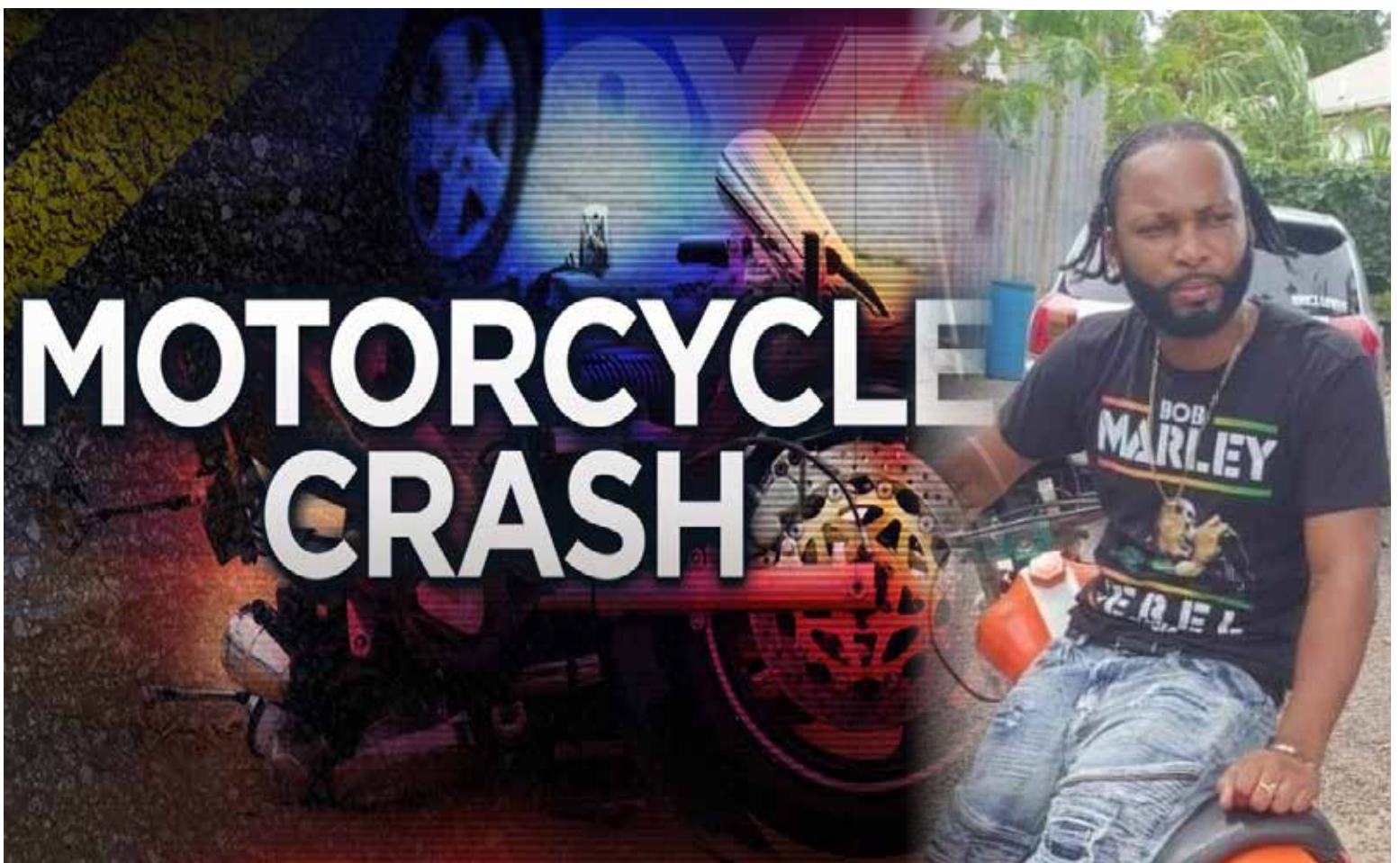


MOTORCYCLIST BECOMES LATEST ROAD FATALITY



Shane "Yellowman" Wellcome is the country's latest road fatality. *Story on Page 2*

Local News

Motorcyclist becomes the country's latest road fatality

Shane "Yellowman" Wellcome died on the spot when he allegedly lost control of his motorcycle, which slammed into a lamp post last evening in Bethesda.

Standers-by who witnessed the accident offered intervention, however the well known auto body me-

chanic was pronounced dead at the scene.

He suffered serious injuries, including broken bones.

Wellcome was wearing a German-style helmet at the time of the crash. While DOT-approved German helmets are approved for use on the

road, they are not considered as safe as other types of helmets that cover the entire head and face.

Wellcome is the fourth person to succumb to injuries sustained in a traffic collision this year.

Police are now investigating the circumstances which led to his death.

Government employs diplomacy with EU on CIP

Antigua and Barbuda intends to exhaust all diplomatic channels available to it in convincing the European Union (EU) to review the stance it has taken regarding countries with Citizenship by Investment Programmes (CIP).

The aim is to get EU officials to review the "broad brush" approach it has adopted in its quest to end such programmes, which they and the United States claim are abused by human traffickers, international criminals, and corrupt oligarchs.

Once talks begin, the ad-

ministration in St. John's will be seeking to have its programme examined separately to reveal the high standards associated with it.

"The idea is that we're still going to have to engage using diplomatic channels with the EU and to make a determination as to whether or not their approach to the CIP Programme, broad brush as it is, that certain exemptions and carve outs can be looked at if we make them comfortable with that thing, which they say they are uncomfortable with, and that is their own national security.














So, those are the issues we have on the table," Cabinet Spokesman Melford Nicholas said on Thursday.

No steps have been taken to alter the operations of the CIP, which continues to operate as normal. However, the authorities are conscious that modifications will have to be made, and if the EU and US continue to apply pressure, the abandonment of the pro-

gramme, which will negatively impact the economy.

In the interim, the Cabinet has agreed to amend the CIP law of 2013, to allow for a renaming of the programme to the Residency and Citizenship by Investment Programme.

Explaining the move, the Cabinet said the United States operates a similar programme, noting "those who wish to establish residence in Antigua and Barbuda will be able so to do under the identical conditions as under the citizenship [programme]. It will allow those who wish to retain their citizenship of their place of birth to enjoy virtually all the benefits of the Citizenship by Investment [Programme] without having citizenship conferred."

Mon 21 Day		Mon 21 Night	
81°		74°	
24% ENE 13 mph		22% ENE 11 mph	
Sun and a few passing clouds. High 81F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy skies. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
 Humidity 70%	 UV Index Extreme	 Humidity 79%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 6:10 am	 Sunset 6:18 pm	 Moonrise 9:42 pm	 Moonset 8:32 am
		 Waning Gibbous	

Minister Greene engages Italian ambassador on climate change

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade of Antigua and Barbuda, E. P. Chet Greene recently paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations.

During the visit, Minister Greene took the opportunity to address pertinent matters relating to Climate Change. In this vein, he voiced that the harmful effects of climate change on Antigua and Barbuda and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) require greater support from Italy, especially in climate financing.

Improving access to concessional and grant financing is critical. As such, Minister Greene called on Italy's support for a multi-dimensional vulnerability index (MVI) where Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne serves as Co-Chair of a UN expert panel that will review the recommendations for the MVI.

Ambassador Massari



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, E. P. Chet Greene

noted the concerns relating to climate change and assured that the Government of Italy would give its full support to the fight against climate change.

The Government of Italy has taken some steps in tackling the climate issue by appointing a special envoy on climate and increasing climate financing by US\$ 1.4 billion for adaptation and mitigation.

On other matters, Minister Greene requested capacity-building support in many areas such as sports development, tourism & yachting, trade, the blue economy, and the University of the West In-

dies Five Island Campus.

Ambassador Massari

welcomed Minister Greene's proposals and called for a monitoring and evaluation mechanism between both countries.

Minister Greene was accompanied by His Excellency, Ambassador Conrod Hunte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, and Tumasie Blair, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations.



Antigua and Barbuda
Social Security Board

VACANCY NOTICE Customer Service Representative

JOB SUMMARY:

The incumbent will act as a liaison, provide services information, answer questions, and resolve any emerging problems that our customer accounts might face with accuracy and efficiency.

QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Degree, State College Diploma with seven (7) years related working experience
- Adequate knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the Social Security Act & Regulations.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Handle customer complaints, provide appropriate solutions and alternatives within the time limits; follow up to ensure resolution.
- Provide accurate, valid, and complete information by using the right methods/tools
- Assist in providing relevant benefits details and completing benefit applications as needed.
- Assist in operating the switchboard and redirect calls promptly and efficiently.
- Receive applications for benefits, ensuring that forms are accurately completed.
- Identify and assess customers' needs to achieve satisfaction
- Processing forms, applications, and requests.
- Sort and distribute immigration and labour letters.
- Receive and sort all incoming correspondences.
- Assist in database updates for life certificates, payment details change, etc., as required.
- Ensure that the department's resources are properly utilized and protected against damage, wastage and/or pilferage.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Loyalty to the Organization as a first priority.
- Customer service oriented.
- Reliability and confidentiality in the execution of duties.
- Comprehensive knowledge of applicable legislations.
- Adherence to the Act & Regulations and policies and procedures.
- Acceptable professional conduct and deportment when representing the Organization.
- Trustworthiness at all times and in all dealings.
- Pursuance of personal and professional development.
- Punctuality and reliability.
- Work well within a team or independently.
- Good communication skills - verbal and written.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Ability to prioritize tasks and perform effectively under pressure.
- Reflects a positive image of the Organization by way of character, deportment, and appearance.

Qualified persons should apply no later than March 25th, 2022:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board
 Or via email to: hr@socialsecurity.gov.ag

Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.



Ambassador Maurizio Massari of Italy

Air Canada extends flight suspension to ANU

The local tourism industry has been hit with the bad news that Air Canada has decided to extend the suspension of flights into Antigua and Barbuda to October.

Air Canada announced over the weekend that a review of its scheduling in response to the pandemic has forced it to further extend the suspension of some routes.

The Canadian air carrier is now expected to return to

Antigua and Barbuda on 29th October this year.

Air Canada suspended service to Antigua and Barbuda on 31st January. This was originally expected to last for only 90 days.

The suspensions did not affect just Antigua and Barbuda; ten other destinations including, Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, Curacao, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were also affected.



Earlier this year in January following word of the flight suspensions, the Antigua Hotel and Tourist Association (AHTA) said the announcement followed a Travel Advisory issued by the Canadian Federal Government on December 17, 2021, cautioning Canadians against non-essential travel.

AHTA CEO, Colin James said "While news of the Air Canada suspension of service will impact the recovery of our Canadian market, the safety of travellers is a key priority for the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. We remain committed to working with our partners and look forward to welcoming Air Canada back, when Canadian regulations allow them to return."

While the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, Antigua and Barbuda has continued to register a downward trend in infection numbers. This has resulted over the past weeks in the government relaxing more COVID-19 restrictions.

In the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment's most recent COVID-19 update issued on 19th March, 2022 at 6pm, three new laboratory confirmed cases were reported as of Tuesday 15th March, 2022.

There are presently four active cases and five recovered cases since the last update issued on 15th March, 2022.

Air Canada's announcement has again impacted a number of other destinations in the region including Grenada, Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, Bermuda, Grand Cayman, Havana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Martin/Sint Maarten, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Aruba and St. Lucia.

The airline has committed that it will fully refund passengers holding tickets to the affected destinations.

The Canadian market is not entirely lost to Antigua and Barbuda, however, as WestJet continues to serve the destination with weekly flights.



**Antigua and Barbuda
Social Security Board**

growing to provide for you

VACANCY NOTICE Customer Communications Associate

JOB SUMMARY:

This position supports the Corporate Relations team with a variety of tasks. The incumbent will assist with promotional materials, designing simple graphics, managing social media and outreach, launching email campaigns, researching media coverage, and promoting products. He/she will also typically perform administrative duties as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Must have seven (7) CXC subjects, must include Mathematics, English, Information Technology and Social Sciences.
- Excellent computer skills and knowledge of MS Office applications. Excellent drafting skills.
- Adequate knowledge of Adobe photoshop and Microsoft Office Suite.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the Social Security Act & Regulations.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist in the planning and implementation of the ABSSB communication strategies.
- Assist in creating and delivering Corporate Relations related emails, brochures, newsletters, and other publications.
- Keep track of the ABSSB related matters published in the media.
- Assist in drafting media releases and media kit development.
- Copyedit, proofread, and revise communications, as required.
- As instructed, initiate, plan, review, and engage the organization's general media promotion and social media.
- Develop and consolidate relations with the media.
- Schedule and assist in managing advertising and promotion campaigns.
- Assist in developing and maintaining promotional communication materials such as print-outs, pamphlets, and WebPages.
- Contribute towards the ABSSB image through appearances and strategic marketing planning.
- Record, review and update the ABSSB communication strategies, as instructed.
- Assist in customer service delivery when required.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Excellent communication skills - verbal and written.
- Ability to work on tight schedules.
- Work well within a team or independently.
- Commitment to Continuous Learning.
- Proven analytical and problem-solving abilities.
- Reflects a positive image of the Organization by way of character, deportment, and appearance.
- Is customer service oriented.
- Dependable and trustworthy.
- Pays keen attention to detail and accuracy.
- Is Client & Results Oriented.
- Is innovative and Creative.
- Political Awareness.

Qualified persons should apply no later than March 25th, 2022:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board
 Or via email to: hr@socialsecurity.gov.ag

Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

World Down Syndrome Day observed with cycling race, public encouraged to wear colourful socks

Today is World Down Syndrome Day. The occasion is marked globally on 21st March to bring awareness to the genetic condition and was first introduced in 2006.

This year, it is being commemorated under the theme, #InclusionMeans, which urges the public to consider what inclusion means to them with respect to Down Syndrome and those affected by it and to seek out ways in which people with the condition, and their families and caretakers can become more empowered.

The general principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) calls for “full and effective participation [of the disabled] and inclusion in society”, however many Down Syndrome awareness organisations argue that those affected by the condition, and other disabled per-

sons, do not benefit from full and effective participation and inclusion in society.

It is hoped that this year’s theme will stimulate conversations about these concerns with a view to finding and implementing meaningful solutions.

Down syndrome, or Trisomy 21, is a result of an anomalous chromosomal arrangement. It is a condition that is universally present across racial, gender and socioeconomic lines and is present in approximately 1 in 800 live births, although there is considerable variation worldwide.

Down syndrome usually causes varying degrees of intellectual and physical disabilities and associated medical issues.

Despite this, many people with Down Syndrome go on to live full, and fairly independent lives. Many are able to complete school, find employment, start healthy relationships and start fam-



Young participants with their instructors during sports day activities for the Adele School, Victory Centre and CHATS students last Thursday. [Photo credit: SLBMC]

ilies.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, the Paediatric Department of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) partnered with the Antigua Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) on Sunday to stage a Rock the Socks Down Syndrome Awareness event.

Close to 100 cyclists donned their cycling safety gear and took to the streets of

Coolidge at 8:30am to complete several laps around the community.

Wearing brightly coloured socks, a symbol of Down Syndrome awareness, participants included pre-schoolers, professional cyclists and SLBMC staff.

Prior to the fun ride on Sunday, SLBMC hosted sports day activities for students of the Adele School and Victory Centre with additional participation from CHATS speech therapy clinic and SLBMC, at the Police Recreation Grounds last Thursday.

Today, the public is also being encouraged to wear brightly coloured socks to show their support for those living with Down Syndrome and their families.



Photo credit: J'moul Francis

Local News

PM Browne selected for AFUWI Legacy Award

The American Foundation for the University of the West Indies will honour Prime Minister Gaston Browne with its legacy award next month at a Gala in New York City.

The 25th Annual The Legacy Continues Awards Gala is awarding “global leaders who have made exemplary contributions throughout their life and exceeded international standards of ethics, outreach and service.”

Vice Chancellor of UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles in a 4th March, 2022 correspondence to the Antigua and Barbudan leader explained that the legacy award is reserved for heads of state and government who have made significant contributions nationally, and provide leadership in the areas of nation building, strengthening regional alliances and creating a legacy for generations to build on.

Sir Hilary listed a string of accomplishments Prime Minister Browne has achieved on behalf of the country in the areas of ed-

ucation, healthcare, tourism development and housing, adding, “We at AFUWI are proud of your stellar accomplishments as Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Corporate Governance. Your passion and commitment to improving the lives of the people of your country are evidenced by the many initiatives you and your administration implemented to address matters germane to nation building”.

Commenting on his selection, Prime Minister Browne expressed satisfaction that the efforts of his administration have received recognition from a reputable organization as the AFUWI.

“In my mind, it is an acknowledgement of good, strong leadership in this country, and I just hope that the people of Antigua and Barbuda that they be able to differentiate the noise from the facts.

“Independent people who are looking on, who are watching on, looking at what is happening in Antigua and Barbuda, they recognize that our performance



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

here during the last eight years has been exceptional. And it’s not only exceptional from the leadership that myself and my colleagues that have provided to the Antigua and Barbudan people, but also exceptional from the standpoint of the contribution of each citizen, each resident.

“I just want to ask us to continue to conjoin our efforts in advancing this country and not for us to sit on our laurels and become lazy and to depend on past successes, but to understand that this is a continuum and that we have to remain

engaged and continue to work hard and advance our country, meaning that our people have to continue to contribute towards nation building,” Prime Minister Browne declared.

The American Foundation for the University of the West Indies lists itself as the principal link between the UWI and the many groups in the United States who value and support the work of the university.

Through collaboration, it raises funds for projects, scholarships and academic programs for UWI’s campuses and university centres.



APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Tuesday, 23rd March 2022	Wednesday, 24th March 2022
Section of Cashew Hill south of Gloria's Supermarket	Section of Airport Road from ACE Gas Station to Ben's
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	—

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

ABWU wants protection of equity legislation passed

Deputy General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union, Chester Hughes, believes the time has come for the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to introduce Protection of Equity Legislation.

Such legislation would safeguard workers' severance and other benefits should companies become insolvent.

Within the past two years, dozens of businesses throughout Antigua and Barbuda have been forced to close their doors due to the detrimental impact of the pandemic on their revenue, and in some cases, hundreds of workers have been deprived of their severance and other benefits.

Speaking at a recent public event, the deputy general secretary insisted that such disregard for the tireless contribu-



Chester Hughes

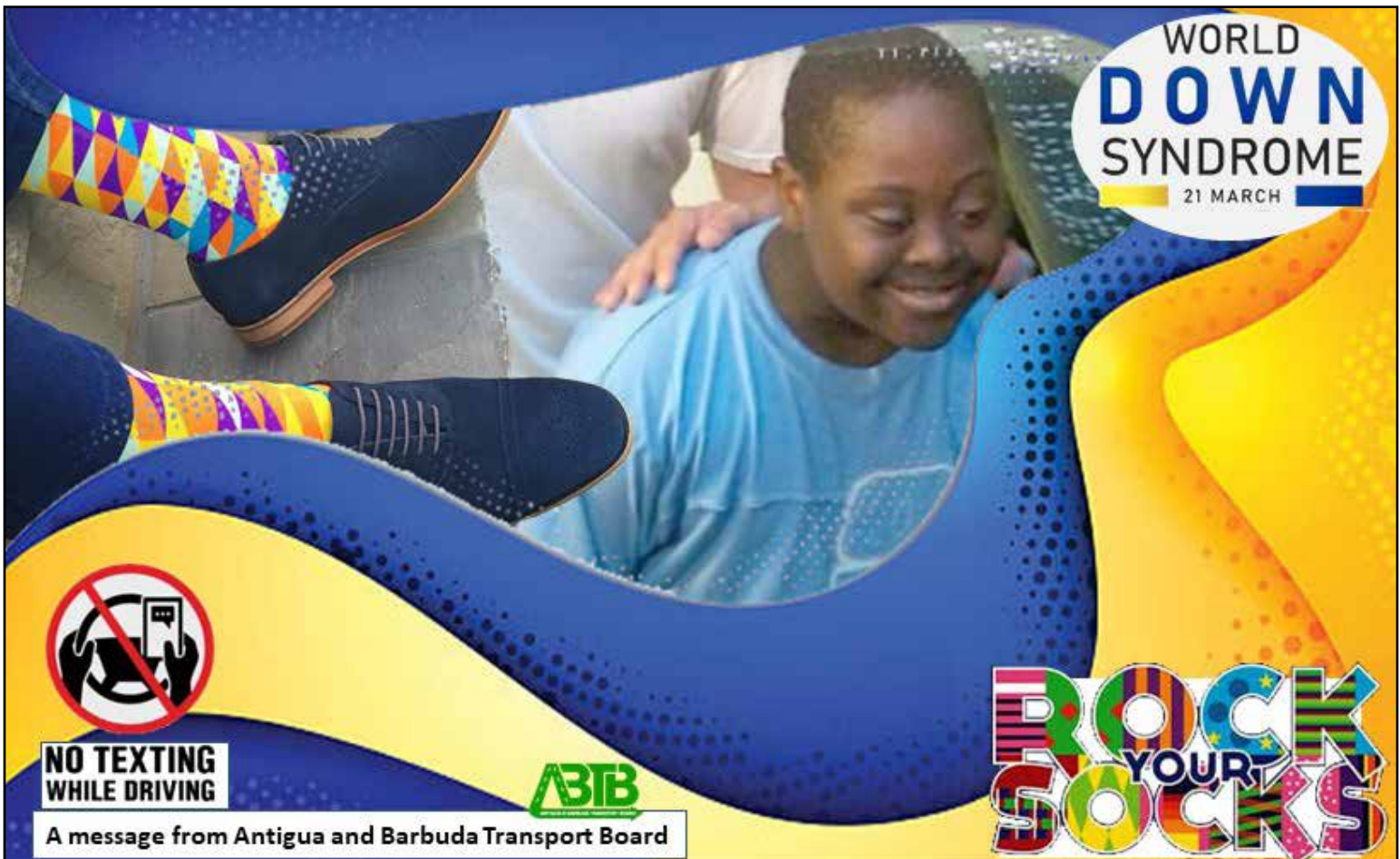
tions of workers must end immediately.

"We have been asking as a union for the Protection of Equity Legislation. We have even done our research. We have spoken to the Minister of Labour and At-

torney General. We said that too many companies in this country have gotten up and left workers with empty hands," Hughes contended.

The deputy general secretary added that many businesses continue to operate with a limited asset base in an already volatile business environment. This puts the workers' equity at significant risk. Coupled with this, Hughes noted, is the prevailing threat of natural disasters which could debilitate a business's ability to meet its severance obligations.

The deputy general secretary noted that the Covid-19 pandemic helped to further expose these existing weaknesses in the system. He said the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union will continue to advocate for the Protection of Equity Legislation.



WORLD
DOWN
SYNDROME
21 MARCH

NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

ROCK YOUR SOCKS

ABTB
A message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Local News



Sandals announces 40 for 40 initiative projects

In partnership with its philanthropic arm, the Sandals Foundation, Sandals Resorts International (SRI) has announced the full list of projects under its 40 for 40 Initiative.

Launched as part of Sandals Resorts' 40th anniversary celebrations, 40 projects were identified across eight Caribbean destinations where SRI operates that best showcase the incredible link between tourism and its power to transform communities and improve local lives.

The 40 for 40 Initiative projects were selected across six areas: preserving natural resources through Conservation Efforts and Tours; Investing in Food Security by supporting and working with local farmers; Hospitality Training and Certification aimed at ensuring ongoing excellence; maintenance of cultural heritage through Support of Local Artisans and Music Education & Entertainment; and bolstering local economies through Small Business and Community Market Support.

Across the Caribbean, SRI team members from Sandals Resorts, Beaches Resorts and the Sandals Foundation will be rolling up their sleeves to help bring these projects to life. Visiting guests can also support and participate in many of the activities taking place throughout the region.

"Tourism has the power to transform, not only



the lives of the guests who immerse themselves in the charm and culture of the Caribbean while on vacation, but for our team members and neighbours who build their families' roots in the region," said Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman, Sandals Resorts International and President and Founder of the Sandals Foundation. "This is the important work we build on and celebrate today, as part of our relentless efforts to strengthen the transformative link between tourism and the empowerment of our local Caribbean communities."

Through the Sandals Foundation, SRI has made the environment a priority, investing millions in education and advocacy programmes, establishing marine sanctuaries, out-planting more than 12,000 corals, and engaging over 55,000 people in conservation efforts. Now, the team will advance its efforts to protect the region's natural resources by expanding opportunities for marine conservation.

In honour of its late

Founder, Chairman and philanthropic stalwart, Gordon "Butch" Stewart, the team has partnered with the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) to implement its 'Sea the Legacy of Love' Scholarship Programme. The programme will provide 40 Caribbean nationals across six islands with dive certifications from open water to master level. This, together with opportunities for guests to take part in activities such as coral out-planting in Jamaica and St. Lucia, will have a lasting impact on life below the surface.

Additional projects include supporting the Andromeda Gardens, a 6.5-acre botanical garden in Barbados created in the 1950s and providing funding to assist in the recovery of sand dunes in Lucayan National Park in The Bahamas that were heavily impacted by invasive plants and storm surges.

Together with the Sandals Foundation, SRI, which already sources over 90% of its food supply locally,

is ramping up its investment in agriculture and the institutions training the next generation of producers. Various contributions will include equipment donation at the Agriculture Training College in Barbados, construction of hydroponics at Antigua's Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre and establishing community composting practices on-resort. The Foundation will also support the Grenada Network of Rural Women Producers (GRENROP), a group of 65 local women and at-risk youth charting their financial independence through agriculture.

The Sandals Foundation is continuing to invest in local businesses like the Oistins Fish Fry in Barbados, where locals and visitors alike can meet with vendors and enjoy freshly prepared seafood. Guests at Sandals have the opportunity to embark on paid tours that directly support these vendors and their livelihoods.

With establishments such as these accounting for on average 30 percent of its island's global development product (GDP), the Sandals Foundation is committed to improving the welfare of operators as well as their earning potential by upgrading additional locales such as Cultural Market Place in Turks and Caicos and Pineapple Craft Market in Jamaica. The Sandals

cont'd on pg 9

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Foundation's community projects are highlighted on resort, inviting guests to support through donations.

For years, guests of Sandals and Beaches Resorts have had access to locally made items at its retail shops, proceeds of which are reinvested into local community groups. The Sandals Foundation will expand its hugely successful Caribbean Artisan Programme by training more crafts people across more islands including Curaçao, St. Lucia, Bahamas and Turks & Caicos, providing more travellers the opportunity to take home a piece of the region. Sandals and Beaches Resorts guests can also look forward to meeting these craft men and women through pop-up shops on resort and seeing the magic unfold.

From ska and calypso to Jamaica's iconic reggae and dancehall, the unmistakable soundtrack of the Caribbean keeps visitors coming back and

locals moving forward. Together with international partners, high school and college music educators will be trained on key techniques to further develop the region's iconic sounds. Additionally, the 40 for 40 Initiative will culminate with a musical showcase that brings the magic of Caribbean music to Miami in order to help raise funds for continued growth of the region.

To ensure the continued training of future tourism industry players, the teams at SRI and the Sandals Foundation are supporting hospitality training and certification programmes to strengthen vocational skills in the areas of food and beverage, health, beauty, and wellness. In Antigua, trainees can receive a health and beauty certification to gain skills for the fast growing wellness sector. In Exuma and New Providence, the Foundation will assist with year-long programmes that supports commercial food preparation.

"We are very excited about these

40 projects of transformation and our role in helping realize the impact tourism makes in the Caribbean," said Heidi Clarke, Executive Director of the Sandals Foundation. "Tourism touches almost every corner of local communities, and we are fully appreciative of its ability to make a real difference. We are extremely grateful to every guest, team member, partner, travel advisor, donor and supporter who have volunteered or supported our work to improve literacy, healthcare, youth engagement and the many areas in which we focus. Together with our SRI teammates, we will continue to use the power of tourism to bring lasting change," said Clarke.

Celebrating its 13th anniversary on March 18th, since its inception in 2009, the Sandals Foundation has implemented projects and programmes valued at nearly US\$79 million, touching the lives of more than 1.1 million people.



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Guest Opinion



Driving Miss Dazey

By Tony Deyal

West Indians are known for their drive and determination. They drive very fast and are determined to bounce people or whatever else is in their way. That is why, if you don't like the way we drive, get off the sidewalk. But they are not all as well rewarded as drivers in other countries. A recent joke making the rounds was President Putin and his driver were on their way to Kyiv in a car when without warning they hit a pig near a farmhouse, killing it instantly. Putin, not wanting to be seen, made his driver go to the farmhouse and explain to the owners what had happened. About one hour later Putin saw his driver staggering back to the car with a bottle of Vodka in one hand, a cigar in the other and his clothes all ripped and torn. "What happened to you?" asked Putin. "Well, the farmer gave me the vodka, his wife gave me the cigars and their 19-year-old and 21-year-old daughters made mad passionate love to me simultaneously." "Incredible," responded Putin. "What did you tell them." The driver replied, "I'm president Putin's driver, and I just killed the pig."

The Prime Ministers of several Caribbean countries are lucky that their chauffeurs either drive very carefully or the police let them proceed without pulling

them over. Last year, 2021, four hundred and eighty-four people lost their lives as a result of crashes on Jamaica's roads. This was the highest number of road deaths in the last 10 years. Up to December 4, 2021, Barbados had 16 deaths from vehicular accidents, two more than the previous year. The Trinidad and Tobago road death statistics for 2021 are nowhere to be found but a media report warned, "Pedestrians are dying in large numbers in 2021."

Why does this carnage happen? In the Caribbean too many people drink and drive. Trinidad and Tobago introduced the breathalyser but the police who were supposedly enforcing this seem to have run out of gas. Even people who don't normally drink can end up in trouble. After an accident, the two drivers got out of their cars to survey the damage. One took a flask from his pocket and said to the other, "You look shaken. You better take a drink to calm your nerves." "Thanks," the man replied and took a big drink from the bottle. He then said to the one who had offered the drink, "Here, you have one, too," "I don't think so," said the first man. "At least not until after the police arrive and check out what happened." Fortunately, the police in some of our countries, Trinidad for sure,



Tony Deyal

don't have time to deal with what they call "minor" matters and they don't come to you, you have to go to them at the Police Stations and make a complaint. Then, depending on factors many of which are definitely beyond your control like your financial capability and how much cash you had on you or were prepared to hand-up, your status, or "who you know", you can end up being charged for dangerous driving even though you had the right-of-way.

One good thing for even the worst drivers is that the Trinidad media never blame the people behind the wheel, they blame the vehicles. It seems that some sinister transformation affects all transportation devices that arrive here. Whether new

or used, regardless of origin, a kind of madness overtakes them and they cause all our car-lamities and car-tastrophes. Even though we have no trains any more, our vehicles all seem to have come with "loco" motives and they don't give a hoot. The daily media are full of accounts of cars that kill, trucks that run off roads, trailers that topple, minibuses and maxi-taxis that maim and mutilate, and buses that are suicidal. Even police vehicles lose their stripes. One recently killed a pedestrian and the police refused to accept my recommendation that the vehicle should have been given a drug test, if not for jet (Ketamine), at least for speed.

There is no evidence
cont'd on pg 11

Guest Opinion

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that non-Caribbean people have a better safety record than our drivers. In fact, some people see driving safety as an astrological instead of a geographical phenomenon. According to several studies, the date of your birth has more to do with your skill as a driver than your birthplace.

For those of you who are interested in "road signs", Sagittarians tend to be sporty and need to slow down or they could be on a fast lane to heaven. While Leos, like me, are natural leaders, unfortunately other drivers keep getting in our way and our accidents are always their fault. Virgos are neat and tidy, but tend to lose concentration because they are always combing their hair in the driving mirror when they're behind the wheel and want to look good for the police. Capricorns are conservative by nature and probably cause accidents by dawdling. They take their time and ours.

Other drivers should beware of Can- cers as crab-like drivers can go side- ways without warning. When stopped by police their behaviour can be quite crabby.

Librans are charmers and if they crash they can easily talk their way out of trouble, especially if they're pretty and are willing to give their names, addresses, phone numbers and email to the police. Aquarians are sensitive and cautious. They would do anything to avoid being in a crash. Part of the problem Aquarian women face is that they tend to marry bossy men who tell them, "If you bounce the car don't bother to come back home."

Scorpios like fancy cars and there is a sting in the tail of their twin ex- hausts if you get close enough to catch them. Aries is ruled by Mars and hate traffic jams or being rammed from be- hind, even when not driving. People born under Gemini have split person- alities. They can be good one minute

and drive like demons the next. Pis- ceans are more likely to make a splash than crash. They drive best in wet weather. It used to be thought that Taureans are home lovers and rarely venture far enough to be in danger of an accident. However, according to one insurance company, 9.76% of claims involve a driver born under Taurus, and only 7.11% involve one born under Scorpio.

The average chance for a zodiac sign is 8.33%. Taureans are therefore 17.11% over-represented in accidents, or are 37.27% less safe than the safest group. While this might sound like a lot of bull, if you are a Taurean you should not add to the problems of other drivers. Stick to public transport, ZRs, Maxi or Mini Buses.

** Tony Deyal was last seen say- ing that the driver of Donald Trump's limousine got arrested for possession of drugs. They found over 300 pounds of dope in the back seat.*



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How long should it take to grieve? Psychiatry has come up with an answer

By **Ellen Barry**

The latest edition of the DSM-5, sometimes known as “psychiatry’s bible,” includes a controversial new diagnosis: prolonged grief disorder.

After more than a decade of argument, psychiatry’s most powerful body in the United States added a new disorder this week to its diagnostic manual: prolonged grief.

The decision marks an end to a long debate within the field of mental health, steering researchers and clinicians to view intense grief as a target for medical treatment, at a moment when many Americans are overwhelmed by loss.

The new diagnosis, prolonged grief disorder, was designed to apply to a narrow slice of the population who are incapacitated, pinning and ruminating a year after a loss, and unable to return to previous activities.

Its inclusion in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders means that clinicians can now bill insurance companies for treating people for the condition.

It will most likely open a stream of funding for research into treatments — naltrexone, a drug used to help treat addiction, is currently in clinical trials as a form of grief therapy — and set off a competition for ap-



proval of medicines by the Food and Drug Administration.

Since the 1990s, a number of researchers have argued that intense forms of grief should be classified as a mental illness, saying that society tends to accept the suffering of bereaved people as natural and that it fails to steer them toward treatment that could help.

A diagnosis, they hope, will allow clinicians to aid a part of the population that has, throughout history, withdrawn into isolation after terrible losses.

“They were the widows who wore black for the rest of their lives, who withdrew from social contacts and lived the rest of their lives in memory of the husband or wife who they had lost,” said Dr. Paul S. Appelbaum, who is chair of the steering committee overseeing revisions to the fifth edition of the D.S.M.

“They were the parents

who never got over it, and that was how we talked about them,” he said. “Colloquially, we would say they never got over the loss of that child.”

Throughout that time, critics of the idea have argued vigorously against categorizing grief as a mental disorder, saying that the designation risks pathologizing a fundamental aspect of the human experience.

They warn that there will be false positives — grieving people told by doctors that they have mental illnesses when they are actually emerging, slowly but naturally, from their losses.

And they fear grief will be seen as a growth market by drug companies that will try to persuade the public that they need medical treatment to emerge from mourning.

“I completely, utterly disagree that grief is a mental illness,” said Joanne Cacciatore, an associate

professor of social work at Arizona State University who has published widely on grief, and who operates the Selah Carefarm, a retreat for bereaved people.

“When someone who is a quote-unquote expert tells us we are disordered and we are feeling very vulnerable and feeling overwhelmed, we no longer trust ourselves and our emotions,” Dr. Cacciatore said. “To me, that is an incredibly dangerous move, and short sighted.”

“We don’t worry about grief”

The origins of the new diagnosis can be traced back to the 1990s, when Holly G. Prigerson, a psychiatric epidemiologist, was studying a group of patients in late life, gathering data on the effectiveness of depression treatment.

She noticed something odd: In many cases, patients were responding well to antidepressant medications, but their grief, as measured by a standard inventory of questions, was unaffected, remaining stubbornly high. When she pointed this out to psychiatrists on the team, they showed little interest.

“Grief is normal,” she recalls being told. “We’re psychiatrists, and we don’t worry about grief. We worry about depression and anxiety.” Her response was, “Well, how do you know that’s not a problem?”

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Dr. Prigerson set about gathering data. Many symptoms of intense grief, like “yearning and pining and craving,” were distinct from depression, she concluded, and predicted bad outcomes like high blood pressure and suicidal ideation.

Her research showed that for most people, symptoms of grief peaked in the six months after the death. A group of outliers — she estimates it at 4 percent of bereaved individuals — remained “stuck and miserable,” she said, and would continue to struggle with mood, functioning and sleep over the long term.

“You’re not getting another soul mate and you’re kind of eking out your days,” she said.

In 2010, when the American Psychiatric Association proposed expanding the definition of depression to include grieving people, it provoked a backlash, feeding into a broader critique that mental health professionals were over diagnosing and overmedicating patients.

“You’ve got to understand that clinicians want diagnoses so they can categorize people coming through the door and get reimbursement,” said Jerome C. Wakefield, a professor of social work at New York University. “That is a huge pressure on the D.S.M.”

Still, researchers kept working on grief, increasingly viewing it as distinct from depression and more closely related to stress disorders, like post-traumatic stress disorder. Among them was Dr. M. Katherine Shear, a psychiatry professor at Columbia University, who developed a 16-week program of psychotherapy that draws heavily on exposure techniques used for victims of trauma.

By 2016, data from clinical trials showed that Dr. Shear’s therapy had good results for patients suffering from intense grief, and that it out-

performed antidepressants and other depression therapies. Those findings bolstered the argument for including the new diagnosis in the manual, said Dr. Appelbaum, who is chair of the committee in charge of revisions to the manual.

In 2019, Dr. Appelbaum convened a group that included Dr. Shear, of Columbia, and Dr. Prigerson, now a professor at Weill Cornell Medical College, to agree on criteria that would distinguish normal grief from the disorder.

The most sensitive question of all was this: How long is prolonged?

Though both teams of researchers felt that they could identify the disorder six months after a bereavement, the A.P.A. “begged and pleaded” to define the syndrome more conservatively — a year after death — to avoid a public backlash, Dr. Prigerson said.

“I have to say that they were kind of politically smart about that,” she added.

“The concern was that the public was “going to be outraged, because everyone feels because they still feel some grief — even if it’s their grandmother at six months, they are still missing them,” she said. “It just seems like you’re pathologizing love.”

Measured at the year mark, she said, the criteria should apply to around 4 percent of bereaved people.

The new diagnosis, published this week in the manual’s revised edition, is a breakthrough for those who have argued, for years, that intensely grieving people need tailored treatment.

“It’s kind of like the bar mitzvah of diagnoses,” said Dr. Kenneth S. Kendler, a professor of psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University who has played an important role in the last three editions of the diagnostic manual.

“It’s sort of an official blessing in the world,” he said. “If we were on the planetary committee of the American

Astronomical Society deciding what is a planet or not — this one’s in, and Pluto we kicked out.”

If the diagnosis comes into common use, it is likely to popularize Dr. Shear’s treatment and also give rise to a range of new ones, including drug treatments and online interventions.

Dr. Shear said it was difficult to predict what treatments would emerge.

“I don’t really have any idea, because I don’t know when the last time there was a really brand-new diagnosis,” she said.

She added, “I really am in favour of anything that helps people, honestly.”

A loop of grief

Amy Cuzzola-Kern, 54, said Dr. Shear’s treatment helped her break out of a terrible loop.

Three years earlier, her brother had died suddenly in his sleep of a heart attack. Ms. Cuzzola-Kern found herself compulsively replaying the days and hours leading up to his death, wondering whether she should have noticed he was unwell or nudged him to go to the emergency room.

She had withdrawn from social life and had trouble sleeping through the night. Though she had begun a course of antidepressants and seen two therapists, nothing seemed to be working.

“I was in such a state of protest — this can’t be, this is a dream,” she said. “I felt like I was living in a suspended reality.”

She entered Dr. Shear’s 16-session program, called prolonged grief disorder therapy. In sessions with a therapist, she would narrate her recollection of the day that she learned her brother had died — a painful process, but one that gradually drained the horror out of the memory. By the end, she said, she had accepted the fact of his death.

The diagnosis, she said, mattered only because it was a gateway to the

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proper treatment.

"Am I ashamed or embarrassed? Do I feel pathological? No," she said. "I needed professional help."

Yet, others interviewed said they were wary of any expectation that grief should lift in a particular period of time.

"We would never put a time frame around when someone should or shouldn't feel that they have moved forward," said Catrina Clemens, who oversees the victim services department of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which provides services to bereaved relatives and friends. The organization encourages bereaved people to seek mental health care, but has no role in diagnosis, said a spokesperson.

Filipp Brunshteyn, whose 3-year-old daughter died after an automobile

accident in 2016, said grieving people could be set back by the message that their response was dysfunctional.

"Anything we inject into this journey that says, 'that's not normal,' that could cause more harm than good," he said. "You are already dealing with someone very vulnerable, and they need validation."

To set a year as a point for diagnosis is "arbitrary and kind of cruel," said Ann Hood, whose memoir, "Comfort: A Journey Through Grief," describes the death of her 5-year-old daughter from a strep infection. Her own experience, she said, was "full of peaks and valleys and surprises."

The first time Ms. Hood walked into her daughter Grace's room after her death, she saw a pair of ballet tights lying in a tangle on the floor where the little girl had dropped them. She screamed.

"Not the kind of scream that comes from fright," she later wrote, "but the kind that comes from the deepest grief imaginable."

She slammed the door, left the room untouched and eventually turned off the heat to that part of the house. At the one-year mark, a well-meaning friend told her it was time to clear out the room — "nothing worse than a shrine," he told her — but she ignored him. Then one morning, three years after Grace's death, Ms. Hood woke up and returned to the room. She sorted her daughter's clothes and toys into plastic bins, emptied the bureau and closet and lined up her little shoes at the top of the stairs.

To this day, she is not sure how she got from one point to the other.

"All of a sudden, you look up," she said, "and a few years have gone by, and you're back in the world."

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BMW, VW warn of shortages from part suppliers in Ukraine

By Kelvin Chan

BMW and Volkswagen warned this week that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is causing shortages of some vital components, forcing them to reduce vehicle production in Europe.

The two German car-makers said the war is having a "negative" effect on auto supply chains, which have already been battered by shortages of semiconductors.

BMW said Wednesday that bottlenecks at its suppliers in Ukraine have forced the automaker to adjust or interrupt production at a number of factories, which is likely to have a negative impact on vehicle sales figures.

"Ukraine is, of course, home to many suppliers, hence we too will have to face production interruptions and supply disruptions for important components," Maximilian Schoeberl, BMW's director of corporate affairs, said in an earnings webcast.

Executives from both companies said wiring harnesses, which bundle and organize wires or cables, were in short supply because their main suppliers were in western Ukraine.

BMW said the war forced its suppliers to reduce or suspend production of the harnesses, which in



The logo of German car manufacturer BMW is fixed at the headquarters in Munich, Germany, May 14, 2021. German automaker BMW reports second-quarter earnings on Tuesday Aug. 3, 2021. BMW said Wednesday, March 16, 2022 that bottlenecks at its suppliers in Ukraine have forced it to adjust or interrupt production at a number of factories, which is likely to have a negative impact on auto sales figures. (AP Photo/Matthias Schrader, file)

turn forced the automaker to cut its own output. The company said it's resuming production at two factories in Germany this week, while its Mini factory in Oxford, England, is expected to start up again next week.

"But what is clear is that the situation will remain volatile," Schoeberl said.

BMW finance chief Nicolas Peter said raw material prices are expected to cost the company hundreds of millions of euros.

The invasion sent commodity prices soaring over worries it would restrict supplies from Russia, a major producer of metals like nickel and palladium that are used in auto production.

Volkswagen said Tuesday that it's supporting its Ukrainian suppliers of wiring harnesses as they try to keep up operations.

"The dominant constraint is indeed wiring harnesses," CEO Herbert Diess said. The company sources them from up to

eleven plants in Ukraine, nine of which are working at "reduced capacity."

"We cannot expect that this continues," he said, so VW is working on relocating production, which will take some time.

Volkswagen said it's also shifting some auto production out of Europe to other regions including China and South America.

Both companies paused production of cars in Russia as well as exports to the country after the war erupted.

Suicidal thoughts high among Barbados' secondary school children, survey finds

CMC – A survey conducted among secondary school children in Barbados has found that several of them have had suicidal thoughts and that they are also very angry.

The survey of 16,748 students, from 19 of the 21 secondary schools was facilitated by Supreme Counselling for Personal Development. However, only 6 337 students completed the questionnaire, giving a participation rate of 38 per cent.

According to the survey findings several negative responses were highlighted in all 11 constructs of the survey, with 26 per cent of all respondents having negative perceptions of self.

Speaking at a news conference where the results were revealed, Supreme Counselling chief executive officer, Shawn Clarke, said that an average of 2 956 students or 47 per cent of the respondents showed that they all have anger management concerns.

He said the report highlighted that 1 052, or 17 per cent of the respondents blame others for their problems and 70 per cent, or 4 429 indicated that when they are angry, they make



mistakes while 4 029 said they get angry when they make mistakes.

“Also, of concern is that a total of 2 481, or 39 per cent of the surveyed students confessed that they could not manage their anger, while some 862 noted that they do not show empathy towards others.

“Anger is a significant concern across all 19 schools surveyed, in that anger management was number one in all participating schools,” Clarke said.

The psychologist also revealed that the results from the mental health segment of the study remained worrying for the management of his organisation.

He said out of the total respondents, 2 173 students indicated that they

are depressed most of the time. He added that 2 079 disagreed with the statement “I am happy most of the time”.

“The responses to the statement ‘I have suicidal thoughts often’ saw 25 per cent or 1 598 respondents agreeing with this statement. This gives us, on average, 1 950 students showing some mental health deficiencies. Thirty-one per cent of the population cannot be ignored,” he said.

Clarke said the survey provides the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders with essential data on the self-esteem levels of students, show how they resolve conflict, their level of self-awareness, how angry they are, and how they perceive themselves, while

also speaking to their critical-thinking skills, emotional intelligence, and mental health.

He said the information gathered will assist Supreme Counselling in advising the schools on the most prevalent student concerns in the selected areas and assist in putting modules in place for teacher training.

“When observing the self-esteem of the 6 337 students responding to the five statements making up the Self Esteem construct, an average of 1 632 students indicated that they have self-esteem issues, a total of 26 per cent,” he said.

The survey also sought to assess teachers’ perceptions and observations of their students using the same constructs.

The teachers’ questionnaire consisted of 65 statements using a Likert Scale and asked the respondents to indicate whether they were very satisfied, satisfied, neutral, unsatisfied and very unsatisfied.

One thousand, eight hundred and forty-four teachers were invited to participate in the study. Of this number, 21 per cent or 2 065 teachers completed the questionnaire.

St. Lucia: Gov't disappointed by former PM's comments on Russia-Ukraine

CMC - The St. Lucia government Friday expressed its "deep disappointment" at remarks made by Opposition Leader Allen Chastanet that the island could face sanctions by Western countries should it fail to restrict Russians and Belarusians from gaining citizenship of St. Lucia through the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI).

Under the CBI programme, foreign investors are granted citizenship in return for making a substantial investment in the socio-economic development of the island.

Europe and the United States have imposed sanctions on Russia and Belize in the wake of Moscow's decision to launch a military invasion of the Eastern European countries last month.

Chastanet told a news conference on Thursday that St. Lucians could face possible visa restrictions by some European countries as well as finding it difficult to enter the United Kingdom where visas are not needed, should Castries not seek to suspend the processing of applications for CBI from Russians and Belarusians.

"And the Western world decides now to impose sanctions, it is not going to be against those individuals, it is going to be against our country. We have already seen pronouncements from the US and Europe asking for to an end to our CBI programmes and what moral authority we are going to have to stand there and advocate against that policy when in fact we could not get our act together and to see what the world is doing morally".

Chastanet said he would not be surprised if the Europeans take away the Schengen visa from St. Lucia.

"I could say to you our CBI programme would be worthless if that were to happen," he said, adding "but



St. Lucia's opposition leader, Allen Chastanet

more importantly for St. Lucians... there is a further threat that the British and the Americans are going to impose stricter visa restrictions".

But in a statement, the government said it believes that the statements by Chastanet "are irresponsible, malicious, and deliberately designed to hurt St. Lucia, the people of St. Lucia, and the programme.

"Chastanet knows that the (CBI) programme has been acting in accordance with all international decisions and actions, It said, adding "Chastanet knows the importance of the CBI to St. Lucia, especially as since the elections, (July 26, last year) the CBI has been used to pay off some of the debts of St. Lucia"

The government said that the Chastanet administration was responsible for borrowing over one billion EC dollars (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) in the last five years when he served as prime minister.

"The government of St. Lucia has

joined the rest of the international community to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine and expressed its solidarity and support for the Government and the People of Ukraine.

"The government of St. Lucia will continue to support all international efforts to sanction the regimes in Russia and Belorussia and will take all necessary action when called upon to do so," it said, adding that it has clearly stated that St. Lucia, as a principle, does not support the discrimination of any person based on their nationality.

The government said that it supports the call to restrict the access of any Russian national to use the CBI to avoid sanctions and mask their affiliation to the Russian regime.

But it acknowledged that "some individuals have applied who have lived outside Russia for many years and themselves have been persecuted or needed to flee the actions of the regime.

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Regional News



British Royals on Caribbean tour, first stop, Belize

Loop - The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate have embarked on a week-long tour to Central America and the Caribbean.

The trip that is being made at the behest of William's grandmother Queen Elizabeth II, is intended to strengthen the UK's ties with Commonwealth countries as the queen marks 70 years on the throne.

However, just hours before the couple departed, the trip suffered setback, when a planned visit to a cacao farm in Belize was scrapped because of local opposition.

According to local reports, a protest was staged by persons opposed to the royal visit to the Akte 'il Ha cacao farm in Indian Creek village in the foothills of the Maya Mountains.

According to Kensing-



ton Palace – “due to sensitive issues involving the community in Indian Creek, the visit has been moved to a different location.” The government of Belize said “another venue has been selected to showcase Maya

family entrepreneurship in the cacao industry.

The Duke and Duchess met with Prime Minister John Briceno and his wife, Special Envoy Rossana Briceno at the Liang Building in Belize City.

The couple, will also visit Jamaica, to celebrate the legacy of Bob Marley and the island's rich musical and sporting heritage.

They will end the trip in the Bahamas, where they will compete in a sailing regatta in honour of the queen's Platinum Jubilee.

William, 39, is second in line to the throne after his father, Prince Charles.

The royal couple's first overseas tour since the start of the pandemic comes as some Caribbean nations consider removing the queen as head of state. Last November, Barbados cut ties with the queen and transitioned from a constitutional monarchy to a republic.

A similar move is also being contemplated by the government of Jamaica.

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“It was felt that these people should not be abandoned and disregarded once they pass due diligence,” it said, adding that the authorities here now have “a very rigid and robust due diligence process that is done in consultation with our international partners and friendly governments.

The government said it has continued to dialogue and discuss with all its international friends to ensure that it is part of the international effort to restrict the Russian regime and to ensure transparency and openness in the operations of its CBI.

As a result, the Phillip J. Pierre administration said that it is reviewing all the Russians who have been given citizen-

ship during the Chastanet administration and to date to ensure that no one who is sanctioned was granted citizenship and a passport;

“Revoke the citizenship of anyone who was granted citizenship and is now sanctioned. Citizens who are not on the sanctions list will continue to enjoy citizenship; Suspend the processing of applications from nationals of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.”

The government said that it will continue to make representation for persons who are in special cases suffering from persecution and discrimination from the Russian regime and are in need of support in these difficult circumstances.

Fear of political turmoil as Pakistan PM faces no-confidence vote

AlJazeera - Pakistan's parliament will convene on Friday to take up a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, the lower house speaker's office said on Sunday, heightening fears of political turmoil in the country.

An alliance of opposition parties filed the motion against Khan earlier this month, saying he had lost his parliamentary majority after more than a dozen defections from his party.

Under the constitution, the speaker of the lower house of parliament is required to convene the session within 14 days of receiving the motion, a deadline which would fall



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan

on Monday.

But a statement from the speaker's office said the date was pushed back several days because of a conference of Islamic countries in the capital Islamabad scheduled for March 23.

Without the coalition partners and the dissidents, Khan's Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, which has 155 seats in the lower house, would fall short of the 172 needed to retain power.

The joint opposition has a strength of nearly 163 but could build a majority if most of the defectors effectively join its ranks via a no-confidence vote.

The opposition accuses Khan of mismanaging the economy and foreign policy.

No Pakistani PM has ever completed a full term.

During a rally on Sunday, Khan appealed to the disgruntled lawmakers to return to the ruling party.

"Come back and I will forgive you. We all make mistakes," he said in the city of Malakand in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. "Like a father forgives his children."

Moreover, Khan has called on the public to show support for his premiership by holding a "million-man" rally in Islamabad on March 27

Ukraine war: Boris Johnson sparks fury after comparison to Brexit

BBC - Boris Johnson has been criticised for comparing the struggle of Ukrainians fighting Russia's invasion to people in Britain voting for Brexit.

In a speech he said Britons, like Ukrainians, had the instinct "to choose freedom" and cited the 2016 vote to leave the EU as a "recent example".

The comments have caused anger among politicians both in the UK and Europe.

Donald Tusk, the former president of the European Council, called the comments offensive.

Conservative peer Lord Barwell said voting in a referendum was not "in any way comparable with risking your life" in a war, while Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey said it was

an "insult" to Ukrainians.

The row comes as the prime minister strongly urged China to condemn the Russian invasion in an interview with the Sunday Times. He suggested Beijing was having "second thoughts" about its neutral stance.

Mr Johnson likened the Ukrainians' fight to Brexit in a speech to the Conservative Party's spring conference in Blackpool on Saturday.

He said: "I know that it's the instinct of the people of this country, like the people of Ukraine, to choose freedom, every time. I can give you a couple of famous recent examples.

"When the British people voted for Brexit in such large, large numbers, I don't believe it was because they were



Boris Johnson

remotely hostile to foreigners.

"It's because they wanted to be free to do things differently and for this country to be able to run itself."

Mr Johnson also cited as an example British people choosing to get vaccinated against coronavirus because they "wanted to get on with their lives"

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DR Congo: Fourteen killed in machete attack in Ituri province

AlJazeera – Fourteen people, including seven children, have been killed with machetes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Red Cross has said, as a community leader blamed a notorious armed group for the bloody attack.

The attack took place in a displaced people's camp in the country's north-western Ituri province on Saturday, the humanitarian aid group reported.

Among the victims were five women aged between 25 and 32 and a two-year-old girl, according to a list shown by the Red Cross to the news agency AFP.

Jean D'Zba Banju, a community leader in Ituri's Djugu area, said the perpetrators belonged to the CODECO armed group, which has been blamed for a string of ethnic massacres in the area.

"CODECO militiamen entered Drakpa and started to cut people with machetes. They did not fire shots in order to operate calmly," Banju told AFP on Sunday.

"The victims are displaced people who had fled Ngotshi village to set up in Drakpa," he said, adding that five others were wounded.



Gold-rich Ituri province has been plunged back into a cycle of violence since late 2017 [Al Jazeera]

Gold-rich Ituri province has been plunged back into a cycle of violence since late 2017 with the rise of CODECO, which has since split into rival factions. The group is a political-religious sect that claims to represent the interests of the Lendu ethnic group.

Ituri and neighbouring North Kivu have been under a state of siege since May 6, an exceptional measure to combat armed groups including CODECO and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). The ISIL (ISIS) armed group bills the ADF as its local affiliate.

Despite the crackdown, and support from the Ugandan military since late November, attacks have continued and more than 1,000 civilians have been killed from May 2021 to January this year, figures from the Danish Refugee Council show.

In the region of Beni, which neighbours Ituri, "four young people were killed in an ambush by ADF rebels on Sunday, three kilometres (1.8 miles) from Eringeti," said Sabiti Njiamoja, an official from the office of the governor of North Kivu province.

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and "were fed up with being told what to do by people like me".

But his remarks, intended to rally the Tory faithful, attracted criticism from political figures in the UK and Europe.

Mr Tusk tweeted "Boris, your words offend Ukrainians, the British and common sense", while Guy Verhofstadt, the former Belgian

prime minister and the European Parliament's chief Brexit negotiator, said the comparison was "insane".

Asked about Mr Johnson linking the plight of Ukraine to Brexit, Chancellor Rishi Sunak told the BBC's Sunday Morning programme: "I don't think the prime minister was making a direct comparison between these two things - clearly they're not directly analogous."

"He was making some general observations about people's desire for freedom," he added.

Mr Sunak said the prime minister had been galvanising global opinion to send a strong message to Vladimir Putin, and "that's the thing we should be focused on".

Shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves called for the prime minister to withdraw his comments and apolo-

gise.

She told the BBC: "The people of Ukraine, who are fighting for their lives - in any way to draw a parallel to voting to leave the European Union, it is shameful."

She pointed out that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wanted to join the EU - and that "he clearly sees no such parallel".

Knight advocates for national youth basketball programmes

Inter-Schools' Basketball Coordinator Carl "Bolie" Knight has said Antigua and Barbuda need more events to absorb players when they leave the school programme.

Knight admitted that after leaving the inter-schools' programme, many young basketballers are forced to abandon the sport due to the lack of a structured league at the community and national level that will facilitate their development.

The former national point guard, who has given over 30 years of service as a basketball coach in the Ministry of Sports, has been criticised in some sections of the media by those who accuse his department of not doing enough to ensure that young basketballers continue to elevate their game after leaving school.

But Knight told Pointe FM's Sports Overflow that blame for this lies squarely with the administrators of the national basketball association who have failed to organise adequate youth programmes that can absorb the players as they leave the inter-schools' basketball programme.

"It is not just the female players who are being affected; I am also talking about the young guys from 14 to 18. Once in a blue moon, you will hear of an Under-16 competition and then there is nothing after that if it does materialise.

"There is no national league and there are no Leeward Islands tournaments so basically, when the players leave the school programme and they go and play with a third division team, they just play until they eventually lose interest because the national programme that should be there for them is missing," Knight said.

"There is nothing there for them,

until maybe, as they get a little older; those who are good enough might be able to make the squad for the Wadadli Bulldogs [senior men's national basketball team].

"So for us, a national youth basketball programme does not exist here in Antigua and Barbuda. It is therefore, hard for us, even though we try our best, to ensure that these school basketballers continue to play the game after they leave school.

"What we have been able to do is put together a nice, little all-star school team and make an overseas tour here and there. But that is as far as it goes."

Earlier this year, the out-going president of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Kebra Nanton expressed disappointment with her organisation's inability to host a women's league during its four-year term overseeing the sport.

A new ABBA executive will be elected at its Annual General Meeting at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium tomorrow night.

Knight, who won the 1992 National Sportsman of the Year Award as captain of the Wadadli Bulldogs, said ABBA must implement youth development programmes which will nurture the young talent and serve as an incentive for players to continue playing basketball.

"What we need is the national basketball association...to start putting in place development programmes for Under-13s, Under-16s, Under-18s and whatever age group as the case may be," Knight said.

"They need to have those national programmes so that our young boys and girls will have something to go on to and they would be happy to continue to play the sport."



Inter-Schools' Basketball Coordinator Carl 'Bolie' Knight. (Photo: Inter-schools' basketball)

Braithwaite rearguard sets up Grenada decider

West Indies' Kraigg Braithwaite thwarted England's bid for victory with another resolute batting display as the second Test ended in a draw in Barbados.

Braithwaite added an unbeaten 56 to his marathon first-innings 160 as West Indies ended up 136 for 5 in their second innings on a final day which featured greater tension than expected. England fancied their chances before Braithwaite reprised his immovable object routine on his home ground and was well supported by Joshua Da Silva's 30 not out after England had set West Indies 282 to win in a minimum of 65 overs after declaring during lunch on 185 for 6 in their second innings.

Three wickets in the middle session gave the visitors hope as they sought what had seemed an unlikely result after a couple of attritional days in which Braithwaite batted for nearly 12 hours, put on 183 runs off 411 balls with Jermaine Blackwood, and were runs and wickets was at a premium.

In all, Braithwaite scored 216 runs for the match, facing 673 balls, more than any other West Indies batter in Tests, and spent almost 16 hours at the crease.

After Saqib Mahmood and Jack Leach combined



Kraigg Braithwaite and Joe Root shake hands on the draw. (Photo credit: Getty Images)

to reduce West Indies to 39 for 3 inside the first 13 overs of their second innings, Braithwaite and Blackwood were reunited once more, and by tea on the final day, West Indies were 65 for 3, the pair having chewed up 108 balls for an unbroken stand of 26 and leaving England 35 scheduled overs in which to take seven wickets.

Two more wickets to Leach, who bowled well all match, stoked England's ambitions, but with Braithwaite having put a result out of the question, he and Joe Root shook hands with about 15 minutes left in the day and the three-match series still 0-0.

Leach sent down 69.5

overs for his 3 for 118 in West Indies' first innings and he added 3 for 36 off 25 overs in the second.

He entered the attack in the sixth over and struck with one that spun sharply to remove John Campbell, caught by Alex Lees at short leg, although it took an England review to overturn umpire Joel Wilson's not-out decision, with replays showing the ball had kissed Campbell's glove before hitting the pad.

Similarly, Mahmood had success with the last ball of his opening over, thanks to a juggled slips catch off Shamarh Brooks, the ball bobbing up towards second slip, where Zak Crawley

couldn't hold on as he went to ground and parried it into the air for Root, running behind him from first slip to collect it in his fingertips. Mahmood then had Nkrumah Brooks out via a much more straightforward catch to Root at slip to leave West Indies looking rattled and England jubilant.

But that brought Braithwaite and Blackwood together along with the memories of their earlier stand, and the contest was intricately poised.

Then, Leach, had Blackwood caught by Jonny Bairstow, kneeling at gully, off one that drifted in before bouncing sharply and turn-

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LeBron James becomes second all-time leading scorer

LeBron James passed Karl Malone to become the NBA's second all-time leading scorer, despite the Los Angeles Lakers' loss to the Washington Wizards.

James scored 38 points in the 127-119 defeat, taking his career total to 36,947 points. Only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has scored more points than the 37-year-old.

"At some point I'll be able to look back at this moment, but right now the feeling I have, I can't separate it [from the loss]," James said.

The Lakers have not won back-to-back matches since they claimed four in a row between 31 December and 7 January.

James scored six points in the first quarter before a dunk and three three-pointers brought him level on points with Malone. A lay-up later on in the second quarter then took him beyond Malone's record.

It was not enough, however, to stop the Wizards overturning a 16-point deficit to end a six-match losing streak.

When asked if he could break Ab-



Only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has scored more NBA points than LeBron James

dul-Jabbar's record, James said: "I will not allow myself to think about it.

"I've always just played the game the way I've been playing it over the years, and these things have just hap-

pened organically by just going out and playing the game the right way.

"I hope to accomplish that at some point in my career, but I won't think about it too much."

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ing away, finding the outside edge to end their partnership on 50 from 150 deliveries.

On his knees in the dirt alongside Root, as England crowded the bat, Bairstow couldn't have looked happier in a fitting vignette for what had been a gritty contest characterized by days of hard toil for batters, bowlers, and fielders alike.

England's mood lifted another notch when Jason Holder departed for a 24-ball duck, spearing a rare

poor delivery from Leach, short and wide outside off stump, towards short cover, where Dan Lawrence took a sharp catch diving low to his left.

But as Brathwaite managed to find the rope through a gap between the close-in fielders on the leg side to bring up his half-century off a sharply rising Lawrence ball, England's prospects faded.

Earlier, fifty partnerships for the first and fifth wickets built England's

lead, with Crawley and Lawrence reaching the 40s. Some enterprising yet unselfish batting interspersed by a couple of rain interruptions gave way to England biding their time before another squall arrived to bring lunch forward by a matter of minutes.

Having resumed 136 runs ahead on 40 for 0, the tourists lost three wickets inside the first half-hour. In their attempts to raise the tempo, Lees and Root came undone slog-sweep-

ing Veerasammy Permaul to deep midwicket. Alzarri Joseph then had Crawley beautifully caught by Jayden Seales, who ran in from long leg and dived forward to pouch the chance in mid-air.

West Indies 411 (Brathwaite 160, Blackwood 102) and 136 for 5 (Brathwaite 56*, Da Silva 30*, Leach 3-36) drew with England 507 for 9 Dec (Root 153, Stokes 120) and 185 for 6 Dec (Lawrence 41, Crawley 40, Bairstow 29)

Sports News



CUB Bethesda who won the 2021 ABCA Super-40 title, is one of ten teams that contested this year's limited overs contest. (Photo: Cricket268)

ABCA considers reducing teams in competitions

The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) could reduce the number of teams in its domestic competitions.

This is according to ABCA First Vice President Kenny Lewis who told Pointe FM's Sports Overflow they now accommodate ten teams.

"I could tell you this straight up that we are looking to see if we could cut some of the teams because the amount of teams does not really mean we are getting, in layman terms, value for money," said Lewis.

He confirmed that options, which will be presented to participating clubs for their input, are being put together.

"I am not at liberty to say more because the [structures] are not fine-tuned and we have not discussed them with the clubs so I am not willing to discuss them on air publicly at this moment."

The ABCA opened its 2022 domestic season with a Vax-8 contest

and is currently in the final stages of its second competition of the year, the Super-40 limited overs championship.

The competing teams are All Saints Pythons, PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks, Empire Nations, Pigotts Crushers, New Winthorpes Lions, Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda Golden Eagles, Bolans Blasters, Jennings Tigers, Massy United Combined Schools and Rising Sun Spartans.

With the semi-finals of the ABCA Super-40 having taken place over the weekend, Lewis said the playoff and final will be staged this weekend.

"The playoffs for third and fourth place and the championship match will take place at Coolidge Cricket Grounds this weekend. The third-place playoffs will be held on Saturday and the final will be on the Sunday with an admission fee of \$10," he said.

After COVID-19 restrictions forced an abrupt end to the 2021 season, Lewis said anticipation for this

year's successful competitions was high.

"The season has been going wonderful so far from since the first ball being bowled. We had envisioned that based on what happened last year and the hype for cricket. Then for us to restart this year, we had to go by the Ministry of Health and their guidance.

"Last year, all cricket was closed right after the Super-40 so everybody was anxious and eager to get back on the field of play," Lewis said.

"From the very first game this year, and the good thing about it is that, nobody could determine which team would make it into the final four of the Super-40.

"In fact, it came down to the very last round of matches in the preliminary round. So, heading into the last preliminary round only All Saints Pythons had guaranteed a spot into the final four.

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Shane Warne: Private funeral held for cricketing great in Melbourne

BBC - Shane Warne's family and friends paid tribute to the cricketer at his private funeral in Melbourne on Sunday.

The legendary Australia spinner died aged 52 on 4 March in Thailand.

The private service at the St Kilda Football Club ground was attended by about 80 people, including former Australia captains Michael Clarke and Allan Border.

Warne was a lifelong



Shane Warne's family walked behind the hearse on a lap of the St Kilda Football Club ground in Melbourne

fan of the AFL side and his hearse completed a lap of honour at the ground. Brooke, Summer and Jackson led mourners at the service.

Warne's three children

Former team-mate

Glenn McGrath and ex-England captain Michael Vaughan were also in attendance.

A state funeral will be held for Warne at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 30 March. Leg-spinner Warne is widely considered one of the greatest cricketers of all time.

He took 708 wickets - the second most of all time - in 145 Tests across a stellar 15-year international career for Australia.

Messi ruled out of PSG match at Monaco

AP - Lionel Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's French league match at Monaco after experiencing flu-like symptoms over the past couple of days, his club said.

Messi, who joined Paris Saint-Germain last summer, has been struggling throughout his first season in the French league. Before Sunday's trip to Monaco, Messi has scored just seven goals in 26 games in all competitions. It's a stark contrast compared to his figures from last season when he bagged 38 goals with Barcelona.

In addition to the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, PSG will also be missing Keylor Navas, Sergio Ramos, Angel di María, Juan Bernat, Layvin Kurzawa and Ander Herrera at the Stade Louis II.

PSG has a 15-point lead at the top of the standings as it chases a record-equalling 10th French title. Lagging 15 points behind PSG and chasing a runner-up finish, Marseille and Nice meet at the Stade Velodrome in Sunday's showcase match. Nice will be missing suspended defender Dante.



PSG's Lionel Messi makes an attempt to score during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Bordeaux at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Sunday, March 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

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"Also of note, is that last year we had Empire Nation, New Winthropes, Jennings and Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda making it to the final four, but of those four, only Empire made it to the Super-40 semi-finals this year.

"It means that at any

given time, any team can be at strength to perform and beat anyone.

"The standard must be of some significance because if last year we had four teams making it to the semi-finals and then this year three of the four got knocked out, it means everybody is competing."

Lewis said the clubs were also aided in their preparation for the 2022 season through ABCA grant funding initiative which was launched in 2020.

"I think that the competitiveness also had to do with the preparations. Prior to last year, we (ABCA) had actually offered a grant to

the clubs so now clubs have their nets that they could actually start their training early," Lewis said.

"Also there has been no football to compete with so the fields are left solely to cricket for now, which means the teams have a bit more time to get ready for the season."

Greene pledges more government investment in sports infrastructure

Minister E. P. Chet Greene says the government will continue to invest in the development of sports facilities in the country.

The member of parliament for St. Paul's added that the government has plans to continue upgrades of sports facilities in Liberta, which received support to ensure it met requirements to be used as a practice venue for the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Under-19 World Cup which took place in the Caribbean from 14th January to 5th February this year.

"We would have seen in Liberta, for example, where the field there was used for practice matches during the ICC Youth World Cup. We are going to do some more work with Kenny Benjamin and his team over there in the community of Liberta to build out that facility," Greene said.

"I know that lighting is one of the issues that plagued that particular facility. We will in due course get lights. We had started a project of getting the estimates. An engineer from Liberta would have been engaged in that process. But we recognised the value of cricket and sports to the economy, so we are going to make sure that the facility in Liberta is built out to its maximum capacity.

"We are demonstrating a strong belief in the abilities of our people and the capacity of sports to generate real wealth and make real contributions to the economy."

Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were the nations selected to host matches during the ICC Under-19 World Cup

that was staged in the West Indies for the first time.

The matches in Antigua, including the championship final won by India against England at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, were part of a historic number of international matches to have been staged by the nation in a 14-month period.

Aided by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's investment partnership, Cricket West Indies (CWI) was able to host 63 regional and international matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium and Coolidge Cricket Grounds from 7th February, 2021, to 12th March, 2022.

CWI's plans were encouraged by the Antigua and Barbuda government's decision to reopen the country's borders to international traffic on 1st June, 2020.

Greene said this augurs well for cricket in the country.

"We are anticipating many more matches, and I give a commitment from the government that we will continue to build out on the infrastructure," Greene said.

"We opened our borders to include cricket and you would have recounted the number of matches we played in this pandemic period; it's historic.

"It is a record-breaking number of matches, and I am hoping that Cricket West Indies will remember when we would have gone past this pandemic period that we kept the faith with them, we demonstrated a belief in the West Indian brand, we demonstrated a belief in the West Indian people and in that sport that is, for us, like a religion."



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