

PM BROWNE TO ATTEND SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Story on Page 2



PM Gaston Browne (front row, extreme left) at the 2015 Summit of the Americas in Panama.

Local News



PM Browne to attend Summit of the Americas

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne will attend this month's Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, California.

This is a reversal of the stance he took earlier in protest of the United States of America's decision to exclude Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the hemispheric gathering.

PM Browne was the first among several Caribbean leaders who decided to stay away from the summit in Los Angeles this week in solidarity with their Caribbean and South American neighbours Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

The contention, to date, has been that the US, as merely hosts of the conference, did not have the right to determine which nations would receive invitations to the meeting.

Speaking on his Pointe FM weekend radio show, Browne and Browne, the prime minister announced that he will in fact attend, as the US had softened its position regarding two of the nations at the heart of the issue.

Browne indicated that CARICOM's resolve had impacted the US' position.

"They said certain things to us in confidence and we believed that in light of this we should attend. We, however, plan to continue to advocate for changes," he said.

Last month, the US indicated that it would once again allow an easier flow of remittances into Cuba and loosened restrictions on travel from the US into the country.

Regarding Venezuela, the US appears willing to allow Venezuelan oil into the US, especially now that



Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne (front left), former US President Barack Obama (centre) and Argentina's former President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner (front right), wave during a group photo at the first plenary session of the Summit of the Americas in Panama City, Panama April 11, 2015.

gas prices have hit record highs in states across the North American country.

According to PM Browne, during a caucus of CARICOM leaders in Guyana, it was decided that fourteen of the fifteen members of the group would attend. Only St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister Dr. Ralph

Gonsalves, remained adamant that he will not attend, as it is not the US' call to decide who is invited to attend the summit.

"I have no difficulty with PM Gonsalves' position," PM Browne declared.

The prime minister disclosed that he has had sev-

cont'd on pg 3

Tue 07 | Day

86°

10%
E 14 mph

Sunshine along with some cloudy intervals.
High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.

Humidity
68%

UV Index
Extreme

Sunrise
5:33 am

Sunset
6:39 pm

Tue 07 | Night

78°

15%
ENE 11 mph

Mainly clear skies. Low 78F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.

Humidity
76%

UV Index
0 of 10

Moonrise
12:13 pm

First Quarter

Moonset
12:18 am

cont'd from pg 2

eral interactions with emissaries of US President Joe Biden, including former US Senator Chris Dodd.

"I told Senator Dodd that Antigua and Barbuda is not fighting any ideological war, but the country felt that it had a moral obligation to stand with its hemispheric partners in terms of participation at the conference and for showing no ostracisms," he stated.

PM Browne also revealed that Caribbean states have received assurances that the Venezuelan opposition leader, Juan Guaido, whom the US has openly supported, will not

attend the conference.

"If when I arrive, he is there, then I will be taking the next flight back to Antigua," PM Browne affirmed.

PM Browne leaves today for the conference which starts on Wednesday. He will be joined at the conference by the country's ambassador to the US and the Organisation of American States (OAS), Sir Ronald Sanders.

The IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, will be attended by heads of state and government from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean.

Launched in 1948,

the OAS is considered the primary platform for high-level policy discussions and decision-making on the strategic affairs of the western hemisphere.




BREATHTAKING VIEWS
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



Adventure on a guided aerial tour or charter to your next destination in style. Proudly operating the state-of-the-art Airbus EC130, CalvinAir's flights combine safety, comfort and the highest calibre of service. So soar around Montserrat's volcano, have lunch in St. Barths, or a picnic in Barbuda. The sky is no longer the limit.

For tours or charters call 268.789.HEL1 or visit calvinair.com.

CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

Hospital commits to investigating death of outpatient

The management of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre has promised a review of the circumstances that resulted in the death of a man in the hospital's emergency department.

Terry Emmanuel passed away at SLBMC in April, after reportedly waiting several hours for medical attention.

Now, his family has retained the services of attorney Wendel Robinson to help them determine what happened that fateful day.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that on his first visit to the hospital, Emmanuel decided to leave the facility and return home after he had been forced to wait for a long period to be seen by a doctor. The following day, he sought medical attention from a private doctor.

Apparently, the severity of Emmanuel's illness caused the doctor to refer him back to the hospital, but not before calling SLBMC to ensure that the facility was aware that the patient would require urgent medical attention upon his arrival.

Despite the urgency of the case, Emmanuel was reportedly made to wait again for several hours in the emergency department where he died before receiving medical attention.

Emmanuel's distressed family has expressed an-



ger at the treatment he received and signalled their intention to file a lawsuit against the hospital.

In expressing condolences to Emmanuel's family, a statement issued by the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre described the incident as a "rare event".

The hospital continued that a review of the circumstances surrounding the incident is in progress and added that administrators are committed to taking corrective action.

It continued, "Our hospital remains committed to doing our very best, every day, for every patient, and we will continue to work hard to make sure that happens."

The hospital reiterated its serious commitment to provide safe, timely, compassionate care to all patients seeking care and noted that they continually redesign their processes to ensure access to high-quality medical treatment.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

**GET GYM
FIT WITH
STATE
INSURANCE**

Life | Medical

**OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE
PREFERRED GYM RATES**

Buff up Gym
Stay Fit Gym
National Fitness Centre
Iron Basics Gym
Keep Fit Gym
Twist Fitness Gym

Plans press on to get Andre Simon treatment overseas

Almost a month to the day after Andre Simon was struck by a car, along with three fellow cyclists, the athlete is continuing his slow journey to recovery in hospital, while his relatives do all in their power to raise the funds needed for his costly medical treatment abroad.

In a social media post on Sunday, Simon's sister, Beatrice, acknowledged that "plans to move Andre for treatment overseas have not progressed as quickly as we anticipated".

Explaining the reasons for the delay in his departure, Beatrice said the extent of her brother's brain injury suggests that "surgical intervention may do little to help".

She continued, "very few facilities have programs that can cater to his recovery in promoting consciousness prior to his neurological rehabilitation".

The national cyclist's family had revealed earlier that a US\$500,000 down payment is required to transport him by air ambulance to a medical facility equipped to provide him with advance care.

They have not disclosed whether much progress has been made toward meeting their financial goal.

About two weeks after Simon was injured, Cabinet Spokesman Melford

Nicholas indicated that the government, through the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, would provide assistance for Simon's treatment abroad.

The champion cyclist was recently transferred off the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to another ward at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he is now breathing on his own with the help of a tracheotomy.

This weekend, several

cont'd on pg 6



Andre Simon



Antigua it's Your Time!

BISHOP DR. L.L. SPENCER DR. JAMAL HARRISON BRYANT PROPHET ERNEST AGORTEY

Seasons of
ABUNDANCE

A move of God like never before

MULTIPURPOSE EXHIBITION
 CULTURAL CENTRE
 PERRY BAY, ST JOHN'S | ANTIGUA

JUNE 27TH
 THRU
 JULY 1ST

7PM
 NIGHTLY

For more information contact:
 +1 268-776-5094

STRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

Local News



PM Browne's father to be laid to rest today

The funeral of Prime Minister Gaston Browne's father, Harold A. Browne, will take place today.

The elder Mr. Browne was admitted as a patient

of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre at the time of his passing on Saturday 5th June, 2022.

He was 76-years-old.

According to a state-

ment issued by the Office of the Prime Minister on Saturday, Mr. Browne was predeceased by his son Glen.

Harold A. Browne was also the father of Blondelle, Garilyn, Addison, Marsha and Kimberly.

He was the brother of several sisters and brothers in the United States and Jerome and his wife Maude in the United Kingdom.

The statement further extended appreciation to those persons who expressed condolences to the prime minister and his family on the passing of his father.

The management and staff of Pointeville Communications Ltd. also wish to extend our deep condolences to Prime Minister Browne and his loved ones during their difficult period of loss.

cont'd from pg 5

top performing artists will come together for a fundraising concert on the grounds of the Environment Division from 11am to 6pm.

Tian Winter and

Menace are among the headliners listed for the 11th June event.

A donation of \$25 for adults and \$10 for children will be collected at the venue on the day of the concert.

HOT WINGS & STRIPS ARE BACK!

KFC

SCAN TO VIEW MENU

4 STRIPS \$10.99 5 HOT WINGS \$10.99 HOT WINGS COMBO \$21.99 STRIPS COMBO \$21.99

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: 736-7845 / 562-9444
ALLMARTPLACE.COM
OR DOWNLOAD THE APP...
Apple Store / Google Play

Today is World Food Safety Day

Today, 7th June marks the fourth celebration of World Food Safety Day (WFSD).

WFSD was established by a resolution of the UN General Assembly in December 2018, under the slogan "Food safety, everyone's business".

The National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) in the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) is partnering with the principal Food Safety partners in the Ministries of Health, Wellness and the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs (MAFBA), to bring a series of awareness activities and information sharing opportunities, to highlight the 2022 theme, Safer food, better health.

The Codex Food and Agriculture Technical Committee will focus on the safe production and consumption of eggs for this year's WFSD.

Other activities that will take place

this week include press appearances today and Wednesday; a Central Board of Health (CBH) Food Safety Information drive that will target food handlers, and a drive-by quiz and giveaway event outside the CBH headquarters on Upper Church Street.

The Ministry of Agriculture will also stage a Food Safety Advocacy and Health Walk.

Officers from various ministries

and government agencies will also participate in online discussions and webinars put on by WHO, FAO, PAHO, and other food safety authorities.

Members of the public, civil society and work groups are also encouraged to create placards or other messages and circulate pictures and videos of their WFSD advocacy on social media to support the Safer food, better health campaign.



PHONEARAMA SALE

"WE HAVE THE BEST PRICE"



Don Official Accessories
Tel: (268) 775-4488



\$349 & UP
7" AMAZON FIRE TABLET



\$299
UNIQ 7 INCHES TABLET WIFI



\$599 & UP
SAMSUNG PHONES



\$299 & UP
ZTE & HYUNDAI PHONES



\$99
BLU Z4 PHONE

STORE HOURS: 9AM TO 5PM

DON OFFICIAL STORE - UPPER NEVIS STREET

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

VACANCY HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority's is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Health & Safety Inspector:

The Health & Safety Inspector is responsible for maintaining and improving safety in the workplace by identifying and assessing conditions and procedures of work which could produce accidents and losses. The Inspector will also contribute to developing accident-prevention and loss-control systems/programs and maintaining effective information systems which identify hazards and risks and the steps required to eliminate or control them.

Key tasks include but are not limited to the following:

- Performing Health & Safety functions in any of the Authority's core Business Units - Water, Electricity, Telecoms and Head Office.
- Notifying the Health Safety & Wellness Officer (HSWO) and Business Unit (BU) Manager of accidents or incidents involving employees immediately, on receipt of a report.
- Notifying the HSWO and BU Manager of accidents or incidents involving damage to property within twenty-four (24) hours of a report being received.
- Completing preliminary accident/incident investigations within forty-eight (48) hours of the occurrence of an incident/accident.
- Developing specifications for hazard specific safety devices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sourcing and selecting vendors of the required devices and ensuring that the appropriate stock of these items are maintained.
- Ensuring that employees are suitably trained in the proper use and maintenance of assigned PPE and that employees use the PPE as stipulated.
- Causing a task or equipment to cease operation in a timely manner whenever there are clear indications of imminent danger.
- Documenting and maintaining records, inclusive of complaints received, observed safety violations and actions taken.
- Identify training needs.
- Submitting monthly reports to the HSWO in a timely manner.

The ideal candidates should possess the following:

- Minimum of an Associate's Degree or equivalent in Occupational Health & Safety, Industrial Hygiene, Biology, Chemistry or a related field
- Diploma/Certification in Occupational Health and Safety or related field
- A suitable combination of experience and qualification
- Attention to detail with excellent communication skills
- Proficiency with MS Office suite of applications
- A valid driver's license and a vehicle.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

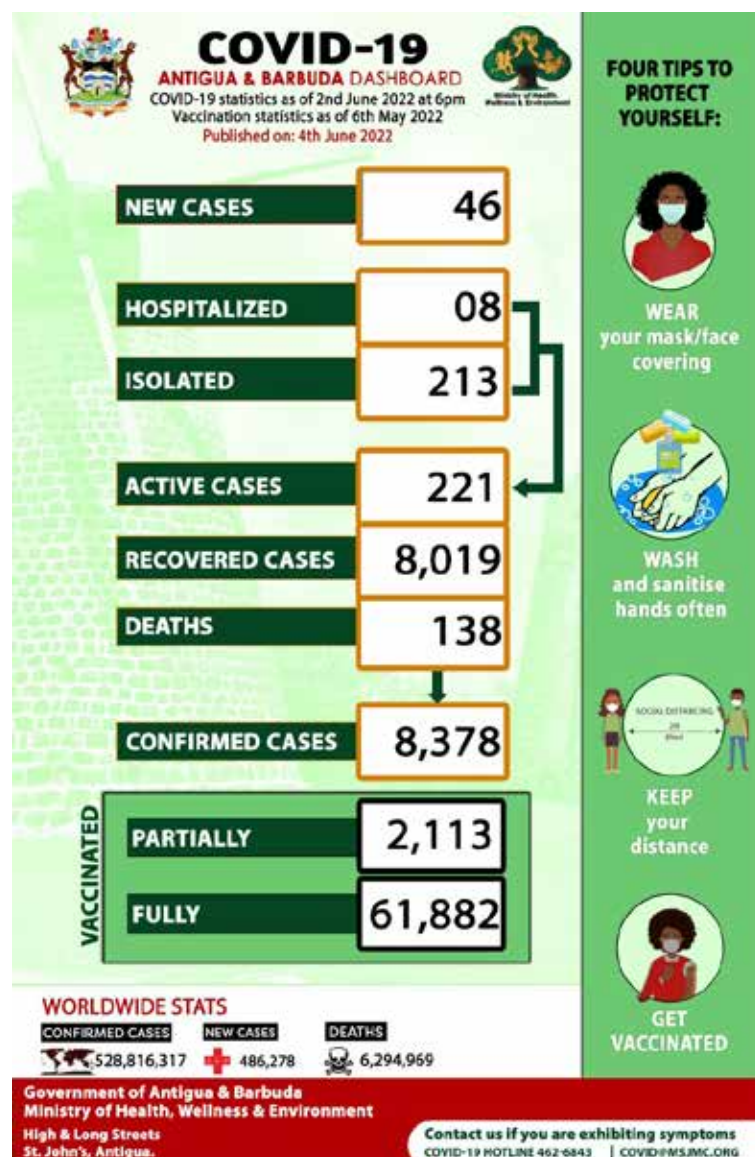
The Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
P.O. Box 416
Crn. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Tuesday 21st June, 2022

** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged **
"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Visit us at www.apua.ag



Eight "mild" COVID-19 hospitalisations

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed forty-six (46) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Thursday 2nd June, 2022 at 6pm.

Sixty-one (61) samples were processed.

Twenty-one (21) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight thousand three hundred and seventy-eight (8,378); which is inclusive of two hundred and twenty-one (221) active cases.

There are eight (8) mild hospitalised cases.

ANDRE SIMON'S FUNDRAISING *Concert*

JUNE 11TH 2022

TIME: 11AM TO 6PM

DONT MISS:

- RAFFLES & AUCTIONS
- BOUNCE CASTLE & FACE PAINTING
- SHIVAS & ELITE DANCERS
- SWEET PAN MUSIC • FOOD & DRINK ON SALE
- MUSIC BY: DJ NEZ • DJ TREMOR • DJ RUTHLESS



DONATION
\$25
ADULTS
\$10
KIDS



TIAN WINTER



MENACE



RICHIE FRANCIS



QUEEN ALTHEA



DRASTIC



JASHAN



KELLY & VENISA



PEETRON



KNOW LABEL



LYRICS MAN

 **ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**

Opinion



Odour in the house

By Tony Deyal

The Palace of Westminster in London, home of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, is known as the “mother of all Parliaments”. Reading about what has happened in it over the years and even now, I know that if it was my mother she would have beaten the hell out of me before and after putting me to sit in a corner facing the wall for a week. Actually, there are 650 elected MPs in the Commons but only 427 seats. Members who don’t want to stand during a big debate, have to be there at eight in the morning to attend prayers and must face the wall while reaching out to the Almighty who, once the devotions end, morphs into the “Speaker” of the House.

In terms of “Members”, one of them, Conservative Neil Parish, was caught watching pornography twice in the House in what he called a “moment of madness”. He said the first time was a mistake. He was looking at tractors on his phone and got a porn site with the same name and his viewing was no longer protracted but distracted. Then, he skipped the tractors totally and went for the front and rear wheels among other parts. The joke was that his wife was so upset that instead of a “Dear John” letter, she sent him a John Deere letter. The “shadow” leader of the Labour party gained considerable traction when

he angrily complained, “The Conservatives knew for days about the disgusting behaviour of one of their MPs and tried to cover it up... This is a government rotting from the head down.”

NPR (National Public Radio) of the US described the Parish departure as “the latest in a string of sexual misconduct allegations in Parliament.” It must have been a “G” (for Government) string since another “Conservative” Member, Imran Ahmad Khan, resigned after he was found guilty of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old. David Warburton (one more Conservative) was much less than conservative and was suspended after sexual harassment and cocaine-use allegations. Then yet another Conservative, one of the party’s lawmakers, was found guilty of sexually harassing a staff member. Maybe he thought his rod and his staff would comfort him but instead they led to his undoing.

When matters like these are raised by Members, the person calling the shots is the Speaker. In Britain, one of the most interesting was John Bercow, a former “Tory” or Conservative MP who was one of the best and toughest Speakers of all time, famous for his bombastic style and his decision to ban Donald Trump for speaking in the UK Parliament. He insisted that the US President should not be allowed to address members and peers due to



Tony Deyal

his record of “racism and sexism”. Among his famous comments are, “I don’t want to crawl over the entrails of past disputes; “For far too long the House of Commons has been run as little more than a private club by and for gentleman amateurs”; “Fairness is not about statistical equality”; and, best of all, “I am seeking every day to restore faith in Parliament- to ensure we have a House of Commons which is representative, effective and reconnected to the people we serve.”

Another of the Speakers in the British Parliament who was very clear on what she stood for was Betty Boothroyd (Baroness Boothroyd), the only woman ever to serve as Speaker of the House of Commons. When she was 17-years-old she worked as a dancer but when she became Speaker,

instead of keeping the Opposition underfoot, she made it clear, “You’ve got to ensure that the holders of an opinion, however unpopular, are allowed to put across their points of view.” She saw the context of Parliamentary discussion in a much different way than Speakers in the Caribbean. Her view was, “The function of parliament is to hold the executive to account. We should never overlook the primacy of parliament.” The comment I like best is when she made it clear to all the members, including the party in power, “Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language.”

One of the roles of all Speakers is to define what is Parliamentary language and to enforce the assembly’s debating rules. For example, in the British House of Com-

cont’d on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

mons, to call a member a “liar” is unacceptable. The person is guilty of a “terminological inexactitude”. In fact, each country has its own unmentionables. In 1997, “liar” and “dumbo” were declared unparliamentary language in Australia and at different times the Canadian parliament banned words like “ignoramus”, “demagogue”, “Canadian Mussolini”, “sick animal”, “scuzzball”, “a piece of sh*t”, and the famous Trudeau “fuddle duddle.” In Hong Kong, members were barred from using the expression (in both Chinese and English) “foul grass grows out of a foul ditch” and another which was equivalent to “stumble on street” but which means “go die” or “go to hell.” India brought out a book of what was considered unparliamentary including “Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, bandicoot, bucket of sh*t, goonda, rat, scumbag and even loudmouth.” Interestingly, in Belgium there is nothing like “unparliamentary”

language. Members are allowed to say anything they want because Belgium sees itself as a democratic state and it is a constitutional right, but only in Parliament. For instance, a member called the Prime Minister a “pedophile” and the only thing that his supporters could do was walk out.

In the Caribbean, the major complaint is not just the amount of leeway given to the party in power but what most Oppositions believe is the clear bias of the Speakers and the speed at which they are shut up, shot down or put out. Clifford E. Griffin’s, “THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: PARTISAN OR NEUTRAL? THE WESTMINSTER LEGACY IN THE ANGLOPHONE CARIBBEAN” deals with the 1995 case of a Speaker of the House in Trinidad and Tobago being put under house arrest following the government’s declaration of a state of emergency. Griffin saw it as “an outcome unthinkable in the United States

and unlikely in the United Kingdom.”

I had worked for the Prime Minister’s Office and my “beat” at one time included Parliament. I asked two of the Speakers, Edgar Mortimer Duke and Arnold Thomasos, when they were in charge, why they gave the Opposition so much leeway. They both said almost the same thing. The Government has the majority and would win every vote. On that basis, rather than shut up the Opposition, the Speaker should give them more time and leeway to make their points or case so that the people of the country would have a better understanding of the issues. What is clear to me is that these two individuals had much better sense than all those who followed them, not just in Trinidad and Tobago, but in the entire Caribbean.

**Tony Deyal was last seen laughing when he found out that when a British politician is described in Parliament as “tired and emotional”, he is intoxicated or dead drunk.*



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind





SATELLITE BRANCH EBENEZER

**DO BUSINESS IN A
BETTER STATE OF MIND**


**FULL
SERVICE**


**EASY
PARKING**


**HASSLE-FREE
PAYMENTS**

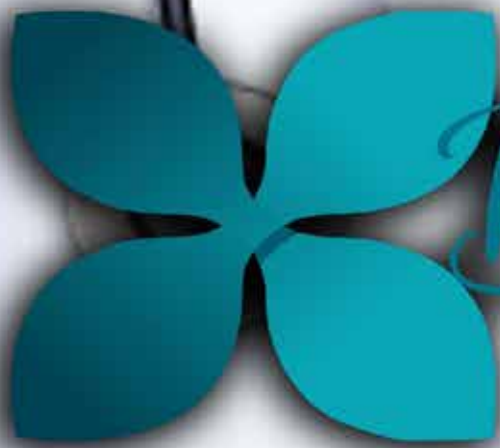

**GREAT CUSTOMER
SERVICE**

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



LET'S TALK HEALTH

**4:00pm - 6:00pm
EVERY MONDAY**



BLUE Haven
Medical Center

DR. HANYBAL YAZIGI
CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST

DR. ALBERT ROLLE.
GENERAL PRACTITIONER WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH.

DR. DAMIAN GORDON
AESTHETIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND FAMILY
PHYSICIAN WITH POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN GENERAL AND SURGICAL
DERMATOLOGY.

SYDNEY RETEMYER
MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGISTS, CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST AND THEOLOGIAN
AREAS OF THERAPY INCLUDE PSYCHOTHERAPY, PSYCHOEDUCATION,
LOGOTHERAPY, RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING, SPIRITUAL COUNSELING,
ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

US Customs completes simplified arrival expansion at all airports for Caribbean travellers

The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency says it has completed the expansion of biometric facial comparison technology at all international airports across the United States to further secure and streamline travel from the Caribbean and other places.

“This innovation effort is a critical milestone for the biometric entry/exit program, and complements biometric boarding, which is currently at select departure locations,” said CBP in a statement.

It said the simplified arrival is an enhanced international arrival process that uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States.

“This process provides travellers with a secure, more touchless travel experience while fulfilling a longstanding Congressional mandate to biometrically record the entry and exit of non-US citizens,” CBP said.

In addition, it said the Caribbean and other foreign travellers, who have visited the United States previously, may no longer need to provide fingerprints, as their identity will be confirmed through the touchless facial biometric process.

“I am very proud that CBP accomplished this critical milestone to deploy facial biometrics at entry at all US airports and continues to play a significant role in the travel recovery efforts,” said Diane J. Sabatino, deputy executive assistant commissioner, Office of Field Operations, CBP. “The use of facial biometrics for identity verification brings travellers one step closer to a truly touchless process that is secure and streamlines travel, while protecting their privacy and enhancing the customer experience.”

CBP said it and its stakeholder part-



ners have been expanding the use of facial biometrics through public/partnerships “to further secure and streamline travel well before the COVID-19 pandemic to meet the biometric exit mandate while supporting air travel modernization efforts.”

Given the need for safe and touchless processes in air travel, CBP said it expedited the expansion of simplified arrival “to provide travellers the benefits of secure, touchless technology, which became even more critical during the pandemic.”

CBP said the biometric facial comparison process occurs only at a time and place where travellers are already required by law to verify their identity by presenting a travel document.

When a traveller arrives at an international airport, CBP said he or she will pause for a photo at the primary inspection point.

CBP said a CBP officer will review and query the travel document, which will retrieve the traveller’s passport or visa photo from government holdings and compare it to the new photo.

“This enhanced process using facial biometrics only takes a few seconds and is more than 98 percent accurate,” CBP assured, stating that it is committed to its privacy obligations and has taken steps to safeguard the privacy of

all travellers.

“CBP has employed strong technical security safeguards and has limited the amount of personally identifiable information used in the facial biometric process,” the statement added.

It said new photos of US citizens will be deleted within 12 hours, and that photos of most Caribbean and other foreign nationals will be stored in a secure Department of Homeland Security system.

CBP said US travellers, Caribbean, and other foreign nationals, who are not required to provide biometrics and wish to opt-out of the new biometric process, can simply notify a CBP officer as they approach the primary inspection point.

“These travellers will be required to present a valid travel document for inspection by a CBP officer and will be processed, consistent with existing requirements for admission into the United States,” CBP said.

To date, more than 171 million travellers have participated in the biometric facial comparison process at air, land, and seaports of entry, CBP said.

Since September 2018, CBP said it has leveraged facial biometrics to prevent more than 1,450 imposters from illegally entering the United States by using genuine travel documents that were issued to other people. (CMC)

Education

UWI St. Augustine says tuition fees will not be increased in keeping with government's recommendation

The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine campus says that in keeping with a recommendation from the government of this twin-island republic, tuition fees will not be increased in the semester that starts in September.

In keeping with the government's position, the UWI stated that the fees for the upcoming semester will "therefore remain the same."

Earlier this week, the government said that it would not support the proposed increase in tuition fees submitted by The UWI St. Augustine Campus to UWI Council for programs covered under Campus Grants Funding.

In a statement on Fri-

day, the UWI's Campus Executive Management team said that it recognizes and empathizes with concerns expressed, especially as it relates to students and prospective students.

"It was for this reason that the decisions to propose fee increases was made with careful consideration of the impact to all involved."

The statement added that "higher enrolment was a major cause for increased costs. More than a decade ago, the Government imperative to increase the tertiary participation rate (defined as the number of tertiary-level graduates in each age cohort, as a percentage of the total number of persons in that cohort



in the population) was based on the principle that tertiary level education is a key factor in moving from developing nation status to first-world status.

According to the UWI, over the last six years, "The Campus has reduced its actual operating expenditure for Campus Grants programs by \$115 million (net of provisioning). Overall staff costs have essentially remained unchanged, despite increased cost due to settlement of union agreements. In fact, the Campus has successfully operated below budget for the past five years and has been commended year on year by technocrats at the Ministries of Education and Finance for its good fiscal management."

"For the past 4 years, the Campus has been managing with a correspondingly reduced TT Government subvention of \$517.1 million.

In justifying the proposal

for an increase, UWI stated that the provision of quality internationally accredited higher educational services to the region is costly.

"The UWI St. Augustine fees have not increased in some 21 years – it was last changed before many of its students were born! The UWI St. Augustine fees are currently the lowest in the UWI system and among tertiary education institutions in the Caribbean.

"The proposal that went before the Government and The UWI seeks to align its tuition fees with those at other Campuses."

In a statement earlier this week, the government in rejecting a proposal from the St. Augustine campus suggested that the regional tertiary institution campus finds other ways to address financial shortfalls including a review of the courses offered. (CMC)

Weekend Puzzle Solution

I FEEL YOUR PAIN By Jill Pepper

1	E	U	S	E		5	E	L	T	A		10	O	G	E	E
14	A	N	T	E		15	I	V	I	E	D		16	P	L	E
17	B	R	E	A	K	S	O	N	E	S	H	E	A	R	T	
20	R	O	L	L	I	C	K	E	D		21	E	N	D		
22	I	L	L		23	P	O	E		24	B	A	S	I	L	S
27	C	L	A	N		28			29	D	R	O	L	L		O
				33	A	B	A		36	A	N	A	T	O	L	I
		38		39	T	E	A	R	S	O	N	E	S	H	A	I
41	W	I	N	N	I	P	E	G		42	T	Y	R			
43	A	L	L		44	B	E	R	Y	L		46	S	A	C	K
50	S	T	A	L	I	N			52	I	N	N		55	T	A
		56	C	A	N		57		58	D	O	N	A	T	I	O
60	W	R	I	N	G	S	O	N	E	S	H	A	N	D	S	
63	A	N	N	E		64	P	O	I	N	T		65	M	A	L
66	G	A	G	S		67	A	R	T	S	Y		68	B	L	E

Two monkeypox strains in US suggest possible undetected spread

By Mike Stobbe

Genetic analysis of recent monkeypox cases suggests there are two distinct strains in the U.S., health officials said Friday, raising the possibility that the virus has been circulating undetected for some time.

Many of the U.S. cases were caused by the same strain as recent cases in Europe, but a few samples show a different strain, federal health officials said. Each strain had been seen in U.S. cases last year, before the recent international outbreak was identified.

Analysis from many more patients will be needed to determine how long monkeypox has been circulating in the U.S. and elsewhere, said Jennifer McQuiston of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I think it's certainly possible that there could have been monkeypox cases in the United States that went under the radar previously, but not to any great degree," she told reporters Friday. However, she added, "there could be community level transmission that is happening" in parts of the U.S. where the virus has not yet been identified.

The CDC said it is trying to increase its work on finding infections, and it's likely more cases will be reported.

The findings mean the outbreak likely will be dif-



ficult to contain, said Dr. Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan.

It's not clear how long infections have been happening, and where. Some infections may have been misdiagnosed as something else.

"We don't really have a good sense of how many cases there are out there," Rasmussen said.

Monkeypox is endemic in parts of Africa, where people have been infected through bites from rodents or small animals. It does not usually spread easily among people.

But last month, cases began emerging in Europe and the United States. Many — but not all — of those who contracted the virus had travelled international-

ly, and health officials in a growing number of countries are investigating.

As of Friday, the U.S. had identified at least 20 cases in 11 states. Hundreds of other cases have been found in other countries, many apparently tied to sexual activity at two recent raves in Europe.

So far, many of the reported cases outside Africa have been in men who have sex with men, but health officials stress that anyone can get monkeypox. One heterosexual woman is among the U.S. cases under investigation, officials said.

The illness typically begins with flu-like symptoms and swelling of the lymph nodes, followed by a rash on the face and body.

No monkeypox deaths have been reported in the

U.S. or Europe so far. But that could change if infections start occurring in more vulnerable people, like very young children or people with weakened immune systems, Rasmussen said.

She raised another concern: Even if outbreaks among people are contained, it's possible the virus could take hold in the U.S. rodent population — either through pets or unwelcome rodents in homes.

"It's not out of the question," Rasmussen said.

Also on Friday, the CDC published an analysis of 17 of the first reported U.S. cases. The average age was 40, and all but one identified themselves as men who have sex with men. Fourteen had travelled internationally, to 11 different countries, according to the report.

Regional News



Suriname preparing for the first-ever kidney transplant

CNW - Health officials in Suriname are preparing to perform the country's first kidney transplant this week.

The operations will be carried out by a team led by Dr. Mirza Idu and Professor Dr. Frederike Bemelman from the Netherlands, supported by some medical specialists from the Academic Hospital Paramaribo (AZP).

Recently, Health Minister Amar Ramadhin finalised a cooperation agreement between Amsterdam UMC and Suriname that led to the implementation of the transplant program.

Amsterdam UMC is the largest kidney transplant centre in the Netherlands with 17,000 employees.

According to the Ministry of Health, the kidney transplant program is a sustainable model, in which the knowledge will be transferred by the foreign team to Suriname, to enable local doctors to perform the trans-

plants on their own.

In recent years, the number of kidney patients in Suriname has grown rapidly and as a result, there has been an increase in the number of people who are now dependent on dialysis.

A kidney transplant places a healthy kidney from a living or deceased donor into a person whose kidneys no longer function properly.

The main function of the kidneys is to filter and remove waste, minerals, and fluid from the blood by producing urine. When kidneys lose this filtering ability, harmful levels of fluid and waste accumulate in the body, which can raise blood pressure and result in kidney failure (end-stage renal disease). End-stage renal disease occurs when the kidneys have lost about 90 percent of their ability to function normally.

"People with kidney failure have to



do dialysis for four hours, three times a week. They have more or less lost their freedom and besides that they are always tired," said cardiothoracic surgeon Krishna Khargi at the opening of a renal outpatient clinic last year.

The approach to kidney transplants in Suriname is that potential candidates find a donor in their own family, someone who is healthy and willing to donate a kidney.

The number of kidney patients in Suriname is estimated to be between 800 and 900.

HIV-positive man jailed for raping nine-year-old child in St. Vincent

CMC - In St Vincent, a High Court judge has sentenced a Cassell Lavia, who knew he was HIV positive when he raped a nine-year-old girl in March 2018, to more than 22 years in jail.

Justice Brian Cottle imposed the 22 years and ten months jail term on 46-year-old Lavia after a jury on May 6, returned unanimous guilty verdicts on one count of unlawful sexual intercourse and two counts of indecent assault of the child.

The judge sentenced Lavia to two years and four



months on each count of the indecent assault charges but ordered that they run concurrent to the longer sentence.

The High Court heard that on March 7, 2018, the child was molested by Lavia over a two-day period and threatened her not to tell

anyone.

But she informed her father and her class teacher, who then reported the matter to the principal and the police.

During his interrogation, Cassell Lavia admitted interfering with the child, but said he had not penetrated her. He told investigators that he knew he was unwell and did not wish to infect the child with his illness.

A doctor, who examined the child, reported no evidence of internal trauma.

cont'd on pg 17

Barbados launches advisory committee on persons with disabilities

CMC - Barbados is expected to have a draft policy and legislation on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWD), by November 30.

This follows the recent launch of the Advisory Committee to guide the establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities, at the Warrens Office Complex.

The Committee will be Chaired by Edmund Hinkson, while the President of the Barbados Council for the Disabled, Kerryann Ifill, will serve as Deputy Chair.

Speaking during the launch, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, Kirk Humphrey, described the establishment of the Committee as important, noting that there were still some people in Barbados who hid their children with disabilities.

However, he acknowledged that the concept was changing, and said the necessary systems needed to be in place to help persons with



disabilities, and offer some level of support, so they were likely to come forward naturally.

Humphrey explained that the Advisory Committee was given a specific mandate by the Government.

“The first is to prepare a national policy on disabilities and a draft bill, which offers comprehensive protection to persons with disabilities. They are also supposed to review the draft legislation,” Humphrey pointed out.

He noted that there was a need for a more comprehensive and modern piece of legislation which spoke to the wider issues.

“The Government has asked that by the next six months, by November 30, that we have that draft policy and draft legislation,” he indicated.

The Committee has also been tasked with developing the terms of reference for the Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities; working towards the preparation of a set of robust disability protection regulations; and establishing relationships with other ministries through Memoranda of Understanding to solicit information.

The Minister further disclosed that Chair of the Law Reform Committee, Sir David Simmons, had agreed to

work with the Committee to help with the legislation and drafting. He will be joined by Professor Velma Newton of the IMPACT Justice Project, who has also offered her resources to render assistance.

“We have the benefit of a lot of expertise in the Committee and outside the Committee. I know this Committee will do very transformative work. I expect Barbados will have the best piece of legislation in relation to this. We will be offering the best protection for persons with disabilities, and the best opportunity for employment for persons with disabilities. The Ministry must move from protection to empowerment...,” Humphrey said.

Once established, the Commission will strive to ensure that the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities are brought to the forefront, so that they may be adequately ventilated and solutions identified.

The National Disabilities Unit will serve as the Secretariat for the Committee.

cont'd from pg 16

In mitigation, Lavia, who did not have a lawyer, told the court that he was sorry and apologised for his actions.

“I do not know what you gonna sentence me or how many years you are gonna give me imprisonment,” he said.

The judge in handing down the sentence said he noted that Lavia did not benefit from secondary education and had been working as a landscaper and gardener.

He said unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 13 carries a

maximum penalty of life imprisonment and that the crime committed on the nine-year-old child is a category one, or exceptional, offense. The judge said the child's parents had trusted Lavia to treat her as if she were his own and he had taken steps to prevent the girl from reporting the crime.

Justice Cottle said Cassell Lavia is infected “with a serious sexually transmitted disease” and that the victim impact report indicated that he knew that he was HIV positive at the time of committing the crime.

Boris Johnson wins vote but suffers large Tory rebellion

BBC - Prime Minister Boris Johnson has won the backing of a majority of Tory MPs in a confidence vote despite a significant revolt against his leadership.

The PM won 59% of the vote, meaning he is now immune from a Conservative leadership challenge for a year. In all, 211 Tory MPs voted they had confidence in the PM's leadership while 148 voted against him.

Mr Johnson described his confidence vote win as "decisive".

Striking an upbeat tone, he said it was a "very good", "convincing" result and "an opportunity to put behind us all the stuff that the media goes on about".

The result sees the prime minister remain in office, but critics said the scale of the rebellion against him showed his authority had been weakened, with some calling on him to resign.

The vote share in support of Mr Johnson was lower than the 63% re-



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson listens to the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani speak at the start of their meeting inside 10 Downing Street, in London, Tuesday, May 24, 2022. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, Pool, FILE)

ceived by former Prime Minister Theresa May when she won a party confidence vote in 2018, before resigning six months later over a Brexit deadlock.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said a "divided" Conservative Party was "propping up" Mr Johnson after he survived the confidence vote.

And Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey said while Mr Johnson had clung on to power, "his reputation is in

tatters and his authority is now totally shot".

But Downing Street said the result "renews the PM's mandate" and allows the government to "focus relentlessly on the issues that concern our voters".

Tory MP and Welsh Secretary Simon Hart told the BBC the prime minister "has lots to prove" but insisted the result "was pretty decisive".

Mr Johnson, who became prime minister in 2019, was informed he would face a vote on his leadership on Sunday during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, after weeks of speculation over his future.

The ballot was triggered by Conservative MPs after at least 15% of them wrote letters of no confidence to Sir Graham Brady, the chairman of the party's backbench 1922 Committee.

Discontent among Tory MPs has grown since a highly critical report into lockdown parties in and near Downing Street during the Covid-19 pandemic was published last month.

Sri Lanka holds its breath as new PM fights to save economy

AP - It has been nearly three weeks since Ranil Wickremesinghe took over as prime minister of Sri Lanka with a daunting mandate to pull the crisis-weary country from the brink of an economic abyss that threatens to tear it apart.

The five-time prime minister has inherited a nation barrelling toward bankruptcy and saddled with foreign debt so big that it has no money left for basic imports. Sri Lankans are

struggling to access the bare necessities like food, fuel, medicine, cooking gas and even toilet paper and matches.

In his new job, Wickremesinghe left little doubt about what lies ahead.

"The next couple of months will be the most difficult ones of our lives," he told the nation fed up with long lines, sky-rocketing inflation and daily protests that seem to be getting out of control.



People wait expecting to buy kerosine oil outside a fuel station in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, June 5, 2022. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

"We must prepare ourselves to make some sacrifices and face the challenges

of this period."

Since the May 17 tele-
cont'd on pg 19

Nigerian forces hunt for gunmen who killed 50 at church

AP – The gunmen who killed 50 people at a Catholic church in southwestern Nigeria opened fire on worshippers both inside and outside the building in a coordinated attack before escaping the scene, authorities and witnesses said Monday.

Although Nigerian security forces have not yet identified who carried out Sunday's attack on St. Francis Church in the town of Owo in relatively peaceful Ondo state, analysts suggested they came from elsewhere in the West African nation, which is plagued by violence from various armed groups, kidnappers and extremists.

No one has claimed responsibility for the church killings, in which children were among the dead and the gunmen used some kind of explosive.

"The attack is undoubtedly terrorist in nature, and the scale and brutality suggests it was carefully planned rather than impulsive," said Eric Humphery-Smith, senior Africa an-



A view of the St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo Nigeria, Sunday, June 5, 2022. Lawmakers in southwestern Nigeria say more than 50 people are feared dead after gunmen opened fire and detonated explosives at a church. Ogunmolasyi Oluwole with the Ondo State House of Assembly said the gunmen targeted the St Francis Catholic Church in Ondo state on Sunday morning just as the worshippers gathered for the weekly Mass. (AP Photo/Rahaman A Yusuf)

alyst at Verisk Maplecroft risk intelligence company.

State Police Commissioner Oyeyemi Oyediran said security forces, including the military, pursued the attackers, "but unfortunately, we could not catch up with them."

Nigeria, which is Africa's most populous country with 206 million people, has grappled for over a de-

cade with an insurgency in the northeast by Islamic extremist rebels of Boko Haram and its offshoot, the Islamic State West Africa Province. The extremists, who have killed more than 35,000 people by a U.N. count, are fighting to establish Sharia law and to stop Western education.

Ondo, however, has long been considered one of

the safer states in the country.

Sunday Adewale, who works in the palace of the local chief, said the gunmen used the element of surprise to their advantage.

"Everybody felt relaxed and had gone to church," he said. "Within 30 minutes, they did what they wanted and went away."

The attack came as worshippers were celebrating the feast of Pentecost, an important Catholic post-Easter holiday. Bishop Jude Arogundade said some gunmen entered the church while others stayed outside to shoot anyone who fled.

Steven Omotayo, who lives nearby, heard the gunshots and rushed to the scene.

"I saw a lot of dead bodies — both young and old, even children," he said. "The people came in and started shooting from the gate."

He said the church has three entrances and the main entrance was said to have been locked, making it difficult for many to escape.

cont'd from pg 18

vised speech, the seasoned politician, who also serves as the finance minister, has begun difficult negotiations with financial institutions, lenders and allies, and United Nations agencies to fill the coffers and give some relief to impatient citizens.

He has taken necessary steps like raising taxes and has pledged to over-

haul government that concentrates power under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a model that many believe exacerbated the crisis.

He took over after days of violent protests last month forced his predecessor, President Rajapaksa's brother Mahinda, to step down and seek safety from angry crowds at a naval base. Wickremesinghe is due to deliver a

much-awaited speech in Parliament on Tuesday that many hope will showcase a strategy to fix the crisis.

But time may not be on his side as reforms are slow and people want results now.

He's also a one-man party in Parliament — the only lawmaker from his party to hold a seat after it suffered a humiliating defeat in a 2020 election.

Sports News



Princess Margaret School celebrates during the 2022 Interschool Athletics Championships Awards Ceremony in the Presidential Suite at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 4th June.

Champions PMS, dominate Interschool track and field awards

Several athletes from the Princess Margaret School (PMS), champions in this year's Interschool Athletics Championships, were among the outstanding performers to receive recognition during an awards ceremony held in the Presidential Suite at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 4th June.

The outstanding athletes were instrumental in powering PMS to both male and female division titles in the schools' track and field championship at the YASCO

Sports Complex on 25th and 26th March.

PMS won the male division title by amassing 302 points. Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) secured second place with 124 points, and Clare Hall Secondary claimed third place with 88 points. PMS also claimed the female division title with a tally of 310 points.

Ottos Comprehensive School captured the second runner-up position with 136 points, while All Saints Secondary grabbed third place

with 60 points, just two points ahead of Clare Hall Secondary who were forced to settle for fourth place.

The top three teams in each category were presented with trophies.

As expected, athletes from PMS dominated the prize giving ceremony during which speeches were delivered by Director of Education, Clare Browne, and Commissioner of Sports, Colin James.

Also in attendance were Director of Sports, Heather

Samuel-Daley, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Sports, Rosa Greenaway.

Four athletes from PMS captured the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Awards in four of the six age categories.

Among them were 2022 CARIFTA Games 100-metre gold medallist, Dwayne Fleming, who won the Under-17 Boys' MVP award, and Kadeem Campbell who claimed the Under-20 Boys' MVP title.

Gerilyn Barnes won the Under-15 Girls' MVP title, while Mia McIntosh captured their Under-20 Girls' MVP award. The other two MVP awards were captured by OCS. Blessyn Burton took home the Under-15 Boys' MVP title, while La Nica Locker won the Under-17 Girls' MVP award.

Fleming won gold in the Under-17 Boys' 100M, 200M and 800M and silver in

cont'd on pg 21



Ottos Comprehensive School at the 2022 Interschool Athletics Championships Awards Ceremony.

cont'd from pg 20

the 400M, which was won by his PMS colleague, Osei Gardener.

Campbell won gold in the Under-20 Boys' Long Jump and 400M and silver in the 200M, which was won by his PMS colleague Ajahni Daley, and bronze medal in the 100M, also won by Daley.

Barnes, who won gold in the Under-15 Girls' 200M, Shot Put and Long Jump, claimed a silver medal in the 100M final that was won by PMS' teammate Aleema Rhiney.

McIntosh captured gold medals in the Under-20 Girls' 100M, 200M, 400M and 800M. Burton captured gold in the Under-15 Boys' 400M and Long Jump and silver in Shot Put. Locker captured gold in the 200M and silver medal in the 100M, 400M and Shot Put.

Several other outstanding athletes also received awards.

Among them was PMS' Kishorn Hamilton, who won gold in the Under-20 Boys' 800M and 1500M events.

Tanika James of PMS won gold in the Under-17 Girls' 100M and captured silver medals in the 800M and Open 3000M. Jolisa Cata of PMS won gold in



PMS' Mia McIntosh accepts the Under-20 Girls MVP award from Commissioner of Sports Colin James.

the Under-17 Girls' 800M and claimed bronze medals in the 400M and 1500M. Osei Gardener also captured silver medals in the Under-17 Boys' 100M and 200M. Ivan Barnes of PMS won gold in the Under-17 Boys' Shot Put and silver in the Long Jump.

Kasiya Daley of PMS won gold in the Under-17 Boys' Long Jump and sil-



PMS' Dwayne Fleming accepts the Under-17 Boys MVP Award.

ver in the High Jump.

Markus Murphy of All Saints Secondary School captured gold in both the Under-15 Boys' 1500M and Open 5000M.

Nicholas Simpson of Ottos Comprehensive School won gold in the Under-17 Boys' Javelin and High Jump and silver in Shot Put.

Zody Roberts of Antigua State College won gold in the Under-20 Boys' Javelin, silver medals in the 100M and Shot Put and bronze in the 200M.

Hannah Charles of Antigua Girls' High School won gold in the female open 3000M and silver in the Under-17 Girls' 1500M.

Lily Eastman of St. Anthony's Secondary School won gold in the Under-17 Girls' 100M and took home a silver medal in the 200M final.

Nathaniel Jones of Glanvilles Secondary School won gold in the Under-15 Boys' 200M and silver in the 100M.

Deshann Martin of OCS won gold in the Under-20 Boys' Shot Put and silver in Javelin, while Tarek Charles of All Saints Secondary School won silver medals in the Under-20 Boys' 800M and 1500M and bronze in the 400M.



OCS' La Nica Locker, left, accepts her Under-17 Girls MVP Award.



OCS' Blessyn Burton accepts the Under-15 Boys MVP Award.

Sports News



DaSquad claim first title, Stoneville stage comeback to retain championship

JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad won their first national women's title and Stoneville retained their men's championship as the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League came to an end at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday.

Da Squad, who finished last in the final tournament held in 2019, rebounded to produce an unbeaten display to claim their inaugural title.

Fittingly, it took a special performance to dethrone perennial title winners, Paragons, as Da Squad defeated the defending champions 3-1 in the women's division final before an appreciative crowd.

After pulling off an emphatic 3-1 victory in the preliminaries over Paragons, title winners since 2009, Da Squad produced another commanding performance to prevail 25-17, 22-25, 25-15,

25-17 in the finale.

Head Coach Carl Williams said winning the title is a rewarding result for the hard work produced by Da Squad.

"I am very happy for the ladies, they have worked hard over the months, and it is very fitting for them to go out victorious," Williams said.

"The ladies did the work, and we as coaches just communicated with them by telling them what we needed them to do and they went out and executed.

"Now we knew Paragons wasn't going to come and lay down, but despite a little bit of finals jitters, in the end the girls were victorious, and we are proud of them."

Meanwhile, Stoneville recovered from a poor start to overcome Michael Free-land Enforcers 3-2 in the keenly contested final to capture their fifth men's division title.



JanServeEvents Cool & Smooth Da Squad celebrate after winning their first national women's volleyball at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 4th June.

The defending champions had to dig deep after falling behind early against Enforcers who made a bright and enterprising start to the final by winning the first two sets 25-13, 25-22.

However, coach Olsen "Karrot" Joseph, assessed the situation quickly and withdrew Stoneville's inexperienced setter, Dominique Anthony, and stepped in himself about midway in the opening set.

The masterful move saw Joseph orchestrate a comeback by skilfully setting up his attackers, captain Adrian Constant, Delshorn "Vincy" Welcome and Bralio Estiada.

Constant, the top attacker for the senior national side was unstoppable, as he successfully put away virtually all his plays in a tremendous and efficient display of top-quality spiking, to spectacularly turn the match in Stoneville's favour.

Reminiscent of an encounter in the preliminaries when they were able to recover from losing the first two sets to Enforcers, Stoneville repeated the feat by winning the last three sets 25-22, 25-22, 15-10 to retain their title.

Coach Joseph said he made his timely intervention to inspire the recovery after Stoneville found the going tough at the start of the final.

"My performance to me was not up to par, but at the end of the day, I wasn't playing regularly because I chose to play my young setters instead during the tournament. However, in the final, it was going a little too tough and so I had to step in and do what I had to do," Joseph said.

Constant had high commendation for his teammates, especially Bralio Estiada, for performing

cont'd on pg 23



Stoneville pose with their trophy after retaining their men's volleyball championship. (Photos courtesy ABAVA)

Powell, Shepherd to meet Windies in Multan after missing Netherlands ODIs

ESPN - Rovman Powell and Romario Shepherd missed the three-match ODI series in the Netherlands because of visa delays, Cricket West Indies (CWI) said in a statement on Friday.

Both Powell and Shepherd immediately travelled to London from India after their participation in the IPL, as their visa interviews could not have taken place in India due to the IPL bio-secure protocols.

The CWI statement said that “despite having the interviews the day after their arrival, they are both still in London awaiting the appropriate visas to be able to travel to the Netherlands.”

Powell played for Delhi Capitals and played his last game on May 21 in Mumbai, whereas Shepherd, who represented Sunrisers Hyderabad, played his last match in the IPL on May 22.

Both teams did not qualify for the IPL playoffs which would have given the West Indies squad hope of the two players making it for the ODIs in



Rovman Powell
Netherlands.

After the final match of the Netherlands ODI series in Amstelveen - which West Indies won 3-0 - Powell and Shepherd were expected to fly directly to Pakistan for the ODI series starting June 8 in Multan.

The West Indies squad travelled from Amsterdam to Pakistan on Sunday for matches at the Multan Cricket Stadium on June 8, 10 and 12.

The games were initially slotted



Romario Shepherd for Rawalpindi but were moved to Multan in light of political uncertainty in Islamabad, the country's capital, adjacent to Rawalpindi.

ODI squad to Pakistan: Nicholas Pooran (capt), Shai Hope (vice-capt), Nkrumah Bonner, Shamarh Brooks, Keacy Carty, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Shermon Lewis, Kyle Mayers, Anderson Phillip, Rovman Powell, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Hayden Walsh Jr.

cont'd from pg 22

outstandingly to overcome various challenges to secure the national men's volleyball title.

“This is well deserved. The guys played well all season and we have been battling all season with injuries, especially to my #12 Bralio (Estiada).

“Bralio is one of my glue guys, and all season he has been struggling with injuries, but he called me up earlier in the day and told me he was ready, and he came and

put on a show.

“If we had to give a man of the match tonight, it had to be given to Bralio,” Constant stated.

“Yes, I was scoring, yes, I was blocking, but when the team really needed him, Bralio came through. The rest of the team really played well because contrary to what others may say, I was suffering from dehydration throughout the day, and I was able to get in some shape by drinking a lot of Gatorade and Pedialyte to get hydrated

enough to play in the final.

“So, the boys really helped me and really came through to make it five title wins for us.”

Enforcers coach, Carl Williams, said his team failed to stick to their game plan, which proved to be their undoing.

“Obviously, I am a bit disappointed. We came here with a game plan, and we stuck to it and won the first two sets.

“Then we relaxed and got carried away with the

game and we gave Stoneville momentum.

“Stoneville is a very balanced team, and the result is there to show. We gave them momentum and they took advantage of it,” Williams said.

Jets beat North Coast Hardware Starz 25-11, 25-15, 25-22 to capture third place in the female division, while High Flyers claimed third place in the men's division, prevailing 25-15, 20-25, 25-22, 25-18 against Renegades.

Sports News



Blatter, Platini finally going to court in FIFA fraud trial

AP - Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini's 11-day trial on charges of defrauding FIFA starts Wednesday — finally bringing the epic downfall of soccer's former world leaders into criminal court.

The fallout from the case ousted Blatter ahead of schedule as president of FIFA and ended Platini's campaign to succeed his former mentor. It also removed Platini as president of UEFA, the governing body of European soccer.

In 2015, federal prosecutors in Switzerland revealed their investigation into a \$2 million payment from FIFA to Platini from four years earlier. The pair will go on trial in Bellinzona.

The subsidiary charges include forgery of the invoice in 2011 that allowed Blatter to authorise FIFA to pay the 2 million Swiss francs (about \$2 million) Platini had asked for. The claim was for the former France soccer great to be paid extra money for being an advisor — without having a contract for it — in Blatter's first presidential term from 1998-2002.

Both have long denied wrongdoing and claim they had a verbal deal in 1998. That defence first failed with judges at the FIFA ethics committee, which banned them from soccer,



FIFA president Sepp Blatter is greeted by UEFA President Michel Platini, right, after Blatter's re-election as president at the Hallenstadion in Zurich, Switzerland, on May 29, 2015. Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini enter a criminal court Wednesday charged with defrauding world soccer body FIFA. It's an 11-day trial of two men, once the most powerful in the world's favourite sport. (Patrick B. Kraemer/Keystone via AP, File)

and later in separate appeals at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Now the case comes to a criminal court which will sit only until lunchtime each day because of the 86-year-old Blatter's health, 18 months after he was in a coma following heart surgery.

Blatter is due to be questioned Wednesday and Platini one day later. Both are expected to give closing statements on June 22, when the trial ends.

The three federal judges hearing the case are scheduled to deliver their verdict on July 8. Blatter and Platini each face up to five years in prison, but suspended sentences are a likely option.

Blatter said in a statement everything was accounted for properly and he is optimistic about his chances at the trial. Platini denounced what he called "unfounded and unfair accusations." He has claimed the allegations were fed to prosecutors in a plot to stop him from becoming FIFA president.

Arguments and evidence in court will revisit the widely discredited FIFA political culture during Blatter's 17-year presidency, and around the time Qatar controversially won the hosting rights to this year's World Cup.

Platini sent his invoice to FIFA in January 2011, only weeks after the World Cup

vote. It was quickly paid as Blatter's next re-election campaign took shape.

Qatar's top soccer official, Mohamed bin Hammam, used the momentum of his nation's rising status in a failed challenge to Blatter. Platini was seen as both Blatter's presumed heir, likely in 2015, and a key ally Bin Hammam needed to win European votes.

In the published indictment, Swiss prosecutors do not cite FIFA politics as a motive for payment. They focus on the facts of Platini being enriched by an allegedly unlawful salary claim and a further 229,000 Swiss francs (\$238,000) of social security taxes paid by FIFA in Zurich.

Coco Gauff's ranking up to career-high 13th; Nadal up to 4th

AP — American teenager Coco Gauff rose to a career-best No. 13 in the WTA rankings on Monday after her runner-up finish to No. 1 Iga Swiatek at the French Open.

Gauff, an 18-year-old from Florida, jumped 10 spots by getting to her first Grand Slam final before losing to Swiatek 6-1, 6-3 on Saturday.

Gauff had never been past the quarterfinals at a major tournament. She made it to the finals of singles and doubles at Roland Garros.

Her doubles partner, Jessica Pegula, moved into the singles top 10 for the first time, going from No. 11 to No. 8, thanks to her run to the quarterfinals. Like Gauff, the 28-year-old from New York lost to Swiatek, who has now won her past 35 matches in a row.

Last year's French Open champion in singles and doubles, Barbora Krejickova, lost in the first round of singles this time — only the third woman in the professional era to exit in the first



Coco Gauff of the U.S., right, and Jessica Pegula of the U.S. talk as they play France's Caroline Garcia and France's Kristina Mladenovic during their women's doubles final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Sunday, June 5, 2022 in Paris. (AP Photo/Jean-Francois Badias)

round at Roland Garros a year after earning the trophy — and dropped from No. 2 in the rankings to No. 14. She pulled out of the doubles event two days later, saying she tested positive for COVID-19.

The French Open's effect on the rankings for both the WTA and ATP will hold sway longer than usual, because the two professional tours have announced they will not award points this year for Wimbledon, which

starts on June 27.

That was in response to the All England Club's decision to bar players from Russia and Belarus from the grass-court Grand Slam tournament because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Rafael Nadal's 14th French Open title, and 22nd Grand Slam trophy overall, lifted him one place to No. 4 behind top-ranked Novak Djokovic.

Nadal beat Djokovic in the quarterfinals along the

way to the final, where he overwhelmed Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 on Sunday and became, two days after his 36th birthday, the oldest man to win the singles championship at Roland Garros — all despite needing pain-killing injections for a chronic problem in his left foot.

Nadal has won both of this year's major titles so far, including the Australian Open in January, but his ranking is hurt by his lack of activity over the past 12 months. He played only two matches between the end of the 2021 French Open and the end of last season because of that foot, then missed more time this year because of that issue and a rib injury.

Ruud went up to a career-best No. 6 from No. 8 by reaching his first Grand Slam final.

cont'd from pg 26

in Antigua and Barbuda's goal before firing wide of an empty net.

Earlier, James, who caused Antigua and Barbuda's problems with pace, was also saved from inside the box.

Referee Moeth Gaymes denied Barbados a first half penalty when Omani Leacock was brought down in the box.

The Tridents' goalkeeper, Kishmar Primus, was also brilliant, making four saves,

but the game changing moment came in stoppage time.

Philip scored the decisive goal in the 91st minute, prompting dramatic scenes when his right-footed effort from close range sneaked past Primus and into the roof of the net.

It gave Antigua and Barbuda their maiden win over Barbados in international football dating back to 1990 when the two nations first met.

Antigua & Barbuda's Benna Boys stun Guadeloupe in Nations League

Antigua and Barbuda's senior Benna Boys snatched a 1-0 victory over Guadeloupe at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday night to move to the top of the standings after two rounds of matches in Group A of League B in the CONCACAF Nations League.

Myles Weston scored the winner in the 55th minute to give Antigua and Barbuda their second victory in as many matches, which propelled the Benna Boys to the top of the four-team group with six points.

Substitute, Eugene Kirwan, also missed the easiest chance to score and increase Antigua and Barbuda's lead when he failed to control a pass from fellow substitute, Ashley George.

George created the chance when he made an incisive run down the left flank to get behind the Guadeloupe defence.

He then made a cross, which eluded the Guadeloupe custodian at the near post and his entire defence, to find the onrushing Kirwan, who failed to control the ball, only succeeding in placing the ball into the arms of the stranded goalkeeper instead of the empty net.

It was Guadeloupe's first ever CONCACAF Nations League defeat.

Les Gwada Boys previously won their five Nations League matches since the competition's start.

The best chance came in the 15th minute from Guadeloupe's Nathanael Saintini, who made a sharp cut to his left foot and blasted the ball towards goal, only to be carried away by Antigua and Barbuda's goalkeeper Nick



The Antigua and Barbuda starting XI in the CONCACAF Nations League Group A League B encounter against Guadeloupe at Warner Park in Basseterre, St. Kitts, on 5th June, 2022. Myles Weston, second left back row, scored the lone goal of the match.

Townsend. Saintini later found himself free in the penalty area after a nifty give-and-go play in the 29th minute, but skied the finish.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda managed only a few long-range efforts in the first half.

Guadeloupe controlled the early stages of the second half and looked almost certain to score, but an Antigua and Barbuda long ball over the top saw Weston put the Benna Boys in front 10 minutes after the interval.

Though Les Gwada Boys had many chances to grab a goal of their own, Townsend and the Antigua and Barbuda defence did well to keep them off the board and by doing so, catapulted themselves into the driver's seat in the group.

Antigua and Barbuda will remain in Basseterre for their next match

against Cuba at 7pm on Thursday, while Guadeloupe will travel to St. Lucia for a clash with Barbados on the same day at 6pm.

Barbados suffered an agonising 1-0 defeat to Antigua and Barbuda in their first match of the 2022-2023 CONCACAF Nations League last Thursday night at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St. Lucia.

Russell Latapy's men were the better team for long periods of the 90-minute contest but failed to convert several goal-scoring chances before substitute Shavron Philip scored an injury-time winner for the Benna Boys.

Eighteen-year-old debutant striker, Tajio James, squandered his best opportunity on the hour mark, latching on to a through ball from Keon Atkins, beating an advancing Nick Townsend

cont'd on pg 25