

WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 235 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# A&B WELCOMES NEW ERA OF TOURISM WITH FIFTH BERTH LAUNCH



*Story on Page 2*

*Prime Minister Gaston Browne welcomed the first guests to use the 5th berth at St. John's Harbour following its official opening on Tuesday. (Credit: Wayne Mariette)*



Photo credit: Kavi Roberts/E. Brandon

## Fifth pier commissioned as cruise season blasts off

The 2022/2023 cruise tourism season was declared open yesterday amidst the bustle of thousands of passengers disembarking five cruise ships in St. John's Harbour.

Tourism stakeholders are bullish about the winter season following a collapse of the tourism industry as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a rebound in motion, it is projected that more than half a million cruise passengers are expected to visit St. John's by the time the season ends.

One of the highlights of yesterday's launch was the commissioning of the fifth berth.

In his address during the ceremony, Prime Minister Gaston Browne described the docking facility as a symbol of the resilience of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"You'll recall that during 2020 there was a global lockdown, but we continued



to build out this port facility, notwithstanding the fact that revenues had fallen by as much as fifty percent. I want to thank GPH (Global Ports Holding) for its partnership, because without the partnership of GPH, we would not be celebrating the opening of this fifth berth."

Further, the prime minister noted that inadequate facilities gave neighbouring countries a greater advan-

tage in the highly competitive cruise industry. But with the required upgrades, "you can be assured that Antigua and Barbuda would have the most competitive cruise tourism product in the Caribbean region".

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez said with the new facility comes opportunities for everyone involved in the industry.

"The fifth berth can now

accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world. In addition, Antigua can now accommodate up to five vessels simultaneously. This provides for greater opportunity for more vessels to be deployed to Antigua, rather than being re-deployed to an alternative port due to lack of berthing availabilities."

"Pre-pandemic, Antigua handled about 800,000 pas-

*cont'd on pg 4*



*cont'd from pg 2*

sengers annually. With the port's re-development under Antigua Cruise Port through a 30-year lease agreement with GPH and the government of Antigua and Barbuda, the destination will be able to serve as many as one million cruise passengers a year, "Minister Fernandez declared.

He touted the government's continued efforts in ensuring there are direct benefits for those whose livelihoods depend on the success of the cruise tourism industry, including a long-awaited fare increase for taxi operators.

"My ministry has been successful in getting the cruise lines to commit to employ many local Antiguan and Barbudans on their cruise ships. In addition, we are working to ensure that taxi operators at the cruise port will get an increase, which has been long in coming. We're also working to ensure more locals get involved in excursions," the tourism minister said.

Construction of the fifth pier was completed in February, 2021 at a cost of \$30 million, but the official





*Photo credit: Wayne Mariette*

opening was delayed several times due to dredging of the harbour. The berthing facility is 365 metres in length, 65 metres in width with a draft of 10.3 metres.

General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, Dona Regis-Prosper, recalled the challenges her company encountered in constructing the fifth pier at the height

of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but they persevered and now there are numerous benefits to be derived from the docking facility.

"By the end of this season, we will be welcoming over 600,000 passengers and in the summer months, we are expecting 30,000 plus passengers. Our partnership with the government of Antigua will continue as our investments in upland projects and Heritage Quay upgrades continue," Regis-Prosper affirmed.

Wed 07   Day		Wed 07   Night	
<b>82°</b>		<b>74°</b>	
9%	NW 8 mph	6%	NW 8 mph
A few clouds from time to time. High 82F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.		Clear skies. Low 74F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 66%	UV Index 8 of 10	Humidity 70%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:24 am	Sunset 5:33 pm	Moonrise 5:11 pm	Moonset 5:50 am
		Full Moon	

## Air services agreement with Germany expected to boost tourist arrivals

Antigua and Barbuda and Germany have signed an Air Services Agreement (ASA) which paves the way for increased travel between the European nation and twin-island state.

Civil Aviation Minister, Sir Robin Yearwood, who signed the agreement on behalf of the government, said it will “open the gates” for German airlines such as Condor and Lufthansa to provide airlift into Antigua and Barbuda.

“This is one way to attract German tourism as well as other businesses to our country given our prime minister’s stated goal of at-



Aviation Minister Sir Robin Yearwood exchanges the signed ASA with German Ambassador Ute Konig.

tracting more investments to Antigua and Barbuda. Sir Robin explained.

“We previously had direct flights to Germany, but we never had a formal ASA. This now changes all that,” The civil aviation minister noted that Germany is one of the world’s strongest and most resilient economies. With this in mind, he

expressed the hope that the agreement will expand Antigua and Barbuda’s opportunities in tourism and trade.

“This new agreement reflects all the modern policies and measures protecting international civil aviation safety and security as well as providing a liberalised commercial framework for designated airlines of both countries to operate within.

“I am optimistic that the agreement will further advance Antigua and Barbuda’s role as a centre for aviation in the Eastern Caribbean,” he said.

*cont’d on pg 5*



### Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board

#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB) is a statutory body of the Government, charged with the responsibility of accrediting and re-accrediting institutions operating in Antigua and Barbuda and the programmes of study offered; registering institutions within and outside Antigua and Barbuda which offer programmes of study in Antigua and Barbuda, and ensuring that the quality of all higher education programmes offered in Antigua and Barbuda meets the standards set by the Board of Directors for any award.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **ACCREDITATION OFFICER**.

For additional information about the position, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/zj9xf42f>

#### Education and Experience

A bachelor’s degree in education or an equivalent combination of education and planning and a minimum of three (3) years’ experience in tertiary/post-secondary education and training. A master’s degree will be considered an asset.

#### How to Apply

Applications, including (1) your contact information, (2) a resume, and (3) names and contact information for two references should be sent to [abnab@ab.gov.ag](mailto:abnab@ab.gov.ag) and addressed to the **Chair of Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board**.

If there are any issues submitting your application via email, please call 562-8173.

**The deadline for accepting applications is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

*We thank all interested applicants but advise that only those who are suitably qualified will be contacted.*



## DPP Armstrong learns his fate next Tuesday

Next Tuesday, Jamaican Parish Judge Venice Blackstock Murray, will render a decision on submissions in the case involving beleaguered Director of Public Prosecution, Anthony Armstrong which could determine whether he goes free or will begin the fight to defend himself against multiple charges of fraudulent conversion and conspiracy to commit fraud.

A former client of Armstrong has accused him of selling three properties while he was incarcerated in the United States of America between 1999 and 2002.

Hugh Wildman, Armstrong's attorney, has asked the court to dismiss the case against his client whom he argues is innocent of wrongdoing.

Wildman claims that the complainant's cousin, Shelly Ann Campbell, who has also been charged, was behind the sale of the dis-



Director of Public Prosecution, Anthony Armstrong (right) and his attorney, Hugh Wildman, entering the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court in Half-Way Tree on Monday. [Photo: Taneisha Mundle]

puted properties.

Wildman produced documents which appeared to prove that Campbell signed each of the three property transfers in the name of the complainant and herself.

She was also the joint owner of one of the apartments.

Armstrong, meanwhile, has made the argument in his defence that he is innocent of the charges as the proceeds of the sale were paid over to the complainant's father who had been authorised to act as his son's agent during his incarceration.

The complainant has countered this with the claim that Armstrong made payments to him from Antigua and Barbuda in the amount of US\$15,450.00 between September 2006 and April 2007.

Armstrong's lawyer, however, contends that his client was being blackmailed by the complainant who threatened to cause trouble for Armstrong and threaten his reputation and employment in Antigua and Barbuda as DPP with the property scandal.

In 1999, the complainant reported Armstrong to Jamaica's General Legal Council (GLC).

In February, the GLC's disciplinary committee found that Armstrong was guilty of professional misconduct for signing a document for a client who was not present.

Armstrong is appealing that decision.

*cont'd from pg 4*

Aviation consultant, Ambassador Brian Challenger, explained whilst German carriers previously operated into Antigua and Barbuda without an ASA, airlines today prefer to operate under these agreements.

"The airlines prefer when you have an ASA as it gives them certainty as it lists the obligations that bind both sides.

"Most importantly however, it opens the market for what we call

Fifth Freedom. This allows the airlines to operate not just directly, but it gives them the right to make stops in other countries before proceeding to Antigua and Barbuda," he explained.

Challenger added that this right would also allow Antigua and Barbuda designated airlines to operate in Germany.

German Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean based in Port of Spain, Ute Konig, confirmed that the ASA executed with Antigua and Barbuda

is the first Germany has signed with a Caribbean state.

She noted, however, that negotiations with other countries in the region are ongoing.

While the details of the ASA had been settled for some time, Konig noted that the pandemic delayed the formal signing of the agreement.

The ambassador also echoed Sir Robin's hope that the agreement will lead to increased travel between Germany and Antigua and Barbuda.

# Local News



## Another drug bust at Deep Water Harbour

The police have thwarted another attempt by unknown persons to import illicit drugs into the country.

Close to half a million dollars worth of cannabis was seized at Deep Water Harbour on Monday.

In a statement, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda said during a joint operation with the Customs Department at the main seaport, 77 ½ pounds of cannabis were found concealed in two barrels and a cardboard box.

With a street value of EC\$465,000, the illicit drugs were seized and transported to St. John's Police Station as an investigation commences.



No arrests were made.

Last Tuesday, a joint operation also at Deep Water Harbour resulted in the confiscation of two

guns, more than one hundred rounds of ammunition and approximately 40 pounds of cannabis that were found hidden inside

a barrel in vacuum-sealed packages and valued at \$262,000.

Investigations remain ongoing.

## Popular tailor found dead at home



Glenville Thomas

Well-known tailor Glenville Thomas was found dead inside his Mount Pleasant home yesterday morning. Many who knew the well-known designer have expressed shock at his passing.

According to unconfirmed reports, Thomas, whose roots can be traced to Cedar Grove, complained of feeling unwell last weekend, but it is unclear if he sought medical attention.

It is unknown when he died, but the discovery was made on Tuesday.

Glenville operated a tailor-

ing establishment on New Street for decades and over time, built up a large customer base that included banks, which contracted him to sew the uniforms mainly for their female employees.

His small business employs several people. From alterations to t-shirts during carnival to the design of men's suits, Glenville was among the best in the profession in Antigua and Barbuda.

Many of his clients remember him for his quick wit and smart retorts, as he was always fast with a response to any comment directed at him.



## Centenarian celebrates another milestone

Centenarian – Victoria Joseph – is today celebrating her 101 birthday, a milestone few in Antigua and Barbuda have attained.

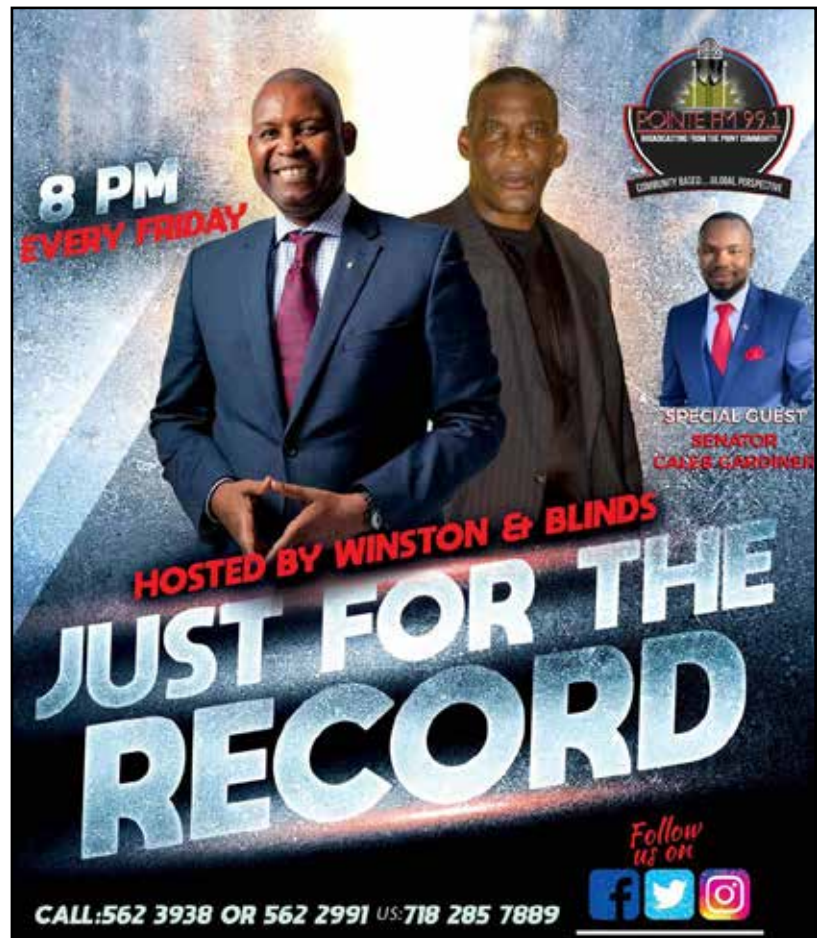
Joseph currently resides in the village of Pares.

No official celebration has been organized for Ms. Joseph.

She is, however, expected to receive visits from members of the Christian community of Pares as well as her many family members, friends and well-wishers.



Happy birthday! Victoria Joseph of Pares celebrates her 101st trip around the sun today!



**8 PM EVERY FRIDAY**




**HOSTED BY WINSTON & BLINDS**

**JUST FOR THE RECORD**

**SPECIAL GUEST SENATOR CALEB GARDINER**

**POINTE FM 99.1**  
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
 COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

**CALL: 562 3938 OR 562 2991 US: 718 285 7889**

Follow us on   

*May the magic of Christmas  
 fill your life with joy and  
 peace. Best wishes to you and  
 your family during this  
 holiday season.*

**Happy  
 Holidays**

**#drivesafeantigua**



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

**SLOW  
 DOWN  
 OBEY  
 SPEED  
 LIMIT**



## Antigua and Barbuda selected for Cervical Cancer pilot project

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have selected Antigua and Barbuda to participate in a study on cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most frequent cancer in women. In 2020, there were an estimated 604,000 new cases reported.

Of the estimated 342,000 deaths from cervical cancer in 2020, about 90 percent of these occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

This week, health minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, said Antigua and Barbuda was selected to participate because it has begun vaccinating children against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which causes cervical cancer.

“We are now in the process of processing fifteen hundred women who we are asking to come forward and be screened as part of the project,” Sir Molwyn said.

The health minister pointed to studies which report that 25 percent of the first five hundred women screened will return a positive result for HPV.

Early treatment of the virus can prevent women from developing the abnormal cervical cells which can progress into cancer.

“There are three steps to it:

1. Screening
2. Treatment, and
3. Vaccination.

“The reason why we were selected was because Antigua and Barbuda

was the most successful Caribbean country to carry out the HPV vaccination programme. We have the vaccine programme in our schools now for both males and females starting at age eleven,” he reported,

The health minister said eliminating cervical cancer is possible but achieving this goal will require the cooperation of all women and the community as a whole.

He urged women to come forward and assist with the pilot project as doing so will have individual and societal benefits.

“Women, whenever you go for medical care, please request a screening for cervical cancer wherever you assess health care be it at a clinic or otherwise,” Sir Molwyn appealed.

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

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT**

**PREPARE NOW**  
LEARN HOW

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

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

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



## Director of Family and Social Services says child rearing must go “back to the basics”

In light of the increased cases of youth violence, Director of the Family and Social Services Department, Feona Charles-Richards, believes that the family structure in Antigua and Barbuda needs urgent attention.

Charles-Richards noted that many children harbour deep anger and feelings of neglect because they do not come from stable family units which allow them to develop important life skills.

These critical skills include conflict resolution.

While parents shoulder significant responsibility for the outcome of their children, Charles-Richards said the community is also to blame "as it takes a community to raise a child".

"I believe we are becoming a bit too Americanised.

"We push away what's ours and accept what we think is better, but the truth is that there is nothing wrong with us being able to support our children but also allowing for balance, also allowing them a space for them to grow.

"And you may say you are working all the jobs so your daughter doesn't have to worry, but your absence may be something she worries about. The fact that you are not there in itself.

"You are giving but it triggers something else. There's no cuddles, there's no expressions of love, there's no togetherness.



*Director of the Family and Social Services Department, Feona Charles-Richards*

I am alone and I am going through the struggles of school and so these are things our children are going through.

"We can provide the money and the house but there is that emotional component that we must be mindful of," Charles-Richards said.

She believes that changes can be made to ensure that the nation's children are not neglected.

Her recommendations to develop greater emotional sensibility in young people and bonding within families include increasing the time spent interacting as a family and participating in relationship building activities like "Sunday dinners around the table, beach days and creating an environment that allows children to talk".

"Everyone has become so busy with trying to provide and attain education but this has hampered the amount of time families are able to spend with each other.

boys and girls can know about themselves?

"Too many times our men grow up being told that crying is wrong, talking too much makes you a sissy, showing any kind of emotion is wrong. We are basically shutting down their emotional side and then we wonder why they are aggressive or cannot express themselves in relationships," she said.

She is also calling on churches and other social groups to become more involved in their communities and provide safe spaces in which young men can feel free to express how they feel.

Charles-Richards also had a word of warning for principals and coaches to be mindful of how they groom young athletes.

Good sportsmanship must always be encouraged and practised, however Charles-Richards said "sometimes our principals are not doing that but instead allowing students to have such bad attitudes on the field".

This bad behaviour on the field of play, she said, is often hidden behind the mask of competitiveness.

The complex issues that could result in deviant behaviour in young people, therefore, should be addressed both within the family and by the entire nation to ensure the most positive outcome.

**SHOP NOW!**



**LB Store**

**LOUIS BROTHER STORE**

*"Everything and More"*

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

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



## Why Gen Zers are growing up sober curious

By Megan Carnegie

A complex combination of outside pressures and information overload is driving young people to snub alcohol, far more than generations before them.

As a teenager, Lola's drinking went in cycles. There would be a night of heavy drinking, then a regretful day spent piecing the previous evening together. Next, a period of sobriety, before the next big night out. But when the pandemic hit, Lola moved back in with her parents in London, and her drinking came to an abrupt halt. Lockdown, she says, presented her with an opportunity to step back from ingrained habits and address her anxiety issues.

Now, the 22-year-old student is enjoying a different relationship with alcohol. She recently tried clubbing sober, and although she still drinks, it's much less frequent. "I'm not anti-drinking – I just don't like getting drunk or feeling ill the next morning," says Lola. "I like going home safely and remembering the people I met, so sober nights work well for me."

Lola isn't an anomaly among her friends – she says all have been drinking less since the pandemic, and she feels no judgement from her peers when not drinking. "Friends who haven't limited their drinking as much as me think it's cool when people go out sober," she explains. "It's a you-do-you mentality where people are respectful of your choices, whether you're protecting your mental health, or just don't fancy it."

Experimenting with alcohol – and drinking to excess – has long been seen as a rite of passage into adulthood, at least in Western cultures. From an early age, often before the legal age, alcohol is embraced as a social lubricant, a way to have fun, make friends



*Financial challenges for Gen Z have meant that alcohol is prohibitively expensive for some people (Credit: Getty Images)*

and escape day-to-day realities. Few professional or social events are without some form of alcohol.

But Gen Zers are taking it slow as they enter adulthood, either by not drinking at all, or drinking less often and in less quantity than older generations. The UK's largest recent study of drinking behaviours showed in 2019, 16-to-25-year-olds were the most likely to be teetotal, with 26% not drinking, compared to the least likely generation (55-to-74-year-olds), 15% of whom didn't drink. Among US adults, Gallup showed those aged 35 to 54 are most likely to drink alcohol (70%), compared to Gen Zers (60%) and Boomers (52%), while a study from 2020 found that the portion of college-age Americans who are teetotal has risen from 20% to 28% in a decade. Of those who do drink, the largest portion of young Europeans (defined as over the legal drinking age up to 39) drinks once a month (27%), while in the US, the biggest group drink once a week (25%).

The decline in youth drinking, according to experts, is remarkable and widespread in most high-income European countries, as well as the US,

Australia and New Zealand. During lockdown, Gen Z Australians were most likely to have decreased their alcohol consumption, with 44% reporting they were drinking less – more than double the rate for any other generation. Rates of binge drinking among New Zealand's young people have also dropped by more than half between 2001 and 2012, and have continued to drop since.

Pinning the downturn to one particular driver, however, is impossible. Gen Zers are growing up in a unique social landscape where, weighed down by financial and societal worries, they're more risk averse. They have a nuanced understanding of how drinking impacts their health and that of people around them. Consequently, a youth culture that has de-normalised drinking is flourishing – and the change is being felt. As Gen Z reshapes the idea of a 'good night out' and often socialises without drinking, the trade and hospitality industries are moving fast to adapt.

Clued in and risk averse

Part of the reason for the decline in drinking is that Gen Z appear to be

*cont'd on pg 12*

# Lifestyle



*cont'd from pg 11*

more cautious than older generations, both in terms of their health and how their peers perceive them.

“[The decrease in alcohol consumption is] certainly not happening because of alcohol policy, because all risky practices are going down – drug use, unprotected sex, risky behaviours [like smoking, crime and driving hazardously] – young people are more risk averse in general,” says Amy Pennay, a senior research fellow at the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

A factor in this shift is that young people today know far more about health risks associated with these kinds of behaviours. With more available research and open discussion, their

knowledge is increasingly multi-faceted, she says. It’s easier than ever to learn more about the perils of drinking, whether that’s by doing a quick Google search, tapping into TikTok communities like #SoberTok or talking with friends and family members.

Google research in 2019 by showed 41% of Gen Zers associate alcohol with “vulnerability”, “anxiety” and even “abuse”

For example, concern about losing control and developing a drinking addiction is markedly heightened among young people. Google research in 2019 showed 41% of Gen Zers associate alcohol with “vulnerability”, “anxiety” and even “abuse”; while 60% of UK Gen Zers associate drinking with a loss of control – almost double those

who do not. The spate of drink-spiking in bars and clubs may also serve a deterrent, especially for women.

Plus, with a young person’s every move being potentially played out in real time on social media for friends, family and even employers, letting loose comes loaded with risk. According to the same Google research, 49% of Gen Z say their online image is always at the back of their mind when they go out socialising and drinking. It’s no wonder then, that 76% feel it’s important to be in control of all aspects of their life at all times.

John Holmes, professor of alcohol policy at the University of Sheffield, adds there’s also been a stark attitudinal shift; not only do Gen Zers have a deeper awareness of health risks, but they also actively shun the notion of drunkenness. “In the mid to late 2000s, getting drunk and binge drinking was a way friendships were formed and solidified – even experiencing the negative effects together was a key part of making and sustaining friends in adolescence and early adulthood,” he says. “But Gen Zers are more likely to see drunkenness as unpleasant, uncool or uninteresting.”

Lola, for example, feels unsettled when she sees anyone who is very drunk. “I don’t know many people that drink that much who are OK,” she says. “I’m pleased that the narrative is

shifting and there’s an acknowledgement that heavy drinking is bad for you.”

Unwinding looks different, amid financial pressures

However, it’s not just risk aversion that’s curbing alcohol consumption – the way young people approach relaxation has changed, too. Experts say much of this is linked to the challenges that they perceive await them in future as well as the way they want to lead their lives. An always-on approach to technology and content consumption means that unwinding often takes the form of withdrawal, or catching a break from the extroversion of social media.

When researching in the early 2000s, amid an era of heavy alcohol and party drug use, Pennay remembers young people discussing hedonistic abandon and their wish to switch off by “getting obliterated and having a good time”. It’s the opposite now – Pennay finds that Gen Zers tend to opt to recharge their batteries during time off from work, or work on furthering their study or personal development.

Yet while getting ahead professionally is front of mind for young people, simply getting by is hard enough. This year, when Deloitte asked almost 15,000 Gen Zers around the world about their most pressing concern, they cited

*cont'd on pg 13*

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

**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 8:00 AM**

**TICK THE BOXES**

CONVERSATION WITH HON. E.P. CHET GREEN

JOIN US VIA ON "POINTE FM 99.1" FACEBOOK PAGE OR SET YOUR RADIO DIAL TO "99.1 FM"

**ABLP**



*cont'd from pg 12*

the cost of living as their top worry (29%), ranking higher than climate change, unemployment, mental health and sexual harassment. Almost half (46%) say they live paycheck to paycheck, and worry about covering their expenses, so to make ends meet, 43% have taken on either a part- or full-time job in addition to their primary job – 10% higher than millennials.

“The way Gen Zers budget and save is so different from previous generations, because they can’t just bust into the housing market,” says Pennay. “Therefore, some see alcohol as an overpriced commodity that obfuscates the bigger picture.”

Safeguarding her mental health is the primary driver for Lola’s sober curiosity, but the cost of alcohol also plays a prominent role. When living in Paris earlier this year, she drank more because it was much cheaper. “I could spend €20 and be consistently drinking, but in London, that would get me nowhere,” she explains. “Even if I did want to get drunk, I couldn’t afford it.”

The ripple effect of ‘quality experiences’

Whatever the driving factors, with more young people steering away from alcohol, an environment that facilitates and even embraces sobriety is springing up. Since Jason, 24, from New York, went sober three years ago, he’s made friends with lots of other young people who don’t drink. “Drinking is a big part of New York culture, and I was expecting friction, but people my age and younger are very helpful and kind about my choice.”

Holmes sees Gen Zers’ moderate drinking behaviours and attitudes as a natural progression. “Alcohol consumption rose across the second half of the 20th Century, but the hedonism and binge drinking of the late 90s and early 2000s was an incongruous

spike,” he says. “Consumption trends come in long waves that rise and fall – drinking was bound to come down at some point, and it was likely that younger generations would make that change.”

Consumption trends come in long waves that rise and fall – drinking was bound to come down at some point, and it was likely that younger generations would make that change – John Holmes

Of course, Gen Z missed out on a series of rites of passage into adulthood during the pandemic, and it’s still not clear how the two-year shutdown will change young people’s approach to socialising in future. Overall though, Pennay doesn’t forecast a big post-pandemic swing back to boozing – if it’s normal now not to drink at age 17, it will be even more normal at 18, 19 and so forth.

With Gen Z now accounting for one-third of the global population, the alcohol industry is adapting to young people’s new preferences. Emma Hutchison, founder of the global drinks agency Sweet & Chilli and the owner of three bars in London, has noted a shift towards quality over quantity among young people.

Instead of constantly sipping sugary alcopops, now they might order a cocktail – or mocktail – to last the night. Indeed, a late 2021 study found that over 21-year-olds in the US prefer hard beverages like spirits or hard seltzers, champagne, and drinks with little or no alcohol, over wine and beer.

“They’re looking for quality experiences that enrich their lives,” says Hutchison. “Gen Z wants brands that align with their own mindsets and they’re making more conscious decisions about how they consume.”

Equally, the rapid expansion of the non-alcoholic drink sector and the innovation within it has sent a message to sober and sober-curious con-

sumers that bars have something for everyone.

“In the past, you might feel excluded within the food and drink space if you didn’t want to drink,” says Hutchison. “But it’s so exciting to see non-alcoholic drinks being given as much airtime, consideration and quality of ingredients as is in the alcoholic versions.” A more diverse range of options is paying off too – unlike alcohol, the no and low-alcohol category has grown consistently and the leading drinks market analysis firm IWSR predicts that, by 2024, the total volume consumption will grow by over 31% across Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Spain, the UK and the US.

Post-pandemic, bars and restaurants have also been elevating their experiential offering – for example, adding in ping-pong and shuffleboard tables – to appeal to all generations, but especially for Gen Zers. “There’s a huge desire to socialise in spaces which have been and still are associated with ‘going out drinking’,” says Hutchison. “But with the industry championing alternative options, it’s going to become more of a safe space for Gen Z to socialise, connect and indulge in rich food and drinking experiences.”

Like most other 24-year-olds, Jason’s social life is centred on coffee shops, restaurants, sports games and nights in with friends. He likes trying random activities that don’t require drinking – the most recent being yoga with goats.

“I go to sober parties and parties where people are drinking. I just like being active and hanging out,” he says. “It’s been eye-opening for me to realise you can be young and sober and have very full friendships.”

Lola and Jason’s surnames are being withheld for personal and professional privacy

# Indonesia's Parliament votes to ban sex outside of marriage

By Niniek Karmini

Indonesia's Parliament unanimously passed a long-awaited revision of the country's penal code on Tuesday that criminalizes sex outside of marriage for citizens as well as foreigners, prohibits promotion of contraception and bans defamation of the president and state institutions.

The amended code also expands an existing blasphemy law and maintains a five-year prison term for deviations from the central tenets of Indonesia's six recognized religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism.

Citizens can face a 10-year prison term for associating with organisations that follow Marxist-Leninist ideology and a four-year sentence for spreading communism.

The code maintains the previous criminalization of abortion but adds exceptions for women with life-threatening medical conditions and for rape, provided that the fetus is less than 12 weeks old, in line with what is already provided in a 2004 Medical Practice Law.

Rights groups criticised some of the revisions as overly broad or vague and warned that adding them to the code could penalise normal activities and threaten freedom of expression and privacy rights.

However, some advocates hailed the passage as a victory for the country's LGBTQ community. During fierce deliberation, lawmakers eventually agreed to remove an article proposed by Islamic groups that would have made gay sex illegal.

The revised code also preserves the death penalty within the criminal justice system despite calls from the National Commission on Human



Activists hold up posters during a rally against Indonesia's new criminal law in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022. The country's parliament passed the long-awaited and controversial revision of its penal code Tuesday that criminalizes extramarital sex for citizens and visiting foreigners alike. Writings on the posters read "Reject the revised penal code" and "Revised criminal law shackles press freedom." (AP Photo/Slamet Riyadi)

Rights and other groups to abolish capital punishment, as dozens of other countries have done. But under the new code, the death penalty has a probationary period. If within a period of 10 years the convict behaves well, then the death penalty will be changed to life imprisonment or 20 years' imprisonment.

Under Indonesian regulations, legislation passed by Parliament becomes law after being signed by the president. But even without the president's signature, it automatically takes effect after 30 days unless the president issues a regulation to cancel it.

President Joko Widodo is widely expected to sign the revised code in light of its extended approval process in Parliament. But the law is likely to gradually take effect over a period of up to three years, according to Deputy Minister of Law and Human Rights Edward Hiarij.

"A lot of implementing regulations

must be worked out, so it's impossible in one year," he said.

The amended code says sex outside marriage is punishable by a year in jail and cohabitation by six months, but adultery charges must be based on police reports lodged by a spouse, parents or children.

It restores a ban on insulting a sitting president or vice president, state institutions and the national ideology. Insults to a sitting president must be reported by the president and can lead to up to three years in jail.

Hiarij said the government provided "the strictest possible explanation that distinguishes between insults and criticism."

The penal code had languished for decades while legislators in the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation struggled with how to adapt its traditional culture and norms to the code, a legacy of the Dutch colonial administration.

*cont'd on pg 15*



## Caribbean delegations travelling to Canada for COP 15

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) delegations are heading to Canada for the 15th Conference of the Parties United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) (COP15) intended to create targets on biodiversity for the next decade.

The Conference, from December 7 to 19, will be held under the Presidency of China. Importantly, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is expected to be adopted during this second phase of the conference.

The Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat said over the last six months, it has under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (ACP MEAs) Phase III Project worked with the Caribbean Biodiversity Focal Points and other partners to prepare for effective participation in the negotiations and other priorities under the Convention.

It said the ACP MEAs Project is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States



(OAPCS) funded by the European Union.

Biodiversity is the foundation of the global economy. More than half of global gross domestic product (GDP), equal to US\$41.7 trillion, is dependent on the healthy functioning of the natural world, the Secretariat said, noting that 95 percent of the food eaten is produced in the soil, yet up to 40 percent of the world's land is severely degraded by unsustainable agricultural practices.

"Eighteen percent of total GDP for most CARICOM countries comes from agriculture. Our current reality sets a challenge before us that are well known as we continue to grapple with

our economic, social, and environmental vulnerabilities.

"It is timely as a Community that we re-examine our relationship with nature recognizing that, despite all our advances we will always remain dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy."

The Secretariat notes that international conflict continues to exacerbate the existing food, energy, climate and finance crisis, adding "here in the Caribbean, we are feeling the consequences of this conflict, deriving even more urgency in our actions to be more food and energy secure in a way that is in harmony with the Caribbean's unique biodiversity".

The CARICOM Secretariat said it used this year's COP15 as an optimal opportunity to promote an urgency of action at the highest levels, in support of a post-2020 biodiversity framework that will contribute to the re-shaping of the region's vision for biodiversity. (CMC)

*cont'd from pg 14*

Indonesia proclaimed independence on Aug. 17, 1945.

A previous revised code was poised for passage in 2019, but President Widodo urged lawmakers to delay a vote amid mounting public criticism that led to nationwide protests in which tens of thousands of people participated. Opponents said it contained articles that discriminated against minorities and that the legislative process lacked transparency. Widodo instructed Law and Human Rights Minister

Yasonna Laoly to obtain input from various groups as lawmakers debated the articles.

A parliamentary task-force finalised the bill in November and lawmakers unanimously approved it on Tuesday, in what Laoly praised as a "historic step."

"It turns out that it is not easy for us to break away from the colonial living legacy, even though this nation no longer wants to use colonial products," Laoly said in a news conference.

"Finalising this process

demonstrates that even 76 years after the Dutch Criminal Code was adopted as the Indonesian Criminal Code, it is never too late to produce laws on our own," Laoly said. "The Criminal Code is a reflection of the civilization of a nation."

Human Rights Watch said Tuesday that laws penalising criticism of public leaders are contrary to international law, and the fact that some forms of expression are considered insulting is not sufficient to justify restrictions or penalties.

"The danger of oppressive laws is not that they'll be broadly applied, it's that they provide an avenue for selective enforcement," said Andreas Harsono, a senior Indonesia researcher at the group.

Many hotels, including in tourism areas such as Bali and metropolitan Jakarta, will risk losing visitors, he added.

"These laws let police extort bribes, let officials jail political foes, for instance, with the blasphemy law," Harsono said.

# Regional News



## St. Lucia Opposition Leader calls for strategy to deal with inflow of illegal guns

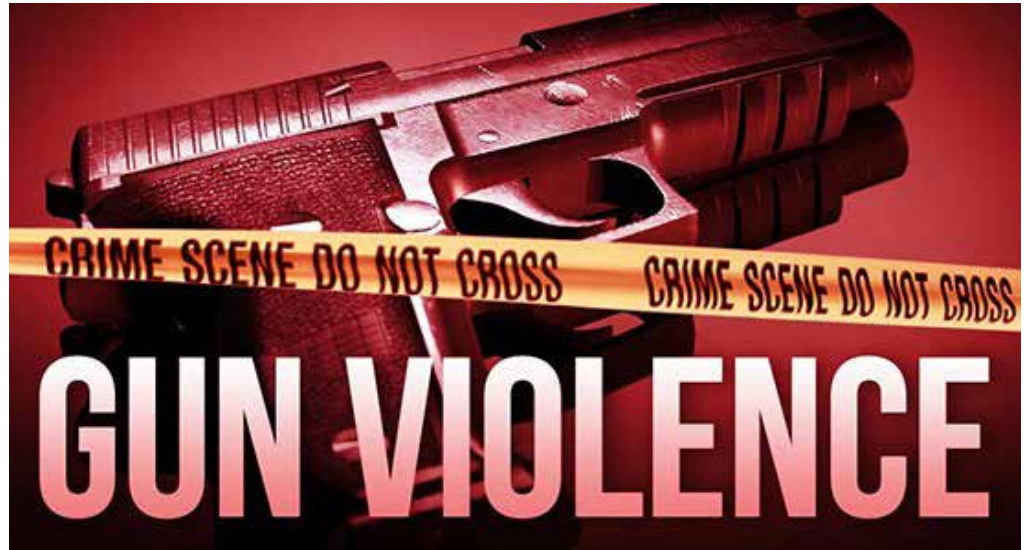
CMC - Opposition Leader Allen Chastanet says much more needs to be done to reduce the inflow of illegal guns into the country following a bloody weekend in St. Lucia that resulted in the deaths of at least two people including a British man.

Police said the island's death toll reached 68 on Sunday with the murder of an unidentified person in Vieux Fort.

Police also confirmed that Donnie McKinnon, who manages the Soufriere Estate on the island was on the balcony of a bar, along with his friend, Peter Jackson, a 72-year-old photographer, when the gunmen approached.

McKinnon succumbed to his injuries, while Jackson, another British expatriate, was admitted to hospital.

"This weekend's gun violence is a reminder that we must take the issue of crime much more seriously and do something meaningful sooner rather than later to deal with this persistent scourge," Chastanet said in a state-



ment posted on his Facebook page.

He said whilst crime in general remains a concern, the daily robberies and murders committed using guns is something that must be tackled without fear or favor.

"The fact is that we need to do a lot more to get illegal guns and ammunition off the streets, strengthen our borders to reduce the inflow of illegal guns whilst also helping our citizens

to find alternative ways of resolving conflicts.

"My condolences to the families and friends of those whose lives were unfortunately cut short this weekend and wishing a speedy recovery to the other 13 persons who are recovering from gunshot wounds. St. Lucia, we're better than this," he added.

Last week, Prime Minister Phil-

*cont'd on pg 17*

## Jamaican high school student gets four years and ten months for killing schoolmate



CMC - The 17-year-old William Knibb Memorial High School student who pleaded guilty to fatally stabbing 16-year-old Khamal Hall was sentenced to four years and ten months in prison for manslaughter.

Justice Andrea Thomas handed down the ruling in the St. James Circuit Court on Monday.

The defendant, whose name is being withheld because he is a minor, was represented by attorney-at-law Marissa Dalrymple-Philib-

ert.

Reports are that the two schoolboys were involved in a fight at the school during the lunch break on Monday, March 21 this year, over a 'guard' ring.

Hall, who was a football player on the school's DaCosta Cup team was stabbed after a knife was reportedly used in the fight.

He was taken to Falmouth Hospital but died while receiving treatment. The attacker was later arrested and subsequently charged.



## Dominica Labour Party retains power in Dominica

Loop - Roosevelt Skerit has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Dominica for a fifth successive term.

Preliminary data from the Dominica Electoral Office shows the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) won 19 of the 21 seats in the House of Assembly following today's General Election.

This was one more than the DLP won in 2019.

Over 81,000 people were eligible to vote in the election.

History was created as two independent candidates — Anthony Charles and Jesma Paul — were elected to the parliament for the Marigot and Salisbury Constituencies. This is just the third time that independent candidates have been elected to the House of Assembly.

The election was boycotted by the United Workers Party (UWP) and Dominica Freedom Party on the grounds that the electoral process gave Skerit and the DLP an unfair advantage. They have called for

electoral reforms, which includes issuing of national identification cards and a cleansing of the voters list.

Skerit has congratulated all the candidates.

"I want to extend congratulations to the two candidates who won in Marigot and Salisbury. It clearly shows that the elections were credible and that they were free and fair," Skerit said during an interview on the state-run Dominica Broadcasting Corporation.

Skerit said he plans to meet with Charles and Paul to hear their visions for the constituency as well as other opposition candidates to listen to views on how they can contribute to the national reset he plans to have following the election.

The prime minister also plans to extend an olive branch to the UWP leader Dr Thompson Fontaine to discuss a way forward to develop Dominica.

On the issue of electoral reform, Skerit said by Easter 2023 legislation will be passed to establish the na-



*Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit speaking on state media after winning his 5th term of office.*

tional identification cards as well as address concerns with the list of electors, which is severely bloated.

Consultations on the new electoral reform laws will begin next month.

The prime minister added he has written to the Commonwealth of Nations, Caribbean Community and Organisation of American States asking for them to review the electoral reforms

recommended by former Caribbean Court of Justice President Sir Dennis Byron to ensure they meet international best practice.

"What I would say to the people of Dominica... the only caution I would put is that we should not be disenfranchising Dominicans living overseas from voting. I'm not suggesting that those who are not on the list, should get registered.

"Those who are currently on the list should be given an opportunity to be registered. The leader of the United Workers Party lived in the diaspora and he only returned a few weeks ago and now he's the leader of the party," Skerit stated.

### **cont'd from pg 16**

lip J. Pierre said his administration will announce a comprehensive social intervention program to complement the law enforcement measures as he urged St. Lucians to adopt a zero tolerance to crime on the island.

Pierre in a radio and television broadcast warned that the island risks losing all

of the gains made over the past few years if the crime situation is not dealt with.

Pierre said the crime situation is not a sudden phenomenon and successive governments have grappled with this situation noting also that while the underlying causes of crime make it a complex issue that cannot be left to only the police and the government to solve.

# Hungary vetoes EU Ukraine aid, deepening rift with Brussels

AP - A rift between the European Union and member state Hungary deepened Tuesday when Budapest vetoed an 18 billion euro (\$18.93 billion) financial aid package to Kyiv, exacerbating a dispute over the rule of law under Prime Minister Viktor Orban and his outlook over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

EU finance ministers also postponed any decision to punish Hungary by withholding billions of euros for failing to implement solid rule-of-law reforms.

Instead of unanimous support for aid to Ukraine, Hungary's veto made sure that the EU's other 26 member states would need to work out a more complicated technical plan to keep aid flowing to Kyiv in the new year.

"In the end, agreement was found on formulations that allow a flexible and quick way to deploy funds to Ukraine without fundamentally changing the way the EU manages its funds. I say agreement, but in reality that agreement was minus one," said Tuomas Saareheimo, the chairman of the EU Council Economic and Financial Committee.

Many nations see Orban's evasive tactics as a thinly veiled attempt to blackmail the EU into releasing billions in regular funding and pandemic recovery cash that has been held up.

The EU's 27 nations have until Dec. 19 to decide, and EU leaders meet for a two-day summit next week, increasing chances that the issues would still need to be resolved at a later date.

EU nations have been mulling for years whether to punish Orban for what he calls his brand of "illiberal democracy" but what is seen by many others as unfit for the EU's traditional sense of Western democratic liberalism.

On top of that, Orban also has angered the bloc's officials with his repeated criticism of EU sanctions targeting Russia over President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

"Viktor Orban is abusing the veto like no one before him. ... He even takes funds for Ukrainian hospitals hostage for this. He is escalating the situation completely," said Daniel Freund, a member of the Green party and a parliamentary negotiator on the rule of law issue.

"The EU will find ways to support Ukraine even without Hungary. But that means: more time, more effort, more costs. Viktor Orban could not have given Putin a nicer present today," Freund said.

The EU's executive branch proposed that the bloc suspend about 7.5 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) in regular funding to Hungary over concerns about dem-



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, left, arrives for the EU-Western Balkans Summit, in Tirana, Albania, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022. EU leaders and their Western Balkans counterparts gather Tuesday for talks aimed at boosting their partnership as Russia's war in Ukraine threatens to reshape the geopolitical balance in the region. (AP Photo/Franc Zhurda)

ocratic backsliding and the possible mismanagement of EU money. The Commission also wants to put conditions on Hungary's pandemic recovery plan worth 5.8 billion euros and insists Budapest implement 27 "super milestones" on democratic reforms to unlock the funding.

Hungary already agreed to 17 anti-corruption measures, including the creation of a task force and changes to its public procurement rules,

but the Commission wants to see more action. The money can be frozen under a recently introduced conditionality mechanism that allows the EU to take measures to protect its budget.

Any action to suspend the funds must be approved by the EU member countries, and this requires a "qualified majority" — at least 15 countries representing at least 65% of the total EU population.



## Protests erupt in Greece over teenager's shooting in police chase

Al Jazeera - Violent protests broke out in Greece's second-largest city over the police shooting of a Roma boy after he allegedly filled his vehicle at a petrol station and drove off without paying.

The 16-year-old was being treated in critical condition at a Thessaloniki hospital. The officer who allegedly shot him in the head was arrested and suspended from duty, police in the northern city said.

The Greek police department said the youth had tried to ram officers in pursuit on motorbikes in his attempt to evade arrest.

About 1,500 people took part in a protest march organised by left-wing and anarchist groups in central Thessaloniki on Monday night.

Some smashed shops and threw Molotov cocktails at police, who responded with tear gas and stun grenades.

Police detained six people after the end of the march. Before that protest, about 100 Roma men set up barricades, blocking the main road outside the hospital where the boy was being treated, and set fire to rubbish cans.

Police had used stun grenades and tear gas earlier to disperse protesters throwing bottles at them outside the hospital.

Several hundred people



Protesters hold a banner, reading in Greek: 'They shot them because they were Roma' [Michael Varaklas/AP]

also took part in a peaceful protest march in central Athens over the teen's shooting as well as a past incident in which a Roma man also was shot during a police chase.

The demonstrators in Greece's capital had a banner reading: "They shot them because they were Roma."

Brief clashes broke out with police after the protest ended.

Earlier in the day, protesters and members of the teenager's family had thrown rocks at riot police outside the hospital where the boy is receiving treatment before police responded by firing tear gas.

Members of the Roma community in Greece and

human rights activists frequently accuse Greek authorities of discriminating against Roma.

Previous violence

Several Roma men have been fatally shot or injured in recent years during confrontations with police while allegedly seeking to evade arrest for breaches of the law.

The youth injured on Monday was not named but was identified by relatives as a member of the Roma minority.

Police said the 34-year-old officer arrested on suspicion of shooting the teenager was suspended and an internal investigation was underway. The incident occurred outside Thessaloniki before dawn on Monday.

Officers from a motorcycle patrol chased the teenager's pickup truck after a petrol station employee reported an unpaid bill of 20 euros (\$21).

In a statement, police said officers had fired two bullets to try and stop him from attempting to hit police motorbikes.

It said the driver of the pick-up truck had "repeatedly made dangerous manoeuvres" and drove through red lights before the shots were fired.

After the shots were fired, the driver had lost control, hit a wall and was "transported to the hospital with serious injuries", police said.

The arrested officer ap-  
*cont'd on pg 20*

## South Africa's lawmakers delay debate on president's future

AP - South Africa's lawmakers have postponed until next week a debate on the damning report that has resulted in calls for President Cyril Ramaphosa to step down.

The session was scheduled to take place in Cape Town on Tuesday to discuss a parliamentary panel's report that found Ramaphosa may have broken anti-corruption laws in relation to the theft of a large sum of dollars from his Phala Phala farm in 2020.

The much-awaited sitting has been moved to Dec. 13 to allow time for all lawmakers to attend the sitting in person instead of joining it virtually, according to a decision by parliament's programming committee.

Since the Parliament building was gutted by a fire in January this year

lawmakers have had hybrid sessions, with some attending sessions in person at Cape Town City Hall while others joined online via the internet.

The debate is expected to be followed by a motion by opposition parties to impeach Ramaphosa. The ANC commands a majority in parliament and opposition parties would need a two-thirds majority vote to impeach Ramaphosa.

Lawmakers agreed that voting would have to take place by roll-call, which requires all members of Parliament to be present.

Parliament earlier rejected an application by the African Transformation Movement party for the vote to be held through a secret ballot.

The ANC announced on Monday that it would vote



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, centre, leaves an African National Congress (ANC) national executive committee meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday Dec. 5, 2022. Ramaphosa might lose his job, and his reputation as a corruption fighter, as he faces possible impeachment over claims that he tried to cover up the theft of millions of dollars stashed inside a couch on his farm. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

against the adoption of the report critical of Ramaphosa and any moves to impeach him.

The party's National Executive Committee decided to stand by the

president. Ramaphosa, meanwhile, has taken legal action to challenge the report in the Constitutional Court.

The report was drafted by an independent panel appointed to probe allegations levelled by the country's former intelligence head, Arthur Fraser, that Ramaphosa illegally held foreign currency on his game ranch and then tried to cover up the theft of an estimated \$4 million from his Phala Phala farm.

Fraser accused Ramaphosa of money laundering and violating the country's tax and foreign exchange control laws, but the president has denied any wrongdoing, saying the money was from the sale of buffalo from his ranch.

### cont'd from pg 19

peared in court on Tuesday on charges of attempted manslaughter.

He asked for and was granted more time to prepare his defence, as is common in the Greek justice system, before he appears before an investigating magistrate.

Asked to comment on the shooting, government spokesman Giannis Oikonomou said: "The value of a human life can never be measured by any amount of money."

A spokesman for Greece's main opposition left-wing Syriza party accused the centre-right government of failing to keep excessive policing methods in check.

"Society can no longer tolerate this climate of fear created by extreme po-

lice brutality which, for trivial reasons, has threatened the life of an underage 16-year-old child," said Christos Spirtzis, the party spokesman for public order.

Another Roma youth was killed in 2021 near the port of Piraeus, also in a police pursuit.

The shooting occurred on the eve of annual protests in Greek cities to mark the fatal 2008 police shooting of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos in Athens, whose death triggered the worst riots in recent Greek history that lasted for weeks and caused extensive damage to private and public property.

Anniversary protests held since the shooting have often led to violent clashes between protesters and riot police.



What Is Santa Getting  
You This Year?



MAJOR CHRISTMAS DEALS



POINTE TV

SPECIAL PACKAGES

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

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

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



CALL: 268-562-4989  
EMAIL: POINTEFM99.1@GMAIL.COM



# Boxing powerhouse Cuba lets women boxers compete

AP - Legnis Cala Massó carefully removes her necklace and smiles as her coach slides her bright red boxing gloves over her French tip nails.

The 31-year-old swings her wiry body into the ring and pounds her fellow boxer – also a young woman – with a series of punches, just as she’s done countless times before.

Today is a day she’s been waiting for since she started to box seven years ago.

Cuban officials announced Monday that women boxers would be able to compete officially after decades of restrictions, though they didn’t yet confirm if that would be taken to a professional level like it was with Cuban male boxers earlier this year.

Still, it sparked excitement in women like Cala Massó who have spent years fighting to be recognized.

“Saying that boxing is not for Cuban women – that’s always been the problem,” she said, leaning on the side of a blue boxing ring in downtown Havana. “Where we are now, we never thought we would get here.”

Cuba is known worldwide for boxing, home to many legendary male boxers – among them Félix Savón, Teófilo Stevenson and Julio César La Cruz – and owner of dozens of Olympic medals in the sport.

But the island has also sparked controversy by not allowing women to compete, despite permitting them to do so in other contact sports like taekwondo and wrestling.

Perhaps most notably in 2009, the former head coach of Cuba’s men’s team Pedro Roque told a group of journalists that “Cuban women are there to show their beautiful faces, not to take punches.”

It was a sentiment Cala Massó and



Ydamelys Moreno, right, watches as fellow female boxers train in Havana, Cuba, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. Cuban officials announced on Monday that women boxers would be able to compete for the first time ever. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

other women who have embraced the sport have rejected as they’ve sought to change the rules.

Cala Massó began boxing in Havana with just one other woman, spending long hours training despite being turned away by many coaches and boxing rings. With time, interest in boxing among women has only grown.

On Monday morning, officials with Cuba’s National Institute for Sports, INDER, announced in a press conference that they would hold a competition of 42 women boxers in mid-December to choose 12 athletes for a women’s team.

The team, they said, will compete in the Central American and Caribbean Games in El Salvador, their first international debut. The competition will be a first step toward the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Women were first allowed to box in the Olympics in 2012.

Cala Massó, who now trains with five other women, hopes the decision

means their community will only grow.

The announcement comes shortly after Cuban boxers made a comeback in May in Mexico, with male boxers competing professionally – and getting paid – for the first time since the communist government prohibited professional sports 60 years ago. It was a big change in a country where athletes, namely boxers and baseball players, regularly leave for paychecks elsewhere.

Down the line, once the team is built, those women could also potentially compete in a professional capacity, INDER officials said.

Meanwhile, they said Cuban women boxers will be able to train in state sports centres starting in January.

Emilia Rebecca Hernández, of INDER, said that the changes would make it so “Cuban women athletes can move up to the place where they belong – right next to men.”

*cont’d on pg 23*



## South Korea looks to youth after World Cup loss to Brazil

AP -South Korea lost in the round of 16 of the World Cup and then lost its coach.

The team was beaten by five-time champion Brazil 4-1 on Monday. After the match, South Korea coach Paulo Bento announced that he was stepping down to end his four-year stint. The Portuguese coach said he made the decision several months ago.

### EXPECTATION VS. PERFORMANCE

South Korea was knocked out of the 2019 Asian Cup in the quarterfinals, so reaching the last 16 in Qatar can be seen as a positive. South Korea was appearing in its 10th straight World Cup, and its 11th overall. This was the third time South Korea has reached the knockout round. Its best performance was in 2002 when it co-hosted the event with Japan and reached the semifinals.

### WHO'S OUT

A key figure missing will be Bento. However, the current group of players is arguably the best that South Korea has assembled, and most are relatively young.



South Korea's Hwang Hee-chan reacts at the end of the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Brazil and South Korea, at the Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. Brazil won 4-1. (AP Photo/Martin Meissner)

One of the older players is 30-year-old Son Heung-min, the star midfielder at English club Tottenham. Son failed to score in this World Cup after getting goals in the last two.

He did get a beautiful assist on Hwang-Hee-chan's goal, which gave South Korea a 2-1 victory over Portugal and a place in the last 16.

Son played in the tournament wearing a black face-

mask to protect a broken left eye socket picked up in a Champions League game on Nov. 2.

### WHO'S NEXT

After the loss, Son pointed out who he thinks will be the next players to lead South Korea. He singled out Lee Kang-in and Paik Seung-ho. Paik came in and scored as a substitute against Brazil in his first World Cup action.

"I am grateful that our young players showed what they are capable of doing on this stage and also the potential for what they could do in the future," Son said. "I hope they get even better."

Son also took centre stage to apologise for the Brazil loss. "I am really sorry for our people, for soccer fans who supported us," Son said. "It turned out to be an extremely difficult match."

### WHAT'S NEXT?

South Korea has qualified for the Asian Cup, but will receive tough competition from Japan, Australia and Saudi Arabia — all World Cup qualifiers. The event, scheduled for January 2024, was moved to Qatar after China withdrew, citing COVID-19.

### cont'd from pg 22

Yet Hernández, who spoke only briefly, was the only woman on a panel of male officials who said their delay in allowing women to practise the sport was because they had to investigate "the risks that women could run."

Women will wear additional padding, they said.

Yet for 22-year-old Giselle Bello Gar-

cia, who boxed alongside Cala Massó after having only started boxing one year earlier for exercise, said the news offers them a chance to show what they're made of.

"I have a new hope for life, because my life has changed. From now on, I'm going to focus solely on boxing," she said. "I want my whole life, up until my death, to be connected to boxing."

"I have to be the best," she added.

# Sports News



## Win World Cup for Pele, Brazil football fans tell team

By Hafsa Adil

The three-time champion, hospitalised with colon cancer, continues to inspire fans globally.

Aljazeera-Thousands of singing and dancing Brazil fans have been cheering for their team at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, but in their hearts they have been saying a silent prayer for their “king”, Pele.

When Brazil cruised past South Korea for a place in the quarter-finals, these fans had a simple request for the team: Win the World Cup for Pele.

Pele, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, has been battling colon cancer, and was hospitalised following a respiratory infection last week. He was part of Brazil's World Cup-winning teams in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

“For us, Pele is the king,” said Arlem, a Brazil fan from Rio de Janeiro, as she pointed to an imaginary crown above her head. “We love him. We idolise him and we want him to live a long and healthy life so he can watch Brazil win the World Cup.”

While many fans present in Qatar for the 2022 World Cup have grown up hearing tales of Pele's greatness and watched old videos of his goal-scoring prowess, some were lucky enough to watch him play live.



Fans unfurl a giant banner of Pele at 900 Park, a fan zone in Doha, Qatar, before Brazil's World Cup match against South Korea on Monday, December 5, 2022 [Teo Kermeliotis/Al Jazeera]

Flamenco, a football fan from Colombia, saw Pele play in Mexico City when Brazil beat Italy in the final of the 1970 World Cup. “Pele will always be the best footballer ever,” he told Al Jazeera.

Flamenco said Pele's achievements make him stand out among all those who have come before and after him. “Diego Maradona was very good, and Lionel Messi is a wonderful player but Pele? He won three World Cups, how can anyone match him?”

Ronnie and Mary Portillo, a Colombian couple who grew up watching Pele weave his magic, agreed. “As he grew in stature, he took the sport to new

heights,” Mary said.

Pele sits at the top of Brazil's all-time goal-scorers' list with 77 goals in 92 matches. Mary credited Pele and his Brazilian side of the 1960s with introducing the concept of “jogo bonito” (the beautiful game) to the world, and said, “Brazilians are the best players, they always play jogo bonito.”

There was plenty of jogo bonito on display on Monday night as Brazil scored four goals in their first knockout game of the current World Cup, and looked like scoring plenty more.

Before the team took to the pitch at Stadium 974, they were sent a motivational message by the legend himself. In a message post-

ed on his Instagram account on Monday, Pele told the Brazil team that he would be following the game from his hospital bed.

“I'll watch the game from here at the hospital and I'll be rooting for each one of you,” he wrote.

The 82-year-old icon urged Brazil to extend their record of World Cup trophies by winning another one in Qatar.

The team, in turn, held up a large Pele banner as they celebrated their win with the fans. Afterwards, the players dedicated their win to Pele, and said they would like to lift the trophy for him. “He needs a lot of strength from us and this

*cont'd on pg 25*



## Bullets claim first win in premier league

Pigotts Bullets recorded their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Monday night.

Bullets scored two second-half goals to defeat Five Islands 2-0 in the second game of a double-header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters.

Following a goalless first half, Niah Browne broke the deadlock with a 68th minute conversion and Akeem Isaac scored two minutes later to seal Bullets' victory.

Bullets had lost 2-1 against Tryum in their



*The Pigotts Bullets team that started their ABFA's Premier Division game against Five Islands at the Technical Centre at Paynters on Monday, 5th December, 2022. (Photo courtesy Pigotts Bullets FC)*

opening encounter, while Five Islands played to a goalless draw with Parham in their first game.

Earlier on Monday,

Garden Stars recorded their second win in as many outings in the first division as they prevailed 2-1 against Green City in the first

game of the double-header.

All three goals in the match were scored in the first half, with striker Karique Knight scoring in the 10th minute to give Garden Stars the lead.

Wilden Cornwall Jr. then gave Garden Stars a 2-0 advantage with a 19th minute conversion.

Ngozie Harvey had the only conversion for Green City when he scored the final goal of the match in the 22nd minute.

Garden Stars had beaten Police 1-0 in their first encounter, while Green City pulled off a 2-1 victory over John Hughes in their opening affair.

## All Saints, SJA and OCS win in Under-14 Boys' school league

All Saints Secondary, St Joseph's Academy (SJA) and cupholders Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) all recorded wins in the Under-14 Boys' Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Foot-

ball League on Monday, 5th December.

Goals by Kamarlie Benjamin, Denison Hodge and Lebron Jarvis propelled All Saints Secondary to a 3-1 victory over St. Mary's Secondary School

at the Potters playing field. Miquea Emmanuel scored the lone goal for St. Mary's Secondary.

St. Joseph's Academy also pulled off a 3-1 victory over Antigua Grammar School at the King George

V. Ground.

Horaid Reynolds, Joshua James and Iczjaire Sebastian each converted once for St. Joseph's Academy, while Kevonte Lewis scored for Antigua Grammar School.

Defending champions Ottos Comprehensive School won by default over Clare Hall Secondary who failed to show up for their encounter at the King George V. Ground.

Jevaughn Jarvis scored five goals and Anthony Webster converted once to lead All Saints Secondary to a 6-0 victory against Clare Hall Secondary in their East Zone Under-20 Boys' Division affair at the Potters playing field.

### *cont'd from pg 24*

victory is for him, so that he can come out of this situation and that we can be champions for him," said Vinícius Júnior, who scored Brazil's first goal.

At the stadium, yellow-shirt clad fans of the Selecao – as the Brazilian team is known – celebrated their team's win with joyful abandon. But the mere mention of Pele's name evoked a different set of emotions in them. Renato Pelaquim, from Sao Paulo, struggled for words to explain what Pele has meant for several generations of Brazilians.

"He put Brazil on the world map with

his football, and brought many years of hope and joy to the Brazilian people," Pelaquim said.

"By bringing three World Cup titles to Brazil, he (Pele) gave immeasurable happiness to people who had seen years of hardships and sorrow."

Now, Pelaquim said, it's time for the current generation of Brazil's stars to step up for their hero.

"Our country is going through an economic and political turmoil again, so we need this team to do the same and make people forget their pain, and give Pele his last wish," he said.

# Sports News

## Teams complete semi-finals line-up in MPL's Business Softball League

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF), AFB AHLUR (Agriculture United) and Time of Victory have joined TG Welding in the semi-finals of the Mandy Premier League's (MPL) Cool and Smooth Sherma Jackson Business Softball League Competition.

All three teams recorded wins in their respective quarter-final encounters at the Potters playing field on Sunday to advance to the semi-finals to join TG Welding, who gained a bye into the final four by virtue of playing unbeaten to finish at the top of the standings at the end of the preliminary round of matches.

In last Sunday's quarter-finals, the Antigua Barbuda Defense Force defeated PEL Desi Boys by 27 runs. The ABDF made 117 for seven off 10 overs.

Male player of the game Vaughn Charles struck 43 and Quincy France made 16. Sudeep Chanda claimed two wickets for six runs and Samuel Joshua captured two wickets for 28 runs.

PEL Desi Boys were then restricted to 90 for seven in 10 overs. Fredrick Floyd scored 26 and Indranil Mukherji made 25. Thuridine Benjamin took two wickets for 15 runs and Terique Mason captured two wickets for 23 runs.

AFBAHLUR pulled off an eight-wicket win against Grill Box, who could only muster a total of 70 for eight off their 10 overs. Mervin Higgins made 23, while female player of the game Monique Titus snapped up four wickets for five runs and Albert Bartley picked up two wickets for 15 runs.

AFBAHLUR then coasted to victory at 71 for two off 8.2 overs. Male player of the game Joshua Daniels struck 29 and Mervin Higgins claimed one wicket for 14 runs.



*Time of Victory's Arianna Farrell, left, claimed the female player of the game award while teammate Demetri Lucas, right, was adjudged the male player of the game in their team's victory over Living Styles in the Mandy Premier League's (MPL) Cool and Smooth Sherma Jackson Business Softball League at the Potters playing field on Sunday, 4th December, 2022. (Photo courtesy Mandy Weatherhead)*

Time of Victory romped to a 10-wicket win against Living Styles who were restricted to 54 for eight off 7.2 overs. Steve Martin got 15 and Peter Bellefante made 13.

Male player of the game Demetri Lucas grabbed three wickets without conceding a run and female player of the game Arianna Farrell picked up one wicket for 20 runs.

Time of Victory then raced to vic-

tory by scoring 55 without loss in just 2.5 overs. Lucas slammed an unbeaten 26 and Essan Warner was not out on 25.

The semi-finals will be played at the Potters playing field on Sunday, 11th December. The Antigua Barbuda Defense force will take on Agriculture United at 12 pm, while TG Welding will clash with Time of Victory at 2 pm.



## Nadal, Alcaraz to meet in exhibition at Las Vegas in March

AP - Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz will resume their rivalry for the ages in an exhibition match in Las Vegas on March 5.

Nadal, who is 36, owns a men's-record 22 Grand Slam titles, including two in 2022 at the Australian Open in January and French Open in June, while Alcaraz, 19, claimed his first major trophy at the U.S. Open in September.

The two Spaniards finished 1-2 in this year's ATP rankings: Alcaraz is the youngest man to finish at No. 1, while Nadal is the oldest to finish at No. 2. They're also the first two countrymen to lead the men's rankings since Americans Pete Sampras and Michael Chang in 1996.

The match — being touted, boxing-style, as “The Slam: Nadal vs. Alcaraz” — will be held inside the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Tickets go on sale Friday.

Nadal and Alcaraz have played each other three times in official tour-



Spain's Rafael Nadal, right, congratulates Spain's Carlos Alcaraz after their match at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Friday, May 6, 2022. Nadal and Alcaraz are scheduled to meet in an exhibition match in Las Vegas on March 5. The match — being touted, boxing-style, as “The Slam: Nadal vs. Alcaraz” — will be held inside the MGM Grand Garden Arena. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangué, File)

naments, all at Masters 1000 events. Nadal leads 2-1, with Alcaraz's victory coming in their most recent meeting, in May on red clay at Madrid.

### cont'd from pg 28

They then finished third in their second encounter with 71 points behind Ramplers, who won the match with 73 points ahead of Bolans Revellers D team in second place with 72 points.

Tied in fourth place are the Bolans Revellers A team and the Willikies Superstars A team with a total of 151 points each.

After bagging a third-place finish in their first encounter that was won by Dominatrix, Bolans Revellers A recorded a score of 81 to win their second

encounter ahead of Double Six with 73 points and Legacy with 68 points.

After finishing second to Dominatrix in their first outing, Willikies Superstars A team rebounded to win their second match by scoring 78 points to finish ahead of Bolans Revellers C team with 66 points and Unstoppables with 57 points.

Occupying sixth position are the Bolans Revellers C team with a total of 150 points.

They finished second in their opening match, but won their second encounter

by amassing 84 points to beat Moise Eagles with 76 points and Parham Strikers with 65 points.

They are followed by Bravo with a total of 148 points after taking 82 and 66 points from their first week of matches. Parham Strikers and Double Six are next with 146 points each. Parham Strikers secured scores of 65 and 81, while Double Six had scores of 73 twice in their matches.

Ramplers recorded scores of 71 and 72 for an overall total of 144 points. Moise Eagles recorded 142 points with scores of 76

and 66. Legacy has 137 points with scores of 69 and 68.

Next are Unstoppable with 133 points, with scores of 76 and 57 and Bolans Revellers B team with a total of 131 points with scores of 69 and 62.

Bolans Revellers D team are currently languishing in the cellar position with an overall total of 130 points with scores of 58 and 72 from their two matches.

The competition, which will last for a duration of five weekends, will resume later this week.

## Dominatrix lead Team Three-Hand Domino Competition



Players compete for their respective teams during the opening round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's Accumulated Three-Hand Competition at its headquarters in Ottos over the weekend. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)

Dominatrix are holding a slender lead at the end of the opening week of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) Accumulated Team Three-Hand Competition.

Dominatrix amassed 157 points by claiming wins in their first two matches. They won their opening match by scoring 77 points to beat Willikies Superstars A team with 72 points and Bolans Revellers A team

with 70.

Dominatrix then scored 80 points in their second encounter to prevail against Moise Eagles and Bravo with 66 points each.

Triple Dynamite and Willikies Superstars B team are tied in joint-second place with a total of 155 points each.

Triple Dynamite won their first match by scoring 75 points to beat Ramplers with 71 and Legacy with

69 points.

They secured 80 points to finish as runners-up in their second encounter, which was won by Parham Strikers with 81 points. Bolans Revellers B team came third with 62 points.

Willikies Superstars B team chalked up 84 points to win their first encounter against Double Six with 73 points and Bolans Revellers B team with 69 points.

*cont'd on pg 27*