

GREENE SAYS ENDING CIP IS NOT AN OPTION

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On 25th March 2022, the Permanent Council of the OAS adopted a Resolution in "The Crisis in Ukraine". The Resolution was drafted, negotiated and presented by Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders of Antigua and Barbuda and Ambassador Rita di Scioli of Guatemala. *Story on Page 4.* [OAS file photo]

Local News



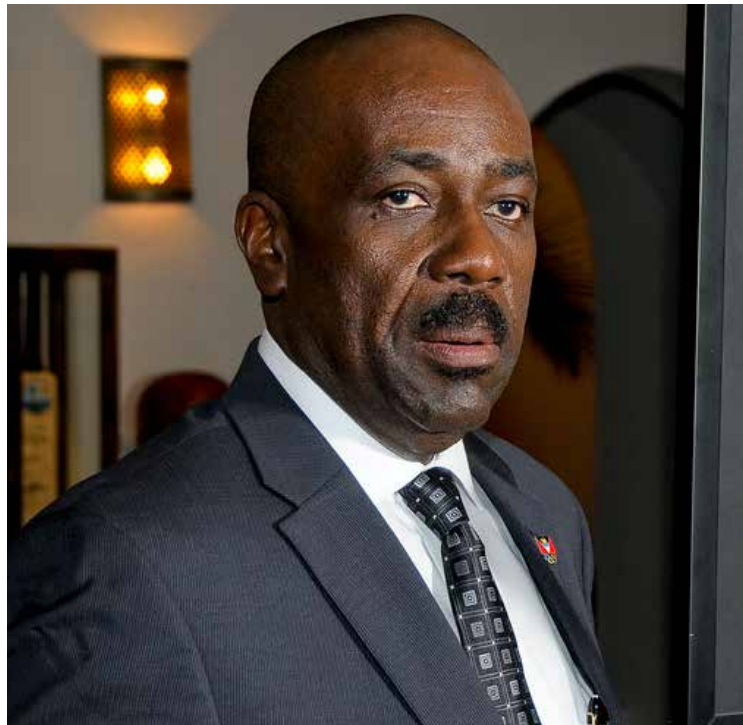
Discontinuing CIP is not an option, Chet Greene

Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene has affirmed that dissolution of the Citizenship by Investment Programme is not an option for the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

It is the strongest indication to date that the government intends to vigorously defend the programme from a European Parliament decision earlier this month that would force third nations to quash their CBIs or risk losing visa free access to countries in the Schengen region of Europe.

Minister Greene, appearing on the Browne & Browne show over the weekend, said the government is not pre-empting losing the challenge they are faced with and is prepared to “fight it to the bitter end”.

“Again, we understand the importance of this programme to us. We are even stronger in our views because we are operating a programme that is really above and beyond reproach,” the



Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene

foreign minister declared. “Our books can be pulled and be reviewed; our reports are tabled in parliament. So we are doing everything that they require of us by law, in terms of what is expected by international partners.”

Reiterating the position taken by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Minister Greene stated that the high standard of security at-

tached to Antigua and Barbuda’s CIP does not warrant the “broad brush approach” adopted by the EU in its criticism of other countries that have less stringent due diligence processes.

“They should look at us for what we bring to the table and how we manage the programme, and if anything, cite us as an example of good management,” he

said.

According to the foreign affairs minister, concerns have also been expressed by his colleagues in the sub-region whose countries also stand to be affected by the European Parliament's move.

Citizens who are conscious of the importance of the CIP to economy are also worried, he said, about the fallout that will result if the programme ceases to exist.

“Our citizens have now come to appreciate and accept that the CIP programmes as operated in the sub-region are critical to our economic recovery.

“They have served us well before COVID, and are even more important to us in this COVID pandemic period. They are non-tax revenues, and so you can see the uptake of the offerings of CIP, investment and other areas of the portfolio are very critical to our recovery.

“And so, we will continue to work through diplomacy, our ambassadors in Washington, in New York, in Brussels, everywhere, to have that conversation and to seek to build a consensus...to get grounds for support in acknowledging the importance of these programmes to our economy, and what it means to us,” Minister Greene concluded.

Mon 28 Day		Mon 28 Night	
83°	6% SE 11 mph	74°	23% ESE 7 mph
A mainly sunny sky. High 83F. Winds SE at 10 to 15 mph.		Clear to partly cloudy. Low 74F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 65%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 77%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:05 am	Sunset 6:19 pm	Moonrise 3:39 am	Moonset 3:13 pm
		Waning Crescent	

ABLP announces candidates for upcoming general elections

The Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) held its third Executive Meeting of the year on 25th March.

The ABLP's Political Leader, Hon. Gaston Browne, Chairman, Hon. Chet Greene and the First Vice Chairman, Hon. Samantha Marshall, conducted the meeting to which all Executive Members were invited.

One of the first items on the substantive agenda was to select the candidates of the ABLP for the general elections that are constitutionally due by March 2023.

Mr. Browne revealed that he was in receipt of a Report submitted by the ABLP Suitability Committee. Among its many findings and recommendations, the report noted that Asot Michael was invited to appear before the Committee but declined. Hence, only Comrade Rawdon Turner from the St. Peter Constituency appeared and was interviewed by the Suitability Committee.

Turner was declared suitable. Because he failed to appear, Michael was not considered and deemed unsuitable.

Regulation 14 of the ABLP Constitution governs this Suitability Committee and provides it with the authority to determine the suitability of prospective candidates when the num-

ber of candidates for any constituency is more than one.

In a press statement issued on the weekend, the ABLP said two letters from the attorney representing Asot Michael tried to utilise scare tactics to halt the process; however, the lawyer representing the ABLP executive members sued by Comrade Asot Michael, assured the ABLP that a default judgment, issued by the High Court in March 2022, ruled that the issue of candidate suitability was not justiciable by a Court of Law.

Mr. Browne then moved to have the party's Executive determine the slate of candidates which resulted in the announcement of the following candidates:



1. Hon. Gaston Browne, St. John's City West
2. Hon. Melford Nicholas, St. John's City East
3. Hon. Steadroy Benjamin, St. John's City South
4. Hon. Charles Fernandez, St. John's Rural North
5. Hon. Daryll Matthew, St. John's Rural South
6. Hon. Maria Browne, St. John's Rural East
7. Hon. Gail Christian, St. John's Rural West
8. Hon. Molwyn Joseph, St. Mary's North
9. Hon. Samantha Marshall, St. Mary's South
10. Hon. Robin Yearwood, St. Phillip's North
11. Hon. Lenox Weston, St. Phillip's South
12. Hon. Colin James, All Saints East and St. Luke's
13. Hon. Michael Browne, All Saints West
14. Cde. Rawdon Turner, St. Peter's
15. Hon. Dean Jonas, St. George's
16. Hon. Chet Greene, St. Paul's
17. Hon. Knacyntar Nedd, Barbuda

Several of the new candidates addressed the meeting, promising victory in the upcoming general elections.



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.

Monday, 28th March 2022	Tuesday, 29th March 2022	Wednesday, 30th March 2022	Thursday, 31st March 2022	Friday, 1st April 2022
Section of Belmont north of Vibes FM 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Section of Vernons north of Parham Corner 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Delapps and Reservoir Range 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Section of Independence Avenue south of Ramco Building 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Vernons near Smitten's Property 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	—	Section of Friars Hill Road; CUB Bank 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	—	—

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.

Local News



OAS adopts Resolution in “The Crisis in Ukraine”

On 25th March 2022, the Permanent Council of the OAS adopted a Resolution in “The Crisis in Ukraine” by 28 votes in favour, none against, 5 abstentions and one absentee (Nicaragua).

The Resolution was drafted, negotiated and presented by Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders of Antigua and Barbuda and Ambassador Rita di Scioli of Guatemala.



Sir Ronald Sanders

The Resolution condemn all violations of international humanitarian law

and violations and abuses of human rights and calls upon all parties to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I thereto of 1977 as applicable, and to respect international human rights law; insisted that all parties respect their obligations under international humanitarian law,

in particular with regard to the protection of the civilian population; and reiterate the importance of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and of respect for the sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine; and called on the Russian Federation to withdraw immediately all its military forces and equipment from within the internationally recognised borders of Ukraine, and return to a path of dialogue and diplomacy.

It also decided to keep the status of Russia's statutes as a Permanent Observer at the OAS under review.

Meanwhile, in his address to the OAS Sir Ronald underscored the importance of the organisation's member nations taking a firm stand against the conflict in Europe.

"It seems that for the first time in its history, the OAS is expected to be silent as world peace and security is patently affected. But silence is not an option in face of the violations of international law and of a grave humanitarian crisis. Silence is not an option for the OAS, especially as the two countries involved enjoy observer status of our Organisation with responsibilities to uphold the principles and values of our charter."

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St. John's and Havana ink Air Services Agreement

Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Cuba have signed an Air Services Agreement that will allow for the operation of flights between the two nations with limited bureaucracy, and with the potential to boost tourism in both destinations.

A signing ceremony was held on Friday between Minister of Civil Aviation, Sir Robin Yearwood, and Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Maria Esther Fiffe formalising the agreement.

Sir Robin Yearwood said the new arrangement is the culmination of negotiations that began a decade ago.

"The present agreement represents modern trends in aviation management, incorporating all of the safety and security standards, and recommended practices developed by ICAO (The International Civil Aviation Organization) over the years.

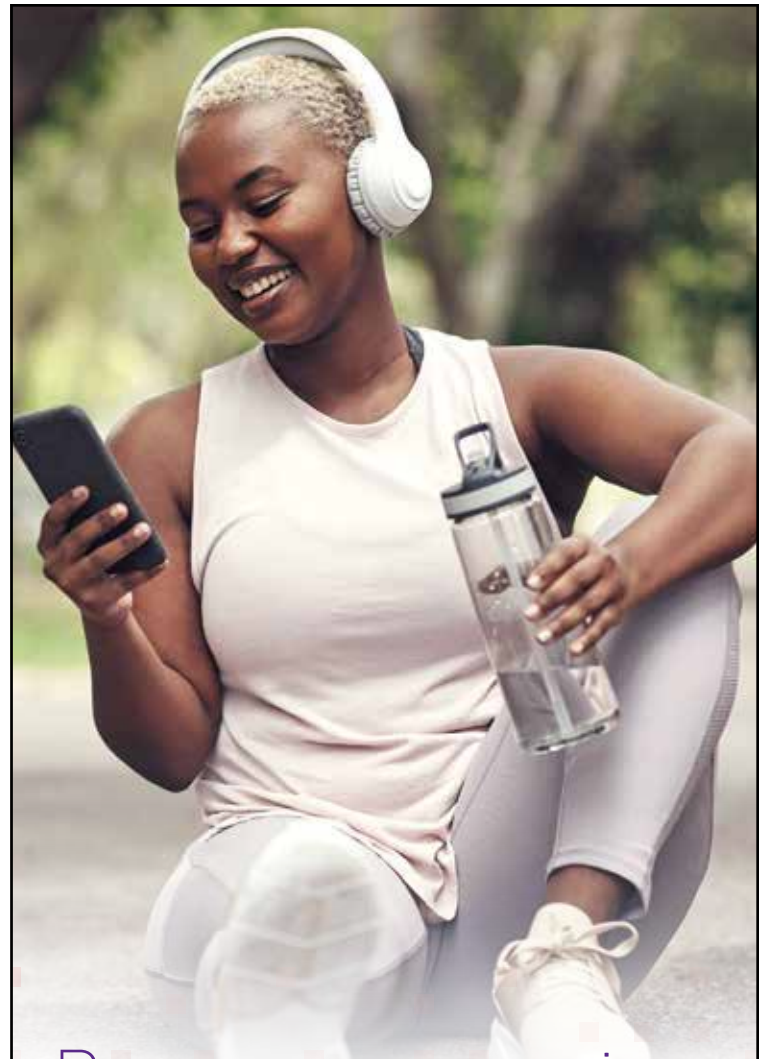
"On the economic side, extensive possibilities exist for so-called freedom traffic rights, involving other English, Spanish, Dutch and French speaking Caribbean

countries, thereby creating avenues for improving air connectivity within our region," Sir Robin said after affixing his signature to the agreement.

The Cuban diplomat, who is resident in St. John's, reiterated her country's commitment to regional and international civil aviation, and stated the air services agreement will augur well for Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda, particularly regarding tourism.

"Through this agreement, the designated alliance of both parties may also establish cooperation agreements and commercial arrangements that will allow them to promote air traffic between their respective territories," she said.

"Transportation is one of the key variables of the deep integration of the Caribbean region. Therefore, we reaffirm our commitment to continue promoting the implementation of projects, which will improve infrastructure and air connectivity between our countries."



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Local News

Carnival is back!

Antigua's Carnival returns this summer following the two-year hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Dubbed 'the Caribbean's

an's Greatest Summer Festival', the Ministry of Creative Industries has released a scaled down Carnival programme with several of the traditional shows omitted.

The ministry said the 2022 Carnival Programme of Events was devised with the full participation of key stakeholders. The programme includes pre-carnival

events as well as those listed as part of the 'official' programme.

There are however several notable omissions. These are the Queen of Carnival, Teenage Pageant and the Junior Calypso Competitions.

One carnival source said the plan is to have these events take place later in the year.

One addition to the pre-Carnival events is the Band meet Band scheduled for 22nd July. A venue has not yet been identified for this event.

According to the source, venues for some scheduled events are also still to be determined.

It is expected, however, that the Antigua Recreation Grounds will remain the main venue of Carnival 2022.

The Band meet Band will see the country's jam bands play for bragging rights in half-hour sets.

"Most of the bands have been lobbying for this event, which is not a formal competition, but one where crowd appeal will play a critical role," the source noted.

The pre-Carnival events run from 22nd to 26th July, with the official opening slated for 27th July.

The programme climaxes with Last Lap on Carnival Tuesday night, 2nd August.



Ministry of Creative Industries & Innovation

ANTIGUA'S Carnival

27 JULY TO 02 AUGUST

PRE-EVENTS	SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
Fri 22 Jul * Band Meet Band Showdown Sat 23 Jul * T-Shirt Mas Sun 24 Jul * Car Show * Celebration Honouring The Monarch King Short Shirt Mon 25 Jul * Teen Rave Tues 26 July * Drue's Day	Wed 27 Jul * Opening of Carnival * Jaycees Caribbean Queen Show Thurs 28 Jul * Melting Pot Fri 29 Jul * Calypso Monarch Competition Sat 30 Jul * Panorama Competition Sun 31 Jul * Party Monarch Competition * Emancipation Watch Night Celebrations	Mon 1 Aug * Emancipation Day * J'ouvert * Culture and Cuisine * Carnival Monday Tues 2 Aug * Parade of the Bands * Last Lap

#AntiguaCarnival2022

Police officers face jail time for corruption

Two Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda officers are facing a combined ten-year prison sentence after being convicted of corruption.

Corporal Marcus Isador and Constable Peter Lugay were found guilty on three counts of corruption on Friday in the High Court following a judge-alone trial presided over by Justice Ann-Marie Smith.

Police Officers Isador and Lugay were 43 and 23 years old respectively when they were charged in 2017. They were accused of holding a man at gunpoint, using their police issued firearms, after which they confiscated his cannabis for their personal gain.

Eight pounds of cannabis were said to have been seized from the man in February 2017, and in April that same year, they confiscated another twenty-nine pounds of the substance.

During the trial, Lugay, who opted to make an unsworn statement, denied involvement in the crime. He also denied having a close connection with Isadore or interacting with him. In his defence, Lugay argued he was the victim of mistaken identity, as other officers in the force fit his description.

In a statement issued in 2017 following the arrest of

the officers, STRATCOM, the communications department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, described the allegations against the officers as "an indictment against the police organisation" adding "Such reprehensible behaviours, coming from any member of the police force will not be condoned, and is strongly condemned."

The two men, who have been remanded to prison,



will be discharged from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

They will both return to Court on 29th April for sentencing.



Twist Fitness's Opening Hours

Monday- Friday
5:30AM-8:30PM

Saturday
9:00AM-5:00PM
5:00PM-7:00PM (WOMENS ONLY HOURS)

Sunday
10:00AM-3:00PM

Local News



Resort reports positive occupancy numbers

Sandals Grande Antigua, one of the leading resorts operating in Antigua and Barbuda, is reporting 'very good' occupancy numbers as the tourism industry emerges from the two-year pandemic.

General Manager, Matthew Cornall, made the point on Friday night at a reception for local media representatives held at the hotel.

"Our numbers are comparing favourably with 2019 (pre-pandemic) as we see strong demands in the marketplace for holidaying in destinations such as Antigua and Barbuda.

There's much 'pent-up' in the

source markets, especially the United Kingdom and the United States, as the research reveals a strong demand to travel to destinations they consider 'safe' such as Antigua and Barbuda," Cornall stated.

The hotelier is anticipating continued brisk business for local tourism and his property in the coming months based on demands for travel in the source markets.

During the reception, Cornall thanked the local media for their part in getting the message out that Antigua and Barbuda has reopened for business, noting that this played a signifi-



Sandals Grande Antigua General Manager, Matthew Cornall

cant role in attracting more business to the country.

Happy Monday Smile

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Required by COCOS Hotel

Andrew Michelin, owner of COCOS Hotel, seeks one or two motivated individuals to assist him in redefining the food and beverage operations at both COCOS Hotel and Keyonna Beach Resort..... FRESH, FRESH & LOCAL. The objective is to increase our room rates by offering fresh and local Caribbean produce on our menus in both bars and restaurants and reducing to bare necessity of the need to use imported items.

With any change there will be resistance and therefore seeks individuals with tact and diplomacy in order for staff and management to buy into this initiative. Attention to detail and achieving agreed goals with a step-by-step approach.

The need for good communication with farmers and backyard producers via mobile devices in order to match the resort's need with produce. Working with the resort's media team to highlight this UPS, unique selling point.

Ensuring prompt payments, assisting in setting up bank debit card accounts, if necessary, in order to direct transfer payments. Assisting in inputs that may be required such as plant stock, seeds etc. Direct producers to the various online training providers for those wanting to improve their skills and techniques.

To assist in coordinating the information data mined from guest reviews and guest menu choice analysis so as to refine and improve our resort product.

The vision is to roll out another resort here in Antigua and similar Caribbean Boutique resorts in other islands and Guyana with same chattel styled cottages, standardizing menus and drink, offering this unique, fresh and local Caribbean experience.

Andrew Michelin cofounded other resorts on the island, Antigua Farm and Garden Supplies and establishment of a banana ripening room in Antigua.

This would be a 3-month test assignment initially, to ensure the walk matches the talk! Salary or fees would not be an issue. RESULTS are what he is looking for.

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Guest Opinion



CMC in eclipse

By Tony Deyal

The Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) boasts that it is “the Caribbean region’s leading multimedia organisation dedicated to excellence in communication services” and “its developmental mission is to work with media houses in the region to highlight the best skills in journalism...” But when I saw the headline by the CMC on March 17, 2022, “Roach eclipses Sir Garry...” all I could think was that if this is an example of CMC’s dedication to excellence and an example of the “best skills in journalism” they should haul their content into deep space.

The Oxford Dictionary has two meanings or applications for the word “eclipse”. The first defines “eclipse” as “an occasion when the moon passes between the earth and the sun so that you can see all or part of the sun for a time.” While Sir Garry Sobers is a gifted son of Barbados and its brightest star in cricket, he is not hemispheric.

He is down-to-earth and is famous as a cricketer. Don Bradman, the greatest batsman of all time, called Sobers a “five in one cricketer” since he excelled in all cricketing skills with wicket-keeping being the only exception.

So, let’s go to the relevant meaning of “eclipse” in the context of Roach “eclipsing” Sir Garry. The Oxford Dictionary defines this as “a loss of importance, pow-

er, etc. especially because somebody/something else has become more important, powerful, etc.” In other words, by using “eclipse” the CMC is saying that Roach has become more important and powerful than Sir Garry. In fact, Oxford’s “Lexico” defines “the eclipse of his rival” with words like “outshining”, “overshadowing”, “outclassing”, “outstripping”, “dwarfing” and even “shaming”. The Cambridge dictionary described that kind of “eclipse” as “To make another person or thing seem much less important, good or famous.”

Fortunately, neither of my two Bajan children and millions of cricket fans throughout the world will ever believe that Roach can “eclipse” Sobers, or that there is any cricketer who can do so.

In that sense, nobody can hurt Sir Garry, his reputation and the respect that he has earned for his prowess and personality. The stupidity is more a reflection on the CMC and the person who wrote the article than on Sir Garry.

While Kemar Roach celebrated his “eclipsing” of Sobers with, “It’s good to be among the greats. To write my name on the wall above Sir Garry when it comes to wickets is a fantastic achievement, so I’m happy for that”, Sir Garry looks at success differently.

His view is, “The game is always going to be bigger



Tony Deyal

than the man and it doesn’t matter what you are doing; records or whatever, somebody is just going to come along and break your records. But to achieve something that people would always look up to is something you will always appreciate.”

He added, “Records must not be the focus and that’s the most important thing. It mustn’t come at the cost of the team.” Roach is not in the world’s top ten bowlers but Courtney Walsh is.

Sobers is humble about all he has done in, and for, cricket and does not get involved in arguments about whether he is the best or, as some people believe, Jacques Kallis of South Africa “eclipses” him and is the greatest all-rounder of all time. In terms of the “stats” Sir Garry played 93 matches, made 8,032 runs and had a batting average of 57.78, scoring 26 centuries (100s). As a bowler he got 235 wick-

ets with a bowling average of 34.03. Kallis played 166 matches, making 13,289 runs and had a 55.37 batting average, scoring forty-five 100s. As a bowler he got 292 wickets at a 32.65 bowling average. However, when we West Indians claim that Sir Garry is the best all-rounder ever, we are not alone.

In an article by Jon Anderson from the Herald Sun, the headline is “Jacques Kallis doesn’t rate despite having the best all-rounder’s stats” and is followed by, “Yet ask cricketers, past and present, where Kallis sits on the list of great all-rounders and you won’t find the 33-year -old (Kallis) in the top 10.”

One reason is that Kallis never made a double hundred. Another is a comment by Keith Stackpole, former Australian opening-batsman, “If you watch Kallis bat you are left with the feeling he

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bats for his average. And you ask yourself, 'Would I have wanted to play with him?'. The answer is no because he plays for himself."

Sir Garry's approach was always different and he put the team before himself, "If you take five wickets, someone has to take the catches. If you score a hundred, someone has to be there with you."

You haven't done it individually. Some contributions may be small, but they are still tangible. You have to look at it from a team point of view. When you start looking at it as an individual, then you have no team."

A major point about why Kallis is not at the level of Sobers was made by Rodney Hogg, former Australian fast bowler, "Sobers has to be rated on top... Kallis is a flat-track bully, who dishes it out to the minnows like Bangladesh and Zimbabwe but goes missing against the Australians."

Sobers played more than half of his Tests against England and Australia, whereas Kallis has picked up around 1000 runs and 40 wickets against Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. They shouldn't count."

Six years ago, on July 2016, when Sir Garry celebrated his 80th Birthday, several of his colleagues sent their comments and best wishes. Everton Weeks, who knew Sir Garry as a 12-year-old said, "We never had to teach him anything. He taught himself."

Ian Chappel, former Australian captain, told the story of Sir Garry and Geoff Boycott, "They were playing in England and Geoff Boycott came to him one day and said, 'Garry, you seem to get me out lbw a lot. I don't understand it.' Garry was quite good psychologically as well."

He said to Boycott, 'Unlike a lot of people, Geoffrey, I don't think your technique is that good.' That would have cut Boycott to the quick because

he prided himself on his technique. 'Your front foot is too far across. You can't get your bat around your pad and my inswinger gets you lbw. That's what is happening.' They go out on the field next day. Boycott is batting. Sobers runs up, bowls the first ball, angles it across, Boycott edges, gets caught at slip. As he is walking off, Sobers says to him, 'Geoffrey, you didn't ask me about the other one'."

The story that I like best is also from Chappel, "Mosman, the club in Sydney, was looking for a coach and the president had dinner with him and said, 'Garry, we would love to have you as a coach, but you haven't got the qualifications.' Garry said to him: 'What did you think I got my knighthood for?'"

****Tony Deyal was last seen saying that there is a third "Eclipse" in Barbados. It is such a strong rum that it might not have been the moon or even Sir Garry in Eclipse but the CMC and its staff.***



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Relationships



Age gaps: The relationship taboo that won't die

By Katie Bishop

Societies are increasingly progressive; today, many people accept that love presents in many ways. So why do people still judge couples who are many years apart?

A viral chart from 2019 keeps popping up on social media: a graph detailing Leonardo DiCaprio's dating history. A Reddit user had spotted a trend – although the actor was 44 at the time, he seemingly only dated women aged 25 or younger, always breaking up with partners before they reached their 26th birthday.

Responses to the chart were mixed; some commended DiCaprio for his ability to attract younger women, while others berated the veteran actor, begging him to find someone closer to his own age. Even at three years old, the chart continues to resurface, as commentators keep a keen eye on DiCaprio's current relationship with 24-year-old Camila Morrone.

The reactions to the actor's dating habits embody the contentious views surrounding age-gap relationships – for some, they are a source of admiration, while for others, there is something inherently unsettling about coupling up with a much younger person.

From Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, to George and Amal Clooney, high-profile age-gap relationships



have always set tongues wagging. Although in 2014 the average age difference in US heterosexual relationships was a relatively small 2.3 years, many couples have a much wider gap. In Western countries, around 8% of male-female couples have an age-gap of 10 years or more, rising to 25% in male-male unions and 15% of female-female relationships. For some the gap is even larger – data suggests that around 1% of heterosexual couples in the US have an age difference of 28 years or more.

Our views around age-gap relationships are shaped by thousands of years of evolutionary psychology, and generations of social and cultural norms. Within the last hundred years, economic shifts and increased gender equalities have changed what is considered a 'normal' age-gap, and recent social justice movements have increased scrutiny of power dynamics in mixed-age relationships.

Couples with large age gaps often face judgement, and while some experts believe that this could be about to change, others argue that young people could be becoming more disapproving of mixed-age love than ever before.

An evolutionary nudge

Those who find DiCaprio's dating habits distasteful aren't without good reason. Aversions to age-gap relationships are very common and, like most taboos, they stem from thousands of years of evolution as well as more recent social and cultural cues.

"In many cultures, it is not considered acceptable to fall in love with someone who is much older or younger than you," says Dr Elena Touroni, a consultant psychologist and co-founder of The Chelsea Psychology Clinic in London. "From an evolutionary perspective, the drive to have a family can have an impact on who we choose to have a

relationship with – both from a biological perspective but also in the sense of both parents being alive to raise the child."

For both men and women, fertility tends to decline after the age of about 35, and though women lose their ability to conceive much more rapidly, it makes sense that we've evolved to be attracted to people who are similarly aged. Although there is relatively little data on age in LGBTQ+ relationships, we know that age-gaps among same-sex couples are much more common, perhaps reflecting how much the ability to biologically conceive together influences how we approach finding a partner.

It's not just about parenting, however. Pairing up with someone of a similar age makes your relationship more likely to go the distance, research shows. Experts believe that this is because these couples tend to go through life challenges and stages at a similar time, and can therefore continue to find common ground.

"In the initial 10 years of marriage, people report higher levels of marital satisfaction when their partner is younger than them," says Grace Lordan, an associate professor of behavioural science at the London School of Economics, who is currently researching age-gap

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Relationships

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relationships and happiness. “However, over time, the marital satisfaction of different-aged couples declines more than similar-aged partners. The probability of similar-aged couples divorcing is also lower.”

Yet despite these factors nudging us towards partners of the same age, socio-economic circumstances can sometimes counteract evolutionary urges. In 1900, the average age-gap between couples was about double the gap in 2000; historically people (particularly those in the middle- and upper-classes) would have been much more likely to marry someone far older or younger than them.

The reasons for this are both biological and economic. If a 50-year-old man wants to have children, it is not in his interest to couple up with a similarly-aged woman who is much less likely to still be fertile. In a patriarchal society in which men have the economic power, the choice to pair up with a much younger woman would be more likely to be available to him.

In the 19th and early 20th Centuries, most women were excluded from the workforce, so it made sense for them to prioritise marrying someone who had already achieved financial security. For men, it made sense to establish themselves economically and worry about marriage at a later date – when due to their increased social power they were able to find younger wives who provided the best chance of having children.

Whom we judge and why

As women have gained greater economic power, however, the appeal of a much-older spouse has fallen, making age-gap relationships less common – and often more taboo.

These days, even as most societies embrace increasingly progressive views on love, relationships and the rich variety of ways they can present, couples where one person is much older than the other still face judgement. Rather than assume people are happily together,

there’s a tendency to worry about possible power imbalances, and view the relationship as transactional, assuming one party is seeking to elevate their social status or wealth. There’s even specific vocabulary to aid that judgement; an older man must be a ‘sugar daddy’, a younger woman a ‘gold-digger’ or victim of ‘daddy issues’.

In recent years, that vocabulary has been expanded to include relationships in which women are the significantly older partner; words like ‘cougars’ and ‘toyboys’ reflect the rise in this kind of relationship. Statistics show that in 1963 just 15% of UK brides were older than their grooms. By 1998, this had risen to 26%, and findings from one 2011 study suggested that the number of women married or cohabiting with a man five years or younger had almost tripled since the 1970s.

Women who choose to date younger men seem to face a disproportionate amount of judgement. “Us humans are judgemental, and if what our neighbour is doing is misaligned with what we expect, we put a spotlight on it,” says Lordan.

“Women who match with younger men go most against the grain when it comes to our narrative of marriage, and so suffer the most judgement.”

The media attention that surrounded French President Emmanuel Macron’s marriage to a woman 24 years his senior, or the fevered coverage of 41-year-old Kim Kardashian’s relationship with 28-year-old Pete Davidson only underlines this. Yet Touroni believes that older men/younger women relationships are now perceived with even more judgement than older women/younger men couples.

This is perhaps in part linked to the #MeToo movement, which placed increased attention on power dynamics in relationships. Some argue a significant age-gap, combined with the social and economic power that men wield in a male-dominated society, can leave

young women in a vulnerable position. One study conducted shortly after #MeToo took hold shows that many outsiders believe that there’s an aspect of exploitation in age-gap relationships. Researchers found young people were particularly averse to relationships in which the male partner was older and posited this was because they assumed that the relationship was exchange-based – for example, that people were exchanging sex for a certain lifestyle.

Will the age-gap taboo disappear?

Today, there is an increased acceptance that all relationships look different – whether this relates to sexuality, gender or even the number of people in the same relationship.

Touroni says as more kinds of relationships are normalised, she hopes that people will respect the choices of those in age-gap relationships. “We are living in an era of more freedom and flexibility, so I would like to think that over time we will become significantly less judgemental about other people’s relationship choices, whether that’s age-gaps or anything else.”

Yet there’s little evidence that society’s fascination with age-gaps is lessening. So-called May-to-December celebrity love affairs still regularly make headlines, and young people seem even more judgemental of age-gap relationships than their older counterparts, particularly when a man is older than a female partner. Given that young people are generally at the forefront of social changes, their disapproval could mean that the age-gap taboo might become even more deeply entrenched.

“Overall, I do hold out hope that we are becoming less judgemental of others, whatever their choices are,” says Lordan. “But the narratives of what a ‘good’ relationship looks like are so hard-wired in Western society, it is unlikely that we will reach a place where people stop judging the lifestyle choices of others that go against these norms, including age-gap couples.”

The mysterious people of the Caribbean

By Erin Levi

A rare archaeological discovery on the Dominican Republic's secluded Samaná Peninsula could unlock the mystery behind the Caribbean's little-known pre-Arawak past.

You wouldn't think of the overtrodden Dominican Republic as a cutting-edge archaeology destination. Yet hidden beneath the beach cabanas are likely clues to a pre-Columbian mystery that's been perplexing anthropologists for centuries: who actually discovered the Caribbean?

When Columbus arrived on Hispaniola in the 15th Century, he encountered the Taíno, an Arawakan-speaking people who came from the Orinoco Delta of present-day Venezuela, emigrating as early as 400 BCE.

While it is often assumed that the Taíno were the "original" inhabitants of the Caribbean, particularly the Greater Antilles, other peoples had already been living there for several thousand years.

These little-known first inhabitants of Hispaniola are known as the "Archaic" peoples, characterised by their usage of stone tools (and the "Ceramic Age" Taíno by their creation of ceramics).

The term generalises a diverse group of prehistoric peoples whose languages and names for themselves are unknown.

However, a recent discovery by a team of Italian



(Image credit: Dave Carr/Getty Images)

and Dominican archaeologists on the Dominican Republic's secluded Samaná Peninsula, could change our understanding of who they were and where they came from.

"El Pozito" (Spanish for "little well") is a rare settlement belonging to these little-known first inhabitants of Hispaniola. It's also the Dominican Republic's biggest Archaic discovery in half a century. To the untrained eye, the site – a grassy mound surrounded by lush vegetation 2km inland from capes Cabrón and Samaná – might not seem like anything more than an idyllic spot for a picnic.

But after surveying the area and finding a natural spring nearby, seasoned archaeologist Alfredo Coppa knew to dig deeper.

For 2.5 weeks in September 2021, Coppa's team from Sapienza University of Rome, with investiga-

tors from Santo Domingo's Museo del Hombre Dominicano, combed a 12mx12m area of virgin turf untouched by agriculture. Digging just 20cm below the surface, gently prodding the moist, coffee-coloured earth for signs of past civilisations, they found a trove of polished stone hammers, pestles and axes, conches and other tools used by the Archaic people.

The most significant finds are the mariposoid or butterfly axes, which were likely used for felling trees to make canoes and oars; and a small ceremonial well (35cm in diameter) with 12 stone pestles buried inside, barely used save some plant residue, leading the team to believe these settlers were also ritualistic – a ground-breaking revelation considering how little is known about their way of life. Few Archaic settlements have been uncovered around the Caribbean

an to date and this is among the most promising.

While carbon dating has yet to be done on El Pozito, Coppa believes it to be around 2,000 years old (Late Archaic Age), based on the objects he's found so far, but he's hoping the settlement is much older than that.

Particularly because what he's really looking to find is a necropolis – with burials spanning centuries – in order to glean genetic insights. And there's a good chance he will, because no site where humans lived has not been associated with a necropolis.

"I spent 30 years looking for an Archaic site like this," said Coppa, who has overseen excavations in other places like Oman, Eritrea, Pakistan and Libya – and, of course, across the Dominican Republic.

The first and last major Archaic discovery here hap-

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

pened in the 1970s in the southern part of the island. Over the years, Coppa found butterfly axes scattered around the north, but no site, which led him to believe the Archaic peoples lived down south, likely coming from Cuba, the biggest island in the Greater Antilles.

Until he found El Pozito.

El Pozito is tucked away at the end of the Samaná Peninsula, a 30-mile verdant strip of land in the country's northeast that juts into the Atlantic Ocean. An eco-tourism paradise, the land is rainforested and dramatic, formed by the Sierra de Samaná, an extension of the Cordillera Septentrional – the biggest mountain range in the Caribbean – that runs along the northern coast, providing natural shelters along several remote beaches.

Coppa theorises that these Archaic people may have reached Samaná from Puerto Rico, the closest nearby island about 200 nautical miles to the east, though he says more research is needed.

But the bigger questions are: Which continent did they come from? To whom are they related? How did they interact and trade with others? And what happened to them?

According to *Sapiens* author Yuval Noah Harari, the first seafaring society may have developed on the Indonesia archipelago 45,000 years ago. It would take another 39,000 years or so for homo sapiens to discover the Caribbean – the last region of the Americas to be settled by humans, and the first to be colonised by Europeans.

While 6,000 years ago is relatively recent for archaeologists, evidence is scarce because almost nothing organic survives the tropics.

The humid climate, volcanic soil and rising sea levels – not to mention agriculture, development, looting and indifference – breaks down and swallows up bones, settlements and objects, posing a challenge to Caribbean archae-

ology. But that's precisely what makes the field – and this discovery – exciting.

"They're the actual discoverers of the Caribbean but they've received the least attention from archaeologists," said Dr Reniel Rodríguez-Ramos, professor of archaeology at University of Puerto Rico in Utuado. Rodríguez-Ramos has written about how European travelogues at the time of Columbus misguided archaeologists, who long considered them as nomadic "fisher-hunter-gatherers" who lived in caves by the coast.

For centuries, texts by Spanish and Italian travellers, such as Bartolomé de las Casas, a missionary from Seville who became a Dominican friar, were the only "evidence" archaeologists had about these non-Taíno peoples, often described in unsophisticated terms.

But recent discoveries across the Caribbean – from the cultic implications of the 12 pestles found at El Pozito, to finding shelters and weights likely used to hold down fish nets in Puerto Rico – show that these first settlers were more skilled than archaeologists historically thought. They practiced agriculture and basket weaving, and were more sedentary than survivalist.

In addition, the Caribbean archipelago is not visible from land (apart from the island of Trinidad, which can be seen from Venezuela), nor was it ever part of any continent. This means these first settlers took a chance when they ventured into the Caribbean Sea, which was unusual to do back then, say archaeologists.

"These people had to be explorers," said Rodríguez-Ramos in answer to why they would be so daring. "There was no big population pressure back then.

"No need to jump into a canoe and risk their lives to come here. That's what navigators do. These are sea people. They're just like climbers. They do things because it's part of their idiosyncrasies."

He theorises they came from across the Americas, and that the islands were a centre for trade and cultural exchange; a maritime Silk Road.

Furthermore, while it was long assumed that the Archaic people were either ancestors to or mixed with the Taíno, DNA analysis now tells us that the first settlers were genetically distinct, despite evidence that the two groups coexisted for centuries.

This surprised experts. "When two groups meet you usually find mixture. It's almost entirely absent from the Caribbean and we are wondering why that is," said Dr Kathrin Nägele, a Caribbean-specialised archaeogeneticist from the Max Planck Institute, who pioneered a study on ancient Caribbean genomics published in *Science* in 2020.

This absence, however, could be for lack of samples.

The study was the first time ancient Caribbean human genomes were successfully sequenced, thanks to a breakthrough in DNA retrieval. (This led to subsequent studies by Harvard University and other, smaller labs.)

While hundreds of Taíno skeletons have been analysed so far, only 55 Archaic Age genomes have been sequenced: 52 from Cuba and three from the Dominican Republic.

Which is why Coppa is hoping to find a necropolis at El Pozito, where he may be able to source the inch-long bone they're searching for – the skull's petrous bone, which protects the inner ear – that is the best source of preserved DNA.

It may explain who the Archaic peoples were related to and what happened to them; if they mixed with Ceramic Age groups, Europeans, died out or disappeared.

"Every new genome we study has the potential to change what we thought we knew," said Dr Kendra Sirak, research fellow at Harvard Medical School, who works with Coppa on sequencing ancient genomes.

Regional News



Prince William says he wants to serve after Caribbean criticism

Reuters - Prince William has said he is committed to service and “not telling people what to do” after a tour of the Caribbean that was marked by protests over the British empire and criticism that the trip reflected a throwback to colonial times.

William released the statement at the end of an eight-day tour with his wife Kate to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas that included protests and calls for reparations payments by Britain and an apology for slavery.

Some British and international media have also criticised some images



Britain's Prince William shakes hands with a member of the public during a visit to a Fish Fry - a quintessentially Bahamian culinary gathering place which is found on every island in the Bahamas, on Great Abaco island, March 26, 2022. Chris Jackson/Pool via REUTERS

from the tour, such as the wire fences and standing that recreated an image of royals shaking hands with on an open-top vehicle to Queen Elizabeth doing the Jamaican children through observe a military parade *cont'd on pg 17*

St Kitts: Government considers wage, salary increases for workers

CMC - Prime Minister Dr Timothy Harris says that his administration is currently exploring the possibility of wage and salary increases for workers in the twin-island federation.

Speaking at the annual convention of the ruling People's Labour Party (PLP) on Saturday, Harris said that he has asked the financial secretary to consider the cost of granting the increase.

“Out of the love of my heart and that of my Cabinet, I know money coming for you,” said Harris who added that with uncertainty in the global environment the prices of goods and services are increasing due to matters beyond the nation's control

“I feel your pain My government have been considering it and we are going to be bringing some mea-



Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Timothy Harris

sures that will bring some relief to you.”

The Prime Minister said these will include measures to reduce gas prices at the pump and will reduce certain taxes on certain items of groceries to make the cost of living more manageable for all.

“We want a St Kitts and Nev-

is where our sons and daughters stand free, realising their dreams and aspirations and creating a wonderful country.”

He also promised to devote the next three years of his term to make St Kitts and Nevis the number one country in the entire world.

“Over the past seven years, we have accomplished some amazing things. We brought the inherited debt of the last administration from a high of 80 per cent to a low of 59 per cent. We were first in the OECS to achieve the international benchmark of debt to GDP ratio of 60 per cent.”

He reminded the nation that while things were tough due to the pandemic, his administration was able to deliver three stimulus packages while implementing income support.

T&T opens for business

Trinidad Express – Government has removed most of the remaining Covid-19 restrictions that have been in place since the first case of the virus hit Trinidad and Tobago on March 12, 2020.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley announced the changes at a news conference at the Diplomatic Centre in Port of Spain yesterday, as he noted that T&T was in a much better place than it was in December, when Covid-19 deaths were accelerating to 100 per day.

He said as of Sunday, people entering Trinidad and Tobago will be allowed to use an antigen test.

“Just to ensure that if persons are determined by the test to be sick, that we can handle you a little differently because the danger of an infected person and of Omicron is not as severe as

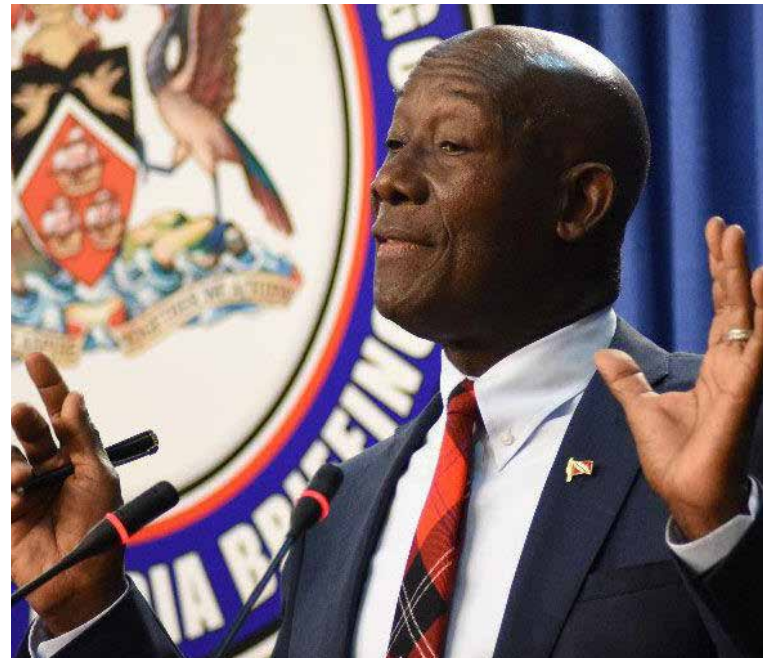
it was when Delta was raging,” Rowley said.

“We will still require that your status be known and that you respond according to your status, but the absolute requirement for negative PCR before you can come into the country, that will be changed. The Attorney General will make the necessary arrangements.”

He said the TTravelPass will remain in place for a little while longer but he anticipated that very soon the Government would be able to remove it.

He said for the moment, unvaccinated non-nationals will still not be able to enter T&T. “We don’t want to invite trouble if we could avoid it,” he said.

Rowley also announced that the safe zone arrangements that were in place will be removed. However,



Prime Minister Keith Rowley

the wearing of face masks in public places remains in effect, “except if you are on a sporting field”.

“If you are in an environment where you’re engaging in physical sport activity, that would be optional, but there will not be a legal requirement to have your mask on. Other than

that, in a public place like in public transport...for the time being, we’ll continue to keep the mask on,” he said.

Effective April 4, all restrictions that were in place for rivers and beaches will be removed completely.

“Which means that we give you time to prepare to be completely free and we don’t mean by freedom to go and be reckless. T&T is moving very quickly to a situation where the Covid restrictions in totality will be removed,” the Prime Minister said. “So the antigen test arrangements will come into effect (today), that’s easy to do administratively, but the other things that we are removing, all other restrictions, meaning that vaccinated and unvaccinated people and the safe zone arrangements, all of that will go...,” he stated.

cont’d on pg 18

cont’d from pg 16

same thing in the 1950s.

“I know that this tour has brought into even sharper focus questions about the past and the future,” William said. “In Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas, that future is for the people to decide upon.”

William, second in line to the British throne, had travelled to the Caribbean with Kate to mark Queen Elizabeth’s 70 years as monarch. But it came as some countries consider cutting ties with the British monarchy and after Barbados dropped the 95-year-old queen as head of state and became a republic.

Elizabeth remains queen of 15 realms, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

William, whose official title is Duke of Cambridge, said he and his wife wanted to serve.

“For us that’s not telling people what to do. It is about serving and supporting them in whatever way they think best, by using the platform we are lucky to have.”

He added that he was also not thinking about who would lead the Commonwealth of Nations, a group of 54 countries, almost all of which are former colonies of the United Kingdom, which is primarily focused on promoting democracy and development.

The queen is the head of the Commonwealth and while the role is not hereditary, it will pass to William’s father and heir to the throne, Prince Charles.

Regional News



cont'd from pg 17

Rowley said the restrictions on public gatherings will be removed on April 4.

"What's in place now stays in place until that weekend... so you can prepare to do that and now you know it's going to happen and we expect that we will behave responsibly.

"Because I must tell you, even as we are doing this now, coming from where we came from, there are one or two countries now that are experiencing severe outbreaks of Covid-19 and are required to respond and there are also mutations still taking place with Covid-19 variants," he emphasised.

Asked if restrictions on partying, fetes, loud music

and consumption of alcohol in a public place will be lifted, Rowley said all these restrictions will be removed.

"And from April 4, you will be required to control yourself. That's what the circumstances allow us to do, so the Government will not be out there with policemen saying 'turn off the music, get out the party'. That will be a huge normalisation," he said.

Rowley reiterated that all schools will be re-opened in April.

The specifics of how this will be done will be outlined by the Ministry of Education this week, he said.

"And that is the last major hurdle that we have and

we are getting close to some semblance of normalcy.

"It was something that has rested on my shoulder and my mind all the time. And when we get those children out to school, when I see them in their uniforms back out to school, I would know that we're almost there," he said.

Rowley stressed that now that the country is re-opening, the onus is on the population to remember that the Covid-19 virus still exists.

"There were times when the State intervened and said to stay in your home. We're not doing that. There were times when we said to you it doesn't matter who is in your car, wear a mask.

"We're not doing that. There were times when we said if you were making a living plying a taxi, you can only carry half the passengers, we're not doing that now.

"We are well away from that and leaving you with the responsibility of not forgetting that the virus is still out there," he stressed.

Saying he had no crystal ball on the virus and was basing decisions on clinical projections, Rowley said if for any reason T&T's Covid situation changes as a result of the lifting of restrictions, as seen in other countries, the Government will respond to the virus responsibly, depending on the nature of the threat it poses to the population.

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Shanghai Covid: China announces largest city-wide lockdown

BBC - China has announced its biggest city-wide lockdown since the Covid outbreak began more than two years ago.

The city of Shanghai will be locked down in two stages over nine days while authorities carry out Covid-19 testing.

The important financial hub has battled a new wave of infections for nearly a month, although case numbers are not high by some international standards.

Authorities had so far resisted locking down the city of some 25 million people to avoid destabilising the economy.

But after Shanghai recorded its highest daily number of cases on Saturday since the early days of the pandemic, authorities appear to have changed course.

The lockdown will happen in two stages, with the eastern side of the city under restrictions from Monday until 1 April, and the western side from 1-5 April.

Public transport will be suspended



Tests take place behind the barriers of a makeshift Covid centre in Shanghai earlier this week [Reuters]

and firms and factories must halt operations or work remotely, authorities said.

The city government published the instructions on its WeChat account, asking the public “to support, understand and cooperate with the city’s epidemic prevention and control work”.

Other lockdowns during the pandemic have affected entire Chinese provinces, though people could often still travel within those regions. But Shanghai, due to its high population density, is the largest single city to be

locked down to date.

It is China’s commercial capital and by some calculations the biggest city in the country - but is now one of the worst-hit areas as China fights to contain a resurgence of the virus with Omicron, leading to a spike in new cases.

Officials had until now said the eastern Chinese port and financial hub must keep running for the good of the economy. The staggered approach to this lockdown means half the city will remain functioning at a time.

Zelenskyy: West needs more courage in helping Ukraine fight

AP - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the West of cowardice as his country fights to stave off Russia’s invading troops, making an exasperated plea for fighter jets and tanks to sustain a defence as the war ground into a battle of attrition.

Speaking after U.S. President Joe Biden said in a lacerating speech that Russian President Vladi-

mir Putin could not stay in power — words the White House immediately sought to downplay — Zelenskyy lashed out Sunday at the West’s “ping-pong about who and how should hand over jets” and other weapons while Russian missile attacks kill and trap civilians.

“I’ve talked to the defenders of Mariupol today. I’m in constant contact with

them. Their determination, heroism and firmness are astonishing,” Zelenskyy said in a video address, referring to the besieged southern city that has suffered some of the war’s greatest deprivations and horrors. “If only those who have been thinking for 31 days on how to hand over dozens of jets and tanks had 1% of their courage.”

Ukraine’s ambassador

to the U. S., Oksana Markarova, said on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that her country had heard Biden “loud and clear.”

“Now, it’s all up to all of us to stop Putin while it’s still local in Ukraine because this war is not only about Ukraine,” she said, but “an attack on democracy.”

Russia’s invasion of
cont’d on pg 20

El Salvador: State of emergency after 62 gang killings in a day

BBC - El Salvador's parliament has approved a state of emergency after the Central American country recorded dozens of gang-related murders in a single day.

Police said there had been 62 murders on Saturday, making it the most violent 24-hour period since the end of the civil war in 1992.

New laws restrict the right to gather, allow arrests without a warrant and the monitoring of communications.

Last year, the gang-plagued nation recorded 1,140 murders - a 30-year low.

However, that still equates to 18 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. In November, another spate of violence led to more than 40 people being killed within three days.



Police said they had arrested four leaders of the MS-13 gang ahead of the vote [Getty Images]

Hours before MPs voted on the new powers, which will remain in place for 30 days, police said four leaders of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang had been arrested over the spate of killings.

President Nayib Bukele, elected in 2019 on promises to fight organised crime and improve security, said: "We have had a new spike in ho-

micides, something that we had worked so hard to reduce.

"While we fight criminals in the streets, we must try to figure out what is happening and who is financing this."

The country "must let the agents and soldiers do their job and must defend them from the accusations of those who protect the

gang members", he added, in the statement tweeted by Congress president Ernesto Castro.

However, Juan Pappier, from the international campaign group Human Rights Watch, tweeted the measures were "very worrying, especially in a country where there are no independent democratic institutions".

Authorities say the MS-13 and Barrio-18 gangs, among others, number about 70,000 members and are responsible for homicides, extortion and drug-trafficking.

Police said the latest bloodshed had left 12 people dead in the central department of La Libertad, as well as nine each in the capital, San Salvador, and the western department of Ahuachapán, with the other killings spread around the country.

cont'd from pg 19

Ukraine, now in its 32nd day, has stalled in many areas. Its aim to quickly encircle the capital, Kyiv, and force its surrender has faltered against staunch Ukrainian resistance — bolstered by weapons from the U.S. and other Western allies.

Zelenskyy signed a law Sunday that bans reporting on troop and equipment movements that haven't been announced or approved by the military. Journalists who violate the law could face three to eight years in prison. The law does not differentiate between Ukrainian and foreign reporters.



A Ukrainian serviceman stands in a heavily damaged building in Stoyanka, Ukraine, Sunday, March 27, 2022. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the West of lacking courage as his country fights to stave off Russia's invading troops, making an exasperated plea for fighter jets and tanks to sustain a defence in a conflict that has ground into a war of attrition. (AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

Young netballers to undergo skills training

Players taking part in the Cool & Smooth Under-16 Schools' Netball League will be given the opportunity to improve their game when the programme commences its skills training phase next month.

Coach Olena Knight, who is one of the chief organisers of the schools' netball programme, said following the completion of the league and knockout competitions, the players will undergo training exercises to improve their overall skills in the sport.

"Some of the teams or the players, they don't have poles and that's a problem. So we have to make sure that we concentrate a lot on the shooting, especially when they come to the YMCA.

"We are going to have the skills training starting next month and there is where you are going to see shooting, passing and also the foot-works being worked on. So we are going to concentrate more on that when we do the skills training next month," Knight, a former national player, said.

Eight secondary schools are currently taking part in the Under-16 league competition, which commenced on 14th March.

They are Princess Margaret, Ottos Comprehensive, All Saints Secondary, Irene B. Williams Secondary, Antigua Girls' High School, Pares Secondary, Glanvilles Secondary and St. Mary's Secondary.



Coach Olena Knight, right, converses with Princess Margaret School's Under-16 netball team at the YMCA Sports Complex on March 23, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Knight said the competition has been going well and the players have been able to put the techniques they have learnt into practice.

"It has been wonderful. The girls have actually been coming out and they are showing that they have learnt something that the coaches have taught them," she said. "In terms of the defence, I see that they are doing the right thing. They are doing their three feet and I also think that the coaches have done a great job."

Knight said Princess Margaret, Ottos Comprehensive and All Saints Secondary schools have been the outstanding performers, adding that a number of players have emerged with the potential to make the Under-16 national team.

She continued that Princess Margaret has won the league title, even though the last matches in the round-robin competition will be contested today at the

YMCA Sports Complex.

"Princess Margaret School, Ottos Comprehensive and All Saints Secondary are the schools that have really stood out during this league's competition, but if we do have an Under-16s, we have enough players that are good enough to be se-

lected to form the national team," Knight said.

"Princess Margaret School is in first place and they have actually won the competition because they cannot be overtaken by any of the other teams. All Saints are in second place and the competition will end on Monday."

Princess Margaret will seek to finish the competition with an unblemished record when they take on the Antigua Girls' High School today.

Ottos Comprehensive will clash with Glanvilles Secondary in an encounter that will decide which team captures the third place position.

Once the league is completed, the teams will battle for supremacy in a knockout competition.

Weekend Puzzle Solution

AN OFFENSIVE PUZZLE

By Henry Quarters

1	A	L	E	C		5	C	L	A	R	E		10	S	I	N	S
14	F	O	R	A		15	O	A	S	I	S		16	I	D	E	A
17	R	U	N	N	I	18	N	G	I	N	T	19	O	D	E	B	T
20	O	D	E	O	N				21	A	G	E	L	E	S	S	
						22	E	F	T	S		25	S	E	E	D	
26	M	A	P			29	L	A	T	E		31	M	O	I	L	E
35	I	D	O			36	O	X	I	D	E		38	S	E	R	E
39	T	H	R	O	W	I	N	G	L	I	G	H	T	O	N		
43	T	O	G	A					44	G	E	S	S	O		45	O
46	S	C	Y	T	H	E			49	R	I	N	K			50	N
						51	C	O	M	A		53	E	T	A	L	
						55	R	E	A	P	E	R	S		58	R	E
62	K	I	C	K	I	N	G	U	P	S	T	A	I	R	S		
65	A	C	R	E					66	D	O	E	T	H		67	C
68	Y	O	U	S					69	S	T	R	A	Y		70	H

Sports News



Mixed fortunes for All Saints in schools' volleyball

All Saints Secondary School had mixed fortunes in the latest round of matches in the Inter-Schools' Volleyball Championships at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Friday.

All Saints Secondary defeated Sir Novelle Richards Academy in straight sets, 25-15, 25-20, in their girls' division encounter, but All Saints were beaten 25-18, 26-24 by Island Academy in the boys' competition.

Sir Novell Richards Academy also endured more disappointment on Friday when their boys' team went under 13-25, 19-25 against Ottos Comprehensive School.

The other results in the competition that started on 21st March are as follows:

In the Girls' Division:

- Antigua Girls' High School prevailed 2-1 over Ottos Comprehensive
- Clare Hall Secondary beat All Saints 2-1
- Antigua Girls' High were 2-0 winners over Sir Novelle Richards Academy

and
· Ottos Comprehensive defeated Clare Hall Secondary 2-0.

In the Boys' Division

- Ottos Comprehensive beat Pares 2-1
- Island Academy defeated Clare Hall 2-0
- Princess Margaret School beat All Saints 2-0
- Pares prevailed 2-0 over Jennings Secondary
- Clare Hall beat Ottos Comprehensive 2-1
- Sir Novelle Richards Academy defeated Island Academy 2-0 and
- Pares Secondary were 2-0 winners over All Saints Secondary.

Coordinator of the schools' volleyball programme, Rosalie Lewis, said the tournament was hastily arranged after it was decided that government schools would return to face-to-face learning.

"While COVID-19 was rampant all over, we made some plans in the ministry to get school sports back on line. We wanted to try, first

of all a beach volleyball tournament, which would lessen the amount of persons that would be involved. So we decided that we were going to have a two-day competition, which was supposed to be on the 19th and 20th March," Lewis said.

"Unfortunately, as it started to get a little close to those dates, a lot of the students had some issues with both days.

"So while we were contemplating how we are going to deal with the beach tournament, we got the news that schools were going to open up fully to face-to-face learning for everybody. So we decided instead to just jump right in and organise this school league," the former national player explained.

The secondary schools' competitions are being contested by five girls' teams and eight boys' teams. The girls' teams are Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA), Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS), Ottos Comprehensive School, All Saints Secondary and Clare Hall Secondary.

The boys' teams are Princess Margaret School, Ottos Comprehensive, All Saints Secondary, Island Academy, Clare Hall Secondary, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Pares Secondary and Jennings Secondary Schools.

Lewis said the players from the top four teams at the end of the league competitions will get the opportunity to compete in a beach volleyball contest at Fort James on



Coordinator and coach Rosalie Lewis engaged in scoring duties during the inter-schools' volleyball league at the YMCA Sports Complex's indoor stadium on March 23, 2022.

10th April.

"I would say this competition is advanced, meaning each player would have played some form of volleyball already and most of them are fifth form students so this is their last chance to participate in a schools' volleyball league," Lewis said.

"We have three games every day because we started really late and school is going to be closed on April 8 for Easter break, so we will be playing until April 6.

"Then we take the top four boy' teams and top four girls' teams from this competition to take part in a one-day beach competition on Sunday April 10 before they go on a one-week school vacation.

"We will play the beach competition at Fort James Beach. We wanted to do it somewhere which can easily be accessed because we want family and friends to come out.

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Sir Novelle Richards Academy, right of the net, take on Island Academy in the boys' division of the inter-schools' volleyball league. (Photos by Elwin Francis)

Primary School Cup scales down, only 12 competing teams

Only twelve schools are participating in this year's Primary School Cup which kicked off on 18th March.

Coordinator of the Inter-Schools Football Programme, Coach Rohan "Porridge" Benjamin, said there are no private schools in the competition which is being played in three groups at the Golden Grove playing field and T. N. Kirnon School grounds.

"You know around this time in 2020 we were well on the way with our Primary School Cup and the COVID-19 Pandemic brought a halt to that for just about two years.

"As it stands now we are very lucky to have the children back out to play, even though it is not a very large tournament as it used to be.

"Initially, we were looking at 16 teams and to divide them into groups of four, but we only got confirmation from 12 schools because we are really looking at an invitational basis and that is basically where coaches were actually doing some work within the Physical Education (PE) sessions within the schools.

"So unfortunately, we

were not able to capture any of the private schools, but I am sure when next year comes around that will be okay. So what we have now is three groups of four," he explained.

Contesting Group A are Bendals, Urlings, Golden Grove and Jennings primary. In Group B are Five Islands, J. T. Ambrose, Greenbay and Potters, while competing in Group C are T. N. Kirnon, Pigotts, Villa and Parham primary.

The top two teams from each group, and the best two overall third place finishers, will qualify for the eight-team quarter final which will be played on 6th April.

Benjamin said the primary and secondary schools' competitions are played separately to facilitate proper management of the events by his department.

"We tried to have the primary schools' competitions at the first quarter of the new year, because the secondary schools' competitions where we have competitions across five different age groups is a bit hectic and the primary schools could get lost within the whole scope of things there," he said.



Pigotts Primary School team with coach Tikki Samuel, second right, pose for a photo following their Primary School Cup game against Villa Primary at the TN Kirnon School playing field on Friday, 25th March, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

"It would be too much for the schools' football department to handle because we don't have sufficient manpower to deal with both primary and secondary competitions during the same time.

"So certainly for the next school year, we will be returning to normal where we carry out the full programme of competitions, starting with the Primary schools in February...where we will have about six to seven groups."

Benjamin also addressed the secondary schools' competition.

"We will also be looking forward to the secondary schools' competition which will kick off during the start

of the next school year that begins in September 2022.

"The secondary schools will begin their preparations during the summer holidays where the coaches will go through their training while schools are having their summer break," Benjamin said.

"So as soon as schools reopen, we have already set our date on the calendar; the secondary schools football competitions will commence on September 13 with the start of our knockout programme.

"The knockout will provide a good warm-up for the teams before the league competition kicks off during the last week of September."

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"Fort James is also one of our beaches that has a volleyball net that we can use.

"The females will be allowed to use three players per team and the boys will use two-member teams. Usually, beach

competitions are conducted using two players per team but we are using three players for the females because I don't think they are quite as fit as the boys at this stage.

"So we realise we have to put some more attention into playing more beach

volleyball because our school players are pretty much okay when it comes to playing indoors or on hard courts. But coming outside where it's just two players required, it means that each player will have to do much more at that level, so we have to introduce it to them now."

Sports News



Windies women take Australia in the Semi's

India were knocked out of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 with the final ball of the league stage as South Africa won by three wickets.

Smriti Mandhana and Mithali Raj led the scoring for India with 71 and 68 as the Women in Blue set South Africa 275 to win and the Proteas emerged victorious in dramatic style thanks to 80 from Laura Wolvaardt and Mignon du Preez's brave knock of 52 not out.

England had earlier defeated Bangladesh by 100 runs and will play South Africa in the semi-final on Thursday in Christchurch, while India's loss confirms Australia will take on the West Indies in Wellington on Wednesday.

Australia topped the table with 14 points after going unbeaten during the round robin stage, while South Africa's place in second was confirmed prior to the start of the match, but the win moved them to 11 points.

England end the league stage on eight points having mounted a remarkable comeback to win their final four matches after losing their first three, while the West Indies faced an agonising 72-hour wait to confirm their place in the semi-finals after their final game against South Africa was washed out and they finished on seven points.

India and New Zealand missed out on qualification for the knockout stages by just one point as they both



finished on six, India ahead of the hosts on net run rate.

Bangladesh and Pakistan take up the last two spots in the table having won a game each, the Tigresses finishing in seventh thanks to a superior net run rate as every team recorded at least one victory in New Zealand.

India made a blistering start after choosing to bat, putting on 68 for no loss in the powerplay before Shafali Verma was needlessly run out on 53 after a breakdown in communication with opening partner Mandhana.

Mandhana top-scored with 71 and added 80 for the third wicket with Raj before she was excellently caught by a diving Chloe Tryon.

Raj also brought up a half-century before departing for 68 from 84 balls and Harmanpreet Kaur fell two runs short of a fifty of her own as South Africa's bowlers hit back, Shabnim Ismail

recovering from conceding 31 in her first three overs to produce figures of two for 11 in her final seven overs.

South Africa reeled India in to 274 for seven, meaning the Women in Blue would have to bowl their opponents out for under 174 to finish in third and avoid Australia.

They had a sniff when Lizelle Lee was run out by Kaur for six before Wolvaardt combined with Lara Goodall for a 125-run partnership.

Goodall was stumped one run shy of what would have been a maiden World Cup fifty before Wolvaardt was dismissed by a turning delivery from Kaur, missing another chance to make a World Cup hundred after registering her fifth half-century of the tournament.

However, she did become the tournament's leading run scorer with 433 before leaving the field with a bowed

head as Kaur wheeled away in an emotional celebration.

Kaur had another when skipper Sune Luus was given out LBW on review for 22 as South Africa slipped to 182 for four, and the all-rounder was involved again when she ran out Marizanne Kapp to leave South Africa needing 46 from 31 balls with five wickets in hand.

Tryon departed for 17 before Du Preez and Trisha Chetty took the chase to the final over, only for the wicketkeeper-batter to be run out.

Du Preez then appeared to hole out for 51 but was rescued by a Deepti Sharma no ball leaving South Africa with a free hit needing two to win from two balls.

Ismail and Du Preez took two singles to finish the job and the latter swung her arms in celebration after guiding her side to a record chase for South Africa in ODIs.

Earlier in the day, England defeated Bangladesh by 100 runs as Sophia Dunkley performed with the bat and Sophie Ecclestone delivered with the ball to ensure Heather Knight's side made the last four.

The defending champions had slipped to 96 for four before Dunkley combined with Amy Jones to put on 72 for the fifth wicket.

Dunkley was eventually dismissed for 67 from 72 as she scored her maiden World Cup fifty before late striking from Katherine Brunt and Ecclestone hauled England

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Verstappen overtakes Leclerc late on to win Saudi Arabian GP

AP – Red Bull driver Max Verstappen overtook Charles Leclerc's Ferrari three laps from the end of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix for the defending champion's first win of the Formula One season and 21st of his career on Sunday.

The race under floodlights was held two days after an attack on a nearby oil depot by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Leclerc was aiming for back-to-back victories after winning the season-opener in Bahrain from pole position last Sunday, but Verstappen overtook him on Lap 47 of 50 after some thrilling wheel-to-wheel racing between them.

"Really happy we finally kick-started the season," Verstappen said. "It was a really tough race but a good race. We were both battling hard at the front."



Second placed Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc of Monaco, left, and first placed Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands stand at the podium after the Formula One Grand Prix in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday, March 27, 2022. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Leclerc even congratulated his old karting rival on the radio and then gave him a thumbs-up after.

"We've been pushing like I've rarely pushed before, we take risks. Of course there's respect," Leclerc said. "I really enjoyed that race, it was hard racing but fair. Every race should

be like this. It was fun, I wanted to win today."

Leclerc missed out on a fourth career win, as Verstappen edged him by half a second, but remains top of the standings after two races. Leclerc has 45 points, Carlos Sainz Jr. 33 and Verstappen 25.

Sainz finished in third

place to make it another podium double for Ferrari after he was second in Bahrain where Leclerc had brilliantly repelled three attacks from Verstappen, who retired right near the end of that race with teammate Sergio Perez.

Perez bounced back with a superb pole position on Saturday but finished fourth.

However, Sainz and Perez were under investigation for not slowing down enough under double yellow flags after Alex Albon and Lance Stroll collided on Lap 49.

Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton could manage only one point for Mercedes in 10th place after starting 15th.

His teammate George Russell fared better in fifth but Mercedes again looked way off the pace.

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up to 234 for six.

Bangladesh were wary of going for big shots, making just 23 in the powerplay before Ecclestone broke the deadlock to dismiss Sharmin Akhter for 23 and the spinner then got the other opener Shamima Sultana in her next over.

Wickets began to fall regularly as England extinguished any hopes of a Bangladesh win, Charlie Dean claiming three for 30 in tandem with spin twin Ecclestone who claimed three for 15 as the Tigresses were bowled out for 134.

Scores in brief

South Africa beat India at Hagley

Oval, Christchurch by three wickets

India 274/7 in 50 overs (Smriti Mandhana 71, Mithali Raj 68; Shafali Verma 53, Harmanpreet Kaur 48; Masabata Klaas 2/38, Shabnim Ismail 2/42)

South Africa 275/7 in 50 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 80, Mignon du Preez 52 not out, Lara Goodall 49; Harmanpreet Kaur 2/42, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/61)

Player of the Match: Mignon du Preez (South Africa)

England beat Bangladesh at Basin Reserve, Wellington by 100 runs

England 234/6 in 50 overs (Sophia Dunkley 67, Nat Sciver 40; Salma Kha-

tun 2/46)

Bangladesh 134 all out in 48 overs (Lata Mondol 30; Sophie Ecclestone 3/15, Charlie Dean 3/31)

Player of the Match: Sophia Dunkley (England)

SEMI-FINAL LINEUP:

Semi-final 1, Basin Reserve, Wellington Wednesday 30 March

Match Start: 11h00 local time

Australia (1) v West Indies (4)

Semi-final 2, Hagley Oval, Christchurch Thursday 31 March

Match Start: 14h00 local time

South Africa (2) v England (3)

West Indies crush England to claim Richards Botham Trophy

West Indies crushed England by 10 wickets in the third and final cricket test on Sunday to win the series 1-0.

The stadium DJ was playing London Bridge is Falling Down as the last rites of England's Caribbean humiliation were being administered by West Indies' openers, Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell. 4.5 overs were all they needed to pick off the 28 runs needed for victory in the third Test in Grenada, and just 89 minutes of the fourth day's play all told, as the Botham-Richards Trophy was captured with an elan to match the heyday of that pair's rivalry.

Fittingly, it was Brathwaite who sealed the spoils with a flick through midwicket for two off Chris Woakes, as he finished a series of stunning personal resolve with an unbeaten 20 from 21 balls - a gleeful sprint for the finish at stark odds with the equivalent of eight marathons that he had run in compiling his 673 minutes of resistance in the drawn second Test at Barbados.

When England resumed on 103-8, it was already on the brink of defeat with a lead of only 10 runs with just two wickets in hand in its



Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell celebrate their win [Credit: Action Images via Reuters/ Jason Cairnduff]

second innings. The visitors lasted another 11 overs in the opening session with Kemar Roach (2-10 off 9.2 overs) taking both England wickets — Chris Woakes (19) and Jack Leach (4).

It took almost 45 minutes for West Indies to break up England's ninth-wicket partnership, with a stunning reaction catch from Jason Holder doing the job. Woakes mid-dled Roach's first ball as it went down the leg side and Holder flung out a hand and plucked the ball out of the air at leg gully.

No. 11 Saqib Mahmood,

who hit a defiant 49 in the first innings, was 3 not out.

West Indies medium-pacer Kyle Mayers started the day with an incredible 5-9 from 13 overs, a maiden five-for, but went for five in his first over on Sunday and finished with 5-18 from 17 overs. The batting allrounder was unwanted for the first two tests — both draws — and he replaced spinner Veerasammy Permaul with the aim of strengthening the batting.

The result means England's failure to win a test series in the Caribbean in 18

years carries on. It is likely to extend the debate over Joe Root's suitability as captain, despite his superb batting form with two centuries in the series.

West Indies enjoyed its first test series win at home since 2019. That was when England last visited.

Scorecard

Third Test, St George's, Grenada (day four):

England 204 & 120 Lees 31; Mayers 5-18

West Indies 297 & 28-0 Brathwaite 20*

West Indies won by 10 wickets