

DEAN JONAS CONDEMNS SEXIST ATTACK ON SAMANTHA MARSHALL

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The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," was on full display on Thursday as the Social Protection Board donated school supplies to the most vulnerable families in our community that are beneficiaries of the Board. Scores of vulnerable children received school supplies and shoes which will aid in enriching their educational opportunities. Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, and the Blue Economy, Dean Jonas, was present, along with members of the Social Protection Board, to participate in the exercise.

Dean Jonas condemns "misogynistic" attack on Samantha Marshall

The Minister of Gender Affairs, Dean Jonas, has strongly condemned the personal attack on his Cabinet colleague, Samantha Marshall by a United Progressive Party (UPP) candidate which he has described as "an attack on all women".

On Thursday morning during the Cabinet Press Briefing, Jonas said it was reprehensible that a candidate of a major political party could use the media to launch a chilling personal attack on Marshall.

Jonas was referring to comments made by his political opponent in the St. George's constituency over the weekend Algernon 'Serpent' Watts. The radio personality turned politician used his platform on Observer Radio, of which he is part owner, to launch a personal broadside against Agriculture Minister Marshall.

"As the Minister with responsibility for Gender Affairs, I must join those



Minister of Gender Affairs, Dean Jonas right-thinking persons who condemn the use of the media - social or traditional - for unproductive, personal attacks against others.

"I specifically refer to the recent attack on Member of Parliament, the Honourable Samantha Marshall, by a radio personality who calls himself 'Serpent'.

"I call on all listening and viewing audiences to shun and discourage such behaviour and to distance yourselves from such personalities.

"The disgusting, misogynistic at-

tack on Minister Samantha Marshall by UPP candidate Algernon 'Serpent' Watts should not be accepted in our political discourse or disagreements. We should always engage each other on policy and show the wider public that we are better than such crass behaviour.

"Women who enter the political arena are frequently subjected to sexist and misogynistic remarks. We must call it out whenever it happens and reject those utterances," said Jonas, who was deputising for Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, at yesterday's Cabinet Press Briefing.

The St. George MP said he recently was involved in a debate with Watts in which the UPP hopeful was outclassed. Jonas added that if Watts were to engage Marshall in a similar debate on issues of policy and national importance, he would fare just as dismally against the St. Mary's South representative.



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MBS rejects insufficient medicine supply claim; stock adequate to meet beneficiary needs

The Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) issued a statement on Thursday reassuring its beneficiaries that it is in possession of an adequate stock of medication to cover the eleven chronic non-communicable diseases it covers.

It is likely that the statement was issued in response to a question posed by a journalist during yesterday's post-Cabinet Press Briefing in which it was suggested that MBS had an inadequate supply of medicines to meet the needs of those it provides for.

Minister Dean Jonas, who hosted Thursday's press briefing, gave the assurance that the claim would be investigated and a response made public as quickly as possible.

This came yesterday evening in a statement issued by the Communications and Marketing Manager at MBS, Janelle Charles-Williams.

"Despite the challenges

impacting the global supply chain and securing medication overseas, the MBS continues to reach out to its traditional suppliers and forge alliances with new suppliers to ensure the adequate supply of medication for the use of its beneficiaries.

"Beneficiaries are also advised that Specially Authorised Drugs (SADs) requested by a specialist physician on behalf of a named patient, are processed in a standardised manner through the Medical Benefits Board and its subcommittee.

"These drugs are generally more expensive and may not be readily available through MBS. If the prescribed drug is not on the MBS formulary, the request has to be reviewed by the Medical Benefits Board, before authorisation is given, and MBS procures the medication on behalf of the beneficiary."

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Local News



A&B represented at AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum

Minister of Education and Sports Daryll Matthew is representing Prime Minister Gaston Browne at the inaugural AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum convened in Barbados from 1-3 September, 2022.

ACTIF is convened by the African Export-Import Bank in collaboration with the African Union Commission, African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat, Africa Business Council, Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community Secretariat and the Caribbean Export Development Agency.

Approximately 750 delegates from Africa and the Caribbean have come together for the event at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre in Bridgetown, where yesterday, Minister Matthew, on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda signed an agreement, making the country a member of the African Export-Import Bank that finances, promotes and expands intra and extra-Africa trade.



Minister Daryll Matthew with Benedict Okey Oramah, President of African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)

Organizers of the forum are aiming to “strengthen relations between the private sectors of the two regions to advance trade and investment”.

The specific objectives of ACTIF2022 include:

- promoting inter-bank relationships including fostering payment and financial flow;

- developing creative and cultural engagements that can be commercially viable;

- creating a business case for a potential AfriCaribbean Free Trade Area;

- promoting trade and investment between Africa and the Caribbean by serving as a platform for market identification, building business partnerships, exchange of trade and market information, co-investments, etc.;

- facilitating AfriCaribbean investments by fostering cross-regional business and investment linkages;

- serving as a platform for disseminating trade and investment information and other products and initiatives of the Bank that sup-

port trade between Africa and Africans in the diaspora; and

reducing counterpart risk perception among African and Caribbean businesses in dealing with themselves.

According to the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum’s website, discussions are expected to centre on accelerating industrialization and manufacturing, developing special economic zones and industrial parks, improving infrastructure, financing and trade logistics, including regional integration.

Other areas of interest that will be examined are creating the conditions to accelerate private sector investment, promoting trade and tourism and improving agricultural productivity and expanding agribusiness opportunities and security.

Fri 02 Day		Fri 02 Night	
85°	50% NNE 11 mph	79°	24% WNW 6 mph
Cloudy with showers. High near 85F. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50%.		Considerable cloudiness. Low 79F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 76%	UV Index 10 of 10	Humidity 84%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:54 am	Sunset 6:19 pm	Moonrise 11:20 am	Moonset 10:49 pm
		Waxing Crescent	

Deep sea sand mining one step closer

The government is zeroing in on its plan to capitalise on the vast sand banks that lie within Antigua and Barbuda's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and according to the minister responsible, the process is "days away" from starting.

Minister for the Blue Economy, Dean Jonas, said there are billions of tons of sand lying within the country's EEZ and the plan is to create an industry dedicated to mining the sand for commercial use.

"We have more sand (in the EEZ) than any other Caribbean country, except for the Bahamas. We, with our three main islands the off-shore islands, have literally billions of tons of sand so we are looking to exploit that resource to do different things. These include rebuilding beaches as many of our beaches in Antigua and Barbuda are in need of rebuilding. We also plan to be engaged in rebuilding beaches as a business in other Caribbean islands," Jonas



A great quantity of the sand available to Antigua and Barbuda for mining is located below the waters surrounding Redonda

told Thursday's post-Cabinet press briefing.

The minister sought to allay fears that mining off-

shore sand would cause environmental harm. He noted that the government took

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Local News



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.
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Commissioner Rodney attends third UNCOPS

The third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS 2022), now underway, has brought together government ministers, chiefs of police and senior representatives of regional and professional policing organisations at the United Nations Headquarters to engage on strengthening international peace, security, and development for all, through the unifying power and enabling role of national and United Nations policing.

Antigua and Barbuda's Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, is attending the 31st August to 1st September meeting.

UNCOPS 2022 aimed to advance a common understanding among current

and potential police and financial contributors, the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations system entities of what the United Nations Police require to achieve their diverse and complex mandated tasks.

These responsibilities include protecting civilians, rebuilding national police services, preventing crime and conflict, and sustaining peace.

In particular, discussions focused on identifying approaches and practices to:

- Operationalise the United Nations Police Division's role as a system-wide service provider and focal point for United

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these concerns into consideration and the planned work will not present a danger to the environment.

"We are going to be doing the mining in a responsible way and we already have Blue Ocean, a local company that is 40 percent owned by the government, that is going to be exploiting that resource. They have already started work on that process," he revealed.

Jonas said the approval process is underway as the government has given the greenlight to the company it has engaged to conduct the off-shore sand mining.

"The permits are now before the Development Control Authority and the Environment Division and start-up is just days away," he declared.

With respect to rare earth minerals, the minister announced that a company has been selected to prospect for these minerals. This too, is awaiting final approval from governmental agencies.



Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney

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Nations policing and other law enforcement matters;

- Reinforce ongoing efforts to enhance the performance of United Nations Police by strengthening capacities, including the launch of the Voluntary Compact on Advancing Gender Parity within the United Nations Police; and,

- Integrate United Nations policing priorities in international peace and security processes, discussions and fora.

UNCOPS 2022 also offered a unique opportunity for global police executives and United Nations leadership to engage in discussions on how United Nations policing and national policing mutually reinforce one another when addressing current and emerging global se-

curity challenges, including man-made and natural crises and incidents.

At its conclusion, it is expected that police leaders would have acquired a greater understanding of how the skills, knowledge and experience gained by their national officers returning from United Nations service benefit their own policing services and populations.

UNCOPS indeed also had the opportunity to engage in bilateral discussions with their counterparts on 31st August and 1st September.

Member States were also given the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to strengthening the United Nations Police through concrete pledges of support.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our client, a medium sized business operating in the wholesale and retail of food and beverage, is seeking to recruit and retain a qualified individual for the position of **Accountant**.

Reporting to the Financial Controller, the **Accountant** will be responsible for the execution of the Company's day to day Accounting functions:

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will be required to perform the following:

- ◆ Effectively manage all daily accounting functions;
- ◆ Preparation of monthly management accounts and other periodic reports on a timely basis;
- ◆ Preparation of budgets and cashflow projections;
- ◆ Monitoring of forecasts and performance against budget;
- ◆ Liaise with financial institutions, suppliers, customers and other third parties and ensure that good relationships are maintained;
- ◆ Adhering to the internal controls implemented by the company;
- ◆ Training of staff in the department
- ◆ Should be a self-starter, strong team player and possess excellent communication skills

QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS REQUIRED

The ideal candidate will possess the following:

- ◆ Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance.
- ◆ Pursuing professional accounting designation e.g. (ACCA, CGA, ACMA, CPA or equivalent)
- ◆ Excellent knowledge of business operations and risk-based techniques attained through a minimum of 3-5 years progressive work experience within the Accounting field.
- ◆ Ability to manage and supervise internal accounting staff efficiently
- ◆ Computerised Systems knowledge and familiarity
- ◆ Proficiency in MS Office Suite and accounting software;

Candidates should also be adaptable and detail oriented, and possess strong negotiation skills. Excellent written and oral communication, analytical, time management and organizational skills are also required.

Compensation will be determined commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.

All applications must be submitted along with a detailed Curriculum Vitae no later than **September 16, 2022** to:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our client, an insurance company, is seeking to recruit and retain a qualified individual for the position of **Chief Financial Officer**.

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the **Chief Financial Officer** will be responsible for the execution of the Company's day to day Accounting functions:

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will be required to perform the following:

- ◆ Managing all finance and accounting operations
- ◆ Coordinating and directing the preparation of the budget and financial forecasts and report variances
- ◆ Preparing and publishing timely monthly financial statements
- ◆ Manage all accounting operations including billing and revenue recognition, accounts receivables, accounts payable, claims handling and payment, general ledger and payroll.
- ◆ Coordinate and direct the preparation of the budget and financial forecasts and report variances
- ◆ Prepare and publish timely monthly financial statements
- ◆ Coordinate the preparation of regulatory reporting
- ◆ Research technical accounting issues for compliance
- ◆ Support month-end and year-end close processes including the audit
- ◆ Ensure quality control over financial transactions and financial reporting
- ◆ Manage and comply with all statutory, corporate tax and regulatory reporting requirements and filings
- ◆ Develop and document business processes and accounting policies to maintain and strengthen internal controls

QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS REQUIRED

The ideal candidate will possess the following:

- ◆ Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance.
- ◆ Possess professional accounting designation e.g. (ACCA, CGA, ACMA, CPA or equivalent)
- ◆ Excellent knowledge of business operations and risk-based techniques attained through a minimum of 3-5 years progressive work experience within the Accounting field.
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PM Browne commends Black Boyz Foundation Inc.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne recently held lengthy discussions with the directors and members of Black Boyz Foundation Inc., a non-profit organisation whose sole purpose is uplifting those in need. During the courtesy visit, PM Browne said he became aware of their volunteerism through social media and commended them for their social impact.

Black Boyz Foundation Inc. was cofounded by the organisation's joint presidents, Roy Philadelphia Stvalle and Jahone Roberts. They are joined by director, Tyreke Gerald Thomas-Horsford and Public Relations Officer Ajourni Scarbro.

The four young men and PM Browne spoke at length about several issues, plans, and programmes ranging from rehabilitation, youth involvement, youth leadership, and partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Earlier this month, the young men, supported by business woman Shirley Obmormuller, offered the unsheltered in St. John's free breakfast and a beverage. Free haircuts were also offered to those in need.

During their meeting with the prime minister, they received a generous financial donation to their foundation along with a donation of school supplies towards their back-to-school drive which starts today and runs through the weekend to 4th September at the JSC Sports Complex and at the Bolans Basketball Court. Over the weekend, the young men, who are all under the age of 25, will offer free haircuts to school aged children. Those who are unable to take advantage of the offer, will be able to collect a voucher for a free haircut during the month of September.

The foundation will also donate school supplies to students returning to school. Cool and Smooth has come forward as a sponsor for this event. On 10th September, the foundation will return to cutting the hair of the unsheltered and providing a hot meal to those in need.



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Opinion

COP-27 failing before it begins

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)

The most ominous sign of what the forthcoming COP-27 meeting on climate change portends for small states is that officials from a Group of 20 (G20) major economies, who met on August 31, failed to agree a joint statement at the conclusion of the meeting.

The meeting, held in Bali, started with a stark warning from the Indonesia Environment Minister, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, that the planet was being pushed to the point "where no future is sustainable".

At the COP-26 meeting in Glasgow last year, world leaders acknowledged that their pledges to reduce carbon emissions have not met the previously agreed goal of keeping global temperatures "well below" 2 degrees Celsius. They vowed to do better. It appears now, that they won't.

In Bali, some countries objected to language, agreed at COP-26 in Glasgow on how they would contribute to limiting the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

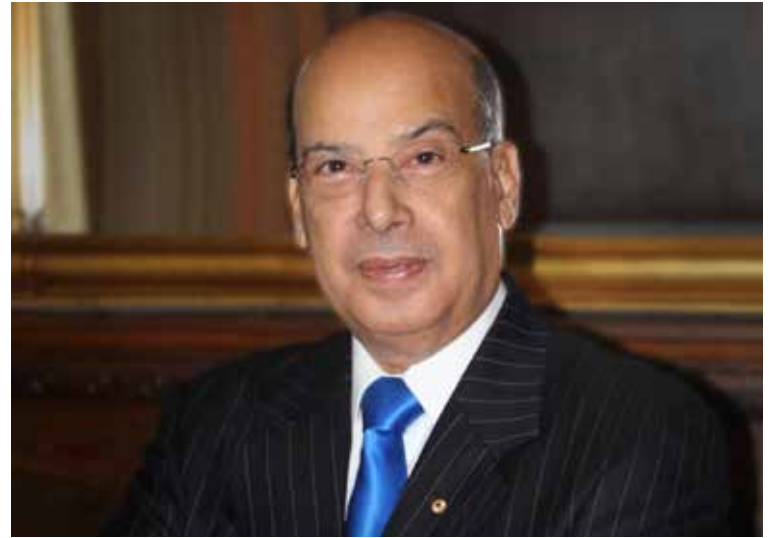
Not for the first time,

countries, which are among the world's biggest polluters, are reneging on commitments made as far back as 2009.

Pledges, which were announced with great fanfare and rousingly welcomed by the desperately hopeful, are now being backpedalled. This backpedalling has come in a year when the brutal effects of climate change have been painfully undeniable. Yet, these distressing conditions have not moved governments, which place their short-term domestic political interests over the well-being of the planet and, specifically, the small countries, such as those in the Caribbean, that are worst affected.

Extreme weather events have also battered several parts of the world, not only small states which can least withstand or recover from them. Fires, floods, and heat waves have pummeled European countries, the United States, Africa, and Asia. In recent weeks, unprecedented flooding killed at least 1,000 persons in Pakistan. And, East Africa is now experiencing the driest conditions it has faced for 70 years. More than 20 million people are affected and suffering from food shortages.

The Caribbean is still amid the 2022 hurricane season, enduring heat waves, unexpected high rainfall, and floods, followed by long periods of drought. Above all,



Sir Ronald Sanders

the islands are anxious that no hurricane befalls them, although the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has predicted a 65% chance of an above-normal season, which does not end until November 1.

But, even in the face of evidence and authoritative warnings that human-caused climate change is increasing in severity and frequency, as the planet is pushed closer to the perilous threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the world's worst polluters refuse to budge.

This caused Britain's climate delegate in Bali, Alok Sharma, who chaired the Glasgow COP-26 meeting, to lament that "It is certainly the case that a number of countries are backsliding on the commitments that they made in Paris and in Glasgow". He described the situation as "incredibly worrying".

And so, it is. The G20

countries account for 80% of global emissions. Ten of them are most responsible for the current CO2 emissions that cause climate change. They are China (28.6%), the U.S. (16%), and India (5.8%) Russia (5.4%), Japan (3.7%) Germany (2.4%), South Korea (1.7%), Canada (1.6%), Indonesia (1.41%) and Saudi Arabia (1.4%). The first five countries are responsible for 55.8%. It is they who must cut their emissions.

Further, the rich nations, which expect other countries, including small island states, to cut their already minuscule CO2 emissions, must also satisfy their financing pledges. Since 2009, the promise was made to provide \$100 billion to help developing countries to meet their nationally determined contribution (NDC) to fight climate change. The figure has never been achieved.

COP-27 in Egypt should not be yet another hand-wringing exercise, fol-

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lowed by long and lofty declarations and worn-out promises, with no binding commitment to severely cut emissions and to provide the necessary funding to developing countries.

Small island states and countries with low-lying coastlands should not simply indulge in negotiations on documents replete with escape clauses and no genuine path forward. At all the past conferences, small states have been fobbed off with promises. They have been persuaded to defend the indefensible and to describe the unacceptable as an achievement. Meanwhile, their conditions are worsening. So, too, are their long-term prospects as they suffer increasing damage and losses with no compensation, or even a readiness to discuss such compensation meaningfully.

That is why small island states should now support two initiatives that

have been taken by their own. The first is a decision by Vanuatu to seek an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice on the rights of present and future generations to be protected from climate change. Vanuatu needs at least 97 votes at the UN General Assembly, which begins later this month, in order for the matter to be referred to the ICJ.

Every small state should be present and voting to show their solidarity and seriousness about resisting the climate change tide that is drowning them increasingly.

The second initiative that should get the fullest participation of small states is the work of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), which was launched at COP-26 by the Prime Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda and Tuvalu, to pursue climate justice for their countries and other small island states, through a legal approach to the Inter-

national Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. This initiative has now attracted the backing of 14 legal experts in international law who are actively working on the project.

Meanwhile, serious note must be taken of the gravity of the statement made by the Chair of COP-26, who said that the position, taken by some countries in Bali on August 31, was unacceptable. "The big emitters absolutely need to look these climate vulnerable countries in the eye and say they are doing absolutely everything they can to deliver on the commitments they have made".

If that does not happen, small states should collectively and visibly take action to seek climate justice outside the COP process. None should resign themselves to the consequences of abandonment.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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Relationships



'Situationships': Why Gen Z are embracing the grey area

By Casey Noenickx

In relationships, people have often avoided the murky middle ground between being committed to a partner and staying casual. Young daters are opting into it.

Long gone are the days when seeing a film or sharing a milkshake was all it took to solidify a couple as definitively together. Instead, modern dating has evolved into a delicate – at times complicated – series of 'baby steps' for young people.

Research has shown that Gen Z's attitudes towards dating and sex have evolved from the generations before them; they take an especially pragmatic approach to love and sex, and subsequently aren't prioritising establishing committed romantic relationships the same way their older peers once did.

That doesn't mean, however, that they're not expressing interest in romance and intimacy entirely; rather, they're finding new ways to satisfy those wants and needs that fit better into their lives. This shift has given rise to the idea of the 'situationship' – a term that describes the grey area between friendship and a relationship.

A situationship gives name to a hard-to-define



The concept of the situationship goes against "this notion that being with someone where it's not going anywhere is 'wasting time'" – Elizabeth Armstrong (Credit: Getty Images)

stage of dating that experts say has skyrocketed in popularity among Gen Z. "Right now, this solves some kind of need for sex, intimacy, companionship – whatever it is – but this does not have necessarily a long-term time horizon," says Elizabeth Armstrong, a sociology professor at the University of Michigan, US, whose research centres on sexuality and situationships, specifically. People are increasingly embracing the relationship classification: the term has hit an all-time high in Google search traffic this year, after starting to gain notable traction late in 2020. There's a worldwide interest in situationships, across

ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations, adds Armstrong.

The creation – and continued rise – of this term, especially among young daters, reveals a lot about how Gen Zers are re-framing what love and sex means, in a way that looks different than the generations before them.

No need to be 'going somewhere'

A situationship is an informal arrangement typically between two people that has components of both emotional and physical connection, yet operates outside the conventional idea of being in an exclusive, committed relationship. In some

cases, situationships are constrained by time and the idea that a casual arrangement is the best fit for the current situation. This could be the case for two final-year university students, for instance, who might not want to progress into a committed partnership, considering new jobs could take them to new cities after graduating.

Armstrong argues situationships are popular because they challenge the 'relationship escalator': the idea that intimate partnerships are meant to have a linear structure with the goal of hitting conventional relationship milestones, such as cohabitation, en-

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Relationships

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gagement and marriage. The concept of the situation goes against “this notion that being with someone where it’s not going anywhere is ‘’”, she says – a sentiment she notes Gen Z is increasingly embracing. Rather, people in these arrangements willingly opt into the grey area of an undefined relationship. According to Armstrong, they believe “the situationship, for whatever reason, works for right now. And for right now, I’m not going to worry about having a thing that is ‘going somewhere’”.

Some research chimes with this. In interviews with 150 undergraduate students during the 2020 to 2021 academic year, Lisa Wade, associate professor of sociology at Tulane University, US, observed that Gen Z are more reluctant to define the relationship, or even admit to wanting a relationship to progress. She says her research has shown that “holding one’s cards close to one’s chest is not unique to today’s young people”, but Gen Z are especially unwilling to share their feelings with each other.

On social media, TikTokers and Tweepers – Gen Zers, especially – widely share stories of situationships. On TikTok, videos tagged #situationship have been viewed more than 839 million times, and videos under #situationships and #situationship have

also racked up millions of views. References also abound in pop culture: the term appears in popular dating shows such as Love Island UK and in songs, such as Situationship by millennial Swedish singer Snoh Aalegra.

“We joke, me and my friends, that we’re all living the same life,” says Amanda Huhman, 26, whenever she and her friends compare notes on situationships. Texas-based Huhman has documented the experience of situationships on TikTok. From her own interactions and the engagement she sees, she believes the arrangement is common. “I think it’s becoming a really popular part of dating culture, at least for Gen Z and people in the young millennial, Gen Z age.”

Huhman has spent more than a year in what she describes as a situationship. When she posted a TikTok about her experience, it garnered close to 8 million views and tens of thousands of comments – many of which were people chiming in about their own situationships.

As a healthcare consultant, Huhman works remotely, travels often and moves to new cities for a few months at a time. Being in a situationship, she says, means she has more freedom and autonomy. “Our dating culture today is very chaotic and confusing,” believes Huhman. “[Gen Zers] just live this...

cont'd on pg 14



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our client, a medium sized business operating in the wholesale and retail of food and beverage, is seeking to recruit and retain a qualified individual for the position of **Inventory Manager**.

Reporting to the Managing Director, the **Inventory Manager** will be responsible for expanding the customer base, building long term relationships and maximizing sales.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will be required to perform the following:

- Spearheading of all inventories from arrival to delivery to customers
- Managing of inventories using the First-In-First-Out (FIFO) inventory method
- Spearheading the annual inventory counts for the entire Company to include the Supermarket and the Wholesale.
- Perform annual physical inventory count
- Conduct weekly, monthly and annual inventory counts
- To keep informed of all inventories to be received in order to make decisions
- Ensuring that goods are properly stored in the warehouse, freezer and cooler
- Supervision or overseeing of all goods going out of the warehouse
- Facilitate the counting of the trucks on a weekly basis to enable the accurate reconciling of items
- Oversee the receiving process to ensure that it is done accurately
- Ensuring that the Receiving process is handled efficiently. This involves the process of delivering, uploading and storing of inventory.
- Adhering to all company policies pertaining to receiving.

QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS REQUIRED

The ideal candidate will possess the following:

- ♦ Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration or equivalent.
- ♦ Ten (10) years’ work experience in inventory management
- ♦ Ability to manage and supervise staff efficiently;

Candidates should also be adaptable and detail oriented and possess strong communication skills. Excellent written and oral communication, analytical, time management and organizational skills are also required.

Compensation will be determined commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.

All applications must be submitted along with a **detailed Curriculum Vitae** no later than **September 16, 2022** to:

The Administrative Manager
 BDO Eastern Caribbean
 Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival Gardens
 P.O. Box 3109
 St. John’s, Antigua

OR
 e-mail: sonia.gardner@bdoecc.com

Relationships



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our client, a medium sized business operating in the wholesale and retail of food and beverage, is seeking to recruit and retain a qualified individual for the position of **Human Resources Manager**.

Reporting to the Managing Director, the **Human Resources Manager**, will be responsible for the execution of the Company's HR functions:

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will be required to perform the following:

- ◆ Manage the entire recruitment process of the Company
- ◆ Manage all Labour related matters, for compliance with all local Labour Laws,
- ◆ Managing the disciplinary process.
- ◆ Payroll preparation for review and payment by the Finance Department.
- ◆ Create employee initiatives to improve engagement and morale
- ◆ Drafting policies and processes for departments.
- ◆ Maintain complete and accurate personnel records
- ◆ Manage other employee benefits such as Group Health Insurance and the Thrift Fund.
- ◆ Managing all Administrative functions including taking minutes and investigation as needed.
- ◆ Facilitate submission and review of occupational injury claims and liaise with Insurance company for same.
- ◆ Complete budget for Human Resource with Financial information regarding training, salary assumption, Group Health, and other staff benefits.
- ◆ Preparation of weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports
- ◆ Manage, facilitate, create, and maintain all other Human Resource functions

QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS REQUIRED

The ideal candidate will possess the following:

- ◆ Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management as a minimum.
- ◆ Excellent knowledge of local labour laws
- ◆ Minimum of 5 years progressive work experience within the field.
- ◆ Ability to manage and supervise staff efficiently
- ◆ Proficiency in MS Office Suite and payroll software;

Candidates should also be adaptable and detail oriented, and possess strong negotiation skills. Excellent written and oral communication, analytical, time management and organizational skills are also required.

Compensation will be determined commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.

All applications must be submitted along with a **detailed** Curriculum Vitae no later than **September 16, 2022** to:

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cont'd from pg 13

busy lifestyle, and I think we've kind of adapted dating to match that."

Prioritising personal trajectory

As Gen Z enters the dating world, finding love has a set of modern challenges. For instance, the pandemic has entirely changed the way many people meet partners and date, and a large-scale move towards online dating often takes its toll.

Additionally, many young people simply aren't putting the emphasis on dating intentionally that they were in the past; facing the climate crisis, an unstable economy with surging inflation and political and social upheaval, young people are more involved in advocacy and in search of personal, professional and financial stability first.

"Young people would say that relationships are distracting them from their educational and career goals, and that it's best to not get too attached, because you might sacrifice your own trajectory in life for someone else," says Wade.

As a result, situationships can be the best option for Gen Zers looking to explore their romantic and sexual identities without letting other commitments take a backseat. The phenomenon "diversifies the sense of options that people have", says Armstrong, and it's become increasing-

ly normal to opt into this grey area instead of avoiding it.

But, of course, this murky-by-definition arrangement doesn't come without precarity – and even risk. In theory, situationships can function as a container for "radical honesty", says Wade, when two people are open about what they really want and agree on the terms of a transparent situationship. But in practice, it can be difficult for two people's priorities to align, and situationships can end poorly when each party is not on the same page about what they want out of the situation. Most commonly, she says this happens when one person is ready to progress to a committed relationship, but a fear of change might keep both people from ever discussing this.

Regardless, in today's dating world, the rising interest in situationships indicates a shift in how young people may re-frame love and sex going forward – newly embracing what they feel is a satisfying middle ground that many daters in prior generations avoided.

As for Huhman, she's perfectly content living in the in-between. "It's my choice, it's a decision I'm making and I'm happy. It's working for me," she says. "As long as people are comfortable and it feels right to them, then don't worry about what the expectations are."

La Nina to last through end of the year

The U.N. weather agency is predicting that the phenomenon known as La Nina is poised to last through the end of this year, a mysterious “triple dip” — the first this century — caused by three straight years of its effect on climate patterns like drought and flooding worldwide.

The World Meteorological Organization on Wednesday said La Nina conditions, which involve a large-scale cooling of ocean surface temperatures, have strengthened in the eastern and central equatorial Pacific with an increase in trade winds in recent weeks.

The agency’s top official was quick to caution that the “triple dip” doesn’t mean global warming is easing.

“It is exceptional to have three consecutive years with a La Nina event. Its cooling influence is temporarily slowing the rise in global temperatures, but it will not halt or reverse the long-term warming trend,” WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said.

La Nina is a natural and cyclical cooling of parts of the equatorial Pacific that changes weather patterns worldwide, as opposed to warming caused by the better-known El Nino — an opposite phenomenon. La Nina often leads to more Atlantic hurricanes, less rain and more wildfires in the western United States, and agricultural losses in the central U.S.

Studies have shown La Nina is more expensive to the United States than the El Nino.

Together El Nino, La Nina and the neutral condition are called ENSO, which stands for El Nino Southern Oscillation, and they have one of the largest natural effects on climate, at times augmenting and other times dampening the big effects of human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas, scientists say. (AP)



Homes are surrounded by floodwaters in Sohbat Pur city of Jaffarabad, a district of Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, Aug. 29, 2022.

Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

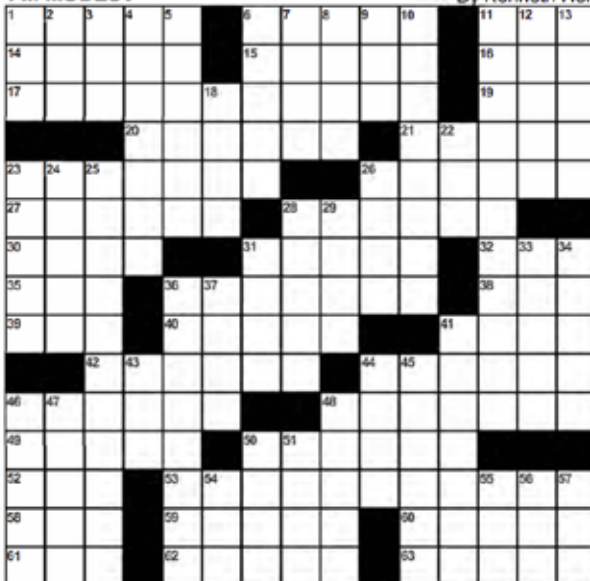
- 1) Guitar relative
- 6) Ewelike
- 11) Yang's opposite
- 14) "___ a Grecian Urn" (Keats)
- 15) Helped
- 16) "Double Fantasy" artist Yoko
- 17) Comment to a sneezer
- 19) Flying saucer, for short
- 20) Door frame part
- 21) Blackens, as steaks
- 23) Insults
- 26) Animal life of various regions
- 27) Handbags
- 28) Addressed a crowd
- 30) Winged Greek god
- 31) Sharp mountain ridge
- 32) Sharp bark
- 35) "CD" follower
- 36) Put into action
- 38) Hockey great Bobby
- 39) Supply with weapons
- 40) Kind of jar
- 41) Enormous
- 42) Nightly news hour, often
- 44) He flew too close to the sun
- 46) Extensive landed property
- 48) Barley and rye, for two
- 49) Live like a parasite
- 50) Puddle-stomping boot
- 52) At-cost connection
- 53) "I'm not the only one!"
- 58) Wedding declaration
- 59) Figures in Iranian history
- 60) Ulnas' partners
- 61) Basic unit of Romanian currency
- 62) Large books
- 63) City near Salt Lake

DOWN

- 1) Cranberry field
- 2) "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 3) Beatty of Hollywood
- 4) Unemployed
- 5) Using a Web browser
- 6) Drying kilns
- 7) Strong grip, metaphorically
- 8) Pastoral composition (Var.)
- 9) Classic introduction?
- 10) Taught
- 11) Who to wish "Merry Christmas" to
- 12) Prefix with "red" or "sound"
- 13) Hangman's knot
- 18) Concludes
- 22) Crayola gradation
- 23) Diva's setting
- 24) Angry display
- 25) Where a tip may travel
- 26) It may have a twist
- 28) Fabric introduced by DuPont
- 29) Bridle strap
- 31) Church alcove
- 33) Dispute
- 34) Decrease?
- 36) Purple birthstone
- 37) Surface, as a road
- 41) # in a tweet
- 43) Fond du ___, Wis.
- 44) See 34-Down
- 45) Cuba's Fidel or Raul
- 46) Internet messages
- 47) Balloon probe
- 48) Water holder
- 50) Island discovered by Magellan
- 51) Exercise aftermath, sometimes
- 54) "Eureka!" relative
- 55) Find sums
- 56) Be dishonest, in a way
- 57) Relatives

I'M MODEST

By Kenneth Holt



Spectacular launch of in-person Caribbean Carnival

With a spectacular display of masqueraders and stilt dancers, the rhythmic sounds of steelpan and soca music, and speeches from elected officials, including New York Mayor Eric Adams, the Brooklyn, New York-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) has launched its first in-person New York Caribbean Carnival after two years in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm so happy to see the sea of people," exclaimed Guyanese Ann-Marie Adamson, a member of WIADCA's Advisory Committee, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies, at the newly renovated and expansive King's Theater on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn.

"2022 is the carnival you'll never forget because we came out of covid. So, I want to thank everyone who's here today," she added as she expressed gratitude to WIADCA volunteers and executive committee members and directors, including chairperson Guyanese Michelle Gibbs-Francis and a plethora of politicians on hand.

Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, said it was "only fitting that, in a time filled with so much turmoil,



uncertainty, we can count on the West Indian American Day Carnival to continue and bring us all together as one united community".

"The West Indian American Day Carnival is one of the largest carnival celebrations around the world, coalescing the young, old and everyone in between to participate in the festivities," she said.

"Every year, anywhere between one and three million people from around the world pack Eastern Parkway to eat food from across the diaspora, listen to the sweet sounds of calypso and reggae, and watch dazzling floats with intricately costumed dancers.

"For members of this community, the carnival is far more than just an opportunity to party for a few days; it's a celebration of

our pride in our shared Caribbean culture and heritage," added the daughter of Jamaican immigrants.

Clarke said she was appreciative of WIADCA's continued efforts to put together a programme that represents the totality and diversity of the Caribbean diaspora every year.

"And I am certain that this event's 55th year will result in a resounding success," she added.

Waving a miniature Grenadian flag, New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, said: "It's exciting to be celebrating our culture. It's exciting that the Caribbean community is moving forward.... Last year, we didn't do this (in-person carnival). We went without any gun violence. We need to have

another Labour Day without violence."

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, whose parents hail from the Dominican Republic, urged carnival lovers to "spread love the Brooklyn way."

WIADCA said its cultural partners/presenters are "working tirelessly to bring the pageantry of authentic Caribbean carnival back to the road" this year.

It said participating 2022 carnival bands/cultural leaders are presenting an array of costumed masterpieces.

Except for the Labour Day Carnival Parade, which takes place on Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway on Monday, September 5, all other events, beginning on Thursday, September 1, will be held on the Brooklyn Museum grounds. (CMC)

Chris Rock says he was asked to host the Oscars again

By Marianne Garvey

Chris Rock says he was asked to host the Academy Awards next year after he was slapped on stage by fellow actor Will Smith while presenting an award on stage at the ceremony in March.

Rock, who previously hosted the Oscars in 2005 and 2016, revealed the invite during a stand-up show in Phoenix on Sunday, according to The Arizona Republic.

Rock purportedly told the crowd he turned it down, along with a Super Bowl commercial. He said the slap from Smith "hurt."

"He's bigger than me,"



Chris Rock

Rock said. "The state of Nevada would not sanction a fight between me and Will Smith."

CNN has reached out to Rock's representative and

the Academy for comment.

Smith walked on stage at the Oscars and hit the comedian in the face after he made a joke about Smith's wife's shaved head.

Jada Pinkett Smith suffers hair loss due to alopecia, an autoimmune condition that can lead to hair loss.

Smith was banned from Academy related events for 10 years and apologised. In a video last month, the actor said he was "deeply remorseful" about the incident.

"I've reached out to Chris and the message that came back is that he's not ready to talk and when he is, he will reach out," Smith said. "So, I will say to you, Chris, I apologise to you. My behaviour was unacceptable and I'm here whenever you're ready to talk."

'Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey' first trailer drops

By Samantha Bergeson

You better have his honey because Winnie the Pooh is coming from you.

The gruesome trailer for Rhys Frake-Waterfield's twisted take on childhood classic Winnie the Pooh revealed the bear's true animalistic tendencies.

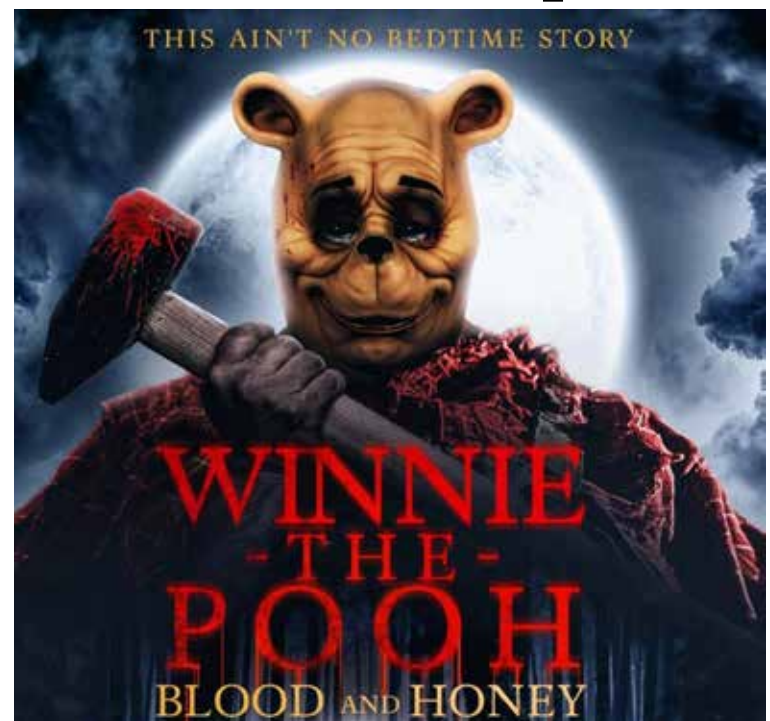
"Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" centres on Pooh (Craig David Dowsett) and Piglet (Chris Cordell), who have survived years without food as Christopher Robin (Nikolai Leon) grew up and forgot about them.

The duo gorge on Eey-

ore, only for Christopher to then introduce them to his new wife without realising they have gotten "increasingly hungry and feral" since he was away.

"They get enraged when they see him, and all of their hatred that they've built up over the years unleashes and they go on this rampage," director Frake-Waterfield explained during Dread Central's "Development Hell" podcast. "It's definitely Pooh and Piglet — it's not just two people in a mask. The story is meant to

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R. Kelly tells judge he won't testify at ongoing trial

By Michael Tarm

Singer R. Kelly told a federal judge Thursday that he won't testify at his ongoing trial in Chicago on charges that accuse him of child pornography, enticement of minors for sex and fixing his 2008 state trial.

The judge raised the issue minutes before attorneys for Kelly and two co-defendants began calling their first witnesses, endeavouring to counter two weeks of government testimony, including from four women who accused Kelly of sexual abuse.

Addressing the Grammy Award-winner directly Thursday, Judge Harry Leinenweber asked if he had discussed with his lawyers whether to testify. Kelly, 55, responded that he had. Asked if he would testify, Kelly said he would not.

Co-defendant Derrel McDavid, a long time Kelly business manager, is accused of helping Kelly rig the 2008 trial.

McDavid said he will testify. Co-defendant Milton Brown is charged with receiving child pornography. Like Kelly, he said he wouldn't testify.

Taking the witness stand is always risky, including because it subjects



R. Kelly

a defendant to cross-examination. There's always a chance a defendant blurts out something incriminating under tough questioning.

Leinenweber on Thursday also denied a defence motion of acquittal, a common but rarely granted request for a judge to acquit before jurors get the case. Leinenweber said prosecutors presented sufficient evidence to leave the question of guilt to jurors.

McDavid's legal team called the first defence witness Thursday, McDavid friend and former police officer Christopher G. Wilson. He testified that McDavid told him in 2001 that someone was trying to blackmail Kelly with threats about videos.

A New York federal judge sentenced the Kelly in June to 30 years in prison for convictions on racketeering and sex trafficking charges. A conviction on just one or two of the charges at the Chicago trial could add years to that sentence.

The highlight of prosecutors' case came two weeks ago with the testimony of a 37-year-old woman who used the pseudonym "Jane." She described Kelly sexually abusing her hundreds of times starting in 1998 when she was 14 and Kelly was around 30.

Federal prosecutors rested their case on Tuesday. Closing arguments are expected to happen in the middle of next week.

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be that they've gone on this onslaught from being kind of enraged by what's happened to Christopher.

"Winnie the Pooh" became public domain earlier this year due to its copyright expiration, and the brutal, bloody horror film take on the classic characters has since gone viral.

The cast also includes

May Kelly, Natasha Tosini, Amber Doig-Thorne, and Richard D. Myers.

"Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" is one of the six films director Frake-Waterfield currently has in post-production, according to IMDb. Additional camp B-movie titles include "Demoniac Christmas Tree," "Firenado," "Sky Monster," "Rise of the Loch

Ness," and "Dinosaur Prison." His previous works include helming the short film "Go Viral," writing "Spider in the Attic," and producing seasonal horror films "Curse of Jack Frost" and "Easter Killing 2."

Frake-Waterfield hinted that more Pooh Bear might be in the works if the deal is sweet enough.

"Hopefully we can ramp

it up even more and go even more crazy and go even more kind of extreme," Frake-Waterfield said on the podcast. "I've got lots of twisted and dark thoughts on what I want to put Pooh and Piglet through and what scenarios I want to put them in."

"Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" does not yet have a release date.



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Tel:(268)562-3650

Regional News



Africa-Caribbean air links must be re-established

CMC – The first ever AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) opened here Thursday with host Prime Minister Mia Mottley saying the two regions “have business to do” and asserting that it was only political will keeping the two regions from establishing direct air links.

Giving the keynote address at the start of the September 1-3 conference which her government is hosting with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Mottley said while the existing political cooperation between Africa and the Caribbean is essential, it is not sufficient to reverse the underdevelopment of either region.

She insisted that they had not fully tapped into the existing avenues for partnership, including business and tourism.

“The ability for us to be able to have a Caribbean Export-Import Bank with our partners in the African Export-Import Bank is too critical a possibility for us in this region and for unlocking further the benefits of the Caribbean Single Market and Single Economy for us to ignore at this stage,” said Mottley who had earlier promised the Afreximbank the same privileges and immunities extended to the Caribbean Development Bank if it sets up here.



Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley

“Similarly, the ability to share data to let us know what we all want and what we all need from each other, what our people like. The notion that Africa imports US\$4.5 billion in fish and CARICOM only supplies one per cent when, in the words of Norman Washington Manley, ‘the Caribbean Sea is our patrimony’, when Suriname exports as much fish to Europe as it does every year – over 40 000 tonnes – we have business to do,” she told those gathered at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre.

The Barbadian leader also addressed the issue of air travel and the lack of direct air links between Africa and the Caribbean.

About 120 of the over 1 000 people registered for the conference arrived on the island on Wednesday on an Ethiopian Airlines chartered direct flight from Lagos, Nigeria.

Making reference to Senegal’s Minister of Econ-

omy, Planning and International Cooperation Amadou Hott saying earlier in the ceremony that it took more than a day to reach here from his country, Prime Minister Mottley insisted that “it can only be a mindset that stops a plane from travelling 2 000 km less between Bridgetown and Dakar than between Bridgetown and London”.

“Ordinary citizens of ours do not have the luxury of presenting for official visas where those exist – not to our countries because we have all removed them. But if the only way to get there is through North America and Europe, then how will you get the transit visa to move people here if we don’t build the bridge across the Atlantic through air bridges?” she questioned.

“I have spoken to enough people in the last three years to know that this is now an act of political will and individual will.”

Prime Minister Mottley, referring to an event during

the recent Crop Over Festival which Afrobeats singer Burna Boy headlined, added: “Going where no one has gone before is never easy, but you can’t have Burna Boy bring out 20 000 people in Barbados, command what he commands in Nigeria and Africa, our own dear Right Excellent Rihanna the same, and not believe that we can’t open up the appetite of our people to travel to each other’s countries.”

Hott, who gave remarks on behalf of the President of Senegal and Chairman of the African Union, Macky Sall, said it was urgent that African and Caribbean communities were brought together physically.

“That is why I am pleased to propose the opening of direct air corridors between West Africa, for example, and the Caribbean. “Having missed our connection in New York yesterday, the total journey time became 28 years from Dakar to Barbados. It should be only six hours, or five if we had a direct flight, so I think we need urgently to work on that,” Hott said.

Following the opening ceremony, representatives of several Caribbean countries signed a partnership agreement with Afreximbank aimed at promoting and financing South-South trade and investment and the Caribbean.

Belize: Education Min shuts down discriminatory school hair policies

Loop - Schools in Belize cannot deny children entry to the compound and access to an education on the basis that their hair does not fit within their policy.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) made this comment today as it expressed “sincere concern and dismay” over reports that students, mainly boys, of the Bishop Martin Roman Catholic High School were being denied entry because their hair was deemed too long.

The school’s rules require students to have clean hair that is simply styled. Boys are required to keep their hair



Students from the Bishop Martin Roman Catholic High School who were denied entry to the school's compound because of their hair. Photo via Love FM

short and they cannot grow beards or moustaches.

However, the ministry stated, “The Constitution enshrines the principles of social justice and clearly states in its preamble that ‘equal protection should be given to children regardless

of their social status, and that a just system should be ensured to provide for education and health on the basis of equality.’ Furthermore, the rights to freedom of expression, conscience, and the right to be protected from discrimination are afforded to

all Belizeans by our Constitution.”

“It is true that school authorities do have the right to impose codes of conduct and general rules and guidelines for the proper administration of their schools. Students cannot, however, be removed from or denied admission to school because of the length of their hair.”

The ministry noted that students have lost valuable classroom time over the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has called on stakeholders to work together to ensure the nation’s children can get the best education possible.

Grenada: Opposition Senators not included in opening of parliament

CMC – Clerk to the Houses of Parliament Andrew Augustine has sent a written apology to Opposition Leader Dr Keith Mitchell and all other opposition Members of Parliament for the exclusion of their names from the programme for the ceremonial opening of Parliament on Wednesday.

“The Office of the Houses of Parliament noted the error of omission of Members of the Opposition on the initial programme for the ceremonial opening of Parliament. This was rectified during the ceremony,” said a news release from the Clerk on Thursday.

“The Office of the Clerk has provided a written apology to the Leader of Her Majesty’s Opposition and by extension to all the Opposition members. The Office has further provided an apology to members of the Executive and all other Parliamentarians who may have been so affected by the error,” it added.

The corrected programme with the names of all 15 Members of Parliament was disseminated by the time the ceremony concluded, but by that time most of the attendees had already left the Parliament building.

In an interview following the ceremony, Dr Mitch-



ell who previously served as Prime Minister described the omission on the original programme as “sad” and “strange”.

“That is a very strange one. I mean, I do not understand it.... The document is there every year, I don’t understand how it could have been left out. It is unfortunate

but I will not cast any aspersions; it’s sad and not a good thing,” he said.

Following the June 23 general election, the incumbent New National Party – which had won the 2013 and 2018 elections with all 15 seats – got six seats while the National Democratic Congress won the other nine.

Putin pays tribute to Gorbachev but won't attend his funeral

AP – Russian President Vladimir Putin privately laid flowers at Mikhail Gorbachev's coffin on Thursday, snubbing the weekend's public funeral in a move reflecting the Kremlin's uneasiness about Gorbachev's legacy.

Just before departing for a working trip to Russia's western-most Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad, Putin visited a Moscow hospital where Gorbachev's body was being kept before Saturday's funeral.

Russian state television showed Putin walking to Gorbachev's open casket and putting a bouquet of red roses next to it. He stood in silence for a few moments, bowed his head, touched the coffin, crossed himself and walked away.

"Regrettably, the president's working schedule wouldn't allow him to do that on Saturday, so he decided to do that today," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in a conference call with reporters.

Gorbachev, who died Tuesday at the age of 91, will be buried at Moscow's Novodevichy cemetery next to his wife, Raisa, following a farewell ceremony at the Pillar Hall of the House of the Unions, an iconic mansion near the Kremlin that has served as the venue for state funerals since Soviet times.

The Kremlin stopped short of declaring a state funeral, with Peskov saying the ceremony will have "elements" of one, such as honorary guards, and the government will help organise it. He wouldn't elaborate, however, on how the ceremony will differ from a full-fledged state funeral.

If the Kremlin had declared a state funeral for Gorbachev, it would have made it awkward for Putin to snub the official ceremony. A state funeral



In this image taken from video provided by the Russian pool television on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin pays his last respects near the coffin of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow Russia. (Russian pool via AP)

would also oblige the Kremlin to send invitations to foreign leaders, something that Moscow would be reluctant to do amid soaring tensions with the West after sending troops into Ukraine.

Putin's decision to pay a private visit to the hospital while staying away from Saturday's public ceremony, combined with uncertainty surrounding the funeral's status, reflect the Kremlin's dichotomy about the legacy of Gorbachev. The late leader has been lauded in the West for reforms that put an end to the Cold War but reviled by many at home for actions that led to the 1991 Soviet collapse and plunged millions into poverty.

While avoiding explicit criticism of Gorbachev, Putin in the past has repeatedly blamed him for failing to secure written commitments from the West that would rule out NATO's expansion eastward — an issue that became a major irritant in Russia-West

ties for decades and fomented tensions that exploded when the Russian leader sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24.

In Wednesday's letter of condolence released by the Kremlin, Putin praised Gorbachev as a man who left "an enormous impact on the course of world history."

"He led the country during difficult and dramatic changes, amid large-scale foreign policy, economic and society challenges," Putin said. "He deeply realised that reforms were necessary and tried to offer his solutions for the acute problems."

Sergei Markov, a pro-Kremlin political analyst, observed that Putin's decision to privately pay tribute to Gorbachev reflected both "security problems and utter unpopularity of Mikhail Gorbachev's policies." At the same time, Putin wanted to show his respect to the former head of state, Markov said.

Renewed conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region widening

AP – Officials in Ethiopia's restive Tigray region allege that Ethiopian forces have again teamed up with those from neighbouring Eritrea to attack the northern area.

Ethiopia's government did not comment Thursday after the allegations by the Tigray External Affairs Office and by Tigray forces spokesman Getachew Reda, who said a "massive" offensive had begun in northwestern Tigray.

But the government alleged in turn that Tigray forces' own fighting had intensified.

Claims by both sides in the renewed conflict are difficult to verify



since the Tigray region remains largely cut off from the world and without basic services.

The conflict that began in November 2020 had calmed earlier this year but resumed last week after efforts at peace talks failed.

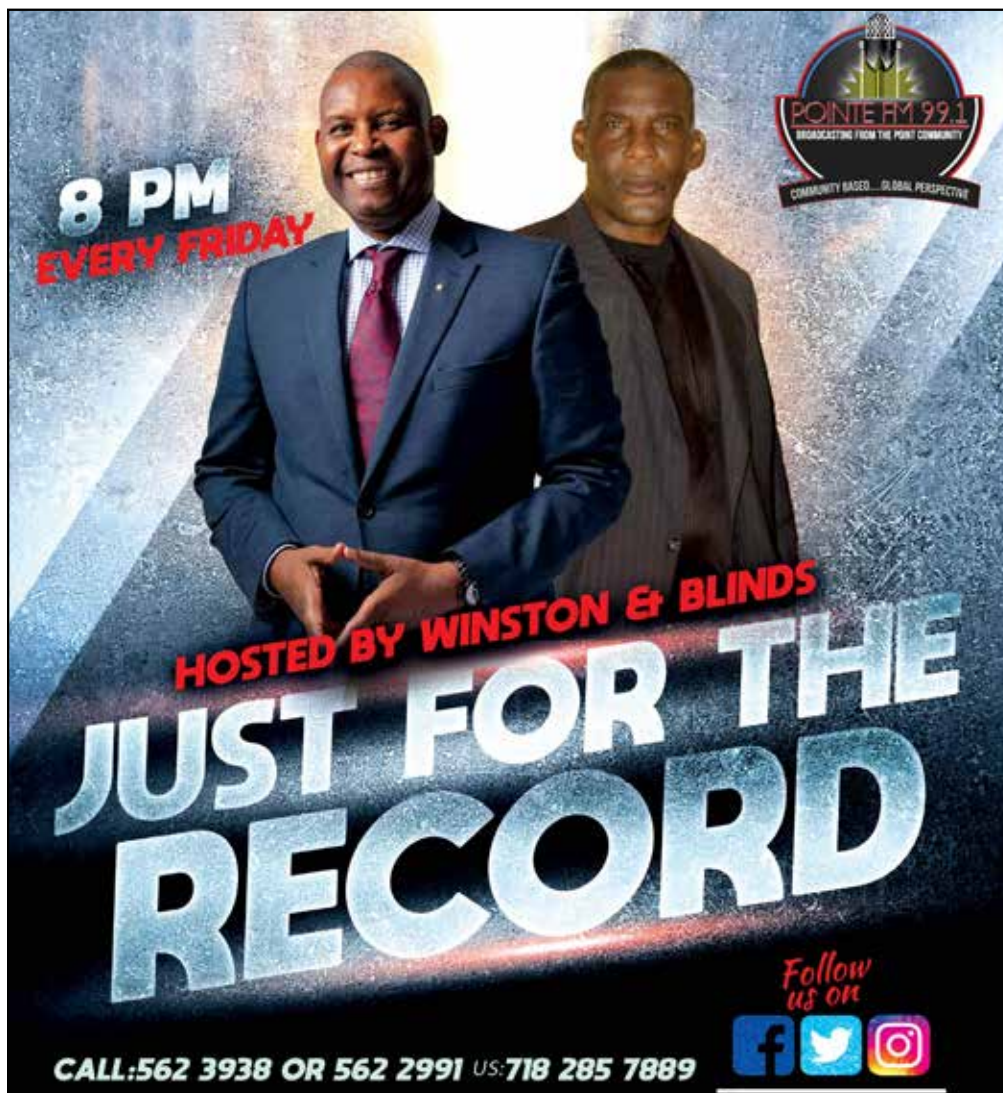
With both sides choosing to fight instead of talk, millions of people in Tigray remain severely deprived of food and other supplies and those in the neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions again fear for their lives.

Ethiopia's foreign minister and the lead negotiator for the previously planned talks, Demeke Mekonnen, told diplomats in the capital, Addis Ababa, that the government is still open to peace efforts. "But we will take whatever measures are needed to secure the country's sovereignty," he said.

Eritrea's Information Ministry, in a statement Thursday, accused the Tigray forces of starting the latest fighting.

In a rare admission, Ethiopian officials last week said federal and allied forces had retreated from the strategic Amhara region town of Kobo, south of Tigray.

On Wednesday, both Ethiopia's government and Tigray forces announced the opening of a new front in the border area with Sudan.






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Mexico president proposes reforms to National Guard

AP – Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has proposed legislation that would transfer the country's nominally civilian National Guard to total military authority, completing a dramatic shift for a politician who earlier in his career called for soldiers to return to the barracks.

In addition to the dizzying political evolution the change would mark, the proposal is almost certain to face constitutional challenges.

López Obrador created the National Guard in 2019, arguing that Mexico's federal police were hopelessly corrupt and incapable of confronting Mexico's powerful drug cartels. He enshrined it in the constitution, putting it under the authority of the civilian public security apparatus.

Critics argue that reforms to enabling legislation responsible for the National Guard is not sufficient to shift its constitutionally established civilian authority to the military.

"It is very clear in Article 21 of the Mexican Constitution that establishes first that the National Guard is a body of civilian character and under the authority of the Security and Citizen Protection Secretary," said analyst Ana Lorena Delgadillo, director of the Justice Foundation. "So, any



Members of the National Guard's newly created Special Force of Reaction and Intervention (FE-RIA) hold a presentation ceremony in Mexico City, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

change that you want to make to move the National Guard to (the defence ministry) would have to pass first through a constitutional reform."

She added that even if they tried for a constitutional reform lawmakers would need to evaluate if putting the National Guard under military command would be in line with the spirit of civilian security that governs the constitution.

López Obrador no longer appears to have the votes in Congress for a constitutional reform.

In his proposal, López Obrador makes a multi-pronged argument: civilian police forces have failed

to secure the country; the military is Mexico's most trusted institution; and, the National Guard is already essentially a military institution.

Of the more than 110,000 members of the National Guard, more than 80% came from the army and the navy, the president notes. The National Guard is only functioning because of the military leadership that organised it and the military's extensive logistics capabilities.

Much of López Obrador's proposal reads as an ode to the military as a central pillar in Mexican society. The tone is one Mexicans will recognize. The

president has given the military more responsibilities than any Mexican leader in recent memory putting them in charge of not only battling drug cartels, but also fuel theft. He had them build a new airport for the capital and a tourist train on the Yucatan Peninsula. They built bank branches in rural areas and were key in the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The military has been in the streets in a critical security role for years, well before López Obrador took office. It has been accused of human rights abuses and the United Nations has long called for it to be taken out of policing.

Serena beats No. 2 seed Kontaveit at US Open to reach third round

AP – Serena Williams can call it “evolving” or “retiring” or whatever she wants. And she can be coy about whether or not this U.S. Open will actually mark the end of her playing days. Those 23 Grand Slam titles earned that right.

If she keeps playing like this, who knows how long this farewell will last?

No matter what happens once her trip to Flushing Meadows is over, here is what is important to know after Wednesday night: The 40-year-old Williams is still around, she’s still capable of terrific tennis, she’s still winning — and, like the adoring spectators whose roars filled Arthur Ashe Stadium again — she’s ready for more.

Williams eliminated No. 2 seed Anett Kontaveit 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-2 in the U.S. Open’s second round to ensure that she will play at least one more singles match at what she’s hinted will be the last tournament of her illustrious career.

“There’s still a little left in me,” Williams said with a smile during her on-court interview, then acknowledged during her post-match news conference: “These moments are clearly fleeting.”

After beating 80th-ranked Danika Kovinic in straight sets Monday, then collecting her 23rd victory in her past 25 matches against someone ranked Nos. 1 or 2 against Kontaveit on Wednesday, the six-time champion at Flushing Meadows will play Friday for a spot in the fourth round.

Her opponent will be Ajla Tomljanovic, a 29-year-old Australian who is ranked 46th. They’ve never met, but Tomljanovic, who said she considers herself a Williams fan, figures she knows what to anticipate from the American — and from those in the seats.



Serena Williams, of the United States, reacts after beating Anett Kontaveit, of Estonia, in the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

“I was playing on Court 7 both of my matches so far at the same time as her, and I could hear the crowd. I’m like, ‘Court 7 isn’t that close.’ I kept thinking, ‘Oh, my God, that’s annoying me and I’m not even playing against her,’” Tomljanovic said. “I don’t know how I’m going to do it.”

Making Williams’ potential path possibly simpler if she can get past Tomljanovic: 2021 U.S. Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez and 2021 French Open champion Barbora Krejickova both lost.

On Wednesday, Williams hit serves at up to 119 mph, stayed with Kontaveit during lengthy exchanges of big swings from the baselines and conjured up some of her trademark brilliance when it was needed most.

After pulling out a tight first set, then faltering in the second, Williams headed to the locker room for a bathroom break before the third.

Something had to give, someone had to blink.

When they resumed, it was Williams who lifted her level and emerged as the better player.

Just as she’s done so many times, on so many stages, with so much at stake.

“I’m just Serena. After I lost the second set, I thought, ‘Oh, my goodness, I better give my best effort because this could be it,’” Williams said, surely echoing the thoughts of everyone paying any attention.

“I never get to play like this — since ’98, really,” she said. “Literally, I’ve had an ‘X’ on my back since ’99,” the year she claimed her first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open at age 17.

Whatever rust accumulated when Williams missed about a year of action before returning to the tour in late June appears to have vanished. She was 1-3 in 2022 entering the U.S. Open.

Asked whether she’s a title contender, Williams answered: “I cannot think that far. I’m having fun and I’m enjoying it.”

Sports News



Cavaliers acquiring All-Star G Donovan Mitchell from Jazz

AP – Donovan Mitchell is headed east.

The All-Star guard is on his way to the Cleveland Cavaliers, who acquired one of the NBA's best scorers Thursday in a blockbuster trade with the Utah Jazz, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

Cleveland is sending guard Collin Sexton, forward Lauri Markkanen and rookie guard Ochai Agbaji along with three unprotected first-round picks to the Jazz, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because it still must be approved by the league.

ESPN was the first to report Mitchell's exit from Utah.

There had been speculation for months that Mitchell might get moved, and it appeared the New York Knicks were the frontrunner for him. Cleveland, though,



Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell (45) looks at the scoreboard as he runs up the court during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers on March 31, 2022, in Salt Lake City. The Cleveland Cavaliers have agreed to acquire All-Star guard Mitchell in a blockbuster trade with the Utah Jazz, a person familiar with the deal told the Associated Press on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File)

made the move for a player who could push them into title contention.

The Cavs are also giving up first-round picks in 2025, 2027 and 2029 and swapping picks in 2026 and 2028, said the person.

The 25-year-old Mitchell is one of the league's

elite players and his acquisition could put the Cavs, who won 44 games last season — a 22-game improvement — with a young nucleus, among the top teams in the loaded Eastern Conference.

Mitchell, who averaged 25.9 points per game last season, will pair with

All-Star point guard Darius Garland and he'll play along with All-Star centre Jarett Allen and forward Evan Mobley, who had a strong rookie season.

Sexton missed last season with a knee injury and was a restricted free agent. He's a proven scorer but he became expendable for Cleveland due to Garland's development and the club's talented frontline.

This is the second major trade during the off-season for Utah, which started its rebuild in July when the club traded All-Star centre Rudy Gobert to Minnesota.

Markkanen averaged 14.8 points and 5.7 rebounds in his first season with the Cavs.

Agbaji was drafted by Cleveland with the No. 14 overall pick this year after helping Kansas win a national championship.

Magical Hosein spins Knight Riders to victory



A brilliant bowling spell from Akeal Hosein saw Trinbago Knight Riders kick off their 2022 Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) campaign with a victory over last year's finalists, Saint Lucia Kings, by three wickets.

The Knight Riders won the toss and chose to field, Hosein taking frequent wickets to restrict Saint Lucia Kings to 143/9, despite

some big hitting from batter Roshon Primus towards the end of the innings.

Trinbago Knight Riders got off to a tough start themselves, losing two early wickets before a commanding innings from Tion Webster (58) helped to guide them to victory with four balls to spare.

Saint Lucia Kings had got off to a troublesome

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Russell Wilson gets five-year, \$245M extension from Broncos

AP – Denver quarterback Russell Wilson signed a five-year, \$245 million extension Thursday that includes \$165 million in guarantees, the biggest contract in Broncos history and one of the largest ever in the NFL.

“In addition to being a terrific quarterback and winner, Russell is a dynamic leader whose positive impact is felt throughout our entire team and community,” co-owner and CEO Greg Penner said in a statement, adding, “Our organisation is fully committed to winning and competing for Super Bowls with Russell as a Bronco for many years to come.”

Wilson’s new deal comes three weeks after the league approved the record \$4.65 billion sale of the team to the Walton-Penner ownership group. Led by Walmart heir Rob Walton, it’s the wealthiest ownership group in the NFL.

General manager George Paton thanked Penner “and



Denver Broncos quarterback Russell Wilson (3) warms up prior to an NFL preseason football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022, in Denver. (AP Photo/Jack Dempsey)

our entire ownership group for the support and resources to get this long-term extension done.”

The extension pays Wilson an average of \$49 million a year beginning in 2024 and keeps him under contract in Denver through the 2028 season for \$296 million.

He had two years and \$51 million left on his deal when the Broncos acquired him from Seattle for five draft picks and three players in a franchise-changing trade six months ago.

Paton said in a statement that “in just a few short months with the Broncos, Russell has already had a dramatic effect on this organisation both on and off the field. His leadership, work-ethic and championship mentality have helped elevate our team in partnership with Coach (Nathaniel) Hackett, his teammates and the staff.”

Although much of the money is in the form of a bonus, Wilson’s new deal averages \$49 million per year, just shy of Aaron Rodgers’ \$50

million average on the four-year, \$200 million deal the Packers QB signed to stay in Green Bay this year.

In terms of guaranteed money, it’s the third-most lucrative contract in NFL history, behind Deshaun Watson’s fully-guaranteed \$230 million, five-year deal over and Kyler Murray’s new five-year, \$230.5 million contract that includes \$189.5 million guaranteed.

Penner said last month that Paton’s trade for Wilson in the spring made the Broncos an even more attractive asset.

Wilson will make his Denver debut on Sept. 12 when the Broncos open the season at Seattle, where Wilson played for a decade, leading the Seahawks to two Super Bowl appearances and one championship.

Wilson’s 113 victories, including one in Super Bowl 48 over the Broncos, are the most for a quarterback in his first 10 NFL seasons.

cont’d from pg 26

start as they lost openers Johnson Charles and Leroy Lugg in the batting powerplay.

Mark Deyal began to rebuild with some fluent batting, but the 13th over proved to be pivotal as Hosein took three wickets, including that of Deyal and captain Roston Chase. The Kings continued to lose wickets, yet a late flurry of boundaries from Primus ultimately saw them reach 143/9.

Trinbago Knight Riders suffered major setbacks early in their chase,

losing the wickets of Sunil Narine and Nicholas Pooran, as both batters were caught out trying to clear the boundary. Opener Webster led the recovery, scoring 58 runs from 45 balls, with support being provided by partner Tim Seifert.

However, the Saint Lucia Kings fought back by taking the wicket of Webster, shortly followed by that of Andre Russell, an outstanding catch from Lugg sending him back to the pavilion.

It looked like Seifert and captain

Kieron Pollard would take the Knight Riders to victory, but Alzarri Joseph dismissed both in the nineteenth over, before striking with his final ball to dismiss Seekkugge Prasanna and set up a nervy finish. In the end Anderson Phillip struck a six to take the Knight Riders across the line.

Final Scores: Trinbago Knight Riders 148/7 (Webster 58, Seifert 34; Joseph 4/17, Williams 1/23) beat Saint Lucia Kings 143/9 (Primus 38, Deyal 35; Hosein 4/13, Seales 2/38,) by 3 wickets.

Sports News



Simon working on book to feature the game of Warri

International Warri Grand Master Trevor “Simple” Simon is undertaking another major initiative to continue sharing his knowledge about the game of Warri.

Simon and his colleague September Christian, who is now deceased, had started a crusade in some schools in the early 2000s to teach the nation’s youth about the game.

That initiative has since developed into Simon’s formation of the Antigua and Barbuda Warri Academy, which has seen the game of Warri being established

as part of the activities in a number of schools across the twin-island state.

Simon, who has started the process of creating his own website, is also working on writing a book to help spread his teaching to those interested in learning to play the board game.

“The theme of the book is ‘Keys to mastering Warri’ and it has a multi-layer layout. For instance, at the beginning, there is a section dedicated to beginners and then as you go along, it deals with strategies that senior players will engage in



International Warri Grand Master Trevor ‘Simple’ Simon. (File photo)

and then towards the end, it focuses on master players, especially concentrating on end-game strategies.”

Simon said parts of the book will highlight some of his fellow Antiguan who have mastered the game of Warri as well as one of his mentors, Uncle Bo, who taught him to play the board game.

“So it gives you a wide array of the game of Warri and then there is a chapter that focuses on Antiguan Warri players. So it will also feature some of the master Warri players of Antigua such as Kevin ‘Debble’ Edwards, who has won the senior championship on three continuous occasions,” Simon said.

“It also features some of the master players who would have won titles in Antigua over the years, players such as Kambouie Charles and Elwin Tipple, etcetera;

there is a feature on each of them in the book.

“I have also dedicated a part of the book to Uncle Bo. He was one of my mentors. In the early days, we would practice a lot, not only playing Warri, but playing draughts as well. Uncle Bo taught me quite a bit about playing draughts.

“Uncle Bo was a master at both Warri and draughts. He was truly ahead of his time so I am looking forward to completing this book.”

Simon said he has been working on the book project for some time and would have already completed it, if his computer with his work did not crash.

“I started that body of work since 2018. I had started with doing a lot of research. I would have finished my book, had it not been for my computer crashing and only to find out nothing was

cont’d on pg 29



**CPL 2022
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30th September**

Antigua draw Concacaf Under-17 opener in Nicaragua

Antigua and Barbuda salvaged a 1-1 draw with Belize in their opening match in Group D of the 2022 Concacaf men's Under-17 Championship Qualifier at the Estadio Nacional in Nicaragua on Wednesday night.

Belize took an early 1-0 lead when a diagonal cross into the Antigua and Barbuda 18-yard box was met by Jaheim Mena who scored in the 9th minute of the first game of the Group D double-header.

However, Antigua and Barbuda secured their equalizer in the 35th minute when Tejahno Jarvis scored after receiving a beautiful cross from Eroy Gonsalves.

A brace by Oliver Bello propelled Nicaragua to an emphatic 5-0 win against the Turks and Caicos Islands in



Belize striker Jaheim Mena, left, tries to outrun Tejahno Jarvis of Antigua and Barbuda during their match in Group D of the 2022 Concacaf men's Under-17 Championship Qualifier at the Estadio Nacional in Nicaragua on Wednesday, 31st August. (Photo courtesy Concacaf)

the second game of the double-header.

Joab Gutierrez opened the scoring for Nicaragua in the 6th minute via the penalty spot and a 14th minute strike by Juban Uriarte gave the home side a 2-0 lead.

Bello then struck for his

brace with goals in the 20th and 34th minute before Fer-

nando Parrales put on the finishing touch to the 5-0 win by scoring Nicaragua's final goal in the 51st minute.

Antigua and Barbuda will attempt to achieve their first win in the competition when they meet the Turks and Caicos Islands in their second Group D game today (Friday).

The young Benna Boys will face the Turks and Caicos Islands at 6pm in the first game of another double header at the Estadio Nacional in Nicaragua. Belize will clash with host Nicaragua in the second encounter at 9pm.

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saved on the back-up. That was painful," Simon stated.

"So I had to start again from scratch and it involves creating some diagrams, which really is time consuming to get them done. But hopefully, before the year 2022 ends, it will be unveiled."

Simon, who officially announced his retirement from international competition in April 2021, said he is being assisted in sourcing a publisher for his book, which he hopes to complete by the end of this year.

"I have someone in Maryland currently doing some consulting in terms of publishing, but I am also thinking of doing some self-publishing in the event that those fall through and I cannot get a publisher," Simon said.

"There is also someone in Switzerland that is assisting me in finding a publisher for the book as well. So whichever comes through, I am willing to work with them.

"Long term, I am also hoping to do an online version for the book with Amazon at the end of the day."



ABCF joins MBS and SLBMC to bring awareness to cancer

The Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) is partnering with the Medical Benefits Scheme's Prevention Unit and the Pediatric Department of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in staging a fun ride to bring awareness to prostate and childhood cancers in the twin-island state.

The event, which is being called "Blue-Gold September Ride 4 Prostate and Childhood Cancer", takes place on Sunday, 11th September.

The Medical Benefits Scheme's Prevention Unit's Manager Josinah France said men who engage in cycling are part of their target group to bring awareness to cancer.

"The concept of this is in support of prostate cancer survivors and also children who are survivors of cancer. Also, those who are living with prostate cancer and children as well who are living with cancer.

"Cancer is one of the 11 non-communicable diseases that Medical Benefit covers and so we reached out to the cycling federation to put on this fun ride to help bring awareness and support of persons living with cancer,"

France said.

"Obviously, a lot of men do cycling so we look at that group as part of our target group to get men to come out. So we thought it was fitting to collaborate with the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation to get the men to come out and invite their other friends as well to come out and participate and support our fight against cancer."

President of the ABCF St. Clair Williams said his federation is always happy to join with any organization to help bring awareness to things that affect persons in our society.

"We at the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation are indeed grateful to be a part of such an event because what we love to do is not only put on competitive races in the country, but we also like to come together with other organizations and groups to help bring awareness to things that affect persons within our country," Williams stated.

"So when we got the calls from the Medical Benefit Scheme and the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre we had not objection in joining these two institutions in our



Participants at a fun ride hosted by the ABCF. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

country to bring awareness to childhood and prostate cancer.

"So we jumped on it and we are hoping all our members of the cycling federation do come out and other persons who often ride bicycles for exercise, health purposes and any other reasons would come out on the 11th of September and participate in this important event."

Before proceeding on the fun ride, participants will assemble at the MBS' headquarters on Nevis Street in St. John's for a brief ceremony, which will commence at 3pm.

Short presentations on prostate and childhood cancers will be given, after which participants will begin the fun ride at 3:30 pm.

The riders will leave the

MBS headquarters on Nevis Street, turn left onto Independence Drive, turn right onto the Sir Sydney Walling Highway, formally Factory Road and proceed to the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium where it will conclude in the parking lot with the serving of light refreshments.

Participants are being urged to pre-register for the fun ride to allow the organizers to be able to cater for all who will be part of the event.

Registration forms can be collected, filled out and return to the MBS headquarters on or before the day of the event.

Persons seeking more information may also contact Patrice Defoe at 481-6352, Sheila Carty at 481-6266 and Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis at 764-5498.