



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

POINT EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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CLARE HALL TEEN ARRESTED FOR CHSS INVASION

Story on Page 2



Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, is a popular figure whenever he visits Golden Grove Primary School. In this photo taken on Wednesday morning, Minister Matthew leans in for a selfie with a group of excited, young children.

Arrest made in CHSS invasion

A 19-year-old has been arrested and charged in connection with last Tuesday's invasion of Clare Hall Secondary School.

While the other person has not yet been apprehended, Gerard DeFreitas of Clare Hall was taken into custody after he was identified as the person who was wielding the golf club.

He has been charged with the offences of trespassing, assault and being armed with an offensive weapon.

Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh remanded the teen to His Majesty's Prison after accepting his plea of not guilty on Tuesday.

DeFreitas will remain in custody until his trial, which is expected to commence on 20th April, 2023.

The teenager and his cutlass totting accomplice scaled the school's wall on 31st January with the inten-



tion of attacking a student.

The plan failed after they were scared off by teachers.

That incident has triggered protests by parents and renewed demands from teachers for the Ministry of Education and the government

to take immediate action to improve public school security.

The government has said it is working on improving lighting on public school campuses, which will allow closed circuit television cameras to be installed.

Teen stabbing at Jennings Secondary

A 15-year-old student was stabbed twice in the head with a pair of scissors on Tuesday morning at Jennings Secondary School by a schoolmate of the same age.

The incident happened about 10:45am during recess.

The teens got into an altercation during which one used a pair of scissors to stab the other in the head.

The injured student has since been treated at hospital and discharged, while the other student fled the compound.

Police have begun investigations and are in



contact with the attacker's family.

The matter is being dealt with, according to sources, under the provisions outlined in the Child

Justice Act.

This is the first incident of youth related violence in the recent wave of attacks that has taken place at a school outside of St.

John's.

There is no indication that the incident on Tuesday is related to the youth gang affiliated cases affecting city-based schools.

NSMP launches Breakfast Programme

Approximately 400 primary school students are benefitting from breakfast daily, a new initiative that has been introduced by the National School Meals Programme (NSMP).

Charlesworth T. Samuel, Buckelys, Liberta, Villa, Potters, and Mary E. Pigott Primary Schools are part of a pilot programme that commenced in September, 2022.

As a result of the success of the roll out of the new initiative, Golden Grove Primary School became the seventh public school to benefit when the breakfast meal programme was officially launched at the school on Wednesday.

Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, was on hand to serve the first of 100 meals that were provided to select students at the school.

He applauded the NSMP's efforts and noted that the decision to introduce breakfast took into consideration several factors, including the importance of the first meal of the day and the fact that many students are deprived of it.

"The scientists and nutritionists will tell you that breakfast is really the most important meal of the day, and we recognised that if our children are to really thrive in an environment where they are to learn and are expected to have

the absorptive capacity for learning at its peak, they must start the day right.

"We also recognise that many of our students come from households and families that may not necessarily have the ability to provide the sort of nutrition that the children require.

"The school meals programme has been in existence where it provides lunches for our children, but we as a government and an administration believe that we need to take...the school meals programme to the next level," Minister Matthew stated.

Acknowledging that the breakfast initiative is an expensive undertaking, he said it is necessary, in light of the government's emphasis on education and its determination to nurture young minds for leadership positions in the future.

In the long-term, all schools in which lunch is served will eventually be able to provide breakfast to those who need it most.

Director of the Na-



tional School Meals Programme, Ezra Knowles, added once planned upgrades are undertaken at their central kitchen, the

number of meals provided to students will increase.

"We are working on the kitchen expansion and that

cont'd on pg 4

<p>Thu 09 Day</p> <p>80° ☀️</p> <p>19% ☁️ ENE 17 mph</p> <p>Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High around 80F. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 mph.</p>	<p>Thu 09 Night</p> <p>74° 🌙</p> <p>24% ☁️ E 15 mph</p> <p>A few clouds from time to time. Low 74F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p>
<p>💧 Humidity 73%</p> <p>☀️ UV Index 10 of 10</p>	<p>💧 Humidity 76%</p> <p>☀️ UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p>🌅 Sunrise 6:36 am</p> <p>🌇 Sunset 6:06 pm</p>	<p>🌕 Moonrise 9:25 pm</p> <p>🌑 Moonset 9:04 am</p> <p>🌕 Waning Gibbous</p>

Local News



cont'd from pg 3

is something that is definitely a need.

“If we are able to execute that starting March and complete by June, we would say by the time we come back for the next term, which would be September, we would be more than able to handle all the schools that need the breakfast.”

In order to serve breakfast to students before the school day begins at 9am, the NSMP implemented a new shift which runs from 11pm to 7am.

This shift also begins the preparations for lunch.

By 7am, the hot meals are dispatched to schools and service commences by

8:15am.

Principal of Golden Grove Primary School, Mae Hippolyte, welcomed her institution’s addition to the breakfast programme. She said it will make a difference in the lives of many children.

“We have a lot of students who are less fortunate,” Hippolyte revealed.

“As a school, we would provide breakfast in the past for some students who have nothing to eat.

“You would probably find that out when they are feeling badly and you ask a question. So, we had to quickly get together and provide something for them. So, it is important, and we are very grateful.”



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Barbuda Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene (centre) listening attentively at the meeting with the Barbuda Council in Codrington.

Agreement reached to update 42-year-old Essex Report

Minister of Barbuda Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene, has agreed to a request from the Barbuda Council to carry out a review and update the Essex Report which governs the financial arrangement between the Antigua-based central government and the council.

The request was made during Greene's visit to Barbuda on Tuesday when he met with the Barbuda Council members to discuss their concerns.

Head of the Council's Finance Committee, Trevor Walker MP, explained that the Essex Report was prepared in 1980, before the country attained political independence a year later.

"What happened at Lancaster House was that the British engaged the services of a financial expert to work out the modalities based on how the Council should be funded since it does not collect Custom

duties et cetera.

"This forms the basis of what we term as 'transfer grants' which are to be made on a quarterly basis.

"What has happened over the years is that the transfers have been pegged at \$6.5 million from central government," Walker explained.

According to the Barbudan MP, things have changed significantly since 1980 and the time has come to revise the arrangement so that it more accurately reflects modern realities.

Greene agreed that a committee will be established to review the Essex Report and prepare recommendations, which will be presented to the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda.

Along with members of the Barbuda Council, the committee will include government technicians and representatives of the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Parts Warehouse Officer

An automotive dealership seeking hardworking individuals who can work to efficient process methods and adapt to various tasks, must be a dedicated, hard-working and energized individual who pride themselves on their commitment and work ethic.

Warehouse officer role daily duties include:

- Assisting with the unloading of vehicles and the checking in of stock
- Sorting and placing materials or items on to racks, and shelves.
- Collecting items from throughout the warehouse, preparing and completing warehouse orders for pickup according to a schedule.
- Performing warehouse inventory controls through a computer.
- Stock counting and location checks.

As a warehouse operative you will be working both alone and as part of a team with efficiency and commitment to

complete your work and strive to maintain the business performance targets.

This role best suits upbeat and self-motivated individuals who enjoy working systematically and productively. The environment relies on organization and efficiency and with so much ground to cover in the line of duty it is important to ensure that you have a moderate level of fitness to enable you to comfortably carry out your tasks.

Picking and packing products can involve a substantial amount of manual handling including bending, stretching, stooping, stepping, reaching and lifting. Having a good range of mobility is important to ensure you can work safely within health and safety regulations without placing undue strain on your body.

Education

Minimum High School Education

Skills Required:

- Reliability and dependability
- Literacy & numeracy
- Ability to meet the physical demands of the job
- Self-motivated
- Upbeat and energized
- Flexible and willing to take on a variety of tasks
- Team player
- A level of computer literacy

Deadline for submission of application is **February 28, 2023**.

Please send applications to warehouseofficer6@gmail.com.



Antigua Cruise Port

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Accounts Officer

The Accounts Officer will report to the Financial Controller in supporting the company's Finance programs.

CORE DUTIES

1. Reconcile bank accounts daily and prepare cash reports.
2. Post vendor invoices to accounting software daily, initiate and post payments.
3. Send out invoices to cruise lines daily and tenants monthly.
4. Follow up on receivables for Cruise Lines and tenants and compile monthly reports.
5. Manage purchasing (placing orders, clearing overseas shipments, liaising with Broker/Driver).
6. Receiving purchases, tracking inventory (cleaning and office supplies), compile monthly inventory reports.
7. Update the fixed asset register weekly (new purchases and disposals).
8. Assist in the preparation for and during Audits.
9. Assist in the preparation of management and financial reports.
10. Fill in for Admin as Financial Assistant when position is vacant.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Associate Degree or equivalent in Accounting or a Finance related field. In the absence of the respective qualifications, a minimum of 3-years relevant work experience.
- Good organizational skills.
- Excellent communication and coordination skills.
- Excellent understanding of dealing with people.
- Leadership skills.
- Use of written and spoken English and report writing skills.
- Confident and self-motivated.
- Ability to work flexible hours.

Antigua Cruise Port (ACP) is seeking to recruit a highly motivated and experienced Accounts Officer.

Learn more at
www.antiguacruiseport.com/careers

All applications are to be submitted
 by February 10, 2023
 to veryssam@antiguacruiseport.com

Labour Force SURVEY



Statistics Division resumes Labour Force Survey

The Statistics Division has announced the resumption of the 2022 Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The Statistics Division suspended data collection for the Labour Force Survey on 11th January, ahead of the general elections which took place a week later.

On Wednesday, the Statistics Division revealed that enumerators are back in the field. The agency is also calling for the public to continue to support and cooperate with enumerators to ensure the success of the survey.

The LFS was to have concluded in December 2022, however, several factors, including poor weather, hampered its progress.

As a result, the LFS has been extended to the end of the first quarter of this

year.

As the process resumes, the Statistics Division has reconfirmed that the information collected will be aggregated and held in strict confidence.

The data collected will only be used for statistical purposes and to provide important labour market statistics for the country.

Once the information has been processed, the information derived from the LFS will be used to produce socioeconomic data, which is vital in enhancing the country's ability to carefully plan and monitor the development of its people, achieve national objectives, and fulfil regional obligations.

The data from the LFS will also enable policy makers to come to informed decisions regarding the labour market.

Veteran sailor awarded for lifetime service

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Yachting and Marine Association (ABYMA), Franklyn Brathwaite, has been presented with the Member of the British Empire (MBE) award for his devoted service of nearly five decades to sailing and the national yachting industry.

Brathwaite was awarded the MBE by the late Queen Elizabeth II during her official birthday celebrations in 2021.

Due to issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the presentation of the award was delayed until this week.

Speaking at the brief in-



Franklyn Brathwaite, MBE

vestiture ceremony at Government House, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, described Brathwaite as “a model citizen” who has quietly made his contribution to nation building.

“A successful sailor who participated up to the level of the Olympics; a successful businessman in the marine industry; a philanthropist who has helped to make life better for many in need are just some of the positive characteristics which describe you. We commend you highly for serving above and beyond the call of duty.

“It requires a special commitment to do what you do. This is precisely the reason why Her late Majesty, having considered your contribution, readily agreed to the nomination,” Sir Rodney said.

Brathwaite said he was thankful to have been pre-

sented with the award, adding that it felt good to be appreciated.

“We do not go looking for awards of any kind, however, when you do receive them, it is certainly a good feel to be appreciated and to be recognised,” he said.

In addition to serving as president of ABYMA, Brathwaite is also Commodore of the Antigua Yacht Club. He is a founding partner in A&F Sails which manufactures sails for yachts and related sectors.

Brathwaite has been sailing since he was 9 years old. He progressed to competitive sailing at the age of 18.

One of the crowning achievements of his career took place in 1992 when he represented Antigua and Barbuda at the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.



Government of Antigua & Barbuda

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 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.

Tourism



UN designates February 17 as Global Tourism Resilience Day

The Jamaica government Tuesday said the United Nations has ratified the country's efforts to bolster resilience in global tourism by officially designating February 17 as Global Tourism Resilience Day.

"This is a signal honour for Jamaica which highlights the fact that our nation continues to have such significant influence on the international stage. This is very timely as the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still being felt and is causing a strain on many tourism-dependent states as they struggle to recover," said Tourism Minister, Edmund Bartlett.



Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett.

Bartlett, who made a presentation during the UN General Assembly meeting in New York on Tuesday added that Global Tourism

Resilience Day emphasises the importance of building tourism resilience across the world to fuel sustainable growth and development.

"This observance will aid in increasing the awareness and actions of global tourism stakeholders towards boosting the industry's capacity to effectively handle and recover swiftly from major disruptions, such as pandemics, earthquakes and other natural disasters."

Bartlett has been playing a leading role in promoting the need for tourism dependent states in particular, to be prepared for inevitable internal and external shocks and to have a body that they can look to for support that will aid them in recovering quickly.

He has been spearhead-
cont'd on pg 9

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Study urges reduction in pollution to combat antimicrobial resistance

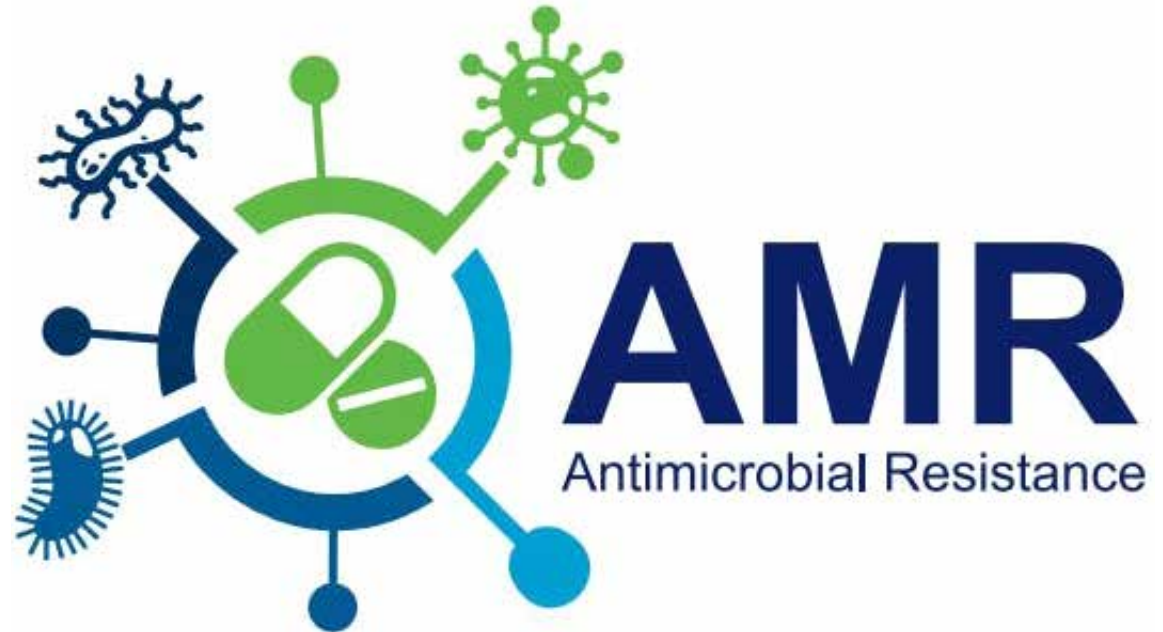
A new study by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) is warning that up to ten million people could die annually by 2050 due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

In a report launched in Barbados on Tuesday, the study highlights the need to curtail pollution created by the pharmaceuticals, agricultural and healthcare sectors.

The study focuses on the environmental dimensions of AMR, which occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines.

It calls for strengthening action to reduce the emergence, transmission and spread of “superbugs” – strains of bacteria that have become resistant to every known biotic – and other instances of AMR, which are already taking a serious toll on human, animal, and plant health.

“The environmental



crisis of our time is also one of human rights and geopolitics – the antimicrobial resistance report published by UNEP today is yet another example of inequity, in that the AMR crisis is disproportionately affecting countries in the Global South,” said host Prime Minister Mia Mottley who chairs an UN-backed initiative of world leaders and experts examining the issue.

The report was launched at the Sixth Meet-

ing of the Global Leaders Group on AMR.

It contains measures to address both the decline of the natural environment and the rise of AMR, with focus on addressing key pollution sources from poor sanitation, sewage, and community and municipal wastes.

Recommendations include creating robust governance, planning, regulatory and legal frameworks at the national level, and increasing global efforts to

improve integrated water management.

Other measures suggested are establishing international standards for what constitutes a good microbiological indicator of AMR from environmental samples, and exploring options to redirect investments, including to guarantee sustainable funding.

According to the World Health Organization, AMR is among the top ten global threats to health. In 2019, an estimated 1.27 million deaths globally were directly attributed to drug-resistant infections.

Overall, nearly five million deaths were associated with bacterial AM and it is expected that an estimated ten million additional direct deaths annually by 2050 will occur, which is equal to the number of deaths caused globally by cancer in 2020.

cont'd from pg 8

ing the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) and co-authored with University of the West Indies Professor Lloyd Waller, the publication “Tourism Resilience and Recovery for Global Sustainability and Development: Navigating COVID-19 and the Future.”

A government statement said the designation follows months of high-level discussions and diplomatic engagements,

noting that apart from Bartlett, Prime Minister Andrew Holness had in September last year called for the official designation of February 17 as Global Tourism Resilience Day annually when he addressed the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The statement said Jamaica will officially recognise the Day during the first ever Global Tourism Resilience Conference, which will be held from February 15-17, at the University of the West Indies.

Dog owners tout Xolos' loyalty and sacred underworld history

By **María Teresa Hernández**

Mezcal is not your ordinary pet. Hundreds of years ago the Latin American Indigenous group, the Nahuas, believed that a hairless dog like him, a Xoloitzcuintle, was a sacred creature who could guide its deceased master through the underworld.

Dozens gathered on a recent day at Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso in Mexico City for a meet-and-greet with Mezcal and three more "Xolos", as these slender dogs are locally known. The canines were at the art and culture museum as part of an effort to raise awareness about responsible adoption of Xolo puppies and promoting the significance of the breed.

"Can I touch him?" asked a woman working security for the museum, as she nervously brought her hand closer to the dog's head

"Absolutely! He loves to be petted," said Mezcal's owner, Nemiliz Gutiérrez, who leads a project with her sister, promoting the breed to the public.

Mezcal is not your ordinary pet. Hundreds of years ago the Latin American Indigenous group, the Nahuas, believed that a hairless dog like him, a Xoloitzcuintle, was a sacred creature who could guide its deceased



Nemiliz Gutierrez Arroyo sits next to his Xoloitzcuintle breed dog named Mezcal, during a press conference about the Xoloitzcuintle in art, in Mexico City, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

master through the underworld.

Dozens gathered on a recent day at Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso in Mexico City for a meet-and-greet with Mezcal and three more "Xolos", as these slender dogs are locally known. The canines were at the art and culture museum as part of an effort to raise awareness about responsible adoption of Xolo puppies and promoting the significance of the breed.

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owner, Nemiliz Gutiérrez, who leads a project with her sister, promoting the breed to the public.

By reviewing ancient codex and records written after the conquest in 1521, experts have determined the religious relevance of the dogs among Mesoamerican civilizations. That fact isn't lost on the sisters.

"We are privileged because we have among us some precious jewels of history that are living cultural heritage," said Gutierrez's sister, Itzayani, who owns a playful Xolo named Pilón.

Experts found that the Nahuas believed these dogs represented the god, Xólotl, the twin brother of deity Quetzalcóatl. While the lat-

ter personified life and light, the former was an effigy of the underworld and death. The Xolo, thought to be a creature capable of moving through the darkness, was conceived as a guide for their owner's soul after dying, wrote historian Mercedes de la Garza in an article published by the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Burial sites found by archaeologists in central Mexico show the remains of men and dogs lying side by side, which suggests that Xolos may have been sacrificed during their masters' funeral rites. It was thought to be a way the living could ensure that when the soul of

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

their loved ones reached the river of the underworld, it could reunite with its dog, mount on his back and cross together.

In the Nahuatl language, “Xolo” means “monster”, and though some dislike the physical appearance of these dogs, many find them fascinating. Mezcal’s hairless skin is dark as a shadow.

When touched, it feels soft and warm. His teeth are rarely visible, as Xolos don’t bark much. On the recent day, he posed for pictures like a movie star and leaned his head toward visitors wanting to pet him.

Like his predecessors, Mezcal never loses sight of Gutiérrez, who constantly pats her loving dog.

“Xolos are loyal by nature,” said Gutiérrez. “If one is adopted by a family, it will choose a member to stick with.”

The closeness between Xoloitzcuintles and their owners was also noted by the Nahuas, according to experts. To please the gods, some Xolos were sacrificed in order to spare their masters’ lives.

The dogs were killed in those ceremonies by extracting their hearts. This fact distinguished them from any other animal offered in sacrifice, wrote De la Garza.

The dogs also are a part of modern-day culture in Mexico and beyond. At least a couple of Xoloitzcuintles can be seen in Frida Kah-

lo’s paintings. A few more appear in portraits where the artist posed with her husband, Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. Their love for these pets was shared by friend and art collector Dolores Olmedo, whose home in Mexico City became a museum and until recently took care of a few Xolos that visitors could approach.

In 2016, the capital’s mayor gave the Xoloitzcuintle a cultural heritage designation, and a year later, a charming Xolo named

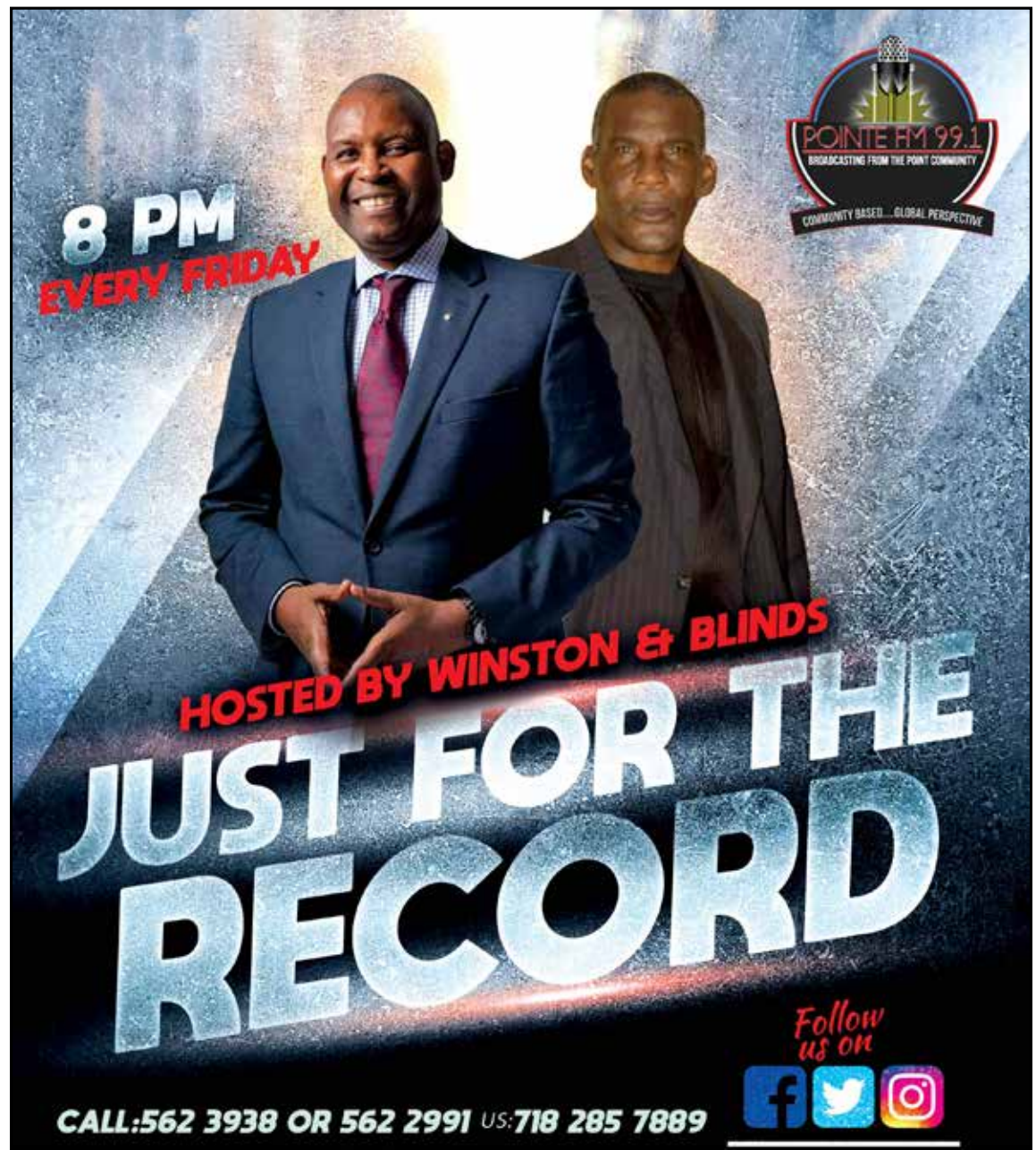
Dante reached world fame after his appearance in animated film “Coco”, which portrayed the adventures of a Mexican boy through the underworld.

Back in San Ildefonso, the Gutiérrez sisters hope more people will come to appreciate the breed’s significance and help it thrive. Once thought by experts to be headed toward extinction, Xolos can be spotted in upper class Mexico City neighbourhoods. Nemiliz Gutiérrez adopted Mezcal,

but said some breeders sell the dogs for upwards of \$3,500.

Not every Xolo is in demand though, especially the variety with fur.

“Almost nobody wants them,” said Gutiérrez, who works with her sister to find caring homes for all Xolos regardless of their coats. Through that process, they enjoy sharing about the breed’s historic significance – when Xolos embodied an endless love believed to transcend death.



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Dominicans urged to get involved in electoral reform debate

CMC — President Charles Savarin has urged Dominicans to get involved in the public discussions on electoral reform as Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced that he was hoping to hold a “last meeting” with prominent international jurist, Sir Dennis Byron on Tuesday to further advance the efforts at modernization of the electoral system.

Addressing the first sitting of the Dominica Parliament following the general election last December in which Skerrit led his Dominica Labour Party (DLP) to victory in a poll boycotted by the main opposition parties over electoral reform, Savarin said the process is now nearing its end.

“The issue of electoral reform has loomed over us for several election cycles. Government has played its part in facilitating this initiative through the provision of technical and financial support to the responsible authority and more recently the engagement of a prominent and high profile legal mind in the person of Sir Dennis Byron to review the existing electoral legislation and processes and to submit recommendations for reform”.



President Charles Savarin addressing the first sitting of the new Parliament on Tuesday (CMC Photo)

Savarin, who announced that he will be stepping down as head of state at the end of his second five-year-term in October, told legislators he was urging them as well as the public at large “to acknowledge that the process is almost complete and to approach the consultations and debate on electoral reform from the point of view of ensuring that the rights of all eligible voters are protected”.

He said it was also necessary for persons to be “vigilant to ensure that the names of persons who are no longer eligible to be on the voters list in conformity with our existing laws are removed following due process.

“I look forward to the consultation on the report of Sir Dennis Byron on this matter. I have every confidence that the...issues of electoral reform will be given priority attention by this new administration”.

Savarin recalled that Prime Minister Skerrit had given an undertaking that he would ensure “that all stakeholders including the Commonwealth Secretariat and the OAS (Organization of American States) would be engaged in consultation to review the report and recommendations by Sir Dennis Byron and once an acceptable draft legislation is agreed upon on this matter, a bill will be brought before Parliament for its consideration.

Skerrit told the Parliament that his administration is committed to electoral modernisation even as a group of people gathered outside the legislative building to protest the slow pace of the reform.

He said he is hoping that the meeting with Sir Dennis, the former president of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), who had been appointed as the sole commissioner on electoral reform will be the last.

Group urges government to help thousands of Haitians stranded in Turkey after earthquake

CMC — The non-profit organisation, Lorquet Foundation for a New Haiti (FOLONHA), is urging the Haitian authorities to facilitate the repatriation of more than 5,000 Haitians stranded in Turkey following a massive earthquake on Monday that killed and injured thousands of people.

“Indeed, many of our compatriots continue to make known their desire

to return home in the face of the situation they are facing in Turkey. However, the slowness of the administrative machine of the Haitian government and the budgetary constraints mentioned, prevent them from concretising their wish,” FOLONHA said in a statement.

FOLONHA, which was formed after the deadly Jan-
cont'd on pg 13



Haitian nationals stranded in Turkey where an earthquake on Monday killed thousands of people (Photo credit FOLONHA)

CARICOM looking to Mexico to enhance socio-economic development of the region

CMC — The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) says it will continue to work with its “long standing partners” as the regional grouping seeks to enhance its economic, social, and environmental resilience, and counter inherent vulnerabilities.

CARICOM Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett, accepting the credentials of the new Mexico Ambassador to CARICOM, Mauricio Vizcaino Crespo, said the grouping will look toward Mexico “to support our efforts to strengthen our infrastructure, bolster our most promising revenue-generating industries and fortify our capacity in areas that remain essential for our sustainable development”.

She told the Mexican diplomat that CARICOM values the bonds of friend-



ship forged with Mexico dating back to 1974 when the Spanish-speaking country became the first country to establish a joint commission with CARICOM.

“This cooperation mechanism laid the foundation for the meaningful relationship of which today’s ceremony is emblematic,” she said, adding “your accreditation is warmly welcomed as yet another indication of Mexico’s ongoing commitment

to ensuring that the immense potential of this relationship is fully realised.

“There are consistent opportunities for our collaboration through diplomatic ties marked by regular political engagements and structured development cooperation arrangements. Over the years, these opportunities have grown more robust, taking into account changes in the political, social, cultural, and economic environments.”

Barnett said the broadening of the areas of collaboration has encapsulated the dynamism of their relations, adding “as a result, we have witnessed greater cross-institutional cooperation and the successful implementation of initiatives which positively impact our region”.

The CARICOM secretary general said she is looking forward to the convening of the fifth CARICOM-Mexico Summit and eighth Mexico-CARICOM Technical Cooperation Program, which are integral mechanisms for deepening the countries long and steadfast relationship.

Barnett said those cooperation mechanisms allow the region to benefit from Mexico’s advancement in areas of mutual interest and provide opportunities for the exchange of valuable best practices.

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uary 12, 2010 Haitian earthquake that killed thousands, said the Haitians in Turkey, for the most part, are subject to difficulties of all kinds, especially in this winter period, especially since “they cannot go out in the streets in the face of the behaviour of the police officers and those of Turkish immigration.

“Unable to go anywhere, these compatriots, whose number is estimated at least 5,000, are forced against their will to stay in Turkey to face an indescribable situation, including unemployment, malnutrition, cold, racism, etc.”

The Lorquet Foundation said it

hopes the appeal will be “taken into consideration immediately by the Haitian authorities in order to allow our compatriots to return home.

“FOLONHA hopes that this SOS will be heard by the authorities concerned, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religious Affairs (MAEC), the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad (MHAVE), and that they will work urgently with the ‘International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the National Observatory of Migration (ONM), in order to rescue these illegal Haitians stuck in Turkey”.

The organisation also extended its

“sincere condolences to the families of the victims of the earthquake” which had a magnitude 7.8.

More than 5,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands injured after an earthquake struck Turkey and Syria on Monday, according to officials.

They said thousands of buildings collapsed in both countries and aid agencies are particularly worried about northwestern Syria, where more than four million people were already relying on humanitarian assistance.

The quake was one of the strongest to hit the region in more than 100 years.

Hope fading as deaths in Turkey, Syria quake pass 11,000

AP — With the hope of finding survivors fading, stretched rescue teams in Turkey and Syria searched Wednesday for signs of life in the rubble of thousands of buildings toppled by a catastrophic earthquake. The confirmed death toll from the world's deadliest quake in more than a decade passed 11,000.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan toured a "tent city" in hard-hit Kahramanmaraş where people forced from their homes were living. Amid calls for his government to send more help to the disaster zone, Erdogan conceded initial shortfalls in the response to Monday's 7.8 magnitude quake but vowed no one would "be left in the streets."

Search teams from more than two dozen countries have joined tens of thousands of local emergency personnel on the ground in Syria and Turkey. But the scale of destruction from the earthquake and its powerful aftershocks was so immense and spread over such a wide area, including places isolated by Syria's ongoing civil war, that many people were still awaiting help.

Experts said the survival window for those trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings or otherwise unable to access water, food, protection from the elements or medical attention was closing rapidly. At the same time, they said it was too soon to abandon hope for more rescues.

"The first 72 hours are considered to be critical as the condition of people trapped and injured can deteriorate quickly and become fatal if they are not rescued and given medical attention in time," Steven Godby, a natural hazards expert at Nottingham Trent University in England.

Rescuers at times used excavators



Collapsed buildings are seen in Antakya, southern Turkey, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023. Nearly two days after the magnitude 7.8 quake struck southeastern Turkey and northern Syria, thinly stretched rescue teams worked to pull more people from the rubble of thousands of buildings. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

in their searches and picked gingerly through debris at other points to locate survivors or the dead. With thousands of buildings toppled, it was not clear how many people might still be caught in the rubble.

Turkey's disaster management agency said Wednesday that the recovered bodies of people who died in the earthquake but cannot be identified would be buried within five days even if they remained unnamed.

The agency, known as AFAD, said unidentified victims would be buried following DNA tests, fingerprinting and after being photographed for future identification.

The move is in line with Islamic funeral rites which require a burial to take place as quickly as possible after a person's death.

In the Turkish city of Malatya, bodies were placed side by side on the ground, covered in blankets, while rescuers waited for funeral vehicles

to pick them up, according to former journalist Ozel Pikal, who said he saw eight bodies pulled from the ruins of a building.

Pikal, who took part in the rescue efforts, said he thinks at least some of the victims froze to death as temperatures dipped to minus 6 degrees Celsius (21 Fahrenheit).

"As of today there is no hope left in Malatya," Pikal said by telephone. "No one is coming out alive from the rubble."

Road closures and damage in the region made it hard to access all the areas that needed help, he said, and there was a shortage of rescuers where he was. Meanwhile, the cold hampered the efforts of those who were there, including volunteers.

"Our hands cannot pick up anything because of the cold," said Pikal. "Work machines are needed."

The region was already beset by
cont'd on pg 15

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more than a decade of civil war in Syria that has displaced millions in that country and left them reliant on humanitarian aid and sent millions more to seek refuge in Turkey.

Turkey's president said the country's death toll passed 8,500. The Syrian Health Ministry, meanwhile, said the death toll in government-held areas climbed past 1,200, while at least 1,400 people have in the rebel-held northwest, according to the volunteer first responders known as the White Helmets.

That brought the overall total to 11,000 since Monday's earthquake and multiple strong aftershocks. Tens of thousands more are injured.

Syrian officials said the bodies of more than 100 Syrians who died during the earthquake in Turkey were brought back home for burial. Mazen Alloush, an official on the Syrian side of the border, said 20 more bodies were on their way, adding that all of them were Syrian refugees who fled the civil war.

Stories of rescues continued to provide hope that some people still trapped might be found alive. A crying newborn still connected by the umbilical cord to her deceased mother was rescued in Syria on Monday. In Turkey's Kahramanmaras, rescuers pulled a 3-year-old boy, Arif Kaan, from the rubble.

"For now, the name of hope in Kahramanmaras is Arif Kaan," a Turkish television reporter proclaimed as the dramatic rescue was broadcast to the country.

Polish rescuers told TVN24 that low temperatures were working against them, though two firefighters said the fact that the predawn quake struck as many people were in bed under warm covers could help buy the search teams more time.

But David Alexander, a professor of emergency planning and manage-

ment at University College London, said data from past earthquakes suggested the likelihood of survival was now slim, particularly for individuals who suffered serious injuries or significant blood loss.

"Statistically, today is the day when we're going to stop finding people," he said. "That doesn't mean we should stop searching."

Alexander cautioned that the final death toll may not be known for weeks because of the sheer amount of rubble that needs to be sifted.

The last time an earthquake killed so many people was 2015, when 8,800 died in a magnitude 7.8 quake in Nepal. A 2011 earthquake in Japan triggered a tsunami, killing nearly 20,000 people.

"Each earthquake is unique but, in general, research using data from previous events has shown that the ratio of those rescued that survive declines rapidly. The survival ratio on average within 24 hours is 74%, after 72 hours it is 22% and by the fifth day it is 6%," Nottingham Trent University's Godby said.

"The low temperatures and poor weather in the affected region will not just be directly affecting those people still trapped but will be hindering the efficiency of (search and rescue) work as well," he added.

Cold weather also exacerbated the misery of residents who lost their homes. Many survivors in Turkey slept in cars, government shelters or outdoors.

"We don't have a tent, we don't have a heating stove, we don't have anything. Our children are in bad shape. We are all getting wet under the rain and our kids are out in the cold," Aysan Kurt, 27, said. "We did not die from hunger or the earthquake, but we will die freezing from the cold."

Erdogan, on his tour of quake-hit areas, acknowledged that there were problems early on in the response but

said it had improved. He said his government would distribute 10,000 Turkish lira (\$532) to affected families.

The disaster comes at a sensitive time for Erdogan, who faces presidential and parliamentary elections in May amid an economic downturn and high inflation. Perceptions that his government mismanaged the crisis could severely hurt his standings.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the leader of Turkey's main opposition party, blamed the devastation on Erdogan's two-decade rule, saying he had not prepared the country for a disaster and accusing him of misspending funds.

In Syria, aid efforts have been hampered by the ongoing war and the isolation of the rebel-held region along the border, which is surrounded by Russia-backed government forces. Syria itself is an international pariah under Western sanctions linked to the war.

The European Union said Wednesday that Syria had asked for humanitarian assistance to deal with the victims of the devastating earthquake. An EU representative insisted the bloc's sanctions against the Syrian government had no impact on its potential to help.

On Wednesday, Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous visited neighbourhoods in the northern city of Aleppo, where buildings collapsed because of the earthquake.

"Our priority now is to rescue the people who are still under the rubble," he said.

In rebel-held parts of northwest Syria, rescuers pulled a man, a woman and four children from the rubble in the towns of Salqeen, Harem and Jinderis, according to the White Helmets group.

The region sits on top of major fault lines and is frequently shaken by earthquakes. Some 18,000 were killed in similarly powerful earthquakes that hit northwest Turkey in 1999.

Biden challenges Republicans on debt and economy in State of the Union speech

Reuters - President Joe Biden challenged Republicans to lift the U.S. debt ceiling and support tax policies that were friendlier to middle class Americans on Tuesday in a State of the Union speech that served as a blueprint for his 2024 re-election campaign.

Assailing oil companies for making high profits and corporate America for taking advantage of consumers, Biden used his prime time speech to outline progressive priorities of his Democratic Party that are anathema to many Republican lawmakers

Making his first address to a joint session of Congress since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in January, Biden pledged to work with opposition lawmakers even as he sparred with them in the chamber.

“To my Republican friends, if we could work together in the last Congress, there is no reason we can’t work together and find consensus on important things in this Congress as well,” he said.

Some Republicans heckled and jeered at him at times during a speech that lasted some 73 minutes.

Biden took them on, challenging Republicans to raise the \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling, which must be lifted in the coming months to avoid a default. The White House has said Biden will not negotiate over that necessity; Republicans want spending cuts in exchange for their support.

“Some of my Republican friends want to take the economy hostage - I get it - unless I agree to their economic plans. All of you at home should know what those plans are. Instead of making the wealthy pay their fair share, some Republicans ... want Medicare and Social Security to sunset,” he said,



President Joe Biden delivers the State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress at the U.S. Capitol, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, in Washington, as Vice President Kamala Harris and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Calif., applaud. Jacquelyn Martin/Pool via REUTERS

drawing boos.

He then urged lawmakers to stand up for senior citizens, which they did, prompting Biden to claim victory. “I enjoy conversion,” he quipped, suggesting such cuts to the social safety net programs popular with voters were now off the table.

The back and forth underscored Biden’s apparent comfort in Congress, where he engaged in debates as a U.S. senator for 36 years.

“Joe Biden sparring with the crowd and winning wasn’t something I expected,” said former Representative Adam Kinzinger, a Republican, on Twitter.

The president called for reforms in policing after Tyre Nichols, a Black man, died last month after being beaten by officers in Memphis, Tennessee. Nichols’ mother and stepfather were among the guests at the speech.

Highlighting topics that could feature prominently in a re-election campaign, Biden said the economy was

benefiting from 12 million new jobs, COVID-19 no longer controls American lives, and U.S. democracy remains intact despite facing its biggest threat since the Civil War.

“Today, though bruised, our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken,” he said.

As a candidate in 2020 and at his inauguration in 2021, shortly after the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, Biden said he wanted to unify the country. And he stuck to that theme, highlighting a massive infrastructure bill and ribbing Republican lawmakers who opposed it.

“I want to thank my Republican friends who voted for the law,” he said. “My Republican friends who voted against it ... I still get asked to fund the projects in those districts as well, but don’t worry, I promised I’d be a president for all Americans.”

POLL PROBLEMS

Despite his efforts, Biden remains *cont’d on pg 17*

cont'd from pg 16
unpopular.

His public approval rating edged one percentage point higher to 41% in a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll that closed on Sunday. That is close to the lowest level of his presidency, with 65% of Americans saying they believe the country is on the wrong track, compared to 58% a year earlier.

Similarly, in the autumn of 2020, when Donald Trump was president, 65% of registered voters believed the country was on the wrong track, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling.

Arkansas Governor Sar-

ah Huckabee Sanders, who once served as press secretary for Trump, rejected Biden's upbeat vision of the country in her Republican response to his address.

"In the radical left's America, Washington taxes you and lights your hard-earned money on fire. But you get crushed with high gas prices, empty grocery shelves, and our children are taught to hate one another on account of their race," Sanders said in her televised remarks.

Biden aides see the speech as a milestone ahead of the second presidential campaign he is expected to

launch in coming weeks.

Biden turned 80 in November and, if re-elected, would be 82 at the start of a second term, a fact that concerns many Democratic voters, recent polls show.

DIVIDED REPUBLICANS

Biden faced a splintered gathering of Republican lawmakers, eager to put their conservative mark on U.S. policy following four years of Democratic control of the House.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican who has faced challenges unifying lawmakers from his party, sat behind Biden during the

address for the first time. "Mr. Speaker, I don't want to ruin your reputation, but I look forward to working with you," Biden said, drawing laughs.

McCarthy and Vice President Kamala Harris smiled and chatted from the dais before Biden's arrival.

"I respect the other side," McCarthy said earlier on Tuesday in a video. "I can disagree on policy. But I want to make sure this country is stronger, economically sound, energy independent, secure and accountable."

Some House Republican lawmakers have questioned Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential race against Trump, vowing to investigate his Cabinet and family.

Biden hailed the resilience and strength of the U.S. economy, with unemployment having dropped to a nearly 54-year low in January.

He hammered corporations for profiteering from the pandemic and ran through a wish list of economic proposals, many of which are unlikely to be passed by Congress. They included a minimum tax for billionaires and a quadrupling of the tax on corporate stock buybacks.

Biden was especially critical of oil companies' profits. "I think it's outrageous," he said.

He said the United States would need oil for at least another decade, drawing laughter from some in the chamber.

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Ukraine's Zelenskiy calls for 'wings for freedom' fighter jets on trip to Europe

Reuters - President Volodymyr Zelenskiy urged Britain and others on Wednesday to give Ukraine "wings for freedom" by sending combat aircraft to help turn the tide against Russia's offensive, hoping to overcome Western reluctance to take that step.

Western countries have scaled up their pledges of military aid for Ukraine this year with promises of hundreds of tanks and armoured vehicles as well as longer range weapons, but have so far refused to deliver war planes.

Zelenskiy praised Britain and the West for the support and the sanctions they had provided so far in an address to lawmakers from across the political spectrum in the Gothic expanse of parliament's Westminster Hall in London.

But, offering an air force helmet with the message "we have freedom, give us wings to protect it" to the speaker of the House of Commons, the lower house of parliament, Zelenskiy called on the West to deliver fighter jets.

"I appeal to you and the world, with simple and yet the most important words -- combat aircraft for Ukraine, wings for freedom."

Earlier, Britain announced an immediate surge of military deliveries to Ukraine to help it fend off an intensifying Russian



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak walk outside Number 10 Downing Street in London, Britain, February 8, 2023. REUTERS/Toby Melville

offensive and pledged to train its pilots to be able to fly "sophisticated NATO-standard fighter jets in the future".

The government said that was "part of long-term investment in their military" - wording that suggested Britain had not yet shifted its view that providing Kyiv with the fighter jets it has asked for is not the right approach for now.

FIRST STOP

London was Zelenskiy's first stop on only his second trip abroad since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, after a visit to Washington in December. He was expected to meet French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Paris later on Wednesday and to ask a European Union summit in Brussels on Thursday for more arms and steps to join the bloc.

Greeted by Sunak on

the steps of his Number 10 Downing Street office to applause from onlookers, Zelenskiy had a short meeting before the British leader took questions in parliament.

Sunak said the visit was a testament to Ukraine's "courage, determination and fight and ... to the unbreakable friendship between our two countries".

"I am proud that today we will expand that training from soldiers to marines and fighter jet pilots, ensuring Ukraine has a military able to defend its interests well into the future."

Zelenskiy will later meet King Charles, who has visited several organisations who help Ukrainians in Britain and has called Russia's invasion of Ukraine a "brutal aggression".

Russia is bringing tens of thousands of recently mobilised troops to the battlefield to try to break

through Ukrainian defences in eastern Ukraine in what it calls a special military operation launched to stop Ukraine's shift towards the West.

Ukraine's allies have promised hundreds of tanks and armoured vehicles to help Kyiv resist the assault and recapture territory, but have said it will take time to train Ukrainian forces to use them effectively.

Britain has trained 10,000 Ukrainian troops brought to battle readiness in the last six months and will train a further 20,000 soldiers this year, the government said.

Last week, Ukrainian troops arrived in Britain to learn how to command Challenger 2 tanks and Sunak will offer to provide Ukraine with longer range capabilities, a statement from his office said.

London has said delivering fighter jets is not "the right approach" for now. But defence minister Ben Wallace has suggested that stance could change.

The move to train pilots was likely to involve simulators rather than advanced Western aircraft and did not mean Britain would soon supply such jets, Justin Bronk, an expert at the RUSI think tank said on Twitter. But it would help pilots now and prepare them for possible future such deliveries, he wrote.

Mohammed Ben Sulayem to step back from direct Formula 1 involvement

By Andrew Benson

BBC — Motorsport boss Mohammed Ben Sulayem says he will take a step back from direct involvement in Formula 1.

The 61-year-old's move comes after a series of controversies since he became president of governing body the FIA in December 2021.

Ben Sulayem wrote that it had been his "stated objective to be a non-executive president via the recruitment of a team of professional managers".

This step, the Emirati said, "has now largely been completed".

Pre-season testing schedule & 2023 car launches

Despite Ben Sulayem standing for election on the pledge of being a non-executive president, he has taken a direct, hands-on role in F1 for the past year.

That has led to a series of controversies, including but not limited to:

his insistence that he personally should approve changes to the cars to prevent aerodynamic "porpoising" last summer;

his blocking for six months of an agreement between the teams and commercial rights holder F1 to double the number of 'sprint' race weekends for 2023

Receiving a "cease-and-desist" letter from F1's lawyers following his reaction



Mohammed Ben Sulayem was elected president of the FIA in December 2021

on social media to a story claiming Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund had tried to buy the sport for \$20bn

The emergence of a historic website that quoted him making misogynistic remarks.

Ben Sulayem's letter to teams said that from now on he would "focus on strategic matters with my leadership team".

Their "day-to-day contact for all matters on F1" would be the FIA director of single-seater racing Nikolas Tombazis, he said.

Tombazis, formerly the head of the FIA's technical department, was given his new role last month in a restructure of the body's F1 departments.

This included the recruitment of Steve Nielsen from F1 to oversee race control, with the aim of improving its running after a series of controversies in recent years.

The FIA pointed to the employment of a new chief executive officer, the former automotive executive Natalie Robyn, as central to the restructure of its operations.

A spokesperson said: "The president's manifesto clearly set out this plan before he was elected - it pledged 'the appointment of an FIA CEO to provide an integrated and aligned operation,' as well as to 'introduce a revised governance framework' under 'a leadership team focused on

transparency, democracy, and growth.'

"These goals, as well as the announcement of the new structure of the single-seater department, have been planned since the beginning of this Presidency.

"The FIA president has a wide remit that covers the breadth of global motor sport and mobility, and now that the structural reorganisation in Formula 1 is complete, this is a natural next step."

The spokesperson added that Robyn, an American, would oversee F1 as part of her role, and that she "participates in [legislative body] the World Council and will be in Bahrain [at the first race of the F1 season on 3-5 March]".

Scoring King: James passes Abdul-Jabbar for NBA points mark

By Tim Reynolds

AP — LeBron James got the first official statistic of his NBA career on a rebound. His next entry on the stat sheet was an assist.

Even then, points weren't the priority. They never were.

Somehow, he became the most prolific scorer in NBA history anyway. It finally happened Tuesday night, the kid from Akron, Ohio, connecting on a stepback jumper to push his career total to 38,388 points and break the record that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar held for nearly 39 years.

James outstretched his arms after his 36th point of the night for the Los Angeles Lakers, threw both hands in the air, then smiled. Abdul-Jabbar rose from his seat and clapped. The game was stopped as members of James' family, including his mother, his wife and their three children, took the floor for a ceremony recognizing the moment.

"It's never gotten my juices flowing," James told The Associated Press, when asked what the scoring record means to him. "I'm there now because I never, ever thought about it. The only thing I ever thought about was winning championships, maybe a couple MVPs, maybe defensive player of the year. But scoring championships and records, I'm telling you, that was never on my mind."

Abdul-Jabbar — a longtime Laker and one of many celebrities and sports stars who made sure they were there to see history — became the league's all-time leading scorer on April 5, 1984 and wound up retiring in 1989 with 38,387 points. It was a record that some thought would last forever, with very few even coming close. Karl Malone retired 1,459 points behind



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, left, hands the ball to Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James after passing Abdul-Jabbar to become the NBA's all-time leading scorer during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Ashley Landis)

Abdul-Jabbar, Kobe Bryant was 4,744 points shy, and Michael Jordan was 6,095 points away.

James passed them all, then caught Abdul-Jabbar, too. The 38-year-old — who finished with 38 points in the Lakers' 133-130 loss — did it in his 20th season. Abdul-Jabbar also played 20 NBA seasons.

"You've got to give him credit for just the way that he planned to last and to dominate," Abdul-Jabbar told TNT.

And now, King James — a moniker he's had since high school, when he was just a kid from Akron — is the NBA's scoring king, with 38,390 points and counting.

"A record that has stood for nearly 40 years, which many people thought would never be broken," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

Abdul-Jabbar held the ball aloft, then handed it to James, the ceremonial passing of the torch. They posed for photos with Silver, then with one another. James wiped away tears from

his eyes, then addressed the crowd.

"I just want to say, thank you to the Laker faithful. You guys are one of a kind," James said. "To be able to be in the presence of such a legend as great as Kareem, it's very humbling. Please give a standing ovation to the Captain, please."

James then thanked his family and those who have supported him, including Silver and the late NBA Commissioner David Stern.

"I thank you guys so much for allowing me to be a part of something I've always dreamed about," James said.

At least 16 different players have, technically, been the all-time leading scorer in league history — most of those coming in the opening month of the league's existence in 1946, when everybody was starting from zero and nine different players were atop the scoring list in the first 16 days.

But only six have ended a season officially as the all-time leader: Joe

cont'd on pg 21

English club sorry for making a signing that caused backlash

AP — A team from the seventh tier of English soccer apologized Wednesday for signing a player who was ruled in 2017 to have raped a woman, saying it had made a “significant misstep.”

Manchester-based Radcliffe made no announcement of the signing of former Scotland striker David Goodwillie and selected him a game in the Northern Premier League on Tuesday without listing his name in the starting lineup on Twitter.

There was an angry response on social media once

it was discovered that the 33-year-old Goodwillie was on the official team sheet and the player, who scored a hat trick in the game, has since left the club, Radcliffe said.

Goodwillie and an ex-teammate at Dundee United, David Robertson, were ordered to pay damages of 100,000 pounds (then \$135,000) to a woman they raped, a judge ruled in a civil case in an Edinburgh court in 2017. No criminal charges were brought against either Goodwillie or Robertson.

“As a club, we have al-

ways been about second chances and have been a part of many players’ and staff members’ rehabilitation along that journey,” Radcliffe said in a statement. “We’ve always given people a chance to improve their life and found support in this endeavour.

“When the club were presented with David Goodwillie that same logic was applied, but in this case it’s clear that was a significant misstep and our due diligence should have been of a much higher standard.”

The club said Goodwillie was signed “out of the

desire to do a good thing for an individual with an admittedly tainted past as we have done so successfully before.”

“But this was a bridge too far,” Radcliffe said.

Scottish club Raith Rovers sparked an outcry among its fans and lost sponsors after signing Goodwillie last year.

Within three days, Raith apologized for its decision and said Goodwillie would no longer be playing for the club. Amid Radcliffe’s apology, the club said “this is a mistake that will never happen again.”

cont’d from pg 20

Fulks, George Mikan, Dolph Schayes, Bob Pettit, Wilt Chamberlain and Abdul-Jabbar.

James will be the seventh name on that list, and he’s likely to stay there for a long time. No active player is within 10,000 points of James, who is under contract for two more years and is on pace to become the league’s first 40,000-point scorer sometime next season.

“Nobody will ever, ever touch it,” said Cleveland forward Kevin Love, a teammate of James on the 2016 title team. “The scoring record now will never be eclipsed. I don’t care. It will never, ever be touched. It will never happen again.”

James could have had the scoring record long ago, if so inclined. But he always preferred passing. James is behind only John Stockton, Jason Kidd and Chris Paul on the all-time assists list. None of them were, or are, close to the scorer that James is. Of that

group, Paul comes closest, ranking 38th in NBA history.

And Paul is 17,000 points behind the new scoring king.

“I hadn’t thought of it that way, but that is very true,” Silver told AP in advance of the record-setting night. “I think it even adds — right? — to this accomplishment for a guy who became a scorer because he determined that’s what was necessary to win. And you’re right, he probably doesn’t get enough credit for his selfless play, because there’s so much focus and attention on him. ... I think it makes it that much more special, that he’d rather be known for his assists than his baskets.”

James is the only member of the NBA’s triple-quintuple club: at least 10,000 points, 10,000 rebounds and 10,000 assists. There are 44 players to reach five digits in two of those categories.

He’ll almost certainly be the NBA’s all-time leader in earnings whenever he retires; when adding in the \$97

million he’ll make over the next two seasons, he’ll be past \$500 million in on-court salary alone. He’s a 19-time All-Star selection, tying an Abdul-Jabbar record. If he plays in the game on Feb. 19 in Salt Lake City, he’ll set a record for appearances.

Others, maybe, have been this good. That’s always a debate. But no one has ever been this good, for this long. James — a two-time champion in Miami, a champion in Cleveland in 2016 and a champion with the Lakers in 2020 — is averaging 30 points per game in his 20th season; only three other players have averaged more than 10 points per game this deep into their careers, none of those averaging more than Bryant’s 17.6 in his 20th and final season.

“I never did the, ‘OK, if I play this amount of time and I average this’ thing,” James said. “I’ve never done that with anything in my career. I always said, ‘If it happens, it happens.’”

It happened.

Sports News



SNRA beat PMS in schools' basketball league

Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) claimed a five-point victory over the Princess Margaret School (PMS) in the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools Basketball League on Tuesday.

Jaheem Dyett sank six points and Lennox Phoenix scored four points to lead Sir Novelle Richards Academy to their 16 - 11 victory over PMS in the Mini Boys' Secondary Division affair at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tyrese Bonny had five points and Preston Hinds converted three points for PMS.

There were also wins for T.N. Kirnon, Villa and Cedar Grove in the Mini Girls' Primary Schools Division.

T. N. Kirnon Primary defeated Sea View Farm Primary 11 - 1 with Blessing Chambers scoring five points and Na-Tyra Woods converting three points for the winners.

Kerecia Roberts scored the only point for the Mini Girls of Sea View Farm Primary School.

Led by Zoriah Caleb with three



points, Villa Primary prevailed 5 - 0 over Cobbs Cross Primary School.

Cedar Grove Primary also pulled off a 7 - 0 victory against the J.T. Ambrose

Primary School.

Oneisha Browne sank four points and J'Kayla Bellot scored three points for Cedar Grove.

Rebels crush United in D2 Basketball League

Rebels romped to a 21-point win over Raeburn Generators United in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Second Division on Tuesday this week.

Tyndale Telemaque scored 15 points to lead Rebels to a 71 - 50 victory in the first game of a Zone 1 double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Zuri Nesbitt had 11 points and 6 rebounds; Buell Henry grabbed 11 rebounds and sank 10 points; Roger Miller converted 10 points and snatched 6 rebounds and Mali Newton snapped up 11 rebounds and scored 8 points for Rebels.

Kwame Huntley shot a game high 30 points and grabbed 21 rebounds and Jesus Lopez chipped in with

13 points for Raeburn Generators United.

It was much tougher going for Old Road Dagers although they prevailed by 8 points in their match against Jan Serv Fearless Crew2 in a keenly contested second game.

Ariel Quallis shot a game high 27 points, snatched 14 steals and 11 rebounds to lead Old Road

Dagers to a 73 - 65 victory.

Quallis was well supported by teammate Ezekiel Francois who scored 21 points, 13 rebounds and 6 blocked shots.

Tajarn Gage converted 26 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while Daysher Samuel had 16 points and 6 rebounds for Fearless Crew2.

The Second Division continues with Zone 1 double header at the JSC Sports Complex on 9th February.

Ottos Coolers will clash against Rebels at 6:45pm and Cuties' Ovals Superiors will face New Generation Slam at 8:30pm.

cont'd from pg 24

“Shafto” Watley, and Purnell “Roxie” Joseph is the Manager and Assistant Coach.

Antigua and Barbuda (Full Squad): Rahkeem Cornwall (Captain), Kofie James, Hayden Walsh Jr, Karima Gore,

Deran Benta, Kelvin Pitman, Tyrone Williams Jr, Essan Warner, Elroy Francis Jr, Nino Henry, Glenton Williams, Javier Spencer, Kenrick Scott and Mailque Walsh. Pernel Watley (Coach) and Purnell Joseph (Manager/Assistant Coach).



Sea View Farm football team

Sea View Farm trounce TAMO FC in ABFA Second Division

Sea View Farm trounced TAMO FC 10 - 0 to record one of the biggest margins of victory this season in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Tuesday.

Azari Edwards and Kevin Warner both recorded hattricks as Sea View Farm dominated the one-sided contest at the ABFA Technical Center.

Edwards scored in the 1st, 39th, and 59th minutes while Warner had conversions in the 11th, 47th and 65th minutes in the game in which Sea View Farm led 4 - 0 at halftime.

Ikah Codrington scored a brace with conversions in the 17th and 68th minutes.

The other goals were scored by Azyr Joseph in the 78th minute and Bertrand Chastanet in the 87th minute.

This was the seventh win in nine matches for Sea View Farm who advanced to 22 points, a standing shared by Jennings United.

It was also the eighth loss in as many matches for TAMO FC who re-

main winless and rooted in the cellar position of the 15-team competition.

Attacking Saints reclaimed the lead in the Second Division league when they came from behind to snatch a 2 - 2 draw opposite English Harbour at the English Harbour playing field.

T'Noy Andrew scored both goals for Attacking Saints who fell behind 2 - 0 to English Harbour during the match.

Andrew scored the equaliser for Attacking Saints in the 78th minute after scoring his first by way of a penalty kick in the 48th minute which reduced the deficit.

Oshane Blackwood scored both goals for English Harbour which gave them the 2 - 0 lead. Blackwood scored in the 3rd and 46th minutes.

The result allowed Attacking Saints to overtake Jennings United and reclaim the lead in the Second Division.

Their second draw in 10 matches lifted Attacking Saints to 23 points, one ahead of Jennings United, who

also have two games in hand.

Their fourth draw in 11 matches lifted English Harbour to 13 points.

Real Blizzard claimed their fifth win in nine matches by pulling off a 2 - 1 victory over Golden Grove at the Golden Grove playing field.

Karl Hampson scored in the 37th and 41st minutes to give Real Blizzard a 2 - 0 halftime lead.

Kinardo Crossfield scored for Golden Grove in the 54th minute.

The result lifted Real Blizzard to 16 points and 5th in the standings, while their third loss in seven matches ensured that Golden Grove slipped down to 9th place with 10 points.

Young Warriors and Bethesda fought to a goalless draw in their affair at the Bethesda playing field.

It was the second draw in nine matches for Bethesda who advanced to 11 points and 8th in the standings.

Their first draw in nine matches lifted Young Warriors to 7 points but they will remain 12th in the standings on goal difference.

ABCA names national squad for LICB senior men's tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) has named a 14-member squad to represent the twin-island state in this year's Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) Senior Men's Tournament.

All-rounder, Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall, will captain the side during the tournament, which will be hosted



Elroy Francis Jr

by St. Kitts and Nevis from 18th February to 1st March, 2023.

Cornwall, a burly right-arm off-spinner, is one of six players who has been selected from the PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, last season's winner of the three major ABCA's domestic competitions - the Super40, the Two-Day contest and the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion.

Joining Cornwall are fellow Black Hawks colleagues, left-arm pacer, Javier Spencer; off-spinners Kofi James and Karima Gore; leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. and right-hand opening batsman Malique Walsh.

Cornwall, James and Walsh are also current members of the Leeward Islands Hurricanes, one of the six territorial board teams, competing in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) regional four-day championship.

James, a competent middle and lower-order batsman, will support Cornwall as vice-captain on the senior national team.

Empire Nation's captain and middle-order batsman, Kenrick Scott, has also been selected. He is joined by fellow Empire Nation teammate, Tyrone Williams Jr.

Williams, an opening batsman, captured the Most Valuable Player award in the ABCA's first competition of the 2023 domestic season, the ABCA 10 Splash, in which he was instrumental in leading Empire Nation to the title.

The ABCA 10 Splash took place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium from



Essan Warner

5th to 20th January.

Also selected are the Pigotts Crushers' skipper and allrounder, Elroy Francis Jr., New Winthropes Lions' captain and fast bowler, Nino Henry, and Jennings Tigers' left-arm spinner, Glenton Williams.

The remaining selected cricketers are wicketkeeper/batsman Deran Benta and fast bowler Kelvin Pitman of CUB Bethesda Golden Eagles and Pigotts Crushers batsman, Essan Warner.

Four reserves have also been chosen. They are All Saints Pythons' skipper and opener Michael Dover, Bethesda Golden Eagles' opening batsman Shacoy Floyd, Jennings Tigers' medium pacer, Jedidiah Martin and Pigotts Crushers' all-rounder Ka-deem Henry.

The team's head coach is former national left-arm seamer, Pernel

cont'd on pg 22