

WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 151 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

MAIL ORDER MARIJUANA: MAJOR DRUG BUST AT GPO

Story on Page 2



Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez (c) greeted six of the nine US Travel Trade professionals who will sit on the ABTA's US Market Travel Advisory Board at a dinner attended by Sandals General Manager Matthew Cornall (far left) and US Director of Tourism Dean Fenton (far right). (Photo: The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority) *Story on page 3*

Local News



Major marijuana seizure at General Post Office

With the police reporting yet another drug seizure, there is growing public criticism that a new strategy must be adopted by law enforcement that will result in the apprehension of those responsible for smuggling the illicit drugs into the country.

Twenty-two pounds of cannabis were seized at the General Post Office (GPO)

on Tuesday during a joint drug operation between the Police and the Customs Department.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Royal Police

Force of Antigua and Barbuda said that a cardboard box containing 20 vacuum sealed packages of cannabis, with an estimated street value of EC\$132,000.00, were discovered.

According to the police's statement, the controlled substance was taken to the Police Headquarters as investigations continue into the matter.

No arrests have been made.

The GPO has been used in the past as an entry point for drugs into Antigua and Barbuda as traffickers seek ways to evade strict customs and border control systems.

This is the latest in a series of marijuana seizures that have taken place at the Deep Water Harbour and V. C. Bird International Airport.

With the word of impressive drug seizures, totalling in the millions this year alone, the public is dissatisfied as there has been no word of the arrest of those involved. Some have suggested that the authorities should allow the packages to be claimed so that those involved can be identified and apprehended.





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ABTA strategizes with US market Travel Advisory Board

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has selected a “dynamic” and “remarkable” group of travel trade professionals within the United States to sit on a new ABTA (USA) Travel Advisory Board for the period September 2022/September 2023.

The board members, owners of travel businesses within the midwest, southeast, east coast and west coast of the United States of America have been selected because of their strong relationship with the ABTA’s US Office, the passion they have for the destination, and the important role they play in the travel industry.

The travel professionals have agreed to offer their assistance and guidance to the ABTA for a one-year period, as the Authority seeks to exponentially increase arrivals from the US market.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, speaking at a dinner held at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort to recognise the newly selected board members said, “I feel privileged and honoured to be in your company this evening because I know of your commitment - and your mission - to help our tourism product grow.”

The minister thanked the group for their unwavering support particularly

within the recent years and for their partnership.

“We benefit from your knowledge and expertise, so I would also like to congratulate those of you who have had careers spanning more than 30 years in the travel industry and who are proud owners and managers in your respective field”, said the tourism minister.

Commenting on the week, US Director of Tourism Dean Fenton said, “The last few days have been very productive. The group has been engaged in strategic think tank sessions, producing big ideas that will help Antigua and Barbuda stand-out and drive more business to the destination from the US.”

The trade partners spent five days in Antigua and Barbuda familiarising themselves with the newest destination updates and brainstorming.

Chair of the Advisory Board Brenda O’Neale said, “The real purpose and mission of the Board is to create true value for the destination













Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez (right) with ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James (ABTA/File)

while we look forward, not backward, and present ideas that will allow the advanced uniqueness of Antigua and Barbuda to shine through. I am especially proud to be a part of a team that cares deeply about Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism and the travel industry at large.”

The 2022/2023 Board members are: Brenda O’Ne-

ale - With This Ring Destination Weddings and Honeymoons, Debra Brown - SmartBird World Travel, Susan Berman - Berman Travel, Terry Strauss - Dedham Travel, Niki Rakowitz - Care Travel, Edouard Jean - Massive Travels, Tom Varghese - Travel Tom and Donna Borrelli - Hamden Travel.

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Local News



Senator Gail Christian, right, accepts a donation from Happy Kids proprietor, Elie Saoud.

Happy Kids donates to Grays-Green fire victims

The business community has continued to respond positively to appeals for assistance for five families from the Grays-Green community who lost all their possessions in a re-

cent fire.

The latest corporate entity to make donations to the fire victims is Happy Kids which is located on Market Street.

The Antigua Barbuda

Labour Party's (ABLP) candidate for St. John's Rural West in the upcoming elections, Senator Gail Christian, said Happy Kids' owner, Elie Saoud, agreed to make a donation

as he feels a kinship to the people of the area.

In addition to a generous financial contribution, Saoud's store is donating school supplies to help the families prepare their children for the start of the new academic year.

"It is not easy to get a child ready for school and this becomes even more difficult when you are doing so against a backdrop where you lost everything in a fire.

Thanks to Elie's generosity, getting the children ready for school is being made easier.

"Along with school supplies there's a promise that school uniforms will follow," the senator announced.

Christian said she and her team are working with other corporate entities to help the victims rebuild their lives.



UPP to replace Cortwright Marshall

The main opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) has removed Cortwright Marshall as its candidate for Saint Mary's South in the upcoming general election.

Marshall's ill health is reportedly responsible for the party's decision, although an official announcement is yet to be made.

Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst, an executive member of the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) hinted at Marshall's removal several weeks ago while interviewing Saint Mary's South MP, Samantha Marshall, on Pointe FM.

A letter written to Mr. Marshall by UPP leader Harold Lovell expressed concern for his well being and gave the assurance that the

move to replace him was not personal.

While the correspondence did not reveal the nature of Mr. Marshall's health challenges, it did mention future travel to New York and Barbados for medical attention.

Marshall has apparently expressed the desire to continue as the UPP's candidate, however, reports suggest that his family, constituents and the party's executive concur that the election campaign process may prove to be too taxing.

During the Baldwin Spencer administration, Marshall served as the Director of Tourism Policy and Planning.

Cortwright Marshall's replacement is expected to be announced before the end of the week.



Cortwright Marshall



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Local News



MSC recruitment drive ends today

The second recruitment drive to be conducted in St. John's by cruise lines in as many months comes to an end today.

Policy and Projects Specialist in the Ministry of Tourism, Simone Richards, said MSC Cruise Line is seeking to employ at least one hundred and fifty nationals and residents who meet their employment criteria.

The company is offering job opportunities aboard its vessels sailing from Italy, Dubai and Brazil.

According to Richards, there are vacancies in the housekeeping, food and beverage, guest services and entertainment.

"We scheduled over ninety persons for interviews on Monday with approximately sixty persons making appearances.

"On Tuesday, we scheduled for one hundred and for Wednesday just over one hundred.

"Following these interviews we will go through the list and make recommendations to MSC [regarding] who will make the final selections," she explained.

The team who conducted the interviews will likely complete their review by next Monday. MSC will then send its own team to St. John's in the second week of September for face-to-face interviews with those who have been shortlisted.

In July, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines conducted a similar exercise in St. John's.

Richards said the recruitment process - from interview to assignment to a vessel - can take up to eleven weeks.

en weeks.

"That process with RCL is continuing as the cruise line is having direct contacts with the individuals it intends to offer employment. We are hoping to have final figures on the number of persons who will get employment from RCL in the coming weeks," she reported.

Spearheading the initial screening process were staff from the Ministry of Tourism. They were supported by representatives of the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association and Global Ports Ltd.

In recent times, cruise lines have instituted a policy of recruiting employees from the regions they serve to enhance their passengers' customer service experience.

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Local News



Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo remembered with donation to Willikies school

The family of the late calypso icon, Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo has made a donation of school supplies to students of the Nelvie N. Gore Primary School as part of efforts to honour his memory as an outstanding son of the Willikies community.

During a ceremony on Tuesday, Glenor Philo, a member of the family who resides in Canada, made the donation to the school.

Also present was the St. Phillip's North MP, Sir Robin Yearwood, who thanked the Philo family for their gifts to the Nelvie N. Gore Primary School and for their efforts to keep the name and the spirit of King Swallow alive.

The legendary calypsonian passed away almost two years ago.

"I am happy to be here to express thanks to the

Philo family for making this donation. Much hard work went into this effort and they ought to be commended. I urge you the children to take care of them as this effort will save the parents money. They won't have to duplicate efforts by purchasing these items locally.

"This is a wonderful initiative to honour the name of Rupert Philo who has done so much for our village, Willikies, and for Antigua and Barbuda," Sir Robin remarked.

An emotional Glenor Philo said she was particularly moved when she saw school children lining the streets waving as the funeral procession passed. The children's touching gesture, she said, motivated her to launch the initiative.

"We came down for



Representatives of Rupert Philo family and Randy Baltimore (centre) with students at Willikies school

the funeral and when I saw the children dressed in uniform, standing apart from each other because of COVID, waving with one hand and a bouquet of flowers in the other, it was a very moving experience for me," she recalled.

The local coordinator of the initiative, Randy Baltimore, said all students from Kindergarten to Grade 6, including those who recently took the Grade Six National Assessment, will receive supplies.

The donated items include school bags, pencils, pens, books, crayons, hand sanitizers, face masks, first aid and dental care supplies.

Along with the Philo family living in the US and Canada, additional donations were made by Daisy Charles and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Soanes and family, Clarvis Soanes and family, Robin Meade, Janis Withington, Jill Fabian, and Naomi George.

The Whitby Christian Assembly Church in Canada also made meaningful contributions.

State Insurance names new CEO

A new Chief Executive Officer has been appointed to lead the State Insurance Corporation., the statutory corporation which is now a full-fledged company.

The Board of Directors of SIC has announced the appointment of Aarion A. Nicholas to the position with responsibility to lead the organization growth initiatives and to build upon its industry-leading transformation to be a regional entity.

In a statement, the board heralds her fourteen years of industry experience and solid track record of leadership and execution. "Ms. Nicholas is a highly respected professional who will continue to propel the company forward". She re-

cently served as Executive manager with responsibility for the general insurance department. She joined the SIC team in September, 2020.

Nicholas is a graduate of the University of the West Indies with an undergraduate degree in Accounting and Finance. She is a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter designee and she holds an associate's degree in reinsurance.

Her experience includes what the board describes as 'regional exposure' as well as spending time within the London market where she gained international exposure and further insight at Lloyds of London.

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Letter to the Editor



UPP – No Philosophy – No Policies – No Plans – NO HOPE

Dear Editor,

In my last letter, I had, among things, pointed out that the UPP had failed to attract a group of persons with intellect and political acumen and savvy, as political adversaries, capable of creating a strategic plan and policies which voters could find attractive; and perhaps begin to consider the UPP as a serious and viable political opposition. This would have moved it away from the policies of just cussing and ha-

tred of Gaston Browne and political pandering by its policies of giving away everything including the proverbial "kitchen sink".

I then decided to take a break and conserve my energy to observe and get ready to comment on the political landscape and campaign when the ABLP commenced its campaign by cranking up what its supporters refer to as "the Big Red Machine", which I figured would be after the car-

nival festivities.

I have, however, had to change my mind when my attention was drawn to an advertisement by the UPP, that it was launching a publication of an 80-page report that it touted "would present its record of achievements while in office 2004-2014, and which would highlight the philosophy and extensive record of accomplishments in 2004-2014".

The idea that the UPP hierarchy or "strategist"

could think that this was a great idea is mind boggling and clearly shows its political naivete as a party, and the asinity of its political leaders and its neophyte candidates.

Editor, lest your readers think that my criticism is harsh, let me support my opinion with some relevant political facts. A Party seeking to be elected into office, must, in addition to presenting candidates of quality, also put forward policies and plans that they intend to implement if elected; and these plans must be set out with clarity, must make sense, be realistic, and capable of being implemented. Wild eyed promises and cutting all taxes are not plans and policies that are believable and are an insult to the intelligence of the Antiguan and Barbudan electorate.

That being said, I found myself struggling to understand, the whole point of the "report of major achievements 2004-2014", until it finally dawned on me. The fact is that the UPP has no plans and policies on which to be elected. Its political strategy is "to demonize the government in general and the Prime Minister in particular. At best fully it hopes that it can be elected because of the shortage of water, which is mainly due to a ten-year-old drought,

cont'd on pg 11

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Letter to the Editor

cont'd from pg 10

and which is now being addressed and would have already been solved were it not for the Covid pandemic. It also has failed to comprehend that the vast majority of the electorate are also not “anti-vaxxers”. The UPP, being stung by criticism that it has no policies or plans and a third eleven team, now says to the voters, “we did it before and we can do it again.”

So as an act of desperation, the UPP rolls out what it considers to be the great work done by its predecessors in its ten years in office. I have not yet been able to read “this manifesto in review”, but I think that most voters, other than the party base, have a pretty good idea what it contains, starting with school meals and school uniforms, but nothing about collapsing the economy and engaging the IMF.

My dear Harold, Giselle and company, parties are voted into power based on their plans and economic policies, and these plans and policies are contained in a document called a Manifesto. No one gives a damn or is interested in your party's selective views of its predecessor's terms in 2004-2014.

I suspect many of your readers like myself, are bewildered at the UPP's decision to publish this “rear view mirror manifesto”. In fact, I view this as an act of desperation, which notwithstanding its idle boast that

it will form the next government, has realized that the issues which it thought would sweep the party into power, have all but disappeared.

The Covid pandemic which it thought would bring down the government, has, in fact, proved to be a resounding success story for the ABLP government and has been praised by PAHO and the WHO. Further, a big UPP supporter, who is a leading businessman, actually told me that he praised the Lord that Gaston Browne was Prime Minister during the pandemic as the country would have died under his party's leadership.

The hard anti-vaccination campaign of the UPP has been rejected by the vast majority of the populace of which 64% elected to be vaccinated, which led to the control of the corona virus. This together with the State of Emergency and its protocols, helped to contain the spread of the virus. This enabled the government to reopen the country and reboot the economy many months before other Caribbean countries. The proof of the pudding is in the eating and our people were once again able to gather, to play mas, to party and to have fun in their thousands for carnival.

The issue of roads is long off the table. And water will soon follow. In fact, the government's programme to solve the water issue was only delayed due to the Covid pandemic.

All that is left in the op-

position's arsenal are unsupported allegations of corruption carried on Facebook by UPP activists and supporters here and in the diaspora, with support from Observer and Newsco, nightly rants in the Snake Pit by the obnoxious Dane Knight and a series of “powder puff interviews” by Shawn Nicholas, the party's General Secretary, and which are not capturing the electorate, let alone support.

Added to the above the UPP cannot be oblivious to the constant criticisms and

skepticism by a majority of non UPP voters that they have failed to put forward the plans and policies upon which the public should vote; and, if elected does not have a team, capable of governing the country. Indeed, as far as I know, the UPP has not, even at this late stage, been able to name its shadow cabinet, and thus the idea of a “rear view manifesto” was born.

And so, the UPP has hit upon the idea to publish this document. I, personally,

cont'd on pg 12



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How the Pandemic Changed Us (Part 1)

An excerpt from an article recently posted by the Harvard Business Review states, "Many of us have confronted big challenges in our pre-pandemic lives, but this shared experience was uniquely difficult. One area of our lives that was dramatically altered was our collective perspective related to work".

We have decided to share some of the challenges and successes from the perspective of our people leaders in the hospitality industry here in Antigua and Barbuda, both after the pandemic became real for us in March 2020 and then with the easing of restrictions in March, this year.

The year 2020 was a year the tourism industry would wish not to repeat. However, the experience brought with it many lessons that triggered improvements in certain areas.

When the pandemic started, we sprang into planning mode and tried to envisage all the contingencies that we would need to plan for.

After all, in the Caribbean we were accustomed to dealing with low occupancy times and even natural disasters so we anticipated that we could work with this new challenge using some of the same techniques from those occasions.

We all quickly learnt that this disaster was like nothing we had ever experienced before, and it was way more complex and far reaching than anyone could have imagined. However, it was upon us and we had to deal

with it. Properties began closing one after the other followed by layoffs and severance of employees as dictated by our Labour Laws.

A period of reviewing and establishing reopening guidelines and protocols followed. The industry was highly supported by the Ministries of Tourism and Health and by the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA). We documented challenges and successes and prepared for inspections that would bring the country in line with regional and international guidelines.

There was a significant wait however for the return of visitors, as we were hit with a surge of new cases in early 2021. We were not able to reopen safely for our guests and team members until later that year.

Because this was a worldwide phenomenon persons recognized that it was not any one person's responsibility.

There were some challenging times, but each instance brought more knowledge, and we handled every situation on a case-by-case basis.

The real solid benefit for the industry came when the government mandated that all frontline hospitality industry staff had to be vaccinated. Tourists felt they would be safe at our resorts.

It was a period of intense controversy, but the result was that persons who had greater contact with visitors were somewhat protected. The lower

death rates in the island were testimony to the higher vaccination rate.

Everyone had been impacted in some way by the closure of the country, the lock downs, the state of emergency conditions and ultimately the economic downturn. Few persons threw caution to the wind and others acted according to their convictions and beliefs.

Communication was key and as an industry, we were very open and honest about all matters, financial, physical or otherwise, related to Covid-19 and its effects on our operations. Some information was not always pleasant, but we felt that in the circumstances it was critical to share. We consulted with all stakeholders, including the employees' representatives at every stage.

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 organisations 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 hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HR-Pro268.

cont'd from pg 11

cannot fathom how the leaders of the UPP would think that this is a smart idea.

Firstly, the UPP in its former configuration campaigned and touted these same achievements in the election of 2014 and WERE

REJECTED. Again, they campaigned on these same self-professed achievements in 2018 and they WERE REJECTED AGAIN AND HUMILIATED at the polls.

How in God's name can anyone with a modicum of political savvy think that

this makes political sense? Further does the UPP not understand the fact that a stronger UPP with a much better team was soundly defeated in 2014 and 2018. How then will this 3rd team fare?

Dear Harold et al: Vot-

ers cast their vote based on sensible and workable plans and policies, not for pie in the sky plans, policies and perceived past achievements.

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The World Around Us

Touch not my anointed: Holy fever grips Kenya in election season

By Eromo Egbejule

In Kenya, where the majority are Christians, politicians and clerics are invoking religion ahead of Tuesday's crucial vote, with each side praying for victory.

They may not be on the ballot or possess Kenyan citizenship but the names God and Jesus Christ are all over the politics of this East African nation.

"Stop pretending to be deputy Jesus," Martha Karua, the former justice minister who is the running mate of leading challenger Raila Odinga, said in Swahili at a rally on August 3.

It was a jibe directed at William Ruto, the deputy president and their main opponent for the presidency, who had cried during a prayer service days earlier.

Both men are the leading candidates to succeed Uhuru Kenyatta, who is constitutionally barred from serving more than two five-year terms, after Tuesday's vote.

Of the other two front-line contenders, one, David Mwaure is a bishop.

"Bhang (cannabis) is smoked in Israel, even Jesus smoked weed," George Wajackoyah, the fourth candidate, who is proposing legalisation of cannabis farms, said at a rally.

More than 85 percent of Kenya's estimated 56 million people are Christians even though it is constitutionally a secular state.



Reverend Canon Chris Kinyanjui, the general secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCCCK) speaks to Al Jazeera in his office, Nairobi, Kenya [Screen grab/ Al Jazeera]

And for decades, politicians have sought to use Christianity in influencing the hearts and voting thumbs of many of Kenya's voters.

Unsurprisingly, religion has been regularly invoked this election season, despite Ruto's Kenya Kwanza coalition framing of the polls as a contest between "hustlers and dynasties". That narrative has pit the unemployed in Kenya against the families of Odinga and Kenyatta, sons of the first president and vice president of the country.

"Someone once said our elections are an ethnic census," Reverend Canon Chris Kinyanjui, the general secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCCCK), said. "So, this is a maturity of our democracy."

"We need to note that this is a narrative of class dimensions, trying to mobilise inequalities and the gap between rich and poor," Karuti Kanyinga, a professor of

development studies at the University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies (IDS), told Al Jazeera. "It has undermined mobilisation of politics along ethnic lines ... ethnicity remains an important factor but not as essential as before. For the first time in our politics, we have an issue-based campaign."

But he strongly disagreed that religion was a big deciding factor in Kenyan elections. "It is ignorant white commentators who say that – that's Western media analysis," he said.

"Ethnicity is the social factor that has always had an upper hand, we have never had religion, except in eastern provinces where 90 percent are Muslims," Kanyinga added.

Still, politicians and even clerics are using the religion card.

'Who can be against God's elect?'

Ruto, who has been seen

more than the other contenders in church, also regularly donates to Christian causes.

In contrast, many are uncertain of Odinga's beliefs.

In July, he caused a ruckus when he declared that "there is a colonial ideology in Kenya that elevated Christianity above all other religions" and "my government will end that."

The country's atheist community backed his statement afterwards and his opponents have capitalised on that.

"Dear Lord, you are not going to allow the spirit of the evil one to prevail in this country ... we pray for all Kenyans who have placed their hope in Ruto," legislator Ndindi Nyoro prayed at an August 7 rally in Kirigiti, 17km (10.5 miles) north of Nairobi.

"It's not been an easy journey for us but if God be for us, who can be against us ... who can be against God's elect?" Sakaja Johnson, Nairobi county senator and the Kenya Kwanza governorship flag bearer said at a church service on August 7, before introducing "Evangelist William Ruto" to speak.

"The ministry has been under attack," Johnson said.

Before the return to multiparty politics in 1992, the NCCCK applied pressure to the state alongside civil society and politicians, Kinyanjui said.

cont'd on pg 15

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During the disputed 2007 elections that left more than 1,000 people dead and an estimated half a million others displaced, it provided humanitarian assistance and played a role in the diffusion of tensions.

This time, it is providing a parallel tallying system – like 17 other organisations – to that of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and has deployed 6,000 observers across the country, Kinyanjui said.

The NCKK is also officially taking a neutral stance because “all the candidates are part of our flock”, according to Kinyanjui. In October 2021, it urged its members not to politick within churches.

Of good men and God's will

But some like Bishop Elizabeth Thuiya have decided to heed what she says is God's will. The 39-year-old founder of the Delta Prophetic Latter Ministries has been campaigning for her preferred candidate at every opportunity.

“In 2019, I had fasted for 21 days,” Thuiya who is also from Gatundu, the hometown of incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta, told Al Jazeera. “The spirit of God came upon me and I started telling people that in 2022, I will determine who becomes president prophetically.”

“God is telling me Raila will become president,” she said. “The Holy Spirit gave me that prophetic word, that the stone the builders rejected will become the chief cornerstone.”

Thuiya is now leading a pack of clergy praying for Odinga's victory. But a few years ago, she prophesied that it was Ruto who would become her kinsman's successor.

“You cannot understand the things of the [Holy] Spirit,” she told Al Jazeera, saying she asked God for forgiveness for doubting Odinga's salvation.

She also claimed Ruto was greedy and had dishonoured Uhuru by beginning presidential campaigns early and picking a fight with his boss after “the



Worshippers at a service at Jesus Teaching Ministries in Nairobi ahead of August 9, 2022 polls [Eromo Egbejule/Al Jazeera]

handshake”, the 2018 reconciliation between the president and the former prime minister who had been archrivals for years.

“In the word of God, Elisha and Elijah had a covenant,” she said, also comparing Ruto to Lucifer who fell out of favour with God after being too proud. “It was like that with Uhuru and Ruto until he changed ... the Holy Spirit told me he won't allow a transition of dishonour.”

Elsewhere Peter Manyuru, a long-time associate of Ruto and general overseer of Jesus Teaching Ministries, one of the country's biggest churches, has been more consistent.

At the August 7 service, he prayed for Sakaja and Ruto kneeling just below the elevated pulpit. A church representative told Al Jazeera he was unsure of the attendance but that the dome, comprising multiple tents, and which was full, could contain between 15,000-20,000 people.

“We cannot be casting away demons and you did not vote ... there are demons you cast away with prayers and demons you cast away with your vote,” the self-proclaimed apostle said, in a passionate sermon, charging everyone present to be peacemakers but also vote. “Enough is enough ... we must go and vote for good men.”

The congregation responded with uncountable hallelujahs and the stomping of feet backed by joyous piano riffs from the choir.

Ruto who came with a big Bible, joined others present to raise his hands intermittently in the direction of heaven.

“We appreciate leaders who keep their word”, Manuyuru said, stopping short of endorsing Ruto directly. “When he was first here, he said he would be back, we have been talking on the phone and he is here ... we need a leader who will support us in this ministry.”

Around the same time, a group of clergy from different denominations converged in the amphitheatre of the state-owned Kenyan International Conference Centre.

Among them was a delegation from the Holy Ghost Church of East Africa also known as Akorinos, a small conservative sect based mostly in West and Central Kenya.

“It is our obligation to pray for our leaders and we are here to pray because he is one of the determinants of what happens to our nation after elections”, Reverend Lucas Karanja, the leader of the delegation said, his hand steadying a turban on his head – part of the sect's dressing. “And he invited us to pray,” the reverend said.

Famed Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake dies at 84

By Yuri Kageyama

Issey Miyake, who built one of Japan's biggest fashion brands and was known for his boldly sculpted pleated pieces as well as former Apple CEO Steve Jobs' black turtle-necks, has died. He was 84.

Miyake died Aug. 5 of liver cancer, Miyake Design Office said Tuesday.

Miyake defined an era in Japan's modern history, reaching stardom in the 1970s among a generation of designers and artists who reached global fame by defining a Japanese vision that was unique from the West.

Miyake's origami-like pleats transformed the usually crass polyester into chic. He also used computer technology in weaving to create apparel. His down-to-earth clothing was meant to celebrate the human body regardless of race, build, size or age.

Miyake even detested being called a fashion designer, choosing not to

identify with what he saw as a frivolous, trend-watching, conspicuous consumption.

Again and again, Miyake returned to his basic concept of starting with a single piece of cloth — be it draped, folded, cut or wrapped.

Over the years, he took inspiration from a variety of cultures and societal motifs, as well as everyday items — plastic, rattan, "washi" paper, jute, horsehair, foil, yarn, batik, indigo dyes and wiring.

He sometimes evoked images of Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, or collaborated with Japanese painter Tadanori Yokoo in images of monkeys and foliage in vibrant, psychedelic hues.

He also collaborated with furniture and interior designer Shiro Kuramata, photographer Irving Penn, choreographer and director Maurice Bejart, pottery maker Lucie Rie and Ballet Frankfurt.

In 1992, Miyake was



Issey Miyake at the National Art Center in Tokyo on March 15, 2016. Miyake, who built one of Japan's biggest fashion brands and was known for his boldly sculpted, signature pleated pieces, has died. He was 84. Miyake died Aug. 5 of liver cancer, Miyake Design Office said Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022. (Kyodo News via AP)

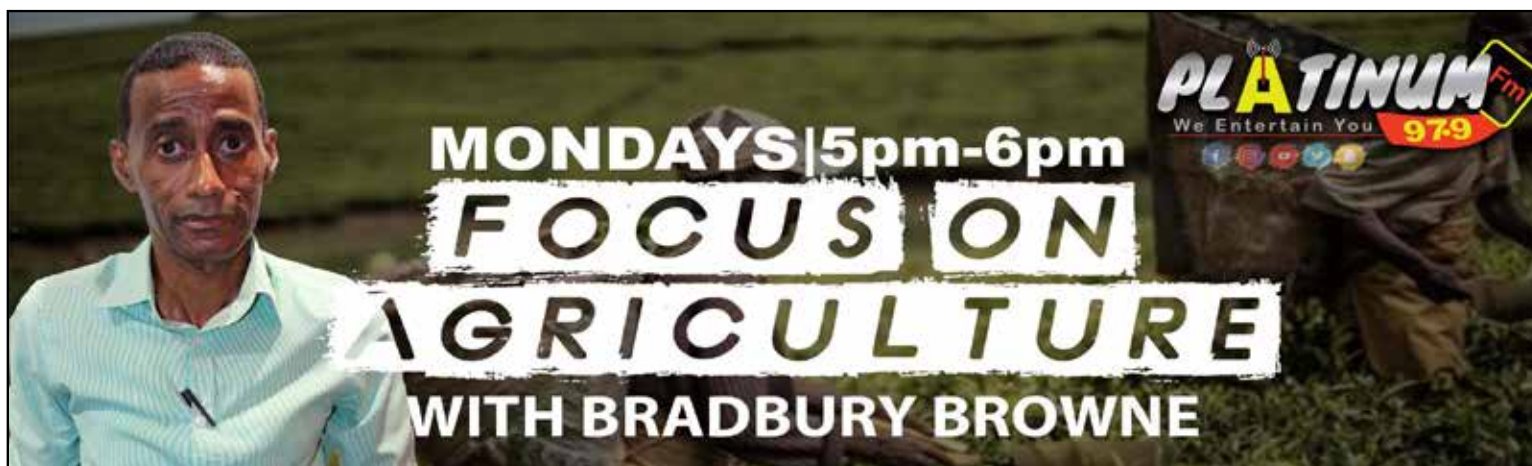
commissioned to design the official Olympic uniform for Lithuania, which had just gained independence from the Soviet Union.

Born in Hiroshima in 1938, Miyake was a star as soon as he hit the European runways. His brown top, which combined the Japanese sewn fabric "sashiko" with raw silk knit, was splashed on the cover of the September 1973 issue of Elle magazine.

Miyake was also a pioneer in gender roles, asking feminist Fusae Ichikawa in the 1970s — when she was in her 80s — to be his model, sending the message that garments must be comfortable and express the natural beauty of real people.

Although he made clothes that went beyond the mundane, appearing to reach for the spiritual, he

cont'd on pg 17



Raging fire consumes 4th tank at Cuba oil storage facility

AP – Flames engulfed a fourth tank at an oil storage facility in western Cuba on Tuesday as the raging fire consumes critical fuel supplies on an island grappling with a growing energy crisis.

Firefighters and specialists from Mexico and Venezuela helped fight the blaze in the province of Matanzas with boats, planes and helicopters as they sprayed foam on the containers, a first for crews since broiling temperatures had prevented them from doing so earlier.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said crews have taken control of the area where the fire is burning and are taking further steps to quell it.

“They are not easy tasks,” he said. “It is an intense and complex incident.”

The fire at the Matanzas Supertanker Base has killed at least one person and injured 125 others, with another 14 firefighters still missing. It also forced officials to evacuate more than 4,900 people and shut down a key thermoelectric plant on Monday after it ran out



Smoke continues to billow from a days-long, deadly fire at a large oil storage facility in Matanzas, Cuba, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022. The fire was triggered by lighting at one of the facility's eight tanks late Friday, Aug. 5th. (Yamil Lage, Pool photo via AP)

of water, sparking concerns about additional blackouts.

Those injured were treated mostly for burns and smoke inhalation. More than 20 remain hospitalised, with five of them in critical condition.

“This situation has us very worried at the moment because there are problems with electricity, with the environment, with the people who are still living here,” said Adneris Díaz, a 22-year-old cafe owner.

The eight-tank facility plays a crucial role in Cuba’s electric system: it operates an extensive oil pipeline that receives Cuban crude oil that is then ferried to thermoelectric plants that produce electricity. It also serves as the unloading and transshipment centre for imported crude oil, fuel oil and diesel.

The facility caught on fire late Friday after lightning struck one of its tanks, sparking several explosions

as it spread over the weekend. The first tank was at 50% capacity and contained nearly 883,000 cubic feet (25,000 cubic metres) of fuel. The second tank was full.

Officials have yet to provide an estimate of damages.

The blaze comes just days after the government announced scheduled blackouts for the capital of Havana amid a sweltering summer.

“The economic effects are clear,” said Tahimi Sánchez, a 48-year-old cafe owner. “They are there, we will notice them and we will see them, but we are confident, and we are going to come out of all this well.”

cont'd from pg 16

made a point to never get pretentious, always approving of the T-shirt-and-jeans look.

“Designing is like a living organism in that it pursues what matters for its well-being and continuity,” Miyake once

wrote in his book.

His office confirmed a private funeral had already been held and other ceremonies will not be held in accordance with Miyake’s wishes.

Miyake kept his family life private, and survivors are not known.

Regional News



Multi-million dollar failed bid to unseat incumbent Commonwealth Secretary General

CMC - "If I didn't pull through, God wasn't ready for me to leave Jamaica yet. I continue to serve and, of course, sincere congratulations to Baroness Scotland," Johnson Smith said following the voting in a message on her Twitter account.

In a statement late Sunday, the Office of the Prime Minister said the J\$18.2 million covered expenses related to air and ground transportation, coronavirus (COVID-19) tests, meals, accommodation, public relations, and communications.

Undisclosed Jamaican private funders donated approximately \$15 million for public relations and thought-leadership services from international marketing firm Finn Partners.

"Despite not having won, Jamaica garnered significant and widespread international support. The contacts made and the opportunities to share views



Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland (left) and Kamina Johnson-Smith

and secure understanding on issues of common concern have served to strengthen bilateral relations and further enhance Jamaica's reputation as a strong voice on the international stage," the statement said.

Additionally, the government spent J\$25.7 million on the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda,

in June.

It said that the costs for the meeting were absorbed by the Office of the Prime Minister - J\$12,827,897; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade - J\$7,715,585.37; and Ministry of Tourism - J\$5,131,386.00.

In the statement, the Andrew Holness government said it ran a clean, transpar-

ent, principled campaign that met the standards of accountability and that a dedicated and intensive travel schedule was pursued specifically across Africa spanning seven countries in ten days.

It said this was seen as critical in the campaign efforts as the continent includes 19 member countries of the Commonwealth.

Haiti Senate President condemns assassination of former colleague

CMC - Senate President Joseph Lambert, says former senator Yvon Buissereth, who was assassinated over the weekend, "loved Haiti" and that the French-speaking CARICOM country cannot continue to allow armed gangs and other criminals to operate freely.

"The leader of the TiMakak gang had him killed and burned in Laboule.

Another shocking murder that continues to bring tears to our eyes. Condolences to all his family and friends. It can't stay like this,"

Lambert described the killing as a "barbaric act" adding "his assassins, as well as all the other criminals who sow mourning in the country, will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law

and must respond for their ignominious acts before justice."

Government Commissioner, Jacques Lafontant, said the bodies of Buissereth and his unidentified nephew were found on Saturday afternoon in the community of Laboule, close to the town of Pelerin, where President

cont'd on pg 19

Guyana Government preparing for court battle as it seeks to repossess lands

CMC – The Guyana government says it is prepared for court battles as it moves to repossess an estimated 5,000 acres of former sugar estate land at Wales, West Bank Demerara for housing.

“Now, we probably have to go, and you’ll have court battles, and we’ll make sure that we take back the land to develop housing,” Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo, told a meeting at Patentia, West Bank Demerara.

“They gave a single individual to plant coconut trees, and they never even put down a baby coconut tree as yet,” he told the meeting.

In November 2019, then Opposition Leader Jagdeo criticised the allocation of the land to the Amazonia Expert Services (AES) for coconut production based on his claim that no feasibility study had been conducted and that Guyanese should have been given the



Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

first opportunity.

“We’re making it clear now, that we’re not just going to take back these lands, but we are going to file legal action against some of these people for what they are doing now. This government has no legitimacy to give away – especially to foreigners,’ large tracts of lands, at this point of time,” he had said.

In 2019, the then David Granger-led coalition, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) government, leased 700 acres of land at Wales to AES, whose principals are former executive director of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute (CARDI), Dr Arlington Chesney and Grenadian economist,

Dr. Patrick Antoine.

The company had announced plans to produce and export coconut water, dried and grated coconut to the Dominican Republic, and coir to the United States.

Jagdeo told the meeting over the weekend that the government is searching for land to allocate 14,000 house lots in Region Three (West Demerara-Essequibo Islands).

“Almost all of the lands on the upper part going from Uitvlugt is practically gone and private so we are trying to take back some of the land at Wales and other places that they gave to people, some of them 5,000 acres,” he said.

Jagdeo calculated those 5,000 acres of land could accommodate 20,000 house lots and is keeping with the 2020 election promise made by the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) of allocating 50,000 house lots.

cont’d from pg 18

Jovenel Moïse was assassinated on July 7 last year at his private residence.

Buissereth, director of Haiti’s Public Company for the Promotion of Social Housing, and his nephew were travelling in a government-issued vehicle and their bodies were later found inside the charred vehicle.

Lafontant said the Ti Makak gang, which means “Little Macaques,” is fighting with the Toto gang over control of that area.

Former senator Youri Latortue said

he is trying “to understand what led to such a crime.

“Senator Buissereth, a peaceful man, was my colleague and friend. The grief at the news of his assassination is immeasurable. Courage to his bereaved and shocked family – words fail me to express my sorrow”

Another former legislator and President of the FUSION Party, Edmonde Supplice Beauzile, said “in mourning your departure, I didn’t sleep last night.”

“This cruelty, how to explain it?

The dehumanisation of the Haitian man! I share the point of view expressed by Guichard. Act Government, no one will do it for us.”

The Director of the Ministry of Communication, Calvin-Karl Cadet, said ‘the odious assassination of my colleague from the EPPLS, former Senator Yvon Buissereth, revolts me to the highest degree. “Such heinous crimes must be banned in our society. I offer my condolences to the Buissereth family and to that of the other victims of this tragedy,” he added.

Biden formalises US support for Finland, Sweden joining NATO

AP – President Joe Biden formally welcomed Finland and Sweden joining the NATO alliance Tuesday as he signed the instruments of ratification that delivered the U.S.'s formal backing of the Nordic nations entering the mutual defence pact, part of a reshaping of the European security posture after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"In seeking to join NATO, Finland and Sweden are making a sacred commitment that an attack against one is an attack against all," Biden said at the signing as he called the partnership the "indispensable alliance."

The U.S. became the 23rd ally to approve NATO membership for the two countries. Biden said he spoke with the heads of both nations before signing the ratification and urged the remaining NATO members to finish their own ratification process "as quickly as possible."

The Senate last week approved the two, once-non-aligned nations joining the alliance in a rare 95-1 vote that Biden said shows the world that "the United States of America can still do big things" with a sense of political unity.



President Joe Biden signs the Instruments of Ratification for the Accession Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty for the Kingdom of Sweden in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022. From left, Vice President Kamala Harris, Biden, Karin Olofsson, Sweden's ambassador to the U.S., and Mikko Hautala, Finland's ambassador to the U.S. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

The countries sought out NATO membership earlier this year to guarantee their security in the wake of Russian President Vladimir Putin's offensive in Ukraine. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's rules require the consent of all of its 30 existing members before Finland and Sweden can officially accede into the alliance, which is expected in the coming months.

The candidacies of the two prosperous Northern European nations have won ratification from more than half of the NATO mem-

ber nations in the roughly three months since the two applied. It marks one of the speediest expansions of the pact of mutual defence among the United States and democratic allies in Europe in its 73-year history.

U.S. State and Defense officials consider the two countries net "security providers," strengthening NATO's defence posture in the Baltics in particular. Finland is expected to exceed NATO's 2% gross domestic product defence spending target in 2022, and Sweden has committed to meet the

2% goal.

Sweden and Finland applied to join NATO in May, setting aside their long standing stance of military nonalignment.

It was a major shift of security arrangements for the two countries after neighbouring Russia launched its war on Ukraine in late February.

Biden encouraged their joining and welcomed the two countries' government heads to the White House in May, standing side by side with them in a display of U.S. backing.

Public sector strike cripples cash-strapped Lebanon

AP – Tarek Younes was once solidly middle class and felt he helped contribute to society as an inspector in the Lebanese government's consumer protection agency. But the country's economic free-fall has eroded his income and civic pride.

In his desperation, Younes has joined tens of thousands of public sector employees across the country in an open-ended strike that has already lasted for six weeks.

The protest of the civil servants who form the backbone of government signals a further erosion of Lebanon's public institutions, already struggling to afford their most basic operating costs.

The strike gives a bleak preview of how Lebanon could sink even deeper, should officials continue to delay decisive action on key financial and administrative reforms sought by the International Monetary Fund to make Lebanon's comatose economy viable again.

Meanwhile, the protest further disrupted life in Lebanon, with even the most basic government services on hold. Court cases have been delayed. Identity cards, birth certificates and school transcripts are not being issued. Air traffic controllers announced that they would stop working nights in August.

Over the past year, public transportation drivers and public school teachers held unsuccessful sporadic strikes and protests, which they hoped would be a wake-up call for government.

"I don't know how we're thinking about economic recovery, if you have that many people who were once middle class now living in poverty," Younes told The Associated Press. "We are extending our hand and mak-



An Arabic placard reads: "Open strike", is posted on a door of an empty municipality office, in Bramiyeh, south Lebanon, July 27, 2022. Tens of thousands of Lebanese public sector workers are on strike for a sixth week as they struggle to cope with the country's crippling economic crisis. (AP Photo/Mohammed Zaatari)

ing compromises, but the government needs to do so as well and give us some of our rights."

Many point to decades of corruption and nefarious financial management as a cause for Lebanon's economic downward spiral, now in its third year. They say a handful of members of Lebanon's ruling elite caused the world's worst economic crisis since the mid-19th century, with three quarters of the population now considered poor.

The government has not increased wages for public sector workers since the onset of the country's fiscal crunch in late 2019, during which the Lebanese pound lost over 90% of its value against the dollar. On top of that, food, gasoline and medicine prices are up sharply due to high inflation.

Younes, who heads the Association of Public Administration Employees, said public sector wages once secured a middle class lifestyle at around \$1,300 per month. But that value has rapidly plummeted to the equivalent of under \$70. In a country of about 6 million

people, some 350,000 Lebanese work in the public sector and their salaries account for a huge chunk of the national budget.

Younes says public workers are demanding a small wage increase, better health care and a flexible transportation stipend to keep up with rising gasoline prices. They would still work with a major pay cut but he says it would "at least help us get the bare minimum of a dignified life."

With the onset of the financial crisis, Younes was scrambling as a government inspector to crack down on illegal price hikes and the hoarding of gasoline, wheat and medicine. He and dozens of other inspectors at the consumer protection services division of Lebanon's Economy Ministry were tasked with monitoring thousands of Lebanese businesses.

Lebanon's bickering ruling political parties have stalled in putting together an economic recovery plan and reaching a deal with the IMF for

cont'd on pg 22

Nigeria arrests men suspected of deadly church attack

AP—The suspected gunmen who killed dozens of worshippers during a church service in southwestern Nigeria in June have been arrested, Nigeria's top military officer said on Tuesday, two months after the attack which shocked many in the West African nation.

"We have arrested those behind the dastardly act in Owo," General Leo Irabor, Nigeria's Chief of Defense Staff, said in a meeting with local media, according to

the Abuja-based Daily Trust newspapers.

Neither Irabor nor the police who confirmed the arrest to The Associated Press provided further details into the development. The Nigerian general however said investigations are still ongoing and "in due course, the world will see them and others who are behind other daring attacks in the country."

The gunmen stormed the St. Francis Catholic

Church in Ondo state just as the worshippers gathered on Pentecost Sunday and killed at least 40 of them, authorities said. The incident shocked many in Ondo which is one of Nigeria's most peaceful states and had been largely spared the violent attacks across the West African nation, particularly in the troubled north where Islamic extremist rebels of Boko Haram and other armed groups operate.

The church attack in

Owo had "the imprints" of the Islamic State of West African Province, an offshoot of Boko Haram, Nigerian officials said after the attack.

Security analysts have since last year warned that the Islamic rebels in Nigeria's north are now spreading to other parts of the country.

Bishop Jude Arogundade of the Ondo Catholic Diocese told AP that residents in Ondo and the church in Nigeria are already "getting frustrated that after two months, people came to kill 40 people and we do not have any information about it."

He said the Catholic church has not been informed yet of the arrests and continues to wait to hear "the motive because we are a peaceful organisation, we don't get into politics or into controversial issues."

cont'd from pg 21

a bailout program to restructure its crippled banks and reform its pulverised economy.

The country's caretaker government under Prime Minister Najib Mikati says it can't afford the workers' demands but offered temporary cash bonuses and a slightly improved transportation stipend. Some employees have returned to work, but Younes said the majority still have their doors closed.



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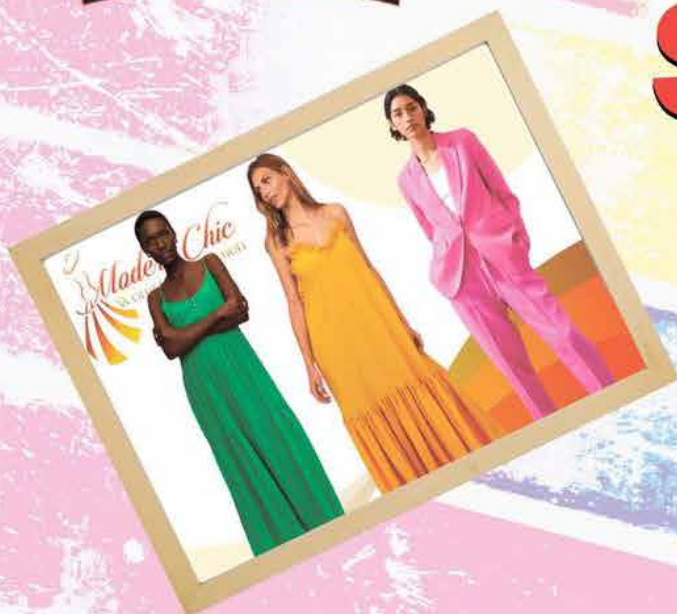
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Real Madrid looks to keep momentum at UEFA Super Cup

AP — Real Madrid wants to start the new season the same way it ended the last one — winning a trophy.

Madrid won the Champions League in its final match last season, and on Wednesday it begins the new season by taking on Europa League winner Eintracht Frankfurt in the UEFA Super Cup in Helsinki, Finland.

It will be the teams' first competitive meeting since the 1960 European Cup final, when Madrid won its fifth straight European title at the time with a thrilling 7-3 win at Glasgow's Hampden Park. Ferenc Puskás scored four goals for Madrid and Alfredo Di Stéfano got a hat trick. About 127,000 fans watched the match in what is still the highest attendance for a European Cup final.

Madrid is chasing its fifth Super Cup title, and first since 2017, while Frankfurt will be making its first Super Cup appearance following its shootout victory over Rangers in the Europa League final. That win ended the German club's 42-year wait for a European trophy.

Madrid ended last season on a high after comfortably winning the Spanish league and overcoming poor performances to advance in the knockout stages of the Champions League. It eventually clinched a record 14th European title in the final against Liverpool.

"We will try to win everything possible this season,"

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Tuesday. "I don't know if we will be able to do it, we know it will be very complicated. But the squad is very good and I have a lot of confidence in my players."

The Spanish powerhouse will be mostly unchanged going into 2022-23, led by Karim Benzema following his best season ever. Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo are also back in an attack that was dominant last season, and the midfield remains anchored by Casemiro, Luka Modric and Toni Kroos. The team's additions come with central defender Antonio Rüdiger and midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni.

Isco Alarcón and Gareth Bale left after their contracts expired, but the club did not replace them despite the disappointment of failing to sign Kylian Mbappé from Paris Saint-Germain. Instead Madrid is hoping for another impressive season up front from the 34-year-old Benzema.

"Right now it's impossible to replace Benzema," Ancelotti said. "He is the best striker in the world."

The France striker was the top scorer in the Spanish league and the Champions League. He scored 44 goals in 45 matches with Madrid, and equaled Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer with 323 goals, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (451). He is the front-runner to win the player-of-the-year awards for last season.



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema is in action during the Champions League final soccer match between Liverpool and Real Madrid at the Stade de France in Saint Denis near Paris, on May 28, 2022. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek, File)

"I'm not the one to talk about (the awards)," Benzema said. "My goal is to help the team as much as I can each season."

Benzema scored twice in his two preseason games — a 2-2 draw with Mexican club América and a 2-0 win over Juventus — and did not play in Madrid's 1-0 loss to Barcelona. Madrid will play its Spanish league opener on Sunday at promoted Almería.

Frankfurt's season has already started. It routed second-division club Magdeburg 4-0 in the first round of the German Cup, then lost 6-1 at home to Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga opener on Friday, when the visitors led 5-0 at halftime.

"On Wednesday we have the opportunity to do better against an opponent that's just as strong," Frankfurt coach Oliver Glasner said. "Sometimes it's good to get a slap in the face so not everyone thinks things will continue like last season."

Frankfurt had not clinched a European title until winning the UEFA Cup in 1980. It won its lone German league title in 1959, and since then it has won five German Cups, the last in 2018.

The match at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium will be the first UEFA club competition final to be held in Finland, though the venue previously also staged the final of the women's European Championship in 2009.

Semi-automated offside technology will be used for the first time in a European club competition. The new system operates with cameras that can track 29 different body points per player and will allow video review teams to determine offside situations more quickly and accurately, according to UEFA.

The system was tested at the women's Euro 2022 in England and in the Champions League last season. It was also approved by FIFA for the World Cup in Qatar.

Serena Williams says 'countdown has begun' to retirement

AP – Saying “the countdown has begun,” 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams announced Tuesday she is ready to step away from tennis so she can turn her focus to having another child and her business interests, presaging the end of a career that transcended sports.

In an essay released Tuesday by Vogue magazine, and a post on Instagram — the sorts of direct-to-fans communication favoured these days by celebrities, a category she most definitely fits — Williams was not completely clear on the timeline for her last match, but she made it sound as if that could be at the U.S. Open, which begins Aug. 29 in New York.

“There comes a time in life when we have to decide to move in a different direction. That time is always hard when you love something so much. My goodness, I enjoy tennis. But now, the countdown has begun,” Williams, who turns 41 next month, wrote on

Instagram. “I have to focus on being a mom, my spiritual goals and finally discovering a different, but just (as) exciting Serena. I’m gonna relish these next few weeks.”

Williams, one of the greatest and most accomplished athletes in the history of her — or any other — sport, wrote in the essay that she does not like the word “retirement” and prefers to think of this stage of her life as “evolving away from tennis, toward other things that are important to me.”

“I feel a great deal of pain. It’s the hardest thing that I could ever imagine. I hate it. I hate that I have to be at this crossroads,” she wrote.

“I keep saying to myself, I wish it could be easy for me, but it’s not. I’m torn: I don’t want it to be over, but at the same time I’m ready for what’s next.”

That she would be publicly contemplating the end of her playing days is not all that surprising to anyone, giv-



Serena Williams gives the thumbs up as she holds her trophy after defeating her sister Venus in the women's singles final on the Centre Court at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Saturday July 5, 2003. (AP Photo/Jytte Nielsen, File)

en her age — her 10 Grand Slam titles after turning 30 are unsurpassed — her history of injuries and her recent record: one victory in a singles match in the past 12 months (that win arrived Monday in Toronto; she is scheduled to play again on Wednesday).

Her status as an athlete, and a groundbreaker, is obvious to everyone.

Fury announces comeback, plans for 3rd fight vs. Chisora

AP – Tyson Fury has announced a return to boxing and has his sights set on a third bout against fellow Briton Derek Chisora.

Fury said after his win over Dillian Whyte at London’s Wembley Stadium in April that he was retiring from the sport, but seems to have already changed his mind.

“I’ve decided to come back to boxing because I can be the first heavyweight champion in history to have two trilogies, one with Deontay Wilder, a second one with Derek Chisora,” the reigning WBC champion said in a video posted on so-



Tyson Fury

cial media. “I always said I would fight Derek Chisora at the end of my career.”

Fury beat Chisora twice early in his career, before defeating Wladimir Klitsc-

enko in his first world title fight in 2015.

He also defeated Wilder twice after their first title bout ended in a split decision draw.

The undefeated Fury also posted a video on Instagram accusing Chisora of “running” from the fight and urging him to sign a contract.

The 38-year-old Chisora replied with his own video telling Fury to “send me the paperwork.”

A fight against Chisora would immediately heighten speculation of a possible unification bout between Fury and Oleksandr Usyk, the reigning WBA, IBF and WBO title-holder, or Anthony Joshua. Usyk takes on Joshua on Aug. 20 in Saudi Arabia in a rematch of their fight in London last year.

Thomas says All Saints had bittersweet season

Head coach Derrol “Musai” Thomas said the recently completed 2022 domestic season had been a bitter sweet one for the All Saints Pythons.

All Saints finished fifth in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association’s (ABCA) Super-40, were disqualified from the semi-finals of the Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion for using an ineligible player, reached the semi-finals of the ABCA Two-Day Competition and lost to Police in the Antigua Commercial Bank Parish League Thursday League Final at the Police Recreation Grounds on 28th July.

“It has been somewhat of a sour and sweet mixture in terms of the 2022 cricket season for All Saints. It has been a long season for my players and it is a pretty young team that played in five competitions this year,” Thomas stated.

“I wished it could be better, but at the end of the day, it is hard work that will pay off. We reached one final and got into the semi-finals of a few others so I am proud of my guys. I like the effort that they put in.”

Right-handed opening batsman Michael Dover has been one of the leading runs scorers for All Saints this season. Dover hit a top score of 64 in All Saints’ total of 126 all out in reply to 161 for six made by Police in the Thursday League final.

He also struck 88 for a senior national team XI in one of two 50-over one-day practice matches against the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Emerging Players Academy in Liberta on 24th July.

Thomas said his team will be looking to build on the foundation that was

already laid under new captain Dover, who replaced Kerry Mentore at the helm in the middle of this season.

“For the next season, we have got to do some more work so that we can do something much better. Michael didn’t have the best season that we know he can have.

“He can do much better, but during the latter part of this season, he really buckled down and batted much better,” Thomas said.

“He got run out in the 70s against Mahico in the Thursday League semi-finals. He played for Antigua the other day against A Cricket West Indies side and he got 88 before he was run out again.

“We also see him batting throughout most of the innings in the Thursday League final and got a top score of 64 for the team.

“He also has a new job as our team captain because we started the season with Kerry Mentore as the captain, but the club made a decision to change the captain and so Michael is there now.

“I think with some more hard work, Michael can become an even better player and captain for us.”

All Saints Pythons also made a tour to St. Kitts to play some matches during a break in the ABCA domestic programme earlier this year. Thomas said the trip to St. Kitts was one of the most enjoyable aspects of this season.

“Well like I said before, this season has ended bitter sweet, but I can say we had some good fun on our tour to St. Kitts this year. But it was not only the fun, I must say the guys played some really good cricket on the tour to St. Kitts as well,” Thomas stated.

“In St. Kitts, we put the opponents



Head coach of All Saints Pythons cricket team Derrol ‘Musai’ Thomas. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

to the sword and I think as we start our season next year, I think embarking on a similar tour might be one of the best things for us as we get our club back on track.

“But like everything in life, we have our ups and we have our downs so we have to get the executive and everyone else back on track and rolling again, because we have to look forward to the future of not only cricket in All Saints Village, but also cricket overall in Antigua and the Leeward Islands, which will also make West Indies cricket much better.”

Organisers seek alternate venue to complete Over-40 league

Organisers of the Antigua Over-40 Premier League are seeking an alternate venue to complete the inaugural football competition.

The competition, which was being played at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Center at Paynters since it started on Sunday, 1st May, is unlikely to conclude at the same venue.

Following the completion of the 12th round of matches on Sunday, 17th July, the competition went on a break in recognition of the return of the 2022 national Carnival celebrations.

According to chief organizer Shirville Jarvis, the

re-start of the competition, which was set to resume at the ABFA's Technical Center on Sunday, 7th August, with the staging of the 13th round of matches, did not materialize after he was informed that the venue is unavailable due to repairs currently being done at the facility.

The ABFA has been sprucing up the technical centre with work being carried out on areas such as the main seating stand and the players' dugouts to facilitate Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Jewels of the Caribbean 2022 Girls' Under-15 Invitational Tournament from Saturday, 13th to Sunday, 21st August.

Following the comple-

tion of the Under-15 Invitational tournament, the ABFA will utilize the technical centre to host first round matches in its Joma Caribbean Cool & Smooth Knockout competition from Friday, 26th August until Sunday, 4th September.

This has forced the Antigua Over-40 Premier League organisers into seeking an alternative venue to stage its last three rounds of matches to complete the competition.

Dun Bar Crew are currently leading the competition after 12 rounds of

matches with 30 points.

West Ham FC are in second place with 27 points, with Up and Over FC in third position with 22 points.

Turf Masters are in fourth place with 19 points. Extraordinary Men are fifth in the standings on 16 points, while Tun and Bang FC are in sixth position on 15 points.

Legacy FC are second from bottom of the eight-team round robin competition on 11 points, while Golden Grove Masters are occupying the cellar position without a point.

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cao, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Tier 1 (Group 1B): Aruba, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Tier II (Group 1): Bermuda, Guyana and French St. Martin.

Tier II (Group 2): Barbados and French Guiana.

Tier II (Group 3): Cayman Islands and Martinique.

Tier II (Group 4): Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Dutch St. Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands and US Virgin Islands.

Teams in Tier I will play three matches in the

group phase leading to cross-group quarterfinals. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals with the winners playing for the championship. There are 19 Tier 1 matches.

Groups 1-3 in Tier II will play three matches in the group phases, while Group 4 will play four matches. The top teams will advance to the Cross Group Playoffs, with the top four reaching the semi-finals and the last two playing for the championship. There are 37 Tier II matches.



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Antigua and Barbuda will not contest CFU Under-14 Boys' tournament

Technical Director Sowerby Gomes has revealed that Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) just could not facilitate its participation in this month's Caribbean Football Union's (CFU) Under-14 Boys tournament in the Dominican Republic.

The CFU has announced that 20 of the 31 member associations will take part in the 2022 Boys' Under-14 Challenge Series scheduled for 11th to 22nd, August 2022.

The 2022 edition will once again be hosted entirely in the Dominican Republic.

Gomes said Antigua and Barbuda have sent representative teams to all the other tournaments being hosted by CFU and Concacaf, except for last week's Under-15 Girls' Tournament in Florida, due to problems getting visas for the players to travel to the United States of America.

Gomes also said that the Antigua and Barbuda team is currently preparing to attend the Concacaf Under-17 Boys' tournament in Nicaragua from 31st August to 5th September, while the ABFA is getting ready to host an Under-15 girls' invitational competition with five other Caribbean teams who had also missed out on the tournament in Florida after encountering similar problems in acquiring visas for their players to enter the United States.

"We are not taking part in the CFU Under-14 tournament this year because we currently have the Under-17 boys in training to take part in the Concacaf men's tournament which will be

held in Nicaragua from 31st August to 5th September," Gomes stated.

"It just so happens that we cannot participate in all of these tournaments because we are heavily spent in terms of competing in all these tournaments.

"We have already participated in regional competitions involving our Under-20 boys, we did Under-17 girls, we did Under-20 girls, we did senior girls, we did senior men and we are now preparing our Under-17 boys.

"Also it is the timing of this CFU Under-14 competition because it is also very close to what we are doing right now. We are going to be putting on an Under-15 girls' tournament here in Antigua very shortly so we are now making preparations to make sure that happens right here."

The Under-14 Challenge Series is held in alternate years for girls and boys. Last year, in a reemergence after Covid-19 disruptions, both competitions were held in the Dominican Republic with Haiti capturing both the boys' and girls' titles.

Additionally, no fewer than 14 of the referees assigned to the matches were accepted onto the 2022 FIFA list, proving the merits of the Challenge Series.

To ensure balance and in keeping with the member associations' request for fair and equitable groupings and taking into account teams' placements in the 2020 and 2018 editions, the teams are divided into several groups for this year's competition.

Tier 1 (Group 1A): Bonaire, Cura-
cont'd on pg 27



Technical Director the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association Sowerby Gomes. (Photo courtesy ABFA)