

MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 113 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PM BROWNE WANTS WORLD'S LARGEST POLLUTION CULPRITS HELD ACCOUNTABLE

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne during his address to the just concluded Summit of Americas in Los Angeles, California.

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda pushes for compensation from polluters

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is maintaining that Antigua and Barbuda, as part of the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS), will continue to forge ahead with a request for loss and damage financing from countries that are major contributors to climate change.

Discussions have commenced in this regard at the 56th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies, being held at the headquarters of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

Amidst pushback from the United States to compensate SIDS, the Antiguan and Barbudan leader has encouraged the Antiguan delegation to “stand their ground” on the basis that polluters must be held accountable for their actions that are affecting the Caribbean and other island nations in the world.

“We went as far as filing this initiative in which we established a commission last year, a SIDS commission on climate change and international law, and we’re saying

if they do not come to the table, then we will take them to court, because we are of the view that the polluter should pay.

“You can’t be profiting from the profligate use of fossil fuel, you’re making billions, trillions of dollars and we have to suffer the consequences and there is no compensation,” PM Browne argued on his radio programme on Saturday.

He argued that the actions of polluters constitutes a tort for which compensation to victims is justified, instead of countries like Antigua and Barbuda depending on the perpetrators for “random acts of charity”.

Chief Environment Officer, Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, is attending the meeting in Germany and has indicated that there is no plan to change Antigua and Barbuda’s position.

“Under the convention, we all agree that at least insurance and financing will be provided and we have never operationalised that. And so, they have signed a conven-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

tion, they are legally bound to operationalise it, and they are always using some excuse, but we are going to be pushing forward,” she stated.

Addressing the 2nd plenary session of the 9th Summit of the Americas last Friday in Los Angeles, California, Prime Minister Browne made the case for compensation, reminding that small island states continue to reel from the effects of climate change as a result of the decisions of developed countries, calling it “one of the greatest injustices that exists today” and called for action from the United States and other countries.

“If we learned nothing else from the COVID-19

pandemic, it should be that we cannot legislate against cross-border effects of global issues, nor can we build walls to exclude them, or establish border patrols to turn them back. Lip service, neglect and national self-interest may serve the wealthier countries among us for a time, but eventually deteriorating conditions in the neighbourhood will engulf all, unless we act, and act now.

“What is urgently required is genuine international cooperation to remedy these ills, which have persisted relentlessly, forcing many small states to cope by borrowing on commercial terms.

This borrowing to repeatedly repair infrastructure damaged by the impact of climate, and more recently, to finance extraordinary expenditure incurred in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has enlarged our debt burden, leaving little fiscal space to build resilience, and to construct necessary physical infrastructure,” PM Browne told the summit.

Mon 13 Day		Mon 13 Night	
85°		78°	
23%	E 14 mph	21%	E 11 mph
Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High near 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		Clear to partly cloudy. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 71%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 80%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:33 am	Sunset 6:41 pm	Moonrise 6:04 pm	Moonset 4:26 am
			Full Moon

A&B wants urgent reform of the WTO

Antigua and Barbuda wants to see major changes made to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the body convenes its Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Geneva, Switzerland this week.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene is leading the country's delegation to the 12-15 June, 2022 conference at the WTO's headquarters. Ministers from around the world will review the operation of the multilateral trading system to offer their views and plan the future work of the WTO.

In a prerecorded mes-



The World Trade Organization's 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, June 12, 2022. /CMG

sage that will be aired during the conference, Greene said Antigua and Barbuda has a "profound" interest in the

reform and optimal functioning of the WTO.

"As one of the smallest, if not the smallest, countries

to have successfully utilised the WTO's dispute settlement system, we see reform

cont'd on pg 5



**BREATHTAKING VIEWS
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

Adventure on a guided aerial tour or charter to your next destination in style. Proudly operating the state-of-the-art Airbus EC130, CalvinAir's flights combine safety, comfort and the highest calibre of service. So soar around Montserrat's volcano, have lunch in St. Barths, or a picnic in Barbuda. The sky is no longer the limit.

For tours or charters call 268.789.HEL1 or visit calvinair.com.

CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

Local News



Liberta resident dies during fishing expedition

The body pulled from the sea on Sunday morning has been positively identified as Courtney Winston Charles of Liberta.

In a statement, the ABDF said the deceased man's sister identified his lifeless body after it was retrieved from the water and brought ashore at Nelson's Dockyard.

Charles, also known by the alias "Zyie", was one of two people on a line fishing expedition yesterday morning near the Pillars of Hercules.

At some point during the trip, Charles fell overboard.

According to the ABDF, they received a distress call at approximately 6:56 am on Sunday indicating that a man who could not swim had

fallen into the water.

Upon receiving the report, the Coast Guard immediately sent out an urgent Marine Radio Broadcast on VHF channel 16 which, requested any vessel in the vicinity to provide assistance.

The Coast Guard also deployed its own response vessels to the area to conduct a search for Charles.

The first Coast Guard vessel arrived on scene at about 7:33 am and commenced the search. The second vessel arrived with a Coast Guard diver and joined the search at approximately 8:50 am.

Charles was discovered and retrieved from the water at approximately 8:58 am.

He was taken to Nelson's Dockyard, where his body was turned over to police.

He was later identified by his sister.

The district doctor conducted an examination of the body and declared Charles dead at 11:07 am before releasing his body for removal to a funeral home.

Offering condolences to the family of Mr. Charles, the ABDF appealed to those members of the public "who operate near or in our waters to exercise extra care and caution and to be safe at all times".

Parliamentary representative for St. Paul, E. P. Chet Greene, also extended sympathy to Charles' family.



Courtney Winston Charles

"I extend condolences to Yvonne, Namba, Valerie, St. Elma and the rest of the family and friends on the tragic and untimely passing of (Zyie) earlier this morning," a brief statement said.

Charles celebrated his 51st birthday on 6th June, 2022.

#drivesafeantigua

Even The Best Weeks start With Monday

ATB
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

DriveSafe

Fuel prices are going up...again

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has announced that the prices for fuel at the pump will increase today across Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Pointe FM on Saturday, PM Browne said the government has been subsidising the prices of fuel over several months, however, the increases in cost of oil on the international market has made it impossible to continue doing so.

As of today, gasoline prices are to be increased from \$15.15 to \$17.50 per gallon, while diesel prices will increase from \$15.23 to \$17.25.

There will be no increase in the price of cooking gas as, according to the prime minister, the government will continue to subsidise this commodity.

Bus operators and fisherfolk will continue to receive the government subsidy on fuel.

This is intended to maintain current bus fares and



the price at which fish and other local seafood products are sold.

The prime minister blamed this latest round of fuel increases on the tension in the international oil market which, has been exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine 110 days ago.

According to Browne, the government was forced to make the tough decision to increase the prices of fuel, as continuing the subsidy would negatively impact the government's finances.

He added that despite the challenges his adminis-

tration has faced in recent times, it has taken pride in its ability to prioritise the on time payment of public servants at the end of each month.

Meanwhile, Browne noted that the government's policy of keeping food at a minimal cost will continue, as many food items remain exempt from taxes.

Despite the government's efforts to keep costs low, the prime minister said inflation in the United States of America - from where most of the food consumed locally is imported - has increased by more than 8 per-

cent over the past year. This means that food imported into the country will be sold at a higher price irrespective of the government's intervention.

PM Browne is also putting the country on guard and has warned if the war in Ukraine continues much longer, then there could be further increases to come.

In light of this, the prime minister said he is among those urging the US to ease its sanctions on Venezuelan oil with the expectation that there could be a broadening of the Petro-Caribe arrangement.

cont'd from pg 3

as crucial. We agree with the sentiment that reform must be transparent, open and inclusive. We also support calls for the urgent restoration of the two-tiered dispute resolution system," he declared.

Noting that Antigua and Barbuda is still awaiting for the full implementation of a WTO ruling in its favour against the US nearly two decades ago, Greene said any reform must focus on strengthening procedures for

compliance with the rulings and recommendations of the panel and appellate body's reports. Referencing the WTO's Small Economies Work Programme, Greene said Antigua and Barbuda was pleased at the rapidity with which delegates were able to conclude work on the ministerial decision on the work programme.

"We look forward to further discussions, post MC-212, on how we can meaningfully integrate small vulnerable economies into the global eco-

nomic structure," he stated.

Nearly two decades ago, Antigua and Barbuda successfully litigated a case against the United States at the WTO over that country's decision to ban cross border gaming. The US' decision upended the thriving gaming sector in Antigua and Barbuda, causing thousands to lose their jobs.

Despite having won the case, Antigua and Barbuda has not received compensation from the US, in spite of numerous entreaties for compliance.

Local News



Nicholas chides opposition on Social Security issue

Information Minister Melford Nicholas is accusing the main opposition's leadership of unbridled hypocrisy for criticising the government over its handling of the Antigua Barbuda Social Security Board.

Nicholas was responding to comments made by the United Progressive Party's political leader, Harold Lovell, on a radio programme that also included the Executive Director of Social Security, David Matthias.

Last Thursday during the post-Cabinet press briefing, Nicholas said the opposition is seeking to make late pension payments by Social Security a political issue, and added that the late disbursements have been discussed at length by the Cabinet.

According to Nicholas, the UPP is attempting to "whitewash" their handling of Social Security while they formed the government.

The minister explained when the current ABLP took office in 2014, it was made privy to an actuarial report that was first presented to the former UPP administration, however, the recommendations in the report were never implemented by the UPP.

"It is incredulous for the opposition to have ignored the recommendations to



Information Minister Melford Nicholas

take decisive steps to save the scheme, such as raising the pensionable age and increasing the contributions into the scheme, to now be critical of my government's action.

"We were the ones who took the necessary steps that, over time, will see the scheme return to stability," he said.

Pointing to Lovell's admission that as finance minister under the UPP, a bond was floated to support the scheme, Nicholas explained that this action on its own was insufficient to resolve the problems at Social Security or provide a long term solution to its difficulties with making its monthly pension obligations.

The minister further explained that there are two types of pensions; one paid by the government to its former employees and the other paid by Social Security.

By law, those who receive a pension from the consolidated fund are paid first, and there is no problem with this pension, however, those beneficiaries who receive pensions from both the government and Social Security are the ones who encounter difficulties with the timeliness of Social Security issued payments.

"We prioritise those individuals who only receive a single payment from SS and they are paid first. Those who would have already received their government

pensions – as in the case of both Lovell and former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer – they are not prioritised for SS payments," Nicholas explained.

Since taking office, the ABLP has moved to steady the ship at Social Security. The corrective measures have included an increase in the rate of contributions and an increase in the age of retirement, which by 2024 will be 65.

"Rather than taking the necessary steps when they were in office, the UPP punted the problem of Social Security. So with government being continuous, and being a responsible government, we made sure that we implemented the recommendations from the actuarial.

"With the expected improvements in the economy over the next months and years, we are hoping that the scheme would improve its financial situation," he stated.

Nicholas said the arrival and fallout of COVID-19 derailed some of the outcomes the government anticipated from the measures it had taken to right Social Security.

He is hopeful, however, that as the economy improves, Social Security's pensioners will see an improvement in the regularity with which they are paid.

Antigua and Barbuda celebrates British Airways milestone

Antigua and Barbuda marked British Airways 60th anniversary of flying to Antigua with a cocktail reception where the island's tourism minister congratulated the airline on the excellent relationship created over the years.

It was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority at the Rock Cottage, Blue Waters.

Cultural dancers and the melodious sounds of the steelband set the celebratory mood to welcome representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority and the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda and other stakeholders.

Minister of Tourism and Investment, Charles Fernandez, congratulated the airline on the excellent relationship created throughout the 60-year period. He expressed interest in continued partnership and the further growth of flights to the destination.

"British Airways has for sixty years connected travellers from the UK and Europe to Antigua and Barbuda, allowing us to share our culture, our heritage, our hospitality, and the beauty of our destination. As a trusted partner, British Airways is interwoven into our tourism story.



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez (centre) with regional British Airways executives and local tourism representatives.

"We share a rich history - from destination partnerships, marketing campaigns, to unwavering support during times of need, they have without a doubt contributed to the success of our tourism product.

"As we share in this momentous occasion, we congratulate and applaud BA.

"We look forward to many more years of partnership, and a mutually rewarding relationship with our twin-island paradise", said Fernandez.

British Airways' Regional Director (Antigua, St. Kitts, and Turks & Caicos) Patrice Skerritt, commenting on the tourism celebrations said, "We are most appreciative of your efforts in recognising this milestone with us at British

Airways.

"British Airways has always had a very strong relationship with Antigua and Barbuda and for sixty years - three generations - we have flown visitors to enjoy holidays, and we have reunited our Caribbean friends and family both here in the region and in London and beyond."

Skerritt thanked the gathering for joining in the anniversary celebrations and noted that the airline looked forward to serving the route for many more years to come.

British Airways then called British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) first touched down at V. C. Bird International Airport on June 1, 1962.

A sense of nostalgia was brought to the event,

as CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C. James shared tales of the airline from its first voyage to Antigua in 1962, their 1965 corporate sponsorship of Antigua Carnival, the November 2, 1984, arrival of the Concorde to Antigua, and the development of a modern day partnership considered a "marriage made in heaven, with an airline that has always served the destination well".

In November 2019, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority honoured British Airways as an outstanding partner by presenting the airline with a 'Black Pineapple Award' for their contribution to the success of the summer marketing campaign #WhatCoolLooksLike. (Loop)

World's most vulnerable call for application of Article 6 Rules to Voluntary Carbon Market

Two United Nations negotiating groups representing 85 countries exceptionally vulnerable to climate change, this week signed a joint letter to the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (IC-VCM), urging it to apply several key principles from the Article 6 “rulebook” to the voluntary carbon market.

The letter, signed jointly by Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Conrod Hunte, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) and Madeline Diouf Sarr, Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), encourages the IC-VCM to apply a 5% share of proceeds for adaptation to the

Adaptation Fund, and apply a 2% cancellation rate to contribute to an overall mitigation in global emissions. It also encourages the best practices of avoiding double counting and applying conservative baselines.

“The voluntary carbon market is a significant and growing source of climate finance,” said Ambassador Hunte. “We need to see the standards the world's governments set for international carbon markets in Glasgow become widely and consistently applied, including in the voluntary carbon market. For those of us representing the world's most vulnerable populations, the increased

cont'd on pg 9



Ambassador Conrod Hunte



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, 13th June 2022	Tuesday, 14th June 2022	Wednesday, 15th June 2022	Thursday, 16th June 2022	Friday, 17th June 2022
Section of Hodges Bay near Stella Maris 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Section of Jennings near the Secondary School 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Buckley Line near the Round- about 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Jolly Hill to Bolans 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Golden Grove & Whenner Road 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	Section of Scotts Hill south of the Potters 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.

cont'd from pg 8

mitigation ambition and funding for adaptation this will generate is absolutely vital."

The joint letter recognises the enormous challenges that small island developing states and least developed countries face from climate impacts; impacts that have been clearly underlined by the latest IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. Applying the Article 6 principles, the letter says, would "put the VCM in the vanguard of progressive instruments to tackle the climate emergency".

The opportunity to use the Glasgow Climate Pact outcome on Article 6 to shape the voluntary carbon market has been raised by leading climate academics, including Professor Benito Müller of Oxford University and Professor Saleemul Huq of the Independent University Bangladesh.

According to data released by Ecosystem Marketplace, the value of the voluntary carbon market exceeded USD\$1 billion in 2021, which would raise \$50 million per year for climate vulnerable nations, and this number is expected to increase in coming years.

Rules that will automatically direct the proceeds from 5% of the credits generated under the new UN carbon trading system to adaptation finance was a hard-fought win for developing countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs, in Glasgow, Scotland. So too was the automatic cancellation at issuance of 2% of those credits, an unprecedented innovation in carbon trading that moves the new UN system beyond simple offsetting – often criticised for merely shifting emission reductions from one place to another – and instead generates concrete emission reductions with

every transaction.

"Small island developing states need to see the highest possible ambition from every part of carbon trading universe," Ambassador Hunte added. "That includes the voluntary market."

Since 1990, AOSIS has represented the interests of the 39 small island and low-lying coastal developing states in international climate change, sustainable development negotiations and processes.

As a voice for the vulnerable, its mandate is more than amplifying marginalised voices as it also advocates for these countries' interests.

In terms of size, AOSIS closely resembles the countries it represents on the global stage, but often punches far above its weight, negotiating historic global commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions, among other achievements.



HOT WINGS & STRIPS ARE BACK!

KFC

SCAN TO VIEW MENU

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: **ALLMARTPLACE.COM**
 App Store | Google Play

FOR DELIVERY: **736-7845 / 562-9444**
 OR DOWNLOAD THE APP...
 Apple Store / Google PlayStore

4 STRIPS \$10.99
4 Hot Wings, Fries, Drink and drink

5 HOT WINGS \$10.99
5 Hot Wings, Fries, Drink and drink

HOT WINGS COMBO \$21.99
Hot Wings, Fries, Drink and drink

STRIPS COMBO \$21.99
Strips, Fries, Drink and drink

CLEAN KEEP ANTIGUA

VACANCY HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority's is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Health & Safety Inspector:

The Health & Safety Inspector is responsible for maintaining and improving safety in the workplace by identifying and assessing conditions and procedures of work which could produce accidents and losses. The Inspector will also contribute to developing accident-prevention and loss-control systems/programs and maintaining effective information systems which identify hazards and risks and the steps required to eliminate or control them.

Key tasks include but are not limited to the following:

- Performing Health & Safety functions in any of the Authority's core Business Units - Water, Electricity, Telecoms and Head Office.
- Notifying the Health Safety & Wellness Officer (HSWO) and Business Unit (BU) Manager of accidents or incidents involving employees immediately, on receipt of a report.
- Notifying the HSWO and BU Manager of accidents or incidents involving damage to property within twenty-four (24) hours of a report being received.
- Completing preliminary accident/incident investigations within forty-eight (48) hours of the occurrence of an incident/accident.
- Developing specifications for hazard specific safety devices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sourcing and selecting vendors of the required devices and ensuring that the appropriate stock of these items are maintained.
- Ensuring that employees are suitably trained in the proper use and maintenance of assigned PPE and that employees use the PPE as stipulated.
- Causing a task or equipment to cease operation in a timely manner whenever there are clear indications of imminent danger.
- Documenting and maintaining records, inclusive of complaints received, observed safety violations and actions taken.
- Identify training needs.
- Submitting monthly reports to the HSWO in a timely manner.

The ideal candidates should possess the following:

- Minimum of an Associate's Degree or equivalent in Occupational Health & Safety, Industrial Hygiene, Biology, Chemistry or a related field
- Diploma/Certification in Occupational Health and Safety or related field
- A suitable combination of experience and qualification
- Attention to detail with excellent communication skills
- Proficiency with MS Office suite of applications
- A valid driver's license and a vehicle.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
P.O. Box 416
Crn. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Tuesday 21st June, 2022

** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged **
"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Apua Apua Apua
Visit us at www.apua.ag

Second COVID-19 death recorded, 140th since start of pandemic

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed seventy-three (73) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Thursday 8th June, 2022 at 6pm.

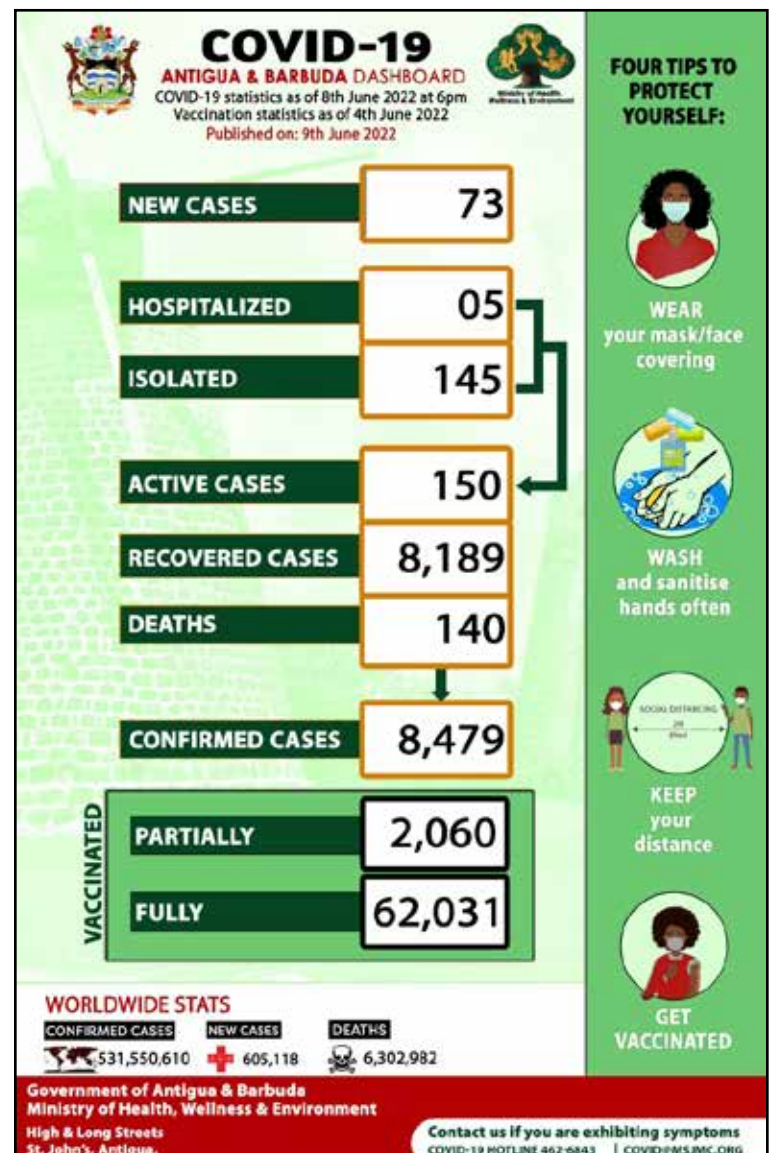
One hundred and twenty-nine (129) samples were processed.

Thirty-seven (37) recovered cases were recorded.

One (1) COVID-19 related death was recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight thousand four hundred and seventy-nine (8,479); which is inclusive of one hundred and fifty (150) active cases.

There are five (5) hospitalised cases; two (2) moderate and three (3) mild.



VACANCY

Vacancy Notice for the position of Activities Coordinator

The Office of the National Authorising Officer is seeking a suitably qualified person for the position of Activities Coordinator for the Non-State Actor Advisory (NSA) Committee. The NSA Advisory Committee is a nine-member grouping of non-governmental organisations supported by the European Development Fund to fulfil its role as a key stakeholder group in the Antigua and Barbuda-EU development partnership.

The appointment will be for a period of approximately four months. The specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Serve as a focal point for contact on all matters relating to the implementation of activities under the NSA initiative;
- Coordinate and plan the specified activities of the NSA Advisory Committee related to its public outreach objectives which include increased dialogue across the civil society community, support for vulnerable and marginalized groups and greater public awareness of the reach of donor support;
- Assist the NSA Advisory Committee with designing the format and content of the planned conference;
- Arrange for conference facilities, meals, lodging, recording and reproduction needs, and multimedia equipment;
- Manage and oversee all activities on the day of the conference;
- Liaise with all the various stakeholders to coordinate the implementation of the community information sessions, inclusive of venue and participants;
- Assist with the preparation of information materials, presentations and displays for the community information session;
- Collaborate with the NSA Advisory Committee and its Chairperson to implement the Committee's communication and visibility activities;
- Ensure appropriate donor visibility in all activities according to the EU's communication and visibility guidelines;
- Use participant surveys and other tools to assess overall success of activities and submit findings;
- Prepare records and reports on the activities/events undertaken by the Committee.

Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management or related field with at least three years' experience in the area of event and or project coordination;
- A leader with a positive attitude, confidence and professionalism;
- Strong negotiation and communication skills;
- Excellent writing skills;
- A critical thinker and problem solver;
- Sound time management and attention to details;
- Able to collaborate with others and use leadership skills to guide in planning and decision making;
- Strong inter-personal skills and demonstrated ability to lead teams and people;
- Proven competence in the use of computer software applications including spreadsheets and word processing;
- Experience in working with civil society organizations and knowledge of the local civil society landscape would be an asset;
- Familiarity with International Donor operating procedures would be an asset.

Interested and qualified candidates are asked to forward their application and CVs to **onao.applications@gmail.com** by **June 17th 2022**. Responses along with the detailed terms of reference for the position will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates only.

Opinion

Has beans and ever was

By Tony Deyal

Because I didn't have the money to study law, and in the cold winter nights of Canada I drank lots of coffee to keep me awake, instead of a Barrister I became a Barista. If anyone asked me how I took my coffee, I told them, "Seriously. Very seriously."

I grew up with coffee. I was born in 1945, just after the Second World War ended, and every hot drink was a "tea". We had coffee tea, bush tea, Milo tea, Ovaltine tea and "green" tea. Why I stuck to coffee was not just the taste but the company. Female wrestler, AJ Lee, warned, "Never trust anyone who doesn't drink coffee." David Letterman, who next to Johnny Carson was my favourite Television Host, claimed, "If it wasn't for the coffee, I'd have no identifiable personality whatsoever." Steven Wright, my favourite stand-up comedian, in addition to one-liners like, "A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory" and "Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy", said, "I put instant coffee in a microwave oven and almost went back in time." My favourite coffee lady is Louisa May Alcott. Whether it was praise for Little Women, Little Men or Jo's Boys, she made it clear, "I'd rather take coffee than compliments just now."

What also strengthened

my love for coffee was its association with different kinds of rituals almost everywhere in the world. As Newsweek said, "Long before Starbucks had a location on every street corner, unique traditions had developed around preparing and serving the daily brew in almost every country. Whether you preferred a coffee spiced with pepper, a half-caf venti no-foam soy latte from your favourite barista; or a coffee with cheese..." It could be lengthy ceremonies lasting hours, like those in Ethiopia, or the "Fika" of Sweden which is both a noun and a verb, meaning you can fika with friends or just by yourself. If you don't give a fika for fika, you can go to Italy and start with moka, followed by an espresso or two (or even three) and then head for Turkey, not to eat one but to try their "cezve", a small brass or copper pot in which the finely ground coffee is prepared.

Perhaps this is what started the joke, "This coffee tastes like dirt!" with the reply, "It has to be. It was just ground a few minutes ago." Interestingly, in Turkey the colour "brown" is known as "kahverengi" or "coffee colour." In Vietnam, war or no war, even in the years without electricity, the favourite brew is like a thick, strong espresso with a chocolate flavour. One of their favourites is iced coffee with condensed milk. Mexicans



Tony Deyal

have their "café de olla" which is coffee with cinnamon and brown sugar in an "olla" or clay pot. In Ethiopia the beans are roasted, ground and brewed in a clay pot called a "jebena". They have three levels of coffee but the "ground" floor is "abol", condensed and very strong coffee flavoured with sugar, salt, and butter. In Brazil, wherever you go, whether to the dentist or even the gas station, the coffee is free. The only coffee I am likely to run from is Austria's "Kaisermelange" which, though it means "fit for a king (or Kaiser)" is espresso combined with egg yolk, sweetened with honey and spiked with brandy or rum.

In Trinidad and six other Caribbean countries we also have our own Rituals Coffee shops. When the com-

pany first started, the coffee was great but then quickly dropped in quality. One of my friends complained to the owner that the price of the coffee had gone up but the taste had gone down. In fact, my friend joked that the coffee was like a "fortnight" (two weak). The owner's reply was, "Listen. I am not in the coffee business. I am in the money business." From the time I heard that, I got out of the Rituals business and returned to my morning ritual, my cup of black coffee. The Rituals boss and other coffee vendors can make all the Star Bucks they want but not from me. Every day, very early in the morning, I let out both my steam and esteem from my percolator. I am like the "Dog Face Soldier Song" of the US Marines but will

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

make a slight change in the lyrics from, "I wouldn't give a bean. To be a fancy pants Marine. I'd rather be a dog faced soldier like I am," to "I wouldn't take a bean, From a Rituals machine. I'd rather take a sup from my enamel cup."

There are many reasons to do this. A Dallas media network grabbed my attention with the headline, "Coffee Makes Your Brain Run Better." It explained, "Coffee is pretty much rocket fuel for your brain...according to recent research, it may be doing more than just providing an additional jolt of energy; coffee may be rewiring your brain."

Now that is very serious business. I doubt that even a rewired brain can be better or smarter than an unwired stomach. While our stomachs warn us that they're empty, the brains, especially those of politicians, do not. In fact, since the dawn of time the brain

has been a big grey area and those of most Caribbean politicians demonstrate daily that on the left side of their brains there's nothing right, and on the right side, there's nothing left.

If what I wrote about the brain makes you think, I have some good news to sweeten your mood. CNN reported that coffee protects your heart and aids in treating other diseases like liver problems. Its flavour and aroma can not only act as antioxidants but also have anti-inflammatory and anti-aging properties. An article in "marthastewart.com" showed that moderate coffee consumption (three to four cups per day) could have a positive effect especially in dealing with blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias (an abnormality of the heart's rhythm) or diabetes mellitus.

The Annals of Internal Medicine just published a study which proves that no matter how you take your coffee,

there's good reason to stick with it because added sweeteners don't make a difference. In fact, adults who drank "moderate" amounts of coffee (1.5 to 3.5 cups a day), either unsweetened or with sugar, are more likely to enjoy improved longevity and longer life spans. The only problem is that the people tested were averaging about one teaspoon a cup and that is much less than you would get in a tin of condensed milk. CNN, in a report on the same research, stressed that "If you drink sugar-laden lattes and caramel macchiatos, you're out of luck." The way to deal with this is to tell your partner, "Hold the sugar please darling. You're sweet enough for both of us!"

**Tony Deyal was last seen quoting the woman who when asked, "Why are men so much like coffee?" answered, "The best ones are rich, warm and keep you up all night long."*



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind





SATELLITE BRANCH EBENEZER

**DO BUSINESS IN A
BETTER STATE OF MIND**



FULL
SERVICE



EASY
PARKING



HASSLE-FREE
PAYMENTS



GREAT CUSTOMER
SERVICE

(268) 481-7800/04 | info@sicantigua.com | www.sicantigua.com |

New York fund apologises for role in Tuskegee syphilis study

By Jay Reeves

For almost 40 years starting in the 1930s, as government researchers purposely let hundreds of Black men die of syphilis in Alabama so they could study the disease, a foundation in New York covered funeral expenses for the deceased. The payments were vital to survivors of the victims in a time and place ravaged by poverty and racism.

Altruistic as they might sound, the checks — \$100 at most — were no simple act of charity: They were part of an almost unimaginable scheme. To get the money, widows or other loved ones had to consent to letting doctors slice open the bodies of the dead men for autopsies that would detail the ravages of a disease the victims were told was “bad blood.”

Fifty years after the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study was revealed to the public and halted, the organisation that made those funeral payments, the Milbank Memorial Fund, publicly apologised Saturday to descendants of the study’s victims. The move is rooted in America’s racial reckoning after George Floyd’s murder by police in 2020.

“It was wrong. We are ashamed of our role. We are deeply sorry,” said the president of the fund, Christopher F.



President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, back, help Herman Shaw, 94, a Tuskegee Syphilis Study victim, during a news conference on May 16, 1997. Fifty years after the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study was revealed to the public in 1972 and halted, Manhattan-based philanthropy organisation Milbank Memorial Fund is publicly apologising for its role in the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study. (AP Photo/Doug Mills, File)

Koller.

The apology and an accompanying monetary donation to a descendants’ group, the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, were presented during

a ceremony in Tuskegee at a gathering of children and other relatives of men who were part of the study.

Endowed in 1905 by Elizabeth
cont'd on pg 15

MONDAYS | 5pm-6pm
FOCUS ON
AGRICULTURE
WITH BRADBURY BROWNE

PLATINUM 97.9
 We Entertain You

cont'd from pg 14

Milbank Anderson, part of a wealthy and well-connected New York family, the fund was one of the nation's first private foundations. The non-profit philanthropy had some \$90 million in assets in 2019, according to tax records, and an office on Madison Avenue in Manhattan. With an early focus on child welfare and public health, today it concentrates on health policy at the state level.

Koller said there's no easy way to explain how its leaders in the 1930s decided to make the payments, or to justify what happened. Generations later, some Black people in the United States still fear government health care because of what's called the "Tuskegee effect."

"The upshot of this was real harm," Koller told The Associated Press in an interview before the apology ceremony. "It was one more example of ways that men in the study were deceived. And we are dealing as individuals, as a region, as a country, with the impact of that deceit."

Lillie Tyson Head's late father Freddie Lee Tyson was part of the study. She's now president of the Voices group. She called the apology "a wonderful gesture and a wonderful thing" even if it comes 25 years after the U.S. government apologised for the study to its final survivors, who have all since died.

"It's really something that could be used as an ex-

ample of how apologies can be powerful in making reparations and restorative justice be real," said Head.

Despite her leadership of the descendants group, Head said she didn't even know about Milbank's role in the study until Koller called her one day last fall. The payments have been discussed in academic studies and a couple books, but the descendants were unaware, she said.

"It really was something that caught me off guard," she said. Head's father left the study after becoming suspicious of the research, years before it ended, and

didn't receive any of the Milbank money, she said, but hundreds of others did.

Other prominent organizations, universities including Harvard and Georgetown and the state of California have acknowledged their ties to racism and slavery. Historian Susan M. Reverby, who wrote a book about the study, researched the Milbank Fund's participation at the fund's request. She said its apology could be an example for other groups with ties to systemic racism.

"It's really important because at a time when the nation is so divided, how we

come to terms with our racism is so complicated," she said. "Confronting it is difficult, and they didn't have to do this. I think it's a really good example of history as restorative justice."

Starting in 1932, government medical workers in rural Alabama withheld treatment from unsuspecting Black men infected with syphilis so doctors could track the disease and dissect their bodies afterward. About 620 men were studied, and roughly 430 of them had syphilis. Reverby's study said Milbank recorded giving a total of \$20,150 for

cont'd on pg 16



Antigua it's Your Time!

BISHOP DR. L.L. SPENCER **DR. JAMAL HARRISON BRYANT** **PROPHET ERNEST AGORTEY**

Seasons of
ABUNDANCE

A move of God like never before

MULTIPURPOSE EXHIBITION
 CULTURAL CENTRE
 PERRY BAY, ST JOHN'S | ANTIGUA

JUNE 27TH THRU JULY 1ST **7PM NIGHTLY**

For more information contact:
 +1 268-776-5094

STRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

Health & Wellness



cont'd from pg 15
about 234 autopsies.

Revealed by The Associated Press in 1972, the study ended and the men sued, resulting in a \$9 million settlement from which descendants are still seeking the remaining funds, described in court records as “relatively small.”

The Milbank Memorial Fund got involved in 1935 after the U.S. surgeon general at the time, Hugh Cumming, sought the money, which was crucial in persuading families to agree to the autopsies, Re-

verby found. The decision to approve the funding was made by a group of white men with close ties to federal health officials but little understanding of conditions in Alabama or the cultural norms of Black Southerners, to whom dignified burials were very important, Koller said.

“One of the lessons for us is you get bad decisions if ... your perspectives are not particularly diverse and you don’t pay attention to conflicts of interest,” Koller said.

The payments became

less important as the Depression ended and more Black families could afford burial insurance, Reverby said. Initially named as a defendant, Milbank was dismissed as a target of the men’s lawsuit and the organisation put the episode behind it.

Years later, books including Reverby’s “Examining Tuskegee, The Infamous Syphilis Study and Its Legacy,” published in 2009, detailed the fund’s involvement. But it wasn’t until after Floyd’s death at the hands of Minneapolis police that discussions among the Milbank staff — which is now much more diverse — prompted the fund’s leaders to re-examine its role, Koller said.

“Both staff and board felt like we had to face up to this in a way that we had not before,” he said.

Besides delivering a public apology to a gathering of descendants, the fund decided to donate an undisclosed amount to the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, Koller said.

The money will make scholarships available to the descendants, Head said. The group also plans a memorial at Tuskegee University, which served as a conduit for the payments and was the location of a hospital where medical workers saw the men.

While times have changed since the burial payments were first approved nearly 100 years ago, Reverby also said there’s no way to justify what happened.

“The records say very clearly, untreated syphilis,” she said. “You don’t need a Ph.D. to figure that out, and they just kept doing it year after year.”

Weekend Puzzle Solution

PLACEMENT TEST

By Timothy E. Parker

1	B	2	L	3	E	4	S	5	S	6	W	7	O	8	R	9	S	10	T	11	A	12	C	13	T
14	R	15	A	16	N	17	C	18	H	19	A	20	N	21	I	22	M	23	A	24	H	25	A	26	W
27	O	28	V	29	E	30	R	31	A	32	N	33	D	34	O	35	V	36	E	37	R	38	E	39	R
40	U	41	K	42	E	43		44		45	E	46	A	47	R	48		49		50	A	51	G	52	E
53	R	54	U	55	B	56	I	57	S	58	H	59		60	T	61	R	62	I	63	E	64	D	65	O
66	N	67		68		69		70		71		72		73		74		75		76		77		78	
79	O	80	N	81	E	82	T	83	A	84	L	85		86		87		88		89		90		91	
92	A	93	S	94	H	95		96	R	97	E	98	V	99	U	100	P	101		102	D	103	O	104	F
105	F	106	S	107		108		109		110		111		112		113		114		115		116		117	
118	M	119	A	120	I	121	D	122		123		124		125		126		127		128		129		130	
131		132		133		134		135		136		137		138		139		140		141		142		143	
144	S	145	Y	146	N	147	O	148	D	149		150		151		152		153		154		155		156	
157		158		159		160		161		162		163		164		165		166		167		168		169	
170		171		172		173		174		175		176		177		178		179		180		181		182	
183		184		185		186		187		188		189		190		191		192		193		194		195	
196		197		198		199		200		201		202		203		204		205		206		207		208	
209		210		211		212		213		214		215		216		217		218		219		220		221	
222		223		224		225		226		227		228		229		230		231		232		233		234	
235		236		237		238		239		240		241		242		243		244		245		246		247	
248		249		250		251		252		253		254		255		256		257		258		259		260	
261		262		263		264		265		266		267		268		269		270		271		272		273	
274		275		276		277		278		279		280		281		282		283		284		285		286	
287		288		289		290		291		292		293		294		295		296		297		298		299	
300		301		302		303		304		305		306		307		308		309		310		311		312	
313		314		315		316		317		318		319		320		321		322		323		324		325	
326		327		328		329		330		331		332		333		334		335		336		337		338	
339		340		341		342		343		344		345		346		347		348		349		350		351	
352		353		354		355		356		357		358		359		360		361		362		363		364	
365		366		367		368		369		370		371		372		373		374		375		376		377	
378		379		380		381		382		383		384		385		386		387		388		389		390	
391		392		393		394		395		396		397		398		399		400		401		402		403	
404		405		406		407		408		409		410		411		412		413		414		415		416	
417		418		419		420		421		422		423		424		425		426		427		428		429	
430		431		432		433		434		435		436		437		438		439		440		441		442	
443		444		445		446		447		448		449		450		451		452		453		454		455	
456		457		458		459		460		461		462		463		464		465		466		467		468	
469		470		471		472		473		474		475		476		477		478		479		480		481	
482		483		484		485		486		487		488		489		490		491		492		493		494	
495		496		497		498		499		500		501		502		503		504		505		506		507	
508		509		510		511		512		513		514		515		516		517		518		519		520	
521		522		523		524		525		526		527		528		529		530		531		532		533	
534		535		536		537		538		539		540		541		542		543		544		545		546	
547		548		549		550		551		552		553		554		555		556		557		558		559	
560		561		562		563		564		565		566		567		568		569		570		571		572	
573		574		575		576		577		578		579		580		581		582		583		584		585	
586		587		588		589		590		591		592		593		594		595		596		597		598	
599		600		601		602		603		604		605		606		607		608		609		610		611	
612		613		614		615		616		617		618		619		620		621		622		623		624	
625		626		627		628		629		630		631		632		633		634		635		636		637	
638		639		640		641		642		643		644		645		646		647		648		649		650	
651		652		653		654		655		656		657		658		659		660		661		662		663	
664		665		666		667		668		669		670		671		672		673		674		675		676	
677		678		679		680		681		682		683		684		685		686		687		688		689	
690		691		692		693		694		695		696		697		698		699		700		701		702	
703		704		705		706		707		708		709		710		711		712		713		714		715	
716		717		718		719		720		721		722		723		724		725		726		727		728	
729		730		731		732		733		734		735		736		737		738		739		740		741	
742		743		744		745		746		747		748		749		750		751		752		753		754	
755		756		757		758		759		760		761		762		763		764		765		766		767	
768		769		770		771		772		773		774		775		776		777		778		779		780	
781		782		783		784		785		786		787		788		789		790		791		792		793	
794		795		796		797		798		799		800		801		802		803		804		805		806	
807		808		809		810		811		812		813		814		815		816		817		818		819	
820		821		822		823		824		825		826		827		828		829		830		831		832	
833		834		835		836		837		838		839		840		841		842		843		844		845	
846		847		848		849		850		851		852		853		854		855		856		857		858	
859		860		861		862		863		864		865		866		867		868		869		870		871	
872		873		874		875		876		877		878		879		880		881		882		883		884	
885		886		887		888		889		890		891		892		893		894		895		896		897	
898		899		900		901		902		903		904		905		906		907		908		909		910	
911		912		913		914		915		916		917		918		919		920		921		922		923	
924		925		926		927		928		929		930		931		932		933		934		935		936	
937		938		939		940		941		942		943		944		945		946		947		948		949	
950		951		952		953		954		955		956		957		958		959		960		961		962	
963		964		965		966		967		968		969		970		971		972		973		974		975	
976		977		978		979		980		981		982		983		984		985		986		987		988	
989		990		991		992		993		994		995		996		997		998		999		1000		1001	
1002		1003		1004		1005		1006		1007															

STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

GET GYM FIT WITH STATE INSURANCE

Life | Medical

OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE PREFERRED GYM RATES

Buff up Gym
Stay Fit Gym
National Fitness Centre
Iron Basics Gym
Keep Fit Gym
Twist Fitness Gym

Pair's disappearance in Brazil's Amazon tied to 'fish mafia'

By **Fabiano Maisonnave**

A main line of police investigation into the disappearance of a British journalist and an Indigenous official in the Amazon points to an international network that pays poor fishermen to fish illegally in Brazil's second-largest Indigenous territory, authorities said.

Freelance journalist Dom Phillips and Indigenous official Bruno Pereira were last seen last Sunday morning near the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory, which sits in an area the size of Portugal bordering Peru and Colombia. The two men were in the Sao Rafael community. They were returning by boat to the nearby city of Atalaia do Norte but never arrived.

After a slow start, the army, the navy, civil defence, state police and Indigenous volunteers have been mobilised in the search. On Saturday, federal police said they were still analysing human matter found the day before in the area where they disappeared. No more details were provided.

The scheme is run by local businessmen, who pay fishermen to enter the Javari Valley, catch fish, and deliver it to them. One of the most valuable targets is the world's largest freshwater fish with scales, the arapaima. It weighs up to 200



Vendor Antonio Rodrigues do Santos works at the fish market in Atalaia do Norte, Amazonas state, Brazil, Friday, June 10, 2022. According with the police a wildcat fisherman is the main suspect of the disappearance of British journalist Dom Phillips and Indigenous affairs expert Bruno Pereira, and authorities say illegal fishing near the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory, where Phillips and Pereira went missing last Sunday has raised the tension with local Indigenous groups in the isolated area near the country's border with Peru and Colombia. (AP Photo/Edmar Barros)

kilograms (440 pounds) Press.

and can reach 3 metres (10 feet). The fish is sold in nearby cities, including Leticia, Colombia, Tabatinga, Brazil, and Iquitos, Peru.

The only known suspect in the disappearances is fisherman Amarildo da Costa de Oliveira, also known as Pelado, who is under arrest. According to accounts by Indigenous people who were with Pereira and Phillips, he brandished a rifle at them the day before the pair disappeared. He denies any wrongdoing and said military police tortured him to try to get a confession, his family told the Associated

Pereira, who previously led the local bureau of the government's Indigenous agency, known as FUNAI, has taken part in several operations against illegal fishing. In such operations, as a rule the fishing gear is seized or destroyed, while the fishermen are fined and briefly detained. Only the Indigenous can legally fish in their territories.

"The crime's motive is some personal feud over fishing inspection," the mayor of Atalaia do Norte, Denis Paiva, speculated to reporters without providing more details.

The AP had access to information police shared with Indigenous leadership. While some police, the mayor and others in the region link the pair's disappearances to a "fish mafia," federal police do not rule out other lines of investigation. The area has a heavy narco trafficking activity.

Fisherman Laurimar Alves Lopes, 45, who lives on the banks of Itaquai river, where the pair disappeared, told the AP he gave up fishing inside the Indigenous territory after being detained three times. He said he endured beating and

cont'd on pg 18

The World Around Us



cont'd from pg 17
starvation in jail.

"I made many mistakes, I stole a lot of fish. When you see your child dying of hunger you go get it where you have to. So I would go there to steal fish to be able to support my family.

"But then I said: I'm going to put an end to this, I'm going to plant," he said during an interview on his boat.

He said he was taken to local federal police headquarters in Tabatinga three times, where he was beaten and left without food.

One of the arrests was made by Funai official Maxciel Pereira dos Santos. Lopes said he was falsely accused of hunting in an Indigenous area this time. He said he spent a night in the local FUNAI base before being sent to Tabatinga.

In 2019, Santos was gunned down in Tabatinga in front of his wife and

daughter-in-law. Three years later, the crime remains unsolved. His FUNAI colleagues told the AP they believe the crime is linked to his work against fishermen and poachers.

Lopes, who has five children, says his family's primary income is \$80 monthly from a federal social program. He also sells watermelon and bananas in Atalaia do Norte's streets, which earned him around \$1,200 last year. He claims he only fishes near his home to feed his family, not sell.

Rubber tappers founded all the riverbank communities in the area. In the 1980s, however, rubber tapping declined and they resorted to logging. That ended, too, when the federal government created the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory in 2001. Fishing has become the main economic activity since then.

A fishing trip to the vast Javari Valley lasts around one month, ac-

cording to Manoel Felipe, a local historian and teacher who also served as a councilman. For each illegal incursion, one fisherman earns at least \$3,000.

"The fishermen's financiers are Colombians," Felipe said. "In Letícia, everybody was angry with Bruno. This is not a little game. It's possible they sent a gunman to kill him."

In mayor Paiva's view, it is not a coincidence that the only two killings of Funai officials in the region occurred during the administration of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who has often advocated tapping Indigenous territories' resources, particularly minerals, by the non-Indigenous and companies.

"This government made people more prone to violence. You talk to someone today and he says he has to take up arms. It was not like this before," he said.

PLATINUM Fm 97.9
We Entertain You

STEELPAN MELEE
WITH KHAN KC CORDICE
5PM-6PM
TUESDAYS

CARICOM chairman John Briceño tells Summit decision to exclude Cuba and Venezuela “unforgivable”

CMC – Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Chairman John Briceño has described as inexcusable, incomprehensible, and unforgivable, the decision by the United States to exclude Cuba and Venezuela from the ongoing ninth Summit of the Americas.

And he has called on US President Joe Biden to lift the decades-old “illegal” embargo against Cuba.

Addressing the first Plenary Session that was attended by President Biden whose administration did not invite Cuba, Venezuela, or Nicaragua to the Summit over concerns about human rights and a lack of democracy, the Belize Prime Minister insisted that the Summit belongs to all of the Americas.

“It is therefore inexcusable that all countries of the Americas are not here, and the power of the Summit diminished by their absence. It is incomprehensible that we would isolate countries of the Americas which have provided strong leadership and contributed to the hemisphere on the critical issues of our time,” he said.

Speaking specifically



CARICOM Chairman John Briceño addressing a plenary session at the 5th Summit of the Americas on Thursday.

about Cuba, Briceño said that the Spanish-speaking Caribbean nation had provided consistent, unmatched cooperation in health to almost two-thirds of the countries in the Western Hemisphere.

He noted that Cuban healthcare experts were on the frontline in the very early and uncertain days of his country’s COVID-19 response, and many Belizean doctors and healthcare professionals are trained in Cuba.

Briceño called on President Biden to lift the blockade against Cuba and build bonds of friendship with its people.

“The illegal blockade against Cuba is an affront to humanity. It continues

to cause untold suffering. It is inconsistent with our values. In fact, it is un-American,” the CARICOM chairman said.

Similarly, he said, Venezuela had done much toward energy security for the Caribbean region through its innovative financing programs, and its absence from the Summit was “unforgivable”.

“At this most critical juncture when the future of our hemisphere is at stake, we stand divided. And that is why this Summit of the Americas should have been inclusive,” Briceño said.

“Belize rejects the unilateral right of any country to impose exclusions. We assert, unequivocally, that

the principle of inclusivity must be the touchstone of all future summits. Geography, not politics, defines the Americas,” he added.

Meantime, the Belizean leader highlighted that people across Latin America and the Caribbean are weathering successive and simultaneous crises.

He said Caribbean economies are in a precarious place because of inherent vulnerabilities to external shocks, including exposure to climate change and devastating storms, and the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of the war in Ukraine have further battered those economies.

“Notwithstanding the 6 percent recovery in global growth in 2021, CARICOM member states, except for Guyana, recorded an average growth rate of one percent. A few member states experienced even further GDP losses ranging from -1 percent to -6.3 percent.

Briceño said Caribbean countries were ready to join their partners in the Americas to design measures that will provide urgent and targeted responses to arrest this decline.

Regional News



Church and NGOs call on SKN's PM Harris to name election date

CMC - Churches and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have written to St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris urging him to name a date for the general election.

They have also warned that a code of conduct should be implemented to ensure "the society is not plunged into election-induced chaos" as voters in this twin-island Federation prepare to elect a new government. In their June 8 letter to Harris, the churches and the NGOs listed several issues they want the relevant authorities to take into consideration, including a pre-election period of sensitivity, neutrality in the electoral process, the delay in announcing the election date and the abuse of office.

"We are of the firm view that the execution of the Code of Conduct should be mandatory after every dissolution of the National Assembly to ensure that our society is not plunged into election-induced chaos, as emotions are heightened during election campaigns. We, therefore, anticipate your soonest execution of the Code of Conduct in your capacity as Political Leader of the People's Labour Party," the groups wrote in their letter.

The letter was sent by the St. Kitts Christian Council; the St. Kitts Evangelical Association; the Nevis Christian Council; the Nevis Evangelical Association; The St. Kitts



St. Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister, Dr. Timothy Harris

Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce; and the St. Kitts and Nevis Bar Association. Harris is yet to announce a date for the election after he dismissed several of his ministers and asked the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament as his coalition Team Unity government collapsed because of internal wrangling.

Legislators of two of the coalition – the People's Action Movement (PAM) and the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) – that controlled seven of the nine seats in Cabinet, had filed a motion of no confidence in Harris, but he scuttled that move by having the Parliament dissolved.

In their letter, the groups said they were also raising "some concerns observed by our non-governmental organisations which can diminish our people's confidence in our electoral system, create social instability, cause widespread anxiety, negatively affect the local economic climate, and undermine the respect for

true democracy and the rule of law in our Federation."

On the issue of the pre-election period of sensitivity, the letter noted that the "Executive, led by your Cabinet of Ministers, should refrain from implementing major policy decisions that are likely to commit an incoming Government.

"Ministers remain in office and in charge of their departments, but it is customary for them to observe discretion in announcing initiatives that are new or of a long-term character in their capacity as a minister. The Executive should refrain from making significant appointments to, or sanctioning employment of persons within, the Civil Service, ancillary government employment or benefit programmes and other government-owned entities.

"We were reminded of the foregoing conventions associated with the operation of our Constitution when, for example, in a recent public announcement on May 30, 2022, you referred to a policy

decision made by the current Cabinet of Ministers as being "good news provided by the Team Unity Administration and more particularly, by the People's Labour Party." This reference – and other major announcements made by you and your Cabinet of Ministers within the past two weeks – run counter to the pre-election period of sensitivity conventions and can be reasonably seen as being used for political gain."

The groups said that major policy decisions and public statements of that nature are even more concerning to "our organisations as your Cabinet of Ministers only consists of three (3) elected Members of the now-dissolved National Assembly.

"You have therefore constituted a Cabinet with less than one third (1/3) of elected representatives of the people. Whilst it may be within your constitutional right, as Prime Minister, to do so, please be reminded that we are a people who have expressly stated in our Constitution that we believe in a true democracy where the voice of the people is paramount.

"The actions of your Cabinet of Ministers, made up of a minority of elected representatives of the people, should therefore be even more sensitive in nature and limited in scope at this time to conform with constitutionally connected conventions."

cont'd on pg 21

World Bank project allocates US\$44 million to improve education in Guyana

CMC – The Board of Executive Directors at the World Bank, has approved financing of US\$44 million for the Guyana Strengthening Human Capital through Education Project.

The project will focus on expanding access to quality education at the secondary level, as well as improving technical and vocational training (TVET) to meet the needs of the labour market.

The funding aims to prepare Guyanese citizens to excel in emerging sectors of the economy including climate-resilient agriculture, low-carbon technology, and digital development.

Guyana is investing heavily in its citizens, with education and vocational training playing a key role as the country is at a key juncture of its growth,” said the World Bank’s resident representative for Guyana and Suriname, Diletta Doretta.

“This project complements other education initiatives that the World Bank is supporting, as the government is working to ensure that more people can acquire the needed skills to benefit from the ongoing economic transformation.”

Activities under the project are expected to benefit at least 60,744 students and 2,128 teachers and principals at the secondary level. At the TVET level, a minimum of 600 students and 140 secondary and post-secondary

TVET trainers will benefit from professional development activities.

The project will support the piloting and national rollout of a new curriculum for grades 7-9, which emphasises environmental stewardship and climate change, integrated into social studies and science for grades 7 and 9. The project will also finance textbooks for grades 7-11 to support the rollout of the new curriculum and the urgent need for learning recovery following the pandemic.

Increased support for teachers and principals is also envisioned under the project. This includes training teachers on the new curriculum and how to teach students with different needs – includ-

ing students with disabilities.

Other interventions include the coaching and mentoring of teachers to support continuous professional development and the development and implementation of an instructional leadership and managerial program for principals.

In light of the learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, project activities will include establishing an early warning system to help teachers and principals identify and support students at risk of dropping out. General secondary schools will also be built or rehabilitated to improve the learning environment for students, as well as improving infrastructure, climate resili-

ence and access to education for all students.

According to the Washington based lending agency, the project will also support technical and vocational training, which will include transferable skills to equip students for a changing labour force, including digital competency skills.

It will strengthen the enabling environment for TVET and improve the quality and relevance of training options. The project includes encouraging apprenticeship, a digital platform providing information on training opportunities, and the preparation of a new TVET policy that will set the direction for the sector’s medium- to long-term development.

cont’d from pg 20

They warned that “continued actions in breach of such conventions and fundamental democratic principles will only do harm to our maturing democracy,” reminding Harris of activities that may be deemed as abuse of office.

“A public official commits an offence of abuse of office if he or she — seeks or accepts personal or private benefit for himself or herself or a member of his or her family or a person associated with him or her, whether or not the benefit places him or her under an obligation to the person giving or offering the benefit. Uses public funds or resources for private purposes, including party political purposes. Fails to act impartially, or gives undue preferential treatment to a person or group of persons.

“Acts in a way that allows or might reasonably be thought to allow, a conflict of interest to arise between the public duties

and private interests of the public official. Interferes in, or seeks to influence, otherwise than as part of his or her duty, the appointment, promotion, suspension, demotion or dismissal of a public official or other person. Induces or encourages another public official to act contrary to the Code of Conduct.”

There are also public concerns of “unusual” activity taking place at the electoral office with the indication that “there should be greater emphasis on the peaceful and orderly conduct of the impending election.

“Neutrality on the part of the Electoral Commission, electoral officials, the Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force and the Defence Force is paramount. The Electoral Commission has ultimate control of the election and there should be no interference with its operations,” the groups noted, urging Prime Minister Harris to announce an election date “to relieve the nationwide anxiety engulfing our society...”

Facing “polycrisis”, WTO chief warns of rocky road to deals

Reuters – World Trade Organization chief, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, expressed cautious optimism on Sunday that more than 100 trade ministers meeting in Geneva would achieve one or two global deals this week, but warned the path there would be bumpy and rocky.

The director-general from Nigeria said the world had changed since the WTO’s last ministerial conference nearly five years ago.

“I wish I could say for better. It has certainly become more complex,” she told a news conference before the meeting, listing the



World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala attends a news conference ahead of the Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Geneva, Switzerland, June 12, 2022. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse

lingering COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and major food and energy crises as pieces of a “polycrisis”.

She urged trade ministers to go the extra mile over the coming days to achieve agreements such as to reduce fishing subsidies,

boost access to COVID-19 vaccines, address food security and to set a course for reform of the WTO itself.

“Let me be clear, even landing one or two will not be an easy road.

“The road will be bumpy and rocky. There may be a landmine along the way,” Okonjo-Iweala said, adding she was “cautiously optimistic” that the meeting would conclude with one or two deals.

She also cautioned ministers they should not expect to achieve everything on their countries’ wish lists and recognise that compromises are never perfect.

No pardon for Britons sentenced to death, pro-Russian separatist leader says

Reuters – The leader of the Russian-backed separatist Donetsk region of Ukraine said on Sunday there was no reason to pardon two British nationals who were sentenced to death last week after being captured while fighting for Ukraine.

A court in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic on Thursday found Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner – and Moroccan Brahim Saadoun – guilty of “mercenary activities” seeking to overthrow the republic.

Britain says Aslin and Pinner were regular soldiers and should be exempt under the Geneva Conventions from prosecution for participation in hostilities. The pro-Russian separatists who control Donetsk say they committed grave crimes and have a month to appeal.



A still image, taken from footage of the Supreme Court of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic, shows Britons Aiden Aslin, Shaun Pinner and Moroccan Brahim Saadoun captured by Russian forces during a military conflict in Ukraine, in a courtroom cage at a location given as Donetsk, Ukraine, in a still image from a video released June 8, 2022. Video taken June 8, 2022. Supreme Court of Donetsk People’s Republic/Handout via REUTERS TV/File Photo

“I don’t see any grounds, prerequisites, for me to come out with such a decision on a pardon,” Denis Pushilin,

the leader of the breakaway republic, was quoted as saying by Russian news

cont’d on pg 23

Nine arrested after vicious assault on women in north China

AP – Chinese authorities arrested nine people on suspicion of violently assaulting several women at a restaurant after surveillance footage of the attack sparked widespread outrage.

Footage from a barbecue restaurant in Tangshan in northern Hebei province, time stamped 2:40 a.m. Friday, showed one of the men approaching a table where a party of four women were seated and placing his hand on a woman's back.

She rebuffed him several times before he flew into a rage and slapped her, prompting her to fight back. A brawl ensued, with a group of men entering the restaurant and brutally attacking the woman and her dining partners, including shoving them to the ground, kicking them and even throwing a chair at them.

Footage taken from outside the restaurant also showed the attackers dragging the woman who had rebuffed the man's advances out of the establishment and beating her viciously while most passers-by and patrons looked on.

Photographs of her lying on a stretcher, with a swollen and bloodied face, as well as footage of the attack, went viral online.

The assault and the public outcry renewed a conversation about misogyny and mistreatment of women in China. Earlier this year, a viral video of a woman being chained to a wall in a hut drew public backlash after authorities initially denied that she was a victim



of human trafficking. She was later found to have been sold as a bride.

All nine suspects were arrested Saturday, according to a statement by authorities issued on microblogging platform Weibo.

Two women had sustained non-life-threatening injuries and were receiving treatment in a hospital. Their condition was reported to be stable. Two others were slightly injured.

The footage of what happened both inside and outside the restaurant was just under five minutes. The Weibo user who was among the first to post the videos said in a post that it was "heartbreaking" to watch.

"Does that mean that dining out is so unsafe now, do we have to bring men with us everywhere we go?" the post read. "(These men) are no different from thugs."

When reached, the user declined to

reveal the source of the videos, stating that it was "inconvenient" to do so. By Sunday, the video of footage filmed inside the restaurant had garnered over 68 million views, while the footage showing the graphic assault outside the restaurant had been taken down.

Social media users have condemned the attack and criticised Tangshan police for being slow in arresting the suspects.

"I'm a woman, and I have a daughter," said one Weibo user with the handle BaobaomaoDaren. "I wonder — as I'm creating value for society and spreading positive energy, will this society protect me and my child?"

State broadcaster CCTV said in an online commentary that the suspects must be arrested as quickly as possible and "punished severely in accordance with the law" in order to account to the victims and the public.

cont'd from pg 22

agencies.

Donetsk and Luhansk are two breakaway Russian-backed entities in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, which Russia says

it is fighting to remove entirely from Kyiv's control.

Three days before launching its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, President Vladimir Putin recognised them as inde-

pendent states, a move condemned by Ukraine and the West as illegal.

Aslin's family said he and Pinner "are not, and never were, mercenaries".

They were living in

Ukraine when war broke out and "as members of Ukrainian armed forces, should be treated with respect just like any other prisoners of war", the family said in a statement.



**LET'S TALK
HEALTH**
4:00pm - 6:00pm
EVERY MONDAY



BLUE Haven
Medical Center

DR. HANYBAL YAZIGI
CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST

DR. ALBERT ROLLE.
GENERAL PRACTITIONER WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH.

DR. DAMIAN GORDON
AESTHETIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND FAMILY
PHYSICIAN WITH POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN GENERAL AND SURGICAL
DERMATOLOGY.

SYDNEY RETEMYER
MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGISTS, CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST AND THEOLOGIAN
AREAS OF THERAPY INCLUDE PSYCHOTHERAPY, PSYCHOEDUCATION,
LOGOTHERAPY, RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING, SPIRITUAL COUNSELING,
ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

\$4.75M: Schwartzel wins richest golf event amid Saudi outcry

AP – Former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel banked \$4.75 million on Saturday by winning the richest tournament in golf history, while the event's Saudi backers faced renewed backlash after a 9/11 victims' group called for American players to withdraw from the rebel series.

Schwartzel held on for a one-shot victory at the inaugural LIV Golf event outside London to secure the \$4 million prize for the individual victory — along with another \$750,000 from his share of the \$3 million purse earned by his four-man Stinger team for topping the team rankings.

Schwartzel collected more prize money from winning the three-day, 54-hole event than he had from the last four years combined. Not that it could match the sense of sporting achievement that he felt after his win at Augusta National in 2011.

"Money is one thing but there you're playing for prestige, history," he said. "Winning a major will always top anything you do."

This hefty paycheck has come at a cost to Schwartzel's career status, having resigned his membership of the PGA Tour to play on the unsanctioned series without a waiver.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think we could



Charles Schwartzel of South Africa kisses the trophy as he poses for the media after he won the inaugural LIV Golf Invitational at the Centurion Club in St Albans, England, Saturday, June 11, 2022. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

play for that much money in golf," Schwartzel, who had not won a PGA or European tour event since 2016, told the crowd.

Pressed in the news conference, he dismissed criticism of the windfall coming from the Saudi sovereign wealth fund.

"Where the money comes from is not something ... that I've ever looked at playing in my 20 years career," the South African said. "I think if I start digging everywhere where we played, you could find fault in anything."

Fellow South African Hennie Du Plessis, who was selected for Stinger by team captain Louis Oosthuizen in the draft, earned \$2.875 million by finishing second at Centurion Club, located

between Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans.

Schwartzel entered the final day with a three-shot lead and did just enough to hold off Du Plessis despite

finishing with a 2-over 72 for a 7-under total of 203.

It is the first of eight events in the first year of LIV Golf, which began against the backdrop of the PGA Tour banning players who signed up. The European tour has yet to comment on any sanctions for players who jumped to the series without its approval.

Twenty players have now defected from the PGA Tour, with Patrick Reed the latest former Masters champion confirmed on Saturday as signing up to LIV Golf as the final round was being completed.

However, the lucrative rewards for joining the Public Investment Fund-backed series have not been enough to entice any players ranked in the world's top 10.



Sports News



Small protests in Tokyo and Sapporo against Olympic bid

AP – A small group of protesters gathered Sunday in central Tokyo and in the northern city of Sapporo to oppose Japan's overtures to hold the 2030 Winter Olympics.

About 50 people gathered in each locale holding "No Olympics" banners and trying to make their case to a passing public.

Sapporo is considered among the favourites to land the 2030 Games along with Salt Lake City and Vancouver. All three cities have held previous Winter Olympics. Last week, Sapporo's city legislature rejected a



Protesters hold a banner which reads "The IOC is a bunch of thieves. Spend on welfare, not the Games." in Shinjuku district of Tokyo, Japan, Sunday, June 12, 2022. Holding "No Olympics" banners, protesters demanded Japan drop its bid for the 2030 Winter Games Sunday. (AP Photo/Yuri Kageyama)

proposal to hold a city-wide referendum on the issue. votes have usually turned down the proposal.

Cities that have held public Sapporo officials say

polling shows 52% support the bid, making a referendum unnecessary.

"It is going to cost so much," said Yuki Kubo, a Sapporo resident, after marching through the city. "People are having a hard time making a living. This is no time to be wasting money on the Olympics."

Sapporo officials have estimated the cost at \$2.6 billion, though Olympic bids consistently overrun estimates.

Sapporo hopes to use some facilities from the 1972 Olympics, and also

cont'd on pg 27

PLATINUM 97.9 Fm
We Entertain You

**7:00pm - 9:00pm
MONDAY-FRIDAY**

SPORTS OVERFLOW
VERNON A. SPRINGER
CO-HOST: ELWIN FRANCIS

Powered By: ANJO, MORGAN, EYE MOBILE, THIST, the athlete's foot, DEM SPORTS, people

Azerbaijan Grand Prix: Max Verstappen wins in Baku as Charles Leclerc retires

BBC – Max Verstappen won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix and took control of the World Championship after an engine failure on Charles Leclerc's Ferrari.

Leclerc's second engine-related retirement from the lead in three grands prix leaves him trailing Verstappen by 34 points, despite six pole positions in eight races.

And it continues the impression that Ferrari's season is falling apart after such a promising start, as Leclerc's team-mate Carlos Sainz also failed to finish following a hydraulic failure.

Verstappen led team-mate Sergio Perez to a Red Bull one-two, as George Russell took third for Mercedes, with team-mate Lewis Hamilton fighting back to finish fourth.

Leclerc immediately lost the advantage he had earned with a dazzling pole position lap as Perez dived for the inside into Turn One after a good start.

The Ferrari then came



Verstappen won the 25th race of his career

under pressure from Verstappen, but was able to hold the Dutchman off until a virtual safety car period on lap nine caused by Sainz parking up in a run-off area.

Ferrari leapt on the opportunity to pit for fresh tyres, which Red Bull did not, hoping that it would vault Leclerc into the lead - which a few laps later it did.

As Leclerc dropped briefly down to third fol-

lowing his stop, Verstappen soon closed in on Perez and passed for the lead on lap 15, after the Mexican was told "no fighting". Perez stopped the next time around, and Verstappen two laps later.

After the Red Bull drivers' stops, the race looked set to boil down to whether Leclerc, in the lead, could hold off the challenge of the Red Bulls, who would have

a significant grip advantage.

And that question would have been made all the more intriguing by a second virtual safety car when Kevin Magnussen's Haas suffered a failure in his Ferrari engine.

But by the time the Dane pulled off, Leclerc was long out of the race, a cloud of smoke erupting behind his car towards the end of lap 21.

cont'd from pg 26

utilise venues from the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics.

The official cost of the just-completed Tokyo Olympics was \$13.6 billion, twice the original estimate. In addition, several government audits showed the actual cost might be well over the official number. All but about \$6 billion was public money.

"Tokyo has been saddled with a big debt we have to pay and so the Olympics are far from over," said pro-

tester Misako Ichimura, speaking near Tokyo's central Shinjuku station.

There was persistent opposition to the Tokyo Games, which faded when the Olympics opened just under a year ago with few fans allowed to attend during the pandemic.

The Sapporo bid is almost sure to go forward with the backing of Japan's ruling LDP party and commercial interests. The IOC also owes Japan some favours, having staged the Tokyo Games despite added costs and

the loss to local organisers of almost \$1 billion in possible ticket sales.

The International Olympic Committee is expected to name the 2030 venue at meetings in May 2023 in India's western metropolis of Mumbai. It could also award the 2034 Winter Games.

The IOC has lined up its next three Summer Games — Paris '24, Los Angeles '28 and Brisbane, Australia '32. The next Winter Olympics are in 2026 in Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Sports News

Angelina Silston thrilled at first title win with Da Squad

Angelina Silston, JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad's diminutive setter, is happy that her team has won their first national club title.

Da Squad defeated perennial champions Paragons 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-17 in the final to win their inaugural national women's title in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 4th June.

Silston, who was a member of Da Squad when the team finished last in the 2019 tournament, was ecstatic after winning all their matches in 2022 to claim the title.

"I feel astonished, I feel incredible, I feel amazed, wonderful! I just feel out of this world that we have been able to win this, our first volleyball title," an emotional Silston stated, while basking in her team's success moments after dethroning Paragons who had won the title

for ten consecutive years.

"It's about time. It feels amazing. At first, we were a bit hazy in the opening games of the final because we were a bit tight, but when we finally got loose, we just did what we had to do and play.

"We took the game to them, they responded, and it was a tough battle because they knew where to put the ball, so we had to cover those areas. Overall, I think we played wonderfully.

"I have been playing for Da Squad for the past six years, so this year is my seventh year with the team and we have never won a tournament. So this has been a great accomplishment for us.

"I think throughout this entire experience, we have learnt to gel with one another and come together as a team. This is what Da Squad is about, it's all about teamwork and everyone knows that. We come together and celebrate whether we make a good or bad play on the court."

Silston played solidly all tourna-



JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad setter, Angelina Silston, celebrates with the championship trophy after her team defeated Paragons in the final to win their first ABAVA women's title at the YMCA Sports Complex on 4th June, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

ment in setting her team's potent attackers - Ismay Pedroso, Dairilys Perez and Yoanna Fuentes - who all proved to be among the most efficient outside hitters in the competition.

Silston is the only Antiguan on Da Squad's blended team of athletes from Cuba, the Dominican Republic and St. Lucia's Chenoah Evans.

"These new players from the other countries bring a diversity of play. Whereas we are accustomed to this particular play, they actually brought a new dimension of play, so we learnt different ways of playing that particular play," said Silston, who added that she is confident Da Squad will win more titles in the future.

"We are going to be winning this title back to back and many more times. For all those years we have not been winning, we are going to win them now," she beamed.



All Saints end Police's unbeaten Parish League run

All Saints have finally succeeded in ending Police's unbeaten run in this year's Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League.

Police, who were unbeaten as they captured both the Dave Joseph and Sir Richie Richardson limited overs competitions and their first two matches in the Sir Curtly Ambrose one-day contest, lost for the first time last Thursday.

They went under by 41 runs against All Saints in their opening match in the ACB Caribbean Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League at the Police Recreation Grounds.

Jewel Andrew cracked a half century as All Saints made 154 for 7 off 26 overs. Andrew struck 54, Dimetri Lucas made 24 and Jewel's brother, Hilroy Andrew, chipped in with 21.

Off-spinner James Cornelius grabbed four wickets for 17 runs.

Set 155 to win, Police could only muster 113 for 9 in 24.2 overs, despite Damian Lowenfield securing a top score of 50.

Neville Nicholls contributed 22.

Lucas took 3 wickets for 28 runs, while Akeem Blackman snapped up 2 wickets for 2 runs and Andra Samuel captured 2 for 26.



Teenaged cricketer, Jewel Andrew, struck a half century to inspire All Saints to a 41-run victory over Police in the opening round of the Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League. (File photo)

Pigotts Crushers defeated Newfield by 23 runs at Pigotts in the only other match that was played.

Pigotts made 169 all out in 26 overs, with Anthony "I Roots" Martin getting a top score of 56.

Jalen Harris picked up 4 wickets for 28 runs.

In reply, Newfield were dismissed

for 147, with Hughon Tonge making 28 and Shamar Pereira contributing 21.

Clever Martin captured 3 wickets for 15 runs and Elroy Francis Jr. picked up 2 wickets for 8 runs

The scheduled match between Rising Sun Spartans and Mahico at Rising Sun was not played.

cont'd from pg 30

neying to Budapest.

Stefano will compete in the Men's 50 metre and 100-metre freestyle, while Noah will compete in the Men's 200 metre and 400-metre freestyle events.

Meanwhile, Olivia will face her counterparts in the Women's 50 metre and 100-metre freestyle, while Bianca will vie for suprem-

acy in the Women's 200 metre and 400-metre freestyle.

FINA has been staging the World Championships since 1973.

At the first edition in Belgrade, four disciplines – swimming, synchronised swimming, diving and men's water polo – formed the event.

Open water swimming was added in 1986, along

with women's water polo.

High diving was staged for the first time in 2013.

The programme has been expanded over time to include by 2015, five individual disciplines. The featured mixed events have brought the number of titles on offer to seventy-five and the number of participants has nearly quadrupled over the almost half century old

competition.

Thanks to the success of global superstars, aquatics grew to become the top Olympic sport by 2021. This has resulted in the FINA World Championships now being recognised as one of the top sports events in the world, drawing billions of TV viewers and several million social media interactions.

Experienced team to represent A&B at FINA World Championships

A four-member team will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 19th International Swimming Federation's (FINA) World Aquatic Championships in Budapest, Hungary from 18th June to 3rd July.

The team, comprising four overseas-based college swimmers - Stefano Mitchell, Noah Mascoll-Gomes, Olivia Fuller and Bianca Mitchell - will compete from 18th June to 24th June in the individual competitions, which feature diving, water polo and synchronised swimming.

They will be accompanied by Head Coach Mark Mitchell and Team Manager Anna Maria Mitchell.

Three of the athletes - Stefano, Olivia and Noah - were part of a four-member team who represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 18th FINA World Aquatic Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, from 21st to 28th July, 2019, the last time the bi-annual event was held due to the pandemic.

The other member of the 2019 team, Samantha Roberts, was replaced by Bianca Mitchell, who was part of the team that represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 17th FINA World Aquatic Championships in Budapest, Hungary, from 14th to 30th July, 2017.

Bianca, Stefano, Noah and Gabby Gittens were Antigua and Barbuda's representatives in the 2017 meet.

Stefano and Noah recently completed studies at university.

Stefano successfully completed a course of study at Plymouth University, United Kingdom, while Noah com-



Noah Mascoll-Gomes and Bianca Mitchell will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 19th International Swimming Federation's World Aquatic Championships in Budapest, Hungary from 18th June to 3rd July, 2022. (Photo: ABSF)

pleted his studies at Dalhousie University, Canada.

Olivia and Bianca have both completed studies at Plymouth Leander swim school in the United Kingdom and will begin their college education next semester.

Olivia will go off to college in Virginia, USA, to an institution that is part of the NCAA Division 2 swim programme, while Bianca will be en-

rolled at Plymouth University.

According to Coach Mitchell, Bianca has been training in Antigua for the past five weeks in preparation for her upcoming engagements in Hungary.

The Mitchells will all depart Antigua and Barbuda on Tuesday for London, where they will be joined by Stefano, Olivia and Noah before jour-

cont'd on pg 29