

FRIDAY 24TH JUNE 2022

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# WARREN CASSELL SENTENCED TO PRISON

*Story on Page 5*



The festive opening ceremony of the successfully staged return of Showcase Antigua Barbuda was held at Sandals Grande Antigua. More than 70 travel industry stakeholders from around the world travelled to the country earlier this month to experience Antigua and Barbuda's tourism offerings first hand and learn of the plans in store for visitors in the aftermath of the pandemic. *Story on page 4.*



# Local News

## Antigua and Barbuda and Rwanda sign Air Services Agreement

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene and Rwanda's Foreign Minister, the Honourable Dr Vincent Biruta, have signed an Air Services Agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

According to Foreign Minister Greene, the purpose of the agreement is to allow for the operating of international service routes and to regulate the air transport of passengers between both countries. It will enable the provision of direct flight services between Rwanda and Antigua and Barbuda and will also enable both countries to sell and market international air services either directly or through agents of designated airlines.

Minister Greene in his remarks at the signing ceremony stated that Anti-

gua and Barbuda is an ideal geographic location in the Caribbean to serve as a logistics and transport hub into the region for Rwanda. He stressed the importance of Antigua and Barbuda, and other Caribbean countries, strengthening ties with Rwanda and the wider African continent.

The Ministers discussed other areas for potential expansion to include trade and hospitality and committed to making this Agreement a functional one. Minister Greene was accompanied by High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill and Economic and Trade Attaché Ideka Dowe.

In September 2021, Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister addressed the inaugural Africa-CARICOM Summit under the theme 'Unity Across Continents and Oceans: Opportuni-

*cont'd on pg 3*



Antigua and Barbuda's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene and Rwanda's Foreign Minister, the Honourable Dr Vincent Biruta.



**weekend vibes**

*It's The Time to Have fun But Drink Responsible*

**ABTB**  
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

**DON'T DRINK & DRIVE**



## UWI FIC introduces new degree programmes

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is expanding its degree offerings with five new programmes that will begin in August, 2022.

In a statement, The UWI FIC said three undergraduate degrees - Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies, Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management and the first Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science in Data Science, Innovation Management and Computer Science - have been added to its existing complement.

Additionally, the Master of Science in Corporate Finance and the Master of Arts in Teaching Special Children, have been introduced to its graduate programmes.

Campus Principal, Professor Densil A. Williams, said the new disciplines aim to equip learners with the tools necessary to embark on careers that are important to national and regional development.

"As The UWI Five Islands Campus continues

to revolutionize access to post-secondary education in the OECS sub-region, we are proud to offer a diversified and globally competitive portfolio of programmes that will help to address the developmental challenges which hinder long-term, sustainable economic growth and competitiveness in the region."

Professor Williams also stated that the programmes are "of the highest quality of academic excellence as evidenced from the extensively thorough review by the various approval bodies within the UWI's world class quality assurance system".

Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Curtis Charles, is encouraging persons to use the opportunity to enroll in the new programmes.

"As we enter the 4th Industrial Revolution, The UWI Five Islands Campus' digital learners are facing a global workforce where only 33% of the world's demand for employees with technology skills is being met."

He noted that these programmes will offer the knowledge and experience along with the technological skills needed to address the needs of the new global demands, especially to move economies of the Caribbean forward.

Prospective students can apply at the campus' website [www.fiveislands.uwi.edu](http://www.fiveislands.uwi.edu)



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*cont'd from pg 2*

ties for Deepening Integration'. During this summit, he expressed his desire for there to be greater diplomatic co-operation between CARICOM and the African Union to include the creation of an annual Africa-CARICOM day to be celebrated on 7th September and the establishment of the Forum of African and Caribbean States (FACTS).

# Local News



## Showcase A&B a success, officials say Canadian arrivals are gaining momentum

After a two-year hiatus, Showcase Antigua Barbuda was back in fine form earlier this month, with tour operators, airlines, policy makers, trade and media all getting down to business in and around St. John's for networking, B2B discussions and tours.

Noting that Antigua and Barbuda reopened to travellers in June 2020, Tourism Minister Charles "Max" Fernandez told the media about the excitement and encouragement the destination is seeing following this year's Showcase.

"It is wonderful and really pleasing to see the response we're getting. We feel really good leading the charge and we're punching really hard to get a share of the market because so many of our people depend on tourism for their livelihood," Minister Fernandez said in an interview with international media.

Showcase Antigua Barbuda opened with the future-focused Destination Round Table Meeting, where Colin James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism

Authority (ABTA), and Minister Fernandez highlighted Vision 2032, a people-centred vision for tourism to Antigua & Barbuda that focuses on world-leading service, plus new ABTA campaigns.

The opening gala, hosted at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa, included a live performance from Drastic, the two-time Grammy-nominated songwriter for his song 'Sweet Antigua'.

Day two of the B2B event included business meetings hosted at the Royalton Antigua.

All throughout the venue were smiling faces and various booths showcasing hotels, tour operators and DMCs eager and willing to discuss future opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda.

From newer companies that started during the pandemic – like Charmed Tours – to established brands such as Sandals Grande Antigua, every booth gave updates and focused on partnerships to build tourism back up.

Speaking to the online travel journal, Travelweek, the ABTA's James said, "The



ABTA CEO Colin James, Minister of Tourism and Investment, Charles "Max" Fernandez and 1st Vice Chairman Antigua and Barbuda Hotel and Tourism Association, Alex de Brito

fact that we have been able to restart in such a strong way has not gone unnoticed. Our airline partners are here, tour operators, travel agent groups, and the opportunity for them to reconnect has been awesome. So great for the destination, for the trade, and we hope to get the word out that Antigua and Barbuda is back with a bang. We have weathered the pandemic exceptionally well."

Meanwhile, Canadian travellers are coming back to Antigua and Barbuda with full flights arriving on the island, the latest signal that tourism from this market will soon return to pre-pandemic levels.

According to James,

Canada was traditionally the destination's third largest market, and at the height of the growth Canada was credited with some 40,000 arrivals here per year.

Currently, with only Sunwing and WestJet running weekly flights to Antigua and Barbuda, Canadian numbers are tracking about 40% down from 2019. However the flights currently coming in each week are full, "so it is clear to see the demand is there," reports James.

With Air Canada set to come back in November, James is confident that Canada's rebound will be strong. Both the UK and U.S. have already surpassed their April 2019 numbers.

"We know that Antigua and Barbuda has always been front and centre with the Canadian travel trade, tour operators and distributors, and we foresee that same growth that we see with other major markets happening with Canada as soon as we have full lift coming to our destination," said James. (TW)

Fri 24   Day		Fri 24   Night	
<b>86°</b>		<b>78°</b>	
13% E 12 mph		24% ESE 10 mph	
Partly cloudy skies in the morning will give way to cloudy skies during the afternoon. High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		Mainly cloudy. Low 78F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity <b>66%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>77%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>5:35 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:44 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>2:10 am</b>	Moonset <b>3:10 pm</b>
		Waning Crescent	

## Three and a half year prison sentence for Warren Cassell

On Thursday, Attorney-at-Law Warren Cassell was sentenced to three years and six months in Her Majesty's Prison in Montserrat after he was found guilty by a jury of concealing the proceeds of crime.

Less than 24 hours earlier, the 9-member jury found Cassell guilty of the single charge which runs contrary to the Proceeds of Crime Act 1999, Caption 4.04., and he was remanded to prison by presiding Justice Stanley John.

Between January 2007 and November 2008, the attorney was found to have dishonestly concealed, or disguised, EC\$855,380.54 by transferring the funds from an investor's account into an incorporated account for the sale of land, according to ZJB Radio in Montserrat.

Cassell, who also practices law in



*Attorney-at-Law Warren Cassell*

Antigua and Barbuda, represented himself during the trial which arose from a previous case approximately ten years ago.

It is likely that he will appeal his conviction and sentence.

In 2012, Cassell was convicted on two counts of conspiracy to defraud,

nine counts of procuring the execution of a valuable security by deception and one count of money laundering, in a matter involving development land. He was sentenced by Justice Albert Redhead to five years in prison, however, he only served two years of that sentence.

He appealed to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal where his convictions were upheld, except for the money laundering conviction that was found to have been filed under the wrong statute.

His appeal went all the way to the Privy Council where his convictions, including money laundering, were overturned due, in part, to the trial judge's "serious misdirections" to the jury and the determination that, in some instances, the trial judge "made his own opinion on the topic too explicit".



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# Local News



## Jury returns not guilty verdict in rape case

The man who was accused of raping a woman twice after she sought refuge at his home, is free today following the return of a not guilty verdict by the 9-member mixed jury.

The woman, who is in her thirties, claimed that she was in need of somewhere to stay following a dispute with her mother and sister with whom she lived. During testimony, the virtual complainant alleged that on the first night of her stay she was assaulted by the defendant. Following the incident, she left his home and spent the next day with a friend, but returned to the man's home for a second night when she was again allegedly raped.

The woman testified that she cried herself to sleep following the rape.

During closing arguments on Wednesday, the prosecution, led by Crown Counsel Rhyllis Adams, focused on the first sexual encounter, but not the second. The prosecutors argued that the accused man took advantage of the virtual complainant, who was in a desperate state, and forced himself on her.

Appearing for the defendant, attorney Wendel Robinson, told the jury that the "tree of guilt" did not apply to the defendant. He went on that "the Bible did not end at Genesis, rather, it ends at Revelation" and urged the jury

to weigh the entire chronicle of events before making a decision.

Robinson argued that it was illogical that they were being asked to believe that after being raped, the virtual complainant voluntarily left then returned late at night to be raped again.

The case was not bereft of other drama, as at one point the prosecution argued that the virtual complainant should be allowed to give her evidence behind a screen as, in their view, she was a vulnerable witness and complained of suffering panic attacks whenever she sees the defendant since the alleged rapes.

*cont'd on pg 7*

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## Ministry of Education to host summer camp

During the summer school vacation thousands of school-age children attend camps across the country.

Many of these summer camps rely on assistance from the government, churches and the private sector in order to open their doors and provide services to the nation's youth.

This year, however, the Minister of Education says the ministry will host its own summer camp which will welcome at least 200 children from public schools across the country.

A spokesman from the ministry confirmed that the government will allocate an estimated EC\$162,000 to

*cont'd from pg 6*

The Crown told the jury that during a lunch adjournment on one occasion during the trial, the alleged victim saw the defendant in the corridor outside the court and suffered one such attack.

While the defence did not object to the request, Robinson told the court, in the absence of the jury, that the virtual complainants allegations were "fake".

On Thursday morning, the jury of seven females and two males retired and after only two hours of deliberation, they returned a not guilty verdict in favour of the defendant.

cover the cost of transportation, learning materials, meals and camp counselors.

"The camp will focus on building advanced technology skills, they will develop

mobile apps, drone development, and climate change technologies.

"The APUA will be a major sponsor along with corporate Antigua," the

spokesman added.

A venue for the Ministry of Education's summer camp and details regarding registration have not yet been announced.

### Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank

#### JOB VACANCY

Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank is seeking to recruit experienced talent to join our Executive Team of Managers. We are currently taking applications for the **position of Human Resources Officer**. The successful applicant must possess excellent leadership skills, training, and management skills

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- Implementing HR programs and policies as needed by the organization.
- Identifying, evaluating, and resolving human relations matters/issues, employee morale, work performance, and organizational productivity concerns.
- Conducting, reviewing, and managing performance reviews
- Ensuring that every aspect of the Bank's human resource incorporates our vision, values, and culture.
- All other related duties.

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- In depth knowledge of the Labor Laws of Antigua and Barbuda and HR Best Practices.
- Demonstrated proficiency with Ms Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

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 Email: [info@abdbank.com](mailto:info@abdbank.com)

Deadline for receipt of applications is June 27, 2022

# Opinion

## Correcting a foolish wrong

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)*

It is time that several nations, led in the Western Hemisphere by the US and Canada, correct a foolish wrong. Among those countries are two member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), namely Haiti and Jamaica.

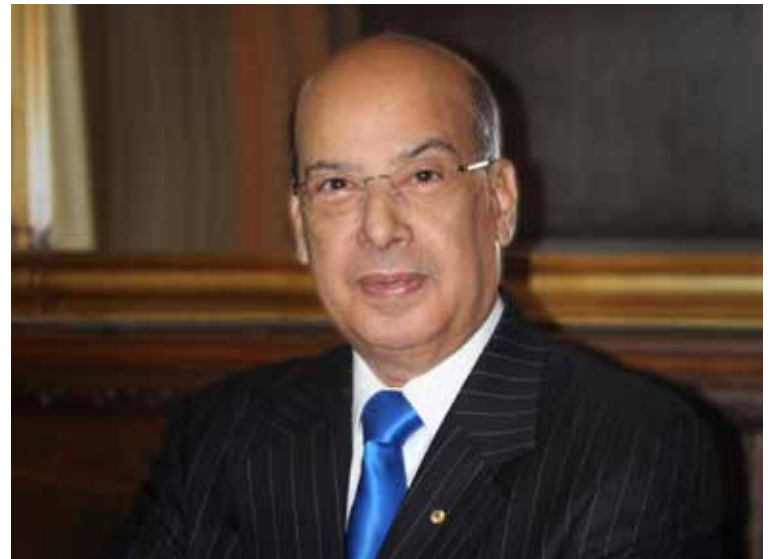
That wrong was not only their anointment of Juan Guaidó as the "Interim President" of Venezuela on January 23, 2019, but also the subsequent imposition of this fallacy on organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The wrong was foolish because it was conceived and imposed to suit narrow national political objectives; it was not grounded in international law or practice, nor was there any wide agreement on it. Therefore, it was never sustainable.

Seven of the 13 countries in the Western Hemisphere, which originally joined the US and Canada in aggressively supporting that notion that Guaidó

was in charge of Venezuela, have now abandoned that position and reverted to dealing with the de facto Venezuelan government of President Nicolás Maduro. The 7 countries that have ditched support for Guaidó are: Argentina, Peru, Mexico, Chile, and Honduras in Latin America as well as The Bahamas and St Lucia in the Caribbean.

Significantly, an eighth and very important country is seeking to normalize relations with the Maduro government. This country is Venezuela's neighbour, Colombia, whose newly elected President, Gustavo Petro, revealed on his twitter account that he has "reached out to the Venezuelan government to open the borders and restore the full exercise of human rights on the border". The conversation was confirmed by Maduro. Petro will assume office on August 7.

Many adverse consequences arose from the wrong that was perpetrated in January 2019. Among them were violations of the rules of the OAS to compel accreditation of Guaidó's nominee as Venezuela's Ambassador on April 22, 2019. There was a similar dubious procedure, one month before, on March 15, 2019, to appoint Guaidó's representative as a governor of the IDB. Those wrongful actions continue to divide the member states



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

of both organizations, and to adversely affect their operations both financially and functionally.

For instance, since Guaidó has no control over the finances of Venezuela, including its Treasury, his so-called interim government has not paid one cent in contributions to the OAS or the IDB, nor has it serviced the outstanding loans to Venezuela. In the IDB's case, at the end of 2021, the total amount of Venezuela's sovereign-guaranteed payment arrears amounted to \$1,088 million, including interest. Further, since 2018, all loans to Venezuela, amounting to \$2,011 million, were placed in non-accrual status. Interest income not recognized amounted to \$51 million during the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related individually assessed allowance for credit losses was \$77 million.

How any Bank can op-

erate in this way is alarming. It demonstrates a woeful politization of a financial institution with little regard for fiduciary responsibilities. Left unchecked, it will cripple the Bank, severely restricting its capacity to cater for the needs of its borrowing members and threatening repayments to its lending members.

The OAS is equally affected financially. As of June 30, 2022, Venezuela owes the Organization \$17.4 million in unpaid dues. Every year, \$1.9 million is added to that sum. The cumulative effect is to deprive the OAS of money it desperately needs to recruit competent staff and to retain the ones it has. Projects are also affected by the lack of finance, forcing the Organization to become increasingly dependent on "special funds" solicited mostly from the US and

*cont'd on pg 9*



# Opinion

*cont'd from pg 8*

Canada, giving these two countries even greater influence on the Organization than they already have.

When, on April 22, 2019, the US and Canada, imposed Guaidó's representative on the OAS, they did so by the slenderest majority of 18 votes, and only with the support of 6 of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, which have publicly changed their stance.

Today, it is most unlikely that 18 countries would support retaining Guaidó's nominee as the legitimate representative of Venezuela. But the anachronistic rules of the OAS are such that while only 18 votes were required to impose a representative, a two-thirds majority or 22 votes is

needed to reverse the imposition, and thus to correct this wrong.

It may very well be that, given that 15 of the 33 voting member states of the OAS did not support the April 2019 decision, and 8 countries have now publicly changed their position, there are 23 countries that could overturn it.

All of this sets the stage for a completely different conversation concerning Venezuela; importantly one that will not include the myth that Guaidó is the Interim President of the country. That is not to say that he would not remain a participant in any negotiations among the parties in Venezuela to find a solution to the political impasse in that country, but he would not be doing so on the un-

realistic premise that has so far been promoted.

Both the OAS and the IDB, in their functional and financial interest, need to remedy the situation regarding Venezuela. On a wider hemispheric level, credible and practical discussions should be initiated with the government that is in charge of Venezuela in order to reintegrate the country and its resources into the global trading and financial system.

In that way, desired reforms in Venezuela, could be achieved with benefits to its people, and to the role it could play in the peaceful development and prosperity of the Hemisphere.

*Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)*



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# Entertainment



## Chris Gayle partners with Group 33 to launch The Chris Gayle Universe Show

PRNewswire - Iconic international cricket star Chris Gayle has partnered with Group 33 to create a new talk show with global reach. The Chris Gayle Universe show will pair one of the most celebrated cricketers with music, movie, and sports stars from around the world.

Iconic international cricket star Chris Gayle has partnered with Group 33 to create a new talk show with global reach.

Gayle welcomes some of his popular friends to The Chris Gayle Universe, a space to discuss hot topics and relive some of the sport's most iconic performances. The program will be driven by one-on-one conversations with Gayle and his guests.

Widely regarded as one of the game's best strikers in the sport, Gayle holds multiple records across all formats



of the game. A two time world Cup winning player Gayle is opening this new chapter of his career by engaging with his long serving supporters.

"This show fulfils my desire to interact with my supporters directly," Gayle said. "This is a great opportunity to control when and how I interact with

my fans and guests. This is my chance to thank the people who have supported me throughout my career, gain some new fans and also take people behind the curtain of life. This show will also have never before told stories and gives viewers a chance to meet me and some of their personal heroes."

The Chris Gayle Universe is a partnership between Chris Gayle, New York based media company Group 33 and strategy company M Style Marketing. Group 33 is known for its award-winning series TdUp Golf with Twitch that paired celebrities playing golf with golf pros and legends for a virtual / simulator golf series.

"We look forward to working with Chris to bring this engaging show to his fans as well as providing great content. Chris is beloved through the cricket world and his guests extend beyond sports into famed entertainers, musicians and celebrities. With his constant travels, the Chris Gayle Universe will take viewers around the world to new sights and places" Rob Striar Group 33 Chief Executive Officer.

Gayle has selected a star-studded list of guests from sport, entertainment and media for the first ten weeks of the show.

The Chris Gayle Universe will be announcing its broadcast platform and sponsorship partners shortly.





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**27 JULY TO  
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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



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## Chernobyl: 'The Lost Tapes' presents a harrowing window into the nuclear disaster

**Review by Brian Lowry**

Even if you watched the Emmy-winning 2019 HBO miniseries (recommended, incidentally), "Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes" has plenty to offer as a documentary companion, presenting a former Soviet Union where the fondness for lies and obfuscation has its share of contemporary parallels. It's another harrowing reminder of the danger when governments put protecting their image ahead of the population's safety.

British director James Jones is fluent in Russian, which certainly came in handy wading through the exhaustive documentation of the government's response to the 1986 nuclear-plant accident in then-Soviet-controlled Ukraine and its fallout.

"The relationship with the truth



*Liquidators lining up in their protective equipment in 'Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes.'*

was complicated," one of the survivors recalls, while another -- exhibiting a flair for poetry -- observes of the radiation and its devastating effects, "The enemy there was everywhere and all the time, but it was invisible."

"Chernobyl" presents an array of voices, from those who were schoolchildren then to Soviet officials and plant personnel. That material is shaped into a methodical tick-tock

*cont'd on pg 14*

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## Kit Harington is reportedly on board for a Jon Snow Game of Thrones spin-off

By Toyin Owoseje

*Game of Thrones* fans may not have seen the last of Jon Snow.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, a sequel to HBO's hit fantasy drama is in early development, with British actor Kit Harington set to reprise his role as the world's favourite bastard from the North turned heir to the Iron Throne.

Described as a live-action spin-off series, the Jon Snow-centred show is expected to take place after the events of *Game of Thrones*, which ended in 2019 after almost a decade.

HBO declined to comment. Representatives for Harington did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The reopening of Jon Snow's story would upend the divisive eighth-and-final season and provide a chance for viewers to learn the fate of the surviving characters in the Emmy-winning series. Jon Snow was last seen leaving traveling north beyond The Wall with the wildlings, after being exiled from Westeros.

A sequel series could also open



Kit Harington is reported to be reprising his role as Jon Snow in a new sequel to the fantasy franchise.

the door for the return of other familiar faces, including Jon Snow's half-siblings Sansa and Arya Stark, played by Sophie Turner and Maisie Williams. It would also be a sign that HBO will extend George R.R. Martin's GOT universe beyond the source material. (Like CNN, HBO is a unit of Warner Bros. Discovery.)

News of the possible Jon Snow spin-off comes ahead of the premiere of the franchise spin-off "House Of The Dragon" on August 21 on HBO. The 10-episode series, set 200 years before "Game Of Thrones," is based

on Martin's "Fire and Blood" novel and follows House Targaryen, the dragon-riding family from which Daenerys Targaryen descended.

Harington was nominated for two Emmys, for best supporting actor and best lead actor in a drama series, during his time on "Game of Thrones." He has since appeared in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, playing Dane Whitman in "Eternals," appeared in an episode of Amazon's "Modern Love" and starred in the title role in Shakespeare's "Henry V" at London's National Theatre.

*cont'd from pg 12*

of the initial response, portraying how slowly vital information reached the local population, the evacuation of residents and the reluctance to relay bad news to Moscow.

In addition to the testimony, Jones has access to some remarkable footage, such as helicopters fruitlessly dropping sand into the reactor from high above it, smiling "liquidators" shrugging off

the threat to their health before going in to clean up the site, and news accounts at the time insisting that the risk was being exaggerated by Western media looking to embarrass the Soviet state.

As for that last concern, as the film soberingly notes, there has never been a full accounting of the lives lost: The official death toll related to Chernobyl remains at 31, compared to estimates that 200,000

people died as a result of the tragedy. That's despite very real fears exposed within the government that the accident would cause mass casualties and widespread contamination.

"Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes" isn't as readily accessible as a scripted drama, and the reliance on grainy footage creates some obvious limitations. Yet there's a visceral aspect to that, particularly in the cases of cancer diagnosed

and graphic images of birth deformities witnessed in the disaster's wake.

Current events have helped bring Ukraine and the era of Soviet domination back into the headlines, but "Chernobyl" feels timely on a variety of fronts. At its core, the documentary exposes the toxic combination of a major tragedy and a highly secretive regime, yielding a tragedy that has lingered in the public consciousness in more ways than one.



## Commonwealth nations meet in Rwanda: What you need to know

**By Estelle Shirbon**

Heads of government from Commonwealth nations will meet in the Rwandan capital Kigali today and tomorrow to discuss cooperation on topics ranging from green energy to rising food prices to the war in Ukraine, among others.

Here are some key facts about the Commonwealth and the Kigali summit, which was supposed to be held in 2020 but was twice delayed because of the COVID pandemic.

### What is the Commonwealth?

It is a voluntary association of 54 countries that evolved gradually from the British Empire and has existed in its modern form since 1949.

### Who are its members?

The Commonwealth includes 13 countries in the Caribbean and the Americas, 19 countries in Africa, three in Europe, eight in Asia and 11 in the Pacific, with a combined population of 2.5 billion.

India accounts for 1.4 billion of its citizens, while 32 members have populations of 1.5 million or less, the smallest being Nauru, which has 10,000 inhabitants.

### Are they all former British colonies?

Most of them are, but that is not a condition for membership. The last two countries to join, Rwanda and Mozambique, have no historical ties to the British Empire.

Gabon and Togo, both former French colonies, are expected to apply to join at the Kigali summit.

### What does the Commonwealth do?

It presents itself as a network for cooperation on common goals such as protecting the environment, boosting trade, supporting democra-



*Flags representing Commonwealth countries fly at the Kigali Convention Centre, the venue hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda June 22, 2022. REUTERS/Jean Bizimana*

cy, promoting education and gender equality, and giving small states a louder voice on the world stage.

Although it is not a free trade zone, it calculates that its members find it 21% cheaper to trade with other members than with non-Commonwealth countries which are a similar distance away, based on an analysis of World Bank data. Factors include a common language and similar legal and commercial frameworks.

### Who heads it?

Queen Elizabeth has been head of the Commonwealth, a largely symbolic role, since her reign began in 1952. The organisation says the British monarch is not automatically its head, but its members nevertheless agreed at a meeting in London in 2018 that Elizabeth's son Prince Charles would succeed her in the role.

Charles is attending the Kigali summit, representing his mother.

### Who runs it?

It has a secretariat based in London and a secretary-general, currently Dominica's Patricia Scotland.

Commonwealth leaders will decide in Kigali whether to re-appoint her for a second term or replace her with Kamina Johnson Smith, the Jamaican foreign minister. Britain has criticised Scotland's leadership and is backing Johnson Smith, as are India and Belize.

### Who is attending the Kigali summit?

Most heads of government of Commonwealth countries are coming, including Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari, Britain's Boris Johnson and Canada's Justin Trudeau.

But South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, India's Narendra Modi, Pakistan's Shehbaz Sharif, Australia's Anthony Albanese and New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern are not expected, raising questions about the relevance of the organisation for those countries.

## WHO considers declaring monkeypox a global health emergency

By Maria Cheng

The World Health Organization convenes its emergency committee Thursday to consider if the spiralling outbreak of monkeypox warrants being declared a global emergency. But some experts say the WHO's decision to act only after the disease spilled into the West could entrench the grotesque inequities that arose between rich and poor countries during the coronavirus pandemic.

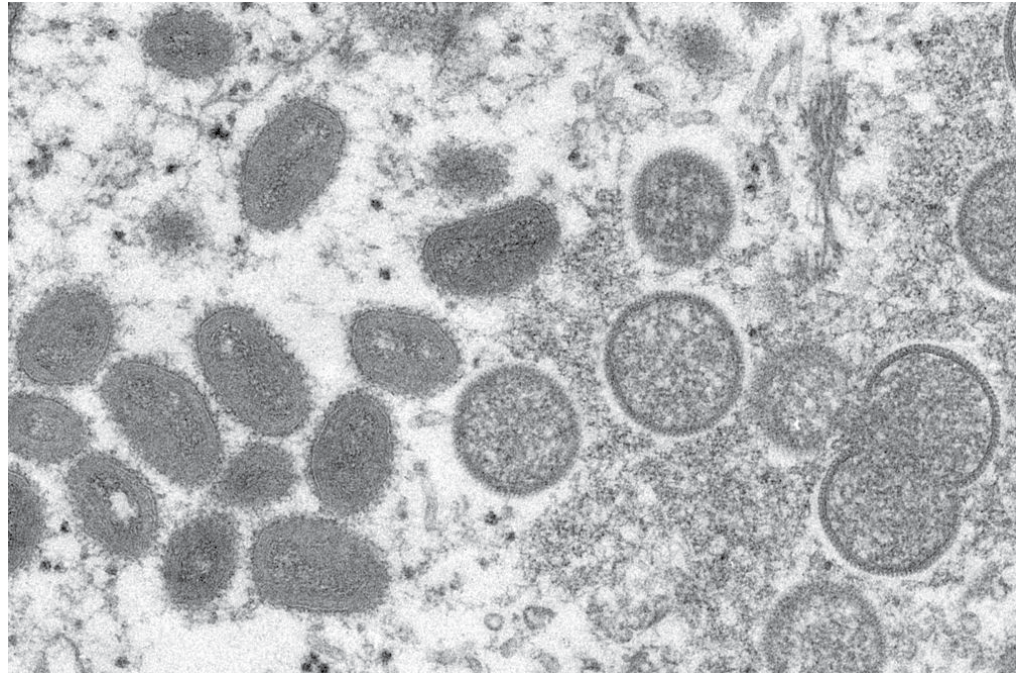
Declaring monkeypox to be a global emergency would mean the U.N. health agency considers the outbreak to be an "extraordinary event" and that the disease is at risk of spreading across even more borders, possibly requiring a global response. It would also give monkeypox the same distinction as the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing effort to eradicate polio.

The WHO said it did not expect to announce any decisions made by its emergency committee before Friday.

Many scientists doubt any such declaration would help to curb the epidemic, since the developed countries recording the most recent cases are already moving quickly to shut it down.

Last week, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the recent monkeypox epidemic identified in more than 40 countries, mostly in Europe, as "unusual and concerning." Monkeypox has sickened people for decades in central and west Africa, where one version of the disease kills up to 10% of people infected. In the epidemic beyond Africa so far, no deaths have been reported.

"If WHO was really worried about monkeypox spread, they could have convened their emergency committee years ago when it reemerged in Nigeria in 2017 and no one knew why we suddenly had hundreds of cases," said



*This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions, left, and spherical immature virions, right, obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak. The World Health Organization will convene an emergency committee of experts to determine if the expanding monkeypox outbreak that has mysteriously spread outside its usual zones should be considered an international public health emergency. (Cynthia S. Goldsmith, Russell Regner/CDC via AP, file)*

Oyewale Tomori, a Nigerian virologist who sits on several WHO advisory groups. "It is a bit curious that WHO only called their experts when the disease showed up in white countries," he said.

Until last month, monkeypox had not caused sizable outbreaks beyond Africa. Scientists haven't found any major genetic changes in the virus and a leading adviser to the WHO said last month the surge of cases in Europe was likely tied to sexual activity among gay and bisexual men at two raves in Spain and Belgium.

To date, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed more than 3,300 cases of monkeypox in 42 countries where the virus hasn't been typically seen. More than 80% of cases are in Europe. Meanwhile, Africa has already seen more than 1,400 cases this year, including 62 deaths.

David Fidler, a senior fellow in global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, said the WHO's newfound attention to monkeypox amid its spread beyond Africa could inadvertently worsen the divide between rich and poor countries seen during COVID-19.

"There may be legitimate reasons why WHO only raised the alarm when monkeypox spread to rich countries, but to poor countries, that looks like a double standard," Fidler said. He said the global community was still struggling to ensure the world's poor were vaccinated against the coronavirus and that it was unclear if Africans even wanted monkeypox vaccines, given competing priorities like malaria and HIV.

"Unless African governments specifically ask for vaccines, it might be a bit patronising to send them because

*cont'd on pg 17*



*cont'd from pg 16*

it's in the West's interest to stop monkeypox from being exported," Fidler said.

The WHO has also proposed creating a vaccine-sharing mechanism to help affected countries, which could see doses go to rich countries like Britain, which has the biggest monkeypox outbreak beyond Africa — and recently widened its use of vaccines.

To date, the vast majority of cases in Europe have been in men who are gay or bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, but scientists warn anyone in close contact with an infected person or their clothing or bedsheets is at risk of infection, regardless of their sexual orientation. People with monkeypox often experience symptoms like fever, body aches and a rash; most recover within weeks without needing medical care.

Even if the WHO announces monkeypox is a global emergency, it's unclear what impact that might have.

In January 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 an international emergency. But few countries took notice until March, when the organisation described it as a pandemic, weeks after many other authorities did so. The WHO was later slammed for its multiple missteps throughout the pandemic, which some experts said might be prompting a quicker monkeypox response.

"After COVID, WHO

does not want to be the last to declare monkeypox an emergency," said Amanda Glassman, executive vice president at the Center for Global Development. "This may not rise to the level of a COVID-like emergency, but it is still a public health emergency that needs to be addressed."

Salim Abdool Karim, an epidemiologist and vice

chancellor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, said the WHO and others should be doing more to stop monkeypox in Africa and elsewhere, but wasn't convinced that a global emergency declaration would help.

"There is this misplaced idea that Africa is this poor, helpless continent, when in fact, we do know how to

deal with epidemics," said Abdool Karim. He said that stopping the outbreak ultimately depends on things like surveillance, isolating patients and public education.

"Maybe they need vaccines in Europe to stop monkeypox, but here, we have been able to control it with very simple measures," he said.

## Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

### ACROSS

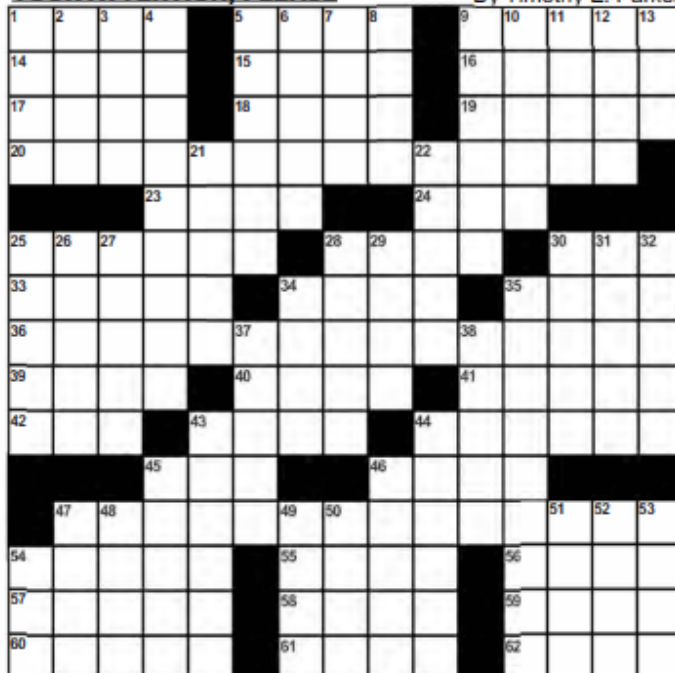
- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) It's mounted on runners          | 39) Bugs on a hill                |
| 5) Corleone in "The Godfather"      | 40) Top-of-the-line               |
| 9) Illegal inducement               | 41) Food for frogs                |
| 14) Serve the iced tea              | 42) "All right!"                  |
| 15) ___ horse (locomotive)          | 43) Britain, to the U.S.          |
| 16) Happen again                    | 44) "Finally!"                    |
| 17) Hairstyle that's picked?        | 45) First word said after a birth |
| 18) Like a lemon                    | 46) Have roots in (with "from")   |
| 19) Love to pieces                  | 47) Is as stubborn as a mule      |
| 20) Is absolutely relentless        | 54) Winged honker                 |
| 23) Cabbagelike veggie              | 55) Vigorous enthusiasm           |
| 24) Ballpark official, briefly      | 56) Do as one's told              |
| 25) Spars that cross a sail         | 57) Nasal congestion locale       |
| 28) All hail them?                  | 58) Vending-machine offering      |
| 30) It can be an X or an O          | 59) Cyrano's large feature        |
| 33) It's charged                    | 60) Plus column entry             |
| 34) Cornmeal dish                   | 61) Capsize (with "over")         |
| 35) Search, as for compliments      | 62) Collectors' goals             |
| 36) Goes around with bad intentions |                                   |

### DOWN

- 1) Health club features
- 2) Hay or choir area
- 3) Dollar relative
- 4) Old field goal attempts
- 5) Heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, etc.
- 6) Good and steamed
- 7) Utterly undecided
- 8) Aware of, as a scam
- 9) Lullaby composer Johannes
- 10) Get more fondue
- 11) Desktop graphic symbol
- 12) Small town
- 13) Bard's "before"
- 21) Fills to excess
- 22) Starchy veggie
- 25) Spread apart, as fingers
- 26) Face downward
- 27) Civil disturbances
- 28) Like a Kansan's trite joke?
- 29) Poker-pot starter
- 30) Bone or flute
- 31) Tropical spots
- 32) Word with "medicine" or "cedar"
- 34) Place to swim
- 35) Monthly lunar phenomena
- 37) Not true
- 38) Quite a bit
- 43) Provide evidence for
- 44) Hardly melodious
- 45) 1/12 of a subscription, often
- 46) Lacking freshness
- 47) Clark's partner
- 48) Electrically charged particles
- 49) A real head-turner
- 50) Gin flavorer
- 51) Woodwind with a pastoral sound
- 52) Bluebird's residence
- 53) Things that may twinkle
- 54) Government procurement org.

### YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

By Timothy E. Parker



# Lifestyle

## Kids getting older younger: Are children growing up too fast?

By Katie Bishop

Social media, pampering parents, increased pressure to succeed – ‘kids these days’ deal with a lot. But is it making them grow up faster or slower than previous generations?

Kids these days don’t get to be kids anymore, say the adults who remember a childhood free from the rules, oversight and digital pressures today’s young people navigate. In some ways, it may be true. The average parent allows their child a smartphone at age 10, opening up a world inaccessible to previous generations, with unlimited access to news, social media and other privileges previously reserved for adults, forcing them into emotional maturity before they reach adulthood.

There’s a term for it: ‘KGOY’ or ‘kids getting older younger’, meaning children are more savvy than previous generations.

Rooted in marketing, the idea is because of KGOY, kids have greater brand awareness, so products should be advertised to children rather than their parents. The theory has been around since the noughties, and ever since, experts have attempted to prove out the early demise of childhood by pointing to causes ranging from the age at which they get a smartphone, to the fact that kids are now watching more adult television programmes, to the problem of teenage girls being pressured to think about their appearance due to greater exposure to beauty ideals on social media.

Yet though many worry that kids may seem to be growing up too quickly, there’s also evidence that they could, in fact, be maturing more slowly. Gen Z are consistently reaching traditional markers of adulthood such as finishing education and leaving home later than



*“Children can communicate with strangers without supervision, which leads to an increased risk of cyberbullying or adult conversations” – Willough Jenkins (Credit: Getty Images)*

previous generations, and studies have shown that teenagers are engaging in ‘adult’ activities such as having sex, dating, drinking alcohol, going out without their parents and driving much later than previous generations.

Technology may be exposing kids to more, making them intellectually savvier. Yet whether they are actually growing up more quickly may be a matter of perspective. It may also be time to update what we think of as the milestones of maturation, and what it really means to grow up fast.

### What is childhood?

To understand how we measure growing up, it’s important to think about what most people mean by “childhood” and “adulthood”. Excluding biological measures such as when children hit puberty, our understanding of childhood is largely a social construction. People have different views of what it means depending on when and where they’ve grown up, making it difficult to measure or quantify.

In most countries, people are considered adults from the age of 18, but

this varies. In Japan, you are legally a child until you are 20, while in other countries such as Iran, individuals as young as nine years old can be treated as adults in law. Definitions of childhood have also varied historically: in the 19th Century, it was common for children under the age of 10 to work, and the idea of being a “teenager” didn’t really exist until the 1940s. Before then, adolescents were simply seen to transition straight from childhood to adulthood.

How, then, do we understand the idea of growing up more quickly – and is it really the case? “The basic stages of children’s development aren’t changing,” says Shelley Pasnik, senior vice president and director of the Center for Children and Technology, a research group based at the Education Development Center, New York. “The external world is constantly shifting, but children’s cognitive and emotional milestones stay the same.

And Pasnik points out, it’s difficult to measure and quantify the idea  
*cont’d on pg 19*



*cont'd from pg 18*

of “growing up” in a social and cultural sense. There are so many cross-cultural, linguistic and developmental aspects to childhood that it’s almost impossible to pinpoint any one thing as being the primary influence on how quickly children grow and age.

There’s also evidence people tend to idealise their own childhood, imagining it as a more carefree and happy time. It’s possible adults who complain that children today are maturing more rapidly may well be comparing them to a skewed and nostalgic view of their own youth that doesn’t quite compare to reality.

### ‘Media-delivered ideas’

“What has changed is [kids’] exposure to information,” says Pasnik, “through video platforms to caregiver phones; social media platforms and interactive speakers with unlimited capacity to push content.” Children are now constantly getting what Pasnik calls “media-delivered ideas” – content aimed at adults and viewed mostly over the internet – much sooner than previous generations.

“There is increased exposure to violent or sexual content at a younger age, which causes a desensitisation and normalisation, because children’s brains aren’t fully developed to process this in a way that an adult brain can,” says Dr Willough Jenkins, an inpatient director of psychiatry at Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego. “Of course,

part of the exposure is to other people, too. Children can communicate with strangers without supervision, which leads to an increased risk of cyberbullying or adult conversations that they are not equipped to handle.”

All of this, says Pasnik, can lead to children confronting adult realities before they are developmentally ready to do so – something that is often interpreted as ‘growing up too quickly’.

Jenkins is quick to point out, however, that technology is neither bad nor good, and that there’s plenty of scaremongering around youth’s increased access to

social media. It’s an oft-cited anecdote that in previous generations parents worried about their children watching television, and now social media has become the new societal ill for people to fear.

In fact, exposure to content not available to previous generations can be a good thing. Technology enables children to independently seek knowledge and to think critically, due to their access to a wider range of sources. For children in remote areas, the ability to find more knowledge and social connections outside their immediate family can be

invaluable, as can accessing support and community for minority groups.

### Or staying young longer?

Technology is far from the only social force affecting how children develop, and at what pace. Over the past few decades, parenting has become more intensive in the US and many other countries, and children today can expect more structured play, extracurricular activities and parental supervision than previous generations.


The topic of how this affects children is hotly debated – one argument is that

*cont'd on pg 20*

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# Lifestyle



*cont'd from pg 19*

heightened expectations placed on children to optimise their time in adult-like ways lead to unnecessary stress (and a loss of an important, carefree stage of childhood), while another argument is that they lead to a generation of pampered young adults unable to think for themselves (and a prolonged and unhealthy childhood).

“There’s been quite a bit of discussion especially in recent years, about children’s lives becoming more institutionalised and controlled,” says William Corsaro, a professor emeritus of sociology at Indiana University. He points to hovering parents

and children’s involvement in extracurricular activities and lessons outside school, and to “overstated” fears about children’s safety and lower birth rates (meaning fewer at-home playmates) as factors that make children mature more slowly.

This theory is echoed by Jean Twenge in her 2017 book *iGen*. Based on a survey of 11 million US-based young people, Twenge argued that kids born after 1995 are, contrary to much popular wisdom, growing up more slowly, engaging in milestones traditionally considered “adult” far later than their older counterparts.

This is, in part, because smartphones allow children

to socialise from their own home, making them less likely to engage in activities such as drinking with peers or sex, but she also points to an evolutionary idea known as ‘life history theory’, which classifies maturation of species into “slow” and “fast” strategies – the safer the environment, the more slowly they have to mature.

Today, in an age of low birth-rates and high life-expectancies, children tend to be closer to their parents and grow up in a safer environment, and thus can mature more slowly. This means that they aren’t pushed towards independence in the same way that children growing up in a fast maturation environment – what previous generations experienced – might be.

Although something of a wildcard, the pandemic also seems to be exacerbating this trend. Children stayed at home instead of going to school, weren’t able to travel to attend university and were furloughed from the jobs that offered a first taste of independence. By most traditional measures they were unable to grow up at the rate that children just a few years ahead of them had done – yet by other measures they were exposed to uncomfortable truths and social responsibilities such as mask-wearing that forced them to confront the adult world more quickly.

## A matter of perspective

Though evidence indicates that in a cultural and social sense children aren’t

growing up any more quickly than they ever have, this may be to do with how we understand what it means to grow up.

Viewed one way, children really are growing up more slowly, seemingly kept young by a socially distanced and digital world where their parents are their closest real-life companions. Viewed another way, children are simply showing how it looks to mature in today’s world. In fact it could be easy to argue that a broader view of life outside a hometown and local friendship circles given by technology, or an ability to navigate an online world, is just as valid a set of milestones and markers of growing up as having sex, drinking, driving and moving out of the family home.

Ultimately there are many factors that influence the rate at which children mature, and the circumstances are highly individual. Our understanding of where childhood ends and adulthood begins – and the line that separates them – is blurry, and subjective. Society isn’t static – it’s constantly evolving, and so what childhood looks and feels like is constantly evolving too.

Getting ‘older’ might seem more complicated these days, but kids don’t know the difference, just as their parents didn’t know a life without the internet or television or telephones – or whatever it was their own parents worried was making them grow up too fast or slow.



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## Guyana: Opposition parties want consultation on COI terms of reference

CMC - Guyana's two main opposition parties Wednesday called on the government to consult with them on the terms of reference for the Commission of Inquiry (COI) to probe into the controversial March 2, 2020 regional and general elections.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali named former Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal judge, Stanley Jon along with Senior Counsel and former Belize High Court judge, Godfrey P. Smith, the former chair and chief elections commissioner of India, Dr. S. Y. Quraishi; and the former acting Chancellor here, Justice Carl Singh as members of the Commission.

In a statement, Ali said that the members of the Commission will in the coming weeks review the reports and documentation, set out modalities and commence work..

But in separate statements on Wednesday, the People's National Congress Reform (PNCR), and the Alliance For Change (AFC) said there was need for consultation with the opposition in an effort to secure broad-based acceptance.

"As the President has insisted on being a judge in his own cause, the PNCR demands that the government and opposition agree on finalising the terms of reference if only to reduce potential bias and expose the nation to the plethora of evidence of electoral malpractice by the PPP in the recently concluded 2020 general and regional elections," PNCR executive member, retired Rear Admiral, Gary Best, told a news conference.

Best said the PNC could very well dispatch a letter to the four-member Commission.

"The Commission of Inquiry, any reasonable Guyanese, any reasonable person, will conclude; it



is an interference because it is the lowest level of judicial authority and scrutiny," he said, adding that the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) should reconsider its majority position and instead conduct an internal review of the 2020 polls and rely on the election petitions whose fate depends on the Caribbean Court of Justice.

The PNCR said the COI would amount to an "interference in the judicial process" and would permit a lot of hearsay evidence that could harm the reputation of people but could not be used in the court.

But Best said his party would participate in the hearings and present its evidence and demonstrate that the then APNU+AFC coalition government did not commit any electoral offences.

For its part, the AFC justified the need for GECOM to conduct an internal review to learn lessons by such a high-ranking constitutional agency which has received millions of dollars of public monies.

"The AFC would like to reiterate that the call for an internal institutional review was directed to identify flaws and weaknesses in the system, operations, and human resources of GECOM," the party said.

The AFC also supported a call for consultation on the Commission to probe the 2020 general and regional

elections. It said such an exercise should focus on the make-up of the commission, the terms of reference and timeline for doing its works.

"This consultative, inclusive approach would certainly have engendered a modicum of acceptability and legitimacy of whatever final report it will produce, plus a participation in the Commission's work by a greater number of Guyanese," the AFC said in a statement.

It said despite its misgivings about the process for establishing the COI, it hoped that the Commission would come up with a profound set of recommendations which will ensure that GECOM produces free, fair, and credible elections in future.

It said it also hopes that GECOM's internal operations, system and human resources be examined thoroughly to identify flaws and weaknesses which it did not want to confront in that internal review. "This might assist GECOM in restoring its credibility, something the AFC wants to see happen as early as possible."

The ruling People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) came to office in August 2020 following the disputed results of the general election with the then governing coalition, a Partnership for National Unity (APNU) taking to the courts to challenge the results.

Some of the challenges are still before the Appeal Court and are likely to be issues before the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice, which is the country's highest and final court.

Several officials of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) are also before the courts linked to the controversial elections.

# Regional News

## CDB devises new metric to make small states eligible for financing

Loop - The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is piloting a new concept, which will allow countries in the Caribbean to access financing following natural disasters and other shocks to their economies.

The Recovery Duration Adjuster (RDA) is aimed at changing the way vulnerability is measured for small island states.

It is intended to replace the current standard measurement, the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) which primarily considers a country's Gross National Income.

GNI is a method used to assess a country's eligibility for concessionary financing.

Many countries in the Caribbean do not qualify for such financing since they no longer meet the GNI standards.

The concept was unveiled at the 52nd annual meeting of the CDB in the Turks and Caicos on Thursday.

The theme of the meeting was "Measure Better to Target Better" and speaks directly to what the CDB is trying to achieve to ensure its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) can access needed funds to help their economies recover following any shocks.



Dr Hyginus "Gene" Leon, President of the Caribbean Development Bank, explains the new RDA concept.

Speaking on the panel, Dr Keith Nurse, who sits on the UN Committee for Development Policy which sets policy for the graduation of states from Least Developed Country status, explained that they use GNI, a Human Asset Index which looks at social factors such as education and health and an Environmental and Economic Vulnerability Index as three key indicators to assess a country's status.

He said they found over the last few decades that it is the small states within the Least Developed Country category that have graduated.

Dr Nurse explained that only two criteria are necessary to graduate and

are easily met by countries that depend on one economic driver.

"So the tourism sector can generate high levels of GNI and the spill over or surplus can easily be redistributed into the educational sector, health sector, infrastructure and so on. Small states with mono economies in particular through boom years can generate significant growth in their human asset index. This is far more difficult for least developed countries that are larger with large rural populations and large poverty levels," he explained.

He acknowledged that with climate change many small states could reverse from graduating from the LDC categories, as they

remain highly vulnerable.

"This is a grave concern for us and in that regard, the issue of the internal resistance capacity becomes the key indicator or should be the driving indicator we use going forward," he said.

Ambassador Aubrey Webson, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States endorsed the new concept, stating that the small island developing states are the most vulnerable group of countries experiencing severe shocks from Covid-19 and climate change.

"Access to global finance such as concessional financing or climate financing and debt

*cont'd on pg 23*



## Grenada's Dickon Mitchell leads opposition NDC to election victory

Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique have decided and voted the National Democratic Congress (NDC) into power, which means political leader of the NDC, Dickon Mitchell, is to become the next Prime Minister.

Mitchell, 44, an attorney at law, contested the constituency of St David and won his seat with 4,414 votes.

According to preliminary results of the general election from the Parliamentary Elections Office, the NDC copped 9 out of the 15 seats.

The NDC has stopped the winning streak of the New National Party (NNP) which had back-to-back landslide victories in 2013

and 2018.

Dr Keith Mitchell, 75, who leads the NNP held onto his St George North West seat with 2,211 votes.

The NDC posted the following on its Facebook page:

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude and stand humbled before the Lord our God and you, the people of Grenada, Carriacou & Petite Martinique.

Thank you from the bottom of each and every one of our hearts. This victory is not ours, but yours.

Now, the hard work begins, but, first, join us TONIGHT at 9 pm at La Sagesse Playing Field for a special victory celebration.

Together, we are moving Grenada FORWARD!"



*NDC political leader Dickon Mitchell.*

**cont'd from pg 22**

relief for these islands are difficult.

"These we believe should mirror the unique and extreme vulnerabilities of these islands yet access falls woefully short for many of these islands especially islands in the Caribbean despite very clear evidence that the access mechanism being used, which denies opportunities and access to finances, is unjust," he said.

The RDA, explained CDB economist Jason Cotton, has been designed to make the existing MVI measurement better by incorporating vulnerability and aspects of resilience.

He argued that any metric should go beyond susceptibility and look at a country's ability to bounce back.

He said the RDA is forward-looking, could be customised to suit specific shocks, works with real-time data and considers the duration of recovery, among other differences.

Cotton told Loop News that they are aspiring to use this RDA concept within the CDB to assess eligibility for concessional financing and to see it become a standard within the international system.

He said in December, a high-level committee within the United Nations would make a determination on the new metric to influence concessional financing.

"We have made a presentation and we have received favourable feedback but they have indicated that we need to bring to them before that timeline numbers showing results of

our framework.

"We have preliminary numbers so we are working by September/October this year to present full empirical numbers behind all of it so we can have this additional proof of concept to influence a bigger agenda that is occurring globally," he revealed.

He said they are looking for those with technical expertise to collaborate with them on the development of the methodology so they can have a metric that withstands global scrutiny.

He said for the collection of data that would inform the RDA, the CDB is setting up a data hub as a central repository but they will begin where they are by trying to get the best data available now.

## Afghan Taliban say rescue effort almost complete one day after earthquake kills 1,000

Reuters - Aid began arriving on Thursday in a remote part of Afghanistan where an earthquake killed 1,000 people, with Taliban officials saying the rescue operation was almost complete.

The magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck early on Wednesday about 160 km (100 miles) southeast of Kabul, in arid mountains dotted with small settlements near the border with Pakistan.

Poor communications and a lack of proper roads are hampering relief efforts in a country already grappling with a humanitarian crisis which has deteriorated since the Taliban took over last August.

"The rescue operation has finished, no one is trapped under (the) rubble," Mohammad Ismail Muawiyah, a spokesman for the top Taliban military commander in the hardest-hit Paktika province, told Reuters.

Mohammad Nassim Haqqani, a spokesperson for the disaster ministry, told Reuters rescue operations had finished in major districts but were continuing in some isolated areas.

The United Nations said on Thursday the Taliban ministry of defence had indicated as early as



*Afghan Red Crescent medics and volunteers transport earthquake victims to hospitals in Spera district, Khost province, Afghanistan, June 22, 2022. Afghan Red Crescent Society/Handout via REUTERS*

Wednesday 90 per cent of search and rescue operations had been completed.

Two retired officers in Nepal involved in the aftermath of the 2015 quake that killed 9,000 people expressed surprise that the rescue operation could be close to completion so soon, but one noted that if most damaged homes were small, it was possible.

The earthquake killed about 1,000 people and injured 1,500, Muawiyah said. More than 3,000 houses were destroyed.

The death toll makes it Afghanistan's deadliest earthquake in two decades,

according to U.S. government data.

About 1,000 people had been rescued by Thursday morning, Sharafat Zaman, a spokesperson for the health ministry told Reuters.

"Aid has arrived to the area and it is continuing but more is needed," he said.

The town of Gayan, close to the epicentre, sustained significant damage with most of its mud-walled buildings damaged or completely collapsed, a Reuters team said.

The town, with only the most basic roads, was bustling with Taliban soldiers and ambulances as a

helicopter bringing in relief supplies landed nearby, whipping up huge swirls of dust. About 300 people sat on the ground waiting for supplies.

The rescue operation will be a major test for the hardline Islamist Taliban, who took over as U.S.-led international forces withdrew after two decades of war.

The humanitarian situation has deteriorated alarmingly since the Taliban takeover, aid officials say, with the country cut off from much international assistance because of sanctions.



## Commonwealth heads call for climate action at Rwanda meeting

AP – Leaders of Commonwealth nations are calling for increased climate action at a meeting in Rwanda this week, ahead of the United Nations climate change summit in the seaside resort of Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt later this year.

Climate change is a major concern for the 54-nation bloc that includes small island countries facing growing threats amid global warming. Recent weather events and longer climate term trends, including heat waves, extreme temperatures, droughts, cyclones, floods and rising sea levels, afflict most of the Commonwealth's member states.

Alok Sharma, a British official who led last year's U.N. climate talks in Scotland, urged member countries Thursday to focus on implementing emission reduction targets set for 2030.

"What it needs, friends, is for us to focus on implementation, and every country must respond to the Glasgow climate pact," Sharma said, speaking at a business forum on the margins of the Commonwealth summit in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

Commonwealth governments must submit their emission reduction targets by Sept. 23, he said, "including their long-term strategies."



*Alwande Ndlovu, stands where a neighbour's house once stood, after heavy rains caused flood damage in Umgababa, near Durban, South Africa, April 19, 2022. Commonwealth leaders are set to adopt the much-awaited "Living Lands Charter", an action plan to address climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss. Recent weather events and longer term climate trends, including heatwaves, extreme temperatures, drought, cyclones, floods and sea-level rise, afflict most of its member states. (AP Photo, File)*

Sharma noted that for island nations such as Barbados "the situation is devastatingly clear," and tackling climate change "is the difference between life and death."

Britain's Prince Charles, representing Queen Elizabeth II as the ceremonial head of the Commonwealth, is expected to champion the bloc's global climate action.

Commonwealth leaders are set to adopt the much-awaited "Living Lands Charter" later this week, an action plan to address climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss.

Speaking at another meeting on the side of the summit, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said that responding to climate

change requires "the most significant political, social and economic effort that the world has ever seen."

The Commonwealth's Living Lands Charter, she said, "is a testament to our commitment. It helps to encapsulate our combined effort to hold the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit)."

According to the charter's concept note, obtained by The Associated Press, the Commonwealth's commitments will focus on five main themes: climate-resilient agriculture for food security, soil and water conservation, green cover and biodiversity, climate-resilient livestock rearing, and climate-resilient development for indigenous people. In what's billed as a

"five-by-five" approach, it aims to achieve its climate goals through a mixture of policy influence, financing, technical assistance, governance and sharing knowledge across nations.

The Commonwealth brings together states representing a combined population of 2.5 billion people, most of which are former British colonies. It claims that if the charter is endorsed and implemented in full, it will "protect and manage a quarter of the world's landmass."

The charter is also calling for "greater consideration on inclusion of indigenous peoples" in countries' voluntary, nationally determined contributions on climate action.

Some 32 of the Commonwealth's member nations are small states, with 25 of them being small islands and developing states classified as vulnerable to climate change.

The island states at the forefront of climate action have already called on the Commonwealth to strengthen measures on oceans.

"The oceans and climate are inextricably interconnected, and the health of our oceans dictates the livelihoods of millions of people around the world," said Jitoko Tikolevu, a Fijian diplomat. "Our answer is simple, we need action."

## Bodies of priests, tour guide killed in Mexico found, suspect named

Reuters - The bodies of two Jesuit priests and a tour guide shot dead this week in a gang-ravaged area of northern Mexico were found on Wednesday after a major search, authorities said.

The three were killed on Monday after a suspected run-in with a wanted drug trafficker in the border state of Chihuahua, a crime that drew swift condemnation from the Pope.

"We've found and recovered ... the bodies of the Jesuit priests Javier Campos, Joaquin Mora and the



Jesuit priests hold a mass next to the photos of two priests Javier Campos and Joaquin Mora who were murdered, after Mexican authorities said that they are searching for their bodies along with others who were kidnapped in a violent stretch of northern Mexico, at San Ignacio de Loyola church in Mexico City, Mexico June 21, 2022. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

tour guide Pedro Palma," Chihuahua Governor Maria

Eugenia Campos said in a video posted to social media.

Pope Francis said he was shocked by the killings as authorities hunted for the murder suspect.

"So many killings in Mexico," Francis said at the end of his general audience for thousands of people in St. Peter's Square.

The state prosecutor's office in Chihuahua said the three were killed after Palma took refuge in a church in the town of Cerocahui to protect himself from an attack.

The office named Jose Noriel Portillo Gil as a suspect in the murders, and offered a reward of five million pesos, or nearly \$250,000, for information relating to his whereabouts.

The state said in 2018 that Portillo, who is also the prime suspect in the murder of American teacher Pat-

rick Braxton-Andrews, was involved in the drug trade.

The three bodies were taken from the church by a group of men in the back of a pickup truck, Luis Gerardo Moro, head of the religious order in Mexico, said in a radio interview.

Chihuahua Attorney General Roberto Fierro said authorities were also looking for two missing brothers believed kidnapped by Portillo on Monday, before the killings.

Fierro said the men had recently played in a baseball game against a team sponsored by Portillo, which ended in an argument after Portillo's team lost. Portillo on Monday shot at one of the brothers in a home, which he set on fire, Fierro said witnesses reported.

Fierro also confirmed that a woman and child reported missing were safe.

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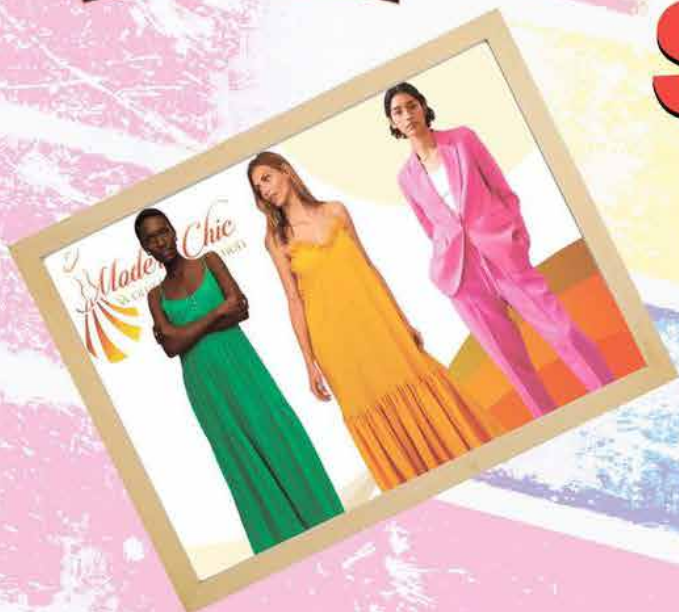
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## Maradona: Medical staff to be tried for football legend's death

BBC – Eight medical personnel are to stand trial accused of criminal negligence in the death of legendary Argentine footballer Diego Maradona.

A judge has ordered a culpable homicide trial after a medical panel found Maradona's treatment was rife with "deficiencies and irregularities".

Maradona died in November 2020 of a heart attack in Buenos Aires, aged 60.

He had been recovering at home from surgery on a brain blood clot earlier that month.

A few days after his death Argentine prosecutors launched an investigation into the doctors and nurses involved in his care.

Last year, the panel of 20 experts appointed to examine his death found Maradona's medical team acted in an "inappropriate, deficient and reckless manner".

It also concluded that the footballer "would have had a better chance of survival" with adequate treatment in an appropriate medical facility, according to the court ruling.

Among those facing charges are Maradona's neurosurgeon and personal doctor, Leopoldo Luque, a psychiatrist and psychologist, two doctors, two nurses and their boss.



*Maradona died of a heart attack at his Buenos Aires home, aged 60*

They have all denied responsibility for his death.

All eight will be tried on a legal definition of homicide based on negligence committed in the knowledge that it may lead to a person's death.

The crime can hold a sentence of eight to 25 years in prison, according to Argentina's penal code. A date for the trial is yet to be set.

Mario Baudry, a lawyer for one of Maradona's sons, told Reuters that the football legend was "in a situation of helplessness" by the time of his death.

"As soon as I saw the cause, I said it was homicide. I fought for a long time and here we are, with this stage completed," he

said.

The legal proceedings were prompted by a complaint filed by two of Maradona's daughters. They raised concerns about their father's treatment after the brain operation.

In an emotional press conference in November 2020, Dr Luque cried, saying he had done all he could to save the life of a friend.

At one point, the doctor shot back at reporters: "You want to know what I am responsible for? For having loved him, for having taken care of him, for having extended his life, for having improved it to the end."

The doctor said he had done "everything he could, up to the impossible".

Diego Maradona is largely considered to be one of the greatest footballers to ever play the game. He was captain when Argentina won the 1986 World Cup, scoring the famous Hand of God goal against England in the quarter-finals.

During the second half of his career, Maradona struggled with cocaine addiction and was banned for 15 months after testing positive for the drug in 1991.

The news of his death threw the football world - and his home country of Argentina - into deep mourning, with many thousands of people queuing for hours to walk by his coffin at the presidential palace in Buenos Aires.



## Wimbledon: Rafael Nadal wins first grass-court match for three years

BBC – Stan Wawrinka says Rafael Nadal “looks like normal Rafa” after the Spaniard won his first grass-court match in three years as part of his Wimbledon preparations.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion beat Swiss Wawrinka 6-2 6-3 in an exhibition match at Hurlingham on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old’s participation at Wimbledon had been in doubt because of a chronic foot injury.

“It has been a while without playing on grass,” Nadal said.

Nadal practised with last year’s finalist Matteo Berrettini on Centre Court on Thursday.

He practised on the Mallorca grass courts after having treatment on his left foot before arriving in London on Monday.

Nadal has not played at Wimbledon since 2019 having missed last year’s tournament to give his body time



*Rafael Nadal has won two of his 22 Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon*

to rest following the French Open. The 2020 event was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“I am older now - I can’t manage to play so many matches,” Nadal said following his win over Wawrinka.

“For me it is perfect to play a couple of matches here before Wimbledon starts. That helps me to feel at least some competition before Wimbledon.”

Nadal’s last competitive match on grass was his 2019 Wimbledon semi-final against Roger Federer, which his long-time rival won in four sets.

He started the year in stunning fashion, winning the Australian Open to secure a men’s record 21st Grand Slam title, before claiming a 14th French Open trophy last month.

“I don’t know how he is

feeling, it looks like normal Rafa,” Wawrinka, who has been given a singles wildcard for Wimbledon, said.

“He has been saying he is feeling better and if he is playing he is ready to play his best and to win.”

Three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic also triumphed at Hurlingham Club on Wednesday, beating Canada’s Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-2 6-1.

## ABNOC reschedules Glow Walk/Run

The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) has rescheduled its MoveForPeace Glow Walk/Run initially slated for Sunday, 26th June.

According to a release by the ABNOC, the event will now take place on Sunday, 3rd July, 2022.

The ABNOC said it is postponing the MoveForPeace Glow Walk/Run because several national sports federations are holding their nation-

al championships over the weekend of 25th and 26th June.

The ABNOC claims it does not wish to have any competing activity, hence its rescheduling of its MoveForPeace Glow Walk/Run, which is to commemorate Olympic Day globally, and encourages all sports lovers to turn out in support of the other various events taking place this weekend.

Officially, Olympic Day is 23rd

June each year, with NOCs (National Olympic Committees) putting on a wide range of events centered around Move, Learn, Discover. This year, the (International Olympic Committee) IOC-mandated theme for Olympic Day is peace.

The release states, “Following the success of its hike last year, ABNOC continues to ‘mix it up’, and this year, the #MoveForPeace Glow

*cont’d on pg 30*

# Sports News



## World Aquatics Championships: US artistic swimmer Anita Alvarez rescued by coach after fainting in pool

BBC – American artistic swimmer Anita Alvarez was rescued from the bottom of the pool by her coach after fainting at the World Aquatics Championships.

The 25-year-old was not breathing and had sunk after completing her routine in the solo free final in Budapest.

Her coach, Andrea Fuentes, pulled Alvarez to the surface before she was taken away on a stretcher.

The US swim team later released a statement from Fuentes saying Alvarez “feels good now”.

Alvarez previously fainted following a routine during an Olympic qualifier in Barcelona last year, with Fuentes also rescuing her on that occasion.

Of the more recent incident, Fuentes said: “Anita is OK - the doctors checked all vitals and everything is normal - [her] heart rate,



Anita Alvarez finished seventh in the solo free final after being rescued by her coach when she fainted in the pool after her routine [Getty Images]

oxygen, sugar levels, blood pressure etc. All is OK.

“We sometimes forget that this happens in other high-endurance sports [such as] marathon, cycling, cross country.

“We all have seen images where some athletes don’t make it to the finish

line and others help them to get there.

“Our sport is no different than others, just in a pool, we push through limits and sometimes we find them.

“Anita feels good now and the doctors also say she is OK.

“Tomorrow she will rest all day and will decide with the doctor if she can swim free team finals or not.”

Spanish newspaper Marca reported four-time Olympic medallist Fuentes as saying she had jumped in “because the lifeguards weren’t doing it”.

*cont’d from pg 29*

Walk/Run will be moving off from the Rising Sun Cricket Field at 6 pm.

“Making a single loop over Michaels Mount to All Saints Road, turning on to American Road and then on to Factory Road before making its way back to Rising Sun via Parliament Drive.

“White glow sticks will be in full force as the sun gracefully exits for the day. An added feature this year, will be a music truck leading

the Walk/Run for that extra calorie burn as everyone does their jig!

“In ABNOC’s continued support of Andre Simon’s family at this most challenging time, there is a \$10 registration fee with all funds raised going to the Andre Simon’s Medical Fund.”

Registrants will receive the official 2022 Olympic Day tee-shirt, a glow stick, water and refreshments.

Registration can be done on the ABNOC Website and Facebook page: [www.antiguabarbudanoc.com](http://www.antiguabarbudanoc.com)

or [www.facebook.com/ABNOC](https://www.facebook.com/ABNOC).

There will be a short closing ceremony, and attendees will be treated to a mini-peace concert featuring Zamoni and others entertainers.

There will be prizes for the Sports Association /Federation with the most members at the event; the Service Organization with the most members at the event; the Government Office with the most members at the event; the Youngest Person at the event and the Oldest Person at the event.



## Overseas-based cyclists to contest national championships

The nation's United States based elite cyclists Jyme Bridges and Conor Delanbanque will be contesting this weekend's National Cycling Championships which is being staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF).

Both cyclists missed last year's event, but president of the ABCF St Clair Williams said Bridges and Delanbanque will be returning for the nationals, which will comprise the Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial on Saturday, 25th June, and the Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race on Sunday, 26th June.

President of the ABCF St Clair Williams said Robert Marsh will also be defending his National Time Trial title tomorrow (Saturday).

"The nationals is a two-day event. On Saturday it will be the Inet Time Trial and Robert Marsh is the reigning champion for that having won the trophy in 2021 so he will be defending his crown on Saturday," Williams said.

"So I am looking forward to a keenly contested race and we will have the likes of Robert Marsh, Shawn Weathered and we will also have our overseas-based riders taking part, especially on Saturday. We have Jyme Bridges and Conor Delanbanque coming home from overseas to participate and so we will have all of our cyclists out and gunning this weekend.

The Inet National Individual Time Trials, which is also being supported by Anjo Wholesale, agents for Gatorade, and Paradiso Water, will commence at the Police Recreation Grounds at 9am on 25 June.

The cyclists will proceed eastward on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway. They will travel through



*Antigua and Barbuda overseas-based cyclist Conor Delanbanque.*

Gunthorpes and continue eastward past the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The cyclists will continue their eastward travel past Parham corner, Vermont and the Mount Joy Service Station.

They will move unto the Pares Village Main Road, past the Lyon Hill Road and in to Pares Village. They will continue eastward past the Collins Road and unto the Glanvilles Main Road.

The cyclists will past through Glanvilles Village then continue unto the Willikies Main Road. They will travel along the Willikies Main Road before turning around and travel back along the same route to the finish line at the Police Recreation Grounds.

The Top Ranking Nationals Road Race, which is also being supported by Subway, Anjo Wholesale and Gatorade and Paradiso Water, will start in front of the Top Ranking Store on Old Parham Road on Sunday, 26th June, at 2pm.

The cyclists will proceed eastward until they reach the intersection at Dee's Service Station, the Sir George Walter Highway and the Pigotts Main Road.

They will make a left unto the Sir George Walter Highway passing through Coolidge, past the turn off that leads to the VC Bird International



*Reigning National Time Trial champion Robert Marsh. (Photos courtesy ABCF)*

al Airport.

The cyclists will proceed along the Sir George Walter Highway past the LIAT Road until they reached the intersection with Jabberwock Road and Hospitality Drive.

They will make a left turn unto the Jabberwock Road, past the American University of Antigua and Jabberwock Beach. The cyclists will travel through Hodges Bay and proceed along the Hodges Bay Main Road into Cedar Grove Village.

They will then make a left turn unto the Friar's Hill Road, past Longfords, Cedar Valley and Marble Hill. They will proceed along Friar's Hill Road past the Woods Shopping Centre and the St John's Public Cemetery.

The cyclists will proceed to the Intersection with Old Parham Road near the YMCA Sports Complex. They will make a left turn unto the Old Parham Road and proceed eastwards past the Antigua Grammar School, YASCO Sports Complex and Wireless Road before finishing back in front of the Top Ranking Store.

"Sunday's Road Race is the big one and it will start and finish at the Top Ranking Store on Old Parham Road. One lap of the route will consist of 11 miles and the Elite Riders

*cont'd on pg 32*

# Sports News



## Athletes to seek qualification for international meets at this weekend's nationals

A number of the island's athletes will be using this weekend's national Track and Field Championships at the YASCO Sports Complex to qualify for three major international meets later this year.

Coach Ted Daley, an executive member of the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA), host of this weekend's nationals, said athletes will be trying to meet the qualifying standards to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA, from 15th to 24th July, the 22nd Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England, from 28 July to 8th August and the 2022 World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Cali, Colombia, from 1st to 6th August.

He says although the top Antiguan sprinters will be competing in this week-

end's nationals on Saturday and Sunday, Cejhae Greene and Joella Lloyd have already qualified for the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA, and Ajahni Daley has also qualified for the 2022 World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Cali, Colombia.

"For the World Championships, we have two persons who would have qualified so far and that would have been Cejhae Greene and Joella Lloyd. At nationals, people will have another chance to qualify and they will have up until the 16th of July to qualify for the World Juniors," Daley said.

"For world juniors, we have one qualifier so far in Ajahni Daley. He has qualified for world juniors in the 100 metres.

"The team for the Commonwealth Games will be decided after the national



*Top female sprinter Joella Lloyd who is enrolled at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, will be competing in this weekend's national Track and Field Championships at the YASCO Sports Complex.*

athletics championship.

"For the Commonwealth Games we will have more than three spots made available for track and field but it will depend on how people perform in our na-

tional championship.

"We have to wait until we have held our national championship then we will decide the make-up of the team for the Commonwealth Games."

*cont'd from pg 31*

will have to complete six laps totaling 66 miles to win the race," Williams said.

"The Masters will do five laps or 55 miles, the females will do three laps or 33 miles, the sports class will do four laps or 44 miles and then we will have the Cadets or young ones, they will only do one lap or 11 miles.

"This road race is not going to be easy because we will be using some newly rehabilitated road which will

allow the cyclists to go very fast, but it is a very long race.

"We are looking forward to some good excitement as all the cyclists are ready to go, including our overseas based cyclists who will be making sure they compete for the position of national champion."

Williams said the national championship is being held in accordance with the rules and guidelines as a member of the world governing body, the Union Cycliste Internatio-

nale (UCI), which was founded in 1900 in Paris (France).

"By law, by the constitution and the rules and regulation of the UCI, our national championships must be held in June and that is what it has been from ever since," Williams said.

"We have to register our national championships a year in advance. So now we are looking to register for 2023 and that is how it has to be done. So we would have registered for 2022 since last year."



## Antigua and Barbuda end CONCACAF Under-20 campaign without a win

Antigua and Barbuda Benna Boys have ended their CONCACAF Men's Under-20 Championship campaign in Honduras without a win and also failed to score a goal in their three Group H matches.

The Antiguan were beaten 2-0 by Jamaica's Reggae Boyz in their final encounter at the Estadio Yankel Rosenthal in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on Wednesday.

The Jamaicans dominated possession throughout the match and Zion Scarlett gave the Reggae Boyz a 1-0 halftime lead when he scored with a composed left-footed finish in the 41st minute.

The Antiguan managed to keep the Jamaicans at bay for most of the second half until the young Reggae Boyz were awarded a penalty after Benna Boys captain Dajun Barthley was ruled to have brought down a Jamaican player in the 18-yard box.

Jahmari Clarke converted the penalty in the 81st minute after Barthley was sent off for committing his second bookable offense, which resulted in the charitable spot kick being awarded to the Jamaicans.

The match concluded a series of disappointing results for Antigua and Barbuda in the tournament in which they finished in the



*Antigua and Barbuda's Conor Hadeed takes a free kick during his team's Group H match in the Concacaf Men's Under-20 Championship at the Estadio Yankel Rosenthal in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on 22 June, 2022. (Photo courtesy Concacaf)*

cellar of the Group H competition without a point, a win and a goal, having lost all three encounters.

Jamaica became the third team from Group H to reach the knockout round after recording their win over Antigua and Barbuda.

The nightcap in Group H saw Honduras complete a perfect group stage with a 1-0 victory over Central American rivals Costa Rica at the same venue on Wednesday.

After a hard-fought first 45 minutes, the game's lone goal would come in the 59th minute via the penalty spot, with Jeyson Contreras coolly converting a penalty to earn another full three points for the homese.

The result meant Honduras won Group H and Costa Rica finished as runners-up in the group with both teams and third place finishers Jamaica advancing to the Round of 16 Knockout phase.

The day in Group E started at the Estadio Nacional in Tegucigalpa where Canada defeated Saint Kitts and Nevis, 4-0, to punch their ticket to the knockout round.

Things stood on a knife's edge until just shy of the hour mark when Canada finally broke through for the first goal in the 59th minute courtesy of Tiago Coimbra. Six minutes later, in the 65th minute, the advantage was 2-0 via a long-

range strike from Matthew Catavolo.

Canada kept their foot on the gas and stretched the lead to 3-0 on a left-footed finish from Lowell Wright in the 78th minute. Mael Henry then rounded out the 4-0 score-line in the 80th minute with a clever back-heel into the back of the net.

In the group's second match, defending champions United States nailed down the top spot thanks to a 3-0 win over Cuba.

Quinn Sullivan was the big star, thanks to his hat trick before halftime. Sullivan scored in the 2nd, 8th and 43rd minute to give the United States a commanding lead that they held onto until the final whistle.

## THE 6IXTY – cricket's power game



There is a new format coming to the Caribbean in 2022 with Cricket West Indies and the Caribbean Premier League bringing you THE 6IXTY – Cricket's Power Game.

The first edition of THE 6IXTY will see men's and women's teams compete in a new 60-ball tournament featuring many of the best cricketers from around the world with SKY-EXCH the title sponsor for 2022.

This revolutionary format will see brand new innovations that will change T10 cricket and make the game even faster paced and action packed.

Fans can look forward to the following exciting new rules:

Each batting team has six wickets – at the fall of the sixth wicket they are all out

Each batting team has two PowerPlay overs. They can unlock a third PowerPlay by hitting two sixes in the first 12 balls. This extra PowerPlay

over can be taken at any time between overs 3-9

There will be 30 balls bowled from one end before the action switches to the other end for the final 30 balls

The 30 balls will be delivered as 5 separate overs, with no bowler being able to bowl more than 2 overs for the innings.

If teams do not bowl their overs within the allotted time a member of their team is removed from the field for the final six balls

Fans will vote for the timing of a "Mystery Free Hit" where a batter can't be dismissed by the bowler

The first edition of THE 6IXTY will take place from 24 to 28 August in St Kitts & Nevis at one of world cricket's fastest scoring grounds – Warner Park. Future expansion plans of the 6IXTY include the potential of multiple events at different locations around the Caribbean and beyond.

THE 6IXTY is a joint venture

between Cricket West Indies and the Caribbean Premier League with the two organisations working closely together to create another world-class event.

Ricky Skerritt, President of Cricket West Indies, said, "THE 6IXTY has come about because of a close collaboration between CPL and CWI which is the way forward. I am really excited about the innovation, excitement and entertainment that it is going to bring to the fans."

Pete Russell, Hero CPL's CEO, said, "This is a hugely exciting moment for both CPL and Cricket West Indies as we create a tournament that will see cricket fans brought closer to the game."

"There will be world-class men's and women's cricketers taking part in a fantastic event for the Caribbean and this combined with cutting-edge innovations, signals a great moment for all fans of West Indian cricket."