

THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 196 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

APUA EVACUATED AFTER BOMB SCARE

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, pictured here being interviewed by a film crew, will be featured among experts who will appear in an upcoming Netflix film "1.5" which documents the grueling journey of small island states as they cope with the impacts of climate change. While filming began in 2021, Netflix has not yet announced a release date for the documentary.

Local News



Bomb threat forces evacuation at APUA

Scores of APUA employees were evacuated from their Cassada Gardens office yesterday morning after receiving a bomb threat.

Unconfirmed reports are that two phone calls were received during a one-hour period.

The first call was received shortly before 8am when an unidentified individual indicated that a bomb was in the building.

A second telephone call making similar claims



APUA staff gathered at the Cassada Gardens Racetrack while police searched the building following the bomb threats

was received shortly before 9am.

It was about this time that workers began filing

out of the office and gathered at the stands in the Cassada Gardens Racetrack.

It is unclear whether the employees' evacuation was ordered.

The police were summoned, and traffic was diverted from the area as a search of the building was conducted by the police force's Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team and K-9 Unit.

It was eventually determined after an extensive search that the calls were hoaxes, and the staff were allowed to return to their duties.

This is the second bomb scare in recent times.

Last week on Monday, the Social Security office on Long and Cross Streets was evacuated after an anonymous call was received claiming that a bomb was in the building.

After a careful search, operations resumed at the office after that incident was also determined to be a hoax.

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13th Oct

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Political Debates: Should they be included in Antigua and Barbuda election campaigns? Political Analyst Peter Wickham believes so

In the United States and other nations around the world, political debates are a popular and normal feature of election campaigns, particularly among high profile candidates. The opportunity gives candidates the opportunity to go head-to-head on the pressing issues of their campaign.

They have the power to make or break political contenders and have been proven to be valuable in helping to convince on-the-fence voters where they should place their support.

Despite their value, political debates have not caught on in the Caribbean.

Barbadian political scientist, Peter Wickham, says this is "quite unfortunate".

"There's a sad reality that across the region political debates are few and far between.

"Most leaders take the position that to give the opponent a debate is to allow them a dignity that they should not afford them. That has been the case across the Eastern Caribbean.

"We have debates in Jamaica. In Trinidad and Tobago, from time to time they have had them, but it has not been part of the institution. Barbados, we had debates once or twice and then, you

know, invariably someone else finds a reason not to do it," Wickham said.

Wickham's comments stem from comments made this week by Prime Minister Gaston Browne in which he indicated his willingness and confidence in participating in a debate with the leader of the United Progressive Party (UPP), Harold Lovell or Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, and the Democratic National Alliance's (DNA) head, Joanne Massiah.

Wickham is of the opinion that a series of debates during the election campaign could benefit the country and the leaders of the three main political parties.

"I think it would be great to have a debate, especially as Mr. Lovell is not a member of Parliament. It would be good to hear him face off against Prime Minister Browne, and even Joanne Massiah, quite frankly, to have the three face off in a debate on various issues.

"Debating is part of the political landscape that is sadly absent in most Caribbean countries and I think it's unfortunate that we could not have had a debate, especially as the leader of the UPP is not a member of

parliament, and neither is the DNA," Wickham said.

There have been a handful of debates in the twin-island nation.

The most recent took place a few months ago in the St. George's constituency between the incumbent Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) Representative Dean Jonas, the UPP's Algernon "Serpent" Watts and the DNA's Kelton Dalso.



Political Scientist, Peter Wickham



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Local News

FM Greene signs €800 million agreement on behalf of CARIFORUM

The European Union (EU) is providing more than €800 million (One Euro=US\$1.29 cents) to the 16 nation Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) grouping under a new partnership agreement.

A joint communique issued at the end of the EU-CARIFORUM Ministerial Meeting in Barbados said that Europe will be providing the financial aid until 2027.

The statement continued that the EU and Caribbean nations will work together through three partnerships under the Global Gateway; “Green Deal”, “Economic Resilience and Trade” and “Governance, Security and Human Development”.

“As part of these partnerships, the ministers also agreed on concrete actions to fight climate change, protect biodiversity, foster digital innovation and mobility of students and university staff,” the CARIFORUM statement

explained.

CARIFORUM’s chairperson, Antigua and Barbuda’s Minister of Foreign Affairs E. P. Chet Greene, and European Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen launched the new partnerships in the presence of Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley, the CARICOM and CARIFORUM Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett, and the Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, Ricardo Mourinho.

“The three partnerships launched today (Wednesday) roll out the EU’s Global Gateway strategy in the Caribbean.

“Global Gateway is our offer to partner countries for sustainable and trusted connections. It will help to address the most pressing global challenges, from fighting climate change, to improving health systems, and boosting competitiveness and security of global supply chains,” said



Urpilainen.

“As Russia’s aggression of Ukraine and the COVID-pandemic have made these challenges even more acute, we want to help our partners in addressing them and tackle inequalities.

“I am pleased to reaffirm our strong partnership with the Caribbean with a solid contribution of over €800 million until 2027,” she added.














The communique said that Caribbean and EU leaders reiterated their readiness to step up collaboration to push for a green, inclusive and digital transition includ-

ing at the global level where both partners together can exercise leadership in multi-lateral fora.

“The Caribbean leaders welcomed the extension of the EU Flagship programme on Climate Change in Latin America, EUROCLIMA, to the Caribbean. The programme will support Caribbean partners with €35 million to achieve their commitments under the Paris Agreement,” it continued.

Urpilainen also announced a number of new initiatives, including a €5 million initiative which will foster digital innovation in the Caribbean.

The EU’s readiness to explore possibilities for an extension of the BELLA optic cable to the region and to support the convergence of the rules and standards in Latin America and Caribbean region were other opportunities for collaboration raised.

Thu 13 Day		Thu 13 Night	
86°		79°	
10%  ENE 11 mph		17%  ENE 10 mph	
Sunny. High 86F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.		Clear. Low 79F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.	
 Humidity 71%	 UV Index Extreme	 Humidity 79%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 5:59 am	 Sunset 5:47 pm	 Moonrise 8:37 pm	 Moonset 9:15 am
 Waning Gibbous			

Customs Department warns against impersonating its officers

The Antigua and Barbuda Customs and Excise Division is informing the general public of reports it has received of people who are impersonating its officers in attempting to scam unsuspecting residents out of money.

The fraudsters are targeting mainly members of the business community it has been revealed.

In a statement, the Customs and Excise Division said it views this latest development as “extremely serious”, adding the department is working with law enforcement officials to ensure that such fraudulent activities are halted.

In its advice to members of the general public, the department said individuals who believe they are being targeted by fraudsters via phone by those purporting to be Customs Officers, should contact the division at 462-0028 for verification.

Further, if persons believe they were targeted or have fallen victim to any scheme, they are asked to immediately contact the Criminal Investigations Department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to make a report.

The Antigua and Barbuda Customs and Excise Division wants fraudsters who are impersonating its officers to know it is an offence to do so and any such act carries a fine of \$100,000 and/or im-

prisonment for not less than two years.

The Customs and Excise Division said it is resolved to operate at the highest levels of professionalism and integrity, remaining steadfast in its overall mission to secure and serve, collect revenue, and protect the country’s borders.

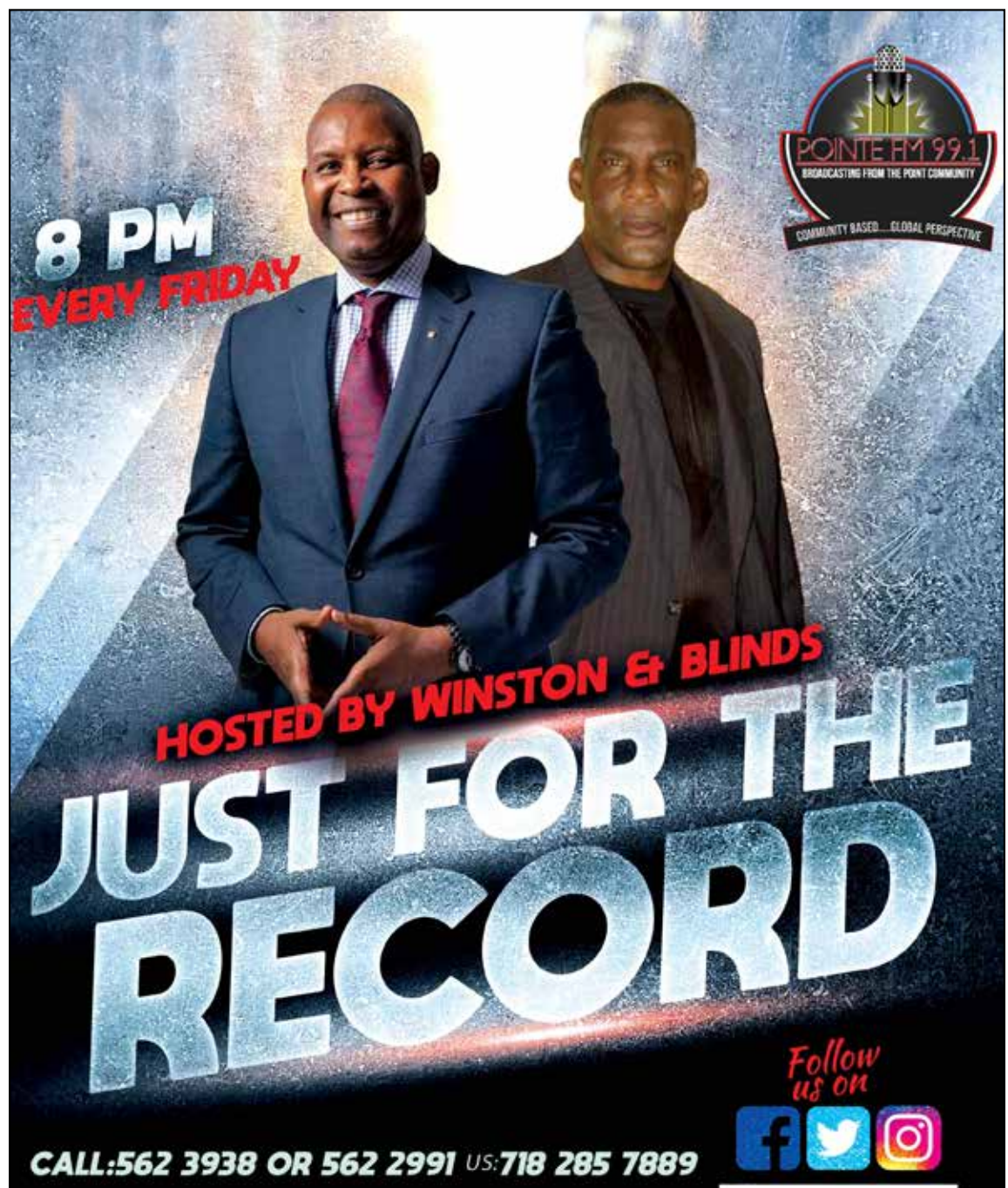
Last week, the Royal

Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda issued an appeal for the public to be on the alert for scammers who are using the internet and phones to defraud unsuspecting people of money and other valuables.

At least five men who are believed to be associated with the scheme, were detained by police following reports that

were made by business owners and civilians.

The phone scam was being carried out by people claiming to be notable individuals who would then request phone credit. In other instances, money was solicited from businesses under the guise of raising funds for medical purposes.






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Local News



Chamber of Commerce distances itself from Antigua Airways

The Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce Limited has declared it has no affiliation with Antigua Airways, contradicting information included in a flyer that was recently published by the airline which is expected to make its inaugural flight on 31st October.

The statement issued by the organisation's executive director, Martin Cave,

followed Antigua Airways' claim that it was associated with the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce Limited.

Cave is now calling on those responsible for the false claim to withdraw it as the Chamber may pursue any of the courses of action available to it to remedy the situation.

"We unequivocally state that the claim on the



Martin Cave, Executive Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce Ltd. [Photo: Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce Ltd.]

attached flyer, or any other document produced of or by any known or unknown member or representative of Antigua Airways purporting to be affiliated with the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce, is false," Cave wrote.

"We therefore reserve the right to seek and obtain inter alia clarification, rectification, and/or redress for damages of any sort, this unsolicited affiliation might have, or will cause."

The executive director stated he discovered the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce Limited was named in the Antigua Airways poster that was posted in a social media group.

"Whereas at no time, or by any means, has any known, or unknown member, or representative of Antigua Airways been in contact with this office, or to the best of my knowledge, any of our officers or

directors.

"Whereas on no occasion has any member of this office met with, or sought to meet, or entertained any known or unknown member or representative of Antigua Airways.

"Whereas in no instance has there been any exchange of documentation, whether it be electronic or otherwise, with any known or unknown member or representative of Antigua Airways.

"Whereas there have never been any agreements written, verbal or otherwise between any known or unknown member or representative of Antigua Airways and the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce for any undertaking."

Except for hearing about the proposed airline through media reports, Cave said the organisation has no further knowledge of Antigua Airways.

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Major drug seizures at Deep Water Harbour

Close to \$300,000 worth of marijuana has been seized by authorities at the Deep Water Harbour this week.

On Monday, police and customs officers teamed up to conduct a search of the country's main seaport.

It was then that they discovered a barrel that contained seventeen vacuum-sealed packages of cannabis weighing approximately 16.5 lbs.

The value of this bust is estimated at about \$99,000.



A day later, another 33lbs of the controlled substance was discovered at Deep Water Harbour.

This haul of drugs was also found concealed in shipping barrels.

The marijuana was given an estimated value of \$198,000.

Authorities are now carrying out investigations.

Between the V. C. Bird International Airport, the General Post Office and the Deep Water Harbour, local law enforcement agencies have intercepted approximately \$4 million in marijuana this year.

Bus driver convicted of sexually assaulting a minor

Leroy Campbell has been found guilty in the High Court of committing several sexual offenses against a minor.

On Wednesday, Campbell, a bus driver, was convicted by a jury of 6 women and 3 men on two counts of serious indecency and one count of indecent assault of a minor.

Following the guilty verdict, the presiding

judge, Justice Ann-Marie Smith, ordered Campbell to be remanded in His Majesty's Prison for sentencing at a later date.

Campbell, who was represented by defence attorney Wendel Robinson, was accused of assaulting his 15-year-old victim after he took her to Cassada Gardens where he kissed her on the lips, performed oral sex on her and forced



her to perform oral sex on him.

The assault occurred on 16th December, 2018.

At the conclusion of the week-long trial, the jury arrived at a unanimous verdict after deliberating for approximately two and a half hours.

Robinson, meanwhile, has indicated that he will

appeal the verdict at the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal where he says he is reasonably confident that a decision will be returned in his client's favour.

"I have been instructed to file an appeal on several grounds," the attorney told Pointe Xpress following the delivery of the verdict.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that ROSALBA CABRE-RA GONZALEZ of Potters Village, St John's, Antigua is applying to the Ministry for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Opinion

Did you miss it? We created 200 new jobs and wiped away APUA debt this week

By Sandra Robinson-Weste

The government is hearing the cries of the people. But, are the people hearing what the government is doing for them?

The people are saying they want the economy to come back after the pandemic. And, the hotels are reopening, the cruise ships are coming back, and, now, just this last week, the government announced that a new call centre is opening in Antigua that will create up to 200 jobs.

The company is called Arringo Ltd. and it is a global solutions and customer services FinTech (financial technol-

ogies) market leader, with its origins in Malta. This reputable call centre will create more jobs and opportunities right here in Antigua.

Beyond focusing on bringing back jobs, the government is also focused on reducing the financial burden on families.

It was announced this week that all debts owed to APUA up through 31 December 2021 would be waived. This would create much needed relief for persons who are struggling with bills. As the cost of food and petrol around the world is going up, people are looking for relief wherever they can find it.

This initiative will help to give relief to people struggling with high costs and who might be behind on bills, especially from during the pandemic when many persons were out of work.

In tough times like these, we do not need a failed captain at the helm. We should be proud of our three-star Admiral, the Honourable Gaston Browne and his team of safe-hands leaders, who are seeing us through these troubled waters.

Instead of risking our country at the hands of Harold Lovell, let's keep relief and job creating initiatives like these working for us.



The advertisement features a green hexagonal logo for State Insurance Company Limited with the tagline "Live in a better State of mind." In the center, a "HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT" is displayed on a green pedestal. The kit includes a large blue water jug, a yellow lantern, a green lantern, a yellow flashlight, and several gold coins. A banner on the pedestal reads "PREPARE NOW LEARN HOW". Below the pedestal, the text "2022 HURRICANE SEASON JUNE 1ST - NOVEMBER 30TH" is prominently displayed. Underneath, it says "PREPARING NOW CAN HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE START PLANNING NOW WITH STATE". At the bottom, contact information for Antigua and Barbuda is provided, along with social media icons.

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Opinion



The Woman King: The truth about slavery matters

By Tafi Mhaka

Africans too sold other Africans into slavery. By hiding that, Black filmmakers are breaking with a heroic legacy.

When the musical film *Black is King* was released in 2020, African audiences and some critics said it defamed and distorted the continent's culture and history.

They described its Afrocentric portrayal of Africa as “Wakanda-esque”, a reference to the fictional East African country popularised by *Black Panther*, the seminal 2018 movie about Black superheroes.

Directed and written by American singer Beyoncé, who was also its executive producer, *Black is King* is described by Disney – on whose platform it can be streamed – as a project aimed at highlighting “the beauty of tradition and Black excellence” and honouring the “voyages of Black families, throughout time”.

Yet, just like *Black Panther*, it is saddled with mythical depictions that fabricate the implausible and needless impression that in pre-colonial Africa – a supposedly rich and stylish Black utopia – African men and women were simply majestic kings and queens. Of course, despite the lavish efforts at contrived Blackness, many loved Beyoncé's 85-minute film,



(From left) Thuso Mbedu, Viola Davis, Lashana Lynch and Sheila Atim pose for photographers on arrival for the UK Gala Screening of the *Woman King* in London, Monday, October 3, 2022 [Scott Garfitt/Invision/AP]

and some reviewers labelled it a “breath of fresh air” that “celebrates African locales, styles and music”.

Fast-forward to September 2022: Africa and the African diaspora have a similarly mesmerising and controversial cinematic production to marvel at in *The Woman King*.

Produced by Academy Award winner Viola Davis and directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, it is about the Agodjie, a female military regiment that protected the kingdom of Dahomey (present-day Benin) in the 1800s.

The 6,000-strong regiment reportedly started out as a palace guard in approximately 1700, and its fighters were formally married to the king as third-rank wives – spouses he did not have sexual relations with. At the time, the Agodjie were the only female soldiers in the world

that fought in wars.

But here's the thing: They also often participated in slave raids.

Dahomey was wealthy and it thrived on selling slaves to European traders. King Gezo, who ruled the kingdom between 1818 and 1858, explicitly said that the slave trade was “the source and the glory” of his people's wealth.

However, to the detriment of African history, *The Woman King* conceals Dahomey's participation in the transatlantic slave trade between 1715 and 1850.

It suggests that Dahomey was, in fact, an anti-slavery kingdom, when it certainly wasn't. The film also portrays the Agodjie as freedom fighters, while they were just ordinary soldiers who captured and sold slaves.

It is, essentially, a deeply sanitised version of the som-

bre truth about slavery and 19th-century Africa, replete with sweet and melodramatic nostalgia for an Afrocentric fantasy.

Julius Tennon, Davis's husband and co-producer of *The Woman King*, has defended the movie's substantial flaws, claiming: “It's history but we have to take license. We have to entertain people.”

Throughout the industry's history – as witnessed in *The Birth of a Nation* and *Gone With the Wind* – Hollywood directors and producers have largely refused to make films that depict slavery accurately.

Django Unchained, the 2012 revisionist Western film written and directed by Quentin Tarantino, lacks nuance in its portrayal of slavery. *Lincoln*, also released that year, suggests Black people did not fight to end slavery – white people did. Meanwhile, the 2013 Oscar-winning *12 Years a Slave*, has faced criticism for failing “to represent Black resistance to enslavement”.

When Hollywood producers, such as Davis, decide that facts about slavery are dispensable, they stand to lose their credibility.

Their work is a far cry from the dark and challenging times when the truth about slavery mattered to African American storytellers. From the 1830s to the 1890s, for-

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

merly enslaved people used their experiences to shed light on, and humanise the horrendous reality of slavery, building support for abolition.

Think of Frederick Douglass's 1845 book, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave*. Or of Harriet Jacobs's 1861 classic, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. These accounts gave raw and unblemished expression to the brutal realities of slavery.

According to the National Humanities Center at North Carolina University, "The fugitive or freed or 'ex' slave narrators were expected to give accurate details of their experiences within bondage, emphasising their sufferings under cruel masters and the strength of their will to free themselves." The storytellers, essentially, had to be honest. Brutally honest.

Today, the spirit of the Black Lives Matter movement demands that writers, producers and executives in Hollywood, be they Black, brown or white, pay attention to detail and avoid creating revisionist narratives that seek to moderate the crimes committed by both Europeans and Africans during the transatlantic slave trade.

Africans did sell other Africans into slavery. That tremendously significant detail cannot be bent or avoided. Nor must it, of course, be weaponised to minimise or dismiss the culpability of European slave traders.

Try as she may, Davis cannot offer redemption to

Africans that captured and sold people by erasing Dahomey's slave trading credentials in the search of a false but feel-good narrative that might appeal to a "universal" audience, including white people.

Sure, the history of Dahomey, and especially the Agodjie, is exceptional and undeniably fascinating, but as Black people, that shouldn't diminish our shared commitment to disseminate the truth in our stories

Lest we forget, plenty of pre-colonial African states opposed the slave trade. Nzinga Mbemba (1446–1543), who ruled the kingdom of Kongo, for example, wrote to

the king of Portugal, João III, in 1526, to demand an end to the illegal depopulation of his kingdom. His successor, Garcia II, did likewise, but without much success. Other states that resisted the slave trade include Futa Toro and Futa Jallon in West Africa.

The artistic convergence of African history and capitalism could serve as an ideal platform to establish informative, action-packed and thought-provoking films and conversations about the continent, Blackness and slavery.

However, *The Woman King* amounts to a wasted opportunity to creatively explore a critical time in African history. The inclination by

Davis to defer to wild romanticism (in lieu of fundamental facts) does an incredible disservice to the African societies decimated by slavery and the memory of 12 million souls shipped abroad.

Black is King, *Black Panther* and *The Woman King* demonstrate an obsessive and incessant determination to eschew reality and reinvent Africa's past.

It is time to respect the fact Africa has a rich, vibrant and imperfect history. In 2020, Davis ironically asked: "With any movie – are people ready for the truth?" Black people are. Filmmakers claiming to speak for Africa should be too.



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477 whales die in ‘heartbreaking’ New Zealand strandings

AP — Some 477 pilot whales have died after stranding themselves on two remote New Zealand beaches over recent days, officials say.

None of the stranded whales could be refloated and all either died naturally or were euthanized in a “heartbreaking” loss, said Daren Grover, the general manager of Project Jonah, a nonprofit group which helps rescue whales.

The whales beached themselves on the Chatham Islands, which are home to about 600 people and located about 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of New Zealand’s main islands. The Department of Conservation said 232 whales stranded themselves Friday at Tupurangi Beach and another 245 at Waihere Bay on Monday. The deaths come two weeks after about 200 pilot whales died in Australia after stranding themselves on a remote Tasmanian beach.

“These events are tough, challenging situations,” the Department of Conservation wrote in a Facebook post. “Although they are natural occurrences, they are still sad and difficult for those helping.”

Grover said the remote location and presence of sharks in the surrounding waters meant they couldn’t



A string of dead pilot whales lines the beach at Tupurangi Beach, Chatham Islands, in New Zealand’s Chatham Archipelago, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. Some 477 pilot whales have died after stranding themselves on two remote New Zealand beaches over recent days, officials say. (Tamzin Henderson via AP)

mobilize volunteers to try to refloat the whales as they have in past stranding events.

“We do not actively refloat whales on the Chatham Islands due to the risk of shark attack to humans and the whales themselves, so euthanasia was the kindest option,” said Dave Lundquist, a technical marine advisor for the conservation department.

Mass strandings of pilot whales are reasonably common in New Zealand, especially during the summer months. Scien-

tists don’t know exactly what causes the whales to strand, although it appears their location systems can get confused by gently sloping sandy beaches.

Grover said there is a lot of food for the whales around the Chatham Islands, and as they swim closer to land, they would quickly find themselves going from very deep to shallow water.

“They rely on their echolocation and yet it doesn’t tell them that they are running out of water,” Grover said.

“They come closer and closer to shore and become disoriented. The tide can then drop from below them and before they know it, they’re stranded on the beach.”

Because of the remote location of the beaches, the whale carcasses won’t be buried or towed out to sea, as is often the case, but instead will be left to decompose, Grover said. “Nature is a great recycler and all the energy stored within the bodies of all the whales will be returned to nature quite quickly,” he said.

CDB financing biogas feasibility study in Belize

CMC-The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is providing US\$150,000 to assist with financing a feasibility study for the Belize government to assess the potential of generating electricity from biogas collected from sewage treatment facilities.

Biogas is a form of renewable energy produced by breaking down organic matter such as agricultural waste, food waste, manure, and sewage. The project supports the Bank's thrust to increase energy security in its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) by promoting the use of renewable sources for more affordable and stable energy costs.

"Many of CDB's BMCs exhibit an over-dependence on imported petroleum and petroleum products for power which consumes a large portion of their foreign exchange earnings and increases their vulnerability to external shocks," said Daniel Best, the director of the CDB's Projects Department.

"The development of utility-scale renewable energy (RE) infrastructure is critical for correcting this imbalance and in-depth studies such as this will provide data to guide the

integration of sources such as biogas and biofuels into the region's energy mix and the findings can inform the development of future energy projects,".

The feasibility study will involve waste lagoons at three municipal sewage plants in Belize where an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) process will be used to generate energy from biogas. The research will assess the quantum of biogas

available at the facilities, the most efficient technology options for energy generation, and the financial viability of capturing and converting the green fuel to electricity.

Considerations will include any potential for climate risks and possible social and environmental impacts.

The project is also a knowledge-sharing initiative as it includes the de-

velopment of an AD Assessment Tool Kit which will guide the region's utility companies in evaluating the biogas potential of waste-water facilities.

Under its Climate Resilience Strategy, the CDB is supporting energy sector transformation initiatives and the increased use of renewable energy by its BMCs as a means of facilitating the region's sustainable energy transition.



MENTAL HEALTH PEER WORKSHOP FOR NON-CLINICIANS

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Concerns grow as cholera spreads through Haiti's prisons

AP— A nonprofit organization on Tuesday called on Haiti's government to release certain inmates amid a swift rise in cholera cases throughout the country's severely crowded prison system and dwindling supplies of clean water. Health Through Walls, which provides medical care to prisoners in Haiti, noted that not only inmates are at risk, but also security guards, kitchen workers and health staff.

"Immediate action is necessary to avert more preventable deaths within the prisons," the organization said. "The situation has not been more dire."

The call comes as Haiti remains largely paralyzed by gangs and anti-government protesters, leading to severe shortages of fuel, water and other basic supplies as the government calls for the immediate intervention of foreign troops.

U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said Tuesday that the government is reviewing Haiti's request for help in coordination with international partners.

"We strongly condemn all of those who stand in the way of the equitable and immediate distribution of much-needed humanitarian supplies," he said. "This is a status quo that cannot persist, and we will continue to work and to speak with international partners on ways that we can facilitate the delivery of vital humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people, including critical medical support to address the cholera outbreak."

U.S. Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian Nichols was scheduled to fly to Haiti on Wednesday as part of an official



Patients with cholera symptoms sit in an observation center at a cholera clinic run by Doctors Without Borders in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Oct. 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

two-day visit.

Overall, Haiti has reported at least 18 cholera deaths with more than 200 people hospitalized after announcing last week the first cholera deaths reported in three years. Since then, the number of cases has risen, particularly in prisons.

Medical staff working at the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince, which is Haiti's largest prison with more than 4,000 inmates, have reported at least 21 deaths and 147 hospitalizations from Oct. 4-11, said Michelle Karshan, co-founder of the nonprofit. The cholera bacteria spreads easily and can cause severe diarrhea and dehydration that can be deadly.

Haiti's 20 prisons hold roughly 11,000 inmates, and health advocates are extremely worried given that the occupancy rate in the country's four main prisons exceeds more than 400%. In addition, inmates have long faced a major shortage of food,

water and medical care, according to a recent United Nations report.

This year alone, more than 180 inmates have died of severe malnutrition, according to a letter from the United Nations' secretary-general that has not been publicized but was shared with The Associated Press on Sunday.

The United Nations also noted in its report that there is only one doctor for more than 1,000 detainees, and that drug deliveries are "rare and limited." "Detainees are entirely dependent on the care provided by charitable organizations," it said. Health Through Walls asked Haiti's Justice Minister to release inmates who are critically ill, malnourished or those who have served their time but have not gone to trial, among others

"Pretrial detention continues to fill the prisons and is creating additional stress in the justice system

cont'd on pg 15

Venezuela searches for missing people after landslide: 43 dead

AP— Rescuers worked to clear rocks and mud from the streets of a north-central city in Venezuela on Tuesday, three days after it was hit by a massive and deadly landslide, and expanded their search for any bodies buried under the sludge.

Officials raised the death toll from the slide in Las Tejerías to at least 43 and warned that it could go up further as bodies are found downstream from the hardest-hit neighborhoods. Crews extended their search perimeter to include that area, along a river located about a mile (2 kilometers) outside the city. At least 56 people were said to be missing, and some local residents have joined in the hunt for them.

Magaly Colmenares said she was with a group of firefighters that recovered the body of her grandson Monday from a house swamped by mud. The corpse was taken to a health center that has been pressed into service as a morgue. “He was buried with a man who tried to help him and his 3-month-old sister,” Colmenares said. “I found my angel, and we have to look for his little sister too.”

Fifty miles away in the capital, Caracas, several organizations collected donations for survivors. Among them was the Leones professional baseball club, which asked fans to give goods such as food, wa-



View of Las Tejerías after a landslide and flood ripped through the town in Venezuela, Monday, Oct. 10, 2022. The fatal landslide was fueled by days of torrential rain and floods that swept through this town in central Venezuela. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

ter, clothes and baby formula.

One supporter, Juan Carlos Gómez, showed up at the team’s stadium with bags full of clothes, saying, “These are things that one does not use, but many people may need them.”

Gómez added that his wife’s family had been affected by landslides that left more than 70,000 people homeless in 1999, so “I know what it feels like.”

Officials said more than 300 homes, 15 businesses and a school were destroyed in Las Tejerías, which is located along Venezuela’s main industrial corridor. In a rare

public appearance, President Nicolás Maduro visited the city and toured affected neighborhoods Monday. The socialist leader said everyone affected by the disaster would be given new homes, adding that the city of 50,000 would “rise like a phoenix.” “Nobody will be abandoned,” Maduro said.

Maduro told journalists he would welcome international assistance, without giving further details. His administration has historically been reluctant to take humanitarian aid from Western nations, though it has accepted food and medical supplies from Russia and China.

cont’d from pg 14

during this crisis period when basic needs cannot be met,” the organization said. More than 83% of inmates have not yet been tried, with some waiting nearly a decade for their first court appearance, ac-

cording to the U.N. report. A spokesperson for Justice Minister Berto Dorcé could not be immediately reached for comment.

The nonprofit’s request comes just days after U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres noted in a letter

to the Security Council that Haiti’s prison system needs to be improved, “considering the alarmingly overcrowded prison system.”

Haiti’s last cholera epidemic killed nearly 10,000 people. It began more than

a decade ago after U.N. peacekeepers introduced the bacteria into the country’s largest river by sewage runoff from their base. Among those who died was the director of Haiti’s National Penitentiary, Karshan said.

Regional News



UK dispatches police, ship to fight gangs in Turks & Caicos

AP— The United Kingdom announced Tuesday that it has deployed a ship and specialized police to the Turks and Caicos Islands to fight a spike in violence.

Two dozen specialists who were stationed in the Bahamas arrived Friday on the archipelago, while a Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker with a helicopter is en route and will be used as a platform for operations, said the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

The archipelago of some 58,000 people has reported 15 fatal shootings since early September. Among the victims was Kent Carter, an NAACP leader from Virginia who was killed Oct. 2 while on vacation.

"The U.K. has a moral and constitutional responsibility to support and protect the people of the overseas territories, who are a valued part of the U.K. family," said U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.

"We had to act following the terrible violence we've seen in the Turks and Caicos Islands these past few weeks."

The UK also said it would create and fund a new crime team within the police department to fight gangs, give training and procure a maritime surveillance aircraft.


Local police have blamed the gang violence on drug trafficking, turf wars and retribution.

Bahamas to increase minimum wage, implement price controls

AP— The prime minister of the Bahamas has announced an increase in the islands' minimum wage and temporary price controls on certain goods, including eggs, bread and diapers, amid a spike in inflation.

The minimum wage will increase from \$210 to \$260 a week. It will be retroactive from July for public employees and will go into effect January 2023 for the private sector, Prime Minister Philip Davis announced Tuesday night.

It's only the second time in two decades that the Bahamian government has raised the minimum wage. The last occurred in 2015, with weekly wages rising from \$150 to \$210, according to the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce. The price controls will remain in effect for six months and then be subject to review. The cost of living has long been high in the Bahamas, which imports many of its goods.




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NATO cautious to avoid war, struggles with dual challenges

AP— NATO defense ministers met Wednesday as the alliance's member countries face the twin challenges of struggling to make and supply weapons to Ukraine while protecting vital European infrastructure like pipelines or cables that Russia might want to sabotage in retaliation.

In the almost eight months since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine, the 30-nation military alliance has been treading a fine line, as an organization, providing only non-lethal support and defending its own territory to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a nuclear-armed Russia.

Individual allies though continue to pour in weapons and ammunition, including armored vehicles and air defense or anti-tank systems. They're also training Ukrainian troops, building on the lessons NATO has taught Ukraine's military instructors since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

But as the Russian missile strikes across Ukraine this week demonstrated, this is not enough. NATO defense ministers were taking stock Wednesday of the supply effort so far and to debate ways to encourage the defense industry to ramp up production in short order.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg answers to reporters as he arrives for a meeting of NATO defense ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022. (AP Photo/Olivier Matthys)

"Allies have provided air defense, but we need even more. We need different types of air defense, short-range, long-range air defense systems to take (out) ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, different systems for different tasks," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

"Ukraine is a big country, many cities. So we need to scale up to be able to help Ukraine defend even more cities and more territory against horrific Russian attacks against their civilian populations," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing the meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

At the same time, national military stocks and arsenals are being depleted. Some countries are growing reluctant to provide Ukraine with more when

they are no longer entirely sure that they can protect their own territories and airspace.

The issue, as one senior diplomat put it, is: "how do we arm Ukraine without disarming ourselves?" The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions involve collective security concerns.

For the defense industry, predictability is paramount. Companies need long-term orders and certainty before they commit to extend production lines.

But no one is sure how long the war in Ukraine will last, making it difficult to know how much equipment is needed.

Still, Putin's attack on a sovereign country without provocation, and his threats to use nuclear weapons to defend seized territory, have made many allies

neighboring Russia and Ukraine jittery.

So the United States and its partners want to boost weapons production by sending clear signals to industry, as they pool resources and send Ukraine the hardware that it needs, all while ensuring that no major gaps appear in national stockpiles.

Putin, for his part has warned NATO against deeper involvement in Ukraine. In recent weeks, as power and gas bills spiral and Europe struggles to decrease its dependency on Russia for energy, apparent acts of sabotage damaged two major pipelines once meant to bring natural gas to Germany.

The Polish operator of the Druzhba — or "Friendship" — oil pipeline, one of the world's longest pipelines and which originates in Russia, said Wednesday that it had detected a leak underground near the city of Plock in central Poland. The line supplies crude to Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Austria and Germany.

Stoltenberg said that following the apparent sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines between Russia and Germany, NATO has "doubled our presence in the Baltic and North Seas to over 30 ships, supported by maritime patrol aircraft and undersea capabilities."

Protests reach 19 cities in Iran despite internet disruption

AP— Protests swept across at least 19 cities in Iran on Wednesday sparked by the death of a 22-year-old woman detained last month by the country's morality police, even as security forces targeted demonstrators in the streets, activists said.

The protests over the death of Mahsa Amini have become one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the country's 2009 Green Movement. Demonstrators have included oil workers, high school students and women marching without their mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

Calls for protests beginning at noon Wednesday saw a massive deployment of riot police and plainclothes officers throughout Tehran and other cities, witnesses said and videos showed. Witnesses also described disruptions affecting their mobile internet services.

NetBlocks, an advocacy group, said that Iran's internet traffic had dropped to some 25% compared to the peak, even during a working day in which students were in class across the country. "The incident is likely to further limit the free flow of information amid protests," NetBlocks said.

Despite the disruption, witnesses saw at least one demonstration in Tehran by some 30 women who had removed their headscarves while chanting: "Death to the



This is a locator map for Iran with its capital, Tehran. (AP Photo)

dictator!" Those cries, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, can result in a closed-door trial in the country's Revolutionary Court with the threat of a death sentence.

Passing cars honked in support of the women despite the threats of security forces. Other women simply continued with their day not wearing the hijab in a silent protest, witnesses said. Demonstrations also occurred on university campuses in Tehran as well, online videos purported to show.

Lawyers also peacefully demonstrated in front of the Iran Central Bar Association in Tehran, chanting: "Woman, life, freedom" — a slogan of the demonstrations so far. The video corresponded to known features of the association's building. A later video showed them fleeing after security forces fired tear gas at them, the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran said.

At least three lawyers were among the some two dozen arrested there, the cen-

ter said.

"Lawyers willing to defend detainees arrested for peaceful protest are the last lifeline for a citizenry under attack by the Iranian government," said Hadi Ghaemi, the center's executive director. "Protests must be allowed without the threat of lethal state violence or arbitrary arrest."

The center said it tracked protests in at least 19 cities across Iran.

Gathering information about the demonstrations remains difficult amid the internet restrictions and the arrests of at least 40 journalists in the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Subsequent videos have shown security forces beating and shoving female protesters, including women who have torn off their hijabs.

Khamenei, speaking Wednesday to the country's Expediency Council, again claimed Iran's foreign enemies had fomented what he dismissed as "scattered" demonstrations. b "Some of these persons are elements of the enemy and if they are not, they are in the direction of the enemy," Khamenei said.

Iranian state television, long controlled by the country's hard-liners, aired footage it described as women protesting in support of the mandatory hijab across Iran. Only Afghanistan and Iran mandate the hijab in law and by force.

Anger has been particularly acute in western Iran's Kurdish regions, as Amini was Kurdish. On Wednesday, a Kurdish group called the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights showed images of closed shops and empty streets in some areas, describing it as a strike by shopkeepers.

The group also posted a video it said came from Amini's hometown of Saqqez, which showed truckloads of riot police moving through the city.

While the demonstrations have focused on Amini's death, anger has been simmering in Iran for years over the country's cratering economy. Sanctions over Tehran's nuclear program have seen a collapse in the country's rial currency, wiping out the savings of many.

‘Africa on its own’: Little help in epidemics, says official

AP— Africa must plan to respond effectively to disease outbreaks without international help, a top public health official said Wednesday, warning that the continent of 1.3 billion people is “on its own” during pandemics.

As assistance often never materializes, African nations must plug gaps in their response to outbreaks as such as Ebola in Uganda, said Ahmed Ogwell, acting head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“This is not the first outbreak of the Sudan strain of Ebola virus here in Africa and particularly here in Uganda,” he said. “We, unfortunately, at this time do not have rapid diagnostics for this particular strain. Neither do we have the vaccines for it.”

Ogwell spoke in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, where African public health officials and others are meeting to plan cross-border cooperation in responding to Ebola. Uganda declared an outbreak of Ebola on Sept. 20. Africa’s 54 countries have not received adequate international support in recent health crises, according to experts. Countries had difficulty getting COVID-19 vaccines.

Ogwell lamented the failure of the international community to help African countries improve their capacity to test for monkeypox and control its spread. He said no help has come to Africa, where more monkeypox deaths have been reported this year than anywhere in the world.

“Recently, during the pandemic, when we saw the number of monkeypox cases growing here in Africa, we issued a global alert but no help came to Africa,” he said.

“In fact, today, as we see the tail end of the pandemic, there’s still no help coming to Africa for monkeypox. This means that we need to check the reality



Doctors stand in a circle to say a prayer before entering the Ebola isolation section of Mubende Regional Referral Hospital, in Mubende, Uganda, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022. (AP Photo/Hajarah Nalwadda)

that is with us, and the reality for us is that when a public health crisis is big, like the pandemic, Africa is on its own.”

The epicenter of Uganda’s Ebola outbreak is a rural community in central Uganda where health workers were not quick to detect the contagious disease that manifests as a viral hemorrhagic fever.

Although Ebola began spreading in August, officials initially described a “strange illness” killing people. Ebola now has infected 54 people and killed at least 19, including four health workers. One of its victims is a man who sought treatment in a hospital in Kampala and died there.

Ebola can be difficult to detect at first because fever is also a symptom of malaria. Ebola is spread through contact with bodily fluids of an infected person or contaminated materials. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain and at times internal and exter-

nal bleeding

There is no proven vaccine for the Sudan strain of Ebola. But plans are underway to test a possible vaccine in a small group of Ugandans who had contact with Ebola patients.

Because Ebola is “a priority disease” for Africa, “the absence of rapid diagnostics and the absence of a vaccine means we have a gap in how we prioritize our diseases and the tools we need to respond to them,” according to Ogwell.

“As Africa, we must now do things differently, appreciating that for the most time we will be on our own. Knowing that we are on our own, though, needs to motivate us so that we can do things on our own but not alone,” he said.

“We must plan, prepare and respond effectively using our own resources, including our experts and institutions, and we must produce the health products we have identified as a priority for this continent.”

Sports News



South America soccer supports Infantino's reelection at FIFA

AP — South American soccer leaders have given their backing to Gianni Infantino's bid for re-election as FIFA president as they prepare a four-nation bid to host the 2030 World Cup.

Infantino, who is now in Qatar ahead of the World Cup, went to Paraguay to take part in a CONMEBOL council meeting attended by the leaders of the 10 associations. "After a conversation about the current reality and the future scenario for South American and global soccer, the associated members to CONMEBOL gave their unanimous support to Infantino," the 10-nation soccer body said in a statement Tuesday. Infantino will seek re-election at the FIFA Congress on March 16 in Kigali, Rwanda.

No candidate has yet emerged to challenge Infantino. There is a deadline of Nov. 16 to enter the contest. South American support for Infantino is a sign both sides have moved past any fallout from CONMEBOL's rejection of the

FIFA president's failed push last year for a biennial World Cup.

CONMEBOL and European soccer body UEFA, whose teams historically dominate the World Cup and have combined to win every edition since the first in 1930, threatened a boycott if FIFA forced through a decision to play the men's tournament every two years instead of four. The FIFA plan would have challenged the status and commercial value of continental events like the Copa America and European Championship.

Uruguay, the inaugural 1930 host, is bidding with Argentina, Chile and Paraguay in the 2030 bid contest. FIFA member federations are due to vote for the host in 2024. The plan would put the 2030 final in the same Centenario Stadium in Montevideo that hosted the first final 100 years earlier.

Ukraine was added last week to the European bid with Spain and Portugal to co-host the 48-team tournament. Saudi



Arabia, which has built close ties to Infantino since he became FIFA president in 2016, is working on an unprecedented multi-continent bid with Egypt and Greece.

It is unclear how Greece could formally join it without UEFA's permission, while FIFA is committed to a mandatory human rights assessment of bidders that would pose issues for a Saudi candidacy.

FIFA has yet to give a detailed timetable for the 2030 bidding contest.

Ronaldo to defend himself after improper conduct charge



Everton's Conor Coady tries to tackle Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo during the Premier League soccer match between Everton and Manchester United at Goodison Park, in Liverpool, England, Sunday Oct. 9, 2022. (AP Photo/Jon Super)

AP — Cristiano Ronaldo will defend himself against an improper conduct charge brought by the English Football Association.

The Manchester United forward was charged following an incident with a fan after a game against Everton in April. Footage caught on camera appeared to show Ronaldo knocking a phone out of the hand of a supporter as he made his way to the locker room following United's 1-0 loss.

He was later cautioned by police and last month the

FA confirmed that the Portugal international had been charged with a breach of Rule E3.

"We spoke about that," United manager Erik ten Hag said Wednesday. "He will not accept it."

Rule E3 relates to the general behaviour of participants, stating they must not bring the game into disrepute "or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or

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ICC bans Mehar Chhayakar for 14 years on corruption charges

Mehar Chhayakar, the man linked to the corruption cases involving UAE cricketers in 2019, has been banned from all cricket for 14 years after an ICC tribunal found him guilty of seven breaches of the ICC and Cricket Canada anti-corruption codes.

The offences for which Chhayakar was banned relate to matches during the Zimbabwe vs UAE series in April 2019, and the Global T20 Canada in 2019. "Mr Chhayakar's offences are linked to the previous cases of former UAE players Qadeer Khan and Gulam Shabbir," the ICC said. "Both Qadeer and Shabbir accepted sanctions for admitted breaches of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code relating to approaches they received from Mr Chhayakar."

According to the ICC, Chhayakar had breached the following provisions of the ICC and Cricket Canada anti-corruption codes:

Article 2.1.1 (on two separate occasions) - Fixing or contriving in any way or otherwise influencing improperly or being a party to any agreement or effort to fix or contrive in any way or otherwise influence improperly, the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any international match, including (without limitation) by deliberately underperforming therein.

Article 2.1.4 (on two separate oc-



The ICC had been on Mehar Chhayakar's trail since 2018 (Getty Images)

casions) - Directly or indirectly soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any participant to breach any of the foregoing provisions of this Article 2.1.

Article 2.4.6 (on two separate occasions) - Failing or refusing, without compelling justification, to cooperation with any investigation carried out by the ACU in relation to possible corrupt conduct under the anti-corruption code (by any participant), including (without limitation) failing to provide accurately and completely any information and/or documentation requested by the ACU (whether as part of a formal demand pursuant to Article 4.3 or otherwise) as part of such investigation.

Article 2.4.7 - Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the ACU in relation to

possible corrupt conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code (by any participant), including (without limitation) concealing, tampering with or destroying documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence of or may lead to the discovery of evidence of corrupt conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code)".

"We first encountered Mehar Chhayakar through his involvement in organising a corrupt cricket tournament in Ajman, in 2018," Alex Marshal, ICC general manager - integrity unit said in a statement. "The charges for which he has now received a lengthy ban are further examples of his continuing efforts to corrupt and damage our sport.. With a ban of 14 years, the tribunal has sent a clear message to anyone intending to corrupt our game."

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behaviour."

The case will be determined by an FA hearing.

Ronaldo returned to Goodison Park for the first time since the incident in United's 2-1 victory on Saturday — scoring the winner, which was his 700th career club goal. He could start

when United hosts Omonia Nicosia in the Europa League on Thursday after spending much of the season on the bench.

With speculation about Ronaldo's long-term future, ten Hag said he is committed to helping the 37-year-old great rediscover his finest form.

"I want to support him as good as possible," ten Hag said. "So we have a certain demand on players, what we expect from him in certain positions on the pitch and what I do, as with other players, is I want to get the best out of them."

"He is getting in better shape now and I am happy

with that, so he can contribute more to the squad and I'm sure he will do."

Ten Hag added Ronaldo's physical condition has been an issue this season.

"In the start, it was definitely the case," ten Hag said, "and it's proven once again no one can miss pre-season."

Tennis Australia keeps out of Djokovic's visa application

AP — Novak Djokovic won't get official support with lobbying from Tennis Australia should he seek to enter the country for the first major of 2023, a year after he was deported because he was not vaccinated for COVID-19.

The 21-time Grand Slam champion wasn't allowed to defend his Australian Open title last January after a tumultuous 10-day legal saga that culminated with his visa being revoked on the eve of the tournament eventually won by Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic originally was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and Tennis Australia in order to play in the Australian Open but, after traveling to Melbourne believing he had all his paperwork in order, the exemption was rejected by the Australian Border Force.

"It is not a matter we can lobby on. It is a matter that definitely stays between the two of them," Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said Wednesday at a launch for the 2023 event, referring to Djokovic and the Australian government. "And then, depending on the outcome," Tiley added, "we would welcome him to the Australian Open."

Being deported made Djokovic subject to a possible three-year exclusion period that prevents the grant-

ing of a further temporary visa, although Australian Border Force in January said any exclusion period "will be considered as part of any new visa application and can be waived in certain circumstances." The ABF said each case is assessed on its merits.

Australia has changed its border rules and, since July 6, incoming travelers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations.

Tiley was heavily criticized for his role in the confusion that led to the then top-ranked player in men's tennis landing in Australia believing he was exempt from strict laws for unvaccinated travelers, then being questioned by border officials for hours at Melbourne Airport before being held in immigration detention.

The main source of confusion was the exemptions granted to Djokovic and some others by the state government and Tennis Australia to participate in the tournament — despite regulations requiring all fans, officials and players be vaccinated for COVID-19 — which ultimately still needed to be assessed by border security officials.

Djokovic was allowed to practice at Melbourne Park after some initial success in a court of law, but Australia's Immigration



Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy after winning the final tennis match of the ATP 500 Astana Open tennis tournament against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in Astana, Kazakhstan, Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022. (AP Photo/Stas Filippov)

Minister Alex Hawke ultimately used discretionary powers to cancel Djokovic's visa on character grounds, stating he was a "talismán of a community of anti-vaccine sentiment."

A recent winner of tournaments in Israel and Kazakhstan, Djokovic can apply to new Immigration Minister Andrew Giles to reconsider his visa status. Tiley, who is also the Tennis Australia chief executive, said he met with Djokovic in London last month during the Laver Cup and believes the Serbian star holds no bitterness about the saga. But Tiley stressed that the pair spoke only generally about Djokovic's visa situation.

"He said that he would obviously love to come back to Australia but he knows it's going to be an ultimate decision for the Federal Government and he accepts that," Tiley said.

"If you notice, he is playing a lot of tennis at the end of the year in anticipation and hope there is a successful outcome with his application. But that is up to him."

A review into the episode that made global headlines has led to Tennis Australia outsourcing visa applications by players and their entourages to a company specializing in immigration matters.

Tiley said the Australian Open had no plans to follow the lead of Wimbledon, which banned Russian and Belarusian players from competing this year because of the invasion of Ukraine.

But there will be no reference to the nationality of those players, including 2022 Australian Open finalist Daniil Medvedev of Russia and two-time women's singles champion Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, as per tour rules.

Draymond Green fined but not suspended, set to rejoin team

AP— Draymond Green has been fined but won't be suspended by the Golden State Warriors for a violent punch to the face of teammate Jordan Poole last week.

Coach Steve Kerr said after Tuesday's preseason win against Portland that Green would return to practice Thursday, then play for the defending NBA champions against Denver on Friday night and again in the season opener Tuesday against the Lakers. Kerr, general manager Bob Myers and players have met to decide how to best proceed — including Green and Poole talking to each other.

"We feel like we have a great feel for our team. We've got a lot of continuity on this team, so Bob and I know our players extremely well," Kerr said. "We feel like this is the best way after assessing everything for us to move forward. It's never easy no matter what decision you make in a situation like this. It's not going to be perfect. This is the biggest crisis that we've ever had since I've been coach here. It's really serious stuff."

Green and Poole met in recent days about the fight and everyone involved has taken part in exhaustive discussions since the incident last Wednesday in practice, Kerr said. Two-time MVP Stephen Curry has led some of those talks.

"We have spent the last



Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green speaks during an NBA basketball news conference Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at Chase Center in San Francisco, Calif.. Green made a statement and took questions from members of the news media after an incident where Green punched teammate Jordan Poole during practice. (Santiago Mejia/San Francisco Chronicle via AP)

week in deep discussions with all of our key figures in the organization, including Jordan and Draymond of course, Steph, all of our players, Bob, myself, and I can tell you there have been a lot of conversations, individual, one-on-one discussions, players-only discussions," Kerr said. "Everything that you can think of, all the different combinations that are possible to have in a conversation, we've had them. It's been an exhaustive process."

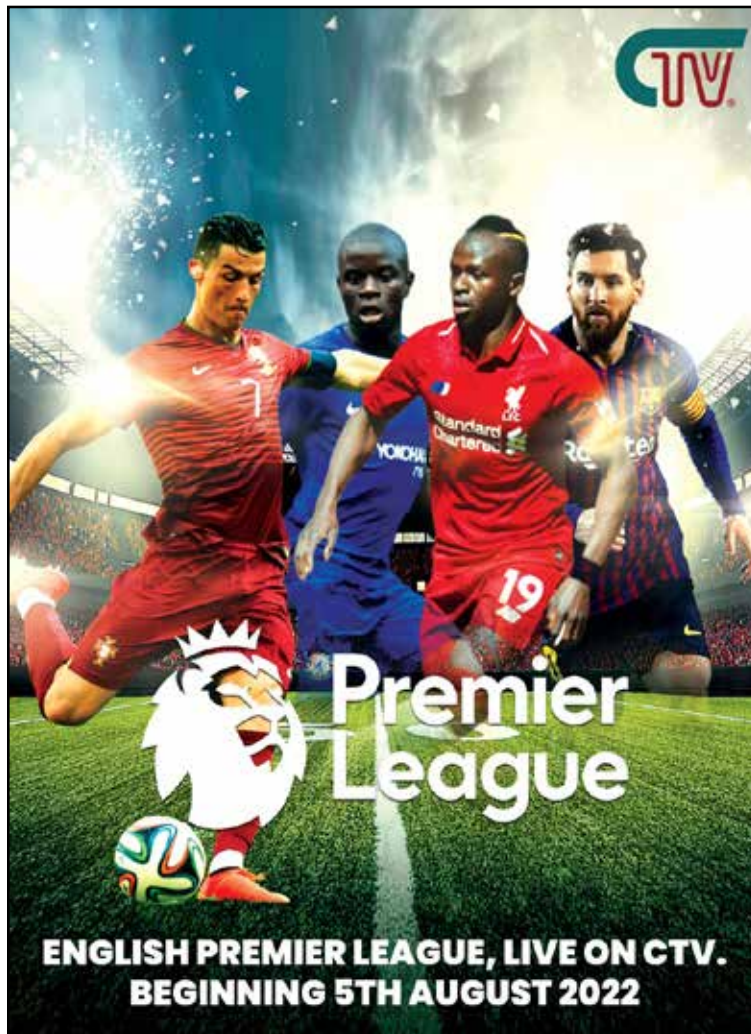
Green has been away from the team since the altercation and has been working out on his own every day. Neither player was injured. The fiery Green has been a key veteran presence, defensive leader and part of Golden State's four championships in eight seasons. "Any criticism that we face here is fair," Kerr added about the team's decisions, noting "everything was on the table" regarding punishment.

Moody said, ready to welcome Green back.

"I support their decision," second-year guard Moses

Moody said, ready to welcome Green back.

Video of the punch leaked to TMZ was published Friday. The footage shows Green approaching Poole near the baseline and them coming chest to chest. Poole used both hands to push Green away, then Green punched Poole in the face and sent the fourth-year guard into the wall behind the baseline. "He broke our trust with this incident but I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt because I think he's earned that, and I think our team feels the same way," Kerr said.



Sports News



Antigua Vision Care remains unbeaten in Business League Basketball

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care extended their unbeaten record in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday evening.

The competition leaders trounced Vendors 71-49

in Tuesday's second game of a triple-header to claim their 10th win in as many outings. Tehran Zachariah scored 16 points and Daryl Goodwin converted 12 points for Antigua Vision Care.

Azandi Thomas sank 15 points for the Vendors who slipped to their sev-

enth loss in 12 encounters.

Graphic Impact Shooters crushed bottom team Galley Bay Resort 113-43 in Tuesday's first game to record their seventh win in nine appearances.

Tavarus Benta shot a game-high 41 points, Olivee Morris produced 29 points, Jaheem James sank

16 points and Yannick Samuel contributed 14 points for Graphic Impact Shooters.

Molefi Joseph scored 24 points and Joseph Prosper converted 12 points for Galley Bay who slumped to their 11th loss to remain winless in as many encounters.

Fitzroy Rewinding prevailed 41-36 against Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in Tuesday's feature game to secure their fifth win in 12 encounters.

Eric Joseph had 17 points and Lindsay McDonald scored 10 points for Fitzroy Rewinding, while Baldwin Anthony Jr. produced 12 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, who lost for the sixth time in 11 appearances.

The Business Basketball League will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Thursday).

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre will take on Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care at 6:30 pm, the Board of Education will meet Sandals Antigua at 7:30 pm and Anjo Wholesale will clash with Graphic Impact Shooters at 8:30 pm. No games are slated to be played tomorrow (Friday).

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ASSS makes winning start in defense of Under-16 Boys' Division Title

All Saints Secondary made a successful start in defense of their Under-16 Boys' League Title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football competition on Tuesday.

A lone conversion by DaJaugh Anthony gave All Saints Secondary a 1-0 victory over St Joseph's Academy in the first match of an opening round double-header at the Swetes playing field.

Host Irene B. Williams Secondary and Princess

Margaret School fought to a 1-1 draw in the second encounter at the same venue.

Greg Williams scored for Irene B. Williams, while Ralique Browne scored for Princess Margaret.

Antigua Grammar School and Ottos Comprehensive School also made winning starts to their campaigns in the Under-16 Boys' League contest.

Antigua Grammar overcame a 1-0 deficit

to record a 3-1 victory against Jennings Secondary in the first game of a double-header at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

After Jennings took an early 1-0 lead, Antigua Grammar hit back with two goals from Sedique Adams and one from Denison Stevens to salvage their victory.

Ottos Comprehensive prevailed 3-2 against Clare Hall Secondary in the second encounter at the

same venue.

The second-round of matches in the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division League will kick-off across three venues today (Thursday) at 3 pm.

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) will tackle Pares Secondary at the Police Recreation Grounds.

Clare Hall Secondary will meet Irene B. Williams Secondary at the Swetes playing field and All Saints Secondary will face Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints village.

Glanvilles Secondary will be resting.

The Under-20 Boys' Division will continue with three matches in the West Zone tomorrow (Friday) at 3 pm.

Cupholders Ottos Comprehensive will oppose St. Mary's Secondary School at Radio Range in Ottos.

Antigua State College will tackle Antigua Grammar School at the Golden Grove playing field and Princess Margaret School will host Jennings Secondary at the Princess Margaret School's playing field.

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those electrical wires were properly embedded underground.

"So in having to make sure all the lights were connected to one feeder power source, that took some time. Also, because of the rain, we did not want to utilize the heavy bucket trucks on the field when it was wet to cause any damage to the playing field.

"Then we had to bring in the backhoe to dig the trenches so all those issues had to be addressed. We had lights installed on one side of the field since last week, which was sufficient for the teams to practice.

"The installation of the other lights was expected to become operational by earlier this week so we had targeted Thursday (13th October) to play the Warriors Cup final between All Saints United and Attacking Saints to end off the Warriors Cup."

Attacking Saints had booked their

spot in the final by pulling off a 2-0 victory over Young Warriors thanks to goals by Malone Joseph and Kerron McKenzie.

All Saints United secured their place in the final by romping to a 4-0 victory over Young Lions with Shafique Joseph scoring a hat trick.

Empire had beaten Young Warriors 3-0 in the opening game of the Warriors Cup on 15th of September with Rakeem Joseph also scoring a hat-trick.

Today's final will kick-off at 6:30 pm will be preceded by a third-place playoff between Young Warriors and Young Lions at 4:45 pm.

The awards and presentation ceremony will take place after the matches and EC\$5,000 in prize monies will be on offer to the outstanding teams and individual players. There will also be a raffle in which the grand prize is a 32-inch Roku Television. A ticket to enter the raffle costs EC\$5.

Warriors Cup final to take place today at Mack Pond

The long-awaited final of the 2022 Warriors Cup between Attacking Saints and All Saints United will be contested at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints Village today (Thursday).

Following a three-year absence, mainly due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Warriors Cup returned with a six-team competition at the Mack Pond Playing Field in All Saints Village during the period of 15th to 18th September.

However, the final was delayed after the organizers decided to improve the lighting and upgrade to the Mack Pond Playing Field.

Colin "Tin Tin" James, who is the President of the Young Warriors Football Club, organizer of the Warriors Cup, said in their efforts to improve the lighting by utilizing LED lights, they encountered some major challenges, which they had to overcome by overhauling the entire lighting system at the facility.

He also said recent rainy weather across Antigua and Barbuda also delayed the work being done



Attacking Saints celebrate with their trophy after winning a four-team Soccerama in Old Road on Sunday, 2nd October, 2022. Attacking Saints will go in quest of another title when they face All Saints United in the Warriors Cup final at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints Village today. (Photo courtesy Colin James)

to the playing field, which subsequently forced the organizers to further delay the staging of the final.

"We were hoping to play that final at Mack Pond since last week, but we were still working on installing new LED lights to make it the best possible lighting for the players.

"But again, because of the rain in recent times and the work that had to be done, we had to further

delay the playing of the final," James stated during an interview on the Sports Overflow programme on Platinum Radio 97.9 FM.

"The entire network for the lights at the Mack Pond Playing Field had to change. As a matter of fact, we had to acquire the services of a top electrical engineer at APUA to reconfigure the whole lighting system.

"We had to remedy a

situation that was threatening the safety of persons using the facility because we discovered that the lights at Mack Pond Playing Field were being energized or powered by three different transformers and it was just not the most ideal thing.

"Most of the wires were also hanging overhead so we had to dig trenches in the ground and made sure

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