

PM STANDS BY LOW-INCOME HOUSING ROLLOUT

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Senator Gail Christian during the Easter Classic with members of Empire FC. Senator Christian provided thousands of dollars in sponsorship to the successfully staged event. *Story on Page 3*

Local News



Prime Minister Browne rejects “ghettoized” housing accusations

Prime Minister Gaston Browne’s detractors, ever hard at work, are now accusing his administration of planning to put low-income families into “ghettoized” housing.

This latest attack followed the prime minister’s announcement over the weekend that his government is well into the development stages of a housing initiative that will give individuals making \$3,000 or less monthly the opportunity to own a home.

The avenue for attack, in this case, came with the news that homes will be handed over cosmetically unfinished.

According to Browne, the two-bedroom, one-bathroom homes of between 750 and 800 square feet will likely cost between \$110,000.00 and \$120,000.00.

However, to keep the properties as affordable as possible, the concrete homes will not be painted or tiled.

This will give new homeowners the chance to satisfy the immediate need for shelter they own, while also having a choice regarding the finish of their new home based on what their budget allows.

On Monday, Prime Minister Browne posted a photo of a model home constructed at Paradise Cove in Villa, which accurately represents one of the designs from which a buyer may select.

Taking into consideration the high cost of construction, the prime minister explained that making the homes accessible to low-income families is the priority. Therefore, the compromise was made to construct sturdy, well built homes that are only incomplete aesthetically.

“We’re saying what we can possibly do is build properties [and] hand them over without them probably being tiled or maybe being painted. So, they would not be quite complete, but liveable – similar to what we’ve done in Barbuda – but to reduce the price down to about \$120,000.00.

“Someone who perhaps borrows over 25, 30 years, \$120,000.00 at about 7 percent [interest], the loan repayment will be about \$800 a month,” explained Browne.

Based on these figures, the prime minister, a former banker, noted that a suitably qualified person earning \$2,400 monthly, would comfortably qualify for a mortgage for one of the government-built homes.

The government recently acquired a block factory which will begin operation in the next two weeks. Building materials produced by the locally operated plant will also help to keep construction cost of the homes low.

Sand, which is funda-



On Monday, Prime Minister Browne revealed this model of one of the low-income homes his government intends to develop. According to the prime minister, persons earning \$3,000 or less will have the chance to become homeowners.

mental in construction, will be sustainably sourced offshore in partnership with Blue Ocean, of which the government is 40 percent shareholder. This, according to Browne, will further aid in keeping the cost affordable.

Other subsidies will be recognised as the government produces its own stone through the Bendals and Burma quarries, cement factory and is prepared to use its heavy equipment to facilitate the project.

“So you can see,” Prime Minister Browne explained, “by virtue of the government supplying the inputs, we will be able to reduce the cost of the buildings and the cost of the infrastructure, primarily roads.”

He said while the proj-

ect is ambitious in terms of the per unit price point, he is confident in its viability.

“These are basic two-bedroom properties. Again, they may not be tiled, they may not be plastered on the inside and there will be some work to be done to complete those properties, but one thing I can assure you [is] that they will be climate resilient, concrete properties,” he said.

Defending his government’s desire to put people first and ensure that all Antiguan and Barbudans can own their own home, the prime minister retorted at his critics, “If it remains unpainted and untiled to reduce the costs to ensure affordability, this makes it into a ‘ghettoized’ house?”

Senator Gail Christian's Easter Classic a success

The Grays Green Community came to life on Easter Sunday with entertainment, excitement and football, compliments Senator Gail Christian, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's candidate for St. John's Rural West.

With over \$3,000 in cash prizes to be won from sponsor Senator Christian, the Easter Sunday Classic started with an Under-15 match between Earthquake and Grays Green Youth.

This was followed by the featured event; a clash between Cool & Smooth Empire and Greenbay Hoppers.

Hoppers prevailed 3-0 over host Empire to win \$1,000 in cash while Empire received \$500.

The youth teams also received cash prizes.

Speaking to Pointe Xpress, Senator Christian said her involvement was heartfelt as a result of her close family ties to both organisations.

Christian's aunt made Empire's first two uniforms. Her aunt is also the mother of her cousin, the legendary Veron Edwards Sr., who represented Antigua and Barbuda in both football and cricket.



Senator Gail Christian with members of Hoppers FC

Senator Christian is also bonded to sports in her community through her uncles; one the former representative for the area Donald Christian, and the other, former national player Scout Christian, who played a key role in the development of the club.

The senator also has a close relationship with the players and executive members of Hoppers FC.

Meanwhile, on the political front,

Christian disclosed that she is pleased with the efforts of her campaign team and is confident of success in the upcoming general elections, which are constitutionally due by 23rd March 2023.

The Grays Farm native, who now resides in Five Islands, has given priority in her campaign to youth development, education, infrastructure and the empowerment of young women, whose education were cut short and need a second chance.

Christian also divulged that she will be undertaking several empowerment initiatives in the community over the next three months.

"I went straight from Holberton Hospital to Grays Green as a baby. I love my community, still reside in the community, and I am looking forward to serving the people I respect and love dearly.

"It brought joy to my heart to contribute and witness young people enjoy themselves in a fun, productive environment," Christian noted.



Local News



Murder accused remanded to prison

The three men facing murder and kidnapping charges in connection with the death of Arthur James, were remanded to prison following a court appearance yesterday.

Brothers, Zamir and Obasic O'garro, and Uroy Joseph, all of Liberta, appeared before District 'B' Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards in the All-Saints Magistrate's Court.

They were not required to enter a plea as the charges are indictable.

They have been remanded to Her Majesty's Prison, with 15th June, 2022, set as the date when the preliminary inquiry will commence.

The men are accused of the kidnapping and murder of Arthur James, whose burnt body was discovered in the trunk of his car on 30th October, 2021, in the Willoughby Bay area.

James had been missing for some



time, which prompted his family to file a missing person report with police.

The severely burnt state of James' body when discovered prevented immediate positive identification.

Homicide sleuths had to rely on DNA testing overseas to confirm his identity.

In November 2021, the O'garro brothers and Uroy Joseph were arrested and charged with kidnapping.

The siblings secured bail, but their accomplice did not.

With the latest charges, if the trio wish to secure bail, their attorneys will have to petition the High Court.

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Minister Matthew to participate in Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers

The fifty-four education ministers from the Commonwealth, including those from the Caribbean, are among the top policymakers set to meet in Kenya later this month to discuss pressing education challenges, at a time when the world is recovering from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew, has confirmed that he will join his colleagues to participate in the conference virtually.

Hosted by the Kenyan Government in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Kenya's Ministry of Education, the 21st Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) scheduled for April 27-28, will take place under the theme, 'Rethinking Education for Innovation, Growth and Sustainability post-COVID-19'.

Its main objective is to discuss key education priorities within the 54-member



Commonwealth, geared towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The conference will bring together ministers, senior government officials, educators, development partners, civil society, and policymakers to share knowledge and good practices in education as the world recovers from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participants will also identify areas of action and explore innovative approaches that can be adapted by member countries to develop sustainable and resilient education systems.

Speaking ahead of the conference, Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Patricia Scotland said the pandemic has already taken so much, we

must act now to prevent it from taking away the human right to education.

"Over the last two years, we have seen COVID-19 rob people around the world of their loved ones, livelihoods and so many of the usual certainties and comforts of everyday life.

"Its impact on young people has been especially distressing with millions of students seeing their education disrupted – schools and universities were closed, and students were forced to learn from home as a result of lockdown measures, which have also further exacerbated existing inequalities, especially among girls and marginalised communities," she said.

Incoming Chair of the Education Ministerial Action Group (EMAG) and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary



for Education, Professor George Magoha, said "With the future of our children and young people on the line, we need to work together to build back better and refocus on investing in inclusive and equitable quality education."

With only eight years left to meet the SDG 4 of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, a key objective of the conference will be to review and assess the progress towards achieving this goal, at regional and national levels.

The conference will also assess the existing commitments and outcomes from the 2018 CCCEM in Fiji, and the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, to leave no one behind, with an emphasis on equitable and inclusive education and supporting marginalised groups.

Some of these groups include young girls, and those from disadvantaged communities who are targeted through appropriate policies, advocacy, and strategic partnerships.



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Sunny along with a few clouds. High 82F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		Mainly clear skies. Low near 75F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 62%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 69%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:48 am	Sunset 6:24 pm	Moonrise 10:43 pm	Moonset 8:58 am
		○ Waning Gibbous	

Local News

Teen burglar shot in popular restaurant

A 16-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after he was shot by the proprietor of popular eatery Roti King.

The incident took place on Easter Monday.

The teen is one of two people accused of breaking into the establishment located on St. Mary's Street and Corn Alley.

While in the restaurant, they were confronted by the owner who drove to his business place after the security system was triggered.

When he shouted after the burglars, one of them reportedly exclaimed, "Shoot him!"

The businessman discharged his licensed firearm and the bullet struck the 16-year-old in the shoulder.

His accomplice, who fled the scene, is now being sought after by police.

The injured teen was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he is warded in critical condition.

Police investigations have begun.

This is not the first incident in which a burglar has been shot at Roti King.

Several years ago, a man was caught by the business owner removing drinks and other items from the



restaurant.

During that confrontation, the burglar sustained a gunshot wound.

US State Department lowers A&B Travel Advisory Level

The US State Department has lowered its Travel Advisory Level to 1 for Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the State Department's Travel Advisory system, this means that Americans traveling to Antigua and Barbuda should exercise "normal precautions" when visiting the country.

This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk.

Its highest level, 4, Do Not Travel, indicates "greater likelihood of life-threatening risks."

The updated advisory was revealed by the US Embassy in Barbados on Monday.

This comes on the heels of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) downgrading Antigua and Barbuda's COVID-19

risk level to "high". This indicates between 100 and 500 cases reported per 100,000 people over a period of 28 days.

Earlier this week, Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez, welcomed the CDC update and credited the de-

cision to downgrade Antigua and Barbuda to the government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the latest in a welcomed series of events for tourism authorities who are, together with the sailing community, preparing for the start

of Antigua Sailing Week on 30th April.

Now in its 53rd year, Antigua Sailing Week 2022, is set to welcome 93 yachts that will compete in races until 6th May, when winners will be recognised during the awards ceremony.

TRAVEL ADVISORY LEVELS

1

Exercise normal precautions

This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk. There is some risk in any international travel.

2

Exercise increased precautions

Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security.

3

Reconsider travel

Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security.

4

Do not travel

This is the highest advisory level due to greater likelihood of life-threatening risks. During an emergency, the U.S. government may have very limited ability to provide assistance.



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Finance



The right way to use ATMs, debit, and credit cards overseas

By Sheri-Kae McLeod

Not all ATMs, debit cards, and credit cards are alike, and the wrong ones can cost travellers a lot in extra fees and poor exchange rates. But, according to a new “Savvy Retiree” report from International Living, when used with a smart strategy in place, these banking tools can help make an overseas trip smooth and good value.

“Not all ATM systems and debit and credit cards are created equal,” says Dan Prescher, senior editor with International Living. “Get a debit or credit card from any-old bank, and you may pay much higher fees than you need to. Choose the wrong ATM when you’re on the road and you could pay sky-high foreign-exchange rates. But armed with a few key guidelines, it’s easy to ensure you’re keeping your banking costs to a minimum—so you can spend your money on more



entertaining things.”

A recent “Savvy Retiree” report from International Living outlines the ways travellers can make smart use of their debit and credit cards and choose the right ATMs. Here are three cost-saving tips:

1. Seek out bank ATMs.

First, not all ATMs are alike. One example is Euronet, whose machines are ubiquitous across Europe. They pop up in hotels, airports, souvenir shops, convenience stores, and on any street where tourists are commonplace. But they can be more costly than other

ATMs in several ways.

First, when a debit card is used from any country other than where the machine is, these ATMs are programmed to initially offer uncommonly large withdrawal amounts.

In Prague, for example,
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ple, these machines offer withdrawal amounts between 10,000 and 20,000 Czechia crowns. In dollar terms, that's the equivalent of \$440 and \$880. The reason these ATMs are programmed this way is that Euronet offers very high exchange rates compared to the official daily rate that banks use. The more dollars — and the higher the spread between the official exchange rate and the Euronet rate, the better for Euronet, and the worse for the cardholder.

The better strategy: find ATMs belonging to local banks. Exchange rates will be the same or much closer to official daily rates.

If the only ATM around is a Euronet or other non-bank ATM, select "Different Amount" if the quantities offered on-screen are excessively high. Withdraw as little as possible to get by until a real bank ATM is located.

2. Don't convert funds at an ATM.

Even with bank ATMs, there's a strategy to prevent extra charges: Reject the currency conversion option often shown on the screen.

The option to convert currency typically uses a higher exchange rate. The option to "accept without conversion" will yield an exchange rate closer to the actual daily rate.

3. Always pay in the local currency.

With credit cards, the strategy is to always choose the local currency option when given a choice.

For instance, in a Czechia restaurant or supermarket, the card-reader typically displays a message: <CAN> CZK or <ENT> EUR. This machine is offering the choice to select the "cancel" button to pay in Czechia crowns or the "enter" button to pay in euros. Choosing "cancel" selects the local currency, the credit or debit card company handles the currency

conversion at or near the official exchange rate. Select the option for euros or dollars, and the merchant does the currency conversion...again, usually at a higher rate.

4. Choose a credit card with no foreign transaction fees.

Finally, get a credit card that charges no foreign transaction fees.

Credit cards that charge foreign-transaction fees typically add an extra 3% upcharge to each transaction.

With the average cost of a four-day, international vacation around \$3,500 per person, consider what this might amount to if charged on a card that adds 3% worth of hidden charges on every purchase. With that example, you'd pay more than \$100 per person extra in fees!

Lots of cards today are available without foreign-transaction fees. Make sure you read the fine print to ensure yours is one of them.



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Workplace

The managerial obsession with 'busywork'

By Joanna York

Many managers fill up employees' plates with inane tasks, just to keep them working. Why are higher-ups so afraid of downtime?

When employees are on the clock, most managers expect them to keep busy through the workday. This may mean either completing tasks within their remits, or finding ways to make sure their hands are in some work-related project. Even when workflows deliver some downtime, the message from management is generally clear: find a way to keep working.

If workers appear to twiddle their thumbs, some managers step in with 'busywork' to keep their employees occupied. "Busywork is something that doesn't have a purpose," says leadership and development trainer Randy Clarke, based in Indiana, US. "It doesn't lead towards reaching any goals, it doesn't improve the person, the operation or the culture."

Examples of busywork might include compiling a pointless report, colour-coding a spreadsheet or proofreading a presentation that has already been checked. One 2016 study of 600 knowledge workers showed they spent just 39% of their workdays doing their actual jobs, with



the rest dedicated to meetings, emails and busywork such as writing status reports for managers.

In the office, managers might assign busywork based on a quick visual check of what employees are doing. But the switch to remote work during the pandemic has changed that, as many managers can no longer easily monitor their employees.

While studies suggest many remote employees are significantly more productive, they are also working significantly longer hours. Does this mean that managers are assigning more busywork? And would it really be so bad if employees took a break when there was nothing to do?

Keeping control

Part of the busywork

problem is some managers equate business with productivity.

The perception is not just that a busy worker is engaged and making an effort, but even that their industriousness gives them a higher moral value than their less busy colleagues.

This sets up a dynamic in which two office workers completing identical tasks can be judged on their busyness, rather than their results. Who appears to be more engaged: the busy worker who skips lunch to get things finished, or the efficient worker who finishes early and uses the time saved to buy groceries online?

From the bosses' perspective, the busy worker is often a more reassuring sight. "People feel like they're paying you for a

reason if they see you're busy doing work," says Susan Vroman, lecturer in management at Bentley University, Massachusetts.

This is heightened in organisations where work culture dictates that managers operate in a more traditional, authoritative style, discouraging autonomy among employees. In these organisations, managers may also feel under pressure from their own superiors to prove that their team is busy and productive. "Managers are saying, 'I need my employees to keep generating work so that I know they're earning their salary, because somebody is watching me to make sure that I'm managing them well'," says Vroman.

Remote work has, in
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some cases, exacerbated this pressure. When employees first switched to remote work, many managers found the inability to visually monitor their employees unsettling. "In the immediacy of Covid, bosses felt that if they couldn't see employees working, then they weren't working," adds Vroman. "They didn't think employees were being productive, even if they were still delivering results."

At the same time, managers reported a widespread loss of trust in their employees. July 2020 research in the Harvard Business Review showed 41% of managers questioned their employees' motivation, and almost a third doubted that their employees had the right knowledge or essential skills to make remote work successful.

When higher-ups doubt employees' work ethic, one solution is to micromanage their time with an endless list of tasks to keep them chained to their desks – even if some of those tasks are pointless.

"Managers may not even know if an employee has finished their core work, but they are giving additional busywork to ensure that they don't finish [for the day]," says Barbara Larson, an executive professor of management at D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University, Massachu-

setts. "It's work that is literally just being given to ensure that employees are working, so the manager has a sense that they are still in control."

'We definitely make ourselves look busy'

It is not just managers who equate industriousness with good performance, however. One study showed knowledge workers spend an average of 41% of their time at work on self-assigned busywork that could be delegated to others, in order to appear busier and more important at work. "We definitely make ourselves look busy, because we know people are watching," says Vro-

man.

Online, the pressure to look busy remains, even if that means adding extra tasks to the workday, like sending messages to prove we are logged on. And even though many workers are able to complete their work in less time in remote-work environments, many still feel the pressure to assign themselves busywork.

"We feel bad about [not working] because we know we're being paid to work all day," says Vroman. Indeed, a 2021 study showed that guilt around taking breaks is so high that 60% of US remote workers don't take any time to themselves

during the workday.

Temptation to self-as-sign busywork can be even higher among employees who fear being assigned busywork from their bosses instead. Vroman says people will start doing things to make themselves look busy, "so that the bosses will lay off".

Some managers report lulls in work during remote set-ups have made employees uneasy.

"When some of our staff were working from home, I noticed that they felt a bit guilty when there was downtime," says Niall John Lynchehaun, the managing director of

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Workplace

cont'd from pg 11

building-supplies company Midland Stone, based in Ireland. He started assigning busywork so his employees still felt useful in these quiet periods. "It's simply the easiest way to deal with the situation."

But assigning too much busywork to mitigate guilt might mean swapping one set of negative feelings for another.

A 2018 study showed 42% of workers were spending half of their time on busywork, and 71%

said that doing too much busywork "made them feel as though their lives were being wasted".

The ripple effect of pointless tasks

In the long-term, frequently assigning tasks designed primarily to keep workers occupied can damage the relationship between managers and their workers.

"It can be very demotivating to the remote employee," says Larson. "It's a sign of lack of trust and lack of care. The real trag-

edy of busywork is in the opportunity that is lost. There's so much that could be done within that time that would be beneficial to both the employee and the firm."

Such opportunities could include assigning the worker meaningful tasks or opportunities for growth that often get put on the backburner, such as training.

It could also mean letting employees take a breather. Numerous studies have proven the benefits of taking regular breaks during the workday. Among them are reduced stress and improved focus, creativity and productivity – all positives for employees and their organisations.

But especially when remote workers are putting in increasingly long hours, piling on endless busywork will have the opposite effect.

"The primary risk is that employees burn out and their mental wellness is impacted," says Vroman. "This Great Resignation is the result, in part, of exhausted people who are not managed effectively in their remote work because it wasn't flexible enough."

Breaking the cycle

Of course, not all managers are proponents of busywork. Larson believes in "outcome-based" tasks instead of time-based ones. If her employees finish early or have time to take a break, she says, "then, frankly, that flexibility is

part of the reward for their performance".

This approach relies on giving teams autonomy, something Larson describes as "extremely motivating". "Typically, what happens is that creates a virtuous cycle, where people want to do a good job."

Randy Clarke suggests that managers need to think harder about the kind of tasks they are handing out.

When he trains managers and leaders, he advises they keep employees busy during work hours, but avoid busywork. Instead, they should plan for slow periods, and "look for tasks they can give that will add value".

Ultimately, managers who feel caught in a cycle of assigning busywork should take a step back and think more broadly about what their managers want from them – rather than scrambling to keep people busy. "They're probably looking for you to generate good results and, hopefully, retain people who are happy working for you," suggests Vroman.

Remote work may not have finished off the idea that workers on the clock have to be kept busy, but changing attitudes towards management offer some hope. If the flexible schedules now in demand swap work hours for outcomes, they could take busywork with them, and leave healthier, happier workers in their wake.



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Ukraine war: Can India feed the world?

By Soutik Biswas

Last week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US President Joe Biden that India was ready to ship food to the rest of the world following supply shocks and rising prices due to the war in Ukraine.

Mr Modi said India had “enough food” for its 1.4 billion people, and it was “ready to supply food stocks to the world from tomorrow” if the World Trade Organization (WTO) allowed.

Commodity prices were already at a 10-year high before the war in Ukraine because of global harvest issues. They have leapt after the war and are already at their highest since 1990, according to the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (UNFAO) food-price index.

Russia and Ukraine are two of the world’s major wheat exporters and account for about a third of global annual wheat sales. The two countries also account for 55% of the global annual sunflower oil exports, and 17% of exports of maize and barley. Together, they were expected to export 14 million tonnes of wheat and over 16 million tonnes of maize this year, according to UNFAO.

“The supply disruptions and threat of embargo facing Russia means that these



India is one of the world's top producers of wheat [Reuters]

exports have to be taken out of the equation. India could step in to export more, especially when it has enough stocks of wheat,” says Upali Galketi Aratchilage, a Rome-based economist at UNFAO.

India is the second biggest producer of rice and wheat in the world. As of early April, it had 74 million tonnes of the two staples in stock. Of this, 21 million tonnes have been kept for its strategic reserve and the Public Distribution System (PDS), which gives more than 700 million poor people access to cheap food.

India is also one of the cheapest global suppliers of wheat and rice: it is already exporting rice to nearly 150 countries and wheat to 68.

It exported some 7 million tonnes of wheat in 2020-2021. Traders, reacting to rising demand in the international market, have already entered contracts for exports of more than 3 million tonnes of wheat during April to July, according to officials. Farm exports exceeded a record \$50bn in 2021-22.

India has the capacity to export 22 million tonnes of rice and 16 million tonnes of wheat in this fiscal year, according to Ashok Gulati, a professor of agriculture at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. “If the WTO allows government stocks to be exported, it can be even higher. This will help cool the global prices

and reduce the burden of importing countries around the world,” he says.

There are some reservations though. “We have enough stocks at the moment. But there are some concerns, and we should not become gung-ho about feeding the world,” says Harish Damodaran, a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, a Delhi-based think tank.

First, there are fears of a less-than-expected harvest. India’s new wheat season is under way and officials project a record 111 million tonnes be harvested - the sixth bumper crop season in a row.

But experts like Mr Damodaran are not convinced.

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The World Around Us

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He believes the yield will be much lower because of fertiliser shortages and the vagaries of the weather - excessive rains and severe early summer heat. "We are overestimating the production," he says. "We will know in another 10 days."

Another question mark, say experts, is over fertilisers, a basic component of farming. India's stocks have fallen low after the war - India imports di-ammonium phosphate and fertilisers containing nitrogen, phosphate, sulphur and potash. Russia and Belarus account for 40% of the world's potash exports. Globally, fertiliser prices are already high due to soaring gas prices.

es.

A shortage of fertilisers could easily hit production in the next harvest season. One way to get around this, says Mr Damodaran, is for India to explore "wheat-for-fertiliser deals" with countries like Egypt and in Africa.

Also, if the war gets prolonged, India might face logistical challenges in stepping up exports. "Exporting huge volumes of cereals involves huge infrastructure like transportation, storage, ships. Also the capacity to start shipping in high volumes," says Mr Aratchilage. There is also the question of higher freight costs.

Lastly, there is the overriding concern over

galloping food prices at home - food inflation hit a 16-month-high of 7.68% in March. This has been mainly driven by price rises of edible oils, vegetables, cereals, milk, meat and fish. India's central bank has warned about "elevated global price pressures in key food items" leading to "high uncertainty" over inflation.

The Russian invasion is likely to have "serious consequences" for global food security, according to IFPRI, a think tank. The UN-FAO estimates that a prolonged disruption to exports of wheat, fertiliser and other commodities from Russia and Ukraine could push up the number of undernourished people in the world

from eight to 13 million.

By the government's own admission, more than three million children remain undernourished in India despite bountiful crops and ample food stocks. (Prime Minister Modi's native state, Gujarat, has the third highest number of such children.) "You cannot be cavalier about food security. You cannot play around with the food earmarked for the subsidised food system," says Mr Damodaran.

If there is one thing India's politicians know it is that food - or the lack of it - determines their fate: state and federal governments have tumbled in the past because of soaring onion prices.



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St. Vincent Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves travels to Venezuela for medical attention

CMC – Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves is traveling to Venezuela and possibly to Cuba for medical attention, after suffering “an excruciating” pain on his right side that has been keeping him awake.

Gonsalves, 75, said he received medical attention locally last Friday but was advised to do a full medical check-up.

He said his initial plan was to travel directly to Cuba but will go to Venezuela first, because of insistence “from the highest level” in Caracas.

“I wanted, by way of this medium, to indicate that I am going to be traveling to Venezuela and possibly to Cuba for medical attention,” Gonsalves said on radio, adding that he is likely to miss the visit of Britain’s royal family on Saturday.

“On Thursday night, I didn’t sleep well. I had excruciating pain on my right side, and I went into the hospital on Good Friday, was attended to and looked after quite well by local doctors and other health personnel.

“But I was advised to go and do my full check-up. I did one last year in July and I was going straight to Cuba, but the Venezuelans insisted that I come there. In fact, the insistence is from the highest level. So that’s where I am going today.

“In all probability, I will miss the visit of Prince Edward, Earl of Essex and his wife who are coming to St. Vincent for one day on Saturday,” he said.

Gonsalves said the royals are coming on behalf of the Queen, who is celebrating her Platinum Jubilee — 70 years on the throne.



Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

“I spoke to the Governor General. I just wanted to indicate formally; this is the only place over the week-end where I can make the information known to the public. I didn’t just want to go off and persons hearing second hand,” he added.

Six killed, several others injured following vehicular accident in Haiti

CMC - Haiti’s Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry says he is “deeply saddened” at the loss of lives following a vehicular accident over the weekend that left at least six people dead and more than 70 others injured.

Media reports said the accident occurred on Saturday when a truck returning from Breman, south of the capital, Port au Prince and carrying musicians and fans of the Rara “inon-san” overturned in Jacmel near Meyer.

Rara is a form of music festival that originated in Haiti that is used for street processions, typically during Easter Week. The music centers on a set of cylindrical bamboo trumpets called Vaksin but also features drums, maracas, güiras or güiros, a percussion instrument, and metal bells, as well as



alsos which are made from recycled metal, often coffee cans.

According to the Secretary-General of the South-East delegation, the speeding driver tried to avoid a band of Rara on the road and lost control of his vehicle.

Read more on Haiti: US Coast Guard repatriates nearly 100 Haitians rescued at sea

“I am deeply saddened after learning the news of the accident, in Meyer, commune of Jacmel, which caused several victims, including deaths and injuries. I offer my condolences to the families of the victims of this new tragedy while renewing them my full support,” Henry said in a message on his social media page.

The authorities said four people died at the scene of the accident and two others at the hospital, while 72 people including 20 who were seriously injured were taken to the Saint-Michel hospital in Jacmel. Medical officials said most of those injured suffered multiple fractures.

Rwandan President wants closer links between Africa and the Caribbean

CMC – Rwandan President Paul Kagame has called for solidarity among African and Caribbean countries saying they must work together to advance their common positions and interests globally.

Addressing a joint sitting of Jamaica's Houses of Parliament on Thursday, the Rwandan President, who is ending a three-day State visit on Friday, said Africa and the Caribbean must open direct lines of communication.

Kagame takes over the chairmanship of the 54-member Commonwealth grouping when it meets in the African country in June, and his comments come against the backdrop of a division within the regional integration movement regarding the appointment of a secretary-general for the Commonwealth.

The incumbent, the Dominica-born Dame Patricia Scotland is facing a challenge from Jamaica, who last week announced that its foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Kamina Johnson Smith, will seek the position, a position that forced regional leaders to meet in an emergency session without fully resolving the matter.

"In our diversity, we share common traits. Our people are resilient, creative and, as our common history shows, also indestructible.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right); Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (centre) stand with President of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul Kagame for an official photo, during the 'Think Jamaica 2022' (Photo JIS)

This mutual recognition should have practical, tangible effects. We belong to a number of important multilateral bodies, including the Commonwealth and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States," Kagame told legislators.

"Africa and the Caribbean should work together to advance common positions in these bodies where our interests align, as they often do. Climate change and global health are two urgent examples," he said, adding that the two regions are beyond relating to each other through intermediaries.

"Our diplomats tend to meet in London, New York, or Geneva. I have no problem with that, but we could do it otherwise – directly."

Paul Kagame said it is "high time" for Africa and the Caribbean to work together in a "direct and sustained" manner both through representative regional organizations – CARICOM and the African Union – and bilaterally.

He also wants direct people-to-people exchanges, particularly for the youth and entrepreneurs.

Prior to his departure on Friday, President Kagame met with the Prime Minister Andrew Holness for bi-

lateral talks.

Holness said Kagame's visit presented an opportunity to deepen collaboration between the two countries.

"We believe that there is much for us to share and learn from each other. Through our exchanges, we would have had the opportunities to take forward technical cooperation in several fields.

"We're looking forward to advancing our economic relations through increased trading and investment prospects particularly as it relates to logistics, special economic zones agriculture, and manufacturing," he told parliament.

Russia ratchets up battle for control of eastern Ukraine

AP – Russia ratcheted up its battle for control of Ukraine’s eastern industrial heartland Tuesday, assaulting cities and towns along a boomerang-shaped front hundreds of miles long in what both sides described as a new phase of the war.

After a Russian push to overrun the capital failed, the Kremlin declared that its main goal was the capture of the mostly Russian-speaking eastern Donbas region, where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces for eight years.

If successful, that offensive would give President Vladimir Putin a vital piece of Ukraine and a badly needed victory in the now 7-week-old war that he could present to the Russian people amid mounting casualties and economic hardship caused by the West’s sanctions.

It would also effectively slice Ukraine in two and deprive it of the main industrial assets concentrated in the east, including coal mines, metals plants and machine-building factories.

Ukraine’s military said early Tuesday that a “new phase of war” began a day earlier when “the occupiers made an attempt to break through our defenses along nearly the entire front line.” Russian Foreign Minister



An elderly woman waits to be evacuated from a hospice in Chasiv Yar city, Donetsk district, Ukraine, Monday, April 18, 2022. At least 35 men and women, some in wheelchairs and most of them with difficulties to walk, were helped by volunteers to flee from the region that has been under attack in the last weeks. They are going to Khmelnytskyi, in western Ukraine. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

Sergey Lavrov said that “another phase of this operation is starting now.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that massive numbers of Russian troops were committed to the campaign, though some observers noted that an escalation has been underway there for some time and questioned whether this was truly the start of new offensive.

Justin Crump, a former British tank commander now with the strategic advisory company Sibylline, said the Ukrainian comments could, in part, be an attempt to persuade allies to send more weapons.

European and American arms have been key to bolstering Ukraine’s defense, helping the under-gunned country to hold off the Russians. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told Zelenskyy on Tuesday that the Netherlands would send “heavier material,” including armored vehicles.

In what appeared to be an intensification of attacks, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said that air-launched missiles destroyed 13 Ukrainian troop and weapons locations, while the air force struck 60 other Ukrainian military facilities, including missile

warhead storage depots.

Russian artillery hit 1,260 Ukrainian military facilities and 1,214 troops concentrations over the last 24 hours, Konashenkov said Tuesday. The claims could not be independently verified.

The assaults began Monday along a front that stretches more than 300 miles (480 kilometers) from northeastern Ukraine to the country’s southeast.

Russia said it struck several areas with missiles, including the northeastern city of Kharkiv as well as areas around Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro west of the Donbas.

Court ruling creates mishmash of transportation mask rules

AP — A decision by a federal judge in Florida to throw out a national mask mandate for public transportation across the U.S. created a confusing patchwork of rules for passengers as they navigate airports and transit systems.

The ruling gives airports, mass transit systems, airlines and ride-hailing services the option to keep mask rules or ditch them entirely, resulting in rules that vary by city and mode of transportation.

Passengers on an United Airlines flight from Houston to Kennedy Airport, for instance, could ditch their masks at their departing airport and on the plane, but have to put them back on once they land in New York or take a subway.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had recently extended the mandate until May 3 to allow more time to study the BA.2 omicron subvariant of the coronavirus now responsible for the vast majority of U.S. cases. But the court decision put the mandate on hold.

Here's a look at how U.S. transportation centers and providers are responding:

AIRLINES

Major airlines were some of the first to update their rules after the court decision. United, Southwest, American, Alaska, Delta and JetBlue announced that, effective immediately, masks would no longer be required on domestic flights.

"While this means that our employees are no longer required to wear a mask — and no longer have to enforce a mask requirement for most of the flying public — they will be able to wear masks if they choose to do so, as the CDC continues to strongly recom-



Travelers line up wearing protective masks indoors at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Dec. 28, 2021. U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle in Tampa, Fla., on April 18, 2022, voided the national travel mask mandate as exceeding the authority of U.S. health officials. The mask mandate that covers travel on airplanes and other public transportation was recently extended by President Joe Biden's administration until May 3. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh, File)

mend wearing a mask on public transit," United Airlines said.

The Association of Flight Attendants, the nation's largest union of cabin crews, has recently taken a neutral position on the mask rule because its members are divided about the issue. On Monday, the union's president appealed for calm on planes and in airports.

Alaska Airlines said some passengers who were banned for violating the mask policy will remain banned.

AIRPORTS

Airports weren't as fast to do away with masks, with several expressing uncertainty about the ruling and taking a wait-and-see approach.

But others, including the two main airports in Houston, did away with mask requirements soon after the Transportation Security Administration said it would no longer enforce the mask mandate. Los Angeles International and Phoenix Sky Harbor also

eliminated their mask requirements. San Francisco International Airport said it was waiting for further guidance from TSA.

The New York City airports appeared to keep the mandate intact.

TRAINS AND BUSES

The rules for train and bus passengers vary by city and transit agency.

In New York, Metropolitan Transportation Authority communications director Tim Minton said the system was keeping the mask mandate, meaning face coverings are still required on the subway, buses and commuter rail lines, as they have since early in the pandemic.

But the regional train system serving the Washington, D.C., area said Monday that masks will be now optional for its customers and employees going forward.

"Our mask mandate has been based on federal guidance," said Paul
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Blasts near Kabul schools kill at least six civilians, hurt 17

AP – Explosions targeting educational institutions killed at least six people, including students, and wounded 17 Tuesday in a mostly Shiite neighborhood of Afghanistan's capital city, police said.

The blasts, which happened in rapid succession, were being investigated and more casualties were feared, according to Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran and the city's Emergency Hospital. Several of the wounded were in serious condition and some had been treated and released.

The explosions occurred inside the Abdul Rahim Shaheed High School and near the Mumtaz Education Center several kilometers (miles) away, both in the predominantly Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi. There were no immediate reports of casualties at the education center.

Guards in the narrow street leading to the two-story high school said they saw 10 casualties. Inside the school, an Associated Press video journalist saw walls splattered with blood, burned notebooks and children's shoes.



Taliban fighters stand guard at the site of an explosion in front of a school, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, April 19, 2022. An Afghan police spokesman says explosions targeting educational institutions in Kabul have killed at least six civilians and injured over 10 others. Khalid Zadran said Tuesday the blasts occurred in the mostly-Shiite Muslim area in the west of Afghanistan's capital. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

The AP spoke to several private guards in the area but they refused to give their names, fearing repercussions from the Taliban security force cordoning off the area.

It appeared a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the sprawling compound, which can house up to 1,000 students, witnesses said. It wasn't immediately clear how many children were in the school at the time of the explosion.

The school is teaching students only until grade 6 after Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban rulers went back on a promise to allow all girls to

attend school.

No one immediately claimed responsibility. The area has been targeted in the past by Afghanistan's deadly Islamic State affiliate, which reviles Shiite Muslims as heretics.

Save the Children in Afghanistan issued a statement "strongly condemning" the attack and saying "no school should be deliberately targeted, and no child should fear physical harm at or on the way to school."

The U.N.'s high commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, said on Twitter he joined the world body's

special representative for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, in offering condolences to families of the victims. He said the attack against the school was "horrific and cowardly."

The Islamic State affiliate known as IS in Khorasan Province, or IS-K, has previously targeted schools, particularly in the Shiite dominated Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood. In May last year, months before the Taliban took power in Kabul, more than 60 children, mostly girls, were killed when two bombs were detonated outside their school, also in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood.

IS has presented the biggest security challenge to the country's Taliban rulers, who swept into Kabul last August as the United States ended its 20-year war.

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J. Wiedefeld, general manager and CEO of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. "We will continue to monitor this situation as it unfolds, but masks will be optional on Metro property until further

notice." Amtrak also said it was making masks optional.

RIDE SHARING

The websites of ride sharing companies Lyft and Uber as of Monday evening still said masks were required.

Sports News



Celtics' Marcus Smart is NBA defensive player of the year

AP – Boston's Marcus Smart is the first guard in over a quarter-century to win the NBA defensive player of the year award.

NBA officials announced the award on Monday. The last guard to win this honour was Seattle's Gary Payton in 1995-96.

Smart helped the Celtics lead the NBA in defensive rating and scoring defence (104.6) while holding opponents to a league-low field-goal percentage (.434) and 3-point percentage (.339). The 28-year-old ranked seventh in the NBA in steals per game (1.68) and tied for sixth in total steals (119).

Smart received 257 total points and earned 37



Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart (36) defends as Brooklyn Nets guard Goran Dragic, of Slovenia, right, looks for an opening in the first half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round Eastern Conference playoff series, Sunday, April 17, 2022, in Boston. The Celtics won 115-114. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

first-place votes from a panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters. Phoenix Suns forward Mikal Bridges finished second with 202 points and 22 first-place votes.

Utah Jazz centre Rudy Gobert, who had won the award in 2018, 2019 and 2021, finished third with 136 points and 12 first-place votes.

Smart, who started each of the 71 regular-season games he played, tied for fourth in loose balls recovered (75) and tied for 10th in deflections (106) and charges drawn (16). He had a career-high 3.2 defensive rebounds per game.

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo won defensive player of the year in 2020. Players received five points for each first-place vote, three for each second-place vote and one for each third-place vote.

Cycling champ Wiggins says he was groomed by a coach as boy

AP – Former Tour de France champion Sir Bradley Wiggins has revealed that he was sexually groomed by a coach when he was 13 years old.

The five-time Olympic champion made the allegation in an interview with Men's Health UK magazine. He did not identify the coach.

"I was groomed by a coach when I was younger — I was about 13 — and I never fully accepted that," said the 41-year-old Wiggins, who won the Tour in 2012 and retired four years later.

Asked if he was groomed sexually, Wiggins said: "Yes. It all impacted me as an adult ... I buried it," preferring not to speak out at the time because of

a difficult relationship with his stepfather.

Wiggins has previously spoken about his childhood, which included his father walking out on the family. His father was Australian cyclist Gary Wiggins, who died in 2008 following a fight at a house party.

Wiggins is one of the most decorated British Olympians. He won three individual gold medals and two team golds, the last of which was at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. Wiggins won eight medals overall.

British Cycling said it was "deeply concerned by the matter" and contacted Wiggins on Tuesday "to offer our full support."



Sir Bradley Wiggins

"We would encourage anybody who has suffered abuse or has concerns about the welfare of others — regardless of when the incident took place — to utilize the support offered both by our trained team at British Cycling and the dedicated NSPCC helpline, which in turn helps us to ensure that our sport is a safe and welcoming place for all."

Lynn's Image surges to victory again

Lynn's Image maintained dominance over Playa Zaragoza in the feature race of the Easter Sunday Horse Racing Meet at the Cassada Gardens Race Track.

After prevailing over the same opponent in an earlier race on 27th February, Lynn's Image, racing out of the God's Grace Stables, defeated Playa Zaragoza in the fifth and final race of the day over a distance of six and a half furlongs.

Ridden by jockey Winston Hurst Jr., Lynn's Image prevailed in the two-horse showdown in 1 minute and 21.3 seconds.

Hurst also celebrated success when he led Unruly Union of God's Grace Stables to victory over Silent Action.

Unruly Union sped to



Lynn's Image, right, ridden by jockey Winston Hurst Jr., leads Playa Zaragoza during the feature race during the Easter Sunday Meet at the Cassada Gardens Race Track on 17th April, 2022. (Photo: Antigua Turf Club)

victory across six and a half furlongs in 1 minute and 22 seconds.

Syrian Soca, ridden by Julian Walters, also joined the winners' circle. Syrian Soca, of the Chief Rocker's Stables, defeated Big Deal over the same distance.

Walters racked up another victory on Diego, a

thoroughbred from the Devil's Disciples Stables, over debutant and locally bred thoroughbred, Chosen Warrior.

Diego sped home in the six-furlong race in 1 minute and 17.4 seconds.

There was success as well for Lady Ray who prevailed against newcomer

Merryland in the first race of the day.

The Easter Sunday event was the second meet staged by the Antigua Turf Club since horse racing resumed on 27th February, 2022.

The meet at the Cassada Gardens Race Track was well supported by a most appreciative crowd.

Ashleigh Barty to play in golf exhibition series

BBC – Former world number one Ashleigh Barty has fuelled speculation she may attempt a top-level career in a third sport by signing up to for a golf exhibition.

The 25-year-old, who announced her shock retirement from tennis in March, will play in the Icons Series in July.

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola and 23-time Olympic champion Michael Phelps are among the other stars taking part.

"It's such a unique opportunity to have fun, test yourself and compete," Barty told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"I hope through my participation in the series that we can encourage



Barty held tennis' world number one ranking for more than two years in total [Getty Images]

more women and girls to participate in golf around the world."

Barty, whose three Grand Slam singles titles include last summer's Wimbledon crown, is a keen amateur golfer with a reported handicap of four.

Her father Robert represented

Australia as an amateur and had considered attempting to turn professional himself.

Barty played professional cricket for Queensland and Brisbane Heat in 2015 during a break from tennis.

She has previously suggested that she would not attempt similar in golf, telling the Courier Mail earlier this month that she "had a good laugh" about the speculation.

Barty is also writing a series of children's books, set to be released later this year.

The first event in the Icon Series will take place at Liberty National in New Jersey in June with further tournaments planned for Europe, Asia and Australia.

Sports News



Two players hit centuries in ACB Caribbean Parish League

Two batsmen slammed centuries in last weekend's opening round of matches in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Richie Richardson Limited Overs Competition.

Daren Benta reached triple figures in a losing cause for Willikies, however, Hilroy Andrew achieved his milestone while propelling D&R Architect Sea View Farm to a commanding opening round victory in the 35 overs a side competition.

Benta struck 106, Dean Williams hit 39 and Omarie



Hazelwood chipped in with 29 in Willikies' total of 247 for 8 off 32 overs against Mahico.

Taime Tonge bagged 3 for 46 and Jadijah claimed 2 for 33.

Jadijah then starred with the bat striking 71, but it was Dahari who top scored with 81, while Malique Walsh contributed 42 not out as Mahico achieved a six-wicket victory at 250 for 4 in 29.4 overs.

Andrew hammered away 112 and Jelani Mussington contributed 42 as Sea View Farm posted 245 for 6 in their 35 overs against Newfield.

Cheyonne Walsh captured two for 34.

Newfield then succumbed to a 65-run loss as they were bowled out for 180 in 28.5 overs.

Egbert Philip grabbed 3 for 17 and Andrew picked up 2 for 29.

Shacoy Floyd top scored for Newfield with 83 and Melvin Charles made 28.

It wasn't a totally disappointing opening campaign for Newfield, as they pulled off a six-wicket win against Work Force St. Paul's in their other encounter over the weekend.

Jahiem Norde captured 4 for 20 and Shamar Pereira snapped up 3 wickets for 5 runs to help dismiss St. Paul's for 80.

Kadeem Henry got 35 and Fredrick Floyd, with 10, was the only other batsman to reach double figures.

Norde then capped a fine all-round display, cracking 44 with the bat along with Pereira who chipped in 16 to lead Newfield to victory at 83 for 4.

Medium pacer Henry also produced a good all-round effort, snapping up three wickets for just 11 runs.

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Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association 268abdra

Cristiano Ronaldo and partner Georgina Rodriguez announce death of baby boy

BBC – Manchester United footballer Cristiano Ronaldo and partner Georgina Rodriguez have announced the death of their baby boy, saying it is the “greatest pain that any parents can feel”.

The Portugal international, 37, and Rodriguez, 28, were expecting twins.

Their baby girl survived, and they said her birth “gives us the strength to live this moment with some hope and happiness”.

“Our baby boy, you are our angel. We will always love you,” they wrote.

In a statement on social media, they said: “It is with our deepest sadness we have to announce that our baby boy has passed away.

“We are all devastated at this loss and we kindly ask for privacy at this



Georgina Rodriguez and Cristiano Ronaldo announced the pregnancy in October [Getty Images]

very difficult time.”

The pair had announced the pregnancy in October.

Manchester United tweeted: “Your pain is our pain. Sending love and strength to you and the family at this

time.”

Ronaldo has a son, Cristiano Jr, who was born in 2010, and twins Eva and Mateo who were born in 2017. He also has a daughter with Rodriguez, Alana Martina, who was born in 2017.



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Team Antigua/Barbuda at the 2022 CARIFTA Games Swimming Championships in Barbados. (Photo: ABSF)

Stubbs-Green adds bronze to gold medal win at CARIFTA

Ethan Stubbs-Green has won a second medal for Antigua and Barbuda at the 2022 CARIFTA Swimming Championships in Barbados.

In a thrilling finish, with a time differential of 84 milliseconds, Stubbs-Green brought home a bronze medal on Monday night in the 13-14 age group 200 metre freestyle with a time of 2:01.95 seconds.

Stubbs-Green swam to gold in the boys' 13-14 100-metre butterfly in a time of 58.22 seconds on the opening day of the 16th to 18th April regional meet.

Meanwhile, Tivon Benjamin, who competed in the 200-metre freestyle, attained a personal best in his impressive fifth place final finish in the boys' 13-14 age group.

Davina Barton improved upon her

preliminary performance with a finishing time of 2:25.55 seconds in the girls' 11-12 age group 200-metre freestyle race.

Reuben Edwards achieved a new personal best in the 200-metre freestyle in the 11-12 boys' age group with a time of 2:25.17 seconds.

According to a press release from the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF), "This represents a second day of triumph for Antiguan and Barbudan swimmers, who have demonstrated their will to succeed following a first day caravan of personal best and finals placements.

"These young athletes have consistently improved their personal records and demonstrated the huge impact of their personal discipline and strength."

President of ABSF, Derek Marshall, added that he "is passionate and extremely proud of the success of the young athletes."

"On the second day, we got to see perseverance and excellent results. I am extremely proud of our swimmers' continued high performance and look forward to the next two days.

"The coaches, team manager, and chaperones are working extremely hard for these athletes over in Barbados, and we are all rooting for them and sending our best wishes from home-side," he went on.

The ABSF has thanked CIBC First Caribbean International Bank and the National Olympic Committee (NOC) for their roles and contributions which made Antigua and Barbuda's participation at CARIFTA 2022 possible.