

NO LOSSES REPORTED FOLLOWING CYBER ATTACK

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Trade Minister E. P. Chet Greene flanked by his ministerial colleagues at the 4th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of OECS Trade Ministers at Royalton Hotel. *Story on page 3*

FM Greene: External pressures continue to hamper OECS development

OECS members remain highly vulnerable to exogenous economic, environmental and climatic shocks that challenge their ability to sustain economic growth.

Foreign Minister E. P. Chet Greene presented these realities to those assembled at the opening of the 4th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Trade of the OECS at the Royalton Hotel on Thursday.

As Greene addressed the meeting, which has not convened since 2018, he pointed out that the sub-region's capacity to bounce back from the negative impacts of

these shocks continue to be tested, revealing the fragility of their economies.

"The OECS is a group of small and open economies, highly dependent on a few sectors, with travel and tourism and agriculture being among the main contributors to our GDP.

"Our current external trade performance and position is also fragile, in which imports of goods significantly outstrip exports and our services trade surplus is failing to fully cover the goods deficit.

"The composition and orienta-

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Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, E. P. Chet Greene assumes chairmanship of the OECS Council of Ministers of Trade



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Local News



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tion of our export trade is also very narrow, concentrated around few goods and services and export markets,” Greene said.

He noted that the OECS benefits from several trade agreements and unilateral trading arrangements including the CARIFORUM EU and UK Economic

Partnership Agreements.

According to Greene, however, these arrangements have not redounded to the benefit of the sub-region.

“Trade performance under these agreements therefore remains heavily one-sided in favour of the respective trade partners. Competitiveness and sup-

ply-side constraints continue to be a factor as well as non-tariff barriers and other regulatory and institutional hurdles in the export market.

“This is why the OECS must coordinate its positions and responses to various components of these agreements to ensure we secure the promised ben-

efits and exploit every opportunity based on our individual and collective interests,” he stated.

Secretary General of the OECS Commission, Dr. Didacus Jules, highlighted the huge trade imbalances that exist between OECS nations and their trading partners.

“ECCB data on visible trade shows that the overall balance of merchandise trade averaged negative EC\$6.9 billion for the last five years even rising to EC\$7.3 billion if we exclude the last two COVID-19 years.

“Imports have been outstripping exports by eleven times during the same period.

“On the trade in services side, the balance of trade is positive, averaging EC\$4.4 billion in the last five years according to ECCB EBOPs data.

“This leaves an overall negative balance of around EC\$2 billion,” he revealed.

Dr. Jules said this data provides statistical validation of the common sense recognition that OECS countries need to find ways to reduce their import bill and to expand and diversify their exports of both goods and services.

“This needs to be a high priority goal of our OECS trade policy coordination,” he urged.

The meeting concluded Thursday afternoon with decisions reached on several key points.

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Budget for Black Friday!

With Black Friday sales abounding today, the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division is advising shoppers of the importance of sticking to a budget.

It is one of several important points consumers are asked to consider when capitalising on the attractive, reduced prices being offered by merchants.

According to press information officer, Jo-Ann Peters, “spending wildly” can land shoppers in financial trouble, especially when purchasing items that are not needed or were not budgeted for.

In addition to smart budgeting, the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division is also encouraging consumers to comparison shop.

“It’s very important that you shop around. There is always a better deal in the making just there waiting for



you, but you will not know about it if you purchase the first item that you see.

“One of the things that consumers must also learn to do is to compare the pre-sale price with the sale prices,” Peters said.

The Black Friday shopping event is a tradition started by US retailers in which large discounts, sometimes as much as 90 percent off high value items, are offered ahead of the

Thanksgiving holiday.

With the convenience and increase in online shopping, local consumers will also seek to cash in on the deals being offered by online marketplaces and companies including Amazon and Walmart.

While this is not discouraged, Peters said consumers in Antigua and Barbuda should be aware that their imported purchases fall outside the protections offered by the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division.

“When you make purchases online outside of our jurisdiction, if your goods come and you have an issue with it, at the division we cannot help you because the purchase was made outside of our jurisdiction.

“So, it’s a risk that we take when we shop online. So again, we need to be very careful.”

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Glanvilles Polyclinic to reopen soon

The water storage problem at the Glanvilles Polyclinic has been resolved and the facility will finally be reopened to serve the public.

The Glanvilles Polyclinic, whose construction was funded by the government of the People’s Republic of China, was opened on 31st January this year.

However, challenges providing constant water supply to the health facility forced a period of closure to rectify the issue.

A precise date for the reopening was not disclosed, but it will likely occur in early December.

The Antigua Barbuda Labour Party government in the past years has commissioned several of these facilities, which are equipped to provide routine medical services as well as preventative and urgent care.



Glanvilles Polyclinic

The aim is to bring advanced healthcare services into communities across the country and lessen the burden on the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

The good news of the reopening

of the Glanvilles medical centre was doubled with the announcement on Wednesday that the Villa Polyclinic will soon provide paediatric care and electrocardiogram or EKG services.



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Influenza alert issued

An influenza alert has been issued by the Ministry of Health and Wellness following the detection of the influenza A (H3N2) strain in Antigua and Barbuda.

In a statement, the ministry revealed that cases have been identified in three children who have now recovered.

Health officials say the influenza A and B viruses are responsible for the seasonal flu epidemics which are most prevalent between October and February.

Infected persons suffer symptoms which most often affect the nose, throat and lungs.

The influenza A virus is spread mainly by droplets when people with the flu talk, cough or sneeze. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly, their eyes.

Symptoms of influenza A include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy



nose, muscle or body aches and headaches.

Some people may experience vomiting and diarrhoea.

The illness can be mild or very severe with its most serious outcome being death.

The elderly and children are more susceptible to severe disease and complications such as pneumonia and death.

Particular attention must be made to these age groups if they exhibit flu symptoms, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has advised.

Measures that can be taken to prevent infection include social and physical distancing, cough and sneeze etiquette, regular hand washing and the sanitisation of frequently touched surfaces.

A defence mechanism against the virus is the influenza vaccine which is available to the public through health centres across the country.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is encouraging the public, and particularly the elderly and health care workers, to be inoculated against influenza.

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Man fined for throwing food over HMP wall

On Wednesday, an apologetic and remorseful Jahvante Lloyd was spared severe consequences when he got off relatively easily when he appeared before the court to answer a charge of conveying.

He was convicted of the charge and fined \$350.00

On Sunday this week, Lloyd was observed throwing a bag over the wall of His Majesty's Prison.

The police officer who witnessed the act gave chase and apprehended Lloyd near Teachers' Place.

It was later discovered

that the bag tossed over the prison's east wall contained a cooked meal.

The Fort Road man, who has served time in prison, explained to Magistrate Conliffe Clarke that he was only trying to help someone he knew inside when he threw the Chinese food onto the prison compound.

Magistrate Clarke gave Lloyd one week to pay the fine in full.

Should he fail to do so, he will find himself back behind bars for a period of two months.

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Opinion

Not a moment to waste: Small island states must defend themselves

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)

Call me a cynic, but years of participation in negotiations between developed and developing countries have schooled me to be cautious about grand announcements and promises. The devil is usually in the detail. Experience has taught me to remain hopeful, but to be vigilant in ensuring the commitments, pledges and promises are kept.

That experience has been garnered in negotiations in the Commonwealth, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Financial Action Task Force and in direct bargaining between European Union countries and the Caribbean. In each of these fora, the countries of the developed North have sought advantage over the underdeveloped countries of the South. By various stratagems, the developed countries have got their way, including by making commitments at major occasions such as COP27 which concluded on November 20.

In the words of Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, at the opening of COP27, "This world looks, still, too much like when it was part of an imperialistic empire".

Therefore, while the leaders of small island states, including Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Gaston

Browne, who, for years, as the Chair of the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) has been advancing the argument for a fund to pay for loss and damage caused by Climate Change, are to be applauded for gaining acceptance by developed nations that such a fund should be created, the game is not yet over.

The negotiated text has recognized the need for financial support from a variety of sources, but no decisions have been reached on who should pay into the fund, where the money will come from, and which countries will benefit.

When COP27 had to be extended into the weekend of 19 and 20 November to address the loss and damage issue, Ministerial negotiators for many small island states had already departed Egypt. It was left to Antigua and Barbuda's Environment Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, and the Environment Minister of the Maldives, Shauna Aminath, with their technical teams, to ensure that the concerns of small island states were adequately met.

Much work remains to ensure that the loss and damage fund is established and adequately resourced. Further, it has to be clear that new money will finance the Fund, and not a shifting of monies already pledged for other purposes which, regrettably, happens far too often.

It should be recalled that wealthy nations still have not fulfilled an outstanding pledge to provide \$100 billion to help vulnerable countries adapt to the impact of Climate Change that they have been suffering for decades.

It is critically important for small island states and other developing countries to monitor, and participate actively in, the work of the 'transitional committee' which was established



Sir Ronald Sanders

at COP27. That committee is tasked with "making recommendations" on how to operationalize the loss and damage Fund, including new funding arrangements to resource it. That committee is expected to meet before the end of March 2023, but its "recommendations" won't be considered until COP28 in Dubai in November-December 2023. Note the committee will make "recommendations".

We can be quite certain that the bargaining within the 'transitional committee' will be intense and that many developed nations will seek to avoid or minimize their obligations.

So, while praise must be given to the leaders of small island and other developing states for finally getting 'loss and damage' on the COP agenda, there are still hurdles to be jumped before they can realistically say that the problem has been functionally and effectively addressed.

A credible Fund will require sufficient money. Adapting to the impact of Climate Change will require a comprehensive approach, including building sea walls and creating drought-resistant crops. This could cost developing

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countries anywhere from US\$160-US\$340 billion annually by 2030. The number could rise to US\$565 billion by 2050 if Climate Change accelerates. That's the estimate of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its 2022 Adaptation Gap Report.

These numbers have been made convincing by the fact that not enough was done at COP27, or by any of the previous COPs, to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for the climate crisis. The final agreement mentioned "the urgent need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions" to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

However, a UNEP report, released just before COP27, painted a worrying picture for small island states and low-lying countries, such as Bangladesh. The report was clear "there is no credible pathway to a 1.5°C future". What is more, the report points out that "for each fraction of a degree that temperatures rise, storms, droughts and other extreme weather events become more severe".

This is why, as Prime Minister Gaston Browne, pointed out at COP27, the worst emitters, including China and India, must begin to act beyond their own interest to include the interests of the world. The development of a few countries

should not happen at the expense of many others.

It is more than likely that both the initiative by Vanuatu to seek an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice on the rights to be protected from climate change, and the establishment by Antigua and Barbuda, Tuvalu, Palau and Niue of a Commission of Small Island States (COSIS), backed by 17 international legal experts, to seek a similar opinion from the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, sufficiently worried major developed countries to encourage them to consider a loss and damage fund at COP27. They can influence the latter, while cases before international courts are beyond their control. It was a case of better the devil you know.

In the fight against the present damage and clear danger to their existence, all Caribbean Island States should join in using the international legal system to preserve their rights against the world's major emitters of greenhouse gases. All small island states should actively back the Vanuatu initiative and join COSIS.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says that emissions must decline by 45% to limit global warming to 1.5°C if the already ravaged world is to be saved. There isn't a moment to waste.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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Relationships

The myth of the evil stepmother

By Ali Francis

Popular culture tells us that stepmothers are mean, neglectful – even deadly. Yet there’s little evidence to support the myth. Why does it prevail?

The fictional world is rife with stepmothers who are highly unpleasant – or even murderous monsters. Think Snow White’s envy-ridden stepmother; the witch in Hansel and Gretel, who banishes her stepchildren to the woods, both belong to a class of evil women with “voracious appetites for human fare, sometimes even for the flesh and blood or for the liver and heart of their own relatives”, wrote Maria Tatar, a professor of literature, folklore and mythology at Harvard University, in *The Hard Facts of the Grimms' Fairy Tales*.

At bare minimum, these villainous characters are painted as cold and unloving. In the 1950 Disney adaption of *Cinderella*, the vicious Lady Tremaine forces her stepdaughter into back-breaking labour, and encourages her biological children to shun their step-sister. The 1961 film *The Parent Trap* features two twins, unknowingly separated when their parents divorced; they join forces to overthrow their father’s horrible new fiancée, and reunite their family. And in the comedy-horror *Wicked Stepmother*, which first showed in 1989, the char-



Snow White's envy-ridden stepmother is one of the most famous evil stepmothers (Credit: Alamy)

acter played by Bette Davis is not only a stepmother, but also a literal and figurative witch.

It’s no coincidence stepmothers today are thought of in a less favourable light than any other family figure. Thanks to more than 900 international stories written about nefarious stepmothers throughout centuries – and the endless stream of on-screen adaptations from filmmakers – they’re frequently perceived as less affectionate, kind, happy and likeable, and more cruel, unfair and even hateful. The bias against them is woven into our language: ‘step’ evolved from the Old

English ‘steop’, which captured a sense of loss and deprivation. Even colloquially, describing something as a metaphoric ‘stepchild’ of something else implies its inferiority.

Though stepfamilies of all kinds certainly face challenges and conflicts that could reinforce some elements of these stereotypes, there’s no real evidence supporting the wicked stepmother caricature. In fact, research shows that stepmothers can be uniquely beneficial to families, serving as the glue that holds members together after a separation, and providing extra support to grieving

children.

Why, then, do these harsh perceptions persist? And as stepfamilies become increasingly common across the world, might these tropes one day fade into irrelevance?

The emergence of the evil stepmum

The stereotype of the wicked stepmother has existed in fairy tales and folklore around the world for millennia – with some stories dating back to Roman times. References can also be found in the Bible: Sarah, the matriarch who birthed Abraham’s son, cast his other children out to die so as not to dilute the inheritance pool.

Most of the popular characters that underpin modern film and literature took hold in 1812, however, when German brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm first published their collection, *Children's and Household Tales*, explains Tatar. The authors used fragments of existing oral stories and appropriated others into new narratives, the combination of which chronicled fairy tales such as *Hansel and Gretel*, *Cinderella* and *Snow White*.

Though fictional, the focus on stepmothers does reflect some truths about 19th Century society. “When these fairy tales were created, lifespans were extraordinarily low,” says Law-

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Relationships

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rence Ganong, an emeritus professor of human development at the University of Missouri, US, who has studied stepfamilies for decades. Women often died in childbirth, leaving children in the care of fathers only. The evil stepmothers who appeared in the pages of fairy tales offered cautionary family advice: fathers should protect and support their children, and stepmothers should do the right thing by stepchildren – or bad things will happen.

The stories also offered readers safe, therapeutic outlets to process taboo feelings – like maternal rage and resentment, says Tatar. In the 1800s, fathers likely

remarried younger women, who could be close in age to their stepdaughters. In those circumstances, all sorts of “strange, intense” feelings might arise – such as rivalry over the father’s attention, intergenerational “beauty contests” like we see in Snow White and “a good deal of struggle, conflict and anger”, says Tatar.

In the centuries since the Grimm brothers published their fairy tales, the wicked stepmother was transmuted from stories into real life.

Even as divorce, re-marriage and the creation of stepfamilies became more common in the late 20th Century, various psychologists aided in the blurring of fact and fiction. Some

believed that humans are biologically programmed to protect genetic children ahead of stepchildren, says Lisa Doodson, a UK-based psychologist specialising in stepfamily dynamics, which likely puts the latter camp at greater risk of mistreatment. In the 1970s, researchers came up with a name for instances of stepparent abuse: the Cinderella Effect. Studies have since uncovered that stepparents do harm children at higher rates per capita than genetic parents, but it’s important to note that virtually all instances of violence involve stepfathers – not stepmothers.

The bias against them is woven into our language: ‘step’ evolved from the Old

English ‘steop’, which captured a sense of loss and deprivation

Other studies have – perhaps unintentionally – also helped to perpetuate the myths. Research from the 1980s showed that stepmothers report feeling closer to their biological children than to stepchildren, even when both share a biological father. And those who have had children of their own also report feeling less satisfied with their role as a stepmother. None of this means stepmothers are cruel, however.

Yet empirical evidence wasn’t necessary for stereotypes about awful, neglectful stepmothers to live on.

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They continued to thrive for the same reasons they did centuries ago, says Ganong; culturally dominant ideals surrounding the all-important nuclear family and the sacred biological parent-child relationship.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, riffs of Disney classics – such as the 1997 film *Snow White: A Tale of Terror* and the 1998 film *Ever After*, which is based on *Cinderella* – continued to damn the stepfamily. The idea, it seemed, was firmly stuck in the public psyche: stepmothers were negligent, second-rate caretakers at best – and heinous killers at worst.

‘Wicked stepmothers don’t show up in the data’

Despite the strength of these tropes, however, there’s little evidence proving stepmothers behave like the heartless caricatures of popular culture – and plenty showing that they don’t.

‘The majority of stepmothers get along well with their stepchildren,’ says Ganong, who has read nearly 3,000 research reports on the topic, and talked to more stepfamily members than he can count.

‘Wicked stepmothers don’t show up in the data,’ agrees Todd Jensen, a research assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, US, who studies relational patterns between stepparents and their stepchildren. In a 2021 survey of 295 stepchildren, Jensen found most had positive relationships with their stepmothers. Participants were asked about how close they felt to their stepmother, how much they thought their stepmother cared about them, whether she was warm and loving and how satisfied they were with communication and the relationship overall. In this sample, the average score for stepmother-youth relationship quality was 3.91 out of 5.

These kinds of positive stepmother relationships can be hugely beneficial for a child. Compared to more

negative relationships, Jensen found they’re associated with lower levels of a child’s psychological distress, anxiety, depression and loneliness caused by the stepfamily formation – along with better social and academic outcomes. Stepmothers can really “make a unique contribution to the wellbeing of a child”, he says.

What’s especially true after a divorce, says Cara Zaharychuk, a Canadian counsellor who’s studied the role stepmothers play in a separation. By spending quality time with children after a divorce, Zaharychuk found that stepmothers can help them feel part of a family again. They “can also be an incredible support for young children who have suffered a bereavement”, says Doodson.

Research has also tied growing up with multiple adult relationships to various positive outcomes. One study of almost 1,000 ninth graders in the US showed that having good role models separate from biological parents built emotional resilience, boosted academic performance and neutralised the impacts of negative family dynamics. Stepmothers can offer the same sense of additional support for kids. “Having extra people who love and care for you is always positive,” says Doodson.

That doesn’t mean stepfamilies don’t face unique challenges – some of which can set the stage for those negative caricatures to percolate.

‘Although immensely exaggerated, these stereotypes do speak to some of the common tensions that stepfamilies need to grapple with,’ says Jensen. The main one: where do we put our time and energy? What many of the early fairy tales accentuated was a sort of battle for resources and attention between a stepmother and her stepchildren. Those are “very real challenges” that can result in feelings of jealousy, says Jensen.

In the Grimms’ era, most stepfamilies were formed after the death

of a biological mother. These days, it’s more likely that a new stepparent enters the family after a divorce, says Jensen. With a mother still in the picture, a child might find themselves in a “loyalty bind”. They don’t want their biological parent “to feel replaced”, so they may resist connecting with their stepmother under actual or perceived instruction from their mother, says Jensen. This dynamic can be exacerbated if there’s conflict between the biological parents.

It’s not only the children who may have trouble adjusting to their new family situation. Life can also be hard for stepmothers, who are constantly living in fear of being branded wicked or evil. One 2018 survey of 134 stepmothers living in New Zealand showed 22% actively altered their behaviour so as not to be thought of negatively. This can have myriad consequences. “Stepmothers try too hard to become a super stepmom,” says Doodson – which is unsustainable, and might be off-putting for kids who resent being overly parented by a new adult figure.

Stepfamily living is challenging, but many individuals do well in stepparent roles. It is too bad that they also have to manage these persistent myths about them – Lawrence Ganong

Ultimately, research shows that stepmothers aren’t villainous, as books and films might have us believe. Though their perceived role in a family depends on many factors – such as the intimate culture they’re entering, the attitudes of an existing biological mother and what stepchildren might want or need in terms of care and supervision – existing data suggests they mostly have a positive impact on families.

‘Stepfamily living is challenging, but many individuals do well in stepparent roles,’ says Ganong. “It is too bad that they also have to manage these persistent myths about them.”

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Relationships



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Signs of disruption?

Today, it seems that stepmothers still face somewhat dubious perceptions rooted in long-standing stereotypes.

Ganong often conducts a word association exercise with his college students. The term stepmother conjures adjectives such as “evil, or wicked or mean or uncaring”.

Many stepmothers Ganong has spoken to during his decades of research are also reluctant to accept the label because of the stories they grew up with.

“To me, that's an indication that the stereotype still exists and is potentially harmful,” he says.

But the fact that stepfamilies are becoming more common may also be moving the needle. In the US, high divorce rates mean about 40% of people had at least one step relationship

as of 2011. That same year in the UK, 10% of dependent children lived in a stepfamily – though Doodson suspects that’s a major underestimate.

Canadian census data from 2016 paints a similar picture (though estimates don’t count children older than 14). As stepfamilies increasingly proliferate, there are signs negative stereotypes around stepmothers are being disrupted.

“I think there's no question that real tangible stigma about stepfamilies has been decreasing, in large part because they are so common,” says Jensen. “

If you told someone that you had a stepparent or you yourself were a stepparent, it’s going to be far less likely that someone will be shocked or take issue with that.”

Modern media also tells more varied tales of stepmothers now, from the nuanced 1998 film *Stepmom*; to the

relaxed, happy relationship Gloria has with her two similarly aged stepchildren in the television series *Modern Family*; and the affectionate support a pregnant Juno receives from her stepmother in the eponymous 2007 film.

Even Disney may one day get up to speed; it is increasingly featuring diverse, positive female relationships – think sisterly bonds in *Frozen* or the loving grandmother in *Moana*. And in 2020, a change.org petition lobbied Disney to finally feature a benevolent stepmother.

Going forward, Tatar hopes we can continue to rewrite the stepmother script in a way that reflects the realities of society today.

She’s all for preserving historical accounts, but doesn’t think we should be reinforcing potentially harmful tropes. “The tale has evolved,” she says. “We should recognise that, because folklore is ours to recreate.”

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Bahamas regulators defend seizure of FTX's digital assets

The Securities Commission of Bahamas (SCB) says its decision to seize and transfer the digital assets of FTX Digital Markets (FDM) was the right thing to do.

In a statement last evening, the commission said putting FDM in liquidation was not sufficient since the assets were still prone to hacking and compromise while they were in FTX's possession.

A court ruling on 12 November 2022 gave the SCB power to transfer all digital assets of FTX into digital wallets under the exclusive control of the commission for the benefit of clients and creditors of FDM.

The commission blasted the new CEO of FTX Trading Limited, John Ray III, for misrepresenting their actions in FTX's US bankruptcy court case.

In a court filing on November 17, Ray stated: "Never in my career have I seen such a complete failure of corporate controls and such a complete absence of trustworthy financial information as occurred here. From compromised systems integrity and faulty regulatory oversight abroad to the concentration of control in the hands of a very small group of inexperienced, unsophisticated, and potentially compromised individuals, this situation is unprecedented."

But in response to those

statements, the commission stated: "It is unfortunate that in Chapter 11 filings, the new CEO of FTX Trading Limited misrepresented this timely action through the intemperate and inaccurate allegations lodged in the Transfer Motion. It is also concerning that the Chapter 11 debtors chose to rely on the statements of individuals they have (in other filings) characterised as unreliable sources of information and potentially 'seriously compromised'."

"Further, the statements made by the purported officers of FTX Trading Ltd. and




the other purported Chapter 11 debtors – that they have suffered significant thefts, that their systems were compromised, and that they continue to face new hacking attempts – reinforces the wisdom of the Commission's prompt action to secure these digital assets."

SCB said it will use Bahamian laws to determine

what future action it will take to protect customers and creditors interests.

Additionally, SCB says its investigation into the circumstances that led to the collapse of FTX continues.

The commission said anyone suspected of wrongdoing will be pursued and held accountable for their actions. (CMC)



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Martinique's Euzhan Palcy to receive an Honorary Oscar

CMC-The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will present trailblazing Martinican film director Euzhan Palcy with an Honorary Oscar at tomorrow's Governors Awards in Los Angeles.

The award is in recognition of her 50-year contribution to the film industry.

Palcy's films such as "Sugar Cane Alley", "Siméon", and "A Dry White Season", which starred Marlon Brando and Susan Sarandon, often sparked conversations on hot topic issues such as race, gender, and politics and colonialism.

In an interview with Essence Magazine, the 64 year old said she was sur-

prised by the Academy's decision to recognise her work.

"It was fantastic and a big surprise. It really made my day when I found out that I would be awarded with an Honorary Oscar. It's something that everyone dreams of all around the world, not just in America. It encourages you more because it means that your peers recognize your work. All awards are great, but an Academy Award sits above the rest," Palcy stated.

Palcy will be the first black woman and West Indian director to receive an Honorary Oscar.

Songwriter Diane Warren and director Peter Weir will also receive Honorary Oscars alongside Palcy for their



Film director Euzhan Palcy. Photo via @euzhanpalcyofficial on Instagram.

contributions to the movie industry.

Actor Michael J. Fox will be presented with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for his work to raise awareness against Parkinson's Disease.

Kelly Rowland reiterates her support for Chris Brown

By Lisa Respers France

CNN — Kelly Rowland is speaking out about grace after her support for singer Chris Brown at the American Music Awards was met with some backlash.

"I believe that grace is very real and we all need a dose of it," the actress and singer told a photographer for TMZ.

"Before we point fingers at anybody, we should realise how grateful we are for every moment that we get," she said. "Even our own things that we have. I think it's just important to remember to be human. We are humans."

Rowland caused a bit of



Kelly Rowland and Chris Brown

a stir Sunday night when she presented the favourite male R&B artist award at the American Music Awards, accepting for Brown who won, but was not present.

There were some boos mixed in with the applause when Brown's name was

announced and Rowland told the crowd to "chill out."

"I want to tell Chris thank you so much for making great R&B music and I want to tell him thank you for being an incredible performer," she said.

"I'll take this award,

bring it to you. I love you. Congratulations."

Brown has been a lightning rod of controversy since 2009, when he assaulted his then girlfriend, fellow singer Rihanna. He pled guilty to the attack and was sentenced to five years of probation and 180 days in jail.

Rowland was asked by the TMZ photographer if she believed that Brown needed to be forgiven.

"We all need to be forgiven for anything we can be doing, anything that we're thinking," Rowland said. "We all come up short in some sort of way. And grace is real."

Flossie, 26, officially the world's oldest cat

BBC-A new record has been set by a pet in south-east London as the world's oldest living cat.

Flossie, 26, of Orpington, was confirmed as the oldest cat by Guinness World Records, which said she had a human equivalent age of 120 years old.

Owner Vicki Green described Flossie as "an amazing cat" who settled in after being rehomed by Cats Protection.

Vicki said Flossie was deaf, had failing eyesight, but was still affectionate and playful.

"I knew from the start



Guinness World Records says Flossie has the human equivalent age of 120 years old

that Flossie was a special Guinness World Records title holder," Ms Green said.

"But I didn't imagine I'd share my home with a Guinness World Records title holder."

"She's so affectionate and playful, especially sweet

when you remember how old she is."

Guinness World Records said Flossie had been living in a colony of cats near a Merseyside hospital, when two workers took pity on them and each homed a cat.

Flossie and the worker, a woman, lived together for 10 years until she died, and Flossie was taken in by her sister, who had Flossie for 14 years until she too passed away, the organisation added.

She was finally rehomed with Ms Green as it said she had experience in caring for older cats.

Men charged in Slickianna murder case secure bail hearing dates

The Gleaner - Rushawn Patterson and Rohan Rose, the two men facing charges in connection with the murder of 35-year-old social media personality Aneka 'Slickianna' Townsend, have had their bail hearings scheduled.

The men were given the dates by presiding High Court Justice Andrea Thomas following their first appearance in the St James Circuit Court on Wednesday. Their cases, which were heard separately, had been earlier transferred from the St James Parish Court due to a bill of voluntary indictment which would treat the hearing of their matters in the Circuit Court as new matters.

Patterson, 33, is charged with murder in relation to Townsend's death, while Rose, a 47-year-old security

guard, is charged with misprision of a felony for failing to report the crime.

During the brief hearing of Patterson's case, attorney Michelle Thomas requested that her client be granted a date for a bail application to be made. December 15 was for the hearing.

Moments later, Rose had his bail hearing set for November 28, after attorney-at-law Martyn Thomas took issue with the prosecution's request to make checks as to the defendant's address.

"He (Rose) has been in custody since November 4, about three weeks, plus he has lost his job and his livelihood is affected. He poses no risk of flight, and he was never hiding from the police," Thomas argued, adding that Rose should have been offered

bail when his case was before the Parish Court.

Both men were remanded.

Townsend's body was found floating in the sea in Reading, St James, on October 21. A post-mortem examination determined that she was strangled.

According to police reports, Townsend had travelled from Kingston to Montego Bay on October 20 and was later picked up by Patterson, following which they visited a restaurant in Hanover and a guest house in St James.

It is further reported that during the night, an argument developed between the two, following which Patterson strangled Townsend and disposed of her body.

Belize Opposition favours referendum for oil exploration

CMC - The main opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) says it supports the holding of a referendum regarding oil exploration in offshore areas even as the Belize government says it has not entered into any agreement for seismic studies or for oil exploration.

Last Thursday, the international company, Oceana, said it would begin collecting the necessary signatures to trigger a national referendum.

Oceana Vice President Janelle Chanona, said the company made this decision following a conversation held on September 9, with Prime Minister John Briceño “during which he confirmed his administration’s intention to proceed with seismic testing in Belizean waters without prior approval of the public to lift the moratorium against the exploration and exploitation of offshore oil”.

But the government said the statements by Oceana “are regrettable especially given its accessibility to this administration’s offices at the highest level for open and transparent discourse to have a clear and unified approach to this issue and all matters of mutual and national interest.

“In pursuance of his commitment to environmental and social principles, the prime minister

reiterated the need to understand the extent of Belize’s offshore non-renewable economic resources in order to have an informed strategy on their potential for leveraging, given the national direction towards decarbonization and nature-based economy. Furthermore, the government’s commitment to allow the determination of such an important policy to be people-centred was restated by the prime minister,” the statement added.

cont’d on pg 21



UDP leader, Shyne Barrow



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Barbados Attorney jailed on theft and money laundering charges

CMC - A Barbados High Court judge Wednesday sentenced a 67-year-old attorney to nearly seven years in jail on charges of theft and money laundering, even though he had begged the court not to impose a custodial sentence.

Justice Pamela Beckles imposed the six year, 151 day prison term on attorney Ernest Winston Jackman, who in May, had been found guilty of stealing BDS\$678, 414.75 (One BDS\$=US\$0.50 cents) from the company, HEJ Limited between June 23, 2006 and March 5, 2007.

Jackman was also convicted of engaging in money laundering by disposing of the sum between June 23, 2006, and October 18, 2011.

"I am asking that the court impose a non-custodial sentence in the circumstances. I again sincerely apologise to the court, to the complainant and to my family. I am asking the clemency of the court in this matter," Jackman had said during a court appearance in August.

He said he had made "great efforts" to repay the money and was still "desirous" of doing so.

"To date I have paid the sum of BDS\$392,000 with the balance remaining unpaid. It is my desire to pay



Ernest Winston Jackman

the balance of the money belonging to the complainant. I have always intended to do so and will take action to try and have that done."

But when the matter was called before Justice Beckles in the No. 5 Supreme Court on Wednesday, King's Counsel, Alrick Scott, representing the complainant John Huggins said no part of the outstanding money had

been repaid as indicated by Jackman on the last occasion.

In August, the acting Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Krystal Delaney, had urged the High Court to use a sentence of between eight and nine years as a starting sentence regarding the theft and ten years for the money laundering conviction. She said credit should be given for the time he has spent in prison which up to July 28 was 96 days.

"There was a significant breach of trust, the custodial threshold has been crossed and a suspended sentence is not appropriate in the circumstances. In this case an immediate custodial sentence is not only merited but necessary," Delaney told the Supreme Court.

She told Justice Pamela Beckles that among the aggravating circumstances is that a significant sum of money had been stolen.

"It was stolen from an elderly complainant. By the time he gave evidence in this case he was 85 years old. In his victim impact statement, he talks about the fact that this money was his retirement plan and he, therefore, had to make alternate arrangements for his retirement when it was not forthcoming," the acting DPP said.

cont'd from pg 20

But Opposition and UDP leader, Shyne Barrow, speaking after his party issued a statement indicating its support for a referendum on offshore oil, said he had spoken to Chanona "and we discussed the matter and I made it clear that as with my historic position on these matters... I support a referendum.

"There is no greater voice than the voice of the people. They say the voice of the people is the voice of God. So whereas the UDP administration enacted a moratorium on offshore drilling after a robust campaign by Oceana and over 30,000 people signing a mock referendum, I believe that any reversal of that moratorium, especially giv-

en our conservation treaty legislation that we recently enacted that wiped away BDZ\$500 million (One Belize dollar=US\$0.49 cents) debt".

Barrow said he also believes that any reversal, any alteration of that position needs to be taken to the people.

"That is my position. But I will say on record, I

don't usually agree with the prime minister, but I can understand where he is coming from as far as seismic testing. I believe, again, it depends on the credibility that you give him and if he's being truthful, but I will give him the benefit of the doubt because the idea that he presents is reasonable and it is one that I, Shyne Barrow, am... inclined to support."

Dominican Republic expels 1,800 children to Haiti: UNICEF

AP - Dominican authorities have expelled at least 1,800 unaccompanied Haitian migrant children this year, sending them back to their crisis-stricken country, UNICEF said.

The Dominican Republic denied the claim, which came Tuesday amid the government's intensifying crackdown on migration in response to a cholera outbreak and ongoing gang violence in Haiti. The two countries share a 240-mile (390-kilometre) border on the island of Hispaniola. The crackdown has provoked harsh criticism by international observers, including the United States, which have accused the country of mass deportations, racist treatment of migrants and detentions of Haitians in facilities with poor conditions.

Among those fleeing to the Dominican Republic are girls and boys, many of whom are sent back to Haiti through different border points, where they have been received by UNICEF partners at the border, according to the organisation.

The information was first reported by CNN, and confirmed by UNICEF, which declined to comment further. It is still unclear if the children were expelled without their parents, got separated during the journey or fled Haiti alone.

Venancio Alcántara, director of the Dominican Re-



People bathe in the Massacre River on the border between Dominican Republic and Haiti, in Ouanaminthe, Dominican Republic, Nov. 19, 2021. Dominican authorities have expelled at least 1,800 unaccompanied Haitian migrant children in 2022 back to their crisis-stricken country, UNICEF said on Nov. 22, 2022. The Dominican Republic denied the claim. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix, File)

public's migration authority, denied the claims, saying the agency follows specific procedures with child migrants and that "minors are with their parents at all times."

"All deportations are carried out with complete and absolute respect for human dignity and human rights," Alcántara wrote in a statement Tuesday.

Tensions fueled by migration have simmered for years between the two countries, but they have only deepened since the 2021 assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, which thrust an already crisis-stricken Haiti into chaos.

Dominican authorities say heightened border en-

forcement and deportations are crucial to national security amid intensifying turmoil in the neighbouring country. An unidentified number of protesters last week attempted to burn down the Dominican consulate in Cap-Haïtien, a municipality in the north of the country, Haitian authorities said Wednesday.

Haiti last week accused its neighbour of subjecting fleeing Haitians to "inhumane, cruel and degrading conditions," while the United States Embassy in the country's capital, Santo Domingo, warned that darker-skinned Americans could be targeted by authorities in the country.

"There are reports that detainees are held in over-

crowded detention centres, without the ability to challenge their detention and without access to food or toilets, sometimes for days, before being released or deported to Haiti," the U.S. notice added.

The Dominican Republic said it "profusely rejects" the allegations, which they say are not backed up by evidence, and said they will only increase deportations.

Authorities say they deported 43,900 migrants, mostly Haitians, between July and October, according to figures from the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In September and October alone, deportation figures shot up by about 50%.

Long-time reformist leader Anwar sworn in as Malaysian PM

AP - Long-time opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was sworn in as Malaysia's prime minister Thursday in a victory for political reformers who were locked in a battle with Malay nationalists for days after a divisive general election produced a hung Parliament.

Anwar took his oath of office in a simple ceremony at the national palace that was broadcast on national television.

Malaysia's king, Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, named Anwar, 75, as the nation's 10th leader after saying he was satisfied that Anwar is the candidate who is likely to have majority support.

"I will take on this responsibility entrusted to me with humility and responsibility," Anwar tweeted later.

Anwar's Alliance of Hope led Saturday's election with 82 seats, short of the 112 needed for a majority. An unexpected surge of ethnic Malay support propelled Former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's right-leaning National Alliance to win 73 seats, with its ally Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party emerging as the biggest single party with 49 seats.

The stalemate was resolved after the long-ruling bloc led by the United Malays National Organization agreed to support a unity



Newly appointed Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim waves to the media as he arrives at National Place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022. Malaysia's king on Thursday named Anwar as the country's prime minister, ending days of uncertainty after the divisive general election produced a hung Parliament. (Fazry Ismail/Pool Photo via AP)

government under Anwar. Such a tie up was once unthinkable in Malaysian politics, long dominated by rivalry between the two parties. Other influential groups in Borneo island have said they will follow the king's decision.

"His Royal Highness reminds all parties that the winners do not win all and the losers do not lose everything," a palace statement said. The monarch urged Anwar and his new government to be humble and said all opposing parties should reconcile to ensure a stable government and end Malaysia's political turmoil, which has led to three prime ministers since the 2018 polls.

The statement gave no details on the government that will be formed. The stock market and the Malay-

sian currency rose strongly following news of Anwar's appointment.

Muhyiddin, 75, has refused to concede defeat. At a news conference, he challenged Anwar to prove he has the majority support of lawmakers to deflect doubts over his leadership.

Police have tightened security nationwide as social media posts warned of racial troubles if Anwar's multiethnic bloc won. Anwar's party has urged supporters to refrain from celebratory gatherings or issuing sensitive statements to avoid risk of provocation.

Anwar's rise to the top caps his roller-coaster political journey and will ease fears over greater Islamization. But he faces a tall task in bridging racial divides that deepened after Satur-

day's poll, as well as reviving an economy struggling with rising inflation and a currency that has fallen to its weakest point. Malays form two-thirds of Malaysia's 33 million people, which include large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

"He will have to make compromises with other actors in the government that means that the reform process will be a more inclusive one," said Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia political expert at the University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute Malaysia. "Anwar is a globalist, which will assure international investors. He has been seen to be a bridge builder across communities, which will test his leadership moving forward but at the same juncture offers a reassuring hand for the challenges that Malaysia will face."

Anwar was a former deputy prime minister whose sacking and imprisonment in the 1990s led to massive street protests and a reform movement that became a major political force. Thursday marked his reformist bloc's second victory — its first being historic 2018 polls that led to the first regime change since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

Anwar was in prison at the time on a sodomy charge

cont'd on pg 24

Ghana 'in high risk of debt distress': Finance minister

BBC - Ghana is at high risk of debt distress and has agreed on a debt management strategy with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), finance minister Kenneth Ofori-Atta said on Thursday.

Ofori-Atta is in the middle of negotiating a relief package with the IMF as the West African country faces its worst economic crisis in a generation.

"The current debt sustainability analysis conducted reveals that Ghana is now considered to be in high risk of debt distress," the minister told lawmakers during his presentation of the 2023 budget.

"Government and the IMF have agreed on programme objectives, a preliminary fiscal adjustment path, debt strategy and financing required for the programme," he said, adding he hopes to reach a deal "very soon".

The depreciation of the Ghanaian cedi was "seriously affecting" the country's ability to manage its public debt, which has increased to \$48.9bn this year, he told



The finance minister said the Ghanaian cedi has lost more than 50 percent of its value this year [Francis Kokoroko/Reuters]

parliamentarians, saying the currency has lost more than 50 percent of its value.

"Our stock of debt has increased by 93 billion Ghana cedis (\$7bn) this year alone due to the depreciation of the cedi since the beginning of 2022."

Ghana will implement a debt exchange programme to address the challenges, he said.

Economic growth is expected to slow to 3.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022 from 6.7 percent last year, and to

slow further to 2.8 percent in 2023, he said.

Ofori-Atta has faced calls for dismissal from both the governing party and opposition who accuse him of economic mismanagement. Last week, he apologised for the country's economic hardship but defended himself against their claims.

"I acknowledge our economy is facing difficulties and the people of Ghana are enduring hardships," he said last Friday.

"As the person President Akufo-Addo has put

in charge of this economy, I feel the pain personally, professionally, and in my soul."

On Thursday, Ofori-Atta said Ghana would impose a debt limit on non-concessional financing among other reforms, and will focus on using monetary policy to control inflation, which has exceeded 40 percent.

The government will freeze new tax waivers for foreign companies and review tax exemptions for mining, oil and gas companies. It will also freeze hiring for civil and public servants, he said.

However, Ofori-Atta did not offer any cuts to spending on flagship programmes, and detailed a swath of infrastructure project expansions such as road expansion.

cont'd from pg 23

he said was politically motivated. He was pardoned and was due to take over from Mahathir Mohamad. But the government collapsed after Muhyiddin defected and joined hands with UMNO to form a new government. Muhyiddin's government was beset by internal rivalries and he re-

signed after 17 months. UMNO leader Ismail Sabri Yaakob was then picked by the king as the prime minister.

Many rural Malays fear they may lose their privileges with greater pluralism under Anwar. Fed up with corruption and infighting in UMNO, many opted for Muhyiddin's bloc in Saturday's vote.

UK net migration climbs to record 500,000 in year to June

Aljazeera-Net migration to the United Kingdom has climbed to a record half a million, driven by a series of “unprecedented world events”, including the war in Ukraine and the end of lockdown restrictions, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

About 504,000 more people are estimated to have moved to the UK than left in the 12 months to June 2022, up sharply from 173,000 in the year to June 2021.

Other factors contributing to the jump include the resettlement of Afghan refugees, the new visa route for British nationals from Hong Kong, and students arriving from outside the European Union.

A total of 1.1 million people are likely to have migrated to the UK in the year to June, the majority – 704,000 – from outside the EU.

By contrast, 560,000 people are estimated to have migrated from the UK in the same period, almost half of them – 275,000 – going back to the EU.

The imbalance means that, while far more non-EU nationals are likely to have arrived in the UK than left during these 12 months, the reverse is true for EU nationals, with more leaving than arriving.

Change in patterns

Jay Lindop, ONS deputy director of the Centre for In-



Passengers arrive from international flights at Heathrow Airport in London [File: Toby Melville/Reuters]

ternational Migrations, said: “A series of world events have impacted international migration patterns in the 12 months to June 2022. Taken together these were unprecedented.

“These include the end of lockdown restrictions in the UK, the first full period following transition from the EU, the war in Ukraine, the resettlement of Afghans and the new visa route for Hong Kong British nationals, which have all contributed to the record levels of long-term immigration we have seen.

“Migration from non-EU countries, specifically students, is driving this rise. With the lifting of travel restrictions in 2021, more stu-

dents arrived in the UK after studying remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“However, there has also been a large increase in the number of people migrating for a range of other reasons. This includes people arriving for humanitarian protection, such as those coming from Ukraine, as well as for family reasons.

“The many factors independent of each other contributing to migration at this time mean it is too early to say whether this picture will be sustained.”

Brexit

Concerns over the effect of immigration were one of the big drivers behind Britain’s vote to leave the EU in

2016, with then-Prime Minister David Cameron repeatedly pledging to get net migration levels below 100,000 a year.

The previous record high for net migration was just above 330,000 in 2015.

Separate figures released by the British government on Thursday showed 33,029 people were detected arriving by small boats across the Channel between January and September this year, with 61 percent of those people arriving over the summer in the months July to September.

The month of August saw the highest number of small boat arrivals of any month since data has been collected, it said.

PM Gonsalves defends Qatar amidst 'deranged and unhinged' criticism over World Cup

CMC-St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, is defending Qatar amidst criticism from some western countries over its hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, which opened on Sunday and will run for a month.

Qatar is the first Arab country to host a FIFA World Cup competition.

"Qatar's historic achievement in this regard is truly impressive for a small, though wealthy, Arab country. It is a mark of the growing stature and influence of the State of Qatar in the global political economy," Gonsalves said in a statement.

He said it is, therefore, "unfortunate, and prejudicial to global peace, security, and progress, that Qatar has faced unjustified, even deranged and unhinged, criticisms as hosts of the FIFA World Cup, emanating from some non-governmental organisations and 'tabloid' journalists located in North Atlantic countries such as Britain, the United States of America, and Western Europe".

Gonsalves said the bulk of the criticism, "dressed up as high principle, is laced with Islamophobia, racism, anti-Arab sentiment, hypocrisy, and profound disrespect, derived from the notion that a small Arab country like Qatar should never aspire to global influence".

He said critics sneer at, and mock, Qatar's small population size of three million, of which only about 400,000 are Qataris.

Gonsalves said the rest of Qatar's population are migrants, "who by and large, enjoy the host country's hospitality.

"The truth is that Qatar is an amazing country that is soaring to higher heights!" said Gonsalves, who has made a number of official visits to Qatar, the latest being in February.



Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

"Indeed, the unjustified and jaundiced criticisms of Qatar as hosts of the FIFA World Cup land the critics at a place where they seem to think that the only countries to be eligible to host the World Cup are those which have a watered-down Christian heritage or no religious core values whatsoever, and which subscribe to a universal culture of atomized individualism (as distinct from that of an uplifting social individualism), nihilism, and a globalised culture of neo-liberalism amidst all its malcontents/discontents," Gonsalves said.

"Thus, the State of Qatar is pilloried for its restrictions on alcohol consumption; its opposition to homosexuality, and sexual permissiveness; its stance against wanton abortion; its embrace of Islamic values unconnected absolutely to any form of homicidal violence; its tightly-knit family systems; its rejection of a future decreed by the cultural tsars of western modernity with their nihilistic project and jaundiced relativism; and its promotion of Arab nationalism within an appropriate universal space."

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines prime minister, the longest serving leader within the 15-member regional integration grouping, CARICOM, said Qatar has chalked up "some very impressive achievements" which are "compelling" in its hosting of the FIFA World Cup.

He mentioned a "very high" Human

Development Index (HDI) assessed by the United Nations Development Programme, a nominal, annual per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$83,000, ranked outstandingly at fifth in the world.

Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said Qatar has a history of hosting regional and international sporting and cultural events, including the Asian Games in 2006 and is a highly sophisticated and organised country with high quality education, administration, governance, science, and technology but grounded in Islamic and hereditary traditions.

Qatar also has "a very high level of civilization in central material particulars," Gonsalves said, adding, "incidentally, its Museum of Islamic Art is one of world renown; so, too, its universities, health system, housing, physical infrastructure."

He further mentioned Qatar's ranking as the "World's Safest Country" and its establishment, consolidation, and expansion of the Al Jazeera network, a global communications entity.

Gonsalves said Qatar is a highly respected member of the international community which subscribes to the fundamental tenets of the Charter of the United Nations and a multilateralism of peace, security, and progress for all humanity.

"St. Vincent and the Grenadines is an independent country with a functioning liberal democracy but with a symbolic external colonial remnant (The British sovereign) as nominal Head of State. Qatar is a semi-constitutional monarchy headed by a home-govern Executive authority, the Emir," Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said.

"There are, of course, differences in the two countries' governance apparatus" *cont'd on pg 27*

Late Joseph burst keeps PM XI in check

CMC - Fast bowler Alzarri Joseph's late three-wicket burst with the second new ball hauled West Indies back into contention after a trio of half-centuries had threatened to give the Australian Prime Minister's XI complete control on day one of the four-day first-class tour match Wednesday.

The hosts were marching along at 278 for six in the final session before Joseph (3-52) intervened with a sharp spell to send the last three wickets tumbling for 19 runs in the space of 39 balls under lights at Manuka Oval.

At the close, the Prime Minister's XI were 297 for nine, a total built on half-centuries from Matt Renshaw (81), Marcus Harris (73) and Peter Handscomb (55).

"I think this game is a game of patience. You never know, you can bowl well in [a] session but you have to stay patient and your reward may come at the end of the game," Joseph said afterwards. "There was just a

little change of plan, just trying something different to try and slow the scoring down and unsettle the batsmen."

His fireworks were required after the Prime Minister's XI got away to a flying start, Renshaw and Harris putting on a rollicking 134 for the first wicket to dominate early.

Renshaw, a 26-year-old left-hander who played the last of his 11 Tests four years ago, counted 10 fours in a 168-ball knock while Harris, a 30-year-old left-hander who suited up in a Test as recently as January, faced 124 balls and struck 13 fours.

They carried their side to the first break at 93 without loss and extended their domination following the resumption before pacer Jayden Seales got the breakthrough when he had Harris caught at first slip by Kyle Mayers.

Renshaw added 28 for the second wicket with Henry Hunt (13) and another 28 for the third with Handscomb before finally departing at



Fast bowler Alzarri Joseph sends down a delivery during his three-wicket spell on Wednesday. (Photo: CWI Media)

190 for three, flirting with a wide delivery from left-arm seamer Raymon Reifer and feathering a catch behind.

Veteran seamer Kemar Roach quickly removed captain Josh Inglis without scoring to a juggling catch at first slip by substitute Jason Holder, but the Prime Minister's XI recovered through a 48-run, fifth-wicket partnership between Handscomb and Aaron Hardie (23).

Off-spinner Roston Chase (2-72) accounted for

both eventually, first rattling Hardie's stumps with one that spun back sharply and then having Handscomb stumped in his very next over, after the right-hander faced 86 balls and struck seven fours.

Alzarri Joseph then took centre stage, clean bowling Michael Neser (10) as the right-hander missed a drive, yorking Joel Paris (2) before getting Ashton Agar to play on for 33, to what proved to be the day's final delivery.

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tuses and legal regimes. However, in our complicated and interconnected world, we are all obliged to respect each other's evolved systems of governance and economic arrangements. Undoubtedly, all systems of governance continue to evolve in their people's interests and as the circumstances admit."

He said people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines "celebrate the amazing spectacle and sporting excellence on display in Qatar at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

"It is an obligation of the world's peoples to join in this celebration as a

contribution to global friendship, peace, security, and progress. To be sure, there are limitations and weaknesses in the endeavour, but let us not make perfection the enemy of the good. The strengths and possibilities are immense," Gonsalves said, adding, "we are sure that Qatar will continue to be magnificent hosts of World Cup 2022!"

He said his island has friendly relations with Qatar "although we do not have any practical bilateral programs.

"Our two countries work well together on global affairs in all the relevant international fora. Qatar is a force

for good in our difficult and complex world. We consider Qatar to be a friend of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. And we thank them yet again for supporting our country's successful candidacy for the United Nations Security Council on which St. Vincent and the Grenadines sat as a non-permanent member in 2020-2021."

"We are friends of all, we strive for a better world. Let World Cup 2022 go on without the mountain of humbug by the hypocritical critics. St. Vincent and the Grenadines affirms its solidarity with Qatar," Dr. Ralph Gonsalves added.

Kenya doping: World Athletics urged not to ban country despite doping cases

BBC-World Athletics has been urged not to ban Kenya from the sport for violations of doping rules by a government minister from the East African country.

The nation is reportedly at risk of a sanction following a string of cases, with 55 of its athletes serving suspensions issued by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU).

Kenya's situation will be discussed at the World athletics council meeting in Rome next week, BBC Sport Africa understands.

Ababu Namwamba, the cabinet secretary for the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, has written to World Athletics president Lord Coe to assure him that Kenya's government is taking firm measures to uphold the integrity of athletics.

"We cannot allow our nation to be banned because of the actions of some greedy unethical individuals," Namwamba said.

"We will target and deal decisively with the criminals and their syndicates. We must work together to eradicate doping and cheating from athletics and sports in general."

Kenya is among seven countries deemed a 'Category A' federation - the highest doping risk - by the AIU, meaning athletes from the countries have to undergo at least three tests in the 10 months prior to a major



All but one of Kenya's 35 Olympic gold medals have come in athletics event to be able to compete there.

Its total of 55 athletes serving bans is the third most of any nationality behind Russia (102) and India (61).

Russia has been banned by World Athletics from competing as a nation in athletics since 2015 but untainted athletes were still able to compete under a neutral flag until the country's invasion of Ukraine in February, when all athletes, support personnel and officials from the country were banned.

Seventeen Kenyan athletes have been sanctioned by the AIU this year for a range of violations, with a further eight provisionally suspended and awaiting the outcomes of their cases.

An overarching ban by World Athletics and the AIU would be a huge blow

to the reputation of the East African country, which has won 34 of its 35 Olympic gold medals in track and field events.

The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) welcomed the government's intervention and said it would continue supporting "all efforts and actions as a partner in dismantling all systems and avenues perpetuating the vice of doping in athletics".

A statement from the body said the country had built an "illustrious history" in the sport and that "it is not ready to sacrifice this reputation due to the greed of a few actors".

"We join our voice in pleading with World Athletics and other parties to withhold any punitive measures such as a ban and consider the multifaceted efforts of the Kenyan community,

led by the government, as a positive sign and contribution towards a zero-doping environment in Kenya," NOC-K president Paul Terogat added.

Two-time Olympic champion and marathon world record holder Eliud Kipchoge has said the increasing number of doping cases is "worrying" and "clean sport is the way to go".

The Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts said Kenya has a zero tolerance to doping and is "fully committed to ending the doping menace".

"We must defeat doping and its perpetrators. This is a serious concern and that is why the government is giving total undivided attention," Namwamba added.

"We are treating it as a matter of top strategic national interest."

Young footballers continue to sharpen skills at GNFC's CAF Advanced Academy



Players participating in a training session at the Calvin Ayre Foundation Advanced Academy on 23rd November, 2022 at the Fort Road playing field. The event is hosted annually by the Generation Next Football Club. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

A number of the nation's young male footballers are once again being afforded the opportunity to hone their skills as part of the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Advanced Academy, which is hosted annually by the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC).

Over 20 footballers between the ages of 14 to 19 are enrolled in this year's CAF Advanced Academy, now in its fourth year, and have been engaged in specialized training twice weekly at the Fort Road playing field commencing last month.

President of the Generation Next FC Ricky Santos, was in attendance on Wednesday, 23rd November, as the young players were presented with their signature training kits of the CAF Advanced Academy.

"The uniforms were just issued because we wanted to avoid like past years when after the uniforms were issued, a lot of them didn't show up for the practices after that.

"So, we have made them go through a month of showing up at the training and now the uniforms have been issued to them," Santos stated.

"I am very pleased about it because over the years, they come at the beginning, collect the uniforms and then after

that, they tend to just veer off a bit. But they have been showing up on a regular basis now, which is pretty good."

Santos said the female component of this year's CAF Advanced Academy will be conducted in January next year, mainly because the girls are currently involved in the Ministry of Sports Schools' Football League.

The CAF Advanced Academy is intimately connected to the GNFC's Player Identified Combined, where coaches and scouts from colleges in the United States and the United Kingdom are invited to the event in Antigua and Barbuda to seek potential athletic scholarship recruits for their learning institutions.

The GNFC president, who recently returned to Antigua and Barbuda following a trip to Canada after the start of this year's edition of the CAF Advanced Academy, said he is quite pleased with what has transpired thus far.

Santos said SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) classes, which are offered free of charge to players enrolled in the CAF Advanced Academy, also commenced recently to help prepare the youngsters to access athletic scholarship offers to overseas colleges and

universities whenever they become available.

"It has been going pretty good. The SAT Classes started last week, but I am still not satisfied with the number of students that are accepting the opportunity to get SAT tutoring because that's a requirement for the universities, particularly in the United States and Canada," Santos stated.

"I just recently made a trip to Canada and it looks like we will be able to forge alliances with some colleges and universities up there to see if we can get scholarships in Canada.

"We already have scholarship opportunities in the United States and United Kingdom and now we have targeted Canada. This will provide a wider variety of colleges and universities for these youngsters to hopefully get a scholarship into and get a tertiary education while they are pursuing their dreams of playing professional football."

A total of 12 student football athletes have so far attained partial athletic scholarships to learning institutions in the United Kingdom via the GNFC's CAF Player Identified Combined, which was staged in Antigua and Barbuda in February of this year.

Sports News



ABFA domestic league kicks off this weekend

Since suspending its last domestic league competitions, the 2019/20 season, on 12 March, 2020, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) will resume its national league competitions this weekend.

The new league season will kick-off with two first division matches at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters today, Friday, 25th November.

Potters Tigers will take on West Ham at 5 pm and

Garden Stars will face Police at 7 pm.

Attention will then turn to the start of the nation's top domestic league, the premier division, tomorrow, Saturday, 26th November, and the following day at the same venue.

The premier division league will kick-off with a triple header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters tomorrow, Saturday, 26th November.

Pigotts Bullets will meet Parham at 4 pm, Five Islands will take on SAP two

hours later and Swetes will clash with Tryum at 8 pm.

In Sunday's triple-header, 2022 ABFA's Knockout Cup champions Jennings Grenades will open their premier league campaign against Old Road in a round south derby at 4 pm.

Ottos Rangers will challenge Villa Lions at 6 pm and former champions Greenbay Hoppers and Empire will clash at 8 pm.

It means matches in the ABFA's top division will be played outside of the Antigua Recreation Ground for

the first time since 2007.

Premier league matches have been played annually at Antigua Recreation Ground until the league was halted on March 12th March, 2020.

In 2020, when the ABFA, like all other sporting disciplines in Antigua and Barbuda was forced to curtail all competitions due to the emergence of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the ARG, which was already in need of repairs, further deteriorated.

The new premier league season will also see the addition of six teams, increasing the 2022/23 competition to a total of 16 teams.

On October 9th 2020, the ABFA officially announced that based on its constitution, its executive committee had made a decision to cancel the 2019/20 domestic season and not declare a champion or relegate any team in any of its three divisions.

At the time, Jennings Grenades were leading the 10-team round-robin premier league competition with 31 points after 16 matches. This means that PIC Liberta Black Hawks, who won the 2019-20 premier league title, will remain the defending champions.

The ABFA also announced as part of restructuring efforts its executive committee also made a decision that six teams will

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NOV 26 & 27 | **2K 22**
@NORTHSOUND INT'L RACEWAY

GATES OPEN @11AM | RACES START @1PM
ADM: SAT - \$20 | SUN - \$40
KIDS PAY \$10 BOTH DAYS
GENERAL TKTS ON THE TICKETING APP
9, 10, 11, 12, 13, OUTLAW & MOTORBIKE CLASSES

30K
IN CASH PRIZES

WEST LAKE PERFORMANCE TUNING
Valvoline
WINSKEY & FRIENDS GARAGE
Paradise Boat Sales
Kennedy's
Carib

Tyson wins gold at CAC Sea and Beach Games

Tiger Tyson captured the gold medal in Kiteboarding (Kite Surf) at the inaugural Junior Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Sea and Beach Games in Santa Marta, Colombia, on Wednesday, 23rd November.

Tyson held off the challenge of Victor Lopez of Colombia, who took silver and Deury Corniel of the Dominican Republic who captured the bronze medal.

The Antiguan and Barbudan was able to surpass his second-place finish in the Pan American Division of the Formula Kite Brazil competition in northern Brazil from 7th to 13th November.

His victory in Santa Marta also secured his qualification into next year's Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, from 20th October to 5th November.

Tyson is just one of three athletes representing Antigua and Barbuda at the first ever CAC Sea and Beach Games on the South



Antigua and Barbuda's Tiger Tyson competes in the men's kite surf competition at the CAC Sea and Beach Games in Santa Marta, Colombia, on Tuesday, 22nd November, 2022. (Photo courtesy CAC Sea and Beach Games)

American continent.

The other two athletes, women beach volleyballers Josanne Lewis and Nia Benjamin, have not been able to garner any success in the Under-23 competition on the white sands of Santa Marta.

The duo, competing in the four-team Group B competition along with Barbados, Venezuela and Costa Rica, made a poor start to the contest by losing their first two matches.

Lewis and Benjamin went under 11-21, 10-21 against the team of Linares and Comacho of Venezuela in their second Group B match yesterday, Thursday, 24th November.

They also suffered a 13-21, 8-21 loss against the team comprising Padmore and Edwards of Barbados in their first encounter.

Having lost their first two matches, the team from Antigua and Barbuda are unlikely to advance in the

competition even if they win their last group B games against Costa Rica.

The inaugural Junior Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Sea and Beach Games is being held from 19th to 26th November 2022 and

is being held under the auspices of Centro Caribe Sports (formerly CASCO) and the organizing committee of the host city of Santa Marta.

Athletes from over 25 countries are participating in several sporting events at the CAC Sea and Beach Games.

They include Open Water Swimming, Beach Tennis, Beach Volleyball, Beach Rugby, Beach Soccer, Beach Wrestling, Skateboarding, Kite Surfing and Candle Sailing.

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be promoted from the first to the premier division, while six teams will also be promoted from the second to the first division.

The promotions were based on the current point standings as of 12 March, 2020, when the season was halted due to Covid-19.

The six teams promoted from the first division are Empire FC, Sap FC, FC Aston

Villa, Tryum FC, Blue Jays FC and Wilkies FC.

The teams promoted to the first division are Garden Stars FC, Bendals FC, Lion Hill FC, JSC Progressors, Young Lions FC and Green City FC.

The ABFA's executive committee's decision was later ratified by the general membership during its ordinary congress on 21st December, 2020.

PMS win schools' Under-20 Girls league football title

Princess Margaret School (PMS) has captured the Female Under-20 Division title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

They surged to the title with an impressive display during an unbeaten campaign in which they won all seven league matches.

Princess Margaret dethroned former champions Ottos Comprehensive School, snatching a 2-1 victory over the 2019 winners in their final league encounter at the King George V. Ground on Wednesday, 23rd November.

Irresia Allen scored both goals for Princess Margaret, while Donesha Samuel converted the lone goal for Ottos Comprehensive School.

All Saints Secondary and Antigua Girls' High School also ended their league campaign with victories in their final outings on Wednesday.

A brace by Kevoncia James and a goal each by Deyonce Christopher and Shequanna Active propelled All Saints Secondary to a 4-0 victory over Clare Hall Secondary at the Clare Hall playing field.

Ozora Roberts also



Princess Margaret School team celebrate after winning the Female Under-20 Division title of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League at the King George V Ground on Wednesday, 23rd November.

scored twice to lead Antigua Girls' High School to a 2-1 victory over Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

The Secondary Schools' Football competition will continue at three venues today, Friday, 25th November.

Two matches in the Under-14 Boys' Division will

take place at 2:30 pm. St. Mary's Secondary School will face St. Joseph's Academy at the Golden Grove playing field, while All Saints Secondary will oppose Princess Margaret School at the PMS playing field.

Three matches in the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division are also slat-

ed to take place at 3:30 pm.

St. Mary's Secondary School will tackle Antigua State College at the Golden Grove playing field.

Antigua Grammar School will meet Princess Margaret School at the PMS playing field and Jennings Secondary will clash with Ottos Comprehensive at King George V. Ground.