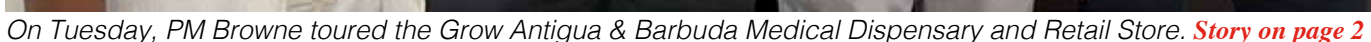


Story on Page 3



Local News



PM Browne visits the country's first cannabis dispensary

Prime Minister Gaston Browne yesterday visited the country's first licensed cannabis dispensary – Grow Antigua and Barbuda Medicinal Dispensary and Retail Store – which is located at Redcliffe Quay.

History was made when the cannabis dispensary, retail store and smoke shop opened on 15th August.

The store sells a variety of cannabis related paraphernalia and growing supplies.

Presently, applications are being accepted for Grow's Member Waiting List which allows customers to apply for a medical cannabis user licence.

So far, over 200 people

have signed up.

During his visit, Prime Minister Browne said he wished to see first-hand the operations of the dispensary, to hear of the challenges the operators may be facing and get their feedback on how the government may be able to resolve some of these issues.

The prime minister said he was "quite impressed" with what he saw during his visit.

He also urged the operators to expand their operation quickly, as this is a new industry for the country with great potential.

Browne added that he hopes to see future collaboration between the Stem Cell Medical Centre and



the cannabis dispensaries that are being encouraged to set up local operations.

"The idea is to be able to market to the tourists coming here the availability of stem cell therapy and cannabis therapy so that at the end of their visit they will leave here rejuvenated and refreshed," he remarked.

According to the prime minister, the stem cell sector generates as much as EC\$30 million annually from clients who visit Antigua and Barbuda to access therapy at an average of US\$20,000.00 per visit.

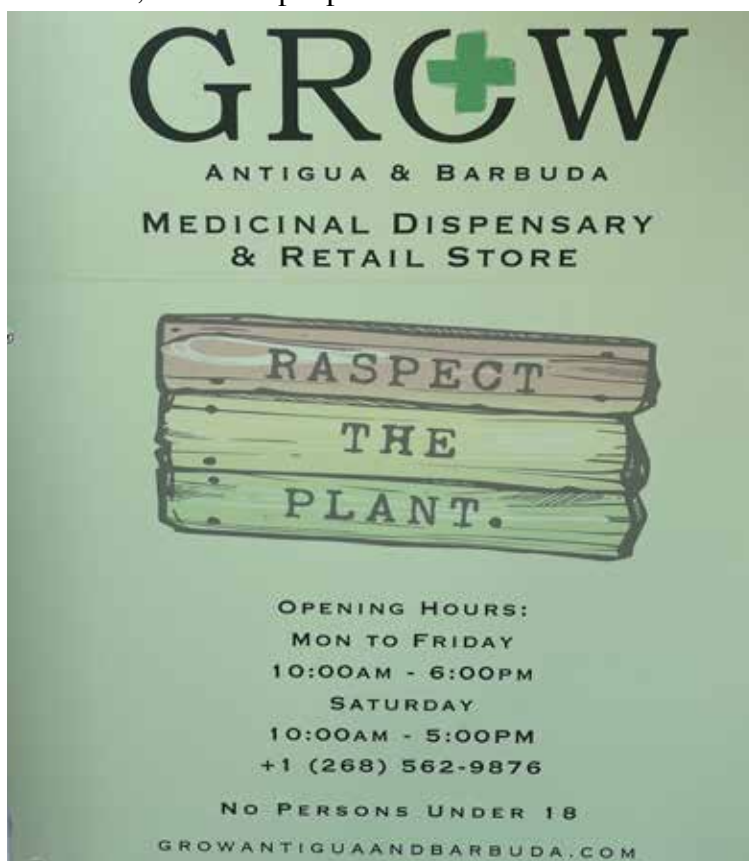
He added that it is his government's intention to place Antigua and Barbuda

at the cutting edge of new wellness therapies and research.

Grow's operators were also urged by the prime minister to be diligent in their record keeping as the information gathered will prove useful for future research.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Browne has expressed a keen interest in ongoing research on possible treatment of non-communicable diseases utilising cannabis therapy. He said the findings of these studies may one day help to eliminate the problem of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in countries

cont'd on pg 4



Coroner's inquest halted following attorney's objections

A coroner's inquest into the death of an inmate of Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) four years ago was stopped when the attorney for the deceased's mother raised objections about the manner in which it was being conducted.

The inquest was convened before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh to determine how Codaryo Joseph, who was serving a sentence for murder, was discovered dead in his cell at HMP in 2018.

Codaryo's mother, Sheryl Inigo-Joseph, has been trying to determine the cause of death of her son for some time, but so far no answers have been forthcoming.

Codaryo was buried without a coroner's inquest being convened to determine, among other things, his cause of death and where culpability for his death lay.

Inigo-Joseph engaged the services of attorney Wendel Robinson who filed an action in the High Court seeking an order for a cor-



oner's inquest to be convened and, if necessary, for Codaryo's body to be exhumed for examination.

Robinson contends that soon after he made the application in the High Court, a coroner's inquest was "hurriedly convened" without his knowledge or the knowledge of his client.

He added that he only learned of the matter when

he made an unexpected visit to the very courtroom where the inquest was being held last Friday. Robinson said he learned at that time that the inquest had begun one week earlier.

It was at this point that Robinson said he raised objections to the manner in which the inquest was convened and questioned the methodology of the selec-



tion of the jurors.

He described the events leading up to the coroner's inquest as being "highly suspect" and lacking transparency and objected strenuously to the manner in which it was being conducted.

Robinson has reported that the coroner has since discharged the jury and decided that a fresh panel of jurors will be selected.

The deceased's mother will also be properly informed when the matter is to be reconvened.

Meanwhile, the High Court hearing has been adjourned until October as requested by the Attorney General's Office to allow settlement negotiations to get underway.

Wed 24 Day		Wed 24 Night	
85°		79°	
35% E 12 mph		23% E 9 mph	
Showers in the morning, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. High around 85F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.		Mainly clear skies. Low 79F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 73%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 80%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:52 am	Sunset 6:26 pm	Moonrise 3:25 am	Moonsset 4:55 pm
		● Waning Crescent	



Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (**SLBMC**) employees are part of a premier organization dedicated to excellence in patient care and education. By working at **SLBMC**, you gain the opportunity and the responsibility to make a real difference in the world. Take a closer look at the vacancy below and submit your resume for consideration if you are interested in helping contribute to the legacy of great achievement and even greater promise at **SLBMC**.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is seeking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated Internal Auditor.

The Internal Auditor is charged with examining and evaluating the policies, procedures and systems which are in place to ensure: the reliability and integrity of information; compliance with policies, plans, laws, and regulations; the safeguarding of assets; and, the economical and efficient use of resources of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate must have:

- A minimum of a Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance or Financial Management
- ACCA/CPA/CIA and/or other professional Accounting/Auditing qualification
- A minimum of five years in external or internal auditing experience
- Knowledge of International Professional Practices Framework and International Financial Reporting Standards
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Microsoft Dynamics GP

CORE COMPETENCIES

- The position requires leadership qualities and extensive knowledge of auditing and accounting standards
- Analytical with strong conceptual and problem-solving skills
- Meticulous attention to detail
- Must be critical thinker with a keen interest in improving the organizations internal control structure
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform evaluations of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organizations system of internal controls and risk management framework
- Utilize appropriate audit techniques to determine whether the organization is compliant with applicable regulations
- Make sound recommendations of corrective actions for deficiencies and monitor the implementation or adherence to approved process changes
- Provide advice on risk management, operational efficiency and ease of business.
- Maintain technical competence through continuing education and training

Email your resume to: HRM@msjmc.gov.ag indicating the position you are applying for by August 26, 2022. ONLY suitable candidates will be contacted.



More cannabis intercepted at GPO

A new trend has emerged in which the General Post Office (GPO) appears to be the preferred entry point for those attempting to smuggle cannabis into the country.

Another shipment of the controlled substance was intercepted on Monday at the GPO in St. John's during a joint operation involving the Police and Customs Enforcement Unit.

During the operation, which also included the Police K9 Unit, three brown cardboard boxes containing 24 vacuum-sealed packages were

discovered.

They were all found to contain cannabis.

The illicit drugs, which weighed in at twenty-four pounds, were transported to police headquarters for storage as law enforcement officers continued their investigation.

The cannabis has an estimated street value of \$144,000.

Last week, there were at least two similar cannabis interceptions at the GPO.

No arrests have resulted from any of the three operations carried out at the post office.

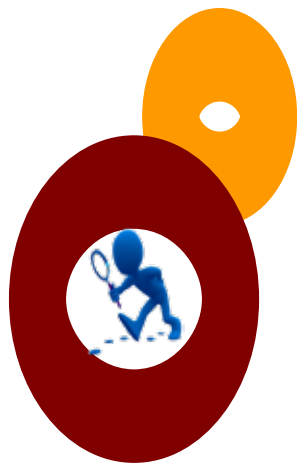
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like Antigua and Barbuda.

GROW (Antigua & Barbuda) Limited is a locally registered, vertically integrated seed to sale medical cannabis company. It is a unique collaboration and a first for the cannabis industry, with a partnership of private, Rastafari and public ownership.

It is a joint initiative between the Rastafarian Food For Life (RFFL), NAMCO, and Itopia Life Antigua Ltd.

Robert Hill and Yadira Moody-Stuart are two of the company's principals.



Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (**SLBMC**) employees are part of a premier organization dedicated to excellence in patient care and education. By working at **SLBMC**, you gain the opportunity and the responsibility to make a real difference in the world. Take a closer look at the vacancy below and submit your resume for consideration if you are interested in helping contribute to the legacy of great achievement and even greater promise at **SLBMC**.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is seeking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated **Medical Laboratory Technologist**

The **Medical Laboratory Technologist** provides information for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease by conducting medical laboratory tests, procedures, experiments and analyses.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate must have:

- Associate Degree (*or higher*) in Medical Laboratory Technology
- Rotational internship in all areas of the laboratory in an accredited institution

CORE COMPETENCIES

- High degree of integrity and accountability
- Meticulous attention to detail
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Strong interpersonal skills for dealing with people in a team oriented environment

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Determines normal and abnormal components of body fluids by conducting chemical analyses of samples such as blood, urine, spinal fluids, stool and gastric juices
- Analyzes blood cells by counting and identifying cells, using microscopic techniques and procedures
- Prepares blood, plasma, and platelets for transfusions by conducting blood group, type, and or compatibility tests
- Ensures proper operation of analyzers, and other laboratory equipment by calibrating; completing preventive maintenance requirements; following manufacturer's instructions; troubleshooting malfunctions; calling for repairs; maintaining equipment inventories; evaluating new equipment and techniques
- Responsible for the daily monitoring and recording of the Quality Control, and temperatures and perform troubleshooting techniques when required
- Contributes to laboratory team efforts by assisting the management to implement and monitor the Quality Management System by writing policies and procedures when required
- Participate in blood collection when required by performing venipuncture or skin puncture procedure Maintains responsibility for patient identification, specimen labeling and collection verification, instructing patients or other healthcare providers in collection and preservation techniques for samples
- Assist in the training of new employee
- Performs other duties as assigned as directed by the Laboratory Services and quality Manager

Email your resume to: HRM@msimc.gov.ag indicating the position you are applying for by September 2, 2022. ONLY suitable candidates will be contacted.

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE



Man sustains fractured skull in cutlass attack



A Jennings resident is nursing a fractured skull after he was attacked by a co-worker with a cutlass while at work.

The attacker, also of Jennings, is now under arrest and will likely face wounding and possibly other charges.

Reports are that the men were working at a house in Jolly Harbour on Sunday when an argument erupted over money that was to be used to purchase building materials.

During the verbal exchange, it is alleged that the accused punched his co-worker in the mouth while threatening his life.

He reportedly left the job site, but returned and another argument began.

The alleged attacker

went to his car, from which he retrieved a cutlass, which he used to chop the victim in the head.

He then ran off.

The injured man was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre by Emergency Medical Services where he underwent surgery.

The accused, who police could not locate on Sunday, was eventually located at SLBMC where he had gone to seek medical attention for an injury to the shoulder.

He was arrested and taken to Bolans Police Station.

A search of his vehicle was carried out and the cutlass used to inflict the injury to his co-worker was discovered.

Local News



Frontier Airlines to withdraw service early September

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez says logistical issues were among the reasons for low-cost US airline Frontier removing St. John's from its network of destinations.

Frontier Airlines will stop flying the Antigua-Orlando route on 5th September, 2022.

While this is not good news for the rebounding tourism industry post pandemic, Minister Fernandez explained that the withdrawal is likely to be temporary.

"We're told that they are going to resume in November. One of the reasons that they gave us is the fact that there is a shortage of crew, and as a result of that they are to tighten up and a number of places will be affected.

"We are hoping they can come back in November and we're hoping that they may even be in a position to offer

more flights, because from what we have gleaned from them, the Antigua route has been successful for them."

It was announced in July 2021, that the low-cost carrier had added Antigua and Barbuda as one of its destinations and would operate a once weekly flight to the V. C. Bird International Airport from its base at the Orlando International Airport in Florida commencing 4th December, 2021.

Back then, Daniel Shurz, senior vice president of commercial, Frontier Airlines said they were excited to serve the destination, adding that their mission was to deliver "low fares done right" for customers.

Shurz also expressed confidence that the new route would make travel to Antigua and Barbuda accessible and affordable.

The tourism minister cited weak summers as another factor the airline's ex-



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez

ecutives may have considered when arriving at their decision.

"I know there is a great demand even in the US for travel, and so they would have to cut a number of places and the Caribbean, Antigua in particular, now, has been known to have

weak summers."

He continued, "September is normally a pretty slow month because of the whole aspect of the hurricane season, so I think that will be one of the areas that they would look at and if there is a shortage of aircraft, naturally, they would want to go where they think they can benefit the most from it."

Frontier Airlines operates an Airbus A320neo, which has a capacity of 168 passengers, on the route.

Plane spotters and aviation enthusiasts are always thrilled about the flight's arrival and departure from the V. C. Bird International Airport, especially as Antiguan-born pilot, Aron Simon, is frequently a member of the route's crew.





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Local News

Sandals makes donation to Grays Farm Health Centre

As part of Sandals Grande Antigua's commitment to lead transformational change in the community, team members employed at the resort recently presented a gift of toiletries and cleaning supplies to the Grays Farm Health Centre.

Sandals' Public Relations Manager, Leon Norville, said, "Being able to gift these items through the support of our team members means a lot to us as a company. The staff at the clinic were grateful and we are hoping that this can possibly become a staple signature project within the Grays Green Community."

Nurse Margaret Joseph received the items on behalf of the Grays Farm Health Centre from the Sandals team.





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Dogs can cry when owners come home, study suggests

By **Jasmine Andersson**

Dogs can cry tears of joy when they are reunited with their owners, a small study has found.

Canines may be genuinely thrilled when they see their human companions after a long period of absence, Japanese researchers have said.

The tears are believed to deepen the bond between

dogs and their owners.

The study, based on the behaviour of 22 dogs, looked at the reactions of dogs who were reunited with their owners and with other people they knew.

To test their theory, academics at Azabu University and Jichi Medical University placed strips of paper under the eyes of the dogs during normal interac-



tion with their owners and a minute before they were reunited with them after five-to-seven hours of separation.

They discovered when the dogs saw their owners, it was the only time they shed tears. There was not the same level of increased tear production when the dogs were reunited with the people they were familiar with, but were not their owners.

To see whether the tears were linked to their emotions, the researchers applied a solution containing oxytocin, a key hormone involved in bonding, to the dogs.

After they used the hormone, they found the dogs' tears significantly increased.

While dogs are known to cry to keep their tear ducts clean, it has not been linked to their emotional re-

sponse before.

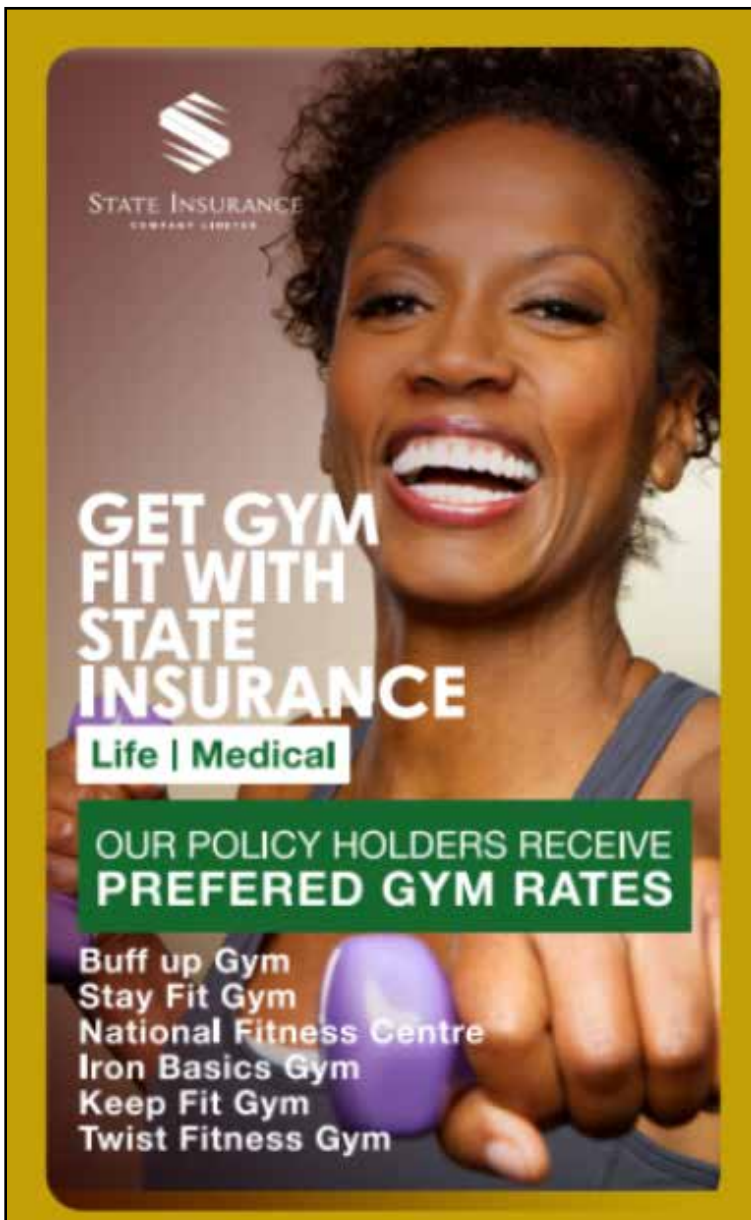
"We had never heard of the discovery that animals shed tears in joyful situations, such as reuniting with their owners," said Takefumi Kikusui, one of the authors of the study in the journal *Current Biology*.

While owners might be more familiar with tail-wagging or face-licking from their ecstatic pets, a dog's tears can also affect their human companion.

A dog's gaze stimulates secretion of oxytocin, making owners more nurturing or protective of their pet.

The scientists also found owners felt more desire to care for their animals when they saw them with teary eyes.

"Their tears might play a role in the deepening of mutual relationships and further leading to interspecies bonding," the researchers wrote.



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Police Week 2022



Pre- Events

- Saturday 20th August 2022- Hike to Mount McNish 5:30am
- Wednesday 24th August 2022-Netball, YMCA 6pm
- Friday 26th August 2022- Fitness Jam, King George to Police Ground 4pm
- Sunday 28th August 2022 -Road Race All Saints Fire Station to Police Ground 5am

- **Saturday 3rd September 2022**

Police Cricket Team VS Parish League Team, Police Grounds 1pm

Queen Show, Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

Police Week

- **Sunday 4th September 2022**

Church Service – Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church 9am

Brunch – Police Head Quarters

- **Monday 5th September 2022**

Opening Day – Police Head Quarters 10am to 2pm

Malcolm Nicholas Cup Competition – Corner of Market and High Street 4pm

- **Tuesday 6th September 2022**

Inter-force Shooting Competition – SWFGPA 9am

Sports Final Matches- Football, Cricket – Police Grounds 3pm

- **Wednesday 7th September 2022**

Sick and Shut In

Calypso – Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Thursday 8th September**

Veterans Cocktail – SWFGPA – 5pm

- **Friday 9th September 2022**

Sports day/ March Pass – Police Grounds 10am

- **Saturday 10th September 2022**

Full Bore Shooting Competition – Crabbs Shooting Range 10am

Variety Concert -Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Sunday 11th September 2022**

Beach Bash – Ffyers Beach 10am



Business



CARICOM youth urged to take up opportunities in agriculture

By Dillon De Shong

There are many interesting and viable opportunities in the agriculture sector and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett is encouraging the region's youth to get involved in the sector.

Speaking at today's opening of the Agri-Investment Forum and Expo in Trinidad and Tobago, Barnett said the adoption of smart agricultural practices will allow Caribbean youth to utilise their skills and knowledge to help modernise the sector.

"There are excellent opportunities in this new agriculture. Smart agriculture goes beyond planting and growing systems that incorporate

new technologies. There is a growing demand for online platforms, extension apps, agriculture marketing apps, drone operators, data analytics and crop forecasting apps just to name a few.

"This is an opportunity to say to our young people 'get involved'," she said. "The opportunities in the agricultural sector are there to be taken up and there are gaps which you as young people can bring your new thinking to in order to create new further opportunities for yourselves."

A CARICOM study found that agriculture is a key source of employment in many Caribbean countries, accounting for approximately

16 percent of the overall employment in the region.

But the human resource capital to work in the sector is lacking in many places.

The CARICOM head said she is elated that regional leaders are taking steps to remove barriers that prevent the cross-border employment of agricultural workers.

The theme for the meeting is "Transforming agriculture through innovation and investment". Barnett said the theme is fitting as embracing technology is vital for the CARICOM members and observer states as they seek to reduce food imports from external sources by 25 per cent by 2025.

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Dinosaur tracks from 113m years ago exposed by severe drought

A severe drought has exposed 113-million-year-old dinosaur tracks on a river bed in central Texas.

The massive tracks, which belonged to a single *Acrocanthosaurus*, hadn't been seen since 2000, as they sat under water and several layers of sediment.

The tracks at Dinosaur Valley State Park in Texas are some of the best preserved in the world, said park superintendent Jeff Davis.

Almost all of Texas is facing drought according to the US Drought Monitor.

Last week, more than 87% of the state was experiencing one of the three most serious drought categories - severe, extreme and exceptional.

The summer's excessively dry, hot conditions caused a river in the central Texas park to dry out almost entirely, revealing the tracks.

Superintendent Davis told the BBC that the recently exposed tracks are called the "Lone ranger trackway", belonging to one *Acrocanthosaurus*, who walked that trail for about 100ft. There are an estimated 140 tracks in total from this one dinosaur, with about 60 visible now.

Acrocanthosaurus, were theropods, a "typical three-toed dinosaur", Mr Davis said. Standing at about 15 ft tall, they would have weighed about seven tons. These dinosaurs likely preyed upon the *Sauroposeidon*, the other species whose tracks are also found in the state park.

The *Sauroposeidon* stood at 60 ft tall with long necks and weighed about 44 tons as an adult.

Extreme weather has also led to other surprises.

Human remains have been discovered in Lake Mead - the largest US



Dinosaur tracks at Dinosaur Valley State Park in Texas

reservoir - as water levels decline.

And in Europe, receding water levels have revealed "hunger stones" engraved at the waterline of rivers during previous droughts as a warning to future generations that when the stones are above water, suffering lies ahead.

Not all droughts are due to cli-

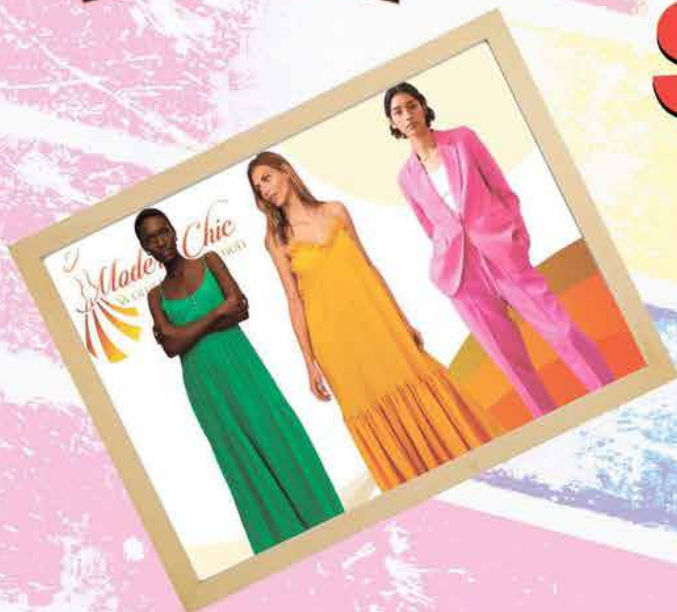
mate change, but excess heat in the atmosphere is drawing more moisture out of the earth and making droughts worse.

The world has already warmed by about 1.2C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions. (BBC)



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Regional News



Guyana records first monkeypox case

Stabroek News - Guyana has confirmed its first case of monkeypox, according to Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony.

In an interview with the Department of Public Information Tuesday afternoon, Anthony confirmed that the patient is a male in his 50s from Region Four, who has since been isolated.

"They start developing these signs and they came to the hospital and because the system was alerted, the doctors felt that 'this looked like a suspected case of monkeypox and they followed the protocol that we have established, one of which is for us to take samples and for them to run it in the lab to confirm whether it's monkeypox or not.

"So, we've done that and we are now in a position to confirm that it is monkeypox," he said.

Anthony said the patient had all the signs and symptoms and PCR testing was used to confirm the diagnosis.

The patient is isolated at the Ocean View Infectious Diseases Hospital and Anthony said he is stable and doing very well.

"The persons who the patient would have in contact with over this period we have also spoken with them and they are in quarantine," he added.

As previously detailed by the ministry, monkeypox causes pus-filled blisters that crust over and fall off.

After exposure, it may be several days to a few weeks before developing symptoms. Early signs of monkeypox include flu-like symptoms like:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Muscle aches



- Fatigue
- Swollen lymph nodes

After a few days, a rash often develops. The rash starts as flat, red bumps, which can be painful.

Those bumps turn into blisters, which fill with pus. Eventually, the blisters crust over and fall off — the whole process can last two to four weeks. Persons can also get sores in their mouth, vagina, or anus.

Not everyone with monkeypox develops all of the symptoms.

More than 100 teachers have left school system-Education Minister

CMC - The government of Jamaica confirmed on Monday, that an estimated 167 teachers had left their positions in the school system here over the past two months.

"Teachers, like everyone else, make very personal decisions to migrate and we are sorry to see them go but we respect their decisions... obviously resignations that would have happened in the last school year, we would have seen where many of those would have been filled and so those would not be in this number that I am quoting to you this morning," Education Minister Fayval Williams told a news conference.



ference.

"Of course, we are still getting information from our school principals and so this number (167) could change as we move towards the end of August and into September. The new school

year begins on the 5th of September and even up to that time there may be resignations," she added,

Williams, who was addressing teacher migration, told reporters that although the numbers may raise

alarm, the situation is under control.

She said that the Ministry has implemented several strategies to mitigate any potential falling out from the mass migration and that 964 specialist teachers, who have just completed their studies, are now available for employment in the national school system.

Last week, the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) warned of the exodus of teachers this year, noting that over 400 have left the island to take up lucrative job opportunities in the United States.

Williams told reporters
cont'd on pg 17

Dominica: PM wants legislation to deal with money laundering

CMC - Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has called on the international community to examine the possibility of developing “one umbrella” legislation as Dominica continues its efforts to deal with money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Skerrit, whose government Monday, successfully tabled and got parliamentary approval for three pieces of legislation to strengthen systems in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, said the proposed umbrella legislation could be “standard legislation across the global space.

“We have come to Parliament numerous times to make amendments to legislation to play our part in protecting our country and protecting the global space.

“They sometimes appear to be nuisances, but they are important and so...we may come back here in a few months’ time to make further

amendments”

Skerrit told legislators that the reality is in defence of the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and to the National Advisory Unit “this is a moving target.

“The world is a dynamic world. In scenes which confronted investigative units 10 and 15 years ago, times have changed. A day is a long time and so we have to continue reviewing, assessing, evaluating and to see where we have to make changes to strengthen our capacity...so that out people who are involved on the front line have the knowledge, the skills and the competences to counteract those actions of money laundering and criminal activity in our country,” Skerrit said.

Skerrit told legislators that despite the economic impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had on the island, his admin-



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit

istration still felt it necessary to provide funding for the acquisition of scanners for the ports here.

“It shows you our commitment Mr Speaker and the political will...that in the middle of COVID-19 when revenue dropped by 32 plus per cent and expenditure increased by 40 per cent, I authorised the purchase of scanners at EC\$2.5 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) in 2020 to scan every container coming into the country”.

He said that the number of “barrels” entering the country during that period had dropped “because the scanners were working to prevent drugs and ammunition coming into our country and as a means of facilitating money laundering in Dominica,” he said.

Parliament has since approved amendments to the Money laundering Prevention Bill, the Proceeds of Crime and Suppression of Financing of Terrorism Bills.

cont'd from pg 16

that “looking at our 2022 teacher training graduates by specialisation, I see accounting majors, Biology, Chemistry teachers, Computer Science teachers, Business Education teachers, I see 111 Early Childhood Education teachers.

“We have some 29 English double majors, we have 140 Mathematics double majors...we have some Physical Education teachers as well. We’re seeing primary education teachers, 259 of those and we’re seeing Social Studies, Spanish, and French for a total of

964 teachers with specialisation who would have graduated from our teacher education institutions this year and I am sure many of those would be taking up appointments in our schools.”

She said that of the 964 teachers that are now available to enter the government teaching system, 121 are bonded for five years having completed their studies through the Ministry’s special scholarship programme. They are expected to take up positions in the upcoming school year.

“Among them are 67 Mathematics teachers, 32 teachers of Physics and

Chemistry and 17 with Industrial Education specialisation.

“We do have teachers coming in under the Jamaica/Cuba bilateral programme. We have 70 teachers there. We have a framework agreement with the Cuban government under which we bring in these teachers into our system,” said Williams, adding that retired teachers may also be sought out to fill any gaps resulting from migration, but she noted that only those who have retired from January 2018 to present will be eligible to fill the positions.

Darya Dugina: Moscow murder accusation is fiction, says Ukraine

BBC – Ukrainian officials have ridiculed Russia's accusation that its special services were behind the killing of Darya Dugina, the daughter of an ultra-nationalist, in a car-bomb attack.

"We don't work in this way," said National Security and Defence Council secretary Oleksiy Danilov.

A memorial service for Ms Dugina, 29, took place in Moscow on Tuesday.

Ms Dugina, a commentator on a Russian nationalist TV channel, died when her car blew up on the outskirts of Moscow.

Her influential father, Alexander Dugin, may have been the intended target of the attack. His expansionist ideas of a New Russia or "Novorossiya" on Ukrainian territory are said to have influenced President Vladimir Putin's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

President Putin condemned the "vile, cruel crime" and posthumously awarded Ms Dugina the Order of Courage.

Her 60-year-old father paid tribute to her as a "rising star at the start of her journey". She was brutally murdered in front of him by Russia's enemies, he said, and he went on to call for victory over Ukraine.

In Kyiv, the security and defence council secretary said Ukraine had nothing to do with the bombing: "We



Darya Dugin's father said on Tuesday that she had died for Russia

have more important tasks for our boys and girls... The FSB did this and is now suggesting that one of our people did it," he told Ukrainian TV.

Mr Danilov also claimed Russia was planning a series of attacks inside Russia in an attempt to mobilise a population whose support for the war was waning.

Ukrainian presidential office adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, said Russian "propaganda lives in a fictional world", adding that the car bombing was part of a struggle within Russia's special services.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said it had solved the case and blamed Ukraine directly. Its claims were widely reported by state TV, and pro-Kremlin commentators called for immediate revenge.



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Finnish PM Sanna Marin sorry for topless guest photo at official residence

BBC – Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin has apologised for a topless photo of guests at her official residence.

It comes days after she deflected accusations of having an excessive party lifestyle, by voluntarily taking a drug test - which came back clean.

The latest photo, of two well-known influencers, was taken inside the prime minister's residence in July and widely shared on social media on Tuesday.

Ms Marin admitted "the picture is not appropriate" and apologised.

In it, two women can be seen kissing each other covering up their bare chests with an official-looking sign reading "Finland".

On Monday, Ms Marin said the party at her official residence in Helsinki, Kesäranta, happened after the Ruisrock music festival in July. Finnish media report that the photo was taken in the downstairs toilets used by guests.

"We had sauna, swam and spent time together," Ms Marin said. "That kind of a picture should not have been taken but otherwise, nothing extraordinary happened at the get-together," she added.

The 36-year-old, who came to power in 2019, was until recently the world's youngest prime minister.

The current political dra-



Sanna Marin said the topless photo of her guests should not have been taken - but otherwise her party was normal.

ma surrounding her comes as Finland navigates its bid to join the NATO military alliance and responds to its neighbour Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Sanna Marin has made no secret of enjoying normal activities such as going clubbing with friends and attending the music festival in July, despite criticism from some corners of Finnish public life.

But in recent weeks, pressure from her political peers and opponents ramped up after a video emerged of her dancing and partying.

She agreed to take the drug test after senior opposition politicians argued there was a "shadow of doubt" hanging over her, despite her insistence that

she had never taken drugs and was not compromised beyond drinking some alcohol.

On Monday the government announced no drugs had been found in her system.

In common with several other EU states, Helsinki has backed restricting tourist visas for Russians, as many continue to cross into Finland on its long eastern border.

But the recent revelations have meant that Ms Marin's personal life has been the focus, rather than her policy agenda.

The reaction in Finland has been mixed.

Deputy Prime Minister Annika Saarikko said she recognised the wall in the

photo as being from the prime minister's residence, and suggested the partying lifestyle conveyed by the photo did not match the experience of many Finns struggling with a cost of living crisis.

But, she added, it was not her place to be a "moral guardian" of others.

Many ordinary Finns, meanwhile, have expressed support for the prime minister for having what most younger people consider to be a normal, relatable life for a younger woman, outside of her high-pressure public office.

Many have taken to social media to post photos of themselves dancing and partying as a show of support.

Malaysia ex-PM Najib goes to jail after losing graft appeal

AP – Malaysian ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak began his 12-year prison sentence Tuesday after losing his final appeal in a graft case linked to the looting of the 1MDB state fund, with the top court unanimously upholding his conviction and sentence.

Najib, Malaysia's first former leader to be imprisoned, was whisked away to Kajang prison on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur after the verdict. Opposition leaders, activists and many citizens hailed the court's swift ruling, calling it a victory for Malaysians who voted in 2018 to oust his government and bring Najib to justice.

The five-member Federal Court panel said it found the High Court's decision was correct and that Najib's appeal was "devoid of any merits."

"This is a simple and straightforward case of abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering," said Chief Justice Maimun Tuan Mat, who read out the verdict.

"We are unable to conclude that any of the findings of the High Court, as affirmed by the Court of Appeal, were perverse or plainly wrong so as to warrant appellate intervention. We agree that the defence is so inherently inconsistent and incredible that it does not raise a reasonable doubt on the prosecution case," she said. The court ordered Najib, who has been out on bail pending appeals since his sentence in 2020, to begin his time behind bars. He also must pay a 210 million ringgit (\$47 million) fine.

1MDB was a development fund that Najib set up shortly after taking power in 2009. Investigators allege at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by Najib's associates. Najib was found guilty in 2020 of seven charges of corruption for illegally receiving \$9.4 million from SRC Interna-



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, centre, speaks to supporters outside at Court of Appeal in Putrajaya, Malaysia Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022. Malaysia's top court has upheld Najib's conviction and 12-year jail sentence in a graft case linked to the looting of the 1MDB state fund. Najib's loss in his final appeal means he will have to begin serving his sentence immediately, becoming the first former prime minister to be jailed. (AP Photo)

tional, a former unit of 1MDB.

Najib, 69, has maintained his innocence. Just before the verdict, he stood up in the dock to make a statement protesting the top court's series of refusals last week to postpone the appeal hearings. Najib said he felt he was "unfairly treated" and that his case has been rushed through. He pointed out that a leaked verdict by the Federal Court had been posted on a website and said if this was true, it would be "judicial misconduct of the highest order."

Maimun said the appeal hearings had ended because Najib's newly appointed lawyers refused to make any new arguments in protest of not being given more time to prepare.

Najib appeared in shock after the verdict was read. He was immediately surrounded by his family and supporters. His lawyer later told reporters they may seek a review of the court's decision.

"This is a historic moment for Malaysia, where the most senior leader has

actually now faced an unprecedented moment of political accountability," said Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asian expert at Malaysia's Nottingham University. "For this decision, which is the first of many cases involving this particular scandal, to move in this particular direction really is a testimony to the rule of law in Malaysia, and the strengthening of the demands for the rule of law in Malaysia."

Earlier Tuesday, Najib sought to remove Maimun from the case, citing possible bias because her husband had made a negative Facebook posting about Najib's leadership shortly after his ouster in 2018 general elections. But the judges dismissed Najib's application.

The Federal Court last week also dismissed a bid by Najib to seek a retrial on grounds of bias by the High Court judge, and refused to postpone the appeal to give his new lawyers more time to prepare. The court also denied a request by Najib's new lawyer to withdraw from the case.

Nick Kyrgios: Wimbledon fan to take legal action against Australian

BBC – A fan who Nick Kyrgios said was "drunk out of her mind" during the Wimbledon final is taking legal action against the Australian tennis player.

Kyrgios, who lost the final to Novak Djokovic in July, said the woman looked "like she has had about 700 drinks" as he complained to the umpire about her.

Anna Palus has now instructed solicitors to bring defamation proceedings against Kyrgios.

She accuses Kyrgios of a "reckless and entirely baseless allegation".

"Not only did this cause considerable harm on the day, resulting in my temporary removal from the arena, but Mr Kyrgios' false allegation was broadcast to and read by millions around



Nick Kyrgios

the world, causing me and my family very substantial damage and distress," Palus said in a statement from solicitors Brett Wilson LLP.

During the match Kyrgios said: "She is distracting me when I am serving in a Wimbledon final... she is drunk out of her mind in the first row speaking to me in the middle of the game, so kick her out... I know

which one she is, it's the one who looks like she has had about 700 drinks... she is talking to me in the middle of the point every time I get the ball."

Palus, who attended the final with her mother, added: "I am not litigious, but after much consideration I have concluded that I have no alternative but to instruct my solicitors to bring

defamation proceedings against Mr Kyrgios in order to clear my name.

"The need to obtain vindication and to prevent repetition of the allegation are the only reasons for taking legal action. Any damages recovered will be donated to charity.

"I hope that Mr Kyrgios will reflect on the harm he has caused me and my family and offer a prompt resolution to this matter. However, if he is unwilling to do this, I am committed to obtaining vindication in the High Court."

Kyrgios, the world number 26, reached his first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon and is preparing to play at the US Open, which starts in New York next week.

West Indies fined for slow over-rate in final ODI against New Zealand

By Ian Burnett

West Indies have been fined 40 percent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the third and final One-Day International (ODI) in Barbados on Sunday, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Monday.

They will also lose two points from their points tally during the Super League.

In a statement, the ICC said Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the

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Ben Stokes: Joe Root praises 'brave' England captain for comments on mental health

BBC – Joe Root has praised "brave" England captain Ben Stokes for speaking about his struggles with his mental health.

In a new documentary, Stokes reveals he feared he might not play cricket again when he took a break from the sport in the summer of 2021.

"It's quite powerful for people to see sometimes it's OK not to be OK," Root told BBC Sport.

"It shows great leadership to put yourself out there and express some of the difficulties he's gone through."

Root, Stokes' predecessor as England Test captain, added: "It's very brave to lay himself as bare as he has done."

"It's very powerful for anyone watching to see someone who at times looks superhuman and can do things that other players can't do."

Stokes, 31, took a five-month break from cricket



Joe Root consoles Ben Stokes at the end of the 2016 T20 World Cup final

last year in order to prioritise his mental health and recover from a broken finger.

Four years earlier, the all-rounder spent time out of the England team following an incident outside a Bristol nightclub which led to a charge of affray. He was acquitted in 2018.

He spent another spell away from international

cricket in 2020 to be with his ill father Ged, who passed away in December of that year.

In a documentary that will air on Amazon Prime from Friday, Stokes reveals he has suffered panic attacks and speaks about his battle with periods of poor mental health.

"You forget how much he has been through in such

a short space of time," said batter Root, who was England captain on each occasion Stokes took a break from cricket.

"Hopefully if there are people out there struggling or finding things difficult, they can gain the courage to ask for that help."

Root and Stokes met as teenagers and have been at the heart of the England team for most of the past decade.

They were together as youngsters on the 2013-14 Ashes tour that saw the disintegration of a formidable England side, then were in the team that lost the 2016 T20 World Cup final - Root was one of the first to comfort Stokes after he was hit for four consecutive sixes in the last over of the match.

The pair were again part

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sanction after Nicholas Pooran's side, which lost the series 2-1 in the decider, was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 percent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," it added.

"In addition, as per Article 16.12.2

of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League Playing Conditions, a side is penalised one point for each over short. Consequently, West Indies will lose two points from their points tally during the Super League."

The ICC noted that Pooran had pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Joel Wilson and Leslie Reifer, third umpire Gregory Brathwaite and fourth umpire Nigel Duguid levelled the charge.

West Indies Women head coach Courtney Walsh watching how squad responds to new captain

West Indies Women head coach Courtney Walsh says one of the key things he will be looking for in the upcoming series against New Zealand Women is how the squad works with recently-appointed captain Hayley Matthews.

The 24-year-old Barbadian took over in June as skipper from Stafanie Taylor, who was at the helm for seven years, and the three ODIs and five T20Is starting next month will be her first assignment as the new captain.

"We have to give her all the support," Walsh said in a brief interview with CWI media.

"It's just going to be interesting to see how everybody responds to the new captain, to the new ideas that we have, and to sort of get back into playing competitive cricket.

"We have probably two, two and a half tours before the next T20 World Cup, so I think it's very, very important that we start planning and trying at getting things sorted for that," he added.

Walsh said, however, that he would have liked to see



West Indies women captain, Hayley Matthews

the women in action more this year before the upcoming series – the ODIs running from September 16-21 and the T20Is from September 26 to October.

He also lamented that the squad for the series would have to be chosen before the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL), scheduled for August 31 to September 4, is concluded.

"I would have loved to have a touch more cricket, if I'm going to be brutally honest. The thing is that we'll have to start picking the

squad before the CPL is concluded, but we have a chance at looking at players that we can bring in," Walsh said.

"But in an ideal world I would have loved for CPL to be finished before we go into the New Zealand series, so we could have judged them from CPL and then take them into the series, but that's not the case.

"So we'll have to pick from what we have and look at the combinations that we have to suit us best.

"But the good thing about CPL being involved is that it will give us a chance of seeing some more players play, more exposure, and then obviously if there are any injuries or any replacements that we might need, depending on how the series is going, we can always bring them in," he added.

As for the series itself, the head coach said he is looking forward to another comprehensive series.

"Obviously, we want to win, we want to win every series that we play and that's the only way we're gonna rise and get above. So, I want it to be competitive. Once the girls give 100 percent and we're satisfied with that then we can always look at where we can improve as well," Courtney Walsh said.

West Indies Women are set to host New Zealand Women for the first time in eight years, with all games to be played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

"They'll be obviously coming here to play good cricket as well. It's a very good team. They're ranked above us, so I think it will be a good test for us."

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of the team that won the 2019 World Cup, while Stokes served as Root's vice-captain, a position he held when he almost single-handedly won a famous Ashes Test at Headingley in the same year.

"I'm very fortunate that I have experienced them with one of our greatest ever players and a good mate of mine," said 31-year-old Root.

LI to face Barbados in Rising Stars Under-19 final

The Leeward Islands will face defending champions Barbados in the final of the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Boys Championship.

Both sides will clash in the three-day final at the Arnos Vale Sports Complex in St. Vincent and the Grenadines tomorrow (Thursday). Also on Thursday, second place finishers in each group, Jamaica and Guyana, will face each other at Park Hill, while the groups' third place finishers, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands, will meet at Cumberland.

The Leewards and Barbados booked their spots in the final by winning their respective zones, after rain washed out play on their third and last day of all three final round preliminary group matches on Monday, 22nd August.

Leeward Islands topped Zone A with 31.6 points, including one victory, while Guyana finished second with 24.8 points and Trinidad and Tobago ended in third with 12.4 points.

Barbados topped the overall standings with 45.4 points, including two wins in Zone B. Jamaica finished second in the zone with 26 points ahead of the Windward Islands with 15.6 points.

The Leeward Islands final match against Trinidad and Tobago ended in a draw after it was abandoned on the last day without a ball being bowled due to wet conditions at Cumberland.

The Leewards were 49 for three off 19 overs in response to Trinidad and Tobago's 251 for eight declared off 101.5 overs. Michael Greaves was not out on 33 for the Leewards, while Jacen Agard claimed all three Leeward Islands wickets to fall for 10 runs in six overs.



The Leeward Islands team currently contesting the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Boys Championship in St. Vincent. (Photo courtesy LICB)

In the Trinidad and Tobago innings, Veeran Batchu hit 63 not out, opener Nick Ramlal struck 47 and Andrew Rambaran contributed 44.

Onaje Amory claimed three for 50 in 26 overs, left-arm pacer Nathan Edwards captured two for 36 in 19 overs and Ronald Williams picked up two for 42 in 11 overs. The Leewards came away with six points and Trinidad and Tobago secured 5.6 points in the drawn affair.

Not a ball was bowled on the third and final day of Barbados' final preliminary round match against hosts Windward Islands at the Park Hill Complex on Monday.

Overnight and early morning showers left the ground saturated and play was officially called off at 12:30 p.m., half an hour after the lunch break.

Barbados were set to resume on 90 for five off 35.3 overs in reply to Windward Islands' 152 all out in 61 overs. For Barbados, opener Hakeem Per-

ryman made 38 and Romario Roach was not out on 20. Tarrique Edwards snapped up three wickets for 18 runs in 12 overs.

In the Windward Islands innings, Stephan Pascal top scored with 52 and Kirk Murray chipped in with 43. Tariq O'Neale snapped up three for 21 in 12 overs, Jayden Roberts captured three for 42 and Nathan Sealy picked up two for 12 in 18 overs.

With the match abandoned as a no-result, Barbados came away with seven points and Windwards got 4.4 points.

Guyana and Jamaica also had to settle for a no-decision, as no play was possible at Arnos Vale. Guyana were 283 for six. Opener Rampertab Ramnauth struck 107 and Shamar Yearwood made 86 not out.

Alex Hinds claimed three wickets for 53 runs in 25 overs. Both teams gained five points apiece in the drawn affair.

Joseph and Warner win titles at Dalso Junior Golf Open



Siyolo Joseph, centre, accepts his trophy from sponsor Kelton Dalso of KD Brokerage at the end of the Kelton Dalso Junior Golf Open at Cedar Valley on Sunday, 21st August. (Photos courtesy Marlon George)



Akevia Warner, centre, accepts her trophy from sponsor Kelton Dalso of KD Brokerage at the end of the Kelton Dalso Junior Golf Open at Cedar Valley on Sunday, 21st August.

Siyolo Joseph and Akevia Warner have won the latest titles in the Striving for Excellence Junior Golf Summer Series at Cedar Valley.

Joseph and Warner captured the male and female titles respectively in the Kelton Dalso Junior Golf Open at Cedar Valley on Sunday, 21st August.

Joseph, a student at St. Joseph's Academy, celebrated in grand style after producing his winning 18-hole score of 73.

He was able to hold off the hard-hit-

ting Marquise George, who shot 74 to claim second place on the podium.

As an added incentive, Joseph was awarded a laptop computer after being declared the competition's overall Low Gross winner.

Tyler Hughes, who finished in the third spot with a gross of 77 was given a US\$250 gift voucher for being the championship's Low Net victor.

As for the girls, the hottest golfer on show was the ever-improving Warner, who is a student of the Christ the

King High School.

During the 18-hole contest, she recorded a score of 81 to claim the girls' top prize.

Meleah George, who won the long drive contest, was second with a score of 84.

Lexi Hunte took the third-place prize with her score of 87. The closest to the pin prize went to J'Air Matthew.

Twenty-four players took part in the event, which was sponsored by KD Brokerage.

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major cycling clubs boycotting the event, it was mainly riders from the Wadadli Cycling Academy of which St. Clair Williams is also the president, who participated in last Sunday's Robert Peters 2-Stage Race.

Patrick Peters won the overall title after capturing

the Masters Class ahead of his only opponent, Richard Lam. Peters clocked a time of one hour, 22 minutes and 20.80 seconds, while Lam finished in one hour, 24 minutes and 48.13 seconds.

Sole competitor in her category, Telesha Choy captured the female class in a time of one hour, 11 min-

utes and 32.04 seconds.

Tahje Browne maintained his dominance of the Cadet 14 to 17 Class by speeding to victory in one hour, 26 minutes and 06.46 seconds. Dejaun Francis claimed second place ahead of Jahiem Telemaque, who captured third place.

Lone competitor Arusa

Murray-Watkins won the Cadet 11 to 13 Class by clocking 51 minutes and 19.46 seconds.

PointExpress reached out to ABCF's president St. Clair Williams for a comment to the claims which were made by Weathered, but did not receive any response up to press time.

Top cyclists boycott ABCF's latest road race

A number of the top local cyclists, especially the Elite Men and Sports Class, boycotted the Robert Peters 2-Stage Road Race, which was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation on Sunday, 21st August.

The move to boycott the event was spearheaded by Elite Men's cyclist Shawn Weathered in protest to the way the ABCF, which is the national governing body for the sports, has been conducting its administration of cycling in the twin-island state.

Weathered said he called on his colleagues to boycott last Sunday's time trial and criterium (circuit) race, not because they have anything against former veteran national cyclist Robert Peters, in whose honour the two-stage event was held, but to show their dissatisfaction with the

way the current president St. Clair Williams is leading the ABCF.

Weathered said among their grievances is what he claims to be ABCF's failure to give a proper account of its financial stewardship for the past year.

He said he and his colleagues are also dissatisfied that the national federation has not undertaken any fund-raising events so that it could make a meaningful contribution to the medical fund of national cyclist Andre Simon, who was severely injured in a road accident on 8th May this year.

Weathered said the protesting cyclists are also unhappy with the selection process being used by the ABCF to choose national cycling teams to represent Antigua and Barbuda, espe-



National cyclist Shawn Weathered. (Photo courtesy Shawn Weathered)

cially at overseas events.

He said the cyclists are unhappy with the ABCF's decision to select Conor Delanbanque to represent the twin-island state at the John T. Memorial Road Race held in Anguilla on 10th July and the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England, from 28th July to 8th August, even though the overseas based cyclist had not competed in a race in Antigua and Barbuda for over a year.

After being selected, Delanbanque failed to show up at both events and Weathered is claiming that the ABCF has been unable to give any justifiable reasons as it relates to the Antiguan and Barbudan's no-show at both events.

With cyclists from almost all the

cont'd on pg 25



Patrick Peters, center, won the overall title and the Masters division ahead of Richard Lam, left, in the Robert Peters 2-Stage Race, which was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation on Sunday, 21st August, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABCF)