

# PM BROWNE: FSRC'S DILIGENCE SHIELDED A&B FROM FTX SCANDAL

*Story on Page 2*



*While FTX which was founded in 2019 was incorporated in Antigua and Barbuda, its base of operation was The Bahamas. FTX disintegrated practically overnight after it was unable to meet the banking equivalent of a run on deposits where depositors all try to withdraw their money at the same time. This undermined confidence in the company which was unprepared for this to happen leaving it US\$8 billion in the hole and countless investors out of tens of millions of dollars. Within a week, the crypto exchange filed for bankruptcy. In an interview with the New York Times, FTX's founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, who now claims to have only US\$100,000 left to his name, blamed "huge management failures" for his company's collapse. The vigilance of Antigua and Barbuda's FSRC in vetting FTX's application for a licence to operate in the country is credited with preventing the twin island state's implication in the scandal. According to the FSRC, FTX failed to provide critical information necessary to complete the mandatory due diligence process.*

## FTX was not licenced to do business in A&B

The failed cryptocurrency conglomerate FTX was unable to conduct business in Antigua and Barbuda due to the Financial Services Regulatory Commission's (FSRC) refusal to grant it an operating licence.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne told the House of Representatives yesterday that although FTX's holding company was registered in St. John's, it was unable to trade here.

"They also had companies registered in at least one hundred other jurisdictions.

"They had applied for licence here to operate in Antigua and Barbuda, but [were] not granted a licence and therefore they were unable to conduct any le-

gitimate trading business within the state of Antigua and Barbuda," Browne said.

The prime minister continued that the government has been unable to ascertain whether FTX's holding company was involved in global business, but he is certain that no physical or virtual operations operated in this country.

This, Browne said, may have been one of the reasons they moved the business' Caribbean base to The Bahamas.

Over the weekend on his Pointe FM radio programme, Browne and Browne, the prime minister credited the FSRC for the high standards it maintains and the due diligence checks it performs before licences are granted to financial institutions like FTX that are interested in operating from Antigua and Barbuda.

During the Questions to the Prime Minister segment of the parliamentary agenda on Thursday, Browne, who leads the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, revealed that the company was shut out because it failed to meet the FSRC's requirements.

"I'm told that the regulators were not satisfied with the application that was submitted, that it was incomplete, that they needed further particulars to



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

determine the nature of the business, the different subsidiaries and also to determine the structure, the board of directors and to be able to do the due diligence on all of the directors and unfortunately, they did not provide the full information and the application was not approved," he said.

Barbuda MP Trevor Walker raised the question whether the United States based Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has set its sights on Antigua and Barbuda regarding the collapse of FTX which has garnered global attention.

*cont'd on pg 3*




Guys and Dolls  
Simply Classy

268-782-6020

## Senator Gardiner hopes to serve as an inspiration to young people

One of the youngest senators to be appointed to the Upper House of Parliament, Caleb Gardiner, says his new role could serve to show other young people what they are capable of achieving if they follow their dreams.

Speaking moments after he was presented with his instruments of appointment at a ceremony at Government House on Thursday, Senator Gardiner, who turned 23 earlier this week, thanked Prime Minister Gaston Browne for singling him out for this special role.

He said the prime minister’s decision confirms the government’s thrust to involve young people in the nation’s decision-making, growth and development.

“I am elated and thankful for this appointment, to be a beacon of hope and an inspiration to other young people, that through hard work and deter-

mination, as well as humility, they too can achieve their goals,” he stated.

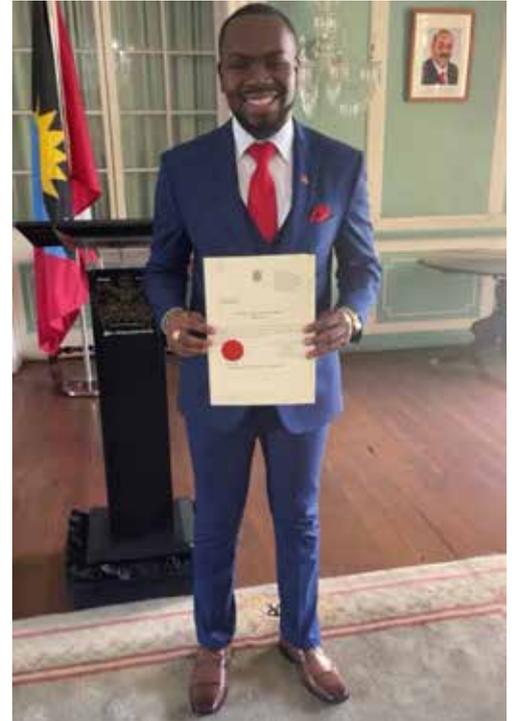
Gardiner said his personal goals as the country’s newest senator include increasing young people’s awareness of various government policies and interpreting the plans outlined in them in a way his peers can easily relate to.

“Whatever bills are being considered in parliament, I plan to use my platform to sensitise young people of the importance of these bills and to break down the language in a way that they can understand.

“Additionally, I would like to start a programme for young men to get them involved as too often, young men are ‘forgotten’ members of society.

“My plans also include programmes aimed not only at males, but for all youth in the society,” he declared.

Senator Gardiner, who resides in Villa, is a graduate of the University of



Newly appointed Senator Caleb Gardiner the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

He is also an active member of JCI Antigua.

*cont’d from pg 2*

Browne responded that the SEC has not contacted his administration, however, he did note that the FSRC intends to initiate contact with other financial regulators in light of the cryptocurrency company’s demise to chart the way forward and devise strategies that will avert some of the issues this situation has brought to light.

“They [FSRC] are seeking to bring regulators in The Bahamas and US together so that there can be some collaboration on the way forward.

“Even though there was no trading activity in this jurisdiction, we recognise that based on the fact that the holding company, or the parent

company, was registered in Antigua and Barbuda, it gives the regulators here some legal locus and the whole idea here now is to ensure there is a collaborative approach to protect investors or stakeholders in the FTX enterprise.”

Prime Minister Browne rejected the suggestion that Antigua and Barbuda’s reputation has been tarnished due to FTX’s collapse.

He argued that those advancing this notion in the hope of smearing his administration and the country would be better served standing as Antigua and Barbuda’s defenders.

“We are victims and this idea that you [Trevor Walker] may now want to turn victims into a culprit to make it look as though Antigua and Barbuda, by registering a company

here, that we do something wrong is just awful!

“We should be so well grounded and loyal to this state. All of us must stand up to protect this country at all times, not to be quick to condemn our country, to condemn our officials. We have an obligation to defend this state, especially those of us in this honourable house,” the prime minister asserted.

<p>Fri 02   Day</p> <p><b>82°</b> </p> <p>18%  NE 11 mph</p> <p>Mainly sunny. High 82F. Winds NE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>		<p>Fri 02   Night</p> <p><b>75°</b> </p> <p>21%  NE 11 mph</p> <p>A mostly clear sky. Low around 75F. Winds NE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p> Humidity <b>70%</b></p>	<p> UV Index <b>8 of 10</b></p>	<p> Humidity <b>77%</b></p>	<p> UV Index <b>0 of 10</b></p>
<p> Sunrise <b>6:21 am</b></p>	<p> Sunset <b>5:32 pm</b></p>	<p> Moonrise <b>1:53 pm</b></p>	<p> Moonset <b>1:26 am</b></p> <p> Waxing Gibbous</p>

## Efforts to address violence with youth press on

Increasing the number of probation and truancy officers, commencing a national public relations programme and developing appropriate legislation were items among the several recommendations made by education and national security experts to address the alarming increase of violence among youth.

The recommendations from the Ministry of Social Transformation were submitted to cabinet this week as stakeholders work towards making the streets and schools safer for the

nation's young people.

Other recommendations advanced in the report included increased monitoring for substance abuse among students, strengthening community groups and providing training for employees and volunteers in schools, churches, public health services and criminal justice agencies.

The necessity of providing support for children who fall into conflict with the law in facilities such as the Boys Training School, was also underscored.

While many of the

recommendations were welcomed, Information Minister Melford Nicholas admitted that in some instances, existing legislation may need to be amended, or new legislation introduced to ensure the plans can be unfolded in accordance with the law.

If this is required, it is unlikely to occur until the new year, as the last parliamentary session of the year was held on Thursday.

It is unlikely that the parliament will convene again to debate new matters until after general elections which are constitutionally due by March, 2023.

Nevertheless, Minister Nicholas gave the assurance that the cabinet will do all in its power to ensure the safety of youngsters.

According to the latest Cabinet Notes, consultations will be held with a former Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) soldier who has consistently run a boys training programme that has transformed the lives of boys who were going astray.

Meanwhile, increased police patrols around hotspots where young people congregate, like the YMCA and Redcliffe Quay, and educational campaigns within schools were among the plans agreed upon by



Information Minister Melford Nicholas

educational officials and law enforcement personnel on Wednesday following a four-hour meeting.

These plans will go into immediate effect.

Several videos have gone viral showing youths from at least two gangs attacking other young people with cutlasses.

Some of the victims have been left nursing serious injuries.

These incidents have been the focus of justified public outrage and the police and government have been called upon to act to prevent more of these heinous crimes being committed.

Parents are also being urged to take more responsibility for their children and to provide better guidance for them as a means of reducing the likelihood of these violent attacks.

**Tourism Blast-Off**  
 FOOD FAIR | ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION  
 DEC 6, 2022 | 11 AM - 7 PM  
 ST MARY'S ST BETWEEN THAMES AND MARKET STREET

<p><i>Entertainment By</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 CYLINDER &amp; LSA BAND</li> <li>CLAUDETTE PETERS</li> <li>JANINE   GE'VE   EMPRESS</li> <li>SUNNY DALE DANCERS</li> <li>RT CULTURAL PERFORMERS</li> <li>SCHOOLS PANORAMA CHAMPIONS</li> <li>DJ QUEST   DJ ILLIST   DJ WOODEN FOOT</li> </ul>	<p><i>Local Cuisine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RICE PUDDING   MAW   FUNGI</li> <li>DUCUNA   PEPPERPOT</li> <li>CHA CHA DUMPLING</li> <li>SOUP STATION</li> <li>AND MUCH MORE</li> </ul> <p><i>Local Arts and Crafts</i></p>
---	---

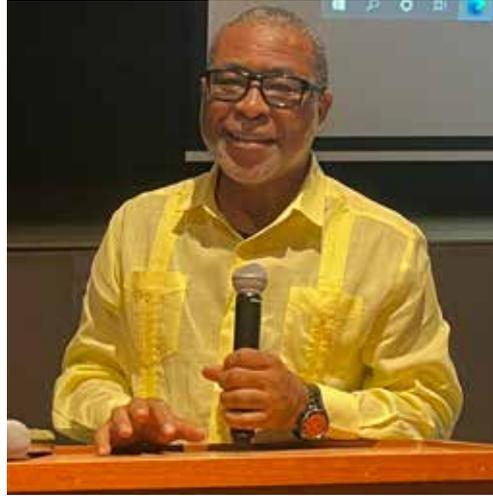
## Stakeholders attend Sustainable Development Goals Training Workshop

A two-day training workshop for stakeholders whose roles impact the country's march towards the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) concludes at the Royalton Hotel today.

Those attending the workshop are drawn from key ministries and departments of government.

It was designed to help them better understand sustainable development and its importance, describe the role of data in SDGs decision-making and understand international spillovers as a consequence of local decisions.

At the end of the workshop, participants will be encouraged to apply the knowledge gained to advance the achievement of SDGs.



*Ambassador Anthony Liverpool*

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, said the workshop is a joint undertaking of the ministry, the United Nations Coordination Office based in Barbados and the local office in St. John's,



*UN Country Coordination Officer, Andrea Andrew*

and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

“This partnership is an indication of the importance of the United Na-  
*cont'd on pg 6*



# Curry House

## ANTIGUA

A whole new dining experience awaits you.

Call us at 562-5724 | Whatsapp 736-7165

# Local News

*cont'd from pg 5*

tions, not only working in Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Caribbean but working internationally.

“It is an important institution that provides the kind of support through its various institutions and organisations that helps us as nations to deal with the challenges of poverty, equality, gender, equal rights and justice, as well as climate change, and the impact that this poses to us as citizens of this world,” he remarked.

Ambassador Liverpool said too often, the impor-

tance of the UN is underestimated.

He noted, however, that in Antigua and Barbuda, the importance of the organisation is recognised through the work of various UN agencies.

In her remarks, the UN’s Country Coordination Officer, Andrea Andrew, said the UN SDGs were established in 2015 as a universal “call to action” to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that in 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

“The seventeen SDGs are interrelated. They recognise that action in one



Participants in the SDGs training workshop

area affects outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

“Countries have committed to prioritise progress for those who are left behind.

“The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls,” she explained.

A team from ECLAC is conducting the workshop which is examining topics such as mainstreaming SDGs in national budgeting processes, strengthening national ownership of SDGs in Antigua and Barbuda and the steps necessary to implement the SDGs Roadmap.

During a lively discussion on Thursday, participants discussed the time-span between a national assessment of poverty in the country and the bottlenecks and challenges to have one completed as soon as possible.

The lack of coordination between ministries and other agencies in the exchange of data was raised as an area of concern and discussed at length.



Open the Magic of SUZUKI

Call 481-2500

Bluetooth, Reverse Camera, 4WD

**Jimny**

All you need to get where you're going this Christmas!!!!!!

## Election scrutineers, selected former public servants now eligible for pension

Election scrutineers and a group of victimised former public servants who completed just under 10 years' service to the government will be made pensionable.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne introduced separate bills in the House of Representatives on Thursday that addressed the issue of pension for these two groups.

Regarding scrutineers, PM Browne noted that many have rendered service in these positions for as long as twenty years with no legal provision for them to receive a pension when they retire.

Browne said the argument against them has been that they work as representatives of political parties, not the government, making them ineligible for pension.

"The irony is that these individuals are paid by the government and not the political parties. The political parties do not have sustaining revenues to pay anyone.

"So, if indeed, the political parties who appoint them would have the responsibility to pay their pensions, it means that these individuals will not be paid since the political parties cannot afford to," he explained.

PM Browne said his government views this as "a gross injustice" as several persons have retired or died without receiving a pension.

He also noted that there are several vulnerable scru-



utineers working in the system today.

"We are doing the right thing by this act which is correcting a wrong by ensuring that the scrutineers will enjoy a pension," he said.

The bill introduced covers anyone who performed the duties as scrutineer in accordance with the Representation of the People Act from 2002, and who satisfies the requirements to receive a pension.

By way of a resolution, the House of Representatives also approved an amendment to the Pensions Act allowing individuals who were victimised after completing nine and a half years of service to the government, but less than the ten years, as prescribed by the act, will now be eligible for pension.

The proposed amendment is to take effect retroactively to January 1st, 2004.

According to the prime minister, this was another

injustice that the government wanted to correct.

When the United Progressive Party (UPP) took office in March 2004, a number of individuals they identified as supporters of the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) were terminated.

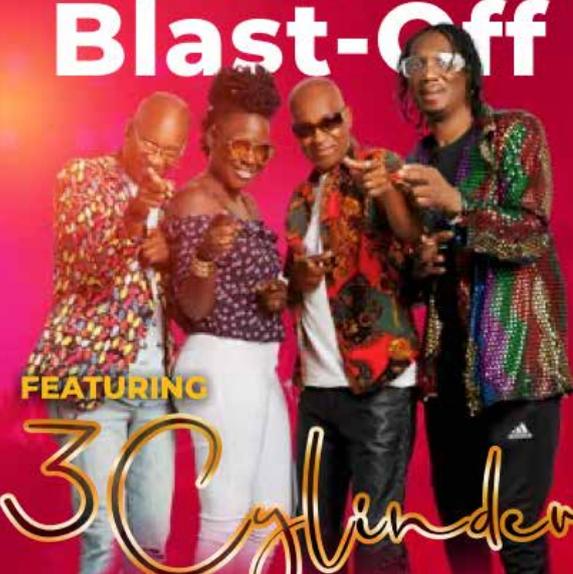
Browne, the leader of the ABLP, said these individuals had been on the cusp of completing ten years in government service which would have allowed them to qualify for pension.

One such individual, Anthonyson King, was a mere seven days away from qualifying for a pension. The UPP's move prejudiced King's pension, the prime minister stated, and that of many others who were similarly affected.

Both the act and resolution will go before the Senate next week for approval.

11 AM - 7 PM TUESDAY  
DEC 6 2022

# Tourism Blast-Off



FEATURING

## 30 Cylinder

FOOD FAIR | ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

ST MARY'S STREET | BETWEEN MARKET AND THAMES STREET

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY

SCHOOLS PANORAMA CHAMPIONS | SUNNY DALE DANCERS | RT CULTURAL PERFORMERS





## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

**CLERICAL ASSISTANT**  
(Salary Range: XCD\$27,099.51-XCD\$40,612.01)

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Provide clerical support to The Campus' Senior Financial Manager
- Post journal entries to relevant enterprise resource planning systems
- Generate financial reports as required
- Support the reconciliation of accounts as required
- Assist with the preparation of reports as necessary
- Assist with preparing forms for processing
- Manage the Office's stationery supplies
- File and maintain financial records
- Prepare internal and external correspondence (on behalf of the Director of Finance)
- Support investigations relating to queries from internal and external clients
- Perform any other duty that relates to their job function

**Essential Qualifications and Experience:**

- Associate's degree in Accounting, Finance or other relevant field of work
- Three years' experience in an accounting, financial or equivalent role

**Candidates who possess the following will be at a distinct advantage:**

- Experience with accounting software and/or financial information systems
- Advanced working knowledge of Microsoft Suite; especially Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), and copies of academic qualifications. **These should be sent by electronic mail to [fiveislands.hrapplications@uwi.edu](mailto:fiveislands.hrapplications@uwi.edu)** and addressed to **The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua**. The final date for applications is **December 8, 2022**. Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLjg>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua on **January 3, 2023**.

## Customs officer murder case committed to May assizes

The man accused of the November 2021 murder of Customs Officer Zorina Benjamin has been committed to the May assizes of the High Court.

Delon Charlery is accused of firing the fatal gunshot to the head of the Golden Grove mother.

After more than one year, Magistrate Conliffe Clarke concluded that the police had gathered sufficient evidence against the St. Lucian man for him to finally answer the accusation that he murdered his girlfriend in her home.

Since his arrest days after Benjamin's lifeless body was discovered on 22nd November last year, Charlery has been detained at His Majesty's Prison.

A statement from the Customs and Excise following Benjamin's murder said her demise was "purely a domestic matter" and unrelated to the untimely deaths of three other Customs officers which preceded hers that rose questions about whether the division's officers were being targeted for attack.

### AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
ENGLISH HARBOUR	35 2580A	447

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022 at 11:00am the above residential property at Piccadilly.

The property is under the ownership of **TESSA V. DONAWA-DANIEL**. The land is a 43,500 sq. ft. (1 acre) plot with an approximate 6,969 sq. ft., 2 storey reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 ½ bathrooms.

The property is in a quiet residential area with a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: **464-7653 and 562-7653**.

Dated this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer

## Race car driver appointed Sports Ambassador

Race car driver, Jason Marsh, will be appointed as a Sports Ambassador by the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The announcement was made in this week's Cabinet Notes.

It was agreed that Marsh, who is an inventor, successful race car driver and owner of Marsh-built Motors, is a past winner of the Drag Racing "Olympics" which is held in Maryland, USA.

His high profile and reputation in the field is considered a great asset

that would bring welcome attention to Antigua and Barbuda.

"His victories have resulted in inquiries about Antigua, and the Cabinet determined that the Ministry of Tourism will work with Mr. Marsh to bring cars and drivers, and car-racing enthusiasts to Antigua in large numbers for special events.

"He is seeking a patent on a turbo booster that he has designed to make racing cars run even faster.

"The product is in demand and the designer

is doing his very best to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda is recognised as a place from which inventions can come," the notes mentioned.

Marsh is the third athlete in recent months who has been identified by the cabinet for ambassadorial duties.

In September, track and field star Rai Benjamin was named a Cultural and Sporting Ambassador.

A month earlier, NBA All Star, Kemba Walker, became an Ambassador-at-Large for the

twin-island nation.

The appointments were made after both men returned home on brief trips.

Now that Marsh has become drag racing's first Ambassador, plans are afoot to upgrade the sport locally.

Leaders of the drag racing association met with Cabinet this week.

It was agreed that more concrete barriers are required for the safety of everyone, and that more viewing stands will be needed in order to attract more visitors.



**STATE INSURANCE**  
 COMPANY LIMITED  
 Live in a better State of mind.

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT**

**PREPARE NOW**  
 LEARN HOW

**2022 HURRICANE SEASON**  
**JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> - NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

PREPARING NOW CAN HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE  
 START PLANNING NOW WITH **STATE**

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04    BARBUDA (268) 727-7422    info@sicantigua.com    www.sicantigua.com    f @ t

# Opinion



## Higher cost of living demands competent governments

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

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

Throughout the world, people and their governments and Central Banks are worrying about inflation, or the rate of increase in the cost of living. In many countries, this concern about the cost of living has become a prime consideration in general elections because electorates want competent governments in whose hands they commit their expectations.

Two questions arise: what is responsible for the cost of living, and can governments in small, developing countries, such as those in the Caribbean, take actions that would address the issue satisfactorily?

In the mid-term elections in the United States of America (U.S.) last month, inflation (roughly translated as 'the Economy') was an issue that surfaced in early campaigning, although it waned toward the end. The main concern in the U.S. was the high cost of oil that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the conse-

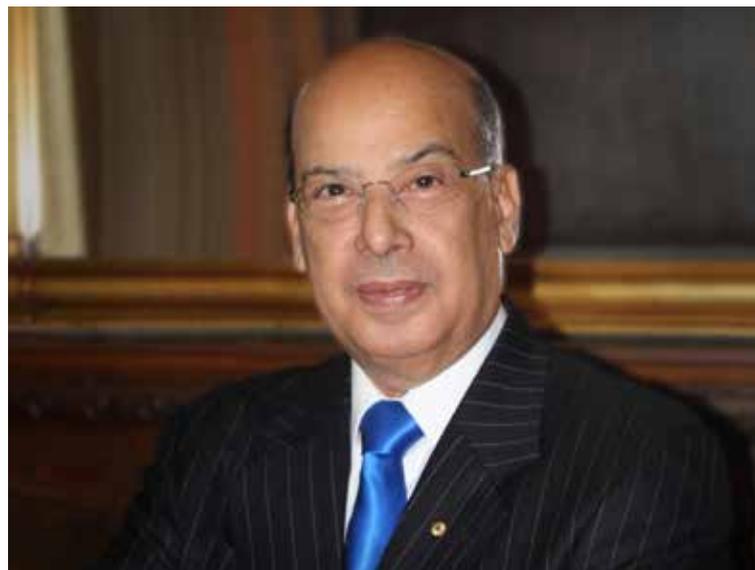
quent efforts in Europe and North America to boycott Russian oil, or at least to minimize dependence on it.

The refusal of the big oil producing countries to increase their output to compensate for shortages created by the isolation of Russia, increased oil prices globally. In turn, this caused the Biden administration in the U.S. to release oil supplies from its strategic stock, reducing gasoline and diesel prices. Because of Biden's action, by the time the mid-term elections were held, the value of this issue, in political terms, dropped to 38% amongst the electorate.

However, the oil issue persisted in Europe which had developed a dependence on Russian oil and gas. Europe will barely manage to keep prices down this winter only because European nations will utilize Russian supplies that they had stockpiled prior to the Russian war on Ukraine.

Both for the US and Europe, heating and its attendant costs to consumers will be a problem this winter. But next year will be worse if the isolation of Russian oil and gas from the world market continues. Stocks will be depleted if not exhausted, causing prices to soar.

All this could cause serious social unrest in Europe. There have already been



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

protests in Greece, Belgium, Germany, France, Spain, Austria and the Czech Republic - the latter of which has seen household energy bills surge tenfold.

The world is also still experiencing the residual impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that severely disrupted supply chains for food, medicines, and commodities for construction and agriculture. Costs of construction material increased by as much as 90% since the start of the pandemic.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, particularly the six smaller nations that comprise the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), have little control over the cost of living being experienced in their respective countries. As the Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB),

Timothy Antoine, put it in July, "We import inflation, principally from the US and also from Europe our major trading partners".

In the specific case of The Bahamas, largely because of geographic proximity, it conducts 85% of its trade with the U.S., importing almost \$3 billion in goods in 2021 and giving the U.S. a balance of trade surplus of \$2.5 billion. Therefore, the Bahamas is very vulnerable to the impact of inflation in the U.S.

As small states, with limited capacity for the production of goods, Caribbean countries import from the U.S. and Europe, bringing to their shores the high costs in those countries. Belize, Guyana and Suriname have some capacity to dull the impact of importing agricultural products because they are less reliant on such im-

*cont'd on pg 11*

*cont'd from pg 10*

ports due to their relatively larger agricultural sectors. But even these three states still confront both the shortages and high prices for agricultural inputs, such as urea and ammonia.

In a sentence, the current rise in the cost of living is not due to policies of Caribbean governments; it is caused by external factors beyond the control of governments.

To be fair, all Caribbean governments, to one extent or another, have taken steps to cushion the effects of inflation on their populations, especially the poor and vulnerable. Many governments have introduced measures to subsidise the prices of basic foods. In the case of Antigua and Barbuda and St Lucia, for instance, the governments subsidise the costs of oil and gas. Furthermore, in Antigua and Barbuda, the government has written off arrears owed for electricity, water and property taxes, as further measures to

ease the impact of imported inflation on the population.

A major consequence of these actions is that government revenues are diminishing, and their ability to service the demands of every sector of their society is considerably strained.

As is presently happening in Antigua and Barbuda and in Guyana, Caribbean governments will also have to increase wages and salaries, including the minimum wage, so that the general population can cope with increased prices. Overall, this will lead to higher per capita incomes, resulting in disqualification by international financial institutions from access to low-cost borrowing, precisely when Caribbean countries need it most.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the Government and the private sector managed to agree on an increased minimum wage, recognizing that cost of living increases had to be met to maintain social and economic stability.

The big question that remains for the region is: when will the global economic disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and consequent retaliation by the US, Canada and the European Union end? Right now, it looks set to drag on into next year.

Caribbean countries, therefore, should be working feverishly to implement the many plans, which they have agreed to increase trade in goods and services among themselves; to establish joint ventures for the manufacturing and agricultural production; and for air and sea transportation. They also have to enhance the Caribbean Development Bank and consider new ways of investing Caribbean savings and profits by investing them within the region, rather than abroad.

In other words, the Caribbean has to become more self-sufficient and less vulnerable to external factors.

**Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)**

DEMARLEY DAVIS PRESENTS

## CL<sup>VER</sup>

FASHION EXHIBITION

SUNDAY 20  
11TH DEC 22

7PM TO 10PM  
AT INDIES GREENS

ADMISSION: \$60

DRESS CODE: FASHIONABLE

2022 COLLECTION

Logos: PT TRIXX, Timmy Time Cocktails, UDESIGN, L.B.I., KG, Jr Desgrs, GreenTech

Halo FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER

DEC 3RD 2022

## MUSIC FOR A CAUSE

### FARMER NAPPY

DAINA BARNES • KUTTING EDGE • AND MORE

DISHES FROM FRANCE, CHINA, INDIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAMAICA AND ANTIGUA.

7 PM TO MIDNIGHT TICKETS \$250

FOOD AND DRINKS INCLUSIVE

TICKETS Available at National Building Academy (English Harbour) and Government House.

Logos: SAMS, ACA, etc.

PROCEEDS IN AID OF SAILABILITY

# Technology



## EU warns Musk to beef up Twitter controls ahead of new rules

By Kelvin Chan

AP— A top European Union official warned Elon Musk on Wednesday that Twitter needs to beef up measures to protect users from hate speech, misinformation and other harmful content to avoid violating new rules that threaten tech giants with big fines or even a ban in the 27-nation bloc.

Thierry Breton, the EU's commissioner for digital policy, told the billionaire Tesla CEO that the social media platform will have to significantly increase efforts to comply with the new rules, known as the Digital Services Act, set to take effect next year.

The two held a video call to discuss Twitter's preparedness for the law, which will require tech companies to better police their platforms for material that, for instance, promotes terrorism, child sexual abuse, hate speech and commercial scams.

It's part of a new digital rulebook that has made Europe the global leader in the push to rein in the power of social media companies, potentially setting up a clash with Musk's vision for a more unfettered Twitter. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen also said Wednesday that an investigation into Musk's \$44 billion purchase was not off the table.

Breton said he was

pleased to hear that Musk considers the EU rules "a sensible approach to implementation on a worldwide basis."

But let's also be clear that there is still huge work ahead," Musk said, according to a readout of the call released by Breton's office. "Twitter will have to implement transparent user policies, significantly reinforce content moderation and protect freedom of speech, tackle disinformation with resolve, and limit targeted advertising."

After Musk, a self-described "free speech absolutist," bought Twitter a month ago, groups that monitor the platform for racist, antisemitic and other toxic speech, such the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, say it's been on the rise on the world's de facto digital public square.

Musk has signalled an interest in rolling back many of Twitter's previous rules meant to combat misinformation, most recently by abandoning enforcement of its COVID-19 misinformation policy. He already reinstated some high-profile accounts that had violated Twitter's content rules and had promised a "general amnesty" restoring most suspended accounts starting this week.

Twitter didn't respond to an email request for comment. In a separate blog post Wednesday, the company



A Twitter logo hangs outside the company's San Francisco offices on Nov. 1, 2022. A top European Union official warned Elon Musk on Wednesday Nov. 30, 2022 that Twitter needs to beef up measures to protect users from hate speech, misinformation and other harmful content to avoid violating new rules that threaten tech giants with big fines or even a ban in the 27-nation bloc. (AP Photo/Noah Berger, File)

said "human safety" is its top priority and that its trust and safety team "continues its diligent work to keep the platform safe from hateful conduct, abusive behaviour, and any violation of Twitter's rules."

Musk, however, has laid off half the company's 7,500-person workforce, along with an untold number of contractors responsible for content moderation. Many others have resigned, including the company's head of trust and safety.

In the call Wednesday, Musk agreed to let the EU's executive Commission carry out a "stress test" at Twitter's headquarters early next year to help the platform comply with the new rules ahead of schedule, the readout said.

That will also help the company prepare for an

"extensive independent audit" as required by the new law, which is aimed at protecting internet users from illegal content and reducing the spread of harmful but legal material.

Violations could result in huge fines of up to 6% of a company's annual global revenue or even a ban on operating in the European Union's single market.

Along with European regulators, Musk risks running afoul of Apple and Google, which power most of the world's smartphones. Both have stringent policies against misinformation, hate speech and other misconduct, previously enforced to boot apps like the social media platform Parler from their devices. Apps must also meet certain data security, privacy and perfor-

*cont'd on pg 13*

## Foreign direct investment in the Caribbean rose significantly in 2021

CMC - The United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says foreign direct investment (FDI) in the region rose by 40.7 percent in 2021 but did not return to pre-pandemic levels.

As a result, ECLAC is calling on the regional countries to "use FDI strategically to strengthen and develop capacities that would contribute to sustainable and inclusive development."

According to the annual report, "Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean 2022", Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) received US\$142.794 billion dollars in DI in 2021, an estimated 40.7 per cent more than in 2020.

"But this growth was not enough to achieve the levels seen prior to the pandemic," ECLAC said, noting that FDI inflows increased by 64 percent in 2021, reaching about US\$1.6 trillion dol-



lars.

As a destination for global investments, the LAC saw its share decline, however, representing nine per cent of the total – "one of the lowest proportions in the last 10 years and far below the 14 percent recorded in 2013 and 2014.

The report said the re-activation of investments in 2021 occurred in all sub-regions, noting that in the Caribbean, Guyana was "the country that exhibited the greatest growth in inflows, surpassing the Dominican Republic, which in prior years had been the leading

recipient of investments in that sub-region."

The report said the services and natural resources sectors, with increases of 39 percent and 62 percent, respectively, were the most dynamic sectors.

In the manufacturing sector, the document said decline in FDI inflows in 2021 (-14 percent) was attributable to decreased investments in Brazil.

The European Union and the United States were the main investors in the region in 2021, representing 36 percent and 34 percent of the total, respectively.

ECLAC said telecommunications and renewable energy "held firm as the sectors that spark the most interest among foreign investors for carrying out new projects.

"However, the announcements of new investment projects did not rebound in 2021 and are at their lowest point since 2007 (US\$51.500 billion). This coincides with greater interest on the part of investors in developing new projects in developed economies, mainly the European Union and the United States."

The report said the number of mergers and acquisitions in the region increased (33 percent) in 2021, "but is still at one of the lowest levels in the last decade."

ECLAC's Executive Secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, said in a region with low overall investment levels, foreign direct investment is critical for designing production policy.

*cont'd from pg 12*  
 mance standards.

Musk tweeted without providing evidence this week that Apple "threatened to withhold Twitter from its App Store, but won't tell us why." Apple hasn't commented but Musk backtracked on his claim Wednesday, saying he met with Apple CEO Tim Cook who "was clear that Apple never considered" removing Twitter.

Meanwhile, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen walked back her

statements about whether Musk's purchase of Twitter warrants government review.

"I misspoke," she said at The New York Times' DealBook Summit on Wednesday, referring to a CBS interview this month where she said there was "no basis" to review the Twitter purchase.

The Treasury secretary oversees the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, an interagency committee that investigates the na-

tional security risks from foreign investments in American firms.

"If there are such risks, it would be appropriate for the Treasury to have a look," Yellen told The New York Times.

She declined to confirm whether CFIUS is currently investigating Musk's Twitter purchase.

Billionaire Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal is, through his investment company, Twitter's biggest shareholder after Musk.

What Is Santa Getting  
You This Year?



MAJOR CHRISTMAS DEALS



**SPECIAL PACKAGES**

**CENTER SPREAD EC\$1500**  
INCLUDES POINTE XPRESS NEWSPAPER AND POINTE TELEVISION

**FULL PAGE AD EC\$1000**  
INCLUDES POINTE XPRESS NEWSPAPER AND POINTE TELEVISION

**HALF PAGE AD EC\$500**  
INCLUDES POINTE XPRESS NEWSPAPER AND POINTE TELEVISION



CALL: 268-562-4989  
EMAIL: [POINTEFM99.1@GMAIL.COM](mailto:POINTEFM99.1@GMAIL.COM)

## Harry and Meghan doc footage puts royal rift at forefront

AP — Footage of an upcoming documentary about Harry and Meghan released Thursday shows the couple is once again prepared to tackle their rift with the royal family head on and in their own words.

Netflix's release of roughly a minute of footage of "Harry & Meghan" comes as their relatives — the Prince and Princess of Wales — embark on a U.S. trip meant to promote the future king's Earthshot prize. The trip to Boston, which is William and Kate's first one since the death of Queen Elizabeth II, had already been clouded by tensions with Harry and Meghan, who quit their royal duties in 2020 and moved to



*This image released by Netflix shows Prince Harry and Meghan, Duke and Duchess of Sussex, in a scene from the upcoming documentary "Harry & Meghan," directed by Liz Garbus. (Netflix via AP)*

California.

The footage includes photos and brief interview snippets of Harry and Meghan.

"No one sees what's happening behind closed doors," the Duke of Sussex says as a photo of Meghan crying while holding a cellphone is

shown. There's the sound of glass breaking and an image of William and Kate appears.

"When the stakes are this high, doesn't it make more sense to hear the story from us," Meghan says as the trailer ends.

The trailer also includes

images of the couple in happier times, with numerous happy shots of them together.

Netflix is billing the six-part series as "an unprecedented and in-depth" look at "one of the most-discussed couples in history." It is directed by Liz Garbus, the Emmy winning producer of the Netflix documentary, "What Happened, Miss Simone?"

In 2020, Prince Harry and his wife signed a multiyear deal to produce nature series, documentaries and children's programming for the streaming service. The couple has already addressed their problems with the royal family in a bombshell 2021 interview with Oprah Winfrey.

## Calypso Monarch competition to open the curtain on Montserrat Carnival

Montserrat's 2022 Carnival festivities will kick off on December 3 with the elimination round of the Calypso Monarch competition.

A total of 33 people are currently rehearsing with the Black Rhythms Band, which is led by three-time calypso monarch and songwriter Cecil "Cepeke" Lake.

In an interview today on ZJB Radio Montserrat, head of the calypso committee Theodore Phillip said 15 performers will advance to the semi-finals on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

The committee chair said the first performer will be on at 8 pm.

Calypso lovers can view the performances on pay-per-view and on-demand via

Sharlene Lindsay, Head of Planning and Production for the Montserrat Arts Council, added: "We are looking forward to kicking off the season with

Calypso Eliminations. It's usually a crowd favourite but the fact that we're going back to Festival Village after two years adds even more excitement to the event."

This year's competition will be filled with energy as former monarchs Kelvin "Tabu" Duberry (1991), Roland "Kenzie" Johnson (1994, 1995, 1997), Joseph "Pops" Morris (2002), Herman "Cupid" Francis (1998, 2008, 2010, 2012), Baptist Wallace (2013), Kevin "King Nattie" Farrell (2016), Garnett "Syk" Thompson (2011, 2018), Jester "Iceman" Weekes (2015, 2019), and Silvina "Kandie" Malone (2000, 2003, 2006, 2009) are competing to dethrone Keithroy "De Bear" Morson.

The performers, songwriters and arrangers can win cash prizes amounting to more than \$10,000. The Bank of Montserrat, Montserrat Tourism Division and Friends of Calypso in the



Diaspora have sponsored the special prizes in categories, including Best Environmental Song, Best Newcomer, and Crowd Favourite.

The 2022 Calypso Monarch final is set for December 29. (CMC)

## Bob Marley immersive experience to land in US next year

A massive immersive experience celebrating Bob Marley is heading for its US premiere early next year, complete with photographs, lots of music and even a pair of the reggae giant's footwear.

The multi-room exhibit "Bob Marley: One Love Experience" will open in Los Angeles on January 27 at Ovation Hollywood, following runs in London and Toronto.

The 15,000-square foot (1,393-square metre) experience includes previously unseen photographs, concert videos, lyric sheets, rare memorabilia like guitars, a soccer jersey, sneakers and art that highlight Marley's influence.

There is also a Marley-branded jukebox and a few foosball tables. One area



Images of the late reggae pioneer Bob Marley appear at the press launch for the exhibit "Bob Marley One Love Experience" at the Saatchi Gallery in London on February 2, 2022. (Alex Brenner via AP)

celebrates the Marley family's legacy and philanthropy.

Inside, a 2,000-square foot (185-square metre) One Love Forest promises to take visitors on a trip to Jamaica in a multi-sensory environment, which also features a cannabis garden. Fans are greeted with headphones at the Soul Shakedown studio to groove

out to the curated playlist in the silent disco. Tickets are available exclusively via Fever on December 7.

Born in rural Jamaica in 1945, Marley rose from the gritty Kingston slum of Trench Town to global stardom in the 1970s with hits like "No Woman, No Cry," "Get Up, Stand Up," and "I

Shot the Sheriff." His lyrics promoting social justice and African unity made him an icon in Jamaica and other countries. He died from cancer in 1981 at age 36.

"After being in London and Toronto, it's going to be amazing bringing the experience here to the US for the first time and just steps from Daddy's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame," Cedella Marley, CEO of Bob Marley Group, said in a statement. The exhibit is produced by the Marley Family and Terra-pin Station Entertainment.

Immersive experiences are all the rage these days, with travelling, projection-driven exhibits of King Tut, Vincent Van Gogh, Gustav Klimt, Frida Kahlo and Claude Monet, just to name a few. (CMC)

## 'Squid Game' actor indicted over indecent assault charges

By Juwon Park

AP — Award-winning "Squid Game" actor Oh Young-soo will stand trial on charges of indecent assault after a woman accused him of inappropriately touching her in 2017, a South Korean court said.

The district court in Seongnam city said Thursday that prosecutors indicted the 78-year-old Emmy nominee last week over the allegations and that his trial will begin in February.

Kim Myeong-un, an official at Seongnam's district prosecutors' office, said it could not confirm specific details about Oh's case, which was

first reported by local media last week.

According to the reports, the unidentified woman originally filed a complaint against Oh in December 2021, accusing him of making unwanted physical contact during a meeting in 2017.

Oh did not answer multiple calls by the Associated Press seeking comments.

South Korean cable channel JTBC said Oh denied wrongdoing when reached by a reporter, saying that he had only held the woman's hands to "show her the way" as they walked

*cont'd on pg 17*



South Korean actor Oh Young-soo speaks during a press conference at the Welcome Daehakro Festival 2022 in Seoul, South Korea, Sept. 21, 2022. Award-winning "Squid Game" actor Oh will stand trial on charges of indecent assault after a woman accused him of inappropriately touching her in 2017, a South Korean court said. (Park Jin-hee/Newsis via AP)

## Jeffrey Epstein's estate to pay over \$100M to USVI Government

The US Virgin Islands has reached a settlement with the estate of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein to pay restitution to the government for crimes he committed on the territory.

Attorney General for the US Virgin Islands Denise George announced the settlement this afternoon.

The settlement resolves a law enforcement action filed in 2020 under the anti-criminal enterprise, sex trafficking, child exploitation and fraud laws of the Virgin Islands.

Under the terms of the settlement, the Epstein estate, co-defendants Darren Indyke and Richard Kahn (Co-executors of the estate), and ten Epstein-created entities will pay the Government of the Virgin Islands \$105 million in cash plus half of the proceeds from the sale of Little St James, the island on which Epstein resided and on which many of his crimes occurred.

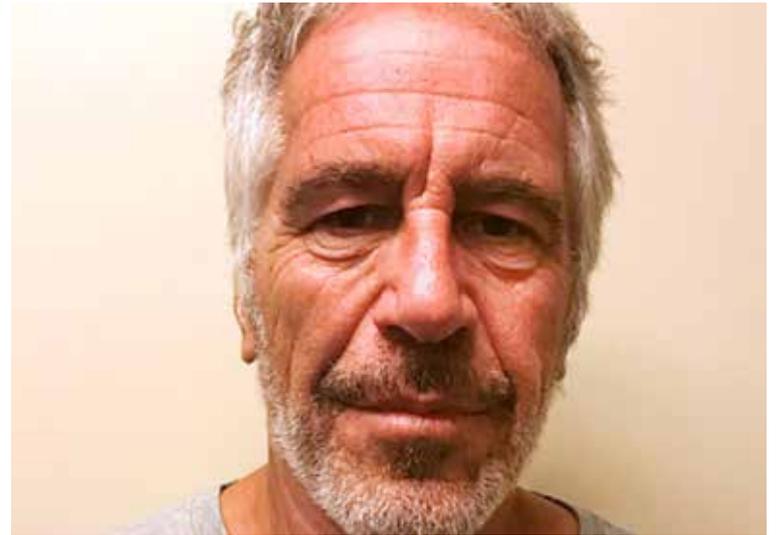
The Estate also agreed to pay \$450,000 to remediate environmental dam-

age around Great St James, another Epstein-owned island, where the Government found that Epstein razed the remains of centuries'-old historical structures of enslaved workers to make room for his development.

The total cash payments will be made over a definite time period of no more than one year.

The Attorney General brought civil enforcement claims against the Epstein estate under the Virgin Islands' Criminally Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (CICO), the Territory's RICO analog.

"This settlement restores the faith of the People of the Virgin Islands that its laws will be enforced, without fear or favour, against those who break them. We are sending a clear message that the Virgin Islands will not serve as a haven for human trafficking," stated George. "Through this lawsuit and settlement, the Attorney General's Office, acting on behalf of the Government, is using its author-



*This March 28, 2017, file photo, provided by the New York State Sex Offender Registry shows Jeffrey Epstein. (New York State Sex Offender Registry via AP)*

ity to enforce the laws of the Virgin Islands against criminal enterprises and to protect public safety. CICO provides to the Attorney General the power to bring civil enforcement actions including the forfeiture of their assets and the imposition of civil penalties and damages, consistent with the law's purpose to curtail their criminal activity and economic and political power in the Virgin Islands. That is our solemn responsibility as a government, separate and independent of any claims filed by individ-

ual survivors."

The Virgin Islands alleged the co-defendants conspired with Epstein in carrying out an expansive criminal enterprise, the "Epstein Enterprise," through which dozens of young women and children were trafficked, raped, sexually assaulted, and held captive in the Virgin Islands at Epstein's secluded private island, Little St James.

Participants in the Epstein Enterprise used deception, fraud, and coercion to entice and lure vulnerable girls and young women into human sex trafficking with promises to help them and their families pay for school, health care, or other financial needs. Epstein, along with other associates, used property and companies in the Virgin Islands to carry out and conceal his scheme. (CMC)

**cont'd from pg 16**  
around a lake.

According to JTBC, Oh said he had offered the woman an apology, not because he acknowledged the accusations against him but because the woman allegedly told him she "wouldn't raise an issue" about the incident if he did.

Oh became the first South Korean actor to win a Golden Globe in January after

he was named the top supporting actor for his role in "Squid Game," a brutal Netflix drama about a desperate group of adults competing in deadly children's games for a chance to escape severe debt.

Oh was also nominated for an Emmy for his performance as Oh Il-nam, a mysterious elderly contestant who joined the games after being diagnosed with terminal brain cancer.

# Regional News



## Bahamas records more murders than in 2021

CMC - The Bahamas has recorded 120 murders so far this year, surpassing the entire 2021 figure of 119.

Police said a man who appeared to be in his mid-20s was found with gunshot wounds on Monday. The police said they believe the unidentified man was shot elsewhere and his body dumped.

“Well we know that based on the condition of the body it appears that he

was here no more than but an hour prior to the police coming,” said Chief Superintendent Mario Livingstone Johnson, adding “we suspect that this is not the primary scene based on our evidence so far that we’ve found on the scene and so we are continuing this investigation.

“I ask persons as we approach the Christmas season to please be vigilant. Be aware of your surroundings, be aware of where you go,



and who you hang with. Because that could cause some problems for you.

“If you know that persons are on bail for any serious matters, I ask you and I

caution you not to be in the vicinity where these persons are,” Johnson said.

The Bahamas recorded 73 murders in 2020, 95 in 2019 and 91 in 2018.

## Barbados PM Mia Mottley calls for greater collaboration to tackle regional issues

CMC - Barbados’ Prime Minister Mia Mottley has reiterated the need for a joint collaborative approach to tackle regional issues such as food production and the supply of other goods and services.

Delivering a virtual address to the 27th annual Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA) dinner and awards ceremony on Tuesday night, Mottley urged the manufacturers “to use this milestone moment to reflect and where necessary, to reset and re-tool, to further elevate your organisation, your country, and indeed our region.”

“I say our region because I truly believe the time is right for a more strategic and collaborative approach on the socio-economic development of the Caribbean,” she said.



*Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley delivering address to 27th annual Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association GMSA dinner and awards ceremony. (CMC photo)*

Mottley, who spoke of the ongoing relationship between Guyana and Barbados in a number of areas, said “the way forward therefore must continue to be paved with our intentions for introspection, innovation, the spirit that sparks partnerships and indeed a willingness to embrace change.

“There will be obstacles, particularly with the

global supply disruption chain and that is why I call for just industrial strategy for the global south particularly as we get together to meet our commitments and our capacity in the climate era”.

Mia Mottley told the manufacturers that they deserve “every possible success,” noting “yours has been a journey that has

known both the peaks and troughs and you are now in a position where you shall benefit, we hope from the peaks.

“We look forward to a similar program for industrial development because without that industrial strategy...we will not be able to deliver for our people as they expect us to do,” Mottley said.

Earlier, the outgoing GMSA president, Rafeek Khan urged local consumers to buy more local products, appealing also to the government to help develop the private sector by investing in research and development and support the international marketing of more products.

“Be patriotic to our locally manufactured products and invest in our man-

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Puerto Rico extends power contract amid outages, objections

CMC - A heavily criticised private company that operates the transmission and distribution of power in Puerto Rico secured a last-minute extension on its contract Wednesday despite widespread objections.

Luma Energy obtained the extension following a 4-1 vote by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority's board, with the sole dissenting vote cast by a member representing the public's interest. Luma also will be paid some \$122 million next year, up from the \$115 million it has received so far.

The approval of the temporary contract comes amid worsening power outages that prompted the U.S. government to intervene this month and start securing barges and land-based generators to ease blackouts. Crews have started to rebuild the power grid that Hurricane Maria razed in September 2017, with only emergency repairs made until now.

Luma, a consortium made up of Calgary, Alberta-based Atco and Quanta Services Inc. of Houston, was initially awarded the contract in June 2021, taking over crumbling infrastructure resulting from decades of neglect and mismanagement under Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority.

But the duration of outages has worsened under Luma, which has



*Business owners turn to their power generators to be able to keep working during an island-wide blackout, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Carlos Giusti, File)*

faced heavy scrutiny and calls for its contract to be cancelled by customers hit with several state-implemented electric rate increases in one year while often left in the dark. Several substations have caught fire in recent months, with bad weather, sargassum — a type of seaweed — and even an iguana blamed for the outages, as well as ageing infrastructure further weakened by Hurricane Fiona, a Category 1 storm that struck Puerto Rico's southwest region in September and caused

an estimated \$4 billion in damage to the power grid.

In August, Gov. Pedro Pierluisi criticised Luma publicly for the first time, saying he was not satisfied with its performance. But he has since said Luma is already working on projects to rebuild the grid and that finding a different company would further delay the work.

"Cancelling the contract makes no sense right now," Pierluisi said during

*cont'd on pg 20*

*cont'd from pg 18*

manufacturing," he said while citing that import "prime lumber" was being sold at \$600 to \$700 per BM while ignoring greenheart that was being sold for the same price.

He stressed the importance of supporting Guyanese "amazing" products "even if you don't like it"

Khan identified the need for the government to inject funds into feasibility studies for innovation, research and development in support of the further development of the private sector.

Khan said it was time Guyana followed in the footsteps of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and St Lucia by establishing a gov-

ernment-owned export-promotion agency, with private sector representatives on the board, to conduct marketing outreaches and campaigns.

"We need an investment arm, an export arm of Guyana, taking our investment out of the country, taking our manufacturers, exporting into regions, helping with marketing, helping

with expos," he said.

In his address to the ceremony, President Dr. Irfaan Ali said his administration has given up billions of dollars (One Guyana dollar=US\$0.004 cents) in taxes to assist many companies and other sectors of the economy become more profitable over the past two years.

# Regional News



*cont'd from pg 19*

a news conference Wednesday, adding, "We all want both LUMA and the Electric Power Authority to improve their performance to have a more stable electric service."

Luma celebrated the extension of its contract, saying that "despite an array of inherited challenges, Luma has made significant progress over the last 18 months addressing key infrastructure challenges, as well as improving the reliability and resiliency of the system."

On Tuesday, the board of directors for Puerto Rico's Public-Private Partnerships Authority voted to extend Luma's contract in a 3-2 vote. The two board members who represent the public's interest abstained.

Fermín Fontanés, the authority's executive director, said the reconstruction of Puerto Rico's power grid cannot be stopped.

"There is no room to look back,"

he said.

Also backing Luma is a federal control board that oversees Puerto Rico's finances. It issued a statement saying it is aware of the debate surrounding Luma and that customers are entitled to demand improvements.

"However, decades of underinvestment, deferred maintenance, and lack of long-term planning by (Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority) resulted in one of the worst performing and least reliable energy systems in the United States, with customers experiencing eight times more outages than customers of median U.S. utilities, and such outages lasting 10 times longer," the board said. "These fundamental deficiencies cannot be reasonably expected to be fully corrected within just 18 months of operations."

Government officials warned that cancelling Luma's contract could cost up to \$600 million, an amount Puerto Rico cannot afford since it just

emerged from the biggest municipal bankruptcy in US history.

Luma's contract is expected to remain in place until the bankruptcy of Puerto Rico's power company, which holds some \$9 billion in debt, is resolved. It is the largest debt held by any local government agency.

Mediation talks to restructure its debt broke down earlier this year, with a federal judge in late September ordering a fresh round of talks and allowing the federal control board to go to court to determine how much money bondholders should receive.

If the judge approves a debt restructuring plan for the power company, then a 15-year contract for Luma kicks in, and Luma would be subject to bonuses or penalties depending on its performance. Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority has to file a proposal to slash its debt by Thursday. It wasn't immediately clear if the deadline would be met.

*Join our Holiday Celebration!*

**Heritage Quay**

Friday, December 16 &  
Saturday, December 17, 2022  
9:00am - 6:00pm

**50% + 10% OFF DIAMONDS\***  
**50% + 15% OFF GEMSTONES & GOLD\***  
**60% + 10% OFF CLEARANCE\***

Excludes WDW Finds, Diamond Solitaires, Holiday Specials Watches & Jewelry Brands. Discount cannot be combined with any other offer or previous purchases.

**COLOMBIAN EMERALDS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Bring home more than a memory.

**VELVET TOUCH SPA**  
*"Let Us Pamper The Skin You're In"*

**Christmas SPECIAL**

<p><i>Winter Wellness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spa Pedicure</li> <li>• Gel Manicure</li> <li>• Neck and Shoulder Massage</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$175</b></p>	<p><i>Holiday Treat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lavender Hotstone Massage</li> <li>• Neck and Shoulder Massage</li> <li>• Foot Massage</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$200</b></p>
<p><i>Jingle Bells</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charcoal Hemp Facial</li> <li>• Lavender Pedicure</li> <li>• Neck and Shoulder Massage</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$300</b></p>	<p><i>Feliz Navidad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotstone Massage</li> <li>• Spa Pedicure</li> <li>• Neck and Shoulder Massage</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$300</b></p>

*Give someone a Gift Certificate this Christmas for any of our Spa Packages\**

**562-5594    Joseph Lane, Ottos Village**

## More calls for South Africa leader to quit over theft probe

AP— South African President Cyril Ramaphosa faced calls Thursday to step down after a parliamentary panel's probe found he may have breached anti-corruption laws in connection with the alleged theft of a large amount of money from his Phala Phala game farm.

The calls follow allegations by the country's former head of intelligence, Arthur Fraser, that Ramaphosa tried to conceal the theft of a huge sum of cash stuffed into couches at his farm in 2020. Fraser accused the president of money laundering and violating foreign currency control laws.

In its report, the parliamentary panel raised questions about the source of the money and why it wasn't disclosed to financial authorities, and cited a potential conflict between the president's business and official interests.

Ramaphosa has denied any wrongdoing, insisting that the money was proceeds from the sale of animals at his farm. But opposition parties and Ramaphosa's detractors in the ruling African National Congress party have called for him to step down.

The ANC's national executive committee, the party's highest decision-making body, is ex-



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa responds to questions in Parliament Cape Town, South Africa, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022 where he denied allegations of money laundering while being questioned over a scandal that threatens his position and the direction of Africa's most developed economy. Ramaphosa is facing serious calls to step down after a parliamentary probe found he may have breached the country's anti-corruption laws related to the theft of millions of dollars at his Phala Phala game farm. (AP Photo/Nardus Engelbrecht/File)

pected to meet Thursday evening to be briefed on the matter and possibly to determine Ramaphosa's fate. Ramaphosa is seeking reelection as party leader during the ANC's upcoming conference. That would enable him to run again for South Africa's presidency in 2024.

Lawmakers are expected to debate the report on Tuesday, and they will vote on whether further action should be taken, including whether to proceed with impeachment proceedings. ANC lawmakers are a majority in Parliament and may push back against attempts to impeach their leader.

years later.

The report said an investigation by the central bank suggested there were no records of the dollars entering the country. "We are unable to investigate or verify the source of the foreign currency," it states.

The parliamentary panel said Ramaphosa put himself into a situation of conflict of interest, saying the evidence presented to it "establishes that the president may be guilty of a serious violation of certain sections of the constitution."

The report criticised Ramaphosa for failing to inform the police in line with proper procedures, choosing instead to entrust the matter to the head of his presidential protection unit.

The main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, is among those calling for Ramaphosa's impeachment.

"President Ramaphosa most likely did breach a number of constitutional provisions and has a case to answer.

"Impeachment proceedings into his conduct must go ahead, and he will have to offer far better, more comprehensive explanations than we have been given so far," Democratic Alliance leader John Steenhuisen said.

"The president is giving consideration to the report and an announcement will be made in due course," Ramaphosa's office has said.

According to the parliamentary report, Ramaphosa claimed the stolen money amounted to \$580,000, disputing the initial amount of \$4 million that Fraser alleged was stolen.

The report also questioned Ramaphosa's explanation that the money was from the sale of buffaloes to a Sudanese businessman, Mustafa Mohamed Ibrahim Hazim, asking why the animals remained at the farm more than two

## Security meeting overshadowed by Russia's war, ban on Lavrov

AP - Europe's largest security organisation opened a meeting Thursday with foreign ministers and other representatives strongly denouncing Russia's war against Ukraine, a conflict that is among the greatest challenges the body has faced in its nearly half-century of existence.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was founded to maintain peace and stability on the continent, has been a rare international forum — along with the United Nations — where Russia and Western powers have been able to meet to discuss security matters. The two-day meeting in Lodz, Poland, is the first such high-level meeting since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

But since the war began, the 57-nation OSCE has also become another venue where the bitter clash between Russia and the West has played out, exposing the organisation's own inadequacies in helping to resolve the conflict.

Notably absent was Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who was banned by Poland, the current chair of the OSCE, from entering the country. Poland is a member of the 27-member European Union, which has put Lavrov on a sanctions list.

Lavrov denounced the ban — and Poland — on Thursday.

"I can say responsibly that Poland's anti-chairmanship of the OSCE will take the most miserable place ever in this organisation's history," Lavrov said. "Nobody has ever caused such damage to the OSCE while being at its helm."

"Our Polish neighbours have been digging a grave for the organisation by destroying the last remains of the consensus culture," he said in a video call with reporters.

The Polish chairman in office, Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, said he had a responsibility to defend the OSCE's "fundamental principles," and argued



Foreign Ministers and other representatives attend a high-level meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Lodz, Poland, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022. (AP Photo/Michal Dyjuk)

that it was not Poland but Russia which had hurt the organisation by blocking much of its work. He accused Russia of spreading disinformation against Poland.

"I would say it's outrageous to hear Russia accusing the chairmanship of pushing the OSCE into the abyss, destroying its foundations and breaking its procedural rules," Rau said.

Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the OSCE acted as a mediator in Ukraine, negotiating the peace deals for eastern Ukraine following a Russian-backed separatist war that began there in 2014. In March, the OSCE discontinued its special monitoring mission to Ukraine.

Also missing from the meeting in Lodz was Belarus Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei, who died suddenly last weekend at the age of 64 and was buried earlier this week. Belarusian authorities didn't give the cause of Makei's death, and he wasn't known to suffer from any chronic illness, triggering speculation about possible foul play.

A Belarusian representative, Andrei Dapkiunas, delivered remarks that he said had been prepared by Makei before his death. He deplored the exclusion of Lavrov, saying it "is killing the OSCE,"

and accused Western powers of undermining Europe's security structure with what he described as an unfair isolation of Russia and Belarus.

The OSCE was established in 1975 at a time of Cold War detente. Its approach to security is undergirded by an emphasis on human rights and economic development in conjunction with military security. It is possibly best known for its monitoring of elections but has also carried out conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building missions in places including Bosnia, Moldova, Georgia and Tajikistan.

The U.S. representative, Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland said she came away from the gathering in Lodz with a renewed optimism within the OSCE, noting that 55 of its 57 members — Russia and Belarus excluded — were finding new ways to work to defend democratic principles.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "has failed to defeat Ukraine," Nuland said. "Despite his brutal war of aggression, his war crimes, and now his vicious fight against civilians trying to freeze them in the middle of winter, Putin has also failed in his effort to divide and destroy the OSCE."

## Five letter bombs detected in Spain, country steps up security

Reuters - Bomb disposal experts defused a fifth letter bomb on Thursday as Spain stepped up security to confront a spate of explosive devices sent to high-profile targets, including the prime minister and the Ukrainian ambassador in Madrid.

Early indications suggest that all five of the packages were sent from within Spain, the country's Deputy Interior Minister told journalists.

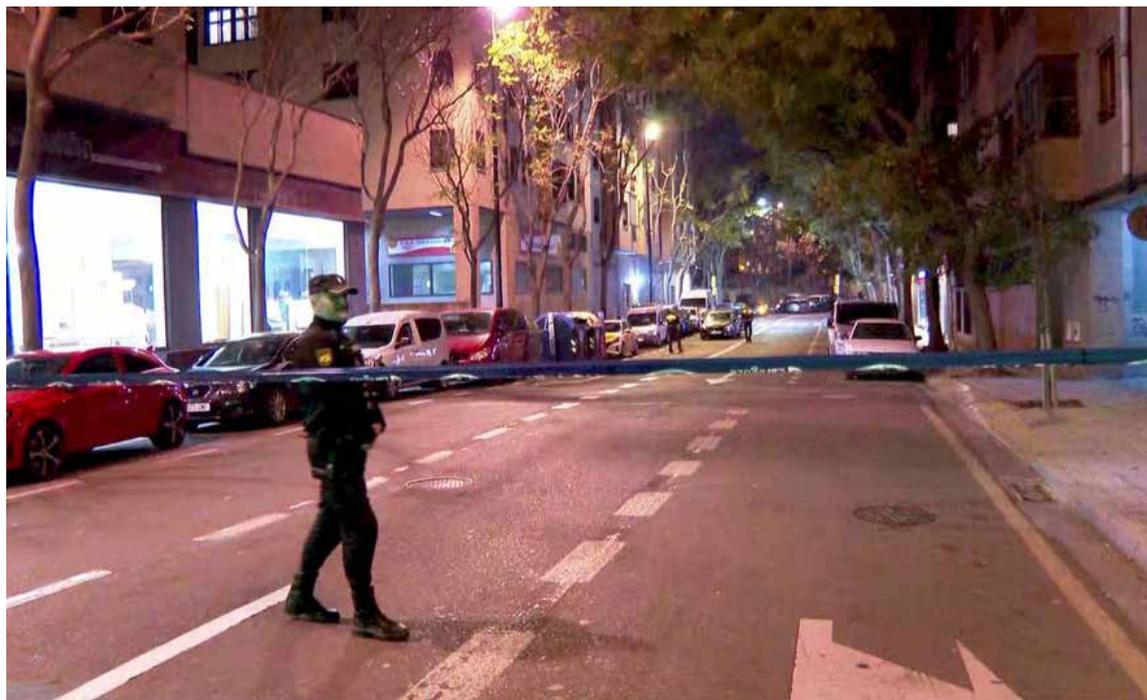
Rafael Perez, the junior minister responsible for security, said the homemade devices were sent in brown packages containing a flammable powder and tripwire that would generate "sudden flames" rather than an explosion.

The packages were addressed to the heads of the institutions they were sent to.

Perez said one of the devices had detonated - injuring a security officer at the Ukrainian embassy in Madrid, three others were detonated by the security forces in controlled explosions and one had been kept intact for investigative purposes.

"It appears that they were all sent from within the country but we are basing this on early visual inspections without yet having an in-depth technical report," he said.

Perez said it did not yet appear necessary to convene



*A police officer stands at a cordon outside an arms company's building after it received a letter bomb in Zaragoza, Spain, November 30, 2022 in this still image taken from video. FORTA via Reuters TV/Handout via REUTERS*

the security committee that would evaluate stepping up Spain's terrorist threat level, which is already at the second-highest level following Islamist attacks around Europe in the past decade.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that it had, however, ordered police to strengthen security around public buildings and particularly check postal deliveries carefully.

A source close to the investigation said that while the devices were homemade, "they were not something anyone could make", and investigators were now seeking to trace their contents to their origin.

Spain's High Court that specialises in terrorism has opened an investigation, a

judicial source said.

News of the letter bombs broke on Wednesday lunchtime after police said a security official at the Ukrainian embassy in Madrid had been slightly injured after opening a package.

Ambassador Serhii Pohoreltsev told the Ukrainian news site European Pravda that the suspicious package, addressed to him, was handed to the embassy's Ukrainian commandant who took it outside to open.

"After opening the box and hearing a click, he tossed it and then heard the explosion...the commandant hurt his hands and received a concussion," Pohoreltsev was quoted as saying.

"We have instructions from the ministry in Ukraine

that given the situation we have to be prepared for any kind of incident... Russian activities outside the country," Pohoreltsev told Spanish television station TVE.

Russia invaded Ukraine nine months ago in what it calls a "special military operation" that Kyiv and the West describe as an unprovoked, imperialist land grab.

After the incident, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba ordered all of Kyiv's embassies abroad to "urgently" strengthen security, a Ukrainian ministry spokesperson said.

The Twitter account of the Russian Embassy in Spain posted a statement on Thursday condemning "any *cont'd on pg 24*

## Trump taxes: US lawmakers get access to former president's returns

BBC - Donald Trump's tax returns have been handed over to a committee of the US House of Representatives after the former president lost a long legal battle to keep them sealed.

The Treasury Department said it had complied with a Supreme Court order that the records should be given to a panel in the Democrat-controlled House.

It is not clear if the returns will be made public, or what they will reveal.

Mr Trump is yet to comment, but has previously denied any wrongdoing.

He declined to release the documents during his 2016 presidential run or subsequently - breaking a decades-old presidential custom.

Mr Trump recently announced a bid to run for the White House again in 2024, and has described the efforts to obtain his tax documents as politically motivated.

Various details about his finances have already



Mr Trump, who plans to run for the White House again in 2024, has long fought to keep his tax records sealed

emerged as he faces a range of investigations, including into his business dealings.

It is therefore unknown whether the tax return information will yield any major new revelations.

Following Wednesday's announcement from the Treasury Department, a congressional committee now has access to his returns for the years 2015-2020.

It was not disclosed whether the committee had

immediately accessed the documents.

The panel in question - the Ways and Means Committee - is investigating whether presidents are being properly audited, and whether new laws are needed.

However, it may not have long to do its work.

The House will only be controlled by the Democratic Party for a few more weeks, before Mr Trump's Republicans take over in January -

after winning a slim majority in last month's midterm elections.

The committee made its first request for Mr Trump's tax documents in 2019, after the Democrats took over the House.

Mr Trump took legal steps to block any such release, though ultimately failed when the Supreme Court last week cleared the way for his papers to be accessed by the panel.

*cont'd from pg 23*

threat or terrorist act" in relation to the five letter bombs, "particularly directed at a diplomatic mission".

Another package was received on Wednesday night at the headquarters of Spanish weapons manufacturer Instalaza in Zaragoza, northeastern Spain, police said.

Instalaza manufactures the C90 rocket launcher that Spain has supplied to Ukraine.

Spanish security forces also found

a device early on Thursday in an envelope mailed to a European Union satellite centre located at an air force base in Torrejon de Ardoz, near Madrid, the defence ministry said.

The satellite centre supports the EU's common foreign and security policy by gathering information from space intelligence devices, according to its website, and was recently described by EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell as being part of "the eyes of Europe".

On Thursday morning Spain's Interior Ministry revealed that an "envelope with pyrotechnic material" addressed to Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez had been received on Nov. 24 and disarmed by his security team. The device was "similar" to packages discovered this week, it said.

A fifth device was received at Spain's Defence Ministry on Thursday morning and defused by specialist police officers, a defence ministry spokesperson told Reuters.

## Crawley, Duckett, Pope, Brook centuries in record-breaking romp

ESPN - England became the first side to score 500 runs on day one of a Test.

England 506 for 4 (Crawley 122, Pope 108, Duckett 107, Brook 101\*) vs Pakistan

A quartet of centuries helped England plunder a record 506 for 4 on the opening day to put the tourists in command of their first Test appearance in Pakistan for 17 years.

Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, who put on a 233-run opening stand, were joined by Ollie Pope and Harry Brook - the latter playing just his second Test - in posting hundreds on a remarkable day in which England's run rate scarcely dipped below a run a ball as they became the first side to score 500 runs on day one of a Test.

No sooner had Brook brought up his maiden Test fifty, and he surged towards his century by whipping Saud Shakeel for six fours in one over to almost all quarters of the ground. Brook reached his ton off just 80 balls after he and Pope had added 176 runs for the fourth wicket and, when bad light ended play, he remained not out on 101 with Ben Stokes unbeaten on 34.

Crawley had threatened to become the first Englishman to score a hundred before lunch on the first day of a Test as he and Duckett set a solid foundation for their side, which had been laid low by a sickness bug just 24 hours earlier.

Stokes was among the worst affected but fronted up for, and won, an all-important toss after England were only able to confirm that they had a fit XI two-and-a-half hours before the start. They were forced into just one change to their intended team, handing Will Jacks his Test debut for a still-recovering Ben Foakes, with Pope to take the wicketkeeping gloves.



Ollie Pope reached the third century of a remarkable day for England

The last time Crawley had played against Pakistan, he struck 267 to deliver on the promise of three half-centuries in 11 previous innings. A tumultuous stretch followed that knock in August 2020, with just a brace of fifties in 21 innings which followed 10 single-figure scores and two ducks among them bringing his place under increasing scrutiny.

That was until his century in the drawn first Test against West Indies in Antigua in March this year, which seemed to set him up for the English summer, only for another unspectacular spell to ensue until his rapid unbeaten 69 off just 57 balls in September's third and final Test against South Africa.

Crawley's latest innings was next-level speed-wise, however, as he perfectly merged England's assertive approach under Brendon McCullum with the need to make the most of his time in the middle while some of his team-mates regained their strength.

One of only four players in England's original XI named on Tuesday to take part in an optional training session on match eve, Crawley opened with three fours off Naseem Shah so

that England were 14 without loss in the most expensive first over of a Test in two decades.

Haris Rauf, making his Test debut after 57 T20Is and 15 ODIs, entered the attack in the eighth over, but Crawley continued to find the boundary with back-to-back fours either side of the pitch in Rauf's second over and, after 10 overs, the tourists had motored to 63 for 0.

The last time Duckett played a Test, he fell for 5 and 0 at the hands of a rampant R Ashwin as England suffered a heavy defeat to India in November 2016 and he admitted thinking his Test career was over.

Making his return six years later after an excellent Championship season for Nottinghamshire, Duckett looked assured, his fortuitous slash through third to bring up England's fifty notwithstanding, as he reverse-swept then ramped Zahid Mahmood to the fence.

Crawley brought up his half-century off just 38 balls, sweeping Zahid through fine leg for four, while England brought up their 100 in 13.5 overs and Duckett reached a run-a-ball fifty in the second hour.

*cont'd on pg 26*

# Sports News



## Brazil to decide on Neymar after Cameroon game at World Cup

AP - Brazil will reevaluate Neymar's condition and decide about his chances of playing again at this year's World Cup after Friday's game against Cameroon.

Neymar hurt his right ankle in the team's opener against Serbia and was ruled out for the rest of the group stage. Also not playing against Cameroon because of injury were right back Danilo and left back Alex Sandro.

"They are progressing," Brazil assistant coach Cléber Xavier said Thursday. "We are focused on the



Brazil's Neymar grabs his ankle after an injury during the World Cup group G soccer match between Brazil and Serbia, at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022. (Laurent Gillieron/Keystone via AP)

game against Cameroon, and then we will start the decision-making process for their return."

Xavier did not elaborate on the plan. Brazil team doctors have not yet given a timetable on Neymar's return, or said if he would be back at all.

Brazil reached the round of 16 after two matches and needs only a draw against Cameroon to secure first place in Group G.

Neymar injured his back in the quarterfinals against Colombia during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and missed the rest of the tournament. He also missed the 2019 Copa América because of another right ankle injury.

### cont'd from pg 25

Save for a hearty appeal for lbw, which looked to be high with no functioning DRS in the third over to test the on-field not-out decision, and a slash off Rauf which went just wide of a slow-moving Mohammad Ali at mid-on to move into the 90s, Crawley's innings was domineering. He had scored 17 fours by the end of the morning session as he and Duckett took England to lunch unscathed with 174 runs on the board.

Pakistan, missing the injured Shaheen Shah Afridi and fielding three other debutants alongside Haris, in right-arm seamer Ali, leg spinner Zahid and middle-order batter Shakeel, looked toothless and needed a breakthrough. They eventually got there through Zahid and Rauf in the space of nine balls.

On 99, Crawley managed to overturn his lbw dismissal playing around Naseem's full delivery which rapped him low on the front pad but was

shown to be heading down the leg side. Two balls later, Crawley's deft punch through the covers brought up an 86-ball century, the fastest by an England Test opener and joint fifth-fastest overall.

Duckett brought up his maiden Test ton with a pulled four off Rauf, a beaming smile spreading across Duckett's face as he soaked up the applause. His stay was short-lived thereafter when he missed his reverse sweep of Zahid and was struck on the pad in line with off stump, although Pakistan had to review Joel Wilson's not-out decision.

So ended England's highest Test opening stand against Pakistan and they went from 233 without loss to 235 for 2 when Crawley followed a short time later, done by Rauf's reverse swing as the ball slid through the gate and took a deflection on to middle stump.

Joe Root fell lbw to Mahmood for just 23, burning a review in a bid to

overturn his dismissal before Pope and Brook forged on.

Brook, who had pulled Zahid for six on the stroke of tea, helped himself to another six in the evening session when he muscled Rauf over deep mid-wicket. He brought up his fifty with a single in the next over moments before Pope raised his century working Agha Salman off his toes for one to reach the mark in 90 balls.

Even when Pope fell to Ali, lbw on review to give Pakistan something to smile faintly about in the fast-fading light, Brook surged ahead with England's quickest Test hundred now in his sights. He fell short of Gilbert Jessop's 76-ball mark set in 1902, but slotted in at No. 3 behind Jonny Bairstow when he struck Naseem for a gorgeous cover drive for four.

The fact that England still have the firepower of Jacks and fellow debutant Liam Livingstone to come on a batter-friendly pitch gave the hosts ever more to worry about overnight.

## West Indies openers drop anchor after Aussies post big score

West Indies openers Kraigg Brathwaite and debutant Tagenarine Chanderpaul fought hard on the second evening to ensure West Indies did not lose any wickets in a testing 90-minute period.

After Australia declared their first innings at 598/4, the pair was forced to combat a barrage of short and menacing bowling from the Aussie pace attack on Thursday.

They will resume on Friday at 74/0 with the left-handed Chanderpaul on an impressive 47 not out off 73 balls, and the skipper on 18 not out off 79 balls.

Chanderpaul got off the mark with a boundary off Mitchel Starc but took a painful blow on the groin from fast bowler Josh Hazlewood and had to be treated on the field by physio Dr Denis Byam. He recovered and soldiered on and also hooked skipper Pat Cummins for a towering six over long leg and way back into the stands.



It was a superb demonstration of toughness in the face of tremendous pressure in his first knock at the highest level.

Brathwaite addressed the media after stumps on his birthday and said he was happy with the fight demonstrated so far.

"I know he [Chanderpaul] is a fighter, so it isn't surprising. I really look forward to seeing a lot for him playing for the West Indies. It was good to see but obviously we need to continue tomorrow.... I knew for a while, playing against him, that he al-

*cont'd on pg 28*

## Pele: Brazil legend in hospital but daughter confirms 'no emergency'

BBC-Brazil legend Pele has been admitted to hospital but his daughter has confirmed there was "no emergency" involved.

Earlier on Wednesday, ESPN Brasil reported Pele had been taken to Sao Paulo's Hospital Albert Einstein with "general swelling".

But Pele's daughter Kely Nascimento posted on Instagram that there was "no new dire prediction".

Pele had a tumour removed from his colon in September 2021 and has

since had regular treatment at the hospital.

"Lots of alarm in the media today concerning my dad's health," Nascimento said.

"He is in the hospital regulating medication.

"There is no emergency or new dire prediction. I will be there for New Years and promise to post some pictures."

ESPN Brasil also reported that the 82-year-old was having cardiac issues and there are concerns that



*Pele is Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals in 92 games* his chemotherapy treatment is not having the expected effect.

Pele is Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals in 92 games, and the former striker is one of only four players to have scored in four World Cup tournaments.

# Sports News



## LeBron: Media disparity between Jones photo, Irving comments

AP — LeBron James has questions about the disparity of media scrutiny he believes is being applied to a 1957 photo of Jerry Jones and the recent controversy surrounding Kyrie Irving.

The photo of Jones, captured by an Associated Press photographer, shows him standing among a group of white students at North Little Rock High School in Arkansas on Sept. 9, 1957. The group was blocking six Black students who were attempting to desegregate the school and news reports said that moments after the image was taken, the students were shoved down a flight of stairs.

The photo accompanied a Washington Post story last month that was about Jones' legacy as owner of the Dallas Cowboys, including how the team has never had a Black head coach.

James has spoken often about the Cowboys since he identified as a fan of the team for years, but said

he found it interesting that he wasn't asked about the Jones photo.

"When I watched Kyrie talk, and he says, 'I know who I am, but I want to keep the same energy when we're talking about my people and the things they've been through,' and that Jerry Jones photo is one of those moments that our people, Black people, have been through in America," James said after the Los Angeles Lakers' game on Wednesday night. "And I feel like as a Black man, as a Black athlete, someone with power and with a platform, when we do something wrong or something that people don't agree with, it's on every single tabloid, every single news coverage. It's on the bottom ticker. It's asked about every single day.

"But it seems like to me that the whole Jerry Jones situation, the photo, and I know it was years and years ago, and we all make mistakes, I get it. It seems like it's just been buried



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, left, passes the ball as Portland Trail Blazers forward Justise Winslow defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

under, like, 'Oh, it happened. OK. We just move on.' And I was just kind of disappointed that I haven't received that question from you guys."

Irving was suspended for an eventual eight games by the Brooklyn Nets earlier this season after the guard — a former teammate of James' with the Cleveland Cavaliers — tweeted a link to a film containing antisemitic material.

James was asked by reporters about that last

month, and he made clear that he thought Irving made a significant mistake.

"There's no place in this world for it," James said in November. "Nobody can benefit from that and I believe what Kyrie did caused some harm to a lot of people. ... We as humans, none of us are perfect. But I hope he understands how what he did and the actions that he took were just harmful to a lot of people."

Jones told reporters last week that he was at that school entrance as "a curious kid." He was 14 at the time.

"That was, gosh, 65 years ago, and (I was a) curious kid," Jones said. "I didn't know at the time the monumental event really that was going on. And I'm sure glad that we're a long way from that."

*cont'd from pg 27*

ways takes his time and he bats long periods. He's going to be special. He is going to do a great job. I look forward to batting with him for many years to come."

Earlier, double centuries by Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith allowed Australia to declare with a big total.

Labuschagne scored 204, his second double century, and was out to the last ball before lunch, caught behind off

Brathwaite's off-spin. Smith reached 200 not out and Australia declared when Travis Head was out on 99 after playing on to Brathwaite, the tourist's most successful bowler with 2-65.

West Indies will have a lot of work to do when play resumes on Friday at 10:20am (10:20pm Thursday Eastern Caribbean/9:20pm Thursday Jamaica) and they will look to carry the momentum into the third day and beyond.

## George wins final tournament of Lock Lomond Antigua Junior Series

Marquise George was all smiles as he finished ahead of the field in the final tournament of the 2022 Lock Lomond Antigua Junior Series at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on Sunday, 27th November.

Playing in the Wally Haywood sponsored competition, George shot 76 during the one-day 18-hole event to hoist the coveted trophy.

His tally was two shots clear of second place finisher Siyolo Joseph, who shot 78, while Keiohn James claimed third place with a score of

82.

In the female section, it was the indomitable Lexi Hunte who excelled.

Thanks to her 79, Hunte took home the big trophy with Lenijah Thomas and Andreina De La Cruz finishing second and third respectively.

There were two consolation prizes, which went to Tyler Hughes and Lenijah Thomas.

Hughes won the closest to the pin, while Thomas captured the nearest to the line prize.



Marquise George, right, accepts the winner's trophy from sponsor Wally Haywood at the end of the final tournament of the 2022 Lock Lomond Antigua Junior Series at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on Sunday, 27th November. (Photo courtesy Jermaine Kentish)

## PMS, All Saints win in Schools Under-14 Boys' football league

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and the All Saints Secondary School secured victories in the Under-14 Boys' Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Wednesday, 30th November.

Princess Margaret School romped to a 4-1 victory over Antigua Grammar School in the second game of a double-header at the PMS playing field.

Allister Nibbs, Shamar Walters and Oshea Polimis each converted once, while Asahel Henry scored an own-goal to give Princess Margaret their victory. Esprit Shaw scored the lone goal for Antigua Grammar School.

A Kemari Lawrence conversion gave All Saints Secondary a 1-0 win over St. Joseph's Academy at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Cupholders Ottos Comprehensive

School were held to a 2-2 draw by St. Mary's Secondary School in the first game at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

Jafari Looby scored both goals for Ottos Comprehensive School, while Troun Delen and Amill Williams were the goal scorers for St. Mary's Secondary.

Clare Hall Secondary and Sir Novelle Richards Academy also played to a 4-4 draw at the Potters playing field.

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) hammered Clare Hall Secondary 4-0 at the Police Recreation Ground in the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division.

Pares Secondary and Sir Novelle Richards Academy fought to a 2-2 draw in their Under-20 Boys' affair at the Potters playing field.

The Schools' Football League will

continue with matches in the Under-16 Boys' and Female Under-20 divisions along with the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys' competition today, Friday, 2nd December.

Defending champions All Saints Secondary will face Irene B. Williams in an Under-16 Boys' Division affair at 2:30 pm at the King George V. Ground.

Clare Hall Secondary will take on St. Anthony's Secondary in a Female Under-20 Division encounter at 2:30 pm at the Golden Grove playing field.

In the Under-20 Boys' Division at 3:40 pm, St. Mary's Secondary will meet Antigua Grammar School at King George V. Ground, Ottos Comprehensive and Princess Margaret will clash at Radio Range in Ottos and Antigua State College will tackle Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

**SHOP NOW!**



**LB Store**

**LOUIS BROTHER STORE**

*"Everything and More"*

**TEL:(268)562-6644/OFFICE:(268)736-6644**

**LOCATED:OLD PARHAM ROAD AND MARKET STS**



AFBAHLUR United is a softball cricket team representing the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs (MAFBA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Urban Renewal (MHLUR) in the Mandy Premier League's Cool and Smooth Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League. AFBAHLUR United will face Grill Box in one of three quarter-final matches at the Potters playing field on Sunday, 4th December. (Photo courtesy the MAFBA)

## Teams to battle for semi-final spots in business softball league

Six teams will be vying for three spots into the semi-finals when they contest the quarter-finals of the Mandy Premier League's Cool and Smooth Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League at the Potters playing field on Sunday, 4th December.

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) will face PEL Desi Boys at 11 am. Grill Box will then take on AFBAHLUR United (Agriculture) at 12:40 pm and Time of Victory will clash with Living Styles at 2:20 pm.

Chief organizer of the competition, Mandy Weatherhead, said he is expecting some competitive quarter-final matches as the teams jostle for the opportunity to join unbeaten preliminary round winners TG Welding, who received a bye into the semi-finals.

"The teams met already and some

have lost to who they are meeting in the quarter-finals, but the quarter-finals are not going to be an easy walkover.

"You are already hearing it on the chat groups because the taunting and so on have already started, so it is not going to be an easy walkover," Weatherhead stated.

"From the six teams in the quarter-finals, we will end up with three to go into the semi-finals along with TG Welding, who played unbeaten, through to the semi-finals and then we will move on to the final."

Weatherhead said he is quite pleased with the interest being shown and the support the competition has been getting.

"Well, I must say it has been going really good. It is excellent. I am really pleased with the turnout, pleased with

the level of playing and just pleased with everything overall," Weatherhead stated.

"I have seen folks from as far away as Swetes and those guys come out to the games every Sunday to have fun and enjoy the games. It's a good atmosphere.

"I have seen families come out, the business people, they come out to support their team and so on and there are lots of children. The atmosphere is really, really great."

The competition is being held in honour of the late member of the Mandy Premier League and Female Flyers softball team, Sherma Jackson, who passed away last year.

The business softball league is being sponsored by Cool and Smooth, Spencer's Service Station, Fitzroy Rewinding and the Potters Cricket Club.

## Sea View Farm and Young Warriors claim wins in Second Division

Sea View Farm and Young Warriors recorded wins in their opening matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Wednesday, 30th November.

Sea View Farm trounced Freemans Village 4-0 at the ABFA Technical Centre at Paynters.

Striker Markland Wright scored in the 32nd minute to give Sea View Farm a 1-0 halftime advantage. Sea View Farm took total control of the game by scoring two quick goals four minutes apart early in the second half.

Azari Joseph scored the first of a second-half brace in the 54th minute and Kevin Warner had a 58th minute conversion to give Sea View Farm a 3-0 advantage.

Joseph then scored his second goal of the match in the 74th minute to seal his team's victory.

Ruben Rubel scored two goals in a four-minute span to give Young Warriors a 2-0 win over FC Master Ballers at the Buckleys Primary School playing field.

Rubel scored in the 72nd and 76th minutes to propel Young Warriors to their opening game victory.

The game between Attacking Saints and Belmont ended in a goalless draw at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Bendals opened their campaign in the ABFA's First Division with a 2-0 win at home against Bolans on Tuesday, 29th November.

Adrian Constant scored in the 41st minute and Alpha Otto had a conver-



*The Young Warriors team that started their Second Division encounter against FC Master Ballers at the Buckleys Primary School playing field on Wednesday, 30th November. (Photo courtesy Young Warriors FC)*

sion in the 55th minute for Bendals in the only first division affair of the day.

Meanwhile, two teams that made winning starts to the ABFA's Premier League campaign will be seeking more success when they clash in the opening game of the second week of first-round matches today, Friday, 2nd December.

After prevailing 2-1 against Pigotts Bullets, Tryum will meet Jennings Grenades, who had snatched a 1-0 win over Willikies, at the ABFA's Technical Centre today at 7 pm.

The premier league will continue

with a triple-header at the same venue tomorrow (Saturday). FC Aston Villa will meet Parham at 4 pm, Old Road and SAP will clash in a round south derby at 6 pm and Empire will take on All Saints United at 8 pm.

In Sunday's premier league triple-header, Greenbay Hoppers will challenge Willikies at 4 pm, Ottos Rangers will oppose Liberta Black Hawks at 6 pm and Swetes will clash with Cedar Grove Blue Jays at 8 pm.

Pigotts Bullets will meet Five Islands in the last second week premier league encounter at 7 pm on Monday, 5th December.