

# MOH CONDEMNS FALSE MONKEYPOX RUMOURS

*Story on Page 2*



Last week, the Gaston Browne administration concluded discussions with African investors in which plans for the launch of Antigua Airways, which will operate direct flights between Antigua and Barbuda and the African continent, were finalised. *Story on page 6.*

# Local News



## MoH condemns malicious monkeypox rumours

The Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment has issued a statement categorically denying the presence of monkeypox in Antigua and Barbuda.

The statement was issued in response to false claims being circulated on social media about the presence of monkeypox in the country.

"The Ministry is outraged that any person

would disseminate false information suggesting the presence of monkeypox in the twin island state.

"This act became even more egregious when it was established that the perpetrator is a current employee of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre. We strongly condemn any such act creating alarm and distress in the public," said the ministry.

All laboratory investigations for suspected monkeypox cases have been negative, according to the ministry, both at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, which commenced monkeypox testing last week.

The ministry also offered the assurance that any confirmed case of monkey-

pox will be disclosed to the public. This is consistent with the ministry's commitment to transparency, particularly with regard to public health matters, as demonstrated in the past.

In the meantime, members of the public are reminded that monkeypox is a viral disease characterised by a fever, enlarged lymph nodes and a rash.

Monkeypox is spread from person to person by direct contact with the rash, bodily fluids (fluid, pus or blood from skin lesions), and scabs. Clothing, sheets, towels and other objects can also be a source of infection.

The virus is also transmitted from a pregnant mother to her unborn child.

Physicians are also being urged to report any suspected cases of monkeypox to the ministry's Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit.

There is no specific treatment for monkeypox, however, the public is advised that social and physical distancing, frequent handwashing and wearing face masks may prevent infection.

Persons are therefore strongly advised to practice these public health and social measures to avoid becoming infected.

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# Victor ‘Babu’ Samuel to be laid to rest today

Antiguan and Barbudan pan icon, Victor ‘Babu’ Samuel, will be laid to rest today preceded by what is expected to be a celebratory funeral service.

The government granted the famed arranger, composer and musician extraordinaire an official funeral for his contributions to the development of pan music in the country and the Caribbean.

The service will take place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds and will feature performances from members of the local and regional pan fraternity, including Samuel’s decades’ old friend and collaborator, Dr. Len

‘Boogsie’ Sharpe of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Halcyon Steel Orchestra will also take centre stage along with the Westside Symphony Steelband with whom they will perform a special piece.

The message will be delivered by Reverend Joseph Nicholas of the Green Bay Moravian Church.

Former prime minister Baldwin Spencer, who was Samuel’s close friend for many decades, will deliver the eulogy.

Executive member of Halcyon Steel Orchestra, Lauchland ‘Punchin’

Joseph, said the funeral service will celebrate Samuel’s life and his elevation as a top pannist.

Samuel arranged winning competition pieces for Halcyon Steel Orchestra for many years, making it one of the most successful steelbands in the country.

He was also a fixture in Trinidad and Tobago’s Panorama Competition where he would play each year alongside “Boogsie” Sharpe in the Phase Two Steel Orchestra.

Samuel died in late June this year following a period of health challenges. He was 64.



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# Local News



## MCII: We delivered on Carnival 2022

“We have delivered!”

That is the optimistic declaration of the Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation (MCII) which has given itself full marks for its execution of Antigua’s Carnival 2022.

The ministry’s Head of Communications, Cecilia Thwaites, told Pointe Xpress that this year’s carnival, launched in May under the theme ‘Re-igniting the Spirit’, hoped to capture the festival’s colourful vitality after the two year break.

“We certainly had our challenges in fulfilling our commitment to bring reality to the theme. Yet, despite the challenges that included time and resources such as finances, our team stayed focused on the goal, and in the end, I feel confident to say that we have re-ignited the spirit. We have delivered!” she stated.

Thwaites said although MCII received the greenlight to proceed with planning Antigua’s Carnival 2022 in March this year, for a long time there was much uncertainty about

how the festival would come together in light of the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic still presented a significant concern nationally.

“As much as we had the greenlight, we still had much public uncertainty at that time in the year as to how mas, the colourful display by masqueraders, would factor in the festival as people were fearful that it could lead to a major COVID super spreader.

“As such, the band leaders declined to invest or commit to playing mas on a grand scale as this would have exposed them to huge financial risks,” she explained.

Thwaites explained that mas has evolved from the early foundations of the artform established by band leaders such as Colin ‘Wanga’ Martin, Barrymore ‘Zawardie’ Thomas and George ‘Tassa’ Hunte.

Today, she noted, mas is as much about business as it is about having fun.

“Costumes today are not built locally, but instead, are ordered from

China. These leaders would have had to send off their orders months in advance in order to guarantee that the costumes would arrive in time given the shipping chaos that has plagued the world over the past year,” she noted.

Despite the challenges, there were several successes this carnival, according to the MCII spokesperson.

“One of the areas where we were extremely proud is the area of sponsorship. This year, we had three companies coming forward as partners of the MCII. These are INET, Kennedy’s Enterprises and Premier Beverages. The relationship with these entities is deeper than sponsorship; they are long-term commitment to the ministry and its several activities.

“We also had returning sponsors such as State Insurance Corporation and the coming on board of Anjo Wholesale, a first for that company,” she revealed.

The ministry’s relationship with the pan fra-

ternity is another area with which the ministry says it is pleased.

“Working with the Antigua and Barbuda Pan Association we collaborated in staging three very successful events; Pan D’ Beach, Pan D’ Garden and Pan D’ Mix.

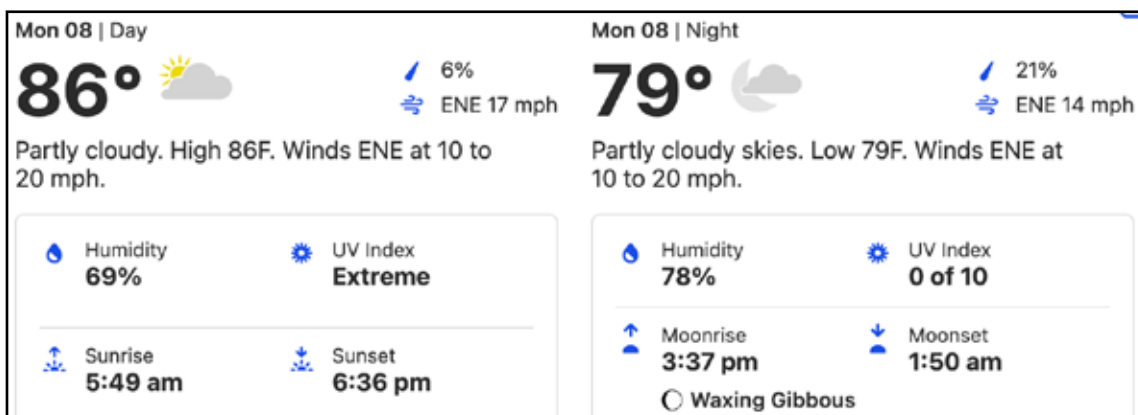
“Pan D’ Mix was special as, for the first time, perhaps anywhere, all eight steel bands combined to render a tune. That was magical,” she remarked.

That show also featured an appearance by pan virtuoso, Dr. Len ‘Boogsie’ Sharpe in honour of fallen pannist, Victor ‘Babu’ Samuel.

A third success of note, the ministry said, was the decision to have the mas troupes “cross the stage” on a stage erected on Independence Avenue at the junction of High Street and Factory Road.

“That was another wonderful experience as it led to some masqueraders being able to do a loop and cross the stage twice. Additionally, by not crossing the stage inside ARG, Carnival City, we made huge savings on security, lights, sounds et cetera.” she declared.

Thwaites said the MCII will formally review Carnival 2022 this week, in an analysis that will also include other key stakeholders and agencies involved in carnival.





## October committal hearing for Customs fraud accused

The committal hearing for the trio charged with fraud arising from an investigation at the Customs investigation will take place on 5th October in the St. John's Magistrates' Court before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh.

Last Monday, the accused were granted bail in the High Court during an emergency hearing following their arrest the previous Friday.

Customs Officer Joesine Christian, and brokers Rowan Matthew and Foston George, were jointly charged with conspiracy to defraud.

Christian is also charged with cheating the public revenue and cor-

ruption in public office, while the brokers face charges of making a false declaration and obtaining money by false pretences.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne first revealed that fraudulent activities were discovered at the Customs Department, where millions of dollars were being syphoned by unknown persons.

This prompted an internal investigation which began in 2017.

Browne also revealed that his signature had been forged on some of the documents the perpetrators used to commit their illegal acts.

Lawyers for the accused, Wendel

Robinson and Andrew O'kola, submitted urgent petitions to High Court Justice Colin Williams via email on Monday.

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin said while emailed submissions may be a novel concept to laypersons, "This is also allowable in exceptional cases, where the liberty of the person is at stake."

Bail was granted to the accused in the amount of \$ 10,000 each with two sureties.

As part of their bail conditions, they are required to surrender their travel documents and are forbidden from making contact with witnesses.



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# Antigua Airways to begin operations in October

The Antigua and Barbuda government has inked an agreement with a Nigerian company to launch Antigua Airways which will provide direct commercial flights between the African continent and the Caribbean.

Government officials, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin and Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez were among those who took part in this week's signing ceremony at the Office of the Prime Minister.

The agreement was signed with Nigeria-based Marvelous Mike Press Limited to launch Antigua Airways.

PM Browne welcomed the initiative noting that there are several benefits that will accrue for Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Caribbean.

As the first direct commercial airline link between Africa and Antigua and Barbuda, the launch of Antigua Airways has the potential to reestablish ties between Africa and the Caribbean. These include familial ties, trade, investment and tourism.

Additionally, with the V. C. Bird International Airport (VIBIA) as its Caribbean hub, the airline will forge links with the Antigua-based carrier, LIAT, thus making it possible for people from the rest of the region to travel to Africa.

Government spokesman Lionel "Max" Hurst said the route being negotiated will see the airline travel directly from Lagos, Nigeria, to Antigua and Barbuda and return to Lagos via Toronto, Canada.

Hurst explained that the Nigerian group plans to wet-lease aircraft and crew for the fledgling carrier. As part of the wet-leasing contract, the maintenance of the aircrafts will be includ-



ed.

"We have been negotiating with the group for several months and we also completed due diligence to ensure that they are who they say they are.

"Their main offices will be in Lagos, but they will also have a presence at the VCBIA.

"One of the advantages of the new service from Antigua Airways is that it will make it much easier for people from the African continent to travel to the Caribbean," he explained.

Hurst said currently, Africans travelling to the region must make connections through Europe or the United States which is both costly and time consuming.

"We are elated as a government with this development as we are of the view that true integration between Africa and the Caribbean there must be ease of travel. Currently, we are in negotiations with several African countries to institute visa waivers that will make it easier for them to travel to the



region," Hurst added.

Under the agreement, the investors will finance the airline's operations while the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will receive 20 percent of the profits.

## African diplomat supports calls for reparations

Uganda's Ambassador to the United Nations, Irene Namboka, has given his support to the calls of countries throughout the Americas for reparations to be made to the descendants of enslaved people who, for hundreds of years, suffered the indignity and hardships of slavery and colonisation.

Ambassador Namboka wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Antigua and Barbuda this week during which he participated in activities including the national Watch Night gathering at the Botanical Gardens.

During his address at Watch Night event, Ambassador Namboka spoke extensively on the fight for

reparations, reparatory justice, climate justice, and the growing relationship between CARICOM and the African Union.

The ambassador also paid courtesy calls on the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Also joining the diplomatic "meet and greet" were Chairman of the Antigua Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC), Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde, and Vice-Chairman of the ABRSC, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool.

Prime Minister Browne welcomed Ambassador Namboka to Antigua and

Barbuda and thanked him for supporting and participating in the annual Emancipation celebrations.

The courtesy visit concluded with a commitment by Prime Minister Browne to continue his call for reparations, reparatory justice, and climate justice in international fora.

Ambassador O'Marde reminded Prime Minister Browne of his call for the establishment of an Africa-CARICOM Day.

Ambassador Namboka's emancipation celebrations visit continued with visits with Antigua and Barbuda's centenarians including 102-year-old Victoria Rhodes of Fort Road and 100-year-old Sarah Jane Christopher Irish of Jennings.

The ambassador said these golden gems of Antigua and Barbuda are the closest descents of Africa.

Mrs. Irish, who still

plays crossword puzzles, told the ambassador that it was always her wish to visit Africa. In response, Ambassador Namboka said, "Mama, Africa came to you instead."

During his visit with the country's centenarians donations were made to each of the elders by the ABRSC.

A reception was held in Ambassador Namboka's honour which was attended by members of Antigua and Barbuda's African community and members of the ABRSC.

AIDO is an international NGO, established in 2018, as Ateker International Development Organisation. Aido Network International (AIDO) brings together stakeholders within the cultural, community, educational, faith, and sporting sectors, to challenge human rights abuses and use culture to promote unity, development and social change.

## 14 new COVID-19 cases

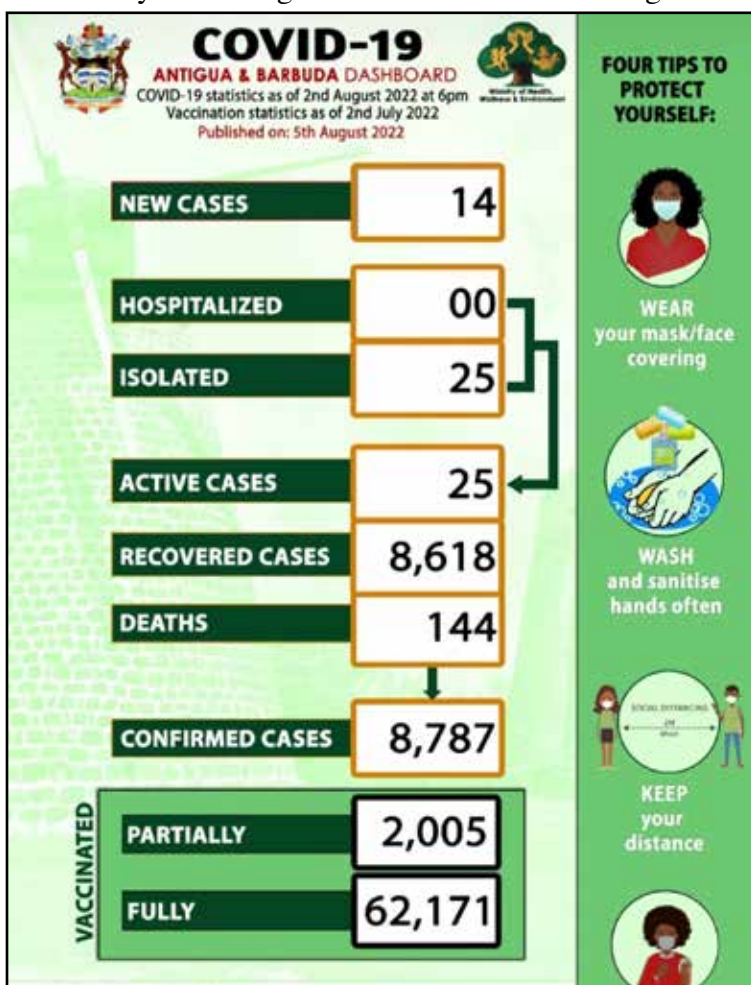
The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed fourteen (14) new COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Tuesday 2nd August, 2022 at 6pm.

Ten (10) cases were recorded on July 29th, two (2) on July 30th, one (1) on August 1st and one (1) on August 2nd. Ninety-four (94) samples were processed.

Twenty-one (21) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven (8,787); which is inclusive of twenty-five (25) active cases.

There are no hospitalised cases.





# Local News

## Nationals urged to apply for UK Chevening Scholarships

Applications for Chevening Scholarships to study in the United Kingdom are now being accepted until the deadline, 1st November 2022.

Applications are to be submitted via the website, [chevening.org/apply](https://chevening.org/apply).

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals from all backgrounds who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to create positive change and can show how a UK master's degree will help them achieve their goal.

Successful applicants

for the scholarship will receive offers full financial support to pursue any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

Since the programme's inception in 1983, over 50,000 professionals have had the opportunity to develop in the UK through Chevening. There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2023/2024 academic year, demonstrating the UK's ongoing commitment towards



developing future leaders.

Head of Scholarships at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Naomi Rayner, said, "As the world continues to tackle major global issues such as climate change, interna-

tional cooperation is more essential than ever. Chevening seeks to build an international community of people who are committed to working together to drive positive change. We do this by bringing together incred-

*cont'd on pg 9*



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*cont'd from pg 8*

ible people from around the world and supporting them, through education, to achieve their goals.

"In the UK we are proud of our world class universities and we know that our learning environments are enriched by the wide diversity of cultures, experiences and viewpoints represented on our campuses. Chevening scholars make a significant contribution to these communities, as well as becoming an important part of our network of over 50,000 alumni.

"Chevening represents the very best of the UK, welcoming people from across the world to study, grow, and thrive. Being a part of the Chevening network instils a strong sense of pride and responsibility. I am consistently inspired by the passion and commitment of those in the Chevening community and I look forward to hearing from this year's applicants."

This was supported by Scott Furssedonn-Wood, British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

"If you are someone who is passionate about driving change, whether on a local or global scale, if you want to be the best at what you do and if you have the imagination to inspire others, then a Chevening scholarship could be the perfect opportunity for you.

"There is no such thing as a 'typical' scholar. Your age, race, gender, religion

and cultural background do not matter to us. We want to see that you have energy, curiosity, compassion and a clear vision for your future and the ability to achieve your goals. If this sounds like you, then you are very likely to fit in with our community of over 50,000 alumni worldwide.

"Our alumni network is full of dynamic influencers

who have shared the same experience that you will. They can offer encouragement, mentorship, advice, and contacts. When you return home after your studies you should feel well-equipped to start making a real difference professionally or socially.

"There is a lot to gain from submitting a thoughtful application, so if you

have what it takes to be a Chevening Scholar, I would encourage you to apply before the 1 November deadline," High Commissioner Furssedonn-Wood noted.

The call for new applicants follows the selection of 15 scholars from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean who will study at universities in the UK this academic year.

**Lions Club of Antigua and Dr. Dwayne Thwaites**  
with assistance from  
**Dr. Danny Caruso · Dr. Christopher Gomez · Dr. Obi Ekiwenna · Dr. Srigita Madiraju**  
**Dr. Regene Johnson · Dr. Adrian Rhudd**

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# Opinion



## Prose, cons and cornrows

By Tony Deyal

What do you call a pig that does karate? A pork chop. Why did the bike fall over? It was two tired. Why did the big-shot Tobagonian golfer bring two pairs of pants. In case he got a hole in one. Why shouldn't you write with a broken pen? Because its pointless. However, if you think I'm writing this article with a broken pen, I can tell you that even though I have a baldpoint, it is just another example of the corny jokes that I chose to make a point that should gel with you. They are all "corny" jokes and describe things that are worn out (like my children by my Pop-corn), tiresome (like the bike joke), overly sentimental, or a combination of all the other options. Now, let's avoid the cornflict and corncentrate on something with which I corncur and, hopefully, will not be stepping on your corns.

The first thing you will learn is that most corn jokes are doubly corny, like "Two corns in a field were telling each other jokes. They were the laughing stalk of the others." Our second corntestant is the story of two high-school graduates. I urge you not to start with any precornceptions and corncentrate. The first one revealed, "I'm planning on going into farming, it's what my father does and he makes good money." The second asked, "What type of farming? Wheat, corn, livestock?" The first replied, "I don't know man, there are so many fields to choose from." I am almost certain that I might be stepping on your corns as readers of serious stuff and I may have to suffer the cornsequences of my corntinuous lack of cornsideration, but the final jokes are a cornsummation devoutly to be dished. "How much do pirates pay for corn?" A buccaneer. Now, the cornclusion, "Why can't a farmer keep secrets on his farm? Be-

cause the corn has ears, the potatoes have eyes and the beanstalk."

Now before you discorntinue reading and demand why I am subjecting you to this incornsequential cornucopia, I want to assure you that I have a corncrete reason. I was born just days after the end of the Second World War and because of the rationing of food, families in the sugar-cane fields not only in Trinidad, but throughout the Caribbean, grew their own survival rations. One of these in abundance was "corn", a name which originally meant "sand" and then amazingly replaced "maize" as the generic word for "grain" (wheat, barley, rye etc). What gave the "cane" its "ears" was a painting in 1573 by artist Giuseppi Arcimbaldo entitled "Summer" which featured a bearded man with a cucumber nose, peapod lips, peach cheeks and an "ear" of corn. By that time, corn from the Americas had reached Europe and even the most "earudite" joined with the cornquistadores and uncornditionally accepted the corntradicion in terms.

Rice, flour and even sugar were rationed and limited. My family used to grow corn and we roasted and boiled a lot of them to help us survive. When I left Central Trinidad and went to the town of Siparia in the deep south, my friends did not grow corn but knew where to find them. Unlike Little Bo Peep's sheep, the corns were not left alone to bring their trails behind them. We recorndited and struck, going for the gold in particular.

I will start with a true cornfession. I call it "Corn With The Wind". One day, while we had a serious card game called "Whappie" going in the cornfield, the police struck. My friend Jimmy, faster than Canadian sprint-star Andre de Grasse, hit the grass like a Bolt from Jamaica. We just saw



Tony Deyal

the corn-field open and close. What I didn't know is that Mr. Shooy and his son Anton had got a head start and rushed to their nearby latrine, each trying to prove he was there first, otherwise engaged, and too busy for whappie. Each of them was stripping off his pants while trying to push the other off the throne. "I was here fuss," each shouted to the other. Unfortunately, the crudely built facility made from pieces of wood stolen from the sawmill or thrown away on the road, had one bit of cedar wood that jutted beyond the boundary. Jimmy, running fast, frantic and frightened, hit the projection, toppled it and kept running even faster, this time more like a bolt from the blue than from Jamaica. In the meantime, the frail facility had fallen apart with father and son trying to avoid falling even further and deeper, but still quarrelling until the police arrived. They were eventually dragged into custody, but not without a few blows from the "bullpistles" (tough, long whips made from bull penises) that were wielded with malice aforethought and afterthought by the cornstables.

There were many times when my cornfederates and I had our share of corn but eventually stopped because of our friend Carlie. One Emancipa-

*cont'd on pg 12*





## EXTERNAL VACANCY HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) OFFICER (HEALTH & SAFETY)

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **HR Officer (Health & Safety)**. ABAA is responsible for the management of V. C. Bird International Airport (VCBIA) and the Codrington Airport.

The **HR Officer (Health & Safety)** will be responsible for minimizing or removing the risk of accidents, work-related illnesses, and injuries in the workplace. He/she will maintain the safety information of the Authority and promote safety compliance by shaping new protocols and strengthening existing health and safety policies. He/she will also ensure that the Authority adheres to occupational health and safety regulations set out by the government, OSHA, and other relevant industry bodies. This position will also provide support to HR Labour Relations Management.

### **The functions of the HR Officer (Health & Safety) will include:**

- Ensuring robust compliance to health and safety laws and organizational policies.
- Completing risk assessments, site inspections, and internal audits.
- Keeping abreast of ongoing legal matters – understanding how health and safety legislation can impact organizations and industry standards.
- Investigating and recording workplace accidents and work-related illnesses, compiling reports where required.
- Developing new health and safety policy procedures in line with existing rules and regulations.
- Facilitate in-house training sessions to teach employees about company policies and health and safety issues.
- Processing and administrating workmen's compensation claims.

### **Minimum Requirements**

- Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Health & Safety, Business, an International Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety from NEBOSH or related equivalent.
- Minimum three (3) years' working experience in a similar role in a human resource environment, OR (4) years' experience in a general business environment.
- Good knowledge of the Antigua & Barbuda Labour Code.
- Must be computer literate: Competent in Microsoft Office Suite.
- Accuracy and attention to detail.
- Able to prioritize.
- Willing to work under pressure.
- Calm in stressful situations.
- Good report writing skills.
- Excellent time management skills.

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

**Human Resources Manager**  
**Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority**  
**V C Bird International Airport, P. O. Box 1051**  
**Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.**  
E-mail: [hr@abairportauthority.com](mailto:hr@abairportauthority.com)  
Website: [www.vcbia.com](http://www.vcbia.com)

The **deadline** for receipt of applications is **Tuesday 9, August 2022**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.

# Opinion

*cont'd from pg 10*

tion holiday we rampaged through a set of cornfields and came back with about thirty biggies. We had a big “pitchoil” tin (the type in which ‘cooking oil’ came) filled with water, salt, pepper and chopped up onions for a contest on who could eat the most corn. Carlie ate fifteen and wiped out the supplies before any of the rest of us could complete our second.

He then said, “Fellers, I still hungry. Let us go back and get some more corn!” This was the last husk, straw and cob. It ended in a major row.

I remembered that row and my days of corn and conflict as I read “Cornrows” by lawyer, writer and artiste, Takudza Hillary Chiwanza of Zimbabwe. He wrote, “The history of slavery is filled with stories of momentous innovation and sheer resilience. One of these is how the slaves in Colombia devised ways to escape slavery through cornrows – a hairstyle resembling African pride and heritage. Cornrows, which have African origins, are now common all over the world. But this hairstyle is steeped in the history of rebellion and redemption.” He

How Cornrows Were Used by Slaves to Escape Slavery in South America | The African Exponent



pointed out that the style of hair braiding very close to the scalp, or “Cornrows”, is also known as “cane rows”

in the Caribbean. Because cornrows are fashioned in neat linear rows, he explained, “they can also be created in intricate geometric and curving designs.” Where the cornrows proved to be efficient and life-saving was that they were used “to transfer and create maps with the intention to leave the home of captors.” Takudza Hillary ended with the cornrows upon rows of slaves which helped in the fight against slavery, “The legacies of colonialism resulted in African hair being despised. Modern black women are barraged with notions that depict their natural hair as inferior. Africans should stand tall and be proud of their hair, for it is enriched with the history of self-assertion.”

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen repeating what one of the girls in his Elementary School had asked the teacher, “Sir, how come you have an Emancipation day tomorrow and not an Ewoman-cipation day?”*



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  - The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs.
  - The Agricultural Extension Division (across from King George V Grounds)
  - Downloaded from the “FORMS” tab at [www.agriculture.gov.ag/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ag/)

Completed registration forms and fees must be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs on Queen Elizabeth Highway St. John's, Antigua, by **5th August 2022**.

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# Hurricane Season



## WMO reports decreased likelihood of severe Atlantic hurricane season

The United States National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) has adjusted its forecast so as to monitor the conditions which impact cyclonic activity as the North Atlantic hurricane season enters its traditional peak period, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), said Friday.

The WMO, a specialised

agency of the United Nations whose mandate covers weather, climate, and water resources said while conditions do still point towards an "above-normal" 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, NOAA forecasters have decreased the likelihood of an above-normal season, which could herald more devastating storms for the Caribbean and east coast of

the US, from 65 percent in May, to 60 percent in most recent estimates.

However, the likelihood of "near-normal" activity has risen to 30 percent, from a previous estimate of just 10 percent.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment report projects that the global proportion of tropical cyclones

that reach very intense levels of category 4 or 5, along with their peak winds and rainfall rates, is expected to gradually increase due to global warming caused by rising CO2 emissions.

NOAA's update to the prior forecast – which covers the entire six-month hurricane season ahead – projects that there will be 14-20 named storms with winds of 39 mph or greater.

Of these, six to 10 could become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph or greater. Of these, three to five could become major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or greater. NOAA has projected these ranges with a 70 percent level of confidence.

Thus far, the season has seen three named storms, but no hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin. On average, hurricane season produces 14 named storms, seven of which become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

There are several conditions that point toward an active hurricane season. Most notably are the La Niña conditions, which will likely remain for the rest of 2022. La Niña conditions, the periodic cooling of the ocean surface central and east of the Pacific equator,

*cont'd on pg 16*

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- Email completed form to [mafbaevents@ab.gov.ag](mailto:mafbaevents@ab.gov.ag) or deliver a printed copy of the completed form to "PIANGO CULINARY COMPETITION 2022", in care of CHEFS WORLD, Gambles Terrace, Friars Hill Road; or to Ms. Marcelle Freeland Ministry of Agriculture Headquarters, Independence Avenue.

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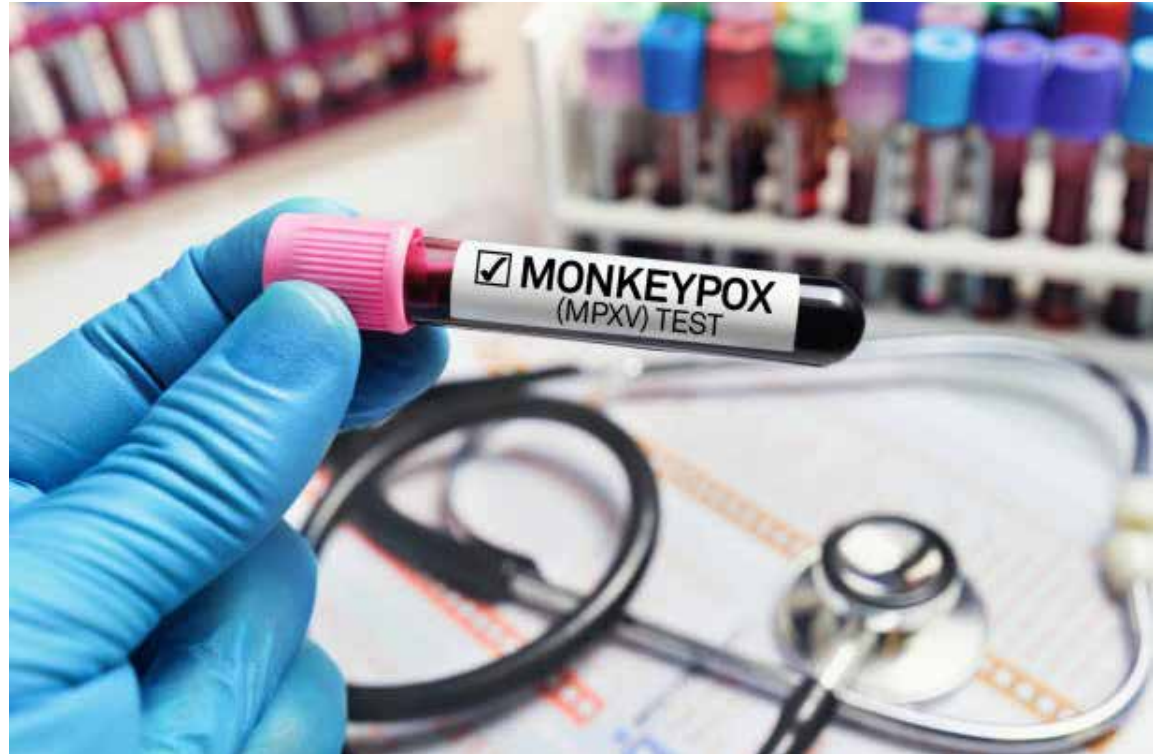
## Jamaica confirms first locally transmitted case of monkeypox

Jamaica Friday confirmed its first locally transmitted Monkeypox virus case, bringing to three, the overall number of cases of the virus on the island.

“We have confirmed a third case of Monkeypox only a couple of hours ago,” Health and Wellness Minister Dr. Christopher Tufton said, adding that the patient “apparently contracted the virus from someone who had the virus here.”

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the resumption of construction work on the Western Children & Adolescents Hospital in St James, Tufton said the new case “in essence changes the complexion of the challenge that we face.”

“In this third case, the individual is being quarantined at home because their facility does allow for it and if the person is cooperative,



this is what we will do with the cases, Tufton said, adding that the health ministry’s technical team is currently having dialogue on the matter of local transmission of the disease that had been anticipated.

“They are meeting.

They are looking at their consulting, including with our bilateral and multilateral partners... looking at their protocols which we have put out already... having a discussion with the medical teams in the respective parishes and reviewing how

we address concerns around public information, how we address concerns around vaccines, how we address concerns around the contact tracing and quarantining, if necessary,” Tufton added.

Apart from Jamaica, Bermuda, Bahamas, and Barbados are among Caribbean countries reporting cases of Monkeypox which is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting from two to four weeks. Severe cases can occur. In recent times, the case fatality ratio has been around three to six percent.

Monkeypox is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets, and contaminated materials such as bedding. (CMC)

### *cont’d from pg 14*

will slightly enhance hurricane activity, said the press release issued by the World Meteorological Organization.

In addition to a continued La Niña, weaker tropical Atlantic winds, an active west African Monsoon and likely above-normal Atlantic sea-surface temperatures, set the stage for higher-than-average hurricane activity.

The hurricane seasons in 2020 and 2021 were exceptionally active and both years exhausted the prepared lists of storm names, from the WMO’s rotating list. The WMO maintains lists of names, in order to aid clear communication over hazards ahead, and help save lives.

Every year, there are on average 84 named tropical cyclones all over the world. Over the past 50 years, every single day, they have caused on average 43 deaths and US\$78 million in damages, according to WMO statistics from 1970-2019.

However, based on the data, death tolls have fallen dramatically. This development is thanks to improvements in forecasting, warning, and disaster risk reduction, coordinated by WMO’s Tropical Cyclone Program.

In view of the growing hazards, WMO said it is working to ensure there is universal access to early warnings and is seeking to strengthen impact-based forecasting. (CMC)



## Dr. Terrance Drew sworn in as St. Kitts and Nevis' fourth Prime Minister

Dr. Terrance Michael Drew was officially sworn in on Saturday, August 06, 2022, as the fourth Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis by His Excellency Sir S.W. Tapley Seaton, Governor-General, during a significant ceremony at Government House.

Prime Minister Dr. Drew was sworn in after the St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) convincingly won the Federal General Elections held on August 05, 2022, taking six of the 11 seats that were contested.

He was administered the Oath of Office, the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Secrecy in front of elected representatives of the SKNLP, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, specially invited guests and members of the media.

In his brief remarks,



*St. Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew*

Prime Minister Drew thanked the electorate for placing its trust in him and his team when it was called upon to choose the country's next government.

"It was indeed an esteemed pleasure to be given the opportunity by you, the people of St. Kitts and Nevis to be your prime minister. I consider it an office of service and I also recognize that it is an office that I do not own and I am only here at the behest of the

people," said Prime Minister Drew. "I also know that I am here for a limited time and during that time I vow to work closely with the members of my Cabinet to be named shortly, to work with those who are in other positions in government and most of all to work with our citizenry."

Prime Minister Drew pledged to work closely with the sister island of Nevis "so that whatever issues there are that we can

solve and resolve to bring our Federation closer together."

"I look forward to the next five years to serving the people of St. Kitts and Nevis with distinction, with respect to the principles of good governance, transparency and integrity so that our nation can be counted among those that are the best," he said.

The other elected members of Prime Minister Drew's Cabinet will be sworn in at a later date. They are Dr. Denzil Douglas, Konris Maynard, Marsha Henderson, Dr. Geoffrey Hanley and Samal Duggins. Prime Minister Drew declared that Monday, August 8, 2022, is a public holiday in the Federation in recognition of his party's resounding victory at the polls.

## 17 missing, 121 hurt, one dead in fire at Cuban oil facility

A fire set off by a lightning strike at an oil storage facility raged uncontrolled Saturday in the city of Matanzas, where four explosions and flames injured nearly 80 people, Cuban authorities said. Seventeen firefighters are missing.

Firefighters and other specialists were still trying to quell the blaze at the Matanzas Supertanker Base, where the fire began during a thunderstorm Friday night, the Ministry of Energy and Mines tweeted. The government said later that it had asked for help

from international experts in "friendly countries" with experience in the oil sector.

The official Cuban News Agency said lightning hit one tank, starting a fire, and the blaze later spread to a second tank. As military helicopters flew overhead dropping water on the blaze, a dense column of black smoke billowed from the facility and spread westward more than 100 kilometres (62 miles) toward Havana.

Roberto de la Torre, head of fire operations in Matanzas, said firefight-

ers were spraying water on intact tanks trying to keep them cool in hopes of preventing the fire from spreading.

The Facebook page of the provincial government of Matanzas said the number of injured had reached 77, while 17 people were missing. The Presidency of the Republic said the 17 were "firefighters who were in the nearest area trying to prevent the spread."

Seven of the injured were taken to Calixto García Hospital in Havana, *cont'd on pg 18*

## Turkey frees man wanted by Haiti after Moise's assassination

Reuters - A man wanted by Haiti over his alleged involvement in the assassination of President Jovenel Moise has been freed from a Turkish repatriation centre and returned to the United States, one of his lawyers said on Saturday.

Moise, a 53-year-old former businessman who took office in 2017, was shot dead in July 2021 at his private residence. His wife was wounded in the attack.

Businessman Samir Handal, a Miami-based Haitian and U.S. real estate developer, was detained on an Interpol red notice as he transited through Turkey



*Samir Handal is wanted for his alleged involvement in the 2021 assassination of Haiti's former president, Jovenel Moise*

on his way from the United States to Jordan last November.

His lawyers said the red

notice was later suspended at their request pending a final review and a Turkish court rejected Haiti's extra-

dition request for Handal on July 4, ruling he should be released.

Lawyer Mahmut Barlas told Reuters that Handal was released on Aug. 3 and arrived in the United States the following day.

Handal has said he only rented a house to Emmanuel Sanon, a suspected mastermind of the assassination, and did not know of any plans to kill Moise.

Handal's lawyers had said he should not be extradited because he would be subject to hard labour in Haiti. They also emphasised the political uncertainty in the country.

*cont'd from pg 17*

which has a prominent burn unit.

The incident comes as Cuba struggles with fuel shortages. There was no immediate word on how much oil had burned or was in danger at the storage facility, which has eight giant tanks that hold oil used to fuel electricity generating plants.

"I was in the gym when I felt the first explosion. A column of smoke and terrible fire rose through the skies," resident Adiel Gonzalez told The Associated Press by phone. "The city has a strong smell of sulphur."

Authorities said the Dubrocq neighbourhood closest to the fire was evacuated, while Gonzalez added that some people decided to leave the Versailles district, which is a little farther from the tank farm.

Many ambulances, police and fire engines were seen in the streets of Matanzas, a city with about 140,000 residents and located on Matanzas Bay.



*Workers of the Cuba Oil Union, known by the Spanish acronym CUPET, watch a huge rising plume of smoke from the Matanzas Supertanker Base, as firefighters work to quell a blaze which began during a thunderstorm the night before, in Matanzas, Cuba, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022. Cuban authorities say lightning struck a crude oil storage tank at the base, causing a fire that led to four explosions which injured more than 50 people. (RAMON ESPINOSA / AP)*



## Ex-rebel sworn in as Colombia's president in historic shift

AP - Colombia's first leftist president will be sworn into office Sunday, promising to fight inequality and heralding a turning point in the history of a country haunted by a long war between the government and guerrilla groups.

Sen. Gustavo Petro, a former member of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group, won the presidential election in June by beating conservative parties that offered moderate changes to the market-friendly economy, but failed to connect with voters frustrated by rising poverty and violence against human rights leaders and environmental groups in rural areas.

Petro is part of a growing group of leftist politicians and political outsiders who have been winning elections in Latin America since the pandemic broke out and hurt incumbents who struggled with its economic aftershocks.

The ex-rebel's victory was also exceptional for Colombia, where voters had been historically reluctant to back leftist politicians who were often accused of being soft on crime or allied with guerrillas.

A 2016 peace deal between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia turned much of the focus of voters away from the violent



*Colombia's President-elect Gustavo Petro speaks to students at Externado University in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Petro gave a talk to students at his alma mater where he studied economics, ahead of his Aug. 7 inauguration. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)*

conflicts playing out in rural areas and gave prominence to problems like poverty and corruption, fueling the popularity of leftist parties in national elections.

Petro, 62, has promised to tackle Colombia's social and economic inequalities by boosting spending on anti-poverty programs and increasing investment in rural areas.

He has described U.S.-led anti-narcotics policies, such as the forced eradication of illegal coca crops, as a "big failure." But he has said he would like to work with Washington "as equals," building schemes to combat climate change or bring infrastructure to rural areas where many farmers say coca leaves are the only viable crop.

with remaining rebel groups that are currently fighting over drug routes, gold mines and other resources abandoned by the FARC after their peace deal with the government.

"He's got a very ambitious agenda," said Yan Basset, a political scientist at Bogota's Rosario University. "But he will have to prioritise. The risk Petro faces is that he goes after too many reforms at once and gets nothing" through Colombia's congress.

At least 10 heads of state are expected to attend Petro's inauguration, which will take place at a large colonial-era square in front of Colombia's Congress. Stages with live music and big screens will also be placed in parks across Bogota's city centre so that tens of thousands of citizens without invitations to the main event can also join in the festivities. That's a big change for Colombia where previous presidential inaugurations were more sombre events limited to a few hundred VIP guests.

"We want the Colombian people to be the protagonists," Petro's press chief, Marisol Rojas, said in a statement. "This inauguration will be the first taste of a new form of governing, where all forms of life are respected, and where everyone fits in."

Petro also formed alliances with environmentalists during his presidential campaign and has promised to turn Colombia into a "global powerhouse for life" by slowing deforestation and taking steps to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

The incoming president has said Colombia will stop granting new licences for oil exploration and will ban fracking projects, even though the oil industry makes up almost 50% of the nation's legal exports. He plans to finance social spending with a \$10 billion a year tax reform that would boost taxes on the rich and do away with corporate tax breaks.

Petro has also said he wants to start peace talks

## Role of race contested in killing of Nigerian man in Italy

AP - Two marches Saturday in a well-to-do Italian Adriatic beach town both sought justice in the brutal daylight killing of a Nigerian man at the hands of an Italian stranger but were divided by one word: Racism.

One march by Nigerians living in Italy's Macerata province was led by victim Aliko Ogorchukwu's tearful widow and joined by two of his brothers. Organizers of that march said they did not want the search for justice to be clouded by accusations of racism that they feel cannot be proven.

The second march, along the same route an hour later, was led by Black Italians from all over Italy who demanded that Italian authorities reverse themselves and recognize the role that race played in the July 29 killing.

"Not naming racism won't help us understand how to defeat it. Because racism exists in Italy," Selam Tesfaye, a Milan-based immigrant activist, told the second crowd of about 100 people. "If someone in Civitanova wants to explain why this is not racism, we are here."

A widely circulated video shows the Italian man wrestling Ogorchukwu to the ground and strangling him. One man's voice can be heard shouting for the attacker to stop, but no onlookers intervened physically, adding a layer of public outrage over their apparent indifference.

Police arrested an Italian suspect, Filippo Ferlazzo, 32, but quickly ruled out a racial motivation for the attack. The finding was confirmed by prosecutors who did not include racial motivation in the charge sheet, according to Ferlazzo's lawyer, Roberta Bizzarri.

According to police, Ferlazzo first struck Ogorchukwu with a crutch the vendor used after pursuing the Nigeri-



Charity Oriakhi, centre, widow of Nigerian street vendor Aliko Ogorchukwu, attends a demonstration to demand justice for her husband in Civitanova Marche, Italy, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022. The brutal killing of Ogorchukwu in broad daylight has sparked a debate in this well-to-do Adriatic beach community over whether the attack by an Italian man with a court-documented history of mental illness was racially motivated. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

an 200 metres (yards) down a shopping street lined with high-end boutiques. Some accounts said Ogorchukwu had complimented Ferlazzo's companion while trying to make a sale or ask for spare change. Others said he had touched the companion's arm.

Townpeople have accepted the official version of events, attributing the Nigerian man's death to an insistent street-seller unfortunately clashing with a man who has a court-documented history of mental illness.

"This is not a racist city," newsstand owner Domenico Giordano said. "This is an open city. If you behave well, you are welcomed and even helped."

People have left flowers and condolences on the sidewalk where Ogorchukwu was killed, in front of a beachwear boutique that was closed for lunch at the time. Store owner

Laura Latino said she has received negative comments from as far away as Houston, accusing her of standing by and doing nothing when she wasn't even there.

"Be careful about judging a city of 45,000 people," Latino said, adding that false rumours were "ruining the reputation of the city."

City officials have expressed concerns that the killing was being politicised ahead of Italy's early parliamentary election on Sept. 25.

Samuel Kunoun, a Nigerian union activist who organised the march with the victim's family, said he does not believe the attack was racially motivated. Still, the role of race in the case is so charged that he kept the word "racism" off banners in the march that attracted 200 people, mostly Nigerians.

*cont'd on pg 21*



## Four cargo ships sail from Ukraine: Turkish, Ukrainian officials

AlJazeera - Four ships carrying Ukrainian foodstuffs sailed from Ukrainian Black Sea ports as part of a deal to unblock the country's sea exports, Ukrainian and Turkish officials said.

The four bulk carriers were loaded with almost 170,000 tonnes of corn and other foodstuffs, the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority (USPA) said on Facebook on Sunday.

The resumption of grain exports is being overseen by a Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in Istanbul, where Russian, Ukrainian, Turkish and United Nations personnel are working.

The UN and Turkey brokered the deal last month after UN warnings of possible outbreaks of famine in parts of the world due to a halt in grain shipments from Ukraine that had squeezed supplies and sent prices soaring.

On Saturday, a foreign-flagged ship arrived in Ukraine for the first time since the war started in February to be loaded with grain, Infrastructure Min-



*The Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Riva Wind is seen at the sea port in Odesa [Press service of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine/Handout via Reuters]*

ister Oleksandr Kubrakov said.

"We are gradually moving on to larger volumes of work. We plan to ensure the ability of the ports to handle at least 100 vessels per month in the near future," he said on Facebook on Sunday.

He said Ukraine planned to soon involve Pivdennyi port in the implementation of the grain export initiative and expected that as a re-

sult, Ukraine will be able to ship up to at least 3 million tonnes of goods a month.

Before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Russia and Ukraine together accounted for nearly a third of global wheat exports. Russia calls its action in Ukraine a "special military operation".

The JCC said late on Saturday it had authorised the departure of a total of five new vessels through

the Black Sea corridor: four vessels outbound from Chornomorsk and Odesa carrying 161,084 metric tonnes of foodstuffs, and one inbound.

The ships that have left Ukrainian ports included Glory, with a cargo of 66,000 tonnes of corn bound for Istanbul, and Riva Wind, loaded with 44,000 tonnes of corn, heading for Turkey's Iskenderun, the Turkish defence ministry said.

*cont'd from pg 20*

"We don't have to mix it with racism. What happened is that someone who is not normal killed our fellow Nigerian," Kunoun said. "We want this boy to pay for what he has done, to be in prison for life. That is our justice."

But a manifesto for the second march, billed as Italy's first-ever or-

ganised by Black Italians, lists the recognition of the role of race in Ogorchukwu's killing as chief among 11 demands. Some 30 organisations said they would seek to join the prosecution as civil complainants.

Ogorchukwu's widow, Charity Oriakhi, is reluctant to say the killing was racially motivated.

"It is just someone who is wicked,"

Oriakhi told The Associated Press.

She said both she and her husband had always felt welcome in Italy and that he never recounted negative interactions when he was out selling.

The Nigerian government has condemned Ogorchukwu's death and its foreign ministry has urged Italian authorities to "bring the perpetrator of the heinous act to book without delay."

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## Suddenly consistent Kyrgios moves into Citi Open final

AP - Nick Kyrgios found the consistency that has long eluded him, reaching a second consecutive tournament final for the first time in his career with a 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over Mikael Ymer at the Citi Open on Saturday night.

Kyrgios, the runner-up at Wimbledon to Novak Djokovic, has adjusted well to the hot, humid conditions at this hard-court U.S. Open tuneup. He won an uncharacteristic 24-shot rally on Ymer's serve to go ahead 5-4 in the first-set tiebreak and served it out from there.

In the second set, Kyrgios



Nick Kyrgios, of Australia, hits a return to Mikael Ymer, of Sweden, during a semifinal at the Citi Open tennis tournament Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, in Washington. (AP Photo/Nick Wass)

gios secured the only service break of the match on a cross-court half-volley from no-man's land to move ahead 5-3.

"He's an incredible athlete and I really wasn't expecting him to be that fast," Kyrgios said. "Maybe next time I might have a couple

different tactics when I play him, maybe not to try and out-rally him, maybe come forward a little bit more. But it was a tough-fought semifinal and I'm just happy to be in the final once again."

The 27-year-old Australian is No. 63 in the rankings but would move to 37th if he takes the title on Sunday. Kyrgios won at Washington in 2019, the most recent of his six ATP titles.

In the final, Kyrgios will face a surprising opponent in 96th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioaka, who ousted top-seeded and eighth-ranked Andrey Rublev 6-3, 6-4.

## Manchester United must let Ronaldo leave, says Rooney

Reuters - Former Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney believes that the club must let Cristiano Ronaldo leave if they are to build a successful team for the future under new manager Erik ten Hag.

The 37-year-old Ronaldo, who resigned for United from Juventus last season, reportedly wants a move away from Old Trafford after the team's failure to qualify for the Champions League.

"I think United should let Cristiano Ronaldo go. It's not that Ronaldo can't play in a Ten Hag team. He can play in any team," Rooney, who now manages Major League Soccer side DC United, wrote in a column for the Times newspaper.

"Ronny will always score you goals. But my personal view is that

United aren't ready to challenge for the title now, so the aim has to be to build a team that can win the league in the next three to four years, and you have to plan for that."

Ronaldo netted 24 times in all competitions last season, emerging as one of the few bright sparks in an otherwise forgettable campaign for United that saw them finish sixth.

Ten Hag this week said he was happy to have a "top striker" like Ronaldo in the squad and looking forward to working with him.

Rooney, who is United's all-time leading scorer, added he was hopeful that Ten Hag would be able to establish a clear playing style at his former club.

"I couldn't work out what they were trying to do in terms of game plan, or



Christian Ronaldo

see any patterns of play," Rooney said of last season.

"I think one of the big things you'll see from Ten Hag is him really trying to put his stamp on the playing identity."

United kicked off their Premier League campaign at home to Brighton & Hove Albion yesterday.

# India facing football ban over 'deviations' from FIFA 'roadmap'

AlJazeera - FIFA has reminded India's football association that it risks losing the upcoming Under-17 Women's World Cup and faces a ban due to "deviations" from an agreed road map aimed at sorting out governance issues.

In May, India's highest court disbanded the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and appointed a three-member committee to govern the sport, amend the AIFF's constitution and conduct elections that have been pending for 18 months.

In response, football's world governing body FIFA



FIFA statutes say that member federations must be free from legal and political interference in their respective countries [Robert Cianflone/Getty Images]

and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) sent a

team, led by AFC General Secretary Windsor John, to meet stakeholders in Indian football and laid down a road map for the AIFF to amend its statutes by the end of July and subsequently conclude elections at the latest by September 15.

This week, the Indian court ordered elections to be held promptly and said the elected committee would be an interim body for a period of three months.

"As per the said roadmap, the AIFF was to call for a special general assembly in the first week of August 2022 to approve the new statutes worked upon with FIFA, the AFC and the Indian football community," a letter sent by FIFA and AFC said.

"Unfortunately, we have been informed that the Supreme Court's hearing held yesterday on the situation of

the AIFF allegedly resulted in deviations to the aforementioned roadmap.

"If this is considered to be true, it would irrefutably jeopardise the mutual understanding which was displayed so far on the steps forward."

The letter, seen by Reuters news agency, was addressed to acting AIFF general secretary Sunando Dhar and signed by FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura and AFC's John.

It asked the Indian body to provide a transcript of the court's decision by Tuesday.

FIFA warned that sanctions, if serious deviations to the agreed road map were found, could include "the suspension of the AIFF and the withdrawal of the hosting rights for the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India [in October]".





## Lewis hopes schools cricket will produce more LI female players

President of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) Enoch Lewis said he is hoping schools programme will be able to produce more female players for the territory.

But Lewis, who first took over as president of the LICB in 2016 and was re-elected on a new two year-term at the organization's 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Antigua on Saturday, 9th July, is cognizant of the small pool of players that is currently available from which to select the regional representative teams.

While admitting that some territories are struggling to organize men's cricket, Lewis said schools programmes can be a source of unearthing new female players for the Leewards senior and Under-19 teams.

"Even some of those territories are struggling to maintain a men's cricket programme so to ask them to add a women's programme is a challenge. We have asked, but is it realistic?"

"The pool is small, but we are not going to sit on our hands and say nothing can happen. We are going to keep pushing," Lewis stated.

"What I am encouraged by is the fact that we have now started an Under-19 female tournament. We sent a team to the recent West Indies Under-19 women's tournament and we are hoping that female cricket can be expanded in the schools, which means that we would be producing players coming out of the schools as a feeder system to our Under-19 and senior women teams."

The United States played unbeaten to win this year's inaugural CWI Women's Rising Stars Under-19 Championship, which was hosted in Trinidad & Tobago from 5th to 13th July.

Barbados successfully defended their CG United Senior Women's Su-

per50 Cup title in June this year. The Bajans won their third consecutive 50-over title after they narrowly missed out on also taking the T20 Blaze crown, which was captured by Jamaica in the 7th to 25th June tournaments in Guyana.

It was the third title in a row for the Bajans who also won back in competitions in 2018 and 2019. There were no tournaments in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Leeward Islands joined the West Indies domestic structure in 2016, playing in the Regional Women's Championship and the Regional Women's Twenty20 Championship. They finished bottom of their group in both competitions.

The side have competed in every 50-over and T20 competition since, but have yet to win a match, finishing bottom of the league every season.

In 2019, Leeward Islands captain Shawnisha Hector became the first Antiguan female cricketer to play for the West Indies.

Although admitting that winning is not everything, Lewis said the LICB will be seeking to provide the players will proper coaching to help improve their performance in next year's tournaments.

"But we are not sitting down and doing nothing. Now that we have the players, we are going to continue to work in the territories," Lewis stated.

"We are going to see how much we can get proper coaching around them so between now and next year when the tournament is held again that we can see improvements, and once we can see improvements, we are happy because we know eventually that will turn out like the Leeward Islands men's team of old.

"When the Leeward Islands men



*President of the Leeward Islands Cricket Association, Enoch Lewis. (File photo)*

first got into West Indies first class cricket they never won anything. We were beating post. But over time, we became a strong team and won the tournament.

"We produced world class players such as Sir Viv (Richards), Sir Andy (Roberts), Sir Richie (Richardson) and Sir Curtly (Ambrose) and you would realize, they started after everybody else, but as they played for a period of time, they eventually caught up and pass some of those players who were already established.

"I expect the same thing to happen with our female players. In the short four years that we now have been playing, we have developed Shawnisha Hector who was a contracted player for the West Indies and she actually played for the West Indies and so as long as we are making progress, winning games by itself is not everything, but once we can produce players that eventually get to the West Indies team, we can see some light at the end of the tunnel.

Lewis also said the LICB is also

*cont'd on pg 26*

# Sports News



## George wins IFBB Pro Card at CAC championship

Antigua and Barbuda's Dwayne George won his International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness (IFBB) Pro Card during the 49th Central American and Caribbean Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship, which was held in Barbados from 27th July to 1st August.

George, who was a member of a nine-member Antigua and Barbuda team, was the only one to acquire a Pro Card at the CAC event after winning the Men's Classic Bodybuilding Over 175 centimetre category.

He was also adjudged the overall champion.

George also won the Men's Bodybuilding up to 90 Kilograms class, however he could only capture the runner-up position in the overall competition.

National champion, Steve Simon, won the Men's Classic Bodybuilding Up to 175 centimetres, but finished second in the overall contest.

Simon also won the Men's Bodybuilding Up to 80 Kilograms category, but only mustered a second place finish in the overall competition.

Duncan Corbin and Yvette Butler also captured titles at the CAC event.

Corbin, who was declared champion in the Men's Physique Up to



*The Antigua and Barbuda team that attended the 49th Central American and Caribbean Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship, which was held in Barbados from 27th July to 1st August, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABABWF)*

173 centimetres division, secured a second place finish in the overall contest.

Butler won the Masters Bikini 35 & Over category. She also captured the runner-up position in the Women's Bikini Fitness Up to 169 centimetres category.

Makiva Elvin claimed second place in the Women's Bikini Fitness Up to 164 centimetres.

Kayla Joseph claimed a third place finish in the Wellness Fitness Up to 163 centimetres division.

Brad Benjamin finished third in the Men's Physique Up to 173 centimetres category.

Jameel Knight captured a third place finish in the Men's Classic Physique Up to 175 centimetres ahead of Shaquille Thomas, who finished fourth in the same category.

### cont'd from pg 25

now utilizing limited financial resources to fund both men and women cricket programmes in the Leeward Islands.

"You know when I took over the Leeward Islands Cricket Board we were getting a certain amount of funding and it was to

fund the senior men's programme, the Under-19s and the Under-15s.

"In the six years that I have been around, I have been forced to add the senior women, an Under-17 Boys and now an Under-19 Girls using the same resources," Lewis stated.

"So rather than three

programmes, we are now catering for six using the same amount of money. So we have to be creative in the way we get things done because for all of those programmes there are also tournaments and tournaments are quite expensive.

"So we will continue to press on and hopefully, we

will get some support from corporate Leeward Islands to help us along the way because everything you do need some financing.

"So if there is anyone within the sound of my voice is willing to come on board and assist us, we will be very happy to welcome you."



## Coates says Free Kick tournament was a major challenge for Wings players

Chairperson of the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Associations (CPTSA) Wings Football Committee Barbara Coates said it was a big challenge for her club at the recent inaugural Free Kick Youth Cup tournament in St Lucia.

Wings FC lost all their matches in the 26th July to 1st August Under-19 boys tournament, which was won by Vincy Ballers of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Wings FC lost all four matches in the preliminary stage of the 10-team competition, which was contested across two zones featuring five teams each.

Coates, who is also co-leader of the Antigua chapter of the Free Kick Foundation, said she expected the competition would have been a challenging one for Wings, which was the youngest team in the entire tournament.

"It was definitely an experience for Wings as a club entering the Free Kick Under-19 Youth Cup. The boys had quite a challenge, which was expected because they were the youngest team that entered. We had 13 and 14 year olds. Our average age was 16 and they played well considering," Coates stated.

Coates, however, said the performances of defender Jaeden Browne and midfielder Daryl Massicot stood out for Wings during the tournament.

"They haven't been playing competitively regularly so this was definitely a good experience for them. We saw our young Jaeden Browne as the center back playing extremely well and he played all the games. We are totally satisfied with his performance at center back and he is just 14 years old so that is something that stood out," Coates said.



Head coach Karanja Mack, standing third left, addresses the Wings FC players during halftime of one of their group stage matches at the inaugural Free Kick Youth Cup tournament in St Lucia on 31 July, 2022. (Photo courtesy Free Kick Youth Cup)

"We had a veteran, compared to the others, in Daryl Massicot. He was actually selected on the all-star team in our division. Daryl definitely went out and played hard until the last whistle was blown."

Meanwhile, head coach of Wings Karanja Mack said he expected his team's participation in the tournament will help the players to gain more experience.

"My expectation was for having players playing outside of Antigua, playing against other countries who have national players included in their squad so they can gain experience. More so, it was to strengthen their mental attitude of knowing what to do outside of Antigua," Mack stated.

"Some of the challenges I faced was in keeping players happy, that, I think will be in every team, but to have that challenge kind of help the coach to find a balance between players and when he wants them to play and where he would like them to play."

Mack said he also took away some

positives from Wings' participation in the tournament.

"Some of the positives that I can walk away with is being amongst other coaches, seeing how they prepare and what their philosophy is and how they approached the game. Some of those skills I can adopt into my coaching skills so I can help the youths go on further in their football life," Mack said.

"For me is like I want to be a national coach and also I am aspiring to be a top coach, not coaching in Antigua alone, but outside. So in order for me to reach that level, I have to complete the various coaching license and training that I need to help me to go along the way, so that I can help my team be more mentally and physically prepared to take on certain competition or tournaments.

"Overall, the tournament was exciting and the effort that was put into the preparation, it hasn't gone unnoticed, so it was competitive and it was exciting."

## ABFA to host Under-15 Girls Invitational Tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) will be hosting an Under-15 Girls Invitational tournament, starting this weekend.

The Jewels of the Caribbean 2022 Girls Under-15 Invitational Tournament will involve six teams with matches being hosted at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters from Saturday, 13th August to Sunday, 21st August.

Chairman of the ABFA's Competition's Committee, National Technical Director Sowerby Gomes, said the competition will involve several Caribbean teams, which were unable to participate in the recent group stage of the 2022 Concacaf Girls' Under-15 Championship in the United States.

Gomes said the five Caribbean teams will converge in Antigua for the invitational tournament after they were unable to get the required visas to enter the United States to participate in the developmental tournament, which featured 19 Concacaf member associations and Wales (invited guest), from 31st July to 7th August at the Hillsborough County Tournament Sportsplex in Tampa, Florida.

"We are going to be putting on an Under-15 tournament very shortly here in Antigua in which we will



*The Antigua and Barbuda Under-15 girls team at a training session at the ABFA's Technical Centre on 28 May, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABFA)*

have several female teams from the Caribbean participating," Gomes said.

"We will have teams from Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Dominica coming to join Antigua in this tournament. We are doing what we call a six-team tournament which is going to spread out over an eight-day period.

"It is going to be very exciting right here in Antigua. We are hoping that we can keep all of our Under-15 girls engaged because we were training very hard to take part in the Concacaf Under-15 Tournament.

"But unfortunately, we had some problems getting the visas for players of all these six team to enter the United States so we

were not able to participate due to visa issues.

"What really happened is that Antigua and Barbuda has been preparing for the Concacaf tournament in July 2022 and we were giving visas appointments to appear at the US Embassy sometime in 2023.

"Quite a number of the other Caribbean teams were similarly affected so all those affected teams decided we are going to come together and put on a little tournament here in Antigua to ensure that we are not missing out in terms of competition, and at the same time, boost the morale and confidence of the players who would have been disappointed with being unable to play in the Concacaf

Under-15 tournament in the United States.

"So we are hoping that this tournament in Antigua will bring back that level of competitiveness within the girls."

The Jewels of the Caribbean 2022 Girls Under-15 Invitational Tournament will be contested with triple headers on each match day with games slated for 3pm, 5pm and 7pm at the ABFA's Technical Center.

The competitions will kick-off on Saturday, 13 August, with three opening round matches. St Lucia will face St Vincent at 3pm, Dominica will tackle Grenada at 5pm and host Antigua and Barbuda will clash with Trinidad & Tobago at 7pm.



## Ambassador Percival claims titles at Roger Boyce Classic Elite Pro Show

Ambassador Kimberly Percival and her husband, Bernard Percival Jr., won titles at the Roger Boyce Classic Elite Pro Bodybuilding and Fitness Show held in Barbados from 27th July to 1st August.

Ambassador Percival captured the Bikini Fitness title ahead of teammates Leanna Carrington who claimed second place, Michelle Seaforth, who captured third and Geanna Jules fourth place.

Bernard Percival Jr. claimed the Men's Classic Physique title supported by Randy Christopher who placed third.

Elvis Bailey, finished outside of the top five in the Men's Classic Physique category while Kenroy Christian claimed the runner-up spot in the Men's Physique category ahead of compatriot Anthony Nurse, who claimed



*The Antigua and Barbuda team at the Roger Boyce Classic Elite Pro Bodybuilding and Fitness Show, which was held in Barbados from 27 July to 1 August, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABABWF)*

third place. A nine-member Antigua and Barbuda team participated in the event.

third place.

Antigua and Barbuda team participated in the event.

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

WOOD YOU MIND?

By Mary Jersey

1	E	2	T	3	C	4	H	5	M	6	O	7	P	8	E	9	R	10	A	11	P	12	E	13	S
14	S	15	H	16	O	17	E	18	A	19	R	20	E	21	N	22	A	23	U	24	R	25	S	26	A
27	P	28	E	29	T	30	R	31	I	32	F	33	I	34	E	35	D	36	F	37	O	38	R	39	E
40	R	41	O	42	T	43	A	44	T	45	I	46	O	47	N	48	S	49	R	50	I	51	M	52	
53	I	54	R	55	E	56	S	57	A	58	L	59	R	60	A	61	C	62	I	63	S	64	M	65	
66	T	67	Y	68	R	69	O	70	E	71	M	72	M	73	E	74	T	75	S	76	H	77	E	78	
79	B	80	U	81	S	82	A	83	R	84	B	85	O	86	R	87	E	88	A	89	L	90		91	
92	P	93	A	94	I	95	N	96	T	97	E	98	R	99	S	100	B	101	R	102	U	103	S	104	H
105	M	106	A	107	T	108	T	109	R	110	E	111	S	112	S	113	E	114	Y	115		116	117	118	
119	A	120	N	121	Y	122	A	123	L	124	T	125	H	126	O	127	S	128	A	129	T	130	S	131	
132	R	133	E	134	P	135	A	136	V	137	E	138	P	139	V	140	C	141	E	142	R	143	A	144	
145	I	146	D	147	E	148	A	149	S	150	P	151	A	152	R	153	A	154	G	155	U	156	S	157	
158	E	159	U	160	C	161	A	162	L	163	Y	164	P	165	T	166	U	167	S	168	T	169	R	170	E
171	G	172	R	173	A	174	M	175	U	176	S	177	A	178	G	179	E	180	E	181	A	182	S	183	
184	O	185	I	186	L	187	S	188	K	189	E	190	R	191	N	192	S	193	A	194	N	195	T	196	S



**CPL 2022  
LIVE ONLY ON**



**31<sup>st</sup> August -  
30<sup>th</sup> September**

## Mourillon: It was tough season for Police to win three titles

Captain Derek Mourillon said it was a challenge for Police to capture three of the four titles on offer during the just ended 2022 Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League domestic season.

After defeating Freetown by six wickets on both occasions in the final to win the Dave Joseph on 9th April, and the Sir Richie Richardson one-day competition on 21st May, Police beat All Saints Pythons by 35 runs on 28th July to capture the Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League at the Police Recreation Grounds (PRG).

Freetown got a little revenge by romping to a 49-run win over Police in the final to win the Sir Curtly Ambrose one-day competition at Freetown on 24th July.

Following his team's success in the Thursday League final, Mourillon said it was the culmination of approximately five months of hard work, both on and off the field.

"It could have been better, but it was a very hard and challenging season. It was about five months of hard cricket we have been playing.

"We played on a Saturday and a Sunday and still train in the week, plus still doing our regular duties as police officers," Mourillon stated.

"Then outside of that we still come to the cricket matches and put out our best in each and every game so it has been an extremely hard season, but in the end, I must say, the guys keep giving their full support and we did our best."

All Saints who beat Police in the



*Police celebrate with their ACB Caribbean Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League championship trophy after beating All Saints in the final at the Police Recreation Grounds on 28th July, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)*

preliminaries of the Thursday League Competition, were soundly trounced by them in the final at the PRG last month.

Police made 161 for six in 26 overs with Damien Lowenfield getting a topscore of 44. Damon Valentine contributed 34 not out, Malique Gerald scored 32 and Jeron Jones got 28. Off-spinner Dimetri Lucas picked up two wickets for 27 runs.

Despite a knock of 64 by opener Michael Dover, All Saints fell well short of their victory target as they were dismissed for 126 in 24.1 overs.

Leg-spinner Lynton Africa grabbed three for 28, Lashorn Barnarde snatched three for 34, Orandel Boston captured two for 13 and Valentine capped a fine allround display by picking up two wickets for 24 runs.

Mourillon said his team's victory

over All Saints, who competed in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) first class domestic programme, was no fluke.

"For our last four Thursday League games we have been beating first class teams. All Saints was the only team that beat us in this Thursday League, so our season is basically two losses," Mourillon stated.

"We lost to Freetown in the Curtly Ambrose one-day final and All Saints beat us the first time we met in the preliminary round of the Thursday League competition.

"This means we were able to win all our other matches during the entire season, but to maintain a season like that has not been very easy and it has been a very big challenge, which I am happy that we were able to overcome."