

TUESDAY 14TH JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 114 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PM CALLS FOR UNITY FOLLOWING PRIVY COUNCIL RULING

Story on Page 2



Demolition of the legendary West Indies Oil Company Double Decker stand at the Antigua Recreation Ground has begun, closing the end of an era. The Double Decker stand holds a unique place in cricket's modern history as the very first party stand to grace the sport. It transformed the sombre atmosphere of games of the past to embrace the pomp, pageantry and culture of Antigua and Barbuda and the greater Caribbean. Since then, party stands have become fixtures at all the world's major cricket venues. *Story on page 7.*

Local News



Browne unsurprised by Privy Council decision, calls for unity between Antigua & Barbuda

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has welcomed Monday's delivery of the written judgement of the United Kingdom-based Privy Council, Antigua and Barbuda's final court of appeal.

Following the ruling, the leader of the ABLP-led government told Pointe Xpress while he was unsurprised by the decision, he is also relieved that decades old, divisive debate over the ownership of land in Barbuda has finally come to an end.

The Privy Councillors - Lords Reed, Sales, Hamblen, Burrows and Lady Rose - ultimately concluded that ownership of the land in Barbuda resides solely with the Crown.

According to Prime Minister Browne, their decision echoed the position his administration has always taken with respect to the ownership of the land in Barbuda.

"I am not surprised by the judgement. The Privy Council Board concluded that the appellants (Trevor Walker and Mackenzie Frank) had no realistic prospect of succeeding, and that the Crown has the legal and beneficial ownership interest in the land in Barbuda.

"In fact, it goes further. The Privy Council Board says that Barbudans have no proprietary interest in the Barbuda land.

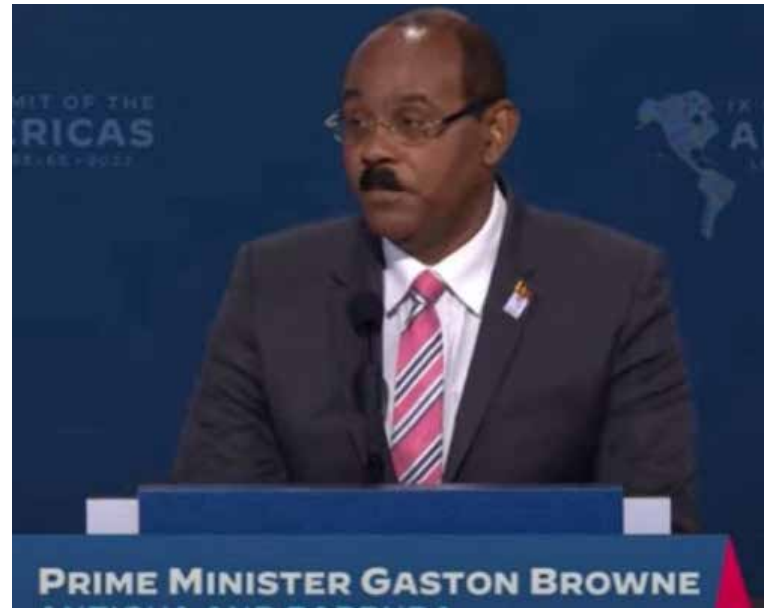
"We would have argued vehemently over several years that there is nothing in law that supported the frivolous arguments of collective ownership that were promoted by BPM (Barbuda People's Movement) members, and their UPP (United Progressive Party) ally," said Prime Minister Browne.

Tragically, Browne contended, the contentious issue of the ownership of the land in Barbuda had been used for decades by the BPM and UPP to intentionally orchestrate political mischief and drive a wedge and cause acrimony between Barbudans and the Antigua-based Central Government.

"The very alliance between the BPM and UPP was predicated on that ownership myth.

"They knew better, but they have deceptively and deliberately sought to institutionalise and weaponise the myth of ownership to achieve, and maintain, political relevance.

"They have also, cruelly, exploited the good natured and aspiration for



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

ownership of the Barbudan people instead of championing constructive land reform that would truly have empowered the Barbudan people with ownership.

Prime Minister Browne believes that now this issue is settled, development in Barbuda can finally proceed which will ultimately benefit Barbudans firstly, but most importantly the country as a whole through the equitable sharing of all national resources.

He continued that the victory is not one in which his administration will find pleasure in revelling. Rather, it has cleared a path for the well-planned development of Barbuda and the nation.

"It is well known that the island could never ad-

vance without a developed property rights system that provides individual freehold and leasehold ownership, and that is precisely what my administration is doing by creating the registry and selling the Barbudan people land for \$1 per plot.

"This will unlock the value of the land and would spur sustained economic development and empowerment to the Barbudan people.

"I do not wish to gloat over this victory. Instead, I wish to conclude by encouraging Antiguan and Barbudans to move forward together as a harmonious people and as one family and let us continue to work unrelentingly to advance our unitary state."

Tony Astaphan “extremely happy” with Privy Council decision

Senior Counsel Anthony Astaphan has welcomed the ruling by the London-based Privy Council on Monday, which dismissed the appeal filed by Member of Parliament for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, and former MP Mackenzie Frank, which sought to challenge the government’s passage of the Paradise Found (Project) Act, 2015.

Walker and Frank, argued through their lead counsel, Justin Simon QC, that the Paradise Found Act deprived the people of Barbuda of any right or interest in land which they enjoyed pursuant to the Barbuda Land Act 2007.

Moments after the release of the 21-page written judgement, SC Astaphan, who led the team of attorneys representing the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, said the British Law Lords’ ruling “confirms what the Attorney General (Steadroy Benjamin) and the Prime Minister (Gaston Browne) have been saying for a very long time regarding the ownership of the land”.

“We were extremely happy with the decision,” said Astaphan.

The Privy Council, Antigua and Barbuda’s final court of appeal, ruled that the appeal by Frank and Walker, had “no realistic prospect of succeeding in their claim under section 9(1) of the Constitution.

The five-member panel of judges said that the Court of Appeal in Antigua and Barbuda was “correct to strike out that claim” and as a result, it will “therefore humbly advise Her Majesty that the appeal should be dismissed”.

The Privy Council heard that by section 3 of the Barbuda Land Act 2007, all land in Barbuda is owned in common by the people of Barbuda, and title to that land vests in the Crown on their behalf.

The government entered into an agreement with Paradise Found LLC to lease land in Barbuda for the purpose of a tourism development project. The Paradise Found (Project) Act, 2015 was passed to give effect to the lease agreement and it provides that the Land Act does not apply to the leased land.

Under the agreement, 391 acres of land have been leased by the government to Paradise Found LLC for 99 years for a rental payment of US\$5.2 million, which became payable upon the execution of the lease.

The agreement further offers the option to renew the lease for an additional 50 years, exercisable on completion of the resort, for a further rental payment of US\$1 million.

Frank and Walker filed a claim on 6th June, 2016 in the High Court claiming constitutional relief and



Anthony Astaphan SC

challenging the validity of the 2015 Act. They maintained that the 2015 Act constituted a compulsory acquisition of their interest in the land without compensation; the land was not acquired for public use; and the 2015 Act violated section 9 of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, which protects against the deprivation of property.

On 13th September, 2016, however, the government filed an application to strike out the claim on the basis that it disclosed no cause of action against the government under the Constitution and therefore constituted an abuse of process.

The High Court dismissed the respondent’s strike out application, noting that the claim raised issues that ought to be tried stating that sections of the Paradise Found Project Act, 2015 “appear to ‘side-step’ or circumvent the requirement for the consent of the people of

Barbuda for major development pursuant to the Land Act”.

It also found that the appellants had the necessary locus standi to pursue the claim on the basis that, as Barbudans, they held an interest in the land.

The respondent’s appeal to the Court of Appeal was allowed, and the Privy Council determined that the appellants did not have a personal right of property in the leased land.

Astaphan said he hopes the ruling by the Privy Council will put an end to the long-standing issue of land rights in Barbuda.

“The Privy Council went the extra step because I think unless they gave a clear indication of the authority of Parliament to dis-apply or repeal legislation it may come back up again,” he said, noting that the ruling now gives Barbudans the right to purchase land there.

Local News



Gaston Browne urges US to become CDB development partner

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Friday called on the United States to join the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) as a development partner as part of President Joe Biden's just announced Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity.

He made the call while addressing the second Plenary Session of the ninth Summit of the Americas, as he also called for relief for countries in the Caribbean countries that have heavy debt burdens.

On Thursday, President Biden told the Summit about the planned Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity that involves steps to promote trade and investment in clean energy and encourage regional collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"My government encourages President Biden to include, in this new partnership, the US joining other development partners as a member of the Caribbean

Development Bank, which services all CARICOM countries, and is indispensable to our needs," Browne said.

He further called for genuine international cooperation to remedy the challenges of climate change and other 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 change, 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," the Antiguan leader said.

"Contracting more debt is not the answer. I also remind that, for no good reason, six CARICOM countries are denied membership of the Inter-American Development Bank Group and, therefore, access from their

lending and investment."

He noted that many Caribbean countries have now exhausted their borrowing capacity to respond to exogenous shocks and need debt relief and post-COVID recovery assistance to shore up their economies.

In this regard, he welcomed the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity and the fact that one of its aims is to "mobilise new financing, and to revitalise multilateral development banks, revamping their lending policies to better meet the specific needs of the majority of our nations".

"My government applauds and celebrates renewed, reinvigorated, and sustained US attention to the

mutual economic prosperity of the US and the nations of our hemisphere.

"President Biden is providing much-appreciated leadership in this regard. But we recognize that the United States alone cannot do everything.

"Hence, we urge cooperation between the US government and other governments, such as China, which is playing a constructive role throughout Latin America and the Caribbean," Prime Minister Browne said.

He said collaboration between the US and China could accelerate the pace of economic transformation in the region in the areas of infrastructural development and the buildout of renewable sources of energy.

Browne was one of several CARICOM leaders attending the Summit despite their disagreement with the US government's exclusion of Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua from the June 8-10 meeting over concerns about human rights violations and lack of democracy in those countries. (CMC)



Tue 14 Day		Tue 14 Night	
85°		78°	
20% E 17 mph		35% E 12 mph	
Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High near 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		Cloudy skies early with showers later at night. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.	
Humidity 71%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 81%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:33 am	Sunset 6:41 pm	Moonrise 7:13 pm	Moonset 5:26 am
		Full Moon	

Police, Customs make major weekend drug bust

The police say close to \$4 million in cannabis has been seized in operations so far this year at the country's two main ports of entry.

In the latest seizure on Sunday, fifty-five vacuumed sealed packages containing the controlled drug was discovered during an operation between the Police and Customs at V. C. Bird International Airport.

The substance, which amounted to 110 pounds, was discovered inside a cardboard box at the Customs warehouse and has an estimated value of EC\$880,000.

Since January, 2022, a total of 638 pounds of cannabis have been seized with a combined estimated street value of EC\$3,739,260.

Last Thursday, fifty-five and a half pounds of cannabis were seized at Deep Water Harbour and V.C Bird International Airport.

Those seizures were valued at \$359,000.



PHONEARAMA

SALE

"WE HAVE THE BEST PRICE"



Don Official Accessories
Tel: (268) 775-4488



\$349 & UP
7" AMAZON FIRE TABLET



\$299
UNIQ 7" INCHES TABLET WIFI



\$599 & UP
SAMSUNG PHONES



\$299 & UP
ZTE & HYUNDAI PHONES



\$99
BLU Z4 PHONE

STORE HOURS: 9AM TO 5PM

DON OFFICIAL STORE - UPPER NEVIS STREET

CALL: 775-4488 NOW | WHATSAPP: 720-4488

Local News



Three walk free on rape, indecency charges

The three men implicated in the Boxing Day 2018 rape and serious indecency of a teenaged girl walked free after the charges were dismissed in the High Court on Monday.

The decision followed a “no case” submission by defence attorneys Wendel Robinson, Lawrence Daniel and Pete-Semaj McKnight last Friday.

Justice Colin Williams directed the jury to return not guilty verdicts on each of the three defendants - all of whom are in their twenties - who were indicted on counts of rape and serious indecency.

At the time of the alleged assault of the 17-year-old



girl, two of the men were 18-years-old, while the third was 24.

The defense team entered the no case submission after arguing to the court that no evidence had been presented by the prosecution during the course of the trial to support the serious indecency counts and, in respect of rape, that the Crown’s case was so

weak and discredited under cross-examination that no reasonable jury, properly directed, could safely convict on it.

The defence team produced multiple WhatsApp messages between one of the accused and the virtual complainant that outlined previous sexual encounters and a plan to meet for another en-

counter on the evening of the alleged incident, December 26, 2018.

The virtual complainant, who admitted to giving consent to having oral sex performed on her, denied consenting to sexual intercourse.

The prosecution, led by Crown Counsel Cedric Dyer, conceded to the defence’s motion.

STUDENT SAFETY POLICY



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

www.sicantigua.com
info@sicantigua.com
1 (268) 481-7800/04

[f](#) [@](#) [t](#)



Party stand demolition begins

Demolition of the iconic West Indies Oil Company Limited Double Decker stand commenced at Antigua Recreation Ground yesterday ahead of the staging of Antigua's Carnival 2022.

The stand, constructed by the late Bruce Rappaport, a former shareholder of West Indies Oil Company Limited, was condemned after decades of use and memories because of the safety hazard it posed.

After months of discussions and planning for the demolition of the world's first Party Stand at the historic Antigua Recreation Ground, the work began, although interrupted by rain.

On hand to bear witness to the demolition was Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew.

"As we stand here about to witness the sunset of the Double Decker stand as we call it, it is with a sense of



Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew, centre, speaks with West Indies Oil Company Limited Chief Executive Officer Gregory Georges, right.

nostalgia, and in some ways great pain, that we are here witnessing what will be no more very soon.

"We have been advised, as far back as five or six years ago, that it is a safety hazard. Every carnival when we come here, we speak

about how the stand is in a dilapidated state.

"Football, who primarily uses this facility, they have long been advised by their governing body to condemn the stand and to prevent any usage of it, for fear of collapse."

Minister Matthew said the demolition and reconstruction of the stand was the responsible thing to do.

The demolition, which is being undertaken by Hanka Construction, will last for approximately three weeks.

cont'd on pg 8

National Parks expresses sadness at tragic loss of Liberta resident

The National Parks Authority (NPA) has expressed condolences to the family and friends of Courtney "Zyie" Charles, who lost his life under tragic circumstances while fishing over the weekend.

His body was pulled from the waters off the rocky coastline below Shirley Heights by the Coast Guard on Sunday.

A statement issued by the NPA on Monday said, "While the circumstances surrounding his death are being investigated, the board and management

of the National Parks wish to identify with the loss that those closest to Charles are presently feeling.

"He is family to members of our staff, and the National Park has sought out his handiwork as a skilled electrician in the past."

The NPA continued that its thoughts and prayers remain with Charles' family and friends, and indeed the entire village of Liberta, who have all been touched by the "heart breaking loss of a valued and well-loved member of the community".



Local News

39 new COVID-19 cases recorded

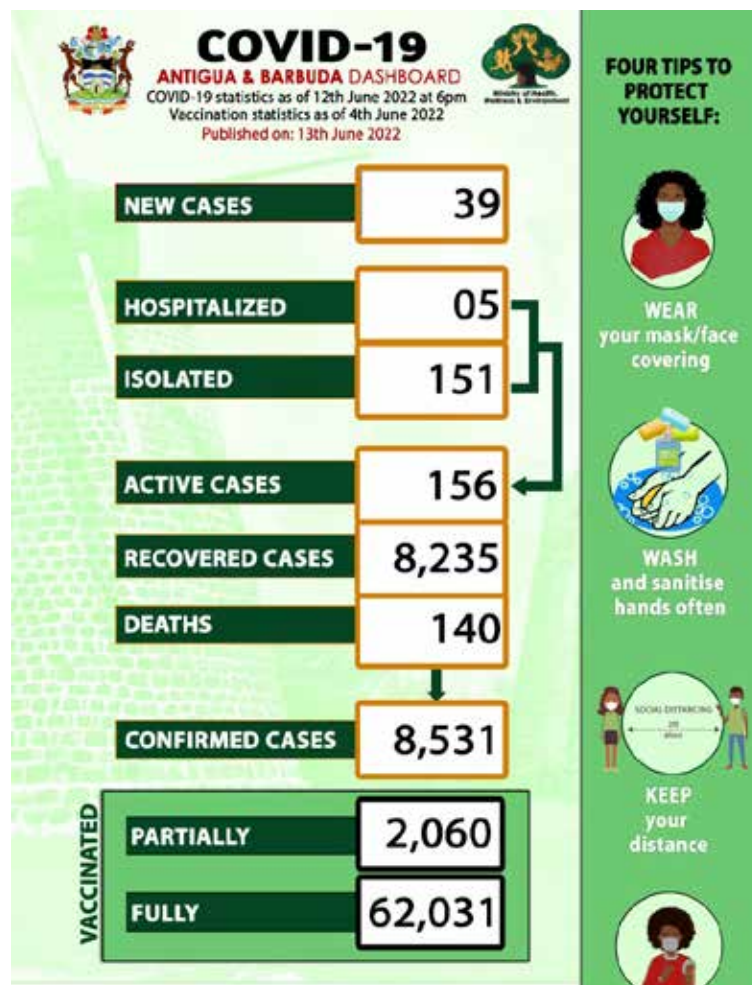
The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed thirty-nine (39) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Sunday 12th June, 2022 at 6pm.

Eighteen (18) cases were recorded on June 10th and twenty-one (21) on June 12th.

Sixty-one (61) samples

were processed.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight thousand five hundred and thirty-one (8,531); which is inclusive of one hundred and fifty-six (156) active cases. There are five (5) hospitalized cases; two (2) moderate and three (3) mild.



cont'd from pg 7

The roof of the stand is expected to be off by Wednesday, while the upper level will be removed next week.

Carnival City patrons will this year be greeted by an open space in the stand's former location at the ARG.

Minister Matthew explained that the space will remain bare for a short while.

"What will happen here immediately after the demolition, is that the area will be left open as an open space from which spectators can view the activities here for carnival, and following that, we will commence with the finalisation of our plans for the space," the minister detailed.

Vendors who operated their businesses in the units

in and around the West Indies Oil Company stand, have been relocated on the opposite side of the ARG near the Government Printery.

The EC\$300,000 bill for the demolition of the party stand will be paid by the West Indies Oil Company Limited, headed by Chief Executive Officer Gregory Georges.

"The WIOC stand is where it all started and we are therefore proud. We know it's become a safety issue and one of our core values is safety...and therefore, when we were approached to fund the demolishing of the stand, we readily agreed and it's certainly part of our corporate social responsibility," Georges noted.



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

LIFTING THE WEIGHT OF MISCARRIAGE

IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 

PANEL DISCUSSION AND BOOK LAUNCH

featuring



JIHAN A. WILLIAMS
PREGNANCY LOSS
SUPPORT ADVOCATE



GLEN TOUSSAINT
MISCARRIAGE
SUFFERER



MICHELLE GEORGE TOUSSAINT
MISCARRIAGE
SUFFERER



REGINA APPARICIO
ASSOCIATE CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGIST



FEONA CHARLES RICHARDS
DIRECTOR, FAMILY AND
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPT



COLIN J. JENKINS
MEN'S ADVOCATE



ZAHRA AIRALL
MODERATOR

THURSDAY 16TH JUNE 2022 | 6:00PM
VENUE: JULEES
(CORNER OF CROSS AND TANNER STREETS)

**COPIES OF THE BOOK "LIFTING THE WEIGHT OF
MISCARRIAGE" WILL BE ON SALE AT EC\$40**



Letter to the Editor



Will another election defeat spell the demise of the UPP

PART 1

Dear Editor,

In my last letter, under the heading "Same old UPP playbook with a twist from Chair Isaacs", I indicated that in a follow-up letter I would endeavour to enumerate some of the outstanding accomplishments of the incumbent government, under Prime Minister Gaston Browne, notwithstanding 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown of the country with the attending serious economic and financial repercussions.

However, as a person with a knowledge of political history in Antigua and the Region, and observing the present campaign of the main opposition party, and realising the weakness of the UPP as a political force; its many and varied errors; its lack of effective leadership; a political campaign that is incoherent and based mainly on populism, I have decided to continue to draw these negatives to the attention of the voting public, but more particularly to the independent voters, who decide the winner in a general election.

The reasons are abundant as they are varied and consequently there will need to be 2 parts to this letter, with your publication's cooperation.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

The truth is that the UPP has steadily lost political support in every election from 2004 to 2014. For example, in 2004 the UPP won with 21,892 votes at 55.50% while the ALP polled 16,544 at 41.94%.

By 2014 the ALP won with a popular vote of 24,238 at 56.64% while the UPP polled 17,868 at 41.76%

In the 2018 general elections, the ABLP won with a total of 23,063 votes at 59.39% to the UPP's 14,440 at 37.19%. In a reduced poll ABLP declined 1,149 votes while the UPP's popular vote plummeted from 17,994 to 14,440 a whopping loss of 3,554 votes.

The above statistical data clearly indicates that between the election cycles 2004 to 2018 the UPP's percentage vote has diminished from 55.50% to 37.19% while the ALP/ABLP has increased from 41.94% to 59.39% in the 2018 election.

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2014

While the UPP narrowly held on to power in the 2009 elections, it was clear to the discerning political observers that the UPP government had lost its way and was losing support of the independent and swing voters as well as the support of some labour supporters who had been turned off of the Lester Bird administration.

Halfway through its second term, Antigua was affected by what the UPP loosely referred to as "the world crisis", and which obviously affected the Antiguan economy.

What was evident however, was that the UPP government seemed unable, unwilling and incapable of devising policies to stabilise the economy.

The government ministers, activists and grassroots supporters would all echo the same excuse "is a world crisis we are in, what you expect us to do"? They appeared helpless and inept and certain ministers and the party hierarchy appeared not only inefficient, but corrupt.

Added to that, Harold Lovell as Minister of Finance was a monu-

mental disaster and the party, in desperation, devised a policy of giving away some of the government's most valuable assets, e.g. the airport, the seaport and State Insurance amongst others. The UPP government had become a ship with neither captain nor rudder.

Finally, the UPP turned on its own like an animal devouring its young. Members, such as Leon (Chaku) Symister and others, became the voices of the government and the party and would castigate and abuse all and sundry whom they thought opposed the government, including those party supporters who offered valid criticism.

These rabid barking dogs also turned their angst on those Caribbean brothers and sisters who had made their home here and were contributing significantly to the economy of Antigua and Barbuda.

All of this, oblivious to the fact, that these citizens comprised approximately 26% of the electorate.

And so, in the fourth year of its second term, it was obvious to the discerning that the UPP government was heading to defeat in the 2014 election, and the fact that the Prime Minister called the election in extra time (12 June, 2014), all the while making clownish jokes, as to whether the election date was in his back pocket, side pocket or shirt pocket, added to the anger and frustration of the voters.

In Part 2, I shall give my opinion on the performance of the UPP in opposition from 2014 and 2018 elections and up to the present.

NOMAD

Male postnatal depression: Why men struggle in silence

By Amanda Ruggeri

Many mothers grapple with mental health challenges after the birth of a child. But fathers experience PND, too – and may be slipping through the cracks.

For David Levine, the watershed moment came when he imagined he had shaken his baby.

It was 2013, and his son was two weeks old. He had put him down on a mat "maybe slightly rougher than I should have", says Levine today. At the time, unable to think straight, he was convinced he'd done worse. As a paediatrician, he knew shaking a baby could cause brain injury, even death. He was horrified.

Levine's anger and frustration had been building since his son's birth. Like many newborns, the baby took time to adjust to the outside world. But to Levine, it seemed like he cried constantly. "I took it personally, like I'm failing, I'm not doing my job here," he says. "I also started feeling like it was directed at me – that my son was crying because he did not like me."

Levine loved children. Since he had begun his career as a paediatrician in New Jersey, US, he'd heard one thing over and over from parents: "You're going to make such a good father



someday." He had been excited when his wife became pregnant and gave birth. When she had challenges with breastfeeding, and he could use his medical background to help incorporate formula, he felt useful.

But then his role shifted. He didn't need to be a physician; he needed to be a father. And when the practical tasks of parenthood – like getting his son to stop crying – proved to be a challenge, he thought it was his fault.

"That's when things started to spiral," he says. He belittled and yelled at his son. He started to see graphic images of committing violence to his child and himself. And he didn't see how things would get better. "I would tell my wife

that this was the end of our life," he says. "All I could envision was the cycle of hell that was going to be our lives."

In his practice, he screened mothers for postnatal depression (PND) – a depressive illness that sets in within a year of giving birth (often referred to as 'postpartum depression' or 'PPD' in the US). It's usually seen as a female condition. Could it exist for fathers, too? If so, Levine hadn't heard of it.

He wasn't alone. PND, a mental-health condition which can include feeling persistently low, apathetic or even suicidal in the first year after birth, is a well-established phenomenon in women – even if it is one that still remains underdi-

agnosed and undertreated around the world, sometimes with tragic consequences.

What's less well known, even to those in the medical field, is that men can get PND, too.

But many of the resources that can help prevent, diagnose and treat PND – from the screening questionnaires that doctors use, to support networks like parenting groups – have been built for women. Even the symptoms that people commonly associate with PND tend to pertain more to women than men. Add on the stigma men can feel around expressing mental-health challenges, and experts say that we aren't just missing mothers with

cont'd on pg 12

Men's Health



cont'd from pg 11

PND. Millions of depressed fathers also could be falling through the cracks.

Hidden disease

"Although there has been rising community awareness about mental illnesses, such as postnatal depression in women, it's a phenomenon that's much less recognised in men," says Grant Blashki, the lead clinical advisor of Australian mental health organisation Beyond Blue.

Yet it's been estimated that around 10% of fathers are depressed in the first year after birth, a rate twice as high as in the general male population. Some

research has indicated that 10% could be too low; in the three- to six-month period after birth, around one in four fathers exhibit symptoms of depression. Many fathers will also get generalised anxiety, OCD and PTSD, says Daniel Singley, a counselling psychologist in San Diego, California who specialises in men's issues.

But relatively few of these men will reach out – or even believe they have a problem to begin with. "In my practice, it's interesting that – even if your background is highly educated, or a health professional – there are still high levels of stigma about mental health

illness amongst men," says Blashki. "And this can result in denial or poor help-seeking, or a sense that you should just sort it out yourself."

Generally, men tend to eschew medical care more than women. In Canada, for example, researchers have found that around eight in 10 men won't seek medical care until their partner convinces them to go. But it's also largely due to feelings of embarrassment or shame about being a man – especially a father – with depression. "[Men] really, really don't want to seek mental-health help, because it's stigmatised and feminised. And they really, real-

ly don't want to do it during the perinatal period," says Singley.

In heterosexual child-bearing couples, he continues, the message usually given to a dad is that pregnancy and birth are a woman's realm. Fathers can be excluded from prenatal appointments, classes or even the labour itself. When they are present, they're often told that their only job is to be supportive, no matter what anxieties or fears they, too, may be feeling.

This messaging activates the masculine stereotype of "protect, provide", says Singley, and it overlooks a key element: fathers need to support mothers, but they also need support. As one dad told researchers in a recent UK study, "Looking back, the institutions, family and myself focussed [sic] on how I would support my wife and the emphasis was on me staying strong."

'We're supposed to be the rock'

Then, of course, there is the pressure of masculine stereotypes. If fathers are expected to be strong and supportive, who are they if they are depressed?

In the same UK study, another participant said he "felt like a failure, no true man". Another asked: "What sort of man gets depressed after they've had a baby?" Some were even hard on themselves about receiving treatment; one man who was given leave from work

cont'd on pg 13

**ATTENTION MUSIC
USERS**

Have you contacted
for your **PUBLIC**
PERFORMANCE
LICENCE?

Avoid **COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT!**

CONTACT US TODAY!

MAIN OFFICE: (758) 451-6436

ANT AGENT : (268) 779-2935

DOM AGENT : (767) 616-8000

SKN AGENT : (869) 762-7139

SLU AGENT : (758) 717-1726

SVG AGENT : (784) 495-1248

vcazaubon@eccorights.com

antiguaagent@eccorights.com

dominicaagent@eccorights.com

st.kittsagent@eccorights.com

st.luciaagent@eccorights.com

st.vincentagent@eccorights.com

cont'd from pg 12

because of his mental-health diagnosis said that when this made it difficult to establish a new routine with the baby, it made his depression worse "as I felt like I wasn't just failing with fatherhood, but husbandhood". Others mentioned worrying their partners would leave them.

"There are still many myths prevalent around mental illness as a sign of weakness or something that a man should just be able to sort out himself," agrees Blashki. "These sorts of myths can be amplified by a sense that the man ought to be the strong one during this big time of transition for the mother and baby."

Levine, for his part, didn't open up to his wife about just how bad his PND was until about a year later, when – after speaking to a patient about PPD, who then passed his name on – he was invited to talk about his experience on the Charlie Rose talk show in the US.

"She didn't know that I was depressed. She didn't know that I had certain feelings towards our son. And also, she didn't know that part of the reason I never told her was because I thought that she would think less of me," he says. "Men don't talk about their feelings, right? We're supposed to be the rock for our spouses. I didn't have anybody to talk to about this. And I genuinely felt that if I told her, she would leave me. And my wife is a wonderful person."

The women's realm

An additional obstacle is that postnatal depression often is associated primarily with women. Consequently, it is less likely that a man – or the people around him, including medical professionals – recognise PND for what it is.

It is true birthing parents are more likely to get depression in the postnatal period than their partners (one review found an average of around

24% for mothers, compared to 10% for fathers); it's also the case that part of why some mothers get PND is because of the hormone changes in the brain that happen on giving birth.

The symptoms also tend to be different in men versus women. While the common image of PND might be a mother who is weepy and unable to get out of bed, fathers with PND are more likely to engage in avoidant or escapist behaviours – working longer hours, say, or spending more time on their phone. They are more likely to abuse substances or alcohol, and to be indecisive, irritable or self-critical.

"Sometimes [men] show what we call a 'masked male depressive presentation', that looks a bit different than typically the way we think about depression," says Singley. "There might be a tendency to somaticise", or feel physical symptoms instead of emotional ones, like stomach pains or migraines.

Some people say that fathers aren't experiencing 'true' PND, but rather general depression – a thought process exacerbated by the fact that fathers are more likely to get depressed postnatally if they have had depression before.

While there is some truth to this, it's misleading, says Michael Wells, an associate professor in the Department of Women's and Children's Health at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, and a researcher of postnatal care and male PND. Fathers are indeed more prone to postnatal depression if they've had depression in the past. But so are mothers. "It's not hormones alone," he says.

Not only that, but recent research has found that fathers' hormones also change, as early as the prenatal period. Fathers' testosterone levels decrease during their partner's pregnancy, for example, while oestrogen increases towards the end of pregnancy. There is some evidence that paternal PND

might be related.

Physiological causes aside, both mothers and involved fathers encounter a number of changes after a baby is born: "adjusting to the new baby, changes to the relationship, changes to the couple's sex life, new responsibilities, coping with the partner's stress and financial pressures," says Beyond Blue's Blashki. "More generally it can be a time of reflection on one's identity, and many men may worry about the responsibility required to look after a baby."

Particular risk factors also can make some fathers more prone to PND. One is their partner's mental health; the risk of the father developing PND is more than five times higher if the mother has it. (And if the father has PND, the mother is more likely to get it too.) Other risk factors include lack of job stability, the pregnancy being unintended, poor relationship satisfaction, having a lack of information about pregnancy and birth, less social support, sleep deprivation, and having unrealistic expectations of fatherhood. (Interestingly, while we normally associate PND with new parents, research co-authored by Wells has found that it isn't just first-time fathers who are at risk of PND; many fathers with other children get PND, too.)

But the fact that even someone like Levine – who had a stable job and marriage, no prior history of mental health issues, and plenty of medical knowledge about pregnancy and infants – could fall into PND so hard, and fast, shows it can affect anyone.

For his part, Levine believes his PND was exacerbated by not fully comprehending just how tough parenting could be, or what was normal newborn behaviour. He didn't realise that many infants simply wake frequently, or cry a lot. He put the blame on himself.

To be continued in tomorrow's issue of Pointe Xpress

Iraq's 'pearl of the south' Lake Sawa dry amid water crisis

By Samya Kullab

Hussam al-Aqouli remembers the exact spot along southern Iraq's Lake Sawa where his two daughters once dipped their feet into clear waters. Now he stands there two years on and the barren earth cracks beneath him.

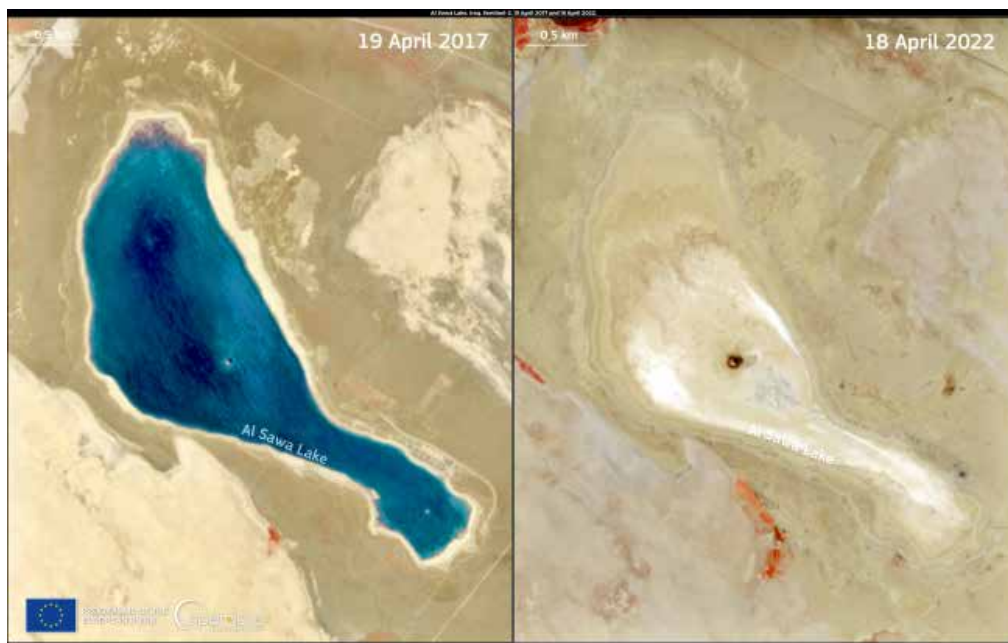
This year, for the first time in its centuries-long history, the lake dried up. A combination of mismanagement by local investors, government neglect and climate change has ground down its azure shores to chunks of salt.

Lake Sawa is only the latest casualty in this broad country-wide struggle with water shortages that experts say is induced by climate change, including record low rainfall and back-to-back drought. The stress on water resources is driving up competition for the precious resource among businessmen, farmers and herders, with the poorest Iraqis counting among the worst hit amid the disaster.

"This lake was known as the pearl of the south," said al-Aqouli, 35, a native of the nearby city of Samawa, looking out onto the dry cavernous emptiness. "Now it is our tragedy."

Between the capital Baghdad and the oil-rich heartland of Basra, Muthanna is among Iraq's poorest provinces. The number of those living under the poverty line in the province is almost three times the national average.

Desert expanses dominate the landscape with a narrow ribbon of farmland along the Euphrates River in the north. Economic development was hindered by the country's turbulent history, neglect by the Baath party regime since the 1980s, then later by wars and sanctions.



A satellite photo of Lake Sawa, Iraq in April 2017 (left) and this year in April 2022. The lake, which is several hundred years old, has never gone dry in all of recorded history.

Locals call the area surrounding Lake Sawa "atshan" — or simply "thirsty" in Arabic.

Formed over limestone rock and studded with gypsum formations, the lake has no inlet or outlet and the source of its waters had mystified experts for centuries, fuelling fantastical folklore and religious tales that locals recite as historical fact.

Al-Aqouli spent his childhood frequenting the lake with his family. He hoped he could do the same when he started a family, he said. Instead he spends his days on social media writing long blog posts and urging Iraqis to take action. Often, he feels hopeless.

The lake rises 5 metres (16 feet) above sea level and is about 4.5 kilometres (3 miles) long and 1.8 kilometres (1 mile) wide.

Lake Sawa appears in some old Islamic texts. It is said the lake miraculously formed on the day the Prophet Muhammad was born in 570 A.D. Thousands of religious tourists

visited the site annually to submerge themselves in its holy waters, which they believe are blessed by God.

The lake's rich mineral deposits are also considered a cure by some for skin diseases prevalent in historically neglected Muthanna.

Locals say the drying up of the waters of Lake Sawa presages the return of the Imam al-Mahdi, a revered figure in Shiite Islam and a descendant of the prophet.

"It means the end of days is near," said al-Aqouli, in jest.

For environmentalists, the doomsday predictions may not be far off.

Studies have shown the lake is fed by underground water sources through a system of cracks and fissures. It can also receive rainwater from surrounding valleys and heavy rainfall in past years has caused flash floods.

"The degradation of the water began over 10 years ago, but this

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

summer was the first time we lost the entire wetland,” said Laith Ali al-Obeidi, an environmental activist in southern Iraq.

Experts said the lake has not dried up for good but its disappearance this year is a concerning consequence of the thousands of illegal wells dug by businessmen in nearby cement factories and manufacturing zones, a result of drought and decreasing waters along the nearby Euphrates.

By early June, some water began to reappear because farmers, done with the harvest season, stopped diverting underground water.

Mounds of salt line the road to the river in Muthanna province and are overseen by enterprising locals who extract it by diverting groundwater and digging wells. The salt is used as a raw material in various industries in the area.

Mortadha Ali, 45, is involved in the salt business in Muthanna. He blames years of government neglect in the province for the disappearance of Lake Sawa. “They should provide people with jobs, so they aren’t obliged to dig wells to make a living,” he said.

Enforcing the closure of illegal wells and additional protective measures would have reversed Lake Sawa’s decline, said Aoun Diab, an adviser to the Water Resources Ministry. But

these would have directly affected the economic interests of provincial officials.

This has disrupted a delicate and interdependent ecosystem sustained by the rare desert oasis.

Species of fish, unfit for human consumption, were food for various vulnerable migratory birds that sojourned along its banks. With the fish gone, the birds too will have to reroute their seasonal passage or perish, said al-Obeidi.

And the future is poised to bring more hardship, with alarming predictions of more water stress. The Water Resources Ministry has said water levels decreased by 60% compared to last year in 2022.

Lake Sawa is “a case study for climate change in Iraq,” al-Obeidi said. “This is the future.”

But the lake is also a ghost of its former illustrious past.

The only body of water near to the city of Samawah, the area boasted thousands of tourists a year. Their waste — water bottles, soda cans and abandoned flip flops — remain along the dried up shores as an ode to what the impoverished area has lost.

Holiday installations built decades ago stand half-finished. Most were looted after the Gulf War in the 1990s and then after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that ousted dictator Saddam Hussein.

In 2014, Lake Sawa was named a Ramsar site, an international designation for important wetlands, gaining recognition as a rare area in need of protection. A large billboard marking the occasion overlooks the site. Local authorities hoped this would boost tourism and government resources to resume development of the area. Plans were drafted to pave roads and walkways around the lake, as well as electricity lines and water projects.

Ultimately, these failed to transpire.

The hot air was heavy as al-Aqouli took one last look of the lake before leaving.

“Believe me, it was beautiful,” he said.



UPDATED SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE UPDATE
TYPHOON EXPRESS

MONDAY
(FROM ST. JOHN'S)

AB 3:45 PM

OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA

TUESDAY

BA 6:00AM

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)

AB 10:00AM
BA 3:00PM

CONTACT US FOR RESERVATIONS +1 268 764-2291

Regional News



US launches plan to help Caribbean countries fight climate crisis, invest in clean energy

CMC - Caribbean nations have been offered improved access to funding to fight the effects of climate change and invest in clean energy projects, through an initiative by the United States to address energy security and climate crisis within the Caribbean Community, CARICOM.

The US-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030 (PACC 2030), announced by US Vice President Kamala Harris recently when she met with regional leaders on the sidelines of the ninth Summit of the Americas, focuses on reducing island nations'

dependence on energy imports.

It will support Caribbean countries' energy infrastructure and climate-resilient projects from beginning to end.

However, no details about the level of the US investment in the project were forthcoming.

In announcing the initiative, Harris said the climate issue remains an existential crisis for the entire planet, as she acknowledged that "the Caribbean is on the frontline of the crisis."

She said the US will work with regional countries to identify new clean



energy projects and will provide technical assistance to ensure the projects are viable and appealing to investors.

"We will bring them [investors] on road shows to showcase and we will improve access to development financing which will

make these projects a reality. We will engage with the private sector at every stage of this work because their involvement is essential to making this productive and meaningful," Harris assured the Caribbean leaders.

The US Vice President
cont'd on pg 17

Jamaica PM urges greater coordination to safeguard tourism in the Americas

CNW - Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness has called for greater coordination among governments and private-sector tourism partners across the Americas, to better plan for and manage crises impacting the sector and protect workers.

Speaking at the IV CEO Summit of the Americas, he noted that in the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in Jamaica, there was an immediate fall-off in tourism, but noted that the Government took a very proactive approach to cushion the effects.

"We engaged the sector and we put in place a program to ensure that we could support employees in the tourism sector. So even though visitor arrivals fell dramatically, in some instances to zero, we still managed to cushion our tourism workers," he pointed out.

"Going forward, a stronger ap-



Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness

proach [is needed] in terms of having a plan to ensure the resilience of the industry from a human resource management point of view, from a public health point of view, and, indeed, to treat with any other form of crisis that may emerge."

He said there must be cooperation in setting standards and working towards a uniform set of rules and regulations to make it easier and seamless for "our partners in tourism to function

in our space", noting that governments are at a better place in terms of managing and coordinating regional efforts in ensuring that the industry is well supported.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who spoke on 'How Tourism Can Boost Economic Recovery', said that for countries to protect the value of tourism, they need to develop policies that will incentivize investors to seek to diversify their offerings.

He noted that Jamaica is adding to its sun, sea and sand offerings by providing higher-value products and making greater use of locally generated inputs, in particular displaying local culture and involving the people more in tourism.

He said these efforts will improve and increase the value of tourism to the country.

38 hostages kidnapped by Haitian gangs freed

CMC – The 38 people who were kidnapped by gunmen as they were riding in minibuses in Haiti on Friday, have been freed.

The announcement was made late Saturday by one of the unions representing bus drivers in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member state.

“The passengers who had been kidnapped were released... on 11 June,” the Haitian Owners and Drivers Association said in a message posted to social media, adding that the two minibuses they had been travelling in were also recovered.

The association did not say if a ransom was demanded and paid to the kidnappers.

According to the president of the association of owners and drivers of Haiti, Mehu Changeux, two buses had just been filled with pas-



sengers heading for Miragoane, a town 62 miles west of the capital Port-au-Prince, when the members of a powerful gang from a slum called Village de Dieu seized them.

“Each bus had 18 people, in addition to the drivers,” Changeux said.

The mass kidnapping came as Haiti finds itself in the grip of armed gangs, whom police have failed to confront.

Since June 1, 2021, Haitian authorities have lost

control of the only road connecting Port-au-Prince to the southern half of the country, with a section of some 1.5 miles under the sway of armed gangs.

According to Changeux his organisation has warned drivers not to take this road until the state has restored security.

Last weekend, three young Turkish women were released after a month in captivity.

They had been kid-

napped by the criminal gang that controls the entire region east of Port-au-Prince, close to the border with the Dominican Republic that shares the island of Hispaniola.

This gang, which hijacked the bus in which they were travelling from Santo Domingo, still holds five other Turkish nationals.

In May, at least 200 kidnappings were recorded by the United Nations, most of them occurring in Port-au-Prince.

cont'd from pg 16

said when the transition to clean energy is accelerated, economic opportunities for the entire region would be unlocked.

“When we work together to address this urgent threat, it benefits the people of the United States and the people of the Caribbean and all of us of course benefit by reducing emission,” she said.

CARICOM’s Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett said energy security in the Caribbean is a critical matter as countries seek to transition their energy systems to more modern, clean, and reliable supplies of renewable energy.

The US government said PACC 2030 will serve as its primary mech-

anism for regional climate adaptation and resilience and energy cooperation through 2030, as it works toward meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve these objectives, PACC 2030 will organise its activities and programs under four pillars: improving access to development financing, facilitating clean energy project development and investment, enhancing local capacity building, and deepening collaboration with Caribbean partners.

“Recognizing that access to financing is critical to achieving the region’s climate and clean energy objectives, PACC 2030 will work to expand existing access to project financing and

unlock new financing mechanisms to support climate and clean energy infrastructure development in the region.”

The US government has promised that under the initiative it will collaborate with the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation; participate in the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum to elevate technical engagement on clean energy and transportation development in the region; and collaborate with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, the Regional Security System, and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology on climate adaptation and resilience issues.

Court refuses to halt UK deportation plan for migrants

(AP) — A British government's plan to deport asylum-seekers of various nationalities to Rwanda is set to go ahead after an appeals court on Monday refused to block the policy that the U.N.'s top refugee official said sets a dangerous precedent for migrants fleeing war and oppression.

Immediately after the decision by a three-justice panel of the Court of Appeal in London, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said the first deportation flight would go ahead as scheduled on Tuesday.

Migrant advocacy groups have attacked the policy as inhumane and illegal ever since April, when Johnson announced the plan as way to deter people from risking their lives by paying smugglers to take them to Britain in leaky inflatable boats.

Filippo Grandi, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, lashed out against the policy, describing it as "all wrong."

If the British government is truly interested in protecting lives, it should work with other countries to target the people smugglers and provide safe routes for asylum seekers, not simply shunt migrants to other countries, Grandi said after the ruling.

Monday's ruling was



Demonstrators protest outside of an airport perimeter fence against the deportation of asylum seekers from Britain to Rwanda, at Gatwick Airport near Crawley, Britain, June 12, 2022. REUTERS/Toby Melville

focused on the narrow question of whether a temporary injunction should be issued blocking deportation flights to Rwanda while a case challenging the legality of the policy moves through the courts.

A coalition of immigration rights advocates and public employees unions had asked the Court of Appeal to overturn a lower court ruling, arguing that the judge had made a mistake when he decided Friday not to issue an injunction.

But the Court of Appeal rejected the case, saying the judge had properly balanced the issues before him. Under U.K. law, a

court must find there is strong evidence a government policy is likely to be ruled illegal before it can issue a temporary injunction.

Further legal challenges are under way. A similar case filed by lawyers representing a different group of plaintiffs was heard in the High Court on Monday.

While a major precedent is at stake, the number of people immediately affected by the cases has been steadily whittled down as lawyers challenge the merits of each deportation order. The charity Care4Calais said all but eight of the 31 migrants originally told they would

be on the flight to Rwanda have had their tickets canceled.

Raza Husain, one of the lawyers for the migrants, argued Monday that the government's plan involved the forced removal of asylum-seekers to a country they don't want to travel to as part of a policy intended to deter others from trying to enter Britain.

"This amounts, on any view, to a serious interference with basic dignity ... where those individuals have already suffered significant trauma and have mental health issues," he said in documents filed with the court.

Russia earns \$97bn on energy exports since invasion

BBC - Russia earned nearly \$100bn (£82.3bn) from oil and gas exports during the first 100 days of the war in Ukraine, according to a report.

Revenues have been falling since March, as many countries shunned Russian supplies, but remain high, the independent Centre For Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) found.

It also warned of potential loopholes in efforts to curb imports from Russia.

The EU, US and UK are among those to have pledged to cut Russian imports.

But the CREA report found Russia still earned \$97bn in revenue from fossil fuel exports in the first 100 days of the Ukraine conflict, from 24 February to 3 June.

The European Union made up 61% of these imports, worth approximately \$59bn.

Overall, exports of Russian oil and gas are falling and Moscow's revenue from energy sales has also declined from a peak of well over \$1bn a day in March.

But revenues still exceeded the cost of the Ukraine war during the first 100 days - with the CREA estimating that Russia is spending around \$876m per day on the invasion.

The EU plans to ban Russian oil imports arriving by sea by the end of 2022, which would cut imports by two-thirds.

In March, the bloc also committed to reducing gas imports from Russia by two-thirds within a year.

However, so far it has been unable to agree on an outright ban.

Meanwhile, the US has declared a complete ban on Russian oil, gas and coal imports. The UK is to phase out Russian oil imports by the end of the



year.

The CREA report said the EU's planned oil embargo would have a significant impact.

But it warned large quantities of Russian crude oil were now being shipped to India, which increased its share of Russia's total crude exports from around 1% before the invasion of Ukraine to 18% in May.

The report said a "significant share" of this was being refined and sold on - often to customers in the US and Europe - which it described as "an important loophole to close".

It added that strong sanctions against tankers transporting Russian crude would significantly limit the scope for this practice.

The report points out that as Russia seeks new markets for oil, much of it is being transported by ship - and the majority of the vessels used are owned by European and US companies.

As well as India, other countries that increased imports of Russian fuel included France, China, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, the report said.

On the face of it, this report contains a lot of bad news. Energy sales

are still in effect funding the war in Ukraine, with high prices offsetting efforts to reduce demand.

But that doesn't mean pressure on Moscow won't tell in the end. The report's authors expect a partial EU embargo on Russian oil to cut revenues by some \$36bn a year, for example. Exports of gas have already fallen dramatically - and there are plans to reduce Europe's reliance on Russia still further.

Yet embargoes have to be effective. The report points out that more and more Russian oil is being exported to India for refining. And some of those refined products are finding their way back onto European markets.

Since refined products are not covered by the EU ban, this is a clear potential loophole.

And with Russian oil being diverted from pipelines and onto ships as Moscow seeks new markets, there is growing demand for vessels to carry it. But the majority of the oil tankers currently being used are owned by European companies.

For pressure on Russia to be most effective, issues like these will have to be addressed.

Bachelet won't seek second term as UN human rights chief

AP – U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said Monday she will not seek a new four-year term after the end of the current one that has been overshadowed by criticism of her response to China's treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in western Xinjiang.

Bachelet used her opening address to the summer session of the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council to say that her comments on Monday "will be the last which I brief" the 47-member-state body. Rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani confirmed that meant that Bachelet, a former president of Chile, would not be seeking a new term after the current one ends on Aug. 31.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who chooses the U.N. rights chief, recently affirmed his support for Bachelet after she came in for criticism from the United States and others for allegedly not doing enough to raise concerns about or look into rights abuses in Xinjiang during her trip to China last month, when she spoke with President Xi Jinping and other top officials.

Bachelet, 70, took up the job in September 2018 and immediately expressed hopes of visiting China and viewing the rights situation in Xinjiang for herself.

Her office repeatedly said she and staffers were working to create the right conditions for the trip, which ultimately took place last month. But critics said she hasn't spoken out enough, and during the visit didn't press authorities enough. She insisted that her trip was not an "investigation" and emphasised that she had opened a channel of communication



Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, delivers her statement during the opening day of the 50th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, June 13, 2022. (Valentin Flauraud/Keystone via AP)

with top Chinese authorities.

A veteran politician who had rubbed elbows with leaders worldwide while Chile's president, and the daughter of a man who was tortured under a rightist regime in the country, Bachelet was widely seen as a politically savvy choice who would bring in a less vocal and more cooperative approach to the office than her outspoken predecessor Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein — a Jordanian prince.

After a brief news conference in China as her trip ended on May 28, Bachelet used Monday's speech to the rights council to provide new details about her conversations with authorities there. She said she raised concerns about arbitrary detention and "patterns of abuse" against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities

in Xinjiang.

She said her long-awaited report on the rights situation in Xinjiang — where some critics say Uyghurs have been subject to genocide — is being "updated" and will be shared with Beijing authorities "for factual comments" before it is published. China has denied such accusations and has defended its "vocational education and training centres" that critics have called detention centres.

Last week, Human Rights Watch relayed a statement from over 230 activist groups representing people from Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and other places in China calling on Bachelet to step down. In it, the groups accused her of having "whitewashed the Chinese government's human rights atrocities" during her visit.

Nupur Sharma: Uttar Pradesh destroys houses of Muslims after protests

AP – Authorities in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (UP) have demolished the houses of some Muslims who were allegedly linked to religious protests that turned violent.

The protests were sparked by derogatory remarks made by two former leaders of the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) about the Prophet Muhammad.

The demonstrations turned violent in some states as people damaged property.

More than 300 people were arrested in UP.

Local authorities demolished three Muslim-owned houses over the weekend, alleging that they had been illegally constructed - a claim denied by some of the owners.

The demolitions triggered condemnation from opposition leaders, who accused the state government -



Officials ordered the demolition of houses of Muslims accused of prompting violence [Reuters]

headed by chief minister Yogi Adityanath - of targeting the minority Muslim community.

Critics say religious polarisation has deepened in India since 2014, when the Hindu nationalist BJP came to power. Hate speech and attacks

against Muslims have risen sharply over the past few years.

A tweet from Mrityunjay Kumar, Mr Adityanath's media adviser, also sparked outrage. He had tweeted a photo of a bulldozer demolishing a building, adding: "Unruly elements remember, every Friday is followed by a Saturday."

Two of the destroyed houses belonged to people who were accused of throwing stones after Friday prayers.

The third was that of a politician named Javed Ahmed, who has been accused of planning the protests. His daughter, Afreen Fatima, is a prominent Muslim rights activist who had participated in the protests against a controversial citizenship law.

A former chief justice of the Allahabad high court told The Indian Express newspaper that the demolition of Mr Ahmed's house was "totally illegal".

"Even if you assume for a moment that the construction was illegal, which by the way is how crores of Indians live, it is impermissible that you demolish a house on a Sunday when the residents are in custody," former Chief Justice Govind Mathur said.

WADADLI ELITE BASKETBALL EXPOSURE CAMP

DATE:

JUNE 24TH - 26TH


TIME:

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM


COME MEET ANTIGUA'S OWN COACH

JERMELLE "SPEEDY" FRASER

- FORMER NCAA AND PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER
- NCAA COACH
- PRO PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COACH



\$300 PER PARTICIPANT, FOOD, FAMILY, FUN, SLAM DUNK, 3 POINT, SKILL CHALLENGE AND MUCH MORE....



LOCATION: JSC

- 45FC CVA JHONSONS VILLAGE SIMON BOLIVAR DR. PIGGOTT'S ANTIGUA BARBUDA

Sports News



Daniil Medvedev replaces Novak Djokovic as world number one

BBC – Russia's Daniil Medvedev has replaced Novak Djokovic at the top of the world rankings, two weeks before a Wimbledon at which he will not be allowed to play.

Wimbledon has been stripped of its ranking points over its decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players over the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

However, that decision means Medvedev, 26, is likely to increase his lead over Djokovic at the end of the tournament because the Serb is defending champion so has more ranking

points to lose.

Djokovic has dropped to world number three, with the injured Alexander Zverev rising to second.

It is the first time since November 2003 that none of Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer or Andy Murray have appeared in the top two rankings spots.

Medvedev became the first player other than Djokovic, Nadal, Federer or Murray to top the men's rankings since American Andy Roddick 18 years ago when he briefly replaced Djokovic as number one in February.



Daniil Medvedev played the grass-court tournament in 's-Hertogenbosch last week [Getty Images]

Wimbledon excluded Russian and Belarusian players from participating this year because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine - leading the governing bodies of the men's and

women's games, the ATP and WTA, to remove ranking points from the Slam.

Serbia's Djokovic, a six-time Wimbledon champion, will lose the 2,000

cont'd on pg 23

PLATINUM Fm
We Entertain You **97.9**

STEELPAN MELEE

WITH **KHAN KC CORDICE**
5PM-6PM
TUESDAYS

WV

LIVE

Japan toughens defamation penalties after wrestler's suicide

AP - Japan's parliament approved tougher penalties for criminal defamation Monday in a move prompted by a bullied wrestler's suicide and that is raising free speech concerns.

Parliamentary deliberations on toughening the defamation law began in January after Hana Kimura took her own life at 22.

Kimura faced bullying and insults on social media in 2020 after appearing on "Terrace House," a hugely popular reality show on Japan's Fuji TV and Netflix, about three men and three women temporarily living together at a shared house in Tokyo.

She became a target of hateful and vicious messages on social media after she was criticised for her performance in one of the episodes.

Before her suicide, she tweeted that she received about a hundred hateful messages every day and she was hurt by them.

Her death triggered a wave of discussion about anonymous bullying and hateful messages. Fuji TV cancelled the rest of the planned production of the show and said the decision was to respond "sincerely" to the case.

At least two people were convicted of defaming Kimura, but their court-ordered penalty — a 9,000 yen (\$66) fine — triggered outrage from people who said the penalty was too



Kyoko Kimura wears a T-shirt with an image of her daughter and wrestler Hana at a press club in Tokyo on May 19, 2021. Japan's parliament approved tougher penalties for criminal defamation Monday, June 13, 2022 in a move prompted by the bullied wrestler's suicide and that is raising free speech concerns. (Shohei Miyano/Kyodo News via AP)

light.

Kimura's mother, Kyoko, also a famous professional wrestler, was a driving force behind the legal change. She testified to parliament in April and said she has continuously faced insults and accusations of using her daughter's name to make money.

The amended law will be formally enacted later this year. It will add a prison term of one year with an option of forced labour, and fines of up

to 300,000 yen (\$2,220) to convicted violators — a change from only short-term detention and fines of less than 10,000 yen (\$74) in the current law.

The legislation was approved by the upper house on Monday after earlier passing in the lower house, the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber parliament. Due to the free speech concerns, the law is scheduled to be reviewed by outside experts in three years.

cont'd from pg 22

ranking points he secured when he lifted the men's title at SW19 last year.

Medvedev and Germany's Zverev only stand to lose 180 points, having gone out in the fourth round last year.

The Russian was beaten in straight sets by Marin

Cilic in the fourth round of the French Open and suffered a shock defeat by Dutch wildcard Tim van Rijthoven, the world number 205, in the final of the Libema Open in the Netherlands on Sunday.

Van Rijthoven, 24, stunned Medvedev 6-4 6-1 in 65 minutes to clinch a

maiden ATP title in front of his home crowd on just his second appearance in a tour-level main draw. He had not won a tour-level match prior to the tournament.

Zverev, a semi-finalist at Roland Garros, is likely to miss several weeks after having surgery on his torn

ankle ligaments last week.

Meanwhile, world number four and French Open champion Rafael Nadal is recovering from treatment on a chronic foot condition.

Norway's French Open runner-up Casper Ruud, 23, replaces Stefanos Tsitsipas in the top five for the first time.

Black Hawks crush Golden Eagles in ABCA two-day contest

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks crushed Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles by an innings and 71 runs at Bethesda in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Competition over the weekend.

Sent into bat, Bethesda were bowled out for 134 in 44.4 overs in their first innings, with opener Shacoy Floyd making 88.

Captain Karima Gore grabbed 5 for 37 in 18 overs and Uri Smith bagged 4 for 38 in 8.4 overs.

In reply, Liberta made 272 in 51.1 overs in their first innings, with Gore slamming 76 off 49 balls, with 8 fours and 4 sixes.

Michael Greaves struck 58 and Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall hammered 56 off 39 balls with 9 fours and 2 sixes.

Facing a deficit of 138 runs, Bethesda could only muster 67 for 8 off 25.5 overs in their second innings.

Floyd made 31, while Gore claimed 3 for 22, Smith took 3 for 27 and Elvis Weaver picked up 2 wickets for 8 runs.

Pigotts Crushers enjoyed success as well as they trounced Rising Sun Spartans by an innings and 17 runs.

Rising Sun could only muster 35 for 8 in 14.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat at the Pigotts playing field.

Jared Jno Baptiste grabbed 4 for 19, captain Elroy Francis Jr. picked up 2 wickets without conceding a run and Tyree Moore claimed 2 wickets for 10 runs.

In response, Pigotts made 162 for 6 off 33.1 overs before declaring their first innings closed. Francis slammed 63 off 60 balls with 8 fours, while Korie Joseph contributed 45.

Shane Burton captured 3 for 71.

Facing a deficit of 127 runs, Rising Sun could only muster 110 for 9 in 34 overs in their second innings, with Moore taking 3 for 31.

Empire Nation also celebrated victory when they defeated All Saints Pythons by 100 runs at King George V Grounds. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Empire were dismissed for 154 in 40.5 overs.

Opener Damian Lowenfield slammed 62 and Juara Edwards struck 35. Kadeem Josiah grabbed 4 for 15, Michael Marcellin picked up 2 for 28 and Dimetri Lucas claimed 2 for 31.

Empire then gained a two-run first innings lead by restricting All Saints to 152 for 9 in 42.3 overs, with opener Michael Dover getting 48. Michael McKenzie snapped up 6 for 34 and Justin Athanaze grabbed 3 for 36 in 17 overs.

Empire then made 150 all out in 42.4 overs in their second innings, with Edwards hitting 41 and Tariq Benjamin scoring 32. Jewel Andrew captured 3 for 22, Josiah claimed 2 for 23 and T'ron Payne picked up 2 for 32.

Set 153 to win, All Saints crashed to 52 all out in 21.2 overs in their second innings. Jahvaughn James snapped up four for 15, McKenzie picked up three wickets for one run and Athanaze captured two for 15.

However, the match between New Winthorpes Lions and Jennings Tigers ended in a draw at New Winthorpes.

New Winthorpes made 227 for 9 in 53.4 overs in their first innings.

Opener Asha Murray-Cornelius top scored with 44, Ian Eusebe struck 40, while Shavon Moore and Baetlette Henry each made 32.

Kenroy Browne captured 3 for 20 and Omari Joseph claimed 3 for 65.



Captain Karima Gore produced a fine all-round performance for PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks in their drawn ABCA Two-Day match against Bethesda over the weekend. Gore slammed 76 and had a match haul of 8 for 59. (File photo)

Jennings replied with 152 off 51.1 overs in their first innings. Nicholas Tappin got 47 and Matthew Miller made 44. Eusebe bagged 5 for 30 in 16 overs, Moore claimed 2 for 15 and Orandel Boston picked up 2 for 37.

New Winthorpes were 186 for 5 off 41 overs in their second innings when the match ended. Jermaine Otto was not out on 54 off 58 balls, while Henry scored 40. Joseph captured 3 for 63 in 13 overs.

Marsh wins ESR King of the Hill cycling race

Veteran national cyclist Robert “Ochie” Marsh captured the overall title in the East Side Raiders King of the Hill Road Race on Sunday.

Marsh also captured the Men’s Elite Class title in the event organised by his East Side Raiders Club as part of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation’s (ABCF) domestic programme.

Marsh completed the road race in a time of 1 hour, 47 minutes and 27.14 seconds to win the Men’s Elite Class.

Shawn Weathered, captured second place in a time of 1 hour, 49 minutes and 11.76 seconds ahead of his Team Terminix colleague Emanuel Gayral, who placed third in a time of 1 hour, 49 minutes and 17.15 seconds.

Telesha Choy of Team Independent captured the female title after



Winners of the Men's Elite Class of the East Side Raiders King of the Hill Road Race on Sunday. From left to right: Runner-up Shawn Weathered, winner Robert 'Ochie' Marsh and third place finisher Emanuel Gayral. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

completing the race in 1 hour, 40 minutes and 54.80 seconds.

Abbiel Fleming of Road Runners

Cycling Club won the Masters Class in a time of 2 hours and 57.94 seconds.

Delvin Peters of Team Terminix took second place in 2 hours, 3 minutes and 57.52 seconds, while Ken Jackson of Road Runners Cycling Club finished third in 2 hours, 7 minutes and 56.51 seconds.

Tahje Browne prevailed over his Wadadli Cycling Academy colleague Jahiem Telemaque to win the Cadets 14 to 17 Class.

Browne completed the course in 1 hour, 36 minutes and 37.09 seconds, while Telemaque finished in 2 hours, 3 minutes and 23.43 seconds.

Newell Mack of Road Runners Cycling Club maintained his dominance in the Sports Class with another win on Sunday in a time of 2 hours and 22.74 seconds.

Teammate Micah Gore was obliged to settle for second place once more with a final time of 2 hours, 5 minutes and 11.58 seconds.

Joel Griffith of Little Rascals claimed third place in 2 hours, 18 minutes and 49.71 seconds.



IT'S OUR GAME

WEST INDIES VS **BANGLADESH**

1st TEST

Antigua

JUNE 16-20 | 10AM-5PM

SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM

GET TICKETS!

A&B lose again to Cuba in CONCACAF Nations League

A hat trick from Aricheell Hernandez gave Cuba a 3-1 victory over Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys on Sunday, with the northern Caribbean team extending its longest-ever CONCACAF Nations League (CNL) winning streak to three matches.

The victory takes Cuba to the top of Group A of League B in the 2022-23 CNL, ahead of play resuming in March next year.

Cuba had the first good look at goal in the eighth minute, with forward Onel Hernandez picking a defender's pocket and putting a shot on goal, but it was stopped by diving Benna Boys goalkeeper Nick Townsend.

The hosts had the lead though in the 15th minute when Hernandez drew Townsend out of net and fired a shot past him which struck the post.

Cuba's Aricheell Hernandez was there, however, and tapped the rebound into the open net which roused fans at the Estadio Antonio Maceo in Santiago de Cuba into a cheer.

They were on their feet again in the 20th minute, when Cuba's defender Jorge Corrales put a left-footed cross into the box, where Aricheell Hernandez again positioned to head in a goal that doubled the lead.

Antigua and Barbuda refused to go quietly though, as following a corner kick, striker D'Andre Bishop scored in the 55th minute, settling the ball with a touch and putting a long-range effort past Cuba's goalkeeper, Sandy Sanchez.

Aricheell Hernandez scored the



Cuba's striker Aricheell Hernandez, #10, celebrates with teammates after scoring in their 3-1 victory over Antigua and Barbuda at the Estadio Antonio Maceo in Santiago, Cuba, 12th June, 2022. (Photo CONCACAF)

third goal in the 65th minute, completing his hat trick with a left-foot shot after being played through by Luis Paradela.

This was Cuba's second victory over the Benna Boys within four days, having recorded a 2-0 victory over them on Thursday night at the Warner Park Stadium in St. Kitts.

The Cubans, coached by Pablo Elier Sanchez, displayed their superiority over the Benna Boys who were beaten for the first time after recording one nil victories in their matches against Barbados and Guadeloupe, the other opponents in the four-team group.

The Cuban team's 4-4-2 formation resulted in more control of the

ball and created many opportunities to reach their opponent's goal, and even though only two goals were scored, they deserved much more for their dominance.

Luis Javier Paradela, with a 16th minute strike, and Onel Hernández, with an 83rd minute conversion, inspired the Cubans to their victory last Thursday.

Both Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda have a March 2023 date with Barbados, and another against Guadeloupe left on the calendar, with both teams still within grasp of gaining promotion to Group A of the CNL and a place into the 2023 CONCACAF Gold Cup.