

PM BROWNE LEADS DELEGATION TO 26TH CHOGM IN RWANDA



HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales and Prime Minister Gaston Browne. *Story on Page 2.*

Local News



Prime Minister Browne leads delegation to CHOGM 2022

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is leading a delegation from Antigua and Barbuda to the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda.

CHOGM has been delayed since June 2020 because of the pandemic.

Prime Minister Browne is accompanied by E.P. Chet Greene, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, Maria Bird-Browne,

Minister for Housing, Lands and Urban Renewal, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ideka Dowe, Political and Trade Attaché at the High Commission.

The theme for this year's CHOGM is "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming." It is focussing on key priority areas which reflect the global challenges to



Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, arrived in Kigali, Rwanda for the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). On his arrival he was received by Francis Gatare, Senior Economic Adviser to the President of Rwanda.

which the Commonwealth must adequately respond. These are fairness, prosperity, security and sustainability.

Commonwealth leaders from across 54 Commonwealth countries will travel to Rwanda to reaffirm their common values and agree actions and policies to improve the lives of all their citizens. Decisions taken at CHOGM also guide the work programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

In addition to the formal working sessions of CHOGM, Prime Minister Gaston Browne will speak on two distinguished panels that will focus on climate change and sustainable economic development. On Wednesday, 22nd June the Prime Minister will join a fireside chat during the Commonwealth Business Forum with colleague Prime Minister Phillip Davis of The Bahamas and President Ibra-

him Mohamed Solih of the Maldives to be moderated by Lord Marland, Chair of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council. The theme for this session is "Financing the Blue-Green Growth for Sustainable Islands".

On Thursday 23rd June, the Prime Minister will speak at a high – level panel discussion along with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, Prime Minister Lee-Hsein Loong of Singapore, Deputy Prime Minister Donald Marles of Australia and the Honourable Alok Sharma, the COP26 President. The theme for this discussion is "Keeping 1.5 Alive – The Glasgow Climate Pact and Building Momentum towards COP 27."

On the margins of CHOGM, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will

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Local News

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meet the leaders of several Commonwealth countries in a series of bilateral meetings between Antigua and Barbuda and the respective countries. These meetings will seek to strengthen bilateral ties and deepen cooperation between a number of countries to include Cyprus, Nigeria, Kenya, Malta, Rwanda, Ghana, Canada and the United Kingdom and Antigua and Barbuda.

Additionally, the Prime Minister will attend two closed executive sessions for Commonwealth Heads of Government on Friday 24th June. In the first of these executive sessions an election will be held to select the next Secretary General of the Commonwealth. The candi-

dates are the incumbent Secretary General, Baroness Patricia Scotland of Dominica; Kamina Johnson-Smith of Jamaica and Sir Iakoba Taeia Italeli of Tuvalu.

Foreign Minister Greene will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) and the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting for Small States.



Maria Browne will participate in bilateral meetings.

She will also represent Antigua and Barbuda at an important side event on violence against women and girls as well as lay a wreath at the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

The Commonwealth of Nations is an intergovernmental organisation that comprises 54 member nations from Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is

one of the largest summits for world leaders across the globe. It represents one of the most important fora for the issues of small island developing states to be heard and addressed by the international community. It aims to reinforce multilateral cooperation, explore new opportunities, and tackle common challenges for the well-being of future generations.

The CHOGM concludes on 25th June, 2022.

Wed 22 Day		Wed 22 Night	
86°		78°	
9% ESE 10 mph		7% E 7 mph	
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 86F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.		Partly cloudy skies. Low 78F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 67%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 76%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:35 am	Sunset 6:43 pm	Moonrise 12:58 am	Moonset 1:29 pm
		Waning Crescent	

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Local News



ABFA remembers Gordon Derrick

The football fraternity is remembering the contributions of Gordon 'Banks' Derrick to the game nationally, regionally and further afield.

53-year-old Gordon, complained of feeling unwell on Sunday evening and collapsed and died shortly after in his home in Miami, according to reports.

In paying tribute, the ABFA in a statement issued by its General Secretariat listed Gordon Derrick as a past General Secretary of the ABFA, past President of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU), past Vice-President of Concacaf, a proud member of the Villa Lions fraternity, and a man committed



Gordon 'Banks' Derrick

to football and all whom the sport serves.

The ABFA statement outlined, "Banks was at once extremely bright, discerning, and gregarious. He would, in a single day,

chair the meeting, seal the deal, and then move on to become the life of the party.

"He gave his all to football and his vision for the sport in which the Caribbean is equal to all and subor-

dinate to none, and he paid a great price. Still, neither his love for football nor his support for those of us still in the game waned. From chairman to cheerleader, his passion was unmuted and, perhaps, unmatched".

The association has offered condolences to his wife Wendy and his children Nazir and Gia, his siblings, Colin and Sandra and many others who mourn his passing.

Gordon Derrick was the 'D' in the promotion company DSC Promotions and a band leader in the defunct Xtreme Mas Troupe. He was also a former chairman of ACB Mortgage and Trust Company Limited.

Two days of sweltering heat predicted

An excessive heat watch is in effect for the next two days and the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services wants residents to take note in order to prevent heat-related illnesses.

In a statement issued on Monday, Acting Director of the Met Office, Dale Des- tin, said the excessive heat watch will be in effect from 10am today to 4:30pm tomorrow.

"The slackening of the pressure gradient is expected to cause the winds to

become light, resulting in favourable conditions for warmer than usual weather. The combination of light winds, heat and humidity will likely result in the heat index or feels-like temperature threat rising to high levels, with the potential for extensive impacts, for mainly vulnerable people," Des- tin wrote in an alert.

There is a likelihood that the heat index can get to as high as 41 degrees Celsius or 106 degrees Fahrenheit.

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NOTICE

To: Your Worship
The liquor License Magistrate
St. Johns Magistrate Court
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The Commissioner of Police
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Dated the 16th day of June, 2022

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Re: Notice- Application for Liquor License

I, Carlos Nunez Rodriguez of Lower St. George's Street, St. Johns, Antigua with registered business situate at Lower St. George's Street, St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 7th July, 2022 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "BLOKE TRENTA" situated at Lower St. George's Street, St. Johns in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda. However in the interim I am making request for a temporary permit to sell my liquor.

I do anticipate a favorable reply.

Respectfully yours

CCG to be developed as West Indies Cricket High Performance & Heritage Center

The Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG), home of West Indies Cricket, is entering the final phase of major development planning which will transform the ICC accredited facility into a truly state of the art cricket and cultural heritage centre. Infrastructural work and rehabilitation are expected to commence later this year.

CCG will become a world class centre of cricket with linkages to several other smaller cricket academies across the region. CCG will be able to adequately host training camps and player remedial work as well as stage international matches at all levels. This will include an Emerging Players Academy and the construction of an ultra-modern indoor/outdoor facility with several inputs for players' preparation, including medical, training, fitness, and gym facilities.

"A strategic approach to master planning of the facility is well underway, and we are stepping into a new frontier as we seek to make CCG the 'flagship' where players from the grassroots



to the international level can develop and hone their technical and mental skills. We envision the CCG of the future as a truly world-class facility with all the amenities," said Nelecia Yeates, General Manager of CCG.

Yeates added, "Fans attending matches at the 'new CCG' will also have an exceptional spectator experience. We will leave no stone unturned as we hold firm to the commitment and belief that all islands of the Caribbean can be the birthplace of greatness in our sport, both on and off the field."

As part of the redevelopment

project for the 20-acre facility, CCG has announced the appointment of a design collective consisting of CJC + Associates Inc., KSS Design Group Ltd and Melon Design Architecture to design and develop a transformational high-performance, world-class concept master plan.

"We were hugely impressed by the quality of all the responses for our Request for Proposals, but the level of information showcased in the design collective proposal was both impressive and inspiring. The winners have shown excep-

tional talent and promise and aligned well with CWI's vision to create a uniquely West Indian and world class cricket and heritage centre," said Ricky Skerritt, President of CWI and Chairman of CCG.

"It is a huge achievement and opportunity, yet a humbling experience to be selected the winners, even more so with the high standard of entries as was expressed by the client," said Colin John Jenkins on behalf of the design collective (CJC+ Associates Inc., KSS Design Group Ltd and Melon Design Architecture).

Within the next few months, Jenkins and the design collective team are expected to submit draft master plans to CCG and CWI for final design and costing approval.

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Ahead of the expected sweltering conditions, the meteorological service wants people in vulnerable categories to be particularly careful when venturing outside.

"The risks are greatest for the elderly, young children, people with chronic ill-

nesses such as breathing difficulties, heart conditions or psychiatric illnesses, people who work or who exercise in the heat, homeless people and low-income earners," Dale Destined cautioned.

The possibility exists that a warning can be issued.

Local News



“Pan d’ Garden” this weekend at the Botanical Gardens

The pan fraternity is staging a major event on Saturday with two goals in mind.

In the absence of a panorama competition this carnival, the pan community has planned several events in the weeks leading up to the summer festival to reignite interest in pan music.

The events are also aimed at raising funds to assist two national pan icons – Victor Babu Samuel and Devon Bachelor – who are both facing health challenges.

The event dubbed Pan d’ Garden, takes place at the Botanical Gardens where eight steel bands will perform.

Spokesman for the organisers, Cuthbert “Tiny” Thomas, said the show will start promptly at 6:00pm with a 20 minute musical performance by pan soloist, Ibo Lashley.

At the end of his set, one of the nation’s top iron bands will perform ahead of the first steel band.

“We will not be having a stage and all eight bands

will set up at strategic points around the ground. We will ensure that the area is well lit, thus providing a nice garden setting to hear sweet steel band music,” Thomas stated.

The pan association is working alongside the Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation (MCII) to stage these events.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of Carnival 2020 and 2021.

Despite the efforts by the government, through

the MCII, to have a panorama included in the scaled down Carnival 2022, the pan fraternity said it faced too many hurdles which made it impossible to participate in a panorama competition.

An undertaking was given by the pannists, however, to participate in other events which will hopefully rekindle an interest in pan music.

Other events planned by the fraternity include a beach jam and a performance at Carnival City.

Woman accused of burning “side chick” with goat water bailed

The woman accused of burning her husband’s new girlfriend with goat water on 6th June at the Sunrise Breakfast Fete was granted bail on Tuesday.

Annalee Jeffrey, 29, was remanded to Her Majesty’s Prison overnight after she made her first appearance before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards on Monday.

In that appearance, it was revealed that Jeffrey, a Jamaican national, was no longer in the country legally, as the time granted to her by the Immigration Department had expired in May this year.

Now charged with causing grievous bodily harm to her husband’s live-in girlfriend, Jeffrey was granted bail in the amount of \$10,000, with a cash surety of \$2,000.

She has been ordered to stay 50 feet away from the virtual com-

plainant and is to have no contact with her, or any witness to the incident.

Jeffrey was also ordered to report to the Coolidge Police Station three times weekly.

Her passport has been seized and her name has been blacklisted for travel at all ports of entry to Antigua and Barbuda.

The virtual complainant attended the hearing on Tuesday and appeared to have visible scars from the attack. She is said to have suffered first degree burns as a result of the incident earlier this month.

Jeffrey’s estranged husband was operating a food stall at the Sunrise Breakfast Fete in Willikies. At some point, Jeffrey went to the stall and struck up a conversation with her husband.

At some point, the virtual complainant claimed she was accosted by



Jeffrey as she served the goat water, which was being prepared over a live flame at the event.

She said she lost her footing and fell to the ground, causing the scalding pot of soup to overturn onto her body.

She sustained burn injuries to her face and hand.

Jeffrey also sustained a minor injury to one of her hands from the soup.



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2022

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PRE-EVENTS

Fri 22 Jul

- ★ Band Meet Band Showdown

Sat 23 Jul

- ★ T-Shirt Mas

Sun 24 Jul

- ★ Celebration Honouring The Monarch King Short Shirt

Mon 25 Jul

- ★ Teen Rave

Tues 26 July

- ★ Drue's Day

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wed 27 Jul

- ★ Opening of Carnival
- ★ Jaycees Caribbean Queen Show

Thurs 28 Jul

- ★ Melting Pot

Fri 29 Jul

- ★ Calypso Monarch Competition

Sat 30 Jul

- ★ Party Monarch Competition

Sun 31 Jul

- ★ Pan De Mix
- ★ Emancipation Watch Night Celebrations

Mon 1 Aug

- ★ Emancipation Day
- ★ J'ouvert
- ★ Culture and Cuisine
- ★ Carnival Monday

Tues 2 Aug

- ★ Parade of the Bands
- ★ Last Lap



JOHNNIE WALKER

SMIRNOFF

CAMPARI



Local News



Tamarind Hills is gearing up to become a “full resort”

Tamarind Hills is an independently-owned hotel on the southwest coast of the island located between Ffryes Beach and Darkwood Beach, two of Antigua’s most well-known, and loved ocean fronts.

The property, which has been operating for 12 years, has been a staple for many US and Canadian travellers, especially those in the northeast, which currently accounts for 70 percent of its business, according to Keith Martel, the general manager of the property.

The hotel has made a name for itself by offering



Tamarind Hills incredibly unique views of the surrounding area, whether it be oceanfront or hillside, while providing villas that

serve luxury clients craving a certain level of space and service in the Caribbean.

The hotel continues to expand, with additions this summer expected to include another 43 new one-bedroom suites, two bars, and two on-site dining restaurants.

According to Martel, the property, with these additions, “is becoming more of a full resort” while not “becoming overly big.”

“We’re changing, definitely for the better, but that doesn’t detract from anything that was here before,” he said, adding that he ex-

pects the new villas, which he said are perfectly sized for couples looking to stay in the Caribbean, to be finished “within the next few short weeks.”

In terms of market, Martel said that “we pitch more to the high-end market,” with a range of types in that segment including multi-generational groups, couples, girlfriend getaway groups, and more all calling the property home recently.

Martel said the hotel expects “a very positive high season,” which begins in October through April of the next year. (TMR)



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NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **OMOSALEWA JADESOLA OGUNBIYI** of Flagstaff, Crosbies is applying to the Minister for Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



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DR. DAMIAN GORDON
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ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

Workplace



Workplace reformation - diversity, equity and inclusion

The need for organisational diversity has been bandied about in the corporate world for decades but equity and inclusion are newer concepts that have begun to impact team dynamics. Any astute team leader or business owner would do well to consider these concepts as part of their competitive strategy.

The main role of a human resources (HR) professional is to advocate for best practices that create a symbiotic environment that breeds productivity and success. These ideas of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) may seem foreign

to us now but beginning to train our scopes on them today would make it easier to hit the target as it draws closer.

During this month of June, we have seen many organisations and companies try to embrace the LGBTQIA+ people as a social group. Yet, some of their attempts fell flat and did not have the desired effect of embracing pride as opposed to promoting shame and social stigma.

Diversity is more than the one-off pandering to the LGBTQIA+ community, reciting woke slogans to gratify an ethnic segment of your

workforce or ostensibly addressing gender pay gaps. It is the implementation of strategies to address the composition of your staff in a meaningful way.

If diversity is the “what” then inclusion is the “how”. Inclusion is establishing the culture that enables diversity to thrive. This means implementing the support

mechanisms and policies to ensure that the culture of inclusion permeates all layers of the organisation.

When this happens, equity then becomes part of the company’s values where every employee is given the same access to opportunity, based on merit and fairness.

DEI as a practice is crucial
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cial to employee satisfaction which has been proven to increase engagement and productivity which in turn lead to business success. However, as HR practitioners we recognise that as worthy as these notions are, we operate within a cultural context that challenges them.

Unconscious bias reminds us that we are all unique and as a people most of our beliefs are based on religious indoctrination received from birth. If we are honest with ourselves, we would admit that certain things for us, such as gender, are still black and white and all the novel grey areas in this regard make our heads spin. Gender justice and normalization for us is a work in progress and those who choose to hold on to their traditional beliefs should not be judged for it.

The expectation for us as leaders of modern organisations is to manage these contemporary notions and become more familiar as we lead more diverse teams into a post-pandemic era.

So, how do we navigate this new territory while being respectful, sensitive and socially appropriate? Although we may not get it right the first time, proper HR practice dictates that we are to demonstrate inclusion and fairness more than in words alone.

This shift must start with us as people managers since our labour code pays very scant attention to the

matter of diversity. For instance, while discrimination is addressed in the labour code, it is silent on discrimination by reason of sexual orientation.

A good first step is to remove our own personal bias from the situation. Our own deep-seated prejudices must be kept controlled when advancing the cause of DEI. How we learn, adapt and change starts with us first being the change we want to see.

For HR, a key priority is to get the most out of our current diversity. Start by using diverse interventions and work patterns that cause

each team member to feel free to share from their own experience. Utilize recruitment and selection methods that ensure your company is a true reflection of your community. Work with your community to identify what you have and what you would need to achieve genuine representation. Remember though, that DEI should generate value for the business and not just be done to seem trendy or politically correct.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association ded-

icated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organisations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.



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Business

ECLAC-ILO warns of 'slow, partial and uneven' employment in the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) says that while regional economies grew 6.6 percent last year, the recovery in employment has been "slow, partial and uneven".

In a joint report entitled "Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, real wages during the pandemic: trends and challenges," the two United Nations agencies underline that the recovery of employment to pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels lags in comparison with the recovery in the countries' economic activity.

The report notes that by the end of 2021, most countries had regained their pre-crisis gross domestic product (GDP) levels, while employment levels remained lower in many cases.

"As seen in other crisis situations, the dynamics between employment and economic activity play a critical role in implementing better and more timely labour policies, which means that possible lags in employment suggest the need to strengthen the instruments to facilitate people's reincorporation into the labour market."

The report said after



the number of employed in the region suffered a historic contraction in 2020 (8.2 percent), there was a significant rebound in that indicator in 2021, notching 6.8 percent growth in the fourth quarter of that year versus the same period of 2020.

"However, despite the considerable increase in employment throughout the year, the number of employed people in the region did not return to the level seen at the end of 2019 until the fourth quarter of 2021."

The report states the labour gaps between men and women widened in 2021, adding that the labour market recovery has also been unequal, "to the detriment of women."

"Although employment and labour force participation has improved for both men and women,

the former have benefited more than the latter.

The crisis prompted by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic affected female employment more significantly, marking a setback equivalent to more than 18 years in the levels of women's labour force participation.

"The slow recovery in the activities that account for a larger share of female employment and the larger burden that women shoulder in caring for the sick, children, and older people help explain this notable difference in the dynamics of total participation rates," it added.

The report noted that the health crisis stemming from COVID-19 has had "important effects" on wage trends in the region. It said the impact of the recent evolution of inflation has been most clearly

reflected in real minimum wages, "the purchasing power of which declined in 2021".

In addition, the average real wages in the region in 2021 were 6.8 percent below pre-pandemic levels, "lagging more than economic activity and employment vis-à-vis that marker," warning this could worsen in 2022 when even steeper rises in inflation are expected.

"It is vital to deploy institutional instruments, such as collective bargaining and minimum wages, to enable discussion of wage adjustments at the level of productive units and branches of activity, to meet the needs of both workers and companies," says Mario Cimoli, ECLAC's acting executive secretary, and Claudia Conjaerts, the ILO's region-

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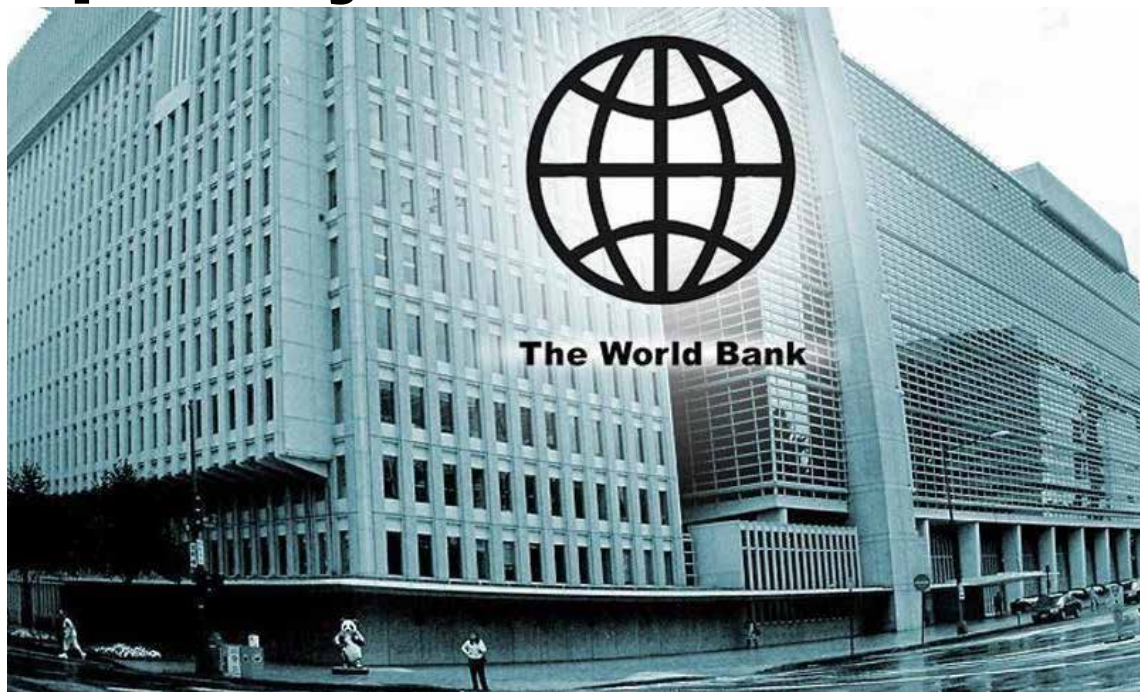
World Bank approves funds to strengthen primary health care in Haiti

The World Bank's Board of Directors has approved additional financing of US\$20 million for the Strengthening of Primary Health Care and Surveillance in Haiti Project (PROSYS), which aims to increase utilisation of primary health care services in select geographical areas, and strengthen disease surveillance capacity, especially cholera.

Access to quality healthcare is crucial to mitigating cyclical poverty, enhancing Haiti's human capital, and helping future generations reach their full potential," said Laurent Msellati, World Bank country manager for Haiti.

"Haiti has been cholera-free for more than three years and thereby successfully eliminated it; however, more efforts are necessary in other essential health areas, as fewer than half of all children are fully immunised, and only a third of women deliver at health facilities."

In the aftermath of Au-



gust's 2021 earthquake, the World Bank quickly reallocated US\$20 million from the PROSYS Project to cover approximately 65 percent of the total reconstruction costs in the health sector of US\$31 million identified by the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

Those funds are supporting the rebuilding and rehabilitation of approximately 30 damaged health infrastructures in the three affected departments of Nippes, Sud, and

Grand'Anse, directly benefiting more than 650,000 people. The reallocation of funds also provides equipment and supplies to the rehabilitated health facilities and supported the coordination of all stakeholders involved in the reconstruction activities in the sector.

This approved additional financing will address the gap caused by the reallocation of funds due to emergencies and will provide financing for key activities such as strengthening primary health care

referral networks, providing incentives to healthcare providers, and increasing their accountability through the result-based financed programme.

The additional financing will also help maintain the government's nationwide surveillance and response capacity in the fight against infectious diseases such as diphtheria and measles.

The initial Strengthening Primary Health Care and Surveillance in Haiti Project was approved by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors on May 16, 2019, for a general amount of US\$ 70 million.

Of this amount, US\$ 55 million came from the International Development Association and US\$15 million from the Global Financing Facility. (CMC)

cont'd from pg 12

al director for Latin America and the Caribbean, in the document's foreword.

They wrote that policies to facilitate the insertion of wage earners – such as hiring subsidies – that are focused on the most vulnerable groups will not only contribute to a faster recovery in their employment levels but will also “prevent wage conditions from becoming

more precarious than before the pandemic.”

According to the report, in 2022, the pace of job creation is expected to decelerate, adding that “it is foreseen that progress in the vaccination process, fewer restrictions on movement, and the reopening of schools will fuel a recovery in participation levels, especially among women. (CMC)



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UWI's SRC cops global award for managing La Soufrière crisis

CMC – The Seismic Research Centre (SRC) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) has won the 2022 Volcanic Surveillance and Crisis Management Award presented by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI).

SRC said the “prestigious, peer-nominated accolade,” awarded biennially, recognizes the Caribbean team of experts at the UWI SRC for its outstanding management of the 2020-2021 eruption of La Soufrière in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The nomination was based primarily on the UWI SRC's response, made particularly challenging within the context of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“Due to UWI SRC's state-of-the-art monitoring techniques, robust partnerships and timely communication with stakeholders, approximately 16,000 people were evacuated ahead of the explosive phase with no reported serious injuries or casualties,” the SRC said.

SRC director, Dr. Eroucilla Joseph, who accepted the award in Heraklion, Greece during IAVCEI's 11th Cities on Volcanoes Conference (COV11), said the operations of the St.



IAVECI president, Dr. Patrick Allard announces UWI SRC as winner of the 2022 Volcanic Surveillance and Crisis Management Award (UWI SRC Photo)

Augustine-based UWI SRC are essential for the continued monitoring of the low frequency, high impact geophysical hazards affecting the Caribbean.

“The issue of significant financial challenges posed by inconsistent and inadequate funding from contributing territories is a longstanding one that has resulted in annual budget cuts over the past ten years, which have considerably impacted the strength of our monitoring and advisory capability,” she added.

IAVECI president, Dr. Patrick Allard, said the award, previously attributed to volcano Institutes in Indonesia (2018) and then Ecuador (2020), recognizes and honours the remarkable role UWI SRC has played for almost 70 years in monitoring active volcanoes in the Caribbean is-

land arc and in responding to volcano-seismic crises that occurred in this region, especially the Soufrière Hills eruption on Montserrat (1995-present) then the Plinian eruptive events at La Soufrière of St. Vincent in 2020-2021.

“The successes achieved by the UWI SRC during these events—in terms of scientific monitoring, hazard assessment and even co-management of emergency response, in a context of limited resources available, are fully acknowledged by the international volcanological community and well deserve this 2022 awarding,” Allard said.

A team comprising experts from UWI SRC, and Montserrat Volcano Observatory was the first among a rotation of several scientific teams, deployed to St. Vin-

cent from December 2020 following the confirmation of new dome growth detected by SRC scientists using NASA satellite imagery.

UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles noted that he is particularly proud of the “ONE UWI” scientific capacity and response strategy of the Centre which is funded and supported through the University's Regional Headquarters.

“Our Seismic Research Centre is a demonstration of harnessing The UWI's mandate of service in action to the region. We are truly encouraged to have this international recognition for the Centre's work, as yet another signal of our achievements as a global university rooted in the Caribbean, remarkably punching above our weight,” he added.

Regional News

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) celebrates 41st anniversary

CMC – Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell has called on the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to continue to do more for the socio-economic development of the sub-region despite its achievements over the past 41 years.

Mitchell, who is chairman of the nine-member regional grouping, said the achievements of the OECS "illustrate the strength and resilience of our integration movement, particularly in a



Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States



One Community • Growing Together

global environment where the uniqueness and inherent vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States, are not considered a priority for all".

The OECS groups the islands of Antigua and Bar-

buda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla, and the British Virgin Islands.

Last weekend, the OECS, celebrated its 41st

anniversary under the theme, '41 Years of Integration: Overcoming Challenges to Build Resilience and Sustainability'.

Among the activities marking the occasion, was

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Tropical wave causes widespread flooding in Belize

CMC – Schools in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts were closed on Monday as Belize came under heavy rains and strong winds linked to the passage of a tropical wave.

The National Meteorological Service (NMS) said the wave follows the area of low pressure that crossed over the weekend.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology said based on the recommendation of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and the NMS it had made the decision that “all class sessions in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts have been cancelled for today” and that schools in the other districts where flooding is being experienced are being asked to advise the authorities on the situation.

“The Ministry will con-



tinue to closely monitor all other districts for developments and will inform the public of any changes made to the school schedule. We urge everyone to pay keen attention to the advisories issued by the NEMO and the NMS, and to take all necessary precautions to safeguard health and lives.”

NMS said some areas in the Orange Walk and Corozal districts received as much as five inches of

rainfall during the past 48 hours and that the tropical wave will continue to support very wet conditions persisting at least through to mid-week.

“Heavy showers and thunderstorms are expected over most areas of the country producing daily rainfall totals of one to three inches with locally higher amounts. A flood watch remains in effect in keeping with the flood advisories issued for

areas prone to flooding as the weather is expected to get worse in the coming days,” the NMS added.

NEMO said shelters have been opened in the villages of Carmelita and San Jose in the Orange Walk District and that people living near rivers, creeks, and low-lying areas are cautioned to be on the alert and take the necessary actions to save lives, including moving to safer areas.

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a thanksgiving service, the OECS Colours Day, and an official flag raising ceremony.

In his address, Prime Minister Mitchell challenged the regional grouping to overcome all future and unforeseen challenges, by remaining competitive, responsive, and relevant.

According to him, “As we go into the future, our commitment to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights and the encouragement of good governance among our independent and non-independent countries remains

embodied within our compass.

“With our Revised Treaty of Basseterre, we must continue to increase the runs on the scorecard and remain responsive, competitive, and relevant”

The revised treaty was signed on June 18, 2010, in St. Lucia. It established a single financial and economic space where goods, people and capital move freely.

It also allows the harmonisation of monetary and governmental policies relating to taxes and revenue.

“The countries of this economic union continue to adopt a common

approach to trade, health, education and the environment, as well as the development of critical sectors such as agriculture, tourism and energy,” the OECS Commission said.

Mitchell said the OECS “must also continue to embrace gender equity, inclusion, empowerment of youth, digital innovation and entrepreneurship as cross-cutting and essential features of our integration movement,” he added.

The St. Lucia-based OECS Commission said a week of staff appreciation activities ending on July 1, will signal the end of celebrations for the 41st anniversary.

French opposition tells ‘arrogant’ Macron: compromise to win support

Reuters – French opposition leaders told President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday they would not make life easy for him as he sought a way to avoid political paralysis after this weekend’s election setback in parliament.

Some opponents said Macron should fire his prime minister, review his reform plans and drop his top-down approach to power.

While he enjoyed full control over parliament over the past five years, Macron now needs to find support from opponents, after voters angry over inflation and his perceived indifference delivered a hung parliament on Sunday.

The election result may herald an era of political instability not seen for decades in France.

Senior ministers said the government would continue its work and seek support in parliament whenever it needs a majority.

Edouard Philippe, Macron’s former prime minister and an influential figure, urged parties to form a coalition to secure a governing majority. This would be a first in modern French politics.

“For the first time in France, we need to form a coalition, a grand coalition of people who spontaneously



Les Republicains provide the most obvious place for Macron to find support. Their economic platform is largely compatible with Macron’s, including his plans to raise the retirement age by three years to 65.

don’t wish to work together and who put forward different political programmes,” Philippe told BFM TV.

He said he could “imagine” reaching a deal with the conservative Les Republicains, Philippe’s former political family from which he defected after Macron was first elected in 2017.

But Les Republicains leader Christian Jacob said after meeting Macron: “I told the president that it was out of the question to enter into a coalition deal, that would be a betrayal of our voters.”

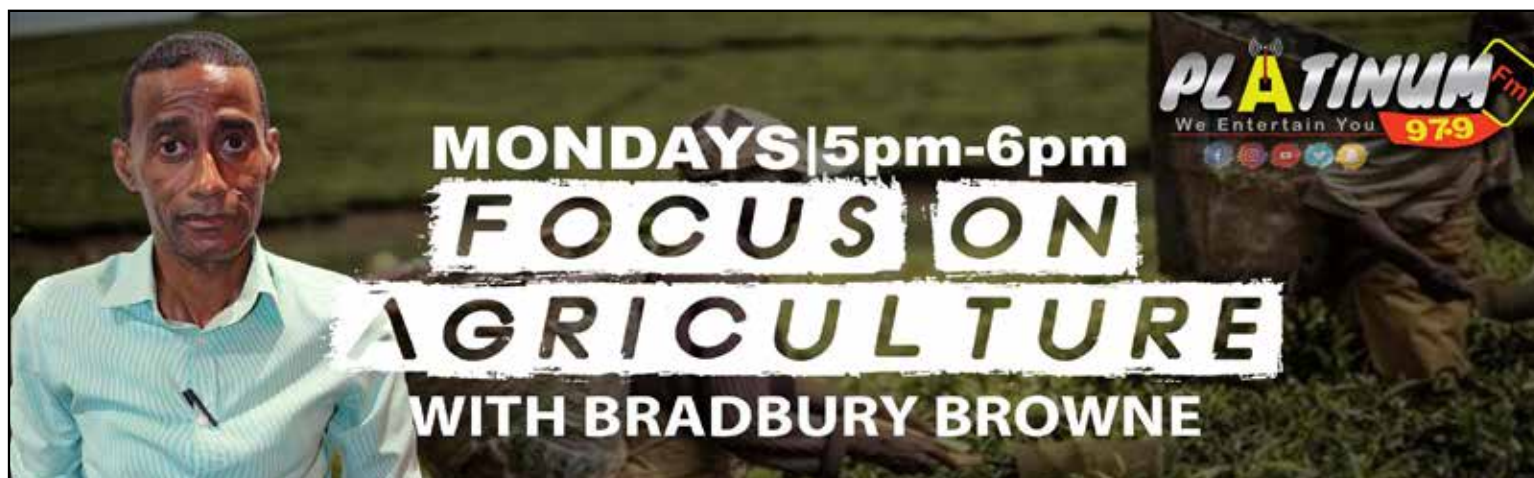
Earlier Jacob had called the presi-

dent “arrogant”.

But cracks started to appear in his camp. Catherine Vautrin, a Les Republicains member who had been cited as a likely pick as Macron’s new prime minister, urged her party to soften its stance.

“Do all Republicains lawmakers share Christian Jacob’s view? I’m not so sure,” she said. “Always being in the opposition is pointless.”

Her camp could find common ground with Macron on planned reforms, namely regarding retirement legislation, she said.



Lapid, set to be Israel's next premier, faces critical test

AP – In a 10-year political career, Israel's Yair Lapid has transformed himself from an upstart political novice to a feisty opposition leader to the savvy operator who toppled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Next week, he is expected to assume his biggest role yet — as the new prime minister.

Following the government's decision to dissolve parliament, Lapid, now foreign minister, is set to take office as caretaker prime minister until elections in the fall. It will be a critical test for Lapid, 58, who will try to convince Israelis he is worthy of the top office as he takes on a resurgent Netanyahu.

"A year ago, we started the process of rebuilding, and now: we're carrying it on, and carrying it on together," Lapid declared late Monday as he stood alongside his main coalition partner, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

Officially, the two men were announcing the end of their year-old government — an alliance of eight diverse parties that was severely weakened by months of infighting and rebellion. But in many ways, Lapid sounded like he was beginning his next campaign.

"Even if we are going to elections in a few months, the challenges we face will not wait," he said, pointing to Israel's high cost of living and security challenges in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

In a swipe at Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption charges, he vowed to "stand against the forces threatening to turn Israel into a nondemocratic country." Netanyahu, believing he is the victim of a political witch hunt, has made clear he intends to take on the country's legal and law-enforcement establishment if he returns to power.



Israel's opposition leader Yair Lapid poses for a photo at his office in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday, May 21, 2020. Following the government's decision to dissolve parliament, Lapid, now foreign minister, is set to take office as caretaker prime minister until elections in the fall. It will be a critical test for Lapid, 58, who will try to convince Israelis he is worthy of the top office as he takes on a resurgent Netanyahu. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty, File)

A former author, columnist, news anchor, bank pitchman and amateur boxer, Lapid left a successful career as a media personality to enter politics in 2012 as head of a new centrist party popular with middle-class Israelis.

He promised economic relief, an end to controversial draft exemptions for seminary students and a more moderate approach to the Palestinians.

Unlike the right-wing parties that dominate Israel's political system, Lapid favours peace talks leading to an eventual two-state solution with the Palestinians, although it's unclear if he will ever have the kind of mandate needed to engage in such a process.

In 2013, he led his new Yesh Atid party to a surprisingly strong showing in parliamentary elections. Yesh Atid finished as the second-largest party, with 19 seats in the 120-member parliament.

Lapid became finance minister, a difficult and often thankless task. While marking some successes, his key promises of lowering the cost of living and bringing down housing prices failed to materialise. Netanyahu eventually fired him for insubordination.

Yesh Atid dropped to 11 seats in the 2015 elections. Lapid found himself in the opposition and appeared to be on the way to becoming the latest in a long line of centrist politicians to flame out after early success.

But Lapid managed to reinvent himself. He formed an alliance with former military chief Benny Gantz that came close to toppling Likud in three consecutive elections.

Those elections, focused on Netanyahu's divisive personality and fitness to rule, all ended inconclusively.

cont'd on pg 20

Mexican authorities search for bodies, missing tourists after priests killed in church

Reuters – Mexican authorities said on Tuesday that they are searching for the bodies of three people, including two Jesuit priests, as well as four people who were kidnapped in a violent stretch of northern Mexico.

The state prosecutor's office in Chihuahua, along

the U.S. border, said in a statement that it received a report on Monday that three people were killed in the town of Cerocahui after a man took refuge in a church to protect himself from an attack.

Authorities later said the man, identified as a tour

guide, was "taken" to the church.

"They entered the church, chased a person and murdered him. Apparently the priests came out and they were also killed," President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told reporters on Tuesday during his regular

morning news conference, after he was asked about the killings.

The bodies of the three were then taken away by a group of men in the back of a pickup truck, Luis Gerardo Moro, head of the Jesuits in Mexico, said in a radio interview.

Moro said the Jesuits were hoping to hear from Pope Francis about the situation, and that two priests remained at the church in the small town in the Sierra Tarahumara mountain chain, home to the Raramuri indigenous group and increasing cartel violence.

State authorities said the murders followed a 911 call in the same town on Monday morning reporting the kidnapping of two men, a woman and a child, who are still missing.

The four tourists were kidnapped from a hotel in the town, a police source who asked not to be identified told Reuters.

The federal security ministry said on Tuesday afternoon that a suspect in the murders had been identified.

"The investigation is advancing, and I assure you all that we will take this to the ultimate consequences," the state's governor, Maria Eugenia Campos, said during a Tuesday news conference.

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Moving to end the deadlock, Gantz briefly joined forces with Netanyahu in 2020 — leaving Lapid as opposition leader and a vocal government critic.

When the country went back to the polls in early 2021, Yesh Atid once again surged and emerged as the second-largest party in parliament. In a stroke of creative diplomacy and political savvy, Lapid cobbled together a new coalition that pushed Netanyahu into the opposition for the first time in 12 years.

Although Lapid was the mastermind of the alliance, he cemented the deal by agreeing to rotate the job of prime minister with Bennett — a move that was seen by many as selfless and statesmanlike. Lapid took on the post of foreign minister.

The coalition members spanned the Israeli political spectrum, with little binding them together beyond opposition to Netanyahu. The government made history by being the first to include an Arab party.

The coalition got off to a strong start — passing the first national budget in several years, navigating a pair of coronavirus waves and improving relations with the U.S. and Arab allies.

Ultimately, ideological differences caused it to unravel. Parliament is expected to dissolve itself in a series of votes

over the coming days. Once that happens, Lapid takes over as caretaker prime minister until elections in October or November.

The coming months present great risk — and great opportunity. Once again, Netanyahu's Likud party appears to be the front-runner. And once again, Netanyahu's leadership style and legal woes are likely to be high on voters' minds.

While Lapid is sure to face relentless attacks from Netanyahu, who has tried to portray him as a lightweight who betrayed Israel's security by allying with an Arab faction, he will do so from the perch of the prime minister's office.

After serving as foreign minister for the past year, he will have even more opportunities to strengthen his international standing.

He is set to host President Joe Biden on a visit next month and will have the opportunity to speak at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

Lapid spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday to prepare for Biden's visit, the Foreign Ministry said.

As caretaker prime minister, he is unlikely to launch any major military operations or bold peace initiatives with the Palestinians. If Lapid can keep things quiet and avoid controversy, he could be well-positioned for the next election.

Kemar Roach targets 300-wicket club in a few years

West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach anticipates continuing at international cricket for a few years yet and as such he's targeting the 300-wicket club.

He credited "blood sweat and tears" for the achievement of equaling the legendary Michael Holding on 249 wickets, during the opening Test against Bangladesh which finished on Sunday.

The 33-year-old, who was adjudged Man-of-the-Match for his seven-wicket haul in the contest at the Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium, said he anticipated continuing at international level for a few years yet, giving him enough time to reach the cherished landmark.

Courtney Walsh (519), Sir Curtly Ambrose (405), Malcolm Marshall (376) and Lance Gibbs (309) are the only West Indies bowlers to have passed 300 wickets.

"[I want to reach] 300 Test wickets. I have 249 now but I still have two to three more years in me," Roach said.

"I am proud because of how I started. Obviously I came into the team under very difficult conditions and then obviously to build a career and get amongst the greats, is always a good feeling.

"I am always one for stats. I love my stats. I always look at my stats – every night. Even if I'm not playing, I still look at my stats so it's good to be among the greats. It's good to be up there with all the fantastic people in West Indies cricket."

Roach overtook the peerless Sir Gary Sobers (235) during the England series last March and now lies joint sixth on the all-time West Indies list next to Holding.



West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach

His next target before the 300 club will be Joel Garner who is fifth on the all-time list with 259 wickets.

Roach is the only active West Indies player with more than 200 Test wickets, the next best being Shannon Gabriel with 161.

On last Saturday's third day of the opening Test, Roach picked up his 10th five-wicket haul in Tests and now averages 26 from a 72-match career.

"It's been commitment and hard work and I've had to improve on my skill. I lost pace due to injury so I had to improve on my skill," he said.

"It's been a lot of hard work, a lot of consistent bowling obviously to get where you want to be in your career. It's been blood, sweat and tears – blood, sweat and tears – and it's actually good to go out there and see the results."

Roach has taken 127 wickets at an

average of 23 from 35 Tests over the last 5 ½ years, leaving him among the elite in the world.

However, during that period West Indies have also struggled, winning only 15 of 44 matches, to remain in the bottom half of the International Cricket Council rankings.

Roach said a laser-like focus on his role had kept his motivation high during what had been a difficult period for the Caribbean side.

"You have to focus on your role – that's me," Roach explained.

"Obviously I would've loved to have won more games but my role is to be the leading bowler, obviously go out there and show fight and put the team in a position to win.

"That's what I focus on: I just go out there, perform for the team, do whatever the skipper asks, do whatever the team asks, and keep coming [in]."

Sports News



Tokyo closes books on delayed Games; \$13 billion price tag

AP – The final price tag for last year's COVID-delayed Tokyo Olympics was put at \$13 billion (1.4 trillion Japanese yen), the organising committee said Tuesday in its final act before it is dissolved at the end of the month.

The cost was twice what was forecast in 2013 when Tokyo was awarded the Games.

However, the final price tag presented by organisers is lower than the \$15.4 billion they predicted when the Olympics ended just under 11 months ago.

"We made an estimate, and the estimate has gone down lower than we expected," Tokyo organising committee CEO Toshirō Muto said, speaking through an interpreter at a news conference.

"As a total amount, whether this is huge or not — when it comes to that kind of talk it is not easy to evaluate."

Accurately tracking Olympic costs — who pays, who benefits, and what are and are not Games' expenses — is an ever-moving maze.

The one-year delay added to the difficulty, as did recent fluctuations in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Japanese yen.

When the Olympics opened on July 23, 2021,



A person walks near the Tokyo 2020 logo in Haneda Airport on June 14, 2021, in Tokyo. Tokyo Olympic officials, meeting Tuesday, June 21, 2022, before the body is dissolved at the end of the month, were to detail the final numbers that were driven up by the pandemic, but were in record range even before that. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)

\$1 bought 110 yen. On Monday, \$1 bought 135 yen, the dollar's highest level against the yen in about 25 years.

Organisers chose to use a rate of \$1 to 109.89 yen to figure the dollar price, which organisers said was the average exchange rate for 2021.

Victor Matheson, a sports economist at the College of the Holy Cross who has written extensively on the Olympics, suggested by email to AP that most of "the expenses and revenues are in yen, so the exchange rate changing the dollar amounts doesn't affect how the event 'feels' to the organisers."

Matheson and fellow American Robert Baade researched Olympic costs and benefits in a study called "Going for Gold: The Economics of the Olympics."

They wrote that "the overwhelming conclusion is that in most cases the Olympics are a money-losing proposition for host cities; they result in positive net benefits only under very specific and unusual circumstances."

Muto said there were savings because of the absence of fans, which cut down on security costs and venue maintenance costs. He talked vaguely about "squeezing" costs and

"simplifying" operations to reach the reductions.

However, organisers lost at least \$800 million in income from ticket sales because fans were banned due to COVID. Muto called "baseless" reports before and after the postponement that costs might hit \$25 billion.

There is one undeniable fact: Japanese government entities, primarily the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, covered about 55% of the total expenses. This amounted to about \$7.1 billion in Japanese taxpayer money.

The privately funded organising committee bud-
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Suns hire first woman of colour to NBA assistant GM position

AP – The Phoenix Suns have hired Morgan Cato as an assistant general manager and vice president of basketball operations, becoming the first woman of colour to hold an assistant GM title for an NBA franchise.

Cato comes to Phoenix after spending nearly a decade with the NBA league office, where she most recently worked as the associate vice president of business operations for NBA's league operations department.

"We're excited to welcome Morgan to the Valley and to the Suns organisation," Suns general manager James Jones said in a statement.

"With the league office, Morgan played a pivotal role on countless initiatives to grow the game and strategically develop for it to be played at its best.

"The addition of her background and knowledge will allow us to elevate our basketball operations in several areas."

The team says Cato, from Brooklyn, New York, will report to Jones and coach Monty Williams to help the team's "strategy and business processes for basketball growth and performance with a focus on coaching development, player engagement and front office personnel operations."



The Phoenix Suns have hired Morgan Cato as an assistant general manager and vice president of basketball operations

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get covered about \$5.9 billion. The International Olympic Committee contributed \$1.3 billion to this budget, with the largest contribution of \$3.4 billion coming from local sponsors.

Organisers also listed \$500 million in income from an unspecified "insurance payout."

A University of Oxford study in 2020 said Tokyo was the most expensive Olympics on record.

In the several years prior to the Olympics, government audits found official costs might have been much more than stated.

It's impossible to assess the long-term impact of the Tokyo Olympics, particularly in a sprawling city like the Japanese capital where change is constant.

The pandemic erased any short-term tourism bounce. Local sponsors, who paid \$3.4 billion to be linked to the Olympics, didn't seem very happy according to local reports.

Dentsu Inc., the giant Japanese advertising and public relations company, may have benefited. It directed marketing for Tokyo 2020, received commissions for lining up sponsors, and has been linked to an IOC vote-buying scandal that was tied to Tokyo getting the Games.

The scandal forced the resignation of Tsunekazu Takeda in 2019, an IOC member who also headed the Japanese Olympic Committee. He denied any wrongdoing.

The Games were hit with other scandals, including the resignation of Yoshiro Mori, the president of the organising committee who made

sexist remarks about women.

The former Japanese prime minister stepped down five months before the Games opened.

"I was baffled, surprised — it was so unexpected," Muto said when asked about Mori's departure. "I really had a tough time dealing with the situation."

Tokyo had billed itself as a "safe pair of hands" in its bid in 2013 to get the Games.

Tokyo will also be remembered as the first Games that were postponed for a year, and then held mostly without fans in a so-called bubble.

The most important legacy is surely the \$1.4 billion National Stadium designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma.

Though it's a new venue, it blends seamlessly into its central location.

Sports News

Handball federation plans to revive the sport in Antigua and Barbuda

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Handball Association Cliff Williams said efforts will be made to expand and develop the sports in the twin-island state.

Williams said active participation in the sport of handball has declined significantly since it was first introduced in the twin-island nation by the current President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Association (ABNOC), Paul Chet Greene, in 2011.

He said the decline in active participation resulted because the Antigua and Barbuda Handball Federation has encountered significant difficulties in acquiring two goal frames (stands), which is a key equipment to replace two goal stands that went missing.

“The introduction of handball as a sport in Antigua is the brainchild of the NOC President Paul Chet Greene. It was at the

2008 Olympic Games Chet Greene was invited by the president of the international handball federation to view one of the event and Greene saw it as something that Antiguan, especially those with strong throwing ability, could do well in as a sport.

“So Chet Greene pushed for the sports of handball to be played in Antigua and we got affiliated to the international body in 2011 and then we tried to develop the sport.

“We gave equipment to at least two groups who had formed themselves into handball clubs in Antigua and nothing took place, and then at that stage, I got more involved and I took over as head of the national federation.

“We then brought in a guy from Trinidad who we utilized to conduct a handball workshop at the JSC Sports Complex and it came off pretty well, as we got



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Handball Association Cliff Williams. (File photo)

overwhelming support in we gave equipment to the terms of participation. clubs, and we cannot locate

“The challenge we the goals and I have been had during the time is that

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Cuba made it two wins from two games in a 6-0 triumph over Saint Kitts and Nevis at the Estadio Nacional in Tegucigalpa in Group E action on Monday.

Kevin Martin was the hero for the Cubans in scoring the lone goal against Canada in their opener, and he was the first one to strike on Monday, scoring in the 18th minute to give Cuba a 1-0 lead.

The Kittitians hung tough and stayed within a goal until the final

half-hour, as Cuba doubled their lead to 2-0 in the 61st minute through Eduardo Hernandez.

Mario Penalver scored Cuba's third in the 73rd minute, an Ajani Mills own goal then made it 4-0 in the 78th minute, which was then followed a minute later by Romario Torres's goal. The 6-0 scoreline was then completed in the 90th minute by Rey Rodriguez.

The second game of the night in Group G was a back-and-forth affair between the United States and Cana-

da with things ending in a 2-2 draw.

Lowell Wright tallied the first goal of the tournament for Canada in the 15th minute, but the US would answer early in the second half through Jack McGlynn in the 53rd minute to even things at 1-1.

A Michael Halliday own goal in the 69th minute restored Canada's advantage, but three minutes later in the 72nd minute, Cade Cowell scored his second goal of the tournament to make it a 2-2 affair, a scoreline that held until the final whistle.

Teams resume battle in Sir Viv Richards Thursday League

Action in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League will resume with three matches tomorrow (Thursday).

After winning their respective opening round games, All Saints Pythons and Pigotts Crushers will clash in the feature match at the Mock Pond playing field in All Saints.

In the other two matches, Police will entertain Rising Sun Spartans at the Police Recreation Grounds and Newfield will take on Mahico at Clare Hall.

Llewellyn Simon and Vaughn Connor will umpire at All Saints, Garfield Jacobs and Calvin Thomas will officiate at Police Recreation Grounds and Condace Butler Nigel Browne will umpire at Clare Hall.

Following the postponement of all matches last weekend, the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's Two-Day competition will resume this weekend.

The competition will resume on 25th and 26th June, with the staging of

the penultimate round of preliminary matches.

Competition leaders PIC Insurance Libertas Black Hawks will face Jennings Tigers at Jennings and defending champions Pigotts Crushers will take on Empire Nation at Pigotts in a battle between the second and third place teams in the current point standings table.

In the other matches this weekend, Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda Golden Eagles will host bottom team Combined Schools at Bethesda, All

Saints Pythons will entertain Rising Sun Spartans at Mock Pond in All Saints and New Winthorpes Lions will face Bolans Blastners at New Winthorpes.

The final round of preliminary matches will be contested on 2nd and 3rd July.

The top four teams at the end of the preliminaries will advance to the semi-finals, which will be contested on 9th and 10th July and the two-day competition will conclude with the final on 16th and 17th July.

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writing for nearly two years now to the International Handball Federation in trying to source or get two goals donated back to us in Antigua, but to no avail.

"However, the goals are the most important equipment needed for handball, because the objective of the game is to get as close as possible to the goal and throw the ball past the goalkeeper into the goal. So the goalkeeper is really the star of the sport of handball, so you have to practice goalkeeping.

Williams said an alternate solution has been found to solve the issue and replacement goals will be acquired to re-launch the handball programme shortly in Antigua and Barbuda.

"Recently, we got a quotation and we have already paid to get two goals built using some PVC pipes so we can restart the programme," Williams stated.

He said the national handball fed-

eration is planning to revive the programme with the staging of a camp sometime this summer.

Williams said following the camp, plans are to introduce a handball programme, which has been piloted by Keston Bailey at Ottos Comprehensive School, into several other learning institutions across Antigua and Barbuda.

"Keston Bailey had started a programme with the students at Ottos Comprehensive School. We have him on board in terms of trying to adapt what Keston is doing at Ottos Comprehensive and implement similar programs in several other schools," Williams said.

"If you understand sports in Antigua, it is a challenge getting new athletes into a sport. Even in individual sports such as cycling, to get a new cyclist, you will have to put on nearly 16 races in one year to see if you can get two new cyclists to come into cycling the next year.

So for handball, we need 14 players and so to find at least 14 new players is really hard. At one of our recent meetings, a suggestion was made by the secretary that we should try a camp when school goes on vacation.

"So it is something that we are considering, but in terms of finding funding to provide snacks and refreshments, we are at that juncture as to how we can go about it in the most cost effective way.

"But certainly we are hoping to conduct some clinics or camps to expose more people to the game of handball in Antigua. The secretary is really pushing to get something started in the summer when school is on vacation. We have a list of schools that we will be targeting to introduce the sports to attract and develop new players.

"So after this summer camp, we are hoping to be able to roll out handball programmes in several schools across the island."

Benna Boys lose second game at CONCACAF U/20 Championship

Antigua and Barbuda Benna Boys' chances of advancing to the knockout stage of the CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship ended with their second defeat in as many matches on Monday.

After losing 3-0 to host Honduras in their tournament opener on Saturday, the Benna Boys suffered a similar fate as they lost by a similar score line against Costa Rica in their second Group H match at the Estadio Morazan in San Pedro Sula on Monday evening.

The wet and soggy conditions of the field once again had a negative impact on the Benna Boys' style of play, similarly to what occurred against Honduras two days prior.

Although they once again lost the services of the influential midfielder and captain Ronaldo Flowers to injury in the 22nd minute, the Benna Boys started the game well and created a few clear-cut chances as they were able to secure a 0-0 scoreline at halftime.

But after the interval, the Benna Boys fortunes changed as they conceded all three goals to the Costa Ricans in the second half.



The Antigua and Barbuda starting XI for their Concacaf Men's Group H Championship match against Costa Rica at the Estadio Morazan in San Pedro Sula on 20 June, 2022. (Photo courtesy CONCACAF)

Brandon Calderon broke the deadlock in the 48th minute, Enyel Escoe doubled the advantage with a powerful header in the 78th minute and Dorian Rodriguez recorded his second goal of the tournament when he scored in the 89th minute to seal the victory.

The result meant that Antigua and Barbuda cannot finish better than third in the group and therefore their chances of advancing to Round of 16 as one of the top two teams in the Group, have ended.

They will hope to salvage some pride when they face Jamaica in their final Group H encounter today (Wednesday).

Host nation Honduras secured their place in the knockout stage by romping to a 5-0 win over Jamaica at the same venue.

Marco Tulio Aceituno added to his tournament total of three goals with a first half brace, scoring in the 3rd and 35th minutes. A Jamaica red card at the end of the half made the comeback task even more difficult for

the Reggae Boyz, and the Hondurans took advantage, adding an Isaac Castillo goal in the 48th minute and then a Jefryn Macias brace in the 58th and 85th to seal another three points.

Honduras' second win in as many matches ensured they remain as Group H leaders with six points, while Costa Rica are second with four points, followed by Jamaica with one point and Antigua and Barbuda occupying the cellar position without a point.

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