

MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 35 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# SIR GERALD: NO SHENANIGANS IN PARLIAMENT!

*Story on Page 2*



On Saturday, Antigua and Barbuda reached the milestone of 100 cruise ship calls for 2023. Since the start of the year, the country has welcomed 181,917 passengers compared to 82,232 for the same period in 2022. [Photo credit: David Prosper] *Story on page 3.*

# Speaker Watt: Parliament will be guided by SOs

The Speaker of the House of Representatives has reminded both returning and new MPs that the rules that govern the Lower House will apply in every instance.

Sir Gerald Watt KC, who has taken a non-nonsense approach to the decorum of Members of Parliament, made the point as he addressed the chamber following his reelection as Speaker of the House last Friday.

Sir Gerald won nine of the seventeen votes cast.

In welcoming legislators to the new session of Parliament, Speaker Watt served notice that business of the State will be conducted in line with the Standing Orders.

Addressing the new members of the opposition United Progressive Party, the speaker informed them that, “The Standing Order consists of ninety-eight standing orders and five appendices.”

“I am heartened,” he continued, “by the fact that immediately after the elections, the general secretary of your party applied for, and has been presented by the acting Clerk to Parliament, with copies of the Standing Orders of the House.

“This tells me that contrary to opinions held in certain quarters, it is your intention to contribute to a high level of debate and to fully acquaint

*cont'd on pg 3*



Sir Gerald Watt KC

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## St. John's Harbour surpasses 100 cruise ship calls

The St. John's Harbour has now welcomed more than 100 cruise ship calls this year.

Less than two months into the new year, close to 200,000 cruise passengers have already visited the country.

General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port Ltd. (ACP), Dona Regis-Prosper, made the announcement when on Saturday, she revealed that the St. John's Harbour had surpassed the 100th call of 2023 and welcomed 181,917 passengers.

In the same period last year, Antigua and Barbuda had only welcomed 82,232 cruise passengers.

Regis-Prosper noted that several factors contributed to the country's strong performance a mere 49 days into the new year.

"Antigua and Barbuda's strong tourism brand power, coupled with a strategic marketing and port development i.e. the Fifth Berth, and overall product devel-

opment all contributed.

It is a collaborative effort between ACP/Global Ports Ltd. and the Ministry of Tourism, and Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

"The planning cycle for cruise tourism is about two years, and now, two years later, we have been working very closely with the Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, along with the ABTA is meeting with various cruise operators both in Europe and North America. These discussions are now bearing fruit," she said.

ACP's general manager is also very optimistic about the immediate and medium-term outlook of the local cruise industry.

"The rest of the season looks very promising as we are projecting 600,000 passengers by the end of cruise season.

"The summer season looks better with eighteen calls compared with two last year.



General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port Ltd. (ACP), Dona Regis-Prosper

"By November 2023, two additional vessels will join the Arvia with homeport operations in Antigua - the Emerald Azzurra and the Royal Clipper - making a total of three vessels that will homeport here," Regis-Prosper said.

She is of the view that Antigua and Barbuda's successful performance in cruise tourism is a testimony to the hard work put in across all sectors of the industry.

"It speaks volumes to

the combined efforts of all cruise tourism stakeholders including tour operators, taxi drivers, retailers, restaurant operators along with ACP to deliver a superior passenger exotic experience.

"It also speaks to the successful partnership that ACP continues to have with the government of Antigua and Barbuda."

Regis-Prosper also provided insight into ACP's plans for the cruise sector.

"Part of our strategic marketing is to promote an 'Antigua Cruise' where luxury vessels will homeport in St. John's then sail to Falmouth Harbour and then Barbuda. The target for this would be high-end vessels with a capacity of 100 to 150 passengers.

"We are also targeting year-round cruises to boost traffic in the summer period," she added.

*cont'd from pg 2*

yourselves and be guided by the Standing Orders, which will guide you over the next five years and perhaps beyond."

Sir Gerald then addressed rumours of an opposition crafted plan to "go after" the Speaker.

"I do not for one moment believe this to be true and put such talk down to political rumour, fanned by enthusiastic political supporters.

"In the event, however, that there

are some truth to the rumours, let it be known that the Standing Order provides the Speaker with wide powers to ensure proper behaviour and decorum in the House of Representative and to deal with disorderly and grossly disorderly conduct by members during these proceedings.

"I am well versed of these rules and methods and will not hesitate to use them, should the occasion arise," Sir Gerald cautioned.

## FAO, CARDI introducing farmers to new techniques

A workshop for farmers begins today that will introduce them to new techniques for plying their trade in arid conditions.

The Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change workshop was jointly organised by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

Along with enhancing the skills of practising farmers and serving as a refresher course, it will also benefit attendees who are interested in learning more about agriculture.

Coordinator of the workshop, Mali Barnes, said it will cover water management and how to farm in arid conditions, implementing renewable energy on farms and hydroponics and aquaponics.



The workshop will be held at CARDI's offices near Betty's Hope. They will take the form of two-day sessions over a period of two weeks.

Barbudan farmers will also benefit, as the workshop picks up there on 6th March when a one-day

session, covering the same topics, will be offered.

The UN FAO office in Antigua and Barbuda has been cooperating closely with the farming community with the goal of maximising the use of water, given the country's history of prolonged droughts.



### Government of Antigua & Barbuda

Ministry of Education, Sports & Creative Industries  
Government Complex, Queen Elizabeth Highway  
St. John's, Antigua

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#### OAS Scholarship Application Announcement

The Organization of American States announces its 2023 call for scholarship applications for undergraduate and graduate academic studies and graduate research.

More information can be obtained through the links listed below.

- Call for applications for Graduate Studies: [https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/Academic\\_Program\\_OAS\\_2023.asp](https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/Academic_Program_OAS_2023.asp)
- Call for applications for Undergraduate Studies: [https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/specaf\\_2023.asp](https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/specaf_2023.asp)  
· Scholarship application form for Undergraduate Studies (last two years of a Bachelor's degree): <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1137&Type=1&Lang=Eng>
- Scholarship application form for Graduate Studies: <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1136&Type=1&Lang=Eng>

Deadline for submission of applications and accompanying documents to the Director of Education, Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.

## UTILITIES ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT DISCONNECTION NOTICE

Customers are encouraged to settle their accounts for Electricity, Water and Telecoms (inet Mobile, Home and Business) services. Customers are reminded that accounts 30 days or more in arrears are subjected to disconnection. Customers may contact our Credit Control Department at 480-7002 to discuss special payment arrangements.

Bill payments and viewing of bills are available via the APUA Direct Online Bill Payment Portal at [www.apua.ag](http://www.apua.ag). Online payments can be made through any of our banking or credit union partners.

Disconnections will be carried out during the period February 20th to February 28th, 2022.

Please be advised that reconnections are carried out within 1-2 business days after payment.



## Sargassum being studied for use in “high end” products

The Department of Analytical Services within the Ministry of Agriculture is exploring ways in which by-products of the sea plant, sargassum, can be used in the manufacturing of “high end” commodities.

Sargassum seaweed wreaks havoc on coastlines of countries across the Caribbean, including Antigua and Barbuda, and is a major challenge for hoteliers with beachfront properties.

Known for the pungent, sulphuric odour it produces once it begins decaying, the seaweed has a severe negative impact on the tourism industry.

Along with other Eastern Caribbean islands, Antigua and Barbuda experienced moderate to severe sargassum influxes in the first quarter of 2022.

Regional discussions have commenced on the possible uses of the seaweed and in Antigua and Barbuda, Director of Analytical Services, Dr. Linroy Christian, says his department is examining how it can be transformed into items that can generate revenue.

“We’re working on a position paper on it to look at the high-end commodities that can come from seaweed.

“Cosmetics for instance, textiles, you have the issue of the fertiliser, which I think has to be looked at



Director of Analytical Services, Dr. Linroy Christian

with a bit of a jaundiced eye, because you could be entering heavy metals into the environment with the use of it as a fertiliser, but we are trying to engage different partners on this.

“I think establishing a bioreactor here would be a good idea and we look at what products can emanate from that,” Dr. Christian stated.

In 2021, the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Analytical Services shipped its first batch of sargassum seaweed to Finland. It was received by Origin by Ocean, a Finnish company being incubated within the United Nations Office for Project Services (UN-OPS) Global Innovation Centre (GIC) in Sweden.

This initiative was the first phase

of a project being developed by Origin by Ocean to design a new biorefinery process (Nauvu®) for the extraction of biomolecules for use in food, cosmetics and domestic detergent, all from marine biomass.

While local experts are conducting in-depth studies on the benefits of sargassum, Dr. Christian noted that adequate funding will be critical to support the required research.

“We’re exploring avenues with the EU, exploring avenues with Mexico and Finland and we’ve had discussions with the UN officer here and also the New York office [of] Ambassador [Aubrey] Webson. We’ve had discussions on this.

“So, we are constantly looking at how, because allowing it to land on the beach and scraping it off the beach is just not a sustainable effort.

“A lot of money is spent; a lot of damage is done. How about we engage the hotel industry to invest in sargassum, such that we could develop products.

“There are avenues to explore, it is a resource that we have to manage and there are ways to do it, but funding is always the limiting factor,” Dr. Christian said.

### APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Monday, 20th February 2023		Wednesday, 22nd February 2023	Friday, 24th February 2023
Section of Dunbars 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Collins near the Bristol Water Pumps and Quarry 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Section of Villa near T.N Kirnon Street 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Bethesda 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Royal Gardens 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	—	Cedar Valley and Mount Pleasant near St. Andrews Primary School 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Cobbs Cross north of the Primary School 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

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

# FAO, UWI partner on agricultural fact-finding mission

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI) under the FAO-UWI Transformational Agri-Food Systems Project, has recently concluded a fact-finding mission in Antigua and Barbuda.

The mission was conducted with the assistance of consultants, Erica Haughton - Project Coordinator, and Dr. Dale Rankine - Lead Consultant.

The first phase of the project took place from 4th to 8th December, 2022 and was coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs.

Twenty-five in-person consultations, which included field visits, were



From left: Dr. Dale Rankine - Lead Consultant; and Erica Haughton - Project Coordinator.

undertaken with a diverse cross-section of key stakeholders.

The successful mission allowed the team to fully grasp the nuances of the agriculture sector in Antigua and Barbuda.

Following the fact-finding mission, the second phase, which took the form

of a national consultation, was held between local stakeholders and ministry technicians on 14th and 15th February at the Environmental Division.

Represented at the consultations were crop and livestock farmers, agro-processors, agricultural science teachers and officers from

the Extension Division.

The consultations were held under the theme, Scenario Planning Workshop for the Development of Baseline Climate Impact Assessments for Development of Transformational Agri-Food Systems Programme in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDs).

Over thirty-five people participated in the two days of talks which reviewed the report produced by the consultants, Ms. Haughton and Dr. Rankine.

The report highlighted the characteristics of the country's agricultural sector and how agriculture and climate change challenges are affecting food and nutritional security and productivity in Antigua and Barbuda.

It also looked at the conservation of the country's

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*cont'd from pg 6*  
 natural resources.

Meanwhile, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) National Specialist, Craig Thomas, explained that the IICA's role in the project was to coordinate and bring together all the key stakeholders.

In December, they interviewed several farmers and educators to gain insight and collect data.

The IICA's goal is to develop ways in which they can support solutions that address the concerns within the sector.

Antigua and Barbuda's Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Gregory Bailey addressed the session and acknowledged the multi-dimensional requirements faced in addressing local challenges and presented possible solutions.

With the shortage of water being the primary concern across all agricultural sectors, Bailey said he was pleased to receive the feedback provided by the consultants, as it targeted Potential Climate Smart Adaptation Options of Relevance for Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Rankine noted that climate change's impact on the Caribbean region elevates the importance of continuous adaptation in order to sustain food security.

Rankine continued that reduced rainfall and hotter climate has significantly hampered the agriculture sector which must now

adapt and find innovative ways of combating climate change.

The aim of the project is to enable the development of baseline climate impact assessments for Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, and the Bahamas.

The objective of the exercise is to facilitate three

primary outcomes:

(1) to make Caribbean agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

(2) to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises and

(3) to develop three sector specific concepts for agriculture, forestry and fish-

eries projects in Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and The Bahamas.

The next stage will involve the formulation of a concept document, which, once completed, will be shared with all stakeholders for review before a final document is submitted to the FAO for consideration.



## CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION

has a vacancy for a  
**SECRETARY GENERAL & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

### JOB SUMMARY

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) is seeking to fill the position of Secretary General & Chief Executive Officer. The Secretary General is the chief spokesperson of the CTO, and as Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for implementing the vision of the organisation based on the strategic direction set by the Council of Ministers and Commissioners of Tourism and the Board of Directors.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Educated to at least a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Tourism, Management, Marketing, International Relations or other relevant fields; a Master's degree is preferable.
- Minimum of ten (10) years' experience working at a senior/ executive management level, leading a team of at least 15+ employees and significant revenues of \$3-5 million annually in a multifaceted business.
- Fluency in English is required. Language skills in French is preferred, and Spanish
- Extensive experience in strategic planning, business development, and policy formation and implementation.
- Extensive experience in forging beneficial partnerships with regional and international donor communities, development agencies, and private sector while securing funds for programme and project development.
- Proven experience and positive track record in collaborating and building relationships with intergovernmental bodies, senior government representatives, and civil society.
- Substantial experience in developing and implementing innovative measures in relation to tourism competitiveness at the national, regional or international level.
- Experience working in an environment of pressing deadlines, ambiguity and changing priorities; working well under pressure, and multi-tasking on a daily basis.

Please visit our website at:

[www.OneCaribbean.org](http://www.OneCaribbean.org)

for a detailed job description and further details.

*The deadline for applications is 3 March 2023*

## A&B Olympian kiteboarder breaks round-the-island record

70 teams from 16 nations set off on a 600 nautical mile circumnavigation of 11 Caribbean islands in one of the most challenging sailing events in the world.

If you thought it was all about the boats, time to think again!

In the lead up to the main event today, a new series of races culminated with the Antigua 360. Over 20 boats set off to race around the island - and two kiteboards!

Tiger Tyson, Antigua and Barbuda's Olympian kiteboarder, joined the boats in an attempt to break the record - and he did!

Previously held by the highspeed trimaran Phaedo at 2 hours 44 minutes, Tiger showed everyone how it's done and flew in at 2 hours 38 minutes.

He was joined at the start by a US kiteboarder, who was forced to retire with a ripped sail.

With strong winds, seas and a record amount of sargassum, this was a challenge for the boats, let alone the kiteboard.

If Tiger was able to surmount the weekend's challenging conditions, one can only imagine what he will achieve in the PanAm games in Chile later this year and at the next Olympics.

The main event starts today with the starter gun at Fort Charlotte in English Harbour, whither the course heads north as far as St. Martin and south to Guadeloupe taking in Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Saba and St Bart's, tackling every point-of-sail.

Boats from Australia, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, France, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and the United States will be participating along Antigua and Barbuda, of course, which holds her own among these prestigious teams.

The multi-hills are the monsters that expect to be back and partying in English Harbour by Tuesday afternoon, while some of the smaller boats will be happy to be back in time for the closing party on Friday!



Around 80 volunteers are participating in the event this year to ensure that every event is a success.

The Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard and Antigua

and Barbuda Search and Rescue (ABSAR) are both playing a major role as well to ensure the safety of the participants.

ABSAR, for example, meets every boat on their return.

Without these volunteers, Antigua and Barbuda would not have excelled as it has as a Centre of Excellence in sailing.

The 2023 sailing season goes right into July with the return of the North American

*cont'd on pg 9*

<b>Mon 20   Day</b> <b>78°</b> ☀️ Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 78F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.		<b>Mon 20   Night</b> <b>73°</b> ☁️ Partly cloudy. Low 73F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
☔ 23% ➡️ ENE 15 mph	☔ 8% ➡️ ENE 12 mph	💧 Humidity <b>69%</b>	☀️ UV Index <b>Extreme</b>
🌅 Sunrise <b>6:30 am</b>	🌇 Sunset <b>6:11 pm</b>	💧 Humidity <b>72%</b>	☀️ UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
		🌕 Moonrise <b>6:54 am</b>	🌑 Moonset <b>6:47 pm</b>
		🌑 New Moon	



## Students raise awareness about POPs through poetry

Students from schools across the country recently participated in the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Poetry and Oratorical Contest hosted by the Department of Analytical Services.

The activity formed part of the Knowledge, Aptitudes and Practices component under the recently completed GEF 5558 Regional project.

This contest which targeted primary school children sought to sensitise its contestants to the issues of POPs and inspire in them the ability to educate others through two creative writing pieces: Poetry and Oratory.

The winners of the competitions were awarded by Laël Bertide-Josiah of the Department of Analytical Services.

The candidates were judged based on their speech, delivery, the significance of the topic and general excellence.

Bertide-Josiah congratulated all the winners on their exceptional submissions and encouraged them to keep up their impressive work.

The winners were:

**Oratorical Competition**

1st place prize was awarded to Maahi Joshua of Island Academy International School, and she received a cash prize of \$1,000.00 and a certificate.

**Poetry Competition:**

6-8 Years

1st place prize was awarded to Sulienne George of the Foundation Mixed Primary School, and she received a cash prize of \$500.00 and a certificate.

**Poetry Competition:**

9-11 Years:

1st place prize was awarded to Kishawn Hughes, representing the J.T. Ambrose School and she received a cash prize of \$500.00 and a certificate.



*cont'd from pg 8*

can Optimist Championships which left Antigua and Barbuda with glowing reviews in 2015 and 2016.

Their return will increase the need for more volunteers.

Antigua and Barbuda is no stranger to a challenge, however as the country welcomed 64 nations during the World Championships in 2019.

Hundreds of visitors, sailors, their families, organisers, hangers-on will descend on the island placing Antigua and Barbuda's sailing prowess on the world stage.

The country will be well-represented by our now-well-travelled young optimist champions, trained by Antiguan and Barbudan Olympian, Karl James.

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

HURRY!

By Kenneth Holt

1	U	2	T	3	I	4	C	5	A	6	W	7	A	8	S	9	O	10	B	11	E	12	A	13	H			
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67	E	68	S	69	S	70	E	71	X	72	S	73	A	74	M	75	P	76	E	77	S	78	O	79	S			

# Valentine and the cow hug day

By Tony Deyal

If my Uncle Jacket had a big stone in his hand, or my father a shotgun, they would have destroyed both the radio and the BBC when it announced that people everywhere were celebrating Valentine's Day. They were in the rum-shop and the radio was on. Uncle Jacket was a cricket fan and he was angry.

"You see how bad this country get? We fight together against the Germans and as soon as the war finish we fighting one another!" I had no idea what he was talking about but I had never seen Uncle Jacket so angry. Even my father, who after a few drinks liked to sing and dance to "Indian" songs, was annoyed. "How dey could do that to Ramadhin?" he asked.

"Sonny is the one who break open the England batting and they give Valentine a day and they didn't give we one for Ramadhin! What dey have against we?" I understood the anger because they always boasted that Ramadhin was someone who had worked in the cane-fields with them. I had also heard many times from them the story about Ramadhin in England.

When offered a drink of rum, he replied, "Ah dozen drink." And then the bartender came back and asked Sonny if he wanted cigarettes. His response was, "Ah dozen smoke." So

the bartender returned with twelve of each.

What I found out long afterwards was that the radio announcement had nothing to do with Alf Valentine, the cricketer, but the celebration of St. Valentine's Day started in Ancient Rome in 496 AD. It then became associated in Britain with romantic love.

In 1382, Geoffrey Chaucer in his "Parliament of Fowls" celebrated the engagement of the 15 year-old King, Richard 11, to Anne of Bohemia with a poem. He wrote, "For this was on St. Valentine's Day when every bird (fowl) cometh to choose his mate."

Shakespeare took it up in 1601 with Ophelia (in Hamlet) lamenting, "Tomorrow is Saint Valentine's day. All in the morning betime, And I am a maid at your window, to be your Valentine."

It took a while before I got hooked, tied and shackled into the Valentine web which is spun, not by the bowler, but by grifters, grafters, shopkeepers and merchandisers. What eventually pushed me through the trap door was that on Valentine's Day it takes at least two to tango. It is the single men who suffer most.

While couples celebrate Valentine's Day in a big way, the standalones have to settle for Palm Sunday. It is like the question, "What does a passionate kiss and a spider have in common?"



Tony Deyal

They both lead to the undoing of the fly.

Or, as the Indian Government and authorities mistakenly hoped, it could lead to the rebranding of Valentine's Day to "Cow Hug Day". The declaration had come in a statement from the Animal Welfare Board of India which called cows the "backbone of Indian culture and rural economy."

For centuries, Indians considered the cow to be a sacred and divine animal. CNN reported, "So revered are the animals that authorities had planned to rebrand this Valentine's Day as 'Cow Hug Day', hoping the move would both boost citizens' 'emotional richness' and strike a blow for local heritage over what is seen as a western cultural import."

The idea turned out to be cattle fodder for the masses since it prompted a flood of internet memes, cartoons and jokes by TV hosts about the importance of consent.

For weeks the government's plan was mocked and ridiculed with satirical cartoons showing cows running away from amorous men, while internet users had fun with videos of violent encounters between beasts and men. We in Trinidad would have settled the issue very simply and quickly by telling the Government, "All youh talking bull."

For me, I don't beef about Valentine's Day. I have more fish to fry and lots of chips to eat. In 1997 the British "Mirror" newspaper claimed that Tyrells,

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the British potato crisp manufacturer, had launched a product which was able to have a “provocative” effect on the body. Tyrells claimed that its combination of honey “tinkering with hormone levels” and chilli “triggering nerve endings on the tongue” could get pulses racing, most likely from Valentine’s Day straight into the Trinidad and other Caribbean Carnivals. It will be the bond of the year.

While most men have rising hopes as Valentine’s Day gets increasingly closer, wives have escalating expectations. If you fail them by forgetting what day it is and what it means to them, you will inevitably end up in the doghouse and face a “withdrawal of enthusiasm” week. Nothing is incumbent upon women for Valentine’s Day, or even recumbent. They don’t have to do anything and if you are a man, don’t expect anything.

If you want peace and quiet, or even piece and quiet, you must bear gifts. In such a situation nothing succeeds like excess. If any of you male readers think I am exaggerating, all you have to do is eschew the extravagance when Valentine’s day comes next year.

You will be chewed and spat out and your hopes and the flowers are not the only things that will wilt. Women also get very tribal around Valentine’s Day and provide solid support to one another to ensure that

husbands and boy-friends remember and do the right thing or the writhing or even the writing associated with cards and cheques. One man was almost thrown out by the salesgirl in a stationery store.

She gushed, “You’ll like this card. It has lovely words. It says, ‘To the only girl I ever loved’.” He made the mistake of saying, “That’s really great. I’ll take a dozen.”

The Valentine’s Day story I like best is about the man who walked into a post office one February day to see a middle-aged, balding, very well dressed

gentleman standing at the counter methodically placing stamps with “Love” and other endearments on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them.

The gentleman then took out a bottle of expensive perfume and started spraying huge waves of scent on everything. His curiosity getting the better of him, the newcomer went up to the balding man and asked, “Sir, can you tell me what this is all about please?”

The man replied unhesitatingly, “I’m sending out 1,000 Valentine Day cards with the words ‘To The Sweetest, Most

Generous, Most Lovable, Most Romantic Man on Earth’ and they are signed, ‘Guess who?’” “But why?” asked the man in bewilderment. “You don’t look like the sort of man who would have relationships with men and certainly not with so many of them.” “Of course not,” the gentleman responded, a trifle haughtily. “I’m a divorce lawyer.”

*\* Tony Deyal was last seen saying that instead of any expensive gifts this Valentine’s Day he will try saying it with a flower that will last until Carnival Tuesday. It is called “The-Cost-Of-Living” rose.*

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## Male contraceptive pill prototype stops sperm swimming

By Michelle Roberts

An on-demand, non-hormonal male contraceptive pill may be a real possibility, say scientists who have found a cell pathway, or switch, that stops sperm from being able to swim.

Tests in mice suggest it keeps sperm stunned for at least a few hours - long enough to stop them reaching the egg.

Many more tests are planned and needed, moving to rabbits before people.

The idea is users could pop a pill an hour before sex and keep an eye on the clock for when it wears off.

How does it work?

Unlike the female contraceptive pill, it does not involve any hormones.

Scientists say that is one of the advantages of the approach they are exploring - it will not knock out testosterone and cause any male hormone deficiency side effects.

Instead, the "sperm-swim" switch they are targeting is a cellular signalling protein called soluble adenylyl cyclase or sAC. The experimental male pill inhibits or blocks sAC.

In the early study in mice, funded by the US National Institutes of Health and published in the journal *Nature Com-*



munications, a single dose of the drug, called TDI-11861, immobilised sperm before, during and after mating.

The effect lasted for around three hours. By 24 hours, it appeared to have fully worn off with the next batch of sperm swimming normally.

One of the scientists, Dr Melanie Balbach from Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, said it showed promise as a reversible, easy-to-use contraceptive.

If it does ultimately work in humans, men might be able to take it only when, and as often, as needed.

They could make day-to-day decisions about

their fertility.

But it would not protect against sexually transmitted infections, experts warn. Condoms would be needed for that.

Prof Allan Pacey, professor of andrology at the University of Sheffield, said: "There is a pressing need for an effective, reversible, oral contraceptive for men and although many different approaches have been tested over the years, none has yet reached the market.

"The approach described here, to knock out key enzymes in sperm that is critical for sperm movement, is a really novel idea.

The fact that it is able to act, and be reversed, so

quickly is really quite exciting.

"If the trials on mice can be replicated in humans with the same degree of efficacy, then this could well be the male contraceptive approach we have been looking for.

"They have done some tests on human sperm in the laboratory and it works in exactly the same way. So that, I think, really does open up the prospects that we can have some human trials."

Meanwhile, other researchers have been looking at a slightly different pathway to halt sperm swimming, by blocking a protein on the surface of sperm.

## Resolution to exonerate Marcus Garvey introduced in US Congress

Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D Clarke and Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson on Friday introduced legislation in the United States House of Representatives calling for the exoneration of Jamaica's first national hero, Marcus Garvey, and identifying him as a champion for the liberation of people of African descent.

"The world deserves to know the truth about Marcus Mosiah Garvey and the truth about Black history," said Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York.

"I was raised under the teachings of Marcus Garvey," added the first vice-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"I was raised to believe that we must come together to do the necessary work to improve our communities. And I was raised with the Garvey commitment to social service, including an abundance of faith in God.

"It's time to reclaim Garvey's legacy and accomplishments as a human rights activist before Congress, America, and the world," Clarke continued.

She said the resolution "exonerates Garvey of his unfounded charges and calls upon President Biden to recognise and denounce



*Marcus Garvey.*

the racist smears against him and his legacy.

"America must right these wrongs and restore Garvey's legacy," the congresswoman urged. "And the time to do it is now."

Johnson, who represents Georgia's 4th Congressional District, said the exoneration of Garvey is "an idea whose time has come.

"The utter lack of merit to the charges on which he was originally convicted, combined with his profound legacy and contributions to Black history in our country – it's time to right this fundamental wrong," he said.

"I'm honoured to co-sponsor this important resolution with my esteemed colleague, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, particu-

larly during Black History Month," Johnson added. "And, as the campaign to exonerate Marcus Garvey has been steadily growing, it's time to correct this injustice."

Garvey was a Jamaican-born Black nationalist and leader of the Pan-Africanism movement, which sought to unify and connect people of African descent worldwide.

In the United States, he was a noted civil rights activist, who founded the Negro World newspaper, a shipping company called Black Star Line, and the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA).

Hailing Garvey as a human rights activist, the resolution seeks to preserve Garvey's legacy by exonerating him of unfounded

charges brought against him by the US Government and calls for the US President to take necessary action towards clearing his name.

Marcus Garvey (1887-1940) was a civil rights activist for the Black Nationalism and Pan-Africanism movements, to which end he founded UNIA and African Communities League, according to biography.com.

It said that Garvey, who was born on August 17, 1887, in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, advanced a Pan-African philosophy, "which inspired a global mass movement, known as 'Garveyism.'"

In 1922, Garvey and three other UNIA officials were charged with mail fraud involving the Black

*cont'd on pg 14*

# CARICOM no closer to solving regional transportation issues

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders ended their 44th regular summit in The Bahamas on Friday, nowhere closer to solving the woes being experienced by regional travellers following the collapse of the intra-regional airline, LIAT, in 2020.

“It is an ongoing discussion we have mandated the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to explore and to examine the current challenge that we have and to come up with some recommendations on how we can overcome the travel issue of intra-regional travel,” Dominica’s Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit told reporters at the end of summit news conference.

The Antigua-based LIAT (1974) Limited began shutting down in July 2020 following increased debt and the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The airline is owned by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barba-



dos, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A downsized version of the carrier has been operating a reduced schedule with a limited workforce since November 2020.

The airline has scaled down its operations and is now servicing Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, San Juan Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Maarten.

Skerrit told reporters the matter had been discussed during the summit and the leaders had received an up-

dated report from the CDB.

“Amongst ourselves we have also discussed a number of actions we believe we can take in the immediate to help resolve the current challenge we have.

“The reality is we all miss LIAT in the Caribbean, an airline that was chastised by so many of us, but now we understand and appreciate the important public good LIAT espoused for so many decades and so we are looking at what kind of construct we can bring to play recognizing that there are existing companies that are

servicing our islands,” he added.

Skerrit said the Caribbean countries are looking “at how we can work with those existing entities to seek to alleviate the current challenges”.

In his address to the opening ceremony of the summit on Wednesday, newly elected St. Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew said CARICOM “stands at a crossroads” with myriad challenges including inadequate transportation within the region.

Drew said it is difficult for the Caribbean countries to extol the virtues of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) that facilitates the free movement of goods, services, persons, capital and technology “without addressing the proverbial “elephant in the room” – intra regional transport.

## cont'd from pg 13

Star Line, biography.com said.

It said that, on June 23, 1923, Garvey was convicted and sentenced to prison for five years.

He appealed his conviction, claiming to be a victim of a politically-motivated miscarriage of justice, but it was denied, biography.com said.

It said that, in 1927, Garvey was released from prison and deported back to Jamaica, where he continued his political

activism.

Eight years later, he moved to London, where he died, in 1940, after several strokes, biography.com said.

It said Garvey’s body was interred in London in view of travel restrictions imposed during World War II.

However, in 1964, his remains were exhumed and taken to Jamaica, where the government proclaimed him Jamaica’s first national hero and re-interred him at a shrine in the National Heroes Park.

## CARICOM condemns storming of Parliament in Suriname

CMC - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders have condemned the action of protestors in Suriname who stormed the Parliament in the Dutch-speaking CARICOM country on Friday in a bid to force the government to reverse its socio-economic policies.

Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit and his Barbadian counterpart, Mia Mottley, told a news conference at the end of the 44th regular summit of CARICOM that the regional leaders had issued a statement on the matter.

"We stand in solidarity in recognising the democratically elected government led by President (Chandrikapersad) Santokhi and we do hope that all actors can respect the rule of law and respect people's right to move freely," Prime Minister Skerrit told reporters.

"We certainly condemn the storming of the Parliament. It appears that this is becoming a practice in our hemisphere and it is something that we all need to seek to condemn and to stamp out in our hemisphere."

Skerrit said that the regional leaders were calling for "calm and the restoration of peace and order and allow for dialogue to take place and the issues among the Surinamese people can be addressed in a respectful lawful manner.



"We call on all to respect the rule of law and to maintain the rule of law in Suriname," Skerrit added.

Mottley said what occurred in Suriname on Friday "is most unfortunate" adding "people can express their views but there is no excuse for violence in any manner, form or fashion.

"And to the extent that persons have been injured and to the extent that property has been damaged, the ultimate loss is also the stability of the country," she said, joining Skerrit in calling for peace and stability in the Dutch-speaking CARICOM country.

"It is unacceptable for anybody to be putting people's lives at risk," Mottley said.

In its statement, CARICOM said it had received a report from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, Albert Ramdin, on the ongoing disturbances in that country.

"CARICOM reaffirms its support for the democratically elected Government of Suriname under the leadership of President Chandrikapersad Santokhi," the statement said, adding that the leaders had also "strongly condemned the violent attacks on people as well as private and public facilities including the parliament.

"CARICOM stands in solidarity with all law abiding citizens of Suriname and urges all concerned to make every effort to maintain public safety. All efforts must be made to restore calm as a matter of urgency."

Santokhi Friday warned that his government would not tolerate any indiscipline after police used teargas to disperse demonstrators, who gathered outside the Parliament building demanding his administration reverse its policies that have led to the removal of subsidies on a number of items including fuel.

"The government of Suriname condemns the de-

struction committed today in the most serious terms. The government will under no circumstances tolerate that the rule of law and democratic institutions in our beloved Suriname are affected by actions of individuals or in an organised context.

"We condemn and reject in the strongest terms what has taken place today in and around The National Assembly. Buildings and spaces of the House of Democracy have been reported to have been forcibly entered, causing destruction. Vigorous action will be taken against those who instructed, carried out and caused these attacks," the government said in a statement.

It said it has established a special Task Force, whose task it is to locate, apprehend and hand over to the judicial authorities as soon as possible those responsible for these actions.

"Destruction and attempted arson at shops and other buildings is also unacceptable. The government attaches great importance to fundamental freedoms, including demonstration and protest, but these must take place in an orderly and peaceful manner.

"Escalation in illegal actions, such as smashing windows, theft and vandalism, is not acceptable. The leaders of these protests will also be

*cont'd on pg 16*

## Dominican Republic says there's no more room for illegal Haitians

CMC - The Dominican College of Economists (Codeco) says it is unable to support any more illegal Haitian immigrants as the government is unable to give them more jobs when there are already one million living in the country.

According to Codeco, although trade with Haiti has continued its dynamism, the economy of the Dominican Republic cannot support increased immigration due to the high cost.

In a press release, Codeco indicated that the crisis experienced by the Haitian population exceeds the capacities of the country.

"There is no longer room to give them more employment when there are more than one million Haitians living in the Dominican Republic, of which some 700 are employed in different sectors contributing with their labour to national development and sending remittances of some US\$1 billion annually, including those that are not registered in the national accounts," the economists said.

Codeco also highlighted the high cost to the national budget of protecting the border, plus the expenses in education and health to attend to hundreds of thousands of illegal Haitians, which it said affects the capacity to protect the



two million Dominicans living in poverty and in need of government assistance.

They said at present, the country is helping the Haitian population by supplying the goods they need, sometimes creating food shortages in the domestic market.

They added that the government, with its migration control policy, is exercising its right to protect its borders by preventing the Haitian crisis from spreading to its territory and called on the international community not to confuse "racism with history," and saying "we have lived peacefully with Haitians

residing in the country for decades, many have been related to Dominicans and have made friendships and businesses in various sectors of the economy, but we can never accept that, by history, there is hatred and fear before the threats of unification."

The economists added that the situation with Haiti is becoming increasingly tense due to pressure from United Nations organisations for the Dominican Republic to take in refugees from that nation "who are fleeing, more than anything else, due to extreme poverty and lack of food, than for reasons of insecurity due to the actions of armed gangs."

*cont'd from pg 15*

summoned for questioning."

The statement said that the government will continue to keep the community informed of developments in this regard.

"Peace and order are guaranteed by the government. Violators will be dealt with immediately and firmly. The government has taken special measures to ensure the safety of citizens," it added.

Earlier this month, the government said it will save approximately US\$10.9 million annually on hydro and thermal energy as it moves to phase out electricity and gas subsidies.

Natural Resources Minister, David Abiamfo, told the National Assembly on Thursday that new electricity tariffs, which had been introduced in 2021 would be phased out in three phases within two years.

"At present circumstances, that subsidy will reach a level of SRD3.2 billion in 2023. An increase and a heavy burden on the government budget," Abiamfo said, adding that proposals by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would result in an increase in the price for the commodity in four phases by 20 per cent each time.

But the protestors are also calling for the removal

of Santokhi chanting "Chan go home" as well as Vice President Ronnie Brunswijk.

At one stage during the protest, the demonstrators stormed the Parliament Assembly building, breaking windows and also looting several stores nearby.

Police fired tear gas and also fired blanks as they attempted to crack down on the protest and some persons who remained in Independence Square.



## Trinidad to host regional symposium on crime

CMC - Trinidad and Tobago will host a regional symposium on crime in April as Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries continue to express concern over escalating criminal activities in the region.

Bahamas Prime Minister, Phillip Davis, speaking at a news conference on Friday night following the conclusion of the 44th CARICOM summit, told reporters the issue was discussed during the three-day event.

“Heads of government expressed deep concern at the current levels of violence being experienced in member states.

“We recognized that to adequately address crime and violence a holistic approach must be undertaken which addresses economic growth and prosperity, legislative, judicial, police and education reform,” Davis, who is also the CARICOM chairman, told reporters.



He said “in this regard the meeting agreed to a symposium to be hosted by Trinidad and Tobago in April 2023 to consider crime, particularly violent crime as a public health concern”.

Prime Minister Davis said the issue of trafficking in arms will be a major talking point at the Port of Spain deliberations, given that Caribbean countries have been urging the United States to help curb the export of small arms to the region.

“A discussion on violence in the Caribbean cannot be disassociated from the fact that it is guns that generate most of these violent crimes, so guns will be an issue and yes that is a topic we all have taken to the doorsteps of the manufacturers of guns.

“For me, I have continually said to our neighbours in the north their right to bear arms does not equate to the right in trafficking in arms. You have the right to bear it, but we don’t believe you have a right to traffic it.”

“At the same time, we have reached the point where it is believed that violent crime throughout the Caribbean, throughout the region, Bahamas no less than others, is a public health issue,” Davis told reporters.

High unemployment rates, a lack of economic development, and drug trafficking have made parts of the region susceptible to crime, violence, and gang activity.



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# North Korea makes fresh threats, US bombers fly after ICBM test

AP - North Korea said Sunday its latest intercontinental ballistic missile test was meant to further bolster its “fatal” nuclear attack capacity and threatened additional powerful steps over upcoming military drills between the United States and South Korea.

The United States responded by flying long-range supersonic bombers in a show of force later Sunday for separate joint exercises with South Korean and Japanese warplanes.

Saturday’s ICBM test, the North’s first missile test since Jan. 1, signals its leader Kim Jong Un is using his rivals’ drills as a chance to expand his country’s nuclear arsenal to get the upper hand in future dealings with the United States. An expert says North Korea may seek to hold regular operational exercises involving its ICBMs.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said its launch of the Hwasong-15 ICBM was organised “suddenly” without prior notice at Kim’s direct order.

KCNA said the launch was designed to verify the weapon’s reliability and the combat readiness of the country’s nuclear force. It said the missile was fired at a high angle and reached a maximum altitude of about 5,770 kilometres (3,585 miles), flying a distance of about 990 kilometres (615 miles) for 67 minutes before accurately hitting a pre-set area in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

The steep-angle launch was apparently to avoid neighbouring countries. The flight details reported by North Korea, which roughly matched the launch information previously assessed by its neighbours, show the weapon is theoretically capable of reaching the mainland U.S. if fired at a standard trajectory.

The Hwasong-15 launch demonstrated the North’s “powerful physical



*In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, a U.S. Air Force B-1B bomber, top, flies in formation with U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jets over the South Korea Peninsula during a joint air drill in South Korea, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023. (South Korea Defense Ministry via AP)*

nuclear deterrent” and its efforts to “turn its capacity of fatal nuclear counterattack on the hostile forces” into an extremely strong one that cannot be countered, KCNA said.

Whether North Korea has a functioning nuclear-tipped ICBM is still a source of outside debate, as some experts say the North hasn’t mastered a way to protect warheads from the severe conditions of atmospheric reentry. The North says it has acquired such a technology.

The Hwasong-15 is one of North Korea’s three existing ICBMs, all of which use liquid propellants that require pre-launch injections and cannot remain fueled for extended periods. The North is pushing to build a solid-fueled ICBM, which would be more mobile and harder to detect before its launch.

“Kim Jong Un has likely determined that the technical reliability of the country’s liquid propellant ICBM force has been sufficiently tested and evaluated to now allow for regular operational exercises of this kind,” said Ankit Panda, an

expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Chang Young-keun, a missile expert at Korea Aerospace University in South Korea, said that North Korea appeared to have launched an upgraded version of the Hwasong-15 ICBM. Chang said the information provided by North Korea showed the missile will likely have a longer potential range than the standard Hwasong-15.

Later Sunday, U.S. B-1B bombers and other aircraft separately trained with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets over and near the Korean Peninsula. A South Korean military statement said Sunday’s training reaffirmed Washington’s “iron-clad” security commitment to South Korea.

North Korea is sensitive to the deployment of U.S. B-1B bombers, which are capable of carrying a huge payload of conventional weapons.

The North’s launch came a day after it vowed an “unprecedentedly” strong response over a series of military drills

*cont’d on pg 19*

## Ukraine war: Russia must be defeated but not crushed, Macron says

BBC - French President Emmanuel Macron has said he does not want to see Russia crushed by a defeat in Ukraine.

Speaking to French media, Mr Macron urged Western nations to increase military support for Kyiv and said he was prepared for a protracted war.

"I want Russia to be defeated in Ukraine, and I want Ukraine to be able to defend its position," he said.

But he hit out against those who he said wanted to extend the war to Russia itself in a bid to "crush" the nation.

The comments came as world leaders gathered at the Munich Security Conference, which saw promises to speed up the supply of weapons to Kyiv and impose tougher sanctions on Moscow.

"I do not think, as some people do, that we must aim for a total defeat of



*In a speech to world leaders, Emmanuel Macron did not shy away from mentioning Russia-Ukraine peace talks as a final goal*

Russia, attacking Russia on its own soil," Mr Macron told the paper *Le Journal du Dimanche*.

"Those observers want to, above all else, crush Russia. That has never been the position of France and it will

never be our position."

Addressing the conference in Munich on Friday, Mr Macron insisted that now was not the time for dialogue with Moscow.

But he did not shy away from mentioning peace talks as a final goal.

The president suggested that Ukrainian military efforts, supported by allies, were the only way to "bring Russia back to the table and build a lasting peace".

He also dismissed the prospect of regime change in Russia, describing similar efforts around the world as a "total failure".

Despite Mr Macron's comments, negotiations are a faraway prospect for Ukraine's leaders.

On Friday, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba welcomed the decision to *cont'd on pg 20*

*cont'd from pg 18*

that Seoul and Washington plan in coming weeks.

In a statement Sunday, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of Kim Jong Un, accused South Korea and the U.S. of "openly showing their dangerous greed and attempt to gain the military upper hand and predominant position in the Korean Peninsula."

"I warn that we will watch every movement of the enemy and take corresponding and very powerful and overwhelming counteractions against every move hostile to us," she said.

North Korea has steadfastly slammed regular South Korea-U.S. military drills as an invasion rehearsal though the allies say their exercises

are defensive in nature.

"By now, we know that any action taken by the U.S. and South Korea - however justified from the vantage point of defence and deterrence against (North Korea's) reckless behaviour - will be construed and protested as an act of hostility by North Korea," said Soo Kim, a security analyst at the California-based RAND Corporation. "There will always be fodder for (Kim Jong Un's) weapons provocations."

"With nuclear weapons in tow and having mastered the art of coercion and bullying, Kim does not need 'self-defence.' But pitting the U.S. and South Korea as the aggressors allows Kim to justify his weapons development," Soo Kim said.

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said the U.S. will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and South Korea and Japan. South Korea's presidential National Security Council said it will seek to strengthen its "overwhelming response capacity" against potential North Korean aggression based on the military alliance with the United States.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries plan to hold a table-top exercise this week to hone a joint response to a potential use of nuclear weapons by North Korea.

The allies are also to conduct another joint computer simulated exercise and field training in March.

The foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan, meeting on the sidelines of a security conference in Germany on Saturday, agreed to boost a trilateral cooperation involving the United States and exchanged in-depth views on the issue of Japan's colonial-era mobilisation of forced Korean labourers - a key sticking point in efforts to improve their ties, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry.

South Korea and Japan are both key U.S. allies but often spat over issues stemming from Tokyo's 1910-45 colonial occupation of the Korean Peninsula. But North Korea's recent missile testing spree is pushing the two countries to explore how to reinforce their security cooperation.

## Former US President Jimmy Carter begins hospice care at home

Aljazeera - Former United States President Jimmy Carter has decided to receive hospice care and “spend his remaining time at home with his family”, according to a statement by the Carter Center.

At 98 years old, Carter is the longest-lived US president.

He began hospice care at home instead of “additional medical intervention” after a series of short hospital stays, the Carter Center said on Saturday.

“He has the full support of his family and his medical team,” the centre said, adding that the Carter family “asks for privacy during this time and is grateful for the concern shown by his many admirers”.

A Democrat who served as president from January 1977 to January 1981, Carter has suffered from several health issues in recent years, including melanoma that spread to his liver and brain, although he had responded well to treatment he received.

He was a little-known governor from the state of



*Jimmy Carter has entered home hospice care after a series of short hospital stays, according to the Carter Center [File: John Amis/ AP]*

Georgia when he began his bid for the presidency ahead of the 1976 election.

The former peanut farmer went on to defeat then-President Gerald R Ford, capitalising as a Washington outsider in the wake of the

Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal that drove Richard Nixon from office in 1974.

Carter served a single, tumultuous term in office marred by economic woes at home and the Iran hostage crisis that ended just after he left office. But he also played a central role in brokering the Camp David

accords that led to the landmark Egypt-Israeli peace treaty.

Carter was defeated by Republican Ronald Reagan in 1980, a landslide loss that ultimately paved the way for his decades of global advocacy for democracy, public health and human rights via the Carter Center.

The former president and his wife, Rosalynn, 95, opened the centre in 1982.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 in recognition of his “untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance de-

mocracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development”.

Jason Carter, the couple’s grandson who now chairs the Carter Center’s governing board, said on Saturday that he “saw both of my grandparents yesterday. They are at peace and - as always - their home is full of love”.

Carter, who has lived most of his life in Plains, Georgia, travelled extensively into his 80s and early 90s, including annual trips to build homes with Habitat for Humanity and frequent trips abroad as part of the Carter Center’s election monitoring and its effort to eradicate the Guinea worm parasite in developing countries.

In 2015, upon his cancer diagnosis as a nonagenarian, he expressed satisfaction with his long life.

“I’m perfectly at ease with whatever comes,” he said. “I’ve had an exciting, adventurous and gratifying existence.”

Carter and his wife Rosalynn, whom he married in 1946, have four children.

*cont’d from pg 19*

not invite Moscow to the Munich conference.

Russian leaders should not be invited to the table as long as the “terrorist state kills, as long as it uses bombs, missiles and tanks as an argument for international politics”, he said.

President Volodymyr Zelensky

has ruled out immediate talks with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, insisting there was “no trust” between the parties. In an interview with the BBC earlier this week, he also dismissed the idea of giving up territory to strike a peace deal with Moscow.

Mr Macron has previously been criticised by some Nato allies for

sending what they believe are mixed messages on Ukraine.

Last June, he was condemned by Mr Kuleba for saying it was vital that Russia was not “humiliated over its invasion”.

Mr Kuleba at the time responded that Russia - which was “humiliating itself” - needed to be put in its place.

## Paris Saint Germain edge Lille 4-3

BBC - Neymar was carried off on a stretcher before Lionel Messi scored a 95th-minute winner as Paris St-Germain gained an incredible win over Lille.

PSG had been 2-0 ahead and 3-2 behind after goals from Lille's Bafode Diakite, Jonathan David and Jonathan Bamba transformed the match.

Kylian Mbappe, who opened the scoring, grabbed his second in the 87th minute to give PSG hope of victory.

Messi then won it in dramatic fashion with a 22-yard free-kick.



*cont'd on pg 22* Neymar has scored 13 Ligue 1 goals this season and contributed another 10 assists

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## Italy asks Brazil forward Robinho to serve prison sentence in home country

Reuters - Italy has requested that former AC Milan and Brazil striker Robinho serves a 9-year prison sentence for rape in his home country, local media reported, citing Brazil's Foreign Relations Ministry.

In a statement, the Brazilian ministry confirmed it has received such a request without naming the player. Robinho's defence lawyer could not be reached for comment.

The request will be analysed by the Justice Ministry's Department of Asset Repatriation and International Legal Cooperation, the ministry added.

Robinho, whose full name is Robson de Souza, lives in Brazil and has always denied the charges.

Earlier this week, Italy's Justice Ministry had issued an international arrest warrant for the player, after the country's top court confirmed his conviction for rape in January.

But the South American country does not extradite its nationals, which would mean Robinho would



Guangzhou Evergrande's Robinho eyes the ball during a training session ahead of their Club World Cup semi-final soccer match against Barcelona in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, Japan, December 15, 2015. REUTERS/Toru Hanai

only face arrest if he travelled her with alcohol in a discotheque.

A Milan court in 2017 found Robinho and five other Brazilians guilty of gang raping a woman after plying

The conviction was confirmed by an appeals court in 2020 and validated by Italy's Supreme Court last month.

### cont'd from pg 21

Despite the win, PSG's main concern will be for Brazil forward Neymar after the 31-year-old, a goalscorer in the first half, was kicked on his calf and then went over badly on his right ankle five minutes into the second half.

He looked in great pain with his hands over his face as he was carried off at the Parc des Princes.

PSG end three-game losing run in dramatic style

The result means PSG are eight points clear at the top of Ligue 1, although

second-placed Marseille will cut the gap to five if they win at mid-table Toulouse later on Sunday (19:45 GMT).

PSG came into this match on a three-game losing run following a 2-1 loss to Marseille in the last 16 of the French Cup, a 3-1 Ligue 1 defeat by Monaco and a 1-0 home loss to Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie.

But they looked in complete control against Lille and were 2-0 ahead after only 17 minutes.

Mbappe showed great skill to jink past Tiago Djallo and Diakite to score the first goal, before Neymar doubled the advantage, scoring from a rebound after Vitinha's effort bounced off goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier.

But Lille, beaten 7-1 at home by PSG in August, pulled one back through Diakite's 24th-minute glancing header.

PSG had already lost left-back Nuno Mendes to injury before Neymar was carried off.

David's penalty, follow-

ing a foul by Marco Verratti, made it 2-2 and Bamba's powerful strike put the visitors ahead in the 69th minute.

However, Lille could not hang on. Mbappe hit a low shot into the corner with three minutes of normal time to go for his 15th Ligue 1 goal of the season, before Messi's late winner provided the final piece of drama in this seven-goal thriller.

PSG are next in action on 26 February, when they play title rivals Marseille away from home.



The Ottos Comprehensive School (black uniform) and Jennings Secondary (red uniform) compete in a female division encounter at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex earlier this month. The Ottos Comprehensive team is currently in second place in Zone 2 of the girls' division in the Inter-Schools' Volleyball League competition. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

## OCS lead boys' division in school's volleyball league

The Ottos Comprehensive School are currently leading the male division of the Inter-Schools Volleyball League.

They have so far played unbeaten, winning all five matches they have played to sit atop the nine-team boys' division league.

Island Academy's First Team are currently in second place ahead of Island Academy's Second Team in third place.

Island Academy's First Team are currently in first place in Zone 1 of the female or girls' division league.

Antigua Girls' High School's First Team are second and Sir Novelle Richards Academy are currently in third place.

Christ the King High School's First Team are leading Zone 2 of the girls' division ahead of Ottos Comprehensive School and Island Academy's Second Team.

Twelve teams, divided into two zones, are competing in the girls or

female division.

Antigua Girls' High School's Second Team prevailed 19-17, 15-13 against Sir Novelle Richards Academy in their girls' division encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Friday.

There were also wins for Jennings Secondary and Island Academy's First Team in the boys' division.

Jennings Secondary overcame All Saints Secondary in three sets, prevailing 22-25, 25-18, 15-12 in the first game of two boys' division encounters.

Island Academy's First Team defeated Antigua Grammar School 25-19, 25-12 in the other boys' division affair.

But there were mixed fortunes for Island Academy last Thursday.

Island Academy's Second Team lost in three sets to Ottos Comprehensive School in the boys' division. Ottos Comprehensive prevailed 25-

21, 22-25 and 15-13.

Island Academy's First Team overcame Sir Novelle Richards Academy in three sets in the girls' division. They won 15-8, 14-16 and 15-7.

Christ the King High School's First Team also secured a three-set victory over the Jennings Secondary School in their girls' division encounter. They prevailed 15-5, 14-16 and 15-8.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Island Academy recorded wins in their two encounters.

Island Academy's First Team overcame All Saints Secondary 25-10, 25-22 in the boys' division, while Island Academy's Second Team prevailed 15-11, 15-6 in the girls' division.

All Saints Secondary also celebrated success, coasting to a 15-7, 15-10 victory over Christ the King High School's Second Team in the girls' division.

# Sports News



## Swetes, Hoppers and Rangers win in premier league

There were wins for Swetes, Hoppers and Ottos Rangers in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division on Saturday.

A 25th minute conversion by Kamali Looby and a goal by Antoneil Campbell in the 85th minute, gave Swetes a 2-1 win over Five Islands in the first game of a triple header at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Ronald Arandis Thousand scored a consolation goal for Five Islands in the last minute of regulation in the 90-minute encounter.

Their sixth win in 12 outings lifted Swetes temporarily to fourth place with 21 points, while the 10th defeat in 12 matches has left Five Islands second from bottom of the 16-team competition on two points.

Greenbay Hoppers continues their resurgence by coasting to a 3-0 win over bottom team Liberta Black Hawks in Saturday's feature game.

Jari Jackson scored two of the goals, all of which came in the first half, as Hoppers claimed their fifth win in 11 matches to temporarily advance to 8th place with 17 points.

Jackson scored in the 3rd and 6th minutes, while the other goal for Hoppers was scored by Jordan



*Greenbay Hoppers player, Jari Jackson, second left, scored a brace in his team's victory against Liberta Black Hawks in their Premier Division encounter at the ABFA's Technical Center on Saturday, 18th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABFA)*

Adam Riley in the 18th minute.

The seventh loss in nine encounters left Liberta Black Hawks rooted in the cellar position with -4 (minus 4) points after being hit with a six-point deduction for failing to show up for their first two games of the season.

Ottos Rangers defeated Cedar Grove Blue Jays 3-1 in the second game on Saturday. Jalmaro Calvin put Rangers ahead with a 38th minute conversion and Keon Greene scored an equalizer for Blue Jays in the 43rd minute.

One minute later, Greene's teammate Sachin Merchant inadvertently scored an own-goal to give Ottos Rangers a 2-1 half-time lead. Josue "Naymar" Arias scored in the 78th

minute to seal Rangers' victory.

The sixth win in 11 matches lifted Ottos Rangers temporarily into seventh place on goal difference with 18 points.

The 8th loss in 11 encounters has ensured Cedar Grove Blue Jays will remain third from bottom of the standings on seven points.

Jennings Grenades retained their position in second place by romping to an emphatic 6-0 drubbing of Pigotts Bullets on Friday.

Donavan Jno-Baptiste scored twice late in the second half as Grenades claimed their 10th win in 12 outings to advance to 30 points.

Jno-Baptiste had conversions in the 72nd and 77th minutes after goals

by Rakeem Henry in the 6th minute, Sherman Augustine in the 22nd minute and Barrington Blake in the 37th minute gave Jennings Grenades a 3-0 half-time lead.

Pigotts Bullets were then reduced to 10 men in the 69th minute when Kavanaugh Abercombe was given a red card by the referee for showing descent and using abusive language.

Forward Ridel Stanislaus, who had missed a penalty just before half-time, redeemed himself by scoring Grenades' sixth and final goal in the 83rd minute.

Their sixth loss in 11 outings has allowed Pigotts Bullets to slip down into 11th place on goal difference with 13 points.





The Fort Road team that claimed their third win in the ABFA's First Division on Thursday, 16th February, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

## Bendals salvage draw, Fort Road get third win in first division football

Dequan Martin scored a stoppage time equalizer as Bendals snatched a 1-1 draw with Police in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on Friday.

Martin converted a penalty in the second minute of added on time (90+2 minutes) to salvage the draw and a share of the points for Bendals in their encounter

at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters.

Following a goalless first half, Police had taken a 1-0 lead in the 61st minute via a Nijah Hope conversion.

The result also allowed Bendals to overtake Lion Hill into fourth place on goal difference.

Their second draw in 12 matches has allowed

Bendals to advance to 17 points, the same as Lion Hill, who have a game in hand.

The result left Police in seventh place by advancing to 15 points after achieving their third draw in 12 outings.

Fort Road claimed their third win on Thursday. An Alren Lewis conversion gave Fort Road a 1-0 victo-

ry over Young Lions at the Old Road playing field.

Despite the result, Fort Road remains third from bottom of the 12-team competition with 11 points from 11 matches.

Their seventh defeat in 11 outings left Young Lions just above Fort Road in ninth place with 12 points.

Lion Hill and Bolans battled to a goalless draw in their encounter at the Golden Grove playing field.

Their third draw in 11 outings lifted Lion Hill into fourth place with 17 points, while Bolans remain in sixth place with 16 points after securing their first draw in 11 appearances.

*cont'd from pg 26*

be extra special in the field today and we spoke about not just winning the game with the bat and ball, but in the field as well and I think the girls did that.

"Over the last couple of weeks I have tried to take on responsibility at the top of the order, but [Rashada] Williams was really good and it was a complete team

effort again."

Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof: "It's hurtful for everyone. It was very close. We weren't up to the mark.

"Spin was the plan because the wicket was slow.

"The match against England is important. We have played good cricket throughout and we will continue that."

## Women's T20 World Cup: England through to semifinals after Pakistan lose to Windies

BBC - England qualified for the Women's T20 World Cup semi-finals after Pakistan slipped to a nervy three-run defeat by West Indies.

Chasing 117, Pakistan needed 18 from a dramatic final over but could only manage 14 to fall agonisingly short.

It meant England are certain to finish in the top two in Group 2 and can guarantee top spot if they avoid defeat to Pakistan on Tuesday.

Rashada Williams earlier hit 30 from 34 balls as West Indies posted 116-6.

The result moved West Indies up to third and level on points with second-placed India, meaning they still have a mathematical chance of reaching the semi-finals.

However, their inferior net run-rate means they need India to lose heavily against Ireland on Monday to overtake them.

If India do lose then Pakistan would also have a chance of reaching the last four if they beat England on Tuesday.

Bismah Maroof's side



looked to have the upper hand when they restricted West Indies to a below-par score, but paid the price for an ultra-cautious approach at the start of their reply.

It took until the eighth over for Pakistan to hit a boundary and they limped to 40-2 at the halfway stage in a match littered with individual mistakes from both sides.

Some hefty late hitting from Aliya Riaz - who scored a lively 29 from 23 balls - set up a dramatic finish, but West Indies just

managed to squeeze home.

The 2016 winners once again had captain Hayley Matthews to thank for a superb all-round performance, scoring 20 from 21 balls with the bat, taking 2-14 with the ball and claiming a superb catch in the field.

Despite the loss, it was a memorable match for Pakistan all-rounder Nida Dar, who took 2-13 to become the joint-highest wicket-taker in Women's T20I internationals with 125.

Most wickets in wom-

en's T20 internationals

Nida Dar (Pak) 125; Anisa Mohammed (WI) 125; Megan Schutt (Aus) 122; Ellyse Perry (Aus) 122; Shabnim Ismail (SA) 117.

'A complete team effort' - reaction

West Indies captain and player of the match Hayley Matthews: "My heart is still beating a bit fast. As West Indians we like to keep the game close but glad we got over the line in the end.

"We knew we had to  
*cont'd on pg 25*