

PETER WICKHAM PREDICTS ANOTHER ABLP VICTORY

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On 25th June, 2022 the Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society Incorporated held a ceremony to co-name a street in New York City the Bishop James P. Roberts Sr. Way to honour him for his contributions to the Caribbean community in New York. *Story on page 7*

Local News



Wickham: ABLP will win again!

Respected political scientist and pollster, Peter Wickham, does not anticipate a change of government in Antigua and Barbuda if elections are called at this time.

Wickham, whose company CADRES has conducted exceptionally reliable opinion polls across CARICOM, said this is based on the results of the latest poll conducted by his organisation in Antigua and

Barbuda.

While he did not disclose when the polling was performed, he did confirm that it was “recent”.

The pollster said professional considerations did not allow him to discuss the findings in full, however, he disclosed that they suggest that there will not be a change of government if general elections were to be called now.

“The feelings are that

if there was new leadership in the UPP (United Progressive Party) there would be greater possibility, but I don’t think Antiguan and Barbudans would vote for Harold Lovell any differently than they did in the last several elections. That’s generally my sense of the situation,” he said.

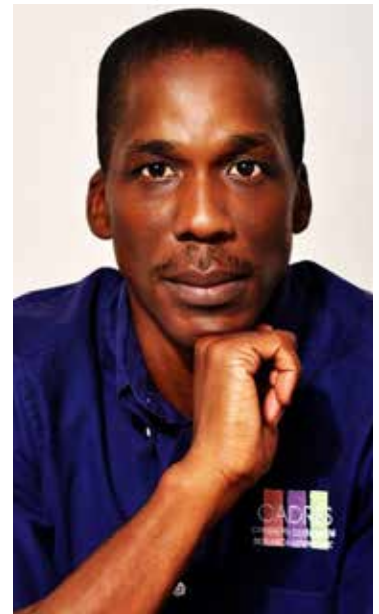
Wickham continued that the opposition would perform better if it was led by Joanne Massiah. He believes if Massiah was at the helm of the UPP, it would have been much more challenging for the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) to remain in power.

The pollster believes that the UPP should begin the process of identifying a new political leader as Lovell comes with what he described as “too much baggage” which is stagnating the party.

Meanwhile, Wickham said the poll indicated that the country’s water problem is the principal concern of most residents.

“The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party needs to fix this problem before it goes to the poll. This is number one - water - the ability to turn on the tap and get water, the ability to shower, the ability to wash clothes and that type of thing. I think that is something basic,” he said.

According to Wickham, some of the local issues relating to the shortage of



Peter Wickham

water are shared by other territories throughout the Caribbean. One such common issue is the fact that water distribution pipes in many parts of the region were installed more than one hundred years ago by the British. Replacing them, therefore, will be a challenge.

This, Wickham said, is compounded by the fact that in Antigua and Barbuda, Antigua Public Utilities Authority is a statutory corporation which is unable to levy the true cost of producing water to the public.

If left unresolved before the next election is called, Wickham says the water shortage could cause the electorate to vote against the government as a means of ventilating their anger and frustration with the issue.

General elections in Antigua and Barbuda are constitutionally due by March, 2023.

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PM Browne congratulates his new counterpart in Grenada, Dickon Mitchell

Antigua and Barbuda's leader, Gaston Browne, has extended congratulations to his new counterpart in St. George's, Grenada, Dickon Mitchell.

Last week, Mitchell, 44, and his National Democratic Congress party managed to unseat the New National Party government led by former prime minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell who is 75.

In his congratulatory letter to the new Prime Minister Mitchell on Saturday, Prime Minister Browne reflected on the "brotherly" relationship Antigua and



Prime Minister Gaston Browne
Barbuda and Grenada have always shared.

"Our countries, brotherly members of the OECS, have long enjoyed an amicable relationship, one that I

am confident will be further strengthened under your tenure.

"The English-speaking Caribbean is a shining example of democracy at

work, replacing governments, changing leadership, and positioning legislatures to make changes to existing systems. The recent election in Grenada which your party won convincingly, serves as a model that is commonplace in our region and the OECS sub-region. The absence of violence and the peaceful changing of the guard serve as an exemplar for many," said Prime Minister Browne.

"I look forward to working closely with you, Honourable Prime Minister
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PM Browne holds talks with Canadian PM Trudeau

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada on the margins of the just concluded Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda.

On Friday, Prime Minister Browne applauded Prime Minister Trudeau for Canada's federal carbon tax; a move he said he hopes other world leaders will follow.

"We certainly want to thank you for your global leadership on the issue of climate change.

"As you know, it is the most significant threat facing the Caribbean region and you have certainly been a champion on that issue.

"In fact, I want to commend you on the carbon tax that you have introduced in Canada, and I'm hoping that other global lead-

ers will follow your lead because we need to disincentivise the production of fossil fuels to accelerate the transition into green energy in order to protect our planet and certainly to protect human civilization," said Prime Minister Browne.

Prime Minister Trudeau emphasised the importance of global ambition on climate action as key to ensuring the present and future resilience of the world's small island states.

Both heads of government agreed to work together to advance shared priorities in response to the many crises facing the world.

Meanwhile, Browne and Trudeau also discussed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Prime Minister Trudeau condemned as an affront to the fundamental principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international law.



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne during discussions on 24th June, 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda

They agreed on the need for Commonwealth countries to work together to defend democracy, peace and security, and human rights.

Recognising the invasion is undermining access to food and energy across the Commonwealth, the prime ministers agreed to

work together to improve food security, tackle climate change, create opportunities for youth, and make life better and more affordable for people around the world.

The leaders underscored their shared commitment to the core values that bring the countries of the Commonwealth together: free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all people. They spoke at length about the importance of strong leadership, modernisation, and renewal of this important institution.

They also discussed economic recovery in the Caribbean, including through improved access to sustainable financing.

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ter-elect, in the interests of our countries and in the wider interests of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)," Browne concluded.

Prime Minister Mitchell, an attorney and newcomer to the political arena, was able to lead his NDC colleagues to a nine-seat victory with 52 percent of the vote last Thursday.

Dr. Keith Mitchell's NNP was only able to capture 48 percent of the vote and six seats.

The elder Mitchell served as prime minister of Grenada from 1995 to 2008.

He then returned to power in 2008 in a landslide victory for his party.

Dr. Mitchell is the country's longest serving prime minister having held the office for 22 years.

Throughout the campaign leading up to the 2022 election loss, Dr. Mitchell hinted that this would have been his last time running for office and appealed to his supporters to give him one more win "for the road".

Having won his seat, it is likely that Dr. Mitchell will return to parliament in Grenada as Leader of the Opposition, a position he last held from 2008 to 2013.

CIP halts new Russian applications

The Citizenship By Investment Programme (CIP) has placed a halt on all new applications from Russian citizens as the Antigua and Barbuda government adheres to sanctions imposed on Russia because of its invasion of Ukraine.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel “Max” Hurst, has said this decision has been taken despite the fact that the loss of Russian applicants has had a severe impact on CIP revenue.

Hurst did not quantify the amount of revenue lost because of the sanctions, but he indicated that the figure is “significant”.

Hurst disclosed this information following last Wednesday’s Cabinet meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Citizenship by Investment Unit, Charmaine Donovan.

In the meeting between Donovan and the Cabinet, the status of the CIP and the unit’s position regarding Russia was discussed at length.

“The CIP is an important non-tax revenue source for the government and we know that the Russia-Ukraine war has placed some limitations on our ability to continue to serve one of the significant markets that the CIP reached.

“So we wanted to know what kinds of harm Antigua and Barbuda was experiencing as a result of the sanctions and the war and any other matter that may flow from the Russian involvement in the CIP,” Hurst remarked.

The Chief of Staff stated that Cabinet’s discussions with Donovan were undertaken with the aim of shaping the CIP’s future policy to-

wards Russia.

Hurst continued that the CIP is only processing applications from Russians that were “in hand” prior to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

“We are only processing those whose applications were being processed as they would have already paid their monies. We believe that this is only fair to do that, however, none of them appears on any sanction list.

“If any Russian appears on any sanction list we do not intend to honour that request. We would not honour their request,” he declared.

Despite the government’s present position, Hurst said the administration is taking measures to ensure that when the war ends, the CIP will be in a position to take advantage of new global policy adjustments.



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Local News

School Uniform Grant Programme returns next week

Employee training commences today for one week as the Ministry of Education and Sports gets set to facilitate the 2022 School Uniform Grant Programme (SUGP).

This is the 17th consecutive summer that the SUGP, one of the largest social programmes of the government, will be providing school uniforms to beneficiaries.

The training will be in the areas of data entry, customer service and ethics, Tanesha McKenzie-James revealed, before distribution of uniform vouchers commences at the Multi-Purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre from 4th July to 2nd September, 2022.

Organisers will be offering both face-to-face service and the drop box option, the latter of which can be done at the distribution centre at Perry Bay. McKenzie-James said the two options are to make the programme more convenient for beneficiaries and to reduce the time it takes to complete the process.

Additionally, parents and guardians whose names are already in the SUGP's database, will only be required to present a form of identification



they have used in past visits to receive the uniform voucher. However, the requirements are different for those accessing the programme for the first time.

“For those who are new to the programme, we are asking that you walk with the birth certificate of the child, the acceptance [school] letter and an I.D for the parent. If you're utilizing the drop box, we ask for you to attach the relevant documents [photocopied] to the application form for the new

student,” the SUGP supervisor stated.

Where transfers are concerned, officials are advising that until the process is complete and a letter is granted to that effect, beneficiaries should not access the programme.

Information on new vendors and existing ones where uniform vouchers can be redeemed will be provided by SUGP officials.

The School Uniform Grant Programme provides beneficiaries with one regular uniform per student.

Government offers new pathway to joining nursing profession

There has always been a demand for qualified healthcare workers and this increased during the pandemic, however the government is moving to close this gap.

Last week, the Cabinet said that a call is being made for men and women interested in becoming nurses to apply. At minimum, ap-

plicants should have five “O” level passes including Mathematics and English.

People who have an interest in becoming nurses, but do not meet the minimum educational requirement for acceptance to the School of Nursing, are also being welcomed to apply to ABICE for enrollment in the preparatory courses be-

ing offered as a pathway to the profession.

Those persons who enrol in ABICE's preparatory programme will have the opportunity to take courses that will allow them to meet the minimum requirements for acceptance to the School of Nursing while also being introduced to core nursing courses.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet indicated following their weekly meeting, that ABICE's expanded academic and vocational programmes, and the thrust to prepare persons who have a desire to become healthcare workers, is part of the goal of increasing the number of nurses employed in Antigua and Barbuda.

NYC street renamed for outstanding A&B community leader

The Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society Incorporated has successfully lobbied to co-name a street in New York City the Bishop James P. Roberts Sr. Way to honour Bishop Roberts' for his contributions to the Caribbean community in New York.

On Saturday June 25, the co-naming ceremony was held at 122nd Street Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X Boulevard to honour the founder of the Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society Inc (ABPS).

Bishop Roberts arrived in New York City in the early 1900s from Newgate Street, St. John's, Antigua.

He was soon able to gain employment as an elevator operator in a commercial building in Harlem, which enabled him to pursue academic studies at night.

He was a member of the Holy Cross Pro-Cathedral of the African Orthodox Cathedral, and a part of the United Negro Improvement Association led by Marcus Garvey.

Roberts later became a postulant in the Endich Theological Seminary under the tutelage of his Eminence George Alexander McGuire before he was admitted to the Holy Orders.

On August 22, 1934, during the Great Depression, Bishop Roberts and a group of 22 fellow Antiguan and Barbudans living in Harlem,

founded the ABPS. As President of the organisation, Bishop Roberts, through the organisation, provided new immigrants with spiritual guidance and economic support to help them navigate the challenges they faced arriving in a new country.

The "New Deal" enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt rolled out a series of social programmes, however these programmes did not address the needs of new immigrants.

In 1964, ABPS purchased the brownstone building located at 12 West 122nd Street in the village of Harlem which continues to serve as its headquarters.

In 2012, the first fifty (50) years of the history of the ABPS was featured at the Schomburg Center, Research in Black Culture, in an exhibit titled "A Light House in New York."

In a press release issued on Sunday, the ABPS said it continues to be a "Light-house in Harlem, dedicated to the principles of promoting and cultivating social and intellectual ac-













Bishop James P. Roberts Sr.

tivities among its members and throughout the Harlem Community for almost 90 years".

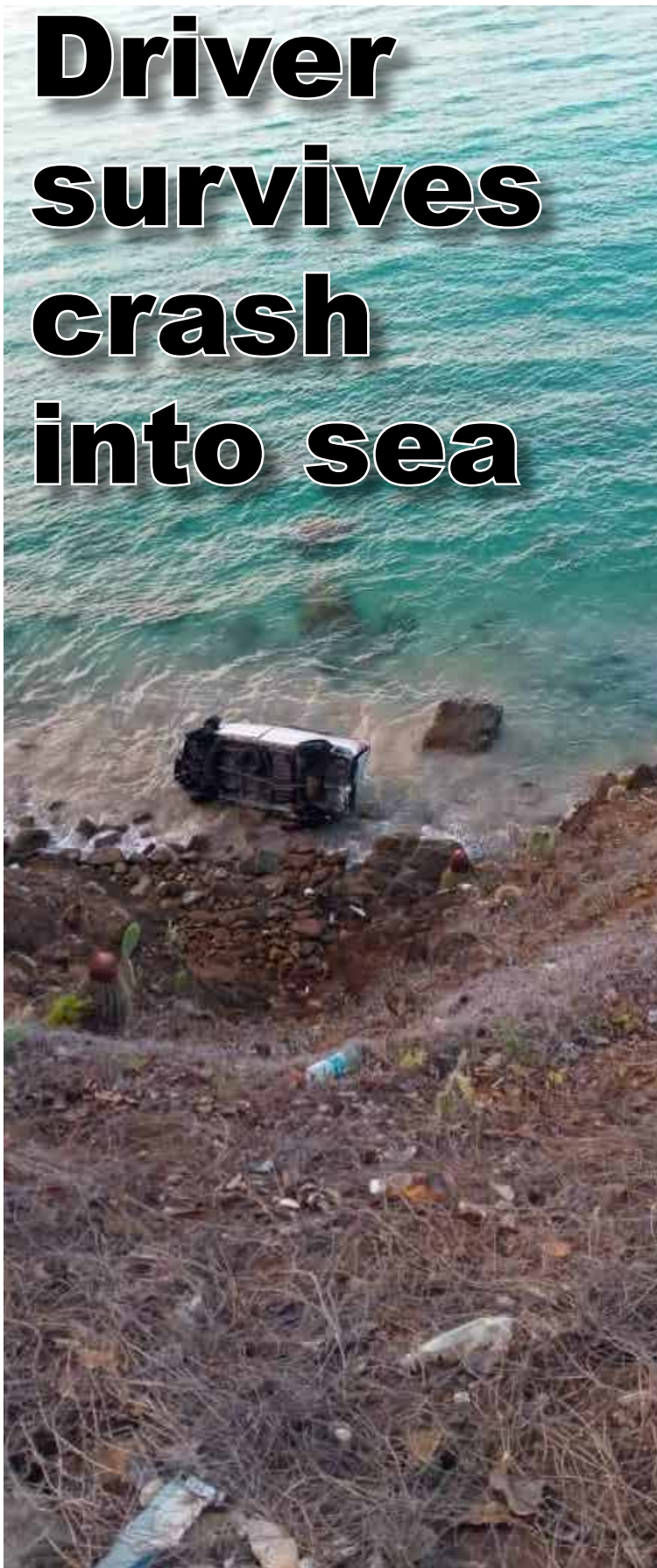
"We are extremely proud of the work that the ABPS has done for almost nine decades. We are proud that we can preserve the dreams, aspirations and physical movements of our

ancestors.

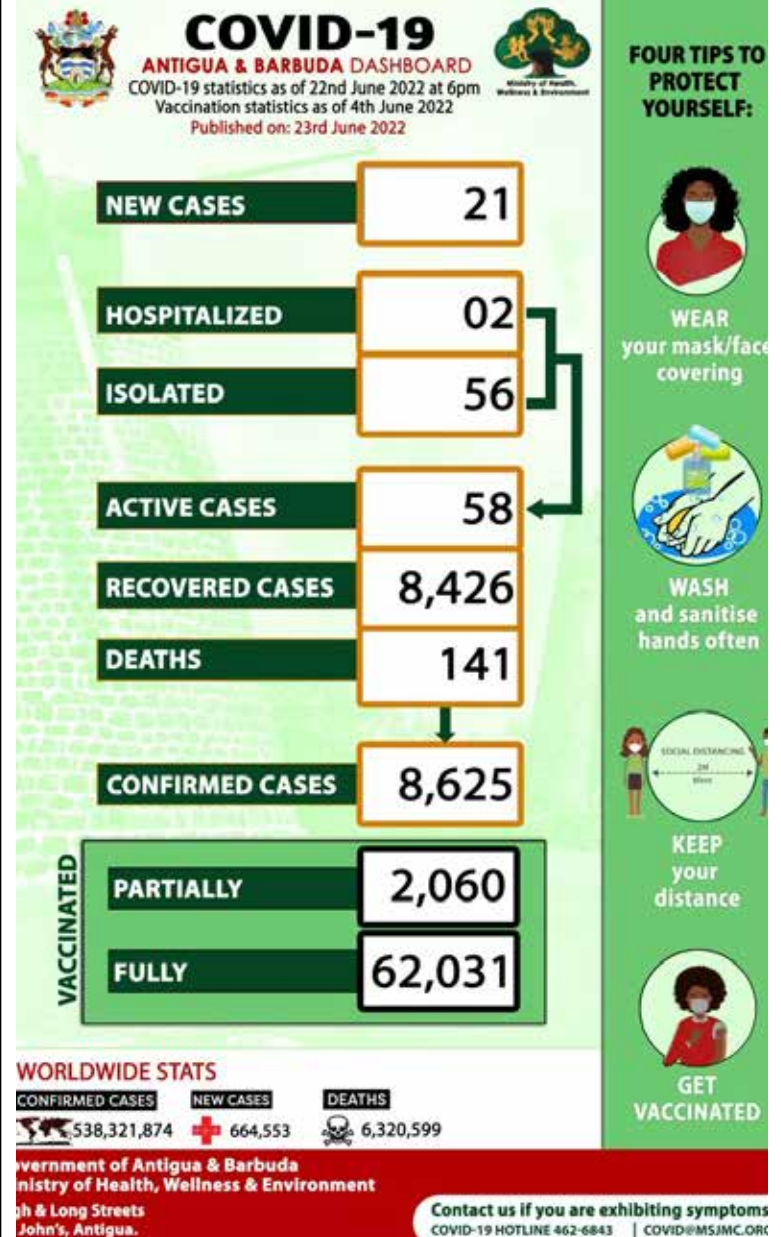
"It is critical that we continue to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of Caribbean people as we remain a beacon of faith, hope and charity for future generations," said former President of the ABPS, Mona Wyre-Manigo.

Mon 27 Day		Mon 27 Night	
86°		79°	
7% E 19 mph		23% ENE 15 mph	
Partly cloudy skies. High 86F. Winds E at 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy. Low 79F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.	
 Humidity 66%	 UV Index Extreme	 Humidity 76%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 5:36 am	 Sunset 6:44 pm	 Moonrise 4:12 am	 Moonset 5:46 pm
		● Waning Crescent	

Driver survives crash into sea



Kevin Richards of Old Road escaped with minor injuries after his car went down a hill and into the sea on Sunday morning. The accident occurred near the Curtain Bluff Resort.



Fifty-eight active COVID-19 cases

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed twenty-one (21) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 22nd June, 2022 at 6pm.

Twelve (12) cases were recorded on June 21st and nine (9) on June 22nd.

Eighty-one (81) samples were processed.

Thirty-two (32) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight thousand six hundred and twenty five (8,625); which is inclusive of fifty-eight (58) active cases.

There are two (2) hospitalised cases; one (1) moderate and one (1) mild.

Going and coming

By Tony Deyal

There are organisations that add value and some that only provide “ad” or advertising value. I saw one which said its product was “For those who keep coming.” Another of its ads boasted, “One of the greatest erections by a man!” and asked, “Want to see THE TOWER?” with a picture of the Eiffel Tower below. The funniest said, “We saw. We conquered. We came.” The one that did not need any frills had a crib with colourful artwork of a baby toy at the front, a smiling tiger on the side and the sign “\$420” clipped to it. Below was the trademark “Durex” (the condom manufacturer) and hanging to it by a thread the sign, “\$2.50”.

Most of the other ads were also from the same company for the same product, including one that was really hard-hitting, “To all those who use our competitors’ products: Happy Father’s Day.”

Their biggest competitor, Trojan, which is supposedly not as reliable, came up with “19 out of 20 don’t break” and someone quipped, “What is that about? The used or the user?” Another pointed out, “Trojan” isn’t a good name for a condom. Didn’t the real Trojan horse burst and loads of little guys came pouring out of it?” None of the lesser-known competitors are even close in terms of ads that make fun of an increasingly

vital fact of life these days. Condoms are forever and for everyone.

Let me go back seventy or even more years. I was attending an elementary school in a country village in Trinidad which, in retrospect and from my travels, was like almost all the others in the Caribbean. As seven-year-olds, all the boys of all the races and creeds used to line up at recess time behind the latrines under the bamboo trees and take out their big, small, thick, thin or, what they called “lumpy” bamboos, and let fly while making jokes about who had what. We learnt a lesson then that none of us ever forgot – while the discharge was always to the swiftest, the mace was not always to the darkest, lightest, tallest or biggest.

Yet, this did not matter one whit. Despite not having television at that time, and with radio stations and newspapers that heavily censored anything with the slightest sexual content, the news rapidly spread throughout the whole of Trinidad that the appendage in question would grow longer if you planted a cassava stick or shoot, measured to the present length, and ensured that by good husbandry the cassava plant thrived. There was a surfeit of cassava in the village and the entire country that year, with even women, especially the older ones, planting like mad. We had cassava boiled,



Tony Deyal

fried, baked, curried, casserole and coming out of our ears but not out of where it was considered most needed and wanted.

I remember when in 1994 there was a very bitter breakup between the comedy stars, Roseanne and her husband Tom Arnold. Roseanne made fun of Arnold and his “three-inch penis.” His response was, “Even a 747 (airplane) looks small when it lands in the Grand Canyon.” Any man hearing Roseanne’s accusation would have exclaimed “Ouch!” either out loud or deep within his undisclosed inner and vulnerable self. Even while applauding Tom for his inspired comeback, most men would have felt deeply for him and for themselves since penile size, while the subject of many jokes among men, is still not a laughing matter. It is very much a subject that is an in-

extricable and vital aspect of maleness. In Western societies especially, in the hidden hearts of the males of the species, the compound of macho, myth, mystery and mystique does not lend itself to mirth. While men talk glibly about size not being everything, many know in their heart of hearts that it is the only thing.

According to research conducted by Durex, “the length of an erect penis can range from four to nine inches, while penis widths can vary from just over one inch to more than two inches.” Was Durex stretching the truth? The medical journal “Urology” has recommended, that the “best way to reassure men with penile concerns is to educate them. Men should know that a normal-sized penis is 1.6 inches or more when flaccid or 2.76 inches when stretched out.”

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Opinion

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However, a survey reported in Frank O'Neill's "Mammoth Book of Oddities" found that only 65% of men in the United States were happy with their penile size. Of those dissatisfied, 12% would like a smaller appendage, 52% would like it bigger, 53% would like it longer and 40% would want it wider. Interestingly, it seems that American women, with the possible exception of Roseanne, are much easier to please.

A resounding 80% were happy with their partners' equipment. However, of those dissatisfied, 44% voted for bigger, 48% for longer, 23% for wider and 22% would like it smaller.

Mr. Arnold's reputed or alleged three inches compares favourably with the gorilla's average of two inches, the cat's three-quarter inch and the mosquito's one-hundredth of an inch. It was even better than that of the great Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte which, after his death, was described as "one inch long

and resembling a grape."

However, compared with other human males, it is 40 percent below the average of 5 inches or 12.8 cm which was announced, after careful measurements of different races, by scientists at the University of California.

Yet, when you size up the situation, the ads by the companies are really to outsell their competitors. It is globally accepted that condoms are the only birth control devices that reduce our risk of both pregnancy and STDs, including HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and certain types of hepatitis.

What is not widely known is that teens use condoms more often than adults. In fact, the answer to, "What do you call someone who doesn't know how to use a condom?" is "Dad".

Why should men be the ones who should use them? Male condoms are generally more effective. When used correctly, female condoms are 95% but with what is termed "normal" use, the

efficacy is about 79%. Male condoms are 98% successful and with "normal" use are 85% or about six percent more effective than the female ones. But is that the only reason that all the ads are for men? I don't believe, as one writer suggested, it is because the bosses of all these companies are women.

The question, I am sure, is why am I telling you all this? Am I being paid by the Family Planning Association or Durex? The answer is no.

What started me on this article is the competition for what is increasingly a seller's market. Despite our concerns about size, men have no choice. It is no longer "put up or shut up", but put on or shut down. Whether we go for the electronically tested or not, we have to go with one of its popular ads, "Get It On!"

**Tony Deyal was last seen telling the story about the youngster who asked his father, "What are condoms used for?" The father replied, "To avoid such questions."*



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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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Inflation sparks global wave of protests for higher pay, aid

By Aya Batrawy

Rising food costs. Soaring fuel bills. Wages that are not keeping pace. Inflation is plundering people's wallets, sparking a wave of protests and workers' strikes around the world.

This week alone saw protests by the political opposition in Pakistan, nurses in Zimbabwe, unionised workers in Belgium, railway workers in Britain, Indigenous people in Ecuador, hundreds of U.S. pilots and some European airline workers. Sri Lanka's prime minister declared an economic collapse Wednesday after weeks of political turmoil.

Economists say Russia's war in Ukraine amplified inflation by further pushing up the cost of energy and prices of fertiliser, grains and cooking oils as farmers struggle to grow and export crops in one of the world's key agricultural regions.

As prices rise, inflation threatens to exacerbate inequalities and widen the gap between billions of people struggling to cover their costs and those who are able to keep spending.

"We are not all in this together," said Matt Grainger, head of inequality policy at anti-poverty organisation Oxfam. "How many of the richest even know what a loaf of bread costs? They don't really, they just absorb



Health workers led by nurses take part in a demonstration over salaries at Parerenyatwa Hospital in Harare, on June, 21, 2022. As food costs and fuel bills soar, inflation is plundering people's wallets, sparking a wave of protests and workers' strikes around the world. (AP Photo/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi)

the prices."

Oxfam is calling on the Group of 7 leading industrialised nations, which are holding their annual summit this weekend in Germany, to provide debt relief to developing economies and to tax corporations on excess profits.

"This isn't just a stand-alone crisis. It's coming off the back of an appalling pandemic that fuelled increased inequality worldwide," Grainger said. "I think we will see more and more protests."

The demonstrations have caught the attention of governments, which have responded to soaring consumer prices with support measures like expanded subsidies for utility bills and cuts to fuel taxes. Often, that

offers little relief because energy markets are volatile. Central banks are trying to ease inflation by raising interest rates.

Meanwhile, striking workers have pressured employers to engage in talks on raising wages to keep up with rising prices.

Eddie Dempsey, a senior official with Britain's Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, which brought U.K. train services to a near standstill with strikes this week, said there are going to be more demands for pay increases across other sectors.

"It's about time Britain had a pay rise. Wages have been falling for 30 years and corporate profits have been going through the roof," Dempsey said.

Last week, thousands of truckers in South Korea ended an eight-day strike that caused shipment delays as they called for minimum wage guarantees amid soaring fuel prices. Months earlier, some 10,000 kilometres (6,200 miles) away, truckers in Spain went on strike to protest fuel prices.

Peru's government imposed a brief curfew after protests against fuel and food prices turned violent in April. Truckers and other transport workers also had gone on strike and blocked key highways.

Protests over the cost of living ousted Sri Lanka's prime minister last month. Middle-class families say they're forced to skip meals because of the island na-

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tion's economic crisis, prompting them to contemplate leaving the country altogether.

The situation is particularly dire for refugees and the poor in conflict areas such as Afghanistan, Yemen, Myanmar and Haiti, where fighting has forced people to flee their homes and rely on aid organisations, themselves struggling to raise money.

"How much for my kidney?" is the question most asked of one of Kenya's largest hospitals. Kenyatta National Hospital reminded people on Facebook this week that selling human organs is illegal.

For the middle class in Europe, it's become more expensive to commute to work and put food on the table.

"Increase our salaries. Now!" chanted thousands of unionised workers in Brussels this week.

"I came here to defend the purchasing power of citizens because demonstrating is the only way to make change," protester Genevieve Cordier said. "We cannot cope anymore. Even with two salaries ... both of us are working, and we cannot get our head above water."

In some countries, a combination of government corruption and mismanagement underpin the economic turmoil, particularly in politically gridlocked countries like Lebanon and Iraq.

The protests reflect a sense of growing financial insecurity. Here's how that has played out in Africa:

— Health care professionals in Zimbabwe went on strike this week after rejecting the government's offer of a 100% pay rise. The nurses say the offer does not come close to skyrocketing inflation of 130%.

— Kenyans have protested in the streets and online as the price of food jumped by 12% in the past year.

— One of Tunisia's most powerful labour unions staged a nationwide

public sector strike last week. The North African country faces a deteriorating economic crisis.

— Hundreds of activists this month protested the rising cost of living in Burkina Faso. The U.N. World Food Program says the price of corn and millet has shot up more than 60% since last year, reaching as high as 122% in some provinces.

"As far as this cost of living that keeps increasing is concerned, we realised that the authorities have betrayed the people," said Issaka Porgo, president of the civil society coalition behind the protest in the west African country.

Protesters condemn the military junta, which ousted the democratically elected president in January, for giving themselves a pay raise while the population faces rising prices.

The International Monetary Fund says inflation will average about 6% in advanced economies and nearly 9% in emerging and developing economies

this year. Global economic growth is projected to slow by 40%, to 3.6%, this year and next. The IMF is calling on governments to focus support packages to those most in need to avoid triggering a recession.

The slowdown comes as the COVID-19 pandemic is still gripping industries worldwide, from manufacturing to tourism. Climate change and drought are hitting agricultural production in some countries, prompting export bans that push up food prices even further.

Rising food prices are particularly painful in low-income countries, where 42% of household incomes are spent on food, said Peter Ceretti, an analyst tracking food security at risk advisory firm Eurasia Group.

"We will see more protests, probably broader and angrier, but I do not expect destabilising or regime-changing protests," he said, as producers adjust and governments approve subsidies.



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Technology



Instagram tests using AI, other tools for age verification

By Barbara Ortutay and Matt O'brien

Instagram is testing new ways to verify the age of people using its service, including a face-scanning artificial intelligence tool, having mutual friends verify their age or uploading an ID.

But the tools won't be used, at least not yet, to block children from the popular photo and video-sharing app. The current test only involves verifying that a user is 18 or older.

The use of face-scanning AI, especially on teenagers, raised some alarm bells Thursday, given the checkered history of Instagram parent Meta when it comes to protecting users' privacy. Meta stressed that the technology used to verify people's age cannot recognize



one's identity — only age. Once the age verification is complete, Meta said it and Yoti, the AI contractor it partnered with to conduct

the scans, will delete the video.

Meta, which owns Facebook as well as Instagram, said that beginning on Thursday, if someone tries to edit their date of birth on Instagram from under the age of 18 to 18 or over, they will be required to verify their age using one of these methods.

Meta continues to face questions about the negative effects of its products, especially Instagram, on some teens.

Kids technically have to be at least 13 to use Instagram, similar to other social media platforms. But some circumvent this either by lying about their age or by having a parent do so. Teens aged 13 to 17, meanwhile, have additional restrictions on their accounts — for in-

stance, adults they are not connected to can't send them messages — until they turn 18.

The use of uploaded IDs is not new, but the other two options are. "We are giving people a variety of options to verify their age and seeing what works best," said Erica Finkle, Meta's director of data governance and public policy.

To use the face-scanning option, a user has to upload a video selfie. That video is then sent to Yoti, a London-based start-up that uses people's facial features to estimate their age. Finkle said Meta isn't yet trying to pinpoint under-13s using the technology because it doesn't keep data on that age group — which would be needed to properly train

cont'd on pg 15

Weekend Puzzle Solution

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

By Timothy E. Parker

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Technology

cont'd from pg 14

the AI system. But if Yoti does predict a user is too young for Instagram, they'll be asked to prove their age or have their account removed, she said.

"It doesn't ever recognise, uniquely, anyone," said Julie Dawson, Yoti's chief policy and regulatory officer. "And the image is instantly deleted once we've done it."

Yoti is one of several biometric companies capitalizing on a push in the United Kingdom and Europe for stronger age verification technology to stop kids from accessing pornography, dating apps and other internet content meant for adults -- not to mention bottles of alcohol and other off-limits items at physical stores.

Yoti has been working with several big U.K. supermarkets on face-scanning cameras at self-check-out counters. It has also started verifying the age of users of the youth-oriented French video chat room app Yubo.

While Instagram is likely to follow through with its promise to delete an applicant's facial imagery and not try to use it to recognize individual faces, the normalisation of face-scanning presents other societal concerns, said Daragh Murray, a senior lecturer at the University of Essex's law school.

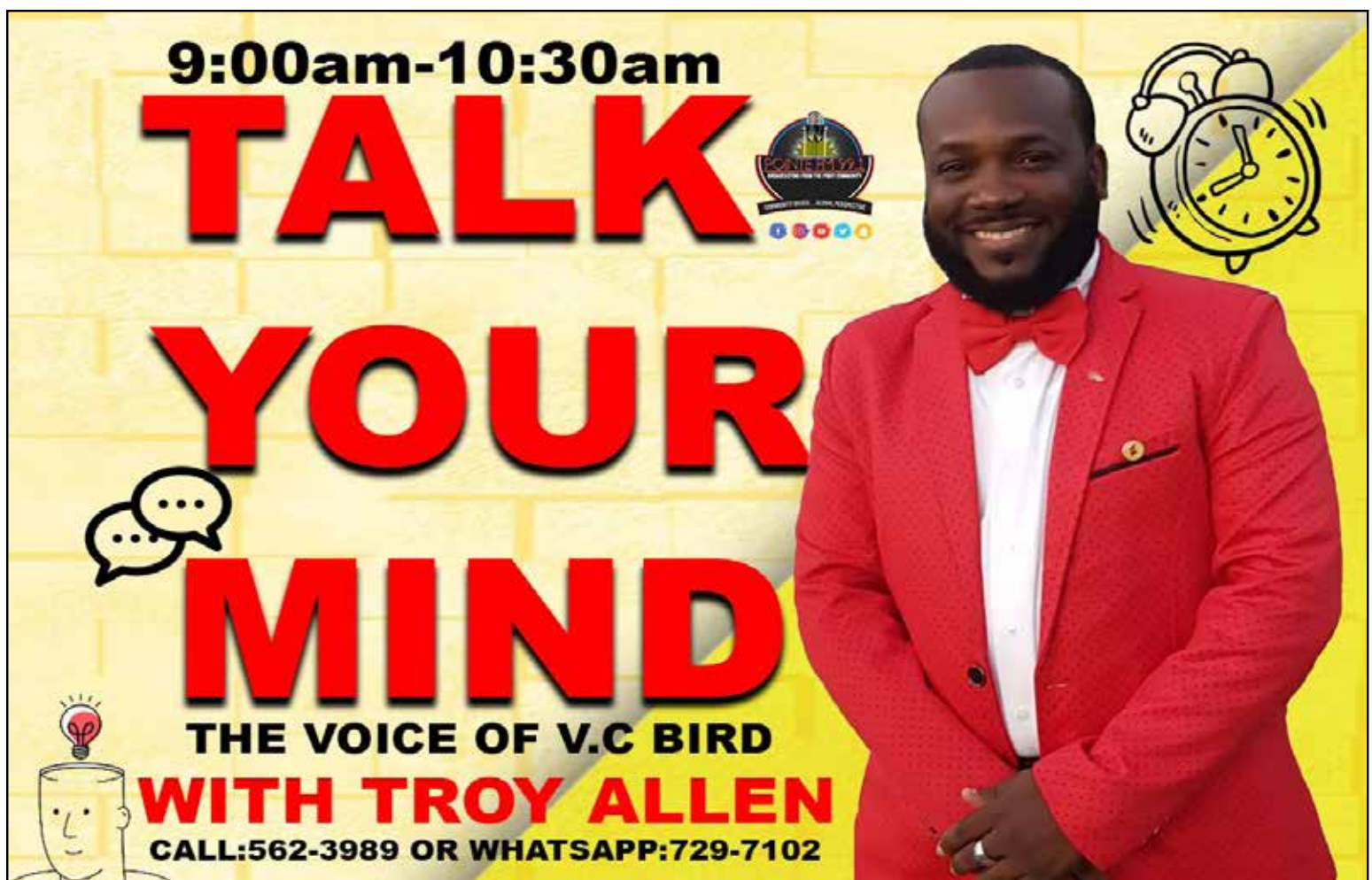
"It's problematic because there are a lot of known biases with trying to identify by things like age or gender," Murray said. "You're essentially looking at a stereotype and people just differ so much."

A 2019 study by a U.S. agency found that facial recognition technology often performs unevenly based on a person's race, gender or age. The National Institute of Standards and Technology found higher error rates for the youngest and oldest people. There's not yet such a benchmark for age-estimating facial analysis, but Yoti's own published analysis of its results reveals a similar trend, with slightly higher er-

ror rates for women and people with darker skin tones.

Meta's face-scanning move is a departure from what some of its tech competitors are doing. Microsoft on Tuesday said it would stop providing its customers with facial analysis tools that "purport to infer" emotional states and identity attributes such as age or gender, citing concerns about "stereotyping, discrimination, or unfair denial of services."

Meta itself announced last year that it was shutting down Facebook's face-recognition system and deleting the faceprints of more than 1 billion people after years of scrutiny from courts and regulators. But it signalled at the time that it wouldn't give up entirely on analysing faces, moving away from the broad-based tagging of social media photos that helped popularise commercial use of facial recognition toward "narrower forms of personal authentication."



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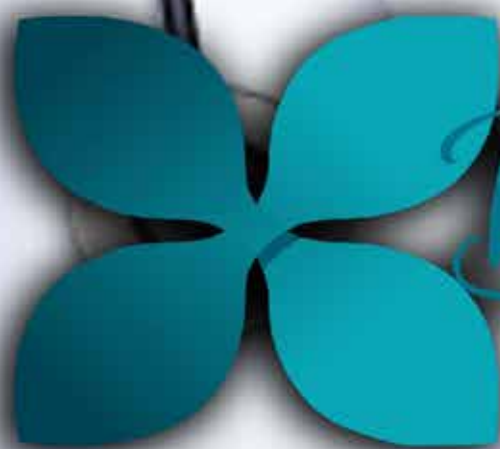
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Grenada's new Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell sworn into office

CMC – Attorney Dickon Mitchell was sworn in as Grenada's ninth Prime Minister on Friday, pledging to end nepotism, reform the electoral system, and work for the betterment of the tri-island state.

Mitchell, 44, who led the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) to a 9-6 victory in Thursday's general election, took the oath of office before Governor General Dame Cecile La Grenade in the presence of his grandmother, his two children, and supporters of the party.

He said that a collective approach would be needed to deal with the many problems confronting Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

"Those challenges require us to collectively as a united people. The boxing match is over, the referees have ruled and as the champion, it is our job to govern on behalf of all of the citizens of Petite Martinique, Carriacou and Grenada.

"I wish to assure the nation that under my leadership, the National Democratic Congress must lead by example by taking a united citizens approach to our governance. It does not mean that we do not have to make tough but difficult decisions and oftentimes that's the hallmark of leadership," said Mitchell, who in October took over the reign of

the NDC following the party's disastrous outings in the last two general elections when it was trounced 15-nil.

He told the ceremony that when those decisions are required "we will make them but we will ensure that we can explain, consult and justify to our people why we are making the decisions".

Mitchell, who had been critical of the Parliamentary Electoral Office (PEO) in the run-up to the general election that his predecessor, Dr. Keith Mitchell had called ahead of the constitutional deadline of March 2023, said the victory does not mask the problems at the institution.

"I will not be a hypocrite by suggesting that I was always happy with the Parliamentary Office or for that matter the office of the Supervisor of Elections or some of the challenges we faced, but at the end of the day I think we can conclude...that all in all things have to be looked at" and that the will of the people has been demonstrably shown.

"Having said that I will not also be a hypocrite by indicating that we believe we need to significantly strengthen our electoral process. It is in dire need of reform, it has to function to serve the people, it has to be service oriented, it has to be efficient and it has to be a system that encourages our



Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell taking the Oath of Office (CMC Photo)

citizens to vote rather than discourages them.

"And so it is certainly one of the main issues that we will seek to immediately address so that we can ensure that our democracy is strengthened for generations of Grenadians to come".

Mitchell said he was urging Grenadians to be part of the transformation of the country and that while the members of the Cabinet and portfolios will be known soon, such a task will be undertaken on a merit basis.

"We would not move forward as a people," he said, if appointments to key government institutions, boards and other services were done on a party loyalty basis.

He has vowed to break the cycle of nepotism under his administration and was urging all Grenadians, who in the past had shied away from serving the country to come forward as the "doors are open.

"If you believe in serving your country and you have the skills...we need you," he said, adding "we need fresh faces with innovative ideas driven by the common desire to make our place a better place".

During his address, Mitchell confirmed he had held talks with the former prime minister, who had initiated the call earlier on Friday and that the discussions centred on the need to improve Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

"There was no suggestion that he was not magnanimous and I want to publicly thank him for doing so and he indicated that he wanted that we speak privately before he made any public statements. So, to him and his fellow colleague Members of Parliament, I extend my best wishes and congratulations and I will ensure that they too work on behalf of the people who have elected them to serve as members of Parliament."

Regional News



Jamaica PM congratulates Baroness Patricia Scotland

CMC – Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness, Friday congratulated the Dominica-born Baroness Patricia Scotland on her re-election as Secretary General of the 54-member Commonwealth, saying it “was a good contest and the Baroness prevailed”.

The Dominica-born Scotland had faced a challenge from Jamaica’s Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Kamina Johnson-Smith who later conceded defeat. Scotland won by a 27-24 margin during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) now underway in Rwanda.

Holness extended his “heartfelt congratulations and commendations” to his cabinet minister, saying she ran “a distinguished and exemplary campaign.”

“Jamaica remains deeply proud of Minister Johnson Smith and we are happy to have put forward such a strong, credible, and competent candidate,” Holness said, adding that her candidature “won her the respect and admiration of many countries within our Commonwealth family and brought prominence to Jamaica and our ability to contest within such a large international institution”.

Dominica had nominated Scotland for the post, and the nomination of John-



Baroness Patricia Scotland

son-Smith had divided the 15-member regional integration grouping (CARICOM).

Belize Prime Minister, John Briceno, the former CARICOM chairman said that regional leaders voted for “a candidate of their choice”.

In April, the Caribbean leaders had issued a statement indicating that they were still divided in their support for the two candidates for the position, agreeing instead to appoint a sub-committee to delve further into the matter.

But CARICOM never announced a date as to when the regional sub-committee of leaders would meet with the two Caribbean candidates for the post.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston Browne had regarded Johnson Smith’s entry into the race as a “monumental error”.

“Those who seek to di-

vide and rule are encouraging Jamaica to present a candidate in opposition to the current Secretary-General, who is serving on a CARICOM rotation,” Browne had warned.

But Jamaica defended its decision saying it was necessary to point out that the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas that governs the regional integration movement “aspires towards co-ordination of foreign policy, including candidatures for positions in external forums, as far as practicable.”

“It does not mandate harmonisation and acknowledges, therefore, the sovereign decisions of member states. Jamaica’s decision was made not only within the latitude in the CARICOM treaty but more importantly, by virtue of its conviction that the leadership being offered would be in the interest of the Commonwealth,” Kingston add-

ed.

Last week, Johnson-Smith has rejected suggestions that she is a proxy candidate for the United Kingdom in her bid to replace Scotland, telling the BBC that she was “offended” by the suggestion, noting that it “bore no relevance to reality”.

“I have denied it before, and I’m a little offended not only personally, but nationally. “If you look at our history, and you look at my practice of the role of minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade of Jamaica over the past six years, the argument doesn’t lend itself to any credibility whatsoever. So it’s actually surprising to me that people repeat it unthinkingly.”

British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, is one of seven Commonwealth leaders who had thrown their support behind Johnson-Smith, saying she has the “vast experience and support to unite our unique family of nations and seize the opportunities ahead”.

The United Kingdom is reported to have been campaigning against the incumbent Secretary General, with allegations she was divisive.

In his statement, Holness said that “Jamaica continues to believe in the Commonwealth, its diversity and its potential to deliver for its people”.

Guyana expresses support for IICA initiative to reduce food insecurity in the Americas

CMC – Guyana has reaffirmed its commitment to an initiative by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to reduce food insecurity in the Americas.

A government statement said Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha, made the commitment during an official visit to IICA headquarters, describing the proposal as innovative in bringing countries together, working as a team, and collaborating with food security in the region.

Mustapha met with IICA Director General, Manuel Otero, to discuss the country's action plans, priorities, and agricultural challenges, and to advance the dialogue on the main advances of Guyanese agriculture and new opportunities for technical cooperation.

"We in Guyana will



Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha and IICA Director General, Manuel Otero

support the continental alliance and contribute to the director general's vision. We have to work together to achieve food security. The interest they have shown in food security not only in the Caribbean but in the whole world is to be applauded. IICA has been highly proactive in helping the agricultural sector to progress," Mustapha said.

He described the alliance as an "innovative way of uniting the countries and working together to ensure that we address food security," which has been ag-

gravated by a current context of overlapping crises, including the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the conflict in Eastern Europe and climate change.

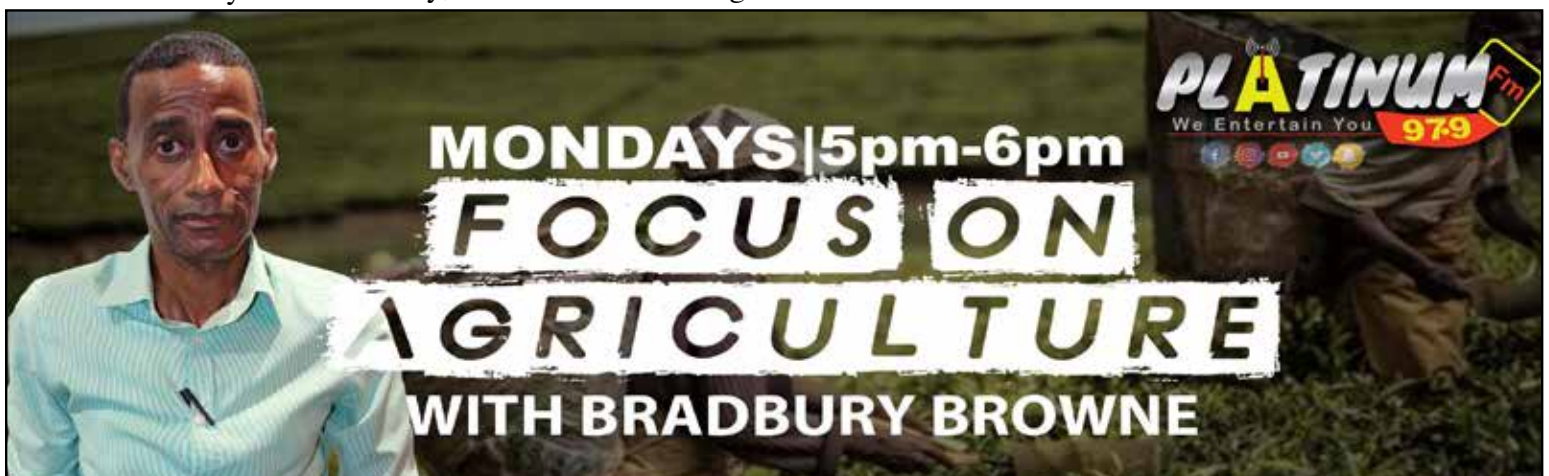
"In Guyana, we are grateful that our president Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali is promoting these same ideas in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to ally with countries from all over the world to address the issue," Mustapha added.

The alliance proposed by IICA for collective action to combat food insecur-

ity, promote sustainability, and guarantee peace and democratic stability, has as its roadmap a document with concrete proposals that was also submitted at the Summit of the Americas held recently in the United States.

This medium- and long-term work is based on four strategic aspects: the strengthening and transformation of agri-food systems in the Americas, challenges, and opportunities for agri-food trade in the region in the new geopolitical context, the role of science, technology, and innovation, and facilitating economic and social inclusion by reinforcing the cooperative system.

"This alliance should promote a new generation of public policies that empower family farmers, who are essential, with extension strategies, giving
cont'd on pg 20



Regional News



cont'd from pg 19

greater importance to questions of associative and co-operative. It also seeks to foster science and technology and increase trade and integration. A new alliance is needed between production and the environment," said Otero.

"It is necessary to act now to generate an effective coalition to promote food security in our continent, transforming threats into opportunities and generating a set of concrete actions. It is time to come together; no country can get through this crisis alone. Food security must be combated with concrete actions in the short and medium-term," Otero added.

Mustapha, who is also chair of the Ministerial Work Group established by the CARICOM to analyse the food agenda and the agri-food system in the Caribbean, spoke about the reality of the agriculture sector in his country, a strategic nation with a great capacity to become the food basket of the region.

He explained that Guyana's priorities are to reduce food import costs by 25 percent in three years, diversify production and increase resilience to climate change, focusing on corn, soy, and wheat crops; boost intra-regional trade by removing barriers that impact the country; harmonise standards; and foster

more science, innovation, and technological development, boosting the institutional framework in these areas.

"We must look for ways to reduce the food import bill by 25 percent in the next three years; this is a monumental task, and we are going to need investments and a lot of capital, but we have the capacity. We want to diversify our economy, make it more resilient so that small-sized farmers are part of this development that we seek," said Mustapha.

"We have the land, the water, and the capital, we can produce the corn and soy that we need for the Caribbean and for Guyana it-

self, which can become the centre of food production, reduce its import costs, and have a resilient productive sector," he added.

The statement said Otero has since committed to strengthening the National Agricultural Research Extension Institute (NAREI), connecting science with innovation, and promoting entrepreneurialism, training young rural people in the use of new technologies for agriculture, and act as a bridge in bilateral dialogues and in south-south cooperation actions.

"We wish to continue building an increasingly stronger technical cooperation agenda," concluded Otero.

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Russia steps up missile strikes on Ukraine as G7 leaders gather

Reuters – Russian missiles hit an apartment block and kindergarten in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on Sunday, in strikes U.S. President Joe Biden condemned as “barbarism” as world leaders gathered in Europe to discuss further sanctions against Moscow.

Up to four explosions shook central Kyiv in the early hours, in the first such attack on the city in weeks.

“The Russians hit Kyiv again. Missiles damaged an apartment building and a kindergarten,” said Andriy Yermak, head of the president’s administration.

A Reuters photographer saw a large blast crater by a playground in a kindergarten that had smashed windows.

Deputy Mayor Mykola Povoroznyk said one



Smoke rises after a missile strike, as Russia’s attack on Ukraine continues, in Kyiv, Ukraine June 26, 2022. REUTERS/Anna Voitenko

person was killed and six wounded. He said explosions heard later in other parts of Kyiv were air defences destroying further incoming missiles.

Russia has stepped up air strikes on Ukraine this weekend, which has also seen the fall of a strategic eastern city to pro-Russian

forces.

“It’s more of their barbarism,” said Biden, referring to the missile strikes on Kyiv, as leaders from the Group of Seven (G7) rich democracies gathered for a summit in Germany.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said G7 countries should

respond to the latest missile strikes by imposing further sanctions on Russia and providing more heavy weapons to Ukraine.

As Europe’s biggest land conflict since World War Two entered its fifth month, the Western alliance supporting Kyiv was starting to show signs of strain as leaders fret about the growing economic cost.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the West needed to maintain a united front against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“The price of backing down, the price of allowing Putin to succeed, to hack off huge parts of Ukraine, to continue with his programme of conquest, that price will be far, far higher,” he told reporters.

Israel tamps down dissent in its ranks over possible Iran nuclear deal

Reuters – Israel’s defence minister on Sunday said policy on the Iranian nuclear talks was set by the government, not the security forces, after a newspaper reported that key Israeli generals favour a deal between Tehran and world powers.

The chiefs of military intelligence and strategic planning believe a revival of a 2015 deal that restricted Iran’s nuclear programme would gain time for Israel to prepare an attack aimed at denying its arch-foe the means to make a nuclear weapon, top-selling

Yedioth Ahronoth daily said on Friday.

While the Israeli security forces have a say on Iran policy, “it is the government echelon that makes the decisions,” Defence Minister Benny Gantz tweeted.

“We will continue holding the open and deep dialogue behind closed doors only. Any other manner harms the State of Israel’s security.”

An Israeli military spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the unsourced Yedioth report.

cont’d on pg 23



Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell enter a hall for a joint news conference, in Tehran, Iran June 25, 2022. Majid Asgaripour/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via REUTERS

At least 22 young people die in South African tavern

Reuters - South African authorities are investigating the deaths of at least 22 young people found inside a popular tavern in the coastal town of East London, provincial health officials and the presidency said on Sunday.

State broadcaster SABC reported the deaths resulted from a possible stampede, but was scant on details as the exact cause of death remained unknown.

The bodies will be transported to state mortuaries where relatives are expected to help identify both male and female victims, said Siyanda Manana, a spokesperson for the Eastern Cape provincial health department.

"We are going to immediately be embarking on autopsies so we can know the probable cause of death," he told Reuters as forensic personnel continued their work at the cordoned-off crime site at Enyobeni Tavern.

"We are talking 22 bodies right now," Manana said, adding that toxicology tests



Forensic personnel load bodies of victims after the deaths of patrons found inside the Enyobeni Tavern, in Scenery Park, outside East London in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa, June 26, 2022. REUTERS/Stringer

were part of the examination.

Expressing his condolences to affected families, President Cyril Ramaphosa said he was worried about the circumstances under which young people, potentially under the age of 18 years, were allowed to gather at the tavern. Ramaphosa said in a statement the law must take its course once investigations conclude.

"The call is on the parents to see that their kids are kept well, the call is on the com-

munity to say we can't allow our kids to die," Bheki Cele, the national police minister, told a large crowd in Scenery Park during an impromptu visit broadcast live on television.

A 17-year-old girl, who only gave her name as "Lolly" and lived close to the tavern, told Reuters the venue was a popular hangout with teenagers, but the community wanted it shut down after the tragedy.

"Everyone wants it

closed down because they sell alcohol to under-age children. Everyone is angry, everyone is sad because of what happened," she said.

Earlier Brigadier Tembinkosi Kinana said police were alerted by members of the public to the incident in Scenery Park, about three kms (1.9 miles) from the city centre.

"What has happened can be equated to a massacre," East London mayor, Xola Pakati said in a statement.

cont'd from pg 22

Gantz's rebuke was apparently also aimed at the Mossad spy service, which Yedioth said opposed any new Iran nuclear deal.

The European Union and Iran agreed on Saturday that the nuclear negotiations, bogged down for weeks, would resume soon. The development comes amid political instability in Israel, after Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called a snap election.

Israel is not a party to the negotiations. But its concerns about the outcome - and its long-standing threats to take unilateral military action against Iran - carry weight in Western capitals.

Gantz did not comment on the EU-Iran announcement. Nor did Bennett, despite having TV cameras on hand for what was likely his final cabinet meeting on Sunday. He is due to step down this week, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid assuming top office.

Israel welcomed then U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to quit the 2015 deal, deeming it insufficient. After Trump was succeeded by Joe Biden, Israeli leaders said they would not be bound by any new deal Washington might reach with Tehran.

Iran, which denies seeking nuclear weapons, has since the U.S. walkout ramped up projects with bomb-making potential. Israel is widely believed to have its own nuclear arsenal.

Sports News



Wimbledon 2022: No Russians, no rankings, but Serena's back

AP – At least at the outset, before a tennis ball is struck, this edition of Wimbledon is as much about who — and what — is missing as who's here.

And that's even taking this into account: It is no small matter that the grass-court Grand Slam tournament marks the return of Serena Williams to singles play after a year away.

The No. 1-ranked man, Daniil Medvedev, was barred from competing by the All England Club, along with every other player from Russia and Belarus, because of the war in Ukraine.

"It's a mistake," International Tennis Hall of Fame member Martina Navratilova said about the ban. "What are they supposed to do, leave the country? I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy."

Novak Djokovic, the No. 1 seed and three-time defending champion who will play in the first match in Centre Court on Monday, looked at the situation this way: "It's really hard to say what is right, what is wrong."

"As a child of a war — several wars, actually, during the '90s, I know what it feels like being in (the Ukrainians') position," the 35-year-old from Serbia said. "But at the other hand, I can't say



Serena Williams of the US during a practice session ahead of the 2022 Wimbledon Championship at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon, London, Saturday, June 25, 2022. (John Walton/PA via AP)

I fully agree (with deciding) to ban Russian tennis players, Belarusian tennis players, from competing indefinitely. I just don't see how they have contributed to anything that is really happening. I mean, I don't feel it's fair."

The two professional tours reacted by pulling their ranking points from Wimbledon, an unprecedented move in a sport built around the rankings in so many ways. In turn, some athletes opted not to show up, including 2014 runner-up Eugenie Bouchard and four-time major champion Naomi Osaka.

For others, though, it was a no-doubt-about-it decision to show up. This is, after all, Wimbledon, with its unique surface and long-standing traditions, its powerful prestige and — let's face it — tens of

millions in prize money.

"It's definitely hard to swallow that there are no points. I'm not going to sit here and tell you I'm happy about it. But the cards are dealt. At the end of the day, if I tell my mom I'm not playing Wimbledon, she'd be like, 'Are you nuts?!' So I'm going to go, no doubt," said Frances Tiafoe, an American who is seeded 24th in the men's field. "It's out of everybody's hands. It's a tough situation, a crazy time. And it's not just about you. It's not a 'Why me?' problem."

There were rumours among players that prize money would be cut, too, prompting one, Fabio Fognini, to joke that he'd be thankful for that because — without any ranking points available and with less cash on offer — he'd head to an island for some

vacation time with his wife, 2015 U.S. Open champion Flavia Pennetta, and their young children.

But it turned out that's all that was — a rumour: The All England Club wound up announcing it would provide a record total of about 40 million pounds (\$50 million) in player compensation.

There are other important names staying away for different reasons.

Reigning women's champion Ash Barty retired in March at age 25. Eight-time men's champion Roger Federer still has not returned from the latest in a series of knee operations; he has not participated in any tournament since last year's Wimbledon. No. 2-ranked Alexander Zverev is sidelined after tearing ligaments in his right ankle at the French Open.

Also gone in 2022 at Wimbledon, for the first time in its lengthy history: a scheduled day off on the middle Sunday (so what had been a 13-day tournament becomes a full two-week event).

Ah, but guess who's back? Yes, Williams, thanks to a wild-card invitation, bringing enough star power to fill the spotlight for however long she remains in the bracket.

The owner of seven
cont'd on page 25

LeBron James 'Triple Logoman' card sells for \$2.4 million

AP — Someone has paid \$2.4 million for a one-of-a-kind LeBron James trading card, a purchase price that fell well short of what some expected.

The auction of the "Triple Logoman" card ended Saturday. Officials at the collectibles marketplace Goldin, which ran the auction, suggested earlier this month that the card could fetch the largest price ever for a card.

It didn't come close. The record remains \$6.6 million spent for a Honus Wagner trading card last year.

This particular James card was part of Panini's

2020-21 "Flawless" collection, and features the NBA logo patch from three of his jerseys, one each from his time with the Cleveland Cavaliers, Miami Heat and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Panini created only five "Triple Logoman" cards. James' was the lone one featuring three patches from a single player.

The \$2.4 million isn't even a record for a card featuring James. A card from his rookie season sold for \$5.2 million last year.

James is No. 2 on the NBA's career scoring list, and on pace to pass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the top spot next season.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (6) during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2022, in Phoenix. LeBron James and Naomi Osaka are becoming teammates in the entertainment world. Tennis star Osaka and her agent and business partner, Stuart Duguid, are forming a media company called Hana Kuma in partnership with The SpringHill Company, which was created by NBA star James and Maverick Carter, Tuesday, June 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Rick Scuteri, File)

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championships at the All England Club — and 23 from all majors, a record for the professional era — last competed in singles in June 2021, when she slipped on the slick Centre Court grass and injured her right hamstring, forcing her to stop in the first set of her first-round match.

"I didn't retire. I just needed to heal physically, mentally. And I had no plans, to be honest. I just didn't know when I would come back. I didn't know how I would come back," Williams said Saturday. "Obviously, Wimbledon is such a great place to be, and it just kind of worked out."

She made a surprise appearance in doubles with Ons Jabeur on grass at Eastbourne this week, but the 40-year-old American will not have played singles before Tuesday's matchup against 113th-ranked Har-

mony Tan.

If Williams can crank up her best-in-the-game serve and move well enough to stay in points until she can end them with her stinging groundstrokes, who knows what she'll be able to do? Plus, she has made a habit of winning matches soon after returning from lengthy absences.

Also around is Rafael Nadal, who is halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam for the first time after winning the Australian Open in January and the French Open this month.

The latter title, his 14th in Paris and men's-best 22nd at a major, came despite chronic pain in his left foot, which made the 36-year-old Spaniard question whether he could be at the All England Club — or continue at all.

"First of all, I can walk normally most of the days, almost every single day. That's, for me, the main issue,"

Nadal said Saturday. "When I wake up, I don't have this pain that I was having for the last year and a half. So quite happy about that."

This fortnight will not lack for story lines, certainly. Full crowds are back after the coronavirus pandemic led to restrictions on spectators last year and the cancellation of the tournament in 2020. This marks the centenary of the current Centre Court, which made its debut in 1922.

French Open champion and top-ranked Iga Swiatek enters on a 35-match winning streak. And Djokovic bids for a 21st Grand Slam trophy, knowing that, as things currently stand, he will not be able to go to the U.S. Open in August because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 — and he says he won't get the shots.

"That," Djokovic said, "is an extra motivation to do well here."

Sports News

Hayley Matthews takes over from Stafanie Taylor as West Indies Women's captain

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced that has been appointed as the West Indies Women's Captain. Matthews, who is one of the leading all rounders in world cricket, will assume the leadership role from Stafanie Taylor ahead of the next West Indies Women's Series, expected to be played later this year.

Taylor, the most successful female player in West Indies history and ranked among the all-time greats, has led the team for over seven years since 2015. She was at the helm when West Indies won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2016 and earlier this year when they reached the semi-finals of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand.

CWI Women's Selection Panel recommendation was ratified at the CWI Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, 24 June.

Lead Selector for Women's cricket Ann Browne-John thanked Stafanie for her years in the role saying, "The selection panel has done a review of the team including the leadership. After this review the panel took the decision to recommend that Hayley Matthews takes over the role as captain."

"Hayley has made notable progress over the years, serving as Vice-Captain of the West Indies Women's Team and is the current Cap-



Hayley Matthews, right, is taking over the captaincy of the West Indies Women's cricket team. Stafanie Taylor, left, was the previous captain.

tain of her National Team, Barbados. She has matured as a player and is one of the leading players worldwide with a good grasp of the game.

"Given the experience that she would have gained in both roles, we are confident this is the ideal time for her to step into the role of captain."

Browne-John added, "We recognize that leading the team for seven years is a considerable achievement to which Stafanie has given huge levels of commitment and energy."

"We believe Stafanie is a world class performer who will no doubt continue to add tremendous value to the team as one of the top all-rounders in the game."

West Indies Women's

Team Head Coach, Courtney Walsh said, "The Selection panel felt that it was time to make the change. We figured the timing was right with the ICC Women's T20 World Cup coming up early next year, if we were thinking of making any changes now would be the best time so that we give the new captain a couple of series under her belt before she enters into a World Cup."

"Hayley Matthews is young; she has longevity in the game, and she can lead the team for a longer time to get the experience and we are here to support her."

"For us it's a win-win as we will have Stafanie to concentrate on her best cricket and passing on guidance to Hayley as she grows in the role of taking the team

forward."

Hayley Matthews expressed her pride and gratitude in the appointment. She said, "I am both humbled and honoured to be given the opportunity to Captain the West Indies Women's Team. It is definitely an exhilarating feeling and I welcome the experience to lead and learn with open arms."

"This team has been very close to my heart from the beginning of my professional career eight years ago and the influence of Stafanie's leadership throughout those eight years has played a major role in the player I am today."

"I eagerly anticipate working with the players to continue building on the progress in which the team

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Gayral dethrones Marsh to win National Individual Time Trial

Emmanuel Gayral of Team Terminix is the new Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) Inet National Individual Time Trial champion.

Gayral dethroned Robert Marsh by winning Saturday's 11-mile Elite Men's Division and overall title in a time of 38 minutes and 35.10 seconds.

Marsh, of Eastside Riders, captured the runner-up spot by clocking 35 minutes, 38.45.30 seconds. Shawn Weathered of Team Terminix finished third in 40 minutes and 03.28 seconds.

Telesha Choy of Independent won the Female National Time Trial title with a time of 27 minutes and 37.65 seconds.

Ashley Rhodes of Eastside Riders claimed the Masters Division title by completing the route in a time of 46 minutes and 23.35 seconds.

Neil Lloyd of N&R Wheelers secured second place in 46 minutes and 33.88 seconds, while Mervyn Gore of Eastside



Emmanuel Gayral, right, beat defending champion Robert Marsh, left, to win the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's Inet National Individual Time Trial on Saturday, 25 June, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

Riders finished third in 47 minutes and 03.49 seconds.

Jason Adams of Road Runners Cycling Club won the Sports Class division with a time of 44 minutes and 02.56 seconds.

Akeem Tomlinson of Andre Simon Cycling Academy came second by

clocking 45 minutes and 16.32 seconds. Finishing third was Newell Mack of Independent in a time of 45 minutes and 17.49 seconds.

Tahje Browne prevailed over fellow Wadadli Cycling Academy colleagues to capture the Cadet 14 to 17 Class in a time of 19

minutes and 42.82 seconds.

Team mates Jahiem Telemaque and Aden Murray Watkins captured second and third places respectively. Telemaque clocked 21 minutes and 25.02 second, while Murray Watkins recorded a time of 24 minutes and 07.86 seconds.

Arusa Murray Watkins, also of Wadadli Cycling Academy, won the Cadets 11 to 13 Class in a time of 28 minutes and 20.23 seconds.

The national Individual Time Trial was also sponsored by Anjo Wholesale, agents for Gatorade, Subway and Paradiso Water.

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has made thus far."

Matthews added, "I would like to thank Stafanie for her astounding leadership of the team over the years. We've accomplished some of our biggest milestones with her at the forefront and I look forward to continuing playing alongside her."

Matthews and Taylor have both been among the best players for West Indies. In

her career, Taylor has scored 5,298 runs in 145 One-Day Internationals and 3,121 runs in 111 T20 Internationals.

She has also taken 152 wickets in ODIs and 98 in T20Is. Matthews, like Taylor, is a right-handed top-order batter and off-break bowler. She has an impressive international record with 1,764 runs and 78 wickets in 69 ODIs, and 1,055 runs and 58 wickets in 61 T20Is.

Sports News



Wins for Pigotts, Mahico and Police in Thursday League

Pigotts Crushers, Mahico and Police all recorded wins in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League competition on 23rd June.

Captain Elroy Francis

Jr produced a fine all-round performance to lead the Pigotts men to a 25-run victory against All Saints Pythons at Mock Pond in All Saints.

Francis struck 38 and Malique Walsh hammered 50 in the Pigotts total of 151

all out in 24.2 overs. Andrea Samuel bagged five wickets for 31 runs.

Francis Jr then captured four for 26 and leg spinner Anthony "I Roots" Martin claimed three for 22 as All Saints tumbled to 126

all out in 23.4 overs. T'ron Payne hit a top score of 58 for the Pythons.

Mahico coasted to an eight-wicket triumph over Newfield Eagles at Clare Hall. Batting first, Newfield were dismissed for 141 in 23.4 overs with Kofi James cracking 58.

Micah McKenzie grabbed four wickets for 30 runs, Kerry Mentore picked up two wickets for 29 runs and Keif Baltimore claimed two wickets for 32 runs.

Mahico then achieved their victory target of 142 for the loss of two wickets in 21 overs. Tarek Charles cracked 59, Mentore struck 40 and Jedidiah Martin chipped in with 25. Chad Walsh took two wickets for 36 runs.

Police also romped to an eight-wicket victory over Rising Sun Spartans at the Police Recreation Grounds.

Spinner James Cornelius snatched three wickets for eight runs, Lashorn Barnarde took two wickets for 11 runs and leg-spinner Lynton Africa picked up two wickets for 18 runs, as Rising Sun were bowled out for just 75 runs in 21.1 overs. Deran Benta got a top score of 29.

Police then wrapped up victory by scoring 76 for the loss of two wickets in 14.2 overs. Damien Lowenfield hit an unbeaten 28, Malique Gerald got 21 and skipper Derek Mourillon was not out on 19.

SUMMER TENNIS CAMP 2022

Venue: Starfish by Halcyon Resort
Date: July 4th - August 5th, 2022

Time 9am - 2pm Daily
Age 4 - 11 years

Time 3pm - 5pm Daily
Age 12 - 18 years

Registration begins June 13th 3pm - 6pm
Monday - Friday

Tennis racquets, Water & Gatorade will be provided

FREE Face Towel

For more information contact 268-723-4936
| 268-774-7331 | 268-772-4642

Knight captures Classic Physique national title

Jamille Knight won his first major award when he grabbed the overall men's Classic Physique title at the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation's (ABABWF) 2022 National Championships over the weekend.

Knight also claimed the Class A division on his way to capturing the Classic Physique title to dethrone last year's winner Shaquelle Thomas at the Dean William Lake Cultural Center on Saturday.

Tariq Kienesberger won the Classic Physique Class B title. Kenroy Christian successfully defended his Class C or Tall Class crown to capture the overall Men's Physique title.

Duncan Corbin also re-



Winners of the various categories of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation's 2022 National Championships at the Dean William Lake Cultural Center over the weekend. Jamille Knight, fourth left, captured the overall men's Classic Physique title. Yvette Butler, left, retains her Masters Bikini Fitness title. Franklyn Carbon, second left, retains the Masters Bodybuilding title. Duncan Corbin, third left, retains the Men's Physique Class A title. Kenroy Christian, second right, captured the overall Men's Physique title. (Photo courtesy ABABWF)

tained the Men's Physique Class A title, while Jermaine Whinfield won the Class B Division.

Success as well for Steve Simon who claimed the Men's Bodybuilding title, while Franklyn Carbon retained his Masters Body-

building crown.

Veteran Yvette Butler also retained her Masters Bikini Fitness title. Butler also won the Bikini Fitness Class B title.

Makiva Elvin won the overall Bikini Fitness title and also captured the Class

A division.

Kayla Joseph claimed the Seniors Bikini Wellness title. Tiffany Gordon captured the Novice Bikini Fitness crown, while Che'vaughn Ferris walked away with the Novice Classic Physique title.

through seven traditional sports disciplines, and for the first time, an associated international E-Sport component associated with the GIGA Games, CANOC EsportsSeries Guadeloupe 2022, under the aegis of the Giga Games Federation Guadeloupe of eSport and its international event.

Antigua and Barbuda will also be represented in the first GIGA Games' CANOC eSports Series. The eSports competition will run parallel to the Caribbean Games.

Two 16-year-old students in Glenmoore Fabian of Antigua Grammar School and Dimetre Leitch of Ottos Comprehensive School will be contesting the eSports competitions. They

will be accompanied by team manager Elijah James, who is a coach of the Antigua and Barbuda eSports Club.

Both eAthletes will be competing in the Master Disciplines. They are Tekken (Martial Arts versus Sports); WindJammers2 (Frisbee Sport), Forza Horizon 5 (Car Racing Sport) and Just Dance Unlimited (Health Sport).

Antigua and Barbuda Esports is an initiative of the American Corner Antigua supported by the US Embassy Bridgetown that helps Antigua and Barbuda students (13 – 17 years old) to explore emerging STEM/STEM technologies, while helping to improve their personal and professional development by installing values in leader-

ship, business, cooperation, trust and shared decision making through eSports.

The Caribbean Games is being overseen by the Caribbean Associations of National Olympic Committees (CANOC).

Around 800 athletes and 200 officials from 29 countries and territories are expected to compete at the maiden Caribbean Games.

The Games had first been scheduled to take place in 2009 before a late cancellation by Trinidad and Tobago's government due to fears about swine flu.

Guadeloupe was awarded hosting rights in January, 2020.

ABNOC names Antigua and Barbuda delegation to Caribbean Games

An eight-member team of athletes along with four officials will spearhead the Antigua and Barbuda delegation that will attend the Inaugural Caribbean Games, which will be held in Guadeloupe from 29th June to 3rd July, 2022.

The contingent, which will represent the twin island state in athletics, swimming and cycling, was disclosed by the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) via a media release last Friday.

Three athletes will compete in track and field. They are Barak Matthew, Taeco O'Garro and Sheldon Noble. Matthew will contest the men's 100 metres, while O'Garro and Noble will compete in the men's long and triple jumps.

O'Garro, who is a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, will also be Antigua and Barbuda's flag bearer during the parade of teams and official opening ceremony. Coach Kesswin Anthony will perform duties as team manager of the track



Long and Triple Jumper Taeco O'Garro, who is a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, is part of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation attending the Inaugural Caribbean Games in Guadeloupe from 29th June to 3rd July, 2022. (Photo courtesy FDU)

and field athletes.

Four swimmers are also part of the contingent. They are Tivon Benjamin, Jadon Wullez, Olivia Fuller and Arianna John.

Benjamin will contest the men's 50-metre butterfly, 100, 200 and 400 freestyle and 50-metre backstroke.

Wullez will contest the men's 50 and 100 metres breaststroke along with the 50 and 100 metres freestyle.

Fuller will contest the

women's 50, 100 and 200 metres freestyle, while John will contest the women's 50, 100 and 200 metres freestyle. Nelson Molina-Fojo will perform the role of team manager for the swimmers.

One cyclist, Emmanuel Gayral, will compete in the Individual Time Trial and the Road Race. President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation St Clair Williams will be the team manager.

The team will be headed

by Chef de Mission, Second Vice President of the ABNOCM, Thomas Greenaway, who comes with a wealth of experience. Greenaway also performed a similar role as head of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation at the recently held Pan AM Junior Games in Cali, Columbia, late last year.

Some 29 Caribbean Olympic Committees will be united around the largest Caribbean multi-sport event