

CLUELESS CAVE: FORMER LIAT PILOT “LOOKING NOTICEMENT” SAYS PM

Story on Page 2



Japan's late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shared a light moment with former Caricom chairman, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, with the aid of an interpreter, prior to the start of the Caricom/Japan summit, in Port-of-Spain on 28th July, 2014. [Photo: CARICOM]

Local News

PM dismisses lawsuit threat, says Cave is “looking noticment”

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has dismissed threats of a lawsuit by former LIAT pilot Neil Cave over comments made by Browne on the weekend.

On Saturday on the Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM, the prime minister made it clear that Cave would never be rehired by LIAT while he had a say in it.

Prime Minister Browne was responding to a former LIAT employee who questioned whether they would be prioritised for rehire when the airline returns to full operation.

Browne responded in the affirmative, but quickly added that none of the company’s old liabilities – including “destructive elements” within the staff – would have a place in the new LIAT 2020 Ltd.

“The answer is yes, but they have some rotten elements, they not coming back in LIAT and they know who they are,” said the prime minister.

Of LIAT’s hundreds of employees, however, PM Browne made it clear that one person – former LIAT captain, Neil Cave – will never be rehired by



Prime Minister Gaston Browne the company, whether or not Antigua and Barbuda remains a majority shareholder.

While he was not specific about any particular action of Cave’s that led to this position, he did indicate that there were a number of people who worked for the airline in its former iteration who had been toxic to the company and had no place in its future.

Cave has since taken great umbrage with Prime Minister Browne’s remarks and has threatened to seek legal advice as he believes the comments were defamatory.

The Barbadian pilot has been one of the most vocal critics of what he views as the unfair treatment of LIAT’s workers in the aftermath of the dissolution of the bankrupt company that is now under administration by Cleveland Seaforth.

On Monday, Cave told Barbados Today that Browne had damaged his “good name” and would seek undisclosed damages in a lawsuit he intends to file in Antigua and Barbuda with the High Court.

“I have been defamed. The bottom line is I have spoken to others who have been supporting me, and I am looking at this time at filing a lawsuit against Mr Browne for his comments. We will, at the moment, proceed in that direction,” he said.

However, Browne responded to the threat on Tuesday morning saying,

cont’d on pg 3



Neil Cave

| Wed 13 Day | | Wed 13 Night | |
|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 85° | 14% E 16 mph | 78° | 24% ENE 13 mph |
| Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High around 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph. | | A few clouds. Low 78F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph. | |
| Humidity 68% | UV Index Extreme | Humidity 78% | UV Index 0 of 10 |
| Sunrise 5:41 am | Sunset 6:45 pm | Moonrise 7:02 pm | Moonset 5:15 am |
| | | ○ Full Moon | |

\$10M more for “housing revolution”

The government has secured a \$10 million loan to further expand the “housing revolution” being spearheaded by the National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company (NHDURC) and the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA).

This was confirmed when a resolution was approved by the Lower House of Parliament for the government guaranteed loan to be drawn down from the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB).

Finance Minister Gaston Browne explained that providing affordable homes for residents, irrespective of their income, is at the heart of the creed of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

“We are serious about development, and we know that housing is one of the most critical areas to make sure that we improve the living standards of our people. We are determined that whatever we have to do to support this policy to make sure that both NHDURC and CHAPA are able to meet the demands of housing,” he stated.

Noting that the current demand for houses outstrips

the ability of both statutory corporations at this time, PM Browne announced that the government is at an advanced stage in negotiations with a UK firm that will provide an additional \$50 million to NHDURC which will allow for the expansion of the housing development programme.

This, according to the prime minister, is in addition to the \$100 million that the Chinese will provide to upgrade the housing stock of the Booby Alley project and others.

Meanwhile, Housing Minister, Maria Browne, revealed that the government has built more than one thousand homes over the past eight years which she said is rooted in the government’s philosophy of empowering the people.

She explained that the homes included those that are part of various government back developments and those constructed on private land.

“This loan will allow NHDURC to construct approximately 400 hundred homes for the people of Antigua and Barbuda. So far, we have sixty afford-

able homes that are at stages two or three of construction which we did from our own resources. Now comes the time to ramp up construction so that we deliver homes to customers quicker,” she said.

Minister Browne also revealed that applications for the houses at the Oliver’s site have exceeded three thousand.

The aim, she said, is to complete the houses in a timely manner, but not at the cost of quality.

She added that NHDURC has been able to keep all its employees on the payroll and to ensure that they are paid on time.

Minister Browne said the housing revolution will continue in Bolans, where CHAPA is undertaking a development.

A similar development is also earmarked for Jennings and the assurance was given that eventually, most communities will benefit from the government’s housing initiative.

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“A statement of fact, made in the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda where I swore an oath to speak without fear or favour, could never be defeated in a court of law.

“As usual, Neil is looking ‘noticement’ and relevance.

“If he had challenged the veracity of my statement, though flawed, I could understand. However, my statement – despite the parliamentary immunity – could never reach the threshold of defamation.”



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PM Browne expresses shock at the assassination of former Japanese PM Abe

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has expressed shock at the assassination of former Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, on Friday.

Abe, 67, was shot at a campaign event in the western city of Nara, near Kyoto in an attack which has shocked Japan where gun violence is virtually nonexistent.

“I want to take this opportunity to extend condolences on behalf of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda to the government and people of Japan on this very sad event - extremely unfortunate event - in which the former leader, former Prime Minister Abe, was assassinated,” said Prime Minister Browne this week.

Prime Minister Browne recalled meeting Prime Minister Abe months after winning the government in 2014. He said he’s engaged in productive discussions with Abe about strengthening bilateral relationships between both Antigua and Barbuda and CARICOM and Japan.

“In that meeting, we made significant progress on a number of areas of cooperation, even in the area of cli-

mate change and that was as an area in which we agreed to cooperate fully. As you know, Japan, Antigua and Barbuda have had very strong bilateral relations for over 40 years from since independence, and they have helped us to build capacity in a number of areas. In fact, the fish landing and distribution facilities that are scattered throughout the island, those facilities are funded by Japan including the one in Barbuda,” recalled Prime Minister Browne.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader highlighted recent assistance provided to the country by Japan to the tune of of US\$2 million which went toward recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Additionally, another US\$2 million was donated by the Japan government to assist with the acquisition of equipment to manage the sargassum seaweed plague that seasonally affects the country’s coastline.

“The Government and people of Japan have been very kind to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. And we certainly share deeply in this sense-

less loss in which an individual committed this most unfortunate and very senseless act and would have literally snuffed out the life of one of the most significant citizens in that country,” said Prime Minister Browne.

“It’s very unfortunate. In the region we must be very vigilant because there are many people, who, without rhyme or reason, are likely to do things that are very heinous.

“And I just hope that this type of violence will not find its way within the Caribbean region. Last year we had the unfortunate situation of the assassination of President Moise in Haiti, but we consider that to have been an aberration, and I hope it stays that way.”

The funeral of late former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took place on Tuesday at the Zojoji Temple in Tokyo.

Shinzo Abe was Japan’s longest-serving prime minister, and also the youngest, having come to office at age 52.

He stepped down as prime minister in 2020 for health reasons.



Pesticide discovered in Häagen-Dazs ice cream

A product recall of Häagen-Dazs Vanilla Ice Cream is now taking place due to chemical contamination of the product.

The cause of the recall is the discovery of the pesticide ethylene oxide.

The Häagen-Dazs Vanilla 457ml and Häagen-Dazs Classic Collection Mini Cups 4 x 95mL batches, with best before dates from 4th July, 2022 up to 21st July, 2023, were found to be contaminated.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ethylene oxide is a “flammable gas with a somewhat sweet odour”.

Exposure to the gas oxide may cause headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, breathing difficulty, drowsiness, weakness, exhaustion, eye and skin burns, frostbite and reproductive effects.

Health experts say there

is no immediate risk if low levels of ethylene oxide are consumed, but warn that long-term exposure can cause health complications.

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division, out of an abundance of caution, is advising the public not to consume the recalled goods since food products containing ethylene oxide may cause illness.

For full refunds, consumers should contact the place of purchase.

In May 2022, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recalled JIF peanut butter, which is manufactured by J. M. Smucker Company, due to salmonella contamination.

Batches of the contaminated product that were discovered in Antigua and Barbuda were removed from store shelves by the Central Board of Health and destroyed.

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Local News



Young people flock to St. Paul's summer camp

More than 100 young people are attending a summer camp at the Liberta Primary school organised by the constituency's parliamentary representative E. P. Chet Greene.

The St. Paul's Youth in Action Summer camp resumed this year after a two-year break caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

MP Greene told participants he was happy to see the annual event resume after the hiatus.

"Well, we are back, and I am sure that like me, you are happy to see the return of the annual summer camp.

"You are going to learn new things, you will have new and good experiences and for those coming to the camp for the first time here's a reminder that one day I will be joining you for the hike," he told the elated campers.

Over the next two weeks, the attendees will be exposed to various skills and educational opportunities including

music and information technology.

As a bonus this year, those who begin learning a musical instrument will be rewarded with the opportunity to record their work at the professional recording studio located at the St. Paul's Community Centre.

Debbie Collins and Paulette Hinkson are coordinating this year's camp.

Alongside the summer camp is another activity that will focus on the children's physical fitness.



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The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited (ECAB) is seeking to fill the position of Senior Manager – Human Resources. The individual will report to the General Manager and will contribute to the strategic development of the organisation by attracting, motivating, developing, and retaining the most qualified employees, and match them to jobs for which they are best suited. The role holder will provide highly confidential, effective management of the Company's human resources and maintain a competent, motivated workforce through the enforcement of the Company's human resource policies and procedures.

Key Responsibilities:

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- Monitors employee engagement and develops solutions for management to improve morale and maintain an issue-free environment.
- Keeps abreast of the cultural pulse of the organisation and continuously seeks opportunities for improvement to maintain alignment of employee behaviour and business strategy.
- Collaborates with colleagues to recommend and lead improvements to policies, processes, and procedures that drive best practices.
- Oversees employee training needs ensuring active career development of employees.
- Manages the human resources budget.
- Leads industrial relations activities and takes proactive measures to ensure compliance with the Labour Code and application of HR and IR best practices in all HR functions and employee relations.

Requirements:

- A Post Graduate qualification in Human Resource Management or equivalent
- A minimum of seven (7) years of experience in Human Resources
- A minimum of five (5) years at a management level
- Previous experience in a similar role will be a considerable asset
- Exceptional leadership and management skills
- Proven negotiation skills
- Full computer literacy - knowledge of Microsoft Office and banking applications

Disclaimer

The preceding job summary has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees assigned to this position.



Interested parties should apply in writing to:
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P. O. Box 315
St. John's, Antigua.
Or Email: careers@ecabank.com

Deadline for receipt of applications is July 15, 2022.
Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.



Local News



Canada considering VISA office in A&B

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has asked his Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau, to consider opening a VISA office in St. John's.

The Canadian government ended VISA free access for Antiguans and Barbudans in June, 2017. Nationals are now required to travel to Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines or Trinidad and Tobago to gain authorisation to enter Canada.

Several other Caribbean nations were also affected by Canada's new border control policy.

Browne and Trudeau discussed the possibility of a local VISA office when they met recently on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

"We have discussed the possibility of establishing a satellite office here

in Antigua in order to grant visas, not only to Antiguans and Barbudans, but possibly to other islands within the northern Caribbean," Browne noted. "So, it is something that he says he will take into consideration and to discuss with his colleagues."

It will be welcomed news for Antiguans and Barbudans who must now wait for officials from the High Commission of Canada to visit to collect biometric information or incur great expense to travel south for the VISA application and interview process.

Meantime, the High Commission of Canada has reported it has reached its maximum limit for its biometrics collections visit scheduled for 19th to 23rd July, 2022 here in Antigua and Barbuda. Persons desirous of obtaining a Canadian VISA were able to apply for an appointment to have their



Prime Ministers Justin Trudeau of Canada and Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda in June, 2022

biometric information collected locally which would allow them to avoid a costly trip overseas.

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Deforestation in Brazilian Amazon hits tragic record in 2022

By **Fabiano Maisonnave**

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon during the first half of 2022 broke all records, a measure of the increasing destruction taking place under the presidency of Jair Bolsonaro.

Satellite images taken between January and June show 4,000 square kilometres (1,500 square miles) of forest destroyed, more than in any six-month period in the seven years of record-keeping under the current methodology. The extent is four times the size of New York City.

What makes the statistic more remarkable is that the forest cutting is taking place during the rainy season. Deforestation is historically higher in the drier second half of the year when it is easier to access remote areas on the region's unpaved roads.

Brazil also will hold presidential elections in October, which typically reduces law enforcement in the Amazon. Bolsonaro will run for a second 4-year term. Currently he is trailing former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in polls.

The area destroyed in the first half of 2022 is 80%



Cattle graze on land recently burned and deforested by cattle farmers near Novo Progresso, Para state, Brazil, on Aug. 23, 2020. Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon broke all records for a six-month period during the first half of 2022. The pattern in Brazil is that criminals seize public land with the expectation that the areas will be legalised for agriculture or cattle-raising in the future. (AP Photo/Andre Penner, File)

larger than the same period in 2018, the year before Bolsonaro took office, according to an analysis from the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, or IPAM, a Brazilian non-profit.

Around half of the felling occurred on public lands, according to the IPAM analysis.

The pattern in Brazil is that criminals seize public land expecting that the areas

will be legalised for agriculture or cattle-raising in the future.

Other illegal real estate and timber transactions plus lack of enforcement contribute to the increasing deforestation rates, according to Ane Alencar, IPAM's science director.

"Those who control the Amazon don't want it preserved," Alencar told the Associated Press in a phone

interview. "The standing forest has no value in today's Amazon."

The most rapacious cutting took place in Amazonas state, overtaking both Para and Mato Grosso, which historically register more tree loss. That is a worrisome trend, as Amazonas is deep in the rainforest and has remained pristine relative to other Amazon regions.



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EXPERIENCE THE INTIMACY OF SWEET PAN, SUN, SEA, AND SAND

Baby stars, dancing galaxies: NASA shows new cosmic views

By Seth Borenstein

A sparkling landscape of baby stars. A foamy blue and orange view of a dying star. Five galaxies in a cosmic dance. The splendours of the universe glowed in a new batch of images released Tuesday from NASA's powerful new telescope.

The unveiling from the \$10 billion James Webb Space Telescope began Monday at the White House with a sneak peek of the first shot — a jumble of distant galaxies that went deeper into the cosmos than humanity has ever seen.

Tuesday's releases showed parts of the universe seen by other telescopes. But Webb's sheer power, distant location from Earth and use of the infrared light spectrum showed them in a new light.

"It's the beauty but also the story," NASA senior Webb scientist John Mather, a Nobel laureate, said after the reveal. "It's the story of where did we come from."

And, he said, the more he looked at the images, the more he became convinced that life exists elsewhere in those thousands of stars and hundreds of galaxies.

With Webb, scientists hope to glimpse light from the first stars and galaxies that formed 13.7 billion years ago, just 100 million years from the universe-creating Big Bang. The telescope also will scan the at-



This image released by NASA on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, shows the edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula. Captured in infrared light by the Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) on the James Webb Space Telescope, this image reveals previously obscured areas of star birth, according to NASA. (NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI via AP)

mospheres of alien worlds for possible signs of life.

"Every image is a new discovery and each will give humanity a view of the humanity that we've never seen before," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said Tuesday, rhapsodising over images showing "the formation of stars, devouring black holes."

Webb's use of the infrared light spectrum allows the telescope to see through the cosmic dust and see faraway light from the corners of the universe, he said.

"We've really changed the understanding of our universe," said European Space Agency director general Josef Aschbacher.

The European and Canadian space agencies joined

NASA in building the telescope, which was launched in December after years of delays and cost overruns. Webb is considered the successor to the highly successful, but ageing Hubble Space Telescope.

Shown Tuesday:

— Southern Ring nebula, which is sometimes called "eight-burst." Images show a dying star with a foamy edge of escaping gas. It's about 2,500 light-years away. A light-year is 5.8 trillion miles.

— Carina nebula, one of the bright stellar nurseries in the sky, about 7,600 light-years away. One view was a stunning landscape of orange cliffs.

— Stephan's Quintet, five galaxies in a cosmic

dance that was first seen 225 years ago in the constellation Pegasus. It includes a black hole that scientists said showed material "swallowed by this sort of cosmic monster." Webb "has just given us a new, unprecedented 290-million-year-old view of what this Quintet is up to," Cornell University astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger, who wasn't part of the Webb team, said in an email.

— A giant planet called WASP-96b. It's about the size of Saturn and is 1,150 light-years away. A gas planet, it's not a candidate for life elsewhere but a key target for astronomers. Instead of an image, the telescope used its infrared detectors to look at the chemical composition

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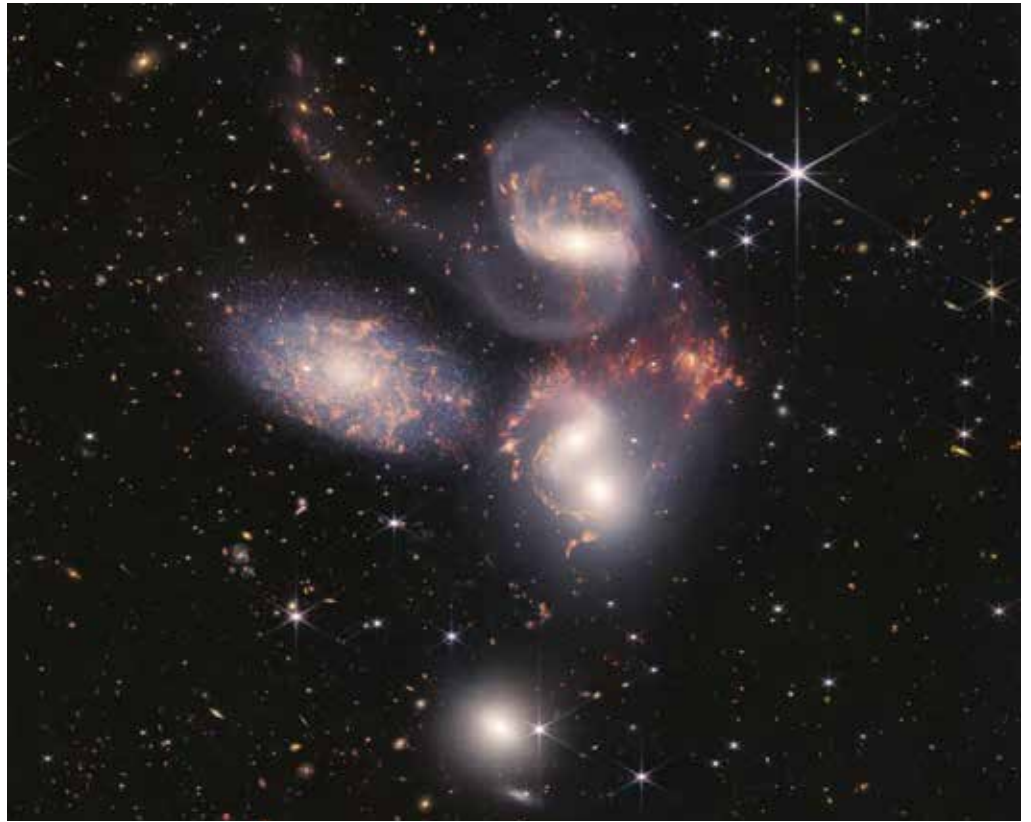
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of the planet's atmosphere. It showed water vapour in the super-hot planet's atmosphere and even found the chemical spectrum of neon.

The images were released one-by-one at an event at NASA's Goddard Space Center that included cheerleaders with pompoms the colour of the telescope's golden mirrors.

"It moves you. This is so, so beautiful," Thomas Zurbuchen, chief of NASA's science missions, said after the event. "Nature is beautiful. To me this is about beauty."

The world's biggest and most powerful space telescope rocketed away last December from French Guiana in South America. It reached its lookout point 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometres) from Earth in January. Then the lengthy process began to align the mirrors, get the infrared detectors cold enough to operate and calibrate the science instruments, all protected by a sunshade the size of a tennis court.



This image provided by NASA on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, shows Stephan's Quintet, a visual grouping of five galaxies captured by the Webb Telescope's Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) and Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI). This mosaic was constructed from almost 1,000 separate image files, according to NASA. (NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI via AP)

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Reductions in fertility have led to demographic divide in the Caribbean

Recent reductions in fertility have led to a “demographic dividend” in Latin America and the Caribbean as the latest United Nations projections suggest that the world’s population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050, before reaching a peak of around 10.4 billion people during the 2080s.

It said the population is expected to remain at that level until 2100.

The annual study, released on Monday to coincide with World Popula-

tion Day (WPD), also notes that the global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950, having fallen to less than one percent in 2020.

Fertility, the report declares, has fallen markedly in recent decades for many countries: today, two-thirds of the global population live in a country or area where lifetime fertility is below 2.1 births per woman, the level required for zero growth in the long run, for a population with low mortality.

In 61 countries or areas, the population is expected to

decrease by at least one percent over the next three decades, as a result of sustained low levels of fertility and, in some cases, elevated rates of emigration.

The UN notes that in most countries of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in parts of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, recent reductions in fertility have led to a “demographic dividend,” with a rise in the share of the working-age population (25 to 64 years), providing an opportunity for accelerated economic growth per capita.

The report argues that, to make the most of this opportunity, countries should invest in the further development of their human capital, by ensuring access to health care and quality education at all ages, and by promoting opportunities for productive employment and decent work.

It said achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to health, education, and gender equality, will contribute to reducing fertility levels and slowing global population growth.

“Nevertheless, the cumulative effect of lower fertility, if maintained over several decades, could be a more substantial deceleration of global population growth in the second half of the century.”

Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, warned that rapid population growth makes eradicating poverty, combating hunger and malnutrition, and increasing the coverage of health and education systems more difficult.

The world should expect to see far more grey hairs by 2050: by then, it is expected that the number of persons aged 65 years or over worldwide will be more than twice the number of children under the age of five, and about the same as the number under age 12.



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SVG: Union warns of “radical action” if dismissed teachers not rehired

CMC - The St Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union (SVG TU) has warned it will embark upon “radical action” if teachers fired from their jobs last December over the coronavirus (COVID-19) mandate are not reinstated within two weeks.

Speaking on a radio programme in St Vincent, SVG TU president, Oswald Robinson said that the position of the union remains the same and that the teachers should be reinstated.

Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves, speaking on another radio programme, said his government would consider rehiring the teachers if there is no surge in COVID-19 cases this week, following last week's conclusion of Vincymas, the first carnival celebration here since 2019.

But Gonsalves, who himself tested positive for the virus that has killed 114 and infected 9,083 others here since March 2020, said that other issues including the response of vaccinated teachers, parents of students and the advice of the chief medical officer and other government authorities would have to be taken into consideration.

Robinson, however, said he knew that Prime Minister Gonsalves would have made such a statement after having raised the matter with him last Wednesday.



Teachers at West St. George Secondary School during a sit-in in December 2021. (Photo: CMC)

He said that he hopes that the teachers who were fired over the vaccine mandate “that this time you will stand with the union and those who are in the classroom you will stand because, as I said, we are not going to leave any stones unturned.

“Our position is that the teachers must be reinstated,” Robinson said, adding there is a fundamental difference between re-hiring and reinstating a teacher, noting that rehiring means that the teacher is starting afresh, and this would affect their pension and gratuity benefits.

“... I didn't listen to him on radio, but I know he was going to go on the radio to speak because I, as president of the Teachers' Union, ... I had a conversation with the prime minister Wednesday

night, and I articulated the union's position on this matter,” Robinson said.

“As president of the Teachers' Union, I drew the reference to carnival. He raised the issue, the nonsensical issue, about parents having to decide. He also said that there are teachers in the classroom who are vaccinated they will have to decide. Who is the employer, the parents are the vaccinated teachers?

“So, I dismissed that nonsense that he told me and I said to him, ‘The position of the Teachers Union is that the teachers must be reinstated and you need to do it and do it quickly.’”

Robinson said that the union is concerned about quality education and wants the nation's children to get

the best. He said he decided not to say anything public about the discussions with Prime Minister Gonsalves until the radio show hosted by the union on Sunday.

“And I knew that he was going to try to run ahead on the WE FM programme and say something,” he said, adding “but the point of the matter and we want everybody out there to understand, the St Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union, our position is that the teachers must be reinstated.

“And we are looking within the next two weeks because I said to the Prime Minister, ‘Schools have to be staffed and you have to start to do this thing and do it quickly.’

“But you know politi-
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Regional News



Grenada: Government to pay pension to public workers by November

CMC – The Grenada government says it intends to begin paying pensions to eligible public sector workers who retired as far back as 1985, by November this year.

However, newly elected Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell says a plan has to be formulated as to whether or not the retroactive payment of EC\$60 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) will be paid in full or over a period of time.

“We reiterated our commitment to pay the pensions and we indicated to them we are not fighting legal entitlements, and, in that regard, we indicated that we want to address the retroactive part of the pension because we felt those persons would be the one most disadvantaged having not had the pensions paid at all,” Mitchell said, following weekend talks with trade



union representatives on the issue.

“The data coming out from the Ministry of Finance is that the retroactive payment is going to be in the region of EC\$60 million. We indicated to the unions that one way or the other we intend to make a

payment by the 30th of November.

“The question is whether we pay all of it by 30th November or whether we make an initial payment and make proposals for the balance to be paid over a period of time,” said Mitchell, who

had attended the meeting accompanied by his Economic Development Minister, Lennox Andrew and the attorney General, Claudette Joseph.

A statement issued by the Public Workers Union (PWU) on Monday con-

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cians always want to shift the blame to somewhere else, so they're blaming the CPO (chief personnel officer). The CPO has a role to play, yes, because if you want to take away the role of the Public Service Commission, as a government, then you fall into a big trap.

“So, it's good that you could confess now that the Service Commissions have a role to play. So, we are looking in the next two weeks that the teachers would be reinstated and if not, then we would have to have some kind of radical action.”

Robinson said this is another opportunity for teachers who were deemed to have resigned their jobs after not taking

the vaccine “to stand up and those who are in the classroom”.

Last Friday, the Barbados-based US Embassy announced the delivery of nearly 4,800 children's doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Ministry of Health said that the paediatric vaccines will be available across the country from Monday.

Robinson said when he spoke with Prime Minister Gonsalves last week, the donation of the vaccines had been mentioned.

“The issue of carnival, I said to the prime minister, everybody jumping up together, there was hardly anybody wearing masks. So, the whole conver-

sation about from a pandemic to endemic, we had that conversation.

“But you know sometimes when you speak with certain people, there are certain things sometimes you don't say.

“You allow them to speak and when you hear them going down the wrong road then you do the refuting.

“So, our position is that our members must be reinstated. We're not talking about hiring. So, we're asking you please don't make anybody call you behind our backs to come and write up or sign up anything to say you're going to start all over again,” Robinson said, urging the dismissed teachers to seek the union's advice “so that you'd be guided accordingly”.

Regional News

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firmed the commitment by Mitchell that his administration would honour a High Court ruling upholding the 1958 pension for public officers.

In the statement, the PWU said that trade unions representing teachers, prisons and police met with Prime Minister Mitchell last weekend to “discuss the single item agenda, pension and gratuity”.

According to the PWU, the unions received a “firm commitment” from Prime Minister Mitchell to upholding the March 29, 2020, High Court ruling, as well as the “government will commence the payment pensions and gratuities to all affected retired public officers from 1985 to present” and that the payment will begin from November 30 this year.

In addition, the PWU said that the unions were given the commitment “that the estates of all eligible officers and teachers who have since died, will be subsequently paid” and that “all public workers retired in 2022 will be paid their gratuity and pension commencing 2022”.

The PWU said that the meeting was conducted in “a cordial manner” and that Prime Minister Mitchell, who came to office after leading his National Democratic Party (NDC) to a 9-6 victory in the June 23 general election, has also given an assurance to honouring the payment of pensions to all eligible public officers and teachers “who qualify under the law, accord-

ing to the various Pension Acts going forward”.

The government’s proposals have been submitted to the unions and staff associations for review with a second meeting scheduled for the end of July.

“We made it clear in our campaign that we were serious about addressing the pension issue and in a broader context, I think anyone who works all their life, retires and finds themselves unable to live must ask what type of society I am living in and more importantly what does the future hold for those who are working,” Prime Minister Mitchell said.

“So, for us it is not a...a political issue...and I am not in any way diminishing that it will have a financial impact on the government. But I have said time and time again, I prefer a poor government and a wealthy, healthy citizen than a wealthy government and poor citizen,” Mitchell added.

In April this year, the former government, said it had appointed the former president of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), Sir Dennis Byron, to a five-member committee to provide technical advice and general guidance following a High Court ruling that could result in the government having to pay a significant amount of money to public servants.

The workers were disqualified from receiving a pension following the enforcement of the Pension Disqualification Act (PDA) in 1983 and their representa-

tive trade union bodies took the government to court challenging the PDA.

On March 29, the High Court ruled that the PDA, which was originally approved during the reign of the left-wing People’s Revolutionary Government (PRG) of then prime minister Maurice Bishop, and then validated by the Validation Act of 1985, was unconstitutional.

The pension issue surfaced with the collapse of the 1979-83 PRG, which during its term in office, had established the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) and replaced the pension scheme for public servants that had been enshrined in the Grenada Constitution.

But the High Court ruling has restored the original pension scheme to public sector workers.

The committee is headed by economist and international public servant, Dr Spencer Thomas and includes Dr Kari Grenade, a former employee

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and economic policy advisor, Dr Patrick Antoine.

The government had promised to name a fifth representative from the St. Kitts-based Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).

The former government had said that the High Court ruling had created a two-pillar pension system for public sector workers which, without further changes, would create a large fiscal burden on the state, since, in its current construct, it is non-contributory.”

The financial obligations of the court ruling are still being tabulated but preliminary indications are that it could cost an estimated EC\$465 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) followed by an average of EC\$120 million annually for at least the next 37 years for the former government noted.



Regional News



St. Lucia confirms first case of the BA5 COVID variant

CMC - St. Lucia says it has received confirmation from the Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) of its case of the BA5 variant of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

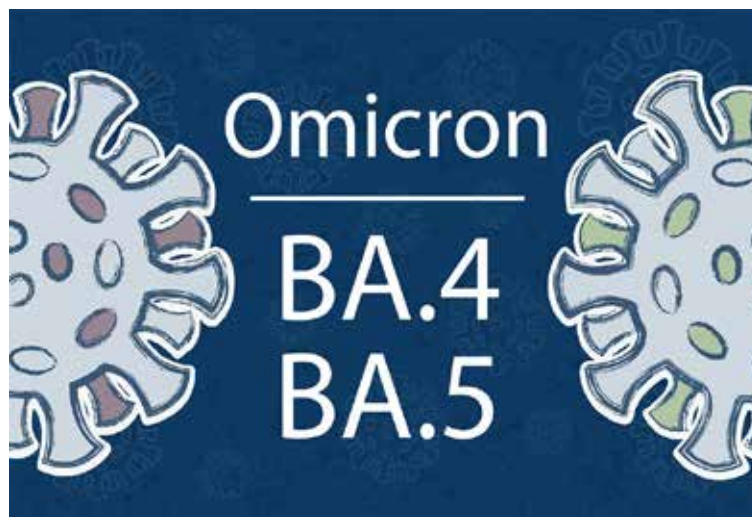
Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr Sharon Belmar George, said the case is a 36-year-old female from Vieux Fort, south of here, who does not have a history of travel. She said this suggests in-country transmission of BA5 and the presence of other cases.

“As we continue to note the return to normalcy with the opening up of events and mass crowd activities, we need to ensure that the proven public health protective measures are in place to prevent us from getting sick and to protect the most vulnerable.

“The public is reminded that the threat of COVID-19, long COVID-19 and its complications still exists, especially given St. Lucia’s low immunisation rate. Personal responsibility is extremely important at this time, to reduce the transmission of infection to ourselves and our families.

“The public is guided to continue the use of face-masks in public and ensure hand washing and proper general sanitization.

“The public is also advised to use their discretion,



ensure they and their vulnerable family members are fully vaccinated and boosted before attending mass crowd events,” Dr Belmar George added.

Figures released by the Ministry of Health on Monday showed that as of July 8, the island has diagnosed a total of 27,254 cases of COVID-19 with 143 active cases.

It said the daily infection rate for the last seven days is 11.4 per 100,000 population per day, with a 20 percent average testing positivity rate and a transmission rate of 0.91.

“We have noted a total of 385 COVID-19 deaths. We have five positive COVID-19 cases admitted to the Respiratory Hospital.

“This past week we continue to register cases daily although we note the general hesitance by the population to testing of symptomatic and direct contacts of cases. We estimate that the

actual number of positive cases to be higher than recorded,” the CMO said.

The Omicron Variant of Concern (VOC) continues to be the dominant variant circulating. Among Omicron lineages, the proportions of BA5 and BA4 continue to increase.

In some countries, the increases have led to surges in hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths.

COVID-19 vaccination is still expected to provide substantial protection against severe disease although it is noted that the coverage is lowest with these as compared to the original disease.

BA4 and BA5 are the fastest spreading variants reported to date.

The CMO said that in an effort to manage COVID19 cases in the country, the Ministry of Health has received 105 vials of the COVID-19 anti-viral drug tocilizumab 400mg from

the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). She said that this drug will be used to treat severe cases of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health says it is closely monitoring the multi-country Monkeypox outbreak and has increased its surveillance for early detection and management of cases.

It said that last Friday the Ministry of Health reported on the alert received from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of the contacts of a positive crew member. The contact tracing and self-monitoring of those exposed were carried out.

“Presently, everyone who was exposed has been cleared and in good health. St. Lucia has not recorded any cases of Monkeypox to date.

The signs and symptoms of Monkeypox include rash, fever, enlarged lymph nodes, back pain and muscle pain. Testing for Monkeypox in the region is facilitated through the CARPHA.

“Patients with Monkeypox are managed for their symptoms like fever and pain. Nutrition and rehydration are particularly important.

“Some patients may develop severe and life-threatening complications,” the ministry added.

'Don't fall ill': Sri Lanka doctors warn of drug shortage

AP – Don't fall ill or get into accidents: That's the advice doctors in Sri Lanka are giving patients as the country's economic crisis leaves its health care system short of drugs and other vital supplies.

The South Asian island nation lacks the money to pay for basic imports like fuel and food, and medicine is also running out. Such troubles threaten to undo its huge gains in public health in recent decades.

Some doctors have turned to social media to try to get donations of supplies or the funds to buy them. They're also urging Sri Lankans living overseas to help out. So far there's no sign of an end to the crisis that has thrust the country into an economic and political meltdown.

That means 15-year-old Hasini Wasana might not get the medicine she needs to protect her transplanted kidney. Diagnosed with a kidney ailment as a toddler, she got a transplant nine months ago and needs to take an immunosuppressant every day for the rest of her life to prevent her body from rejecting the organ.

Hasini's family is depending on donors to help now that her hospital can no longer provide the Tacrolimus tablets that she received for free until a few weeks ago. She takes eight



Mohammed Feroze, a kidney patient, puts on his shirt as he waits to buy medicine in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 3, 2022. Doctors in Sri Lanka are urging their patients not to fall ill or get into accidents as the country's economic crisis leaves its trusted health system without medicines and other vital supplies. Sri Lanka has run short of money to pay for basic imports like fuel and food, and medicine has also run scarce. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

and a half tablets a day and the cost adds up to more than \$200 a month, just for that one medicine.

"We are being told (by the hospital) that they don't know when they will have this tablet again," said Ishara Thilini, Hasini's older sister.

The family sold their home and Hasini's father

got a job in the Middle East to help pay for her medical treatment, but his income is barely enough.

Cancer hospitals, too, are struggling to maintain stocks of essential drugs to ensure uninterrupted treatment.

"Don't get ill, don't get injured, don't do anything that will make you go to a

hospital for treatment unnecessarily," said Samath Dharmaratne, president of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

"That is how I can explain it; this is a serious situation."

Dr. Charles Nugawela, who heads a kidney hospital in Sri Lanka's capital, Co-

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International

AROUND THE WORLD



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lombo, said his hospital has kept running thanks to the largesse of donors but has resorted to providing medicine only to patients whose illness has advanced to the stage where they need dialysis.

Nugawela worries the hospital might have to put off all but the most urgent surgeries because of a shortage of suture materials.

The Sri Lanka College of Oncologists gave a list of drugs to the Health Ministry that “are very essential, that all hospitals have to have all the time so that we could provide cancer treatment without any interruption,” said Dr. Nadarajah Jeyakumaran, who heads the college.

But the government is having a hard time providing them, he said.

And it’s not just medicine. Patients having chemotherapy are susceptible to infections and can’t eat normally but hospitals don’t have enough food

supplements, Jeyakumaran said.

The situation threatens to bring on a health emergency at a time when the country is still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Hospitals lack drugs for rabies, epilepsy and sexually transmitted diseases. Labs don’t have enough of the reagents needed to run full blood count tests. Items like suture material, cotton socks for surgery, supplies for blood transfusions, even cotton wool and gauze are running short.

“If you are handling animals, be careful. If you get bitten and you need surgery and you get rabies, we don’t have adequate antiserum and rabies vaccines,” said Dr. Surantha Perera, vice president of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

The association is trying to help patients by seeking donations through personal contacts and from Sri Lankans living overseas, Perera said.

Dhamaratne, the association presi-

dent, said if things don’t improve doctors may be forced to choose which patients get treatment.

It’s a reversal of decades of improvements thanks to a universal health care system that has raised many measures of health to the levels of much wealthier nations.

Sri Lanka’s infant mortality rate, at just under 7 per 1,000 live births, is not far from the U.S., with 5 per 1,000 live births, or Japan’s 1.6. Its maternal mortality rate of near 30 per 100,000 compares well with most developing countries. The U.S. rate is 19, while Japan’s is 5.

Life expectancy had risen to nearly 75 years by 2016 from under 72 years in 2000.

The country has managed to eliminate malaria, polio, leprosy, the tropical parasitic disease filariasis commonly known as elephantiasis, and most other vaccine-preventable diseases.

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LIVE

Japanese say final goodbye to assassinated former leader Abe

AP – Japanese bid their final goodbye to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday as his funeral was held at a temple days after his assassination shocked the nation.

Abe, the country's longest-serving prime minister, remained influential even after stepping down two years ago for health reasons. He was gunned down Friday during a campaign speech in the western city of Nara.

Hundreds of people, some in formal dark suits, filled sidewalks outside Zojoji temple in downtown Tokyo to bid farewell to Abe, whose nationalistic views drove the governing party's conservative policies.

Mourners took photos and some called out "Abe san!" as a motorcade with the hearse carrying his body accompanied by his widow, Akie Abe, slowly drove by the packed crowd.

"I believe there were many things he left unfinished as a politician," public broadcaster NHK quoted Akie Abe as saying. "But he planted many seeds and I'm sure they will sprout."

Abe's long-time ally and mentor, Finance Minister Taro Aso, described him as "the most talented politician in post war Japan who raised Japan's international profile."

About 1,000 people, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, governing party leaders and foreign officials, attended the funeral at the

temple.

Taiwanese Vice President Lai Ching-te also attended in a private capacity, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported, prompting a formal protest from China. Beijing considers Taiwan a breakaway province and objects to any expression of its independent political identity.

The hearse travelled through Tokyo's main political district, Nagata-cho, where Abe spent more than three decades after being first elected to parliament in 1991. It then drove slowly by the governing party headquarters, where senior lawmakers in dark suits stood outside and prayed, before heading to the prime minister's office, where Abe served a total of nearly a decade.

Kishida and Cabinet members pressed their hands before their chests as they prayed and bowed toward the hearse heading to a crematorium.

On Sunday, two days after Abe's killing, his Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner won a landslide victory in elections for the upper house, the less powerful of parliament's two chambers.

That could allow Kishida to govern uninterrupted until a scheduled election in 2025. But Abe's death also opens up a period of uncertainty for his party. Experts say a power struggle within Abe's party faction is certain and could affect Kishida's grip on



The vehicle, left, carrying the body of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe leaves Zojoji temple after his funeral in Tokyo on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. Abe was assassinated Friday while campaigning in Nara, western Japan. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

power.

Kishida has stressed the importance of party unity after Abe's death.

Abe's assassination has shaken Japan, one of the world's safest nations with some of the strictest gun laws.

The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, was arrested on the spot Friday and is being held at a local prosecutors' office for further investigation. They can detain him for up to three weeks while deciding whether to formally press charges.

Police said Yamagami cited a rumoured link between Abe and an organisation the suspect hated as the motive for the killing. Media reports said the organisation was the Unification Church and that Yamagami disliked it because donations made by his mother to the group had bankrupted his family.

The head of the Japanese

branch of the South Korean-based church, known for its anti-communist stance and mass weddings, confirmed on Monday that the mother was a member. He said Abe was not but may have spoken at groups affiliated with the church.

On Tuesday, National Police Agency chief Itaru Nakamura said police failed to fulfil their responsibility to protect Abe. "I feel deep regret and shame," he said. He told reporters that the agency will set up a taskforce to review guarding procedures.

The son of an earlier prime minister, Abe became Japan's youngest leader in 2006 at age 52. He left after a year in office due to health reasons but returned to power in 2012.

Abe, who was 67, left office in 2020, citing a recurrence of the ulcerative colitis he had since he was a teenager.

US warns it will defend ally if China breaks sea ruling

AP – U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and warned that Washington is obligated to defend treaty ally Philippines if its forces, vessels or aircraft come under attack in the disputed waters.

Blinken's statement, issued by the U.S. Embassy in Manila on Tuesday, was released on the sixth anniversary of the 2016 decision by an arbitration tribunal set up in The Hague under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea after the Philippine government complained in 2013 about China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters.

China did not participate in the arbitration, rejected its ruling as a sham and continues to defy it, bringing it into territorial spats with the Philippines and other Southeast Asian claimant states in recent years.

"We call again on the PRC to abide by its obligations under international law and cease its provocative behaviour," Blinken said, using the acronym for China's formal name, the People's Republic of China.

"We also reaffirm that an armed attack on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the South China Sea would invoke U.S. mutual defence commitments" under the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defence Treaty, Blinken said.



Protesters hold slogans to mark the 6th anniversary of the issuance of the 2016 decision by an arbitration tribunal set up under the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Sea after the Philippines complained against China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed sea during a rally outside the Chinese consulate in Makati, Philippines, Tuesday, July 12, 2022. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

There was no immediate reaction from Beijing. But Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a news conference in Malaysia's administrative capital of Putrajaya that China is speeding up talks with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes the Philippines and three other claimant states, to come up with a nonaggression pact called a "code of conduct" to turn the South China Sea "into a sea of peace and cooperation."

"We will oppose bloc confrontation and Cold War mentality," Wang told journalists after meeting his counterpart in Malaysia, the last stop in his five-nation swing through Southeast Asia. He did not take any questions.

In addition to China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have had overlapping claims in the busy waterway, where an estimated \$5 trillion in

goods passes each year and which is believed to be rich in undersea gas and oil deposits.

The potential flashpoint has become a key front of U.S.-China rivalry.

Washington lays no claim to the disputed waters but has deployed Navy ships and Air Force jets to patrol the waterway for decades and says freedom of navigation and overflight is in the U.S. national interest. That has provoked angry reactions from China, which has accused the U.S. of meddling in a purely Asian dispute and warned it to stay away.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said Tuesday that the arbitration ruling will be a pillar of his new government's policy and actions in the disputed region and rejected attempts to undermine the "indisputable" decision.

"These findings are no longer within the reach of

denial and rebuttal and are conclusive as they are indisputable. The award is final," Manalo said in a statement.

"We firmly reject attempts to undermine it ... even erase it from law, history and our collective memories," said Manalo, who did not directly name China.

New Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. took office June 30 after a landslide electoral victory.

Marcos Jr.'s predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, put the arbitration ruling on the backburner for years after taking office in 2016 and nurtured cosy ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping while criticising U.S. security policies.

In 2019, Duterte said he finally asked Xi to comply with the ruling but was flatly told, "We will not budge."

Marcos Jr. has upheld the arbitration ruling and said he would not allow even one "square millimetre" of Philippine waters to be trampled upon.

But he said in January before winning the presidency that since China has refused to recognize the ruling, Duterte's policy of diplomatic engagement is "really our only option."

Dozens of left-wing activists and workers protested in front of the Chinese Consulate in Manila's Makati financial district on Tuesday, asking Beijing to respect the arbitration ruling and for Marcos Jr. to defend the country's territory and sovereign rights in the South China Sea.

Sir Mo Farah reveals he was trafficked to the UK as a child

AP – Olympic great Mo Farah – the winner of four gold medals and one of Britain’s greatest and best-loved athletes – has been carrying a secret burden all these years: He was illegally brought to the U.K. as a youth and forced to care for other children before he escaped a life of servitude through running.

In a new documentary, Farah says his real name is Hussein Abdi Kahin and that he was taken from the East African nation of Djibouti when he was about 8 or 9. He says a woman he didn’t know brought him to Britain using fake travel documents that included his picture alongside the name Mohammed Farah.

The revelations come as Britain struggles to deal with a surge of people fleeing conflict and hunger in Africa, the Middle East and Asia on flimsy boats organised by human traffickers who assist the desperate to cross the English Channel. Criminal gangs are also smuggling people into the country and forcing them into sex work, criminal activities and unpaid labour.

In the documentary, produced by the BBC and Red Bull Studios, Farah said he thought he was going to Europe to live with relatives and had a piece of paper with the contact details.

“The lady took it off me and right in front of me ripped



Sir Mo won gold medals in the 5,000m and 10,000m at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games

them up and put it in the bin,” Farah said in the film, to be broadcast Wednesday. “And at that moment I knew I was in trouble.”

The woman took him to an apartment in west London where he was forced to care for her children, Farah said. He wasn’t allowed to go to school until he was 12.

“I wasn’t treated as part of the family,” Farah said. “If I wanted food in my mouth, my job was to look after those kids — shower them, cook for them, clean for them.”

Farah was granted U.K. citizenship in 2000 and represented Britain at three straight Summer Olympics starting in 2008. He captured hearts in Britain and elsewhere with the look of joy and astonishment after his triumph in the 5,000 metres at the 2012 London Games after earlier winning the 10,000-metre title. He won the same races at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

He was knighted by

Queen Elizabeth II in 2017.

Farah previously said he had moved to Britain with his parents as a refugee from Somalia. But in the documentary, he says his parents never were in the U.K. His father was killed by gunfire during unrest in Somalia when Farah was 4, according to the film. His mother and two brothers live on the family farm in Somaliland, a breakaway region of Somalia that is not internationally recognized.

Farah says his fortunes changed when he was finally allowed to attend school. A teacher who was interviewed for the documentary recalled a 12-year-old boy who appeared “unkempt and uncared for,” was “emotionally and culturally alienated” and spoke little English.

But he began to blossom on the track and eventually told his story to a physical education instructor. The teacher contacted local officials, who arranged for a Somali family to take him in as

a foster child.

“I still missed my real family, but from that moment everything got better,” Farah said. “I felt like a lot of stuff was lifted off my shoulders, and I felt like me.”

Farah said he had feared he would be deported if he spoke about his childhood experiences. He decided to tell his story to publicize and challenge people’s perceptions of human trafficking, he said.

“I had no idea there was so many people who are going through exactly the same thing that I did,” he said. “It just shows how lucky I was.”

In 2020, more than 10,000 people were referred to authorities in Britain as potential victims of modern slavery, up from 2,340 in 2014, according to the Home Office, the government agency responsible for border enforcement.

Britain’s Home Office said no action would be taken against Farah — and not just because he is a prominent athlete.

Home Office guidance makes clear that the agency assumes a child is not complicit in gaining citizenship by deception, stating: “If the person was a child at the time the fraud, false representation or concealment of material fact was perpetrated, the caseworker should assume that they were not complicit in any deception by their parent or guardian.”

Sports News



Back at Juventus, Pogba has no regrets over time in England

AP – Paul Pogba has no regrets over his time at Manchester United and insists he feels no pressure as he returns to Juventus after a few disappointing years back in England.

Pogba completed a free transfer to Juventus on Monday, bringing an end to an underwhelming second stint at United, which he joined for a world record fee of around 105 million euros (\$116 million) in 2016.

Pogba made 226 appearances, scoring 39 goals, in six injury-affected years in Manchester. During that time, he won the World Cup with France in 2018 but his performances for United never matched those for his national team, with United managers unable to find his



Midfielder Paul Pogba gives the thumbs up as he arrives at Juve's Medical Center, in Turin, northern Italy, Saturday, July 9, 2022. More than 1,000 fans welcomed Paul Pogba back home as he returned to Juventus on a free transfer from Manchester United on Saturday. (LaPresse via AP)

best role.

"I'm happy with the choices I've made, that's life, sometimes you make decisions that don't go as you would have liked," Pogba said in his first news conference back in Turin on Tuesday.

"I'm happy with the years I spent at United: I grew up, I learnt a lot, and I became a man. I don't think I made a mistake."

Pogba was a fan favourite in his first spell at Juventus and helped the team win the Serie A in each of

his four seasons. He also won two Italian Cups, and two Italian Super Cups, as well as earning a Champions League runner-up medal in 2015, before returning to United.

Despite his less than impressive performances in England, Juventus fans will be hoping to see the Pogba of old as they look to the 29-year-old midfielder to bring back glory to the storied Italian club after two seasons of disappointment.

"No pressure, there's no pressure," Pogba said. "I know that I had amazing seasons at Juventus, I have faith in myself to do well again."

Pogba said it was "more than a dream" to be back at Juventus, adding he was "very happy to return home."

Simone Biles reveals she was offered a colouring book on flight: "I'm 25"

ET - Simone Biles may be a gymnastics GOAT, but she's still balancing some tricky situations. Biles recently revealed that a flight attendant had mistaken her for a child and offered her a colouring book.

The 4-foot-8-inch athlete shared what happened on her Instagram Story last week, writing, "not the flight attendant trying to give me a colouring book when I board.....I said 'no I'm good I'm 25.'"

Despite the honest mistake, Biles should probably be more than recognizable by now. She's an alum of two Olympic games, where she's taken home four gold medals and is now the



Simone Biles received the Medal of Honor, America's highest civilian award, from President Joe Biden this year [Photo: CNN]

most decorated gymnast, man or woman, of all time. Earlier this month, she

received the 2022 Presidential Medal
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Tiger Woods unsure how many Opens he has left at St. Andrews

AP – Whether it's on Friday or Sunday, Tiger Woods will cross over the Swilcan Bridge for the final time in the British Open at St. Andrews.

He just doesn't know if that means this year or forever.

"Who knows?" Woods said Tuesday, unwilling to contemplate a future in golf he knows so little about. The Open isn't likely to return to the Old Course for at least four years, probably a bit longer. Woods is 46 and with what he described as "a lot of hardware" in his right leg that was pieced back together following his February 2021 car crash.

"I don't know — if it is that long — whether I will be able to physically compete at this level by then," Woods said. "It's also one of the reasons why I wanted to play in this championship. I don't know what my career is going to be like. I'm not going to play a full schedule ever again. My body just won't allow me to do that."

"I don't know how



US golfer Tiger Woods speaks during a press conference at the British Open golf championship in St Andrews, Scotland, Tuesday, July 12, 2022. The Open Championship returns to the home of golf on July 14-17, 2022, to celebrate the 150th edition of the sport's oldest championship, which dates to 1860 and was first played at St. Andrews in 1873. (AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

many Open Championships I have left here at St. Andrews, but I wanted this one," he said. "It started here for me in '95, and if it ends here in '22, it does. If it doesn't, it doesn't. If I get the chance to play one more, it would be great.

But there's no guarantee."

And he is leaving nothing to chance.

In the other two majors he played this year, at the Masters and PGA Championship, Woods played only 27 holes of practice ahead of the opening round.

He played Ballybunion in Ireland last week with Rory McIlroy. He walked 18 holes with a wedge and a putter on Saturday evening at St. Andrews. He played 18 holes on Sunday, and then nine holes each of the last two days. Throw in the four-hole exhibition and that's more than his previous two majors combined.

Woods wasn't kidding when he said he wasn't about to miss this Open at St. Andrews, the 150th edition of golf's oldest championship. He won two of his three Opens on the Old Course.

"Yesterday for those four holes, he was moving better than I'd seen him move in a while," said McIlroy, who played the "Celebration of Champions" with Woods over the four-hole loop on Monday. "That was really good to see. And his swing ... hitting the golf ball and swinging the club aren't the issue. It's the walking part of it that's the struggle. But he seemed to be moving well."

cont'd from pg 26

of Freedom from President Joe Biden.

Biles was recognized for both her athletic prowess and her advocacy for athletes, foster children, and victims of sexual assault. Most notably, she has been outspoken about her experience as a survivor of sexual assault by former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar.

Last month, she and dozens of other former gymnasts sued the FBI for failing to stop the now-convicted sports doctor when the agency first received allegations against him. Together, they are seeking over \$1 billion.

Biles' fiancé, Jonathan Owens, also attended the White House ceremony, taking a moment to celebrate his wife-to-be on Instagram.

"You're one of the strongest people I know and are so deserving, I'm so blessed to be able to experience this with you. You motivate me more everyday to be the best version of myself. Such an inspiration, I love you so much babe," Owens wrote on Instagram.

The couple announced their engagement in February, one day after Valentine's Day.

CWI Emerging Players hard at work at CCG

The West Indies Emerging Players have started their intense work programme and have already seen benefit from their training time at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG). Graeme West, CWI's High Performance Manager, has indicated that the players have all expressed great enjoyment a week into the programme and he is also seeing this manifested in the way they go about their sessions.

"It has been really encouraging to see the energy and enthusiasm of all the players. They are keen to improve their game as they recognize this is a really good opportunity for them. All the coaching staff have been really impressed with the ability to listen and take on board the ideas and reinforce some of the things they would have come across before having been involved in West Indies U19 programmes, some with the first-class franchises, some with CPL franchises from before. It is a young group, but they are experienced," West told CWI Media. "We have had a really encouraging, positive start. We have brought together a group of players, where many have been together before. In terms of their recent experiences, a couple have flown in from the UK where they were playing club cricket, several were involved in first-class cricket in Trinidad, and several have been going to the USA to play T20 cricket there. So, we are bringing them to gather as a group and we have a lot lined up for them here at CCG."

West added that the players have been going through their drills with



great professionalism and this has led to great camaraderie. The plan for a CWI Emerging Players Academy was first announced in March. It is a nexus between regional junior and senior teams while supporting the development of talented players between the ages of 19 and 25. The Academy will have five primary objectives:

- Building capacity of players, support staff and high-performance resources.
- Management of Talent.
- Personal Development – develop person first and then the player.
- Demonstrate Best Practice, including recruitment, selection and preparation.
- Accelerating Player Development and increasing readiness of players for international cricket.

The 15 players were picked after the Selection Panel met and made rec-

ommendations on a formula which included consultations with each of the six Territorial Boards. This first Emerging Players camp has several objectives and the main focus during the initial period will be to ensure the management of talent; players' personal development – especially creating a breeding ground for leaders in the game; accelerating development – reinforcing the importance of knowledge on the physical components; as well as increasing the readiness of the players for the international stage – with a focus on specific skill sets identified by the Head Coach of the Senior Team.

FULL SQUAD: Kevlon Anderson, Keagan Simmons, Kirk McKenzie, Kevin Wickham, Teddy Bishop, Ackeem Auguste, Ramon Simmonds, McKenny Clarke, Johann Layne, Kelvin Pitman, Ashmead Nedd, Joshua Bishop, Nyeem Young, Joshua James, Leonardo Julien