

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 180 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PM BROWNE HIGHLIGHTS SIDS' VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AT UN MEETING



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Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne met with German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, on Tuesday to discuss the impact and threat of climate change on small island development states.

Local News

Prime Minister Browne pleads case of island states during meeting with German Chancellor

As chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Prime Minister Gaston Browne participated in an Open Exchange with the new German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, on Tuesday.

The meeting is one of several bilateral and multilateral engagements that will hold the attention of Prime Minister Browne as he attends the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Prime Minister Browne used the opportunity to plead the case of small island states who remain under the constant threat of extreme climatic conditions.

A major priority for Antigua and Barbuda as Chair of AOSIS at COP27 is the establishment of a funding facility to finance Loss and Damage.

“COP27 must show the political will to address the climate crisis like the crisis that it is, and the responses that we have seen for



the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the energy security crises,” Prime Minister Browne stated.

Against this background, Prime Minister Browne urged for the inclusion of Loss and Damage as an item on the COP 27 agenda, and ultimately, for the establishment of such a funding arrangement by the end of the meeting, which will take place in Egypt later this year.

He also took Germany to task for reactivating

coal plants as the goal to stay below 1.5 remains under threat because of the hesitancy of industrialised nations to shift away from their dependence on fossil fuels.

Prime Minister Browne also tabled several solutions for Germany’s consideration in supporting the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), one of which is the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). Prime Minister Browne serves as Co-Chair

of the UN Expert Panel on the MVI.

Once agreed by UN member states, the MVI will consider the unique vulnerabilities for island states as they seek to build resilience from climate change and other global shocks. The MVI will allow middle and high-income SIDS to gain access to concessional financing and other development support irrespective of their income status.

Prime Minister Browne was accompanied to yesterday’s meeting by Minister of Education, Daryll Matthews.

Also in attendance were Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, President of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, and Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Kausea Natano.

Wed 21 Day		Wed 21 Night	
87°	23% E 16 mph	79°	23% ESE 15 mph
Partly cloudy skies. High 87F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 79F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity 74%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 84%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:56 am	Sunset 6:04 pm	Moonrise 2:09 am	Moonset 3:35 pm
		Waning Crescent	

Sir Molwyn attends UN Climate and Development Ministerial meeting in NYC

Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph is in New York at the United Nations attending meetings on the sidelines of the body's 77th General Assembly which is now underway.

On Tuesday, Minister Joseph attended the 2nd Climate and Development Ministerial (CDM) meeting which focused on its response to Climate Impacts, Climate Finance, Access to Finance, Fiscal Space and Debt Sustainability.

In his presentation to the body, Sir Molwyn zeroed in on the importance of Loss and Damage Financing as a priority goal for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which Antigua and Barbuda currently chairs, ahead of COP27 which takes place from 7th – 18th November in Egypt, which assumes presidency of the group this year.

"It's very important for small island states that there be a commitment and an understanding of the peculiarities of our islands.

"The fact of the matter is, it has been over 30 years that we have been waiting to see some tangible evidence that our vulnerabilities are taken seriously," said the environment minister.

"Loss and Damage is



Sir Molwyn Joseph speaking with Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund Yannick Glemarec.

already on the provisional agenda, but it must be on the agenda for COP. It's important to establish trust in this process, and it is also important to establish solidarity, and I believe the action of getting Loss and Damage on the agenda of COP goes a long way in establishing that," he continued.

The CDM was co-hosted by the United Kingdom's Alok Sharma, who is also the COP26 President, and Rwanda's Minister of Environment, Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya.

Building on the success-

es of the first Ministerial meeting in 2021, during this year's meeting, the COP26 President and Rwandan Minister of Environment aimed to discuss the priorities of climate vulnerable countries and chart a path to make tangible progress on them.

Ahead of the meeting, Sharma said, "Since last November when we met at COP26, the world has faced multiple global crises, precipitated by Vladimir Putin's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, which need immediate attention.

"However, at the same time the chronic threat of climate change has worsened with the devastating floods in Pakistan, which have left a third of the country underwater, one terrible example of our changing climate.

"Therefore, at this critical juncture less than two months before COP27, and just days ahead of the UNFCCC Synthesis Report deadline, it is more important than ever that all countries deliver on the commitments we made, collectively, in the Glasgow Climate Pact."

Venezuela donates US\$1 million to Barbuda's Hurricane Relief Fund

On Friday, Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Minister, Jorge Arreaza Montserrat, handed over a check for US\$1 million to Prime Minister Gaston Browne in support of the Barbuda Hurricane Relief Fund.

According to Montserrat, the donation was made available through the profits of the Venezuelan government-backed PetroCaribe partnership with the West Indies Oil Company and Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The funds provided will go toward the continuing redevelopment of Barbuda which was devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017.

"The profit from the West Indies Oil Company partnership, that is doing very well, we are pleased to make our share available for the redevelopment of Barbuda. Kindly accept the best regards from President Nicholas Maduro, who was very eager for me to travel to Antigua and Barbuda," remarked Minister Arreaza Montserrat when presenting the cheque.

"In our revolution training of solidarity, we are taught to be the first to assist and to show solidarity. Prime Minister Browne, you are a leader who has demonstrated dedication and made preventative actions to save people's lives. You can count on Venezuela in any situation – good or bad. We are brothers and sisters – stronger than friends."

Venezuela, under the leadership of President Nicolas Maduro, and Antigua and Barbuda have long enjoyed amicable diplomatic relations according to Prime Minister Browne, who confirmed that the South American nation has been a great friend and ally to the country.

Venezuela was the first country to provide crisis relief to Barbuda following Hurricane Irma, having provided



Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Minister, Jorge Arreaza Montserrat, with Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne [Photo: Office of the Prime Minister]

assistance with evacuating families off the storm ravaged island in addition to relief supplies.

"Venezuela was in full support of Antigua and Barbuda and the President advised us that whatever was needed, Venezuela was ready to provide. A commitment was given of two military aircraft which aided in evacuating the people of Barbuda. If it was not for the aircraft we would not have evacuated the people on time with a storm pending," said Prime Minister Browne.

"The first call of any leader came from President Nicholas Maduro. For that I am eternally grateful and he expressed solidarity with Antigua and Barbuda. We are eternally grateful for this demonstration of friendship and solidarity. The first set of relief supplies also came from Venezuela.

"Antigua and Barbuda will never forget this act of gratitude. We will re-

main close allies of Venezuela forever. It is times like these you know whom your true friends are."

Venezuela's financial contribution represents the dividends from West Indies Oil Company for 2016 which are due to the Government of Venezuela. Prime Minister Browne said this is yet another gesture of Venezuela's goodwill towards the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"This is a significant contribution. There are many countries globally that have not made one tenth of this contribution to date. This we hope will serve as an impetus for other countries, wealthier countries, to assist Antigua and Barbuda, particularly Barbuda in this time of crisis," said PM Browne.

The Venezuelan government has also pledged a further US\$2 million to the Barbuda relief effort, making that country the largest single contributor to the fund to date.

Disabled community continues to face challenges

The head of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities wants the general public to give the community of disabled people the respect they deserve instead of treating them with pity and indifference.

Speaking on state television yesterday, Michael Regan Calliste revealed there continues to be com-

plaints from those who are differently abled about the unacceptable treatment they sometimes receive as they go about their daily lives.

“We just want to be normal like everybody else,” Calliste said.

“We want to be accountable for our own actions. We want to be able to do the things and go the

places like everybody else does and when you go out into the community we are limited with these options”.

The denial of access to public transportation and inadequate parking spaces are among the challenges persons with disabilities continue to encounter, issues that if not addressed with urgency, risk tarnishing the reputation of Antigua and Barbuda.

“One tourist came to my office one day and said I have a whole cruise ship of disabled persons that I wish to bring to Antigua, but Antigua still has some infrastructure problems, so he is not able to channel that tour to Antigua.

“We are a tourist environment, we need to develop the infrastructure, so we are still limited in some of our situations,” Calliste stated.

Despite the challenges encountered by the community, he is crediting the government for advancing and championing their cause, but added more needs to be done to remove some of the limitations they continue to face.

Michael Calliste has responded favourably to plans by the education minister to make available scholarships that will give disabled people the op-



Head of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities, Michael Regan Calliste

portunity to broaden their horizons.

“I will welcome that hands down if he [Daryll Matthew] makes scholarships available for adult disabled persons because there are so many smart people with different abilities that if you give them an opportunity, they would surprise you.”

In association with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, The Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities is preparing to host the 5th Continental CBR/CBID Congress of the Americas from 25-27 October, 2022 at the Royalton Resort.

It is an opportunity for organisations to share their ideas and hold discussions on matters of importance to those who are disabled, helping them to realize their true potential.



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Local News



Gov't to use technology to fight vandalism in schools

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

The government of Antigua and Barbuda will soon begin using technology to increase security in public schools in the hope of decreasing vandalism and theft.

Last Thursday, Ambassador Lionel "Max" Hurst commented on the innovations the government intends to employ to stop vandalism in public schools around the clock manned se-

curity is simply unfeasible.

"The problem that we have indicated is that the cost of covering the school compounds 24 hours with three security guards is really outside of the ability of the Ministry of Education and the government of Antigua and Barbuda to bear. It is just too expensive," Hurst remarked.

"To offset the expensive cost of hiring a security company to monitor schools, the



Ministry of Education relies on the generosity of others and the aspirations of the government to ensure safety in public schools.

"As a consequence, we are relying on the goodwill of others as well as the intention of the government of Antigua and Barbuda to place cameras, and other types of technologies, at the use of the school or on the premises of the school.

"Also, so we can at least deter those who wish to vandalise, and stop in their tracks those who are participating in that kind of behaviour."

Malicious members of society have taken advantage of the fact that schools are not monitored 24 hours a day to commit criminal acts including theft, property damage and defacement.

Last Tuesday, just one day after Greenbay Primary was looted, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy was broken into, and graffiti painted on its walls. This caused the school's administration to dismiss its faculty and students for the day.

"We have not yet installed all the cameras, and I believe that this window is being utilised by the vandals

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POINTE FM NEWS

PHIL GEORGE **VERON EDWARDS JR.** **VERNON A. SPRINGER**

MONDAY-FRIDAY — 6:15 AM | 11:15 AM | 5:15 PM

SATURDAYS — 11:15 AM : SHAHEIN FITZPATRICK

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ABEC clarifies voter transfers

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

If you intend to move out of your current constituency, or have already done so, it is important to be familiar with the constituency transfer procedure.

Ian Hughes, the Human Resources and Training Officer at the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), spoke with Pointe Xpress on Tuesday and described the voter registration and transfer processes.

"If you are already registered there is no need to re-register. If you are moving from one constituency, or if you have moved from one constituency to another, and you have been in that constituency for a minimum of 6 months, then what you would want to do is transfer



Human Resources and Training Officer at the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, Ian Hughes

your registration to that new constituency," Hughes explained.

"The transfer process requires you to either go to the registration unit where you have registered before, or the registration unit

where you are now residing to make an application for a transfer.

"You will receive a receipt from the registration clerk after this transfer application is finished, but only once it is verified that

you have lived in the new constituency for at least six months. Your name will be listed on a list within the constituency throughout the period between the claims and objections," Hughes continued.

"Stakeholders within your previous constituency will be given the opportunity to confirm that you are no longer living there, along with political parties getting copies of your application."

If there are no claims or objections, a voter's name will be transferred to the list in their new constituency.

"Once that process is completed, the Electoral Commission head office will call applicants to complete the transfer process," Hughes concluded.

Assessment of Returning Officers slated for today

After undergoing a week-long programme of intense training, applied to become Returning Officers in the upcoming elections will go through an assessment later today.

Human Resources and Training Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda

Electoral Commission (ABEC), Ian Hughes, said twenty persons applied to be selected for the challenging role of Returning Officer in the seventeen constituencies.

While most of the applicants have had prior experience working in elec-

tions in the past, Hughes has promised that the assessment will be rigorous, and only the top candidates will be selected.

Hughes added, however, that there will be a role for all those who participated in the training as those who do not qualify as Returning Officers will be retained to assist the Returning Officers train the other staff members who will be selected to serve in the general elections in roles including poll clerks.

The training programme was conducted by Hughes with the assistance of Vernest Mack, one of the country's most experienced election officers.

The selection of the 17 Returning Officers will be made public next week.

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to do what has been accurately reported. Our intention is to ensure that it doesn't happen."

Noting that the Sir Novelle Richards Academy is not yet completely fenced, Hurst said this, and other steps to increase security in all public schools, is being prioritised by the government.

"We have every intention of fenc-

ing it so that any breach of the fencing would immediately cause the security cameras to trigger the kind of response that would include the movement of the Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force and the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force because they are a part of the security mix that we intend to utilise in order to bring some of this vandalism to an end," Hurst said.

Local News

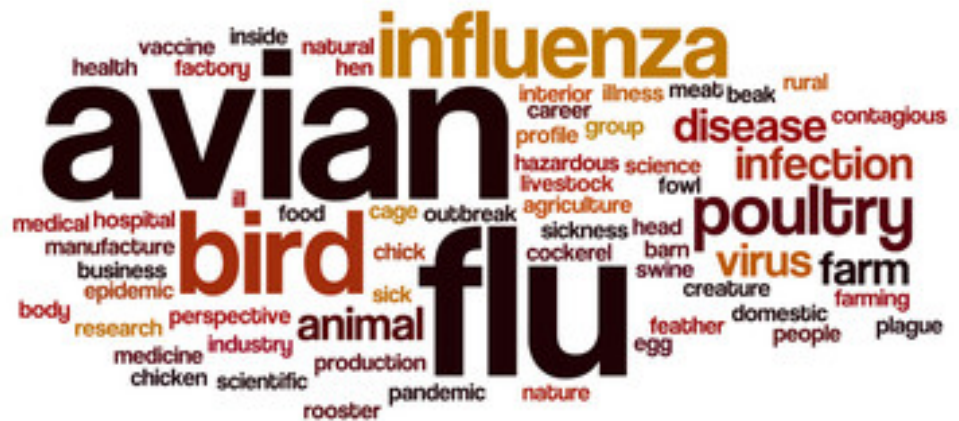
Poultry farmers urged to practice biosecurity

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

Poultry farmers in Antigua and Barbuda are being encouraged to implement biosecurity measures to strengthen their resilience against the current avian influenza, or Bird Flu, outbreak.

Veterinary Officer, Cheré Kellman, told *Pointe Xpress* that Antigua and Barbuda is unlikely to be affected by the outbreak in Belize because the country imports 70 percent of its chicken from Brazil and the other 30 percent from other countries including the United States.

Nevertheless, practising biosecurity - procedures intended to protect humans or animals against disease



or harmful biological agents - is crucial.

After discovering an avian influenza outbreak at a poultry farm in Blue Creek Village, which is located in the northwest of Belize, the coun-

try's Agricultural Health Authority quarantined the facility.

"Bird Flu is a contagious form of influenza that affects birds, rarely spreading to humans," said Kellman.

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Drivers urged to exercise caution on the roads

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

With more than 50,000 registered vehicles in Antigua and Barbuda, drivers are being advised to use the roads responsibly.

During a Pointe on De Streetz interview, Assistant Superintendent of Police Rodney Ellis addressed the increase in automobiles on the country's roads and the responsibility of all road users to prevent collisions and fatalities.

"The last count we had of registered vehicles [we] were almost up to 50,000 registered. I'm not speaking as to those that are not registered. People still try to use vehicles on the road without them being licenced and insured.

"We have to be responsible now with using the road, all hands have to be on deck with regard to how we utilise the road," he said.

ASP Ellis emphasised



Assistant Superintendent of Police Rodney Ellis

that on an island as small as Antigua, where no destination is far away, there is no reason for drivers to be inconsiderate to those with whom they share the road.

"I might be at a junction, and you horned me to exit, and the other driver behind you horned the oth-

er person to exit. We will all move smoothly if we cooperate.

"A lot of drivers just drive for themselves alone without any consideration for the other road users and that is one of the biggest problems we have here, hence why we are getting

so many collisions," Ellis explained.

A significant number of traffic accidents could be avoided, Ellis added, if drivers take the time to be aware of each other on the road. The number of fatalities and major injuries would decline as well, he noted.

"If we follow the rules and regulations of the road, collisions will be reduced by at least 75 per cent. When you look at the statistics, the majority of collisions that we have is rear-ended collisions.

"Speeding is also an issue", Ellis added, as he explained that speed-related crashes are the most devastating.

"With some resulting in fatalities or major injuries, again many of these can again be avoided, if drivers pay attention by watching out for the other man."

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"Biosecurity is a method to stop the disease from spreading to your farm or flock of chickens. Due to avian influenza, it is crucial for both commercial and backyard flock owners to safeguard their herds through a robust biosecurity policy."

According to her explanation, there are two routes in which the disease spreads: direct and indirect transmission.

Direct infection can occur

through airborne transmission of the virus or through contact with saliva, mucous, or faeces from infected birds or indirectly through contact with items or surfaces which have come into contact with the secretions or bodily fluids of infected birds.

To successfully manage poultry flocks, according to Kellman, farmers should follow basic guidelines: maintain their distance, keep the poultry clean, don't bring disease home, detect the warning signals of

contagious bird illnesses, keep a record of and report sick birds.

She also explained what occurs when the disease is discovered in a flock.

"The processes will be to euthanize diseased herds humanely, remove them from circulation, and minimise the exposure of healthy, uninfected flocks to help limit the illness. These actions will certainly assure a reliable food supply," she concluded.

Local News

Jamaican globetrotter makes Antigua & Barbuda final stop on 195-country tour

By Janet Silvera

Romaine Welds hid from the Taliban in Afghanistan; swam at the beach in Mogadishu, Somalia, with armed bodyguards; and hoisted the Jamaican flag with pride at Babylon Gate in Iraq.

The Jamaican, who said he has visited 195 countries, made landfall in Antigua and Barbuda on Sunday, bowing his head and waving the black, green, and gold flag that has become a symbol of his travels since 2021.

The 37-year-old Falmouth-born globetrotter, who works with United Airlines in ground operations in the United States, has experienced 28 wonders of the world in the 15 years since he started travelling.

While growing up in Jamaica, the Trelawny native



Romaine Welds ended his 195-country world tour in Antigua and Barbuda where he was greeted by government and tourism officials.

recalled not having much privilege to travel.

For him, Yemen was a bit of a surprise.

“You don’t see much of the beauty of Yemen on TV, so when I went and I saw these mud-brick skyscrapers,” said Welds in awe. “I mean, they’re like three,

sometimes four storeys high and just hanging on the cliffside.”

Another favourite of his was Babylon in Iraq.

“It was pretty interesting when I visited Babylon, which a lot of Jamaicans don’t actually know is a real place that exists,” he told *The Gleaner* from his villa in Falmouth, Antigua.

He was fascinated with two African countries – Libya and Ethiopia, one because of its rich Roman history and the other for its relationship with the Rastafarians, the culture, and the people.

Welds did not escape the war-torn areas, and his visit to Syria left him in a state of shock and despair.

“When I went there, it was still active war zone,

right on the border between Syria and Turkey ... I have seen what the war has done to Syria, how it destroyed homes and lives. It was pretty bad.”

The Muschett High School past student, who later relocated from Trelawny to Goodwill in St James, says he travels on a budget, noting that he is not rich. Instead of staying in hotels, he stays in hostels, and because he works with airlines, the flights are discounted.

He, however, remembers spending US\$3,200 while in Niger, where he went for the Guérewol festival, which is a courtship ritual competition among the Wodaabe people.

“That tour was expensive because it required

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heavy security because the region is not safe. Between Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, it's pretty dangerous," he says.

In Somalia, he had to travel in a bulletproof car, and in Afghanistan, he was forced to wear the national garb to blend in and not be easily recognised as a tourist by the Taliban.

When asked why he took so daring trips, he quipped, "You know they say you have to go to see, so I have to go to see."

As true to life and frightening as some of the travels were, nothing was scarier than being caught in heavy traffic in Mogadishu, uncertain whether a bomb detected by the police in a moving car ahead of the one he was travelling in would go off.

"That was the worst. The police began firing shots randomly in the air to disperse the traffic because we could go nowhere because of the congestion.

"I was like, 'Oh, my God! Are we gonna get out of here or this thing is gonna go off?'"

Since they did not know which car the bomb was detected in, he started to panic.

But Welds will always live with the images of awe-inspiring natural wonders and the memory of the one-leg amputee, who sat in the middle of a busy thoroughfare in Afghanistan begging for food because if he stayed home he would starve.

Welds, who watched a

lot of National Geographic Channel programmes while growing up, says his first goal was to do the first new seven wonders of the world – the Taj Mahal in India; the Great Wall of China; the Roman Colosseum, Italy; Petra –the Khaznah, Jordan; Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the Incan site Machu Picchu in Peru; and the Maya's El Castillo pyramid in Chichén Itzá, Mexico.

There are three categories of seven wonders, plus seven by CNN Television, and Welds said he did all 28.

"I did the seven natural wonders after. This included Mount Everest, the Great Barrier Reef, the Parícutin volcano in Mexico, the Grand Canyon, and Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)."

Then there was the seven wonders of nature, which includes the Amazon River, Brazil; Table Mountain, South Africa; Igauzu Falls, Argentina; Ha Long Bay, Vietnam; Komodo, South America; Victoria Falls in Zambia; and Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, in the Australian Outback.

On Sunday, some 20 family members and friends from the United States, Denmark and Vietnam joined Jamaica's Honorary Consul to Antigua Dr Onika Campbell and the government of Antigua to give Welds a hero's welcome as he arrived at the last country on his list.

"I wanted to finish somewhere where family and friends could get to and also a nice spot," he stated.



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Caribbean reefs under bleaching watch

The outlook for the coming months is not promising for the Caribbean's reefs as widespread bleaching conditions are expected.

The Barbados-based Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) has warned that with the increase in temperatures in the region the future does not look favourable.

In its latest issue of the Caribbean Coral Reef Watch, CIMH, said the entire region is currently

under bleaching watch or warning conditions.

It said parts of Florida, Northern Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago have been experiencing Alert Level 1 conditions and waters in the region continue to warm "entering what are considered the warmest months of the year, in September and October".

"The bleaching alert and outlook for the Caribbean indicate that extensive areas of the region will be under Alert Level 1 during October and No-



vember, persisting into December in some areas. Bleaching may be expected throughout the region,"

CIMH said.


Coral bleaching can be triggered and sustained under various environmental stresses.

Increases in warming ocean temperatures stress tropical corals; the hotter water temperatures become, the more stress corals experience.

When a coral bleaches, it is not dead; however, it is more susceptible to damage from other stressors, including disease outbreaks.

Often, corals that are partially to totally bleached for prolonged periods of time eventually die, causing dramatic long-term ecological and socio-economic impacts, including loss of reef-building corals, and changes in benthic habitat and in fish populations on the reef.

Experts warn that even under favourable conditions, it can take decades for severely bleached reefs to fully recover. (CMC)



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Entertainment

Guyana's Miss Amerindian Heritage queen stripped of her crown



Amber Andrews (left) was stripped of Guyana's Miss Amerindian Heritage Queen crown after a scoring error resulted in her being announced the winner instead of Kristie Emma Rambharat (right).

The winner of Guyana's Miss Amerindian Heritage queen pageant, Amber Andrews, said she felt embarrassed and publicly humiliated after she was stripped of the crown less than 24 hours after being declared the winner last Saturday.

Amber Andrews, who represented Moraikobai, the Amerindian village located in Mahaica-Berbice, was later told that the person adding up the scores in last Saturday's pageant did so incorrectly.

The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, which organises the pageant, later announced that the winner is Kristie Emma Rambharat from Region Seven and made no apology to Andrews over the controversy.

It said the judges' score sheets "were tabulated incorrectly by the tally clerk which resulted in erroneous figures" and that the final scores were tabulated based on a compound scoring system, which included tabulating the total scores for the six segments plus the final question.

After a "thorough and accurate investigation" and auditing of the judges' score sheets were conducted, the Ministry said Ms. Rambharat was found to have scored 768 points and thus is the new queen.

As per the audit, the scores released by the Ministry puts Ms. Andrews as tying for the fourth position with the delegate from Region Six, it said adding that the pageant con-

tinues to serve as a platform for the empowerment of young Amerindian women across the length and breadth of Guyana.

The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs did not say if another crowning ceremony will be held for the queen but said there will be a prize-giving ceremony on Monday.

However, in a Facebook post, the former winner said she was as shocked as everyone else and spoke of the "emotional damage" and that what transpired after she was crowned was no fault of hers.

"It is an embarrassment. I was publicly humiliated. NO ONE deserves this," she wrote on her social media page.

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Belize reports incursion of Guatemalan Armed Forces into its territory

CMC – The Belize government says it will continue to conduct regular patrols from Barranco Village to Sarstoon Island after a joint patrol including members of the Belize Defence Force (BDF) and Coast Guard (BCG) encountered marine vessels belonging to the Guatemalan Armed Forces over the weekend.

Belize and Guatemala have had a long running border dispute with Guatemala claiming the whole or



part of Belize since 1940.

In 1859, Britain and Guatemala signed a treaty that defined the borders from the Rio Hondo to Sar-

stoon. The treaty included an article that said both parties would make their best efforts to build a cart road from Guatemala City to the

Atlantic Coast. After a few years, the road hadn't been built and Guatemala blamed Britain for it. They said the treaty was a treaty of cession and because Britain violated it, they were supposed to get back their land.

In 1946, Guatemala officially tried to declare the treaty null and void. The matter is before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In a statement, the Min-
cont'd on pg 16

Fiona swipes Turks and Caicos, Puerto Rico faces big clean up

AP – Hurricane Fiona blasted the Turks and Caicos Islands on Tuesday as a Category 3 storm after devastating Puerto Rico, where most people remained without electricity or running water and rescuers used heavy equipment to lift survivors to safety.

The storm's eye passed close to Grand Turk, the small British territory's capital island, on Tuesday morning after the government imposed a curfew and urged people to flee flood-prone areas. Storm surge could raise water levels there by as much as 5 to 8 feet above normal, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

Early Tuesday afternoon, the storm was centred about 30 miles (50 kilometres) north-northeast of North Caicos Island, with hurricane-force winds extending up to 30 miles (45 kilometres) from the centre.

Premier Washington Misick urged people to evacuate. "Storms are unpredictable," he said in a statement from London, where he had attended the



National Guards stand to direct traffic as resident Luis Noguera helps clear the road affected by Hurricane Fiona in Cayey, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022. Fiona triggered a blackout when it hit Puerto Rico's southwest corner on Sunday. (AP Photo/Stephanie Rojas)

funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. "You must therefore take every precaution to ensure your safety."

Fiona had maximum sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph) and was moving north-northwest at 9 mph (15 kph), according to the Hurricane Center, which said the storm was likely to

strengthen into a Category 4 hurricane as it approaches Bermuda on Friday.

Rain was still lashing parts of Puerto Rico Tuesday, where the sounds of people scraping, sweeping and spraying their homes and streets echoed across rural areas as historic flood waters began to recede.

Jamaican among four people arrested in Nigeria's biggest cocaine bust

CMC – A Jamaican national has been arrested in connection with what has been described as the biggest cocaine bust in Nigeria's history.

Media reports in the African country named 42-year-old Kelvin Smith, who is from Kingston, as among four persons held in connection with the seizure.

The other three individuals are from Nigeria and are said to be members of a drug cartel.

The authorities said that the cocaine was found in 10 travelling bags and 13 drums and according to The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), which is Nigeria's anti-narcotics department; the US\$278 million drug bust took place at a large warehouse in an estate in the Ikorodu area of Lagos.

NDLEA spokesman, Femi Babafemi, said agents found about 1.8 tons of the illicit drug and that the Jamaican and the warehouse



Four suspects arrested by Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) yesterday during a drug bust. [Photo: NDLEA]

manager were arrested in an intelligence-led operation that lasted two days across several locations in Lagos.

Babafemi said the four persons arrested are mem-

bers of an international drug syndicate that the NDLEA has been trailing since 2018. They were detained at hotels and their hideouts in different parts of Lagos Sunday

night and Monday.

Babafemi reported that the cartel was trying to sell the cocaine to buyers in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world.

cont'd from pg 15

istry of National Defence and Border Security said last Sunday, a joint BDF and BCG patrol deployed to the Sarstoon River, encountered five maritime vessels belonging to the Guatemalan Armed Forces on the northern side of the Sarstoon Island.

It said that the patrol also observed five civilian vessels operated by members of the Belize Territorial Volunteers (BTV) and that the leader, Wil Maheia, indicated that they had

placed two Belizean national flags on Sarstoon Island, which members of the Guatemalan Armed Forces later removed.

"The Guatemalans informed the joint patrol that the entire area belongs to Guatemala; however, the joint patrol commander informed the Guatemalan Armed Forces that they were in Belizean territory and that they should leave.

"Shortly thereafter, both the Belize Territorial Volunteers and the Guate-

malan Armed Forces vessels departed. The joint patrol then left the area to the Sarstoon Forward Operating Base to maintain military presence," the statement said.

The ministry said that it wanted to reassure Belizeans that "through the joint deployment" it will continue "to conduct regular patrols from Barranco Village to Sarstoon Island, and remains vigilant to ensure the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Belize".

St. Lucia Teachers' Union warns grooming issue has serious implications for education

CMC – The St Lucia Teachers' Union (SLTU) says it is disturbed at the situation regarding the student who had been barred from attending classes at St Mary's College (SMC) because of his hairstyle, adding "this case has serious implications for the entire education system."

"Schools are institutions that instil values and discipline in students to help them to become law-abiding citizens. Given the nature of the school, we all understand the importance of rules and regulations and the reasons why they should be followed," the SLTU said in a statement.

"Further, the SLTU is concerned about the impact that this matter will have on school discipline. If a student is allowed to break one rule, then inevitably the authority of all other rules would be compromised," it added.

The St. Lucia government has already said it "remains committed" to reviewing the present positions regarding issues of grooming in schools on the island after the 13-year-old son of a lawyer was prevented from attending classes on the first day of the new school term.

"The Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training is aware of situations at various schools which have sparked public discussion, as it relates to issues of grooming in schools on the island," the ministry said in a statement.

It said it wanted to assure the general public "that it remains committed to reviewing the present positions to address the current issues from a holistic standpoint."

The SMC has defended its deci-

sion regarding grooming even as the attorney, Al. C. Elliot Sr., said he is "disappointed in my alma mater" and that "this is a conversation to be had in 2022."

"As far as I am concerned, a 13-year-old is being denied an education, which he has a right to, and the school needs to realise that they are subjected to the Ministry of Education; they are not private institutions and also subject to the authority of the courts, so at the end of the day I don't think the principal or myself can decide on something that is a public affair, so the courts have a right to decide on it," Elliot said.

But in a lengthy statement, chairman of the SMC Board of Management, Anthony Bousquet said the words "Step together...are more than merely the opening salvo of our beloved school song."

"No; these first two words are a call to a team mentality and an equivalent

call to reducing the vanity of thinking solely about "me." Our alma mater, St. Mary's College, offers us a lifelong feeling of togetherness, a firm foundation, and a large team.

"All great institutions are about an underlying team discipline. St. Mary's is a great institution," he said, adding that the school "is an iconic learning institution built on the shoulders of many great St. Lucians."

In its statement, the SLTU said "all school rules should be given the utmost respect, in the same manner, the rules and regulations in all other institutions are respected."

"The SLTU is therefore calling on parents, the Ministry of Education, and the wider community to work with our schools to protect the integrity of the school system and to allow schools to continue to play their part in the development of law-abiding citizens of this country."

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ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

SUNDAY
AB 12:00 PM
BA 3:45 PM

MONDAY
AB 6:00 AM
BA 8:00 AM

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
AB 7:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

SATURDAY
AB 8:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

TYPHOON EXPRESS
MONDAY
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE
AB 3:45 PM
(OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA)

TUESDAY
BA 6:00 AM TO ST. JOHN'S

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)
AB 10:00AM
BA 3:00PM

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Nanmadol: Mudslides and flooding as typhoon batters Japan

BBC - Rescue workers in Japan have warned of mudslides and flooding after one of the biggest storms in recent decades battered the country.

Typhoon Nanmadol killed at least four people and injured more than 100 others after making landfall on the southern island of Kyushu on Sunday morning.

By Tuesday, 140,000 homes were still without electricity.

The storm has now been downgraded to a cyclone, after moving across much of the country and heading out to sea.

State broadcaster NHK said one man was killed when his car was submerged in flooding, and another died after being buried in a landslide. Two more people were found "without vital signs", a term often used to refer to a death before it is certified by a coroner. At least 114 people have been injured, 14 of them serious-



Workers survey the site of a landslide caused by Typhoon Nanmadol in Mimata, Miyazaki prefecture [Getty Images]

ly.

The super typhoon brought gusts of up to 234km/h (145mph), destroying homes, and disrupting transport and businesses. It is equivalent to a category four or five hurricane.

The capital, Tokyo, experienced heavy rain, with the Tozai underground line suspended because of flood-

ing. Bullet train services, ferries and hundreds of flights have been cancelled; shops and businesses have shut. Local video footage showed roofs ripped off buildings and billboards toppled over.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida delayed a visit to New York, where he was due to give a speech at the UN General Assembly, un-

til Tuesday, to monitor the storm's impact.

Scientists have predicted an active hurricane season this year, influenced by a natural phenomenon known as La Niña.

Warmer sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic and Caribbean as a result of climate change may also impact the frequency and intensity of hurricanes.

Mexico's earthquake coincidence drives anxiety for many

AP - As the parents of children killed when a school collapsed during Mexico's 2017 earthquake celebrated a Mass in their memory, the ground began to shake again.

"No, not again! My God, not again!" they shouted when a magnitude 7.6 earthquake rattled the capital Monday, killing two people in the Pa-

cific coast state of Colima.

Three powerful earthquakes have struck Mexico on Sept. 19 - in 1985, 2017 and now 2022. The unlucky coincidence has driven anxiety high for many. The last two quakes also came very shortly after the annual earthquake drill conducted every Sept. 19 to commemorate the devastating 1985

temblor.

Mexico's national Civil Defense Coordinator Laura Velázquez said Tuesday that the two deaths in Colima were due to parts of buildings collapsing. Ten people were injured -- nine in Colima and one in neighbouring Michoacan.

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More than 200 buildings were damaged, including dozens of schools and health centres, she said. Most of the damage was in those Pacific states, close to the Michoacan epicentre. Some 20 Mexico City buildings were damaged, but it was minor, she said.

On the morning of Sept. 19, 1985, an 8.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the centre, south and west of the country, leaving some 9,500 dead.

"It's really strange, but a lot of people already don't like that day," said Jorge Ornelas, a call centre coordinator. He said a lot of his acquaintances begin to worry about an earthquake come September.

"If we keep thinking that every Sept. 19 it's going to shake, it's going to continue happening every year, because what you think is always what happens," the 35-year-old Ornelas said.

Xyoli Pérez-Campos, a researcher in the seismology department at the National Autonomous University of



Employees remove debris at a damaged mall after an earthquake on Monday, in Coalcoman, Michoacan, Mexico September 20 2022. REUTERS/Henry Romero

Mexico's Geophysical Institute, said there was no physical reason for the coincidence of major earthquakes on a single day. Monday's earthquake was the result of the "interaction of the Cocos plate with the North American plate," which also generated the 1985 earthquake.

Five plates -- the North America, the Pacific, the Rivera, the Caribbean and the Cocos -- all run under Mexican territory.

"The plates break when it's their time to break," Pérez-Campos said. "What are they going to know about the calendar?"



UN chief: World is 'paralyzed' and equity is slipping away

AP – In an alarming assessment, the head of the United Nations warned world leaders Tuesday that nations are “gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction” and aren’t ready or willing to tackle the challenges that threaten humanity’s future — and the planets. “Our world is in peril — and paralyzed,” he said.

Speaking at the opening of the General Assembly’s annual high-level meeting, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made sure to emphasise that hope remained. But his remarks reflected a tense and worried world. He cited the war in Ukraine and multiplying conflicts around the world, the climate emergency, the dire financial situation of developing countries and setbacks in U.N. goals for 2030 including an end to extreme poverty and quality education for all children.

He also warned of what he called “a forest of red flags” around new technologies despite promising advances to heal diseases and connect people. Guterres said social media platforms are based on a model “that monetizes outrage, anger and negativity” and buys and sells data “to influence our behaviour.”

Artificial intelligence, he said, “is compromising the integrity of information systems, the media, and indeed democracy itself.”

The world lacks even the beginning of “a global architecture” to deal with the ripples caused by these new technologies because of “geopolitical tensions,” Guterres said.

His opening remarks came as leaders from around the planet reconvened at U.N. headquarters in New York after three years of pandemic interruptions, including an entirely virtual meeting in 2020 and a hybrid one last



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses the 77th session of the General Assembly at U.N. headquarters Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

year. This week, the halls of the United Nations are filled once more with delegates reflecting the world’s cultures. Many faces were visible, though all delegates are required to wear masks except when speaking to ward off the coronavirus.

Guterres made sure to start out by sounding a note of hope. He showed a photo of the first U.N.-chartered ship carrying grain from Ukraine — part of the deal between Ukraine and Russia that the United Nations and Turkey helped broker — to the Horn of Africa, where millions of people are on the edge of famine. It is, he said, an example of promise and hope “in a world teeming with turmoil.”

He stressed that cooperation and dialogue are the only path forward to maintain global peace — two fundamental U.N. principles since its founding after World War II. And he warned that “no power or group alone can call the shots.”

“Let’s work as one, as a coalition of the world, as united nations,” he urged leaders gathered in the vast General Assembly hall.

It’s rarely that easy. Geopolitical divisions are undermining the work of the U.N. Security Council, international law, people’s trust in democratic institutions and most forms of international cooperation, Guterres said.

“The divergence between developed and developing countries, between North and South, between the privileged and the rest, is becoming more dangerous by the day,” the secretary-general said. “It is at the root of the geopolitical tensions and lack of trust that poison every area of global cooperation, from vaccines to sanctions to trade.”

Before the global meeting was gavelled open, leaders and ministers wearing masks to avoid a COVID-19 super-spreader event wandered the assembly hall, chatting individually and in groups. It was a sign that despite the fragmented state of the planet, the United Nations remains the key gathering place for presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers.

Nearly 150 heads of state and government are on the latest speakers’ list, a high number reflecting that the United Nations remains the only place not just to deliver their views but to meet privately to discuss the challenges on the global agenda -- and hopefully make some progress.

The 77th General Assembly meeting of world leaders convenes under the shadow of Europe’s first major war since World War II — the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has unleashed a global food crisis and opened fissures among major powers in a way not seen since the Cold War.

Reggae Boy Lowe victim of alleged racial abuse

Jamaica Gleaner - Major League Soccer (MLS) in the United States has begun investigations into an incident where national defender Damion Lowe was allegedly the target of racial abuse during an MLS match on Sunday by DC United forward Taxi Fountas.

The game between Lowe's club Inter Miami CF and DC United was paused for several minutes after Lowe and Fountas exchanged words in the 59th minute.

According to Lowe's teammate, American international DeAndre Yedlin, there was a bust-up between Lowe and "another player" when the alleged word was used.

"Damion and another player got into a bit of a scuffle, as Damion walked away one of their guys called him the N-word," Yedlin said. He later offered that the Miami players, after the incident, decided that they wouldn't continue playing if some action was not taken.

According to a report by The Athletic on Sunday, head referee Ismail Elfath said that both players were issued yellow cards for "lack of respect of the game" before the alleged use of a slur was reported and that "no official heard any racist or abusive language". Additionally, Elfath said that the



Damion Lowe

incident was also checked by the Video Assistant Referee system. Fountas was substituted by DC United head coach Wayne Rooney in the 66th minute. Inter Miami would go on to win the game 3-2.

Inter Miami head coach Phil Neville said after the game that Fountas used a "racist comment" in the exchange calling it "the worst word in the world." Fountas has denied the allegations in a statement on his social media pages. "We had a hot discussion on the field. But I have not racially abused anyone. I firmly reject racism in any form. It is despicable. I always respect the culture, religion and skin colour of each person. I am therefore very upset by this accusation and saddened to

be falsely accused," he said.

Rooney declined to comment on the specifics of the incident only offering that the referee informed him and Neville of the complaint. The incident comes as Lowe is expected to join the national senior squad for their international friendly against Argentina next week Tuesday.

It is the second time in the space of two months that a national player has been the target of racial taunts as national senior women's player Trudi Carter was the subject of alleged abuse on Instagram in July during their successful World Cup qualifying campaign.

Former football administrator Don Anderson said that while unfortunately, the cases of racial abuse against

black players have been many, he is concerned that Jamaican players have been recent targets.

"Racial abuse at any point in time is very disturbing. it affects the psyche of the players going forward and you don't know what to expect the next time they play. "It is unfortunate that Jamaicans are being caught up in this nonsense," Anderson said.

The Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) released a statement yesterday in support of Lowe and denouncing the abuse.

"The JFF strongly condemns and abhors racism in any form whether on or off the field and we stand ready to give whatever support is necessary to Damion," the statement read.

Sports News



Roger Federer to discuss retirement today

AP – In Roger Federer's case, the farewell news conference will come before the beginning of what he's said will be the last competitive tennis event of his career.

Federer is in London and has been practising ahead of the Laver Cup, an event founded by his management team that begins Friday with the fifth edition of its Team Europe vs. Team World format.

The main rivals whose careers overlapped with Federer's — Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray — also are participating.

Before the Laver Cup

starts, Federer will meet with the media Wednesday morning to discuss walking away from tournament tennis at age 41 after a career that began in the 1990s, lasted until the 2020s and included 20 Grand Slam championships, 83 titles at other tournaments and hundreds of weeks at No. 1 in the rankings.

He is bidding adieu shortly after Serena Williams played what is expected to be the last match of her career at the U.S. Open, signalling a significant shift for a sport they both transcended for decades.

Williams told the world



Switzerland's Roger Federer plays a return to Britain's Cameron Norrie during the men's singles third round match on day six of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Saturday July 3, 2021. Federer announced Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022 he is retiring from tennis. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

of her plans to stop playing via a magazine article, then did not hold a news conference until after her first match at Flushing Meadows; the 23-time Grand Slam champion made it to the third round there before losing to Ajla Tomljanovic.

Federer last played a match at Wimbledon in 2021, when he lost in the quarterfinals to Hubert Hurkacz. Shortly after that, Federer had surgery on his right knee for the third time in a span of about 1 1/2 years.

The Swiss star had hoped to play at Basel in his home country next month and had suggested he might be able to enter Wimbledon one last time next year. But recovery and rehabilitation of his knee became too much.

He called his retirement a "bittersweet decision" when he announced it last week via social media. Wednesday offers a chance to hear more about what went into that choice and what Federer might have in mind for the future.

His tweet concluded: "Finally, to the game of tennis: I love you and will never leave you."

That would bode well for those fans of Federer's who hope to see him continue to hold a role in the sport — and would bode well for the sport, too.

Djokovic wrote on Instagram after Federer revealed he'd be retiring that it was "hard to see this day and put into words all that we've shared in this sport together."



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FIFA bans Honduras player for doping at World Cup qualifier



Honduras' Wisdom Quaye, left, and Canada's Cyle Larin fight for the ball during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Jan. 27, 2022. FIFA has banned Quaye for 18 months for doping with a steroid at a World Cup qualifying game against the United States, it was announced Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022. Quaye tested positive for clostebol after Honduras lost 3-0 to the U.S. in February. (AP Photo/Delmer Martinez, file)

AP – FIFA banned Honduras player Wisdom Quaye from soccer for 18 months on Tuesday for doping with a steroid at a World Cup qualifying game against the United States.

Quaye tested positive for clostebol after Honduras lost 3-0 to the U.S. in February, FIFA said. The game was played in severe cold in St. Paul, Minnesota. FIFA said the 24-year-old Quaye admitted the doping rules violation and made an agreement to serve a ban that applies retroactively and will expire on Aug. 1, 2023.

Quaye, a defender with the Real España club in Honduras, has made three appearances for the national team, which did not qualify for the World Cup in Qatar. Honduras placed last without winning a game in the final eight-team qualifying group in the North American region known as CONCACAF.

UEFA lets Belarus enter Euro 2024 draw despite German plea

AP – UEFA decided Tuesday to let Belarus go into the 2024 European Championship qualifying draw next month despite a government request from tournament host Germany to remove the team because Belarus is a military ally of Russia.

UEFA confirmed Belarus will be in the 53-nation draw that Russia is banned from, though the Belarusians cannot be placed in the same group as neighbouring Ukraine for security reasons.

The qualifying groups will be drawn on Oct. 9 in Frankfurt and German interior minister Nancy Faeser last week urged UEFA not to let Belarus play. UEFA said it replied to Faeser in a confidential letter.

UEFA acted in May to prohibit Be-

larus from hosting games and ensured its “home” games on neutral territory will not be attended by fans.

Imposing the Belarus sanctions four months ago, UEFA cited the Russian invasion of Ukraine “had been facilitated by access given from the neighbouring territory of Belarus.”

Russian teams were banned in February from international competitions by both UEFA and world soccer body FIFA. A Russian appeal against those decisions was dismissed at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Other political decisions that limit the Euro 2024 draw include extending long-time UEFA blocks on games between teams from Azerbaijan and Armenia, Spain and Gibraltar, plus both



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko attends the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Friday, Sept. 16, 2022. (Sergei Bobylev, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina from facing Kosovo.

UEFA also intervenes in the draw to restrict excessive travel and potential extreme weather that any one team can face.

Sports Feature



Michael Holding - Interview by Annie Chave

I want to know how it came about that you played one year at Lancashire, in 1981, alongside appearing for Rishton Cricket Club, where I see you took 90 wickets, in the Lancashire League. The County must have been keen to have

you back.

I was asked to Rishton for a season and as we know, Lancashire league games are played on the weekends. I was then invited by Lancashire CCC to play in some midweek games for them because Clive Lloyd was there, and, of course, knowing Jack Simmons from before, I was happy to get involved. I played on no more than six or seven occasions, and I didn't really count that as a year in County Cricket to be honest, as, to me, it was an opportunity to go and spend time with Jack Simmons, whose company I enjoyed and my then captain with the West Indies, Clive Lloyd. It was a fun team to play in, with some fine players and fine men, like Jack Bond, who was great fun to be around and highly respected by all. And although it was only a short period of time, I made some good friends there.

You played for Derbyshire from 1983 to 1989, played in 178 matches across all formats, took 378 wickets and scored more than 2,000 runs. Did you enjoy your time there, and do you have any highlights? Would it be the 8-21 that you took in a NatWest Trophy game at Hove?

I got injured in the finals of the World Cup, so I hardly played any games in the 1983 season, and in 1984 the West Indies toured the UK, so again I wasn't at Derbyshire CCC at all, so I would count my time at Derbyshire effectively being from 1985 to 1989. I had a good time there. The captain, Kim Barnett, was fantastic. He had a great relationship with his bowlers, in that he knew exactly how to use them. He had quite a few fast bowlers – me and Stan Mortensen as the openers, then there was Alan Warner, Martin Jean-Jacques and, of course, Devon Malcolm and Ian Bishop came later on. There was also a young quick by the name of Paul Newman, who was expected to do a lot better than he actually did but that's how the game is at times. Kim Barnett handled the fast bowlers very well, and the pitches at Derbyshire were always prepared in the manner that would suit them. When I first went there, I was sharing the overseas role. They could have two players on the staff from abroad, but only one could play at a time. The other person was John Wright, who of course was a batsman. So we shared the season. I would play the home games because we knew what type of pitches we would prepare and Barry Marsh, the head

groundsman did a good job with that and John would play the away games because other counties knew I was on the Derbyshire staff, so they would most likely prepare a flat wicket. John Wright could play those games.

Did you have a favourite county ground, or out ground (though obviously you didn't get to play on too many if John Wright played the away games)?

Yes, I didn't get to play at many away grounds, but I loved Chesterfield, our 2nd ground at Derbyshire. It was beautiful, and a very good cricket pitch as well so produced some good cricket. The town itself was nice, with the crooked steeple and the lovely surrounding gardens. Plus it was well protected by trees around the ground so it wasn't as cold as Derby!

How did you find the standard of County Cricket when you were playing?

I think it was OK. I don't think it was really top standard. When you have so many teams playing in your top competition, the talent is going to be watered down, but at the same time it was pretty good cricket at times.

There is an argument that's going now about cutting the number of counties. I'm very much for not cutting the number of counties because of the way our country is populated. I feel fewer counties will make County Cricket more exclusive, whereas the way forward is inclusivity. Do you feel there's an argument for that?

I have no problem reducing the number of teams. That would make the circuit more competitive in my view. You could put two counties together, like Derbyshire CCC and Nottinghamshire CCC. They're just across the motorway from each other, so they could have one team, which would create greater competition for places and allow the cream to rise to the top. When you have 18 teams, some counties are going to be fairly weak and you have cricketers who know which are the weaker teams, and they try to cash in against them and don't worry too much about failing against the stronger teams, because they know by the end of the season their numbers will be ok and their contracts will be secure for the next year. This is what you want to get rid of, people playing just to try to secure another contract. You want them to be playing at the best level that they can against the best opposition, and that, of course, will produce a better England team.



Sports Feature

You're an advocate for the long format of the game and not a fan of T20 cricket. How much damage do you feel T20 has done to the game?

A lot. Just look around the world and you'll see richer countries have not really been damaged that much, because they can afford to pay their cricketers huge sums of money to make sure that they play for their national side. But the poorer countries can't do this, and so you can see the damage it does around the world. The last time West Indies toured Australia, there were more West Indians playing in the Big Bash than playing for the West Indies. That doesn't help West Indies cricket, and it doesn't help the poorer countries now. Along with that scenario, more and more cricketers are retiring from test cricket at an early age to prolong their careers in 20/20. I don't blame them as their earning power increases many fold in that format especially if they're not from the 'big 3' of England, India and Australia.

Yes, franchise cricket is getting bigger and with the IPL set to last 2 months now.

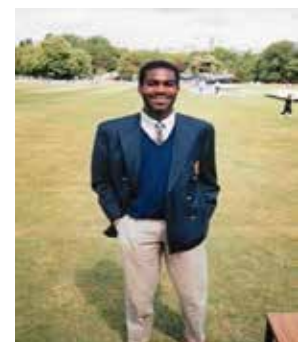
I've never watched it, so I don't know how long it is.

You opened the bowling for the West Indies with Andy Roberts in 33 tests, claiming 216 wickets. Did you compete against each other to help you win?

We were interested in getting 20 wickets for the West Indies with our four-prong attack. Yes, each individual wanted to take wickets, and if the first two bowlers got our 10 wickets, we were happy, and back in the dressing room to watch our batsmen bat. It didn't bother us at all who got them, we just wanted to get 20 wickets. So, you never thought, he's doing better than me. It was always that we worked together. I wanted to get wickets yes, but it was always about the team getting the 10 wickets each innings.

The West Indian team you played in were fantastic ambassadors, and were loved, respected and feared across the world. Do you think that partly you were a product of your time, or do you think that, in this social media world, a current West Indian team would be regarded with as much love and respect?

It all depends on how you play the game. When the West Indies played, everyone saw we were enjoying what we were doing. We played it well, we won, and everyone gravitated towards us because of that. We visited countries and turned their supporters into our supporters because of what they saw us bring to the cricket field. Anyone can do that now. It's how you play the game, and I think people realised that we were having fun and playing cricket well.



After you retired from cricket you wrote a couple of autobiographies and also owned a petrol station - is it fair to say you kind of fell into broadcasting?

Yes, a friend of mine who oversaw the sports department at this local radio station in Jamaica invited me to do commentary the year after I retired from test cricket. I retired in 1987, and Pakistan were touring the Caribbean in 1988. Initially, I wasn't interested, and I told him so, but he was insistent and eventually I decided to do it, and that was where my commentary started. I started on radio in 1988, and in 1990/91 I was on the cricket broadcasting on television in the Caribbean and it just grew from there. It was Tony Cozier and Reds Perreira who were the two main ball-by-ball commentators. I was there to add colour at the end of the over and to sum up what had taken place with a few comments.

The rain delay in July 2020 in the Test series between England and West Indies raised you up as a figurehead for the Black Lives Matter movement with the wonderful conversation you had with Ian Ward, which brought a lot of people to tears. Was it on the back of that that you wrote *Why We Kneel, How We Rise*?

Yes, I never had any intention to talk about 'Black Lives' matters or racism or anything like that. It was Bryan Henderson, my boss at Sky Cricket, who got in touch with me when I was still at home in early 2020 to say that he had planned to talk with Ebony Rainsford Brent about it and asked if I were willing to take part in the same programme. I said 'absolutely', because Ebony had recently become the first black woman to be working at Sky in the commentary box. They had a meeting on Zoom because those were Covid days, and they asked Ebony to talk about the fact that she had gone on some of these protest marches, and about her experiences as a black woman growing up and playing cricket for England. She pretty much broke down during the meeting, and Bryan Henderson decided that if this had affected a member of staff this much, we needed to delve a bit more into it. So we went quite a bit deeper, and that is where it started. And then, of course, we came to England, and Ebony had done her recording already on video, and so they did mine after I had done my quarantine. Then they played it on the morning of the first day, and, because the weather wasn't very good, we had more time. So, after the videos had been played, Ian Ward had an opportunity to ask me to express my feelings more deeply, and that is how it came about. Then, of course, with the reactions that I got from people all over the world I was prompted to do this book, even though initially I wasn't interested in doing that either. Then it just grew and grew. with people like Thierry Henry and Naomi Osaka getting in touch. I thought 'you know, we need to go further', and that is how the book came about.

Sports Feature



It isn't a cricket book. Did you choose to cover lots of different sports and lots of different people to show that it's a world-wide and sport-wide problem?

I wanted to show it was world-wide, yes, and I wanted to show people that, irrespective of where you are, irrespective of how rich you are, irrespective of how popular you are, once you have dark skin you have a problem. You face racism all of your life, and that was why all these people were involved from all different parts of the world and from all different sports. Only two of those people got in touch with me, Thierry and Naomi. I reached out to the rest. Jeff Harriot, who is a headmaster in Manchester, contacted me with an e-mail supporting what I had said and explaining what he is trying to do at his school. So, when I decided to do the book, I asked him if he would be interested in being involved in it, and he agreed. But the rest of the folks in the book, I reached out to them, and they were happy to be involved.

It's a good title because I think it really describes the book to a T. It explains why we kneel but you don't leave it there - you look into how people can rise. It's a lot of speaking up isn't it? You are looking at black history and bringing that to the forefront.

Well, whenever there's a problem, there is no point just highlighting it, you've got to try to find a way to fix the problem. But it's also very important to show people why there's the problem, because they don't figure that there is one, and don't know the true history to see exactly how people who have dark skin have been victimised and brutalised over centuries. You need to show them, and some of that is not pretty, some of it is not nice. But we need to make sure people recognise that it did take place and there is a problem, and how we can fix the problem to make sure that people aren't being born in this world believing that, because they are a certain colour, they are either superior or inferior to other people. You do that by teaching the true history, not the brainwashing one that we have had for centuries. Teach all of history, not just what suits one narrative, so that people know the facts, not what is being pushed down their throats as the only important thing. When people know the true facts, all the facts, then people can see things with an open mind, can recognise and understand how they can fix the problem.

Yes, for example I had no idea that there was a black man involved in inventing the light-bulb, and many were involved with medical advances, weren't they?

The world was constructed for white folks. Those who doubt that fact, can read my book to find out how the 'scientists' of the time set up the hierarchical system. If there were black folks that were shown to be as good as white, the

hierarchical system would have broken down. The hierarchy was vital for control, and so this was hidden information. Now we can show that these people existed, and people can look at things with an open and more informed mind.

Yes, as a child I mostly learned about the kings and queens and little else.

It's OK to learn about kings and queens, but it has to be a balanced history, because otherwise we're going to have what we have now, with people just hearing one thing and not knowing anything about the other. When you have people being born and raised in a country where all they teach is about one thing and not the other, then you're going to have problems. It's not like the eighteenth or nineteenth century, when everybody in England was English. You have mixed countries now, so you've got to have a wide basis for teaching, and a lot of the lies that were taught have to be banished. I am not telling anybody to teach about the bad things that were done, but to teach about the good things that black people have done: the great innovations that they have made, the great things that they have been involved in throughout history. I'm not trying to teach youngsters in England that English people were bad people. Times change, and what happened then happened.

So, what now? Is it all about promoting your book?

That's not my only focus but I won't shy away from the subject of the book if asked. I was invited to Atlanta by an IT company to talk about my days and success, teamwork and leadership, and also the fact that I have become more of an activist. I accept those invitations not because I'm looking for sales for my book but I want to keep the conversation alive. The book has been placed in some libraries in the midlands in the UK so not everyone has to buy a book to read it. I just want people to read it, and for them to understand which hopefully will lead to a better world.

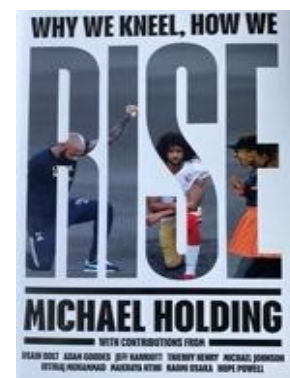
Are you thinking of ever getting involved in West Indian cricket, or is it too political?

I don't like the culture of the administration in the cricket world. It isn't going in the direction I would support.

So, you're taking the activist role - which you're doing brilliantly: a 'whispering death' in activism?

Well, I think it's an important subject, and I am happy to rock the boat as much as I possibly can until people get the picture

Yes, and you've got the voice and the respect, and you're using the book, which was absolutely wonderful. I learnt so much from it, and I'm telling everyone to read it.



Increase in participants at Schools' Sailing Programme

Within the first week of the new school year, the National Sailing Academy (NSA) is already seeing an increase in participants at its Schools' Sailing Programme.

After taking a break in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Schools' Sailing Programme, which came on stream in 2010, had seen a reduction in participants when it resumed earlier this year while adhering to the Covid-19 protocols.

However, General Manager of the NSA, Alison "Sly" Adams said based on the turnout during the first week of the new school year, it is highly likely there will be an increase in participants from the 10 schools who were enrolled in the programme prior to the emergence of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

"So Schools re-opened for the new school year (last week) and we resumed our Schools' Sailing Programme, notwithstanding we had to pack up everything (last) Thursday to prepare for the passage of the storm (Tropical Storm Fiona).

"This year, we are seeing the numbers massively increase. We have a lot of people who have expressed an interest, lots of schools and we have some new schools coming on stream, which is great to see," Adams stated while speaking as a guest on the Sports Overflow Programme on Platinum Radio 97.9 FM.

"Come the beginning of October 2022, I would have been working at the academy for two years, so this is going to be, I hope, the first normal year as we called it, since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

"There has been a lot of interest in sailing through the Covid-19 restrictions so I think now we are going to see the true demand for the Schools'



Participants take part in training lessons at the National Sailing Academy in English Harbour on 2nd March, 2022. (Photo courtesy National Sailing Academy)

Sailing Programme.

"We are still doing our numbers, obviously we just did our first week for the new school year, but it looks like we are easily going to have participants from about 15 schools.

"We have got schools who also want to bring more people so we are constantly looking to make the necessary adjustments to facilitate as many persons as we possibly can in the Schools Sailing Programme."

Adams said the students attend the programme during the week and can also participate in sailing at the national academy on Saturday mornings.

"So in the afternoons, we have the schools' programme during the school term and so we started last week properly and we have the secondary schools come at 2pm.

"We pick them up at 1:30 and get them to the National Sailing Academy for 2 o'clock and we have an hour and a half from arriving to leaving. Then we have the primary schools come at 3:30 pm," Adams said.

"We also have the Saturday programme on Saturday mornings and a lot of the people that come in the week, they can also come back again on Saturdays."

However, Adams said getting adequate financing to facilitate a large number of participants in the sailing programmes is still a major challenge for the NSA.

"To be honest, our biggest limiting factor, like most people, is financing because we have the equipment and we have got the instructors, but we don't always have all of our instructors on every day," Adams said.

"But we are now looking at how we can support and satisfy that demand and make it happen basically. The other thing is, the large numbers will give us a transportation issue.

"We are currently trying to get another school bus because the one we are currently using is finally giving up. But potentially, we are going to be needing two school buses to satisfy the demands.

"So it is a great problem to have, it's growing pains, but it's challenging. So we are just trying to see out September to October, which I think for most people in Antigua, is always a fairly lean time.

"So we are just trying to kind of get through this and try and support as many children as possible to come on the programme. So it is really great to see that interest in sailing is building."

Sandals suffers first loss in business basketball league

Sandals Antigua suffered their first loss in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday night.

After winning their first two matches, Sandals Antigua were beaten 59-57 by Anjo's Wholesale, who claimed their second win in as many encounters.

Xavier "X-Man" Meade led Anjo's Wholesale with 20 points, Cohen Desouza contributed 14 points and Humroy Wright chipped in with 12 points.

Lincoln Weekes scored 20 points and Selassie Braithwaite converted 15 points for Sandals Antigua.

Graphic Impact Shooters romped to an emphatic 70-37 victory over Mill Reef to record their second win in as many outings.

Yannick Samuel sank 15 points, Jaheem James scored 13 points and Olivee Morris produced 11 points for Graphic Impact Shooters.

Errol Quallis scored 13 points and Oliver Tonge chipped in with 12 points for Mill Reef.

Pointe FM achieved their first win in three matches by coasting to a 48-36 victory over Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, who slipped to their third loss in as many encounters.

Danny Perez sank 18 points and Josue David scored 13 points for Pointe FM, while Damion Floyd con-

verted 10 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

The business basketball league will continue today (Wednesday) with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will face the Board of Education at 6:30 pm, Fitzroy Rewinding will take on Pointe FM at 7:30 pm and Graphic Impact Shooters will meet Sandals Antigua at 8:30 pm.

In another triple-header tomorrow (Thursday), Galley Bay Resort will clash with Fearless Crew at 6:30 pm, Graphic Impact Shooters will face Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre at 7:30 pm and Anjo's Wholesale will tackle Eye Mobile Vision Care at 8:30 pm.

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"We are hoping that we could get some of our youngsters over there, but we currently have a little issue that we are trying to work through, so hopefully, we will be able to do that," Williams said.

"Some of the youngsters, they do not have an American visa and for them to travel to Puerto Rico, it will require that they have American visas. So we are working on that.

"We are hoping that we could get the youngsters over to Puerto Rico by the start of November, but the US Embassy is giving us appointments for July 2023 and December 2023. So that is a long way off and we are trying our best."

Williams said other Ca-

ribbean cycling federations are also being affected.

"Getting the visas in time is a major concern, not only for Antigua and Barbuda but across the Caribbean. I have been speaking with my colleagues throughout the Caribbean and they are faced with the same situation, wherein when we apply to the US Embassy, the dates that we are getting are not convenient for what we wanted," Williams stated.

He said the ABCF has not given up all hopes and is still trying to see if they will succeed in their efforts to get the visas.

"We are trying all angles to see if we can get some closer appointment times so that we could have at least two to three of our junior cyclists at that event in Puerto

Rico," Williams said.

"We have already sent in applications for some of the youngsters so let's hope that they will get through in time so that we could have some representation over in Puerto Rico at the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships."

Williams said it is important to get the young Antigua and Barbuda cyclists to the championship in Puerto Rico for the opportunity to evaluate their standards against their regional counterparts.

"Our junior cyclists have been preparing themselves for the entire year by coming out in our domestic races and performing race after race so we want to take some of them over to Puerto Rico to see what levels they

are at and to see what we will need to do in 2023 to bring them up to that Caribbean championship level," Williams said.

"So there is always a development process going on and we have to continue to look to the youngsters for us to take them to the next level. So if we do not have that type of outside competition, we would not be able to get to that level if we don't know what it is.

"So it's always good to have competition outside of what you are accustomed to, so you can get an idea as to the amount of work you need to put in, so you could bridge that gap. If not, we will just have to go back to the drawing board and see how much we can do for the 2023 season."

National sporting body faces challenges in securing US visas

Another one of Antigua and Barbuda's sporting organizations is having great difficulties in getting timely appointments with the Embassy of the United State of America in its quest to acquire visas for its athletes to travel to a US territory for competition this year.

Earlier this year, the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) and several other English speaking Caribbean countries were unable to send their teams to participate in the 2022 Concacaf Girls' Under-15 Development Championship in Tampa, Florida, from 31st July to 7th August, after failing to get appointments at the US Embassy to acquire visas for their players to travel to the United States of America.

Currently, the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) is facing similar issues in its quest to secure visas for some of its cyclists to participate in the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championship in Puerto



Young Antiguan cyclists Tahje Browne, second right, and Ghery Coates, second left, pose with President of the ABCF St. Clair Williams, right, and general secretary of the ABCF Cliff Williams, left, at the end of the 8th Edition Warm-up Race 2022, which was hosted by the Velocity Cycling Team Association in Aruba on 4th to 6th March, 2022. (File Photo)

Rico on the 5th and 6th November.

President St. Clair Williams said the ABCF has already applied to the US

Embassy for visa appointments and were given dates in 2023.

"The Junior Caribbean Cycling Championship

is going to happen and it's confirmed for Puerto Rico on the 5th and 6th of November.

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