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BOOBY ALLEY TRANSFORMATION ON THE HORIZON

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On Monday, Chinese technicians carried out a site visit at Booby Alley in The Point signalling the start of the preparation phase of the housing development earmarked by the government for the area. The visit was led by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim.

Local News



Chinese technicians visit Booby Alley

Chinese technicians on Monday carried out a site visit at Booby Alley in The Point signalling the start of the preparation phase of the housing development earmarked by the government for the area.

A housing agreement was signed in August, 2021 between the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China that will result in the construction of 150 two-bedroom units in a turn-key development.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, led yesterday afternoon's site visit.

In an exclusive inter-

view with Pointe Xpress, he said several key departments in St. John's are collaborating with eight highly skilled technicians who were deployed by the Chinese government.

These technicians are now formulating a plan to transform the area.

"The technicians are now gathering data and the Ministry of Works along with other agencies such as DCA, the Ministry of Health through the Solid Waste Authority, are now assisting in providing the data.

"Once that data is complete, then the technicians will return to China on the 23rd December where they'll then use that in-



formation to create a plan which would be suitable for the environment," Ambassador Pilgrim said.

He explained that it is imperative that careful consideration be given to the location, and other dynamics in the area, before a design is finalised.

"What you see here today is a tangible demonstration of assistance from the People's Republic of China with respect to their commitment to build the 150 units to house the people of Booby Alley."

Work to clear the land identified for the development has been underway over the last two weeks. This work followed the relocation of Booby Alley residents and the demolition of their houses.

Although the completed project will bring tangible benefits and improved living conditions to Point residents, there are a small group of people who continue to resist and have refused

to relocate. This has delayed the start of the project.

"There are some residents who have not caught on to the vision that we have of creating a brand new urban development and urban renewal site.

"As the prime minister has indicated, the government will be taking steps to ensure that the site is cleared so that the forward momentum of the project will not be slowed," Pilgrim added.

"We have cleared as much as we can, we are very hopeful that those persons who have not as yet indicated a timeline for them to move would so do, because this is slowing down the process and this is an exciting opportunity for Antiguans and Barbudans to see exactly how we can upgrade an environment," he continued.

Ambassador Pilgrim said the Booby Alley development will create a model community that its residents can be proud of.



COSIS files historic case on greenhouse gas emissions before ITLOS

The Co-Chairs of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda and Prime Minister Kausea Natano of Tuvalu, submitted a request for an Advisory Opinion yesterday to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on the obligation of states under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to protect and preserve the marine environment in relation to climate change impacts, including ocean warming, sea level rise, and ocean acidification.

This historic proceeding before ITLOS is the first inter-State case addressing the international legal obligations of States with regard to climate change. The request to ITLOS is complementary to and in support of the initiative of Vanuatu, to have the UN General Assembly request an advisory opinion on climate change from the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

It is anticipated that ITLOS will schedule the filing of written pleadings and a hearing in 2023, in which all states parties to UNCLOS as well as international organisations will be able to participate.

Prime Minister Browne stated, "This is a historic step for Small Island States, to invoke international law in the effort to ensure that the major polluters take their obligations seriously, to prevent harm to vulnerable states or to compensate them for damage. Our peoples are already feeling the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We cannot continue business as usual."

Prime Minister Natano remarked, "If humankind does not act with urgency, some of our island nations will disappear under the sea within a generation. Protection of the marine environment is a matter of survival. Greenhouse gas emissions should not be treated less seriously than other forms of pollution. If anything, they require even greater urgency and a commitment to respect

existing principles of international law."

COSIS is assisted by a committee of legal experts consisting of 14 distinguished jurists from around the world. The Agreement establishing COSIS was signed at COP26 on October 31st, 2021, in Edinburgh.

The current members are Antigua and Barbuda, Tuvalu, Palau, Niue, Vanuatu, and St. Lucia.



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Local News



Rowers take on Atlantic Ocean in Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge

Forty-three teams are rowing across the Atlantic Ocean to Antigua and Barbuda in the 2022 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

The teams - made up of 127 rowers representing 17 countries - took off from the starting line in La Gomera, Canary Islands in a grueling race that totals 300 nautical miles.

They will navigate rough seas, experience sea sickness and may even have close calls with marine animals as they make their way to the finish line at Nelson's Dockyard.

The seafarers will also



Winners of the 2021/2022 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge
SWISS RAW

raise awareness for causes that are true to them and raise money for their char-

ities as they set sights on winning the challenge.

Antigua and Barbuda

is not represented in this year's challenge. The last national team was made up of Travis Weste and Joseph Nunes, Team Antigua Pairs. They secured 10th place in the race when they crossed the finish line on 28th January, 2021, after 47 days, 6 hours and 57 minutes at sea.

Carsten Heron Olsen is chief executive officer and race director of Atlantic Campaigns. As the vessels left La Gomera on Monday morning, he commented on the success of the event which continues to draw interest from across the globe.

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Hazardous sea conditions delay LPG shipment

Chief Executive Officer of the West Indies Oil Company Ltd. (WIOC), Gregory Georges says adverse weather conditions are responsible for the shortage of cooking gas on the island.

Over the weekend, almost all petrol stations and other cooking gas vendors were all out of the product.

By Saturday morning, cooking gas was unavailable at most vendors.

A statement from WIOC on Monday said that Antigua and Barbuda, as well as several other Caribbean countries were experiencing delays in the arrival of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) because of severe weather conditions.

Last week, reports indicated that the Antigua Port Authority's chief pilot could not safely navigate the tank-



ers into the harbour because of the sea conditions.

For several days, the Met Office here in Antigua and Barbuda has issued cautions of hazardous sea conditions and advisories have been issued for sea bathers and small craft operators to exercise extreme caution.

These conditions are also impacting neighbouring islands.

The weather conditions have also had an impact on aircraft arriving at the V. C. Bird International Airport as air traffic control has had arriving planes change the

usual west to east landing pattern to the opposite direction because of changes in wind conditions.

These weather conditions are expected to improve over the course of the week, and WIOC's CEO has said that LPG supplies will regularise when this occurs.

He also noted that the supply of other petroleum products is unaffected by this development. Georges continued that there is no need for concern as petroleum product reserves are more than adequate to meet the country's needs.

cont' d from pg 4

"As the race organiser, it is difficult to find the right words. I'm incredibly touched, but also humbled, for us in Atlantic Campaigns to be able to be just a small part of this amazing race and the journey that our teams take on is just incredible.

"I can't wait to follow them all the way through and be in Antigua to receive them. It's an interesting event and it keeps growing and more and more people get into it," he said.

The race organisers are also spearheading the inaugural Pacific Challenge which begins on 12th June, 2023. In this challenge, participants will row 2,800 nautical miles from Monterey Bay, California to Nawiliwili Harbor in Kauai, Hawaii.

Team Antigua Island Girls, Antigua and Barbuda's history-making rowers, comprising Christal Clashing, Elvira Bell, Kevinia Francis and Samara Emmanuel will compete in that race.



WIOC
WEST INDIES OIL CO. LTD.
INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Press Release

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda – December 12, 2022.

"Severe weather conditions are currently prohibiting the landing of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) to many Caribbean islands, including Antigua and Barbuda".

This statement was made by the Chief Executive Officer of the West Indies Oil Company Ltd (WIOC), Mr. Gregory Georges.

The WIOC top official advised that, because of wind and sea conditions, which have also affected the direction in which aircraft land and take off at the V.C. Bird International Airport, supplier ships have not been able to safely berth to deliver LPG to Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean destinations. In fact, the Buckeye Petroleum Terminal in Cul-de-Sac Bay, Castries, St. Lucia is currently closed due to adverse sea and wind conditions.

The Chief Pilot of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority could not berth any tankers last week either at WIOC's Sea Island Jetty or the recently commissioned multi-buoy mooring.

Mr. Georges explained that WIOC's supply of LPG to both the household cylinder and commercial bulk sectors of our domestic market has been interrupted. However, he stressed that the weather conditions are expected to improve during the coming week, allowing supplies to return to normal immediately thereafter.

In expressing regret for the situation, which is beyond WIOC's control, Mr. Georges emphasized that the supply of all other petroleum products is **not** affected.

 1 (268) 462 0140/1
  westindiesoil.com





Local News

Rotaract Club of Antigua celebrates 36 years of service

On Monday 5th December 2022, the Rotaract Club of Antigua celebrated 36 years of unbroken service and making a difference in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Rotaract Club of Antigua was chartered as a project of the Rotary Club of Antigua on December 5th, 1986.

It was founded by Rotarians Patrick "Paddy" Benjamin and the late Anthony Michael.

At the club's inception, Greg Walter was the Charter President and Keva Margetson served as Vice President.

Rotaract is an international organisation that brings together people 18 and older to exchange ideas, serve the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fellowship through service.

The Rotaract Club of Antigua focuses on four pillars of service: Community, International, Professional and Club Service.

To commemorate the 36th Charter Anniversary, a



week of activities was held from 3rd to 10th December.

The activities included two of the organisation's annual signature projects; Share the Cheer and the HIV and General Health Screening.

In keeping with one of Rotary International's focuses, Maternal and Child Health, this year, the Share the Cheer Project, hosted by the Community Service committee, visited the Sir

Lester Bird Medical Centre, where the club made donations to the Maternity, Paediatrics and NICU wards.

The club's free, annual HIV and General Health Screening, which falls under the International Service arm, was executed in partnership with organisations including the AIDS Secretariat and Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association.

Before the close of the year, the Finance and

Fundraising Committee, meanwhile, will host a 'Jingle and Mingle Takeaway Luncheon' on Sunday 18th December, and the club's signature Valentine's Day, "Cupid's Raffle".

In the new year, the club has announced that it will launch several new initiatives.

The Professional Development Committee will host a series of events including Learn-A-Trade that will introduce Automotive Basics, Barbering, Basic Sewing, and Professional Mixer.

In this 36th year of service, the Rotaract Club of Antigua is led by President Dr. Namadi Belle, and her team, who are guided by the 2022/23 theme, "Dream Big, Believe, Achieve the Impossible".

Tue 13 Day		Tue 13 Night	
81°		74°	
17% ESE 5 mph		23% E 5 mph	
Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds light and variable.		Mostly clear skies. Low 74F. Winds light and variable.	
Humidity 70%	UV Index 8 of 10	Humidity 79%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:27 am	Sunset 5:35 pm	Moonrise 10:18 pm	Moonset 10:43 am
		○ Waning Gibbous	

A&B national called to the bar of England and Wales

Antiguan and Barbudan national, Brent Alexander Scotland, was recently called to the bar of England and Wales at the Michaelmas Reception at Gray's Inn, London.

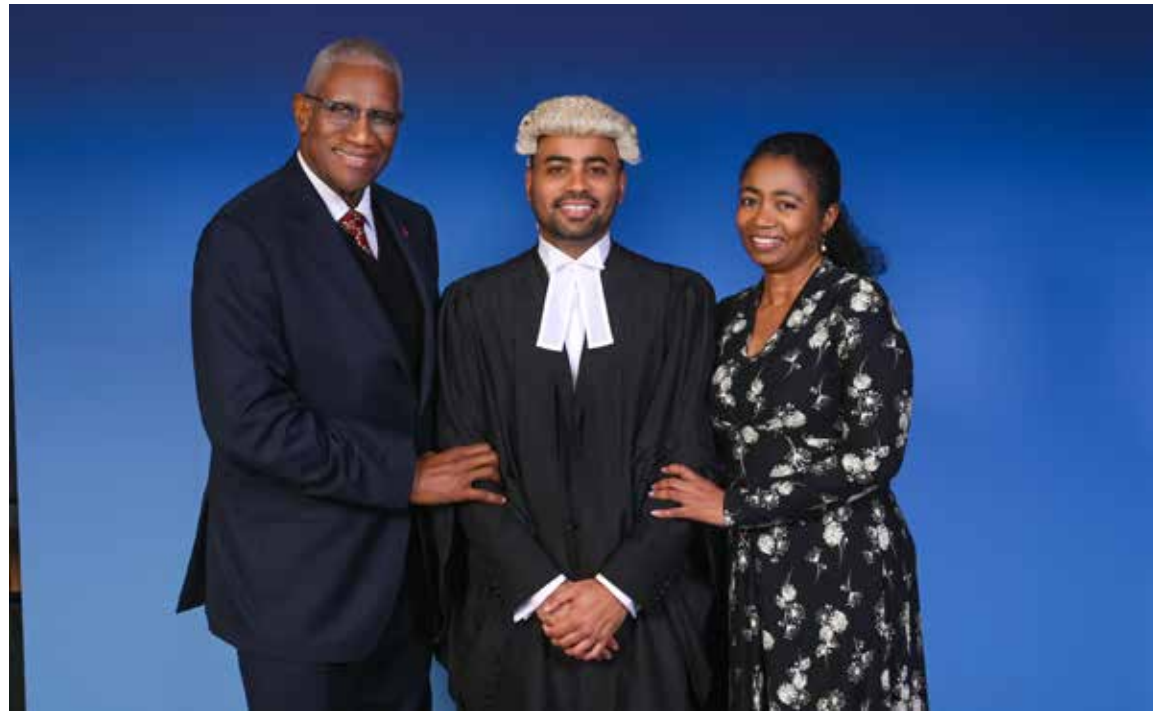
Brent completed a Bachelor of Arts degree (Hons.) in Communication and Commerce at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Canada. He then graduated with a Master of Science degree from the University of Nottingham, UK. He attained his Graduate Diploma in Law at the BPP University, UK and thereafter passed the Bar Training Course with distinction on his first attempt.

Brent is the Co-President of Halo Generation Y, the youth arm of the Halo Foundation in Antigua and Barbuda.

He has spearheaded many charitable and environmental initiatives, inclusive of island-wide clean up campaigns, anti-suicide awareness retreats for teens and tree-planting exercises.

In January 2020, he had the privilege of being one of the first citizens of Antigua and Barbuda to climb to Africa's highest point, the Uhuru Peak at Mount Kilimanjaro.

Choosing to raise funds through an extreme sport like mountain climbing was



Their Excellencies Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams with their son, Brent.

important to him because it highlighted a local charitable cause.

He has a penchant for overcoming challenges. By climbing the highest free-standing mountain in the world, he aimed to show the youth that even if they come from one of the smallest nations on earth, they can surmount almost any obstacle in life.

Brent is the recipient of the Halo Hero Humanitarian Award (2020) and the Commonwealth Covid-19 Hero Award (2021). He is a former employee of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDMP), and the son of Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST OR DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on the 1st day of November, 2022 by Cosbert Cumberbatch of Cumberbatch & Associates of Upper Long Street, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of JULIE HEWLETT, the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificate No. R/L 388904/877, dated the 1st day of December, 2009 issued to JULIE HEWLETT, being the owners of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 1st day of November 2022


Registrar of Lands

Local News



L'Express des Iles resumes calls to St. John's



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) and Antigua Cruise Port has welcomed the return of Guadeloupe-based ferry service, L'Express des Iles.

L'Express resumed operation to Antigua and Barbuda on Saturday after the interruption in service caused by the pandemic.

Operating as a chartered day service, the vessel was greeted at the redeveloped St. John's Harbour.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Colin James, ABTA Marketing Consultant for the Caribbean and Latin America, Charmaine Spencer, and other executives of the organisation welcomed the 415 passengers to Antigua and Barbuda with a cultural display that included stilt walkers, dancers, and steel pan music.

L' Express des Iles has

been in operation for over 30 years and provides an affordable ferry service to travellers moving between Guadeloupe, Martinique, Les Saintes and Marie Galante, French International departments, Dominica and St. Lucia.

The ferry's management company, Jeans for Freedom, said it was delighted to resume charter services to Antigua and Barbuda and has already announced trips

for April and May, 2023.

The vessel's operators say they will also schedule trips for tourists who wish to participate in Antigua's Carnival in August, 2023.

Speaking on Saturday, CEO James said, "Antigua and Barbuda has always been a regional hub by air and now we hope to also have it be a regional hub by sea."

Spencer, the ABTA's marketing consultant added, "We are elated to see the resumption of this intraregional seafair because it helps to build both connectivity and capacity for the destination and is a step in the right direction for boosting regional travel."

L' Express' Captain Olivier Fedor also expressed pleasure at once again offering service to Antigua and Barbuda and added that he looks forward to transporting more passengers to the country now normal travel has resumed.



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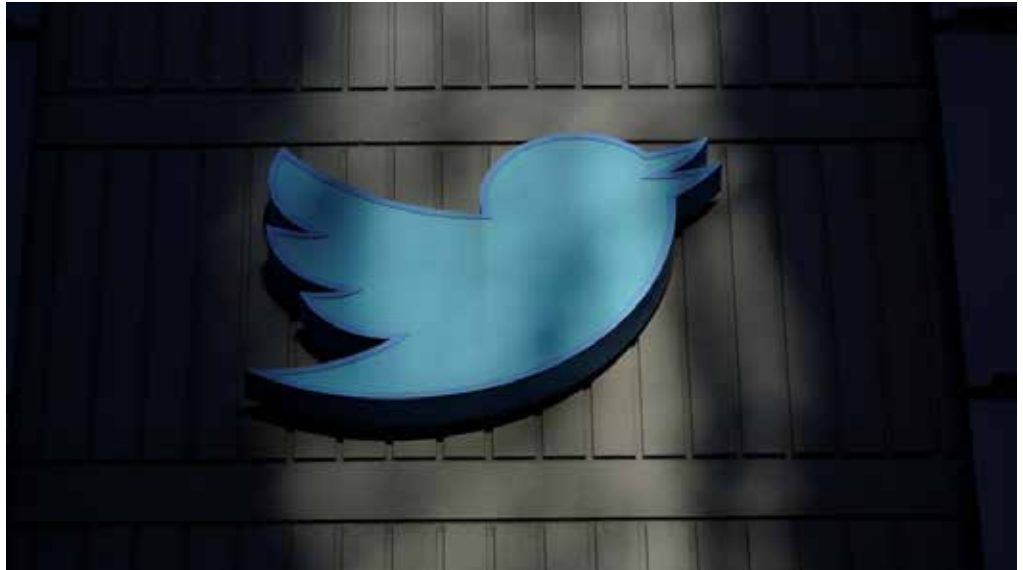
Technology

Twitter relaunching subscriber service after debacle

AP - Twitter is once again attempting to launch its premium service, a month after a previous attempt failed.

The social media company said Saturday it would let users buy subscriptions to Twitter Blue to get a blue checkmark and access special features starting Monday.

The blue checkmark was originally given to companies, celebrities, government entities and journalists verified by the platform. After Elon Musk bought Twitter for \$44 billion in October, he launched a service granting blue checks to anyone willing to pay \$8 a month. But it was inundated by imposter accounts, including those impersonating Musk's businesses Tesla and SpaceX, so Twitter suspended the service days after its launch.



A sign at Twitter headquarters is shown in San Francisco, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

The relaunched service will cost subscribers will see fewer ads, be able to post longer videos and have their tweets featured more prominently. \$8 a month for web users and \$11 a month for iPhone users. Twitter says

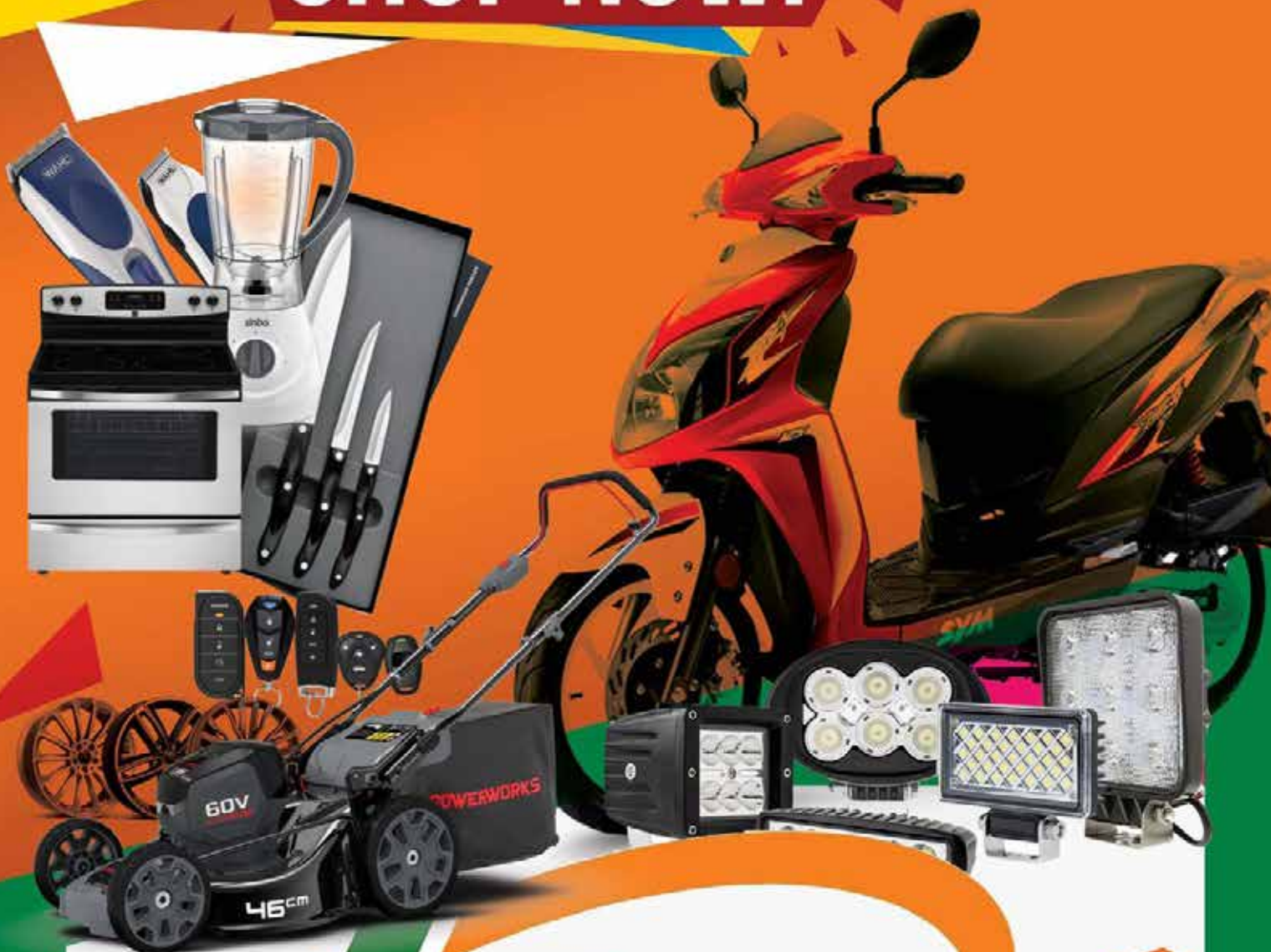
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Biodiversity: 'Magical marine species' pushed toward extinction

By Helen Briggs

A "sea cow" that evoked tales of mermaids is being driven to the edge of extinction, conservation experts warn.

According to an update of the official extinction list, the dugong is almost wiped out in some parts of the world.

Scientists have also sounded alarm over the loss of other marine creatures, including exotic coral and shellfish.

They said humans had created a "perfect storm" that threatens marine life across the globe.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which compiles the official Red List of endangered species, revealed the latest findings at the UN biodiversity conference, COP 15.

"We simply cannot afford to fail," said Dr Bruno Oberle, head of the IUCN.

He warned of the urgent need to address the linked climate and biodiversity crises, or "risk losing the crucial benefits the oceans provide us with".

The latest update to the list, which has now assessed more than 150,000 species, revealed "a perfect storm of unsustainable human activity decimating marine life around the globe," he said.

Countries are meeting in Montreal, Canada, to try to agree targets for addressing



The dugong is said to have inspired ancient legends of mermaids

the loss of nature amid an extinction crisis threatening a million species on Earth. High on their agenda is a plan to protect 30% of land and sea for nature across the globe by 2030.

Environmental groups say progress in the first week has been slow and are calling for a step change in both pace and ambition.

"We will continue to see threats to marine life and our whole natural world unless we secure an ambitious deal," said Bernadette Fischer Hooper of WWF.

The latest extinction list highlights risks to a type of

pillar coral that forms finger-like structures found throughout the Caribbean. It is now classed as critically endangered. The coral is dying due to disease, climate change and pollution.

Meanwhile, many species of abalone, the world's most expensive seafood, are threatened with extinction, due to poaching and unsustainable harvesting, made worse by disease, pollution and climate change.

Marine biologist, Prof Amanda Vincent, of the University of British Columbia, Canada, said the "awful status" of these spe-

cies should shock us and engage us for urgent action.

"These magical marine species are treasured wildlife, from the wonderful abalone to the charismatic dugong and the glorious pillar coral, and we should safeguard them accordingly," she added.

Dugongs belong to the Sirenia, an order of aquatic mammals sometimes known as "sea cows". The Sirenia family also includes manatees.

In 2015, the IUCN classified dugongs as vulnerable to extinction worldwide

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ECLAC, ILO warn of Caribbean's capacity to generate quality jobs

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) say despite the recovery seen in labour markets in the first half of 2022, it is expected that in the second half the deceleration of growth will slow the region's capacity to generate quality jobs.

In their new joint publication, "Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean," the UN agencies indicate that Latin America and the Caribbean's economies are facing "a very complex macroeconomic, social and environmental context, which is going to affect labour market dynamics."

The report says the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prompted "an unprecedented crisis in Latin

America and the Caribbean's economies and labour markets."

In previous reports, ECLAC and the ILO emphasised that the recovery experienced by the region's labour markets, since the economies reopened, had been "slow, partial and uneven."

However, the new report says, in the first half of 2022, favourable changes were observed in those markets' main indicators.

First, in the second quarter of 2022, the report says the employment rate reached the level seen prior to the crisis.

It says the unemployment rate declined by 2.8 percentage points versus the same period of 2021, reaching 7.3 percent, a figure below pre-pandemic levels.

"This reduction in the



unemployment rate was observed in all the countries studied," the report says. "Similarly, there were improvements in the labour participation rate, although it is still below the level recorded prior to the health crisis."

Another aspect highlighted in the first part of the report is that these positive trends are stronger among women, "who were especially affected during the pandemic and whose recovery

was slower than that of men in 2021."

"Indeed, although in the first half of 2022, the unemployment rate fell for both men and women (by 2.3 and 3.4 percentage points, respectively), the decline was much sharper in the case of women, resulting in a narrowing of the unemployment gap, which went from a ratio of 1.5 to 1.4 between the first half of 2021 and the same period of 2022," the report says.

It also notes that, since the first half of 2022, wage employment has increased more than own-account work and the manufacturing sector has shown the highest rates of job creation.

The document also indicates that average real wages have fallen due to the significant increase in inflation in the first half of this year. (CMC)

cont'd from pg 12

due to a myriad of threats, including being caught up in fishing gear or struck by boat propellers, ocean pollution and the loss of the sea grasses on which they graze.

They are now particularly concerned about two populations. One, living in waters off Mozambique, is down to just 250 individuals and is regarded as critically endangered.

The other, in New Caledonia, east of Australia, is deemed endangered.

There are still dugongs living in the waters off around 40 countries. Australia has the world's largest population of dugongs today, largely thanks to having a sparsely populated coast with lots of sea grasses.

Earlier this year the dugong was declared functionally extinct in China. "Functional extinction" means that even if some dugongs are still alive off China's coast, their numbers are too small to maintain a viable population.

Regional News



St. Kitts Government to pay dividend from Citizenship by Investment

CMC - The government of St. Kitts and Nevis says it has approved the payment of a Citizenship by Investment (CBI) dividend to the citizens and residents of the twin island federation.

In a recent statement, the prime minister's office noted that the CBI dividend

is a share of the profits and retained earnings received from the Citizenship by Investment Program.

"The CBI dividend will be facilitated through Saint Christopher and Nevis Social Security and will be distributed in two tiers or categories.

"The first category is

the pensionable and pensioners, and the second category is classified as those who are not yet pensionable."

The release further explained that this was a new policy implemented by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, as a commitment to the Dr. Terrance

Drew-led St. Kitts-Nevis Labor Party Administration's campaign pledge to the citizens and residents of the Federation.

It is expected that an announcement will be made by the prime minister, giving details of the payout in a subsequent announcement.

JCF targets thirty US-based criminals directing crime in Jamaica

CMC - Major General Antony Anderson, Jamaica's Commissioner of Police, says 30 people living in the United States who are influencers of crime and violence in Jamaica are being sought by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

He made the disclosure recently during a press briefing at the Office of the Prime (OPM) when Prime Minister Andrew Holness announced states of emergency (SOEs) in several parishes.

Anderson emphasised that SOEs are about more than merely arresting individuals and the JCF is also targeting criminals who live in the US.

"As the prime minister says, we're also working with our overseas partners on some of this. We have a target list of 30 who reside in the US who we're doing some work on," Anderson said.

He added: "Those who are over there who believe that they are supporting violence and crime in Jamaica and they are doing so without anybody paying any attention to them they're sorely mistaken."

On Thursday, senior representatives from the US Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investi-



Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson

gation (FBI) met with Prime Minister Andrew Holness, Major General Antony Anderson, and other government officials in Washington.

The meeting was called to discuss the increasing danger posed by transnational criminal gangs, organised criminal violence, and the trafficking of illegal guns into Jamaica.

According to a media release from the Office of the Prime Minister

(OPM), during the meeting, the police commissioner noted that "closer cooperation will ensure that criminals do not feel they have a safe haven in the United States from which to sponsor crime in Jamaica."

As for the issue of the illegal export of firearms, Holness said the United States is taking even greater steps to deal with the problem of the

cont'd on pg 15

Brazil economy ministry rejects Lula transition team's judgement on finances

Reuters - Brazil's Economy Ministry on Sunday rejected assertions by president-elect Luis Inacio Lula da Silva's transition team that the outgoing administration was leaving government finances "bankrupted."

The Economy Ministry said in a statement that gross debt will reach 74% of GDP by the end of the year, with a primary surplus (excluding debt costs) of 23.4 billion reais, the first since 2013.

"This will be the first government ending its term with debt ratios lower than in its beginning, the debt was 75.3% of GDP in 2018," the statement said.

Last week, the Planning and Budget group in Lula's camp said President Jair Bolsonaro is leaving the Brazilian state "bankrupted," according to former minister and transition team member Aloizio Mercadante.



Brazil's economy minister nominee Fernando Haddad looks on as President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva talks during a news conference at the transition government building in Brasilia, Brazil December 9, 2022. REUTERS/Adriano Machado

Brazil will pay international financial institutions \$1.23 billion next year, 20% below the \$1.56 billion that was due in 2016, the ministry said.

The government said expenses to help the most

vulnerable part of the population since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic have prevented raises to public servants through 2021.

Despite the ministry's denial of fiscal problems,

senator Marcelo Castro, who is leading budget bill negotiations, said there are no available resources to pay for different government programs next year.

Lula's transition team is in talks to approve a bill allowing 145 billion reais in expenses above the current legally allowed ceiling.

Lula takes office on Jan. 1. The leftist ex-president narrowly defeated Bolsonaro in an Oct. 30 runoff election, a political comeback that ended Brazil's most right-wing government in decades.

cont'd from pg 14

illegal export of firearms.

"We are pleased to note the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act which creates a legal framework to indict and prosecute persons illegally exporting guns from the United States," he added.

Holness asked that the new Act give special attention to Jamaican traffickers

and firearms intended for Jamaica.

According to the OPM, the meeting reviewed current programs and alliances, highlighted gaps that need to be filled, and looked into possibilities for advancing co-operation.

The OPM said possibilities for expanding institutional and human resource capacity-building and training were also explored.

Peru president proposes moving up elections amid protests

AP - Peru's new president, Dina Boluarte, gave in to protesters' demands early Monday announcing in a nationally televised address that she will send Congress a proposal to move up elections.

Boluarte's decision came after thousands of demonstrators took to the streets around Peru for another day on Sunday to demand that she resign and schedule elections to replace her and Congress. The protests turned deadly, with at least two reported deaths in a remote community in the Andes, according to officials.

Boluarte said she will propose the scheduling of general elections for April 2024. That marks a reversal as she had previously said she should be allowed to hold the office for the remaining 3 1/2 years of her predecessor's term.

"My duty as president of the republic in the current difficult time is to interpret, read and collect the aspirations, interests and concerns, if not of all, of the vast majority of Peruvians," Boluarte said. "So, interpreting in the broadest way the will of the citizens... I have decided to assume the initiative to reach an agreement with the congress of the republic to advance the general elections."

Many of those demonstrating in the ongoing political crisis are demanding the release from custody of Pedro Castillo, the centre-left president ousted Wednesday by lawmakers after he sought to dissolve Congress ahead of an impeachment vote.

The protests rocking Peru heated up particularly in rural areas, strongholds for Castillo, a former schoolteacher and political newcomer from a poor Andean mountain district. Protesters set fire to a police station, vandalised a small airport used by the armed forces, and



Riot police run during clashes with supporters of ousted President Pedro Castillo in front of Congress in Lima, Peru, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022. Peru's Congress voted to remove Castillo from office Wednesday and replace him with the vice president, shortly after Castillo tried to dissolve the legislature ahead of a scheduled vote to remove him. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

marched in the streets.

A 15-year-old boy died of an injury suffered during a protest in the remote Andes community of Andahuaylas, Congresswoman Maria Taipe Coronado said as she made an impassioned plea from the legislative palace for Boluarte to step down.

"The death of this compatriot is the responsibility of Mrs. Dina for not submitting her resignation," charged Taipe, who is affiliated with the party which helped Castillo and Boluarte to their election last year as president and vice president respectively before both were kicked out of that party. "Since when is protesting a crime?"

Taipe charged that authorities were using heavy-handed repressive tactics in quelling demonstrations. But it remains unclear how the boy was fatally injured, and state media reported a second death in the same community without giving details.

Anthony Gutiérrez, director of a lo-

cal hospital, told a radio station that the second protester to die was an 18-year-old person. At least 26 people also were reported injured.

Hundreds of people also protested in Lima, the capital, where riot police used tear gas to push protesters back.

Boluarte, in her address to the nation, declared a state of emergency in areas outside Lima where protests have been particularly violent.

Boluarte, 60, was swiftly sworn in at midweek to replace Castillo, hours after he stunned the country by ordering the dissolution of Congress, which in turn dismissed him for "permanent moral incapacity." Castillo was arrested on charges of rebellion.

Castillo's failed move against the opposition-led Congress came hours before lawmakers were set to start a third impeachment attempt against him.

Scattered protests around the country have continued for days. Protesters

cont'd on pg 17

Three children die after fall into icy lake; UK gripped by storm

AP - Three young boys who fell through ice covering a lake in central England have died and a fourth remains hospitalised as weather forecasters issued severe weather warnings for large parts of the United Kingdom.

Police in full uniform jumped into the water and broke through the ice using their bare hands to pull the boys, ages 8, 10 and 11, from the icy waters Sunday afternoon and rushed them to the hospital in the West Midlands, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of London. But they could not be revived after suffering cardiac arrest.

The fourth child, who is 6, remains in critical condition. Emergency workers searched through the night and into Monday for two other children who were reportedly with the group, though it is uncertain whether there were additional victims of the tragedy.



Police search teams at the scene after children fell through ice, in Babbs Mill Park in Kingshurst, Solihull, England, Monday, Dec. 12, 2022. Three young boys who fell through ice covering a lake in central England have died and a fourth remains hospitalised as weather forecasters issued severe weather warnings for large parts of the United Kingdom. (Matthew Cooper/PA via AP)

dy.

“It’s important to stress ... that we’ve had no contact from anybody suggesting that there’s anybody else missing, but until we’re 100% certain we will be carrying on searches throughout the course of today,” West Midlands Police Superintendent Richard Harris said.

Harris declined to say whether the children were members of a single family.

The news came as the Met Office, Britain’s national weather service, issued severe weather alerts for large parts of the country. Roads in eastern and southeastern England were among the most affected. Some travellers were stuck

for hours due to the closure of the UK’s busiest highway, the M25, which circles greater London.

Gatwick and Stansted airports warned of flight delays on Monday, and London City Airport said it was experiencing “some disruption” because aircraft were out of position after flight cancellations on Sunday night.

The country recorded its coldest night of the year so far in northern Scotland at minus 15.7 degrees Celsius (3.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

“Frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs can look picturesque but they can be lethal, and there are no greater warnings of this than yesterday’s tragic events,” West Midlands Fire Service area commander Richard Stanton said. “Yesterday’s incident is a stark reminder to us all of the dangers of open water, especially during the winter months.”

cont’d from pg 16

have also set up roadblocks, leaving people stranded for hours.

On Saturday in Andahuaylas, 16 people were treated for concussions at a hospital, and one of those persons was reported in serious condition.

Boluarte has called for a time of national unity to heal from the latest upheaval. But many of those demonstrating in favour of Castillo have called her a “traitor.”

“The life of no Peruvian deserves to be sacrificed for political interests,”

Boluarte tweeted hours before her address to the nation. “I express my condolences for the death of a citizen in Andahuaylas. I reiterate my call for dialogue and to put an end to violence.”

Meanwhile, in Lima, hundreds of people again gathered outside the legislative palace on Sunday. Dozens of police officers in riot gear used tear gas against those gathered, while just inside the building, lawmakers were beginning a session. Police also chased and beat protesters as they ran from the scene amid clouds of gas.

Peru has had six presidents in the last six years, including three in a single week in 2020 when Congress flexed its impeachment powers.

The power struggle in the country has continued as the Andes region and its thousands of small farms struggle to survive the worst drought in a half-century. The country of more than 33 million people is also experiencing a fifth wave of COVID-19 infections — having recorded about 4.3 million infections and 217,000 deaths since the pandemic began.

Iran carries out second execution linked to wave of popular protests

Reuters - The Islamic Republic on Monday hanged a man in public who state media said had been convicted of killing two members of the security forces, the second execution in less than a week of people involved in protests against Iran's ruling theocracy.

Nationwide unrest erupted three months ago after the death while in detention of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman Mahsa Amini, who was arrested by morality police enforcing the Islamic Republic's mandatory dress code laws.

The demonstrations have turned into a popular revolt by furious Iranians from all layers of society, posing one of the worst legitimacy challenges to the Shi'ite clerical elite since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Majid Reza Rahnavard was hanged in public in (the holy Shi'ite city of) Mashhad this morning ... He was sentenced to death for 'waging war against God' after stabbing to death two members of the security forces," the judiciary's Mizan news agency reported.

Mizan published pictures of the execution at dawn, showing Rahnavard hanging from a construction crane, with his hands and feet bound and his head covered with a black bag.

The semi-official Fars news agency said Rahnavard killed two members



of the Basij volunteer force and wounded four others. The Basij force, affiliated with the elite Revolutionary Guards, has been at the forefront of the state crackdown on protests.

Calling for added protests across the country, activists on social media criticised the execution of the 23-year-old Rahnavard as "a criminal act" by the clerical rulers to deter dissent.

"They called Rahnavard's family at 7am (local time) and told them to go to the Behesht-e Reza cemetery. 'We executed your child and buried him,' they said," widely followed activist account 1500Tasvir posted on Twitter.

The contents of the post could not be verified by Reuters.

On Thursday, Iran hanged Mohsen Shekari, who had been convicted of injuring a security guard with a knife and blocking a street in Tehran, the first such execution after thousands of arrests over the unrest, drawing a chorus of Western condem-



nation and sanctions.

Rights groups have said Shekari was tortured and forced to confess. Molavi Abdolhamid, an outspoken Sunni Muslim cleric in the Shi'ite-ruled Islamic Republic, has said the death sentence of Shekari violated sharia (Islamic law), his website said.

State media published a video of a man, which it identified as Rahnavard, stabbing another man who fell against a parked motorcycle, and then stabbing another person immediately afterward and then running away.

State television showed a video in which Rahnavard said in the court that he came to hate the Basij forces after seeing them beating and killing protesters in videos posted on social media. Activists said he was forced to confess under torture.

Amnesty International has said Iranian authorities are seeking the death penalty for at least 21 people in what it called "sham trials designed to intimidate those participating in the popu-

lar uprising that has rocked Iran".

The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Monday the EU will agree on a "very tough" package of sanctions against Iran to show its support for peaceful protesters.

Blaming the unrest on foreign foes such as the United States and Israel, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Monday rejected Western criticism of rights abuses during the crackdown as meddling in Iran's state matters.

Tehran on Monday imposed sanctions on dozens of EU and British officials and entities "over their support and instigation" of the unrest, state television reported.

The unrest has been watched closely by Israel, where a national security official said the executions did not appear to be deterring protesters and could further "box in the regime".

"Because it can only respond with force, that has reinforced for the public the grievance being protested over," the Israeli official told Reuters. "There is no returning this genie to the bottle."

Rights group HRANA said that as of Sunday 488 protesters had been killed, including 68 minors. It said 62 members of the security forces had also been killed. As many as 18,259 protesters are believed to have been arrested, it said.

Brathwaite rues 'bad game', urges WI to learn from defeat

CMC - Captain Kraigg Brathwaite has rued West Indies' lack of resolve in the Adelaide second Test but said he believed the chastening result was a learning curve, which would serve the side well in important contests next year.

West Indies slumped to a 419-run defeat, half-hour before lunch on the penultimate day here Sunday, the result marking their heaviest-ever loss in Test history by runs.

They were bowled out for 77 after resuming on 38 for four – their lowest-ever total Down Under and their second lowest-ever against the Aussies.

"Obviously [the] pink ball is always different – under lights is always tough and at times a little tougher," Brathwaite told a media conference afterwards.

"[We needed] a little better judgement at times. But it happens. Bad days happen and bad games [happen], and obviously this was a bad game for sure, for us.

"But it's not the end of the world. We have a lot of Test cricket to play next year so we have to look ahead."

West Indies lost the opening Test in Perth by 164 runs last week, their first Test defeat of the year following series triumphs over England and Bangladesh, when they went unbeaten.



West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite speaks to reporters at the post-match media conference in Adelaide.

And while they took the opening Test against Australia deep into the final day before succumbing, the Caribbean side showed little of that determination in the day-night affair in Adelaide.

Brathwaite, however, praised his side and said they retained his full support going forward.

"In a year, you want to win every game – you don't want to lose – but I think losing is a part of the game," he explained.

"Obviously this loss was a bit disappointing in how we didn't show the fight [required]. I was pleased with the first Test in Perth despite it being a loss. We saw guys fighting, and to carry a strong Australia team into the last day was a decent effort.

"I still think it was a good year for us – a very

good year. Obviously losing one series against the number one team in the world is not a bad effort.

"As I said, it's important to learn from this experience. We have South Africa next year in March after Zimbabwe and we know there are kind of similar conditions in South Africa so it is important we show that experience.

"You go through certain things and it is important you learn from them. But I'm 100 percent behind this team. I think it's a good group [but] you can't always win."

Brathwaite was one of only four players with previous Test experience in Australia and that dearth of knowledge showed in the series result.

There were three debutants in the series – Tagne

narine Chanderpaul, Devon Thomas and Marquino Mindley – while Anderson Phillip was playing only his second Test.

Brathwaite said the way Australia went about their business in the series had served as a blueprint for his inexperienced unit, especially with West Indies scheduled to return Down Under in just over a year.

"[For] a lot of the guys, this was their first time to Australia so I think the experience would help, both as batsmen and as bowlers," Brathwaite pointed out.

"And then seeing how Australia would've played, seeing how their batsmen would've started their innings – we can learn from that starting.

"And then how their bowlers bowled throughout – throughout a spell, throughout [a whole day] – because at times in Perth they bowled for a whole day but then you see the areas they bowled.

"It's stuff like that you've got to learn from and it's important when you come [back to Australia] that you don't necessarily make the same mistakes.

"Australia will always be a strong team at home but the key with experiences is to learn from them so it's important we show that experience when we come back."

In Kenya, some Maasai turn from lion-killing to Olympics

AP - Kenya's most identifiable community is abandoning hunting lions with spears for javelin throwing at a biannual event called the Maasai Olympics.

The Maasai people, renowned for their colourful garb, are predominantly herders and live near some of Kenya's most visited wildlife parks. Attacks by Maasai on wildlife has often been cited as a threat to some animal populations.

The traditional rite of passage for a young Maasai man has been to kill a lion with a spear in order to prove his masculinity, earn a warrior name and admiration among young women.

But Maasai elders like Mingati Samanya, 69, are charting a new path for the community's young warriors, also known as morans.

During his youth, Samanya killed two lions to show he was a man and that is how he received the "lion name" Mingati in the Maa language. His name at birth was Naiganya.

Samanya is now among dozens of elders who are encouraging Maasai morans to pursue an alternative way of proving their masculinity that includes participating in athletics, javelin and Maasai jump competitions during the community Olympics.

On Saturday, at the Kimana Sanctuary in the foothills of Mount Kiliman-



Maasai women spectators watch the Maasai Olympics in Kimana Sanctuary, southern Kenya Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022. The sports event, first held in 2012, consists of six track-and-field events based on traditional warrior skills and was created as an alternative to lion-killing as a rite of passage. (AP Photo/Brian Inganga)

jaro, young men and some women competed for medals and cash prizes.

"During our time, we killed lions and did not benefit with anything. Right now, when the morans throw a javelin and run, they get money. Previously, we got nothing. It was just poverty instead of providing for our family," Samanya told The Associated Press.

Vivian Nganini, who attended the Maasai Olympics while wearing a traditional wedding dress complete with colourful beaded necklaces, said girls of today prefer the modern moran.

"At least when they run, they can win some money

and be able to take care of their wives and children," said the 22-year-old mother of two.

The Maasai Olympics also are part of wider conservation efforts.

"The cultural side of warriors wanting to kill lions to be renowned is solved by this event," Craig Millar with the Big Life Foundation told the AP.

The lion population in the Amboseli ecosystem which includes the Kimana Sanctuary has increased 10 times over the last 20 years, according to Millar. He attributed this to various initiatives like anti-poaching law enforcement and

compensation programs to alleviate the loss of Maasai-owned livestock to predators.

But other dangers remain for wildlife. Parts of Kenya and the wider East Africa region have experienced four consecutive seasons with inadequate rainfall, with hundreds of elephants, wildebeests, zebras and other animals dying, according to a recent report by wildlife authorities.

During such prolonged dry periods, the risk of human-wildlife conflict increases, but communities living near parks are encouraged to protect and co-exist

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Messi, Modric carry Argentina, Croatia into World Cup semis

AP - Tears are flowing from soccer's biggest superstars as they make emotional exits from what might be their last World Cup.

First it was Neymar. Then it was Cristiano Ronaldo. Could Lionel Messi be next?

Momentum is building behind Messi's push to cap his career with the biggest prize in the game. The 35-year-old Argentina playmaker has carried his team to the semifinals, almost in the same way Diego Maradona — the man with whom Messi is so often compared — led the South American nation to its second and most recent World Cup title in 1986.

Now in Argentina's way is Croatia, a country with a population of 4 million which is establishing a reputation as the most stubborn and durable of opponents while also boasting one of soccer's most graceful players in Luka Modric.

The teams go head to head at Lusail Stadium — also the venue for Sunday's final — in a meeting between the last two runners-up at the tournament:



Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring Argentina's second goal during the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Argentina, at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Friday, Dec. 9, 2022. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Argentina in 2014 and Croatia in 2018.

Argentina might have been expected to be in this position. The team arrived at the World Cup as the Copa America champion, on a 36-match unbeaten run and with Messi back in sublime form for Paris Saint-Germain.

There was much less noise around the Croatians, yet they keep on surprising just like four years ago when their run to the final included a 3-0 victory over Argentina in the group stage. They also reached the World Cup semifinals in 1998.

Both teams have come

through uncomfortable moments. Argentina's darkest time was right at the start of the tournament, after a 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia in what will go down as one of the World Cup's biggest upsets.

Inspired by Messi and one of the most fervent fan followings in Qatar, Argentina won its final two group games, ended up squeezing past Australia 2-1 in the round of 16 and then required penalties to get past the Netherlands in a wild quarterfinal match.

Messi now has four goals in the tournament in Qatar, leaving him one behind top scorer Kylian Mbappé. They are probably the two standout players at a World Cup that has seen many other top players live up to their lofty reputations.

Modric is a case in point.

He might not have scored a goal. He hasn't

even had an assist. But don't underestimate the importance to Croatia of the little magician who keeps things ticking in midfield and manages to assert some control for a team which fights until the last minute.

In 2018, each of Croatia's knockout games went into extra time before the team lost to France in the final, and the same thing is happening in Qatar, with victories in penalty shootouts over Japan in the last 16 and Brazil in the quarterfinals.

Croatia looked more comfortable against Brazil than against Japan, which shows the team might be happier to invite pressure and choose its moments to break forward rather than control games and be more susceptible to the counterattack.

Containing Messi will be key and much of the responsibility there lies with holding midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, who protected Croatia's defence so well against Brazil.

Argentina will be without two players because of suspension: left back Marcos Acuña and right back Gonzalo Montiel. Acuña is the bigger miss, having impressed since coming into the team after the loss to Saudi Arabia, and he is likely to be replaced by Nicolás Tagliafico.

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with wild animals.

"We now understand the benefits of wildlife to the country's economy and direct benefits to us, the Maasai, who live near the

parks," said Baba Siton, an elder who lives near the Kimana Sanctuary. "I've often allowed the harmless wild animals to drink in water pans alongside my livestock."

Sports News



Joseph, Holder in Windies T20 squad to face England

CMC - Under-19 stars Djenaba Joseph and Trishan Holder have been called up to the West Indies Women's senior squad for the opening two Twenty20 Internationals of the five-match series against England Women.

The pair replace veteran seamer Shakera Selman and batsman Chedean Nation, both of whom featured in the just concluded three-match One-Day International series which England Women won in a clean sweep.

Joseph and Holder will be joined by off-spinner Karishma Ramharack, who was named in the squad for the first two ODIs but never played due to injury.

"Based on injuries in the CG United ODI series Chedean Nation and Shakera Selman have been ruled out at this time," said chief women's selector Ann Browne-John.

"Two members of the Under 19 World Cup squad, Djenaba Joseph and



Trishan Holder at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year.

Trishan Holder, who have been making great progress, have been named to the squad and we believe that they will fit in well and absorb the experience.

"Karishma Ramharack returns to the team after missing the ODI series due to injury and Shamilia Connell who was on the injured list for the

ODIs is also expected to be ready to be considered for selection later in the series."

Joseph and Holder were last week named in a 15-member squad for next month's ICC Under-19 T20 World Cup in South Africa, from January 14-29.

cont'd on pg 23

Swimming body FINA rebrands as World Aquatics

AP - FINA, the federation which has run international swimming competitions for more than a century, is rebranding itself as World Aquatics ahead of the next Olympics in Paris in 2024 after a vote Monday.

That means leaving behind the French-language name of Fédération Internationale de Natation — International Swimming Federation.

World Aquatics says the new brand is more inclusive of events such as diving, water polo and artistic swimming, all of which are



overseen by the federation.

"More than 70% of the athletes that we have spoken with have said that they would like us to change FINA's name. Many of them could not even tell us what

the letters in FINA stand for," World Aquatics president Husain Al-Musallam said.

The new name will be phased in gradually in 2023 before the World Aquatics

Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, in July.

World Aquatics continues a trend toward shorter, simpler English-language names among the federations running international sports.

In track and field, the International Association of Athletics Federations rebranded as World Athletics in 2019. The former Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron is now known as World Rowing and the International Rugby Board became World Rugby.

Time of Victory and AFBAHLUR to clash in business softball final

Time of Victory and AFBAHLUR (Agriculture United) will clash in the final of the Mandy Premier League's (MPL) Cool and Smooth Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League.

Both teams booked their spots into the championship final by surging to impressive victories in their respective semi-finals at the Potters playing field on Sunday, 11th December.

Time of Victory pulled off a surprising 48-run victory over previously unbeaten TG Welding, who had gained a bye in the semi-finals by virtue of winning all their games to finish at the top of the standings at the end of the preliminary matches.

Batting first in the second semi-final, Time of Victory amassed 168 for two in their allotted 10 overs, with male player of the match Essan Warner slamming an unbeaten century.

Warner hammered 112 not out, which included 14 sixes and two fours, and Michael Greaves contribut-

ed 53. Charanlal Ramjohn picked up one wicket for 32 runs.

Chasing 169 to win, TG Welding could only muster 121 for seven off their 10 overs. Ramjohn top scored with 33 and Germaine Otto struck 31.

Female player of the game Arianna Farrell and Greaves each claimed identical bowling figures of three wickets for 22 runs.

AFBAHLUR also recorded a shocking 46-run win against the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) in the first semi-final.

Male player of the game Richie Thomas hammered 60 and Vincey Bowen chipped in with 24 as AFBAHLUR made 125 for two off their 10 overs. Terique Mason picked up one wicket for 20 runs.

In reply, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force were restricted to 79 for nine in 9.5 overs. Edwin Jackson got 21 and Malik Macellin made 19.

Bowen snapped up three wickets for one run and Thomas captured two wick-



Time of Victory's male player of the game Essan Warner, left, and teammate Arianna Farrell, right, who captured the female player of the game award at the end of their semi-final in the Mandy Premier League's Cool and Smooth Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League at the Potters playing field on Sunday, 11th December, 2022. (Photo courtesy Mandy Weatherhead)

ets for 10 runs. Monique Titus was named the female player of the game.

Time of Victory and AFBAHLUR will clash in the final at the Potters playing

field on Sunday, 18th December, at 2: 20 pm.

The final will be preceded by the playoff for third place between TG Welding and the ABDF at 12 pm.

cont'd from pg 22

Holder already boasts international experience, having competed with Barbados at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham earlier this year. West Indies Women are coming off a poor performance in the ODI series and Browne-John said the upcoming matches presented the "ideal opportunity" for players to impress.

"The upcoming T20 series is vitally important as the team continues its preparations for the World Cup in February 2023," she said.

"With some of the senior players missing out through injury, it is an ideal opportunity for the other players to start cementing a place in the World Cup team."

The first T20 International bowls

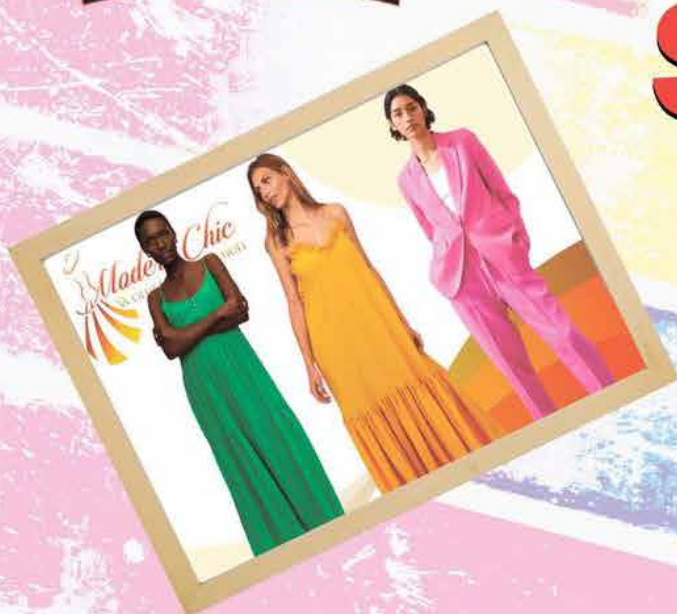
off at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground here Sunday at 6 pm.

SQUAD – Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbelle (vice captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajabi, Sheneta Grimmond, Chinelle Henry, Trishan Holder, Djenaba Joseph, Kycia Knight, Karishma Ramharack, Kaysia Schultz, Rashada Williams.



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Pointvill Ballers make winning start to second division campaign

The Honourable Gaston Browne Pointvill Ballers opened their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) second division with an impressive 16-point win at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night, 11th December.

Devon Christian shot a game-high 20 points to lead Pointvill Ballers to a 76-60 victory over the Honourable Daryll Matthew Ottos Clippers in the first game of a double-header.

He was well supported by captain Khalid Shabazz and Dyllan Joseph with 15 points each and Cedric Henry with 10 points.

Jason Phillip sank 19 points, while Keithroy Titus and Jules Frederick each scored 10 points for Ottos Clippers who lost for



Captain of the Honourable Gaston Browne Pointvill Ballers Khalid Shabazz prepares to shoot a free throw during his team's second division game against the Honourable Daryll Matthew Ottos Clippers at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, 11th December, 2022.

the second time in as many outings.

Flyers2 also made a successful start to their season by soaring to an emphatic 65-46 victory over Caribbean Pharmaceuticals

Supplies Fearless Crew1 in the second game on Sunday.

Tequan Broodie converted 21 points and Sadiq Phillip scored 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for

Flyers2. Hansen Richards sank 11 points for Fearless Crew2, who slipped to their first loss in two outings.

The second division will continue with another Zone 2 double-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening, Tuesday, 13th December.

Galaxia Bar Spanish Heat will oppose Honourable Gaston Browne Pointvill Ballers at 6:45 pm, while Honourable Daryll Matthew Ottos Clippers will clash with Caribbean Pharmaceuticals Supplies Fearless Crew1 at 8:30 pm.

In Zone 1 match-ups tomorrow, Wednesday, 14th December, Ottos Coolers will take on Rebels at 6:45 pm and Jan Serv Fearless Crew2 will face Raeburn Generators United at 8:30 pm.

LICA extends congratulations to Alzarri Joseph



Antiguan, Leeward Islands and West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph. (Photo courtesy CWI)

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) has extended congratulations to Leeward Islands and West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph on his accomplishment of becoming the leading wicket taker in international cricket in 2022.

Joseph achieved this feat on 9th December during the second test between Australia and the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval when he picked up his 67th international wicket in 2022 by bowling Australia's all-rounder Cameron Green.

President of the LICB Enoch Lewis said, "We at the LICB are especially delighted that in keeping with our

Motto 'Defying the Odds', Alzarri has managed to achieve this goal while he continues to show his qualities as one of the leaders in the West Indies bowling units.

"We applaud Mr. Joseph for his determination, strong work ethic, strength of mind and character all of which have contributed to his successful career to date.

"As an organization, we again wish to congratulate Alzarri on this achievement. Our hope is that with God's blessings, he can continue to defy the odds and accomplish higher and greater milestones as he progresses in his career."

Bullets, Willikies and Tryum get second wins in premier league

Pigotts Bullets, Willikies and Tryum all recorded their second wins in three matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday, 11th December.

Playing in the feature match of a triple-header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters, Pigotts Bullets prevailed 2-1 against All Saints United.

Tyrique Thwaites scored in the 16th minute to give Bullets a 1-0 half-time advantage. The Pigotts men then extended their lead with a 65th minute conversion by Shamari Dyer.

Adjani Thomas pulled a goal back for All Saints United when he scored in the 80th minute. But it was too little too late as United were unable to breach the Bullets defense again as they succumbed to their first loss in three outings.

After losing their opening match to Jennings Grenades, Willikies secured their second successive win by romping to a 4-1 victory over Five Islands in Sunday's first encounter.

A Kwami Byers' 20th minute strike had given Willikies a 1-0 halftime lead. Phil Nicholas doubled



The Pigotts Bullets team claimed their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division League on Sunday, 11th December. (File photo)

his team's advantage with a 63rd minute conversion and Nadre Thomas hit home in the 85th minute to make it 3-0.

Troy Lorente Sanchez scored a late consolation goal for Five Islands in the 87th minute, but Novelle Francis scored in added on time (90+1) to restore his team's three-goal advantage and sealed Willikies impressive victory. It was the second loss for Five Islands in three outings.

A Chevel Cunningham's

35th minute conversion was sufficient to give Tryum a 1-0 victory over former premier league champions Greenbay Hoppers in Sunday's second encounter.

It was also the second consecutive loss for Hoppers after snatching a 3-2 win against neighbours Empire in their opening match of the competition.

The final match in the third week of fixtures in the premier league will be contested at ABFA's Technical Centre this evening, Tues-

day, 13th December. SAP will clash with Swetes at 7 pm.

Action in the ABFA's second division will resume with three matches today.

Golden Grove will entertain Freemans Ville at the Golden Grove playing field at 5 pm, ABAYA will meet Young Warriors at the Buckley's School playing field at 4:30 pm and Attacking Saints will host FC Master Ballers at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints at 4:30 pm.