

THIS IS THE BIG ONE!

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The Rotary Club of Antigua and the Rotaract Club of Antigua joined to organize special events in four primary schools, in recognition of World Literacy Day observed last Friday. *Story on page 7.*

This is the Big One!

That's the expression from Antigua and Barbuda's calypso icon, Sir Leroy McClean 'King Short Shirt' Emanuel, following the announcement that he is among fourteen eminent persons to receive honorary degrees from the University of the West Indies, this year.

Sir Leroy will be presented with an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree during UWI's Class of 2023 graduation ceremonies, starting October 7.

"It's good to be recognized by the university. I have received several awards in the past such as the knighthood from the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, as well as being inducted into the Calypso Hall of Fame but this is 'the Big One,'" Sir Leroy told Point Express.

He added that he feels 'blessed' that he is still alive at the age of 81 years to be able to obtain these awards and to see it come to pass. Noting that he will receive an award similar to the Mighty Sparrow, the acknowledged "Calypso King of the World," Sir Leroy observed that he was always

'up there with Sparrow.' "This is nothing strange, as I have always been considered up there with Sparrow and other greats of the calypso art form," he said.

In a statement, the University said the annual tradition of conferring honorary degrees, which coincides this year, with the regional university's 75th jubilee celebrations, will commemorate the outstanding contributions made by these individuals to their communities and the wider society.

The honorees will join hundreds of students across the Five Islands, Cave Hill, St Augustine, Mona, and Global (formerly Open Campus) campuses who are graduating and marking the end of this phase of their studies.

The schedule for the 2023 ceremonies and the list of honorary graduands follow.

Five Islands Campus – October 7

Sir Leroy 'King Short Shirt' Emanuel

The biography of Sir Leroy prepared by the University of the West Indies noted that he was born and raised in the Point area in



Sir Leroy McClean 'King Short Shirt' Emanuel

St. John's, Antigua. Sir Leroy 'King Short Shirt' Emanuel, the "Monarch" is described as a colossal of a calypsonian. He first entered the calypso arena in 1962 and, since then, has produced hundreds of quality calypsos, several for fellow calypsonians, and is known mainly for his cutting lyrical content, sweet harmony, and smooth melodious voice.

King Short Shirt has won the Calypso Competition 15 times in Antigua and Barbuda and was the first to 'three-peat' in the annual competition in 1964, 1965, and 1966. He took the Caribbean Calypso Competition crown seven times and has seven Road March Crowns under his belt. Some of his

biggest hits include Tourist Leggo; Lucinda; Nobody Go Run Me; Our Pledge; Lamentation; Star Black; Run Shorty Run; In Spite Of All, and so many more.

He has been twice invited by the Prime Ministers of fellow CARICOM countries to their Independence celebrations: Belize in 1981, where he performed A New Beginning, a song he wrote especially for the occasion; and Saint Lucia in 2023.

Calypso may be his passion, but he has also translated his love of the craft and performing into businesses. In 1962, he opened Shorty's Beach Bar and Shorty's Glass Bottom Boats, followed eight years later by a record shop, A & B Record.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **LORA LIRIANA PEDRO** of Alfred Peters Street is applying to the Minister for Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

PM Browne in Hamburg for ITLOS hearing

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is in Hamburg, Germany, for a crucial meeting of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) which is to hear a submission, co-sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda and Tuvalu, seeking damages for small island states affected by natural and other disasters caused by climate change. The first session opens today, September 11, in Hamburg.

Prime Minister Browne will address the Tribunal at the opening session, to be followed by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Kausea Natano.

“It is no exaggeration to speak of existential threats when some of these nations may vanish in the foreseeable future because of rising sea levels.

The scientific evidence leaves no doubt that this situation has arisen because of the failure of major polluters to effectively mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

This inaction, this failure of political will, has brought humankind to a per-

ilous juncture with catastrophic consequences.

“It is because of this reality that COSIS has brought this vital matter before you,” PM Browne noted in a prepared statement.

Two years ago, in the margins of the COP 26 meeting in Glasgow, the two small island states in two different parts of the world, decided to form an inter-governmental organization that would use the international legal system to seek justice for the considerable impact of Climate Change on their countries.

“The Prime Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean, and Tuvalu in the Pacific, frustrated by the lip service being paid by the world’s major contributors to Climate Change, and the broken promises of every previous COP meeting, decided that they would seek an Advisory Opinion from the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS),” Antigua and Barbuda’s

Ambassador to the United States and the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders stated.

He was at the time speaking on the topic “The Urgency of COSIS’ Quest for Climate Justice Through ITLOS,” during which he sought to explain why several small states have approached ITLOS for an Advisory Opinion at a High-Level Dialogue on Climate Policy and other key issues in the Western Hemisphere, organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Embassy in Washington, DC, and Global Americans.

Consequently, Antigua and Barbuda and Tuvalu launched the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS).

They were subsequently joined by several other small states, including the Bahamas, St Lucia, St Kitts-Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean and by Vanuatu, Palau, and Niue. ITLOS has agreed to a full hearing of the case that small island states are advancing.



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Commissioner Rodney: Police Week provides a strong link with the community

Members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda are celebrating the 55th installment of Police Week, which Commissioner Atlee Rodney has described as one of the strongest links with the community.

The Commissioner was speaking on Sunday morning, at the Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church, where members of

the force joined worshipers for service as the first activity of Police Week 2023, being held under the theme “With dignity and Pride, we are working together with our community.”

“I am happy that our founding fathers had the vision and foresight to set aside a period such as this so that we can come to say thank you in a special way.

Police week is a wonderful community policing tool that has created an avenue to build stronger and closer relationships between the public and the police,” he stated.

He acknowledged that after more than a half-century, police week activities have proven to be one of the stronger links between the police and the community. However, he added, working together with the community is not without its challenges.

“As the leader of this organization, I will acknowledge that we do not always get it 100 percent right. That is not to say we do not set out to do right. However, circumstances and other factors along the way, sometimes determine a different outcome. Nevertheless, we will remain resolute in our commitment to serving the people of this nation with pride and dignity. Our successes are as a result of your continued support,” he observed.

Commissioner Rodney is encouraging all his officers to remain focused and steadfast in their commitment, as the force continues to rise above the adversities that come with this noble profession so that in the years to come, our contribution to this country will forever be etched in the annals of history as that of committed and dedicated service despite the various challenges police face daily.

The activities of the week include; an Open Day exhibition at Police Headquarters and later the skills competition among the fire stations, for the Malcolm Nicholas Cup in St. John’s. These take place on Monday. On Wednesday, the Calypso Monarch competition takes place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds, Friday is a Cultural Food festival at the Rising Sun Grounds and Saturday night is the crowd-favourite, the Theatrical presentation at ARG.

ROYAL POLICE FORCE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE, WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY, POLICE WEEK 2023

55th Anniversary

Sunday 10th September 2023
 ✓ Divine Church Service
 Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church 9am
 ✓ Brunch at Police Head Quarters

Monday 11th September 2023
 ✓ Open Day Exhibition
 Police Head Quarters 10 am
 ✓ Malcolm Nicholas Cup
 Cnr. Market & High Street 4pm

Tuesday 12th September 2023
 ✓ Football Fire vs Police
 Turf Technical Centre 6 pm
 ✓ Cricket Match Fire vs Police
 Powell's Playing Field 2pm

Wednesday 13th September 2023
 ✓ Distribution of Packages
 ✓ Calypso Monarch Competition
 Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

Thursday 14th September 2023
 ✓ Commissioner's Cocktail
 Sir Wright F. George Academy 7pm

Friday 15th September 2023
 ✓ Police Cultural Food Festival
 Rising Sun 10 am

Saturday 16th September 2023
 ✓ Full Bore Shooting Competition
 Crabbs Rifle Range 10 am
 ✓ Theatrical Presentation
 Antigua Recreation Ground 8pm

Sunday 17th September 2023
 ✓ Family Fun Day / Sports Day
 Ffryes Beach 10am

©Veve Creations

Yachting sector forecasts ‘strong year’ for 2023

“All indications are that business is strong and that the yachting industry will have a strong year in Antigua and Barbuda,” is the observation of the re-elected President of the Antigua and Barbuda Yachting and Marine Association (ABYMA), Franklyn Brathwaite.

He was speaking at the 2023 Annual General Meeting and State of the Industry Meeting held last week.

The organization’s objectives are to promote the Yachting & the Marine Industry and to facilitate and advocate for its interests in Antigua and Barbuda as well as promote Antigua & Barbuda as a premier yachting destination.

One of the key tools for achieving this is the annual calendar which pro-

motes all of the key yachting-related events taking place throughout the year

During the meeting, the manager of the secretariat, Alison Sly-Adams commented on Antigua’s unique position in the region.

“Antigua is the only island in the region that boasts a charter yacht show, a superyacht regatta, an offshore regatta, a classic regatta, and a five-day inshore event, as well as two sport fishing tournaments and several one-day and fun events.

“We are also the destination for the World’s Toughest Row, which is again, fully subscribed for this year and the start of the Oyster World Rally.

“Expressions of interest in all

events are looking very positive and boding well for a busy year in Antigua and Barbuda.”

Board member Jason Pickering updated the membership on the upcoming 2nd Annual ABYMA Industry Showcase, slated to take place 16-17 November.

The event has been moved one week later on the calendar, specifically to allow for the arrivals from the Salty Dawg Rally from the US, to be able to meet the members and understand what products and services Antigua can offer. The show’s main objective is to educate Antiguan and Barbudans about the opportunities available in the industry and assist in communicating pathways for them to do just that.



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Parliamentary Representative Charles "Max" Fernandez



Abena St. Luce and Alijah Richards (artist)

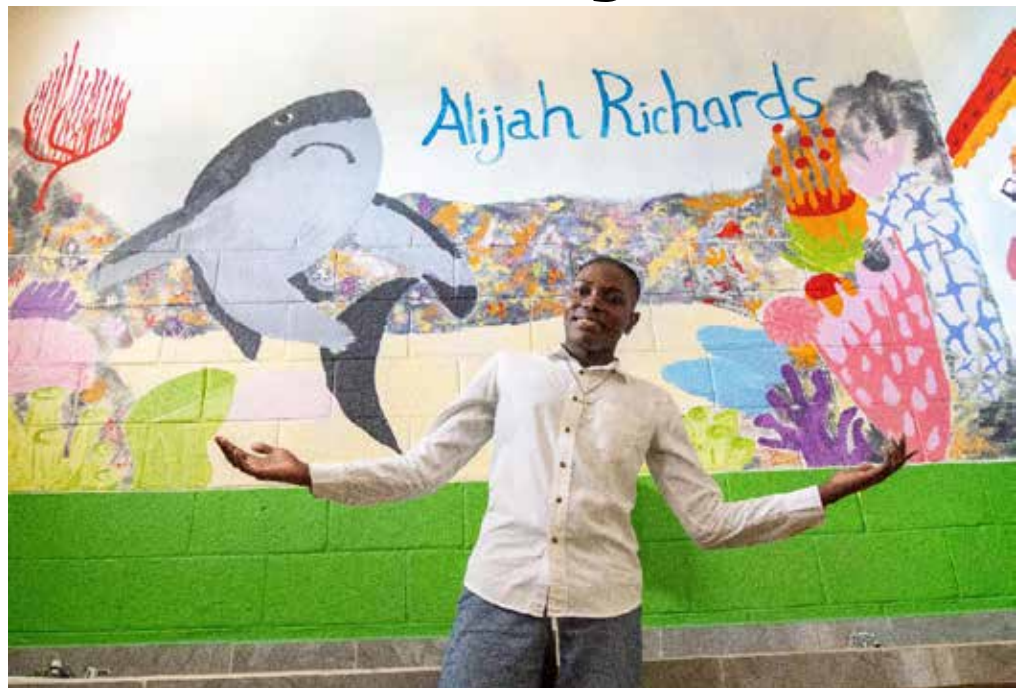
Rural North resident donates to Cedar Grove Primary School

A resident of the Rural North Constituency, Abena St. Luce, has donated to the students and staff of Cedar Grove Primary School, which included school supplies and assistance with renovations.

St. Luce said her motivation for the donations came from a recognition of the importance of providing a conducive learning environment for young minds. She was able to secure the support of local businesses and generously contributed to the renovation and upgrade of several areas of the school plant.

"This included renovations to the student and faculty restrooms: This work includes the repairs and replacement of plumbing fixtures, painting, tiling of walls, floors, and countertops, and the installation of an impressive motivational mural designed and created by young local artist, Alijah Richards. The mural, spanning across the student restroom walls, depicts a colourful underwater scene, rich with positive imagery and inspiring messages geared towards the young students," St. Luce explained.

She also donated specialty items and learning tools, cookware, silverware, bakeware, appliances, walk-



ie-talkies, educational games, and office equipment.

St. Luce stated, "I am a firm believer that if you wish to have a positive impact on your country you must start with the youth. There is no investment more valuable."

Ms. St. Luce also shared, "I was overwhelmed and humbled by the enthusiastic support received from the community and local businesses when they learned of my desire to develop projects to promote positive youth development. I look forward to the many

positive developments that will continue to arise from these partnerships."

At a brief presentation, St. Luce introduced the young creator of the restroom mural, Alijah Richards who briefly spoke on the inspiration behind his artwork.

In attendance also were, Parliamentary Representative Charles "Max" Fernandez and Senator Samantha Marshall, Minister of State within the Ministry of Health, Wellness, the Environment and Social Transformation.



Rotarians engage primary schools in World Literacy Day activities

The Rotary Club of Antigua and the Rotaract Club of Antigua joined to organize special events in four primary schools, in recognition of World Literacy Day observed last Friday.

Kindergarten classes at the Five Islands Primary School, the Sea View Farm Primary School, the New Winthropes Primary School,

and kindergarteners at the Christian Union Academy all had an opportunity to engage in innovative and interactive sessions, which showcased their reading, imagination and in some cases, even acting skills.

The Rotary Club of Antigua's Director of Youth Services, Samoya Kirby, is very pleased with the lev-

el of interest that was expressed in the sessions by the students and teachers of the participating schools.

"Reading is fundamental at a very early age. We know the importance of reading and writing, and literacy encompasses both skills, so it is critical for these skills to be developed as early as possible. For in-

stance, at the Five Islands Primary School, we read 'The Cat in the Hat.' The students were very excited, as well as very engaged, Director Samoya indicated.

The Youth Services Director also added that she is very pleased with the progress of the Earlyactors Club at the Five Islands Primary

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Heart and Stroke Foundation offers financial aid to patient

The Antigua and Barbuda Heart and Stroke Foundation has given financial assistance to a patient - Elisha Carr-Andrews - for her medical care overseas.

A cheque was presented to her by the president of the foundation, Dr. Georgette Meade, and board member Dr. Monica Osborne-Stevens.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation, Antigua and Barbuda was established in February 2020 to act as a voice and support system for patients and their families, raise funds, stage community events, and conduct local research into the prevalence of heart disease and stroke.



Local News



cont'd from pg 7

School, which was established as the first Club of its kind in May of this year. As a token of appreciation and motivation, the executive was presented with school supplies for their exemplary work to date.

September is designated as Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month. This is an opportunity for Rotarians and Rotaractors to raise awareness of this need and take action by identifying needs where Rotary's support can contribute or create meaningful partnerships with local education activities, create a Basic Education and Literacy team with Rotarians, Rotaractors, and educators to coordinate and partner on developing literacy activities.



Halo Foundation supports mental health initiative

The Halo Foundation recently donated over EC\$1,000.00 to Mental Health Activist, Chaneil Imhoff, in support of the "Be Kind to Your Mind" initiative.

The initiative is scheduled to culminate in an upcoming school tour (October 9 - 13, 2023). The tour will coincide with World Health Day 2023, and will perpetuate the theme "Mental Health is a Universal Right."

The Halo Foundation had earlier established a mental health sub-brand ("Blue"), in 2015.

Blue continues to focus on early childhood and teen issues, inclusive of bullying and suicide.



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Opinion



Tony is skel bound

By **Tony Deyal**

When I saw an article in the Trinidad Guardian 'Port-of-Spain plagued with problems', I immediately felt that the plagues, like so many other health problems in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), did not go to the hospital but most likely came from it. My friend Tom, who told me that vagrants were sleeping in the entry to areas where people with serious injuries were being admitted, blamed the doctors.

Even though it sounded far-fetched, he was adamant, "All of the doctors have their own private hospitals or make plenty money from them, and this is why in the public hospital there is always a long wait for medical attention and surgeries, no beds available, and plenty hard talk from the doctors and nurses." I had learnt the hard way that "hospital" and "hospitality" are two vastly different things in T&T and never the twain shall meet, except at the bank. Worse, if you're paying to be looked after in one of the doctor-owned facilities, you will find that even if you go to one because your bowels are locked tight, they still charge you for toilet paper. That is why I call them Ho\$\$pitals'.

I know what these same big-shots can do to poor people who show up in the 'government' facilities. There are some who charge a lot of money when you go to their offices and then arrange for

you to be accepted in the hospitals so they can use the facilities for free. My unforgettable experience was when riding my motorbike at high speed, it refused to respond or slow down and instead was heading into a concrete wall. I tried stepping off backward while the bike was going forward, but my slippers tripped me, and I broke my left collarbone. I was kept waiting on a trolley in the hospital for hours. What made it worse was that several of my school friends had become doctors, and each of them stopped, looked at me and then said things like, "A blasted old man like you riding motor-bike? You look for what you get!" and "You ain't change. You still up to stupidity. If you want to dead, jump through the window. We on the twelfth floor." I got my own back with one of them, though. He was the one whose job was to put me to sleep before surgery. He looked at me with a long hypodermic needle in his hand and said, "Just a little prick." My reply was, "I know. I know. You haven't changed since school days."

VISITED EVERY HOSPITAL

In my days of working for the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), I visited every hospital in the region. While the standards in Jamaica can vary in both the public and private facilities, it is 65 in the world for the effectiveness of its health-



Tony Deyal

care system. T&T is at 88. Barbados, where my two younger children were born, has an amazing healthcare system. It has nine polyclinics, a public hospital, and a variety of speciality surgeries including an HIV clinic. The polyclinics specialise in providing primary care for every Barbadian, free of cost.

This is why when the Trinidad Guardian newspaper in November 30, 2002, headlined, "Casualty back in operation with a skeleton staff", I thought it was a brilliant idea. Skeletons are ideal for such an operation. First of all, security would be boned up rather than beefed up. Normal human beings, as well as the people who frequent hospital casualty departments, would not be able to breach the hospital's defence or gain entry unlawfully since only the people in charge would have skeleton

keys. Those of us who complained about all the corruption, misspending, stealing of supplies, and the covering up of malpractice and negligence would no longer have to worry. One sure outcome of employing a skeleton staff is transparency. Make no bones about it. Askeleton staff guarantees transparency.

Skeletons might be numbskulls or boneheads, but they are too smart to steal food from the cafeteria or towels from the laundry. Even though you cannot really pin anything on them, they still do not steal body parts to sell to private institutions since they know they will be easily discovered. Additionally, by using a skeleton staff, the problem of the overcrowded mortuary will be ended. After all, skeletons are people with their outsides off and insides out.

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

While skeletons have some difficulty in standing up for themselves, by the same token, they do not bow to pressure or knuckle under despots, doctors, or dictators.

Although a few of them might be lazy bones, most of them work hard. On the down side, they can be messy. One of them went to the cafeteria and ordered a cup of coffee and a mop. Another refused to work at the hospital because its heart wasn't in it. One refused to attend the welcome party put on by the Ministry of Health because it had no body to dance with. And when one reached late for work and tried to lie, explaining that it was chased by a dog, its supervisor said, "Don't try that. I can see right through you."

PLUS SIZE

On the plus side, skeletons are easy and cheap to maintain. Unlike the present hospital staff, they require no meals or meal allowance. In fact, they

don't use the cafeteria food because they have no stomach for it. If they take anything at all it is soup with plenty of body and served in one-bone china. They never lose their cool or get angry the way the T&T hospital staff, especially the nurses and doctors, do. No shouting and shooting us down by the skeletons. In fact, nothing gets under their skins. They are very studious and always boning up for exams. Even the few who might be tempted to get angry and make outrageous demands eventually back down. They don't have the guts to fight.

On Sundays, the skeleton force stays on the job instead of going to church because they have no organs. Instead of using the government service to send out all their Christmas cards and run up major expenses, which the Government must pay, they send their mail by bony express. They don't require any transportation allowance since like vampires, they travel by blood vessels.

They don't take coffee breaks – they take coffin breaks, and after 21 years, they still do so. That is why, as far as I am concerned, the use of skeleton staff at the Academy and Emergency Department of Trinidad and Tobago, and any other country in the Caribbean except Barbados, would considerably reduce the present excessive demand on the limited resources of the hospitals.

Even though children in hospitals would be scared stiff, and adults might get ghoulish or coffin fits, doctors would be in paradise since they would have more time for their private practice and their own money machines. In addition, the Ministry of Health will have more money to spend on the really important medical issues such as attending far-away international conferences.

Tony Deyal was last seen wondering why skeletons are so calm. He then realised that it is because nothing gets under their skins.

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Technology



Apple shares slide after China government iPhone ban reports

Shares in Apple have fallen for a second day in a row after reports that Chinese government workers have been banned from using iPhones.

The firm's stock market valuation has fallen by more than 6%, or almost \$200bn (£160bn), in the past two days.

China is the technology giant's third-largest market, accounting for 18% of its total revenue last year.

It is also where most of Apple's products are manufactured by its biggest supplier Foxconn.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported on Wednesday that Beijing had ordered central government agency officials to not bring iPhones into the office or use them for work.



The following day, Bloomberg News reported that the ban may also be imposed on workers at state-owned companies and government-backed agencies.

The instructions not to use iPhones were given to

officials by their superiors in recent weeks, sources told the WSJ. Restrictions were also placed on other foreign-branded devices.

iPhones were already banned in some agencies, the paper says, but its sources

suggested this had now been widened.

It has not been made clear how widely those instructions were disseminated through Chinese officialdom.

The reports came ahead

cont'd on pg 13

Guys and Dolls
Simply Classy

268-782-6020

cont'd from pg 12

of the launch of the iPhone 15, which is expected to take place on 12 September.

On Chinese social media some people who said they work for state-owned companies reported being told to stop using Apple devices by the end of September. One joked that they were poor and did not have the money to buy a new phone: "What should I use for work?" they wondered.

China is one of Apple's biggest markets, and iPhones are produced in the country, though recently Apple has increased production in India.

There has been no official statement from the Chinese government in response to the reports.

Apple did not immediately respond to a BBC request for comment.

Apple has the world's highest stock market valuation, standing at close to \$2.8 trillion.

As well as Apple shares falling, shares in some of its suppliers were also hit.

Qualcomm, the world's biggest supplier of smartphone chips, dropped by more than 7% on Thursday, while shares in South Korea's SK Hynix were around 4% lower on Friday.

Tensions between the US and China over technology have been rising steadily, with both parties imposing restrictions.

This year, Washington, along with its allies Japan and the Netherlands, restricted China's access to

some chip technology.

China retaliated by restricting exports of two materials key to the semiconductor industry.

Beijing is also reportedly preparing a new \$40bn investment fund to boost its chip making industry.

Last week, during US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo's visit to Beijing, Chinese tech giant Huawei unexpectedly unveiled its Mate 60 Pro smartphone.

On Friday, the company launched presales of the Pro+ model of the phone.

Canada-based technology research firm, TechInsights, said the phone contained a new 5G Kirin 9000s

processor, developed for Huawei by China's largest contract chipmaker SMIC.

TechInsights analyst Dan Hutcheson said it "demonstrates the technical progress China's semiconductor industry has been able to make".

This is a "big tech breakthrough for China," investment firm Jefferies said in a research note.

This week, US congressman Mike Gallagher, who is the chairman of the House of Representatives committee on China, called on the Commerce Department to further restrict exports to Huawei and SMIC.

Meanwhile, on Thursday

Apple released an emergency software update for a vast number of old and current devices after a security vulnerability was discovered being used by unknown hackers.

The update was released after digital rights investigators at Citizen Lab discovered attackers hacking Apple devices of specific targets using a novel and unheard of technique.

Apple also found a similar so-called "exploit" itself so issued both updates as part of a rapid security response to customers.

It is the 15th time this year that Apple has been forced to issue sweeping security updates.



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Guyana scrambles to make the most of oil wealth

By Gideon Long

President of Guyana Irfaan Ali has acknowledged “time is not on our side” as the South American country scrambles to make the most of its new-found oil wealth before it is too late.

Over the past decade, Guyana has found huge amounts of oil and gas under its coastal waters.

It now boasts reserves of about 11 billion barrels.

That puts it in the top 20 in terms of its potential, on a par with countries such as Norway, Brazil and Algeria.

The small country, which borders Venezuela, Brazil and Suriname in South America’s north-east corner, currently boasts the fastest-growing economy in the world.

But the discoveries come as the planet is trying to wean itself off fossil fuels to tackle climate change. Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries have vowed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. That means trying to cut down on oil use.

Speaking to the BBC from the capital Georgetown, President Ali accepted that “time is not on our side” as it ramps up oil production, although he added that “to say we are racing against time is stretching it”.

And he said that even if the world met its net zero targets - something he doubted would happen - it would still need to rely heavily on fossil fuels, even after 2050.

“As I speak to you, 53% of the world energy mix comes from oil and gas,” Mr Ali said.

“Even if we are to achieve the full commitment, you’re looking at 35% to 40% of the world’s energy mix still coming from oil and gas. So I don’t see realistically an immediate medium-term end to oil and gas.



Guyana’s economy has boomed in recent years, aided by the discovery of offshore oil deposits.

“Even if we end up in a situation in 2070 and beyond - where, let’s say, 40% of the energy mix comes from oil and gas - who determines who produces that 40%? These are questions that must be answered, because you can’t just decide, ‘You are out, you are in.’ That is colonisation in a different way.”

The oil bonanza has transformed the Guyanese economy. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it grew by 62% last year and is expected to add another 37% this year. That is the fastest growth rate anywhere in the world.

And the wealth will potentially be shared between a relatively small number of people. Although Guyana is the size of Britain, it has a population of just 800,000 people. Most of it is rainforest.

So the potential for per capita economic growth is huge. It has already gone up sharply. In 2015, when US oil major Exxon made its first discovery in Guyanese waters, gross domestic product per head was \$11,000 (£9,380). This year, the IMF predicts it will top \$60,000.

Mr Ali said his country had no plans to join the Opec oil cartel and insisted his government would respect the contracts his predecessor signed with Exxon - even though some activists have criticised them as excessively generous.

“The deal could have been better for Guyana,” Mr Ali said.

“Exxon had a good deal signed by the last government but, look, for us, the sanctity of contract is very important. We cannot go back and renegotiate.”

He said he was confident Guyana would win its territorial dispute with Venezuela, which claims two-thirds of Guyana’s territory as its own. The dispute dates from the late 19th Century and a case is open before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

“We are very clear as to where our borders are and we are very confident about our case,” Mr Ali said.

“There have already been two rulings and both were in favour of Guyana. We have actively encouraged Venezuela to participate in this process and to respect the outcome of the ICJ.”

PAHO warns suicide is significant public health concern for the region

The Director of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) Dr Jarbas Barbosa says that with nearly 100,000 deaths by suicide each year in the Americas, it is a “significant public health concern” for the region.

Alarming, the region experienced a 17 per cent increase in suicide rate from 2000 to 2019, making it the only World Health Organisation (WHO) region to witness an increase,” said Dr Barbosa in a message to mark World Suicide Prevention Day, which takes place on Sunday.

The PAHO director stressed that “every case of suicide is a tragedy that severely impacts not only individuals but also families and communities.”

He said suicide can be prevented and asked Caribbean countries to “create hope through our actions” and “reduce suicide in the region.”

While it can affect people of any age, PAHO said that, in 2019, suicide was the fourth leading cause of death among young people aged 15-29 years worldwide and women are more likely to attempt suicide, but men are more likely to complete the act.

According to PAHO, of every woman who dies by suicide in the region, 3.5 men commit the act. In addition, available ev-

idence indicates a disproportionate impact of suicide among groups in situation of vulnerability, such as indigenous populations and LGBTQI+ people.

“The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated many risk factors for suicide, including unemployment, financial insecurity and social isolation,” said Barbosa, adding that addressing suicide requires a collective effort.

During the last week of September this year, PAHO said ministers and senior health authorities from the Americas, including the Caribbean, would meet at PAHO’s 60th Directing Council, where they will discuss a new strategy to improve mental health and prevent suicide.

PAHO said the strategy will “highlight suicide prevention as a priority” for all countries and areas of government and “emphasize the need for multi-sectoral commitment” to prevent it.

Strategies to address

suicide include restricting access to the means of self-harm for a person at risk of suicide, developing social and-emotional life skills in adolescents, having accessible and integrated mental health services and professionals at the first level of care, and eliminating stigma about mental health, one of the main barriers to help-seeking, PAHO said.

This week, and to mark the world day, PAHO organized a webinar to promote responsible reporting of suicide in media and through social networks, another of the main evidence-based strategies that can help prevent it.

This year, the WHO is updating its guide preventing suicide: a resource for media professionals, with recommendations on the dos and don’ts of suicide reporting.

“PAHO continues to work with countries to promote evidence-based strategies on suicide prevention, including updated mental

health and suicide prevention laws and policies; regulations to limit access to the means of suicide; and responsible media reporting,” Barbosa said.

“We will continue to support the education and training of healthcare workers and the strengthening of national surveillance systems to inform the development of locally- adapted suicide prevention strategies,” he added.

PAHO said World Suicide Prevention Day was established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention in conjunction with WHO to focus attention on the issue, reduce the stigma associated with it and raise awareness that suicides are preventable.

This year’s theme, “Creating Hope through Action”, is a call to action and a reminder that there is an alternative to suicide and that through actions hope can be encouraged and prevention strengthened.

SEPTEMBER
**SUICIDE
 PREVENTION**
 AWARENESS MONTH



OECS says Eastern Caribbean students in Morocco are safe

By Dillon De Shong

All of the students from the Eastern Caribbean, who are currently studying in Morocco have been accounted for following Friday's devastating earthquake.

This was confirmed by Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Dr Didacus Jules.

In a statement, Jules said the Embassies of Eastern Caribbean States to the Kingdom of Morocco have been in touch with all nationals in Morocco and has affirmed that none have been directly affected.

Jules also expressed the concern and solidarity of the OECS Commission indicating that, "Morocco has been a steadfast friend and ally of the OECS and we wish the Kingdom a speedy re-



A man stands next to a damaged hotel after the earthquake in Moulay Brahim village, near the epicentre of the earthquake, outside Marrakech, Morocco, Saturday, September 9, 2023. (AP Photo/Mosa'ab Elshamy)

covery from this traumatic event."

Meanwhile, OECS Chairman and

Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis Dr Terrance Drew joined global leaders in sending condolences to the people of Morocco following the devastating earthquake.

In a letter to King Mohammed VI, Drew said: "On behalf of the OECS Authority, please allow me to express our profound regret on this sad occurrence, and please accept our heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of life; and to those who are injured, our wishes for a very speedy recovery. At this time of great difficulty, the OECS Authority assures the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco, and in particular, the families of the victims of its solidarity and prayerful consideration."

The earthquake, which struck Morocco's High Atlas Mountains shortly before midnight, had a magnitude of 6.8.

The provinces of Al Haouz, Ouarzazate, Marrakech, Azilal, Chichaoua, and Taroudant were the most affected.

Over 2,000 people have died and over 1,400 people were injured.



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SKN makes major water discovery in Cayon

The Government of St Kitts and Nevis announced that water found at the drilling site in Cayon is potable. Minister of Public Infrastructure, Konris Maynard made the announcement during his presentation at the Water Town Hall meeting in the Cayon High School Auditorium on Thursday.

“I am happy to report tonight that we have found potable water that meets the World Health Organization standards, but more importantly, our initial assessment of the capacity of the well is suggesting that we can get from 700,000 to 1 million gallons a day from that well,” Maynard said.

“This Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister and the leadership of our ministry has moved Cayon from the back of the line in water to first in line in water for the next 10 years,” he said.

He added: “Because we are so committed to that effort and we have extended our resources and skillset to that effort, we were behind the developers who were previously engaged eight years ago, and we did not relent in our pursuit to solve the issue here in Cayon.”

The water was discovered by crews from the Bedrock Exploration Development Technologies (BEAD) Company, who began and



completed the drilling process a few weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Terrance Drew said his government plans to make more investments in the country’s infrastructure to resolve the longstanding water challenges faced by residents of several communities.

“We have invested heavily with BEAD; we have invested heavily with the tanks that are coming and the next thing ... is that we have gone into desalination; that’s where we take salt water from the sea and turn it into fresh water so that you can drink,” Drew said.

“When I thought it would have taken months for them to reach water, they

drilled and they reached water much sooner than we expected and you saw the water coming from the ground, and they found more water in Cayon than expected as well. They have done one study of the water and the water is shown to be drinkable water or what we call potable water.”

Drew said drilling wells is just a part of the government’s overall plan to address water problems.

“We are dealing with this matter from three perspectives: one, drilling, and in less than a year we have found water; two, to deliver those large storage tanks for you so that when there is no water and the water truck comes you can store

large amounts of water; and three, we are turning the sea water into fresh water so that we can help the situation with water delivery for the people here in St. Kitts and Nevis. In all of this, we have invested millions because we are determined to make sure that every citizen in St. Kitts and Nevis has potable water and we want that to be 24/7,” Drew said. He added: “I believe that water should be available for all citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis 24/7, meaning if you get up at 1 o’clock in the morning you should have water, you come home from work you should have potable water wherever you live in Cayon. This is a basic need.”

Morocco earthquake: Race against time to save survivors buried in rubble

Morocco faces a race against time to save those trapped under the rubble by Friday's earthquake, as emergency services battle to supply remote areas.

Villagers continue to dig by hand and shovel to find survivors, as response teams struggle to bring in machinery.

Those same tools may now be needed to prepare graves for some of the thousands killed in the quake.

People "have nothing left," a villager told the BBC. "People are starving. Children want water. They need help."

Friday's earthquake, the country's deadliest in 60 years, struck below a remote cluster of mountainous villages south of Marrakesh.

The government reported that at least 2,122 people were killed and more than 2,421 injured, many critically.

The 6.8-magnitude tremor collapsed homes, blocked roads and swayed buildings as far away as the country's northern coast.

Marrakesh's old city, a Unesco World Heritage site, suffered damage.

Morocco's King Mohammed VI declared three days of national mourning on Saturday, as the aftermath continued to unfold.

Civil protection units were deployed to increase stocks in blood banks, water, food, tents and blankets, the palace said.

But it conceded that some of the worst-affected areas were so remote that it was impossible to reach them in the hours after the quake - the most crucial period for many of the injured.

Fallen rocks had partially blocked the already poorly maintained roads into the High Atlas mountains, the site of many of the worst-affected areas.

Many buildings have been reduced to rubble in the small town of Amizmiz, in a valley in the mountains about 34 miles (55km) south of Marrakesh.

The local hospital is empty and



Survivors in remote villages have begun to bury loved ones.

deemed unsafe to enter. Patients are instead treated in tents in the hospital grounds - but staff are overwhelmed.

A hospital official, who asked not to be named, said that around 100 bodies were brought there on Saturday.

"I was crying because there were so many dead people, especially the young children," he said. "Since the earthquake I haven't slept. None of us have."

Beyond the hospital the streets are packed with rubble from destroyed buildings, heavy traffic and those who have lost everything to the quake.

A woman wails in grief and is held by those around her.

There are more tents at the side of the roads for people who have lost their homes, but not everyone has them.

Dozens of people are sleeping on rugs laid on the ground in the central square.

Abdelkarim Brouri, 63, is one of those whose house partially collapsed and has nothing to protect him from the elements.

"I can't go back home," he said, pleading for more help. "We're helping each other. There's no help coming from outside."

"We used blankets to make a tent," said Ali Ait Youssef, another Amizmiz

resident. "The tents the government distributed are not enough."

In a nearby village, crude graves covered with sticks and stones marked out some of the 100 residents killed.

Gravediggers were preparing more as locals said they had yet to receive any official support and were left to find and bury the dead themselves.

International efforts to aid the recovery have begun to increase in pace.

The UK said Morocco had accepted an offer to deploy emergency response teams, including rescue specialists, a medical team, search dogs and equipment.

Spain and Qatar have also said they received formal requests and would send search and rescue teams.

France said it "stood ready" to help but was awaiting a formal request from Morocco. "The second they request this aid, it will be deployed," said President Emmanuel Macron.

The US said "search and rescue teams ready to deploy... We are also ready to release funds at the right time."

Turkey, which suffered its own catastrophic quake in February that killed 50,000, had also offered but received no formal request.

cont'd on pg 19

Dozens killed in attack on Khartoum market, medics say

By Farouk Chothia

At least 35 people have been killed after a crowded market in Sudan's capital was hit with "explosive weapons", a medical charity says.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) described it as "carnage", saying that more than 60 people had also been wounded in the attack.

Local residents say a military aircraft bombarded the Qouro market in southern Khartoum on Sunday.

Rival military factions have been fighting since April.

On Sunday MSF's emergency co-ordinator Marie Burton said Khartoum "has been at war for almost six months".

"But still, the volunteers and medical personnel in Bashair hospital are shocked and overwhelmed by the scale of horror that struck the city" on Sunday, she added on X, formerly Twitter.

MSF said "explosive weapons" had hit the market and that air strikes and shelling continued in "another day of unthinkable suffering and loss of life".

"We're trying to save the lives of people whose body parts have been ripped off by the explosion. It was a carnage," MSF added.

Loretta Charles, an MSF medic at the Bashair Teaching Hospital



Sudan's capital Khartoum has been devastated by fighting between rival forces.

in Khartoum, said she treated people with blast injuries.

"We had traumatic amputations and penetrating trauma to the head, the chest, and the abdomen," she told the BBC's Newshour programme.

Some estimates put the number of those killed in the strike closer to 50.

Sudan plunged into a civil war in April after army chief Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo fell out.

About five million people have been forced to flee their homes, and thousands have been killed. Khartoum

and the western region of Darfur have been worst hit by the conflict.

The RSF controls much of Khartoum and the adjoining cities of Omdurman and Bahri.

The military has repeatedly carried out air strikes in a bid to regain control of the cities.

An air strike killed at least 20 people, including two children, about a week ago, activists said.

The US, Saudi Arabia, and other countries have been trying to mediate an end to the conflict, with no success.

Several ceasefires have been announced to allow people to escape the fighting but these have been broken.

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A BBC reporter saw Spanish sniffer dogs in a village in the Atlas Mountains on Sunday.

Caroline Holt, of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), told Reuters that the next "two to three days will be critical for find-

ing people trapped under the rubble".

Meanwhile relatives began to bury dozens of dead in the almost entirely destroyed village of Tafeghaghte, 37 miles (60km) southwest of Marrakesh.

"Three of my grandchildren and their mother are dead," said 72-year-old Omar

Benhanna.

"They're still under the debris. It wasn't so long ago that we were playing together."

In Agadir city, along the southern Atlantic coast, a woman named Hakima described how she fled her village, Msouna, after losing four relatives in the "cata-

strophic" shocks.

Neighbours pulled her out of the rubble, she said - but no aid had yet reached Msouna and nearby settlements.

"My family has lost their homes, their belongings - they have nothing left," she said. "People are starving. Children just want water. They need help."

Russia hails unexpected G20 'milestone' as Ukraine fumes

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has praised a joint declaration by G20 leaders in Delhi that avoids condemning Moscow for its war against Ukraine.

Russia had not expected consensus and agreement on the wording was "a step in the right direction", said Mr Lavrov.

The closing G20 statement denounced using force for territorial gain but made no mention of Russian aggression, prompting criticism from Ukraine.

The two-day summit also inducted a new permanent member, the African Union.

The 55-member bloc joins at the invitation of hosts India, one of whose key objectives while president has been to make the G20 more inclusive with greater participation of so-called Global South countries.

The world's biggest economies reached other key deals in Delhi, including one on climate and bio-fuels - although there was criticism of the summit's failure to commit to phasing out fossil fuels.

For the second year in a row, there was no official G20 "family photo". No reason was given but reports say many leaders refused to be photographed, pointing to Russia's pres-



This was the 18th summit between the 19 member countries and the European Union.

ence at the summit.

Very few had expected a joint declaration at this year's G20 - not least on the first day of the summit. The group is deeply divided over last year's invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Neither Russia's Vladimir Putin nor China's Xi Jinping turned up in Delhi, sending lower-level delegations instead.

So there was surprise when, just hours after the summit started, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced consensus had been reached on how to phrase the Ukraine section of the statement, which saw last year's direct criticism of Russia watered down.

Mr Lavrov told a news conference on Sunday that a "milestone" had been reached.

"Speaking frankly we didn't expect that. We were ready to defend our wording of the text. The Global South is no longer willing to be lectured," he said in answer to a question by the

BBC's Yogita Limaye.

The UK and US talked up the joint statement too, but Ukraine - which took part in last year's Bali summit but was not invited this year - said it was "nothing to be proud of".

In Bali last year, most members had deplored "in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine". In contrast, the Delhi declaration talks about "the human suffering and negative added impacts of the war in Ukraine with regard to global food and energy security".

It calls on states to "refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition", which could be seen as directed at Russia, but also notes "different views and assessments of the situation".

Analysts say the economic balance and power dynamics is shifting within the G20, away from advanced market economies

of the West to emerging giants, particularly in Asia.

There were other big moments at the summit too, including ambitious deals aimed at tackling climate change.

The G20 members announced that they have reached a 100% consensus to "pursue and encourage efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally through existing targets and policies". The bloc accounts for more than 75% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

And India launched a global biofuel alliance with US and Brazil to boost the use of cleaner fuels. The grouping is aimed at accelerating global efforts to meet net zero emissions targets by facilitating trade in biofuels derived from sources including plant and animal waste.

There was also a multinational rail and ports deal linking the Middle East and South Asia on the sidelines of the summit. The pact is seen as a counter to China's Belt and Road push on global infrastructure.

Early on Sunday afternoon, Mr Modi closed the summit, ending months of fanfare and anticipation. He handed a ceremonial gavel to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, which is taking over the

cont'd on pg 21

Superb Johnson hits 149 to guide West Indies to safety

Jordan Johnson struck his second century of the ongoing tour as West Indies earned a hard-fought draw against Sri Lanka on the final day of the opening Youth Test on Friday.

Starting the final day 54, the left-hander made splendid 149, which helped the West Indies post 309 all out in response to the hosts' 432 for eight declared at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium.

The knock followed up his 105 in the second Youth One-Day International just over a week ago at the same venue. The 18-year-old Johnson faced 207 balls, struck 11 fours and two sixes.

Batting a second time, Sri Lanka Under-19s finished on 122 for four with Ravishan Nethsara making a breezy 50.

With West Indies Un-



Young West Indies Under-19 batsman Jordan Johnson bats against Sri Lanka Under-19 on the final day of the first Youth Test at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Sri Lanka on Friday, September 8, 2023. (CWI Media)

der-19s starting the day on 119 for three, still 313 runs in arrears, they were still under pressure to produce a strong batting performance. Johnson rose to the occasion once again with a superb innings

which ensured West Indies limited their first innings deficit to 123 runs.

He first extended his fourth wicket stand with fellow Jamaican Steve Wedderburn (41) to 110 before

putting on another 96 for the seventh wicket with Nathan Edward (36).

Wedderburn faced 104 balls and struck two fours and a six in a patient knock, while Edward cracked four fours in an 83-ball knock.

Once Johnson was seventh out, West Indies lost their last four wickets for 22 runs, as off-spinner Vihes Thewmika claimed six for 78, while left-arm spinner Vishwa Lahiru finished with three for 61.

The West Indies Under-19s then struck early when fast bowler Isai Thorne had captain Sineth Jayawardene caught at the wicket without scoring off the third ball of the innings with a run on the board.

The second and final four-day Youth Test starts on Tuesday, September 12, at the same venue.

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presidency.

Problems faced by developing countries dominated President Lula's speech.

"We are living in a world where wealth is more concentrated, in which millions of human beings still go hungry, where sustainable development is always threatened, in which global governance institutions still reflect the reality of middle of the last century," he said.

Monsoon downpours had dampened some planned events earlier in the day - leaders walked in the rain to pay respects to India's independence

hero Mahatma Gandhi at the site of his cremation. A tree planting ceremony was downgraded to a symbolic exchange of saplings between G20 presidents past, present and future.

Mr Modi's government has put on an extravagant show from start to finish, with delegates being treated to cultural performances, a gala dinner party and the very best of Indian hospitality.

But it also stirred up a few controversies, especially after Mr Modi's placard as he opened the summit referred to India as "Bharat" (which means India in Hindi), sparking speculation of a possible change of name

for the country.

Mr Modi and his ministers, however, called the event a huge success and said that India's G20 presidency had proven its abilities as a global leader.

"We have sought to make this G20 as inclusive as possible," Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India had managed to ensure that differences over issues do not overshadow core developmental concerns of the global community.

"India's G20 Presidency has walked the talk successfully," she said.

Gauff wins the US Open for first Grand Slam title

NEW YORK (AP) - Coco Gauff is still a teenager, after all, and so it should surprise no one that she was on her phone in the locker room, scrolling through social media, right up until 10 minutes before heading out on court for the US Open final.

What the 19-year-old from Florida was reading, she would say later, were various comments, negative ones, “saying I wasn’t going to win today; that just put the fire in me.”

As a pro athlete from a young age, as someone of whom greatness has been expected by some and doubted by others, Gauff has always taken it all in and kept moving forward, trying to learn from each setback.

And now, at a tournament she used to visit as a kid to see her idols, Serena and Venus Williams, Gauff is a Grand Slam champion herself and a certified star. Setting aside a so-so start Saturday, Gauff surged to a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over the soon-to-be-No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final at Arthur Ashe Stadium, delighting a raucous crowd that backed her from start to finish.

When Gauff walked into her news conference - phone in hand, of course - she noticed that a large screen on the back wall was rotating pictures of her from the match. So she tucked her new silver trophy under one arm and used the other hand to snap a selfie with those photos in the background.

“Right now I’m just feeling happiness and a very, very small bit of relief,” she explained. “Because honestly, at this point, I was doing it for myself and not for other people.”

Gauff, who is from Florida, is the first American teenager to win the country’s major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999. If last year’s US



Coco Gauff, of the United States, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the women’s singles final of the US Open tennis championships in New York on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023. (AP)

Open was all about saying goodbye to Williams as she competed for the final time, this year’s two-week in New York turned into a “Welcome to the big time!” moment for Gauff.

Famous people were coming to watch her play, including former President Barack Obama, who was among those sending congratulatory wishes on Saturday. Also, Gauff and her parents received a congratulatory phone call from President Joe Biden, who was in New Delhi for the Group of 20 summit.

Gauff burst onto the scene at 15 by becoming the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history and making it to the fourth round in her Grand Slam debut in 2019. She reached her initial major final at last year’s French Open, finishing as the runner-up to Iga Swiatek, a loss that stung.

“I watched Iga lift up that trophy, and I watched her the whole time,” Gauff recalled. “I said, ‘I’m not going to take my

eyes off her, because I want to feel what that felt like for her.”

Another down moment came this July at the All England Club in England, where she exited in the first round. Since then, she has won 18 of 19 matches, and now 12 in a row, while working with a new coaching pair of Brad Gilbert and Pere Riba.

The No. 6-seeded Gauff did it Saturday by withstanding the power displayed by Sabalenka on nearly every swing of her racket, eventually getting accustomed to it and managing to get back shot after shot.

Gauff broke to begin the third set on one such point, tracking down every ball hit her way until eventually smacking a putaway volley that she punctuated with a fist pump and a scream of “Come on!”

Soon it was 4-0 in that set for Gauff. Didn’t take long for her to close it out, then drop to her back on the court, be-

cont’d on pg 23

Amazon Warriors win thriller against Royals to remain unbeaten

Guyana Amazon Warriors maintained their unbeaten start to the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) with a last over thriller against the Barbados Royals at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Sunday.

The Amazon Warriors won the toss and opted to bat first and despite losing a flurry of wickets at the back end of their innings, they posted an ominous 181 for nine.

Scoreboard pressure saw the Royals lose early wickets in the Power Play, but they were always in sight of the required run rate in their reply. Having seemingly timed their chase to perfection, the Royals needed six runs from the final over, but Gudakesh Motie held his nerve to seal a dramatic win for the Amazon Warriors.

Earlier, the Amazon Warriors had surprised everyone by opening with Motie and Saim Ayub and the experiment did not bear fruit as Motie fell for seven runs inside the opening nine balls.

Ayub and Hope laid a foundation following that dismissal to leave the Amazon Warriors handily placed



Players of the Guyana Amazon Warriors celebrate after beating the Barbados Royals in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Sunday, September 10, 2023. (CPL T20/CPL T20 via Getty Images)

on 83 for one at the half-way stage of the innings.

The 98-run partnership was eventually broken when Carlos Braithwaite dismissed Ayub caught and bowled for 57. Azam Khan fell shortly afterwards, but the Amazon Warriors continued to force the pace before Obed McCoy got Hope to chop on to his stumps for an even 50.

Late-over fielding penalties saw the Royals get punished, but Braithwaite continued to be a thorn in the Amazon Warriors side, dismissing Shimron Hetmyer, Romario Shepherd, and

Odean Smith in the 19th over before Jason Holder followed suit in the last over to remove Dwaine Pretorius and Keemo Paul.

The Amazon Warriors still posted an imposing total of 181 for nine that left the Royals an almighty task ahead.

While 182 to win was always likely to be a tall order, the Royals did not help their assignment by losing both their openers inside the Power Play. However, the Royals reached the six-over mark at 54 for two and ensured they had a base from which to mount a charge.

A 60-run partnership between Laurie Evans and Alick Athanaze was eventually bought to a close when Odean Smith got Evans to commit to a shot too early and Athanaze himself was to follow 12 balls later.

Just when it seemed the Royals were going to fall to defeat, Captain Rovman Powell blasted 39 from 19 balls to leave the Royals the equation of 31 runs needed from 19 balls.

Once Braithwaite and Justin Greaves had got the equation down to six off the final over, it looked a forgone conclusion, but the Warriors and Motie closed out a famous win.

Scores: Guyana Amazon Warriors 181-9 (Ayub 58, Hope 50; Braithwaite 4-27, McCoy 2-25) beat Barbados Royals 178-8 (Evans 44, Powell 39; Pretorius 2-24, Motie 2-38) by three runs.

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fore climbing into the stands to find her parents. "You did it!" Gauff's mom told her, both in tears.

In addition to her trophy, Gauff was handed an envelope with the champion's US\$3 million paycheck, the same amount as men's singles final winner.

This is the 50th anniversary of when the 1973 US Open became the first major sports event to pay women and men equal prize money; the person who led that effort, Hall of Fame player and rights advocate Billie Jean King, was on hand Saturday.

"Thank you, Billie," Gauff said, "for fighting for this."



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Sir Richie named among ICC Cricket World Cup match officials

Antigua and Barbuda's Sir Richie Richardson and Joel Wilson have been named among the match officials for the 13th edition of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup to be played in India.

Sir Richie, the former West Indies batting legend and match referee, will be among the match referees for the marquee global event. Wilson, a veteran of 85 One-Day Internationals and 36 Tests, is among the umpires chosen to stand in the middle.

The ICC made the announcements on Friday morning. The umpires are Chris Brown, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Chris Gaffaney, Michael Gough, Adrian Holdstock, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettle-

borough, Nitin Menon, Ahsan Raza, Paul Reiffel, Sharfuddoula Ibne Shaid, Rod Tucker, Alex Wharf, Joel Wilson, and Paul Wilson.

The Match Referees are Jeff Crowe, Andy Pycroft, Richie Richardson, and Javagal Srinath. The officials have been named for the entirety of the League segment, with the selections for the semi-finals and final of the tournament to be named in due course.

Srinath will take charge of the tournament opener between England and New Zealand in Ahmedabad on October 5. Menon and Dharmasena will be the standing umpires, with Paul Wilson as TV umpire and Saikat taking on fourth umpire duties.

Wasim Khan, ICC General Man-



ICC Match Referee Sir Richie Richardson. (cricinfo)

ager - Cricket, said, "To deliver an event of this magnitude you require high performing individuals at every level.

"The ICC Elite panel of umpires, referees, and emerging group of umpires involved will bring immense skills, experience and world class standards to this World Cup. We are delighted with the group that we have assembled for this tournament.

"The ICC Cricket Operations department takes great pride and effort in operating a robust and meritocratic selection procedure with the help of our Member Boards.

"Our competitive pathway system continues to see the development and emergence of high-quality match officials across the game. We are pleased that four members of the ICC Emerging Umpire Panel have earned the opportunity to be part of this showcase event and we wish them, and all the other match officials involved all the very best for the tournament."



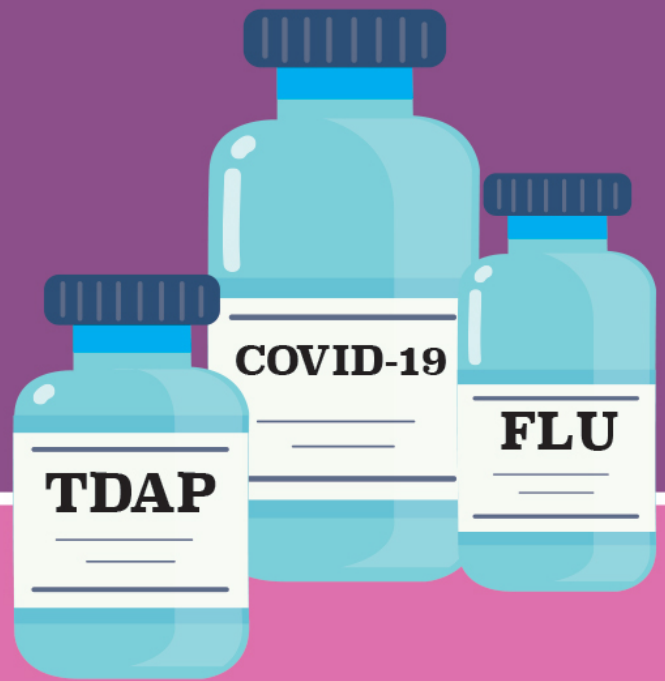
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The Flu Vaccine Pregnant women who get a flu shot are also helping to protect their babies from flu illness for the first several months after their birth, when they are too young to get vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccine protects against the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Your baby cannot get this vaccine until they're 6 months old.

With cold and flu season coming, there's no better time to protect yourself and your baby. You can even get your flu, COVID-19, and Tdap vaccines at the same time!

Make the right choice for your baby. As your trusted partner, support, and ally, ask your midwife or provider about vaccination at your next appointment.



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Rain ends GRCA hopes of reaching the final in BPL

Antigua and Barbuda's Grass Roots Cricket Academy (GRCA) missed out on reaching the final of the inaugural four-team Bermuda Premier League (BPL) after their last preliminary round robin match against the senior Bermuda national team ended in a no result due to rain at North Field on Saturday.

The Grass Roots Academy had posted 132 for one in their 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat first. But rain prevented Bermuda from batting and brought a premature end to the encounter.

As a result, each team earned a point, and Bermuda finished second behind Barbados in the group due to a superior net run rate than Grass Roots Cricket Academy.

Bermuda's captain, Delray Rawlins, felt his side had done a great job of limiting Grass Roots to their total.

"Ideally, you want to win the game, and we wanted to win it fair and square to be one point ahead,"



Antigua and Barbuda's Grass Roots Cricket Academy team. (File photo)

Rawlins said.

Kadeem Henry, the Grass Roots skipper, was not pleased at missing out on the final after he had scored an unbeaten 63 runs off 59 balls and shared an opening stand of 72 with Michael Haynes-Dover.

"To be honest, we're all very disappointed," Henry said. "Not to be on the negative side, but the effort from the ground staff to get the game to be played wasn't proper in my opinion. We all knew the rain was going to come, and the effort for

the game to be played was very lackadaisical.

"On that wicket, 130 was a good score because it wasn't quick. It was very slow, and the ball held a lot. Knowing that we have a spin attack and bowlers who use their variations very well to utilize the slow bounce, 130 would have been a challenging score.

"It was good to be here and to be a part of the tournament, but unfortunately, it ended in a way we didn't want it to. At the end of the day, what's done is done,

and it is time to move on. We will come back next year and see how things go."

In the morning match on Saturday, Barbados hammered the Bermuda Select XI by nine wickets to pick up their third win of the tournament. Asked to bat first, the select side could manage only 82 for seven in 20 overs, and Barbados chased down the target in just 8.1 overs.

The result left the Select XI at the bottom of the group after three heavy defeats.

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Rico in the lead in the 14th minute with a powerful header inside the box.

Joel Burgos then pounced on a contested ball inside the box in the 35th minute to extend the lead for the Puerto Ricans.

Rodolfo Sulia made it 4-1 right before the half with a header in the 42nd minute off a service from Wilfredo Ri-

vera.

Puerto Rico remained on the offensive in the second half, but Bahamas goalkeeper Vance Wheaton kept the scoreline intact with saves in the 72nd and 73rd minutes.

But Burgos collected his second goal of the night in the 86th minute with a laser strike from inside the penalty area. Diaz also earned a brace

with Puerto Rico's sixth goal in the 89th minute to conclude a potent offensive display.

League B has 16 national teams, which are divided into four groups of four teams. Each team will play every other team in their group, home and away, for six matches per team. The first and second-place finishers in each group will advance to the quarterfinals.

Guyana crush Benna Boys in CNL opener

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys made a disappointing start to their campaign in Group D of League B in the Concacaf Nations League (CNL) on Saturday.

Nineteen-year-old Chicago Fire Football Club forward Omari Glasgow scored a hat-trick as the Benna Boys were beaten 5-1 by Guyana at the ABFA's Technical Center in Paynters.

Glasgow accepted a gift, which was presented to him by Antigua's goalkeeper Zaire Scott, to open the scoring and give the visiting team from Guyana the lead in the 14th minute.

It was a moment of sheer madness from Scott, who delayed making the clearance from a back pass. The Antiguan goalkeeper decided to take on the advancing Glasgow and failed. The 19-year-old Guyanese stripped Scott and simply passed the ball into the back of an empty net.

The Guyanese must have felt Christmas had come early because they received another gift, this time from the penalty spot.

Antigua and Barbuda's Leroy Graham was called for a handball inside the box in the 27th minute, and a penalty was awarded to the Guyanese. Glasgow stepped up and converted in the 29th minute with a low strike just inside the left post.

Kelsey Benjamin picked up his first goal of the day in the 33rd minute to give Guyana a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Raheem Deterville scored a conso-



Nineteen-year-old Chicago Fire Football Club forward Omari Glasgow celebrates with 23-year-old Queens Park Rangers midfielder Stephen Duke McKenna after scoring one of his three goals for Guyana in their Concacaf Nations League Group D in League B encounter against Antigua and Barbuda at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday, September 9, 2023. (Concacaf Media)

lation goal for the Benna Boys in the 45th minute after intercepting a pass and driving the edge of the left endline to take his shot, which deflected off a defender into the back of the net.

But Guyana answered when Benjamin broke past the defense to complete his brace in the 62nd minute.

Glasgow completed his first hat-trick for the Guyana senior men's national team in the 87th minute to complete his team's scoring. The 19-year-old forward cut inside the box and finished with a curling effort into the right side of the net as Guyana ended their away trip to start their cam-

paign with three points.

Puerto Rico earned a 6-1 victory against the Bahamas at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium in Nassau, Bahamas, to move to the top of Group D on goal difference in what was their CNL League B debut after gaining promotion in the prior edition.

The Bahamas scored as early as the 2nd minute when Wood Julmis fired a rocket just outside the box to cap off a counter-attack by the Baha Boyz.

But Puerto Rico equalized in the 6th minute via a conversion by Gerald Díaz. Ricardo Rivera put Puerto

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