

# HUMAN REMAINS FOUND IN WILLIKIES

*Story on Page 2*



*Recipients of National Honours for the period 2019-2021 were conferred with their insignias yesterday during a ceremony on the lawns of Government House. Five Knights and one Dame are joined by their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Sandra Williams and Prime Minister Gaston Browne along with Minister Maria Bird-Browne for an official portrait. Absent is centenarian Dame Ruby Lake-Richards who resides in Canada. Dame Ruby was represented by her stepson Dr. Winston Richards.*

# Local News



## Tragic turn in search for missing Willikies teen



Shamar's immediate family confirmed that the items discovered today at Roome's Estate in North Willikies belonged to the missing teen. According to police, the sad discovery, along with unidentified human remains, were discovered at about 10:30am by a search party about one hour after they set off from the Willikies Police Station. A medical doctor was called in and confirmed that the remains were indeed human. They were then removed to Straffie's Funeral Home.

Almost three weeks after autistic teen, Shamar Harri-gan went missing from his home in Willikies there has been a tragic turn of events.

Yesterday morning, a search party led by the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda with cooperation from the Antigua Barbuda

Search and Rescue and Blue Dragonfly Foundation Incorporated launched a massive search in Willikies for the 19-year-old who was last seen on 14th November.

Ahead of the search through the community's bushland areas, Founder and Chief Executive of the Blue

Dragonfly Foundation, Carol Hopton, said focus was being returned to Shamar's home village as there are vast expanses he could have wandered off into. This proved a wise decision but with a less than desired outcome.

Not long into the search which began at 9am, items identified as belonging to Shamar were found near a pond.

Among the items that were positively identified in an area of overgrowth were a pair of slippers and his favourite backpack.

Tragically, human remains, including a decomposed skull, were found.

Police have said it is too early to speculate whether the remains found belong to the missing young man and the state of decomposition was too far progressed to make a visual identification of the remains.

While there were reports of sightings of Shamar in the weeks since he wandered away from home, none of

them yielded success in the search for the youngster who is described as shy and child-like.

Parliamentary representative for the St. Philip's North, Sir Robin Yearwood, posted a \$5000.00 reward for information leading to the location of Shamar, but the financial incentive failed to bring an end to his family's nightmare.

Over the weekend, Blue Dragonfly's Hopton said her organisation became involved as it intends to provide support to autistic young adults in Antigua and Barbuda.

"We're looking to start services for young adults with autism and these services are desperately needed for young people like Shamar, in fact, to give them the support they need to thrive in the community and to live a fulfilled life within the community."

Police have now launched an investigation into determining the identity of the body that was found following this morning's search.

**POINTE ON DE STREETZ**  
WITH VERNON A. SPRINGER

**TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 8:000 AM**

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## COVID-19-delayed national awards finally presented



*Knackbill Nedd, GCM, right, accepts his national award from Governor General Sir Rodney Williams yesterday.*



*Glendina Jacobs, MM, right, accepts her national award from Governor General Sir Rodney Williams yesterday.*



*Dr. Dwayne Thwaites, OM, right, accepts his national award from Governor General Sir Rodney Williams yesterday.*

The recipients of national awards for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 have finally been presented with their honours after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of in person presentation ceremonies.

Separate events were held on Monday to formally present the honourees with their awards.

Seven people - two women and five men - were presented with their insignias for the honour of Knighthoods and Damehoods at a ceremony on the lawn of Government House on Monday.

This was followed in the afternoon by the ceremony for the recipients of other awards.

Grand Master of the Chancery of the Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, congratulated the national honourees for making the decision to contribute to the public good.

"I am therefore very proud to pres-

ent you with a national honour in recognition of your distinguished service to this great nation of ours.

"Throughout our nation's history, the Antiguan and Barbudan story has been strengthened by those who combine optimism about what can be possible with the resilience to turn that vision into reality," he remarked.

Sir Rodney assured the honourees that he was not alone in applauding those who are willing to step up and serve the communities and country.

"Such patriots are essential to the ongoing work of perfecting the development of our island nation so that it can be preserved so that future generations can enjoy an enhanced quality of life.

"Honourees, by sharing your time, talents, resources and passion in a range of sectors, you are delivering solutions to the challenges we face - solutions that we need now more than ever as we arise from a period of severe testing," he said.

In 2020, Sir Molwyn Joseph was awarded Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation, (KGCN), while Dame Lorna Simon received the title Dame Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation.

In 2021, Sir Hayden Thomas received the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation award, while Dame Ruby B. V. Lake-Richards was awarded Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (DGCN). Sir Joseph John, Sir Reginald Walwyn and Sir Robert Shoul were each awarded the title Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KCN) in 2021.

In 2019, Ronald Randall was named Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (CN), Dr. Dwayne Thwaites, Officer of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit (OM). Glasford Francis,

*cont'd on pg 4*

# Local News



## Senior diplomat: Making oil companies pay for loss and damage a tall order

Antiguan and Barbudan diplomat Sir Ronald Sanders is of the opinion that oil producing companies are equally liable for the damage being done to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) because of global warming.

But holding them liable for their actions may not be a feat that can be achieved anytime soon.

Sir Ronald, who serves as ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States, says while great emphasis is placed on developed nations that are large-scale emitters of greenhouse gases, little attention is given to the companies that operate within their borders that profit on a large scale.

It is those conglomerates, he contends, that should be held responsible for what small countries are made to endure.

While seeing the world's worst fossil fuel emitters be held accountable is a charge being led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and SIDS leaders, Sir Ronald told Pointe FM's Vernon Springer on Monday that achieving this



Sir Ronald Sanders

may be easier said than done.

"It is these companies that are making huge profits, not the countries, and it is these companies that Prime Minister Browne and others have said should be made to pay a tax to the global community to help compensate for loss and damage that has been suffered as a result of the use of fossil fuels for a very long period of time," he said.

According to Sir Ronald, it is unlikely that oil companies will agree to being taxed since their only aim is to turn a profit to recover their investments in oil exploration and to satisfy their investors.

The diplomat explained further that large countries refuse to act because

of their great dependence on and consumption of oil. This Achilles heel has been further exacerbated by the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Therefore, contended Sir Ronald, developed nations are reluctant to hold oil companies liable for loss and damage to SIDS through a system of taxation and would rather provide them with protection to serve their own interests.

"We get no part of their profits. That profit is only repatriated to their headquarter companies in the countries in which they are headquartered, and those countries are principally the United States, Canada, countries in the European Union, Arab [oil] producing countries, the ones that are largely the members of OPEC, and of course, Russia.

"The reality is, we are kind of held over a barrel by them on this and until governments collectively decide to take a firm position that they ought to be taxed in order to pay for some of the damage that has been caused over the years, I fear nothing will happen," Sir Ronald concluded.

*cont'd from pg 3*

OM, Wilbur Purcell, OM, Glendina Jacobs, Member of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit (MM) and Junior Martin, Member of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heri-

tage (MH).

The awardees for 2020 were Winston Gomes, Grand Officer of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit (GOM), Clancy Mack, Officer of the Most Illustrious Order of Princely

Heritage (OH), Keith Frederick, OH, Anderson Joseph Member of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit (MM), Avery Henry, MM, Lt. Carla P. Thomas-Browne, MM, Nurse Soria Dupie-Winston,

MM, Corporal Timothy Philip, Jr., MM, and Wesley Simon, MM.

In 2021 the honourees were Cora Huggins, Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Merit (GCM), Elma Benjamin, GCM, Felicity Richards-Aymer, GCM, Violet Lewis, GCM, Dr. Lester Emanuel, Officer of the Most Illustrious Order OM, Oliver Joseph, OM, Rosannette Kirby, OM and Michael Rose, Officer of the Most Illustrious Order of Princely Heritage (OH).

Tue 06   Day		Tue 06   Night	
<b>82°</b>	9% NW 6 mph	<b>74°</b>	13% NW 6 mph
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 82F. Winds light and variable.		Mainly clear skies. Low 74F. Winds light and variable.	
Humidity <b>67%</b>	UV Index <b>8 of 10</b>	Humidity <b>75%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>6:23 am</b>	Sunset <b>5:33 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>4:26 pm</b>	Moonset <b>4:56 am</b>
		○ Waxing Gibbous	



## PM calls on opposition parties to condemn billboard vandalism; UPP points finger at Labour supporters

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has again condemned the vandalism of political billboards ahead of elections which many observers predict will occur early in 2023.

Over the weekend in a social media post, the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's leader said, "We condemn any destruction or defacing of candidates posters and ask the perpetrator/s to kindly cease and desist."

An ABLP billboard at the intersection of Dickenson Bay Street and Friars Hill Road was severely defaced over the course of

several days last week.

Since then, the ABLP has called on the United Progressive Party and its leaders to also issue statements condemning the criminal acts and calling on its supporters to exercise restraint and decorum in the lead up to the election.

The UPP has not issued any such statement.

Rather, the main opposition party has countered with the suggestion that the ABLP's own supporters are responsible for the acts of vandalism that have involved political campaign material.



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# Local News



## Police officer launches tirade at nightclub

A police constable has found himself on the wrong side of the law following an incident at a nightclub early Saturday morning and now his job is on the line.

Sources say one of the constable's friends was found smoking in the nightclub in contravention of their no smoking policy.

The night club's security guard reported the incident to a police officer who was working in the club. The officer then escorted the offending patron out of the building.

As he was escorted out, he got into a scuffle with another person.

An eyewitness recounted that both people were removed from the building.

This annoyed the off-duty constable who ventured outside in search of his friend.

Armed with a Guinness bottle

which he attempted to hurl, the officer argued that his companion had done nothing wrong.

Efforts to calm down the off-duty policeman were unsuccessful even after other police officers who were present identified themselves to him.

The constable, who is believed to have been intoxicated, became aggressive and unleashed a barrage of expletives at his colleagues who had intervened to quell the problem.

The eyewitness said the commotion drew a large crowd as many of the nightclub's patrons were surprised that the police officer and his friend seemed intent on escalating the matter.

During the incident, a woman believed to be an employee of the establishment was smacked across the face by the out-of-control law enforcement officer for reasons that are unknown.

He also attacked and threatened to

kill a fellow officer. A scuffle ensued between the two, but they were quickly separated.

The Special Services Unit (SSU) received a report and responded to the scene; however, the enraged constable left before they arrived.

According to reports, he returned to the club more than an hour after the initial confrontation occurred. The now partially clothed officer then began driving aimlessly around the parking lot of the nightclub.

It is expected that the officer's outrageous behaviour will land him before the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda's disciplinary committee where he will be held accountable for his erratic behaviour.

Given the egregious nature of the incident, police sources say it is likely that he will be dismissed from the force.

## British High Commission offers grant to assist persons with disabilities

Saturday was commemorated globally as the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

To mark the occasion, the British High Commission, St. John's announced a major grant award to the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, aimed at improving the lives of individuals living with disabilities in Antigua and Barbuda.

The EC\$27,333.00 grant will go towards the development of an aquaponics system for the ministry's Disability Centre,



*Resident British Commissioner, Lindsay Thompson*

which will allow participants to learn how to set up and operate such systems as well as serve as a source of support and income for about twenty people.

In announcing the

grant, Resident British Commissioner, Lindsay Thompson, said its timing was most fitting given the theme of this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, "Trans-

formative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world".

"This grant represents the United Kingdom's continued support for equity across the globe, especially amid United Nations estimates that an eighth of the world's population are differently abled," she said.

"We are pleased to support the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy in this important endeavour to empower and support vulnerable communities in Antigua and Barbuda.



## A&B poised to dominate marine transport in OECS

Ahead of the commissioning of the fifth berth at St. John's Harbour this week, the Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority believes that Antigua and Barbuda is well placed to dominate the marine industry within the OECS and wider Caribbean.

Construction of the fifth berth was completed last February, however its official opening has been delayed several times due to set backs in completing the dredging of the harbour.

This dredging work is critical as the increased depth created will allow the country to accommodate the world's largest Oasis class ships.

Darwin Telemaque said the government's efforts to

modernise the marine sector is positioning Antigua and Barbuda as a frontrunner in the industry.

"I think that is indicating that we intend to be connected on the maritime side. We intend to facilitate not one component of the industry, but we can now lead the region in facilitating the largest cruise ships, the largest mega ships and the largest container ships that serve the region can now come into Antigua."

In addition to the projected boost cruise tourism will enjoy, plans are also being made to establish the country as a hub for shipping in the Eastern Caribbean.

This will further expand the country's ability to offer enhanced logistics, port



*Darwin Telemaque*

and other services which can then be offered to other countries in the region.

According to the port's CEO, Antigua and Barbuda is equipped to be the leader in maritime transport within the sub-region and the time is right to begin the dialogue necessary for the country to break through into this area.

Telemaque said it is now left to the government to open the way for the St.

John's Harbour to establish itself as an OECS maritime hub.

"There are opportunities for public-private partnerships with governments who are interested in supporting transport. So, the time is right now for enterprising minds to get together and create the infrastructure... so the platform is built for the additional elements to come into place."



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## FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY COMMISSION

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### PRESS RELEASE December 02, 2022.

A private legal matter in which the Financial Services Regulatory Commission has been named as the second respondent, which is still before the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, has been the subject of stories published in at least two local newspapers in the past week.

The form, content and some statements expressed within those published stories, in the opinion of the Commission, do not reflect either the factual or legal reality of the case and is likely to mislead the public and harm the reputation of the Financial Services Regulatory Commission and the jurisdiction as these stories are carried by other media within and outside Antigua and Barbuda. The Financial Services Regulatory Commission advises the public by way of the following.

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission is a statutory authority governed by the Financial Services Regulatory Commission Act 2013 (as amended) and is the sole prudential regulator of financial services business carried on within and from within Antigua and Barbuda with the exception of domestic banking institutions licensed by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

The Commission administers of a number of regulatory laws which govern the carrying on of finan-

cial services business including insurance, money services business, co-operatives and international banking.

The carrying on of international banking business from within Antigua and Barbuda is governed by the International Banking Act 2016 (as amended) and assigns exclusive authority to the Commission to administer the Act.

As part of its functions under the Act, the Commission has the authority to issue, suspend and revoke licenses as well as issue peremptory directives to licensees and impose administrative fines for breaches of the Act where lawful to do so.

The Commission, as a public body, has a duty to promote and respect the rule of law in all its actions.

The rule of law includes respecting the right of every person, legal and natural, to be presumed innocent of any charge or claim and consequential action by the Commission until the charge or claim has been established as true and within the authority of the Commission to address.

The rule of law also includes giving the accused party an opportunity to know and give answer to the charge or claim which has been submitted to the Commission in the form of a complaint.

It is to be noted that not every subject of a submitted complaint

is within the authority of the Commission to address and therefore the Commission employs a lawful process to address each submitted complaint in consideration of its duties to protect the rights of all parties. Where a complaint is received from any person the Commission transmits it to the licensee with the aim of determining,

a. Whether the complainant is a bona fide customer/depositor/person with sufficient interest in the complaint;

b. Whether the claims presented in the complaint are factually true;

c. Whether the matter is one that is within the Commission's authority to address and if yes;

d. Where the facts are established, the reason for the action or omission by the licensed institution which has given rise to the complaint;

e. What remedies are being proposed by the licensee to resolve the claim; and

f. What remedial action the Commission is authorized to take in the given situation.

As a prudential regulator the Commission does not ordinarily have the lawful authority to intervene in matters between a depositor and a licensed international banking institution involving withdrawal or demand for deposits especially where the issue in dispute is one that is justiciable in private law.

*cont'd on pg 9*



*cont'd from pg 8*

In all cases a submitted complaint must first be investigated to determine whether the Commission has the lawful authority to intervene and thereafter, if the Commission has such lawful authority, the Commission is bound by natural law to grant the international banking institution an opportunity to give answer to the submitted claim(s).

The Commission does not have the lawful authority, in any situation, to make determinations on points of law which are outside of its statutory provisions and therefore such complainants may exercise their right to access

the Court for resolution of their claim.

Where the Commission has determined that an issue(s) complained of is within its authority to address and the licensee is found to have acted contrary to the regulatory law, the International Banking Act prescribes the administrative actions which the Commission is lawfully authorized to take.

The Commission is a creature of statute and has no authority to do more than the law permits it to do.

The Commission has a duty to all the licensees, their customers and creditors to act lawfully which means its decisions

regarding any submitted complaint must be determined to be within its legal authority to address while its actions thereafter must reasonable, rational, and proportional and must not be beyond its assigned lawful authority.

The procedure used and is used by the Commission in addressing complaints, making determinations and imposing administrative actions is a lawful one which often takes some time which may result in frustration to the complainant but this is not sufficient to permit the Commission to disregard the rights of the accused licensed international banking institution and the law

which exists for the protection of all parties.

Customers of any licensee retain the right to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for redress at any point during the investigation of a complaint by the Commission.

In every case where the Commission has received a complaint from a customer of an international banking institution the above-stated procedure has been followed and where it has been determined that a licensed international banking institution has acted contrary to the law, the Commission has taken the appropriate and proportional action in accordance with the existing law. Ends



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# CARICOM and Cuba to celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties

Today, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of mutually-enriching diplomatic relations between Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Republic of Cuba. These diplomatic ties have played a significant role in enhancing development in the region.

As part of this year's celebrations, the VIII Cuba-Caricom Summit will take place in Barbados on December 6, 2022.

CARICOM Cuba Day is annually observed on the 8th of December, and marks the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between CARICOM Member States, including Antigua and Barbuda, and Cuba.

On December 8th in 1972, the four newly-independent CARICOM Member States, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, had the strategic foresight to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba, despite the strained nature of international relations during the Cold War.

Caribbean leaders Michael Manley, Forbes Burnham, Eric Williams, and Errol Barrow, could not have imagined what the next fifty years would hold in store for the region. However, they were of the view that the relations between Caribbean countries and their



neighbour Cuba would prove to be exceptionally close. The courageous decision constituted a new turning point for CARICOM countries and Cuba, and laid the foundation for the fraternal ties which exist today.

Antiguans and Barbudans in particular should feel proud, as the late former Prime Minister Sir Lester Bryant Bird KNH made a substantial contribution towards the formal observation of CARICOM-Cuba Day.

At the first-ever CARICOM Summit Held in Havana, Sir Lester proposed the annual observance of the 8th of December as "CARICOM-Cuba Day." The CARICOM Heads of Government agreed to Sir Lester's proposal, and adopted the *Havana Declaration*, which outlined the designation of the day as one of the commitments. CARICOM-Cuba Day has been annually commemorated ever since.

Antigua and Barbuda

and Cuba continue to maintain a comprehensive and collaborative partnership across numerous spheres. This year, in response to a request from the Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, cooperation in education intensified, with seven new scholarships being added to the nine already granted for the 2023 academic year.

Over the years, hundreds of young Antiguan and Barbudans have received scholarships to pursue graduate and post graduate studies at Cuban universities.

Today, Cuba remains one of Antigua and Barbuda's most important partners in health cooperation. At present, there are currently seventy-seven (77) health personnel deployed in Antigua and Barbuda as members of the Cuban Medical Brigade, who have been delivering comprehensive health services to the public, and have assisted on the front lines in the fight

against the COVID-19 pandemic. Cuba has developed its own vaccines against the coronavirus, and Antigua and Barbuda was offered the Abdala and Soberana vaccines against Covid-19.

In addition, eleven (11) professionals, including architects, engineers, and mechanics, have been deployed at the Ministry of Public Works.

Two (2) technicians from the Empresa Eléctrica de Cuba established a transformer repair workshop, while a Cuban brigade of four (4) linesmen will be assisting with the maintenance of 11 kilowatt lines.

On CARICOM-Cuba Day, let us take a moment to pause and reflect on the legacy of friendship and solidarity between Caribbean peoples, and fifty years of bilateral cooperation and extensive exchanges. We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation towards the Government and peoples of Cuba for their unwavering support. Happy CARICOM-Cuba Day!





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# Workplace



## The trust crisis facing women leaders

By Josie Cox

Trust in women leaders is falling even as their numbers in high-ranking positions are rising. Why?

More women than ever before are running the world's biggest companies, but research shows that the rise in representation has been accompanied by a fall in trust in female leaders. It paints a grim picture for those who manage to break through the metaphorical glass ceiling.

In November, new data from The Reykjavik Index for Leadership, an annual survey that compares how men and women are viewed in terms of their suitability for positions of power, showed trust in women leaders has fallen markedly throughout the past year. It's the first decline in this measure since Kantar Public, an evidence and advisory public-policy business, started collecting data in 2018.

Across the G7 nations, which include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US, fewer than half of respondents (47%) said they were "very comfortable" having a woman as CEO of a major company in their country, down from 54% a year earlier. Men were significantly more likely than women to be critical of a female leader, and one in 10 respondents said that they would explicitly not be comfortable with a female CEO.

Responses to questions about female political leaders followed a similar pattern: just 45% of those questioned in the G7 said they were "very comfortable" with a woman at the head of their government, down from 52% in 2021.

Though many people are disheartened, academics and experts on leadership and gender are generally not surprised by the research findings, and have different theories on why



*For some people, it's jarring to see women in power when they haven't traditionally been at the head of the table – and this may erode trust (Credit: Getty Images)*

trust in women leaders has declined. They all warn, however, that fixing the trust gap is critical to eradicating bias that permeates every level of companies and institutions.

Traditional status quo

Explanations for diminishing trust in female CEOs vary, but many follow common themes. Some experts argue that institutional misogyny and gender bias has been supercharged by both the recent political landscape and the pandemic.

Danna Greenberg, a professor of organisational behaviour at Babson College in Massachusetts, US, believes women leaving the paid labour market and picking up the bulk of childcare and other domestic chores during Covid-19 resulted in a "hardening of old traditional assumptions" about the role of women at work and in the home. This, Greenberg believes, has had a knock-on effect, making "bias against women more socially acceptable".

She also highlights humans' natural tendency to demonstrate a preference for the familiar, a phenomenon psychologists refer to as the mere-exposure effect, or the familiarity prin-

ciple, which may become more pronounced during times of crisis or uncertainty. "We may be entering a period of economic recession and that means a period of fear," she says. "Fear ignites us to move towards what we've traditionally been taught is safe and secure. And when it comes to leadership, that unfortunately still means men being in charge."

Indeed, global data from the Kantar Public survey of more than 14,000 people – compiled in partnership with the Reykjavik Global Forum annual conference and the Women Political Leaders network – shows that trust levels in female leaders broadly track the trajectory of major global stock market indices over the past few years: as the S&P 500 and FTSE 100 have sold off markedly, trust in women leaders has slumped, too.

In certain countries, some experts believe, there may also be political reasons for attitudes towards female leaders changing. "If you're going to have a national conversation about whether women should even be allowed to take control of their own healthcare, then what do you ex-

*cont'd on pg 13*



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pect?" says Michelle Harrison, global CEO of Kantar Public, referring to the US Supreme Court's June 2022 decision to overturn *Roe v Wade*. In other words, if something as intimate and private as a woman's reproductive rights are publicly questioned, that suggests that her autonomy to do anything in life might be an appropriate matter for general debate.

If a powerful leader is acting a certain way, that can also be perceived as an implicit endorsement of certain behaviour, says Greenberg. Former US president Donald Trump's comments about and behaviours towards women during his term, for example, may well have served to normalise sexism. And that's a factor that's potentially been exacerbated by trends across social media. Research shows that the number of references to violent misogyny appearing online has soared over the past five years.

The preponderance of online content that's misogynistic or encourages violence against women has directly led to a culture of sexism in everyday life, Laura Bates, a British author, campaigner and researcher, wrote in her 2020 book *Men who Hate Women*. This has real-world consequences for women; in a 2021 paper that focused on the US military community, academics Kyleann Hunter and Emma Jouenne found that social media was largely responsible for spreading misinformation about women's ability to meet physical standards for combat arms roles as well as the negative impact women were having on these units' effectiveness.

Fear ignites us to move towards what we've traditionally been taught is safe and secure. And when it comes to leadership, that unfortunately still means men being in charge – Danna Greenberg

A 2020 study from the UK charity Hope Not Hate also established

the connection between what's happening on the internet and attitudes in the real world. The study showed that even though younger generations tended to have more progressive views than older ones, half of all young men surveyed said they felt feminism had "gone too far". Anti-feminism, the researchers concluded, appeals to young men who have grown up online and who might "feel emasculated in an age of changing social norms".

Echoing this, this year's Reykjavík Index for Leadership shows that in certain countries, including Japan and Germany, young people actually hold less progressive views than older generations – meaning they might be less likely to trust women leaders, according to the experts.

#### Part of culture

Another theory for the trust slump is that negative attitudes towards female leaders have been exacerbated simply because more women have moved into positions of power, which has upset the traditional status quo.

"Historically, the workplace and governments have been largely dominated by men, and cultures inadvertently have been created for men. This means that any exception to the norm can be perceived with distrust," says Allyson Zimmermann, executive director for Europe, Middle East and Africa at Catalyst, a global non-profit that works with CEOs and leading companies to build workplaces that work for women. Research conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2020, for example, shows that around one in three American males believes that the gains women have made towards society becoming more gender-equal have come at the expense of men.

Separate research from Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, an associate professor in political science at the University of California, Berkeley, echoes this. "If you've been accustomed to be-

ing at the top – if that's what you've known, how you've been socialised, and what history has taught you – then it is not unreasonable for you to start assuming that, 'We're supposed to be at the top'," she said in a recent interview with UC Berkley's online publication. "As a consequence, if you start believing that there are other groups surpassing you, doing better than you think your group is doing, then it makes sense that you start feeling discontent."

Julie Castro Abrams, CEO and chair of How Women Lead, a US network of more than 13,000 women dedicated to promoting diverse voices and leadership, believes another factor is how society responds to women leaders. "We love to villainise women. It's part of our culture," she says. "When you get more women into leadership, that behaviour starts to come out, because a woman in leadership upsets the accepted narrative that we've all learned... And people love to see women fail because a woman succeeding doesn't fit into the narrative we've all been taught."

Castro also explains that when a high-profile woman is perceived to have failed, she is frequently pointed to as a reason why women shouldn't be in leadership positions. When Hillary Clinton lost the presidential election to Donald Trump, many media outlets asked whether America was really ready for a female president. One study from 2016 by the US Rockefeller Foundation, a philanthropic research organisation, showed when a female CEO's company is in trouble, news stories are much more likely to blame her as the source of the problem than if a male CEO's company is in trouble.

As more women successfully ascend the ranks, experts say it's reasonable to expect more criticism of their personal shortcomings – consid-

*cont'd on pg 14*

# Workplace



*cont'd from pg 13*

er the explosion of publicity around disgraced Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes, recently jailed for misleading the public about the effectiveness of her blood-testing technology. Some commentators have asked why other tech start-up CEOs accused of wrongdoing haven't faced similar treatment; female entrepreneurs meanwhile say they have to convince investors they are not like her.

When a high-profile woman is perceived to have failed, she is frequently pointed to as a reason why women shouldn't be in leadership positions

Research has also shown that women are more likely to be picked for top corporate roles when a company is in turmoil or when the risk of failure is particularly high – a phenomenon known as the 'glass cliff'. In October, Bed Bath & Beyond appointed a female CEO amid a stock

price plummet. Karen Bass recently became mayor of Los Angeles as the city grapples with a brutal homeless crisis and corruption. Perhaps most notably, the UK's briefly serving Prime Minister Liz Truss – appointed amid shaky economic conditions and political upheaval – plunged over the glass cliff on a global stage. Each case of failure potentially further dents trust in women leaders.

Few reasons for optimism

Across many cultures and workplaces, gendered bias is entrenched and therefore extremely stubborn, meaning that a quick solution to stamping it out will never exist. Considering the slow but steady rise in female representation at the top of companies, however, it might be reasonable to assume that trust in women leaders would reliably mirror that gradual but undeniable trend.

The latest data is therefore particularly depressing, says Kantar Pub-

lic's Michelle Harrison. "I'm really struggling to find reasons to be optimistic," she says.

Others agree that the research is a gut punch, and that it's too early to tell whether this is a temporary backlash to progress – a case of two steps forward, one step back – or a more sustained reversal of any progress previously achieved toward gender equity.

The evolution of the political landscape, the economy and social factors, say experts, will likely determine the trajectory of trust in the years ahead.

One critical component to remember, maintains Harrison, is that this is not about the role of individuals of one particular gender. "This is not about fixing women and it's not about fixing men," she says, "but about changing deep-seated norms within our society. And right now, those aren't moving."

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## Caribbean-Americans climb the ranks of US Congressional Black Caucus

The United States Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has elected two Caribbean American Congressional Representatives to top positions for the 118th US Congress.

The CBC elected Trinidadian American, Steven Horsford, who represents Nevada's 4th Congressional District, as chair, and Jamaican American Yvette D. Clarke, who represents New York's 9th Congressional District, as first vice chair.

Both will be sworn in when the new session of the US Congress begins in January and along with other Black Congressional Representatives, were elected for a two-year term.

"Thank you to my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for electing me the 28th Chair of our historic group," Horsford said in a statement.

"Over the last 50 years, the CBC has served as the 'conscience of the Congress,' helping guide the legislative priorities that have shaped our nation and helped improve the lives of African Americans and all our constituents.

"As chair, I will provide the leadership, strategic vision and execute on our plans to guide us on a path that will deliver positive socioeconomic outcomes for the communi-



*Trinidadian American, Steven Horsford*

ties and constituencies we serve," he added.

"As chair of the CBC, I will be able to put a spotlight on the hard-working people of the 4th Congressional District and advocate for our broad coalition of people that make Nevada tick," he said.

Horsford was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada to Trinidadian Pamela Horsford, while his African American father, Gary Shelton, was killed when Horsford was 19.

Clarke, a senior member of both the U House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee and House Committee on Homeland Security, where she serves as chair of the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Innovation Subcommittee,

thanked her CBC colleagues for their support, stating that she is "blessed" to be serving with them in the forthcoming 118th Session of Congress.

"Serving on the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 118th Congress is more than a privilege but an obligation that I do not take lightly," she told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

"Each new Congress presents an opportunity for our 60-member-strong caucus to advance legislation and policy to address the myriad of persistent inequities that continue to impact Black communities across our country.

"Before us, today, countless new dimensions to these historic challenges

continue to confront Congress, and we, as a caucus, must remain vigilant if we are to overcome them.

"I have no doubt the dynamic talent and capabilities of our new Executive Committee will drive this truly extraordinary and remarkable caucus towards unseen heights and untold possibilities, from within the US Congress and beyond, into the many beloved communities that are integral to the strengthening and growth of our nation.

"I have no doubt that our members will continue to build upon the success of our predecessors, support and uplift the causes so vital to the advancement of people of African descent," Clarke said.

"Much in our nation and our Congress has changed since the days of bold and audacious actions from the likes of Shirley Chisholm and Charlie Rangel when they, alongside 11 of their Congressional colleagues, established the Congressional Black Caucus.

"What has not changed and will forever endure is the mission of this caucus."

The late Chisholm, whose parents hailed from Barbados and Guyana, became the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress in 1968. (CMC)

# Regional News

## Jamaica to provide stiffer penalties for environmental breaches

CNW - Jamaica's Wildlife Protection Act and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act will be revised to impose harsher fines and penalties for breaches.

The announcement was made by Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator Matthew Samuda during the State of the Nation Debate in the Upper House on December 2.

Samuda said those who have broken the laws and polluted with little to no repercussions will now face

greater consequences, with changes taking effect before the completion of the financial year.

Samuda also shared that the Wildlife Protection Act amendments will allow Jamaica to meet its international obligations.

He noted that Jamaica signed the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) protocol in 1990. The SPAW Protocol takes an ecosystem approach and provides a unique legal framework for the region's biodiversity conservation.

"Now Jamaica has been unable to accede to the pro-



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Matthew Samuda.

ocol and be fully compliant amend the Wildlife Protection Act. This Administration because of the failure to

*cont'd on pg 17*



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## St. Vincent: PM Gonsalves calls on United States to “leave Cuba alone”

CMC-The Biden administration in the United States has been called on to stop spreading false information about the government and people of Cuba.

The call was made by Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves on Sunday as he met with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who is on the island for a three-day official visit.

According to Gonsalves, the United States has no understanding of the selflessness of Cubans and due to the lack of knowledge lies are being told constantly.

“Well, you really do a disservice to the fight against the global crime of human trafficking when you exploit the name “human trafficking” in that way and pervert it into nothingness, utilising international law on trafficking to suit your ideological and hegemonic aims,” he said.

“The Cuban brothers and sisters, the internationalist workers who are here,



Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves and President of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel. (Photo credit: API)

we request from time to time the help of the Cuban government and people, and you come to us voluntarily, and the United States of America must stop this lie.” “If they want to win affection in that regard, support a programme by Americans to provide a similar service to countries like ours, which may need that service,” Gonsalves said.

The Vincentian Prime Minister emphasised that

while his country has a friendly relationship with the United States – he will not “embrace their follies”.

“We are friends of all and we strive for a better world, but don’t ask me, this government, to embrace your follies, your absurdities, which are determined not by any logic or common sense, not by considerations of humanity, but because of presidential, senatorial, Congressional, and guber-

natorial politics, especially in South Florida, where you have a significant number of anti-revolutionary Cubans,” he stated.

“So I make this plea to my American brothers and sisters, leave Cuba alone in its internationalist humanitarian mission. I make bold to say that since the dawn of civilization there is no country in the world, no people who have been as selfless as revolutionary Cuba and its people.”

The Cuban President arrived here on Saturday for an official visit during which he will aim to further boost relations of friendship and cooperation with St Vincent and the Grenadines and other Caribbean nations.

He will also participate at the 8th Summit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to take place on Tuesday in Barbados.

**cont’d from pg 16**

tion will address this legacy issue before the end of this fiscal year,” Samuda said.

He further said the government will move to create a designation under the NRCA Act for ecologically sensitive areas, as it will provide a greater level of protection for areas with environmental sensitivities.

He shared that the Government has already selected 16 areas, nine of which will be in the coastal zone. Great Bay in Southwest St. Elizabeth will be the first design-

nated area.

“This will mean that activities such as the illegal sand mining we saw earlier in the year will not be permitted and will not be considered by any government in the future. The work to create this designation is virtually complete, I await the prime minister’s signature for us to bring it to you,” he said.

Senator Samuda said Jamaica must become a centre of excellence in environmental management and climate change challenges.

# Regional News



## US Coast Guard transfers 79 Haitian migrants to The Bahamas

CMC-The United States Coast Guard says the crew of the cutter Rolin Fritch transferred 79 Haitians to Bahamian authorities on Saturday following two suspected smuggling ventures about eight miles east of Lake Worth Inlet in Southern Florida.

The US Coast Guard said officials at Palm Beach Sheriff's Office notified Sector Miami watch standers of a suspicious 30-foot boat that was taking on water, on November 25, at approximately 10:30 p.m.

"Smugglers do not care whether your loved ones live or die," said Acting Lieutenant Nicholas Fujimoto, Coast Guard District Seven.

"Don't waste your hard-earned

money on smugglers and illegal voyages," he warned.

Amid continuing gang warfare and a vacuum of law and order, Haiti is "on the verge of an abyss" said the United Nations human rights chief Volker Türk, warning that any hope of a sustainable recovery requires "urgent and sustained action" to tackle the root causes of the overlapping crises afflicting the island nation.

More migrants are taking the dangerous journey at sea as Haiti has descended into the worst human rights and humanitarian situation in decades. Food insecurity is also on the rise, with a record 4.7 million, nearly half of the population – facing acute hunger. Poor



sanitation and lack of safe water supplies have led to a so far uncontrolled cholera outbreak.

Since October 1, 2022, US Coast Guard said crews have interdicted 584 Haitian migrants compared to 7,175 in Fiscal Year 2022; 1,527 in Fiscal Year 2021; 418 in Fiscal Year 2020; 932 in Fiscal Year 2019; 609 in Fiscal Year 2018; and 419 in Fiscal Year 2017.

## US orders chemicals removed at USVI oil refinery

AP— The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday ordered the owners of an oil refinery in the U.S. Virgin Islands to remove thousands of pounds of chemicals from the site, warning that its pipes and valves are severely corroded and in disrepair.

The EPA estimates that more than 40,000 pounds (18,000 kilograms) of anhydrous ammonia and more than 37,000 pounds (16,000 kilograms) of liquefied petroleum gas are stored at the refinery in St. Croix. It also ordered the removal of hydrogen sulfide.

The order comes after the EPA inspected the refinery in September and found serious deficiencies that could lead to a fire or chemical release, including



pipework and valves on LPG units that are severely corroded and in disrepair. Last month, the EPA announced the oil refinery could not resume operations without obtaining a clean air permit.

The refinery was forced to pause operations in May 2021 following an EPA emergency order, with the

agency noting that the facility is located near marginalised communities where people have been sickened and schools forced to close.

The refinery, once the largest in the Western Hemisphere, was built in the mid-1960s and became the largest private employer in the U.S. Virgin Islands at the time.

It was originally owned by Hovensa, a joint venture of U.S.-based Hess Corp. and Venezuela's state-owned oil company, that shuttered the facility in 2012 following multimillion-dollar losses.

It then served as an oil storage terminal until Limetree Bay Energy restarted the refinery in February 2021 after buying it in 2016. However, the EPA suspended its petroleum refining and processing operations last year following a series of environmental violations.

The refinery is currently owned by Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation LLLP and West Indies Petroleum Limited, which did not return a message seeking comment.



## Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa president's fate in hands of the ANC

BBC - Leaders of South Africa's governing party are meeting to discuss President Cyril Ramaphosa's future amid a corruption scandal that has led to calls for him to resign.

A panel of legal experts said last week that Mr Ramaphosa may have broken the law by allegedly covering up the theft of a large sum of cash at his farm.

The president's spokesman described the report as "flawed".

Speaking on Sunday, Mr Ramaphosa said his fate was in his party's hands.

The meeting of the African National Congress' executive committee - its top decision-making body - comes a day after a smaller

group of leaders met to discuss the issue, but failed to reach a conclusion.

Mr Ramaphosa's legal team is also expected to lodge papers with the country's Constitutional Court on Monday to undertake a legal review of the report by the panel that was appointed by the speaker of parliament.

The scandal erupted in June, when a former South African spy boss, Arthur Fraser, filed a complaint with police accusing the president of hiding a theft of \$4m (£3.25m) in cash from his Phala Phala game farm in 2020.

Mr Ramaphosa admitted that some money, which had been hidden in a sofa,



*Cyril Ramaphosa came to power in 2018 on a mission to clean up corruption*

had been stolen, but said it was \$580,000 not \$4m.

The president said the \$580,000 had come from the sale of buffalo, but the panel, headed by a former chief justice, said it had "substantial doubt" about

whether a sale took place.

The panel's findings have been handed to parliament, which is set to examine them and decide whether or not to launch impeachment proceedings

*cont'd on pg 20*

## Oxford Dictionaries names 'goblin mode' its word of the year

AP— Asked to sum up 2022 in a word, the public has chosen a phrase.

Oxford Dictionaries said Monday that "goblin mode" has been selected by online vote as its word of the year.

It defines the term as "a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations."

First seen on Twitter in 2009, "goblin mode" gained popularity in 2022 as people around the world emerged uncertainly from pandemic lockdowns.

"Given the year we've just experienced, 'goblin mode' resonates with all of us who are feeling a little overwhelmed at this point," said Oxford



Languages President Casper Grathwohl.

The word of the year is intended to reflect "the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past twelve months." For the first time this year's winning phrase was chosen by public vote, from among three finalists selected by Oxford Languages lexicographers: goblin mode, metaverse and the hashtag IStandWith.

Despite being relatively unknown offline, goblin mode was the overwhelming favourite, winning 93% of the more than 340,000 votes cast.

The choice is more evidence of a world unsettled after years of pandemic turmoil, and by the huge changes in behaviour and politics brought by social media.

Last week Merriam-Webster announced that its word of the year is "gaslighting" — psychological manipulation intended to make a person question the validity of their own thoughts.

In 2021 the Oxford word of the year was "vax" and Merriam-Webster's was "vaccine."

## UK's Labour promises to abolish 'undefensible' House of Lords

Aljazeera - Labour leader Keir Starmer promises 'the biggest ever transfer of power from Westminster to the British people'.

Britain's opposition Labour party has promised to scrap the unelected and "undefensible" House of Lords as part of a constitutional revamp to redistribute economic growth after Brexit.

Labour looks set to take power in the next election, due by January 2025, streaking far ahead of the governing Conservatives in opinion polls after a tumultuous period politically and economically.

Labour leader Keir Starmer on Monday promised "the biggest ever transfer of power from [the UK parliament in] Westminster to the British people", arguing that many voters in 2016 opted to quit the European Union because of a sense of lack of democratic control.

The party's blueprint for reform, drafted by former PM Gordon Brown, envisions new devolution to the UK's regions and countries including Scotland, where the nationalist government is pressing for a new referendum on independence.

Brown, who led the successful 2014 campaign for his fellow Scots to stay in the United Kingdom, proposed greater devolution, with the Edinburgh parliament included in international agreements that involve



Labour looks set to take power in the next election [File: Jessica Taylor/UK Parliament handout via AFP]

Scottish areas.

Addressing an audience in Leeds, northern England, Starmer said a "failure of economic growth over the past 12 years" under Conservative rule was caused in part by the UK failing as a whole to power growth, relying too much on London and southeast England.

The blueprint is not yet Labour policy. It now goes to public consultation, with agreed changes set to be incorporated into the party's next election manifesto.

Starmer said he hoped to push through the eventual reforms within the first five years of a Labour government, possibly including the rede-

ployment of 50,000 civil service jobs out of London.

Tackling widespread public disgust with perceived malpractice in parliament, the proposals would clamp down on MPs holding second jobs and create a new anti-corruption commissioner.

The 40-point plan's centrepiece is to scrap the upper house of parliament in its current guise – which is a mixture of political appointees, hereditary peers and Church of England bishops.

"I think the House of Lords is undefensible. Anybody who looks at the House of Lords would struggle to say that it should be kept," Starmer told BBC television.

"So we want to abolish the House of Lords and replace it with an elected chamber that has a really strong mission."

Brown proposed a new assembly comprising members drawn from the UK's regions and countries – a "smaller, more representative and democratic" chamber, although details will be left to the consultation.

**cont'd from pg 19**  
against the president.

The president is also under pressure from the opposition, as well as rivals within the ANC, to resign.

But the ANC leaders could instruct its MPs to back Mr Ramaphosa, when the issue is due to be discussed by parliament on Tuesday.

The scandal is especially damaging for the president because he came to power vowing to clear up the corruption which had dogged the country under his predecessor, Jacob Zuma.

The ANC remains deeply divided between supporters of Mr Zuma and those who back Mr Ramaphosa.



# Protests as Sudan military, parties sign initial transition deal

Aljazeera - Both sides agree on a plan for an eventual transition to civilian rule, but further talks are needed, and protesters say transitional justice must be included.

Sudan's military and political parties have signed a framework deal that provides for a two-year, civilian-led transition towards elections and would end a standoff triggered by a coup in October 2021.

However, key dissenters, including anti-military protest groups and factions loyal to former leader Omar al-Bashir, who was overthrown in 2019, oppose it.

The initial agreement signed on Monday would limit the military's formal role to a security and defence council headed by a prime minister, but leaves sensitive issues including transitional justice and security sector reform for further talks.

The deal also stipulates that the military will form part of a new "security and defence council" under the appointed prime minister. The agreement also vows to unify Sudan's armed forces and impose controls on military-owned companies.

It is the first of at least



*Sudanese opposition groups have been protesting regularly since a military coup in October 2021 [File: Marwan Ali/AP Photo]*

two planned accords and was signed by Sudan's two ruling generals, Abdel-Fattah Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, and the leaders from the country's largest pro-democracy group, Forces of Freedom and Change, at the Republican Palace in Khartoum.

In response to the signing, the pro-democracy Resistance Committee leaders called for demonstrations against the agreement.

They believe that transitional justice and security sector reform must be included in any deal from the

start.

Hiba Morgan, reporting from the Republican Palace, said that anti-military protesters say the deal "doesn't meet their aspirations" and that they had been "excluded from the talks".

Protests broke out in at least two areas of Khartoum before the signing ceremony at the presidential palace.

The United States and several other countries on Monday welcomed the signing of the deal.

The US, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab

Emirates and the United Kingdom "welcome the agreement of an initial political framework," a joint statement issued by the US State Department said.

The military has not appointed a new prime minister since last year's coup, which halted a power-sharing arrangement between the military and the FFC.

The coup led to more than a year of mass protests against the military and the suspension of billions of dollars in international financial assistance, deepening an economic crisis.



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## Neymar returns to Brazil's lineup, scores at World Cup

AP — Neymar started against South Korea in the round of 16 of the World Cup on Monday and scored in the first half to move one goal shy of Pelé's all-time scoring record with Brazil.

Neymar converted a 13th-minute penalty kick to help Brazil build a 4-0 lead in the first half with the second goal of the match. Vinícius Júnior, Richarlison and Lucas Paquetá also scored for Brazil.

Neymar has 76 goals with Brazil, one shy of the all-time record set by Pelé.

The star forward hadn't played since injuring his right ankle in the team's opening match against Serbia. Brazil coach Tite had said Neymar would play



*Brazil's Neymar celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Brazil and South Korea, at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)*

from the start at Stadium 974 depending on how he did in training on Sunday.

Daniilo, who also injured his ankle in Brazil's

opener, joined Neymar in the starting lineup against South Korea. He played at left back, though, because Alex Sandro remained

sidelined with a hip injury. The other left back, Alex Telles, was dropped from the squad because of a knee injury sustained in Brazil's loss to Cameroon in its last group game. Central defender Éder Militão was playing at right back.

Neymar's teammates in attack were Vinícius Júnior, Richarlison and Raphinha.

Gabriel Jesus also was dropped from the squad because of a knee injury.

Brazil is trying to reach the World Cup quarterfinals for the eighth straight time. South Korea hasn't made it past the last 16 since its historic run to the semifinals in the tournament it co-hosted in 2002.

## Cristiano Ronaldo: Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr make offer for Portugal forward

BBC - Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr have made a huge offer to sign Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo after the World Cup.

A number of clubs have expressed interest in him, with Al-Nassr's offer the biggest at around 200m euros a year, according to reports.

Ronaldo, 37, is a free agent after his Manchester United contract was terminated last month following a controversial interview.

He criticised the club and said he had "no respect" for manager Erik ten Hag.

In the interview with TalkTV, he also said he turned down a £305m

deal to join a Saudi Arabian club in the summer - a move that would have seen him become the highest-paid footballer in the world.

It is understood Ronaldo is fully committed to Portugal's World Cup campaign and is not intending to make a decision about his future plans until that is over.

Portugal face Switzerland in the last 16 in Qatar on Tuesday.

Earlier in the tournament, Ronaldo became the first man to score at five World Cups as he converted a penalty in their 3-2 group stage win against Ghana.

Although he is a free agent, Ronal-

do is not allowed to sign for a new club until 1 January as he was contracted to United when the last transfer window closed.

He must also serve a two-game ban at domestic level with any new club - in England or abroad - for knocking a phone out of an Everton fan's hand last season.

Ronaldo scored 145 goals in 346 appearances for United over two spells, leaving for Real Madrid in 2009 before returning to Old Trafford from Juventus in 2021.

He had just over seven months remaining on his £500,000-a-week contract with United.

# Sports News



## Nick Bollettieri, coach to many tennis stars, dead at age 91

By Howard Fendrich and Steven Wine

AP-Nick Bollettieri, the Hall of Fame tennis coach who worked with some of the sport's biggest stars, including Andre Agassi and Monica Seles, and founded an academy that revolutionised the development of young athletes, has died. He was 91.

Bollettieri died Sunday night at home in Florida after a series of health issues, his manager, Steve Shulla, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Monday.

"When he became sick, he got so many wonderful messages from former students and players and coaches. Many came to visit him. He got videos from others," Shulla said. "It was wonderful. He touched so many lives and he had a great send-off."

Known for his gravelly voice, leathery skin and wraparound sunglasses — and a man who called himself the "Michelangelo of Tennis" despite never playing professionally — Bollettieri helped no fewer than 10 players who went on to be No. 1 in the world rankings. That group includes sisters Serena and Venus Williams, Jim Courier, Maria Sharapova, Agassi and Seles.

"Our dear friend, Nick Bollettieri, graduated from us last night. He gave so many a chance to live their dream," Agassi wrote on Twitter. "He



Monica Seles, right, helps Nick Bollettieri with a blazer as Hall of Fame chairman of the board Christopher Clouser, left, looks on during Bollettieri's induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I., Saturday, July 12, 2014. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, File)

showed us all how life can be lived to the fullest... Thank you, Nick."

Bollettieri remained active into his 80s, touring the world to drop in on the top tournaments and, in 2014, became only the fourth coach to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. That was the same year another one of his proteges, Kei Nishikori, reached the final of the U.S. Open.

Six of his pupils already are in the Hall of Fame, a number sure to grow once others are eligible.

"I forged my own path, which others found to be unorthodox and downright crazy," Bollettieri said in his induction speech at the hall in Newport, Rhode Island. "Yes, I am crazy. But it takes crazy people to do things that other people say cannot be done."

The Bollettieri Tennis Academy opened in 1978 in

Bradenton, Florida, and was purchased by IMG in 1987.

The IMG Academy now spans more than 600 acres and offers programs in more than a half-dozen sports in addition to tennis.

Bollettieri was an educator who would brag he never read a book, never mind that he majored in philosophy in college and even gave law school a try, albeit for less than a year.

He also was an adept self-promoter — one who would publish a pair of autobiographies — no matter that detractors dismissed him as a hustler and huckster. The truth is, any criticism was no match for the astounding success of his pupils.

His teaching methods were widely copied and tennis academies dot the globe today.

"Our sport lost one of its most passionate coaches

& advocates," Hall of Fame member Billie Jean King wrote on Twitter. "Nick was always positive & was able to get the best out of everyone fortunate enough to work w/ him."

Bollettieri's first student to reach No. 1 was Boris Becker in 1991. Then came others, such as Martina Hingis, Marcelo Rios and Jelena Jankovic.

Just as rewarding, Bollettieri said, were the successes of less accomplished players. "The fuel that has sustained me to the summit is, without a doubt, my passion to help others become champions of life, not champions just on the tennis court," he said. "Nothing makes me more happy than when I run into a past student or receive a kind note telling me how I changed their lives, that they are better parents, lawyers, doctors, CEOs and people because of the impact I made on their lives."

Bollettieri's devotion to his players came at a cost. For much of his career, he was on the road nine months out of every year, and he cited his travel schedule as one reason he was married eight times.

Survivors include his wife, Cindi, seven children and four grandchildren, according to Shulla, who said a celebration of Bollettieri's life is planned for March.

Nicholas James Bollettieri  
*cont'd on pg 25*



## Chase and Joseph battle hard but Aussies go 1-0 up

CWI-Roston Chase and Alzarri Joseph combined for a record eight-wicket partnership which at one stage looked like it would give West Indies hope of saving the match but they both succumbed to spin which secured a victory for the hosts.

Chase, batting atn8, then carried the fight with 55 – his 10th Test fifty – in a precious 82-run, eighth wicket partnership with Joseph who entertained with a bold 43. This took the score from 233-7 to 315 when Joseph was eighth man out midway through the second session. West Indies were eventually bowled out for 333, with the best bowler being off-spinner Nathan Lyon with 6-128, while Travis Head had 2-25 with his off-breaks.

While Chase faced 85 balls in nearly 2-¼ hours and counted three fours and a six, Joseph used the long handle,

and hit four fours and three sixes off 73 balls. Joseph eventually played down the wrong line to the occasional spin of Head and was bowled and Chase was ninth out, lofting Lyon to deep mid-wicket where Mitchell Starc took a tumbling catch.

Captain Kraigg Brathwaite was West Indies best batter in the match with scores of 64 and 110 – when he was dismissed on the final morning to a superb delivery from Lyon.

Speaking after the match he said: “It’s good to see the fight from the batters, but still a lot of improvement to be done. There was consideration to go for runs if we had wickets, but losing wickets put us under pressure.”

Chase noted, “Throughout this match we really applied ourselves and worked hard. Before the match the captain called for a ‘fight’



and asked that we play five days or hard Test cricket. He led from the front with the bat, with a great century in the second innings and gave us the belief. We played with great spirit and commitment. We now have to regroup and come again tougher in Adelaide. We believe we can do it there.”

The series will now move to Adelaide in South Australia for the second and final Test which will be the first ever pink-ball day/night con-

test between two teams. The match bowls off at Adelaide Oval on Thursday at 2:30pm (12 midnight Eastern Caribbean/11pm Wednesday Jamaica). The return of the visitors to the iconic venue will mark the 30-year anniversary of one of the greatest Test matches ever seen in Adelaide when West Indies won by a single run. It will be the West Indies seventh and final match of the year. They have so far won three, drawn two and lost one.

### cont'd from pg 24

tieri was born July 31, 1931, in Pelham, New York. He earned a philosophy degree and played tennis at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, and was a paratrooper in the Army before enrolling in law school at the University of Miami.

For spending money, Bollettieri began teaching tennis for \$1.50 an hour, according to the Hall of Fame. More than 60 years later, his fee was \$900.

After a few months, he dropped out of law school to concentrate on coaching. At first, he conceded, knowledge of tennis technique wasn't his forte.

“I didn't know much about teaching

the game,” he said. “The gift God gave me was the ability to read people.”

Bollettieri won praise for his motivational skills, yelling when he deemed it necessary. He had an eye for talent and was a visionary regarding boot-camp training for young athletes who lived together.

He bought a club in 1978, and students lived in his house. Two years later, he borrowed \$1 million from a friend to build a first-of-its-kind complex in what had been a tomato field.

The site now has a boarding school, 55 tennis courts and facilities for seven other sports, including football, basket-

ball and baseball.

Running a business wasn't Bollettieri's strong suit, and he sold the academy to IMG but continued to work there, stressing a tactical approach that transformed tennis. He urged players to take advantage of modern racket technology, emphasising power over finesse.

The academy churned out big hitters who relied on their serve and forehand to overpower opponents. That approach worked for Agassi, Seles, Courier and many others.

“In my dreams,” Bollettieri confessed with a grin, “I say, ‘Nick, you're darn good.’”

# Sports News



## ABBA tips off new season with Division Two contest

The Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) officially tipped off its 2023 domestic season with an official opening ceremony to commence the Division Two competition at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, 4th December.

In attendance were a number of the 16 teams that will be participating in the league and Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew.

Traditionally, the ABBA domestic season usually commences with one official opening ceremony that features the teams in all divisions with the competitions being played simultaneously. But President of the ABBA Michael Freeland said the national association decided to slightly move away from its tradition in an effort to give more recogni-

tion to the second division by starting that competition by itself instead of next year with the first division, which is slated to commence in January, 2023.

"I feel excited basketball is back. We have had several competitions throughout this year to keep people engaged and interested in basketball and so today (Sunday) we have changed the format slightly," Freeland said.

"Usually, the basketball would have started with both divisions one and two simultaneously, but this time we decided to give Division Two some love, let them have their own experiences for at least the first eight to 10 weeks and then we will begin the Division One.

"Once the Division One

would have started, we will also be playing some Division Two games on the same nights as well. We are trying to impact the influence and the fan expectations of not just coming to watch a Division One game, but also the Division Two matches and we are trying to give them the respect that they deserved."

The Division Two league will be contested over two zones with each zone winner gaining promotion to First Division next season.

"This year we will field 16 teams. We will have two separate zones – A and B with eight teams in each zone and the winners of those zones will advance to the Division One programme next season," Freeland said.



*President of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association Michael Freeland. (File photo)*

"For the playoffs, the top four teams in each zone will be ranked one to eight based on their overall record in the Division Two league and they will be contesting the playoffs.

"The first round in the playoffs will be a single game knockout, the second round will be a best of three and the finals will be a best of five series."

## Willikies get first win in premier division

Willikies have secured their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division.

The men from Willikies pulled off a 2-0 victory against Greenbay Hoppers in the opening game of what should have been a triple header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday night.

D'Jarie Sheppard scored both goals on either side of halftime with conversions in the 8th and 65th minutes to give Willikies their first win in two outings.

Willikies lost 1-0 to Jennings Grenades in their opening encounter. For

the second successive week, Liberta Black Hawks failed to show up for their scheduled encounter in the premier league.

After failing to turn up for their opening-round encounter against All Saints United the previous week, the Black Hawks were again a no-show for their match against Ottos Rangers on Sunday.

However, there was play in the third scheduled encounter in which Cedar Grove Blue Jays and Swetes fought to a 1-1 draw.

The Blue Jays made a good start to the encounter when Lyndon Goodwin scored in the first minute to give Cedar

Grove a 1-0 lead.

Swetes equalized in added on time as Roy Gregory scored in (45+1 minute) to level the score 1-1 at halftime.

However, both teams were unable to breach each other's defense for the rest of the game and had to settle for a share of the points.

There will be more football action today (Tuesday) with three matches in the ABFA's Second Division at 4:30 pm.

Jennings United will host FC Master Ballers at Jennings, ABAYA will entertain English Harbour at Parham and Real Blizzard will welcome CPT-SA Wings at New Winthorpes.



## President Gonsalves issues update to ABFA member clubs

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) Everton “Batow” Gonsalves has given an update to member clubs as to his personal well-being and his current administration.

Shortly after the ABFA’s Extra Ordinary Congress on 25th April, Gonsalves, who was re-elected to serve as president for the fourth consecutive four-year term at the helm of the ABFA has been visibly absent from the day-to-day running of his administration.

However, he issued an update via a letter, which was distributed to ABFA’s member clubs on Sunday. Gonsalves indicated his absence is due to challenges with his health for which he had to travel overseas to seek treatment.

“It is common knowledge that several months ago, I retreated from the football frontline to surmount a health challenge. I am back on island now having spent some time abroad receiving treatment.

“I am happy to report that I am feeling better, buoyed by the treatment, a good prognosis, and the prayers and well wishes from many of you,” the letter stated.

“In a relatively short period, I will travel again for follow-up. In the while, I remain apprised of the daily operations of the ABFA and steadfast in confidence that our Executive Committee will continue to execute our mandate faithfully.”

In his letter, Gonsalves indicated that he has appointed Vice-President Daryl Michael and Gwen Salmon to act in his absence.

“Before I traveled earlier this year, I appointed Vice Presidents Daryl Michael and Gwendolyn



*President of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) Everton “Batow” Gonsalves. (File photo)*

Salmon to act in my absence. VP Michael, as chair of the Finance Committee, oversees the financial aspects and, with General Secretary Rohan Hector, the day-to-day operations.

“VP Salmon, chair of the Competitions Committee, with her vast experience in competitions locally and internationally, oversees competitions, including the return of local football.

“They both continue to work closely with the General Secretary

and the rest of the Executive Committee in accordance with the rules and regulations and our strategic agenda.”

Gonsalves also expressed his gratitude to the ABFA’s Executive Committee, general secretary and staff for their roles in the handling of the administration during his absence.

“Football is a team sport, and one of the hallmarks of effective administration is the team.

“I wish to publicly thank the Executive Committee, the General Secretary and the staff of the ABFA for keeping the ball in play and for affording me the confidence and grace to contribute from the bench.

“I am pleased to report that the ABFA has kept fidelity to the agenda since you gave us a new mandate, with work on and off the pitch.”

Gonsalves also indicated that the second tranche of Covid relief funds will be shortly released to member clubs.

“The 2022-23 Football season has opened after extensive consultations with the clubs and stakeholders.

“Additionally, I conferred with General Secretary Hector and can confirm that the second tranche of the Covid relief funds will be released shortly.

“Further, I have asked the General Secretary to present, to the ABFA Executive, at its next meeting due shortly, a plan that will provide additional funding to the participating clubs, to ease the financial burden most members are experiencing after such a long layoff. We will disseminate information pertaining to this in due course.”

## England Women win 1st CG United ODI against West Indies Women

England Women won the first CG United against West Indies Women by 142 runs at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

A special day as Shemaine Campbelle was playing her 100th ODI for the West Indies Women. Captain Hayley Matthews won the toss and sent England Women in to bat first on a breezy afternoon.

Cherry Ann Fraser and Chinelle Henry accounted for the first two England wickets to fall inside the first seven overs. Alice Capsey knicked one behind to Kycia Knight to depart for 17.

Then Shakera Selman held on to a beautiful diving catch in the deep for Fraser to remove Sophia Dunkley for eight. Nat Sciver and Tammy Beaumont then consolidated and went about rebuilding the England innings, until Afy Fletcher broke the 42-run partnership, getting Beaumont to hole out to Henry for 33.

Sciver and Danni Wyatt then accounted for a 103-run partnership which positioned England towards a 300-run total. Sciver fell for a 96-ball 90 when Henry had her caught by Williams

for her second wicket. Wyatt, also playing her 100th ODI went on to score 68 off 60 balls with four fours and three sixes as England finished their innings on 307-7. Henry was the pick of the West Indies bowlers, finishing with figures of 10-1-59-3 followed by Fletcher with 10-0-66-2.

The West Indies run chase got off to a stutter when Kate Cross had Aaliyah Alleyne caught for two in the second over.

Captain Hayley Matthews had to be assisted off the field when she pulled up from a cramp. Kycia Knight and Rashada Williams shared in a 70-run second wicket partnership. The pair looked comfortable easing the ball around and picking up valuable singles and twos when the boundaries were tough to come by.

Williams was the first to go, looking for a quick single but was well short of her ground, run out for 34 off 54 balls with three fours. Knight soldiered on, sharing a 20-run partnership with Matthews before she departed for 39 which included four boundaries.

Matthews returned to bat after receiving treatment off the field for cramps, to



share a 35-run partnership with Chedean Nation but that was the last resistance for the West Indies Women, as Matthews was trapped LBW to Lauren Bell for 34 and Nation fell for 17. West Indies made 165 all out in 40.3 overs. Charlie Dean finished with the best bowling figures for England of 9-0-35-4 followed by Kate Cross with 8-1-27-2.

Matthews told CWI Media, "Both facets of the game (batting and bowling) we didn't do what we wanted on a decent and England was able to capitalise on it. We're going back to the drawing board and see what we can improve on in the next game."

"Our power play was pretty good but we let a little too many runs go by in the middle overs. It was

good to see the partnership between Kycia and Rashada and I hope we can get a few more of those."

Both teams meet again on Tuesday December 6 at the same venue for the 2nd CG United ODI in a Day/Night encounter. First ball is at 2:00pm Eastern Caribbean/1:00pm Jamaica time.

Tickets are available in advance for the first two CG United ODIs and the first T20I in Antigua from the Windies Tickets service, presented by Mastercard - [tickets.windiestickets.com](https://tickets.windiestickets.com).

Tickets are just US\$9/EC\$25. The third CG United ODI in Antigua and Barbuda will be free for local and visiting fans as it falls on V.C. Bird Day, a national holiday in Antigua and Barbuda and is being supported by the government.