



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 36 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

THRONE SPEECH MAPS OUT GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA



Story on Page 2

Government's agenda outlined in first Throne Speech since January elections

On Monday, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams presented his government's agenda in the first Throne Speech since the 18th January, 2023 general elections.

Themed "Managing With A Smaller Team: A more nimble and responsive government" - a nod to the smaller mandate of the Gaston Browne administration in its third term - the tone of the Throne Speech made it clear that this would no way impede the government from carrying out its duties to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

During the ceremonial opening of the first session of the new Parliament, Sir Rodney touched on several areas that will hold the attention of the new government over the course of the year.

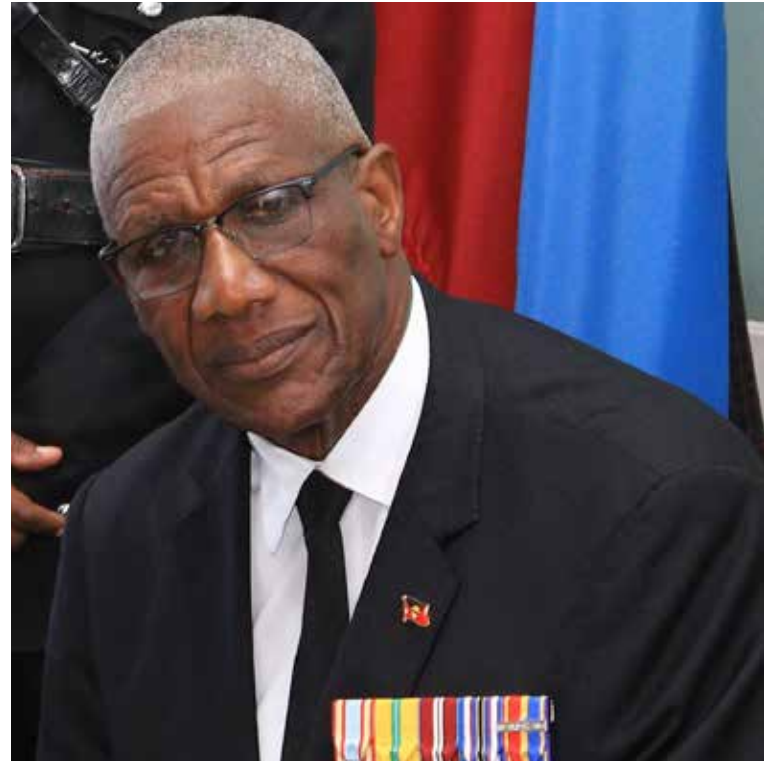
Education was first up, with the acknowledgement of the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party administration's investment, at all levels, in the country's people.

In addition to the \$200 million expansion of the

UWI Five Islands Campus that is now under way, Sir Rodney revealed other education centres which will receive attention in the new term.

"My Government is also pleased to announce that it has secured \$13 million to expand the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) and has received over \$4 million in grants and gifts towards the expansion of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy. These investments are the result of the skillful negotiations by the Honourable Prime Minister and the Minister of Education who are to be commended for their unwavering commitment to enhancing the education services provided. These investments will ensure that more of our citizens and residents have access to quality technical and vocational as well as secondary education and training programmes, and will help us build a stronger, more resilient economy for the future," said Sir Rodney.

He continued that the



Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams

government will also move to establish a "National Performing Arts Centre by converting the former Deluxe Cinema".

In respect of healthcare and its development, the government recommitted to ensuring that access to, and the cost of obtaining it remains within the reach of all nationals and residents.

Antigua and Barbuda recently celebrated the milestone of having successfully

completed ten kidney transplants.

This places the country in the position to now offer this service to territories in the region who are without the technology and expertise to offer this lifesaving treatment.

According to Governor General Williams, the government will now turn its attention to developing a cardiac centre at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Sir Rodney also addressed his government's intention to address other areas that will improve the lives of Antiguan and Barbudans, specifically in respect of technology.

"My government is committed to providing affordable and reliable broad-

cont'd on pg 3

<p>Tue 21 Day</p> <p>80° </p> <p>Partly cloudy skies. High near 80F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.</p>		<p>Tue 21 Night</p> <p>73° </p> <p>Partly cloudy skies. Low 73F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p>14% </p> <p>ENE 13 mph</p>	<p>22% </p> <p>ENE 11 mph</p>	<p>Humidity 69%</p> <p>UV Index Extreme</p>	<p>Humidity 79%</p> <p>UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p>Sunrise 6:30 am</p>	<p>Sunset 6:11 pm</p>	<p>Moonrise 7:39 am</p>	<p>Moonsset 7:48 pm</p> <p>● Waxing Crescent</p>

cont'd from pg 2

band services throughout our twin-island state. The commissioning of an undersea cable owned by the APUA will result in a decrease in service costs, prevent the charging of usurious prices for rental connectivity, provide Barbuda with better quality broadband services and advance our goal of achieving First World standards of connectivity throughout the nation.”

Notably, the country’s economic recovery post-COVID was highlighted, as was the government’s intention to exceed the impressive 7 percent growth projected over the coming fiscal year.

The importance of tourism in this economic rebound was also underscored.

“Despite the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, my government ensured that public servants received their salaries and wages

on time, and that pensioners received their full payments. This dedication to the people has paid off, as evidenced by the growth in the economy in 2021 and continuing that trend into 2022. In fact, my Government anticipates exceeding the average 7% growth in 2023.

“One of the major contributors to this success has been the PLH project in Barbuda, which not only created jobs but also stimulated local purchases, throughout the pandemic. Despite attempts to shut down this economic engine, my government firmly believes that Barbuda will continue to be a source of jobs and opportunities for growth in 2023 and beyond.

“The second prong of our national fiscal security mechanism was focused on preserving our nation’s main economic engine - the tourism sector. My government acknowledges the hard work of the Minister of Tourism and

his team of public and private sector partners for growing, stabilising and rebuilding the sector—an accomplishment which received several awards including the Tourism Minister of the Year Award presented by the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

“The recovery of the tourism sector after its forced lockdown during the dark period of the COVID 19 pandemic is a remarkable achievement, engineered by my government’s efforts and the superb leadership of a team of experts who capitalised on pent-up demand for travel in the markets that drive our tourism industry.

“Despite the temporary closure of two of our largest properties—Jolly Beach and the Halcyon Cove—undergoing upgrades and renewal, visitor arrival figures nearly match those of 2019, our best year on record. Furthermore, we expect even more visitors in the upcoming season.”



STUDENT SAFETY POLICY

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

www.sicantigua.com
 info@sicantigua.com
 1 (268) 481-7800\04

Gov't looks to T&T as decision on stranded Africans looms

The government of Antigua and Barbuda is expected to review the Trinidad and Tobago High Court's extension of an injunction which blocked the deportation of five Cameroonians from that country, as it prepares to make a decision on the future of the Africans who are stranded here.

Last Tuesday, an injunction was granted to block the group's removal from Trinidad and Tobago.

Two days later on

Thursday, the attorneys for the five Cameroonian men and women approached the court in Port-of-Spain to petition another judge for an extension of their stay after new attempts were made to deport them a day earlier.

The group hoped to halt deportation proceedings as they awaited a decision from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on their applications to be relocated to a country that could accept them as refu-

gees.

Their problems began when they arrived in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2022, and were detained at the Piarco International Airport.

They unsuccessfully appealed their detention with the Immigration Department and Minister of National Security.

Mindful of the legal implications if the situation here in Antigua and Barbuda involving hundreds of Africans is improperly handled, officials are paying close attention to the events that are unfolding in the southern Caribbean country.

"My government notes with interest, the decision of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago less than a week ago, to prevent the Trinidad and Tobago government from deporting the West Africans back to their homeland.

"My government further notes that the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) played a significant role in stopping the deportations.

"My government is required to take this high court decision into consideration and the role of the UNHCR, prior to making its final decision," Governor General Sir Rodney Williams told yesterday's joint sitting of Parliament during his presentation of the Throne Speech.

"My government has a history of demonstrating its care for, and concern over the more vulnerable, defenceless and persecuted. My government is committed to protecting all residents from exploitation and harsh treatment and would never have our West African brothers and sisters dwell illegally in the shadows, nor would we allow our kith and kin to be subjected to exploitation and harsh treatment by those who may seek to create victims," Sir Rodney added.

In Monday's Throne Speech, the government attempted to allay the stranded Africans' fears of deportation. Previous immigration amnesties that have been extended to law abiding immigrants who for some reason fell behind on their immigration status was highlighted as a show of the government's good faith to non-nationals.

A report from the Ministry of Labour and Immigration was submitted to Attorney General and Minister of Immigration and Labour, Steadroy Benjamin, last Friday which contained recommendations on how the government should proceed on the issue of the African nationals.

Cabinet will consider the report and its recommendations this week as they determine how to move forward.



Government of Antigua & Barbuda

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

Tel: 462-0192/462-0193/462-0198/462-0199

Overseas: 268-462-4959/1051

Fax: 268-462-4970

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
- Call for applications for Undergraduate Studies: 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 31st March, 2023.

A&B looks to the African Ex-Im Bank for concessionary financing

Antigua and Barbuda is giving consideration to accessing concessionary financing for several projects from the Africa Export-Import Bank (AEIB).

Prime Minister Gaston Browne made the disclosure on Monday following a meeting which involved his cabinet, a delegation from AEIB and representatives of the OECS Secretariat and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).

The AEIB delegation attended the just concluded CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in The Bahamas where they welcomed Caribbean countries to become members of the bank which would give them access to the concessionary financing it offers.

AEIB has reportedly earmarked as much as US\$1.5 billion for projects in the Caribbean should nations in the region take up the offer.

The AEIB delegation visited St. Kitts and Nevis before travelling to St. John's.

"While all of CARICOM is eager to be a part of this arrangement, the OECS Secretariat and the ECCB have a special interest in ensuring that the sub-region can have access to new capital. The OECS states are therefore doing their best to ensure that these smaller Caribbean territories suc-



ceed in drawing down the new capital as soon as possible," Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel "Max" Hurst reported.

Ambassador Hurst said PM Browne is keen on accessing the financial resources being offered by the AEIB as there are several capital projects his administration wishes to advance that are in need of financing at concessionary rates.

Hurst explained that in addition to funding, AEIB is also hoping to give the region access to the expertise available on the African continent to support development.

The ambassador said it is not uncommon for large financial institutions to provide this level of support as this occurred here in Antigua and Barbuda through the Americans who built the Deep Water Harbour in the

1960s and the Chinese who built both the new terminal at the V. C. Bird International Airport and the expanded St. John's Harbour.

Hurst disabused the misconception that Africa is a poor continent populated by indigent people. Rather, he noted that the continent

is wealthy and abundant in natural resources and the raw materials necessary for development.

The OECS delegation included Secretary General, Dr. Didicus Jules and legal consultant, former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Sir Dennis Byron.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is hosting its 3rd annual virtual Research Symposium, Wednesday evenings 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st May 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The theme for the symposium - Meaningful research: Plan it! Execute it! Share it!

Purpose: To empower researchers in sharing their research to a wider audience in order to inform, collaborate and effect change.

Interested persons are invited to submit abstracts of their research papers. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and should be sent in editable Word format to: MOEresearchantigua@gmail.com by 24th March, 2023. The name(s) of the presenter(s), affiliate organisation (if any), email address and phone contact should be included. Abstracts will be reviewed and notification of acceptance and other guidance information sent to presenters by 21st April, 2023.

Entrepreneurism advanced as cruise industry booms

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez is urging the public to strategically position themselves to reap the benefits that can be derived from the cruise tourism industry.

With tourism stakeholders just having celebrated the country surpassing its one hundredth cruise call in just two months, Fernandez has expressed satisfaction with the government's success in rapidly rebounding the cruise tourism sector post-COVID.

With additional growth projected, the tourism minister insists that Antiguan and Barbudans, and particularly entrepreneurs, should benefit economically from this success by offering their services to cruise passengers.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure that our people get something out of it because as we say, tourism is everybody's business, and we have to ensure that that is what it redounds to," Minister Fernandez said.

"We are right now trying to see

how many local Antiguan to add in terms of tours for the industry because come next season, we will definitely need to expand it."

Fernandez also encouraged those interested in getting into business for themselves to make use of government programmes that support new startups with training and financing.

"The government has the Entrepreneurial Development Fund to assist you to get a jumpstart. You come with a good idea, you have some collateral, and we will work to see what we can do to promote the [funding to] assisting you."

Minister Fernandez added that improving the visitor experience is paramount if the cruise tourism industry is to remain robust.

He also noted that the cabinet has given its approval for a percentage of the funds reserved for marketing to be spent on enhancing the local visitor experience.



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez

Facelift for St. John's City

The government is moving forward with its commitment to carry out much needed improvements to the capital, St. John's City.

Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, has announced a series of measures that will improve the city's infrastructure.

One of the country's main tourist shopping centres, Heritage Quay, will also be refreshed.

Minister Fernandez disclosed that he will walk through the city, accompanied by Minister of Works,

Maria Browne, this week to identify the areas in need of work.

"We will be doing a walk-through to see what type of remedial work is needed to our infrastructure, more specifically, our roads, our sidewalks and our gutters. The aim is to see what needs to be done so that we will be at the top of our game when the new cruise season begins later in the year," he remarked.

The tourism minister revealed that there are ongoing discussions with APUA

to install additional lights in the city.

He also noted that when the cruise ship Arvia first arrived on 28th January on its first homeporting call, its captain commended the city's beauty in the early morning and brilliant lighting.

In addition to the government's aesthetic improvement of the city, Fernandez announced that Global Port Ltd. will also carry out upgrades of Heritage Quay starting at the end of the current cruise season.

According to the tourism minister, US\$2 million has been earmarked for the project which is expected to be completed in time for the start of the 2023/24 cruise season.

The improvements form part of Global Ports Ltd's forty-year contractual agreement to manage the port. Once completed, the enhancements will improve the look and user experience for those using Heritage Quay, but particularly cruise visitors for whom it is their first point of contact.

Khan Cordice records another milestone

Antiguan and Barbudan pan maestro, Khan Cordice, is today celebrating an achievement that few non-natives of Trinidad and Tobago have achieved in that country.

Cordice, Antigua and Barbuda's Director of Culture, was the drummer and conductor of Republic Bank's Exodus in the National Panorama Competition in Port-of-Spain on Saturday night.

After more than ten years of being locked out of the winners' circle, Exodus placed second in the competition with its rendition of King Short Shirt's "Tourist Leggo".

Cordice explained that

the person holding the role of drummer is important in a steel band's preparation for the panorama competition, as they are responsible for interpreting and bringing the work of the piece's arranger to life.

Cordice spent the last four and a half weeks engaged in intense practice sessions with the band ahead of the competition.

"The experience in Trinidad has been very good. The country here is different from back home. Here, for someone not from Trinidad and Tobago, it requires much respect for that person to be accepted to perform such critical roles as drummer and conductor for



Khan Cordice (right with back to camera) performing the roles of drummer and conductor for Republic Bank Exodus which placed second in Saturday night's panorama competition in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

a pan entering the panorama competition," he noted.

He explained that the people of Trinidad and Tobago firmly believe that they are second to none with regards to pan and steel band music.

"One has to overcome certain obstacles, and I must say that I came to the table with much experience and a reputation of having achieved significant milestones, not just here in Antigua and Barbuda, but internationally as well," he said.

According to Cordice, his approach to preparing the band was unique and he was able to share different perspectives and approaches with them to interpreting the music.

He added that senior

members of the band recognised his "good ear" for music and his attention to detail.

Exodus last placed in the top three in the panorama competition in 2011.

While the band has a reputation for performing well in the preliminary competitions and the semi-finals, it has tended to fade on the big night, the panorama competition.

"I told them that I am accustomed to winning and that I did not want to be working with a band that does not place in the top three," Cordice remarked.

It appears that this provided the motivation Exodus needed to land them in second place on Saturday night.



the
GARD
center

P.O. Box W1675
Mercers Creek
Antigua, West Indies
T +1-268-463-4121
F +1-268-562-0084
Email: admin@gardc.org

Website: www.gardc.org

"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees." Is. 35:3

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

"The Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARD Center) recently received funding from its partner the GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme for project: **"Increasing food security by reducing the impact of drought and improving security"**.

This 8-month project officially began on 6 February 2023 and will be completed in October 2023.

Focus of the project emphasizes these main areas:

- To increase public awareness about Climate Smart and sustainable Agricultural technology and approaches, by producing and distributing brochures.
- Training Workshops will be conducted using Climate Smart Agricultural Practices.
- Repair and upgrade current hydroponics unit and to construct secured fencing around its perimeter.
- To increase production of crops locally adapted ground provisions such as sweet potatoes and cassava varieties."

How to keep your Twitter account secure - without paying

By Alex Veiga

Twitter users were greeted early Saturday with an ultimatum from the social media app: Subscribe to the platform's new premium service or lose a popular account security feature.

A pop-up message warned users they will lose the ability to secure their accounts via text message two-factor authentication unless they pay \$8 a month to subscribe to Twitter Blue.

The message said that starting March 19, users who don't subscribe will be locked out of their accounts until they remove the security feature.

Here are some questions and answers about why Twitter made this change and alternative ways to secure your account:

WHAT IS TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION?

Two-factor authentication adds a second layer of security to password-protected accounts by having users enter an auto-generated code to log in.

This extra step helps safeguard online accounts because in addition to the password, you need access to a separate app, device or phone number where you can receive the code.

Such codes can be generated by apps like Microsoft Authenticator or Google Authenticator. Or they can be sent to a user's smartphone via text message.

It's the text message-based two-factor authorization that Twitter is now restricting only to subscribers of Twitter Blue.

WHY IS TWITTER DOING THIS?

In a blog post Wednesday, the San Francisco-based company acknowledged that the text message-based security method has been historically popular with its users, but said the feature is being "used - and abused - by bad actors."



The company did not respond early Saturday to an email seeking more details on how the security method was being abused.

Elon Musk, who completed his \$44 billion takeover of Twitter in October, has been trying to find way to maximize profits at the company.

One of those is Twitter Blue, which among other features allows anyone to pay for verification previously reserved for celebrities, journalists and other well-known people.

In its blog, Twitter encouraged users who are not going to subscribe to Twitter Blue to consider using alternative account security options, specifically an authentication app or security key.

These methods require you to have physical possession of the authentication method and are a good way to ensure your account is secure.

WHAT ARE OTHER OPTIONS TO SECURE MY TWITTER ACCOUNT?

An authentication app or a security key will also add a layer of account security beyond just a password.

A security key is a small, portable

device that generates a set of random numbers that you enter when prompted when logging into an online account.

An authentication app uses the same approach, but instead of a separate physical device, the app is on your phone.

To set up an authentication app to secure your Twitter account, you will need to download one of a number of available applications to your device. They are free in the Apple or Android app stores. If you'd rather not use Google or Microsoft Authenticator, there are other options, including Authy, Duo Mobile and 1Password.

Once you have the app, open the desktop version of Twitter and click on the icon showing ellipses in a circle. There, you'll find "Settings and privacy" then "Security and account access" and finally, "Security." Here, you can select "Authentication app" and follow the instructions to set it up. Twitter will ask you to share your email address to do this, if you have not already.

Once you are all set, you can use the auto-generated numeric codes from your authentication app to add an extra layer of security when logging into Twitter.

Non-communicable diseases: A great health concern for the black community

By Micaiah Morgan

Various health conditions affect people of all races and ethnicities worldwide. However, some, such as non-communicable diseases, are more prevalent among certain racial groups.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), also called chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and result from a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental, and behavioural factors.

WHO highlights that the main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma), and diabetes, stating that they disproportionately affect people in low- and middle-income countries.

According to an article by Families USA, the lethal quartet including cancer, diabetes, lung disease, and heart disease is especially harmful in some communities of colour, noting that Blacks and Latinos are at a higher risk, and suffering negative outcomes.

While this is evident in the United States, Caribbean countries such as Jamaica also face these life-threatening health issues.



Jamaican General Practitioner, Dr. Tameka Irons notes that cardiovascular diseases, high blood pressure (hypertension), diabetes, and high cholesterol, are among the significant public health concerns.

While she acknowledges that anyone can be affected, she believes Black people are among the most vulnerable, adding that these are conditions she treats daily in Jamaica.

“You would be surprised to know the significant burden that we actually do have in the Caribbean, even here in Jamaica,” Irons said.

“The issue with diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol is that they can cause heart attack, stroke, and kidney problems,” she added.

Irons further pointed out that while the elderly are more likely to be affected, young people have also shown indications that may lead to chronic diseases.

“There is a reason why everybody’s blood pressure is tested regardless of their age. We have young patients, like the age of 20 and below who present with elevated blood pressure. It is by far more common in persons who are older, above the age of 30 and onwards, but it does occur in patients below this age,” she said.

On the other hand, Jamaican Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Racquel Gordon-Adlam, noted that older people, women over 60, and men over 50 usually present with signs of heart disease.

She noted that while Indian and Asian populations have a high risk of developing coronary artery disease, Blacks remain one of the populations also likely to suffer from its detrimental effects.

According to an article by the UT Southwestern Medical Center, some stud-

ies suggest that African Americans are particularly sensitive to salt, which can lead to high blood pressure, one of the causes of heart disease.

While chronic diseases can be developed based on one’s lifestyle, Dr. Gordon-Adlam said genetics can increase a person’s risk.

“There is a genetic risk factor for developing not just hypertension, but diabetes and high cholesterol. You have people who are genetically predisposed to having high cholesterol,” she said.

The article also highlighted that developing chronic diseases is often influenced by socioeconomic status, education, environment, stress levels, culture, and history. It further cited research that revealed that many people in the African American community, mainly older individuals, believe heavier weight is a healthier weight. The beliefs which stem from the cultural and historical background of many Blacks have contributed to certain practices, increasing the development of chronic diseases.

While NCDs are preventable and treatable, an article by Families USA highlighted that members of Black and Latino communities in the U.S. are

cont’d on pg 10

PAHO provides guidance to countries in response to increased chikungunya cases

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is calling on countries in the Americas, including those in the Caribbean, to strengthen measures to diagnose and manage chikungunya due to an increase in cases in some areas.

It said the warning should be taken seriously because of the higher numbers of susceptible persons and the start of peak transmission season.

Chikungunya fever is transmitted by the Aedes mosquito, which is also responsible for spreading dengue and Zika.

It can cause high fever, joint and muscle pain, and headache.

There is no approved vaccine or specific treatment for the disease.

On rare occasions, it can cause severe symptoms and lead to death, mainly in pregnant women, children under the age of one, older adults and people with comorbidities.

According to the PAHO epidemiological alert, in 2021, there were over 137,000 reported cases and 12 deaths due to the disease, but in 2022 cases almost doubled, and 95 deaths were reported in 13 countries and territories of the region.

It said in the first four weeks of this year, 30,707 cases of chikungunya were reported as well as 14 deaths.

PAHO has urged member states to continue strengthening surveillance, triage, diagnosis and the timely and appropriate



treatment chikungunya and other mosquito-borne disease cases.

In the alert, PAHO also called on countries to step up health service capacity and preparedness, including drawing up plans for screening and reorganizing services in case of outbreaks, and strengthening care networks.

The surveillance

guidelines include recommendations on appropriate sampling and laboratory algorithms for diagnostic confirmation by molecular testing (RT-PCR), considering differential diagnosis with other pathologies.

PAHO also recommend that specific care be provided to patients at different levels of care and stages of infection, which may require training of health personnel in diagnosis and case management.

“The best protection against chikungunya is to avoid mosquito bites. The main method of reducing transmission is to mobilize communities to reduce and eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

“If chikungunya infection is suspected, it is recommended that persons seek immediate assistance at a health clinic,” PAHO added. (CMC)

cont'd from pg 9

mostly affected because they are likely to be uninsured and unable to afford the medical care they need.

Dr. Gordon-Adlam also agrees social and economic factors greatly contribute to the number of cases affecting Black communities.

“Some people tend to be in underserved areas where access to care is a problem. Sometimes the fact that they can't afford the medications they're given or sometimes getting the right medication is a challenge,” she said.

“Not a lot of them are employed and

the access to care can depend on if they are employed and are able to get the medication,” she added.

While lack of access to healthcare contributes to unmanaged chronic illnesses, Dr. Irons and Dr. Gordon-Adlam strongly recommend lifestyle modifications to reduce one's risk.

In addition to quitting smoking and drinking alcohol, they advise that people, specifically those of the Black community make dietary modifications by eating more fruits and vegetables, eating less salt, sugar, and fatty foods, and incorporating daily exercise.

Guyana urges Venezuela to respect its border

CMC - Guyana has called on Venezuela to respect the Geneva Agreement, which set the international border between both countries.

Last Friday marked 57 years since the agreement was signed.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) heard oral hearings from Guyana and Venezuela in mid-November last year.

Guyana called Venezuela's claims that the agreement is 'null and void' "baseless" in a statement



issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The disputed territory is known as the Guayana Es-

equiba region in Venezuela and it encompasses a land area that is more than half of Guyana's territory. The region is resource rich with deposits of precious metals and hydrocarbons.

"Venezuela has sought over the years to undermine the Agreement and specifically to frustrate the resolution of the controversy by the judicial process even when, as now, it is obliged to participate," the ministry said.

Guyana said any attempt by Venezuela to restrict its sovereignty and rights over the area goes against international law.

"As Guyana's lawful development of its resources proceeds, it is pertinent today to emphasise that the Geneva Agreement imposes no obligation on Guyana to refrain from economic development activities in any portion of its territory or any appurtenant mari-

cont'd on pg 12

DEWS

STEEL & PLYWOOD

SALE

SPECIAL OFFER!

\$3350.00

1/2 STEEL

3/8 STEEL

5/8 STEEL

20% OFF

3/4 FORM PLY

T1-11 5/8

T1-11 3/8

BEADED 3/8

DEWS
 dewspro
 info@dewspro.com
 729-3397/ 729-1210

UN 'concerned' about situation in Suriname, more than 100 persons arrested

CMC - United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, says he is "concerned" about the violent protests that occurred in Suriname last Friday, where more than 100 people were detained after protestors stormed the National Assembly and looted private businesses.

"The Secretary General stresses that freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are fundamental human rights that must be respected at all times, but protests must be carried out without resorting to violence," according to a brief statement issued by Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesperson for the UN Secretary General.

"The Secretary General urges all relevant actors in Suriname to show restraint and engage in inclusive dialogue to constructively address the challenges facing the country," the statement added.

Over the weekend, the United States, and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) condemned the attack on Suriname's parliament with Washington saying while it supports the right to peaceful protest and respect for the rule of law, it "remains committed to helping Suriname strengthen its democratic institutions".

In a statement issued following its 44th summit in The Bahamas, CAR-

cont'd from pg 11
time areas."

Guyana considers that no greater homage can be paid to it by our sister Republic than full compliance with its terms, including Article IV paragraph 2, pursuant to which the Secretary General of the United Na-



UN Secretary General, António Guterres.

ICOM said it reaffirms its support for the democratically elected government in the Dutch-speaking CARICOM country under the leadership of President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, and "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."

President Santokhi warned that his

tions has chosen the International Court of Justice as the means for final and binding settlement of the controversy."

Guyana added that it looks forward to Venezuela returning to the judicial processes of the Geneva Agreement.

government will not tolerate any indiscipline after police used teargas to disperse the 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.

Justice and Police Minister, Kenneth Amoksi, told a news conference on Sunday night that more than 140 people had been arrested for their involvement in the vandalism and looting.

He told reporters that the authorities would continue their search for the organisers of the protest.

Barricades that had been erected in various places have since been removed but the roads near the Office of the President and the Assembly Building remain closed.

The authorities said the budget debate will continue on Monday.

Brazil deluge kills 36; search continues for dozens missing

AP - Hundreds of rescuers searched Monday for survivors of landslides and flooding that killed at least 36 people along the coast of Brazil's southern state of Sao Paulo following a huge weekend downpour.

Worst hit was the city of Sao Sebastiao, where at least 35 were dead. In neighbouring Ubatuba a 7-year-old girl was killed.

The disaster, in an area famous for beaches flanked by mountains, prompted cancellations in many cities of the Carnival festivities now in full swing elsewhere in the country.

Gov. Tarcisio de Freitas told television network Globo that another 40 people were missing. Nearly 800 people were homeless and 1,730 people have been displaced, his state government said in a statement.

Television footage showed flooded homes with only their roofs visible. Residents used small boats to carry items and people to elevated positions.

A woman who gave only her first name, Mailsa, said she and her husband, daughter and grandson only barely escaped when a landslide destroyed her house in the Juquehy municipality of Sao Sebastiao. The house was partially submerged, parts of it fell away and the rest was left precariously perched on the edge of a hill.

"It was very quick. Either you run or you die," she said. "It's not possible to take anything, only your life, which is the most important thing."

Members of the armed forces joined the search and rescue efforts, aggravated by poor access to many areas after landslides blocked the snaking roads in the region's highlands and floods washed away chunks of pavement in low-lying and oceanfront areas.



Mud covers an area after flooding triggered deadly landslides near Juquehy beach in Sao Sebastiao, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 20, 2023. (AP Photo/Andre Penner)

"Our rescue teams are not managing to get to several locations. It is a chaotic situation," Sao Sebastiao Mayor Felipe Augusto said on social media late Sunday night.

Augusto said about 50 houses collapsed in the city due to the landslides, and he posted several videos of destruction and search efforts, including one of a baby being rescued by locals lined up on a flooded street.

The highway connecting Rio de Janeiro state with Sao Paulo's port city of Santos was blocked by landslides and floodwaters.

Precipitation in Sao Sebastiao had surpassed 600 millimetres (23.6 inches) during a 24-hour period over the weekend, among the largest such downpours ever in such a short period in Brazil.

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva visited the region on Monday. He observed the damage in Sao Sebastiao from a helicopter and met with Gov. de Freitas at Sao Sebastiao's the-

atre, where search operations were being coordinated.

De Freitas declared a state of emergency for the hardest-hit cities, including Sao Sebastiao, Ubatuba, Ilhabela and Bertioga, which enabled expedited allocation of funds for relief. He said 7 million reais (\$1.35 million) had already been released.

The heavy rain affected water, electricity and phone services, according to a statement from the state government, which posted on Twitter a video showing 30,000 litres of water being transported to Sao Sebastiao. Hygiene kits, blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses and medical supplies have also been sent.

The Transport Ministry said in a statement there would be no lack of financial and material resources.

The affected area, on the northern coast of Sao Paulo state, is a frequent Carnival destination for wealthy tourists who prefer to stay away from massive street parties in big cities.

North Korea fires two missiles in tests condemned by neighbours

AP - North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea east of the country Monday in its second test launch in three days, prompting Japan to request an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

The launches continue a tit-for-tat exchange that began Saturday, and follow a year in which North Korea launched more than 70 missiles, the most ever. Pyongyang has recently escalated nuclear threats and threatened an “unprecedentedly” strong response to annual U.S.-South Korea military drills, which it views as preparation for an invasion.

South Korea’s military said it detected two missile launches Monday morning from a town on North Korea’s west coast, which were later confirmed by North Korean official media. Japan said both missiles landed in waters outside Japan’s exclusive economic zone and that no damage to aircraft or vessels in the area was reported, but they flew distances that suggest most of South Korea is in range.

The tests follow an intercontinental ballistic missile launch Saturday, the country’s first since Jan. 1, and a U.S. bomber flight over the Korean peninsula conducted in response Sunday.

Both South Korea and Japan condemned recent North Korea launches as threats to international peace



This image made from video broadcasted by North Korea's KRT shows what it says is a ballistic missile being launched from an undisclosed location in North Korea, Monday, Feb. 20, 2023. (KRT via AP)

and violations of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any ballistic activities by North Korea. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that Tokyo was requesting an emergency Security Council meeting to respond to recent North Korean launches.

An initial Security Council briefing led by Assistant Secretary-General for political affairs Khaled Khiari was set for later Monday.

Further council action against North Korea is unlikely. China and Russia, both veto-wielding powers embroiled in confrontations with Washington, opposed U.S.-led attempts to add fresh sanctions last year.

“The frequency of using the Pacific as our firing range depends upon the U.S. forces’ action character,” Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said in the official

translation of a statement carried by state media. “We are well aware of the movement of U.S. forces’ strategic strike means, (which are) recently getting brisk around the Korean Peninsula.”

She likely referred to Sunday’s U.S. flight of B-1B long-range, supersonic bombers for separate training with South Korea and Japan, conducted in response to North Korea’s Saturday ICBM test.

North Korea typically responds to U.S. B-1B flights, which can carry a huge payload of conventional weapons, with aggressive statements or military demonstrations of its own.

Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said that North Korea may make further provocations, such as more missile launches and nuclear tests.

In her statement earlier Sunday, Kim Yo Jong threat-

ened to take additional “powerful” steps over upcoming military drills between the United States and South Korea.

North Korea has said many of its previous weapons tests were warnings over the U.S.-South Korean military drills.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries have conducted larger and more frequent drills this year, in response to escalating missile tests, and because concerns about COVID-19 are receding. The two militaries plan to hold a table-top exercise this week to hone a joint response to use of nuclear weapons by North Korea. The allies also plan to conduct a joint computer simulated exercise and field training in March.

North Korea has repeatedly condemned regular South Korea-U.S. military drills as practice for an invasion, though the allies say their exercises are defensive in nature. Some observers say North Korea often uses its rivals’ drills as a pretext to test and improve its weapons systems. Many experts believe that North Korea ultimately plans to win international recognition as a legitimate nuclear state to get international sanctions lifted and receive other outside concessions.

Hours after Monday’s launches, South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said Seoul placed unilateral sanctions

cont’d on pg 15

Israel's Netanyahu advances judicial changes despite uproar

AP - Israel's government on Monday pressed ahead with a contentious plan to overhaul the country's legal system, despite an unprecedented uproar that has included mass protests, warnings from military and business leaders and calls for restraint by the United States.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered outside the parliament, or Knesset, for a second straight week to rally against the plan as lawmakers prepared to hold an initial vote.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies, a collection of ultra-religious and ultranationalist lawmakers, say the plan is meant to fix a system that has given the courts and government legal advisers too much say in how legislation is crafted and decisions are made. Critics say it will

upend the country's system of checks and balances and concentrate power in the hands of the prime minister. They also say that Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption charges, has a conflict of interest.

Simcha Rothman, a far-right lawmaker leading the legislative initiative, presented the proposal to the Knesset during a stormy debate. Several opposition lawmakers were escorted out of the hall by security for screaming at him, while a spectator was carried away by guards from the viewing gallery after smashing the protective glass in anger.

The standoff has plunged Israel into one of its greatest domestic crises, sharpening a divide between Israelis over the character of their state and the values they believe should guide it.

"We are fighting for our



Israelis protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government to overhaul the judicial system outside the Knesset, Israel's parliament in Jerusalem, Monday, Feb. 20, 2023. Israel's government is pressing ahead with its contentious plan to overhaul the country's legal system. A vote in parliament on Monday is due despite an unprecedented uproar that has included mass demonstrations, warnings from military and business leaders and calls for restraint from the U.S. (AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg)

children's future, for our country's future. We don't intend to give up," opposition leader Yair Lapid told a meeting of his party in the Knesset as protesters amassed outside.

Small groups of pro-

testers demonstrated outside the homes of some lawmakers, preventing one member of Netanyahu's Likud party from taking her special-needs daughter to school.

cont'd on pg 16

cont'd from pg 14

on four individuals and five institutions it said were involved in illicit activities supporting the North's nuclear arms development and evasion of sanctions. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's government has placed sanctions on 31 individuals and 35 organisations, mostly from North Korea, for supporting the North's nuclear ambitions, but these steps are mostly symbolic since the two countries do not have business ties.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the new launches highlight "the destabilising impact" of North Korea's unlawful weapons programs. It said the U.S. commitments to the defence of

South Korea and Japan "remain iron-clad."

The North said the tests involved the new 600-millimetre multiple rocket launcher system, which could be armed with "tactical" nuclear weapons for battlefield use. South Korean defence officials describe the weapons system as a short-range ballistic missile.

The official Korean Central News Agency said the tests simulated strikes on targets up to 395 kilometres (245 miles) away. According to Japanese and South Korean assessments, the North Korean missiles flew at a maximum altitude of 50-100 kilometres (30-60 miles) and a distance of 340-400 kilometres

(210-250 miles).

North Korea has claimed to have missiles capable of striking both the U.S. mainland and South Korea with nuclear weapons, but many foreign experts have said North Korea still has not mastered some key technologies, such as building warheads small enough to be mounted on missiles and ensuring those warheads survive atmospheric reentry.

In her statement Monday, Kim Yo Jong reiterated that North Korea has reentry vehicle technology. She also hit back at South Korean experts who questioned whether North Korea's ICBMs would be functional in real-war situations.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



cont'd from pg 15

Netanyahu accused the demonstrators of inciting violence and said they were ignoring the will of the people who voted the government into power last November. Netanyahu for his part, along with his political allies, denied the legitimacy of the short-lived previous government which briefly unseated him in 2021.

“The people exercised their right to vote in the elections and the people’s representatives will exercise their right to vote here in Israel’s Knesset. It’s called democracy,” Netanyahu told his Likud party. Netanyahu showed no sign of backing down before the vote despite the pressure, but left the door open for dialogue on the planned changes.

Monday’s vote on part of the legislation is just the first of three readings required for parliamentary approval. While that process is expected to take months, the vote is a sign of the coalition’s determination to barrel ahead and seen by many as an act of bad faith.

Israel’s figurehead president has urged the government to freeze the legislation and seek a compromise with the opposition. Leaders in the booming tech sector have warned that weakening the judiciary could drive away investors. Tens of thousands of Israelis have been protesting in Tel Aviv and other cities each week.

Last week, some 100,000 people demonstrated outside the Knesset as a committee granted initial approval to the plan. It was the largest protest in the city in years.

For a second straight week, thousands of people poured into the city from around the country for a mass demonstration against the planned judicial changes. Many waved Israeli flags, blew horns, and held signs reading “saving democracy.”

“All the steps that are going to take place now in the Knesset will change us to a pure dictatorship,” said Itan Gur

Aryeh, a 74-year-old retiree. “All the power will be with the government, with the head of the government and we’ll all be without rights.”

Earlier in the day, protesters launched a sit-down demonstration at the entrance of the homes of some coalition lawmakers and briefly halted traffic on Tel Aviv’s main highway. Hundreds waved Israeli flags in Tel Aviv and also in the northern city of Haifa, holding signs reading “resistance is mandatory.”

“We’re here to demonstrate for democracy. Without democracy there’s no state of Israel. And we’re going to fight till the end,” said Marcos Fainstein, a protester in Tel Aviv.

The overhaul has prompted otherwise stoic former security chiefs to speak out, and even warn of civil war. In a sign of the rising emotions, a group of army veterans in their 60s and 70s stole a decommissioned tank from a war memorial site and draped it with Israel’s declaration of independence before being stopped by police.

The plan has even sparked rare warnings from the U.S., Israel’s chief international ally.

U.S. Ambassador Tom Nides told a podcast over the weekend that Israel should “pump the brakes” on the legislation and seek a consensus on reform that would protect Israel’s democratic institutions.

His comments drew angry responses from Netanyahu allies, telling Nides to stay out of Israel’s internal affairs.

Speaking to his Cabinet on Sunday, Netanyahu dismissed suggestions that Israel’s democracy was under threat. “Israel was and will remain a strong and vibrant democracy,” he said.

While Israel has long boasted of its democratic credentials, critics say that claim is tainted by the country’s West Bank occupation and the treatment of its own Palestinian minority.

Israel’s Palestinian citizens - a minority that may have the most to lose

by the legal overhaul - have largely sat out the protests, in part because of discrimination they suffer at home and because of Israel’s 55-year military occupation over their Palestinian brethren in the West Bank. Jewish settlers in the West Bank can vote in Israeli elections and are generally protected by Israeli laws, while Palestinians in the same territory are subject to military rule and cannot vote.

Monday’s parliamentary votes seek to grant the ruling coalition more power over who becomes a judge. Today, a selection committee is made up of politicians, judges and lawyers - a system that proponents say promotes consensus.

The new system would give coalition lawmakers control over the appointments. Critics fear that judges will be appointed based on their loyalty to the government or prime minister.

A second change would bar the Supreme Court from overturning what are known as “basic laws,” pieces of legislation that stand in for a constitution, which Israel does not have. Critics say that legislators will be able to dub any law a basic law, removing judicial oversight over controversial legislation.

Also planned are proposals that would give parliament the power to overturn Supreme Court rulings and control the appointment of government legal advisers. The advisers currently are professional civil servants, and critics say the new system would politicise government ministries.

Critics also fear the overhaul will grant Netanyahu an escape route from his legal woes. Netanyahu denies wrongdoing and says he is the victim of a biased judicial system on a witch hunt against him.

Recent polls show that most Israelis, including many Netanyahu supporters, support halting the legislation and moving forward through consensus.

Nigeria's presidential frontrunners in final push for votes

AP - The leading contenders in Nigeria's presidential election have made their last push for support, a week before the West African nation's key election.

As the campaign period neared its end, both the ruling party's Bola Tinubu and the main opposition's Atiku Abubakar on Saturday held rallies in the northeast, where extremists have waged a decade-long insurgency against Nigeria. They both promised to improve the lives of residents in the region.

On social media, third-party candidate Peter Obi, who has emerged ahead of the other 17 candidates in most polls, said Africa's most populous country needs a "reset and reboot" from the two major parties that have governed Nigeria since it left military rule in 1999.

The Feb. 25 election that would lead to a transitional government is the most consequential vote in many years for Nigeria, a country of more than 210 million people, according to analysts.

"This is a battle for the soul of the country considering the challenges confronting the country," said Idayat Hassan, who leads the Center for Democracy and Development that promotes democracy in the country.

Nigeria is struggling



Nigeria's Labour Party's Presidential Candidate Peter Obi, attends an election campaign rally at the Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos Nigeria, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023. The leading contenders in Nigeria's presidential election have made their last push for support as the campaign period nears its end. The ruling party's Bola Tinubu, the main opposition's Atiku Abubakar and third-party candidate Peter Obi appealed for votes from the 93 million people registered to vote in the Feb. 25, 2023 election. (AP Photo/Sunday Alamba, File)

with a worsening security crisis that has killed thousands in the past year, an ailing economy that has made citizens poorer, and growing separatist agitations in the southern region that have left the country more divided along ethnic lines.

"This is where the future of our state and the country resides - in the hands of PDP," the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party's Abubakar told thousands of supporters in Adamawa state as they waved the party's red, green and white colours.

"If you give us your mandate, we promise to lead by our promises to make sure that we have a united country, a peaceful

country, a buoyant economy for our country; that we have the best education for our children and also we devolve powers to our states and local governments with corresponding resources," said the 76-year-old, who has taken part in two previous presidential elections, including in 2019 when he lost to incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari.

In Borno state, the epicentre of the 12-year-long extremism that has upended lives and livelihoods for millions, causing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, Tinubu, of the ruling All Progressives Congress, or APC, told multitudes of supporters that "renewed hope is here; success is

back. We will take care of all of you."

The former governor of Lagos - Nigeria's economic hub and largest city - promised to replicate what he did when he led that state from 1999 to 2007.

"We are promising you the people of Borno, you have faced difficulties and challenges (but) that is over now," said the 71-year-old as he addressed supporters waving brooms - the party's symbol.

"I can guarantee one thing: "We will revive the economy, we will develop Nigeria," Tinubu said.

The Labour Party's Obi - who has grown from an underdog in the early days of the campaign to become the favourite in most polls - is appealing in particular to Nigeria's young, a large percentage of the country's 93.4 million registered voters.

"In this march to freedom, I have not come out for myself! I have come out for the millions of youths that are losing hope in our beloved country!" Obi tweeted.

In a backlash against the two most popular parties, the 61-year-old said Nigeria is not bereft of good governance ideas and plans but is "bedevilled by the impunity" of a small number of people benefiting from the country's resources at the expense of the masses.

Novak Djokovic equals Steffi Graf's record for most weeks as world number one

BBC - Novak Djokovic has equalled Steffi Graf's record for most weeks as world number one after starting his 377th week at the top of the men's rankings.

The 35-year-old Serb has held the record for the most weeks as men's world number one since March 2021.

On Monday, he moved level with Germany's Graf, who first rose to the top of the women's rankings in 1987.

Djokovic first became world number one in 2011



Djokovic returned to the world number one position after winning the Australian Open in January

and like Graf, is a 22-time Grand Slam champion.

After first becoming world number one, Graf remained at the top of the rankings for 186 consecu-

tive weeks, a women's record that was later tied by Serena Williams in 2016.

Djokovic's longest continuous run at the top was 122 weeks between

July 2014 and November 2016. For that record, he trails Roger Federer (237 weeks), Jimmy Connors (160) and Ivan Lendl (157).

Djokovic returned to the world number one position for the first time in six months by winning the Australian Open in January.

He is currently on 7,070 points, 590 more than Spain's Carlos Alcaraz.

The men's world rankings were introduced in 1973, while the women's rankings were introduced two years later.

Paris Olympics 2024: UK among 30 countries to support ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes

BBC - The United Kingdom is among 30 countries that have pledged support to an ongoing ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes competing in international sporting events amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It follows a summit involving all 30 nations earlier this month.

The International Olympic Council is "exploring a pathway" for athletes from the two nations to compete as neutrals.

UK Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer says the IOC's plans are "not credible".

Representatives from countries including France, Germany, Poland, the United States and Canada attended the 10 February summit, which was chaired by Frazer.

Ukraine, which was not part of the summit, has threatened to boycott the 2024 Paris Olympics if the IOC's plan goes ahead.

In a statement, Frazer said: "This coalition of nations has supported Ukraine on multiple fronts and we will continue to do so.

"Today we are setting out our serious concerns with the International Olympic Committee's plans which could see a route back into elite athletics for Russia and Belarus.

"Any plans to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in Paris are not credible. With the prospect of tanks from the United Kingdom, United States and European partners arriving in Ukraine over the coming weeks, and President Zelensky expressing serious concerns that a spring offensive by Russia is imminent, we urge the IOC to reconsider its position."

The IOC called on federations to exclude athletes from Russia and Belarus following the invasion of Ukraine and banned the nations from

the Winter Paralympics in March 2022 - though athletes were allowed to compete under a neutral flag.

Some sporting federations have ignored the IOC recommendation and allowed individual athletes to compete as neutrals but others have complied.

Belarusian Sabalenka, won the Australian Open in January, competing as a neutral, but the Lawn Tennis Association was fined £1.4m by the ATP and WTA for banning Russian and Belarusian players from last summer's grass-court events, including Wimbledon.

IOC president Thomas Bach said in December the organisation faced a "big dilemma" in ensuring athletes do not suffer as a result of sporting sanctions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says allowing Russia to compete in Paris would amount to showing

cont'd on pg 19

Body of Ghana soccer player Atsu repatriated from Turkey

AP - The body of Ghana soccer player Christian Atsu, who was found dead in his collapsed apartment building in the Turkey earthquake, has been repatriated.

Atsu's remains arrived in the Ghanaian capital of Accra late Sunday, said Ghana Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, who led a government delegation to receive the body. Atsu's body was carried home in a casket on a Turkish Airlines plane and was accompanied by members of his family and the Ghana ambassador to Turkey, the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

"This loss is a very painful one and this is a sad day for Ghana," Bawumia said.

"We all prayed and prayed, we hoped against hope for every day that passed, but God knows best."

Atsu's body was found in the rubble of a luxury 12-story building in the southern Turkish city of Antakya on Saturday, nearly two weeks after the devastating earthquake that has left more than 44,000 people dead in Turkey and neighbouring Syria.

Reports emerged a day after the earthquake that Atsu had been rescued from the rubble, was alive and had been sent to the hospital, but they were mistaken.

The 31-year-old Atsu, who played for Premier League teams Chelsea and Newcastle, had joined Turkish club



Players pay a minute of silence as tribute to Christian Atsu who died in the Turkey earthquake ahead the English Premier League soccer match between Nottingham Forest and Manchester City at City ground in Nottingham, England, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023. (AP Photo/Rui Vieira)

Hatayspor last year and scored the winning goal in a league game on Feb. 5, hours before the devastating earthquake struck in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 6.

Hatayspor sporting director Taner Savut also lived in the same apartment building and was reported missing at the same time as Atsu. Savut has still not been found.

Bawumia promised that Atsu would be given a fitting funeral and said his death was a blow for the people of Ghana. Atsu played more than 60 times for his country after making his debut at the age of 20 in 2012.

Atsu was also remembered with moments of silence and other tributes

at soccer games in England and elsewhere this weekend. At his former club Newcastle, fans held up placards with his photo. An image of him was put up on a big screen at Chelsea's game against Southampton before kickoff.

Ghana midfielder Mohammed Kudus had "R.I.P Atsu" written on a white T-shirt under his team shirt and revealed the message after scoring a goal for Dutch club Ajax in a game on Sunday.

The Ghanaian soccer association ordered moments of silence to be observed at every professional game in the West African country on Saturday in honour of Atsu.

cont'd from pg 18

that "terror is somehow acceptable".

Monday's collective statement said that "there is no reason" for the IOC to reverse its decision last year to ban athletes from Russian and Belarus from competition.

The countries expressed "serious concerns about how feasible it is for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete on a neutral basis given they are directly funded and supported by their states" and said there are "clear concerns over the strong links and affiliations

between Russian athletes and the Russian military".

The statement urges the IOC to reconsider its proposal and says the only way athletes from Russia and Belarus should return to the international sports community is by their countries "ending the war they start-

ed".

France, hosts of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, 2021 hosts Japan, 2026 Winter Olympics hosts Italy and the United States, who will host the 2028 Summer Olympics, are all among the countries involved.

Dominatrixx stay perfect in Team Four-Hand domino league

Dominatrixx kept their perfect record intact by winning their two latest Team Four-Hand matches in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) League.

After defeating Double Six 59-37 the previous week, Dominatrixx pulled off a 45-40 victory against Ramplers in their encounter at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos over the weekend.

It means Dominatrixx now boast a perfect 4-0 record, having won all their matches thus far in the Team Four Hand competition.

It was the first loss suffered by Ramplers who joined Willikies Superstars with a record of three wins and one defeat from their

four matches.

Ramplers claimed their third win in the competition by snatching a narrow 40-39 victory over Bolans Revellers in their previous outing.

After trouncing Unstoppables 76-15 the previous week, Willikies Superstars overcame Bolans Revellers 46-33 in their encounter last weekend.

Bolans Revellers and Unstoppables are yet to win a match, having lost all four encounters they have played thus far. Double Six recorded their second win in four matches with a crushing 63-21 victory over Unstoppables last weekend.

However, no games were played in the Team Three-Hand competition last



Players compete in the in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's League at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos over the weekend. (Photo courtesy the ABNDA)

weekend due to a power outage in Ottos. Those matches have been rescheduled to be played this coming weekend.

West Indies name squads for white-ball series in South Africa

CWI - The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Senior Men's Selection Panel today announced the One-Day International (ODI) and T20 International (T20I) squads for the upcoming series against South Africa. The West Indies will play three ODIs on 16, 18 and 21 March, followed by three T20Is on 25, 26 and 28 March.

In the ODIs, Shai Hope will have his first series as captain with allrounder Rovman Powell appointed as the new vice-captain. In the T20Is, captain Rovman Powell will be supported by a new vice-captain in batting allrounder Kyle Mayers.

Fast bowler Shannon Gabriel has earned a recall to the ODI squad on the



back of his performances during the CG United Super50 Cup last November. He was the joint leading-wicket taker spearheading the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force bowling attack, tak-

ing 15 wickets in seven matches at an average of 14.2. He last played ODIs for the West Indies at the ICC Cricket World Cup in July 2019.

Left-arm pacer Obed McCoy has been named in the T20I squad subject to medical clearance. Fast bowler Jayden Seales remains unavailable for selection following a knee injury and subsequent surgery, while another fast bowler Anderson Phillip has returned to training but is not yet match-fit.

Lead Selector the Most Hon. Dr Desmond Haynes said:

"We have had some injuries to our fast-bowling pool so therefore we see Gabriel as an ideal fit heading into
cont'd on pg 21

Five-member contingent to represent Antigua at ECVA's beach competition in St Lucia

Antigua and Barbuda will be represented by a five-member contingent at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Men's and Women's Beach Championship at Gros Islet in St Lucia later this week.

The contingent comprised two males and two females who will be ac-



National female beach volleyballer Zellene Edwards.

companied by Manager and National Beach Volleyball Coach Olsen "Karrrott" Joseph of Stoneville's Volleyball Club for the 23rd to 27th February event in the island, which is fondly called the Helen of the West Indies.

Carrying Antigua and Barbuda's fight in the men's competition will be national captain Adrian Constant of Stoneville and fellow national team colleague Jamarie James of High Flyers Volleyball Club.

Zellene Edwards of Jets and Josanne Lewis of Starz will represent Antigua and Barbuda in the female beach volleyball competition.

The Antigua and Barbuda team will depart for St Lucia on Thursday, 23rd February, and is expected to return home on Tuesday, 28th February.

Several teams from the other member territories of the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association are also expected to participate in this weekend's beach championship in St Lucia.

Meanwhile, teams have commenced preparations for this year's Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local



National senior men's volleyball player Jamarie James. (Photos courtesy ABAVA)

Club competitions.

The event, which will comprise both male and female competitions, is slated to be held from 4th March to 10th June.

Stoneville captured the men's title while Da Squad won the women's championship for the very first time in last year's ABAVA's Local Club competitions.

cont'd from pg 20

South Africa, and the surfaces we expect to play on. It is felt that we need someone to get those early wickets and he is the kind of bowler that can do that. Judging from his performances in the CG United Super50 Cup, he is potentially a wicket-taking option up front."

Haynes added:

"For the T20Is, we have an experienced squad. What we are looking for is to form a cohesive unit and look at the players who we believe

can form the nucleus as we build towards doing very well and challenging when we host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in June 2024."

FULL SQUADS

One-Day Internationals

Shai Hope (Captain), Rovman Powell (Vice Captain), Shamarh Brooks, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Nicholas Pooran, Rom-

ario Shepherd, Odean Smith

T20 Internationals

Rovman Powell (Captain), Kyle Mayers (Vice Captain), Shamarh Brooks, Yannic Cariah, Johnson Charles, Sheldon Cottrell, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Obed McCoy, Nicholas Pooran, Raymon Reifer, Romario Shepherd, Odean Smith

White ball schedule in South Africa

Thursday, 16 March: 1st

ODI at Buffalo Park, East London (day/night)

Saturday, 18 March: 2nd ODI at Buffalo Park, East London (day/night)

Tuesday, 21 March: 3rd ODI at JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom

Saturday, 25 March: 1st T20Is at SuperSport Park, Centurion

Sunday, 26 March: 2nd T20I at SuperSport Park, Centurion

Tuesday, 28 March: 3rd T20I at Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg (night)

All Saints trounce Old Road to retain top spot in premier league

All Saints United trounced Old Road 6-1 to retain their position as leaders of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday, 19th February.

There were six different goal scorers for All Saints United who totally dominated Old Road in the feature match of a triple header at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Leroy Graham opened the scoring for All Saints United with a 24th minute conversion.

Goals by Zafique Drew in the 26th minute, Ajani Thomas in the 29th minute and Randolph "Ett" Burton in the 42nd minute gave All Saints United a commanding 4-0 halftime lead.

After the interval, Jabarry Chandler scored Old Road's only goal of the match with a 68th minute conversion.

But Gidson Francis scored in the 72nd minute and Daryan James converted



Leroy Graham, second right, celebrates after scoring All Saints United's opening goal during their premier division league encounter against Old Road at the ABFA's Technical Center on Sunday, 19th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

ed a penalty in the second minute of added on time (90+2 minutes) to complete the rout and sealed United's victory.

Their 10th win in 12 matches lifted All Saints United to 31 points, one point ahead of Jennings Grenades in second place. It was only Old Road's second defeat in 12 encounters, but it ensured they remain in sixth place with 18 points.

Sean Tomlinson scored

a brace which helped Villa Lions to keep in touch with the front-runners by surging to a 4-2 victory over SAP in the opening game on Sunday.

Their ninth win in 12 matches meant that Villa Lions will remain in third place by advancing to 28 points, two adrift of Jennings Grenades.

SAP will move down into 9th place with 16 points after succumbing to their fifth defeat in 11 out-

ings.

Willikies and Empire battled to a goalless draw in the second game of Sunday's triple header.

The result meant that Willikies, who have now played 11 matches, will remain in fifth place by advancing to 20 points, one point adrift of Swetes in the fourth position.

Empire advance to 11 points from 11 outings, but will remain 12th in the standings.