

DCA DECISION ON MICHAEL BILLBOARDS WAS INDEPENDENT

Story on Page 2



Political billboards were in the spotlight last week for various reasons. First came claims from St. Peter MP Asot Michael that the ruling ABLP was using its influence to block his application to the DCA for the erection of a staggering 62 billboards. The details of this story are on page 2. There was also the brazen defacement of this ABLP billboard located at the junction of Dickenson Bay Street and Friars Hill Road. Over the course of a few days, unknown vandals completely graffitied the poster. Earlier this year, Prime Minister Gaston Browne condemned the vandalism of campaign paraphanelia belonging to his opponent, the UPP's Alister Thomas. The UPP, however, has remained silent on the criminal destruction of property during the election campaign and has not issued a statement denouncing these acts of vandalism.

Local News



PM in billboard argument: “This is a country of laws”

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has reminded the St. Peter MP that Antigua and Barbuda is governed by laws after a row began over campaign billboards.

As electioneering increases, political parties are mounting billboards that display the candidates they will present to the public to manage the affairs of the country.

MP Asot Michael, who

will contest the election as an independent, had his request to erect more than sixty billboards rejected by the Development Control Authority (DCA) which instead granted him permission to erect fifteen.

Michael has since accused the ABLP government of using its influence to manipulate the system against him.

Last week, Prime Minister Browne claimed that the embattled St. Peter MP attempted to construct sixty-two 16x32 billboards without the necessary approval.

Some of his billboards even blocked the billboards of other political parties and obstructed the view of motorists.

“Just like the Labour Party had to apply over a year ago and then reapply to get its approvals, Asot Michael is not above the law. We will never instruct any regulatory authority, but we expect every regulatory authority to ensure that those who they regulate operate within the confines of the law and where they breach the laws of the country, they are expected to take appropriate action.

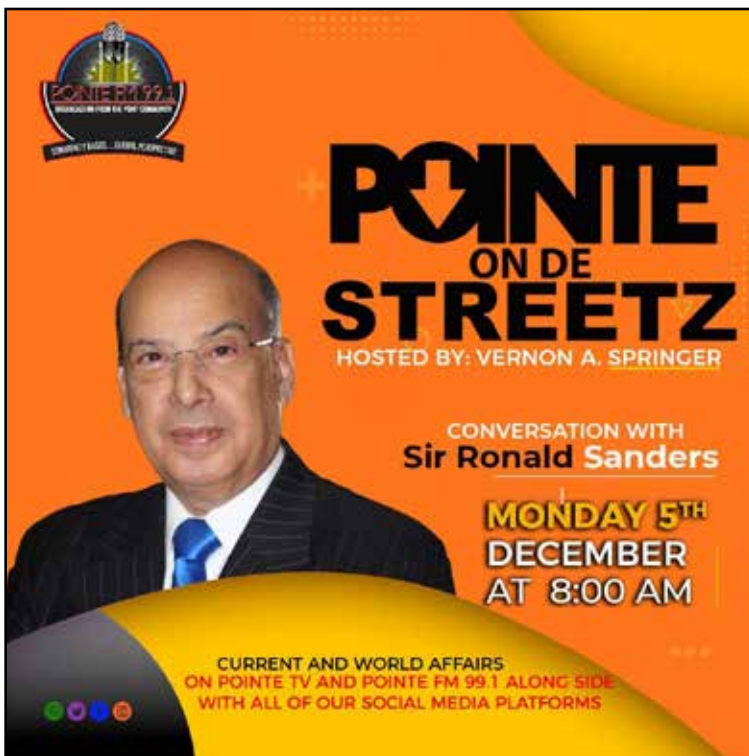
“This is a country of laws,” the prime minister stated in Parliament last Thursday.

Browne also denied that the Development Control Authority sought his input concerning the removal of

billboards. He said as an active prime minister, however, whose ears are “to the ground” he knows “precisely what is happening”.

He reminded all political parties, including the main opposition United Progressive Party, of their responsibility during the campaign season to seek permission from the relevant agencies to erect signs and other campaign related materials.

“They are required to write to the DCA to identify the various sites for DCA to do a site check to make sure there’ll be no traffic violations, no obstruction of the view of motorists, or even pedestrians for that matter, and they too are required to follow the processes as established in law. And if they fail to follow the processes, then they cannot expect to have any approvals. If, however, they follow the processes as established by law and in the regulations, then clearly the DCA will give the necessary approvals.”



APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Wednesday, 7th December 2022	Thursday, 8th December 2022	Friday, 9th December 2022
Free Trade Zone and Camp Blizzard 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Sea View Farm south of Richie's Property 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Lightfoot west of CHAPA Housing Project 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	Section of Crosbies south of Dr. John's Property 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	—

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

ABWU to expedite payment of former Jolly Beach workers

Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union will begin expediting the payment of severance to former employees of Jolly Beach Resort this week.

The bargaining agent said it was in receipt of a cheque handed over on Friday by the law firm Lake, Kentish and Bennett Inc. that will cover the outstanding amount owed to approximately 500 people who worked in various positions at the hotel before it ceased operations.

A schedule will be published to explain the process that the former workers will have to follow to receive their share of the funds.

Last month, the government indicated that the money allocated for the ex-Jolly Beach workers had been placed in an escrow account several weeks ago.

On Friday, however, Chester Hughes, deputy general secretary of the ABWU, repeated his earlier accusation that Prime Minister Gaston Browne had been untruthful about when the money had been handed over.

The government set the record straight when it issued a statement revealing that, a cheque by Gov-

ernment, made payable to the law firm appointed by the court, in the amount of EC\$12.9 million, was handed over to the firm weeks ago, in full settlement of the payments due to former Jolly Beach workers.

The government's statement claimed that it was the ABWU who was responsible for the delayed sever-

ance payments as they were attempting to include ineligible former workers.

Jolly Beach Resort closed its doors in 2020. Since then, the former employees have been seeking compensation.

The resort's former owners were incapable of paying the workers upon the resort's closure and there

were other issues, according to Prime Minister Browne, with misused thrift fund contributions that were also due to the staff.

To provide relief, the government was successful in acquiring the US\$30 million necessary to purchase the property, which paved the way for the workers to be paid.



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PM Browne welcomes Vanuatu to COSIS

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has welcomed the membership of the island of Vanuatu to the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS).

On Friday, Browne, also a Founder and Co-Chair of COSIS, announced that the South Pacific Island with a population of 300,000 has acceded to membership of the Commission.

According to Browne, this is a sign that Vanuatu

“has taken a progressive and strong stand in the struggle for preserving the global environment, not only for small states but also for the global community”.

He revealed that he met with the Vanuatu leadership during COP27 in Egypt where the pledge was made to join Antigua and Barbuda, Tuvalu, Palau, and Niue in advancing a case to the United Nations International Tribu-

nal of the Law of Sea (ITLOS). “I am delighted that today the Foreign Minister of Vanuatu, Jotham Napat, signed the Instrument of Accession to COSIS on behalf of the Vanuatu government”.

Browne said, “While the islands of the Pacific, Oceania, and the Caribbean are separated geographically, we are united in our unwavering commitment to protecting the integrity of our countries and pre-


serving the civilizations of our people”.

He also disclosed that “the approach to ITLOS will be made within days” by a contingent of 14 experienced international law experts.

As the depository for the documents related to COSIS, Browne said that Antigua and Barbuda today also informed the United Nations Secretariat in New York of Vanuatu’s accession.



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A&B to participate in Cuba/CARICOM Summit

Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene is on his way to Barbados to attend the 8th Cuba/CARICOM Summit opening in Bridgetown on Tuesday.

The summit provides a forum for leaders of the Commonwealth Caribbean and Cuba to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest.

Host Prime Minister, Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados, Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr. Carla N. Barnett, His Excellency Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Republic of Cuba and His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of the Republic of Suriname and Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM are all listed to address the opening ceremony.

The summit will discuss the state of Cuba/CARICOM relations, climate change and disaster risk reduction, global issues and multilateral cooperation as well as the adoption of the joint CARICOM/Cuba Declaration.

The relationship between Cuba and a number of CARICOM states has surpassed the 50-year milestone and over this time that relationship has deepened and strengthened.

Despite its challenges caused by the ongoing United States economic and trade embargo, Cuba has become a key developmental partner for the Commonwealth Caribbean particularly in the areas of health and education.

Thousands of doctors and health professionals have received scholar-



ships to study in Cuba. Additionally, Cuba has scores of health brigades working to help buttress the delivery of healthcare throughout the Caribbean.

ECLAC assists Antigua and Barbuda with SDGs information website

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is receiving assistance from the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to create a website that will feature information pertaining to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Head of the ministry's SDGs Implementation Unit, Director of International Trade, Joy-Marie King, said this comes as part of the ministry's mandate to coordinate, monitor and advocate for the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda.



Joy-Marie King of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

According to King, the ministry's mission also includes promoting inclusivity and securing a prosper-

ous future for all the people of Antigua and Barbuda. "We asked ECLAC to help us to craft a communication strategy and the setting up of a website. This followed our very successful Voluntary National Report (VNR) exercise to the UN's High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development 2021 and forms a part of the promotion of our post VNR Citizenship Engagement Initiative with public advocacy and awareness being key components," she explained.

She added that the website can be accessed at sdgs.gov.ag. King noted that this is for the showcasing of relevant information on the SDGs specific to Antigua and Barbuda.

Local News

New credit union, housing earmarked for Rural West

Several new developments designed to help improve the standard of living and economic well-being of the people of the country's largest urban centre, the St. John's Rural West Constituency were unveiled at a special meeting held at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Friday night.

Hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's candidate for the constituency, Gail Christian, the town hall-styled session provided a formal engagement with the resi-

dents of the area where she unveiled her vision under the theme: Carpe Diem, the Latin term for 'seize the day'.

Among the plans for the area is the development of a business centre where she plans to launch the country's first Women's Cooperative Credit Union. Christian explained that while traversing the constituency and listening to the residents, one thing has become quite clear; the number of women who are engaged in small businesses of various kinds to the

cont'd on pg 7



Gail Christian addressing Friday night's town hall meeting

11 AM-7 PM TUESDAY DEC 6 2022

Tourism Blast-Off

FEATURING

Usa Band

FOOD FAIR | ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

ST MARY'S STREET | BETWEEN MARKET AND THAMES STREET

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY

SCHOLLE PANDORA CHAMPIONS | SUNNY DALE DANCERS | RT CULTURAL PERFORMERS

 A poster for the 'Tourism Blast-Off' event. It features a red background with the text '11 AM-7 PM TUESDAY DEC 6 2022' at the top. The main title is 'Tourism Blast-Off' in large white letters. Below it, it says 'FEATURING' and 'Usa Band' in a stylized font. At the bottom, it lists 'FOOD FAIR | ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION', 'ST MARY'S STREET | BETWEEN MARKET AND THAMES STREET', and 'SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY SCHOLLE PANDORA CHAMPIONS | SUNNY DALE DANCERS | RT CULTURAL PERFORMERS'. There is a photo of the Usa Band members.

11 AM-7 PM TUESDAY DEC 6 2022

Tourism Blast-Off

FEATURING

Charlotte Patten

Go'En *Empress* *Jasmine* *Minacci*

FOOD FAIR | ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

ST MARY'S STREET | BETWEEN MARKET AND THAMES STREET

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 A poster for the 'Tourism Blast-Off' event. It features a red background with the text '11 AM-7 PM TUESDAY DEC 6 2022' at the top. The main title is 'Tourism Blast-Off' in large white letters. Below it, it says 'FEATURING' and lists several performers: 'Charlotte Patten', 'Go'En', 'Empress', 'Jasmine', and 'Minacci'. At the bottom, it lists 'FOOD FAIR | ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION', 'ST MARY'S STREET | BETWEEN MARKET AND THAMES STREET', and 'SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY SCHOLLE PANDORA CHAMPIONS | SUNNY DALE DANCERS | RT CULTURAL PERFORMERS'. There is a photo of the performers.

cont'd from pg 6

benefit of their families. She said the credit union will provide small loans as well as guidance on how to prepare simple financial statements to ensure the success of their businesses.

Christian also addressed the housing situation as this has also been identified as chief among the concerns of residents in the constituency. She announced that while crown lands in the area are limited, there are plans to engage private land owners to purchase lands so that they can then be sold to residents.

Additionally, she said she has already held discussions with the Housing Minister, Maria Browne, about expanding the housing project at Denfields to over one hundred and twenty homes. Discussions have also been held with Prime Minister Gaston Browne about getting a Booby Alley styled project for the area. She said these condominium-styled housing will be ideal for the area because they do not require much land. PM Browne has made a commitment to



PM Gaston Browne and Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin were among several ministers in attendance

seek external financing to undertake such a project in St. John's Rural West.

In the area of education and sports, Education and Sports Minister Darryll Matthew, was invited to elaborate on plans for the area, including the proposed expansion of the UWI FIC and the spin-off impact for the community of Five Islands in particular.

Matthew said the Sau-

di Fund has given preliminary approval of the US\$80 million to expand the university. Included are more classrooms, administration offices, a multi-purpose amphitheater, an Olympic size swimming pool, a first class cricket ground as well as student housing.

With respect to sports, plans are to completely upgrade the community centre donated by the Chinese government in the New



Year. The complex is expected to be handed back to the community, perhaps in the matter of weeks.

Work is also underway on creating a 'green space' along the road that runs adjacent to the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre.

Senator Christian also addressed issues relating to community policing and the need for all residents to become 'each other's keeper'.

On hand to make supportive contributions were Prime Minister Gaston Browne, National Security Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph and Housing Minister Maria Browne.

The presentations were followed by a lively question-and-answer session.

Mon 05 Day		Mon 05 Night	
83°		74°	
18% W 12 mph		16% WNW 8 mph	
Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 83F. Winds W at 10 to 15 mph.		A few clouds. Low 74F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 66%	UV Index 8 of 10	Humidity 75%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:23 am	Sunset 5:33 pm	Moonrise 3:45 pm	Moonset 4:02 am
○ Waxing Gibbous			

Local News

Trade Union Congress elects new executive

The Trade Union Congress, a grouping of most of the trade unions in Antigua and Barbuda, has elected a new executive to manage its affairs for the next two years.

Kem Riley of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU) heads the new executive.

Garolyn Hector of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association is the new general secretary. The new treasurer is Soria Dupie-Winston of the nurses' association.

There are three trustees and two vice presidents who round off the executive.

Riley said the first order of business is a meeting planned for today in which the ongoing negotiation of salary increases for public servants will be the main topic of discussion.

"The ABWU does not represent



New TUC executive with new president, Kem Riley of the ABWU on the right

public sector workers but several of our constituent members do and we understand that there are some issues regarding the ongoing negotiations between the unions and the government," Riley disclosed.

He did not elaborate on what the

"issues" may be, only saying that the matter will feature prominently at today's meeting.

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union, which represents the majority of public sector workers, is not a member of the TUC.



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Opinion



Cheese and rise

By Tony Deyal

Like most online humour these days, my column starts with a Donald Trump joke. It seems that loads of people are turning away from voting for him because he has promised that if he is reinstalled as President he will ban shredded cheese.

This promise is linked to his new campaign where he has grown from "MAGA" (Make America Great Again) to "MAGAGA" (Make America Grate and Glorious Again). It is why, when I read "Over \$1m in cheese stolen" from a Trinidad warehouse, I found it funny, especially in its timing and the fact that it was stolen from a warehouse in a place called "El Socorro" which is Spanish for "The Help". I can see the "Jefe" in Mar-a-Lago lapping up his "queso blanco" in "triumfo totalmente" (total triumph).

The great cheese robbery reminded me of my "growing up" movies like the Bowery Boys and the Dead End Kids, where I first heard the phrase "Cheese it, the cops".

This phrase means "run like hell and get the heck out of here because the police are coming." Of course, this no longer applies to Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) and some of the other Caribbean countries where once upon a time the police and thieves were like chalk and cheese.

They would have known

and quickly grabbed the big cheese who masterminded the robbery. Now the way the police operate reminds me of the Guyanese joke about the man who called the police station begging for help. "Dey have shooting going on the village," he said. "Come quick!" The policeman asked, "What kind of shooting? Pow, pow, pow or rakatackatak, rakatackatak?"

The villager said, "Is rakatack, rakatack and it going on for almost an hour now!" The policeman responded, "Ah glad you call we. Tell everybody we coming jes' now. As soon as the mechanic fix the police car, we will be there!"

In other words, all we can say to the villagers, as well as the people who lost so much money and cheese, is "hard cheese" which is 19th Century British slang for "bad luck". The term appropriately describes what happens to cheese if you leave it unwrapped in the fridge.

The cheese heist also gave me the opportunity to write about one of my true loves- cheese. I follow the whole range – the National Cheese Day in the UK, the National Pizza Day, Cheese Fondue Day and Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day which I honour with a toast, "Here's two cheese!" What surprised me initially was that a Caribbean company would import such a



Tony Deyal

large quantity at a cost of over one-million dollars. I was totally unaware that the Caribbean imported so much cheese. Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) bought US\$1,421mn in 1969, went to US\$47,270,000 in 2018 and has been increasing since then at the rate of almost 10% per year. In 2018, Jamaica spent US\$29,764mn on cheese. Barbados, a much smaller country, spent US\$14,848mn.

Significantly, as in Trinidad, both countries have continued to significantly increase their expenditure on cheese since then. If you wonder, as I did, where all this cheese goes, just look outside at almost any time of the day or night and you will see and hear the motorcyclists rushing past to deliver the goods. In Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad, whether it is Pizza Hut or Domino's, Pizza Mania or New York Pizza, Mario's or Little Caesar, they're not

just on a roll but on a non-stop, money making, roller coaster.

I have been mainlining cheese for almost my entire life, starting from my childhood when my grandmother allowed me to drink coffee (at the ripe old age of three) and eat as much cheese as I begged or even cried for. In those days, the cheese came in large blocks and whether with "hops" bread or Crix biscuits, was not just a breakfast staple but also a rum-shop "cutter". More, it is not just "cheese it" that has entered our vocabulary but, in Barbados, "Cheese and rice, man!" which is not a dish but an explanation, exclamation and also a euphemism that skirts around being guilty of blasphemy by swearing, "Jesus Christ."

While "hard cheese" is in the fridge there are some that are rock-solid from the very beginning, including Parmesan (tastes grate); our long-time staple, Cheddar;

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Muenster (which has nothing to do with Loch Ness or Dr. Frankenstein); and, if you think Cheddar is good, there is one that is Gouda.

There are soft ones like Camembert. Then there is Brie. This is generally introduced with the question "What happened after an explosion at a French cheese factory?"

The sad truth is "All that was left was de brie." Then we have one named after a Trini to the bone- "Feta". There are the sad ones (Blue) and the one that prompted the kids' joke, "Why was the one-legged Moko Jumbie crying?" He couldn't get his Stilton.

While some of these references are really rehashes and remembrances of my love for cheese, you have to remember that when you're over 77 (as I am), every day is a gift that you should celebrate. This is where cheese comes in. Even though there is a book by

Kathryn and Ross Petras "Age doesn't matter unless you're a cheese", if you love cheese as much as I do, cheese matters considerably despite your age or whether the hardest substance in the human body is singular, plural, present or missing in action.

By this I mean my teeth. Fortunately, I can still bite and chew but even when that is no longer possible, I am sure I will suck and swallow with gusto or gut-so, whichever is still around and available.

I am not fazed by the fact that researchers of the University of Michigan have discovered that cheese is a drug and can be as addictive as crack cocaine. Emily Myrin in LIFE HACK wrote, "A sample of 500 university students completed the Yale Food Addiction Scale which measures the rate of food addiction in people's lives and also studies the types of foods they crave. The number one most addictive

food turned out to be pizza." There is a protein in milk products called "casein" which breaks apart digestion to release a whole host of opiates called "casomorphins" which trigger the reward reflex in our brains. Cheese in any form, fashion, hard, soft or blue is full of these proteins.

Having made sure that I had my coffee with me this morning, and my bread and cheese fresh off the grill, I thought of a few cheese jokes like "What is Medusa's favourite type of cheese?" Gorgonzola, of course. Then what happened to the cheese sandwich which walked into a pub? It was told in no uncertain terms, "We don't serve food in here!" And my favourite, "What's the difference between Donald Trump and cheese? If left for a while, cheese develops culture."

**Tony Deyal was last seen laughing at this teaser, "What cheese is made backwards?" Edam.*



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The Way We Think



What it's like living as a female psychopath

By Megha Mohan

Psychopathy is a condition that reviles and fascinates many people in equal measure, but the deeply entrenched stigma surrounding it means the disorder is still poorly understood – especially when it occurs in women.

Victoria knew about her boyfriend's wife, but after a couple of years she suspected that he had other lovers. There was no proof, but his body language was giving him away, she says. His stories weren't lining up. His face looked different when he lied.

"I happen to have superb memory when it comes to conversations," she says. "He was not at all a good liar. I'm not sure why his wife never caught him."

A mental flipboard of ways to punish him flipped in Victoria's mind until she landed on one. It would take a little time, and she'd have to act like she knew nothing. Over the course of several months, while still seeing him, Victoria sent naked photos of her boyfriend to his wife.

He came to her distressed, asking who could possibly be doing such a thing. His wife was devastated. He confessed to Victoria that he was, indeed, sleeping with other women. He did not suspect her, and she comforted him.

And then, when Victoria got bored and ready to end the relationship, she sent his wife a final gallery of pictures, the last one a photo of herself with the woman's hus-



Women with psychopathy tend to show a lower tendency for violence than men, but more interpersonal manipulation (Credit: Somsara Rielly/BBC)

band. With that explosive reveal, Victoria exited their life forever.

When Victoria used to tell people this story, her flippancy would alarm people. "People asked me 'Why would you do this to his wife? What did his wife do to you to deserve this? How did she hurt you?'," she says. "And I would think, 'Well, life is unfair'."

She pauses.

"I suppose that is a good example of an extreme psychopathic trait I used to have. Callousness."

Psychopathy is not an official mental health diagnosis and is not listed in the fifth and latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Instead it is grouped under the wider term of antisocial personality disorder, although psychopathy is widely used in global clinical environments. It is broadly understood to be a neuropsychiatric disorder, where a person displays un-

usually low levels of empathy or remorse, often resulting in antisocial and sometimes criminal behaviour. The term was used by doctors in Europe and the US in the early 1900s and became mainstream by 1941, following publication of the book *The Mask of Sanity* by American psychiatrist Hervey M Cleckley.

"The world's leading academics have debated the definition of psychopathy," says Abigail Marsh, a psychologist and neuroscientist at Georgetown University, in Washington DC. "You'll get very different explanations of psychopathy depending on whether you are talking to a forensic psychologist or a criminologist."

Marsh says that criminal psychologists tend to classify people as having psychopathy only when they display violent and extreme behaviour. For her, however, the condition displays itself as a spectrum with other, less dramatic behaviour that can

vary from person to person.

Psychologists and psychiatrists generally agree that between one and two in every 100 people in the general population meet the criteria for psychopathy, but Marsh claims that as many as 30% of people in the general population display some degree of psychopathic traits. For those who have psychopathy, it can mean they struggle to maintain close friendships and put themselves in risky situations, but the condition also takes its toll on the people around them too.

"Being around a callous or manipulative person is often devastating for people who are close to them, and exhausting for people living with extreme psychopathy," says Marsh.

She says that the majority of studies concerning people with psychopathy have been conducted on criminal offenders. Some of these studies point to psychopaths – or those showing psychopathic traits – as making up a disproportionate number of people in prison, although there is some dispute about how prevalent it really is. In general, the research suggests that psychopathy is higher among male offenders (accounting for perhaps 15-25% of prisoners) than female offenders (where it is found in 10-12%).

But it is a field that is still understudied in the general population, while even less research is conducted on women.

cont'd on pg 13

The Way We Think

cont'd from pg 12

Women often exhibited traits like debilitating impulsiveness (such as a lack of planning), thrill-seeking in interpersonal relationships, and verbal aggression

While a number of studies suggest that psychopathy is more prevalent in men than women, Marsh argues this may be due to how the testing was devised in the first instance.

"Initial psychopathy scales were primarily developed and tested on a prison population of men in British Columbia by Bob Hare," she says.

Canadian psychologist Robert Hare developed the Psychopathy Checklist (now called PCL-R) in the 1970s, and a revised version is often regarded as the global gold standard for testing for psychopathic traits. It is now the most frequently used and validated diagnostic tool for assessing psychopathy. The PCL-R measures the scale of emotional detachment someone might have, such as their willingness to manipulate someone to a desired outcome irrespective of the consequences, and also their antisocial behaviour, such as aggressive or impulsive choices that might be violent or involve abruptly abandoning responsibilities.

"Adaptations of that scale are used today in non-institutionalised samples, including women and children in several countries, but it's an open question of whether you would have come up with the same items to start with if you

were starting with looking at non-criminal women," says Marsh.

One analysis by researchers in 2005 also contrasted core characteristics of women and men with psychopathy. They suggested that women often exhibited traits like debilitating impulsiveness (such as a lack of planning), thrill-seeking in interpersonal relationships, and verbal aggression. The researchers argued that psychopathy in men meanwhile tends to manifest with physical aggression and violence. At the time they stated, however, that not enough research had been conducted into why this may be the case. Seventeen years later, not much has changed.

Ana Sanz Garcia, a psychology PhD student at the University of Madrid, and her colleagues conducted a more recent analysis in 2021 of published research studies that included over 11,000 adults who were evaluated for psychopathy. She agrees that there need to be more studies that focus on women and non-criminal people with psychopathy. She told the BBC that the studies to date show women with psychopathy show less propensity for violence and crime than men, but more examples of interpersonal manipulation.

"It would be interesting to study the factors that explain why among women high in psychopathy have a lower probability of committing antisocial and criminal acts than males," says Sanz Garcia. "If these factors are discovered,

a programme could be designed to prevent both women and men high in psychopathy from committing those antisocial and criminal acts."

Again, there has not been enough research to determine why, but one recent study in France points at a potential answer – coldness and lack of emotion appears to play a far more central role in women's psychopathy than it does with men. Women also exhibit fewer of the violent and antagonistic behaviours seen in male psychopathy.

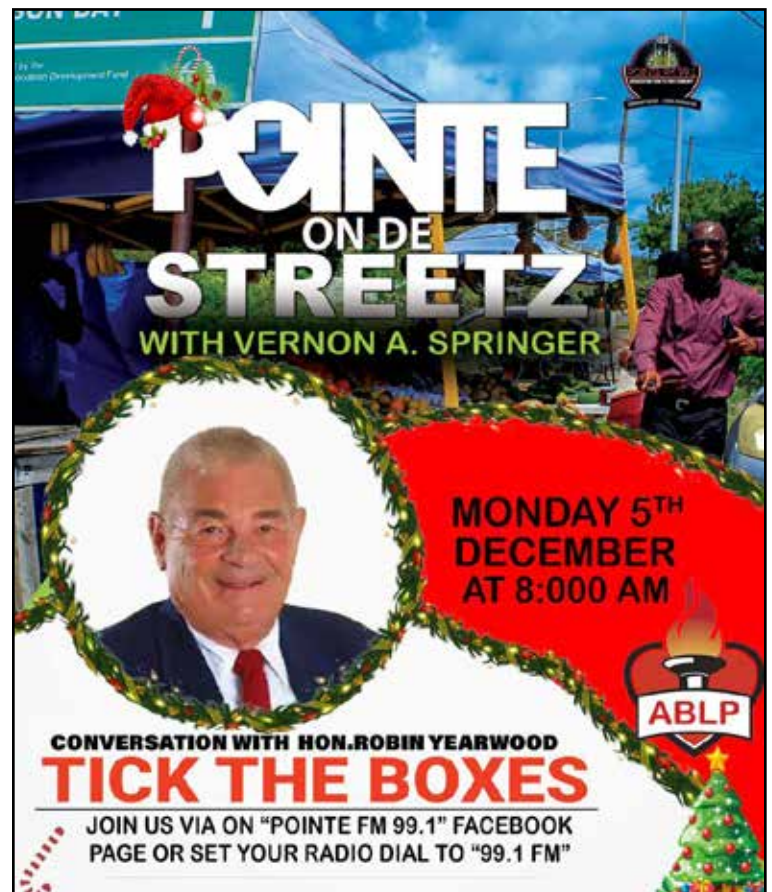
Victoria says her own manipulative behaviour began appearing as a way of keeping herself amused.

She was born in Malaysia to a working class family. Her father's alcoholism and lack of personal accountability for the consequences of his drinking made her home

an unhappy one. She thrived academically at school but was often bored. For fun she would enjoy passing on confidential pieces of information people told her, secrets she had sworn to keep. Who hated whom. Who had a crush on whom. Tensions between the children at secondary school could often be traced back to her. Victoria knew how to manipulate others to take responsibility for mistakes she made, or what to say to get out of trouble. She convinced a teacher that she threw a chalk at her due to peer pressure.

"It was what she wanted to hear," she says. She wanted to believe that the clever child wasn't a bad child, just an easily led one." More recently Victoria has been getting help to manage her impulses. But

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ABLP

The Way We Think



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she has also been finding support, perhaps rather strangely, from others like her.

Victoria's train of thought is interrupted when a thick, orange, swishy cat tail suddenly pops up on the video call and gently tickles her cheek. "His name is Gibberish," she says, reaching to pet a body that is out of frame on the table.

Is that his real name?

"He has many names," she says.

As Gibberish prowls Victoria's desk, I ask her about several recent videos entitled "the psychopath challenge" that have gone viral on TikTok, amassing more than 20 million views. They discuss how viewers might "spot a psychopath". The tag "psychopath" is one of the more popular on the social media

app, with over two billion views. It's used to mark several subjects, including footage of people with psychopathy on trial, and is used as a slur for bad behaviour. What's clear is that people find the subject of psychopathy, and those possessing it, both fascinating and repulsive.

Victoria doesn't find these videos offensive.

"Part of being a psychopath is not caring what people think so it doesn't bother me," she says. "But it does show how little people understand the full spectrum of the condition."

What she does take exception to are those videos that discuss whether people with psychopathy are more prone to harming animals. "Many of us prefer animals to humans," she says curtly, looking down at Gibberish,

who purrs out of vision.

Laughter is often used by people with psychopathy as an intentionally manipulative device, helping them to control the conversation

The "us" Victoria is referring to is an online community of women like her. It centres mostly around the blog of writer ME Thomas, perhaps one of the most well-known women with psychopathy. Thomas scored over 99% when assessed for psychopathy by John Edens, a forensic psychologist at Texas A&M University.

Thomas' blog Sociopath World, details what life is like with psychopathy. Thomas says she used the word sociopath instead of psychopath as she felt it was a term more people would understand. Sociopathy is not a widely accepted clinical term, and psychologists like Marsh say it is sometimes used by individuals who may feel a stigma attached to the word "psychopath".

A literary agent discovered Thomas's blog and it led to a book deal. A Life Spent Hiding in Plain Sight, was published in 2012 and translated into more than 10 languages. A film starring actress Lisa Edelstein based on the book is currently in the works.

"I see myself as a formula, not a person," Thomas says. "It's like being an Excel spreadsheet where I work out what to do and say by calculating the possible outcome."

An example might be telling someone she loves them when she wants something

from them, says Thomas. It is something she has done a few times, she says, and it has led to the breakdown of several relationships.

One 2012 study at the University of Zurich also found laughter is often used by people with psychopathy as an intentionally manipulative device, helping them to control the conversation, for example. Or at times laughing at, not with, the person they were speaking to.

Thomas says her agent tells her not to use the word "manipulative" when talking about herself, but instead say that she knew how to influence people from childhood. But manipulative is the word she uses. She said that quality helped her become a good lawyer, which is still her profession.

When she talks, people can't place her accent. They think she may be from Israel or Eastern Europe, although she has lived her entire life in California. "You get accents from being socialised into having an identity. I've never got an identity," she says. "I have a really weak sense of self."

On her blog, she shares her daily thoughts and interviews other people who live with psychopathic traits. Many of her readers find refuge in her posts and videos, she says, as it's a place where they recognise their own patterns and share experiences free from judgement.

Another reader is Alice, a 27-year-old German woman. Alice says that it is frustrating

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The Way We Think

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to read articles or watch depictions of people with psychopathy as evil individuals who must all be avoided.

"We exist on a scale like everyone else."

Like Thomas, Alice is immediately likeable, perhaps because she smiles a lot. She admits early that she is mimicking what she knows is socially appropriate. Alice has done this her whole life. When her grandmother died, she observed her sister's grief and mirrored her behaviour.

She says she also pretends to be sarcastic as it allows her to get away with saying what's on her mind without causing alarm. She learned this early at the age of 12 while on holiday on a ship and she wondered out loud what it would be like if they had an accident and to watch people drown. The reaction from her parents and their friends taught her that it was important to frame it like a dark joke, rather than a dark thought.

While Thomas describes her dominant psychopathic trait as manipulation and Victoria says her is callousness, Alice's points to her own lack of empathy as being her most conspicuous trait.

"I don't have any emotional empathy, but I have a lot of cognitive empathy," she says, her smile still in place. "So if someone gets hurt, like hurting their knee or breaking their arm, I may not feel anything for them emotionally but I know I am supposed to get them help so I will."

But this, she says, makes her a good person to have around in emergencies.

"People tell me their problems and I am not emotionally clouded so it doesn't affect me, and I can listen to them, give them rational advice," she says. "Other people may want to distance themselves because it triggers their own emotion, but that doesn't happen to me."

Alice is not alone in thinking that her traits could be a benefit to society. The "positive" traits of psychopathy is explored by Kevin Dutton, a psycholo-

gist at the University of Oxford, in his book, *The Wisdom of Psychopaths: What Saints, Spies and Serial Killers Can Teach Us About Success*. In 2011, Dutton ran a survey in the UK titled "The Great British Psychopath Survey". Boardroom chief executives, journalists, police officers, the military, surgeons and lawyers were the professions where people displayed the most psychopathic traits.

Dutton argues that certain personality traits within the psychopathy spectrum – including a coolness under pressure and less empathetic response to interpersonal interactions – can help people to deliver on their work without being, as Alice would call it, "clouded".

People with disorders and their friends and family aren't getting the help they need. And that harms everyone – Abigail Marsh

"Everybody knows somebody with psychopathic traits," says Marsh, who has co-founded a non-profit called Psychopathy Is. It provides one of the few online platforms offering support for both people with psychopathy and those close to them.

Marsh says their aim is to demystify psychopathy and provide screening tools so people can assess themselves with reliable instruments and then get good information on what to do.

"Psychopathy is not a category, it's a continuum," she says. "It is distributed amongst the population in varying degrees. Some people cause continuous destruction and some just need their symptoms managed."

"When we don't discuss it openly, people's minds go to Ted Bundy and Hannibal Lecter, and then we see TikTok trends filling the void of expert information."

Many experts, Marsh included, believe it is time to dispel the myths and stigma surrounding psychopathy.

The underlying causes of psychopathy are still poorly understood, although a growing body of neuroimaging re-

search is helping to pinpoint some of the potential neurological abnormalities in the brain that may explain the symptoms.

Research, for example, has indicated that men with psychopathy have a reduced response in regions of the brain related to processing fear and there are some hints that similar effects can be found in women.

Some researchers have also pointed to differences in the neural circuitry of the amygdala, a key structure of the brain responsible for processing emotions, but like most research on psychopathy, these findings are far from robust and still need to be studied further.

Genetics and the environment someone finds themselves in are also important components to the puzzle. But to get to those answers will require wider society to develop a more mature relationship with psychopathy, Marsh believes.

"I really admire what the autism research community did in the nineties," she says.

"They decided to get rid of the stigma by telling people the truth about it. That it's a spectrum disorder. We as researchers in psychopathy need to agree on an approach to really throw ourselves into developing better interventions that can help people with psychopathy live flourishing, productive lives."

Until this happens, people with psychopathy are being failed, she adds.

"That means people – people with disorders and their friends and family – aren't getting the help they need. And that harms everyone."

Victoria, Alice and ME Thomas use meditation, psychological therapy and peer-to-peer support from their online community to help manage their disorder.

"It's helpful to not be in the shadows," says Thomas. "But there is still a stigma to the word 'psychopath'. There's still a lot of work to do and a lot more open conversations to have. The reality is we exist."

Cryptocurrency



Ex-FTX CEO says he didn't 'knowingly' misuse clients' funds

By Ken Sweet

AP — The former CEO of the failed cryptocurrency exchange FTX said Wednesday that he did not “knowingly” misuse customers’ funds, and said he believes his millions of angry customers will eventually be made whole.

The comments from Sam Bankman-Fried came during an interview with Andrew Ross Sorkin at a conference put on by The New York Times. Bankman-Fried has done a handful of media interviews since FTX collapsed in mid-November, but Wednesday’s was his first video interview since it filed for bankruptcy protection on Nov. 11.

“I didn’t ever want to commit fraud on anyone. I was shocked at what happened this month,” Bankman-Fried said.

FTX failed in the cryptocurrency version of a bank run, when customers tried to withdraw their assets all at once because of growing doubts about the financial strength of the company and its affiliated trading arm, Alameda Research. Since its collapse, FTX’s new management has called the cryptocurrency exchange’s management a “complete failure of corporate controls.”

Bankman-Fried said that he took responsibility for FTX’s collapse and said he failed to grasp the amount of risk FTX and Alameda were taking on across both businesses. One of the accusations made against Bankman-Fried is that he arranged for Alameda to use customers’ assets



The FTX Arena logo is seen where the Miami Heat basketball team plays Nov. 12, 2022, in Miami. The former CEO of the failed cryptocurrency exchange FTX said Wednesday, Nov. 30, that he did not ‘knowingly’ misuse customers’ funds, and claimed he believes his millions of angry customers will eventually be made whole. (AP Photo/Marta Lavandier, File)

in FTX to place bets in the market. Bankman-Fried told Sorkin he did not “knowingly” co-mingle customers’ assets with Alameda.

Exchanges like FTX are supposed to segregate customers’ deposits from any bets they place in the markets. Other financial companies have gotten into legal hot water for misusing customers deposits, one example being MF Global roughly 10 years ago.

“Whatever happened, why it happened, I had a duty to our stakeholders, our customers, our investors, the regulators of the world, to do right by them,” Bankman-Fried said.

Sorkin pushed Bankman-Fried

on how and when investors will get their money back, to which Bankman-Fried said he largely believed the U.S. affiliate of FTX was entirely solvent and could start processing withdrawals at once.

As for the rest of FTX, which was significantly larger than the U.S. division, he said the fate of customers’ funds were largely out of his control at this point.

Bankman-Fried, who was once one of the richest people in the world on paper, now says he likely has less than \$100,000 to his name after FTX’s failure. He’s getting by on one credit card while still in the Bahamas.

CARICOM election observers head to Dominica

CMC - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), will be fielding a CARICOM Election Observation Mission (CEOM) to the Commonwealth of Dominica to monitor the General Elections to be held on Tuesday, December 6,

In a statement, the regional body said the nine-member mission will be headed by the Chief Election Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Elections and Boundaries Commission, Fern Narcis-Scope.

The CARICOM Election Observation Mission proposes to meet with leaders of political parties, the electoral officials, and other stakeholders of Dominica and will monitor the voting process including the opening of the poll, the casting of votes, the closing of the poll and the counting of the ballots.

The Team will arrive in Dominica this weekend and will depart on December 8.

Last month, Prime Minister Roo-



sevelt Skerrett, who led the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) to an 18-3 victory in the 2019 general elections, announced the date for the snap poll two years ahead of the constitutional deadline.

The opposition parties on the island have said they will boycott the elections and the Electoral Office said that following Nomination Day, at

least six DLP candidates, including Skerrett, 50, who has been prime minister here since 2004, had won their seats uncontested.

The opposition parties have been calling on supporters to protest the polls and are also urging the international community not to recognize the government that emerges after Tuesday's exercise.

Bahamas PM says FTX former CEO Sam Bankman-Fried questioned by local authorities



Sam Bankman-Fried

CMC - Bahamas Prime Minister Phillip Davis says the former chief executive officer of the collapsed Bahamas-headquartered FTX, Sam Bankman-Fried has been interviewed by local authorities as investigations continue into the demise of the crypto giant.

Prime Minister Davis told reporters "I heard that he was," adding that he was not concerned that FTX's collapse would negatively impact the country's real estate market.

During an interview on Wednesday at the DealBook Summit in New York City, Bankman-Fried, who spoke via video call from The Bahamas, spoke about the collapse of FTX, which is registered in The Bahamas as FTX Digital Markets Ltd.

The company moved its headquarters from Hong Kong to The Bahamas last year and the police in Nassau have already announced an investigation into FTX that had been backed by

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The metal Christmas tree that came into contact with a live wire in Guyana. (Photo via: Guyana Police Force)

Guyana: Man electrocuted while putting up metal Christmas tree

Loop - A tragic beginning to the Christmas Season for a family in Guyana as a 29-year-old man of Good Hope died after being electrocuted while putting up a 27-foot metal Christmas Tree at Lusignan.

The victim has been identified as Deepak Ram-

deen, a Machinist of Good Hope, East Coast Demerara.

According to the Guyana Police Force, Ramdeen was allegedly electrocuted last night as he and three other men were installing a metal Christmas tree, about 27 feet in height, at the front

of a residence at Lusignan.

It is alleged that the star on the tip of the tree came into contact with a live wire overhead which caused Ramdeen to be electrocuted.

A report states around 11 pm on December 2, Ramdeen and others were

all putting up the metal Christmas tree using a crane attached to a lorry.

Ramdeen, along with the other men were in the process of erecting the metal tree outside the house when the incident occurred and allegedly caused Ramdeen and the others to receive electric shocks to their bodies.

They were all rushed to the Georgetown Public Hospital.

Ramdeen succumbed to his injuries while receiving treatment, while the other men remain warded at the Burns Unit at GPHC.

Investigations are ongoing.

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elite investors like BlackRock and Sequoia Capital, rapidly becoming one of the biggest crypto exchanges in the world.

In addition to the SCB probe, the US Justice Department is also investigating FTX.

Acting Commissioner of Police Leamond Deleveaux told The Nassau Guardian newspaper that police had not interviewed Bankman-Fried, who was still in

The Bahamas as of Thursday.

Last week, the government dismissed as "inaccurate allegations" international criticism of the country's digital asset regulations following the collapse of FTX.

Attorney General Ryan Pinder warned that "ill-informed speculation" will not be helpful to anyone involved, critical also of those persons who have been criticizing the government for being "silent" on matters regarding FTX's implosion.

Flash flood kills nine at church gathering in South Africa

AP - At least nine people died and eight others were missing in South Africa after a flash flood swept away members of a church congregation along the Jukskei River in Johannesburg, rescue officials said Sunday.

The dead and missing were all part of the congregation, which was conducting religious rituals along the river on Saturday, officials said. Rescue workers reported finding the bodies of two victims that day and another seven bodies when the search and recovery mission resumed Sunday morning.

The teams were interviewing people from the congregation to establish



Rescuers carry the body of a flood victim that was retrieved from the Jukskei river in Johannesburg, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022. At least nine people have died while eight others are still missing in South Africa after they were swept away by a flash flood along the Jukskei river in Johannesburg, rescue officials said Sunday. (AP Photo)

how many others were unaccounted for.

Religious groups frequently gather along the Jukskei River, which runs

past townships such as Alexandra in the east of Johannesburg, for baptisms and ritual cleansing.

Johannesburg Emer-

gency Services spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said Sunday that officials had warned residents about the dangers of conducting the rituals along the river.

"We have been receiving a lot of rain on the city of Johannesburg in the last three months, and most of the river streams are now full.

"Our residents, especially congregants who normally practice these kinds of rituals, will be tempted to go to these river streams," Mulaudzi said during a news briefing.

"Our message for them is to exercise caution as and when they conduct these rituals," he added.

OPEC+ keeps steady policy amid weakening economy, Russian oil cap

Reuters - OPEC+ agreed to stick to its oil output targets at a meeting on Sunday as the oil markets struggle to assess the impact of a slowing Chinese economy on demand and a G7 price cap on Russian oil on supply.

The decision comes two days after the Group of Seven (G7) nations agreed a price cap on Russian oil.

OPEC+, which comprises the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia, angered the United States and other Western nations in October when it agreed to cut output by 2 million barrels per day (bpd), about 2% of world demand, from November until the end of 2023.

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An aerial view shows oil tanks of Transneft oil pipeline operator at the crude oil terminal Kozmino on the shore of Nakhodka Bay near the port city of Nakhodka, Russia June 13, 2022. Picture taken with a drone. REUTERS/Tatiana Meel

Macron says new security architecture should give guarantees for Russia

Reuters - The West should consider how to address Russia's need for security guarantees if President Vladimir Putin agrees to negotiations about ending the war in Ukraine, French President Emmanuel Macron said in remarks broadcast on Saturday.

In an interview with French TV station TF1 recorded during his state visit to the United States last week, Macron said Europe needs to prepare its future security architecture.

"This means that one of the essential points we must address - as President Putin has always said - is the fear that NATO comes right up to its doors, and the deployment of weapons that could threaten Russia," Macron said.

"That topic will be part of the topics for peace, so



French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. President Joe Biden stand together onstage during an official State Arrival Ceremony for President Macron on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, U.S., December 1, 2022. REUTERS/Elizabeth Frantz/File Photo

we need to prepare what we are ready to do, how we protect our allies and member states, and how to give guarantees to Russia the day it returns to the negotiating table," Macron said.

Russia and the United States have both said this week they are open to talks in principle, though U.S. President Joe Biden said he would only talk to Putin if

the Kremlin chief showed he was interested in ending the war. Ukraine says negotiations are possible only if Russia stops attacking and pulls out its troops.

Many in Ukraine and the West are strongly opposed to any negotiation with Putin that would reward him with concessions after nearly 10 months of war, especially as Ukraine has driven

back Russian forces from large areas in the past three months.

But Macron's remarks suggested he was sympathetic to Moscow's need for security guarantees - a demand that was the focus of intense but failed diplomacy in the run-up to the war.

On Feb. 8, just weeks before Russia's invasion, Putin said at a joint news conference with Macron in Moscow that Russia would keep trying to obtain answers from the West to its main three security demands: no more NATO enlargement; no missile deployments near its borders; and a scaling back of NATO's military infrastructure in Europe to 1997 levels.

The United States said at the time that the Russian demands were "non-starters".

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Washington accused the group and one of its leaders, Saudi Arabia, of siding with Russia despite Moscow's war in Ukraine.

OPEC+ argued it had cut output because of a weaker economic outlook. Oil prices have declined since October due to slower Chinese and global growth and higher interest rates, prompting market speculation the group could cut output again.

But on Sunday the group of oil producers decided to keep the policy unchanged. Its key ministers will next meet on Feb. 1 for a monitoring committee while a full meeting is scheduled for June 3-4.

On Friday, G7 nations and Austra-

lia agreed a \$60 per barrel price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil in a move to deprive President Vladimir Putin of revenue while keeping Russian oil flowing to global markets.

Moscow said it would not sell its oil under the cap and was analysing how to respond.

Many analysts and OPEC ministers have said the price cap is confusing and probably inefficient as Moscow has been selling most of its oil to countries like China and India, which have refused to condemn the war in Ukraine.

Neither an OPEC meeting on Saturday nor the OPEC+ meeting on Sunday discussed the Russian price cap, sources said.

Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on Sunday Russia would rather cut production than supply oil under the price cap and said the cap may affect other producers.

Sources have told Reuters several OPEC+ members have expressed frustration at the cap saying the anti-market measure could ultimately be used by the West against any producer.

The United States said the measure was not aimed at OPEC.

JP Morgan said on Friday that OPEC+ could review production in the new year based on fresh data on Chinese demand trends and consumer compliance with price caps on Russia crude output and tanker flow.

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Sports News



Pelé responding well to treatment

Brazilian soccer great Pelé is responding well to treatment for a respiratory infection and his health condition has not worsened over the latest 24 hours, the Albert Einstein hospital said Saturday.

The 82-year-old Pelé has been at the hospital since Tuesday.

"I'm strong, with a lot of hope and I follow my treatment as usual. I want to thank the entire medical and nursing team for all the care I have received," Pelé said in a statement posted on Instagram. "I have a lot of faith in God and every message of love I receive from you all over the world keeps me full of energy. And watch Brazil in the World Cup, too."

Get well messages have poured in from around the



Pelé

world for the three-time World Cup winner, who is also undergoing cancer treatment. Kely Nascimento, Pelé's daughter, posted several pictures on Instagram from Brazil fans in Qatar wishing her father well with flags and banners. Buildings in the Middle Eastern nation also displayed messages in

support of the former soccer great.

Brazil will face South Korea at the World Cup on Monday in the round of 16.

Pelé helped Brazil win the 1958, 1962 and 1970 World Cups and remains the team's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals in 92 matches.

The Albert Einstein hospital said Friday that Pelé is getting antibiotics to treat an infection at the same time he undergoes chemotherapy against cancer. Pelé, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, had a colon tumor removed in September 2021.

Neither his family nor the hospital has said whether the cancer had spread to other organs.

Newspaper Folha de S.Paulo reported Saturday that Pelé's chemotherapy is not working and that doctors had decided to put him on palliative care. The Associated Press could not confirm that information.

ESPN Brasil reported Wednesday that Pelé was taken to the hospital because of "general swelling."

Runs, wickets, catches, stumpings, all part of the job for campbelle

Shemaine Campbelle, the diminutive wicketkeeper-batter, will become the fourth West Indies Women's player to achieve 100 One-Day International matches, if she is selected in the starting XI against England Women at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, on Sunday afternoon.

She will join an elite group including Stafanie Taylor, Deandra Dottin and Anisa Mohammed who have all made over 100 appearances for the Maroon Warriors.

Campbelle has been a stalwart of the Maroon Warriors batting lineup over the 13 years she has been a part of the squad. She not only stands behind the stumps or bats for the West Indies Women, but she also has 21 ODI wickets and 34 T20I

wickets from 38 and 44 matches respectively. This gives her a unique place in cricket history as the only player to ever score over 1000 runs, take over 50 wickets and have over 50 dismissals.

She credits her discipline and fitness as the reasons why she has had such a long career and is going to savour this 100th ODI.

"It's a good feeling playing 100 ODIs for West Indies. I'm coming back from injury, and I've been stuck on 99 matches for a long time, so now it's time for me to cross that... I never thought I would play 100 matches because that is a lot of cricket, so being part of the team for so long is great achievement for myself and the team."

Campbelle added, "Playing this type

of cricket (ODI) is not easy so that's where my fitness and discipline come in.

The fitness helps me with developing my skills and keeps me going. Discipline helps me to go step by step in my confidence and belief in myself from when I started until now and there's a lot more time for me to continue playing."

"Mini" as she's fondly called by her teammates draws inspiration from the maiden ODI century she scored against Sri Lanka in Dambulla in 2013 and a half-century against the same opponents in Barbados in 2012. Campbelle said, "Every time I come out to play 50-over cricket, I try to visualize those performances and draw inspiration from them, to perform against my present opponents."

England beat Senegal to set up France quarter-final

BBC - England will meet France in the World Cup quarter-finals on Saturday after an impressive demolition of Senegal at Al Bayt Stadium.

Gareth Southgate's side survived a nervy opening in which goalkeeper Jordan Pickford made an outstanding save from Boulaye Dia to run out convincing winners with a powerful display of attacking strength.

Jude Bellingham was England's star man, setting up the first goal for Jordan Henderson with a perfect cross after 38 minutes then having a hand in the second on the stroke of half-time, combining with Phil Foden as captain Harry Kane powered home his first of the tournament.

It left Kane just one behind Wayne Rooney's all-time record of 53 England goals and he now has the perfect stage here in Qatar to write a fresh page in the history books.

Foden was the creator once more as England wrapped the game up in the 57th minute, crossing for Bukayo Saka to show great awareness and touch to flick a delicate finish past Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy.

It capped the perfect night for manager Southgate, who opted to restore Saka and keep faith with Foden, leaving out Marcus Rashford despite his two goals in the win over Wales. Raheem Sterling was not considered after a break-in at his family home and will now return to England.

England's World Cup taking shape

England took a while to move through the gears against Senegal but when they clicked they showed a level of creation that gives them real edge and makes them genuine contenders for this World Cup.

The early worries came when Senegal attempted to expose Harry Ma-



guire's lack of pace, which they did twice and will be noted by France and Kylian Mbappe, but once Bellingham exerted his authority over the midfield England were able to take control and cruise to victory.

Borussia Dortmund's 19-year-old has already had an outstanding World Cup but he now has power and production on the biggest stage to add to his reputation.

Bellingham is the identikit modern midfield player and the manner in which he combined with Foden for England's second goal, completed by a rousing finish from Kane, was a glimpse into a golden future.

Foden has also grown into this World Cup, having scored against Wales and creating two goals here. England's midfield and attack is taking shape with perfect timing for what will be the sternest of tests against France and the peerless Mbappe.

Henderson and Declan Rice allow Bellingham to flourish while Saka once again showed his maturity and threat from the wide positions along with Foden.

Kane is the mobile spearhead up front and it is a good sign for En-

gland that he is now on the goal trail and chasing Rooney's record. He occasionally needs to play his way into major tournaments, as at Euro 2020, and Southgate will have been delighted to see how emphatically he finished the chance he got for the second goal.

Pickford's vital contribution

Pickford has had little to do in this World Cup but when called into action he made a vital intervention against Senegal that paved the way for England to get their act together and win with ease.

England were struggling in defence in the opening phase, with Dia missing one big chance before he was presented with another that needed Pickford to make a strong one-handed stop from his angled shot.

Senegal were soon behind and England had the momentum which they never threatened to relinquish, Southgate's side closing out the win with plenty to spare following an uneventful second half.

Pickford's place in the England side has occasionally been questioned from outside but never by Southgate, who has total faith in a player who has never let him down.

Sports News

Villa, All Saints and Grenades win again in premier league

Villa Lions, All Saints United and Jennings Grenades all notched up their second wins in as many outings in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League over the weekend.

Playing in the first game of a triple-header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters, Villa Lions overcame Parham 2-0 on Saturday, 3rd December to secure their second win in as many outings.

Joshua Ferdinand scored in the 13th minute to give Villa Lions a 1-0 halftime lead and Jordan Francis scored with a brilliant solo effort in the 85th minute to wrap up the match.

A brace by Shafeeq Joseph was instrumental in leading All Saints United to their second win of the campaign, a 3-2 victory against Empire in Saturday's feature game.

Joseph scored his first goal of the match in the 33rd minute to put All Saints United ahead. Shemar Scott then snatched an equalizer for Empire with a 41st minute conversion.

Joseph scored his second on the stroke of half-time with a strike in the 45th minute to restore All Saints United's one-goal lead. After the interval, Nazir McBurnette scored in the 53rd minute to give All Saints United a 3-1 advantage.



The Villa Lions have made a perfect start to their 2022/23 premier league campaign. The Lions claimed their second win in as many outings at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Saturday, 3rd December, 2022. (File photo)

Although striker Raheem Joseph was able to reduce the deficit with a 63rd minute conversion, Empire was unable to breach All Saints United's defence again, tumbling to their second loss in as many matches. Tesfa Simon scored an injury time equalizer in (90+2 minutes) to stave off a second successive defeat and salvaged a 3-3 draw for SAP against Old Road in a round south derby in the second premier league match on Saturday.

Striker Raheem Deterville had scored his first of two goals in the match as early as the 10th minute to give Old Road a 1-0 lead.

Emerson Henry then leveled the score when he scored SAP's equalizer in the 21st minute as both teams finished the opening

exchanges deadlocked 1-1 at half-time.

After the interval, SAP went ahead via a Javaughn Parker 63rd minute conversion. Old Road found an equalizer in the 77th minute via a penalty which was scored by veteran player Stefan Smith.

Old Road seemed destined to record their second win in as many matches when Deterville scored his second goal of the match in the 86th minute to give his team a 3-2 lead.

However, it wasn't to be as Simon's late equalizer changed the outcome and ensured SAP gained a share of the points.

A first half brace by Vashami Allen propelled Jennings Grenades to a 4-1 victory over Tryum on Friday.

Allen shot Grenades into the lead with an eight-minute strike and Kieron Richards extended the lead with a 19th minute conversion. Allen then scored his second goal of the match in the 40th minute to give Jennings Grenades a 3-1 half-time advantage.

Shortly after the interval, Tryum managed to pull a goal back via the boot of Ashani Lawrence, who scored in the 47th minute. But Keanu Barrett then scored Grenades' fourth and final goal of the match in the 57th minute to seal his team's second victory in as many matches this season.

The premier league will continue at the ABFA's Technical Centre today, Monday, 5th December, when Five Islands meet Pigotts Bullets at 7 pm.

Bolans, Fort Road secure opening wins in ABFA's First Division

Bolans snatched their first win in two matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on Friday, 2nd December.

Playing in the only first division match of the day at the ABFA's Technical Centre, Bolans prevailed 2-1 against West Ham after both teams were deadlocked 0-0 at halftime. Bolans were beaten 2-0 by host Bendals in their opening encounter on 29th November.

It was the first loss in two matches for West Ham after recording a 1-1 draw with Potters Tigers in the opening game of the season on 25th November.

Fort Road kicked off their campaign in the ABFA's First Division with a 2-1 victory over Lion Hill at the Fort Road playing field on Thursday, 1st December.

But it was Lion Hill which had made the better start to game. Almost immediately after the game kicked off, Jahiem Salmon met a cross at the far post and guided the ball past the Fort Road custodian into the back of the net in the 1st minute to give Lion Hill a 1-0 lead.

Although Lion Hill managed to maintain their lead until halftime, they were unable to keep Fort



The Fort Road team that played against Lion Hill in their opening match in the First Division at the Fort Road playing field on Thursday, 1st December, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Road at bay in the second half. Shortly after the interval, Fort Road equalized via a goal by Jamaul Semper, who scored in the 44th minute.

Ezeikel Thomas then snatched victory for Fort Road by converting a beautifully taken free-kick in the 74th minute.

Green City also opened their season campaign by snatching a 2-1 victory over John Hughes at the John Hughes playing field.

Green City took a 1-0 lead via an Audwin Joseph's 8th minute conversion and Garcel Morrison scored in the 26th minute to equalize for John Hughes as both

team reached halftime deadlocked at 1-1.

But Amali Colbourne scored in the winner for Green City in the 53rd minute to secure his team's victory.

JSC Progressors also made a successful start to this season's first division competition by pulling off a 4-3 victory against Young Lions at the Old Road playing field.

Jrhan Azyr Defoe scored his first of two goals in the 7th minute and Jahquane Richards netted two minutes later to give JSC Progressors an early 2-0 lead.

Jolan Willock reduced the deficit by scoring for

Young Lions in the 14th minute. But one minute later, Tammo Forest scored to restore JSC Progressors two-goal cushion as they went ahead 3-1.

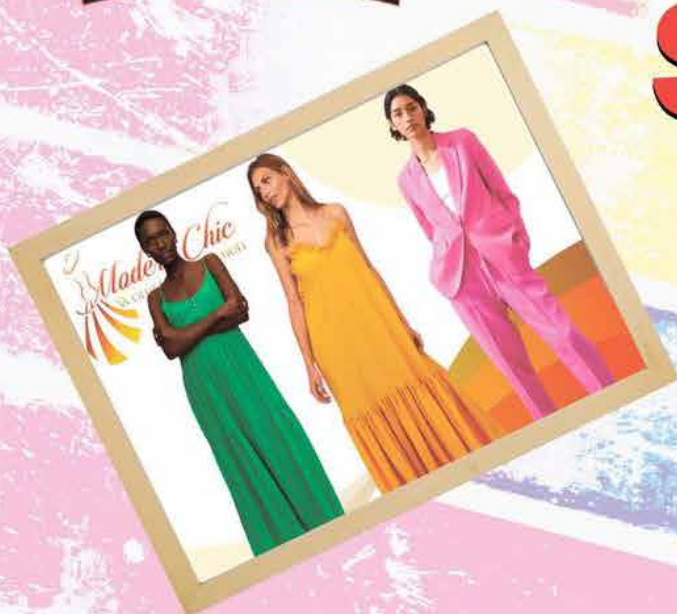
Conrad Willock then pulled a goal back for Young Lions with a 28th minute conversion as the home team trailed JSC Progressors 2-3 at halftime.

After the interval, Defoe scored for the second time in the match with a 40th minute conversion to give JSC Progressors a 4-2 lead. With time running out, DeMarcus Douglas reduced the deficit by scoring Young Lions' third and final goal in the 88th minute.



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ASC and OCS win in Under-20 Boys' Division in school league

Antigua State College pulled off a 2-0 win over Jennings Secondary School in the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football League at the Golden Grove playing field on Friday, 2nd December, 2022.

Cupholders Ottos Comprehensive School prevailed 3-2 against Princess Margaret School (PMS) at the PMS playing field.

Joylan Joseph scored twice in the 45th and 50th minutes and Aquan Singh converted in the 19th minute for Ottos Comprehensive.

Greg Williams scored in the 13th minute and Howayne James netted in the 29th minute for Princess Margaret.

The game between Antigua Grammar School and St. Mary's Secondary School ended in a goalless draw at the King George V. Ground.

Irene B. Williams and All Saints Secondary recorded wins in the East Zone of the Under-20



Antigua State College Schools' Under-20 Boys Division football team. (File photo)

Boys' Division on Thursday, 1st December.

Irene B. Williams hammered Sir Novelle Richards Academy 5-0 at the Potters playing field. Karique Knight scored in the 3rd minute and Tijahni Isaac netted in the 6th minute.

A goal by Dominic Harris in the 15th minute made it 3-0 and Railique Browne extended the lead with a 37th minute con-

version. Zanrick Skepple scored Irene B. Williams' fifth and final goal in the 54th minute.

Malik Charles, Jevaghn Jarvis, Mekhi Russell and Steven Harris each scored once; as All Saints Secondary romped to a 4-0 win over Pares Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Goals by Railique Browne and Kareem Lake gave Irene B. Williams

a 2-0 win over defending champions All Saints Secondary in an Under-16 Boys' Division affair at King George V. Ground on Friday.

Twenty-four hours earlier, captain Jordan Francis achieved a remarkable feat when he scored three free kicks to record a hat-trick to lead Antigua Grammar School to a 5-0 drubbing of Sir Novelle Richards Academy in their Under-16 Boys' Division encounter at the Potters playing field.

Francis scored in the 22nd, 36th and 49th minutes, while the other goals for Antigua Grammar School were scored by striker Javere Joseph in the 7th minute and Jayden Gray in the 23rd minute.

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going to be a tough game and we knew we had to work on our strategy in terms of our blocking and service and things like that. But our defense wasn't where we wanted it to be and I think that is what brought us down in terms of our blocking and our backcourt pick-ups," Isaac said.

"I think that is where we dropped a bit

of the ball and had to fight back from behind. I think that's where we lost our momentum. But it was a good game and we knew from the start that it was going to be a tough challenge."

Earlier on Saturday, ICONS captured third place by beating Sandals 25-20, 25-16 in the playoff between the two losing semi-finalists for the bronze medals.

APUA INET retain Business League volleyball title

APUA INET have retained their Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League title.

The champions of 2019, the last time the competition was held before a two-year absence that was caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, successfully defended their title by cruising to a straight set, 25-20, 25-20 victory over the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) in the final at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night.

It was also sweet revenge for APUA INET, who had suffered their only loss of the entire tournament to ECAB, going under 23-25, 22-25 when both sides met in their final preliminary round game of the competition on Saturday, 26th November.

Both teams had won their respective semi-final on Thursday night to book their places in last Saturday's final.

APUA INET pulled off a straight-set, 25-16, 25-22 victory over Sandals in the first semi-final, while ECAB came from behind to overcome a stiff challenge



APUA INET's player Leena Gore holds the championship trophy with her team during the presentation at the end of the Business League volleyball tournament at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 3rd December, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

from ICONS, prevailing in three sets, 13-25, 25-18, 15-13 in the second semi-final.

Captain of APUA INET, national captain and utility player, Adrian Constant, said his team was able to win the final by reducing the amount of errors they had made against ECAB in their previous meeting in the preliminaries.

"I feel really good about our performance tonight. The last time they beat us, they played an almost perfect game. I have been

watching films since that game and I noticed they only made four mistakes in that game so I knew all we had to do in the final was not to make mistakes," Constant said.

"Well we did make five mistakes tonight (Saturday) in the final and that's what won us the game. In the previous meeting, I had to do too much in that game and it was pretty easy for them to latch on to us.

"But I must commend my teammates who gave me

good support in the final. So we have been watching them and we made the adjustments, hence we are champions again in this completion."

Coach Farida Issac said ECAB gave as best as they could against their opponents. She said ECAB was poor defensively against a strong opponent, which contributed to her team's demise in the final.

"I think we did the best we could. We knew it was
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