

FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 30 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

GOV'T TO COVER SONJA HENRY'S FOREIGN MEDICAL EXPENSES

Story on Page 4



Education Minister Daryll Matthew speaks with contractors during a tour of the ABICE building under construction at Tomlinsons.
Story on page 2.

Local News



New ABICE complex on target for May completion

Construction work on the new multi-million dollar Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education's (ABICE) building at Tomlinsons is progressing smoothly with a completion date set tentatively for May, 2023.

Substantial work has already been done on the complex, a mere four months after ground was broken for the start of construction on the facility that is being financed by a grant from the Harrison Foundation of the UK.

On Wednesday, Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, toured the facility to get a first-hand account of the progress of the work so far. Accompanied by the lead contractor, Colin Harrigan, and the Director of ABICE, Arlene Weste, Matthew expressed his satisfaction with the pace of the work, noting that it has already progressed to the second floor.

Contractor Colin Harrigan noted that he has had to be creative to avoid any hindrances in the pace of the



work, despite having to deal with the challenges of shortages in cement and aggregates, two critical materials for construction.

He said during these times, he instructed his workshop to work on other things such as completing the forms in preparation for when these materials become available.

In spite of these efforts, the contractor reported that he is at least one month be-

hind his own schedule.

The education minister described the new facility as a critical component in the government's long-term strategy for education.

"Effectively, we are trying to 'future-proof' our people, if I may use that expression so that irrespective of what happens over the next fifteen or twenty years, we can adopt, we can be nimble and we can be just as com-

petitive," he declared.

Director of ABICE Arlene Weste said both the faculty and the student body are looking forward with much eagerness to the completion and availability of the new facility.

"When this building is completed, it will take ABICE to another level. It will have us being able to offer more programmes. We will be offering music production, we will be offering certain aspects of agriculture and we will be offering customer service training, which is surely needed in the country," she stated.

The Harrison Foundation has contributed four million pounds sterling to construct the 25,000 square foot two-storey building.

Fri 24 Day		Fri 24 Night	
80°	20% NE 12 mph	73°	19% NE 10 mph
Abundant sunshine. High near 80F. Winds NE at 10 to 15 mph.		Clear to partly cloudy. Low 73F. Winds NE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 70%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 74%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:28 am	Sunset 6:12 pm	Moonrise 9:39 am	Moonset 10:37 pm
		Waxing Crescent	

Decision to remove work permits still pending

A decision on the removal of work permits for CARICOM nationals and persons from the Dominican Republic remains outstanding.

Information Minister Melford Nicholas, explained during yesterday's post-Cabinet Press Briefing that Minister of Labour, Steadroy Benjamin, needs more time to "complete his internal review" before a specific timeline is announced.

"We are not at that conclusion point yet and I know it is something that the media has asked. The Minister of Labour and Attorney General has indicated that he is in receipt of the reports, but he requires an additional week to be able to complete his internal review before presenting it to cabinet. In as much as

the report has been submitted to him, there is still some further review that he needs to undertake before the matter can be brought back to cabinet before its final resolution or review and adoption," Nicholas said.

It was over a month ago on 6th January 2023, that government made the announcement to remove the need for work permits for members of CARICOM states and the Dominican Republic. Less than a month later, those plans were halted after concerns were raised about national security following discussions with Chief Immigration Officer Katrina Yearwood.

Until a decision is finalised, the six-month entry granted to visitors arriving in the country will continue.



Information Minister, Melford Nicholas



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Local News

Injured woman to receive advance treatment overseas

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has committed to covering the overseas medical expenses for twenty-five-year-old Bolans resident Sonja Henry.

The former national footballer and mother of one was critically injured on 15th January, 2023, during a motorcade that was organised by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) ahead of general elections.

Both of Henry's legs and pelvic area were crushed after she was run over by a truck, in which she had been travelling. Since then, the woman has undergone several medical procedures at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre to repair the injuries she sustained. These were made possible through



Sonja Henry

fundraisers that have been organised by residents of Bolans.

As the young woman continues on the road to re-

covery, the government has informed her relatives it will cover the costs for travel and treatment overseas.

Doctors are confident

that Sonja Henry will be able to walk again, but it will be a long road to that point.

Dean Jonas arrested, freed on bail



Dean Jonas

Former parliamentarian, Dean Jonas, was arrested Thursday evening and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest following a domestic dispute.

Informed sources confirmed that the former minister, who had portfolio responsibilities for Social Transformation in the last ABLP government, was involved in an altercation with a young lady with whom he is believed to have had a relationship.

The police were sum-

moned to the scene and reports indicate Jonas allegedly resisted their attempts to defuse the situation.

He was subsequently arrested and transported to St. John's Police Station, where he was charged. The former St. George MP was granted station bail and sought medical attention shortly after for injuries he sustained during the incident.

Dean Jonas is expected to appear in court today to answer to the charges.

Preparations for Carnival 2023 in full swing

Preparations for Carnival 2023 are now in full swing with a series of meetings taking place between the Ministry of Creative Industries officials and stakeholders associated with the national festival.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry, Senator Shenella Govia said all this is being done as the ministry finalizes arrangements for the official launch of Carnival, slated for March 25th, 2023.

“The preliminary preparations are being done presently for Carnival 2023. We have met with several stakeholder groups to include calypsonians, mas, steel bands, entertainers, promoters among others to chart the way forward for Antigua’s Carnival 2023, the Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival,” she disclosed.

Currently, the ministry is putting together the plans for the launch at which time the programme of events for the national festival will be announced.

The ministry has issued a circular inviting potential Carnival Queen contestants to apply to participate in the event this year. “The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries wishes to advise prospective applicants interested in participating in the 2023 Queen of Carnival Pageant, that registration is now open and will conclude on Monday 06th March,” the circular stated.

The criteria for participation calls for interested applicants to be citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, and must be between the ages of 18 and 26.

To be considered one must:

1. Have completed a secondary school education with a minimum of five (5) CSEC subjects inclusive of English A.
2. Never been married.
3. Never borne a child.
4. Have no criminal record.

5. Must be prepared for screening on Saturday 18th March 2023.

Application forms are currently available from any of the Ministry’s three (3) locations:

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries Office on Old Parham Road – 562



9605 / 06.

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries Office on Redcliffe Street (Formerly the Festivals Office) - 462 4707.

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries, Cultural



Unit on Lower Nevis Street - 462 5644.


Senator Govia said the opening of Antigua’s Carnival 2023, is slated for July 27th with the conclusion of the celebrations on August 8th.

Join and connect with us

Future Barbuda Public Events Program - February 2023

Sunday 26 February 16.00 - 18.00 Holy Trinity School	Community Meeting 1 - #FutureBarbuda Presentation: The Peoples’ Vision (Draft One) After our first visit in July 2021, join us again as we present the first draft of the Barbudan Peoples’ Vision for #FutureBarbuda and find out how you can help shape it further.
Monday 27 February 17.30 - 19.30 Holy Trinity School	Community Meeting 2 - Barbudan Future Services: What is essential? Have your say on housing, economic prosperity, food security, tourism and cultural heritage needs for #FutureBarbuda.
Tuesday 28 February 17.30 - 19.30 Barbuda Channel CTV - 6	Community Meeting 3 - One Planet Living: A tool for positive change Join our live discussion looking at ways for Barbuda to become the most sustainable island in the Caribbean. We have presentations from the Maya Blue Consortium with special guest Pooran Desai, Founder of One Planet Living.
Wednesday 1 March 17.30 - 19.30 Holy Trinity School	Community Meeting 4 - Defining key spaces, places, and connections Input into discussions around a future growth strategy for Barbuda that encourages prosperity and supports sustainable land use.




@FutureBarbuda

Local News



2023 Harper's Office Depot School Art Competition launched

Organizers of Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) are pleased to announce the launch of the Harper's School Arts Competition for 2023 under the theme "Society, Coral reefs, the Sea and You".

The annual art competition was established to connect school aged Antiguan & Barbudans to Antigua Sailing Week and aims to inspire them to be creative while discovering how various aspects of marine, envi-



ronment and even economy are related to the event.

This is the fifth year that Harper's Office Depot

has presented the growing competition and Managing Director Roy Bento has this to say, "Our family of companies have supported Antigua Sailing Week in various ways for many years.

"And now, having the brand of Harper's Office Depot build exposure to the next generation, while fulfilling corporate social community goals is a winning formula."

Students are being asked to create artwork that portrays relationships between society, coral reefs, themselves using personal research, which will promote public awareness of the need to urgently preserve, protect, and restore the islands' reefs.

The final artwork should be able to inspire young citizens to conserve and protect coral reefs by changing their habits to slow the destruction of these ecosystems.

"Teachers and parents can take this opportunity to dialog with children about how the destruction is related to human activities and how

we can modify our behaviour to counter these threats. For example: I can save the coral reefs by using reef-friendly products, conserve water to reduce my wastewater which ends in sea, avoiding plastic straws, and by being a more responsible citizen, and then most importantly, by educating the youth in our community," says Rana-Jamila Lewis, Marketing Manager.

Students can create in their medium of choice, however, the submissions must be converted to a digital format for judging. Keeping in step with the multimedia age a new submission option for 2023 allows students to produce a short 60sec video to express their ideas.

The complete theme and rules can be found on our website - <https://sailingweek.com/schoolart/>.

The deadline for submissions is March 29, 2023. The artwork will be available for people's choice voting on the ASW School Art Facebook page from April 3 – 6. Winners of all categories will be announced on April 7.

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Antigua and Barbuda company secures major contract with ECCB

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) is excited to announce that it has engaged The Marketing Machine, a full-service marketing consultancy firm, as the principal marketing agency for **DCash**, the digital version of the Eastern Caribbean (EC) Dollar.

The Marketing Machine which is Antigua and Barbuda-based was selected through a competitive tendering process that began in April 2022 and saw participation from several internationally recognised marketing firms from across the Caribbean and North America.

Speaking on the award, Karina A. Johnson, Project Manager of the **DCash** pilot project noted, “Just as important as the security and robustness of the **DCash** technology is the ability to effectively engage with the ECCU public about how **DCash** can impact the lives and performance of the people and businesses of the region. With The Marketing Machine, we believe we have found an able partner to drive this message with creativity and clarity.”

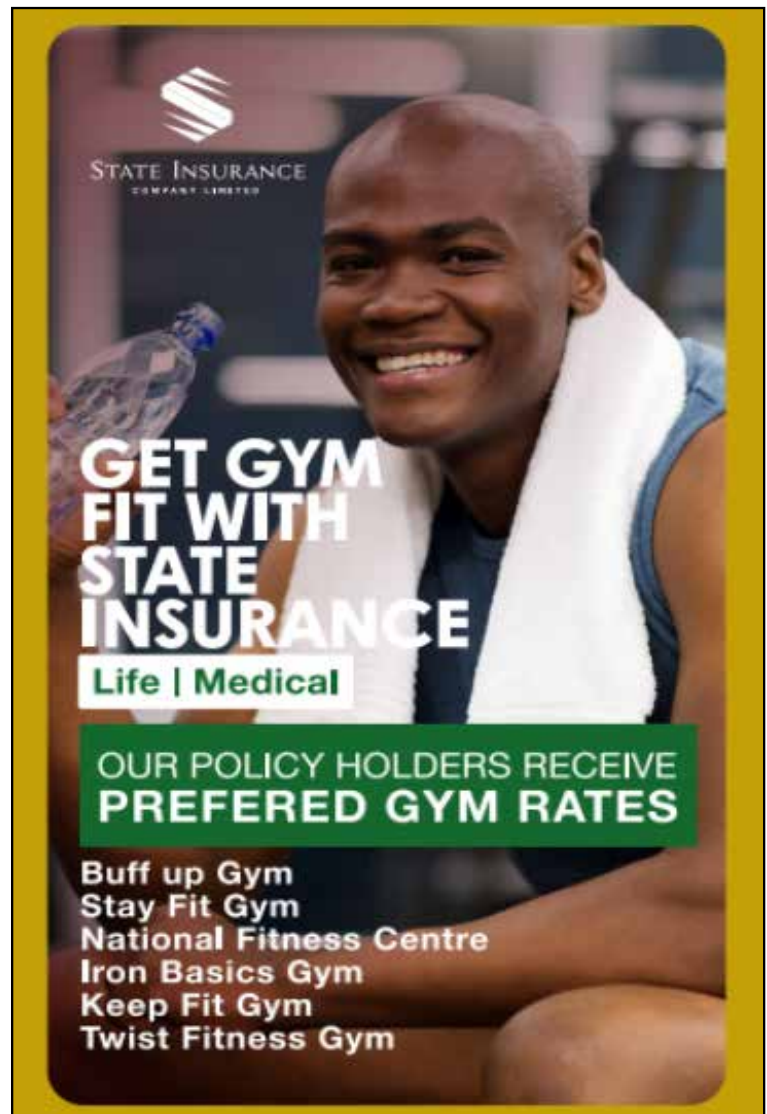
The Marketing Machine will devise and implement strategies to increase visibility of the **DCash** brand and drive the aggressive expansion of the **DCash** user network across the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union



The Marketing Machine team. (ECCU). Its marketing activities, campaigns and strategies for **DCash** will focus on increasing public awareness, education and usage to expand the **DCash** ecosystem.

This marketing engagement follows the ECCB's historic launch in March 2021 of the **DCash** pilot. **DCash** is a pioneering digital currency that brings modern-day convenience to consumers and businesses across the ECCU. It has the potential to significantly enhance small business operations in the region and create opportunities for everyone to participate in the digital economy.

The **DCash** app gives users a safer, faster, and cheaper option of paying for goods and services or for sending funds to friends, family, or anyone with a **DCash** wallet.



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Opinion

The war on Ukraine is now a global war

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)

The people of Ukraine are the principal victims of the unjustified and unprovoked war, launched against them by Russia on February 24, 2022. But in the year since then, it has become clear that other victims - on a different scale - have been all the nations of the world, particularly the small, poor and powerless.

When the Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, the global economy was still struggling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that had battered economies around the world, especially those of developing countries.

The supply of food and other goods had been severely affected by border closures, ships trapped in ports, airplanes grounded, and the resultant high costs of scarce goods.

One year later the global economy is in much worse shape as a consequence of

Russia's war. Inflation rates are soaring and the cost of living everywhere has increased dramatically.

These rising costs of finance, energy and food, and a debt burden that has expanded, have pushed some countries to the edge of bankruptcy.

In a real sense, therefore, the Russian war is a war against the world, and while the people of Ukraine are the main sufferers, the peoples of other countries have not been spared.

This war is no longer a "European war", nor is it only a contest for supremacy between Russia and the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, it is a war that engulfs every nation with grave consequences.

When Russia embarked on its war against Ukraine, it violated sacred principles that are enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Those principles, which are highly valued by small and powerless states, are sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

As one of the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council, which has responsibility for collective security, the Russian government was well aware of these principles. Yet, with



Sir Ronald Sanders

no justification for its aggression and no provocation, it launched its war on Ukraine.

Today, it stands responsible for the humanitarian crisis that its actions have caused in Ukraine, including rape and murder of civilians, and destruction of civilian objects and the natural environment.

The world community depends upon a rules-based system for collective international security, and to ensure that order prevails in a predictable way to avoid wars and economic chaos.

It is in the interest of every country in the international community, including those that are powerful in military and economic terms, to adhere always to a

system of rules.

For, while short-term national objectives might be achieved by breaking the rules, eventually such actions are not sustainable.

By its aggression in Ukraine, Russia has significantly weakened the rules-based system upon which the world depends, particularly the small, the poor who are the least resilient.

The war is having an enormous impact on the global supply chain, impeding the flow of goods, fueling huge increases in the cost of food creating catastrophic food shortages.

There are now protests and riots in many parts of the world over the rising cost of living and the im-

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Opinion

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mense difficult people face in trying to make ends meet.

These protests and riots are directed at their own governments, even though none of these conditions were a result of any policy decision taken or implemented by them.

Many governments, around the world, are now hapless victims of Russia's decision to wage a war against Ukraine.

Further, having already accumulated a heavy debt burden, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in interest rates in global commercial market, have rendered debt unpayable, except by diverting money from domestic social welfare and capital projects.

These governments now find themselves having to pay high interests on new loans. Many are spending as much as 45 per cent of their export

earnings to service existing debt obligations. Some will fail, and the world might be confronted with yet another debt crisis.

Let it be said, however, that the greatest victims in terms of loss of lives and livelihoods, and the decimation of their country are the Ukrainians.

They are fighting for their identity, their territory and their survival. They deserve the admiration and support of the world for their courage, their strength and their resistance.

Right now, the world needs peace to overcome the immediate harmful effects of this war; lasting peace is what the world will need to recover from the impact of the war on their economies and their people.

More than anything else, the world needs renewed commitment by every nation to end the scourge of war, and to renew inclusionary engagement on

supporting peace, including economic stability and predictability, and an end to dealing with territorial claims peacefully and within international law.

Russia needs that peace as much as Ukraine and the rest of the world. A great deal of Russian treasure is being spent on this war, which, after a year, has not given Russia the swift victory its government expected.

The lives of Russian soldiers are being lost, and Russians are fleeing their country, depriving it of needed skills and talent. Russia, like Ukraine, will also suffer a prolonged period of agony, whenever the war ends, before it can recover from this unprovoked war.

Ending the war swiftly and returning to the principles of the UN Charter, are in every country's interest.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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BOLANS PLAYING FIELD

Entertainment

Skinny Fabulous congratulates Bunji Garlin on road march win



Skinny Fabulous

Loop - Vincentian Soca star Skinny Fabulous has congratulated Trini Soca legend Bunji Garlin on winning the Visit Trinidad 2023 road march race with his hit 'Hard Fete'.

Skinny Fabulous in a Facebook post said: "The results are in and it's all love. Congratulations to

my brother, the new Road March King @bunjigarlin

Special thanks to everyone who rode hard, rallied for and owned "Come Home" as their anthem for Carnival."

According to official results released by the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation (TUCO), Hard Fete was the most-played song at judging points with 135 plays.

Nailah Blackman and Skinny Fabulous' "Come Home" was second with 106 plays.

On Facebook, commenters from St Vincent and the Grenadines congratulated Skinny Fabulous and Nailah Blackman for their accomplishment with 'Come Home'.

One commenter said: "Big up yourself Skinny Fabulous! You have every reason to be proud of this song! keep up the amazing work you have done and continue to for yourself and your country! Blessings!"

Another commenter said they were proud no matter the placement: "Congratulations Skinny Fabulous for doing what used to be just a 'small islander' dream.

"Two second places and a road march title in the last 3 years of carnival

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Rihanna to perform Lift Me Up at the Oscars

By Nadine Yousif

Rihanna Navy rejoice: the Super Bowl halftime show will not be the last that we see of the Barbadian singer.

The music superstar is scheduled to perform Lift Me Up during the biggest night in Hollywood - the Oscars.

The song, created with Tems, Ryan Coogler and Ludwig Göransson, was featured on the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever soundtrack.

It has been nominated for best original song, marking Rihanna's first Oscar nod.

The 95th Academy Awards ceremony will be broadcast on 12 March and hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

Earlier this month, Rihanna dazzled Super Bowl viewers with a soaring, solo half-time show, in which she publicly revealed her second pregnancy with her partner, rapper A\$AP Rocky.

The 13-minute performance was highly anticipated by Rihanna's fans, many of whom had not seen her perform since she graced the Grammys stage in 2018 to



Rihanna's Oscars performance comes on the heels of her solo, 13-minute set at the Super Bowl halftime show.

perform 'Wild Thoughts' with DJ Khaled.

In the last few years, Rihanna has taken a break from music to focus on her business ventures, like her Fenty Beauty make-up brand and her Savage X Fenty lingerie line.

Lift Me Up marks the first solo song Rihanna has recorded since her last album, ANTI, which was released in 2016.

Speaking about her return to music after a seven-year hiatus, Rihanna said she is

at a point where she wants to explore creatively.

"I'm feeling open to exploring, discovering, creating things that are new, things that are different, things that are off, weird. Might not ever make sense to my fans ... I want to have fun with music," Rihanna said ahead of her Super Bowl performance.

With a performance at the Oscars, Rihanna joins the likes of Beyonce and Lady Gaga, who both dazzled as musical guests on the Academy Award stage in recent

years.

Her song, Lift Me Up, will compete for the best original song title against Lady Gaga, who is up for her fourth-ever nomination for Hold My Hand from Top Gun: Maverick.

Other nominees for best original song include Diane Warren for Applause from the film Tell It Like a Woman; This Is A Life from Ryan Lott, Mitski and David Byrne from the film Everything Everywhere All At Once; and Naatu Naatu by M M Keeravaani and Chandrabose from the Indian action film RRR.

Rihanna is a nine-time Grammy Award winner. She has eight multi-platinum albums and 14 singles that have reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

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in Trinidad and Tobago ain't no ordinary feat.

"Let us all pause for a few seconds and let that sink in

"Great achievement bro and wishing you all the best in the future as you continue to make this tiny na-

tion proud. #BigUpSkinnyFabulous-Nailah #vincymas2023"

Congratulations also poured in from this commenter: "I will also say that the St.Vincent Grammar School is extremely proud of you for personifying our Motto...Per Aspera Ad Astra... Congratulations again for a phenomenal job."

R. Kelly avoids lengthy add-on to 30-year prison sentence

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday rejected a call from prosecutors to keep R. Kelly behind bars until he is 100, instead telling the Grammy Award-winning R&B singer he would serve all but one of his 20 years on child sex convictions simultaneously with a previous sentence.

Handed down in a courtroom in Kelly's hometown of Chicago, the sentence means Kelly could make it out of prison alive, when he is about 80. Prosecutors had asked Judge Harry Leinenweber to sentence him to 25 years — and to not let him begin serving those until after he completed the first 30-year sentence, imposed on him last year in New York for federal racketeering and sex trafficking convictions.

"The nature of this offense is ... horrific," Leinenweber said in explaining the 20-year sentence. He noted that Kelly's sexual abuse victims would suffer from his crimes for the rest of their lives.

At the same time, he accepted defense arguments that Kelly might not even make it to 80, so handing him a consecutive lengthy sentence, rather than allowing him to serve all but one year of it simultaneously, didn't make much sense.

"He has a life expectancy of not a hell of a lot more," the judge said. "He



Attorneys for R. Kelly, Jennifer Bonjean, right, and Ashley Cohen make their way to reporters at the Dirksen Federal Building after Kelly's sentencing hearing Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, in Chicago. R. Kelly was sentenced on Thursday to 20 years in prison for child pornography and enticement of minors for sex but will serve all but one of those simultaneously with a 30-year sentence on racketeering and sex trafficking convictions. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

is 56 years of age."

Kelly's defense lawyer celebrated the ruling as a victory, and some of the singer's fans could be heard cheering outside the courtroom.

Kelly remained still, his eyes downcast, as Leinenweber explained what was at times a hard-to-follow sentence. He did seem to show some emotion when a representative read a statement written by "Jane," one of his accusers and a key prosecution witness.

"I was brainwashed by Robert and a sex slave," Jane's statement said. "It almost killed me."

Kelly did not make a statement in court prior to the sentencing decision, heeding the advice of his lawyer, Jennifer Bonjean, to stay quiet while they appeal both his Chicago and New York convictions.

"It's the right outcome," Bonjean said of the sentence after the hearing ended. "The judge was reasonable. He, I think, took into account both sides and ultimately was fair."

The U.S. Attorney in Chicago, John Lausch, conceded that prosecutors were disappointed Kelly didn't receive more consecutive prison time. But he added,

"Twenty years is a significant sentence, and we are happy that that was imposed in this case."

The judge said at the outset of Thursday's hearing that he did not accept the government's contention that Kelly used fear to woo underage girls for sex, a determination that was important in deciding whether to extend Kelly's current term significantly.

"The (government's) whole theory of grooming, was sort of the opposite of fear of bodily harm," the judge told the court. "It was the fear of lost love, lost af-

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Disgraced film producer Harvey Weinstein gets 16 more years in prison

Ex-Hollywood film mogul Harvey Weinstein has been sentenced to 16 years in Los Angeles for rape and sexual assault charges dating to 2013.

The 70-year-old is already serving a 23-year prison sentence for a separate conviction in New York.

More than 80 people have made rape and misconduct claims about Weinstein dating back as far as the late 1970s.

"Please don't sentence me to life in prison," he told the court. "I don't deserve it."

He called the case "a set up".

On 19 December, a Los Angeles jury convicted Weinstein of one count of rape and two counts of sexual assault involving a model and actress.

The victim, known as Jane Doe 1 to protect her anonymity, had testified that Weinstein assaulted her in a hotel room during an Italian film festival in Los Angeles in February 2013.



Harvey Weinstein during his New York trial in 2019.

She spoke in court before the sentence was read, recounting the trauma she had endured for "many years" since the assault.

"Before that night I was a very happy and confident woman," she said. "Everything changed after the defendant brutally assaulted me. There is no prison sentence long enough to undo the damage."

Weinstein, meanwhile, maintained his innocence, telling Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Lisa Lench he

did not know the victim. "I never raped or sexually assaulted Jane Doe 1," he said.

He said there were "so many things wrong" with the case and too many "loop-holes".

His attorneys - who had sought a three-year sentence for Weinstein - asked the judge to take into account his deteriorating health, his children as well as his "generous" donations to charity.

Weinstein sat in court looking away for most of the time and did not react

when the sentence was read, which came after the judge rejected a motion by Weinstein's lawyers for a new trial.

He was acquitted during the same Los Angeles trial of sexual battery against another accuser.

The jury was unable to reach a verdict on three other sexual assault counts, including one involving Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the wife of California Governor Gavin Newsom. A mistrial was declared.

He is likely to appeal against the sentence.

The former film magnate was facing up to 18 years in prison in the Los Angeles case.

He avoided a sentence of up to 24 years after a jury was unable to agree on whether Weinstein had planned the rape or whether the victim was "particularly vulnerable".

cont'd from pg 12

fections (from Kelly)'... It just doesn't seem to me that it rises to the fear of bodily harm."

Two of Kelly's accusers asked the judge Thursday to punish him harshly.

"When your virginity is taken by a pedophile at 14 ... your life is never your own," Jane's statement read.

Another accuser, who used the pseudonym "Nia," addressed Kelly directly in court. Speaking forcefully as her voice quivered, Nia said Kelly would repeat-

edly point out her alleged faults while he abused her.

"Now you are here ... because there is something wrong with you," she said. "No longer will you be able to harm children."

Jurors in Chicago convicted Kelly last year on six of 13 counts: three of producing child porn and three of enticement of minors for sex. Prosecutors did not get a conviction on the marquee charge: that Kelly and his then-business manager successfully rigged his state child pornography trial in 2008.

Certain breast cancer patients 65 and older may be able to go without radiation therapy, new study suggests

CNN — In some older breast cancer patients, skipping radiation therapy after they've had surgery doesn't appear to have a detrimental effect on their overall survival, according to a new study.

Skipping radiation after surgery may not affect overall survival for women 65 and older with small hormone-positive breast cancer tumors, provided that they receive five years of endocrine therapy, says the study,

published Wednesday in The New England Journal of Medicine. But it may be associated with a higher risk of cancer returning in the same breast.

The findings suggest that radiation — which can have side effects such as fatigue, breast pain, as well as the risk of heart and lung complications — may not be needed to extend overall survival among this group as long as they have endocrine

therapy. Endocrine therapy — also called hormone therapy — involves adding, blocking or removing hormones as part of a treatment approach for certain conditions, including to slow or stop the growth of certain cancers.

"These data offer a response to the long-standing problem of overtreatment in older women with low-risk breast cancer," Dr. Alice Ho of Duke University School of Medicine and Dr. Jennifer

Bellon of Harvard Medical School wrote in an editorial published alongside the new study.

"The ability to omit radiotherapy is one of many options in a lengthy list that also includes the use of abbreviated radiotherapy regimens and smaller target volumes," Ho and Bellon wrote.

"Pragmatically, radiotherapy can strain time and finances. Therefore, robust data solidifying the option to omit radiotherapy in selected patients are welcome."

The study included data on 1,326 women with breast cancer who were 65 and older. From April 16, 2003, to December 22, 2009, 658 of the women were randomly assigned to receive radiation therapy across their whole breast, and 668 of them received no radiation therapy.

The trial was conducted across 76 centers in the United Kingdom, Greece, Australia and Serbia.

The researchers found that cancer recurrence in the same breast was more common in the participants who did not get radiation; the cumulative incidence of local recurrence was 9.5% in the no-radiation group and 0.9% in the radiation group.

"The incidence of local recurrence up to 10 years among patients who received radiotherapy remained low,

cont'd on pg 15



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whereas that among patients who did not receive radiotherapy continued to increase with no apparent plateau. However, the absolute difference in the incidence of local recurrence at 10 years was modest," the researchers, from the University of Edinburgh and Western General Hospital in Scotland, wrote in the study.

And overall survival at 10 years was nearly identical: 80.8% without radiation therapy and 80.7% with it, the researchers found. Sixteen deaths in the no-radiotherapy group and 15 deaths in the radiotherapy group were due to breast cancer.

Previous research has supported excluding radiation in women older than 70 with small tumors – less than 2 centimeters – but this new study provides evidence for lowering the age limit to 65 and including women with tumors up to 3 centimeters, said Dr. Naamit Kurshan Gerber, a radiation oncologist at NYU Langone Perlmutter Cancer Center in New York, who was not involved in the research.

In the United States, 26% of breast cancer diagnoses are in women ages 65 to 74, according to the study.

"So we've had evidence before this paper that in women over 70, adding radiation lowers the risk of local recurrence, but it doesn't change survival.

"And this study is really adding to the weight of that evidence, but it's also, of course, lowering the age

from 70 to 65," Gerber said. "The role of radiation in these women is really reducing this risk of local recurrence, which it does, but there's really no effect on overall survival."

Some breast cancer patients might decide to skip radiation for various reasons – including side effects – but others may still choose

to have radiation therapy to lower their risk of cancer recurring in the same area.

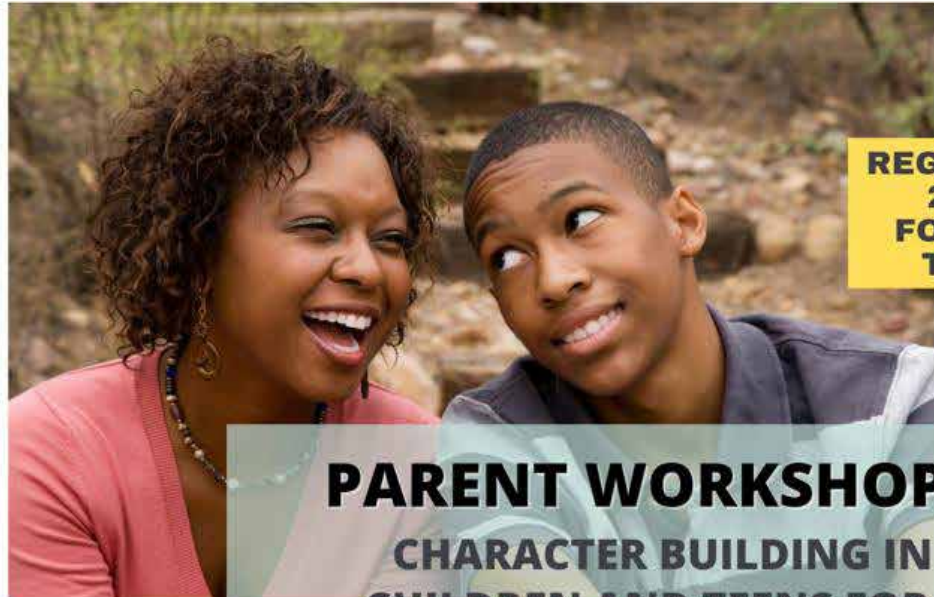
But Gerber added that for breast cancer patients who are not planning to take endocrine therapy, skipping radiation is not an option.

For doctors and patients, "it's very important to engage in shared decision-making about what are your values,

what are your goals, and sort of explaining the risks and the benefits of radiation therapy and, of course, the benefit is preventing a local recurrence," Gerber said.

"There are risks, there are side effects, but it's always a very nuanced discussion," she said. "There's no one right answer for every single person."

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Regional News



UK's MP Rutley meets with Dominica's Skerrit to discuss climate financing

Pledges on climate financing continue to pour in the Caribbean.

On Tuesday, Dominica's Office of the Prime Minister announced Roosevelt Skerrit's meeting with UK's David Rutley, MP for Macclesfield and Minister of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for Americas & Caribbean.

"They discussed matters, including innovative climate financing & bilateral partnership between the UK, Dominica," PM Skerrit's office said.

In a separate tweet, Rutley said that the meeting is meant to "bolster both Dominica's and Small Is-

land Developing States' climate resilience."

Just recently at the 44th regional summit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Canada's Prime Minister, Justine Trudeau, announced that his country is allotting \$44.8 million in aid to the region, focusing on new initiatives such as "biodiversity, climate resilience, and disaster preparedness and recovery to support CARICOM in addressing the climate crisis."

It has long been acknowledged how Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are going to be affected by climate change. The Unit-



MP David Rutley, left, with Dominica PM Roosevelt Skerrit

ed Nations Development Program (UNDP) describes it best: "SIDS' geographical conditions make them highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly those caused by climate change."

Sixteen (16) countries

out of the thirty-eight (38) SIDS are in the Caribbean, and this includes Dominica.

Dominica has long been working on how to become a climate-resilient nation, even aiming to become the

cont'd on pg 17

InterCaribbean Airways to begin flights to St. Kitts next month

Loop - InterCaribbean Airways (ICA) announced today that it will begin flying to St. Kitts and Nevis from March 12, 2023.

"HELLO ST KITTS! Following our heart, we announce today new air services from Barbados to St Kitts, effective March 12, 2023," ICA said in a social media post to announce the new route.

This will be ICA's 15 country and 23rd destination on its route map

St Kitts and Nevis Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Marsha Henderson welcomed the airline's de-



cision to fly to the country as she said it would boost the regional tourism sector and help the islands become better connected.

"This development is undoubtedly significant for St Kitts and Nevis and the entire region. Today is an

inspiring day in tourism as we continue our rebuilding efforts plagued by a global pandemic compounded by ongoing external threats," she said while noting that it eliminates the need for Caribbean travellers to fly to the United States to

catch a flight to St Kitts and vice-versa.

ICA will use an Embraer 120 aircraft, which has the capacity to hold 30 passengers, to fly from Barbados to St Kitts on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It provides travellers with a one-stop connectivity to Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Guyana, and soon to Trinidad.

Henderson also revealed that ICA plans to fly to St Kitts from Puerto Rico.

The details of that service will be revealed soon.

Grenada wants private sector partnership to build homes

Grenada Housing Minister Phillip Telesford has stated that the Dickon Mitchell administration may not be able to complete the 500 homes promised with full government funding so it will seek collaboration with private-sector stakeholders.

“The Government of Grenada may not necessarily build homes, but we may wish to partner by way of putting in infrastructural work.

“Those of you who have large tracts of land and want to partner with us, we may form a joint venture for that purpose,” he said at a meeting last Monday with private land owners, contractors, and other construction industry service providers.

“We want to engage architects, designers, and contractors because we

want you to partner with us,” he said. The meeting was held in the auditorium of Grenada Boys Secondary School (GBSS).

Telesford, who is also the Minister for Social Development, Community Development, and Gender Affairs, announced that the government would pilot a housing project in the parish of St John in which samples of futuristic homes would be built.

“In Marigot, or what you call Stony Gut, we have a portion of land that we want to use as a sort of testing ground to build some sample homes, utilizing new types of building materials; utilizing natural light from the sun, rain-water harvesting, ozone friendly materials, and whatever we can lay our hands on as a sort of sample as to what is possible in



the future.”

“I am confident we can build some futuristic homes, and this is where architects, you, and contractors come in, to be able to build these as a sample of what the future looks like,” he said.

He stated that the approach used to build the homes will be critical to meeting the government’s goal of building 500 homes. “How do we collaborate; how do we make this hap-

pen?

“I can tell you for a fact that many people from the international community have been knocking on Grenada’s doors to come in and build homes or sell us prefabricated homes, sell us building materials...because they want to partner,” he said.

Finance Minister Dickon Mitchell stated in his 2023 budget statement, which was presented to Parliament in December 2022, that his administration’s commitment for this term is to deliver 500 high-quality climate-resilient Grenadian-style houses.

He explained that the Stony Gut Climate-Resilient Housing Development Pilot Project, which aims to build modern, high-quality, climate-resilient, Grenadian-styled homes in Stony Gut, St John, will be one of the major initiatives in this budget cycle. The budget for this project is EC\$2.5 million.

cont’d from pg 16

world’s first in this endeavour, ever since Typhoon Erika hit the country in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017.

These catastrophes brought islands like Dominica to their knees, but they are the same force that prompted them to build back better infrastructure on the island.

Dominica began the Housing Initiative, ensuring the integrity of the new houses that can withstand strong typhoons and even earthquakes.

These are being developed by MMC Development Ltd., a leading developer in the Caribbean and a close partner of the government of Dominica that has proven

its service to the nation for many years now.

More than 2,000 housing units have already been built under the supervision of MMC Development Ltd. and these houses have been turned over to beneficiaries—all of them are built according to what is the most sustainable method of construction.

There are healthcare facilities and educational institutions, too, being improved on the island.

These projects under the developing company are funded by the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Program of Dominica, one of the longest-running programs in the world.

Gaza-Israel exchange of fire follows deadly West Bank raid

By David Gritten

The Israeli military has carried out air strikes in the Gaza Strip after Palestinian militants in the territory fired rockets at southern Israel.

Six rockets were launched from Gaza at dawn, five of which were intercepted, the military said. Shortly afterwards, Israeli warplanes hit what it identified as two Hamas militant sites.

No-one is reported to have been hurt.

The exchange follows an Israeli raid in Nablus in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday which killed 11 Palestinians.

Both Hamas, which controls Gaza, and another militant group, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, had issued threats of retaliation.

UN Middle East envoy Tor Wennesland, who has been involved in mediation efforts to try to stop an escalation along with Egyptian officials, travelled to Gaza on Thursday to meet leaders of Hamas.

"I am deeply disturbed by the continuing cycle of violence and appalled by the loss of civilian lives," he said before the trip. "I urge all sides to refrain from steps that could further enflame an already volatile situation."

No militant group has so far said it was behind Thurs-



Israeli warplanes struck two sites in central and northern Gaza two hours after the rocket launches.

day's rocket launches, which caused sirens to sound in southern Israeli cities and towns near Gaza, including Ashkelon and Sderot.

There were small explosions in the sky as most were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome defence system, according to the Israeli military. One rocket fell in an open area.

The military said two hours later that its fighter jets struck a weapons manufacturing site and a military compound belonging to Hamas in central and northern Gaza in response.

Video footage posted online reportedly showed explosions in the al-Bureij and al-Shati refugee camps.

Following the exchange of fire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a cabinet meeting: "We

will continue to take strong action on all fronts, near and far, in order to thwart our enemies' efforts to attack us. Whoever tries to harm us will pay the price."

On Wednesday morning, Israeli forces entered the busy old city of Nablus, in the northern West Bank, for what they said was an operation to arrest three wanted Palestinian militants. However, they were quickly caught up in a gun battle with armed fighters.

Israeli troops eventually fired shoulder-launched missiles at a house in which the three militants were holed up, having said that they would not surrender. The Israeli military said the men were involved in the killing of an Israeli soldier last year and were planning imminent attacks.

Several civilians were also among those killed in the raid, including three elderly men.

A video also showed young men, apparently unarmed, running away as gunshots are heard before one falls to the ground. The Israeli military said it was reviewing the footage.

Local hospitals have been struggling to treat dozens of people who were injured, many with bullet wounds.

One doctor told the BBC's Tom Bateman that this was one of the worst events of this kind that he had seen in recent years.

A 15-year-old boy with a wound to the leg said he had been standing near militants when he was hit by Israeli gunfire.

cont'd on pg 19

Police: 'Random' shootings leave woman, child, reporter dead

AP - A man riding in a car with his cousin shot and killed another passenger then returned to the same neighborhood near Orlando hours later and shot four more people, killing a journalist covering the original shooting and a 9-year-old girl, Florida police and witnesses said.

Orange County Sheriff John Mina characterized the shootings Wednesday as random acts of violence. Mina said during a news conference that 19-year-old Keith Melvin Moses has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the initial shooting that killed Nathacha Augustin, 38, and that "numerous more charges" would follow.

Spectrum News 13 identified the slain reporter as Dylan Lyons. Photographer Jesse Walden was also wounded. Mina said Walden has been talking to investigators while being treated at a hospital.

The two were in an unmarked news vehicle on Wednesday afternoon covering the first homicide

when a man approached and shot them, Mina said. The man then went to a nearby home where he fatally shot T'yonna Major and critically wounded the girl's mother. Officials have not released the mother's name.

Mina said Thursday that investigators do not know the motive for any of the shootings. He said Moses is a known gang member but that the shootings didn't appear to be gang-related. It was not clear if Moses knew that two of the victims were journalists and Mina noted that their vehicle didn't look like a typical news van or feature the station's logo.

The sheriff said when deputies arrested Moses they seized a Glock semi-automatic weapon that "was still hot to the touch, meaning it had just been fired, and there were no more rounds."

Body camera footage released by the sheriff's office shows Moses apparently resisting arrest. After deputies take him to the ground, Moses repeatedly yells that he can't breathe and that deputies are killing him, according to the vid-



TV journalist Dylan Lyons, 24, poses for a photo with his girlfriend, left, and mom at the Florida Association of Broadcast Journalists awards ceremony on May 7, 2022 in Orlando, Fla. Lyons, a journalist with Spectrum 13 News in Orlando, was shot and killed Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, while covering a story about a murdered woman. (Jonathan Galed via AP)

eo. Moses complained he was hurt and was taken to a hospital where he attacked medical staff, Mina said. He has since refused to speak with detectives.

The Office of the Public Defender for Orange and Osceola counties, which is representing Moses, declined to comment.

A man who called 911 after Augustin was shot told investigators that he was driving around smok-

ing cannabis with her when he spotted Moses walking along a road.

He said Moses "seemed down" so he offered him a ride, according to an arrest affidavit.

Moses climbed into the backseat, behind Augustin, and about 30 seconds later the driver said he "heard a loud bang" and saw blood on Augustin's face.

He said he stopped and Moses fled. The driver called 911.

He told investigators that Moses and Augustin didn't know each other and that he didn't hear the two exchange any words before the shot was fired.

Mina said Thursday that the driver and Moses are cousins.

cont'd from pg 18

A senior Palestinian official called it a "massacre", while Hamas said its patience was "running out" and Palestinian Islamic Jihad said it had a "duty" to respond.

Israel has intensified its search-and-arrest raids in the West Bank over the past year, saying it is trying to stem the spate of deadly Palestinian attacks targeting Is-

raelis.

So far this year, more than 60 Palestinians - militants and civilians - have been killed, while 10 Israelis and a Ukrainian have been killed in the same period.

The US, which has been trying to ease spiralling tensions, said on Wednesday that it was "extremely concerned by the levels of violence".

Ukraine war: UN condemns Russian invasion ahead of anniversary

By George Wright

The UN General Assembly has voted overwhelmingly to approve a resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It called for the withdrawal of troops from Ukraine and a halt to fighting.

141 nations voted in favour of the motion, with 32 abstaining and seven - including Russia - voting against.

The vote came after a large number of delegates walked out during a Russian address at a parliamentary session of the European security body in Vienna.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) walkout and the UN vote came a day before the first anniversary of the invasion.

The UN vote called for peace as soon as possible.

The resolution reaffirmed support for Ukraine's "sovereignty" and "territorial integrity," rejecting any Russian claims to the parts of the country it occupies.

In September, MPs in Moscow voted to illegally annex four regions of Ukraine.

The UN also demanded "that the Russian Federation immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders," and called "for a cessation of hostilities".

The measure is not legally binding, but holds political weight.

While the resolution was passed overwhelmingly by the majority of nations, there were some notable abstentions.

China, India, Iran and South Af-



rica were among the 32 countries to abstain in the vote.

The seven countries who voted against were Russia, Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea, Mali, Nicaragua and Syria.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the vote "made it clear that Russia must end its illegal aggression. Ukraine's territorial integrity must be restored".

"One year after Russia launched its full-scale invasion global support for Ukraine remains strong," he tweeted.

Earlier at the OSCE in Vienna, the decision to give visas to the Russian delegation caused anger.

Ukraine and Lithuania boycotted the session entirely over Austria's decision to invite officials from Moscow, despite some being under EU sanctions.

The Austrian government said it was obliged to do so under international law because the OSCE has its headquarters there.

Latvian MP Rihards Kols described the Russian presence as the

"elephant in the room", adding it was a "disgrace" that they were allowed to take part.

A large number of delegates then staged a walkout during the Russian address.

The Russian delegate, Vladimir Dzhbarov, derided delegates for walking out, repeating false claims that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a battle against nationalists and Nazis who Moscow claims are leading the Kyiv government.

The OSCE was founded in 1975 to improve relations between the Western and Eastern blocs. Its current members include members of Nato and allies of Russia.

President Vladimir Putin sent up to 200,000 soldiers into Ukraine on 24 February 2022 in the biggest European invasion since the end of World War Two.

The devastating war that ensued has left at least 7,199 civilians dead and thousands of others injured, according to a UN estimate, with the real number likely to be much higher.

Australia hold off India to reach T20 World Cup final

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Australia reached their seventh straight Women's T20 World Cup final by holding off India to win by five runs on Thursday.

Chasing Australia's 172-4, India were 28-3 before a rally by the middle- and lower-order gave them a chance of an upset against the two-time defending champion and top-ranked team.

India needed 20 off the last 12 balls of the semifinal after Jemimah Rodrigues (43 off 24 balls), captain Harmanpreet Kaur (52 off 34) and Deepti Sharma (20 not out off 17) dragged the last World Cup's losing finalist back into contention.

Left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen bowled a superb penultimate over for Australia, holding India to just four runs off those six balls and claiming the wicket of Sneha Rana, who was bowled for 11.



Australia celebrate the wicket of India's Richa Ghosh during the Women's T20 World Cup semi final cricket match in Cape Town, South Africa, Thursday Feb. 23, 2023. (AP Photo/Halden Krog).

With 16 needed off the last over to win, or 15 to tie the scores and force a Super Over, India got 10 and fell just short at 167-8.

"One of the best wins I've been involved in," Australia captain Meg Lanning said. "India came hard at us so we knew this score would be hard to defend. But we pulled through in the clutch moments."

The crucial wicket for the Aussies came earlier when Rodrigues tried to ramp a short ball over wick-

etkeeper Alyssa Healy but only succeeded in edging it to Healy. That ended a partnership of 69 with Kaur that had put India ahead of the required run rate after 10 overs.

Australia began to take control again when Kaur fell run out after getting her bat stuck in the ground as she tried to slide it into the crease.

"Can't be unluckier than that," Kaur said of her run out. "Putting the effort in was important and we were

happy to go to the last ball. We wanted to fight till the last ball."

Australia have won five of the seven T20 World Cups played, only missing out in 2016 when they lost to West Indies in the final and in the first tournament in 2009 when they lost in the semis.

They have now made every final after 2009 and will play either England or host South Africa, who meet in the second semifinal on Friday.

Australia's score against India was down to their top four batters, with Healy getting 25, fellow opener Beth Mooney 54 off 37, Lanning 49 not out and Ashleigh Gardner 31 from 18.

India also paid for a couple of crucial misses. Wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh dropped a catch off Lanning when the Aussie captain was on 1. Mooney was dropped on 32.

OCS beat State College by narrow margin in schools' netball league

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) snatched a narrow two-point win over Antigua State College (ASC) in the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools' Netball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Ottos Comprehensive prevailed 14-12 against ASC in the 18 and Under Division. Kiara Samuel scored nine of her 11 attempts and Jessica

Massicott sank five of her 17 shots for Ottos Comprehensive, while Jhamar Pereira converted nine of her 16 tries for Antigua State College.

Irene B. Williams Secondary School claimed all the points by default after St. Mary's Secondary School failed to show up for their 18 and Under Division encounter.

the Antigua Girls' High School

prevailed 12-4 against Princess Margaret School in the 13 and Under Secondary Division.

Kendra Aska sank nine of her 16 shots and Delisha Thomas scored three of her eight attempts for Antigua Girls' High School.

There were also contrasting wins for Clare Hall Secondary, Irene B.

cont'd on pg 22

Sports News



Greene pledges ABNOC's sponsorship of National Sports Awards

President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee and Commonwealth Games Association (ABNOC-CGA) Paul Chet Greene, has pledged his organization's assistance in support of the National Sports Awards.

During a brief address at the ABNOC-CGA's Appreciation Dinner in honour of the nation's outstanding athletes at the Sandals Grande Resort on 18th February, Greene disclosed that the National Olympic Committee intends to partner with the Ministry of Sports in providing sponsorship for the National Sports Awards over the next four years.

Greene made the announcement while making the distinction that the ABNOC-CGA's Appreciation Dinner was not a replacement for the National Sports Awards.

The head of the National Olympic Committee also made the pledge to sponsor the National Sports Awards, although he was yet to discuss the matter with organizers, The Ministry of Sports and its officials, including the Honourable Minister Daryll Matthew.

"I'll say at the get-go this is not a replacement for the National Sports Awards nor in competition with, but the NOC, last week in our monthly meeting, took a decision to engage the Ministry of Sports because so strong we are in recognizing our athletes that we have taken the decision to reach out to the Ministry of Sports to provide sponsorship for the next four years of the National Sports Awards," Greene stated.

"Mr. minister, we have not had the conversation as yet, but I'm being presumptuous, I'm putting it in the public so it denies you the opportunity of negating or refusing."

Greene said the National Olympic Committee's pledge to sponsor the National Sports Awards is part of the organization's important role to support the organization of sports and recognize the nation's athletes.

"We see the NOC as the apex organization for sports in this country as having a very important role to play with the organization of sports as you all know we do. We fund and finance



President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee and Commonwealth Games Association, Paul Chet Greene. (File photo)

just about every sport in this country, from Bridge right through to athletics, cricket included," Greene stated.

"But we believe we can go a step further in terms of recognizing our athletes on an annual basis. But on an annual basis, we want to partner with the Ministry of Sports and the national associations in staging the National Sports Awards.

"We have seen where, over time, pretty often the awards have been postponed.

"The last postponement is understood in the pan-

demic period, but before that, we have had problems with sponsorship and all kinds of issues, and we do not believe it's justice to our athletes.

"So tonight Mr. Minister, I offer you and your ministry, the athletes of Antigua and Barbuda, the people of Antigua and Barbuda, a full sponsorship of National Sports Awards from the coffers of the NOC."

Since the emergence of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the National Sports Awards has not been held.

Sprinter Cejhae Greene and high-jumper Priscilla Frederick were named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year for 2019, while sprinters Joella Lloyd and Ajarni Daley, copped the Junior Sportswoman and Sportsman titles.

cont'd from pg 21

Williams Secondary and Princess Margaret School in the 16 and Under Division.

Clare Hall Secondary prevailed 4-3 against Christ the King High School's Second Team, while Irene B. Williams crushed Christ the King High School's First Team

15-2.

Lovinna Matthew scored eight of her 24 attempts, while Kadisha Henry sank six of her 20 shots for Irene B. Williams Secondary.

Princess Margaret recorded a 14-8 victory against Glanvilles Secondary School.

Browne off to contest three-stage cycling race in Aruba

Teenager Tahje Browne will once again be representing the Wadadli Cycling Academy (WCA) and Antigua and Barbuda at the 9th edition of the Warm-Up Race, being hosted by the Velocity Cycling Team Association in Aruba this weekend.

Browne, accompanied by his manager/coach St. Clair Williams, who is the president of the Wadadli Cycling Academy and the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF), left the twin-island state for Aruba on Tuesday to participate in the 24th to 26th February event.

The Warm-Up race is a three-stage event, comprising a Criterium Race, an Individual Time Trial and a Circuit Race.

The Criterium Race will commence at 6:30 pm today. Browne will contest the Pre-Junior Men category, and competition will also be held in the Youth Class, Elite Women, Junior Women or Pre-Junior Women, Master Women, Beginners Men, Elite Men and Sub-23 & Junior Men categories.

The Individual Time Trial will be held at 7 am on Saturday. The Elite Men, Sub 23 and Master A Class competitors will compete for a distance of 30 Kilometers.

The Junior Men, Master B and Elite Women will battle over 20 Kilometers; Pre-Junior Men, Pre-Ju-

nior Women and Junior Women will race for a distance of 10 Kilometers; Master C, D and Master Women as well as Beginner Men will also cover a distance of 10 Kilometers; while the Youth categories will be contested over 8 Kilometers.

The Circuit Race will be held at 7 am on Sunday. The Elite Men and Sub 23 Men will ride for 80 Kilometers or complete 16 laps of the circuit to win the event.

The Master A to Junior Men will battle for supremacy over 70 Kilometers or 14 laps, while the Elite Women and Master B will compete over 60 Kilometers or 12 laps.

The Beginner Men, Pre-Junior Men, Junior Women, Pre-Junior Women, Master Women along with Master C and D are required to cover 50 Kilometers or 10 laps and the two divisions in the youth category will compete over 25 Kilometers or 5 laps and 15 Kilometers or 3 laps respectively.

Browne will be aiming to improve on the second place finishes he and fellow Antiguan teammate Ghery Coates secured in their respective categories at last year's three-stage Warm-Up Race in Aruba.

At last year's event, Browne came second in the Pre-Junior Category and Coates emerged as runner-up in the Elite Class.



President of the Wadadli Cycling Academy and the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation St. Clair Williams, left, is accompanying Tahje Browne, right, at the 9th edition of the Warm-Up Race, which is being hosted by the Velocity Cycling Team Association, in Aruba this weekend. (File photo)

Browne recorded a third-place finish in the criterium race, before capturing second positions in both the Individual Time Trial and Road Race to finish with an overall total of 66 points.

cont'd from pg 24

Shareem Richards in the 75th minute and Romar Gidris- ingh in the 82nd minute.

Joshua Blenman had a 3rd minute conversion and Uri Mitchell scored in the 25th minute for Belmont FC.

The result lifted Master Ballerz to 14 points from 10

outings and 11th in the standings, while their fifth loss in 11 outings ensures that Belmont remain in seventh place on goal difference with 16 points.

Golden Grove and ABAYA fought to a 2-2 draw at the Parham playing field. Yowzan Morris scored in the 20th

minute and Terrence Spencer had a 54th minute conversion for Golden Grove, while Keshorn Thomas scored in the 49th minute and Joshua James in the 90th minute for ABAYA.

Golden Grove remains in 10th place after claiming their second draw in nine matches

to advance to 11 points.

ABAYA advance to 12th place on goal difference after securing their second draw in 10 matches to move on to eight points.

Tuesday's second division encounter between host English Harbour and CPTSA Wings was postponed.

Jennings United retain top spot in second division league

Jennings United have retained their position at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

Striker Daryl Massicot, scored a brilliant free-kick from outside the 18-yard box to give Jennings United a 1-0 victory over strong second division contenders Sea View Farm at the Jennings Village playing field on Wednesday.

Their ninth win in 11 matches lifted Jennings United to 29 points at the top of the league. It was the second loss for Sea View Farm who slipped to third place with 25 points from 11 outings.

Freemans Village, who beat Blackburn Palace 3-1 at the ABFA's Technical Center on Tuesday, are now in second place with 26 points from 11 appearances.

Kallique Kellman scored twice with goals in the 31st and 90th minutes and Malique Charles had a 15th minute conversion for Freemans Village to secure their eighth win of the competition.

Diondre Harrigan scored in the 29th minute for Blackburn Palace who suffered their ninth loss in 10 matches to remain second from bottom of the standings on goal difference with three points.

Attacking Saints slipped to fourth place in the standings after being held to a goalless draw with Real Blizzard at the New Winthorpes playing field on Wednesday.

Their third draw in 11 encounters lifted Attacking Saints to 24 points, while it was also the third draw for Real Blizzard who move on to 18 points from 11 outings to remain fifth in the stand-



Jennings United retained their position at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Second Division League with a victory at the Jennings Village playing field on Wednesday, 22nd February. (Photo courtesy Jennings United FC)

ings.

Jaheim Grant scored a hat-trick which allowed TAMO FC to snatch their first win of the season as they pulled off a 5-4 victory against Young Warriors at the ABFA's Technical Center on Wednesday.

Grant scored in the 36th, 70th and 83rd minutes, while the other two goals for TAMO FC were scored by Adonijah Dyett who converted two penalty kicks in the 12th and 47th minutes.

The goals for the Young Warriors were scored by Chequane Armstrong in the 3rd minute, Elijah Isaac in the 9th minute, JQuan George in the 81st minute and Keita Jonis in the 87th minute.

The first win in 10 outings lifted TAMO FC to three points but they remain in the cellar position by virtue of an inferior goal difference to Blackburn Palace. The seventh loss in 11 matches ensured that Young Warriors remain 13th in the 15-team standing with eight points.

Tishorn Davis scored a hat-trick as FC Master Ballerz recorded their third consecutive win with a 5-2 drubbing of Belmont FC at the ABFA's Technical Center on Tuesday.

Davis had conversions in the 31st, 47th and 77th minutes, while the other goals for Master Ballerz were scored by

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