

ANTIGUA AIRWAYS ARRIVES ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Story on Page 2



An architectural rendering of the soon to be completed, state-of-the art Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE). *Story on page 8*

Local News



Antigua Airways inaugural flight to arrive on Independence Day

When Antigua and Barbuda celebrates its 41st anniversary of independence next Tuesday, another historic event is expected to share the day - the inaugural flight of Antigua Airways.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne confirmed that based on the latest information from the airline's management team, the flight should land at the V. C. Bird International Airport on 1st November.

"The information that we have had to date is that they are still on target to make their inaugural flight on November 1st at 8:30am arriving perhaps during the period of the independence celebrations," Browne said while speaking in Parliament on Monday.

Informed sources have confirmed that the first flight will carry over 150 passengers who will depart Lagos, Nigeria, on 31st October.

The passengers onboard will include Antigua Airways' chairman, Marvelous Mike, Nigerian government, and other officials.



While some of the arriving passengers will remain in Antigua and Barbuda, many others will use the direct flight to the Caribbean as the first stop on their way to other destinations.

In recent times, there has been a great demand for more efficient air travel between the African continent and the Caribbean.

"It will not be all Nigerians travelling to the Caribbean via Antigua as we have people from Ghana and other West African nations who have a strong interest in establishing business, cultural and other links with the diaspora in the Caribbean," the source stated.

The flight will be operated using a Boeing 767 300ER aircraft and is being operated as a charter until the company finalises processing its licence to operate commercial flights.

In August, an agreement was signed with the government and an African investment group which would allow the airline to be based in Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua Airways is a joint private-public partnership between Nigerian online travel agency Wakanow, African aviation services provider Aerostatus, and Nigerian printing and publishing firm Marvelous Mike Press Limited.

Under the agreement, the Nigerian investors will finance the operations of Antigua Airways while the government of Antigua and Barbuda will receive 20 percent of the profits.

News of the airline's coming was first revealed in Cabinet notes in July which said Antigua Airways would be financed by wealthy Africans who wished to open a new route between the African continent and the Eastern Caribbean.

The arrival of Antigua Airways next Tuesday will put to bed speculation that the airline would fail to materialise.

Meanwhile, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has begun preparing a grand welcome for the new airline.

Tourism Minister Charles "Max" Fernandez will head the delegation who will greet the airline and its passengers at the country's lone international airport.

Wed 26 Day		Wed 26 Night	
86°	24% ESE 16 mph	79°	23% ESE 13 mph
Cloudy. High 86F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.		Cloudy. Low 79F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 74%	UV Index 7 of 10	Humidity 79%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:03 am	Sunset 5:39 pm	Moonrise 7:04 am	Moonset 6:41 pm
● Waxing Crescent			

UWI FIC to host public advocacy series

The leaders of the country's two main political parties will be hosted separately by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus in a public advocacy series.

The United Progressive Party's Harold Lovell, will engage in discussions before an audience at the The UWI Five Islands Campus on 31st October, while Prime Minister Gaston Browne will appear at the same venue on 14th November.

Director of Academic Affairs UWI FIC, Dr. Curtis Charles, said both guests will be quizzed on matters of national importance and asked to share their plans for advancing Antigua and Barbuda.

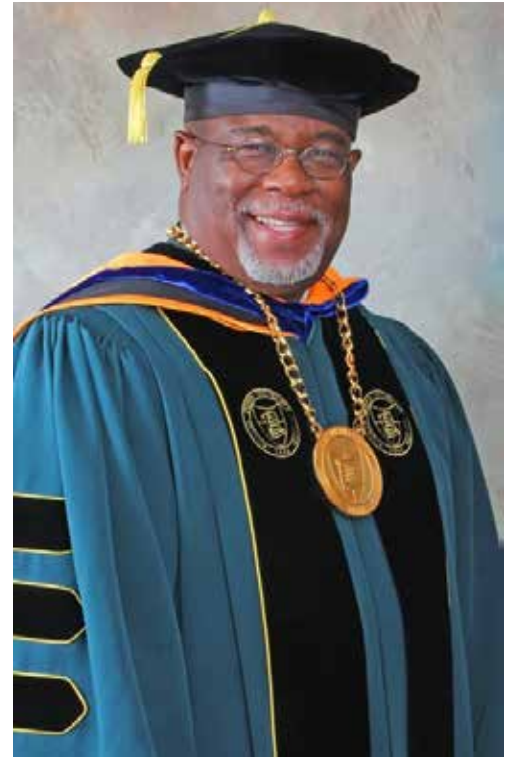
"We think we have two very thoughtful subject matter experts who will be asking the questions and then naturally we'll open it out to the audience for like 30 minutes," Charles said.

The engagements will be the first of their kind in Antigua and Barbuda.

The university's director of academic affairs explained that events such as the public advocacy series are ways in which, historically, "we bring the community into the university".

"We have to basically acknowledge the fact that there's a major election. There are two major candidates, two major political parties and we are professors who are on both sides of the aisle, we have students who are on both sides of the aisle, we have faculty.

"So, it's not something we can ignore, so, we really want to raise the discourse of what you will traditionally hear in a clip on television or a clip on radio in an ad. What we want to be able to do is to embed ourselves into the tradition of a university of research questions and deep, thoughtful answers.



Dr. Curtis Charles

"So, that's the premise of bringing these leaders to campus," Dr. Charles explained.



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Local News



Let us do what is right!

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Sir Gerald Watt KC, has spoken out against animal cruelty which, sadly, continues to plague the nation.

Earlier this week, several animal lovers joined members of Dogs and Cats of Antigua, a local animal welfare group, flocked outside Parliament calling for an end to animal cruelty and the enforcement of the country's laws against these crimes.

Sir Gerald spoke passionately about the matter

during Monday's session of Parliament as he commended the protestors and added his voice to the call for greater enforcement of the Animal Health Act of 2017.

According to the Act, "No person shall torture, beat, injure, mutilate, neglect or treat with cruelty or overload an animal."

It outlines that perpetrators of these crimes can be "liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000, or to imprisonment not exceeding five years, or to both fine and imprisonment".



Sir Gerald Watt KC

"I must say personally that I am glad to see it. The cruelty to animals in Antigua disgusts me, and has disgust me for years. We have come to a stage in our

civilization that we really need to deal with these miscreants.

"Not everybody in Antigua is cruel to animals; a lot of us, including myself, we love animals. I have had dogs from the age of ten, but we see the cruelty and we are becoming immune to it and I think the time has come that is jail time.

"People who abuse and throw acid supposed to go to prison. It is not a matter of no fine.

"I think the time has come where we need to deal with this matter. We should not have to have persons standing there in the sun to let us do what is right," Sir Gerald said.

The animal welfare group has launched a petition on change.org <https://www.change.org/p/hold-abusers-accountable-end-animal-cruelty-in-antigua> and are asking people to sign it.

Once closed, Dogs and Cats of Antigua will hand over the petition to Prime Minister Gaston Browne in the hope that his government will act.

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Fifth Congress of the Americas underway at Royalton Resort

Governor General, H. E. Sir Rodney Williams, and Minister of Social Transformation, Dean Jonas, were among the officials present at the Tuesday opening of the 5th Congress of the Americas CBR/CBIA meeting in Antigua and Barbuda.

The congress, which is being held in the Caribbean for the first time, brings together the disabled community from Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss and formulate ways to improve the lives of people living with disabilities.

The conference, which concludes this Thursday, is being held under the theme, 'Closing the Gaps, Reducing the Risks through Structured Dialogue and Networking' at the Royalton Resort.

In his remarks, Minister Jonas noted that the theme of the congress is timely and relevant as it comes at a time when there is renewed focus in Antigua and Barbuda on developing the country's legal framework and providing sustainable initiatives which will engage with, support, and em-



Minister of Social Transformation, Dean Jonas, among the delegates attending the congress.

power people living with disabilities.

"The recent COVID-19 pandemic brought home the urgent need to close the gap sooner rather than later. Everyone was impacted, but more so those who were already susceptible to economic and social shocks.

"In addition to our extensive efforts to assist the needy and vulnerable, our government, and in particular

the Ministry of Social Transformation, implemented the following initiatives which focused primarily on persons with disabilities: legislations and aquaponics among others," he said.

Governor General Williams noted that the theme is a call to action which concisely conveys the actions required to improve challenges facing the disabled.

"It enables stakeholders and participants to better understand what is required to achieve these objectives. I am confident that the facilitators and presenters, through in-person and virtual formats, will guide the discussions and interactions in a manner that will assist you in achieving the desired outcomes," he stated.

Sir Rodney added that understanding exists of the need for the disabled to have easy access to spaces for work, play, education, healthcare, and other services which is their fundamental human right.

"However," Sir Rodney said, "we need to make this the norm rather than the exception or afterthought."



Delegates at the 5th Congress of the Americas CBR/CBID at the Royalton Hotel on Tuesday.

Local News



DNA condemns attempts to "stifle" press, Observer responds to Murdoch resignation

The Democratic National Alliance (DNA) has issued a statement condemning what they have described as "direct assault and onslaught against a sacred principle in journalism", a reference to the drama that unfolded on Saturday when an Observer Radio talk show host resigned over the company's interference in his show.

In a sternly penned press statement, DNA said it opposed any action aimed at "suppressing" the rights and freedoms entrenched in the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda.

The DNA's statement



comes just two days after Observer Radio's host of The Big Issues, Keiron Murdoch, resigned after the station's management revoked the invitation extended to Prime Minister Gaston Browne to appear on last Sunday's show.

"The Protection of Free-

dom of Expression, including Freedom of the Press, was fought for by valiant and courageous citizens over many years of tyrannical government abuse and suppression of free speech during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

"Their challenges were

finally upheld in Privy Council Appeal No. 3 of 2000 in the landmark case, Observer Publications Limited v Campbell "Mickey" Matthew et al.," the DNA statement said.

It continued: "The DNA reminds all right-thinking citizens and residents that the freedom of the press is essential to freedom of speech. Journalists must give the population the unvarnished truth regarding national issues and be unafraid to expose reprehensible conduct by our public officials and those aspiring for political

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KEEP ANTIGUA CLEAN

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 leadership.”

The secondary opposition political party added: “The abrupt resignation of independent investigative journalist, Kieron Murdoch, from his position as Host and Producer of the weekly Big Issues program at Observer Radio aka NewsCo Ltd., is concerning and sad for multiple reasons.

“Murdoch represented and demonstrated fearlessness, impartiality, professionalism, objectivity and depth as weekly, he tackled numerous provocative issues of local, regional and international interests for which other journalists took a hands-off stance.”

After Observer media, through a social media post, announced that that Prime Minister Browne would appear in the final segment of the talk programme on Saturday, Murdoch issued a statement on his personal Facebook page hours later stating that, “The station leadership resolved to cancel the interview which I had

booked with the PM, and to announce this evening that it had been cancelled. I was unprepared to continue in the circumstances.”

The Big Issues did not air at its usual time on Sunday this week.

Meanwhile, NewsCo Ltd.’s managing director, Algernon “Serpent” Watts has broken the company’s silence on the issue.

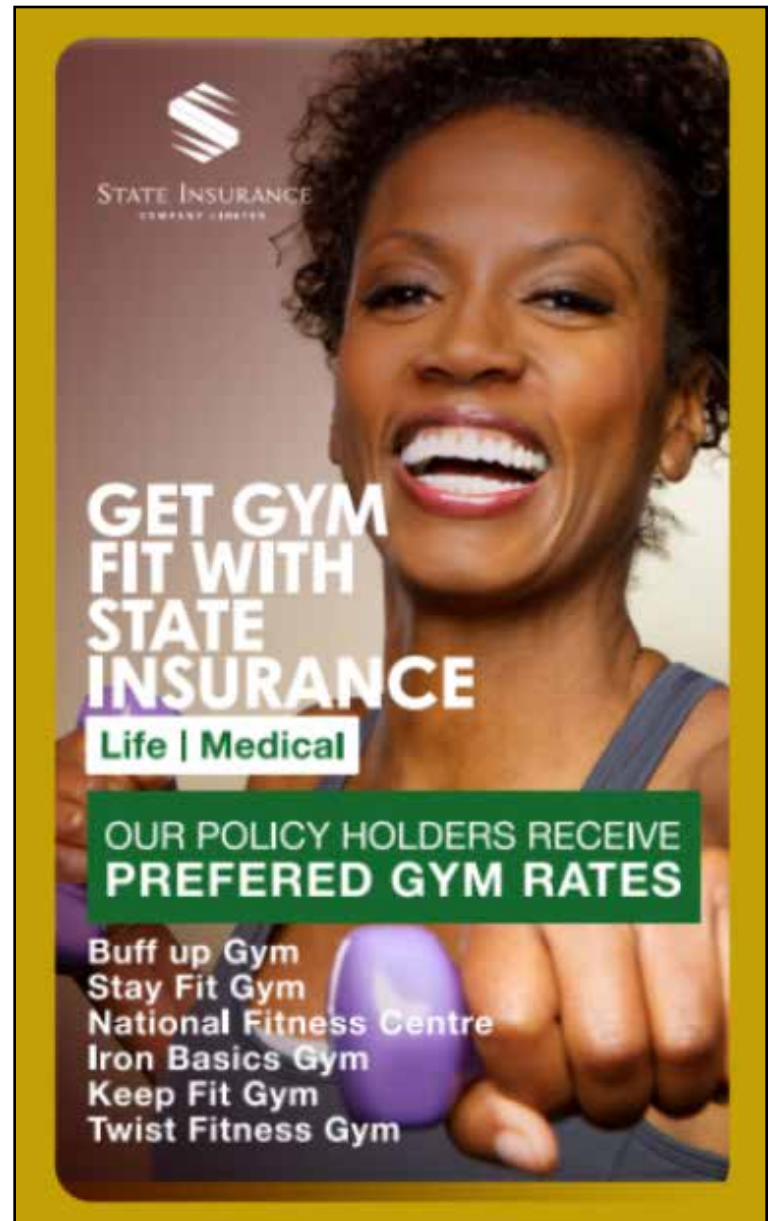
This week, Watts said while he had nothing negative to say of the young journalist, whom he described as “a sharp, sharp knife” who would “go places”, he continued that “he needs to understand as well that at the end of the day, you work for somebody - you don’t have the final say”.

Watts, who is also the United Progressive Party’s candidate for St. George’s, added while he supports the concept of press freedom, he, and his company, reserve the right to make policy decisions that serve the best interest of NewsCo Ltd.

A defiant Watts went on, “This candidate has decided

now that nobody will use this station to keep me out of office and anybody who has an

issue with that, my door is open to accept more resignations.”



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Local News



Contractor begins work on new ABICE complex

Harrigan Construction has won the contract to construct the state-of-the-art Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE).

The hurricane and earthquake resilient complex will be constructed to accommodate 450 students.

Energy efficiency and accessibility for all were factors that were considered during the design phase of the project.



Contractor Colin Harrigan, who recently completed the Maria Holder Early Childhood and Resource

Centre in Buckleys for the government, said he is happy to have been awarded the bid.

He also told Pointe Xpress that work on the ABICE project has already commenced.

"I have already started the process of construction. I had made up the steel work in my yard. I have all the equipment on site right now. We've already laid out the site, so it's now taking all the levels, find out how deep we should excavate and, according to the nature of the soil, we would decide upon the depth," Harrigan explained.

He has been given six months to complete construction.

The facility will then be handed over to the government and officially opened.

"We have six months on this project. It is tall, but I can shorten it."

Although he is operating on a strict timeline, Harrigan said the safety of his employees is paramount.

Harrigan added that ensuring the structural integrity of the complex is also chief among his priorities during the construction.

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Ministry of
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
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Opinion

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Get ready for a bustling tourism season

By Sandra Robinson-Weste

The COVID-19 pandemic put a lot of people in a lot of hurt. Our economy is built on tourism and indeed, prior to the pandemic, our economy was bustling. Hotels were being built and renovated. We had record cruise ship numbers. Things were happening in this country.

Then the pandemic hit. People lost their jobs because of the inevitable closure of the tourism sector brought on by a halt to any kind of travel. The government did its best to help see people through with relief, but there was certainly a lot of hurt.

Now, the economy is roaring back like a hungry grizzly bear fresh from a long winter hibernation, and Antiguan and Barbudans need to have

their businesses ready to serve the flood of tourists that is about to come back. In November there will be 30 calls and in December there will be 69 calls to Antigua. And already hotels are reporting high bookings for the winter season.

Our economy grew at a rate of 7.4% last year and is set to grow at 7.5% this year. We are set to have record cruise ship arrivals and record overnight stays during the 2022/2023 season.

Our businesses and our workers need to be ready to provide top quality service to the tourists that will be thronging to our shores. The world is coming and watching, and we need to be ready to roll out the red carpet and impress.

If you are looking for a job, now is the time to approach the tourism sector! If you own a business, now is the time to prepare!

Do not judge the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) only on its words alone. Watch and see the economic recovery in action when the tourists are once again coming from these big, beautiful ships and spending money in our country.

Then, when you go vote consider: Who saw us through the difficult times of the global pandemic? Who is presiding over the strong economic recovery? Do we want to put this economy at risk with a man like Harold Lovell, who crashed our economy in good times for the global economy?

The choice will soon be yours.

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Workplace



Mentoring in HR

Mentoring in organizations is nothing new and the number of companies offering mentoring programs held steady up until the 2000s. However, since then its popularity increased and especially over the last five years, the nature of mentoring itself has shifted to becoming better aligned with today's dynamic workplace.

"Mentoring used to be more of a 'lead people by the hand' approach. Now, it's a lot more like coaching with a questioning, Socratic method," says Charles Williams, SHRM-CP, senior business process consultant

at publicly owned electric utility Austin Energy in Austin, Texas.

Employees go to human resources (HR) for guidance but who do HR professionals go to when they need guidance? Who is HR for HR?

HR at its core is about service. Mentorship at its best provides the opportunity to find your support team. HR mentorship programmes come full circle by providing career and leadership development that will broaden one's horizons and field of experience with perspective from a more seasoned HR



leader. It can also be used to determine the path that a protégé's HR career should take.

Lattice.com describes HR mentorship as providing a way for people (mentor/mentee) to connect, engage, and share valuable knowledge about all things people

strategy.

Whether one favours the 3C's (clarity, communication, commitment) approach of mentorship or the 3A's (active listening, availability, analysis), the key to a successful mentorship relationship starts with trust.

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Workplace

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Trust can be described as a combination of credibility, reliability, respect and openness between the mentor and the mentee. Trust is essential to share on insights, lessons learned and challenges in a way that is judgement free.

Besides trust, Adp.com highlights some other elements to a successful mentorship relationship including, but not limited to, the following.

Setting ground rules regarding confidentiality and frequency of meetings. It is also important to establish how the sessions will

be conducted and how the mentee prefers to receive feedback. Whether bluntly or with a spoonful of sugar.

Establishing goals and sharing lessons learned. It may be difficult to get anything other than polite conversation out of a mentoring relationship unless you have specific goals to focus on. These goals should be based on what the mentee is trying to accomplish.

Mentors should share their experiences, triumphs and failures and how they responded. They should also be willing to disclose what they learned and how they

would have applied those lessons over their career. Bearing in mind that confidentiality as established, is paramount particularly when discussing real life situations.

Mentees should be the ones pursuing and driving the relationship. Although this might be daunting to some, mentees should help set up meetings, schedule calls or video conferencing sessions.

They should create agendas that address the weak areas that they need mentoring with and those areas they do not get to practice often due

to the nature of their jobs.

Celebrate successes. Whether large or small, celebrating milestones and achievements is key to showing progression and could also be a source of motivation and encouragement.

A summary or recap of what was learned after each session is also useful.

Whatever stage you may be in your HR career, having a support team is essential. If you are interested in being a mentor or you would like to be mentored, HRPAB has a cadre of experienced professionals with knowledge and skills to help you. Then when the mentoring period is over, the mentee should be prepared to pay it forward by being willing to mentor someone else.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organisations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.



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Gay couples in Cuba marry under new law

By **Andrea Rodriguez**

Serious, standing upright and dressed in long gala dresses – despite the midday Cuban heat – Lisset and Liusba quietly walk up the ten steps of the notary office, their hands clenched and shaking.

Less than a few feet ahead walk their two young daughters.

Nearly an hour later, when they walked out of the doors, the tension on their faces was replaced by smiles. From that moment, they were wives.

It became a possibility just three weeks before on the island when Cuba's new Family Code – opening up everything from equal marriage to surrogate mothers – came into effect.

The couple, which has been together for seven years, is one of the first to make the decision to get legally married in Cuba following the code.

"It's a big day," said Liusba Grajales, a manager at the central University of Las Villas, just 250 kilometres from the capital. "Love is love, just the way it is. Without imposition, without prejudice ... I don't know whether I should laugh or cry. It's a mix of so many strong emotions."

Just a few metres away, Lisset Díaz, a 34-year-old dancer, shared her joy. "I feel proud," she added. "I'm amazed."

The code was approved after heavy campaigning by

the Cuban government, and support by the most vocal advocate for gay rights on the island, Mariela Castro, the daughter of former president Raul Castro.

It made Cuba the ninth country in Latin America – following Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Colombia – to legalize gay marriage in recent years.

Cuban elections – in which no party other than the Communist is allowed – routinely produce victory margins of more than 90% – as did a referendum on a major constitutional reform in 2019.

Despite that, a third of the country, 33.15%, voted "no". The text faced a large campaign against it from evangelical groups that reject gay marriage.

Meanwhile, 66.85% of the Cubans who came out, voted "yes." Nearly 6% left blank or voided ballots.

The code also was rejected by some groups opposed to the government, which called for a "no" vote as a way of rejecting Cuban authorities amid rising discontent with the government of Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez.

It was also opposed by some members of the LGBTQ community, which said they were abstaining from voting on something they considered to be a human right in the first place.

"Many people in the community were against voting "yes" because they

don't believe that they need some paper to tell them they have this on paper (to be recognized as a couple). I think we do need the right, that it protects us," said Liusba.

Though she said she believes the island is still "a decade away" from becoming a "better and more inclusive" society.

The old Family Code, dating back to 1975, established that marriage was between a man and a woman – not between two people – which excluded lifelong partners from inheriting the belongings of the other when one died.

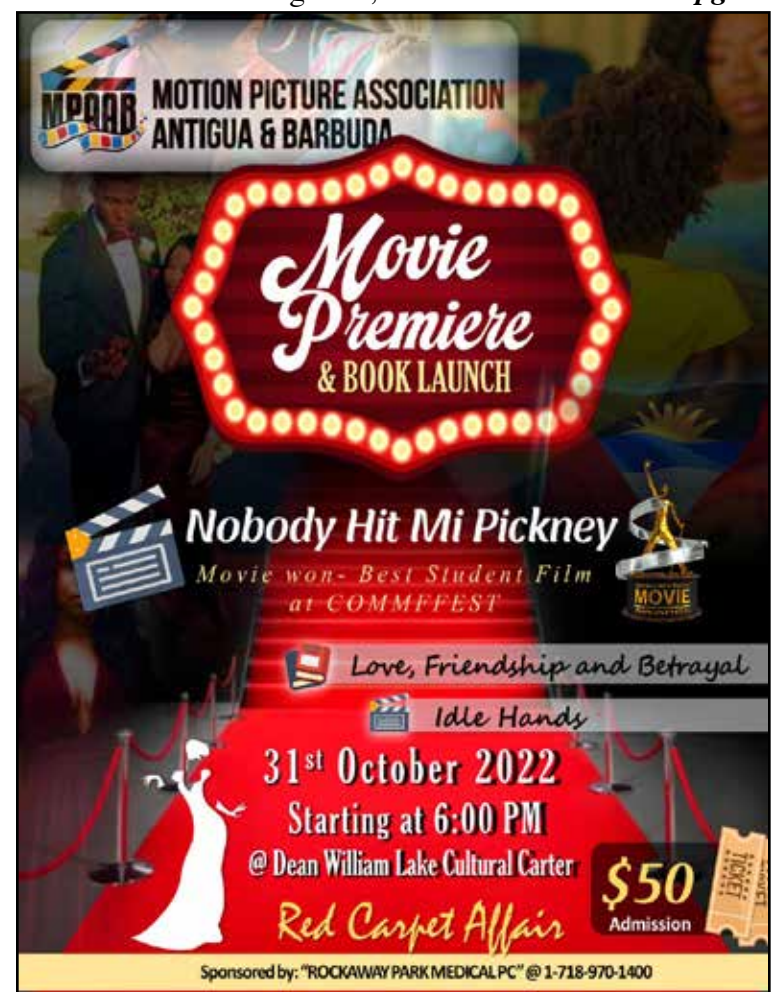
Together, they live with their two daughters,

11-year-old Laura and three-year-old Ainhoa. The latter was born by insemination at home because at the time they had no access to assisted fertility treatments because they didn't have male partners.

The new law goes further than equal marriage – which activists tried to include in the Constitution in 2019 without success – or the ability for gay couples to adopt or use surrogates.

The law regulates for the first time visitation rights of grandparents over grandchildren and communication with step parents in situations of divorces, and even custody of minors in

cont'd on pg 14



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Ashanti celebrates 42nd birthday in Antigua and Barbuda

By Jovani Davis

R&B singer Ashanti is no stranger to the Caribbean and judging from her Instagram posts seemed to have had a grand time celebrating her 42nd birthday in Antigua and Barbuda.

Who can blame her? Antigua is one of the most beautiful countries in the Caribbean and what better way to celebrate such a milestone.

The Grammy-winning artiste chose to celebrate the milestone while enjoying the sun, sea, and sand in the two-island state in fine style with relatives and some of her closest friends.

This is the second time that the celebrity celebrated her birthday in Antigua.

In 2020, Ashanti turned up on the island for her 40th birthday along with Rapper Flo Rida where the group stayed at the Hodges Resort.

Sharing her experience with the world, in a series of posts on Instagram the singer posted a wide range of seductive bikini pictures.



In a post, Ashanti shared that she was grateful for the outpouring of love she received for her birthday along with the success she achieved over the last 12 months.

"This has been an incredible year filled with peaks and valleys... I must say my heart was pierced quite a few times...but it healed and was filled with love again... I was able to celebrate the 20th anniversary of my first album "Ashanti" and in the same week

receive a star on the Hollywood walk of fame...released my first children's book "My name is a story" did a UK tour and shot two movies," she wrote.

"I am beyond grateful as I continue to thrive and unfold my journey. As I sit on this island reflecting on life surrounded by family and friends, I am truly grateful to God for another year.

"Thank you all so, so much for your love and birthday wishes. I appreciate you deep. Love y'all!!!!!"

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latter when it's necessary for the child's welfare.

It also allows for separate property regimens for married couples, authorises parents to choose the order of their children's surnames, extends protections for the disabled and elderly, among other rights.

The women considered the marriage a way to also protect their children if something were to ever happen to them.

Ainhua, also dressed in her best dress for the occasion, didn't quite understand her mother's mar-

riage ceremony, but walked around introducing her to Laura. "She is my sister," she repeated.

"I'm happy for what the wedding means," Laura added to The Associated Press very circumspectly, wiping tears away alongside her mothers.

But it came from strong opposition from evangelical churches, which alleged the law was against the "traditional family" established by God, that they claim is the union of a man and a woman meant to procreate. In some rural areas, the code appeared to receive

less support.

While the country's capital of Havana received 70% approval, and Villa Clara – home of Liusba and Lisset – received 66%, in south-eastern Holguin it got 53%.

The pushback "indicates that we have to keep working in those areas and deepen and direct educational work," said Francisco "Paquito" Rodriguez, a blogger and one of the first Cuban activists for the rights of the LGBTQ community.

Though he still called the new code a victory.

Cuban authorities did

not disclose how many gay couples were married in these three weeks, although Rodriguez thinks it could be at least dozen based on the information he's gotten from social media.

"In 2007, we celebrated for the first time the International Day for the Fight Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Cuba. It took 15 years of fighting to make it law," Rodriguez said.

"It seems like a long time in the life of an individual, but it's an achievement in the course of our history."



Dr. Lavanya Elluri
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Texas A&M
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CDB president proposes new trade deal for developing countries

CMC - President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon, has called for a new global trade deal that will allow Small Islands Development States (SIDS) to achieve their potential.

"International discourse has underscored the significance of global trade, in particular, trade liberalisation for growth and economic development ...at this juncture, it cannot be business as usual... we need a new deal in international trade

if Small Island Developing States and other developing countries are to achieve prosperity and sustainability," Leon told a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Expert Meeting.

The meeting is seeking to respond to the agency's renewed mandate to assist SIDS by addressing their specific vulnerabilities, building resilience, and promoting structural economic transformation and productive capacities.



CDB president, Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon

The CDB president joined global leaders in trade and development in

identifying many disadvantageous attributes now compounded by climate change which were conspiring to relegate the Bank's 19 Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) to an existence that could only be characterised as unattained potential.

"A new deal in international trade can propel the growth and development of SIDS.

"CDB is ready and willing to partner with other multilateral development banks, international organisations, governments, and the private sector, on the necessary reforms to reconfigure existing trade frameworks.

"What SIDS justly require is the levelling of the playing field to allow all participants a fair chance at victory," Leon said.

He told the event that global leaders are now faced with a unique opportunity to re-imagine development for

cont'd on pg 17



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Former deputy speaker Neil Rowe released on bail

CMC - Former deputy speaker of the Barbados Parliament, and government legislator, Neil Rowe, will re-appear in a magistrate's court January 30 next year, after he appeared in court Monday on a charge of rape.

Rowe was not required to enter a plea to the indictable charge when he appeared before Magistrate Deidre McKenna, in the Oistins Magistrate's Court.

Rowe, who allegedly committed the offence on September 18, was granted BDS\$10,000 (One BDS\$=US\$0.50 cents) bail after the prosecution raised no objection.

King's Counsel Roger Forde, one of two lawyers representing Neil Rowe, told reporters after the court hearing that he had serious concerns about information regarding the case which had been placed in the public domain via social media.

He said such leaking of information, some allegedly from the contents of a police station diary, could prejudice the position of



Former deputy speaker Neil Rowe covered his face as he made his first court appearance on a rape charge [Photo: Barbados Today]

any female in Barbados who wanted to make reports to the Barbados Police Service.

"It's not fair to women in Barbados," Forde told the court.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley says she has "every confidence in the independence and the integrity of the Barbados Police Force," after the member of the ruling

Barbados Labour Party (BLP) was detained by police over the weekend.

"It is not our place to intervene in the process of justice, but rather to secure the integrity of the critical institutions that preserve the rights of the individual in this country. And to ensure law, order, and indeed good governance in Barbados."

Mottley said the situa-

tion is not easy for the persons involved, saying "but as a responsible political party, we must acknowledge the rights of each of them."

Earlier, Mottley had indicated that the Member of Parliament for St. Thomas, Cynthia Forde, will be nominated for the position of deputy speaker in the House of Assembly on Tuesday, replacing Rowe.

cont'd from pg 16

this grouping by creating a resilient ecosystem spanning social, financial, environmental, institutional, and productive capacity dimensions.

He said this can be achieved only by integrating frameworks of debt sustainability, quality investment-growth nexus, and resilience building in a manner that ensures internal system

coherence at any time but temporal consistency over time.

The CDB president said developing states are ready to help themselves, however, the international community can assist by counteracting existing limitations to trade and the countries' ability to exploit its benefits.

Leon said this can be accomplished through reinforced partnerships with

development banks to increase financing, deliberate attempts to industrialise knowledge and reshape private sector partnerships and increasing overall connectivity.

These can establish alternatives that relocate SIDS from the peripheral positioning that has constrained their economic advancement for centuries, Leon said.

Regional News



Grenada Commission wants clean slate for persons under 25 years with marijuana convictions

CMC - A member of the recently established Commission on Cannabis Legalisation and Regulation has warned that the legalisation of marijuana will not happen overnight and in the interim is recommending that persons 25 years and under who were charged, convicted, and or imprisoned for simple cannabis possession be pardoned by the governor general.

"This thing is not going to happen overnight, it is going to take time," said attorney Anselm Clouden, who represents the Ministry of Legal Affairs on the Commission.

He told reporters "For example, we have laws on the book that prohibits possession of any quantity from one marijuana cigarette joint to how much for possession of trafficking."

Clouden is of the opinion that while the laws relating to cannabis are under review the government should clean the records of those who have this criminal conviction against their names.

"There is a need to signal to the public and I will show advice that persons, young persons 25 and under that were charged, some imprisoned or convicted, that a pardon could be given to

them now," he said.

The prominent criminal lawyer said those people under the age of 25 are in a special group because they will want to pursue studies overseas, become more viable on the job market, and travel to foreign universities as well as need a visa to travel to either reside or be reunited with relatives.

"Having that stain on your record, especially young people, inhibit, or sometimes creates denial on such applications ...it does say what quantity you have, it just says that you were found guilty of being in possession of a controlled drug," he said.

He is therefore advocating for those who were convicted for simple possession to receive a pardon from the governor general as allowed under Section 72 of the Constitution Act which focuses on the Prerogative of Mercy.

The Grenada government has appointed businesswoman, Rolanda McQueen, as the chairman of the 12-member Commission on Cannabis Legalisation and Regulation whose task includes holding consultations with the public as the government seeks to develop a framework for the legalisation of cannabis in Grenada.

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Uganda: Dorm fire at school for the blind kills 11 girls

AP - A fire at a boarding school for blind students killed 11 children in a rural community just outside Uganda's capital, Kampala, the school's administrator and police said Tuesday.

"One of our dormitories caught fire and burnt at around midnight. The matron made an alarm," Francis Kinubi, the school's founder, said.

"This was one of the dormitories for the young girls and it caught and burned down and, very unfortunately, 11 girls, small girls, perished."

Police said in a statement that six other people were hospitalised in critical condition. They said it was not yet known what caused the overnight fire that gutted a girls' dormitory at Salama School for the Blind in the district of Mukono.

Fatuma Ndisaba, a top official in Mukono, told local broadcaster NTV that the victims, including girls between the ages of 7 and 10, were burned beyond recognition. The victims' bodies will be identified through DNA analysis, she said.



A forensics officer walks past a burned dormitory at the scene of a fire at the Salama School for the Blind in Luga village, Mukono district, Uganda Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022. A police official says 11 people, including children, were killed in the fire at the boarding school in a rural community just outside the capital, Kampala, with six other people hospitalised in critical condition. (AP Photo/Hajarah Nalwadda)

"You cannot tell who is who," she said, speaking of the charred bodies.

A small crowd that included distressed women gathered outside the school's gates.

Police cordoned off the scene, and military officials were seen investigating. Britain's Princess Anne, who is expected in the East African country this week, was scheduled to visit the school on Friday.

Fires at schools have been a cause of concern for education officials in Uganda, where classrooms and dormitories are often crowded, and there's usually no firefighting equipment in place.

Officials have cited

poor electrical connections as sparking blazes in some cases.

Kinubi, the Salama School for the Blind administrator, acknowledged a lack of safety equipment.

"I have to admit that we do not have systems like fire extinguishers because we have always been appealing to government to provide us with some of these gadgets, but in vain," he said.

Two dormitories at a prominent boarding school in Kampala were destroyed in separate incidents in 2020. No one was hurt.

In 2008, 19 elementary school students were killed in a nighttime fire at a boarding school in Kampala.



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Sunak takes over as UK prime minister amid economic crisis

AP - Rishi Sunak became Britain's third prime minister this year on Tuesday, tasked with taming an economic crisis that has left the country's finances in a precarious state and millions struggling to pay their food and energy bills.

Sunak, who is the U.K.'s first leader of colour, met King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, where the monarch officially asked the new leader of the governing Conservative Party to form a government, as is tradition.

Sunak clinched the leadership position Monday, seen by his party as a safe pair of hands it hopes will stabilise an economy sliding toward recession — and stem its own plunging popularity, after the brief, disastrous term of Liz Truss.

Her package of unfunded tax cuts spooked financial markets with the prospect of ballooning debt, drove the pound to record lows and forced the Bank of England to intervene — weakening Britain's fragile economy and obliterating Truss' authority within her party.

Sunak — at 42 the youngest British leader in more than 200 years — acknowledged the scale of his challenge as well as the scepticism of a British public alarmed at the state of the economy and weary of a Conservative Party soap opera that has chewed through two prime ministers in as many months.

"I fully appreciate how hard things are," Sunak said outside the prime minister's 10 Downing Street residence. "And I understand, too, that I have work to do to restore trust after all that has happened. All I can say is that I am not daunted."

Sunak immediately set about filling the posts in his government, aiming to put his stamp on the government while bringing in people from different



King Charles III welcomes Rishi Sunak during an audience at Buckingham Palace, London, where he invited the newly elected leader of the Conservative Party to become Prime Minister and form a new government, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022. (Aaron Chown/Pool photo via AP)

wings of the Conservative Party. His first move was to remove about a dozen members of Truss' Cabinet.

He aims to assemble a Cabinet whose competence can erase memories of the missteps and U-turns of the past months. But the right-of-centre party's divisions over immigration, relations with Europe and other big issues, remain deep. Allies of Truss and her scandal-plagued predecessor Boris Johnson who have been demoted from government can now nurture grievances from Parliament's back benches.

When he was Treasury chief, Sunak became popular with the public by handing out billions in support to shuttered businesses and laid-off workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But now he will have to oversee tax hikes and public spending cuts as he tries to bring inflation and government debt under control. A wave of strikes over pay that has already seen walkouts by railway staff, telecoms workers,

garbage collectors, lawyers and dockworkers is likely to spread.

Acknowledging "difficult decisions to come," Sunak tried to draw a line under the chaos that engulfed Truss and Johnson. He said his government "will have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level."

Opponents already depict Sunak as out of touch with the concerns of ordinary people because of his privileged private school background, previous career as a hedge fund manager and vast wealth.

Sunak "comes into office as not a particularly popular prime minister, but with a reputation for some semblance of economic competence," said Alan Wager, research associate at the think tank U.K. in a Changing Europe. "The problem will be he is seen as someone that's not broadly on the side of people. He's seen as someone that's broadly out of touch."

Much of Sunak's fortune comes
cont'd on pg 21

cont'd from pg 20

through his wife Akshata Murty, whose father is the billionaire founder of Indian IT firm Infosys. The couple is worth 730 million pounds (\$826 million), according to the Sunday Times Rich List.

In April 2022, it emerged that Murty did not pay U.K. tax on her overseas income. The practice was legal — and Murty soon agreed to relinquish it — but it looked bad at a time when millions of Britons were struggling to make ends meet.

In addition to assembling a Cabinet, Sunak has to prepare for a budget statement that will set out how the government plans to come up with billions of pounds (dollars) to fill a fiscal hole created by soaring inflation and a sluggish economy — and exacerbated by Truss' destabilising time in office.

That statement, set to feature tax increases and spending cuts, is currently

due to be made in Parliament on Monday by Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt, appointed less than two weeks ago by Truss and kept on by Sunak. He was originally brought in to steady the markets and removing him would have set off new tremors.

Truss departed Tuesday after making a defiant public statement outside 10 Downing Street, seven weeks to the day after she was appointed prime minister. She announced her resignation on Thursday, acknowledging she could not deliver on her economic plans.

In her departing words Truss offered a defence of her low-tax vision and her brief, tempestuous term in office.


"I am more convinced than ever that we need to be bold and confront the problems we face," she said, before wishing Sunak success as "our country continues to battle through a storm."

Sunak's victory is a remarkable reversal of fortune just weeks after he lost to Truss in a Conservative election to replace Johnson. Party members chose her tax-cutting boosterism over his warnings that inflation must be tamed.

Sunak was chosen as Conservative leader after becoming the only candidate to clear the hurdle of 100 nominations from fellow lawmakers to run in the party election. Sunak defeated rival Penny Mordaunt, who may get a job in his government, and the ousted Johnson, who dashed back from a Caribbean vacation to rally support for a comeback bid but failed to get enough backing to run.

Conservative lawmaker Victoria Atkins, a Sunak ally, said the fractious party would "settle down" under the new leader.


"We all understand that we've now really got to get behind Rishi," she said.



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US vows full military defence of allies against North Korea

AP— The United States will make full use of its military capabilities, “including nuclear, conventional and missile defence,” to defend its allies Japan and South Korea, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said Tuesday as she warned North Korea against escalating its provocations.

Sherman said North Korea’s repeated firings of ballistic missiles and artillery in recent weeks were provocative military actions. North Korea has described them as practice runs for the use of tactical nuclear weapons.

“This is deeply irresponsible, dangerous, and destabilising,” Sherman said in talks in Tokyo with South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyungdong. The two officials met ahead of a three-way meeting with their Japanese counterpart on Wednesday.

It will be the second in-person meeting of the three officials since conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol took office in May, signalling an improvement in difficult ties between Japan and South Korea. A year ago, Japanese and South Korean vice ministers declined to participate in a joint news conference after three-way talks in Washington, leav-



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, left, and her counterpart, Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori pose for a photo before their meeting at the Iikura guest house in Tokyo, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

ing Sherman to make a solo media appearance.

Sherman said North Korea needs to understand that the U.S. commitment to the security of South Korea and Japan is “ironclad.”

“And we will use the full range of U.S. defence capabilities to defend our allies, including nuclear, conventional and missile defence capabilities,” she said.

Cho, during his talks with Sherman, raised concern that a new North Korean nuclear weapons policy adopted in September increases the possibility of its arbitrary use of nuclear weapons.

“This is creating serious tension on the Korean Peninsula,” Cho said.

Sherman met earlier Tuesday with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori and reaffirmed the further strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance and other shared goals, including the complete denuclearization of North Korea and their joint response to China’s increasingly assertive actions in the region.

Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada recently said North Korea is believed to have achieved a miniaturisation of nuclear warheads while significantly advancing its missile

capabilities by diversifying its launch technologies, making interceptions more difficult.

Japanese officials have also warned of a possible nuclear test by North Korea in the near future.

The Japanese and South Korean officials met together later Tuesday and discussed ways to improve their countries’ ties, which were badly strained over disagreements stemming from Japanese wartime actions, including abuse of Korean forced labourers and coercing girls and young women to work in brothels for Japanese soldiers.

Qatar's emir lashes out at criticism ahead of FIFA World Cup

AP - Qatar's ruling emir on Tuesday lashed out at criticism of his country over its hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, describing it as an "unprecedented campaign" targeting the first Arab nation to hold the tournament.

Since winning hosting rights for the World Cup over a decade ago, Qatar has faced scrutiny and criticism for its treatment of migrant workers and the gay community, among other issues.

The alleged abuses affecting legions of low-paid labourers who power Qatar's economy and who built its gleaming World Cup stadiums have been a lightning rod for protest around the world, especially in Europe.

Qatar has repeatedly pushed back, insisting the country has improved protections for migrant workers and claiming the criticism is outdated.

In a televised speech before the emirate's legislative body on Tuesday, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said Qatar "has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has ever faced."

"The campaign tends to continue and expand to include fabrications and double standards that were so ferocious that it has unfortunately prompted many people to question the real reasons and motives," he said.

Rights groups have credited Qatar with improving its labour laws, such as by adopting a minimum monthly wage of around \$275 a month in 2020, and for largely dismantling the "kafala" system that had prevented workers from changing jobs or leaving the country without the consent of their employers. However, activists call for more to be done.



Branding is displayed near the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, March 31, 2022. Qatar's ruling emir has lashed out at criticism of the country over its hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, complaining of an "unprecedented campaign" targeting the first Arab nation to hold the tournament. (AP Photo/Darko Bandic, File)

In recent months pressure has also mounted on Qatar over its criminalization of homosexuality. Qatari law calls for a prison sentence of one to three years for adults convicted of consensual gay or lesbian sex. European soccer federations last month announced their intention for captains to wear an armband with a rainbow heart design as part of an anti-discrimination campaign during international matches.

Qatar has said all are welcome at the World Cup, including LGBTQ fans, but that visitors should respect the country's conservative culture, in which public displays of affection — even among heterosexuals — is taboo.

On Tuesday, a veteran U.K.-based activist held a one-man protest in front of Qatar's National Museum. Peter Tatchell, 70, held a sign accusing Qatar of jailing members of the

LGBTQ community.

Organisers claimed he was arrested but later acknowledged that police had only briefly questioned him on the sidewalk.

Qatar denied he was arrested and said claims to the contrary are "completely false."

"An individual standing in a traffic roundabout was cordially and professionally asked to move to the sidewalk, no arrests were made," the government's communications office said in a statement.

In his speech, Sheikh Tamim promised the glaring spotlight of the world's biggest sporting event would also benefit Qatar.

"This is a great test for a country the size of Qatar that impresses the whole world with what it has already achieved and is achieving," he said.

The tournament starts on Nov. 20 and the final is set for Dec. 18.

Simmons to step down as head coach of West Indies men's team

Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced today that Phil Simmons will be stepping down from his role as Head Coach of the West Indies Men's team following the team's exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup being played in Australia. His last assignment will be the upcoming two-Test series against Australia from 30 November to 12 December.

Simmons said: "I acknowledge that it's not just the team that is hurting but the proud nations we represent as well. It's disappointing and heart wrenching but we just didn't turn up. We weren't good enough and we now have to watch a tournament play-out without our involvement. It's unfathomable and for that I deeply apologise



Phil Simmons

to our fans and followers.

"From a personal perspective this is not a knee jerk reaction, but a move I have been considering for some time and now is the time to make public that I will step down as West Indies

Head Coach at the end of the Test series against Australia. It is earlier than hoped for, but I will now focus my energies in Australia on continuing to build on the excellent progress the Test team has made. Of course, as the President has pointed out, we will also carry out the necessary review into our World Cup campaign."

He added: "I must say I have enjoyed aspects of the unique challenge that being West Indies Head Coach provides and the unwavering support of my Management Team. There remain some exceptional individuals within CWI who I firmly believe will continue to work in the best interests of West Indies cricket."

CWI President Ricky Skerritt thanked Simmons for his service. Skerritt said: "On behalf of CWI I want to thank Phil for his hard work and dedication to West Indies cricket, most recently in his role as Head Coach. Phil is a proud West Indian, with high ideals and has never lacked motivation in guiding our younger players on and off the field of play.

"He brought valuable experience and stability at a very important period of transformation, including the most challenging environment of the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours."

Simmons was at the helm in 2016 when West Indies won their second ICC Men's T20 World Cup title defeating England at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

Earlier this year he guided the team's fortunes in their hard-fought 1-0 Test series win over England on home soil to capture the Richards-Botham Trophy and in June a Test series victory against Bangladesh in their last outing.



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Brittney Griner: Russian court rejects appeal over jail term

BBC - A Russian court has rejected an appeal by US basketball star Brittney Griner against her nine-year jail term for drug charges.

The court near Moscow upheld the sentence, with the state prosecutor calling it "fair".

The double Olympic winner apologised for her "honest mistake" in her appeal hearing via video link, saying it had been "very, very stressful".

Griner, 32, was convicted in August of smuggling and possessing cannabis oil.

It was not immediately clear whether all her legal routes had been exhausted. She is due to serve her sentence in a penal colony.

The sportswoman's lawyer, Alexander Boykov, said his team hoped that a prisoner exchange would be possible.

In August, the Kremlin posed the possibility of a prisoner swap between the US and Russia involving the basketball player.

Reports in US media suggest imprisoned Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout - known as the Merchant of Death - could be transferred by Washington to the Russian authorities as part of the deal.

Mr Boykov said: "No judge, hand on heart, will honestly say that Griner's nine-year sentence is in line with Russian criminal law."



Brittney Griner

He added his legal team would be in talks with Griner as to whether she would want to pursue a further appeal.

The White House called the legal proceedings a "sham".

In a statement, a US national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said Griner was being "wrongfully detained under intolerable circumstances" and that President Joe Biden had called for her release immediately.

A top US diplomat, who attended the hearing, called the sentence "excessive and disproportionate".

The sports star spoke to the appeals court of three judges remotely from her detention centre in a town near Moscow.

"I really hope that the court will adjust this sentence because it has been very very stressful and very traumatic," she had told the

than what I was given," she added.

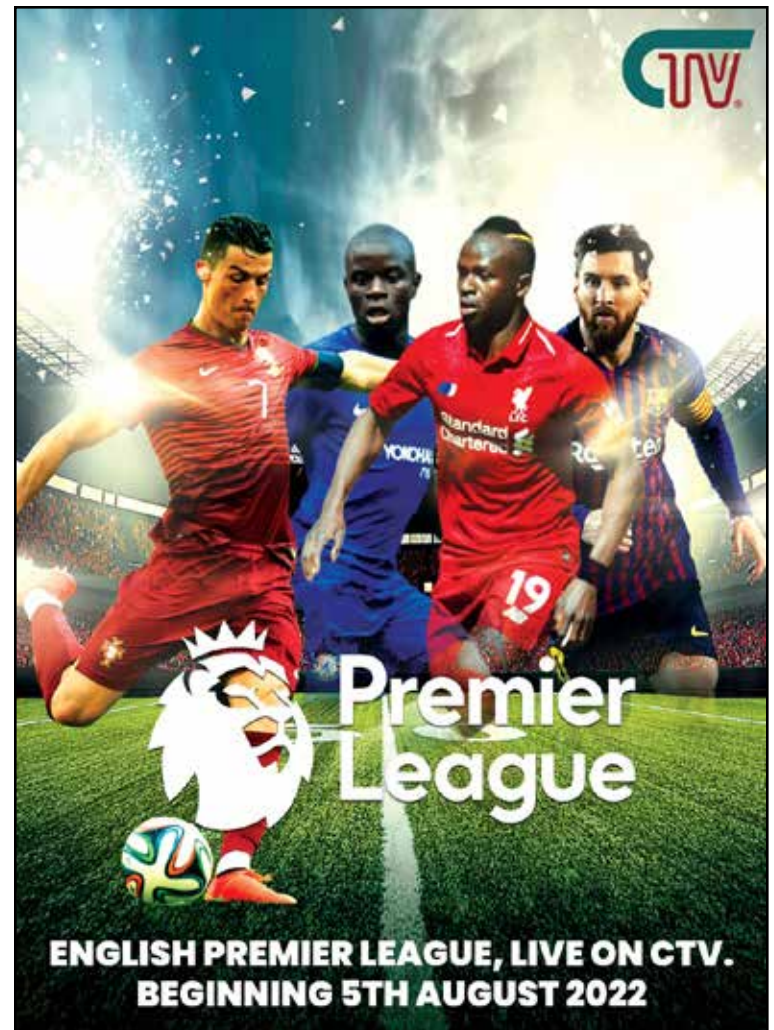
Considered one of the world's top players, she was detained on 17 February at an airport near Moscow when vape cartridges containing cannabis oil were found in her luggage.

She had come to Russia to play club basketball during the US off-season.

Her case has become subject to high-profile diplomacy between the US and Russia, whose relations plummeted after Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February.

court.

"People with more severe crimes have gotten less



Agnelli, Juve officials could face false accounting trial

AP - Juventus president Andrea Agnelli, vice president Pavel Nedved and CEO Maurizio Arrivabene are among 15 people who could face a trial for alleged false accounting and irregularities in player transfers following a notification from the public prosecutor's office in Turin.

Prosecutors have been investigating since last year whether Juventus, which is listed on the Milan stock exchange, cashed in on illegal commissions from transfer and loans of players. The case is also

exploring if investors were misled with invoices being issued for non-existent transactions to demonstrate income that in turn could be deemed false accounting.

The case involves player contracts, transfers and agent dealings between 2018 and 2020.

Juventus said in a statement on Tuesday that it "remains convinced" that it "operated according to the laws and rules that govern financial relations" and complied with "international customs of the football industry."



Juventus soccer team president Andrea Agnelli arrives prior to the start of the third free practice at the Monza racetrack, in Monza, Italy, Sept. 10, 2022. Juventus president Andrea Agnelli, vice president Pavel Nedved and CEO Maurizio Arrivabene are among 15 people who could face a trial for alleged false accounting and irregularities in player transfers following a notification from the public prosecutor's office in Turin. The prosecutor's office announced on Monday that 16 subjects were under investigation: Juventus and 15 people. A request for home arrest for Agnelli was rejected by a preliminary judge. (AP Photo/Luca Bruno, File)

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Juventus lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa and Agnelli's lawyer Davide Sangiorgio said that sports courts have already cleared Juventus of wrongdoing on two occasions for the same case and that there is "nothing new" since those decisions were made.

The prosecutor's office announced on Monday that 16 subjects were under investigation: Juventus and 15 people. A request for home arrest for Agnelli was rejected by a preliminary judge.

Last month, Juventus

reported a record loss of 254.3 million euros (\$246 million) for the 2021-22 financial year. It was the fifth consecutive year that Juventus reported a loss, and it was 44.4 million euros (\$43 million) more than in 2020-21.

Juventus, the record 36-time Italian champion, has also struggled on the field recently after a record run of nine straight Serie A titles from 2012 to 2020. Juventus finished fourth the past two seasons and is currently placed eighth in Serie A.

Adidas ends Kanye West partnership over antisemitism, hate speech

By Mrinmay Dey and Uday Sampath

Adidas AG is terminating its partnership immediately with Kanye West, the sporting goods maker said on Tuesday, reacting to a rash of offensive behaviour from the American rapper and designer.

"Adidas does not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech," the German company said.

"Ye's recent comments and actions have been unacceptable, hateful and dangerous, and they violate the company's values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and fairness," it said, referring to the rapper by his legal name.

A lawyer representing Kanye West did not respond to a request for comment.

Ending the partnership and the production of Yeezy branded products, as well as stopping all payments to Ye and his companies will "have a short-term negative impact" of up to \$250 million" on Adidas' net income this year, the company said, partially as the Christmas quarter tends to see greater demand usually.

Adidas put the partnership under review earlier in October "after repeated efforts to privately resolve the situation."

In now-deleted Instagram posts from earlier this year, the multiple



Singer Kanye West walks past models after presenting his Fall/Winter 2015 partnership line with Adidas at New York Fashion Week February 12, 2015. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson/File Photo

Grammy award-winning artist accused Adidas and U.S. apparel retailer Gap Inc of failing to build contractually promised permanent stores for products from his Yeezy fashion line.

He also accused Adidas of stealing his designs for its own products.

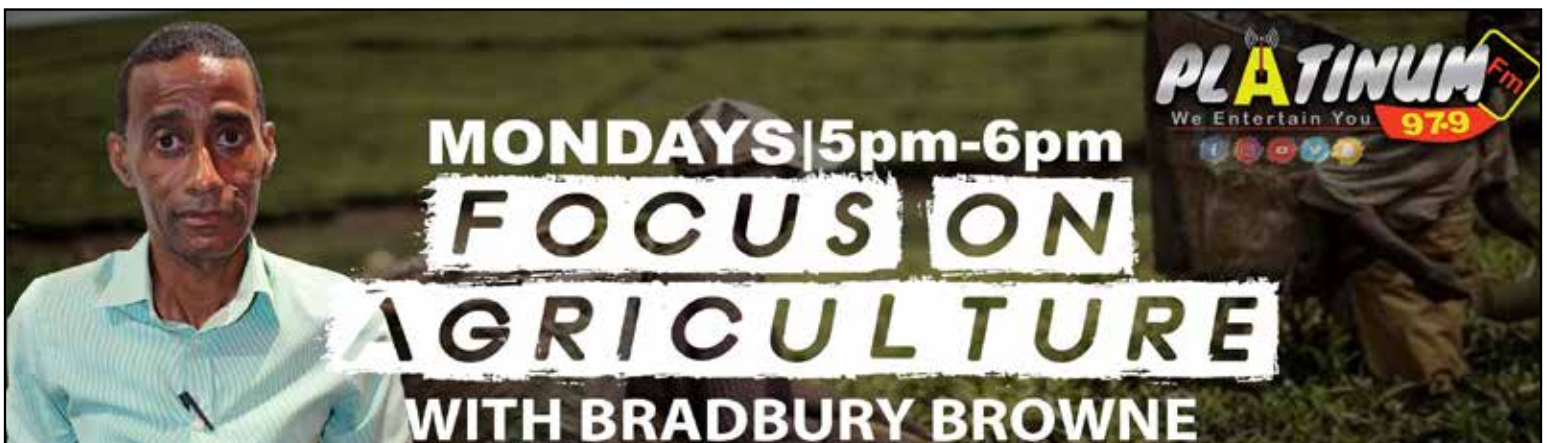
Gap and Ye ended their partnership in September. European fashion house Balenciaga has also cut ties with Ye, according to media reports.

Adidas poached Ye from rival Nike Inc in 2013 and agreed to a new long-term partnership in 2016 in what the company then called "the most significant partnership created between a non-athlete and a sports brand."

The tie-up, which produced several hot-selling "Yeezy" branded Adidas sneakers that cost between \$200 and \$700, helped the German brand close the gap with Nike in the U.S. market.

Yeezy generates about 1.5 billion euros (US\$1.47 billion) in annual sales for Adidas, making up a little over 7% of its total revenue, according to estimates from Telsey Advisory Group.

Shares in Adidas, which cut its full-year forecast last week, were down about 3.2%. The group said it would provide more information as part of its upcoming Q3 earnings announcement on Nov. 9.



Sports News



Graphic Shooters and Anjo Wholesale to meet in showdown for Business League title

It promises to be an exciting showdown between Graphic Impact Shooters and Anjo Wholesale as they vie for the title in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League Competition.

Both teams booked their place in the final by pulling off 2-0 wins in their respective best of three semi-finals playoff series.

Graphic Impact Shooters wrapped up their semi-final series by coasting to a 56-43 victory over Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care in Game Two at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday night.

Yannick Samuel shot a game-high 21 points, while Sean Nicholas and Kwame Braithwaite each scored 10 points for Graphic Impact Shooters.



Anjo Wholesale will be seeking to capture the 2022 ABBA Cool and Smooth Business League Basketball Championship. (File photo)

Daryl Goodwin converted 17 points and Tequan Brodie contributed 12 points for Antigua Vision Care.

After snatching a one-point win in game one, Anjo Wholesale needed double overtime to oust Sandals Antigua with a 76-72 victory in the second game of their very keenly contested

semi-final series at the same venue on Monday night.

It was truly a ding-dong battle with both teams deadlocked at 42-42 at the end of regulation on a running clock format.

They were still unable to be separated at the end of the first period of overtime in which the scores were

tied at 54-54.

However, Anjo Wholesale were able to pull away and snatched their four-point win by the end of the second overtime period.

Cohen Desouza produced 21 points, Steven Matthew had 19 points and Xavier "X Man" Meade chipped in with 18 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Keroi Lee led Sandals Antigua with 21 points, Kenya Achom gave good support with 16 points and Selassie Braithwaite chipped in with 11 points.

Anjo Wholesale and Graphic Impact Shooters will face-off in the first game of their best of three finals for the Business League Basketball Championship at the JSC Sports Complex today, Wednesday, 26th October, at 7:30 pm.

PMS and OCS maintain winning form in U/14 Boys' League

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and defending champions Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) have maintained their winning form in the Under-14 Boys' Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

After hammering Clare Hall Secondary 6-0 in their opening encounter, the youngsters of Princess Margaret School had another six-goal haul in a 6-1 drubbing of St. Joseph's Academy

in the second game of a double-header at the PMS playing field on Monday afternoon.

Mekhi Nathan converted a hat-trick, Malik Samuel and Tyrese Williamson each scored once and an own-goal by Joseph Leigh propelled PMS to their second win in as many outings.

Cupholders Ottos Comprehensive maintained their strong start to their title defense as they made it two wins in as many matches by pulling off a 2-0

win over Antigua Grammar School in the second game of a double-header at King George V Grounds on Monday.

Iczjaire Sebastian scored a consolation goal for St. Joseph's Academy who remained winless after two matches in the competition.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy secured their first win of the competition by prevailing 2-1 against All Saints Secondary in the first game at the PMS

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ICONS claim second win in Business League Volleyball contest

ICONS made it two wins in a row during the second round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) Business League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex over the weekend.

ICONS overcame Sandals 2-1, prevailing 25-17, 17-25, 15-11 in the second game of a double-header on Saturday, 22nd October.

77 Bus secured their first win of the competition, surging to a straight-sets 25-23, 25-13 victory over the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) in the first game on Saturday.

Earlier in the week, the Media notched up their second win in as many outings as they snatched a 2-1 victory against Friends & Families of Island Academy (FFIA), prevailing 25-19, 21-25, 15-12 in the opening game of a double-header at the same venue on Thursday, 20th October.

MEDSO grabbed their first win of the competition with a hard-fought 25-11, 22-25, 15-6 victory over Zammine Shipping in Thursday's second encounter.

Twenty-four hours earlier, East-



The 77 Bus team huddle before the start of their match against the Inland Revenue Department in the ABAVA's Business Volleyball League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex Saturday, 22nd October, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

ern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) secured their second win in as many encounters by coasting to a 25-16, 25-8 victory against the Treasury.

Police opened their league campaign with a 26-24, 25-9 victory over the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT).

The competition will continue with a double-header at the YMCA

Sports Complex today, Wednesday, 26th October.

Treasury will face Inland Revenue Department at 6:30 pm and ICONS will meet ABIIT at 7:30 pm.

In tomorrow's (Thursday) games, Police will tackle Nate's Photography at 6:30 pm, while defending champions APUA Inet will clash with FFIA at 7:30 pm.

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playing field on Monday.

Kendel Xavier and Jamil Thomas scored for Sir Novelle Richards Academy, while Kymani Francis netted for All Saints Secondary who were beaten for the second time in as many encounters.

Clare Hall Secondary and St. Mary's Secondary School battled to a 3-3 draw in the opening game at the King George V Grounds on Monday.

Lamic Nicholas scored twice and Leon Cort once for Clare Hall, while Anill Williams netted twice and Dequan Lewis once for St. Mary's Secondary.

It was the first point for both teams after failing to win their respective opening round matches.

The competition will continue with matches in the female and the East Zone of the Under-20 or Senior Boys' divisions today, Wednesday, 26th October.

All Saints Secondary will take on defending champions Ottos Comprehensive in the female division at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints at 2:30 pm.

Pares Secondary will clash with All Saints Secondary in the Under-20 Boys' division at the same venue at 3:50 pm.

Clare Hall Secondary will challenge Princess Margaret in the female division at Clare Hall at 2:30

pm and Clare Hall will tackle Glanvilles Secondary in an Under-20 Boys' division affair at the same venue at 3:50 pm.

Two other female division matches are slated for today at 3 pm.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy will oppose Irene B. Williams at the Swetes playing field and St Anthony's Secondary will host the Antigua Girls' High School at St Anthony's playing field.



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Bravo wins Team Three-Hand Domino Contest

Newcomers Bravo captured the Team Three-Hand title in the latest classic competition staged by the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association at its headquarters in Ottos over the weekend.

Bravo prevailed against fellow newcomers Unstoppables and defending champions Dominatrixx in a keenly

contested final.

Bravo amassed a total of 78 points to win the competition, with Unstoppables capturing second place with 75 points.

Candia Stephens achieved the only perfect score in the match, but could not prevent Dominatrixx from finishing third in the final with a total of 74 points.



Bravo captured the Team Three-Hand title in the latest classic competition staged by the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association at its headquarters in Ottos over the weekend. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)

TG Welding claims second win in softball league

TG Welding recorded their second consecutive win in the Mandy Premier League's Cool and Smooth, Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League on Sunday.

The defeated the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) by five wickets in the second round of matches at the Potters playing field.

The ABDF could only muster 73 for eight off their 10 overs. Vaughn Charles struck 24, Almojie Webson got 21 and Edwin Jackson chipped in with 12.

Azim Panlall claimed two wickets for five runs, Charanlal Ramjohn picked up two wickets for 11 runs and Kimberly Anthony captured two

wickets for 14 runs.

TG Welding then achieved victory by scoring 77 for five off 8.1 overs. Martin Sing cracked 31 and Jermaine Otto made 16.

Tehrique Mason snapped up two wickets for two runs and Malique Marcillin claimed two wickets for 18 runs.

AFBAHLUR and Grill Box also secured victories on Sunday. AFBAHLUR defeated PEL Desi Boys by 73 runs. AFBAHLUR made 121 for five off their 10 overs.

Richie Thomas hammered 59 not out and Vincey Bowen scored 18. Samuel Joshua captured two wickets for 17 runs.

Desi Boys were then restricted to 48 for eight off their 10 overs. Sudeep Chanda top scored with 26. Bowen grabbed three wickets for eight runs and Monique Titus bagged two wickets for six runs.

Grill Box defeated Time of Victory by 67 runs.

Grill Box made 106 for five off 10 overs. Mervin Higgins struck 39 and Walton Ireland scored 25. Taj Liburd took two wickets for 15 runs and Dejorn Liburd picked up two wickets for 20 runs.

Time of Victory were then limited to 39 for nine off their 10 overs with Sidella Bellot snapping up three wickets for two runs.

Warner captures MVP award at Z-Cup golf tournament

Twelve-year-old Akevia Warner was adjudged the Most Valuable Player at the Z-Cup Golf Tournament in St. Kitts over the weekend.

Warner was part of a 14-member junior team that represented Antigua and Barbuda at the Z-Cup Tournament for the first time.

They were members of a 27-member Antigua and Barbuda contingent that participated in the 22nd to 23rd October tournament in St. Kitts.

Hosts St. Kitts and Nevis retained the Z-Cup trophy as Team Antigua and Barbuda had to settle for the runners-up position in the marquee golf event.

Playing at the Royal Marriot Golf and Country Club in Frigate Bay, the Sugar City golfers prevailed 27 to 18 to lift the championship trophy for the second successive time, having won the tournament when it was last played in Anguilla in 2019.



Antigua and Barbuda's junior golfer Akevia Warner, right, accepts the MVP trophy from Zeke Percival during the awards ceremony of the 2022 Z-Cup tournament at the Royal Marriot Golf and Country Club in Frigate Bay, St Kitts, on Sunday, 23rd October, 2022. (Photo courtesy Jermaine Kentish)