Explosion T20 title.

Liberta maintained their hold of the trophy by bounding to an emphatic 89-run victory via the Duckworth/Lewis method over Caribbean Union Bank's (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in a rain affected final at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Saturday night.

All rounder, Karima Gore, who was later named Man of the Match, produced a fine display to inspire the Black Hawks to their fifth Cool & Smooth T20 title.

Gore, who struck 46 off 30 balls with 5 fours and 2 sixes, and Captain Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall, who hammered a top score of 50 off 30 balls, including 5 fours and 3 sixes,

were largely responsible for Liberta's total of 165 for 5 off their allotted 20 overs, after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Hayden Walsh Jr. chipped in with 22 off 19 balls towards the end of the innings.

Set 166 to win, the Golden Eagles were never able to recover from a dreadful start to their run chase, as they lost their first three wickets without scoring a run in the first two overs.

Gore bowled captain Devon "Boobie" Thomas with the very first ball of the innings for a golden duck and two balls later, he then trapped number three batsman Daren Benta lbw without scoring.

From the last ball of the second over, Shushant Modani, who was at-

tempting to complete a single, was run out by Kofi James at mid-off, when the Black Hawks fielder's direct hit that shattered the stumps at the wicket-keeper's end found the Golden Eagles' batsman short of his crease.

Gore went on to finish with 3 wickets for 9 runs in his 4 overs, while leg-spinner Walsh captured two wickets for 15 runs in 3.5 overs to restrict Bethesda to a disappointing 61 for 9 in 13.5 overs when rain came and brought an end to the final.

Opener Jamaul Fernandez, who top scored with 26 off 28 balls, and Noshtush Kenjige with 10 off 17 balls, were the only two Golden Eagles batsmen to reach double figures.

Earlier in the evening, Rising Sun

*cont'd on pg 27*