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GOV'T MOVES TO MAKE IT EASIER TO EXPUNGE MINOR CONVICTIONS

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CSA fleets start off the south coast of Antigua during the last edition of Antigua Sailing Week in 2019. *Story on Page 7* ©Paul Wyeth

Local News



Gov't moves to make it easier for minor convictions to be expunged

In moving the second and third reading of the Criminal Records Rehabilitation of Offenders Amendment Bill 2022 in Tuesday's meeting of the Parliament, Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin, underscored the importance of the legislation which will right an injustice faced by many people in the country.

Under the proposed legislation, persons who have criminal convictions for minor offences which mar their records will be able to apply to have their records expunged.

According to the Attorney General, his chambers witnesses a steady influx of people who seek intervention to clear their records when they find themselves unable to access opportunities because minor convictions are reflected on their police record.

"Many persons have been writing to the ministry asking for certain offences to be expunged from their records. Persons commit



Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin

little crimes like throwing missiles, insulting language, threatening language, and when they apply for a police record, that conviction remains on their records.

"So, when they go down to Barbados to get visas [they are denied], they can't go to school because they're on their records.

"Persons studying law, I had two young lawyers who want to study law, but because they had driving convictions - one of which was parking within 30 feet from the corner - no law school will take you except your record is completely and to-

tally clean.

"Why should we therefore, debar people like those from entering on their study programme? I think it is wrong," AG Benjamin insisted as he addressed the Lower House.

The Act provides for the establishment of a committee that will oversee applications from persons who wish to have their records expunged.

Originally, the legislation indicated that the committee was to be comprised of an attorney who has at least ten years' experience practicing law, the Com-

missioner of Police, or an individual nominated by the person occupying that position, the Labour Commissioner or their nominee, the Chief Welfare officer or their nominee and the Chief Probation Officer. However, the offices of Chief Welfare Officer and Chief Probation Officer no longer exist.

The government is now seeking to update the legislation to replace those defunct positions with the Director of Social Services, or their nominee and the Probation Service Manager.

With these important changes effected to reflect the current structure of the government, it will allow the committee to be convened and to function effectively as a number of requirements must be satisfied for an individual to qualify to have their record expunged.

These will include reports on their rehabilitation since the time of their conviction in the case of those persons who were placed on probation and their conduct as members of the community since the offence.

AG Benjamin argues that it is a matter of priority that the law be updated so that, based on merit, deserving individuals can free themselves from the weight of onerous minor convictions that continue to haunt them and prevent them being able to lead full and productive lives.

Thu 17 Day	Thu 17 Night
82°	74°
22% E 17 mph	24% ENE 17 mph
Mostly sunny skies. High 82F. Winds E at 15 to 25 mph.	A mostly clear sky. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.
Humidity 70%	Humidity 75%
UV Index Extreme	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:13 am	Moonrise 5:56 pm
Sunset 6:17 pm	Moonset 5:54 am
	Full Moon

Lower House approves 14-week maternity leave

The increase of maternity leave for women in Antigua and Barbuda is in accordance with Article 4 of the Maternity Protection Convention of the International Labour Organization, Labour Minister Steady Benjamin has explained.

Article 4 of the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No.183) details in part, "On production of a medical certificate or other appropriate certification, as determined by national law and practice,

stating the presumed date of childbirth, a woman to whom this Convention applies shall be entitled to a period of maternity leave of not less than 14 weeks."

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code Amendment Bill, 2022, passed in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, allowed for the adjustment.

"That is what we are doing here today [Monday] Sir, and as you know, except and unless we amend our laws to make it applicable here, we will still use

the same 12 weeks, which clearly speaking has been proven to be unsatisfactory," the labour minister said.

Minister Benjamin recalled that in the late 1990s, maternity leave was for a period of six weeks, which was then increased to 12 weeks.

He acknowledged there are some who are of the opinion that 14 weeks is still unsatisfactory, but the minister gave no indication of a further increase in maternity leave, stating the

adjustment is in line with what exists internationally.

"At least Mr. Speaker, that is the median period recommended, and Mr. Speaker, we think we ought to follow suit," Benjamin told the Lower House.

"This is a society where we think of humanity, where we are governed by international rules and conventions and laws, and our females who procreate...ought properly to be given the opportunity to have their bodies heal and healed properly."



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Local News

ABWU secures salary increase for SJCCU line staff

Line staff at the St John's Cooperative Credit Union will enjoy an 8% salary increase following the completion of negotiations between the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU) and management of the St. John's Cooperative Credit Union.

The salary increase is outlined in a new Collective Bargaining Agreement which will cover the period 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023. The agreement makes provisions for a lump sum payment in the first year, followed by a 5% salary increase in the second year and a 3% increase in the final year.

Another highlight of the agreement is the harmonisation of the company's retirement age with Social Security's pensionable age.



St. John's Cooperative Credit Union employees at the 2019 opening of the Friars Hill Road branch. [Photo: SJCCU]

The line staff will also have an early retirement option beginning at age 60.

Industrial Relations Officer at the ABWU, Fernando Samuel, expressed thanks to the management of the Credit Union for an "interesting round of negotiations". Samuel underscored the importance of maintaining vibrant communication.

"We had an impasse on

certain items but I'm happy that we were able to conclude on amicable grounds. Although these [negotiations] can be contentious matters, we believe that frequent dialogue minimizes friction, so we encourage more communication," Samuel said.

General Manager of the St. John's Cooperative Credit Union, Jennifer Whyte, described the ne-

gotiations as an "important process" that required a lot of forward planning and strategizing.

Whyte said she was pleased that both sides were able to arrive at an agreement that is beneficial to all the parties involved.

"As long as we have the best interest of the organisation and the employees at heart it's always a win-win. It's always a good end," Whyte stated.

Both parties, along with line staff representatives affixed their signatures to the new Collective Bargaining Agreement on 24 February 2022. The Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union also represents the Supervisory and Confidential employees at the Credit Union. These negotiations are nearing completion.

Hospitality partnership launched between Jersey and Antigua & Barbuda

The Governments of Jersey and Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday formalised a partnership designed to support the Islands' hospitality sectors.

The three-year partnership will provide opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudan hospitality industry staff to work in Jersey during the Island's peak summer season. This will provide career development opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudan hospitality professionals, as well as provide much-needed recruitment opportunities for Jersey companies.

A Memorandum of Understand-

ing (MoU) was signed by the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture, Senator Lyndon Farnham on behalf of Jersey, and Charles Fernandez, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Tourism and Investment.

Under the MoU, there will also be opportunities for educator and training exchanges between the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute and Jersey's Highlands College. This partnership aims to further support local careers in the hospitality sector.

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Senator Lyndon Farnham

No ban on poultry imports despite HPAI outbreak in US

The Veterinary and Livestock Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs says it has no reason, at this stage, to place restrictions on the importation of poultry products from the United States which is dealing with a bird flu outbreak.

Last month, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced "with the recent detections of the Eurasian H5 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds and domestic poultry in the United States, bird owners should review their biosecurity practices and stay vigilant to protect poultry and pet birds



from this disease".

Justifying its decision to continue allowing the importation of poultry from the US, Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Tubal Edwards said the US outbreaks of the virus, and that in other countries around the world, "have been under strict surveillance, quarantine and

substantial biosecurity measures, which thus far, have not given the Veterinary and Livestock Division the initiative to put any restrictions on all poultry products from the USA".

According to the USDA, HPAI is serious and requires quick response as it is highly contagious and deadly

to chickens. But for now, no import restrictions will be imposed by Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Edwards noted that if the HPAI outbreak becomes a cause for concern that requires the enforcement of measures to protect the public, stakeholders will be immediately advised.

cont'd from pg 4

The MoU is the culmination of joint work between the Government of Jersey's Economy and External Relations Department, local partners the Jersey Hospitality Association and the Chamber of Commerce, working alongside the High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda in London, the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association and the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute.

Senator Farnham said: "Our ambition is for this to be a long-term partnership which will provide employment and professional development opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda hospitality professionals during their low season and, at the same time, offer recruitment opportunities for Jersey companies."



Minister of Tourism and Investment, Charles Fernandez

Antigua and Barbuda's Tourism Minister Fernandez said, "We are excited to be signing onto this partnership that will create and support rewarding employment and training opportunities in such an important

economic sector for both Antigua and Barbuda, and Jersey. We are certainly encouraging those trained in hospitality to apply. This is a platform to show-off your work and demonstrate the quality of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism product."

On Wednesday an online portal was launched through which Jersey hotels, restaurants and other hospitality businesses will be able to advertise vacancies to Antigua and Barbuda staff.

On March 21, a webinar will be hosted by the Jersey Hospitality Association and the Chamber of Commerce, and Antigua and Barbuda partners, the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute and the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association to promote the opportunity.

Local News

Minister Dean Jonas attends 66th Commission on the Status of Women

Minister of Gender Affairs, Dean Jonas, is in New York at the United Nations participating in the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a global intergovernmental body.

The 14th to 25th March conference brings together government ministers, diplomats, civil society and gender advocates to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Since his arrival at the meeting, Minister Jonas delivered an address to his international colleagues in which he advocated for ac-



Minister of Gender Affairs, Dean Jonas at the UN.

tion to advance women's resilience and the prioritisation of climate change and disaster risk reduction.

He has also held bilateral discussions with his

Irish counterpart, Roderick O'Gorman, in which they considered how Ireland can assist Antigua and Barbuda financially and technically in advancing gender equality.

ty. Matters related to the advancement of Antigua and Barbuda's Blue Economy agenda, for which Minister Jonas also has portfolio responsibility, were also tabled during their talks.

While at the UN participating in the CSW, Minister Jonas will meet with CARICOM colleagues on matters related to gender affairs and will also address the general body of the CSW.

The minister is supported at the CSW by a delegation from the Directorate of Gender Affairs and diplomats from the permanent mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations.



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More than 900 entries so far for ASW 2022

Antigua Sailing Week is booming with ninety-two teams already chomping at the bit for action from 30th April to 6th May 2022.

Antigua Sailing Week is the longest running premier regatta in the Caribbean. The 53rd edition has already attracted teams from 18 nations around the world with over a thousand sailors expected to enjoy thrilling sailing in the spectacular waters of Antigua. The racing programme remains the same with the stand-alone Peters & May Round Antigua Race kicking off the schedule, followed by five days of racing, punctuated by mid-regatta Lay Day on Pigeon Point Beach.

Antigua Sailing Week has always enjoyed a big boat bonanza and this year's entry already has 17 boats over 50ft. The latest boat to sign up for the CSA Racing Division is the VO65 Ambersail II (LTU), skippered by Raimundas Daubaras.

Ambersail has competed many times at Antigua Sailing Week and was runner-up in CSA Racing 1 in 2019. The all-Lithuanian crew are looking to go one better this year. Strong competition will come from Seattle USA, Volvo 70 Ocean Breeze will be skippered by Antigua Sailing Week veteran Steve Travis with a team from the Corinthian Yacht Club. Nine Volvo Ocean racers are active in the Caribbean, more entries are expected for Antigua Sailing Week.

The Multihull entry is taking shape with Robert Szustkowski's HH66 R-SIX (POL) back to defend their CSA Multihull Racing title. R-SIX was undefeated in 2019 but this year strong competition will come from Gunboat 68 Tosca (USA), which has recorded a speed of 38 knots, when co-skippered by Ken Howery and Alex Thomson, in the RORC Transatlantic Race. From Bordeaux France, Pierre de Saint Vincent's Outremer 51 Piment Rouge is the first entry in CSA Multihull Cruising.



Winners of 2019 Club Class - JigSaw celebrate on stage at Final Prize giving
 ©Paul Wyeth

Six weeks before Antigua Sailing Week, the scratch sheet boasts a magnificent entry of Swan yachts from five nations. Swan 60 Lee Overlay Partners (IRL), skippered by Adrian Lee will be flying the RORC burgee and defending their class win in 2019. The highest rated entry is the Juan Kouyoumdjian designed, Swan 58 OMII (GBR), skippered by Shahid Hamid and will be flying the burgee of the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez.

Also competing will be Swan 51 Eira (FIN) skippered by Sebastian Gylling with a crew from the Nylandska Jaktklubben. Swan 651 Geronimo (NED) is skippered by Erik Veldhuizen with a team from the KNRZV in Muiden. Swan 601 Lorina (BEL) will be skippered by Hein D'Haene with a team from the YCF in Lummen.

Making their debut at Antigua Sailing Week will be FAST40+ Tschuss (USA), skippered by Johnny Mordaunt with a team from the NYYC and Royal Cork YC. Another first-timer is Jean Yves Thomas', Ice Yacht 52 Mahana (FRA) with crew hailing from Brittany & Marseille. Entries 40ft and over include Ross Applebey's Scarlet Oyster (GBR), defending their class win in 2019 with a team from the Guernsey Yacht Club. Pamala Baldwin's J/122 Liquid (ANT) was runner up to Scarlet Oyster and will be back for another

campaign, Liquid has been in fine form having twice won the CSA Traveler's Trophy.

Andy Middleton's First 47.7 EH01 was third in class for 2019 and also among the early entries for 2022. Lombard 46 Pata Negra (GBR), skippered by Jonathon Pudney with a team from the Itchenor SC is also back this year.

Sir Hugh Bailey won the Lord Nelson Trophy in 2016 and his Antiguan team will once again be flying their colours from Farr 45 Rebel.

Peter Corr's King 40 Blitz (USVI) will be racing with a team from St. Thomas and Chris Body's J/122 El Ocaso (GBR) is always well sailed. An international match race within their CSA Class is on the cards between two J/121s, Peter Lewis' Bajan team on Whistler (BAR) and Wings (GBR) skippered by Andrew McIrvine's Team Larry.

Antigua Sailing Week welcomes teams from all over the Caribbean. So far this year, six nations have answered the call with teams from Antigua, Barbados, St. Barths, St. Maarten, the British Virgin Islands, and the US Virgin Islands.

From Antigua, the pocket rocket in the CSA Racing Class is Bernie Evan-Wong's RP37 Taz (ANT). Antiguan resident, Sir Richard Matthews will be back racing his ST37 Holding Pattern (GBR), which was class runner up in 2019.

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AUA makes donation to RPFAB



From left: AUA's EMTC & Clinical Simulations Supervisor Jeremias Samuel, Inspector Frankie Thomas, AUA's Assoc. VP of Administration Marlon Destin and Assistant Superintendent Logan Joseph.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda were the recipients of an Automated External Defibrillator unit (AED) and an examination couch donated by the American University of Antigua (AUA) on Wednesday.

During the official handover at Police Headquarters, AUA's Marlon Destin,

Associate Vice President of Administration, expressed the hope that the equipment will enhance the police force's level of emergency medical preparedness.

Deputy Police Commissioner Everton Jeffers thanked AUA for the donation and gave the assurance that the equipment will be of enormous benefit to the

Force which in turn will positively impact the service provided to the public.

The examination couch was assembled and installed in the recently commissioned Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda Maple Southwell-Walter Medical Clinic.

The medical clinic is dedicated to Inspector Ma-

ple Southwell-Walter, the first female Inspector of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

In the past, AUA has donated other items to the police including thermometers, hand sanitisers, mold killer, an Air Defender disinfectant fogger, medical examination tables, AEDs and fire extinguishers.



AUA's Associate Vice President of Administration Marlon Destin hands over the AED to Deputy Commissioner Everton Jeffers.

Road blocked off as prank

For several hours last evening, drivers traversing Dickeson Bay Street were met with caution tape across a section of the road just outside Princess Margaret School.

Drivers were forced to use alternate routes to get to their destinations. The Police were summoned by two of POINTE FM's employees and they responded promptly and re-opened the road.

Turns out it was a prank by one or several young people who were on the nearby football field earlier in the afternoon.



Photo credit: Noah Simons & Kavi Roberts

Wither Our World

A Reflection by Shridath Ramphal

I am too old to be activist; but not too old to urge. And when the urging is about human existence – perhaps, the years impose a duty.

I reflect on two Prime Ministers of Sweden it was my privilege to know. Sweden itself is a country that has made the world a better place by being a part of it. It is not strange that my memory has this focus.

The first Prime Minister was Olof Palme. In 1982, he chaired the Independent International Commission on Disarmament and International Security Issues, whose membership included Cyrus Vance of the USA and Giorgi Arbatov of the USSR I was a member of the Commission. Our Report was called Common Security.- A Programme for Disarmament.

The other Prime Minister, years later, was Ingvar Carlsson. In 1995, he chaired the Commission on Global Governance. I was his Co-Chairman. Our Report was called Our GLOBAL Neighbourhood – a Report Nelson Mandela described as ‘a timely work deserving our full atten-



Sir Shridath Ramphal
tion’.

I recall Mandela’s counsel because the recommendations of both Commissions have never been more timely than now - when their collective import assumes, for human civilisation, existential significance.

I urge our endangered world to revisit these Reports, and I support that call by the following insights from them that continue to summon humanity. Their functional recommendations for action fulfilled these exhortations.

From Common Security:

Less than two generations after the carnage of the second World war, the world seems to be marching towards the brink of a new abyss, towards conflicts whose consequences would exceed experience and defy imagination. Having survived the tragedies of two global wars in this century, wars that touched virtually all nations, leaving tens of millions dead, hundreds of millions wounded or homeless, and a whole continent in shambles, mankind might have embraced new means of organising the international community, means that could prevent such catastrophes in the future....

It is long past the time for men and women to halt these trends. The dangers are far too great to be ignored. Decisive action must be taken now to halt and reverse the spiral of the arms race and the deterioration of political relations, and to reduce the risks of conventional and nuclear wars....

In the modern age, security cannot be obtained unilaterally. Economically,

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The largest Antiguan boat is Peter Anthony’s Farr 65 Spirit of Juno, third in class for 2019. Sand Mair’s Cricket with Anjo Insurances, Patrick Holloran’s Caipirinha, and Geoffrey Pidduck’s High Tide are all Antigua Sailing Week veterans.

A new class for this year is CSA Sportboat, which already has a fleet of six including 1720s and Melges 24s, which will be belting around specially designed courses.

Antiguan NSA Spirit will be skippered by Jules Mitchell, St. Barths, Melges

24 Boost’n sail will be skippered by Mowgli Fox and St. Maarten Melges 24 Team Island Water World will have Frits Bus on the tiller. Two Antiguan Melges 24s will be in the mix, Richard Archer’s Regardless and Ashley Rhodes Whiplash.

Antigua Sailing Week sponsor, Dream Yacht Charter is experiencing high demand for Bareboats. Thirty-five teams have already entered the CSA Bareboat Division with over half the teams coming from KH+P Yachtcharter based in Stuttgart Germany.

The Bareboats will all be based in Nelson’s Dockyard providing a wonderful party atmosphere after racing. Teams come from at least six different countries including, Brazil, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Switzerland, USA.

For teams looking to enjoy the shoreside fun as much as the on the water action, the CSA Jib and Main and Club Class are just the ticket.

“We are putting a massive effort into making the cruising classes cool again, it is the origin of Antigua Sailing Week,” commented Antigua

Sailing Week Race Manager Jaime Torres. “Our cruising classes are fun, easy to enter and inexpensive. These classes are made for people that want to get into racing without buying a race boat.”

Those who wish to be a part of the event, but may not be able to participate in the full five days of racing, can consider entry to the stand-alone Peters & May Round Antigua Race on 30th April. The one-day race provides an ideal way for yachts to extend their Caribbean racing season before they head back across the Atlantic.

Guest Opinion



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politically, culturally, and – most important – militarily, we live in an increasingly interdependent world. The security of one nation cannot be bought at the expense of others...Peace cannot be obtained through military confrontation. It must be sought through a tireless process of negotiation, rapprochement, and normalisation, with the goal of removing mutual suspicion and fear. We face common dangers and thus must also promote our security in common. [From Chapter 1. Common survival.]

From Our GLOBAL Neighbourhood:

Global governance, once viewed primarily as concerned with intergovernmental relationships, now involves not only governments and intergovernmental institutions but also non-governmental or-

ganisations (NGOs), citizens movements, trans-national corporations, academia, and the mass media. The emergence of a global civil society, with many movements reinforcing a sense of human solidarity, reflects a large increase in the capacity and will of people to take control of their own lives.

States remain primary actors but have to act with others. The United Nations must play a vital role, but it cannot do all the work. Global governance does not imply world government or world federalism.

Effective global governance calls for a new vision challenging people as well as governments to realise that there is no alternative to working together to create the kind of world they want for themselves and their children.

It requires a strong commitment to democracy grounded in civil society....

We believe that a global civic ethic to guide action within the global neighbourhood and leadership infused with that ethic are vital to the quality of global governance.

We call for a common commitment to core values that humanity could uphold: respect for life and liberty, justice and equity, mutual respect, caring, and integrity.

We further believe that humanity as a whole will be best served by recognition of a set of common rights and responsibilities....

Whatever the dimensions of global governance, however renewed and enlarged its machinery, whatever values give it content, the quality of global governance depends ultimately on leadership.... At the national, regional and

international levels, within communities and in international organisations, in governments and in non-governmental bodies, the world needs credible and sustained leadership.

It needs leadership that is proactive, not simply reactive, that is inspired, not simply functional, that looks to the longer term and future generations for whom the present is held in trust.

It needs leaders made strong by vision, sustained by ethics, and revealed by political courage that looks beyond the next election.

This cannot be leadership confined within domestic walls. It must reach beyond country, race, religion, culture, language, life-style. It must embrace a wider human constituency, be infused with a sense of caring for others, a sense of responsibility to the global neighbourhood. [From Chapter 7 – A Call to Action.]

The messages of these two international Commissions remain insistent as we compulsively ponder today the question –‘Wither our World’.

(Sir Shridath Ramphal is 93 years old. He is practicing International Lawyer before the International Court of Justice and formerly held the following posts: Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Chancellor of the Universities of Guyana, the West Indies, and Warwick (UK), member of the global commissions on development, disarmament, and environment; President of the UN Security Council.

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UPDATED SCHEDULE

Mammograms could be used to spot women at higher risk of developing heart disease, study claims

By John Ely

Breast cancer screening could be used to spot women at higher risk of developing heart disease, a study has suggested.

Mammograms can spot a build-up of calcium within the breasts, which can signal a stiffening of the arteries.

Experts at the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research claim its discovery — which shows up as a white area on X-rays — suggests that a woman has ‘poor heart health’.

Analysis of thousands of women showed those with breast arterial calcification, as it is known, are 51 per cent more likely to get heart disease.

Study author Dr Carlos Iribarren reporting the condition following a check-up could help women take early action to slash their risk of heart disease.

He said: ‘Currently, it is not the standard of care for breast arterial calcification visible on mammograms to be reported.

‘Some radiologists do include this information on their mammography reports — but it’s not required.’

Currently all women aged 50 to 71 registered with a GP get an invitation every three years for a mammogram. Similar guidelines exist in the US.

However, they are asked to attend more frequent appointments if they have a strong family history of breast cancer or a genetic risk.

The programme aims to pick up the cancer at the earliest stages — before lumps can be felt and when a cure is more likely.

Researchers analysed mammo-



gram results of 5,000 Californian women who had at least one mammogram screening between 2012 and 2015.

The authors then compared the results with the women’s health records six-and-a-half-years after their scans.

The findings were published in the journal *Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging*.

Commenting on the study, Dr Sadiya Khan, a cardiology expert from Northwestern University in Chicago, said identifying breast arterial calcification on scans may help medics encourage women to improve their heart health.

She said: ‘This type of calcification may suggest poor heart health.

‘Clinicians may be able to lever-

age this opportunity to discuss ways to optimise heart health, such as engaging in routine physical activity, high quality diet and maintaining a healthy weight.’

However, she added it was crucial to remember that the absence of breast arterial calcification did not mean women were at low risk of heart disease.

Women have historically suffered from poorer outcomes for heart attacks than men.

Research published in 2019 found women who suffer a heart attack are 50 per cent more likely than a man to receive an initial misdiagnosis.

Part of this gender disparity is thought to be linked to heart disease being considered a male issue.

Opinion

Media coverage of Ukraine shows it's time to rethink what we know about Africa

By Moky Makura

"It's very emotional for me because I see European people with blue eyes and blonde hair being killed." These were the words of Ukraine's Deputy Chief Prosecutor, David Sakvarelidze, during a recent BBC interview about the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

It wasn't so much what he said, it was more what was implied; that not all lives have equal value. And that idea -- the belief that some races are superior to others -- is a fundamental principle of racism. It's alarming to me that Sakvarelidze was left unchallenged during his interview.

As a Black, African woman without the benefit of blue eyes or blonde hair, it's been equally emotional to see the number of racist and ignorant comments in the coverage on Ukraine that have passed unchallenged by the interviewers and media platforms that have aired them. CBS, Al-jazeera, France's BFM TV and ITV have all reported the invasion in ways that illustrate deep bias, informed by a belief system that screams of an old-world, White-led, order.

ITV News correspondent Lucy Watson on ITV reporting back to the studio summed up the collective hypocrisy and underlying



Women from South Africa and Zambia, who were studying medicine in Kyiv, at Medyka border crossing in Poland. Many students from African countries fleeing Ukraine have been denied the right to cross to safety. Photograph: Alessio Mamo/The Guardian

narrative that the Ukrainian war has exposed when she said: "The unthinkable has happened...this is not a developing, third-world nation; this is Europe!"

According to the narrative she believes, "unthinkable things" happen only in "third world nations" (now an outdated and derogatory term, someone should tell her), and that narrative is perpetuated by the type of stories she and many like her, have heard about the continent.

In Africa, it's the stories of conflict in Ethiopia, insurgency in Mozambique, election violence in Uganda, and the recent coups in Mali, Chad, Guinea, Sudan, Burkina Faso and Guinea Bissau. But it's clear that far too many

are not paying attention to them because the people in these stories are not rich or from the Global North.

It's the reason why the 'unthinkable things' that happen in places like Africa are typically reported in terms of issues, numbers and trends -- rather than the people, the emotions and the lives destroyed.

In Africa, our stories tend to offer simplistic analysis that lacks context and nuance, and prioritizes headline-grabbing proclamations, like this one from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres about an "an epidemic of coup d'états" in response to the six coups in five out of 54 African countries over an 18-month period.

These examples have

shown us that global media is complicit in perpetuating racist narratives, by not encouraging diversity in its newsrooms and giving an unrestricted platform to reporters and influential spokespeople with implicit biases that are left unchallenged.

But rather than dwelling on this, I want to share some of the facts that should make us all rethink the traditional and stereotypical ways we dismiss non-White, non-rich countries and their people.

The traditional world order is undergoing a dramatic shift, driven by Covid-19, China, Russia, and movements like #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter.

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The new world order is providing an opportunity for the world to rethink the little they know about the rest of the world.

By 2050, Nigeria will overtake the United States as the world's third-most-populous country with a population of 400 million people. That's one reason enough to pay attention.

Africa's population is growing rapidly and experts predict it will account for half the world's people growth in the next two decades.

This means that more than a quarter of the world's population will be on just one continent -- Africa.

The thought that the world will be overrun by Africans (no blue eyes or blonde hair here) will be an uncomfortable idea for some people, especially if they are unaware of the roughly 125,000 millionaires, 6,200 multimillionaires, 275 centimillionaires, and 22 billionaires that exist on the continent today.

Indeed, a report by the University of Southern California in 2019, highlighted how poorly Africa is depicted in the US. It also revealed that Americans seldom see mentions of Africa or Africans on TV entertainment shows or in the news.

When they do, the portrayals are often negative and stereotyped. According to the report, most mentions of Africa (43%) appeared on national or local news and tended to be 'hard' news stories which often fed the stereotype.

After politics (32%), crime received the most mentions (16%), while business and the economy accounted for just 8% of news coverage.

Over 60 research papers, reports, books, academic journals that we analysed from the year 2000 written on Africa in the media told us that poverty, conflict, corruption, disease and

poor leadership were the five frames through which most stories are told about Africa.

This persistent portrayal of a single story is the reason why over the years, Africans have fought back with hashtags like #TheAfricaTheMediaNeverShowsYou and #SomeoneTellCNN over a 2015 CNN report describing Kenya as a "hotbed of terror," for which it later amended.

And organizations like Africa No Filter, which set out to shift stereotypical narratives about Africa, were created.

It's the reason why the Twitter-sphere erupted recently when journalist Alan Macleod put together his greatest hits of racist coverage of the Ukraine invasion -- thank you, Alan!

Contrary to what negative media portrayals might have you believe, Africa actually has some of the world's fastest-growing economies.

For example, to most of the world, Rwanda is synonymous with its 1994 genocide. But with an average GDP growth predicted of 6.7 between 2021-2025, it is in the top five of the fastest-growing economies alongside India.

Rwanda has been able to attract foreign direct investment and is one of the easiest places to do business in Africa (after Mauritius) according to a World Bank index. This means Rwanda and countries like Seychelles, Mauritius, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Kenya are worth considering as potential destinations for investment, not just development dollars.

Don't ignore the data that shows that there are more than 400 companies that earn annual revenues of \$1 billion or more in Africa, or that the second fastest-growing tourism market in the world is right here in Africa.

It's also unlikely that many in the Global North will know any of this because it doesn't fit the narrative

both have been fed about non-white, 'third world countries.'

The fastest-growing developer community and tech start-up ecosystem in the world is in Africa. Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania are ranked in the top 20 Global Crypto Adoption Index.

This means they have some of the highest grass-roots adoptions of cryptocurrencies in the world. In fact, Kenya has been ranked first in the world when it comes to peer-to-peer cryptocurrency transactions.

Given all this digital activity, it is hardly surprising that Africa is one of the fastest-growing markets in terms of venture capital activities and financial technology.

Africa is also regarded as the world's second-fastest-growing and profitable payments and banking market after Latin America, according to this McKinsey study.

The reality is that much of what is happening in Africa today is unexpected. For example, six countries; Namibia, Cape Verde, Ghana, South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Botswana have a higher Press Freedom Index rating than the USA, according to Reporters Without Borders.

But that doesn't fit the persistent image of a broken continent where nothing works, and where it's sad, dependent people lack agency to make a change.

The truth is there is new dynamic energy and entrepreneurial spirit on the continent which is a story that is largely untold, and it's evidenced by the low esteem with which those in the Global North hold us.

It's a story that is hidden because its heroes are neither White, nor do they hail from 'up there.'

But from the way the world is evolving, that's not going to matter much anymore. Everyone, including the media covering the Ukraine invasion, should pay attention.

Regional News



Over 100 Haitian migrants land in Florida Keys

About 150 Haitian migrants landed on the shores of the Summerland Key in Florida Monday morning, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

According to Adam Linhardt, Director of Media Relations Monroe Co. Sheriff's Office, the group travelled on a single vessel. They're now being investigated by CBP.

The news comes just one week after 356 Haitian migrants reached the coast of the Ocean Reef commu-



More than 100 Haitians who landed in the Florida Keys have been repatriated to their homeland.

nity in Key Largo, Florida.

A total 158 people swam to shore from the vessel,

which was roughly 200 me-

ters away from land. They were taken into CBP cus-

tody when they arrived and will be interviewed and pro-

cont'd on pg 15

9:00am-10:30am

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No devaluation of Trinidad and Tobago dollar coming

Trinidad Xpress - Finance Minister Colm Imbert slammed Opposition Senator Wade Mark for trying to scare the population into believing the Trinidad and Tobago dollar would be devalued.

He did so while responding to a question from Mark in the Senate on Tuesday, about a recent International Monetary Fund Article IV consultation on TT, which said the country's real effective exchange rate was overvalued by 20.4 per cent.

Mark asked whether TT's real effective exchange rate was overvalued by 20.4 per cent and what action, if any, would be taken to address this.

Imbert countered that Mark's question gave the population an insight into what the UNC could do if it returns to office.

"It is obvious that the



Trinidad & Tobago's Finance Minister Colm Imbert

UNC, if ever they get into government, in and around the year 2040 – 2050, I'm sorry – might want to devalue the currency. That's obvious."

Imbert said it was also obvious that Mark had not

read the entire IMF report.

"If he read on page 37 of the Article IV consultation, between TT and the IMF, which is an obligation of all member countries who are members of the IMF, you will see this statement,

'monetary and exchange policy, page 37.'

Imbert quoted the statement.

"The authorities prefer to maintain the status quo in the exchange-rate regime."

He opined that Mark had not read and understood what this statement meant.

"We intend to maintain the status quo with respect to our exchange-rate regime. We do not intend to devalue the currency. There is absolutely no reason to do so."

Imbert told senators there are no situations which could lead to a currency crisis. He identified some of them as "balance-of-payment problems, deficit in our current account."

Imbert also said TT had adequate foreign reserves.

"I would ask Senator Mark to stop trying to scare people with this kind of nonsense."

cont'd from pg 14

cessed for removal proceedings, according to CBP.

"We are fortunate to report that there were no serious injuries or fatalities associated with this smuggling venture," said Walter N. Slosar, Chief Patrol Agent, U.S. Border Patrol, Miami Sector, in a press release. "The criminal organizations that overload these vessels sacrifice the safety of the migrants for the sake of profits."

A remaining 198 people stayed on the boat and were stopped by the U.S.

Coast Guard and transferred to the agency's boats. They have since been repatriated to Haiti.

In January, a "human-smuggling" boat carrying 40 people capsized in the Straits of Florida. Thirty-four people remained unaccounted for in the incident, according to officials.

Five bodies were recovered, and one person was found alive, clinging to the hull of the boat.

"The Coast Guard maintains a persistent presence patrolling the waters around Haiti, the Dominican Repub-

lic, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas, to help prevent loss of life on the high seas," said Lt. David Steele, Coast Guard liaison officer to the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, at the time. "These grossly overloaded vessels operate without proper safety equipment and are not built for these hazardous voyages."

Many Haitian refugees have left their country due to the devastating impacts of natural disasters and political instability that have resulted in economic struggles in the country.

Barbados doubles tax on sweet drinks

The Barbados government's decision to double the tax on sweetened beverages is getting thumbs up from local, regional and international healthy lifestyle advocates and activists who say it is an example other countries should follow.

In her presentation of the 2022 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals in the House of Assembly on Monday evening, Prime Minister Mia Mottley announced that effective April 1, the Excise Tax on sweetened drinks will be increased from 10 to 20 per cent. She said she was also hoping to work with stakeholders to further identify items with high salt content to impose a similar tariff by October.

The Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, an affiliate of the Heart and Stroke Foundation, said on Tuesday that the move was long overdue.

"It is very encouraging. This is something which the Heart and Stroke Foundation and our Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition have been seeking for a long time, to influence the Government to do this," Lead Policy Champion of the Coalition and Medical Director of Youth Health at the Foundation, Professor Anne St John told Barbados TODAY.



Professor Anne St. John

She said scientific evidence has shown that an increase in taxes on sugar-sweetened drinks has had positive outcomes.

For example, the well-respected paediatric consultant cited the United Kingdom's soft drinks industry levy (SDIL), a two-tiered tax slapped on soft drinks manufacturers from April 2018 to encourage them to reduce sugar content in their products.

A study revealed that consumption dropped by some 10 per cent one year after the tax was implemented compared to two years before.

"We also had a local researcher here who presented at the CARICOM [Carib-

bean Community] conference a few years ago – this is from the George Alleyne [Chronic Disease Research] Centre – to show that there was a decreased consumption of the sugar-sweetened beverages as well. There is a direct correlation between the consumption of a high sugar diet and NCDs [non-communicable diseases] developing in the population long-term. So, we are quite encouraged," Professor St John stated.

She, therefore, expects a fall in the consumption of sugar beverages resulting from the new tax, although she believes a harsher tax would have been more effective.

"A higher increase is

likely to be a lot more effective by evidence that has come out in other countries, but not wishing to be unfair to people at these times of economic difficulties, extremely difficult times, we are contented that it has increased," she reasoned.

President of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) Sir Trevor Hassell, welcoming the tax increase, said the Barbadian leader's move should be an example for other regional leaders.

"I hope that policymakers in the Caribbean will follow the lead of Prime Minister Mia Mottley," he said.

The tax seeks to discourage the consumption of sugary sweetened beverages thereby reducing the likelihood of obesity and the subsequent development of NCDs in Barbados, he said.

Pointing out that a 20 per cent tax on sugar-sweetened beverages has been strongly recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a public health measure, Sir Trevor said this has been supported for many years by the Barbados National NCD Commission, the Healthy Caribbean Coalition, the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and several other local health and non-health NGOs.

Sri Lankan protesters demand president quit over economic crisis

AlJazeera - Anti-government protests have roiled Sri Lanka's capital amid demands that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resign, as the country suffers its worst economic crisis in decades.

Tens of thousands of people gathered outside the president's office in Colombo on Tuesday, led by supporters of the opposition party, the United People's Force.

Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa addressed the demonstration, declaring it marked the beginning of a campaign to remove the government.

"You have been suffering now for two years. Can you suffer further?" he told the large crowd carrying signs and anti-government

banners.

Premadasa described the sitting government as "evil" and blamed it for many of the country's economic woes.

Demonstrators accused the government of mis-managing the economy and creating a foreign exchange crisis that has led to shortages of essentials like fuel, cooking gas, milk powder and medicine.

Sri Lanka is struggling to pay for imports as its foreign reserves are at an all-time low.

Fuel shortages have curbed transportation within the country, including of essential supplies, and have led to hours-long daily power cuts.

In the face of the fiscal



A man shouts against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa as people block the main road in front of the Presidential Secretariat during a protest in Colombo [Dinuka Liyanawatte/Reuters]

crisis, Sri Lanka's central bank floated the national currency last week, resulting in its devaluation by 36 percent and a further sharp rise in prices.

Authorities have expanded banned imports to include some fruits and

milk products, alongside the existing ban on imports of cars, floor tiles and other products, to staunch the outflow of foreign currency.

Sri Lanka's fiscal crisis is partly driven by outstanding foreign debts of some \$7bn.

March 2022

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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ACP Cruise Ship Weekly Calender

(March 14-20)

ETA Date	ETA Time	ETD Date	ETD Time	Type	Vessel Name	100% Capacity	Brand	Assigned Berth	Status
14 March 2022	7:00AM	14-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Azura	3,100	P&O Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
14 March 2022	8:00AM	14-Mar-22	7:00PM	Transit	Seven Seas Navigator	557	Regent Seven Seas	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
14 March 2022	8:00Am	14-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Riviera	1,258	Oceania Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
15 March 2022	7:00AM	15-Mar-22	7:00PM	Transit	Norwegian Gem	2,873	Norwegian Cruise Line	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
15 March 2022	7:00AM	15-Mar-22	7:00PM	Transit	Costa Deliziosa	3,000	Costa	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
15 March 2022	8:00AM	15-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	AIDAprera	3,250	AIDA	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
16 March 2022	7:00AM	16-Mar-22	6:00PM	Transit	Grandeur of the seas	1,950	RCI	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
16 March 2022	8:00AM	16-Mar-22	5:00Pm	Transit	Silver Spirit	540	Silversea Cruises	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
16 March 2022	8:00Am	16-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Spirit Of Adventure	999	Saga Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
17 March 2022	7:30AM	17-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Viking Sea	930	Viking Ocean Cruises	Heritage Quay	Confirmed
17 March 2022	8:00AM	17-Mar-22	11:00PM	Transit	Seabourn Odyssey	450	Seabourn Cruise Line	Nevis Pier	Confirmed
18 March 2022	8:00Am	18-Mar-22	5:00PM	Transit	Star Legend	343	Windstar Cruises	Falmouth	Confirmed

T/A: Turnaround or Homeport

*Kindly note that this is the capacity of the ship, occupancy may vary

*Assigned berth is subject to change



Another journalist shot dead in Mexico, eighth so far this year

AlJazeera - A journalist has been shot dead in western Mexico, becoming the eighth killed so far this year in an unprecedented spate of killings that has raised fears about the safety of journalists in the country.

Armando Linares, director of Monitor Michoacan, was shot dead at a house in the city of Zitacuaro in the state of Michoacan, the state attorney general's office said on Tuesday.

Linares' killing came six weeks after the slaying of a colleague, Roberto Toledo, from the same outlet Monitor Michoacan. It was Linares who announced Toledo's death on January 31 in a video posted to social media.

Michoacan has long been convulsed by turf wars between powerful gangs battling for control of the market for illicit drugs.

There was no immediate information on a possible motive in the killing.

At the time of Toledo's death, Linares told The Associated Press he had received several death threats after enrolling in a government journalist protection programme.

Asked who he thought was behind the threats, Linares said "they pass themselves off as an armed group, they pass themselves off as a criminal gang. We can't verify whether it is



Reporters and photographers have been murdered this year in Mexico at the rate of almost one a week, despite claims from the government that the situation is under control [File: Eduardo Verdugo/AP Photo]

true or not that they are this armed gang."

Criminals in Mexico often claim they are part of a drug cartel to instil fear in their victims, whether or not they really are.

"We have organised crime, just like in the rest of the country, and Monitor worked on a lot of issues like illegal logging, given that we are near the monarch reserve," Linares said in early February. "We wrote a lot about illegal logging and also a lot of issues like corruption in the municipal government."

Drug cartels

Drug cartels in Mexico

often make money by protecting illegal logging or extorting protection payments from avocado growers.

"The nightmare continues for the press in Mexico," the press group Reporters Without Borders wrote in its social media accounts.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has reacted angrily to worldwide criticism of the killings.

In February, Lopez Obrador said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was misinformed, after Blinken wrote "I join those calling

for greater accountability and protections for Mexican journalists."

Lopez Obrador claims the government is investigating all of the killings and suggested Blinken received bad information from other US agencies, mentioning the CIA, FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration.

"They're tricking him," he said. "We don't tolerate the impunity of anyone."

And last week, Lopez Obrador issued an irate response to European Parliament criticism of the journalist killings, accusing the Europeans of having a "colonialist mentality."

Ukraine war upended China's plan to invade Taiwan, alleged FSB whistle blower says

FOX - Russia's invasion of Ukraine upended Chinese President Xi Jinping's timetable to invade Taiwan, according to documents purportedly written by a Russian intelligence analyst in one of Moscow's security agencies.

"Xi Jinping was at least considering taking over Taiwan in the fall - he needs his own little victory to get re-elected for a third term - there the struggle within the elite is colossal," an agent in Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor agency to the KGB, allegedly wrote on March 9. China will hold its 20th Communist Party Congress this fall, and Xi has said it will be a "major event." Analysts have predicted that Xi will either be re-elected as the general secretary of the Communist Party or be elected to the chairmanship of the party, a position that has not existed since 1982.

"Now, after the Ukrainian events, this window of opportunity has been closed to him, which gives the United States the opportunity to both blackmail Xi and negotiate with its competitors on favourable terms," the FSB agent added.

"It was in this case that we launched a trap mechanism for China with our actions."

The agent added that the FSB is "seriously considering" claiming that "the battle on Ukrainian territory is a US war against China, in which the Americans simply set us up and used us."

"The global clash between the US and China was inevitable," the agent wrote. "After the war with Ukraine (although I may avoid using the term 'operation' here), the cost of resources in the world, especially energy ones, has gone up. The main victim of such actions becomes China, to which



Hong Kong students and Taiwanese supporters hold slogans during a march in Taipei, Taiwan, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019. (AP Photo/Chiang Ying-ying)

(I can confirm) were given guarantees that everything will end quickly. Therefore, China behaved tolerant in the past. But that was before that."

"China may well give us a tough ultimatum to end the war to stabilize oil prices," the agent predicted. "If this happens, I don't want to predict anything - it's just on the horizon of disaster events."

Vladimir Osechkin, founder of the Gulagu.net human rights group, published the report on his Facebook page last week. He claimed that the same FSB agent wrote this document, and the March 5 report that claimed a Russian victory in Ukraine, had become a near impossibility.

Christo Grozev, who works for the Netherlands-based investigative journalism group Bellingcat, tweeted that he showed the March 5 letter to two FSB contacts, one current and one former employee. They had no doubt that the author was a colleague, he said.

As Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, nine Chinese aircraft entered Taiwan's air defence zone, prompting

a broadcast warning from the island nation.

As Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, nine Chinese aircraft entered Taiwan's air defence zone, prompting a broadcast warning from the island nation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin considers Ukraine a part of historic Russia, and Xi considers Taiwan a part of China. Yet, as the FSB agent suggested, this very similarity may provide reasons for China to rethink a potential invasion of Taiwan. The Ukrainian people's resolve against Russia has reportedly stalled the Kremlin's timeline for the war, and peace talks are ongoing.

In October, Biden said the U.S. would defend Taiwan if China attacks. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson responded by saying, "No one should underestimate the strong resolve, determination and capability of the Chinese people to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity. China has no room for compromise."



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Joe Root cracks another Test century

Two Tests into the red-ball reset. Two Test centuries for the one man in England's ranks who really didn't require the Ctl-Alt-Del treatment.

By the time the shadows had begun to creep at a rowdy Kensington Oval - a venue more packed with England fans than his own stomping ground of Headingley may end up being this summer - Joe Root had marched imperiously along to his 25th Test hundred, and his eighth in 19 Tests since the start of 2021.

In six hours of ever-mounting authority, Root reaped what he himself had sown - in partnership with, first, the doughty Alex Lees, then the more free-spirited Dan Lawrence - as a morning session of 47 grimly-conceded runs gave way to returns of 89 in the afternoon and 108 in the evening, during which Lawrence's 91 from 150 balls, the highest score of his young career, reinforced the can-do attitude that he had displayed in his declaration slog in Antigua last week.

Alas for Lawrence, his innings would end in agonising anti-climax, from what would have been the penultimate ball of the day.

He had reined himself in for much of the final hour, surviving in the process a spill at slip off the persever-



Joe Root celebrates his 25th Test century. (Photo credit: Getty Images)

ing Jayden Seales on 72. But then, with his blood pumping after racing into the 90s with back-to-back boundaries, Jason Holder lured him on the drive once more, and Lawrence stalked off cursing himself after picking out extra cover.

Like Zak Crawley in the first Test, he may reflect that

opportunities for Test centuries don't come much better than this, least of all when you are privileged enough to share in a 164-run partnership with an acknowledged modern master of the game.

For there aren't many measures left by which to assess the zone that Root has entered into in the past 14

months.

By the time he left the field with 119 from 246 balls to his name, Root had racked up 2018 runs since the start of 2021.

England play more Tests than most opponents of course - and that can be a curse as much as a blessing when it comes to managing burn-out - but of his contemporaries, only Rishabh Pant (1077) and Dimuth Karunaratne (1068) have even crossed even the 1000-mark.

Until the relative fireworks of the evening session, England's most dramatic developments arguably took place off the field, with the news that Yorkshire's Matt Fisher had been drafted in for a last-minute debut, after Craig Overton had fallen ill overnight.

With Saqib Mahmood already inked in for his own debut, England are fielding two debutant fast bowlers for the first time since the Lord's Test of 2009, also against West Indies, when Graham Onions and Tim Bresnan made their bow.

On this early evidence, the new pair will not be expecting quite the same assistance from the conditions that their forebears enjoyed.

England 244 for 3 (Root 119*, Lawrence 91) vs West Indies

Sports News



The men's Hundred draft delayed to avoid clash with Shane Warne's funeral

BBC – The draft for the men's Hundred and announcement of new women's signings has been pushed back a week to avoid clashing with Shane Warne's state funeral.

The new date will be 5 April as Warne's funeral will take place on 30 March, when the draft was initially scheduled.

Warne was head coach of London Spirit's men's side for the inaugural competition last season.



Shane Warne in discussion with Eoin Morgan in August 2021

The former Australian bowler died in Thailand, aged 52, on 4 March.

“Shane was a much loved part of The Hundred and played an important role

in launching the competition as head coach of London Spirit's men's team,” a statement read.

“He will be hugely missed by everyone involved in the competition.”

The second season of the 100-ball tournament begins on 3 August with defending men's champions Southern Brave hosting Welsh Fire.

Warne's former side Spirit will get the first pick in the men's draft after finishing bottom in 2021.

Chicago Cubs owners and consortium featuring Lord Coe intend to bid for Chelsea

BBC - The Ricketts family, who own Major League Baseball team the Chicago Cubs, and a consortium featuring Lord Coe, both intend to make a bid for Chelsea by Friday's deadline.

The Ricketts said they are leading a bid from a group of investors.

London Olympics chief Coe has joined ex-Liverpool chairman Sir Martin Broughton's bid.

Roman Abramovich's attempt to sell the club has been halted after he was sanctioned by the UK government.

That move came in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Abramovich understood to have strong ties to Russian president Vladimir Putin.

BBC Sport understands the Ricketts group bid also includes US hedge fund entrepreneur Ken Griffin.

A statement on Wednesday from the Ricketts, who have had a majority interest in the Cubs since 2009, said they would share further details “in due course”.



Thomas Ricketts is chairman of the Chicago Cubs

“The Ricketts Family, owners of the Chicago Cubs, can confirm they will be leading an investment group that will make a formal bid for Chelsea this Friday,” the statement read.

“As long-time operators of an iconic professional sports team, the Ricketts Family and their partners understand the importance of investing for success on the pitch, while respecting the traditions of the club, the fans

and the community.”

The bid is described as “very serious” by one insider, with the family understood to have already done due diligence when they previously enquired about buying the club in 2018.

Broughton, who announced his intention to buy Chelsea over the weekend, told the BBC “I am absolutely delighted to welcome Lord Coe to our

cont'd on pg 23

RSPCA start process of prosecuting Kurt Zouma and brother Yoan over cat video

BBC – The RSPCA says it has started prosecution proceedings against Kurt Zouma and brother Yoan for their roles in filming Kurt kicking a cat.

Dagenham & Redbridge's Yoan, 23, filmed 27-year-old Kurt kicking and slapping one of his pets.

After the video appeared, the RSPCA removed two cats from Kurt's home and began liaising with Essex Police about the incident.

Kurt continued to play for West Ham despite the controversy.

An RSPCA spokesperson said: "Following a full and thorough investigation, we have started the process of bringing a prosecution against Kurt Zouma and Yoan Zouma under the Animal Welfare Act.

"The two cats continue to be cared for by the RSPCA. We will be in a position to release more information once a court date is confirmed."

West Ham said they



Kurt Zouma plays for Premier League side West Ham while Yoan Zouma is at National League side Dagenham & Redbridge

were "aware of the RSPCA statement in relation to its investigation".

The club added: "Kurt continues to co-operate fully, supported by the club. It is our understanding that Kurt's cats have been checked by a vet, are in good health and have suffered no physical injuries.

"For legal reasons, neither Kurt or the club will be making any further com-

ment at this time."

Following the incident, West Ham said they had fined the elder brother "the maximum amount possible" and the fee would be donated to animal welfare charities.

However, Hammers sponsor Experience Kissimmee said it would end its deal with the club and another sponsor, Vitality, suspended its deal with the

club.

German sportswear firm Adidas also announced it had ended its deal with Kurt.

National League club Dagenham & Redbridge suspended Yoan and he has only recently returned to the squad.

A club statement said "any further suspension from the team would be detrimental to both the club and Yoan".

cont'd from pg 22

bid. His reputation speaks for itself, and he will bring phenomenal insight, leadership, and sporting knowledge to Chelsea Football Club."

His group is expected to submit a bid in the next 48 hours.

Coe said he was "certain that Sir Martin is the right man to lead Chelsea Football Club into its next chapter" citing his "exceptional track record in British business".

Coe added "most importantly, like me, he is a lifelong Chelsea supporter and Shed End season ticket holder. I know that this bid is for the millions of Chelsea fans around the world. We love our club and will always put the fans first".

Broughton, 74, is a former British Airways chairman and now chairs private investment firm Sports Investment Partners.

He was briefly Liverpool chairman

in 2010.

Those close to the consortium declined to tell BBC Sport who was financing the bid or who else was involved.

Coe would take a seat on the Chelsea board if Broughton's bid is successful, according to the PA news agency.

More than 20 credible parties are interested in buying the Premier League club.

Sports News



Jeff Jacobs calls for jockeys to be given life insurance coverage

Recently retired Antiguan jockey Jeff Jacobs is hoping that insurance companies change their policies so that jockeys can acquire life insurance.

Sustaining major injuries, and even death, is a real possibility for jockeys.

The legendary Antiguan jockey who on 8th March announced his retirement from competitive horse racing after 41 years, said he was unable to get a life insurance policy in Antigua and Barbuda during his time in the saddle.

“You can get medical insurance, but you cannot get a life insurance policy as a jockey. The insurance will go as far as to allow you to get medical insurance, but once you tell them you are a jockey, they will not allow you to take out a life insurance policy,” Jacobs said.

“We have tried to work on that here in Antigua as a jockey club, but we could not get a life insurance policy because the insurers said riding a horse as a jockey is too risky. The jockeys’ club tried, but it did not happen. I don’t think any of the insurance companies wanted to take the risk, and those who considered taking the risks were offering premiums so high none of the jockeys could afford to take it. But I had medical insurance.

“But something has to be done because we are looking to take the sport of horse rac-



Legendary Antiguan jockey, Jeff Jacobs, second right, competes in a horse racing meet at the Cassada Gardens Race Track in May 2014. (Photo: Jeff Jacobs)

ing to the next level. I think that needs to be done and it will be done because we have to find a way to make it happen.”

Jacobs, who competed in Antigua and Barbuda and Nevis during most of his career, said he suffered several injuries and credited God’s grace for his longevity in the sport.

“One time I went to Nevis - and they have a dangerous track - I was galloping around a corner and two horses broke their legs with me on board. Those horses went down, but I didn’t. I did not [fall] off. I stayed on until they went down and then I came off. That’s the grace of God,” he said.

“When horses break their legs - and I have had many instances with horses breaking a leg - when that happens,

I would stay on board until they slowed down, almost to a stop, then I would dismount.

“So, it’s the grace of God that kept me. We train every day, I practice hard and I developed a lot of skill sets over the years, but you still need God’s grace to protect you.

The last fall I got riding *Strategic Manoeuvre*, it was only due to God’s grace that saved me. That could have gone either way. God has to be with you to protect you from a fall like that.

“God has a plan for all of us and God has been with me for 41 years and I am so grateful that he allowed me to come out of it with only a few broken bones because I know it could have been a lot worse.”

Jacobs said horse racing has been well supported by the medical community and

noted that an ambulance and a medical doctor are always on site during meets at Cassada Gardens.

“Yes horse racing is a high-risk sport. It is the only sport in the world that an ambulance is supposed to be driving behind the competitors, the athletes, and that’s horse racing.

“If you watch horse racing in the United States, you would see the ambulance following the horses on the outside of the track. That is to treat any of the jockeys if they fell down or anything. The ambulance would take up the injured and take care of them,” he said.

“In Antigua we have an ambulance right outside our track. Our track is not so wide as in the US, but an ambulance is always there whenever we have horse racing at Cassada Gardens in case we have any accidents.

“Over the years we also had Dr. Cuthwin Lake and now we have Dr. Dwayne ‘Babba’ Thwaites available to us, so we always have a doctor right there to take care of the jockeys in case of any such incidents.”

Jacobs announced his retirement during the celebration of his 55th birthday.

He says he will now devote his time to training young jockeys and contribute to the development of horse racing in Antigua and Barbuda.

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"The second point I want to make is that second guessing is very easy, but with leadership, you can rest assured that proper decisions are made and benefits will be derived.

"We are not going to be a part of anything where there are no benefits to the people of Antigua and Barbuda and the country in general. So hosting Cricket West Indies in Antigua and Barbuda gave us the opportunity to show and to demonstrate our belief in the product, our belief in ourselves and the role that sports can play, even in the pandemic period, in stabilising communities, in this instance, the Caribbean civilization, because these matches hosted in Antigua over the last two years were certainly hosted in Antigua and Barbuda, but for the benefit of the region and the development and advancement of regional cricket."

Greene said the investments in cricket were also geared toward ensuring that an embarrassing event that occurred on February 13, 2009, when the second Test between West Indies and England was abandoned after 10 balls because of the state of the outfield at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, would never be repeated.

"If I may go back, 2014 we came into office I was then appointed by Prime Minister Browne as a minister with responsibility for sports and given a direct assignment to ensure that what happened in Antigua a few

years before with the shortest played Test match never happened again in Antigua's history and that we go back to find winning formulas, to include the selection of Antiguan in the West Indies team," Greene said.

"If you look from that assignment given to me by Prime Minister Browne, through to my successor, Minister Daryll Matthew, you can see that it is a philosophical position and it is a national interest position which has not been deviated from in any way, shape or form.

"We have used cricket and the love for cricket in Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean to hold things together in the COVID-19 pandemic period to bring direct financial economic benefits to the country and to the people.

"It shows that if we can do that much during a pandemic period, what more we can do when we go past this period. So, what we've done is to really build capacity where there is a stronger platform for sports and sports tourism."

Greene said Antigua and Barbuda's successful staging of the First Apex Test between the West Indies and England from 8th to 12th March at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium, which was witnessed by several thousand of tourists who had travelled to the island, is testimony of his government's good leadership and policy decisions.

"The match that ended

at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on the weekend Saturday was a clear indication of what we can do when we operate under theegis of good leadership, of solid decisions and good policy positions," Greene said.

"We are the better for having invested in the Sticky Wicket property with Cricket West Indies, we are the better for having kept a cadre of workers at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium throughout the pandemic. As a matter of fact, we increased the number of workers at the stadium because we saw in cricket an opportunity to help to hold the economy together in a very difficult period.

"Our tourism numbers

were down in terms of hotel stays and cruise ship arrivals and all that, but we saw a niche arrangement in sports, and in particular too, in cricket and we held on to it.

"So let me commend the prime minister for his vision when he gave me that first assignment in 2014, commend my colleague minister, Daryll Matthew, who continues to lead with that vision, and again thank the people of Antigua and Barbuda for buying into this overall vision of creating niche markets, niche opportunities during the pandemic [and] building capacity amongst our people, because when other countries were locking down and closing their borders, we opened ours."



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Minister Greene says government's investments in cricket paid dividends during pandemic

Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration, E. P. Chet Greene, has said Antigua and Barbuda is now reaping the benefits of the government's major investments in cricket over the last eight years.

The government has made significant investments in the maintenance of the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium, which was officially opened in 2007, to accommodate the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Limited Overs World Cup matches in the West Indies.

More investments in cricket were forthcoming when a resolution was passed in the Lower House of Parliament on 16th November, 2017 that allowed the government of Antigua and Barbuda to partner with Cricket West Indies (CWI) to acquire the Stanford Cricket Grounds and surrounding properties for US\$7.5 million.

While cricket and other sports were curtailed by the pandemic between March 2020 and February 2021, the importance of the

government's investments came to the fore during that period when many other countries were still implementing stringent lockdown measures, including border closures, to reduce the transmission of the coronavirus.

Unlike many other countries, including those in the Caribbean, the government of Antigua and Barbuda took a bold step when it reopened its borders to international traffic on 1st June, 2020.

This paved the way for the Cricket West Indies to utilise the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium and the Coolidge Cricket Grounds for events.

Using both venues, CWI was able to host 63 regional and international matches in Antigua and Barbuda between 7th February, 2021 and 12th March, 2022.

During that period, 30 matches were hosted at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Grounds while 33 matches were played at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds which has since become the headquarters of CWI and its training facility.

Speaking on Pointe On



Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration E. P. Chet Greene (Photo: ABAA)

De Streets on Pointe FM, Minister Greene said the benefits now being derived from the government's cricket investments are a testimony to the leadership of Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

"First, I want to express thanks and appreciation to the people of Antigua and Barbuda for buying into the government's vision of opening our borders, building capacity to deal with

COVID-19. Today we see the results. It has paid great dividends for our country," Greene said.

"The Antiguan spirit is one to take on challenges. The Antiguan spirit, as epitomized through the leadership of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, is one that though small, we are prepared to punch above our weight like we have done for so many years.

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