

WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 110 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

BODY FOUND IN BATHLODGE, SUICIDE SUSPECTED

Story on Page 2



Antigua and Barbuda's flagship beer, Wadadli, could soon return to being locally produced following word from Prime Minister Gaston Browne that Antigua Distillery Ltd. is tipped to take control of the new Antigua Brewery Ltd. *Story on page 7*

Local News



Police investigate suspected suicide

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has launched an investigation following the discovery of a body early Tuesday afternoon.

The man, identified as Craig Samuel of Bathlodge, was discovered by a relative a short distance from his home in a bushy area hanging from a tree by a rope.

It is believed that he had been there for several days at least due to the state of decomposition.

The 37-year-old man had not been seen since mid-afternoon on Saturday, according to relatives.

The district medical doctor who was called to the scene pronounced Sam-

uel dead at approximately 6:03pm on Tuesday.

This is the second suspected suicide this year.

On 3rd May, a 54-year-old Jamaican man was found hanging by the neck from a tree in his backyard in Lower Ottos.

A neighbour made the gruesome discovery two days after he was last seen.



Wed 08 Day		Wed 08 Night	
85°		78°	
13% E 13 mph		6% E 11 mph	
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High near 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 67%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 77%	UV Index 0 of 10
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PM Browne attends Summit of the Americas with long “laundry list”

Antigua and Barbuda’s prime minister has left for the Summit of the Americas with a definitive list of items his administration wants the United States of America to pay attention to this week.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne hopes to draw US attention to issues of great concern to Antigua and Barbuda, and the wider Caribbean.

In a recent radio in-

terview, PM Browne said the US has been showing greater interest in the Caribbean of late, but he believes the region’s North

American neighbour can go further.

“Now that COVID-19 is considered endemic, it will continue to negatively impact our economies. The US should be helping us by putting in place a post-COVID marshall plan to help our economies.

“They have given billions to Ukraine. What about us in the Caribbean?” he queried.

Noting that the US is a major contributor to greenhouse emissions which are at the root of climate change, the prime minister also wants the US to help the Caribbean establish mitigation measures to cope with the effects of climate change, such as the prolonged drought that Antigua and Barbuda is experiencing and the constant threat of increasingly powerful hurricanes.

Antigua and Barbuda’s leader also noted that the US government often makes reference to the Caribbean Basin Initiative and encourages Caribbean governments to take advantage of the provisions

which allow for increased exports from the region to the US.

Browne pointed out, however, that countries like Antigua and Barbuda have little to export to the US as their manufacturing sectors are limited. To counter this, he has suggested that the COVID-19 pandemic has created the opportunity for laboratories and medical manufacturing facilities to be developed in the region that could produce vaccines, under licence.

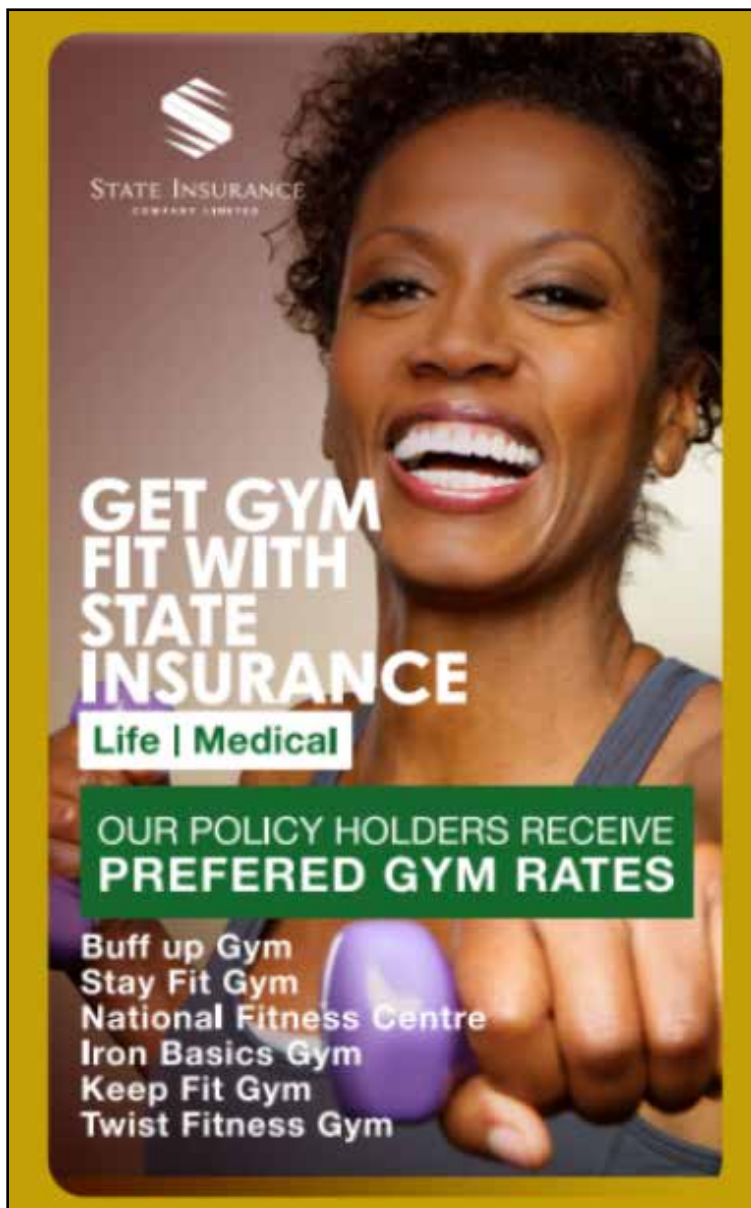
These facilities would aid in reducing the cost of vaccines and other medicines and to improve access to these life saving treatments.

The prime minister also wants specially tailored programmes that will take into account the vulnerabilities of the small states of the Caribbean, especially those in the OECS.

The Summit of the Americas, which is being hosted by the United States of America this year in Los Angeles, California, concludes on 10th June.



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Local News



Two escape serious injuries after freak accident at the port

A senior Antigua Port Authority official has confirmed that an accident took place at the Deep Water Harbour on Monday in which two men were taken to hospital for treatment.

A mobile phone video in circulation showed two men in visible pain lying on the concrete close to two shipping containers, while two other people present attempted to render assistance.

Not much can be drawn from the 35 second video,



but Chief Security Officer, Jason Roberts, confirmed to *Pointe Xpress* that the men became trapped be-

tween two containers.

He explained one container was already in place while the other was being

lowered into position. What happened in that short moment is unclear, but the two men, whose identities have not been revealed, became caught in between the shipping containers.

Escaping the accident with their lives, the men were taken to hospital by ambulance where they were treated for minor injuries and released on Monday.

At least two port officials, including Roberts, said the men are not employees of Antigua Port Authority; both are stevedores employed by Caribseas Limited.

An investigation has been launched and a report is expected to be submitted in short order.

The chief security officer said the contents of the report will be carefully reviewed and changes, if necessary, will be implemented.

Operations at the Deep Water Harbour were unaffected by the incident.

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STRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

AOSIS: Adaptation, financing for SIDS to feature at Climate Change Conference

The Alliance of Small Islands States, AOSIS, is adamant that developed countries heed the call to set up dedicated financing to assist Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that are ravaged by climate change impacts.

This will be discussed at the 56th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany from June 6th - 16th.

These discussions will set the stage for key negotiations at the 27th UN Conference of the Parties (COP27) in November, when heads of government and policymakers will convene to address the critical global climate challenges.

As negotiations climaxed at COP26 in the UK last year, AOSIS

was leading the charge for countries to create a concrete loss and damage financing facility, a transformative move that would have given SIDS the opportunity to recover from climate disasters without onerous debt burdens. However, in the interest of coming to an agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C, AOSIS made a significant concession after being given a take it or leave deal for the creation of the "Glasgow Dialogue" on funding arrangements to address loss and damage.

Though dissatisfied with the final text of the Glasgow Dialogue, AOSIS is committed to participate constructively in the dialogue, which began on 7th June, through to a clear destination of real action to safeguard SIDS threatened by climate impacts.



Lead Climate Negotiator for AOSIS, Ambassador Conrod Hunte

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Conrod Hunte, Lead Climate Negotiator for AOSIS, signalled the group's strategy at the opening of the Bonn session.

"As we stated at the adoption of
cont'd on pg 6

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Local News



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- Ability to create, analyze and interpret numerical data, written reports, and commercial contractual agreements.
- Working Knowledge of budgeting, forecasting, & financial management.
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- Excellent project management skills with the ability to handle multiple tasks and responsibilities simultaneously.

Application Process

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cont'd from pg 5

CMA.3 last year, AOSIS firmly believes that this year's Glasgow Dialogue should lead to the conclusion that a new Loss and Damage Finance Facility is necessary and will be adopted at this year's COP, so that the future Glasgow Dialogues to 2024 can operationalise the Facility.

"We reiterate that position here today and signal our position for an agenda item on funding arrangements at COP 27 and CMA 4 to facilitate this becoming a reality," he said.

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Walton Webson, AOSIS Chair continued, "The stakes are devastatingly high, and further concession could mean catastrophe for SIDS. The science is clear.

"Last February, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Sixth Assessment Report on Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability which reveals a dire prognosis for SIDS if urgent system change and transformation do not occur. We SIDS have the special considerations of literally being on the frontlines of climate change as we deal with rising sea levels that threaten our ecosystems, infrastructure, industry and society, and we live with heightened vulnerability to climate disasters."

The Global Goal on Adaptation work programme was successfully launched in the Maldives on 16-17



AOSIS Chairman, Ambassador Walton Webson

May. AOSIS is also calling on developed countries to deliver on their commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025 and ensure that SIDS are prioritised in this scaling up.

Additionally, AOSIS expects to see revised and strengthened Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), or country targets, by September from the G20 major emitters, where countries take accountability and necessary action to halve emissions within this decade.

"A just transition should and can be accelerated, if only developed countries commit to leading with integrity. They must honour their pledges, such as the USD \$100 billion per year for climate finance – a figure they have not met, while spending five times the amount on fossil fuel subsidies. The global architecture to address climate change is failing SIDS. It is critical that we implement an equitable system where vulnerable populations and smaller economies no longer pay the price for the destructive emissions of the developed world," said Ambassador Webson.

New details emerge regarding Antigua Brewery's revival

New details have emerged regarding the proposed redevelopment of the defunct Antigua Brewery at Crabbes Peninsula.

One of the oldest companies in the country, Antigua Distillery Ltd. has been identified to spearhead the revival of local beer production.

This will be done in collaboration with Brutek, the German company that was formerly involved in the operations of the Antigua Brewery before it sold its shares to a company based in the Dominican Republic.

The Antigua and Barbuda government is to own between 15 and 20 percent of the new company that will be established to undertake the brewery's revival.

This information was disclosed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Prior to the decision to move ahead with Antigua Distillery Ltd., Browne revealed that the government had made a tentative arrangement with the Trinidad and Tobago-based company, Carib Brewery, to revive the brewery.

However, following a proposal by Antigua Distillery Ltd., which was accompanied by a Letter of Intent from a consortium of local banks indicating that funding for the project up to \$16 million has already been secured, the government opted to move forward with the local company.

According to PM Browne, the plan is to install a smaller plant at the

Crabbes Peninsula facility that will produce beer, mainly for the local market.

He went on that the door may not be entirely closed to Carib Brewery, however, as he sees an opportunity for the redeveloped Antigua Brewery to produce some of that company's products under licence.

According to the prime minister, a main reason for the decision to close Antigua Brewery's local operations and move production to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was that the former plant was older and inefficient.

The government's shares in the new company will be held by the National Asset Management Company (NAMCO).

Trial of trio charged with rape begins today

The trial of three men accused of gang raping a teenager four years ago begins in the High Court today.

According to court documents, the incident is alleged to have happened on 26th December, 2018, in St. Paul's Parish.

The victim was seventeen years old at the time of the attack.

Two of the accused men were 18 at the time of the alleged assault, while the other was 24.

A fourth person who was implicated in the incident left the country prior to charges being filed.

Two of the men are



charged with rape, while the other is charged with serious indecency.

The defendants are being represented by attorneys

Lawrence Daniel, Wendel Robinson and Pete Semaj McKnight.

The case for the prosecution will be presented

by Crown Counsel Cedric Dyer.

The case is expected to conclude by the end of the week.

Local News



Additive use increases in agriculture during dry periods

A natural resource management expert has highlighted the threat posed to food production, safety and security by climate change.

On the observance of World Food Safety Day yesterday, Ruleta Camacho-Thomas said, climate change and pollution are major factors impacting food safety globally. Increased temperatures, she revealed, are affecting productivity, specifically in periods of drought.

“In times where there is scarcity of water, then farmers may have to use more inputs on their crops,



Ruleta Camacho-Thomas

more pesticides, more additives to help to produce that food, and we have to think about those impacts on our food itself and allowing those chemicals to break down properly before we consume the food.”

Camacho-Thomas said

proper management in agriculture is important to ensuring food safety. She credited the Ministry of Agriculture for its education programme through which farmers are informed about the steps that can be taken to ensure that their food is fit

for consumption.

Consumers are advised to purchase fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products from reputable producers to be assured that the additives used are properly broken down and unable to cause harm when consumed.

This year, World Food Safety Day was observed under the theme “Safer Food, Better Health”. According to the World Health Organization, the theme sought to draw attention to, and mobilise action to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks and improve human health.

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Workplace



Overcoming the challenges of digital transformation

Last time we shared with you an excerpt from our President's presentation at the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO), Human Resource and ICT 2022 Forum. That article shared some insights on the challenges that confront our organizations with digital transformation. Today, we will offer some possible solutions or recommendations of how, as HR practitioners, we can contribute to overcoming the challenges identified.

As a reminder, the challenges highlighted were

lack of clarity on the precise nature of digital transformation, inertia, organizational culture, financial or economic constraints, and the lack of the relevant expertise.

So, how do we convince our business owners and decision makers to see the value of digital transformation (DT) to the business?

Provide the necessary training to bring clarity on what digital transformation is and what it is not, and to retool and reposition displaced workers. We understand very well



that jobs will change. A direct impact of DT on current roles is that some new tasks will be created, some will be modified but others will be eliminated altogether. We have to keep encouraging our people to adopt an attitude of continuous learning.

Communicate and engage with decision makers to mitigate risks associated with inertia and then emphasize the need for culture change to drive awareness. Include the threat of what could happen if structured changes are not implemented.

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Workplace



cont'd from pg 10

mented in a timely manner.

Encourage organization heads to reframe and reimagine how they see competition and define clients. This should not only create the need for organizational change but also cause them to develop a conscious desire to change, acquire the knowledge they need to make this happen and then incorporate it into the new way of doing things.

Implement pilot programmes as a means of managing financial constraints. Small scale trials would require less of an initial investment. It also gives the organization a

chance to see what works best for them and what does not. DT is not a one size fits all scenario. Most software solutions are designed for larger organizations and huge markets so that any solution that is onboarded in our developing region would have to be scaled and customized to our reality.

Crucial to the process and debatably the most important, is to train team members to be more competent in this tech space and to strategically build capacity over time. This way solutions are not compromised. You can have the best and most updated tech solutions available

and the most encouraging staff buy-in that you could hope for however, if the team is not trained to implement, execute, monitor and evaluate the new processes, then you may never fully realize the potential successes of your DT campaign. The idea then is to have everyone approach this new endeavor as agile as possible. This way everyone is in a mindset of flexibility and adaptability and would be prepared to learn as they go.

If we don't make the adjustments now and adapt, our regional companies risk being gobbled up by larger and more strategic organizations that will

act on our unwillingness to onboard technology. As people leaders we need to be informed about what's coming and how to prepare for it. We need to do our homework and be able to advise our decision makers with facts and data and less opinions and feelings.

There are threats with digital transformation but certainly there are also lots of opportunities. The fact of the matter is, these new technologies will challenge our organizations by making parts of our traditional operating model obsolete. So, we have to get ready because digital transformation is happening whether or not we are prepared for it.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hr-pro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.



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EU clinches world first deal on single mobile charging port

Move means most mobile phones, tablets and cameras will be required to have a USB Type-C charging port from late 2024.

European Union member states and legislators have agreed to mandate a single mobile charging port for mobile phones, tablets and cameras in a blow to technology giant Apple.

Tuesday's agreement, a world first, means that from late 2024 most portable devices will be required to have a USB Type-C charging port. It will not apply to products released before the new rules come into force.

The EU believes a standard cable for all devices will substantially cut back on thousands of tonnes of electronic waste.

The bloc is home to 450 million people, some of the world's richest consumers, and the imposition of the USB-C as a cable standard could also affect the entire global smartphone market.

Users of iPhones and Android phones have long complained about having to use different chargers for their devices. The former is charged from a Lightning cable while Android-based devices are powered using USB-C connectors.

Half the chargers sold



The EU's move is a blow to Apple, whose iPhones are charged with Lightning cables [Athit Perawongmetha/Reuters]

with mobile phones in 2018 had a USB micro-B connector, while 29 percent had a USB-C connector and 21 percent a Lightning connector, according to a 2019 study by the European Commission, the EU's executive arm.

Huge savings to consumers

"The deal we struck this morning will bring around 250 million euros (\$267m) of savings to consumers," EU industry chief Thierry Breton said in a statement.

"It will also allow new technologies such as wireless charging to emerge and to mature without letting innovation become a source of market frag-

mentation and consumer inconvenience," he added.

The European Commission had initially pushed for a single mobile charging port more than a decade ago, but companies failed to agree on a common solution.

Apple, which already uses USB-C connectors on some of its iPads and laptop computers, has insisted any legislation to force a universal charger for all mobiles in the bloc is unwarranted.

The United States-headquartered iPhone juggernaut argues such a move would slow innovation and create more pollution.

But EU legislators said

the shift, which will need to be formally approved by its parliament before it can enter into force, will save both the "resources" and the "nerves" of those living in the bloc.

"After a decade, finally one standard (USB-C) will charge them all," Anna Cavazzini, a German member of the European Parliament for the Green Party, tweeted.

Laptops will have to comply with the legislation within 40 months of it taking effect. The fact the deal also covers e-readers, ear buds and other technologies will mean Samsung, Huawei and other device makers are also affected. (AlJazeera)

‘Shooting themselves in the foot’: Western sanctions on Russia

By Mersiha Gadzo

Moscow has diversified its commodities exports as the EU faces the difficult task of replacing Russia as its energy supplier, analysts say.

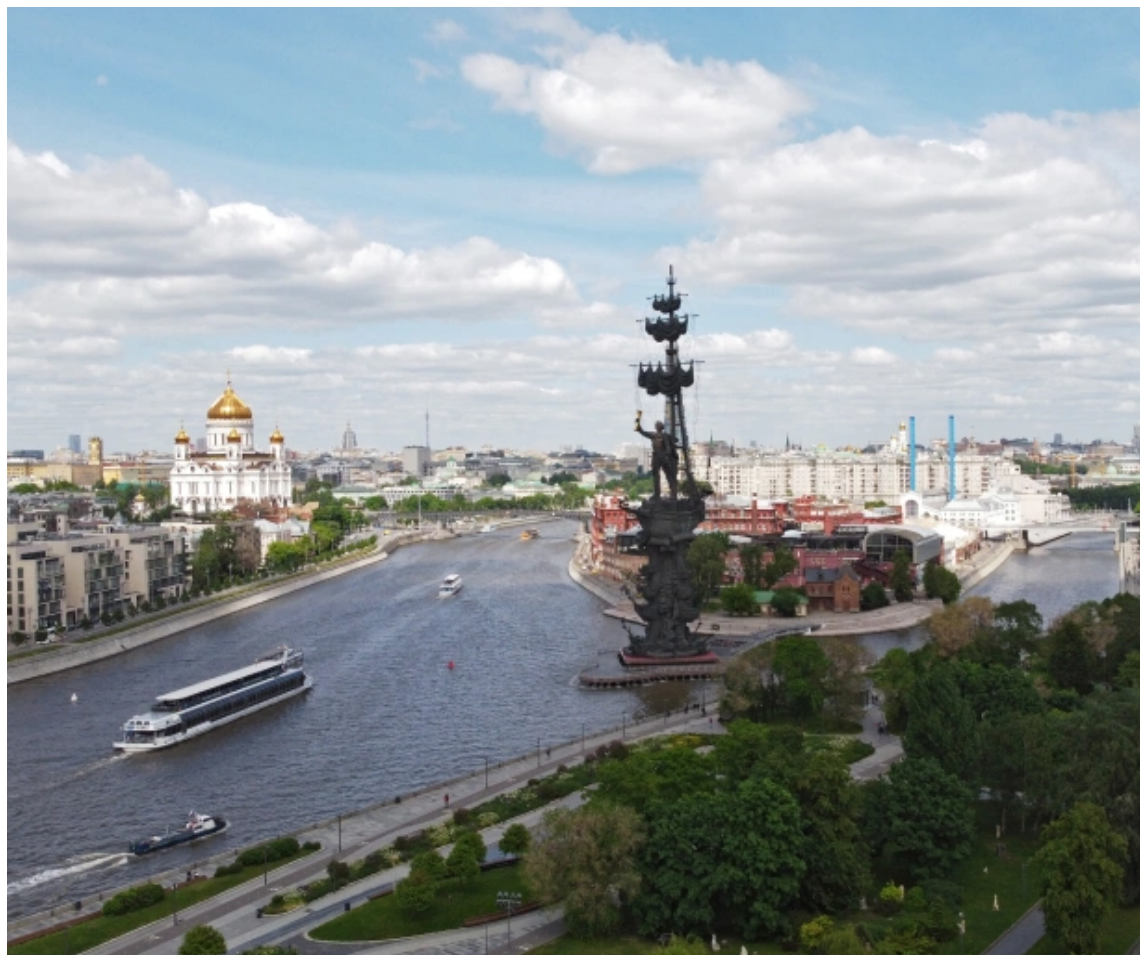
About a month after Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine, US President Joe Biden hailed the West’s “unprecedented sanctions” on Moscow and said they had caused the rouble to be “almost immediately reduced to rubble”.

The Russian currency lost nearly half of its value, dropping to a record low of 143 roubles to the United States dollar on March 7.

Following the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Western nations imposed widespread sanctions on Moscow targeting its finances, including freezing its central bank assets to block access to foreign currency reserves.

In the first few weeks, panic ensued as the public tried to acquire as much cash as possible from the banks and to buy goods as the price of imported items shot up. Consumer prices rose by 17.5 percent in April.

But the following month, the Russian rouble rebounded to 40 percent against the dollar compared to January, reaching a seven-year high and becoming the world’s



Analysts say Moscow has so far made correct manoeuvres to withstand the effect of sanctions [Lev Sergeev/Reuters]

best-performing currency in 2022.

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s demand that foreign buyers pay for the country’s natural gas in the local currency – or else have their supplies cut – helped prop up the local currency, among other measures.

Iskander Lutsko, chief investment strategist at ITI Capital, told Al Jazeera three factors have been supporting the rouble: “escalating oil prices due to sanctions, capital controls, and a drop in dollar demand and excess FX [for-

eign exchange] liquidity due to high FX revenues from exports of oil and gas”.

Due to sanctions and capital controls, an “artificial and highly supportive environment” was created for the rouble, Lutsko said. Last week Russia’s central bank made its third interest-rate reduction in over a month to halt the rouble from appreciating.

As a result, the Russian banking system experienced excess FX liquidity that led to a drop in dollar rates, historically very rare.

Energy markets expert Vyacheslav Mishchenko said Russian financial authorities successfully managed to deal with the emotional reaction of the population and businesses at the onset of the war.

“The price hike was caused by [the] first emotional reaction, because it put a lot of pressure on customers to buy everything,” Mishchenko said.

“But then at the beginning of April, the situation returned to normal. The supply is there. Yes, there are some troubles with im-

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porting goods, but there aren't too many.

"The price hike was mostly on the psychological side, rather than on the economic side."

As the European Union continued talks last month on phasing out Russian energy supplies, Putin maintained that Europe is "committing economic suicide" with its sanctions, as it would see higher energy prices and higher inflation.

'Honeymoon period'

Analysts say Russia has so far made correct manoeuvres to withstand the effect of sanctions; the question is whether the West will be able to weather its own sanctions.

Lutsko said the first five months of sanctions have been "more like a honeymoon period" for the Russian economy, but as Europe makes the tough decision to embargo oil and gas, "there will be very little the Russian government could do".

With Russia accounting for almost 20 percent of global oil and petroleum products combined and 17.5 percent of the world's gas, making it the largest exporter in the world, there will be implications, Lutsko said.

The government has become reliant on oil and gas as its main source of income, which now accounts for 65 percent of its budget, compared to only 30 percent prior to the invasion of Ukraine.

The EU has been discussing reducing dependency on Russian energy, and after haggling for a month, it decided on Monday to ban 90 percent of Russian oil imports to the EU by the end of the year, part of the bloc's sixth sanctions package.

The EU finalised the decision on Thursday.

The ban applies to Russian oil exported to the EU by sea, exempting the 10 percent of imports by pipeline

following Hungary's opposition that it cannot easily get oil elsewhere. Slovakia and the Czech Republic also voiced the same concerns.

'A huge discount'

Lutsko said that so far, sanctions have been beneficial for the Russian government as it has created huge volatility in commodity prices.

By March 2, oil had surged beyond \$110 per barrel, whereas before it went for \$60 per barrel.

And in the first quarter of the year, Russia recorded a historic high trade surplus of \$58bn.

"The US and Europe, by imposing sanctions on Russia, they are at the same time shooting themselves in the foot," Lutsko said.

"It's highly unfortunate, especially for the world's largest importers of oil. Some have benefited like China; they have been buying oil from Russia for a huge discount ... It's more of a problem for consumers like OECD Europe [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] and Southeast Asian countries," Lutsko said.

"I think the whole purpose of those sanctions is created more for psychological pressure and to show that ... actions are being taken, that they're not just watching. But obviously, they haven't taken into consideration the real impact [sanctions] will have – especially for the poorest countries."

'Disrupting the supply'

Mishchenko said when it comes to damage inflicted from sanctions, so far "Russia benefits from the situation much better than the EU."

"The demand for commodities is very high. Nobody can replace Russia on the global markets, especially on energy commodities."

"The more tension there is between Russia and Western countries, the higher prices there will be in specific commodities like we see in the

gas market," Mishchenko said.

"Despite the restrictions, the dispute, the ban of some routes, seaports, etc, Russia exports less in terms of volume but gets more in terms of money. It puts a lot of pressure on the dollar and euro, but the Russian ruble is doing very well."

About 36 percent of the EU's oil imports and more than 40 percent of its gas comes from Russia.

Mishchenko said Russia has been diversifying its exports for decades to other markets in the east, including India, China, Southeast Asia and other regions where there is key demand.

China is now Russia's biggest trade partner, whereas prior to 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea and sanctions ensued, its biggest trade partner was Germany.

Similarly prior to 2014, Russia was one of the world's biggest importers of food; today, it is a net exporter.

In the last three months, India has bought four times more crude oil from Moscow than it used to in the same period, becoming Russia's top crude oil buyer, Mishchenko said.

Moscow is now earning a significant amount in oil export revenue – \$20bn per month, an increase of 50 percent since the start of 2022.

"European buyers are in the same situation – they need to replace Russian commodities, but it takes time," Mishchenko said.

"The problem is that Russia was such a big, stable supplier for decades that European markets will be fighting to get the puzzles of supplies and it will be disrupting the supply for many years."

"It won't be so easy to replace one big, stable supplier, which is your neighbour geographically, by many different destinations and suppliers remotely ... I think sanctions harm both sides."

Regional News



Dominican Republic environment minister shot dead in his office

Reuters – The Dominican Republic's environment minister, Orlando Jorge Mera, was shot dead in his office on Monday, authorities said.

A spokesman for the president's office, Homero Figueroa, said in a video posted to Twitter on Monday afternoon that a suspect, identified as Miguel Cruz, was arrested.

Figueroa said Cruz was a childhood friend of the minister, without giving a potential motive for the attack.

Employees at the Ministry of En-



Orlando Jorge Mera

vironment and Natural Resources told journalists that they heard at least seven shots from within the building. Po-

lice units arrived on the scene shortly after.

Mera, a 55-year-old lawyer, was the son of former President Salvador Jorge Blanco, who was in office from 2002 to 2006.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Selma Villegas, and his two children. His son, Orlando Jorge Villegas, is a federal legislator and member of the Modern Revolutionary Party.

The president and the government have made themselves available to the minister's family, Figueroa said.

US bars Cuba, Venezuela from Americas summit; Mexican leader sits out

Reuters – The White House on Monday excluded Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the U.S.-hosted Summit of the Americas this week, prompting Mexico's president to make good on a threat to skip the event because all countries in the Western Hemisphere were not invited.

The boycott by Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and some other leaders could diminish the relevance of the summit in Los Angeles, where the United States aims to address regional migration and economic challenges. President Joe Biden, a Democrat, hopes to repair Latin America relations damaged under his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump, reassert U.S. influence and counter China's inroads.



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro shakes hands with his Cuban counterpart Miguel Diaz-Canel during the ALBA group meeting in Havana, Cuba, May 27, 2022. Miraflores Palace/Handout via REUTERS

The decision to cut out Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua followed weeks of intense deliberations and was due to concerns about human rights and a lack of

democracy in the three nations, a senior U.S. official said.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said the Biden administra-

tion "understands" Mexico's position, but "one of the key elements of this summit is democratic governance, and these coun-

cont'd on pg 17

One killed in a plane crash on Long Island Bahamas

CMC - Bahamian authorities have confirmed that a woman was killed and others injured when a twin-engine aircraft with seven people on board crashed in bushes near Deadman's Cay Airport in Long Island on Sunday.

"Seven souls were on board a twin-engine aircraft that went down in bushes approximately two miles from Deadman's Cay Airport," Police Commissioner Paul Rolle said, adding "one adult female has succumbed to her injuries". The identity of the woman has not been given.

"Police have located the site using coordinates given and are assisting victims with evacuation for medical assistance with the assistance of US Coast Guard helicopters," he added.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Aviation and Investment Chester Cooper said all agencies of the government are engaged in what he described as "a rescue operation". The authorities have not said whether those in the crash were all from the Bahamas.

Information is limited



but the Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) said the plane is reported to be a Piper Navajo, which crashed on take-off from Deadman's Cay

Investigators from both the AAIA and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Bahamas are expected to continue their investigations into the fatal crash on Monday.

cont'd from pg 16

tries are not exemplars, to put it mildly."

Biden aides have been mindful of pressure from Republicans and some fellow Democrats against appearing soft on America's three main leftist antagonists in Latin America. Miami's large Cuban-American community, which favoured Trump's harsh policies toward Cuba and Venezuela, is seen as an important voting bloc in Florida in the November elections that will decide control of the U.S. Congress, which is now in the hands of the Democrats.

Lopez Obrador told reporters that his foreign minister, Marcelo Ebrard, would attend the summit in his place. The Mexican president said he would meet with Biden in Washington next month, which the White House confirmed.

"There can't be a Summit of the Americas if not all countries of the

American continent are taking part," Lopez Obrador said.

Lopez Obrador's absence from the gathering, which Biden is due to open on Wednesday, raises questions about summit discussions focused on curbing migration at the U.S. southern border, a priority for Biden, and could be a diplomatic embarrassment for the United States.

A caravan of several thousand migrants, many from Venezuela, set off from southern Mexico early Monday aiming to reach the United States.

But a senior administration official insisted Lopez Obrador's no-show would not hinder Biden's roll-out of a regional migration initiative. The White House expects at least 23 heads of state and government, which the official said would be in line with past summits.

On Monday, Cuba called the decision "discriminatory and unacceptable" and said the United States un-

derestimated support in the region for the island nation.

The United States invited some Cuban civil society activists to attend, but several said on social media that Cuban state security had blocked them from travel to Los Angeles.

Having ruled out Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, the Biden administration expects representatives for opposition leader Juan Guaido will attend, Price said. He declined to say whether their participation would be in person or virtually.

The senior administration official, asked whether Biden might have a call with Guaido during the summit, said there was a good chance of an "engagement," but declined to elaborate.

Also barred from the summit is Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, a former Marxist guerrilla who won a fourth consecutive term in November after jailing rivals.

Regional News



Guyana union claims foreign oil company ignoring salary increases for local workers

CMC - The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) has accused “a well-known foreign-owned oil sector company” of approving salary increases for expatriate workers while ignoring local employees.

In a statement, GAWU said at a time when policy-makers were making efforts to provide breathing room amid the steep increase in prices for many important and essential commodities and services, the unnamed foreign-owned oil sector company was engaged in improving pay rates for its employees.

“The Guyanese employees informed our union that they are at a loss for their



exclusion. They shared with us that their foreign colleagues earn substantially more than them but inexplicably their salaries were insufficient thus necessitating the pay rise. The workers were perplexed that if it

was that the foreigners were receiving inadequate pay it did not take any serious examination to understand their situation.”

The union said its members “heard rumblings that the locals did not require any pay rises” and that their existing salaries “were more than adequate, and a pay rise would represent essentially a favour.”

The union said some employees, who have been there for several years, to date have not received any pay increase despite continuing to perform credibly.

“The GAWU is deeply disturbed by the actions of the foreign enterprise. It represents yet another assault on Guyanese workers in the oil sector are confronting and further illustrates the need for the sector

to be organised. Of course, many foreign-owned companies have adopted stringent anti-union policies and have sought to quell any efforts by workers to become unionised.

“This is not surprising given the exploitative practices perpetuated by some enterprises in the sector. Some firms we have heard have sought to assure their workers that they have their interests at heart.

“This, of course, is a misnomer as only their bottom line is what really matters and workers becoming unionised seemingly represents a threat to profitability. It is indeed a disheartening situation,” GAWU said in its statement without naming any of the companies involved in the practice.

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‘Widen gaze from Ukraine’ to avert famine in Somalia, U.N. agency warns

Reuters - The world must “widen its gaze from the war in Ukraine” to prevent Somalia sliding into famine, the United Nations’ children’s agency said on Tuesday, warning only a third of the \$250 million needed to stave off catastrophe had so far been raised.

Four consecutive rainy seasons have failed in the Horn of Africa - the worst drought spell in more than 40 years - and a fifth in October-December also looks likely to do so.

Drought has combined with a global rise in food and fuel prices, pushed up by the war in Ukraine, to hit millions across the continent, putting food staples out of reach for poor families and killing crops and livestock. [read more](#)

“If the world does not widen its gaze from the war in Ukraine and act immediately, an explosion of child death is about to happen in the Horn of Africa,” Rania Dagash, deputy regional director of UNICEF, told a briefing.

Somalia has 386,000 children in urgent need of treatment for life-threatening malnutrition, numbers that are already higher than the 340,000 children who needed treatment in 2011,



A man looks at the carcasses of animals that died due to the El Nino-related drought in Marodijeex town of southern Hargeysa, in northern Somalia's semi-autonomous Somaliland region, April 7, 2016. Picture taken April 7, 2016. REUTERS/Feisal Omar/File Photo

a year when famine killed hundreds of thousands of people, she said.

Donor funding has been generous but falls short of the \$250 million needed, Dagash said.

“We have just a third of what we need this year. Our call to the international community, led by the G7 who will be meeting in Germany in a few weeks, needs to commit new, additional funding to save lives,” she said.

Etienne Peterschmitt, Representative in Somalia for the Food and Agricul-

ture Organization (FAO), another U.N. agency, said millions were malnourished and 213,000 people were in the most critical category, facing extreme lack of food.

Drought had dried up pastures and pushed up the price of food and water, he said.

Around 3 million livestock have died since last year due to drought and disease. The southern Bay region was of particular concern.

Somalia is “on the brink of devastating and widespread hunger, starvation

and death”, he said, adding it was a “perfect storm for famine if action is not taken now”.

Malnutrition made children more vulnerable to disease and forced destitute families to travel long distances on foot for treatment, Dagash said, citing an example of a pregnant woman walking 120 km (75 miles) for treatment for her 1-year-old twin boys.

“I’ve heard of children being buried along the roadside as their families make the desperate long trek to seek help.”

US warns of 'forceful' response if N Korea tests nuclear weapon

AlJazeera – US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman has said there would be a “forceful” response from the United States, South Korea and the world if North Korea were to conduct a nuclear test.

“Any nuclear test would be in complete violation of UN Security Council resolutions [and] there would be a swift and forceful response to such a test,” Sherman told reporters on Tuesday after talks with her South Korean counterpart, Cho Hyun-dong, in Seoul.

Sherman added: “The entire world will respond in a strong and clear manner. We are prepared.”

There are growing concerns that North Korea, which has conducted an unprecedented number of missile launches this year, will soon test a nuclear weapon for the first time since 2017.

On Monday, South Korea and US forces fired eight surface-to-surface missiles off South Korea’s east coast a day after Pyongyang unleashed a barrage of short-range ballistic missiles.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that North Korean moves to expand key facilities at its main nuclear site at Yongbyon continue to advance.

“A roof has been installed on the



US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman (left) has warned of a ‘forceful’ response if N Korea tests a nuclear weapon [Jung Yeon-je/Pool via Reuters]

annex to the reported Centrifuge Enrichment Facility, so the annex is now externally complete. Near the light water reactor (LWR), we have observed that the new building that had been under construction since April 2021 has been completed, and construction has started on two adjacent buildings,” IAEA Chief Rafael Grossi said in his quarterly statement to the Board on Monday.

He also noted that at Punggye-ri, North Korea’s nuclear test site, there were indications that one of the pas-

sages known as adits had been reopened, possibly in preparation for a nuclear test. The site was dismantled in 2018 following a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and then South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

“The conduct of a nuclear test would contravene UN Security Council resolutions and would be a cause for serious concern,” Grossi said.

During her visit to Seoul, Sherman reiterated that the US administration remained open to talks.

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India's ruling party asks officials to exercise caution on religious issues after Islamic nations protest

Reuters – Leaders of India's Hindu nationalist ruling party on Tuesday instructed officials to be "extremely cautious" when talking about religion on public platforms after derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammed drew protests from Islamic nations.

India's minority Muslims have felt more pressure on everything from freedom of worship to hijab head scarves under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. There were Hindu-Muslim clashes during religious processions recently, following deadly riots in 2019-20.

Two BJP leaders said the verbal instructions were given to over 30 senior officials and some federal ministers who are authorised to take part in debates hosted by Indian news channels often broadcast live to millions of viewers.

"We don't want party officials to speak in a way that hurts the religious sentiments of any community... They must ensure the party's doctrine gets shared in a sophisticated manner," said a senior BJP leader and federal minister in New Delhi.

With about 110 million members, mainly Hindus, the BJP is the world's largest political party, while Muslims comprise around 13% of India's 1.35 billion popu-



People holding placards shout slogans demanding the arrest of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Nupur Sharma for her blasphemous comments on Prophet Mohammed, on a street in Mumbai, India, June 6, 2022. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas

lation.

Last week the BJP suspended the spokeswoman and expelled another official after Islamic nations demanded apologies from the Indian government and summoned diplomats to protest against anti-Islamic remarks made during a TV debate.

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran were among the nations that made their complaints public.

The influential 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said in a statement that the insults came in the context of an increasingly intense atmosphere of hatred toward Is-

lam in India and systematic harassment of Muslims.

Although Modi's party has denied any rise in communal tensions during his reign, BJP rule has emboldened hardline Hindu groups in recent years to take up causes they say defend their faith, stoking a rise in anti-Muslim sentiment.

The U.S. State Department, in an annual report on international religious freedom released in June, said that attacks on members of minority communities, including killings, assaults, and intimidation, took place in India throughout 2021.

India's foreign ministry said on Monday the offensive tweets and comments

did not in any way reflect the government's views.

"We are not barred from speaking on sensitive religious issues, but we must never insult the basic tenets of any religion," said senior BJP spokesperson Gopal Krishna Agarwal.

Modi in recent years has improved economic ties with energy-rich Islamic nations, the main source for India's fuel imports, but relations have come under stress from the anti-Islamic utterances of the two BJP members, foreign policy experts said.

Small-scale protests erupted in parts of India as Muslim groups demanded the arrest of the suspended BJP spokeswoman.

Sports News



LeBron James: Los Angeles Lakers player's trading card to fetch millions

BBC – An exclusive LeBron James trading card is expected to sell for more than \$6 million at an auction this week.

The one-of-a-kind card featuring the 18-time NBA All-Star, 37, includes patches taken from jerseys James has worn in his career.

The card was found after a year-long hunt among collectors during a live social media event.

It came after Canadian rapper Drake bought 10 cases of the basketball cards to try to locate it.

“The best comparison that I can use for the modern reader is to imagine



LeBron James has won four NBA titles, including one with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2020 [Getty Images]

ine Willy Wonka [and] the Chocolate Factory, looking for that gold ticket,” Ken Goldin, executive chairman of auctioneers Goldin, told Reuters.

“And then imagine there was only one golden

ticket instead of five.”

An “ultra-rare” signed rookie card for the four-time NBA champion, who plays for the Los Angeles Lakers, broke the record for most expensive basketball card sold last year,

fetching \$5.2m.

The auction for the “Triple Logoman” card - which has patches from James’ Cleveland Cavaliers, Miami Heat and Lakers jerseys - opens on Wednesday and closes on 25 June.

Tiger Woods to miss US Open to give himself time to ‘get stronger’

BBC – Tiger Woods has confirmed he will not play at next week’s US Open, but still plans to compete at the 150th Open Championship at St Andrews next month.

It follows the 15-time major winner’s withdrawal from the US PGA Championship in May after three rounds.

“I previously informed the USGA that I will not be competing in the US Open as my body needs more time to get stronger for major championship golf,” Woods, 46, said on Twitter.

The event begins on 16 June.

Woods added: “I do hope and plan to be ready to play in Ireland at the JP McManus Pro-Am and at The Open next month. I’m excited to get back out there soon.”



Tiger Woods has won 15 majors during his career [Getty Images]

The veteran American returned to competition at the Masters in April, 14 months after a serious car crash, from which he had to be “extricated from the wreck” by firefighters and paramedics.

The severity of Woods’ injuries

saw him embark on a long road to recovery and initially raised questions over whether he would even be able to compete again at the highest level.

He played his third worst round in a major at the US PGA Championship last month, with a nine-over 79, that left him joint last on 12 over.

He also made five consecutive bogeys for the first time in a major since turning professional in 1996.

On Monday, Woods’ great rival Phil Mickelson was added to the field for the first event in the Greg Norman-backed LIV Golf Invitational Series, which starts on Thursday.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Norman said Woods had been offered a “mind-blowingly enormous” deal to take part in the series.

New Winthorpes record back to back wins in two-day contest

For the first time this season, New Winthorpes Lions have claimed back-to-back wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) two-day competition.

After claiming their first victory of the competition by pulling off a five-wicket win over Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in New Winthorpes on 29 May, the Lions recorded consecutive wins by crushing Rising Sun Spartans by an innings and 14 runs at Rising Sun over the weekend.

Rising Sun could only muster 120 all out in 31 overs in their first innings after winning the toss and opting to bat, with opener Malinga Bruney getting a top score of 31.

Shavon Moore grabbed four for 14 in 11 overs, captain and fast

bowler Nino Henry captured four for 40 and Orandel Boston picked up two for 26.

New Winthorpes then made 259 for eight off 45.5 overs before declaring their first innings closed. Ian Eusebe struck 44, Bartlette Henry made 43, Jermaine Otto cracked 39 and Henry contributed 35.

Captain Isiah Bruney claimed three for 49, Omaley Heyliger took three for 62 and Andre Edwards picked up two wickets for nine runs in six overs.

Facing a deficit of 139 runs, Rising Sun crashed to 125 all out in 29.5 overs in their second innings to give the Lions victory.

Leg-spinner Asher Murray-Cornelius snapped up three wickets for

cont'd on pg 24



Former Leeward Islands off-spinner Justin Athanaze claimed a match haul of 11 wickets for 50 runs to inspire Empire Nation to a commanding victory over Bolans Blasters in the ABCA Two-Day competition over the weekend.



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Sports News



cont'd from pg 23

10 runs in 2.5 overs, Boston captured three for 37 and Eusebe claimed two for 23.

Empire Nation also celebrated victory as they crushed Bolans Blasters by an innings and 107 runs at Bolans.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed a century, as Empire made 293 for eight declared off 68.3 overs after being sent in to bat. Williams Jr. struck 143 off 199 balls, including 13 fours and two sixes.

He shared a 143-run third wicket partnership with Juari Edwards, who contributed 76 and opener Damian Lowenfield chipped in with 31.

Martin Ceaser Jr.

bagged four for 38 and Dwayne Fordyce picked up two for 41.

In reply, Bolans were blasted out for a paltry first innings total of 92 in 27.5 overs, with off-spinner Justin Athanaze snapping up six for 29 in 13.5 overs and Michael McKenzie grabbing four wickets for 11 runs.

Asked to follow on 201 runs behind, Bolans were bundled out in their second innings for just 94 in 23.1 overs.

Athanaze snatched five for 21 to complete a match haul of 11 wickets for 50 runs.

McKenzie claimed three for 41 and Javaughn James picked up two for 16.

Bethesda managed to avoid defeat after the Golden Eagles were able to salvage a draw against Jennings Tigers at Jennings.

Set a victory target of 257 runs, Bethesda were struggling on 134 for nine off 40 overs in their second innings when the match ended.

Opener Shacoy Floyd top scored with 59, while Paul Miller captured four for 43 and Kenroy Browne picked up two for 13.

It was Jennings who batted first and were dismissed for 108 in 34.4 overs in their first innings after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Paul Miller top scored with 45, while fast bowler Gavin Tonge grabbed four

for 19.

Fast bowler Kelvin Pitman snapped up three for 13 and pacer Timmo Thomas bagged three for 36.

In reply, Browne picked up five for 14 as Bethesda were bundled out for just 87 runs in 22.5 overs to give Jennings a 21-run first innings lead.

Jennings then made 235 all out in their second innings in 56.5 overs.

Matthew Miller hit an unbeaten 75 and Orlando Peters contributed 50. Simon captured seven for 38.

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and neighbours All Saints Pythons played to a draw in their encounter at Ball Beef in Liberta.

All Saints made 203 for nine off 66.3 overs in their first innings after winning the toss and opting to bat. Jewell Andrew cracked 58, Michael Dove scored 56 and Demetri Lucas got 38.

Kadeem Phillip bagged three for 50 and Karima Gore picked up three for 60.

In reply, Liberta were dismissed for 109 in 36.2 overs, with Uri Smith getting 37.

Kadeem Josiah took four for 34 and Isaac claimed two for 14.

All Saints were 132 for six off 50 overs in their second innings when the match ended.

Michael Joseph struck 57, while Gore and Phillip each picked up two wickets for 34 runs.

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Up and Over FC remain unbeaten in Over-40 league

Up and Over FC have extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua Over-40 Premier League.

Two second half goals in a four-minute period gave leaders Up and Over FC a 2-0 victory over bottom team Golden Grove Masters, during the sixth round of matches at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Training Center at Paynters on Sunday.

Following a 0-0 deadlock at halftime, Up and Over FC were given a 1-0 lead when Nigel Fergus converted an own-goal in the 54th minute.

Four minutes later, striker Kerry "Arab" Skepple scored his team's second goal to wrap up the match.

The win ensured Up and Over FC remain at the top of the standings in the eight-team round robin competition with a maximum 18 points, while Golden Grove remain winless and firmly rooted in the cellar position without a point.

Dun Bar Crew FC were beaten for the first time in open play when they surprisingly went under 2-0 against West Ham FC.

Garfield "Garry" Gonsalves gave West Ham a 1-0 halftime advantage with a 4th minute conversion. Craig Peters then

scored his team's second goal in the 52nd minute to seal the victory.

Their third win in six outings lifted West Ham into third place with 11 points, one behind Dun Bar Crew FC who remained in second place, despite dropping three points for the second time in the competition.

A brace by striker Peter "Big Pete" Byers also propelled Tun & Bang to their third win when they prevailed 2-1 against Legacy FC.

Byers scored his first as early as the fourth minute to give his team a 1-0 advantage. But Omarly Samuel scored an equalizer for Legacy FC in the 30th minute and both teams ended the first half deadlocked at 1-1 at the interval.

However, Byers snatched the winner for Tun & Bang in the second half when he scored his second goal of the match in the 70th minute to secure all three points for his team.

The win ensured that Tun & Bang leapfrogged Legacy FC into fourth place with nine points from six encounters. They have moved two points ahead of Legacy FC who have now lost three of their six matches.

Sunday's other encounter between Extraordinary



Striker Kerry 'Arab' Skepple scored once in Up and Over FC's 2-0 victory over Golden Grove Masters in the Over-40 Premier League at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Technical Training Center at Paynters on Sunday, 5th June, 2022. (File photo)

Men and Turf Masters was not played.

However, Extraordinary Men were awarded

the maximum three points after Turf Masters were unable to field a team for the encounter.

Antiguan horses achieve success in Barbuda



Lynn's Image, right, was one of the horses that journeyed from Antigua to Barbuda for the Whit weekend Caribana festivities. (File Photo)

Four of the horses based in Antigua recorded wins on the sister isle during a horse racing meet that was held as part of Barbuda's Caribana festivities over the recent Whit weekend.

Chosen Warrior, Guilty Pleasure, Playa Zaragoza and Unruly Union all galloped to victory during the horse racing meet at the Coronations track in Barbuda on 5th June.

Jockey Jahquan Browne guided Chosen Warrior to victory in the third race of the day with Cortwright finishing second.

Guilty Pleasure, ridden by Connel

Drew, won the fourth race of the day. Julian Walters guided fellow Antiguan horse Diego across the finish line in second place.

Walters celebrated victory when he rode Playa Zaragoza to victory in the fifth race of the day. Another Antiguan horse, Lynn's Image, ridden by Dwayne Jacobs, had to settle for second place.

Jacobs joined the winners circle when he guided Unruly Union to victory in the sixth and final race of the day.

Fellow Antiguan horse Syrian Soca, ridden by Walters, finished in second place.

Jacobs and Walters each rode a winner in the first two races of the day. Jacobs guided Free Spirit to victory in the opening race, with Antiguan horse Lady Ray, ridden by Tariq Charles, finishing in second place.

Walters rode May Zoo to victory in the second race of the day. Antiguan horse Zury, ridden by Jacobs, claimed second place with Personal Touch, guided by jockey J Dyer, finishing third.

Three other races, featuring locally bred Barbudan horses, were also held as part of the race day card.