

A&B'S RELATIONSHIP WITH SAUDI ARABIA STRICTLY DIPLOMATIC



Story on Page 2

Local News



Gov't relationship with Saudi Arabia strictly diplomatic

The government has said its engagement with Saudi Arabia is strictly diplomatic as it seeks funding from the Middle Eastern country to expand the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

A team from Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Antigua from 21st to 25th June, when they will examine the UWI Five Islands expansion and advance discussions with the government and university for a US\$75 million facility.

Information Minister Melford Nicholas was asked yesterday whether

the government had given consideration to the human rights record of the Saudis before engaging the authorities in Riyadh.

“From a foreign affairs standpoint and from our own diplomatic approach, we maintain cordial and friendly relations with many, many different countries of different political systems, and it is not for us to judge states on the basis of our own value system.

“We certainly have to look at what works best for us, and in the context of finding capital to fulfill our own development ob-

jectives.”

The Cabinet spokesman contended that Saudi Arabia's agreement to assist the government will only result in beneficial economic and social development for Antigua and Barbuda.

The Gaston Browne administration has maintained the position that it will not interfere with the internal affairs of other sovereign nations, however, Nicholas said if matters pertaining to Saudi Arabia, or any other nation is placed before global organisations, the government will be guided by those principles.

He could not speak with specificity to the finer details of the arrangement with the Saudis, but said it will be made public in due course.

“Generally, funds such as this would be part of a concessionary loan arrangement even in the first instance, where there will be a moratorium and of course a low and a very attractive interest rate. Whether or not we will be able to entice them to put a portion of it as a grant, I believe, is left to the negotiation,” the information minister noted.



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Cabinet to consider subsidy for steelbands

The Cabinet is to take a direct role in efforts to have the steelband fraternity take part in a panorama as part of the Carnival 2022 programme of events.

Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, said the Cabinet wants to leave no stone unturned in making panorama a reality during this year's carnival. Nicholas said the steelband fraternity is still experiencing financial challenges coming out of the coronavirus pandemic.

"One of the issues that has emerged is that since the last panorama we had back in 2019, the resources of the pan association have become depleted. They may require a level of subsidy to allow them to compete and the government is willing to assist in order to ensure their participation," Nicholas told the weekly Cabinet press briefing.

The minister also announced that the Cabinet will invite steelband representatives to its weekly meeting next Wednesday, where discussions will take place leading to a panorama competition this year.

The panorama competition has been growing in popularity for the last several years leading up to 2019, the last time Carni-



Hells Gate Steel Orchestra

val was staged.

Nicholas said the Cabinet took a view that 'this important cultural expression' should be included in Carnival, 2022. He added that the proposed subsidy would eliminate a major hurdle preventing the steelbands from participating in panorama.

In other Carnival news...this weekend's performance of the Sweet Benna Calypso Tent will take place at the St Paul's Community Centre at Yasoso Corner in Liberta. It will be the only tent in operation this weekend, as the opening of the joint Calypso Association/Min-

istry of Creative Industries for one week to June 10, at tent has been pushed back Millers By The Sea.



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Local News



Suspension, counselling ordered for ONDCP officer in voice note scandal

On Thursday afternoon, head of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Croft, announced that the officer implicated in the 2021 "Voice Note Scandal" will be suspended and must attend counselling before returning to work.

Last year, the nation was stunned by several audio recordings in which the officer, who was soon identified by internet sleuths, made numerous disturbing threats

against several people.

At the time, Lt. Col. Croft announced that an investigation would be launched into the matter.

More than a year later, the ONDCP director revealed that the probe was completed and a report, prepared by an independent panel of investigators, had been submitted.

The investigative panel was composed of members of the judiciary and government.

An independent adjudicator



Director of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, Lt. Col. Edward Croft

cator was then identified to preside over the determination of the appropriate action that would need to be taken

in this case.

The ONDCP's Disciplinary Code indicates a host of actions that can be imposed on officers found to be in breach of the organisation's code of conduct. These include fines, reprimand, suspension or termination.

In this case, it was decided that for his unbecoming conduct, bringing the organisation into disrepute and undermining the public's trust in the law enforcement agency, the officer involved will face a period of suspension and severe reprimand.

The period of his suspension was not made public.

Lt. Col. Croft said in a statement, however, that in addition to being punished for his actions, he will also have to undergo and satisfactorily complete professional counselling to address his other underlying issues before he is allowed to return to the job.

The officer's identity was not disclosed by the ONDCP.

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STRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

Second booster vaccines now available

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment began the roll out of the second COVID-19 booster vaccines to specific groups on Wednesday.

According to the ministry, the programme was implemented by the government on the heels of its receipt of recommendations made by the National Technical Working Group and senior medical technicians.

For now, the COVID-19 booster vaccines will be administered only to vulnerable groups.

These include health-











care providers, persons

over the age of fifty and immunocompromised persons such as cancer and renal dialysis patients, persons living with HIV/AIDS and those receiving immune-suppressive ther-

apy.

To be considered eligible for the booster vaccine, one must have received their second dose of a two-dose vaccine or a single dose of a one-dose vaccine at least six (6) months ago.

The booster vaccines will be administered at the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre and the Villa Polyclinic Monday through Thursday, from 9 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Fri 03 Day		Fri 03 Night	
85° 	8% ESE 12 mph	78° 	23% ESE 10 mph
Partly to mostly cloudy. High around 85F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy skies. Low 78F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
 Humidity 70%	 UV Index Extreme	 Humidity 82%	 UV Index 0 of 10
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		● Waxing Crescent	



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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Local News



Bassawan says police stopped for snacks, police say not so

Rikardo Bassawan will serve six months in prison after his short-lived escape from police custody earlier this week.

The 27-year-old Villa man appeared before Magistrate Conliffe Clarke who handed down the sentence on Thursday.

Bassawan escaped from

police custody in Potters while being transported to Her Majesty's Prison on Tuesday. Minutes earlier, he had been denied bail and remanded to prison on a charge of aggravated robbery after an appearance in the All Saints Magistrate's Court.

He is accused of robbing a Jolly Harbour woman in her



home using a weapon on 28th May.

After his recapture in Villa by Special Services Unit officers on Wednesday, Bas-

sawan made the outrageous claim that he decided to part ways with the company of the police after he was left unguarded in the unlocked police vehicle, whose door was left ajar, when the officers stopped to buy "chips".

Sources close to the matter have told Pointe Xpress, however, that this claim is absolutely untrue.

According to the source, Bassawan complained to the officers transporting him that the handcuffs on his wrists were too tight. One of the officers present examined the handcuffs and determined that the complaint may have been legitimate, as Bassawan's wrists appeared swollen.

While loosening his restraints, the source told Pointe Xpress that in a surprise move, Bassawan wrestled free from the grasp of the officer, pushed him away and fled the scene.

His time on the run was short lived, however, as he was detained on Wednesday, less than 24 hours after his abscondment.

Bassawan will now begin his six-month sentence, as he waits for his next appearance in court on the robbery charge that landed him in trouble with the law in the first place.

Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

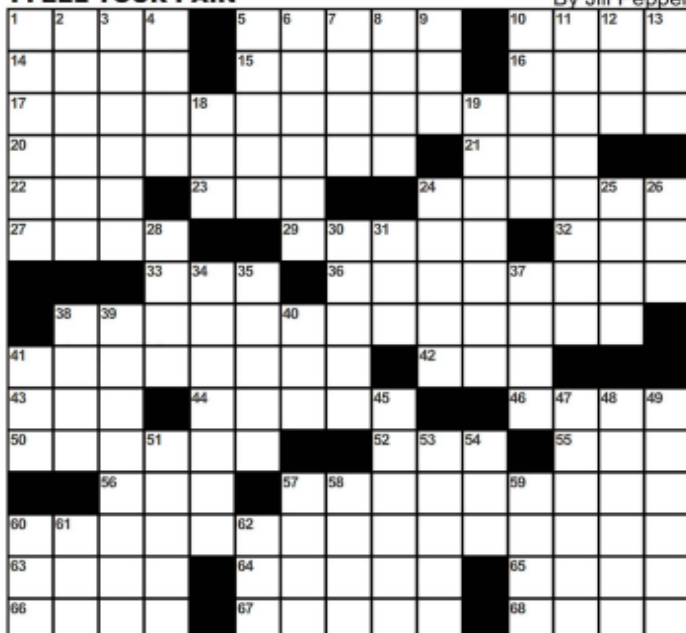
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) Be crabby | 41) Manitoba's capital |
| 5) Mississippi formation | 42) Scandinavian war god |
| 10) Arch type | 43) Opposite of none |
| 14) A poker stake | 44) Shade of green |
| 15) Like some walls | 46) Potato container |
| 16) "Guilty," e.g. | 50) Former Soviet leader |
| 17) Jilts | Joseph |
| 20) Played boisterously | 52) Motel relative |
| 21) Person looking for bombs? | 55) Mai ____ (cocktail variety) |
| 22) Not at all well | 56) Is able to |
| 23) "The Tell-Tale Heart" author | 57) What the generous make |
| 24) Some cooking herbs | 60) Shows anxiety, in a way |
| 27) Big family | 63) "Green Gables" girl |
| 29) Oddly amusing | 64) Sharp tip |
| 32) Common deciduous tree | 65) One of the two sexes |
| 33) Atty's. grp. | 66) Comedian's stock |
| 36) Asian part of Turkey | 67) Showy and pretentious |
| 38) Shows anger, old-school | 68) Ran, as colors |

DOWN

- 1) Cloth
- 2) Ready a sleeping bag
- 3) "A Streetcar Named Desire" character
- 4) Close, as an envelope
- 5) "Saturday Night Fever" genre
- 6) Brought forth
- 7) DMV staple
- 8) Ready for a drive?
- 9) Infomercials, e.g.
- 10) Some tournaments
- 11) Colorful, spiky flowers
- 12) Bard's "always"
- 13) "Dig in!"
- 18) Laotian money
- 19) Partner of "wealthy" and "wise"
- 24) Kind of furnace
- 25) Bear's den
- 26) Calypso offshoot
- 28) Indian bread
- 30) Long-limbed and slender
- 31) Last word of the year, often
- 34) Offering money under the table
- 35) Colorado resort
- 37) Boat movers
- 38) Pinball infraction
- 39) Intertwining
- 40) "____ the ramparts ..."
- 41) Functioned as
- 45) Department store section
- 47) Like unkeyed music
- 48) Blackout necessity
- 49) Smooched
- 51) Bowling alley divisions
- 53) Raw and bitter, as weather
- 54) Degree in math?
- 57) It may be in a jamb
- 58) "I'll get right ____, boss!"
- 59) Two-syllable poetic foot
- 60) Tongue or tail action
- 61) Biochemistry abbr.
- 62) Marienbad, for one

I FEEL YOUR PAIN

By Jill Pepper



Readings from books of Caribbean writers thrill audience

An audience that comprised students, teachers, actors and others in the creative arts was thrilled Thursday afternoon with readings of excerpts from several books featuring Caribbean writers.

The event took place at the auditorium of the Sir John E. St Luce Financial Centre on Factory Road and featured readings from books written or edited by noted English/Caribbean author, Dr. Yvonne Weekes.

The Cultural Unit within the Ministry of Creative Industries and

Innovation (MCII) hosted Dr. Weekes to Thursday's event. She will conduct a series of workshops with staff of the unit, as well as with members of the National Youth Theatre.

Taking part in the readings were local author and dramatist, Zahra Airall, one of the featured writers in the book 'Voices', members of the National Youth Theatre and Dr. Weekes. The pieces focused on the experiences of Caribbean people during the COVID-19 lockdowns, hurricanes, state of emergency, Carnival and cricket as seen through the eyes of an Antiguan living in England watching a test match featuring Sir Vivian Richards and Sir Andy Roberts.

Head of the Cultural Unit, Khan Cordice, welcomed Dr. Weekes to Antigua and said this is part of



Dr. Yvonne Weekes

the department's continued drive to feature Caribbean creative men and women as part of the work of the department.

Dr. Weekes is a writer, actor, and director and holds a Ph.D. in Education. She is also a lecturer in Theatre and Arts Education at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. Her creative and research repertoire include work on theatre for social consciousness, autoethnography, and issues around healing, trauma, and disasters. Last week, Dr. Weekes undertook a project called *Voices - Monologues and Dramatic Texts for Caribbean Actors*. She also authored sixteen of the thirty-five monologues in the publication. 'Disaster Matters', which she co-edited with Dr. Wendy McMahon, is currently being distributed to schools across the English-speaking Caribbean.




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Opinion

Will Summit of the Americas fulfil CARICOM's goals?

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organisation 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)

Next week's Summit of the Americas, being hosted by the government of the United States, has been plagued by controversy over which Heads of Government are invited to attend.

Not invited by the US Government are the Presidents of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, measured by their record on adherence to democratic practices, including free and fair elections; respect for the rule of law and human rights; and upholding media and political freedom.

This has led to protests from some Latin American and Caribbean governments on the basis that the Summit should be "inclusionary, not exclusionary". A few of the Heads of Government have announced publicly that they will personally not attend.

Yet, all these governments, except Antigua and Barbuda, attended the last Summit in Lima, Peru in 2018 despite the fact that an invitation to Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela, was revoked by the host gov-

ernment of Peru. In responding to Antigua and Barbuda's protest over Maduro's exclusion, the then Peruvian government said that, as the host, they had the right to exclude who they wished. It should be noted that Cuba and Nicaragua attended that Summit. "Inclusion", therefore, appears to be less of a principle, demanding strict adherence, and more of a political convenience.

Next week's Summit in Los Angeles is being held at a far more important time for the Western hemispheric nations than the 2018 Summit, which concentrated on ending corruption. The world is now gripped by the serious challenges of economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; inflation that has escalated cost of living; and high prices for oil, food, shipping and other logistics. Additionally, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has undermined the legal international order that is underpinned by the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

In short, the world is in a crisis that is adversely impacting the hemisphere. Collaborative action is urgently needed to address it.

It is unlikely that such action will emerge from next week's Ninth Summit of the Americas for the following reasons. First, the Summit is not set up for a



Sir Ronald Sanders

free-flowing discussion by leaders on the critical issues. For the most part, the leaders will each read prepared statements, setting out their own perspectives. And while, there will be a series of less formal, small group discussions, these cannot produce a deliverable action plan agreed by all. Second, the five declarations that the Summit will publish, namely: "Our Sustainable Green Future", "Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance"; "Clean Energy transition"; "Digital Transformation"; and "Health Action Plan" are negotiated by a preparatory committee of government officials. Like all other documents, prepared by persons who are not political decision-makers, these declarations will be cautious and limited on substance, especially regarding effective implementation and funding.

The concern of CAR-

ICOM countries will not receive the urgent attention that they require. They will compete with bigger countries such as the US itself, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru.

This raises the question of the meaningfulness of the Summit of the Americas which was introduced by the US Government in 1994. The first one was hosted by President Bill Clinton in Miami. Its purpose was purely to advance a US agenda of free trade and free markets. I had the privilege of attending that meeting as part of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation, led by then Prime Minister, Lester Bird. It was not a meeting that took account of the issues that confronted CARICOM even as it failed to achieve the US objective. This is the second time that the US is hosting the Summit, although seven more were held since

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1994. It is doing so, because President Biden, recognizes that, over the Trump years and into the first year of his own administration, the US has lost influence in Latin America and the Caribbean. The void it left has been filled mostly by the People's Republic of China, and the European Union. Thus, from a US perspective, this Ninth Summit - the second that the US will host - is to try to reignite US influence in the region.

The US ambition is fair enough. Other countries of the hemisphere also have an interest in achieving their own ambitions. But is the Summit of the Americas – a gathering of countries of different size, competing needs, and divergent interests – the best vehicle to reinvigorate relations between the US and the disparate regional groups of the hemisphere?

Writing in the Los Angeles Times on June 2, Dan Restrepo, who was a special assistant to President Obama and coordinated his participation in two Summits

of the Americas, said that, since their inception, the Summits have “failed to deliver”. He argued that the pablum emerging from Summits “does not benefit the people of the Americas, nor does it advance US interests, particularly when countries are wrestling with profound challenges, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and preserving democracy from threats posed by nativists and populists”.

I agree with him. The Summit's greatest use for the CARICOM leaders attending will be the relationships they forge with other Latin American leaders; and the contact they make with President Biden and his key policy makers in the margins of the formal Summit.

As I argued in a recent paper, commissioned by the Caribbean Policy Consortium and published by Florida International University, on US-Caribbean Relations: “In year 1, the Biden administration did not establish a policy toward the Caribbean, except in relation

to Cuba and China. In year 2, the Biden administration should remedy this neglectful situation which has encouraged Caribbean governments to gravitate to other nations, especially China, that have extended much needed economic and financial cooperation.

It has been 7 years since a US President held a meeting with CARICOM leaders. The last meeting was between President Barack Obama and CARICOM leaders in Jamaica in April 2015. A good way to begin the formulation and implementation of a Caribbean policy would be an early meeting of Biden and Caribbean leaders, preceded by working groups of representatives that could shape a meaningful agenda for the discussion”.

What CARICOM needs is President Biden's undivided attention. The Summit of the Americas is not the place for it.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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Environment

Action plan for the Queen conch industry in the Eastern Caribbean

The Director General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, (OECS), Dr. Didacus Jules has expressed optimism about a sustainable conch industry that will help to sustain livelihoods and preserve this resource for future generations in the sub-region.

The trade-in conch has been estimated at EC\$68 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents), with data from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) noting that between 1992 and 2001, an estimated 21.61 million



pounds of conch was exported from the region.

Conch takes four to five years to reach reproduction age and hatcheries provide

a safe environment for them to grow and reproduce.

The workshop was organised under the pilot project, “Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue Bio Trade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine biodiversity in selected Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Countries”.

Jules discussed the creation of a hatchery on Union Island, noting that such a facility would be of critical importance to the sustainability of the conch industry, adding that all supporting architecture – legal, scientific, and financial, must be put in place to allow the industry to grow organically.

A statement issued by the St. Lucia-based OECS Commission said the main results and agreements from the discussion include sub-regional development

of management measures based upon the best available science

It said project partners led by the OECS, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and CITES will work with national authorities, fishers, and other key stakeholders to identify and secure conch management measures and build the necessary capacity and evidence needed to establish and implement conservation measures based upon the best available science.

The workshop also agreed on the establishment of a sub-regional queen conch nursery, adding that the project partners led by the OECS and in collaboration with national authorities will mobilise resources to establish a sub-regional queen conch nursery and hatchery within 12 months.

“This nursery and hatchery will focus on supporting restorative aquaculture efforts, rebuilding queen conch stocks, enhancing scientific and technical capacity in aquaculture approaches, and providing alternative income sources to coastal communities.”

In addition, the Caribbean Regional Security System will be invited to incorporate the issue of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing as part of their mandate. (CMC)

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Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I, Angela Camilla Marcellin of Hodge Bay, with registered business situate at Mckinnons in St Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6th July, 2022 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as “**Like A Latte**” situated at Mckinnons in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 25th day of April, 2022

US President declares June National Caribbean American Heritage Month

United States President Joe Biden has declared June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month, saying that America's strength has always been rooted in its diversity.

"Since our nation's founding, generation after generation of immigrants have helped build this country, and the prosperity and opportunity that draw so many immigrants to America would not be possible without the contributions and legacies of Caribbean Americans," said Biden in a White House Proclamation.

"Today, millions of Caribbean Americans strengthen our country through their vibrant cultures, traditions, languages and values," Biden said, honouring the "immeasurable ways Caribbean Americans have added to our American dream".

He said in June, America also celebrates "the extraordinary leadership and achievements" of Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black American of Jamaican heritage to hold this high office. Harris is the daughter of a retired Jamaica-born economist and an Indian mother. Biden also honoured "brilliant and dedicated public servants" of Caribbean heritage, including Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Domestic Policy Advisor, Susan Rice.

"Every day, we see the invaluable contributions Caribbean American communities have made to our country. Our nation has seen the persistence and character of generations of Caribbean Americans who have fought for equity and equality, despite continued discrimination and hardship."

In addition, the US President said public servants like the US' first Supreme Court Justice of Puerto Rican descent, Sonia Sotomayor; and the late

General Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants and the first Black Secretary of State.

He said they have made "essential contributions to American society and blazed new trails in service to the American people."

Biden said Caribbean American entrepreneurs, scientists, medical professionals, teachers, artists, police officers, athletes and "contributors in every field have also left a lasting impact on our society."

But he said "in spite of innumerable achievements and undeniable contributions, too many Caribbean Americans continue to face systemic barriers to success."

"Caribbean Americans have been impacted by systemic racism and disparities in opportunity," said Biden, stating that his administration has taken "a whole-of-government approach to advancing racial justice and equity in order to begin healing those wounds and strengthening opportunity for all."

"We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to ensure that every American, no matter who they are or where they come from, has equal access to the American dream," he pledged.

"During this National Caribbean American Heritage Month, we honour the generations of Caribbean Americans who have built our nation, shaped our progress, and strengthened our national character."

"Now, therefore, I, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2022 as National Caribbean American Heritage Month," he declared, urging all Americans to "join in celebrating the history culture, and achievements of Caribbean Americans with appropriate



ceremonies and activities."

Biden also proclaimed June National Immigrant Heritage Month, saying the United States is "a nation of immigrants, shaped by the courageous people from around the world who leave their homes, lives, and loved ones to seek refuge and opportunity on our shores."

Biden said immigrants have also helped the United States lead the world in science, technology, and innovation, while contributing to the arts, culture, and government.

"They bring new traditions, customs, and perspectives that keep American innovation dynamic," he said, adding that his administration is "committed to ensuring that our immigration system is accessible and humane. I have called on the Congress to pass long-overdue legislation to comprehensively reform our immigration system. Through multiple Executive Orders, I have also directed agencies across the Federal Government to remove barriers that improperly impede access to immigration benefits, and to assure fair and timely adjudication of those benefits." (CMC)

Business

Austria urged to help CARICOM deal with EU non-cooperative tax policy

CARICOM Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett is urging Austria to “play an influential advocacy role” as Caribbean countries continue to criticise the decision of the European Union to label regional countries as non-cooperative tax jurisdictions.

Dr. Barnett said the situation continues to be a “matter of grave concern to us” as she accepted the Letters of Credence of Austria’s

Plenipotentiary Representative to CARICOM, Gerhard Doujak. The CARICOM Secretary General said regional countries are also concerned at the related de-risking strategies being employed by certain international banks which have resulted in the withdrawal of crucial correspondent banking relationships.

“Austria, as a member of the EU, can assist by seeking to ensure that the EU,



CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr. Carla Barnett accepting the Letters of Credence of Gerhard Doujak, Plenipotentiary Representative of the Republic of Austria to CARICOM (CARICOM Photo)

in its decision making, is guided by the informed position of the relevant global regulatory authorities and desists from taking unnecessary punitive actions. We believe that Austria can play an influential advocacy role on our behalf on this issue,” Dr. Barnett said.

She told the Austrian diplomat that even as the region tries to move past the COVID-19 pandemic, “we are now grappling with recovery from the extremely negative economic and social effects.

“These events expose our vulnerability and strengthen our case for a Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index to be used as the major criterion to determine access for concessional development financing. “Austria, as a founding member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), can play a role in advocating for this change from GDP

(gross domestic product) per capita as the main criterion for such financing.”

Dr. Barnett said also Caribbean economies continue to be challenged by increasingly burdensome debt, brought on, in large measure, by the regular demands for reconstruction after frequent climate-related events.

“There is a sense of urgency for a stronger global approach to combating climate change, as well as for meaningful assistance to help our countries to build resilience to address the effects of this phenomenon.

She told the Austrian diplomat his appointment represents a new chapter in the “meaningful and productive relationship our countries have fostered over 22 years... characterised by a friendship built on mutual respect, bilateral relationships with the member states of the Community”. (CMC)



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Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee kicks off with pomp

AP – Queen Elizabeth II stepped gingerly onto the Buckingham Palace balcony Thursday, drawing wild cheers from the tens of thousands who came to join her at the start of four days of celebrations of her 70 years on the throne.

Her fans sported Union Jack flags, party hats or plastic tiaras. Some had camped overnight in hope of a glimpse of the 96-year-old queen, whose appearances are becoming rare, and a chance to watch the Trooping the Colour — a military parade that has marked each sovereign's official birthday since 1760.

It was an explosion of joy in a massive crowd, one of the first big gatherings since the COVID-19 pandemic began more than two years ago.

Elizabeth, who became queen at 25, is Britain's longest-reigning monarch and the first to reach the milestone of seven decades on the throne.

She basked in her moment. Smiling, she chatted with her great-grandson Prince Louis, 4, who occasionally covered his ears as 70 military aircraft old and new swooped low over the palace to salute the queen. The six-minute display included a formation of Typhoon fighter jets flying in the shape of the number 70.

The queen, wearing a



Queen Elizabeth II, Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Louis, Princess Charlotte, Prince George, and Prince William watch from the balcony of Buckingham Palace after the Trooping the Colour ceremony in London, Thursday, June 2, 2022, on the first of four days of celebrations to mark the Platinum Jubilee. (Aaron Chown/Pool Photo via AP)

dark blue dress designed by Angela Kelly, was joined on the balcony by more than a dozen royals — though not Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, who gave up front-line royal duties two years ago.

The couple travelled to London from their home in California with their two young children to take a low-key part in the celebrations, and watched Thursday's Trooping the Colour with other members of the family.

They did not appear on the palace balcony, because the monarch decided that only working members of the royal family should have that honour. The deci-

sion also, handily, excluded Prince Andrew, who stepped away from public duties amid controversy over his links with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Andrew will also miss a service of thanksgiving today at St. Paul's Cathedral in London after testing positive for COVID-19.

The jubilee is being commemorated with a four-day holiday extravaganza and events including a concert at Buckingham Palace on Saturday and a pageant staged by thousands of performers drawn from schools and community groups around the country on Sunday. Thousands of street parties are planned nation-

wide, repeating a tradition that began with the queen's coronation in 1953.

In a written jubilee message, the queen thanked people in Britain and across the Commonwealth involved in organising the celebrations. This country does like a good party.

"I know that many happy memories will be created at these festive occasions," Elizabeth said. "I continue to be inspired by the goodwill shown to me, and hope that the coming days will provide an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved during the last 70 years, as we look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm."

Harvey Weinstein's rape conviction upheld by appeals court

By Michael R. Sisak

A New York appeals court upheld Harvey Weinstein's rape conviction and 23-year prison sentence Thursday, rejecting the movie mogul's claims that the judge at his landmark #MeToo trial prejudiced him by allowing women to testify about allegations that weren't part of the criminal case.

The ruling by a five-judge panel in the state's intermediate appeals court affirmed one of the highest-profile verdicts to date in America's reckoning with sexual misconduct by powerful figures — an era

that began with a flood of allegations against Weinstein.

Weinstein's publicist, Juda Engelmayer, said he is reviewing his options and will seek to appeal the decision to the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

"We are disappointed, but not surprised," Engelmayer said.

Weinstein, 70, was convicted in New York in February 2020 of a criminal sex act for forcibly performing oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006 and raping an aspiring actress in 2013.

He was acquitted of



Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse as jury deliberations continue in his rape trial in New York, on Feb. 24, 2020. A New York appellate court on Thursday, June 2, 2022, has upheld Weinstein's rape conviction, rejecting the disgraced movie mogul's claims that the judge at the landmark #MeToo trial prejudiced him by allowing women to testify about allegations that weren't part of the criminal case. (AP Photo/John Minichillo, File)

rape and predatory sexual assault stemming from actor Annabella Sciorra's allegations about an encounter in the mid-1990s. The Associated Press does not generally identify people alleging sexual assault unless they consent to be named; Sciorra has spoken publicly about her allegations.

Weinstein is jailed in California, where he was extradited last year and is awaiting trial on charges he assaulted five women in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills from 2004 to 2013.

In a 45-page ruling, the appellate court said

trial Judge James Burke properly exercised his discretion in allowing prosecutors to bolster their case with testimony from three women who accused Weinstein of violating them but whose claims did not lead to charges in the New York case.

The judges said that although the volume of material, pertaining to 28 alleged acts over 30 years, was "unquestionably large, and, at first blush, perhaps appears to be troublingly so," Burke properly exercised his discretion in weighing its relevance to the case.



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Bill Cosby 'pounced' on teen in Playboy Mansion

Less than a year after his sex assault conviction was thrown out and he walked free from prison, comedian Bill Cosby is facing another allegation in court.

Mr Cosby, 85, is embroiled in a civil lawsuit over a claim he sexually assaulted Judy Huth, now 64, at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles in 1975.

The case is one of the last remaining legal actions against Mr Cosby, who has faced numerous abuse claims.

He has denied any assault took place, and is not expected to testify.

According to a lawsuit filed by Ms Huth in 2014, the incident took place when she was 16 years old, days after she met Mr Cosby at a park near Los Angeles where he was shooting a film.

After giving her alcohol "as part of a game", Mr Cosby took her to the Playboy Mansion, she says.

There, Ms Huth claims Mr Cosby took her to a bedroom and forced her to perform a sex act.

During opening statements at the court in Santa Monica, California, on Wednesday, a lawyer for Ms Huth said the comedian "has a sense of entitlement, and no fear".

Nathan Goldberg said Mr Cosby had "pounced" on his client and she suffered from serious anxiety after the inci-



Bill Cosby at his sentencing in Pennsylvania in 2018 [Getty Images]

dent.

When other women came forward with stories of their abuse at the hands of Mr Cosby, "it was like a cork popped out of the bottle and all of her buried feelings rushed to the surface", Mr Goldberg added.

While Mr Cosby's attorneys have acknowledged he met Ms Huth and went to the Playboy Mansion with her, they deny any assault took place. They also claim Ms Huth was 18, not 16.

They also question why the accuser stayed on for hours at the mansion after the alleged incident, watching a film and swimming in the pool.

Defence lawyer Jennifer Bonjean dismissed Ms Huth's case as a "fabrication", questioning why she and a friend had preserved photos from the visit as "mementos" of an alleged sexual assault.

Mr Cosby is not required to attend the court proceedings, and is not expected to do so. His attorneys have

previously said he has gone blind as a result of glaucoma. He did, however, give a video deposition.

Once known to millions as "America's Dad", Mr Cosby has faced dozens of accusations of sexual assault, misconduct and rape stretching back to the mid-1960s.

In 2018, he was convicted of drugging and molesting a woman at his home in 2004 and sentenced to three to 10 years in prison.

The conviction, however, was overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court last year. He was released from prison after serving nearly three years. (BBC)

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Regional News



Bahamas government may change legislation after sex offender dies days after being released from prison

CMC – The Bahamas government says it is likely to re-examine the measures under which sex offenders are publicly released from prison after one man died in hospital following an attack a few days after his release.

The authorities said Alden Scott was found unresponsive on a dirt road while bleeding through the nose, but it is not known if he was attacked or the origin of his injuries.

Scott was released last Friday after being added to the sex offender registry. He served nine years in prison for sexual assault and in January, was sentenced to two years in prison for caressing a girl's thigh.

National Security Minister, Wayne Munroe, told



National Security Minister, Wayne Munroe, told reporters that an investigation has been launched into Scott's death (Photo: the Tribune)

reporters that an investigation has been launched into Scott's death and warned that the public should refrain from practising vigilante justice.

He hinted at the possibility of the authorities discontinuing public noti-

fication if it is found that Scott had been physically assaulted upon his release.

"If we find that it happened in circumstances that it was abundantly clear that you have vigilantes who will hunt and kill persons of which there is public notifi-

cation...and we will have to see what other steps can be taken," Munroe said.

He said the government may have to change the approach to public notification if the findings of the investigation show a particular outcome.

"For my preference, for people who are considered dangerous is to know where they are 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year and for them to know that we know where they are.

"And so, we will have to be looking now this has happened into other steps we may take to protect the public and we are looking seriously at the laws they have in Canada about monitoring after release from sentences," he added.

Jamaica's opposition PNP reiterates call for mandatory face mask wearing as COVID-19 cases rise

CMC – Jamaica's main opposition People's National Party (PNP) Tuesday reiterated its earlier call for the Jamaican government to re-introduce the mandate for face mask wearing to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic after the island registered 190 new cases on Monday.

According to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica has now registered 137,266 infections and a death toll of 3,056 since the first case was registered two years ago. There are 3,412



confirmed active cases on the island.

Opposition spokesperson on Health and Wellness, Dr Morais Guy, said it is important for the government to re-introduce the mandate for face

mask wearing in light of the current fifth wave of the Omicron BA-2 variant of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a statement, Dr. Guy said he felt
cont'd on pg 19

Dominica approves of legislation to deal with virtual currencies

CMC – The government of Dominica has defended its decision to pass the Virtual Asset Business legislation saying the emergence of virtual assets regionally and globally has generated growing public interest and diverse legislative responses.

The island joins St. Kitts-Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda in the nine-member sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) that has passed similar legislation.

“A virtual asset is a digital representation of value that can be traded or transferred digitally. Virtual assets can be used for making payments or investments,” Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Vince Henderson told Parliament on Monday



night.

He said cryptocurrencies such as bitcoins are examples of virtual assets and “although the trading or transfer of virtual assets does not currently pose a material risk to financial stability here in Dominica, our government has recognized the need to put the necessary regulatory framework in place”.

He said this will ensure

vigilant monitoring of this new rapidly developing and potentially disruptive financial instrument.

Henderson said the Virtual Asset Business Bill has been drafted with the assistance of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and “the idea is to have a harmonised legislation across all member states of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union

(ECCU) since all members operate within a single monetary space”.

Opposition legislator, Clement Marcellin in supporting the legislation, said it offers opportunities for Dominica and is in sync with the thrust towards a digital economy.

“With the emergence of technology, the potential benefits that could be derived with the adequate use of those technologies makes business cheaper, easier, faster and overall limits the direct need for cash and by doing so it expands the financial footprint.”.

Marcellin said the worth of digital currencies have increased in years and as such “opens up a niche...and initiative for young people of Dominica to benefit tremendously...”

cont'd from pg 18

compelled to renew his call because it has been more than a week since Prime Minister Andrew Holness promised to address the matter in light of the increase in cases and an upswing in the positivity rate.

Prime Minister Holness addressing the handover of two housing units on May 20 said reintroducing mandatory mask-wearing in public spaces “is going to be a requirement shortly for all of our citizens”.

He said then that Jamaica is in the endemic phase of the virus, meaning that it is becoming part of daily life and for the foreseeable future, the country will be experiencing recurrent bouts of

increased infections.

“Thankfully, we are not seeing the infections and the illness translating, so far, into serious hospitalizations. We don’t want to go back to that situation [and] so again, I am urging all Jamaicans to act responsibly,” Holness said.

But the opposition PNP spokesman said despite the high numbers revealed in the latest report, Jamaica is still in the fifth wave of the outbreak and the peak period is yet to come.

“It is time to arrest the transmission by reintroducing measures such as mask wearing, which does not impede movement or impose any degree of infringement on people’s rights,”

Guy said, noting that the Ministry of Education and Youth’s announcement to re-introduce mask-wearing in the classroom and school environment as a sensible move that must now be expanded throughout society.

He is also appealing to businesses, institutions, organisations, and the general public to maintain mask wearing to mitigate the current spread of the virus. The Ministry of Health and Wellness said Jamaica has recorded 81 new recoveries bringing the total number of recoveries to 87,054. It said the positivity rate for the latest round of testing was 32.1 percent and there are 124 people hospitalised, two of them critically ill.

China demands US stop trade talks with Taiwan

AP – China's government on Thursday accused Washington of jeopardising peace after U.S. envoys began trade talks with Taiwan aimed at deepening relations with the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing.

Talks that started Wednesday cover trade, regulation and other areas based on "shared values" as market-oriented economies, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. It did not mention China but the talks add to gestures that show U.S. support for Taiwan amid menacing behaviour by Beijing, which threatens to invade.

Trade dialogues "disrupt peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian. He called on Washington to "stop negotiating agreements with Taiwan that have sovereign connotations and official nature."

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war that ended with the ruling Communist Party's victory on

the mainland. They have multibillion-dollar trade and investment ties but no official relations. Beijing says Taiwan has no right to conduct foreign relations.

The United States has diplomatic relations only with Beijing but extensive informal ties with Taiwan. The U.S. government is committed by federal law to see that the island has the means to defend itself. Zhao accused Washington of encouraging sentiment in Taiwan in favour of declaring formal independence, a step Beijing has said previously would be grounds for an invasion.

The trade initiative is "intended to develop concrete ways to deepen the economic and trade relationship" and "advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values," said a statement by the office of USTR Katherine Tai.

Taiwan is the ninth-largest U.S. trading partner and an important manufacturing centre for computer chips



In this image made from video, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian gestures during a media briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office, on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in Beijing. China's government on Thursday, June 2, 2022, accused Washington of jeopardising peace after U.S. envoys began trade talks with Taiwan aimed at deepening relations with the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing as part of its territory. (AP Photo/Liu Zheng, File)

and other high-tech products.

President Joe Biden said May 23 while visiting Tokyo that the United States would intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan. He said the U.S. commitment to help the island defend itself was "even stronger" following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Monkeypox outbreak needs a united response, says WHO Africa

AP – Africa must be part of a united global fight against monkeypox, the World Health Organization's Africa office said Thursday, as countries in Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere respond to unusual outbreaks of the disease.

"We must have one connected global response to monkeypox to avoid it becoming endemic in more countries," Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Africa director, said in an online briefing.



As countries in the developed world find ways to limit the spread of monkeypox, "it is very important that ... we make sure that we share those tools, we build capacities all over the world to respond to these outbreaks," she said.

"What is extremely im-

portant now is to avert any potential for a repeat of the inequitable access to COVID-19 vaccines experienced by African countries early in the pandemic," Moeti said.

Monkeypox is ordinarily found in countries in West and Central Africa with

tropical rainforests but recently the disease has been discovered in more than 20 countries including Britain, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, the United States, Israel and Australia. More than 500 cases have been reported, many apparently tied to sexual activity at two recent raves in Europe. No deaths have been reported.

So far, sequencing has not yet shown any direct link to the outbreak outside Africa, health officials say.

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OPEC agrees to pump more oil as Russian output drops

CNN – OPEC has agreed to pump more crude oil over the next two months as Russian production begins to drop because of Western sanctions.

The oil exporters' cartel said it would increase supply by 648,000 barrels per day in July and August, 200,000 barrels per day more than scheduled under a supply agreement with other producers, including Russia, known as OPEC+.

The Biden administration welcomed the "important decision from OPEC+," and highlighted Saudi Arabia's role as the group's largest producer in achieving consensus.

"This announcement accelerates the end of the current quota arrangement that has been in place since July of last year and brings forward the monthly production increase that was previously planned to take place in September," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that some members of OPEC

were exploring the idea of suspending the OPEC+ supply agreement to allow countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to step in and ease a supply crunch that pushed global oil prices above \$120 a barrel this week.

The Financial Times and Reuters carried similar reports.

Saudi Arabia had previously dismissed US requests to increase production beyond the long standing quota agreed with Russia and other non-OPEC producers.

But concerns that sky-high prices could tip the world into recession appear to have prompted a rethink.

Reuters, citing two OPEC+ sources, reported earlier that Russia's output had fallen by around 1 million barrels per day in recent months because of the sanctions imposed over its invasion of Ukraine.

OPEC's statement did not refer to that decline, noting instead the recent easing of lockdowns in



major global economic centres — presumably a reference to China — and an anticipated increase in demand from refineries following seasonal maintenance.

"The meeting highlighted the importance of stable and balanced markets for both crude oil and refined products," it added.

Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil, hit \$125 a barrel on Tuesday, its highest level since early March. US oil almost reached \$120 per barrel.

Both have since dropped back by about 6% in response to the media reports and fell again early Thursday before trading

narrowly higher at \$117 and \$116 respectively at 10 a.m. ET.

Robert McNally, president of Rapidan Energy Group and a former energy adviser to President George W. Bush, said prices rallied Thursday because the OPEC move was "more symbolic than fundamentally significant."

Russia's invasion of Ukraine prompted Western powers to ban imports of Russian crude and refined products.

The European Union earlier this week agreed to ban 90% of Russian oil by the end of this year.

At the same time, Russia has started to choke off exports of natural gas to some EU countries — adding to the energy supply crunch that has helped send US and European inflation to its highest level in decades and prices for gasoline and diesel to all-time highs.

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Meanwhile, seven of Africa's 54 countries have reported the disease and there have been about three times as many monkeypox cases as usual.

There have been more than 1,400 suspected monkeypox cases and 63 deaths in African countries where the disease is en-

demic — Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Nigeria — according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But only 44 of those suspected cases have been confirmed, said Dr. Fiona Braka, who leads emergency operations at WHO Africa's office in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

Sports News



Police begin Parish League hat-trick quest

Police begin their quest for a hat-trick of titles when the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League starts its third competition this weekend.

Police, who have won both the completed Parish League competitions this season, are among six teams that will be on show in the opening round of matches to mark the start of the Sir Curtly Ambrose limited overs contest.

Having successfully completed the Dave Joseph and Sir Richie Richardson one-day competitions, Police now head into their campaign in the Sir Curtly Ambrose competition at the Police Recreation Grounds (PRG) against Newfield tomorrow.

In the other matches on Saturday, Mahico will take on St Paul's at Clare Hall and D&R Architecture Sea View Farm will engage Freetown at Sea View Farm.

Paget Samuel and Fitzroy Jacobs will umpire at Police Recreation Grounds, while Nigel Browne and



Captain Derek Mourillon, foreground, hopes to inspire Police to their third title in the ACB Caribbean Parish programme this season by winning the Sir Curtly Ambrose competition which begins on 4th June, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Dirk Schouten will officiate the match at Clare Hall. Llewellyn Simon and Garfield Jacobs will umpire the encounter at Sea View Farm.

The competition will continue with three matches on Sunday.

Police will host Sea View Farm at the PRG, Newfield will meet Mahico

at Clare Hall and Freetown will oppose St. Paul's at Freetown.

Dirk Schouten and Fitzroy Jacobs will be the umpires at PRG. Nigel Browne and Garfield Jacobs will officiate at Clare Hall and Llewellyn Simon and Paget Samuel will umpire at Freetown.

Teams will also return to action in the sixth round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Competition this weekend.

The Black Hawks will host neighbours All Saints Pythons at Ball Beef in one of five two-day matches starting tomorrow.

Bolans will host Empire Nation at Bolans and Combined Schools will meet Pigotts Crushers at Factory.

In the other encounters, Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda will face Jennings Tigers at Jennings and New Winthorpes Lions will challenge Rising Sun Spartans at Rising Sun in St. John's.

French Open: Coco Gauff reaches first Grand Slam final and faces Iga Swiatek

BBC - American teenager Coco Gauff reached her first Grand Slam singles final with victory in the French Open last four, setting up a tantalising meeting with world number one Iga Swiatek.

Gauff, 18, won 6-3 6-1 against unseeded Italian Martina Trevisan on the Paris clay in her maiden major semi-final.

Swiatek, 21, completed a serene journey into the

Roland Garros final with a 6-2 6-1 win over 20th seed Daria Kasatkina.

The Pole earned a 34th successive win to move into her second major final.

Swiatek, the 2020 Roland Garros champion, has dropped just one set this fortnight on the Paris clay.

"It is a pretty special moment and emotional," said Swiatek, who meets Gauff on Saturday. "I am grateful to be healthy and in



Coco Gauff was contesting her first Grand Slam semi-final [Getty Images]

that place."

Gauff, seeded 18th, was

the heavy favourite against
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Sports News

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Hurricanes aim to blow away Barbados Pride for West Indies championship title

With less than two points separating first from second place on the points standings after four rounds of the West Indies Championship, the Leeward Islands Hurricanes currently second with 65.4 points to leaders Barbados Pride's 67 points are aiming to pull a rabbit out of the hat when round five starts on Wednesday in Trinidad.

Hurricanes head coach Stuart Williams is cognizant of his team thinking too far ahead, as they come up against the Jamaica Scorpions in their final match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Coach Williams said, "For the entire tournament we've been preaching one game at a time, we just want to stay in the moment and not looking too far ahead. Once we play to our full potential,



we will get the desired result. Our senior players and some of the juniors have stepped up to the plate with their performances.

Kieran Powell has over 400 runs from four matches, Rahkeem Cornwall is the leading wicket-taker with 21 wickets. Colin Archibald and Jeremiah Louis, along with Devon Thomas have all put their hands up for the team. And Keacy Carty is now reaping the rewards with a West Indies ODI debut."

Meanwhile, Barbados

Pride head coach Vasbert Drakes indicates his team has plans for their final match against the Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex.

Coming off a loss to the Guyana Harpy Eagles in round three, the Pride dominated Trinidad and Tobago Red Force in round four, winning by an innings and 22 runs.

With a slim lead of 1.6 points over the Leeward Islands Hurricanes, coach

Drakes was pleased with his team's "collaborative efforts and momentum gained" from the victory over the Red Force.

Coach Drakes indicated that his Pride players are ready for the Volcanoes challenge and are looking forward to executing their skills and plans, "The skills are already there, it's just a matter of going out there and playing the cricket we are capable of playing... and controlling the game."

In a roundup of the remaining matches, Trinidad and Tobago Red Force will take on third place Guyana Harpy Eagles at the Queen's Park Oval.

No doubt it will be an exciting fight to the finish for the Headley/Weekes trophy of the West Indies Championship 2022.

cont'd from pg 22

Trevisan and has become the youngest finalist at Roland Garros since Kim Clijsters in 2001.

"I think I'm in a bit of shock right now and I didn't know how to react at the end of the match," Gauff said.

"I have no words to describe how I feel."

The teenage phenomenon became a global star when she reached the Wimbledon fourth round as a 15-year-old in 2019 and has now become the Grand Slam finalist that many predicted.

Gauff won her maiden WTA sin-

gles title three months after Wimbledon and ended 2019 inside the top world's 100.

After her quarter-final win at Roland Garros on Wednesday, she spoke about learning how to manage expectations - internally as well as externally - and how "enjoying life" was helping to achieve her goals on the court.

Gauff's clarity of mind was particularly evident as she closed out victory against Trevisan, serving out the final game with a nerveless hold to love.

Gauff edged a tight first set, where there were breaks opportunities in eight of the nine games, by winning

the final three games.

The American also managed to contain her frustrations. Trevisan makes a noisy groan after every shot and Gauff asked chair umpire Marijana Veljovic if making so much noise was allowed.

She also had a couple of disagreements with Veljovic about line calls and where ball marks were on the clay.

But Gauff put those distractions behind her in the second set. She finally broke Trevisan's serve in a lengthy fourth game and then won the next three to earn an achievement that many thought was her destiny.

Sports News



KAMJ Foundation, Fort Road Earthquake FC to stage fundraiser

The Kenietta Arnold Montgomery James (KAMJ) Foundation, in conjunction with the Fort Road Earthquake Football Club, will be staging a fund-raising tournament on Whit Monday, 6th June.

The Under-13 and 17 football tournament and Barbeque Fundraising event will take place at the Fort Road football field at 1 pm.

The KAMJ Foundation was founded by coach of the Fort Road Earthquake, Arnold "Keegan" James.

President of the Fort Road Earthquake Football Club, Monique George, has said the fundraiser is geared toward assisting the club's players.

"The purpose of the fundraiser is to raise funds to assist players that are in need of football gear such as boots, uniforms etcetera, especially the ones that love the game so much and want to play but whose parents can't afford to buy them any," George said.

"The competitions will involve at least four teams comprising ten players. It is a seven-a-side competition in both Under-13 and Under-17 categories and the games will be 20-minute duration with 10-minute halves.

"The tournament is all inclusive. The fee is \$ 20 per player and all participants will receive a barbe-



Coach Arnold 'Keegan' James, centre wearing cap, addresses the Fort Road Earthquake Under-13 team during the CPTSA Wings Youth Football Festival at the ABFA's Technical Trainings Centre at Paynters in March, 2022. (Photo: CPSTS Wings Sports Club)

que meal and a local juice for their contribution to the fundraiser."

Monday's event is the first fund raising venture being undertaken by the Fort Road Earthquake Football Club.

George said the club's objective is to provide a friendly environment to facilitate the development of its members.

"The club is trying to create and maintain a family friendly football environment while providing a development programme to produce the best footballers we can," George said.

"It's an opportunity for

us to help grow the game in our own little way, increase the number of players and keep them in the game. We also want to create a safe and positive environment for everyone in our football programme and develop better players.

"We will also be focusing on improving the quality of our players in the 5-11 age group category as well as our teenagers or youth players.

"We want to invest in a skilled football workforce where we can develop the playing field and bring it up to a standard where more games can be hosted there.

"We also want to put on some team building activities such as hosting a retreat for the players, teach them to play for each other not themselves and organise overseas trips where they can play against other teams and put their skills and knowledge to the test. We just want this club to become bigger and better."

Fort Road Earthquake won the Under-13 and Under-15 boys' division titles at this year's 9th CPTSA Wings Youth Football Festival at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Training Centre on 26-27 March.

LeBron James is now a billionaire

CNN – LeBron James is a billionaire, marking the first time an active NBA player has achieved that milestone, according to one calculation.

Forbes said that the Los Angeles Lakers star has “maximised his business,” generating more than \$1.2 billion in pre-tax earnings. His NBA salary from three different teams during the past 19 years has amounted to \$383 million, and James has “raked in upwards of \$900 million in income from endorsements and other business ventures,” the magazine said.

In addition to lucrative endorsement deals with Nike



LeBron James

(NKE), AT&T (T), PepsiCo (PEP) and Walmart (WMT), Forbes said that James structured his deals to include equity in those brands, giving him a “cut of the upside instead of a quick pay check.” The four-time NBA champion also has investments in

fitness start-up Tonal, ride-sharing company Lyft and eatery upstart Blaze Pizza.

Another lucrative investment for James is TV and movie studio SpringHill Entertainment, which Forbes values at around \$300 million. The studio helped pro-

duce “Space Jam: A New Legacy,” a movie he starred in that earned \$163 million in box office receipts worldwide.

James has long dreamed of being a billionaire.

“It’s my biggest milestone,” he told GQ in a 2014 interview. “Obviously I want to maximise my business. And if I happen to get it, if I happen to be a billion-dollar athlete, ho. Hip hip hooray! Oh, my God, I’m gonna be excited.”

Notably, Michael Jordan is the only other basketball billionaire on Forbes’ list. He didn’t achieve that until 2014, more than a decade after he retired.

cont’d on pg 26

by Friday morning,” he said.

“Thirty-seven boats have registered so far, which is a fantastic turn out for a sports fishing event in the Caribbean. The boats have to be in by 4:30 in the afternoons, so we will have the weigh-ins until 6:30pm and the live entertainment will commence at 7pm.

“It is free to the general public and all the fish caught will be on sale at \$15 a pound and we have people there to nicely clean and cut up the fish for you. Very good pelagic fish to eat.

“We have boats participating from Barbados, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, both French and Dutch sides, St. Barts and of course Antigua and Barbuda.”

Senator Shoul said the competition is the best in the Caribbean, adding that it is an integral part of Antigua and Barbuda’s sports tourism product, which provides a financial boost to the nation’s economy.

“We are the number one sports fishing tournament in the Caribbean, and when I say the Caribbean, I am talking from down in Trinidad all the way up to Puerto Rico.

“Our land-based event is second to none. We have a fantastic after party every night, which is open to the general public with free admission,” he stated.

“This year we have sponsored drinks, meaning \$5 Cavalier, \$8 Heineken Beer, \$10 English Harbour Rum, at really good prices. We have eight food vendors serving nice local dishes.

“The yachting season is closed now in English Harbour, and so this is actually the last event of the season. The end of the yachting season means everybody has left, all the yachts are gone and so the docks are empty, and we have been able to fill three hotels in the English Harbour area with rent-a-car companies and restaurants actually opening this weekend for people

to dine.

“So, it’s a very big event on the sports tourism calendar in Antigua and Barbuda.”

A number of sponsors are partnering with the ABSFA in staging the event. They include Anjo Insurances, agents for Massy United, Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority, Falmouth Harbour Marina, Premier Beverages, agents for Cavalier Rum and Oasis Water, Antigua Masonry Products, Caribbean Union Bank, Outdoor World, agents for Yamaha, Dew’s Lumber Yard, Antigua Yacht Club Marina & Resort and Anjo Wholesale, agents for Heineken & Grace Foods.

Other sponsors are The Moxxy Hotel, Boardwalk Casino, Shell Beach Marina, Living Spaces, Sterling’s, North Coast Hardware, Dees Service Station, Shoul’s Chief Store, West Indies Oil Company, Cassada Paints, agents for Sherwin Williams, North Sound Marina, E-Zone Shipping, Paint Plus and Harney Motors Ltd.

Anglers from across the Caribbean compete in ABSFA tournament

Anglers from across the Caribbean will compete in the 54th Antigua and Barbuda Sports Fishing tournament this weekend.

Having missed the last two years of competition due to the pandemic, the tournament, which is being held at a new location - the Falmouth Harbour Marina from 3 -5 June, recommences with the Mikie Pigott Jr. Memorial Classic today.

The annual tournament began as the Antigua & Barbuda Marlin Classic, which aimed to offer teams a greater opportunity to fish for Blue Marlin and compete for a large cash prize.

In 2016, the one-day tournament was renamed the Mikie Pigott Jr. Memorial Classic in honour of the young, enthusiastic and well-respected captain.

Pigott was always among the first to sign up for the competition, and over the years, he proved to be a strong competitor, either winning or placing.

When Captain Mikie suddenly passed away, the ABSFA agreed to rename the tournament in his honour.

The classic, also called a billfish or marlin competition, involves catching or tagging and releasing the Blue Marlin, White Marlin or Sailfish. Points are earned based on the number of catches and releases.

The team with the highest points from their day's catch is declared the winner and presented with a cash prize of US\$8,000.

Over the following two days, anglers will compete in another fishing



Reel Adventure, right, and Big Sword Fish Too are from the French Caribbean Island Martinique and will participate in this weekend's ABSFA tournament. (Photo: ABSFA)

competition that involves two categories; the Marlin Division and Sports or Pelagic Fish Division.

Speaking on Pointe FM on Wednesday, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Sports Fishing Association, Senator Phillip Shoul, said preparations are proceeding smoothly.

He added that live entertainment will be offered each evening after the competition and encouraged the public to attend.

"The tournament actually starts on Friday morning. The fishing will start at 6am on Friday morning and then we will be having a live band on Friday night at the Falmouth Harbour Marina," Senator Shoul said.

"Preparations are almost com-

plete; all the tents are up and the stage is up because we will have live entertainment for three nights in a row. On Friday night we have Zambai - that's a local band. On Saturday night we have The Strays and 1761 on Sunday night. We have lots of foods and our bars are ready."

Shoul said over 30 boats, including several from neighbouring Caribbean islands, have registered for the competitions.

"We are almost ready. We already have four boats on the dock from Martinique. We have one from St. Maarten and two from Antiguans who actually live overseas but keep their boats here. We expect the other boats to come in

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