

SPORTS ICON PAT WHYTE LAID TO REST

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One of the especially important jobs of the healthcare staff at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is the care of premature babies by the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Premature babies are at increased risk of several medical issues including anaemia, respiratory problems and jaundice and require specialised medical care. It is therefore a cause for great celebration when these babies are finally strong and healthy enough to start their lives away from hospital with their new families, just like this little one who was born at a gestational age of 26 weeks and 6 days with a birth weight 1.050kg. After being at the NICU for 7 weeks, the tiny NICU graduate was finally able to go home with the elated parents! [Photo: Ministry of Health, Wellness & Environment]

Mural of Pat Whyte to adorn Yasco wall

A mural of the late sports administrator Patrick “Pat” Whyte will be commissioned immediately on the perimeter wall at Yasco Sports Complex Education and Sports Minister Daryll Matthew has announced.

While paying tribute to Whyte during an official funeral yesterday at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, Minister Matthew said it was a fitting tribute for a “true son and patriot of Antigua and Barbuda”.

“I therefore wish to use this opportunity to announce that it is my intention to ensure that as a lasting tribute, a mural of Mr. Patrick Cleofoster Whyte will adorn the walls of the Yasco grounds with immediate effect, an honour that is truly deserving,” Matthew said to rapturous applause from the congregation.

The project of immortalizing past athletes and sports officials was first announced by the sports minister in the first quarter of this year. Whyte will be the fourth citizen whose image will be added to the wall. The first is the late prime minister and national hero Sir Lester Bird, who in his heyday, was a champion long jumper. The others are former national sprinter and Olympian Ruperta Charles and the late track and field coach Calvin Greenaway.



In his tribute yesterday, Minister Daryll Matthew reminded those gathered that Pat Whyte’s immense contributions to the development of sports resulted in many Antiguan and Barbudan athletes receiving worldwide recognition.

“His accomplishments can be described as gargantuan, visionary and even revolutionary! Perhaps the greatest manifestation of his sporting genius was the role he played in introducing to the world Sir Vivian Richards.

“Mr. Patrick Cleofoster Whyte, a man of small stature, from a small community, in a small country, somehow managed to overcome the challenges of his generation and impacted the trajectory

of the world through sports, simply by doing what he loved.”

Patrick “Pat” Whyte was a sports commentator, former director of sports, umpire, and founder of the National Sports Awards.

Dignitaries to include Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Sandra Williams, government officials, members of the opposition, relatives and members of the sporting fraternity past and present attended Wednesday’s official funeral.

Pat Whyte was interred in St. John’s Public Cemetery following a gun salute from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.



Cabinet agrees to increase school security

Less than a week before schools reopen for the new academic year, the Cabinet is focusing considerable attention on the critical issue of security in public schools.

As a result, the Cabinet invited Wilbur Purcell, the proprietor of Special Security Services, and Director of Education, Clare Browne, to engage with them on the issue of school plant security.

Last week, Director Browne also had an audience with the Cabinet in which he explained that thieves have broken into government schools damaging the physical structures and infrastructure. Schools have also suffered the theft of furniture, computers, tablets, and other valuable items.

“The thieves have rummaged through the desks of principals, scattering documents, papers and books on the floor, and engaged in other activities that have hampered the schools’ productivity and cause all users a feeling of insecurity,”



Browne said.

The education director says if security measures are increased at school plants, it is likely that criminal elements will be less willing to engage in anti-social behaviour.

At the end of last week’s meeting, the Cabinet agreed to have security cameras installed on the perimeter of school buildings and within the offices that are attractive to thieves.

The Cabinet also accepted the proposal to construct strong-rooms or large safes on each campus where valuable items can be stored at the end of the school day.












Purcell was accompanied to the Cabinet meeting by his accountant and another member of his firm. He pledged to ensure that all schools, which reopen on Monday 5th September, will have security officers.

Special Security Ser-

vices employs approximately 1,000 men and women and Purcell explained that this comes with unique challenges including a large payroll and logistical issues related to the deployment of security personnel which is also a capital-intensive venture.

In response, the Cabinet pledged to provide the locally owned security company with sufficient resources which will enable it to dispatch security workers to all schools come 5th September.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology is working to source cameras and the security software required to make schools less vulnerable to thieves and trespassers.

| Thu 01 Day | | Thu 01 Night | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 87°  | 22% ENE 11 mph | 79°  | 24% NNE 9 mph |
| Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 87F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph. | | Mainly clear skies. Low 79F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph. | |
|  Humidity 68% |  UV Index Extreme |  Humidity 77% |  UV Index 0 of 10 |
|  Sunrise 5:53 am |  Sunset 6:20 pm |  Moonrise 10:21 am |  Moonset 10:02 pm |
|  Waxing Crescent | | | |

Local News



Charity group adopts two outstanding students

The charity, Adopt A Family, has come to the aid of two students who attended public primary schools and were among the top ten in the 2022 Grade Six National Assessment.

This is the second time the group will sponsor primary school children who have rendered outstanding academic performances.

Last year, a student from the Golden Grove Primary was selected.

This year, Adopt A Family will finance the secondary education of 11-year-old Jannah Henry, who attended the Urlings Primary School, and 10-year old Kezia Thomas of Old Road Primary School.

Both students will attend the Antigua Girls' High School at the start of the new academic year in September.

Working in partnership



PM Gaston Browne with Kezia and Jannah

with a number of corporate citizens, Adopt A Family has secured financial and other assistance for the girls. The American University of Antigua has donated \$1,000.00 each to the students.

They have also been presented with laptop computers from the parliamentary representative for St. Mary's South, Samantha Marshall and Arton Capital as well as cash and school supplies from Cool and



From left: Veldon Raggette of Adopt A Family, St. Mary's South MP Samantha Marshall, Kezia Thomas, Jannah Henry and Marlon Destin of AUA at Wednesday's presentation

Smooth and Exotic Antigua.

A brief presentation ceremony was held on Wednesday at the Office of the Prime Minister where both students, accompanied by relatives, received their donations.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for St. John's Rural North, Charles 'Max' Fernandez has acted to ease the burden of back-to-

school expenses for his constituents.

Fernandez has been distributing school bags and school supplies to hundreds of appreciative parents and their children this week. The families will receive packed school bags and lunch kits, water bottles, exercise or colouring books, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, scientific calculators, geometry sets, flash drives, rulers, and crayons.

In a personalised message to the students, Fernandez said, "Education is your passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today. Always remember, learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.

"The Honourable Charles 'Max' Fernandez wishes you a productive, safe, and fun academic year!"



MP Charles Max Fernandez with a group of young people during the presentation of school supplies.

Virgin Atlantic joins as ASW 2023 sponsor

Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) announced on Wednesday that Virgin Atlantic has agreed to come onboard as a major sponsor and as the Official Transatlantic Airline of the 2023 event.

The contract renewal will mark the fifth year of partnership with the Caribbean's premier yachting event.

ASW will take place from 19th April – 5th May, 2023 to ensure that as many sailors as possible from around the world can participate.

Hannah Swift, Caribbean Commercial Manager, Virgin Atlantic said, "Our support of ASW stems from our company's passion for travel to support an active lifestyle.

"We want to stay true to our mission of bringing people together through the power of sport, and what better way to do that than sponsor the must do Caribbean sailing event. We want

to continue supporting its growth by getting more attendees to the region."

Antigua Sailing Week brings together participants from more than 25 nations for the opportunity to race or chase in the Caribbean Sea, under superb trade winds, in stellar conditions and to celebrate island style.

Virgin Atlantic's weekly schedule currently features flights into and out of Antigua on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. In April 2023, the schedule will expand to include Sunday, which will allow those who plan to participate in the optional Round Antigua Race on Saturday 29th April and the opening of Antigua Sailing Week on 30th April to do so. Spectators will also be able to continue their travels following the prize giving on Friday 5th May.

As part of the sponsorship, Virgin Atlantic will offer preferred rates to all sailors and their supporters travelling to Antigua to

be part of Antigua Sailing Week.

Rana-Jamila Lewis, Event and Marketing manager of ASW said, "Virgin Atlantic is considered a key travel partner for the destination of Antigua & Barbuda continuously providing the UK market with reliable airlift and high-quality service. We want to thank the Virgin family for its support of our event and the sport of sailing in particular."

She added that she was

pleased with the renewal with Virgin Atlantic for the additional year.

"The timing of the renewal of the partnership was ideal, as it assisted us with being able to plan our overseas marketing efforts in some of their service destinations – namely UK, France & Germany. And with entries to the 2023 regatta now open, it's a good time to start confirming any required travel. Secure your seats at the best rates."




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Local News



Contractor pushes to complete work on Valley Road

Seventy percent of re-surfacing work being carried out on Valley Road North is complete and the contracting firm has pledged to work assiduously to complete work in that part of the island.

The Ministry of Works through the Project Imple-

mentation Management Unit (PIMU) has oversight for the Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (SRIRP) that includes road improvement on Sir Sydney Walling Highway, Anchorage Road and Old Parham Road.

The PIMU is appeal-

ing to road users and residents to exercise patience as the government rehabilitates the country's road network.

The project office is also urging road users to proceed with extreme caution especially when travelling within road work zones and to respect and adhere to the traffic management measures being employed for public safety.

In a statement, PIMU noted the contractor C.O. Williams Construction Company Ltd. acknowl-

edges that there have been recent setbacks in the progress of work in the Jennings area and they plan to remedy the situation in the shortest possible time.

It is expected that by mid-September, the section of road will be resurfaced and reopened to the normal flow of traffic.

The delays are mainly due to inclement weather conditions as well as the requirement for full depth excavation in the area.

The project is expected to conclude in 2023.

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35 active COVID-19 cases

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed twenty-five (25) new COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of 27th August, 2022 at 6pm.

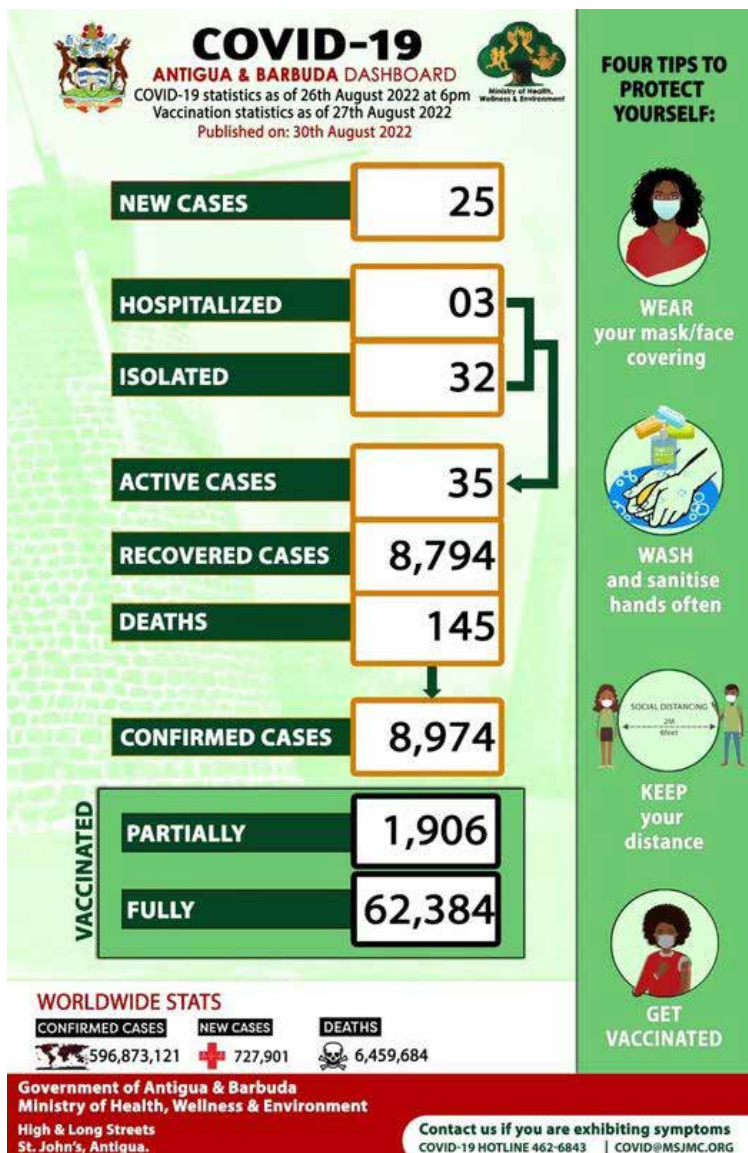
Twelve (12) cases were recorded on August 23rd, seven (7) on August 24th, four (4) on August 25th, and two (2) on August 26th.

Eight hundred and for-

ty-four (844) samples were processed.

Forty-three (43) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight thousand nine hundred and seventy-four (8,974); which is inclusive of thirty-five (35) active cases. There are three mild hospitalised cases.



Antigua Cruise Port

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Maintenance and Engineering Manager

JOB SUMMARY

Maintenance and Engineering Manager shall perform duties related to the operational requirements of GPH (Antigua) Ltd./Antigua Cruise Port under general direction of the Director of Operations and Projects.

Essential Skills and Knowledge

1. Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or a closely related field.
2. 5 years' experience as a Maintenance Manager or Engineering Manager.
3. Previous responsibilities for design, construction and maintenance of complex public facilities.
4. Knowledge and experience in planning and managing port-related projects
5. Knowledge of contract management.
6. Knowledge of public procurement processes.
7. Knowledge of building code regulations of Antigua and Barbuda.

Director of Operations and Projects

JOB SUMMARY

The Director of Operations and Projects is primarily responsible for the management of the entire operations team and for the smooth operation of the various processes that contribute to the services provided by Antigua Cruise Port. The role is very wide and encompasses many operational areas including Project Management.

Essential Skills and Knowledge

1. Bachelor's Degree in Port Management, Project Management Engineering or related field.
2. Proven ability to work and thrive within fast paced start-up environment.
3. Experience of reporting for government or grant funded projects with multiple partners.
4. Business process analysis, development, implementation re-engineering experience.
5. Understanding, avid interest and appreciation of climate change issues in the Caribbean today, gained through personal or professional experience.
6. Understanding of Health & Safety legislation.
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Workplace



Height discrimination: How 'heightism' affects careers

By Aysha Imtiaz

Heightism is hard to identify. Yet there's evidence that our biases around stature help shape our careers.

In 2010, when Imran found work as a security guard at a private university in Karachi, Pakistan, he threw himself into it wholeheartedly. Working the graveyard shift, he strove to project assertiveness and protect the property from theft or vandalism, while also being friendly, as the first point of contact for early morning visitors.

It hasn't all been plain sailing. At just shy of 5'2" (157cm), Imran is only a few inches shorter than the average Pakistani male. Yet workers trickling in have assigned Imran nicknames they consider funny. "Mun-na bhai!" one exclaimed, a local term of endearment for a small, young brother. "Bona," called out another – Urdu for pygmy or dwarf.

Imran, whose full name is being withheld for job security, says he's proud of who he is, and can ride out "ups and downs" related to his height. But there's one area where he suspects his height has a particularly negative impact: his pay. "When it's time for a pay rise, I'm compared to the new guards. I've served this institution for so long; I shouldn't be in the same [wage bracket] as



Heightism can also affect women, particularly tall women, who may be perceived as intimidating (Credit: Getty Images)

them."

Nobody has linked the two outright, and even Imran sometimes wonders if it's a figment of his imagination that his height has played a role in being passed over for promotion. But as he finds himself grouped in the same salary band as newly recruited guards for yet another year, he can't help but wonder if evaluations based on his stature – not his work – are holding him back.

Height discrimination is one of the least-known or discussed biases, and one of the hardest to confirm. Like Imran, many wonder if making that leap is ludicrous, and question whether anyone could ever reasonably conflate short stature with negative qualities. Even those with 'normal' or above-average stature find it hard to

believe they've ever held biases based on height or benefited from them.

Yet research shows that on a professional level, stature affects both men and women in tangible, albeit slightly different, ways. Studies show height correlates with higher income: recruiters favour taller candidates and height influences promotion opportunities. Research demonstrates we perceive taller men and women as more 'leader-like', deeming them more dominant, intelligent and healthier; tall men are more likely to attain managerial positions.

Still, heightism is an implicit bias, one we may subconsciously harbour or, indeed, internalise, without realising it. And it's this covertness that makes it particularly difficult to eradicate.

Standing tall and falling short

We know there are various forms of discrimination linked to how we look, such as weight discrimination or having a baby face. But we also discriminate against people based on stature, because we view certain heights as better than others.

Dr Omer Kimhi, an associate professor at the University of Haifa, Faculty of Law, who has researched heightism, believes heightism has roots in evolutionary biases, due to the importance of height and strength in the animal kingdom. "If you're bigger, you're the head of the group. Some of that remains engrained... and we perceive height as connected to authority, strength and a higher position," he says.

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Workplace



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Our reverence for height may indeed be instinctive – a remnant of primitive ways we mapped social hierarchies in the past. In ancestral societies, fitness and being physically imposing were important leadership traits. But, says Dr Erin Pritchard, a lecturer in Disability Studies at Liverpool Hope University and core member of the Centre for Culture & Disability Studies, there are multiple ways we entrench heightism in modern society.

“Countries have their own optimal height based on the curve, and it becomes what everyone ‘should’ be. If you’re below it, we ask ourselves [if something is] wrong – but we revere tallness,” says Pritchard.

Heightism even infiltrates language, which is full of idioms highlighting the virtues of being tall, while associating negative qualities with shortness. To ‘fail’ is to draw the short straw, fall short or be short-changed; ‘winning’ at life means we can stand tall, fulfil tall orders, grow into great, tall oaks from little acorns and be head-and-shoulders above the rest.

Subconsciously, we form beliefs about people that link height to both cognitive and physical qualities. We subliminally view taller people as more capable and risk-tolerant, dominant, extraordinarily talented and even charismatic. On the other hand, explains Pritchard, “People who are shorter

are not taken as seriously. [They’re] not respected and can be the butt of the joke.”

Still, people generally don’t recognise their own heightism or perceive it as a form of discrimination. That’s because heightism is an implicit bias, and it doesn’t fit our mental template of discrimination as an intentional and harmful act. Managers, for example, may have no inkling that the way they perceive a particular employee – and the employee’s prospects – is in any way linked to their height, making the issue particularly hard to tackle.

In Imran’s case, he wouldn’t even know how to raise the issue of whether his height was a factor in his pay progression with his superiors. “Who do I talk to? I’m blessed with a lot of important work, [so] what would I say? How do I start without messing everything up?” he comments.

The impact at work

Despite difficulty pinning down this form of discrimination, heightism has profound – and measured – impacts on workers’ success.

Research on systemic discrimination in hiring decisions has shown employers may reject shorter candidates even if their resume is similar to a taller applicant’s, and they subconsciously associate positive workplace traits like confidence, competence and physical ability with tallness.

Once hired, meta-analysis shows rates of promotion are positively related

to height. Kimhi references Malcolm Gladwell’s widely-quoted survey of Fortune 500 CEOs in his 2005 book *Blink*. “In the US population, about 14.5% of all men are six feet or over. Among CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, that number is 58%,” wrote Gladwell.

Height can also contribute to a wage gap. Studies from the UK, China and the US all show a correlation between greater height and greater pay, though exact numbers vary.

There’s also a gendered component. Research conducted by Inas R Kelly, professor of economics at Loyola Marymount University, California, revealed marked differences in the effect of height on mean income by gender. “White men face a much larger premium for each additional 10cm than white women,” she says, and that gap is even more pronounced for African Americans.

This links into the idea that women can be too tall, and that tall women face discrimination in a way tall men don’t. According to a study of tall female college students, their above-average height resulted in ‘unintended intimidation’. “If there’s a woman towering over others, they might view her as a threat ... As a woman, if you show dominance, it’s considered aggression. It could be problematic,” says Pritchard.

On the flip side, men are more vulnerable to height-

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Workplace

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ism. As Kelly's findings suggest, taller men have more to gain than women by being tall, but shorter women have less to lose by being short, as the wage premium commanded by their taller female peers is smaller. This may be because women slightly shorter than average can still be deemed 'small' or 'petite', explains Pritchard.

Of course, heightism doesn't only manifest in external judgments of an individual. Research suggests there are other height-linked factors that shape people's behaviours, which can in turn affect outcomes at work. Kelly points out that many experts argue height is in fact positively associated with cognitive ability, and is simply rewarded in the labour market. She also suggests the larger question is whether shorter individuals might have faced discrimination in a way that affected their self-esteem, mental health and emotional stability – which can feed into promotions and pay.

For instance, taller children may have higher self-esteem because of more opportunities to participate in team-building sports at school, whereas shorter students may have been bullied, leading to less enhanced interpersonal skills and lower self-confidence. Similarly, being tall may also fuel other successes – such as in the realm of romance or perceived attractiveness – nurturing more confidence and spawning a self-fulfilling

prophecy.

"It's difficult to rule out discrimination at some stage – if not at the employer stage, then at a stage earlier in their lives," she says.

'Like most -isms'

Given how entrenched – and yet covert – heightism is, finding concrete ways to tackle it may be challenging.

Existing legislation surrounding height only exists in a few jurisdictions, such as Michigan's comprehensive Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act, which prohibits employers from discriminating on the basis of height in hiring and compensation. Laws prevent height from being listed as a necessary prerequisite unless it is a bona fide occupational qualification required for normal operation of the business. But even in places where the legislation exists, very few cases are filed.

Kimhi points out that because height discrimination is so hard to identify, it's data that is needed. Many companies already keep data on gender and race so they can track inclusion and progression at firms. While it may seem like a long shot, Kimhi believes including height in this data and pushing companies to publish height-specific salary variations will help them become mindful that this sort of discrimination occurs. "And if they notice, things will change," he believes.

Pritchard is hopeful that remote hiring via Zoom or video CVs could reduce biases that creep in during the

hiring stage. "When you're online, you just see [a candidate's] head and shoulders, so you can't make subliminal judgments," she says. "And if they do hire someone and they turn out to be a great person, by the time [employers] find out the person doing this fantastic work is only 5'2", the worker will have already built a solid reputation."

More broadly, experts suggest it may also be time to reconsider our evolutionary glorification of height by critically evaluating the differences between modern and ancestral environments and challenging whether the qualities we once deemed vital to success are actual-

ly relevant to professional achievement in today's workplaces. But given the deeply ingrained nature of our beliefs, that may be too tall an order.

Overall, as long as people still believe that success, leadership – and even discrimination – look a particular way, the problem won't go away. Ultimately, change, as clichéd as it sounds, will come from within – by challenging implicit biases and self-correcting when people find themselves placing height on a pedestal.

Still, combating heightism will be a long journey. As Pritchard says, "Like most '-isms', it's going to be an ongoing process."



On Mexico's Caribbean coast, mountains of seaweed grow

By Mark Stevenson

Scraping the smelly sargassum seaweed off some beaches on Mexico's resort-studded Caribbean coast has become not only a nightmare, but possibly a health threat, for the workers doing it — with the quantities washing ashore this year seemingly mountains not mounds.

Decomposing sargassum, which is actually algae, generates hydrogen sulphide gas. In small amounts in open areas, it's not much more than an annoying door: sulphurous, like rotting eggs.

But in the quantities seen in once-paradisiacal beach towns like Playa del Carmen, Tulum, and Xcalak, scientists say it can be dangerous to workers with respiratory problems as they rake up the seaweed maskless in the scorching heat. This year appears on track to be worse than even the peak sargassum year of 2018.

Ezequiel Martínez Lara is one of thousands of labourers who work six to eight hours per day heaving mounds of sargassum into wheelbarrows with pitchforks and then wheeling them off the beach to a growing pile on a neighbouring street.

Martínez Lara used to earn as much as \$50 per day guiding sports fishermen on catch-and-release



Workers who were hired by residents remove sargassum seaweed from the Bay of Soliman, north of Tulum, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

outings, but now makes less than half that for collecting around 40 wheelbarrows of sargassum every day.

It is a Sisyphean task at a beach north of Tulum, where huge mats of seaweed float just offshore.

"If we clean it all off today, tomorrow more will have washed in," said another worker, Austin Valle.

But workers like Martínez and Valle are exposing themselves to more than just the burning sun, says Rosa Rodríguez Martínez, a biologist in the

beachside town of Puerto Morelos who studies reefs and coastal ecosystems for Mexico's National Autonomous University.

"At the university we have started to measure the quantity of gases that sargassum produces when it is scraped up," Rodríguez Martínez said.

"At one spot (in a decomposed pile of seaweed) it reached 56 parts per million. That's very high. Above two, that can be dangerous for people with respiratory problems."

"I took off running" from the spot, she said.

Martínez Lara doesn't have the luxury of avoiding the hydrogen sulphide gas. Like almost every other sargassum worker on the coast, he has no mask, gas sensor or medical care. He works at a day rate for the person who owns the house in front of the beach.

"When sargassum rots, it gives off a very strong odour like acid, and it is very bothersome when you breathe it; it hurts a lot,"

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Martínez Lara said. He said he takes more simple precautions.

"We try to clean it off (the beach) as quickly as possible ... to get it off when it is as fresh as possible," he says.

A 2019 article in the *Journal of Travel Medicine* includes the disturbing warning, "More chronic exposure to these gases can lead to conjunctival and neurocognitive symptoms such as memory loss and impaired balance, as well as non-specific symptoms such as headache, nausea and fatigue."

The Florida Health Department, on the other hand, says "hydrogen sulphide levels in an area like the beach, where large amounts of air flow can dilute levels, is not expected to harm health."

The sargassum problem isn't as bad for tourists as for workers. But neither is it pleasant.

Ligia Collado-Vides, a marine botanist at Florida International University who specialises in studying macroalgae like sargassum, said, "If you're swimming for a little bit, it shouldn't be a danger at all," but added that tiny jellyfish cousins known as hydrozoa often inhabit sargassum mats.

"If you're going to be there for a long time playing in the sargassum, you can get like many, many, many stings from hydrozoans and those are toxic," she noted, adding that long sleeves — something almost nobody wears at the beach — might help.

Sarah Callaway, a tourist from Denver, Colorado, was pretty much confined to playing with her kids in the pool in front of their rented beach house.

"The property is beautiful, but we were automatically struck ... by the smell," Callaway said. "The smell is really pungent and very strong. And then, yeah, we were disappointed with how much seaweed sargasso there is here."

"The kids have tried to get in the ocean, but then they get kind of overwhelmed by it.

"So, we really haven't gotten to do the beach part of it, which is why we came," she said.

It will also impact locals who depend on the tourist trade. Hundreds of thousands of people migrated to the coast in recent years for better paying jobs, but some may now be considering leaving.

Valle, the seaweed cleaner, said one of his friends in Tulum has been thinking of giving up her snack stand business because sales have dipped so much.

It's hard to measure the impact on tourism. The Caribbean coast suffered a drop in visits during the coronavirus pandemic, but because Mexico never declared travel restrictions, testing requirements or mandatory mask rules, Americans have continued to come.

International tourism to the country as a whole surpassed pre-pandemic levels in the first half of 2022, with 10.26 million visitors from January to June, 1.5% higher than the 10.11 million tourists who arrived in Mexico in the first half of 2019.

Mexico's strongest showing was with U.S. tourists. The number of Americans arriving by air in the first six months of 2022 was 6.66 million; that is 19.1% higher than in the same period of 2019.

But that boom may be slowing. Grupo Financiero Base noted in a research report that international tourist arrivals in June 2022 were down 13.8% from levels in June 2019. It's unclear what — sargassum, inflation, or the war in Ukraine — may have caused that dip.

And overall tourist spending remains below pre-pandemic levels.

The picture is mixed because some of the most-heavily developed resorts like Cancun have not suffered as much from sargassum as lower-key resorts

further south, like Playa del Carmen and Tulum.

Ocean currents and islands like Isla Mujeres shield Cancun from much of the floating sargassum. Given the large number of big hotels in Cancun with huge cleaning staff and money to deploy floating booms, what sargassum does arrive is cleaned up more quickly.

The jury is still out on the floating booms, meant to trap sargassum mats at sea before they reach the beach.

"When the sea is calm, all types of booms work," Rodríguez Martínez said. "When there are waves, none of them work."

Some tourists like the area so much they'll keep coming back.

"I will absolutely be back. We love it here," said Jeff Chambers, a tourist from Palm Desert, California, who was strolling down the main seaside street in Tulum. "We like things a little slower."

Some locals like Victor Reyes, who works in real estate in Tulum, are more sanguine about the seaweed, noting that it's not so bad in the winter months.

"In the winter it's better. In November, when the tourists want to come, the sargassum is gone," Reyes says.

As bad as sargassum is for people — and Collado-Vides stresses that much more study is needed — it's far worse for seagrass, fish and other marine life suffocated by seaweed that drops to the bottom, decomposes and creates oxygen-depleted or anoxic layers similar to dead zones.

"Sargassum stays there and goes down into the water column so nobody sees it, but on the bottom, it is creating anoxic conditions," she said.

Recounting one recent monitoring expedition, Collado-Vides said: "It's really terrible ... the amount of vertebrates, the amount of crabs, the amount of fish dead in just a 1-square metre quadrant."

The World Around Us

In Pictures: Haitian protesters call for the PM to resign

Protesters in Port-au-Prince blame the prime minister for the high cost of living and widespread violence.

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on Monday to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

It was the second such protest this month.

Last week thousands of people marched in several cities of the country to call for the removal of the prime minister.



Protesters burned tyres, tried to block streets and clashed with the police who used tear gas to break up the crowd.

Protesters blame the prime minister for the high cost of living and widespread violence.

Violence and kidnappings

have surged in Port-au-Prince and nearby areas in recent months, with warring gangs killing hundreds of civilians in their fight over territory.

They have grown more powerful since last year's assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Poverty also has deepened, with inflation reaching 29 percent and prices of some basic goods, such as rice, more than quadrupling. Gasoline also remains scarce and, if available, costs \$15 a gallon (3.79 litres).



Police officers remove a barricade set up by protesters. [Ralph Tedy Erol/Reuters]



People walk around burning barricades set up by protesters in Port-au-Prince. [Odelyn Joseph/AP Photo]



A protester shouts slogans while holding a wreath in memory of an activist who was killed in the most recent protest. [Ralph Tedy Erol/Reuters]



Police used tear gas to disperse protesters demanding the resignation of Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, in Port-au-Prince. [Odelyn Joseph/AP Photo]

Cuba seeks more electricity supply from Turkish powerships

Reuters – Cuba, mired in an energy crisis that has brought frequent blackouts, is negotiating with a Turkish company to have it double the megawatts it currently produces for the country from shipboard generators just offshore, according to two people with knowledge of the discussions.

Cuban officials are in talks with Karpowership, one of the world's largest operators of floating power plants and part of the Turkey-based Karadeniz Holding, the sources said. The company already has five ships operating off Cuba with a capacity of around 250 megawatts (MW).

The Communist-run country needs to generate more than 3,000 MW to meet minimum demand and currently is producing between 2,000 MW and



A Turkish Karadeniz Erin Sultan powership operates at Havana's bay, Cuba August 30, 2022. REUTERS/Alexandre Meneghini

2,500 MW.

The Cuban National Electric Union did not respond to a request for

comment. Karadeniz declined to comment.

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Regional News



Belize says payment could be made to nurses by this weekend

CMC – The Belize government, acknowledging that it was caught by surprise at the decision of nurses countrywide to stage industrial action on Monday, said outstanding monies owed to the health workers could be paid by Friday.

Health and Wellness Minister, Kevin Bernard, told reporters via Zoom his ministry had met with the Nurses Association of Belize (NAB), and subsequently wrote to the Ministry of Finance regarding the payment.

He told reporters that the nationwide protests caught him by surprise, in light of prior meetings with the association and that agreement had been reached in relation to an adjustment made to the calculation of overtime hours for shift workers, and the return of monies deducted from nurses' salaries during the last pay period, as a result of a short hour deduction policy.

"The overtime calculations will be calculated on



a monthly basis, as opposed to every week, or every day, where nurses and doctors and all shift workers. It is not only applicable to nurses and doctors, this affects all shift workers, attendants, domestic workers, everybody that might not necessarily be at the Ministry of Health, but the issue came up with the nurses," he told reporters.

"So, we have agreed with the Ministry of Finance that the calculation will revert back to where it was calculated monthly so as not to affect a nurse who works

on a shift basis, where they would be deducted if they did not work the weekly amount."

President of the Public Service Union, Dean Flowers, said what is hypocritical about the whole affair is that two years ago, health care workers were being praised for their work during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"We were applauding them, and in the same breath, we have continued to hold them hostage under the kind of inhumane, unsanitary, and

not the best working conditions. Some idiot from the Ministry of Finance passed a rule that nurses must give an account of every single hour that they work.

Nurses across the country have been staging walk-outs in protest against poor working conditions and salary deductions.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness and the NAB in a joint release said a meeting was held to address, "pressing issues confronting the nurses and the larger medical community."

Following the two-hour meeting, which was also attended by representatives from the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Labour, five resolutions were agreed upon including the Public Service Regulations and the Government Workers Regulations will be reviewed to reflect regulations for shift workers.

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The sources, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the negotiations, said the talks cantered on how to ensure lease payments from Cuba.

"The (U.S. trade) embargo makes Western financial transactions very difficult and Cuba is cash short and behind on payments with many suppliers and joint venture partners," one source said.

Experts say the Turkish company

would need to add to its fleet off Cuba to produce the required amount of energy. Powerships carry their own generator fuelled by oil or gas, anchor close to land and connect to the local electricity grid. They are leased by the host country.

The deal, if it moves forward, would provide quick and much-needed relief for the embattled Cuban government as power outages have spread across the island and increased in length.

US diplomat underscores important role of women in matters of security

CMC – The United States Ambassador to Guyana, Sarah-Ann Lynch, Tuesday told a Caribbean women, peace and security conference that matters of security have long been viewed through a military-centric and traditionally male lens.

“Historically, while their contributions may have been largely unrecognised, women have always been critical in all security issues and across all sectors, playing key roles in conflict, as combatants and non-combatants, and creating the conditions for enduring peace, protection, and prevention of conflict,” she told the opening of the two-day conference.

She told the participants from the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and partner nations across the Caribbean that for flexible, responsive, and agile security forces to succeed, women and diverse members of communities must be significantly and meaningfully included.

“For example, at the U.S. Embassy right here in Georgetown, many of our local guards are brave and accomplished women, keeping our staff and facilities safe on a daily basis.”

The US diplomat said the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has reminded everyone that national security threats extend far beyond the battlefield.

“Also, over the past few years, forcible displacement



Delegates attending the two-day Caribbean women, peace and security conference in Guyana (Photo courtesy SOUTHCOM)

due to conflict, humanitarian crises, persecution, and human rights violations has risen to over 82 million people. Never has a broader understanding of security and inclusive decision making been needed.”

She said the discussions this week will not only focus on gender integration requirements for security and military forces, sexual harassment, and discrimination but also on the need for a gender perspective and mainstreaming within a larger context, such as disaster relief operations and migration.

“Women are often disproportionately impacted by disasters and so their perspectives need to be heard,” she said, adding that the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda was created to better respond to these security

challenges by being more inclusive and listening to more voices.

“This is so important considering these stark reminders from the United Nations Security Council 2021 Report on Women, Peace and Security (that) women represent only 23 percent of delegates in peace processes led or co-led by the United Nations (and) only five percent of military troops in peace operations are women”.

In addition, in the United States, according to Department of Defense statistics in 2021, the percentage of women active-duty service members was 21 percent in the Air Force; 15 percent in the Army; nine percent in the Marines; and 20 percent in the Navy.

But Lynch said there certainly has been progress

over the years, even as she acknowledged that “clearly more needs to be done to attract women to the military and promote them to positions of leadership.”

Sarah-Ann Lynch said through the passage of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, the United States became the first country in the world with a comprehensive law on WPS.

Washington also released the 2019 U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, which established an interagency approach with integrated metrics to measure progress.

The conference here is being attended by the Commander of U.S. Southern Command, General Laura Richardson, as well as Ambassador Jean Manes, Deputy Civilian Commander of U.S. Southern Command.

Fans of Princess Diana gather to mark her death 25 years ago

AP – Fans of the late Princess Diana placed tributes outside the gates of her Kensington Palace home on Wednesday, marking the 25th anniversary of her death in a Paris car accident.

An arrangement of white chrysanthemums spelling out “Princess Diana” sat among dozens of photos and messages left by admirers, some of whom said they make annual pilgrimages to the spot to remember the tragedy.

“We just come here, do the memorial and, you know, we just chat about things that she used to do, you know, to ... let people know that we will never forget the princess, we will never forget what she’s done,” said Julie Cain, 59, who travelled 300 miles (480

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People wave a flag as they stand in front of messages of remembrance for Princess Diana outside the gates of Kensington Palace, in London, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. Wednesday marks the 25th anniversary of Princess Diana’s death in a Paris car crash. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

Vegan mom gets life in prison for starvation death of son



Sheila O’Leary reacts during trial, June 22, 2022, at the Lee County Clerk of Court in Fort Myers, Fla. The mother who followed a strict vegan diet faces sentencing for the malnutrition death of her 18-month-old son. O’Leary was convicted in June of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse, aggravated manslaughter, child abuse and two counts of child neglect in the death of Ezra O’Leary. She learns her fate from a judge Monday, Aug. 8, 2022 afternoon in Lee County, Florida. (Landon Bost/The News-Press via AP)

AP - A vegan woman convicted of murder in the malnutrition death of her young son was sentenced Monday to life in prison.

Sheila O’Leary, 38, whose family followed a strict vegan diet, was convicted in June on six charges — first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse, aggravated manslaughter, child abuse and two counts of child neglect — in the death of Ezra O’Leary. Her sentencing in Lee County, Florida, had previously been postponed four times.

Her husband, Ryan Patrick O’Leary, remains in jail while awaiting trial on

the same charges. Investigators said the couple told them the family ate only raw fruits and vegetables, although the toddler also was fed breast milk. The 18-month-old boy weighed 17 pounds (8 kilograms) and was the size of a 7-month-old baby when he died in September 2019, a police report said.

The Cape Coral couple had two other children, ages 3 and 5, who also were malnourished, investigators said. A fourth child had been returned to her biological father during an earlier malnutrition case in Virginia, court records show.

G20 environment ministers in Bali spur global climate action

AP – Environment officials from the Group of 20 leading rich and developing nations met Wednesday on Indonesia's resort island of Bali for talks on climate action and the global impact of the war in Ukraine, with Indonesia's environment minister saying the world is already facing a climate crisis.

They discussed the implementation of each G-20 nation's contribution to fighting climate change and synchronising targets among developing and developed countries, Indonesian environment minister Siti Nurbaya said after the meeting.

She said it produced a joint agreement with three priority issues — a sustainable economic recovery, land-based and ocean-based climate action, and resource mobilisation to accelerate environmental protection — to help realise the Par-



From left to right, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, Indonesian Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan pose for photographers upon arrival for the G20 Joint Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. (AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati, Pool)

is agreement on climate change.

"We are actually in a climate crisis position, no longer just climate change," Nurbaya said. "We must work even faster to bring the global temperatures down as low as possible."

She opened the meeting

by urging fellow environment ministers to make the Paris agreement work, as the only way to effectively coordinate efforts to tackle global challenges.

"Environmental multilateralism is the only mechanism where all countries, regardless of their size and

wealth, stand on equal footing and equal treatment," Nurbaya said. "The voices of all countries, North and South, developed and developing, must be heard."

Indonesia, the holder of this year's G-20 presidency, is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 41% with international assistance by 2030, or by 29% independently.

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry was among 17 environment ministers and climate officials, in addition to over 300 delegates, attending the talks in person. Officials from China, Russia and Argentina joined the meeting virtually.

Nurbaya said reaching mutual agreement is not easy, as each country has its own values and interests.

Russia's war in Ukraine cast a shadow over Wednesday's talks as countries raised their global environ-

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kilometres) from Newcastle in northern England. "We just want her legacy kept, like, going as long as possible."

Diana died on Aug. 31, 1997, at the age of 36, stunning people around the world who felt they knew the princess after seeing her successes and struggles play out on TV screens and newspaper front pages for 17 years. The tributes left outside Kensington Palace on Wednesday were a small reminder of the mountains of flowers piled there in the days after Diana's death.

Diana was the focus of constant

media attention from the moment she was engaged to marry Prince Charles until the night she died. Her fairytale wedding, ugly divorce and efforts to build a new life all made headlines.

The public watched as she blossomed from a shy teenager into an international style icon who befriended AIDS patients, charmed Nelson Mandela and walked through a minefield to promote the drive to eradicate landmines. Along the way, she showed the royal family, particularly her sons William and Harry, how to connect with people and be relevant in the 21st

century.

On Wednesday morning, Cain and her friend Maria Scott, 51, paid their respects to Diana as dawn broke over the palace, just as they do every year.

"There was just something about that girl that really stood out. And of course, I watched the wedding, the fairy-tale princess," Scott said. "And, you know, you see, she was like part of your life because you were seeing that every day on the television. She was in newspapers, magazines. She was all over. And you felt like she was part of your life."

Giant hailstone: Toddler killed in violent Spanish storm

BBC – A 20-month-old child has died in Spain after being struck on the head by a hailstone.

About 50 other people reported injuries - ranging from bruises to bone fractures - from the freak 10-minute-long storm that hit the Girona region of Catalonia on Tuesday evening.

It destroyed roofs, downed power cables and shattered windows.

One of the hailstones measured 10cm (4 inches) in diameter, Catalonia's meteorological service said.

It is the largest to rain down on the region since 2002.

Firefighters received more than 40 calls from members of the public about damage caused by Tuesday's storm, mostly from the town



A large hailstone that fell in Girona, Spain on Tuesday

of Bisbal d'Emporda.

One of the stones hit the 20-month-old child who was transferred to a hospital in the nearby city of Girona but later died from her injuries, local channel 324 reported.

"The hail only fell for 10 minutes, but it was 10 minutes of terror," councillor Carme Vall told local radio,

according to AFP news agency.

Catalonia's president Pere Aragonés described the accident as a "tragedy".

Local officials have now reissued violent weather alerts, warning residents that more large hailstones could rain down on the coastal area.

According to advice from

Catalonia's meteorological service, hailstorms can occur throughout the year but are most frequently recorded between March and September.

An unusually hot summer has meant the nearby Mediterranean Sea is warmer than usual for this time of year, making violent tropical storms more likely.

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ment impact.

Italian climate envoy Alessandro Modiano said the war is having grave consequences on the environment, on food and energy security, on pandemic recovery efforts and on pursuing sustainable development goals.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the G-20 countries pledged last month to tackle climate change and protect the environment, including the prevention of biodiversity loss. They pledged to achieve the Paris agreement through a range of fiscal, market and regulatory mechanisms. However, implementing their commitment will be challenging, Nurbaya said.

She said all the G-20 environment ministers agreed to reduce the impact of land degradation and drought, enhance conservation protection and sustainable restoration of ecosystems, land and forests, to reduce the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss.

In recent years, signs of climate change have become glaring, including in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation with more than 17,000 islands. Environment watchdog Indonesian Forum for the Environment has predicted that climate-related hydro-meteorological disasters in Indonesia will increase 7% this year.

Despite the worsening impact of climate change, financing for the coal

industry continues to accelerate in Indonesia. Between 2014 and 2019, bank loans for coal-fired power plants reached \$19.4 billion, involving a number of state-owned banks, according to government data.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, is a key exporter of coal, palm oil and minerals amid a global shortage in commodities after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Coal exports increased to record levels in March after a brief ban on shipments early this year to secure domestic supplies.

Members of the G-20 account for about 80% of the world's economic output, two-thirds of the world's population and an estimated 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Olympics attack victims' families agree on deal with Germany

AP – The families of 11 Israeli athletes killed by Palestinian attackers at the 1972 Munich Olympics have reached a deal with Germany over a long-disputed compensation claim, the German government said Wednesday.

Earlier this month, the families had threatened to boycott Monday's 50-year anniversary ceremony in Munich organised by German authorities because they said the amount they had been offered was too low.

"The German government welcomes the fact that it has now been possible to reach an agreement with the relatives on an overall concept to mark the 50th anniversary," a spokesman for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said.

"This includes the reappraisal of the events by a commission of German and Israeli historians, the release of files in accordance with the law, the classification and acceptance of political responsibility within the framework of the commemoration ceremony, as well as the provision of further recognition services by the federal government, by the state of Bavaria and by the city of Munich," spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said.

The German news agency dpa and other media reported that Germany increased its offer to the families to around 28 million euros (dollars), up from the initial 10 million euros offer to the families, which would have included the payments already made. Of this, the federal government is to bear 22.5 million euros, the state of Bavaria 5 million euros and the city of Munich 500,000 euros, dpa reported.

The German government has not publicly revealed how much money it has offered.

The German president and his Is-



A member of the Arab Commando group which seized members of the Israeli Olympic Team at their quarters at the Olympic Village appearing with a hood over his face stands on the balcony of the building where the commandos held members of the Israeli team hostage in Munich, Sept. 5, 1972. The families of 11 Israeli athletes killed by Palestinian attackers at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich and the German government are close to reaching a deal over the long-disputed amount of the compensation. (AP Photo/Kurt Strumpf, File)

raeli counterpart Isaac Herzog welcomed the agreement.

"We are pleased and relieved that an agreement on historical clarification, recognition and compensation has been reached shortly before the 50th anniversary," Steinmeier said in a joint statement with Herzog, who will visit Germany next week and participate in the ceremony.

"The agreement cannot heal all wounds. But it opens a door to each other," the statement said. "With this agreement, the German state acknowledges its responsibility and recognizes the terrible suffering of the murdered and their relatives, which we will commemorate next week."

The negotiations over the amount of the compensation and the release of further historical documents had been a lingering point of friction between the two countries that have built strong ties despite the enduring legacy of the Nazi Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews were murdered during World

War II.

Members of the Palestinian group Black September broke into the Olympic Village, killed two athletes from Israel's national team and took nine more hostage on Sept. 5, 1972. The attackers hoped to force the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel as well as two left-wing extremists in West German jails.

All nine hostages and a West German police officer died during a rescue attempt by German forces. Relatives of the athletes accuse Germany of failing to secure the Olympic Village, refusing Israeli help and then botching the rescue operation.

Immediately after the attack, Germany made payments to relatives of the victims amounting to about 4.19 million marks (about 2 million euros or dollars), according to the country's interior ministry. In 2002, the surviving relatives received an additional 3 million euros, Germany's dpa news agency reported.

Sports News



NY Yankees buy minority stake in AC Milan

AP — The New York Yankees have purchased a minority stake in Italian soccer champion AC Milan, which announced the closing of its latest ownership change Wednesday.

RedBird Capital Partners completed the deal to purchase a controlling interest in the seven-time European champion for 1.2 billion euros (\$1.2 billion).

It's the second soccer team the Yankees partially own after MLS's New York City.

Gerry Cardinale, who founded RedBird in 2014 and is the managing partner, announced a preliminary agreement in June to buy Milan from fellow American firm Elliott Management.

Yankees Global Enterprises, the baseball team's parent company led by the Steinbrenner family, will take a stake of about 10%, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity before the final deal had been announced.

Details of the Yankees' involvement were not divulged in the announcement.

The Yankees agreed in 2013 to purchase a 20% stake in the New York City Major League Soccer team that launched in 2015. City



Fans of AC Milan cheer during the Serie A soccer match between Sassuolo and Milan at Mapei Stadium, Reggio Emilia, Italy, Tuesday Aug. 30, 2022. (Massimo Paolone/LaPresse via AP)

Football Group, Manchester City's parent company, is the controlling owner.

"We have a multi-decade relationship with the New York Yankees and the Steinbrenner family that has resulted in the creation of some of the most successful businesses in sports, entertainment and hospitality," Cardinale said in a statement on Milan's website.

The closing comes just in time for Cardinale to make his debut as Milan's new president at Saturday's derby against city rival Inter Milan.

The Yankees, 27-time World Series champions, are signing a separate market-

ing agreement with Milan, a 19-time Italian champion, that will include broadcasting replays of games on the YES Network, as Manchester City does. There also will be cross-merchandising between the pinstripes and the Rossoneri.

Milan is coming off its first Italian title in 11 years.

The Financial Times reported Tuesday that Main Street Advisors, the Los Angeles-based fund supported by LeBron James, is also investing in Milan.

RedBird also has a stake in Fenway Sports Group, the parent company of Liverpool and the Boston Red Sox. Champions League rules prohibit two clubs in

the competition from being under the same ownership to protect the integrity of games on the field. UEFA likely will have to make a judgement on the extent of RedBird's influence on decision-making at Liverpool.

RedBird is Milan's fourth owner in five years.

Milan was owned from 1986 to 2017 by a former Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, who sold it to a company controlled by Sino-Europe Sports Investment Management Changxing Co. The American hedge fund Elliott provided financing and took control of the team in 2018 when loan payments were not made.

4-time Slam champ Osaka loses to American Collins at US Open

AP - Naomi Osaka walked off the court, headed toward the locker room and played down, draping a towel over her face. Out-hit in Arthur Ashe Stadium by another big hitter, Danielle Collins, two-time U.S. Open champion Osaka was left to contemplate a second consecutive first-round loss at a Grand Slam tournament.

Collins reached her first major final at the Australian Open in January and displayed that same sort of hard-court talent with a 7-6 (5), 6-3 victory over Osaka in a shotmaking showdown that ended after Tuesday turned to Wednesday at Flushing Meadows.

"I'm the type of person that thinks a lot, to the point where I overthink. Sometimes when I play matches, I have to tell myself to stop thinking, just go more on instinct," said Osaka, who's been bothered by a bad back lately.

"I feel like I just have



Naomi Osaka, of Japan, reacts after losing a point to Danielle Collins, of the United States, during the first round of the US Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

to chill a little bit, because there's a lot of like random chaos in my head right now."

Last season, Osaka took two extended mental health breaks, including after her third-round exit in New York. This season, Osaka lost in the third round in Australia, the first round at the French Open, then sat out Wimbledon.

"Lately, I felt really restrained. I'm not really sure why," Osaka said. "I'm beginning to feel like I can't hit

the shots that I know I can, like especially on my forehand."

She is now ranked 44th, which means she could have been drawn to face anyone in the first round

This was the sort of matchup Osaka used to dominate on this surface — and against this particular player. Osaka won the U.S. Open in 2018 and 2020, and the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021, and she entered the night 3-0 against Collins,

taking every set they had contested with each other.

But Collins, a Floridian seeded 19th at the U.S. Open, took time off the tour starting in July for a training block after being hampered by a bad neck and that work clearly paid off.

"Felt like her plan was to immediately put me in defence, so she would have hit the ball no matter what type of ball I hit on her side of the court. I thought she did that pretty well," Osaka said. "I think that's kind of what she's known for — to be extremely aggressive."

Collins used her backhand to great effect, compiling 11 of her 23 winners that way. During her on-court interview, she said she modelled that shot after Jimmy Connors, her father's favourite player. Connors responded on Twitter, writing, "Hey Danielle Collins -- way to go. A great win (at)US Open. Thanks for the shout out. ... Keep grinding."

Oscar Pistorius: South African ex-Paralympian seeks to force early prison release

BBC – Convicted murderer Oscar Pistorius is going to court to try to force South African authorities to hold a parole hearing for him.

The former Paralympic gold medalist is serving a 13-year sentence for killing his girlfriend in 2013.

Pistorius shot dead Reeva Steenkamp through a locked toilet door, claiming he mistook her for a burglar.

He is seeking an early release over a dispute about when his sentence started.

A series of challenges and rulings by the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) has led to confusion about when his sentence became effective.

Pistorius argues that he has already served enough time in prison to be el-

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Pistorius shot his girlfriend dead in 2013

Sports News



Amory tops bowling aggregate at CWI Under-19 tournament

Leeward Islands off-spinner Onaje Amory topped the bowling aggregates in the recently concluded 2022 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Boys Championship in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The tall, lanky spinner, captured a total of 18 wickets, which played an instrumental role in helping the Leeward Islands to win the 10th to 27th August three-day youth tournament.

Left-arm spinner Nathan Sealy finished as the second highest wicket taker with 16 scalps to help Barbados to capture the runners-up position in this year's tournament.

Windward Islands all-rounder Tarrique Edward, who was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2022 Under-19 tournament, finished as the third joint highest wicket taker along with Johnathan Rampersaud of Guyana with 15 wickets each.

Leeward Islands 15-year-old leg spinner Micah McKenzie of Antigua and Barbuda was the next leading wicket taker with 13 scalps.

They are followed by Leeward Islands left-arm seamer Nathan Edwards and Johann Layne of Barbados with 12 wickets each, Visant Singh of Trinidad and Tobago and Isai Thorne of Guyana with 11 wickets each and Reon Edwards of Jamaica with 10 wickets.

Jamaica's middle-order batsman Jordan Johnson finished with the highest batting aggregate at the tournament. Johnson scored a total of 247 runs.

Shamar Yearwood of Guyana was the second highest overall run-scorer with a total of 222 runs.

Justin Beckford of Jamaica finished third with a total of 200 runs and is closely followed by Mavendra Dindyal of Guyana with 198 runs.

They are followed by



Leeward Islands off-spinner Onaje Amory topped the bowling aggregates in the recently concluded 2022 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Boys Championship in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. (Photo courtesy CWI)

Joshua Dorne and Hakeem Perryman of Barbados with 178 runs, Rampertab Ramnauth of Guyana with 175 runs and Leeward Islands and Antiguan and Barbudan middle-order batsman Jewel Wedderburn of Jamaica with Andrew with 164 runs.

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igible for parole, and therefore authorities should look at whether he can be released early.

In 2017, SCA said that Pistorius should serve 13 years and five months for the murder of Ms Steenkamp - overturning a previous, more lenient punishment of six years for murder.

Last year, the same court ruled that his current term should be backdated to October 2014, when he was initially sentenced for a lesser charge of culpable homicide.

Pistorius argues that this backdat-

ing means he became eligible for parole in February last year.

He wants Gauteng's High Court to order the parole board to convene a hearing for him.

If that request is granted, he wants the hearing to be within 30 days of the order saying so.

But Atteridgeville prison, where he is being held, says the court of appeal has given contradictory rulings.

The Department of Correctional Services also says it is seeking a court judgement to establish the date when his sentence effectively began.

Steenkamp's murder on Valentine's Day nine years ago shocked the country.

In the televised trial, which gripped millions in South Africa and around the world, Pistorius pleaded that he had shot his girlfriend four times because he thought a burglar had entered his Pretoria home.

But a panel of appeal judges found that having armed himself with a deadly weapon, Pistorius should have foreseen that whoever was behind the toilet door might die, especially given his firearms training.

ATF continues to renovate Cassada Gardens race track

The Antigua Turf Club (ATF) is currently conducting renovations to the Cassada Gardens Race Track.

The work to continue the upgrade of the track resumed sometime after the Antigua Turf Club staged its last horse racing meet at the facility on Sunday, 22nd May.

President of the ATF Neil Cochrane said work is currently being carried out to lay out a new shape of the horse racing track.

"The engineers and the surveyors have basically worked together to lay out the new shape of the track and to pin-point the low areas and the high areas and so on. So, they have been working on those points," Cochrane stated.

"Part of the new track will take small portions of the pond that we have on the northern side of the track, so they have had to build up the area from the pond to make it a part of the track itself.

"They are almost close



President of the Antigua Turf Club Neil Cochrane. (Photo courtesy of the ABNOC)

to completing that area of the pond to make it become a part of the race track and then they will go to the southern end and the other points where you have low areas to build them up, so we could start laying down the material for the track surface itself.

"Then we will take down the rails and after we would have completed the resurfacing of the track, we would install the new rails around the track."

Cochrane said some persistent showers in July did create delays to the work

being done, but they are still hoping to complete the current phase of renovations at the Cassada Gardens Race Track by November.

"The rain has given some drawbacks. The rain has stopped them from moving materials and doing some other things, but they say in life nothing good comes easy," Cochrane stated.

"So, we are hoping that we will get workable weather because we really wanted to complete this phase of the work so we could resume horse racing sometime in November.

"That has always been the intention so it still is the intention and that's what we are working towards. We are not sure what type of weather is ahead, but we have to play it by ear so when we get the opportunity, we try and put in the work and speed it up a bit and see what happens. We are trying to stay positive.

The Antigua Turf Club had been using monies earned from patrons to its horse racing meets to upgrade the facility. But Cochrane said while financing for the upgrade had been a challenge, the ATF has received some assistance from a few corporate citizens.

"Financing remains tight and we have gotten some strong support from a few local companies that have helped us to be able to push on and that is greatly appreciated," Cochrane stated.

"So, we have been able to get some of the much-needed funds to complete phase one of the development."

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been going on," Edwards stated.

"They are eager, excited and they are willing and getting ready to take on the challenge in Jamaica.

"It's not only about winning the games, but we want to leave knowing that we did a great job in our efforts to get netball in Antigua back where we are supposed to be."

The ABNA has a squad of players in training for the Americas Netball

World Cup Qualifier in Jamaica.

The training is being conducted by British coach Lisa Smith, who is volunteering her services to the ABNA.

Smith is currently serving as head coach for the Antigua and Barbuda national squad and will be taking charge of the team at the tournament in Jamaica, which is a qualifier for the 2023 Netball World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa.

Jamaica has already qualified by

virtue of its number four world ranking. Antigua and Barbuda will be among 10 teams from the Americas region that will be playing in the qualifier for the two remaining places in the World Cup.

Antigua and Barbuda will be competing against teams from Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad, Barbados, Cayman Islands, USA, Ireland and host Jamaica.

ABNA postpones Sunday's fundraiser

The Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) has postponed Sunday's fund-raising event until later this month.

According to a release from the ABNA, "The Tea & Table Talk" scheduled for this Sunday has been postponed until Sunday 25th September.

"This is mainly due to the forecast tropical disturbance that might be in our area over the weekend. Sorry for any inconveniences that this might have caused. You can contact any member of the executive for tickets which will be available today."

According to Public Relations Officer of the ABNA Zita Edwards, the Tea & Table Talk is part of the fund-raising venture being undertaken by the local governing body for the sports in its effort to acquire EC\$80,000 to facilitate the Antigua and Barbuda national team's participation in the Americas Netball World Cup Qualifier in Jamaica from 16th to 21st October.

"It is a huge financial undertaking because to get the ladies to Jamaica, the cost is approximately EC\$80,000," Edwards stated.

"The maximum amount of players we can take to the

tournament in Jamaica is 16 and as to the technical staff, it's any amount once we can afford it. But we are mainly looking at getting the players out first and so that is the amount that we are looking to raise."

Edwards said other fund-raising events have already taken place in their efforts to get the necessary funds.

"So, we have a Sponsor One initiative where we send letters to different business owners to see if they could sponsor at least one player. We have a few persons who always give us their contributions and we have done some fundraisers already," Edwards said.

"We were at the seafood fest in Seatons, we went to Barbuda for another fundraiser in the form of a fitness challenge where we had food and drinks on sale and also put on a domino competition.

"We also have done some fundraising domino tournaments here on mainland Antigua because one of our netball players is a member of the national domino association, so we have been raising funds from these domino competitions."

Following the hosting of the rescheduled Tea & Table Talk, another fund



Public Relations Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association Zita Edwards. (Photo courtesy Zita Edwards)

raiser being planned is an inter-schools' talent competition on the 8th of October.

"We have written letters to the Ministry of Education to get their permission to have this talent competition fundraising event. It is basically going to the schools to get a talented teen to compete in things like dancing, drama and singing and we hope it will bring the children out to support each school," Edwards said.

The ABNA Public Relations Officer is also seeking support for the venture from anyone who is able to make a contribution to the cause.

"I am appealing to the public. Anyone out there who wants to help the netball association please do so. You see how hard the girls are training and we have been posting updates on social media to keep the public up to date with what has

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