

# FAULTY WIRING CAUSED TEEN'S ELECTROCUTION

*Story on Page 2*



Braimah Kanneh-Mason accepts his Humanitarian medal from Governor General Sir Rodney as Lady Sandra Williams looks on during the Halo Foundation's annual Wings of Charity event in the United Kingdom. [Photo: The Halo Foundation] *Story on page 5*

# Local News



## Teen electrocuted after rubbing against concrete wall

Police have identified the teenager electrocuted on Friday evening as 13-year-old Jaiden Titus of Ottos New Town.

According to law enforcement, their investigation has revealed that the teen may have come in contact with a concrete wall that appeared to have had a faulty, energised electrical wire, that was connected to a utility pole, running through it.

The lad was discovered unresponsive at about 6pm and was rushed to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre by Emergency Medical Services, where efforts to resuscitate him failed.

He died shortly before

7:30pm on Friday.

Technicians from Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) visited the scene and disconnected the electricity as they investigate the circumstances that resulted in Jaiden's death.

His premature death comes less than three weeks after 22-year-old Judah Bowers lost his life when he was electrocuted at his Greenbay residence.

Bowers was hanging out his mother's laundry on the evening of 14th June, after visiting her in hospital, when he was electrocuted.

The clothesline, which was energised, was attached between a chain link fence



and a tree in the yard.

APUA investigators later discovered that the property where the incident occurred shares a fence with an apartment building whose electricity was being supplied by a temporary service that breached the National Electrical Code and APUA's standards.

According to APUA,

an extension cord was intertwined through the shared chain link fence, supplying the apartment with electricity. As a result of exposure to the elements, the insulation on the extension cord deteriorated, exposing metal wire that made direct contact with the fence, energising it, resulting in the Empire FC goalkeeper's death.

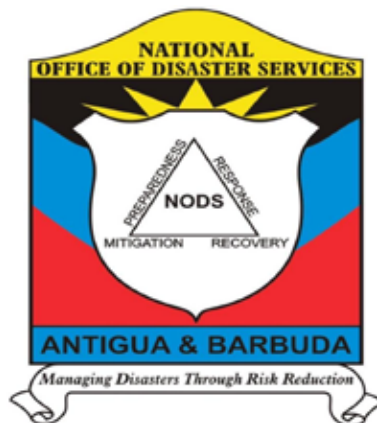
## NODS ready for 2022 hurricane season

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda is keeping a close eye on the country's state of preparedness with multiple forecasts of an above average hurricane season for 2022.

Recently, the Cabinet invited representatives of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) to provide a detailed report on the readiness of communities across the country now that the hurricane season has begun.

The NODS team was led by the agency's new director, Sherrod James, in his first appearance before the Cabinet since taking up the position from his predecessor, Philmore Mullin.

"Relying upon the world meteorological organization and the national Met Office, the 2022 hurricane season will be very busy. Consequently, NODS reported on the readiness of each community in the event of heavy



rainfall and strong winds.

"Working with several partners NODS has negotiated for cyclone insurance and the provision of emergency kits," the Cabinet indicated.

The NODS team reported while storage at its headquarters is adequate, attempts to distribute preparedness kits to some shelters have not been productive.

There are 64 shelters across the na-

tion, including a church in Codrington, Barbuda.

Several churches identified for use as shelters have bathrooms that are detached from the sanctuaries which diminishes their safety during a storm.

Meanwhile, NODS expressed concern to the Cabinet regarding illegal dumping, which remains an issue as it is a major cause of blocked waterways, drains and ponds.

"A comprehensive report on each of the district drains and bridges that have been examined will be reported to Cabinet," the team promised.

When questioned about their rapid response protocols in the event of an emergency, Director James reported that the agency is prepared to respond to any disaster that may affect the country and its people in a timely manner.



# Official funeral for Victor “Babu” Samuel

A planning committee is expected to convene to begin making funeral arrangements for Victor “Babu” Samuel.

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda took the decision to accord an official funeral to the late pannist extraordinaire who passed away last Tuesday at age 64.

Cabinet said the decision was made to recognise Samuel’s stellar contributions to advancing and preserving the artform of pan in Antigua and Barbuda.

Arrangements for his burial will involve several government agencies, his family and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Cabinet

Notes detailed.

At their first meeting, the team will select a date for the funeral.

Meanwhile, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has paid tribute to Sergeant Victor Samuel.

In 2009, Samuel was sworn in to the police force as a special constable and became a member of the Police Band.

Shortly after, he was elevated to the rank of sergeant and was the assistant conductor and band coach.

Speaking on behalf of the Police Force, Commissioner Atlee Rodney said, “I am thankful for his insights in bringing the steel pan into our police

band. It is an addition that will remain in the band for years to come.”

Rodney added, “His playing of the pan and his teaching and encouragement was very much appreciated by band members and the entire police force.”

In March this year, Samuel was presented with a Platinum Award for outstanding contributions toward the development of the Royal Police Force Band. The late pannist spoke during the ceremony that was held in his honour and said he was happy that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda saw it fitting to recognise his contributions.



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# Local News



## Six countries to vie for Miss Jaycees Queen 2022 title

Following the two-year postponement of the longest running pageant in the region, and the fourth in the world after Miss World, Miss Universe and Miss International, Antigua and Barbuda's Jaycees Queen Show returns to the line up of events for Carnival 2022.

Under the theme, "Unleashing the potential within, through resilience and determination", the highly anticipated pageant will welcome crown contenders from Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, setting the pace for what the organisers

of the show - Junior Chamber International (JCI) Antigua - promise will be a show stopping production, full of glitz, glamour and fanfare.

Jaycees Queen Show Committee Chairman Ayna Dorsett, a past Jaycees Queen, said, "We are excited to see the return of the show and Carnival after a two-year break, and JCI Antigua have been working to make this year's production amazing for the patrons and crown contenders alike. It's going to be amazing energy."

The show which will be held on 27th July at 8pm at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG), will see a



host of local entertainment acts including Young Lyrics and a final performance by reigning Jaycees Queen, Miss Antigua and Barbuda, ShannaKisha Francis.

"We wanted to make this year's show energetic

and uplifting as it is the return of pageantry to Antigua and Barbuda, even with the theme of the show that is also JCI's Antigua theme for 2022, we wanted the entertainment and production of the show to embody and display what true determination and resilience is while the crown contenders unleash their potential," shared the Jaycees Queen Show's Deputy-Chairman, Neilson Durberry.

With the pageant just weeks away, JCI has planned several promotional events

*cont'd on pg 5*

Mon 04   Day		Mon 04   Night	
<b>85°</b>	19% ENE 14 mph	<b>78°</b>	20% E 11 mph
Partly cloudy skies. High near 85F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity <b>71%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>78%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>5:38 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:45 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>10:08 am</b>	Moonset <b>10:53 pm</b>
		☾ Waxing Crescent	



### APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Tuesday, 5th July 2022	Wednesday, 6th July 2022	Thursday, 7th July 2022
Bolans CHAPA Housing Project 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Jennings near the Secondary School 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Parham north of Football Field 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	Section of Tyrells and Evergreen Road 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Vernons 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.



## Young musicians presented with Halo Hero Humanitarian Award

Internationally recognised musicians Braimah Kanneh-Mason and Jamie "Au/Ra" Stenzel were presented with the Halo Hero Humanitarian Award recently by Their Excellencies Sir Rodney Williams and his wife, Lady Sandra Williams.

The musicians were awarded in June during the Halo Foundation's annual Wings of Charity event in London.

The Halo Hero Humanitarian Award is bestowed upon deserving young people whose inspiring acts of bravery and kindness have made a difference in the lives of others.



*Jamie "Au/Ra" Stenzel" with Their Excellencies, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams in London.*

Both Braimah and Jamie have been heavily involved in giving back by sharing their talent and providing charitable assistance to young people in Antigua and Barbuda and across the globe.

**cont'd from pg 4**

which began with a bar crawl, a collaboration with Myst Carnival, on 1st July, a promotional roadshow and ticket giveaways.

"Over the next three weeks the public can be prepared for an aesthetically pleasing rollout of our official 2022 visuals that will be on our billboard at the Antigua Recreation Grounds, our branded bus, and of course the six crown contenders with additional creative content to support the Jaycees Queen Show brand as we shift gears as an organisation into full promotion mode," said the show's Public Relations Officer, Leon Norville.

Several new additions have been included to the Jaycees Queen Show experi-

ence including an official after party following the show.

Tickets for this year's show are \$50 Eastern Caribbean dollars and can be purchased on the Ticketing App, the Land store in Heritage Quay, Townhouse Megastore or from any member of the Jaycees Queen Show Executive Committee.

JCI Antigua President, Shenique Barry, who is elated to see the show back, said, "The Jaycees Queen Show brand is a part of who we are as an organisation; it's a part of our culture as Antiguan and it's a part of our Carnival. So we embrace the return of the pageant and look forward to the public and our sponsors' support as you are the ones who keep our pageant alive."



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# Local News



## DOE congratulates community shelters for completing climate change adaptation upgrades

The Department of Environment (DOE) has congratulated the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and the Church of God of Prophecy on the successful completion of climate change adaptation upgrades to their buildings and the creation of community shelters.

These upgrades were made possible through support from the Adaptation Fund for the DOE's project "An integrated approach to physical adaptation and community resilience in the Antigua and Barbuda Northwest McKinnon's Watershed", also known as the Adaptation Fund or AF Project.

Under the project the St.

Francis of Assisi Catholic Church was awarded grant funding of EC \$806,460.00 (US\$300,000.00) with co-funding of EC\$ 87,366.50 or US\$32,500 from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Church of God of Prophecy was awarded grant funding of EC \$403,230.00 (US \$150,000.00) with co-funding of EC\$35,753.06 or US\$13,300.00 from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

In addition to the creation of community shelters, the following upgrades were undertaken at the Church of God of Prophecy:

· Reinforcement of exist-



DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
Antigua and Barbuda

ing structures

- Roof reinforcement
- Installation of a resilient solar renewable energy system, with battery system and a grid interactive inverter
- Strengthening of windows and doors

At the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church:

- Reinforcement of two existing structures
- Installation of wheelchair ramp
- Roof reinforcement
- Installation of resilient solar renewable energy system, with battery system and a grid interactive inverter
- Strengthening of windows and doors
- Construction of supplemental water catchment
- Installation of energy efficient air-conditioning units

To celebrate the completion of these climate change adaptation upgrades, the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church will hold an opening ceremony for their community shelter and diocesan home for the elderly on 6th July, 2022.

The AF Project is focused on the high risk and

populated watershed on the northwest coast of Antigua. The project area is vulnerable to climate change, undergoing urban expansion, and supports low income and lower middle-income families.

The project seeks to reduce the vulnerability of the community, by increasing the ability of the watershed to handle extreme rainfall, while increasing the resilience of the built environment simultaneously to cope with the multiple stressors of climate change.

This integrated approach will ensure that the community can withstand projected climate change impacts, while the ecosystems can accommodate increased rainfall.

This project has three main components: 1) Upgrade urban drainage and waterways to meet projects climate change impacts 2) Revolving loans for homes in McKinnon's watershed to meet new adaptation guidelines established in the building code and physical plan 3) Adaptation mainstreaming and capacity building in NGOs and community groups to sustain project interventions.

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# ANTIGUA'S *Carnival* 2022

**27 JULY TO  
02 AUGUST**

## PRE-EVENTS

**Fri 22 Jul**

- ★ Band Meet Band Showdown

**Sat 23 Jul**

- ★ T-Shirt Mas

**Sun 24 Jul**

- ★ Celebration Honouring The Monarch King Short Shirt

**Mon 25 Jul**

- ★ Teen Rave

**Tues 26 July**

- ★ Drue's Day

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Wed 27 Jul**

- ★ Opening of Carnival
- ★ Jaycees Caribbean Queen Show

**Thurs 28 Jul**

- ★ Melting Pot

**Fri 29 Jul**

- ★ Calypso Monarch Competition

**Sat 30 Jul**

- ★ Party Monarch Competition

**Sun 31 Jul**

- ★ Pan De Mix
- ★ Emancipation Watch Night Celebrations

**Mon 1 Aug**

- ★ Emancipation Day
- ★ J'ouvert
- ★ Culture and Cuisine
- ★ Carnival Monday

**Tues 2 Aug**

- ★ Parade of the Bands
- ★ Last Lap



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# Local News

## Active COVID-19 cases fall below 40

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed thirteen (13) new COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Thursday 30th June, 2022 at 6pm.

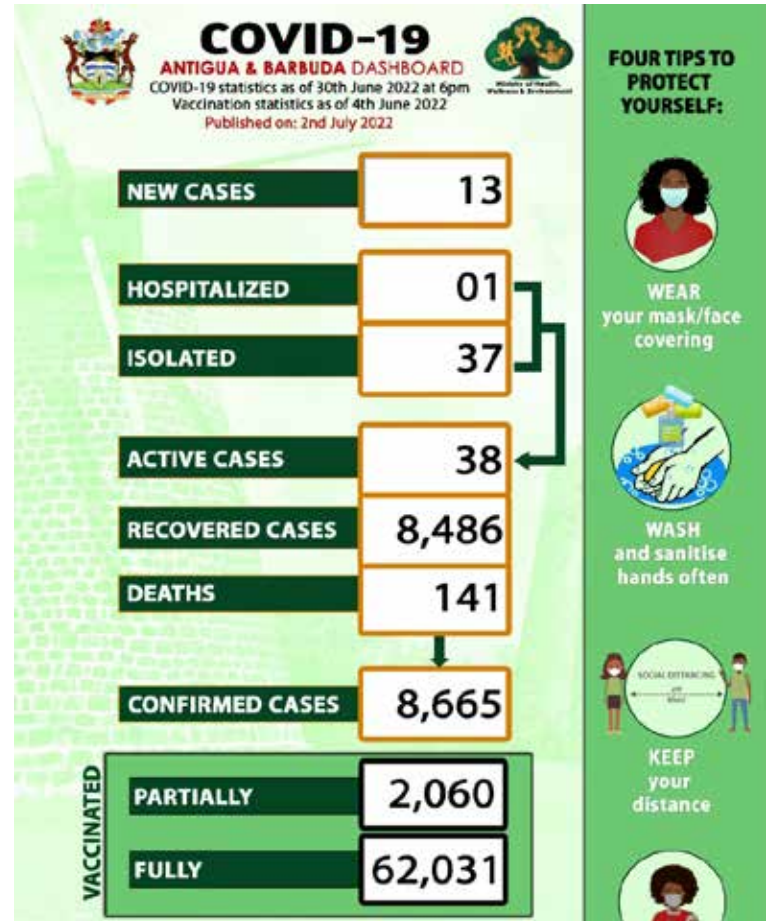
Seven (7) cases were recorded on June 28th and six (6) on June 30th.

Sixty-seven (67) samples were processed.

Thirteen (13) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight thousand six hundred and sixty-five (8,665); which is inclusive of thirty-eight (38) active cases.

There is one (1) mild hospitalised case.




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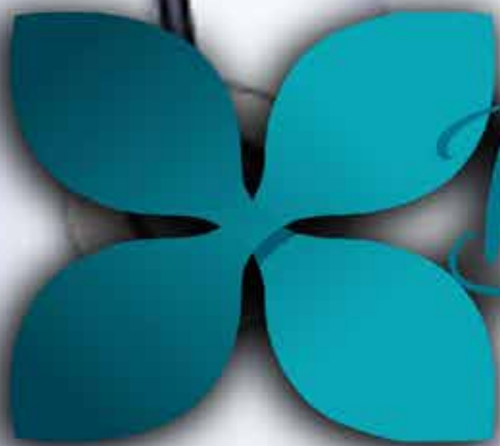
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# Opinion



## Your cheatin' heart

By Tony Deyal

If Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, it also hath no music like a Caribbean man with a horn or one of our women playing second fiddle. The Dictionary of Caribbean English by Richard Allsopp makes me realise that unless you're a cow, bison or rhinoceros, to "horn" is "to be unfaithful (to a husband or wife, boy-friend or girl-friend) by having sexual intercourse with, or by dating, somebody else."

It is the same as "cuck-old" which is linked to "horns" (in English, to wear the horns means to be cuckolded), and the American "dump" or "jilt". In Guyana, "horn" is replaced by "blow" mainly because, one way or the other, most of the relationships inevitably come to blows.

Then there is "tabanca" which, as Allsopp explains, is "a state of acute lovesickness often leading to irrational behaviour and usually associated with unrequited love." Finally, there is "butt" which comes from a "horn" as in this sentence, "She butting (cuckolding, horning, but not necessarily blowing) de man day and night and I don't know how he ain(t) suspect a thing." As a Road-March calypso in St Vincent and the Grenadines so aptly put it, "Man can't take butt." It is a sad fact of human existence that when a man tells you "I broke up with her" he really means

that she dumped him.

In these matters, men always seem to come out second best. For example, there is the cannibal lady who complained to her friend, "I don't know what to make of my husband nowadays?" Her friend responded sympathetically, "Have you tried a meatloaf?" One woman on her deathbed provided the ultimate in discretion. Explaining to her husband that she had something to confess, she said, "You know our seventh child, little Joseph?" He caught on quickly and asked, "He's not mine?" "No," she replied. "He's yours."

There are some men who believe that they are far too clever to ever suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or outraged women.

There is the lesson of a woman who was in bed having sex with her husband's best friend when the telephone rang. She took the call. After putting down the phone she said, "That was Harry, but don't worry, he won't be home for a while. He's playing cards with you." Some men are too stupid to have a problem. One man answered his phone in the middle of the night, grabbing it before his wife could get it. He heard a man's voice asking if the coast was clear. "Hell, man," he shouted, "how should I know? The sea is about fifty miles from here."



Tony Deyal

In the never-ending battle of the sexes, whether for fun or funds, women always have the upper-hand, foot, or other parts, positions and portions. There was the newly-widowed woman, Josephine, whose husband had drowned. She inherited ten million dollars. "Imagine," said her friend, "your husband couldn't read or write, yet he left you so much money." Josephine smiled and confessed, "He couldn't swim either." Then there was Mr. Jones who was so glad to return home to Trinidad earlier than he expected that he decided to surprise his wife. She was very surprised. He too. As well as the man who was on his bed with his wife. Both were nude. Mr. Jones was very angry and all he could think about was killing the man. His wife begged, "Wait darling, you know that car I

told you I won in the lottery? Well, this kind man gave it to me. Remember the holiday we had in Miami?"

This same man paid for it. And our son didn't get a scholarship like I told you. This man is paying his university fees." The husband then shouted, "It's cold in here. You better cover him up before he catch pneumonia."

Unfortunately, not many men, or women for that matter, are like Mr. Jones in their willingness to play second fiddle. Increasingly there are men resorting to violence, including murder, to deal with women who reject or are two-timing and even three-timing them. However, instead of "licks" from sticks and other weapons, there is a new shtick in town. A week ago, a Trinidad newspaper posted the headline, "People

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*cont'd from pg 10*

paying thousands to find out if spouse cheated." According to journalist Joel Julien, "Polygraph tests to determine if a significant other is unfaithful are now in 'high demand' in T&T. Because of this, the service is currently being offered locally...And some people are paying as much as \$3,500 (US\$515.51) to get to the truth."

I found out that this trend started in Barbados in 1967 and, depending on the level of difficulty, the cost for exposing an "Unfaithful or Cheating Partner" is between Bds. \$2135 - \$3202 (US\$1051.99 - US\$1586.74). The Jamaica Cleaner, on Friday May 15, just over two weeks ago, headlined, "Jamaicans spending huge sums of money to find out if their spouse is cheating." The Gleaner emphasised that Jamaica women and men are now "forking out" as much as Jam\$300,000 (US\$ 1993.16) to find out if their lovers are cheating. The cost in the US generally

starts at US\$500. There is one serious, scary and extremely terrifying question here. If the woman or even worse, the man, finds out that the spouse is cheating, what happens next?

The research shows that based on the Polygraph Test nothing should happen. According to the American Psychological Association, "The Truth About Lie Detectors (aka Polygraph Tests)" is "Most psychologists agree that there is little evidence that polygraph tests can accurately detect lies." I suppose in Trump's White House they couldn't miss. They installed a lie detector there and it was impossible for anybody to work because of all the beeping. However, in any other context, finding out for yourself might be justifiable only if you are dead set on it.

A father bought a lie detector which slapped people who lied. The bigger the lie, the harder the slap. Testing the instrument on his son, he asked, "Where were you today?" The son an-

swered, "At school of course." The robot slapped him. Then the son changed his story, "All right then. I was watching Kung Fu Panda". The robot slapped the boy even harder. The son, fearful that a third slap could knock him to the ground, admitted, "Dad, I was hanging out with a girl." This upset his father so much that he shouted, "What! You have your schoolwork to do and you're wasting time hanging out with girls? Let me tell you, when I was your age, I never had time for girls. Not ever." The robot hit the father a resounding slap that left his face swollen. Then the boy's mom started laughing loudly and said, "Why are you so upset with him? He is your son after all!" The slap from the robot floored her.

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen replying to a street journalist who asked him, "Mr. Deyal, have you ever seen a lie detector?" He answered, "Listen, I didn't just see a lie-detector, I'm married to one!"*



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# Parenting



## The surprising science of breast milk

By Anna Turns

Scientists are discovering the extraordinary power of human milk and the benefits it brings to infants, but there are also some hidden contaminants that can lurk in breast and formula milks.

Throughout the first year of their lives, I breastfed my two children without the use of infant formula. Breast milk has been shown to be an ideal source of nutrition for babies, with many benefits for their developing brains, immune systems and digestive tracts, and I was glad to be able to offer them that boost. But when I had my blood tested for persistent toxic chemicals while researching a book on pollution, I discovered that some pesticides banned more than 40 years ago could still be detected in my body. There is also evidence that low levels of some chemical contaminants can be passed from a mother into her breast milk. Yet formula milk is also prone to contamination with toxic chemicals or potentially harmful bacteria, which have led to high-profile food scares and recalls in recent years.

It made me wonder what's really in the first foods our children consume – from the most beneficial ingredients, to hidden, undesirable or even toxic ones. And given what we know about some of the dangers, what can be done to improve all the available options for babies, be they breast- or formula-fed, and offer them the best possible start in life?

### The milk that changes every day

Breast milk is considered the top choice for a baby's first food (the World Health Organization recommends that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life). It mainly consists of water, fat, protein, as well as vitamins, minerals, digestive enzymes and hormones. It is rich in maternal antibodies, and has anti-infective properties. Breast milk is also a dynamic, adaptable food – it is fattier in the afternoon and evening than in the morning, for exam-



*A mother breastfeeds her child during the "all for breastfeeding" festival in Bogota, Colombia (Credit: Daniel Garzon Herazo/NurPhoto via Getty Images)*

ple. It also varies during a feed. When the baby latches onto the breast, the first gush of milk, or foremilk, is thin and high in lactose, making it thirst-quenching and easy to drink. The so-called hindmilk that follows is creamier and fattier, making it more filling. This dynamic aspect is one reason why breast milk is hard to replicate, despite considerable advances in the quality of infant formula.

"Human milk varies over the course of lactation, over the course of a day, from the start to the end of the feed, and to some extent on maternal factors such as her diet," says Mary Fewtrell, a professor of paediatric nutrition at University College London, who published a peer-reviewed study of lactation. "That all makes it difficult to decide on a precise amount that should be included in a formula whose composition doesn't change with the baby's age."

Fewtrell highlights non-nutrient ingredients in breast milk such as hormones, cells (including stem cells), microRNAs (small strands of genetic material), which give it unique properties. "We still don't fully understand the role of all these components but... quite probably they allow the mother to transmit information to the infant about her

own experiences and the environment, which is why breastfeeding is sometimes described as 'personalised nutrition'."

However, while more than 80% of babies in the US are breastfed at the start of their life, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that rate falls to 58% at six months. Health authorities have tried to increase that rate, for example by offering more breastfeeding support to mothers. Diagnosing and treating conditions such as tongue-tie in babies can also help. But in the meantime, parents who do use formula may also wish to understand more about it, including what might be done to improve it.

"Whilst human milk is the biological norm for human infants and provides benefits for both mother and infant, some women may be unable to breast-feed or choose not to do so, and some choose to partly breast-feed," says Fewtrell. "For young infants, the only safe alternative if an infant is not breast-fed (or not fully breast-fed) is an infant formula which is designed to meet the nutritional needs of infants and support normal growth and development." Flexibility is expected – there's no "one size fits all" approach to

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*  
 infant nutrition, she says.

## **Towards better formula**

The manufacture of infant formula has come a long way over recent decades. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, bottle-feeding was not a safe option. In orphanages during the early 1900s, as many as 80% of bottle-fed babies died during the first year of life due to infections from unsterilised bottles, or malnourishment. Since infant formula was first commercially produced in 1865 using just four key ingredients (cows' milk, wheat and malt flour, and potassium bicarbonate), its nutritional contents have been refined in remarkable ways.

## **So, what's in formula today?**

Multiple fat sources are often used in formula, including cows' or goats' milk (often skimmed, which isn't as fatty as breast milk) and vegetable oils such as palm, sunflower or rapeseed, plus fatty acids. One fatty acid called DHA (docosahexaenoic acid, a type of omega-3 fat), which plays an important role in infant development, is now a mandatory ingredient in the European Union.

In breast milk, the main carbohydrate is lactose. In formula, this is usually added into the skimmed dairy milk powder base. Maltodextrin (a carbohydrate derived from maize or potatoes) is also added. In the UK, glucose (a sugar) isn't routinely added but in the US, glucose sugars such as corn syrup are more commonly used. One prob-

lem is that this can increase the risk of dental decay in infants when their teeth come through.

The major breast milk proteins are whey and casein, which change in proportion as the baby grows, plus lactoferrin which is found at higher concentrations in colostrum, the first milk a mother produces after birth. The protein quantity and composition differs in formulas based on cows' and goats' milk, which have a higher casein to whey ratio than human milk. Plant-based ones are often made with soya protein. Formula also contains a mix of vitamins (including A, D, B and K), minerals such as calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc and many other trace elements.

Unfortunately, formula can also contain lurking, unwelcome ingredients: just like I discovered pollutants in my own body, toxic substances can make their way into infant formula, too.

## **Heavy metal mix**

In 2017, the Clean Label Project, a US-based not-for-profit that tests products for toxic substances such as pesticides and heavy metals, found that almost 80% of 86 infant formula samples tested positive for arsenic. It also discovered that soy-based formulas had seven times more cadmium, a carcinogenic metal found in batteries, than other formulas.

Two years later, researchers from the Clean Label Project and the department of neurology at the University of Miami published a study into the heavy metal

content of 91 infant formulas. They found that 22% of infant formula samples tested exceeded the lead exposure limit set by Californian state law, while 23% exceeded the state's limit for cadmium. The study concluded that "low-level heavy metal contamination is widespread" in baby foods and formulas and that "further research is needed to understand the long-term health effects of this chronic daily low-level heavy metal exposure in babies". Another study of baby foods in Sweden found that the dietary cadmium exposure of children fed infant formula was up to 12 times higher than those who are breastfed, although the levels were still within weekly tolerable limits set by the WHO and FAO.

Jackie Bowen, an environmental biologist and executive director of Clean Label Project, co-authored the study. She campaigns for

greater transparency about the hidden contaminants that end up in our food, including infant formula. According to Bowen, food safety regulation can miss those contaminants since it focuses primarily on microbial pathogens such as *E. coli* that cause acute, short-term food poisoning.

Food safety regulators, however, insist they are actively trying to tackle the issue of heavy metals in baby foods. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for example, insists it routinely monitors baby foods for toxic elements and takes action if they present a health concern. It says it is working with food companies and other stakeholders in an attempt to reduce the levels of heavy metals and other toxic substances in baby foods to as low as possible. But a recent report by the Committee on Oversight and Reform at

*cont'd on pg 14*



# Parenting



*cont'd from pg 13*

the US House of Representatives criticised the FDA and food companies for not doing enough.

The FDA, however, says it is continuing to issue guidance to industry that will help lead to "meaningful and lasting reductions in exposure to toxic elements from foods", alongside its sampling and enforcement work.

"As parents and caregivers ourselves, we recognise and understand concerns about toxic elements and how they could impact the health of children," a spokesperson told the BBC.

"Consumers are increasingly concerned about how the foods they eat are linked to long-term chronic diseases like cancer or infertility that can take decades to manifest," explains Bowen who adds that, in the US, this food safety regulation is 'silent'

when it comes to heavy metal contamination. "There's a growing divide between the court of law and the court of public opinion of what it means for food to be safe."

Heavy metals like cadmium and lead naturally occur in the Earth's crust, so it's impossible to totally eliminate them. But human activities such as mining, fracking, industrial agriculture and the use of wastewater for irrigation, exacerbate the presence of heavy metals in air, water and soil in the form of pollution, Bowen argues. Unlike microbial pathogens which can be destroyed by high heat and other methods, there's no way to get rid of such contaminants once they are in a product, she says. Instead, the problem has to be addressed at the start of the process, by beginning with clean, uncontaminated soil. After all, formula starts with farming,

since key ingredients come from dairy livestock or crops.

"If you want a high-quality finished product, that comes from high-quality ingredients. That comes from healthy nutritious soils and that comes from good environmental policy that isn't going to allow for that level of pollution that contributed to the problem," says Bowen who explains that certain formula ingredients are at higher risk of heavy metal contamination. Soy, a mainstream plant-based substitute for cows' milk, tends to bioaccumulate heavy metals, as does hemp, whereas pea protein doesn't have that same tendency.

Hidden formula contaminants are only one part of the problem. Powdered formula gets mixed with tap water to create infant milk. That poses a health risk in areas where that water is contaminated by old, flaking lead pipes, which happened in Flint, Michigan, for example (lead exposure can also affect breastfeeding mothers). While lead piping is gradually being replaced, water testing typically focuses on microbes, rather than high levels of heavy metals, Bowen says.

"It's one thing to solve the problem for infant formula, but unless you solve heavy metal contamination of the drinking water that gets mixed with powdered milk to give to baby, you're only fixing half the problem," she says. "What are we doing to prevent these problems in the first place?"

The US Food and Drug

Administration's Closer to Zero action plan, which aims to reduce exposure to arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury from foods eaten by babies and young children, could be one step towards cleaner food.

Common formula ingredients such as palm and soy have also raised wider environmental concerns, because their production often involves destruction of native forest habitat. For some, the solution is to use organic formula ingredients and source them as locally as possible. In Australia, for example, formula maker Bubs sources milk from local goat farms and cattle, which they say helps them ensure the traceability of the ingredients they use.

## Feeding the microbiome

In recent years, there has been growing awareness of the important role of the human microbiome, the ecosystem of microorganisms that thrive inside and on our bodies, including in our digestive system. Emily Bloxam, a paediatric dietitian at City Dietitians in London who specialises in neonatal nutrition and allergies, explains that while the nutritional composition of formula is now closer to breast milk than ever before, breast milk is "a key driver" for the development of the baby's gut microbiome. Breast milk components that facilitate this development, such as maternal antibodies and healthy gut bacteria, cannot be artificially manufac-

*cont'd on pg 15*

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

THOSE?

By Timothy E. Parker





*cont'd from pg 14*  
tured yet.

"Bifidobacteria is a key probiotic (friendly bacteria) found in breastmilk which colonises an infant's gut during the first 1,000 days of life and aids immune function, while reducing the risk of asthma, eczema and gastrointestinal symptoms," says Bloxam. "Breast milk also contains prebiotics called human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs) which feed the Bifidobacteria allowing their growth."

Over 150 types of HMOs have been found in breast milk. In fact, the gut microbiomes of breastfed infants have been found to be distinctly different to those of formula-fed babies.

Some hypoallergenic formulas now include prebiotic and probiotic additions which are designed to bring the gut microbiome of milk-allergic infants closer to that of breastfed infants. Newly developed probiotic Bifidobacteria supplements can be mixed with formula or breast milk for babies who have been delivered by C-section and therefore not exposed to some of their mother's gut bacteria during a vaginal delivery. Some HMOs have been chemically engineered for addition to infant formula as well.

However, any added ingredients in formula still lack one distinctive feature of breast milk: the ability to constantly change and adapt. As Bloxam explains, breast milk is in a complex constant state of flux: "The amounts and composition of these beneficial substances vary among women according to a number of factors such as genetics, geographical regions, stages of lactation and diet. Even within one individual, breast milk composition changes daily to meet the infant's needs."

## Lab-grown milk?

One way to potentially mimic some of those properties may be to grow breast-milk-producing cells in a laboratory, something scientists are beginning to explore.

BioMilq, a North Carolina-based start-up, was set up by cell biologist Leila Strickland after she struggled to produce enough breast milk for her first child. Her team take cells from human breast tissue and breast milk before growing them in flasks in the lab. They are fed a mix of nutrients and vitamins, then incubated inside a bioreactor, where the cells start secreting the milk components that are found in natural human milk. However, BioMilq is still a few years at least away from market. Also, lab-grown milk would still not be as individually tailored to a baby's fluctuating needs as their own mother's milk.

Other biotech companies are also working on lab-grown milk projects that could change how we think of manufactured infant formula in the future. In Singapore, Turtle Tree Labs is culturing cells from various different mammals, including cows, sheep, goats, camels and now humans, to create milk components. In New York, researchers at Helaina, a start-up, are using fermentation processes that programme yeast cells to manufacture functional human milk proteins, which could eventually be added to infant formula and other food products.

However, breast milk is a constantly changing fluid so in a way it's a moving target, with some components still not fully understood, says Fewtrell, the professor of paediatric nutrition at University College London.

"We can quite successfully produce formulas to provide adequate and safe nutrition so the baby grows and develops as expected," she says. "Indeed, there have been improvements to the composition of formulas in recent years so that they can more closely reproduce the growth patterns and some outcomes seen in breast-fed infants. However I think it would be impossible to ever mimic the 'non-nutrient' components in this complex fluid."

As for my investigation into my own body's toxic load, and the harmful

chemicals that were perhaps present in my breastmilk, Bloxam, the dietician, reassures me: "I'd encourage breastfeeding wherever possible as the benefits for mother and baby would far outweigh any risks [from contamination]."

Still it appears I'm not the only one wondering about the ingredients in my own milk. Stephanie Canale, previously a family medical doctor, is the founder of Lactation Lab in California, a private company that analyses breast milk for nutritional content as well as environmental toxics. Mothers send in frozen samples of their breast milk to check the levels of various ingredients including minerals and vitamins. The idea is that they can then adapt their diet accordingly.

Canale says that when we look at a baby's nutrition, we need to include everything from prenatal vitamins to the food a breastfeeding mother consumes and the meals a weaning baby eats. Formula may be one part of that mosaic, in families where it is used.

"It's this holistic approach," says Canale, who would like to see stricter regulations in the US about the contents of formula.

"I'm from Canada and it still surprises me how much high-fructose corn syrup is present in US products, including formula. Moms are going to drive this change by saying we need to be better aware of what is going into these products, especially formula because that child is eating the same thing every single day – there's no variation [like there is naturally with breast milk]."

In the case of the toxic chemicals – whether they find their way into breast milk or into formula – the question is clearly not just about how we can provide our children with safe nutrition. It is also about how we can provide them and future generations with a safe, liveable environment, and reduce pollution along the entire food chain. One answer, surely, is to start by using fewer harmful chemicals in the first place.

# Nine reasons to visit Antigua and Barbuda right now

By Bob Curley

Antigua has always enjoyed a reputation for stellar resorts — think Curtain Bluff, Galley Bay, Jumby Bay, and Hermitage Bay, and, most recently, Hammock Cove, to name just a few — but now smaller sister island Barbuda is getting some star power of its own, with Hollywood star Robert De Niro part of the team behind the new Nobu Beach Inn luxury resort. The property now taking shape on Barbuda's Princess Diana Beach is just one reason why Antigua and Barbuda should be on your short list of Caribbean islands to visit this year.

## Nobu Barbuda ... and More to Come

The island of Barbuda got particularly hit hard by Hurricane Irma in 2017, and a key piece of the island's revitalization effort is a high-profile resort project backed by actor Robert De Niro, celebrity chef Nobu Matsuhisa, and film producer Meir Teper. The first piece of the project is now a reality: in 2021, the Nobu Barbuda restaurant debuted on the island's southwest coast, and in May 2022 an affiliated beach club debuted. Billed as an all-day experience, the Asian/Caribbean restaurant is now paired with five beach cabanas with personal hosts offering food service as well as amenities like towels and massages. The club also has a beach bar where you can raise a toast to the memory of Princess Diana, who considered the K Club located on the beach now named in her honour a special hideaway. Still to come: the Nobu Beach Inn, a resort hotel, spa, and wellness retreat with private residences and an organic farm, could open as soon as next year.

## Carnival is Back!

After a two-year hiatus, the par-



ty billed as the "Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival" is returning to Antigua. Antigua Carnival will be celebrated July 27 to Aug. 2, 2022; unlike other Caribbean Carnival celebrations, which take place around Lent, Antigua Carnival has long been a summer event. But it still includes all of the classic elements of Carnival, including road marches, music competitions, elaborate costumes, and the wild night party known as J'ouvert.

## Tour Laviscount Island

A new eco-tour from Adventure Antigua makes it easier to visit Laviscount Island, a nature preserve off the coast of Antigua that is home to a rare colony of Giant Aldabra Tortoises, considered the world's oldest living animal.

Tours, which can be taken in combination with the far better known Stingray City, also include hiking to see Lesser Antilles Iguanas and parrots and snorkelling off the beach.

## Vaccinated Travellers Don't Need COVID-19 Tests

Fully vaccinated against COVID-19? You don't need to take a test to get into Antigua and Barbuda; in fact, you don't even have to bring

along proof of vaccination. If you're unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, however, you will be required to produce a negative certified PCR result taken no more than three days before arrival, or a Rapid Antigen Test taken no more than 24 hours prior to arrival. Alternatively, you can submit to an RT-PCR test upon arrival at your own expense.

## Check Out the Upgrades at the Verandah Resort

The all-inclusive Verandah Resort is a classic address for Antigua visitors, but the resort has kept up with the times by investing in a wide range of renovations.

All 80 of its Waterfront Suites at the Elite Island Resorts property, for example, have been upgraded with new furniture, bathrooms, flooring and artwork; the resort also has added a new pool at Rasta Beach, a new coffee shop and gift shop, freshened up the decor at Nicole's restaurant and renovated its fitness centre.

## It's Easier to Get to Antigua

High demand is driving increased air access to Antigua, with several airlines adding more flights to VC Bird

*cont'd on pg 17*



## Bahamas investigating second monkeypox virus case

CMC – The Bahamas government has confirmed that health authorities are investigating a second suspected case of monkeypox.

Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. Michael Darville, told a news conference that a Bahamian national is suspected of having the virus.

Last month, the Health and Wellness Minister had reported that a foreign national who travelled to the country was being closely monitored by health officials and suspected of having the disease.

The individual was believed to be in his mid-40s and had been placed in isolation after showing symptoms associated with the disease. He has since been flown out of the country.

Dr. Darville confirmed that the foreigner had indeed tested positive.

“Yes, I would like to inform the general public that the suspected case of monkeypox that was in the country on June 9th. Our national reference lab did the analysis and



that case was confirmed to be monkeypox on the 24th of June,” he said.

“There is another suspected case in the country that we are monitoring. That individual went through the quarantine process, for I think 21 days, and all the contacts associated with that case are also being monitored,” he told reporters.

He confirmed that the new suspected case has a history of contact with someone from a foreign country.

Symptoms of monkeypox include skin rash, fever, headache, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion and can last up to two to four weeks.

### *cont'd from pg 16*

International Airport. Perhaps most notably, American Airlines announced in June that it is increasing service between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Antigua through at least the end of 2022, offering daily flights to the island into fall and winter. United Airlines, Frontier Airways, and WestJet also have added flights to Antigua as post-COVID tourism has picked up on the island.

### **Try Your Luck at Antigua's First Resort Casino**

Antigua has long taken

a liberal view of gambling, and the island has several standalone casinos. For the first time, however, travelers can now roll the dice at a resort-style casino in Antigua.

Debuting in December 2021, the Casino Royale at the Royalton Antigua resort has 80 slot machines and six table games spread out over 4,305 square feet of casino floor, as well as a sports bar. Gambling aside, the Royalton Antigua is part of Marriott's Autograph Collection and bills itself as a “family friendly all-inclusive resort.” Even better? It's

also home to the country's first-ever overwater suites.

### **Sneak Away to the New Ocean-View Suites at Tamarind Hills**

The Tamarind Hills residential resort on Antigua's West Coast has made a major expansion with the addition of 43 new ocean-view suites spread along the top of an ocean bluff between Darkwood and Ffryes beaches. Some of the suites have jetted tubs on their terraces; all have kitchenettes, four-poster beds, and oversized bathrooms. It's a bit of a stroll to the sand, but the walk is made delightful

by an elevated boardwalk that runs in front of the new suites and connects the resort's two beaches.

### **Raise a Toast on Shirley Heights**

It's the opposite of “new,” but the tradition of sunset drinks on the Shirley Heights Lookout while drinking in the views of historic Nelson's Dockyard and the Caribbean Sea, is an essential part of any Antigua experience. And don't forget to tour the Dockyard itself, once a major base for the British Navy and now home to shops, restaurants, hotels and museums.

# Regional News



## Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley defends IMF loan

CMC – Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, dismissing concern that the island is in a precarious debt situation, has brushed aside suggestions that the country will not be able to fulfil its obligation and repay a seven-year loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

She has dismissed her critics as saying that they were seeking to excite Barbadians and speaking without context as it regards the BDS\$928 million (One BDS\$=US\$0.50 cents) to be repaid by 2029.

Mottley was speaking at the book launch of Sir Alister McIntyre's compilation of works entitled "Caribbean Trade, Integration And Development" at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI). The Grenada-born Caribbean economist specialises in development issues and is a defender of regional economics and is regarded as one of the highly celebrated West Indian academic and intellectuals.

"More and more as I read sometimes in the newspapers, I wonder if people have lost perspective and have lost context. For to hear that BDS\$900 million from an IMF programme is something that will cripple a country when that constitutes a mere 6.4 percent of its debt and at no stage would garnish more than four percent of the revenues in servicing the debt, tells me that the figure has been used to excite persons without context," Mottley said.

Earlier this week, senior economist Anthony Wood told the online publication, Barbados TODAY that he had reservations about the island's ability to repay the debt.

"Without appropriate economic and financial policies over the short



*Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley*

and medium-term to return Barbados to a sustained growth path, with tourism and other foreign exchange-generating activities yielding very good results, the country's ability to service the IMF and other external loans will be seriously compromised," said Wood.

Wood, who once served in the cabinet of late former prime minister Owen Arthur, said the government's senior economic adviser, Dr. Kevin Greenidge, the IMF and the United States Treasury Department, were optimistic that Barbados will be able to service the debt in full within the stipulated repayment period.

He noted also that Dr Michael Howard, a retired Professor of Economics and specialist in Public Finance, had serious reservations about Barbados' ability to repay the IMF loan based on the current economic trajectory of the Mottley administration.

"Professor Howard's contention must be taken seriously given what

has transpired since the administration was able to reduce the national debt from around 17.1 billion dollars to just under 12 billion dollars (and the debt to GDP from 171 percent to just under 120 percent) in late 2018 when the debt restructuring/repudiation programme was concluded.

"We should be reminded that domestic debt holders (National Insurance Fund, Central Bank of Barbados, Private Financial Institutions and individuals) suffered in a disproportionate manner compared to external debt holders when the administration repudiated (refused to pay) about 4.5 billion dollars of the 17.1 billion dollars in debt."

But while she did not name any person in particular, Prime Minister Mottley told the ceremony on Thursday night that if the situation was placed in context "you would realise that amount is not only one of the smallest amounts, but that the capacity to service the debt is more than man-

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Trinidad dismisses social media posts that US investigating PM Rowley on money laundering charges

CMC – Information Minister Symon de Nobriga has dismissed as “fake news” reports being circulated on social media that Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, who returned here after a lengthy visit to the United States, was being investigated by US authorities on money laundering.

In a message posted on his Facebook page, de Nobriga said Rowley had travelled to the United States last month to attend the Summit of the Americas and then “then extended his stay in the US to attend to his personal healthcare”.

A government statement said that Rowley, who returned here on Thursday night, is due to travel to Suriname on Saturday for the annual summit of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders from July 3-5. He is due to host a news conference on Saturday prior to his departure.

The information minister said that while he does



*Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley*

not know the authors of the social media posts regarding the allegations against Rowley “it is instructive that almost everyone who sent me the posts identified one as a known UNC (opposition United National Congress) operative.

“I won’t make a pronouncement on that but a cursory review of their posts will be sufficient for anyone to come to their own conclusion. What I do know is

that this is straight out of the UNC Opposition’ playbook.

“It is textbook misinformation and it is a distraction. It is consistent with the near constant flow of misinformation in the public domain that must then be addressed, out of respect for the public whom we serve, and which then takes us away from being able to address very real concerns the public has.,” de Nobriga

He said the social media

posts “like others from other operatives, first and foremost are devoid of any facts or references to facts.

“They are also deliberately irresponsible and inflammatory with their words but this should come as no surprise to people either. This is the behaviour to which we have become accustomed. What we need to understand is the intention. It is to plant the seed of doubt and contention. Unfortunately, when they inevitably retract those words, they know the damage will have been done.”

He said that this “cannot be the way we operate as a Nation,” adding “this Government understands that it has hard work to do at a very hard time but we understand our job and we will continue to do it.

“These posts were intended only for mischief, bacchanal and the creation of doubt in authority and they should be dismissed as such,” de Nobriga said.

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ageable”.

She sought to explain the rationale behind the IMF loan under the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) programme, noting that the debt incurred helped to prop up the island’s social system during the height of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“If you look at it from the perspective that the debt was used to be able to secure from buses to transport people home near and far, to garbage trucks,

to equipment to deal with roads, to a whole range of things, then you have context and perspective,” she said, noting that the region was involved in a “relay race of development”, and that the work of Sir Alister was as relevant today as it was several decades ago.

On October 1, 2018, the IMF announced it had approved an Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Barbados for an amount of US\$290 million that is due to end this September. The EFF-supported programme aims to help Bar-

bados: restore debt sustainability, strengthen the external position, and improve growth prospects.

Bridgetown has already indicated that it will decide later as to whether or not to enter into a new agreement with the Washington-based financial institution.

“We are going to have discussions with the Fund and we will make the decisions in the next few weeks,” Motley said earlier this month as the IMF managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, paid a four-day visit to the island.

## Sydney floods: Tens of thousands told to evacuate

BBC – A man has died and thousands of people have been told to evacuate their homes amid torrential rain and flash flooding in Australia's largest city, Sydney.

Roads have been cut off, with 18 evacuation orders in western Sydney alone and warnings of more to come.

"This is a life-threatening emergency situation," Stephanie Cooke, emergency services minister for the state of New South Wales, said.

The area was hit by flash flooding in March, killing 20 people.

"We are now facing dangers on multiple fronts - flash flooding, riverine flooding and coastal erosion," Ms Cooke told a media briefing.

Her warning came as the Bureau of Meteorology said up to 350mm of rain had hit certain areas, risking flooding along the Nepean River.

Sydney's main dam had also start-



ed to spill overnight - a further concern for the authorities.

Ms Cooke said this was a "rapidly evolving situation" and warned that people should be "prepared to evacuate at short notice".

There had been 83 flood rescues by emergency services in the past 24 hours alone, she said.

"It unfortunately shows that people aren't necessarily heeding the advice that we continue to put out multiple times a day in relation to this flooding event," Ms Cooke said.

"I'm respectfully asking people to avoid non-essential travel at this time."

Her warnings come as an unnamed

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## Bus falls into deep ravine in southwest Pakistan, killing 19



A man injured in a bus accident in Dana Sar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, is treated at a hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, Sunday, July 3, 2022. An official said the passenger bus slid off a mountain road and fell 200 feet (61 metres) into a ravine in heavy rain killing at least 18 people and injuring some 12 others. (AP Photo/Arshad Butt)

AP - A passenger bus slid off a mountain road and fell into a deep ravine in heavy rain in southwest Pakistan on Sunday, killing 19 people and injuring 12 others, a government official said.

Mahtab Shah, assistant administrator for the district of Shirani in Baluchistan province, said about 35 passengers were travelling in the bus. He said rescue workers were searching for survivors in the wreckage of the destroyed vehicle and surroundings.

Shah said apparently the bus slid on the wet road amid heavy rain and the driver lost control of the vehicle, which fell about 200 feet (61 metres) into the ravine.

Deadly road accidents are common in Pakistan due to poor road infrastructure and disregard for traffic laws, as well as poorly maintained vehicles.

Last month, 22 people were killed in a similar accident when a bus fell into a ravine in Qila Saifullah district.



## Russia claims capture of pivotal city in eastern Ukraine

AP — Russia claimed control Sunday of the last major Ukrainian-held city in one of two eastern provinces that have been the focus of Moscow's grinding war.

A Ukrainian official, however, denied Moscow's control was complete. If confirmed, Russia's claim that it seized the last stronghold of resistance in Luhansk province would bring its forces one step closer to achieving one of President Vladimir Putin's major goals, capturing the entire Donbas, where a pivotal battle of the war is unfolding.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told Putin that Russia's troops, together with members of a local separatist militia, "have established full control over the city of Lysychansk," according to a ministry statement published Sunday.

As is typical with such descriptions, the Russian statement said the seizure of the city marked "the liberation of the Luhansk People's Republic," one of two Ukrainian provinces that have declared their indepen-

dence and are recognized by Moscow.

The BBC quoted a Ukrainian military spokesman as denying Lysychansk was under full Russian control. Yuriy Sak said it will "not be game over" for the Donbas region even if Russia captures all of Luhansk.

"For Ukrainians, the value of human life is a top priority, so sometimes we may retreat from certain areas so that we can retake them in the future," Sak added.

Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to the Ukrainian president, had predicted late Saturday that Lysychansk's fate could be determined within days. Earlier Sunday, Luhansk's governor said Russian forces had strengthened their positions.

"The occupiers threw all their forces on Lysychansk. They attacked the city with incomprehensibly cruel tactics," Gov. Serhiy Haidai said on the Telegram messaging app. "They suffer significant losses, but stubbornly advance. They are gaining a foothold in the city."

Ukrainian fighters spent



*Damaged residential buildings are seen in Lysychansk, Luhansk region, Ukraine, early Sunday, July 3, 2022. Russian forces pounded the city of Lysychansk and its surroundings in an all-out attempt to seize the last stronghold of resistance in eastern Ukraine's Luhansk province, the governor said Saturday. A presidential adviser said its fate would be decided within the next two days. (Luhansk region military administration via AP)*

weeks trying to keep Lysychansk from falling to Russia, as neighbouring Sievierodonetsk did a week ago in bloody battles that devastated both cities. The capture of Lysychansk would give the Russians a stronger base to intensify attacks on the second province in the Donbas, Donetsk.

Since pulling back from northern Ukraine and the capital, Kyiv, after setbacks early in the war, Russia has focused its offensive on the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where Mos-

cow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014.

If Russia prevails there, Ukraine would lose not only land but perhaps the bulk of its most capable military forces, opening the way for Moscow to grab more territory and strengthen its ability to dictate terms to Kyiv.

Already, Russian forces have concentrated rocket attacks on the sizable Ukrainian-held city of Sloviansk in Donetsk. New attacks were reported in the city Sunday. At least six people were killed, regional government spokeswoman Tatyana Ignatchenko told Ukrainian TV.

Kramatorsk, another major city in the Donetsk region, also came under fire, the regional administration said.

### **cont'd from pg 20**

man was killed after falling out of a kayak on the Parramatta River in western Sydney. Emergency officials attempted to revive the man after he was spotted struggling in the water by a member of the public, but he died at the scene.

Experts say the flooding emergency has been worsened by climate change

and a La Niña weather phenomenon. A La Niña develops when strong winds blow the warm surface waters of the Pacific away from South America and towards Indonesia. In their place, colder waters come up to the surface.

In Australia, a La Niña increases the likelihood of rain, cyclones and cooler daytime temperatures.

## Argentina economy minister, IMF deal architect, quits as government crisis builds

Reuters – Argentina's economy minister Martin Guzman, the architect of a recent major debt deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), resigned on Saturday as deep splits emerged in the ruling coalition over how to handle mounting economic crises.

Guzman, a minister since late 2019 and a close ally of President Alberto Fernandez, posted a letter on Twitter announcing his decision, adding he maintained "confidence in my vision of the path Argentina should follow."

The centre-left Peronist president is facing his lowest approval rating since taking office in 2019, with cracks in his coalition, inflation running above 60%, the peso currency under growing pressure and sovereign bonds at record lows.

Guzman, a moderate, had clashed with powerful Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, a militant two-term former president, who has criticised his handling of the economy and called for greater spending to alleviate high poverty levels.

The resignation leaves the ministry leaderless just as Guzman was expected to travel to Europe to negotiate a \$2 billion debt deal with the Paris Club of sovereign lenders. It also deals a blow to Fernandez's weakening power base.

"It is the chronicle of a death foretold," said Mariel Forni, director of the Management and Fit consultancy, adding that a painful loss in midterm elections last year for the government had hurt President Fernandez badly.

"Now he has lost another piece of his board, perhaps the most important, and is increasingly alone."

Investors, already jittery about the country's economic outlook, have pushed bonds down toward 20 cents on the dollar in recent weeks. All eyes



Argentina's Economy Minister Martin Guzman at the Economy Ministry, in Buenos Aires, Argentina December 10, 2020. REUTERS/Agustin Marcarian

now will be on Guzman's replacement.

Guzman, 39, said "there should be a political agreement within the governing coalition" to choose his successor.

The president's office said that it did not yet know when a replacement for Guzman would be announced. Fernandez had summoned members of his Cabinet and allies to an emergency meeting, one government source said.

"The president deeply regrets the decision but respects it. He is analysing his next decisions," said another government source with knowledge of the matter.

Two Economy Ministry officials, asking not to be named, said that Guzman's position had become untenable, especially without support for his economic agenda.

"He couldn't continue without the tools and with (Vice President) Cristina (Fernandez de Kirchner) against

him," one of the two people said. "When things are no longer possible, it is an act of responsibility to leave."

Guzman tellingly posted his resignation letter while Fernandez de Kirchner was giving a speech commemorating iconic former Argentine President Juan Domingo Peron.

Miguel Kiguel, former secretary of finance in Argentina said whoever takes over will have a tough time, noting that inflation could hit 80% this year and there is a gap of nearly 100% between official and parallel exchange rates.

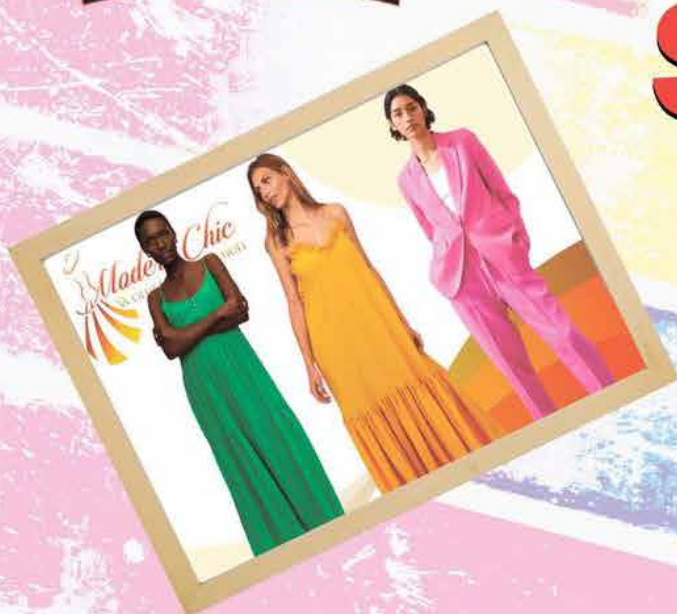
Guzman was the driving force in sealing a new \$44 billion deal with the IMF earlier this year to replace a failed programme from 2018. However, he was unable to tamp down sky-high inflation, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, while soaring energy import costs have hit the country's currency reserves.





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# Sports News



## Wimbledon: Former champions celebrate 100 years of Centre Court

BBC - Wimbledon marked 100 years of its Centre Court on Sunday with a musical celebration and a parade of former champions.

Eight-time men's champion Roger Federer, who is not playing this year because of a knee injury, said he hoped to play at the famous arena "one more time" in the future.

"It is great to be here with

all the other champions," 40-year-old Federer said. "I've been lucky enough to play a lot of matches on this court."

"It has given me my biggest wins and my biggest losses, and I hope I can come back here one more time."

Wimbledon stalwart Sir Cliff Richard and British singer Freya Ridings performed to the crowd, on



Venus Williams and Billie Jean King were among the many former champions present - they have 11 Wimbledon singles titles between them



Roger Federer, pictured with John McEnroe, was given a rapturous reception when he walked out on Centre Court. This year is the first time he has not played at Wimbledon since 1997

the first scheduled middle Sunday of the tournament, and there were guest appearances from a host of famous faces.

Martina Navratilova, who holds the Wimbledon record with nine singles titles, tweeted she was "gutted" that she had to miss the celebration after contracting Covid-19.

Also present at Wimbledon on Sunday were Covid

heroes in the NHS and social care, along with refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria who have settled in Merton and Wandsworth.

The Championships moved to its present site on Church Road in 1922, the same year Centre Court was opened. Built in just nine months, it is now the sixth-largest tennis-specific stadium in the world, with a capacity of 14,979

## French soccer tournament celebrates diversity, fights racism

AP - An amateur soccer tournament in France aimed at celebrating ethnic diversity is attracting talent scouts, sponsors and increasing public attention, by uniting young players from low-income neighbourhoods with high-profile names in the sport.

The National Neighbourhoods Cup is intended to shine a positive spotlight on working-class areas with

large immigrant populations that some politicians and commentators scapegoat as breeding grounds for crime, riots and Islamic extremism.

Players with Congolese heritage beat a team with Malian roots 5-4 on Saturday in the one-month tournament's final match, held at the home stadium of a third-division French team in the Paris suburb of Creteil. The final was

**cont'd on pg 25**



Players wait before the field prior to the final women's game of the national cup of working-class neighbourhoods between a team representing players with Malian heritage against one with Congolese roots, in Creteil, outside Paris, France, Saturday, July 2, 2022. (AP Photo/ Christophe Ena)



## Wins for Police, Pigotts and All Saints in Thursday League

There were wins for Police, Pigotts Crushers and All Saints Pythons in the latest round of matches in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League competition.

Police prevailed by 10 wickets against Newfield at the Police Recreation Grounds.

Newfield were restricted to 120 for nine in 23 overs, with Kofi James getting 68 and Amahl Nathaniel chipping in with 27. Lashorn Barnarde captured three for 24 and spinner James Cornelius claimed two for 26.

Openers Malique Gerald slammed an unbeaten 68 and Damien Lowenfield struck 40 not out, as Police raced to victory at 121 without loss, wrapping up the match in just 10.5 overs.

All Saints overcame Rising Sun Spartans by 19 runs in a low scoring en-

counter at Rising Sun in St John's.

All Saints made 114 all out in 21 overs. Demetri Lucas top scored with 20, Jewel Andrew and Michael Marcellin each got 16 and Andra Samuel was not out on 13. Andre Edwards picked up three for 33.

In reply, Rising Sun were bundled out for just 95 runs in 16.4 overs. Richie Thomas made 33 and Deran Benta chipped in with 17.

Lucas had impressive bowling figures, snapping up five wickets for just six runs. Andra Samuel gave good support by taking three wickets for 29 runs.

Pigotts Crushers trounced Mahico by 56 runs at Clare Hall. Captain Elroy Francis Jr struck 48 to propel Pigotts to 166 for five in 21 overs. Taiem Tonge picked up two wickets for 40 runs.

Despite Kerry Mentore's knock of 57, Mahico



*Pigotts skipper Elroy Francis Jr produced a fine all round display to lead his team to victory in the Thursday League competition. (File photo)*

were restricted to 110 for seven in their 21 overs.

Left-arm spinner Ka-deem Phillip claimed two

for 21 and Francis Jr capped a fine all-round display by picking up two wickets for 22 runs.

*cont'd from pg 24*

broadcast live on Prime Video.

The event competition grew out of local tournaments modelled after the African Cup of Nations that have been held in recent years in suburbs and towns across France where former immigrants with African backgrounds have lived for years or generations. This tournament, however, was broader, and international in scope.

Along with teams from former French colonies in Africa, the participants included teams from European

nations like Portugal and Italy. Players from France's former colonies in Asia also competed.

The tournament, which was launched in 2019, challenges the French ideal of a colourblind republic that doesn't count or identify people by race or ethnic background. The ideal was intended to provide equal opportunity by treating everyone as simply French; in practice, people in places like Creteil experience discrimination and ethnic tensions daily.

"We are Afro-descendants, we are

claiming our roots and we are proud," said tournament founder Moussa Sow, a French-Senegalese player who grew up in a Creteil neighbourhood with a tough reputation and who has played professionally in France and Turkey. "It's not because we carry this heritage that we are going to erase our French identity."

The France team — like its World Cup-winning national team — is made up of white, Black, Arab and multiracial players that reflects the country's diversity.

## Shepherd grabs career-best before rain halts first T20I

Steady showers forced a premature end to the first T20 International between West Indies and Bangladesh at a refurbished Windsor Park on Saturday. A wet outfield delayed the start for over an hour and a half and reduced the match to 16 overs per side. After play was halted in the eighth over, the match was reduced to 14 overs each.

Bangladesh faced 13 overs when a rain interrupted play again with the score on 105-8. Shakib Al Hasan top scored with 29, and every West Indies bowler got a wicket, led by fast bowler Romario Shepherd with 3-21. It was career-best figures for the 27-year-old who bowled with good control as Bangladesh slipped from 56-2 to 77-7 in the 11th over. His first wicket was Liton Das who was outfoxed by a slower ball and spooned a simple catch to captain Nicholas Pooran at midwicket.

In Shepherd's third and final over he took two more wickets – Mahmudullah brilliantly caught by the ever-alert Hayden Walsh Jr at backward point and then Mahedi Hasan, taken behind by keeper Devon Thomas. Walsh also played a crucial role with the ball as he took 2-24 to cause the middle-order slide. He first had Shakib taken by Thomas as he tried to go after a well-



flight wrong-un, and then sent back Afif Hossain for a “duck” as the left-hander hoisted a catch into the safe hands of Brandon King.

The game was the first cricket international at Windsor Park since it was rebuilt after being severely damaged in 2017 by Hurricane Maria. Ahead of the match Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit joined the captains for the coin toss and declared the series officially open.

Meanwhile, as part of the celebrations marking the first international cricket at the refurbished stadium following the severe damage inflicted by Hurricane Maria in 2017, West Indies are wearing their new 2022-2023 T20I team shirt for the first time. West Indies fans in Dominica have been

building up to the return of international cricket, revelling in the return of the game to the Nature Isle with a carnival-like in the build-up to the match.

The new shirt, designed by West Indies official team apparel partner Castore, features a modern graphic design and the iconic maroon and gold team colours. It will be worn by the West Indies Men's team for all the T20I matches building up to and during the ICC T20I World Cup. This includes the current T20I Series against Bangladesh, followed by the home T20I Series against India and New Zealand in July and August. The new shirt design will also feature for the West Indies Women's forthcoming T20Is and for the ICC Women's T20 World

Cup scheduled for South Africa in 2023.

The new shirt will go on sale on the Castore website - <https://castore.com/collections/west-indies> - ahead of the first T20I between West Indies and India in Trinidad on 22 July as well as at selected retailers including FanZone in Trinidad. Castore's partnership with Cricket West Indies ensures that West Indies teams have the most advanced fabrics to allow for high performance, extreme athletic movement and rapid wicking of moisture particularly in hot conditions.

Captain Nicholas Pooran wore the new T20I shirt for the first time in Friday's captain's media call ahead of the T20I Series between West Indies and Bangladesh.



## ABABWF yet to decide on team to attend CAC championships

President Hazel Went-Defreitas said the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation (ABABWF) is yet to decide on the composition of its team to attend the 49th Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships in Barbados later this month.

Went-Defreitas said the ABABWF has been conducting its own fundraising ventures, including the 2022 National Bodybuilding Championship on 25<sup>th</sup> June, to attain the finance needed to send an Antigua and Barbuda team to the 27th July to 1st August CAC event in Barbados.

She said the size of the team for the CAC event, which will be selected from the recent national championship, will be dependent on the number of bodybuilders that can be accommodated with the finances the ABABWF has been able to acquire through its fundraising efforts.

“A team will be picked from the results of the nationals to go to Barbados. How many? We don’t know yet. We are still working on figures and so on for that. Of course it’s dependent on the amount of funds we are able to put together to send as many a persons as possible to participate in the CAC championships,”

Went-Defreitas stated.

“We do not have all the figures in for the nationals to make a decision on that. But we have been trying, prior to the nationals, to raise funds to help as much as possible to take a team to Barbados and we hope the nationals would top it up enough so we can carry as many of the winners as possible.”

With just a little more than three weeks left before the competition in Barbados, Went-Defreitas is cognizant that a final decision on the team will have to be made shortly to give the selectees adequate time to be ready for the CAC competitions.

“We have to make sure we are on our p’s and q’s and get it as quickly as possible because the athletes need to remain in condition and maintain the condition, if not, better it in the coming weeks so they can present a better physique if possible at the CAC championships in Barbados,” she said.

“I am sure that they are aware of it so maybe they are just waiting for the nod.”

Went-Defreitas added that the ABABWF is also hopeful that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will come to their aid by providing some financial assistance to their



*President of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation Hazel Went-Defreitas. (File photo)*

needs.

“We are hoping that we will get some assistance. It has not yet come through so I don’t want to talk in case it doesn’t, but yes we are hoping that we would get some form of assistance from the government,” Went-Defreitas said.

“But exactly what, how much and when, I am

not able to say right now. We are still awaiting word.

“At this time of the CAC championship, travel to Barbados will be tight because Barbados would be celebrating their Crop Over Festival, which means that there would be more people travelling to Barbados at that time, so it is going to be kind of tight.”

## Wuilliez wins two gold medals at Caribbean Games

Swimmer Jadon Wuilliez has won two gold medals for Antigua and Barbuda at the inaugural Caribbean Games that ended in Guadeloupe last night (Sunday).

Wuilliez got off to a golden start by winning the men's 100-metre breaststroke.

He set a new national record to win the gold in one minute and 02.44 seconds after finding a last-minute kick to overtake Andrés Martijena of the Dominican Republic, who finished second with a time of one minute and 02.84 seconds.

Puerto Rican Xavier Ruiz was third in one minute and 07.71 seconds.

Wuilliez secured his second gold medal by winning the men's 50 metre-breaststroke event.

Fellow Antiguan swimmer Tivon Benjamin achieved a personal best by clocking 25.73 seconds in the men's 50-metre freestyle event.

Antigua and Barbuda's Sheldon Noble also won a gold medal in the long jump. Noble's 7.31 metres effort was good enough for him to win the men's long jump competition.

Antigua and Barbuda's sprinter Darion Skerritt also won a bronze medal. Skerritt clocked 10.74 seconds to finish third in the men's 100-metre event.

Meanwhile, Antiguan and Barbuda's young middle distance runner Hannah Charles of Hurricane Power Athletics Club claimed a third place finish at the 15th CARICOM wom-



National swimmer Jadon Wuilliez celebrates with the national flag of Antigua and Barbuda after winning gold in the men's 100m breaststroke at the inaugural Caribbean Games in Guadeloupe. (Photo courtesy ABSF)

en's 10K road race in Paramaribo, Suriname on Saturday.

Charles came third behind the women's 10K winner Jozeanne Harris of Jamaica and second place finisher Jelesa Wright of Guyana.

The CARICOM men's 10K Road Race was won by Marlon Nicholson of Guyana in 33 minutes and 27 sec-

onds. Janiek Pomba of Suriname finished second and Michael Biscette of St Lucia came third.

The race was part of the build up to the 43rd CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting, which began in Suriname yesterday (Sunday) and ends tomorrow (Tuesday).