



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

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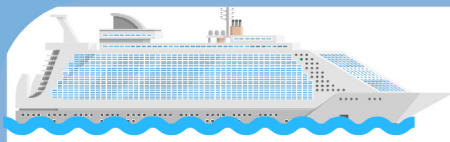
BENEFITS FOR BUS DRIVERS

Story on Page 3



**Story on
Page 3**

Single Caribbean approach to virus



Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2020

| Date | Cruise Ship | Arrive-Depart | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| 19 February, 2020 Wednesday | Crown Princess | 07:00 | 16:00 |
| 19 February, 2020 Wednesday | Mein Schiff 2 | 07:00 | 19:00 |
| 19 February, 2020 Wednesday | Silver Wind | 08:00 | 19:00 |
| 20 February, 2020 Thursday | Norwegian Gem | 08:00 | 17:00 |
| 20 February, 2020 Thursday | Seabourn Odyssey | 08:00 | 23:00 |
| 20 February, 2020 Thursday | Marella Explorer 2 | 08:00 | 18:00 |
| 22 February, 2020 Saturday | Braemar | | |
| 23 February, 2020 Sunday | Oceania Riviera | 07:00 | 16:00 |
| 25 February, 2020 Tuesday | MSC Divina | 07:00 | 18:00 |

The Living Word

Water into Hope

Read: John 4:4–14

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. John 7:37

Tom and Mark's ministry refreshes lives. This is clear in the video they share of a group of fully clad children laughing and dancing in the refreshing water of an open shower—their first ever. The men work with indigenous churches to install water filtration systems on wells in Haiti, easing and lengthening lives as diseases connected to contaminated water are prevented. Access to clean, fresh water gives the people hope for their future.

Jesus referred to "living water" in John 4 to capture a similar idea of a continual source of refreshment. Tired and thirsty, Jesus had asked a Samaritan woman for a drink (vv. 4–8). This request led to a conversation in which Jesus offered the woman "living water" (vv. 9–15)—water that would become a source of life and hope within them, like "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (v. 14).

We discover what this living water is later in John, when Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink," declaring that whoever believed in Him would have "rivers of living water [flowing] from within them." John explains, "By this he meant the Spirit" (7:37–39).

Through the Spirit, believers are united to Christ and have access to the boundless power, hope, and joy found in God. Like living water, the Spirit lives inside believers, refreshing and renewing us.

How has Jesus satisfied your thirst through His Spirit? How will you share what Jesus has done for you?

Dear God, thank You for leaving us Your Spirit. Work in us so that our lives point others to You.

DAY 2/24

Max UV Index: 8 Very High
 Wind: ENE at 4 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 13 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 64%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 3.5 mm
 Rain: 3.5 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 2
 Hours of Rain: 2

28° Hi



Intervals of clouds and sun with a couple of showers

NIGHT 2/24

Wind: ENE at 6 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 11 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 57%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.8 mm
 Rain: 1.8 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

22° Lo



Partly cloudy with a passing shower or two

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:29AM

Sunset AST
6:12PM



Duration
11:37 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
7:15 AM

Moonset AST
7:11AM



Duration
11:56hr

Bus Association wants benefit fund for members

The Antigua and Barbuda Bus Association has announced some bold moves to ensure that benefit funds are definitively set aside and actually paid to Association members in times of misfortune, or upon arrival of their twilight years.

Association president Keithroy Black and PRO Earl Waldron were guests on Point FM's Browne and Browne Show last Saturday, 22nd February.

They said for the past 20 years, at least, Association members have paid an estimated \$8 million to the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) for use of the West Bus Station.

They said this money was made up from fees of \$5 per day, six days a week, or \$30 weekly, paid by each bus using the facilities.

For some reason, which the executive members say they have not been able



to fathom, the payments were never collected from East Bus Station users, but they are hoping this can be changed going forward and equity brought into the system across the board.

Black and Waldron lamented that of this \$8 million collected by the ABTB, "Not a dime has ever been paid to members."

The Bus Association's constitution, they said, calls for the establishment of a fund, as of 2003, from which members could ben-

efit in case of accident or other unforeseen occurrence.

This, having never been done to date, the Association wants the Transport Board to put something in place for the benefit of bus drivers.

Major consultations between the Association and the ABTB have taken place recently at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, resulting in Bus Association members voting to approve an increase of the daily fee from \$5 to \$8.

The aim is for the extra \$3 per ticket to be placed into a provident fund of sorts for Bus Association Members who – by reason of age or incapacity – are no longer able to earn their living plying this trade.

It is also hoped that some measure of death benefits can be paid out of this fund to the survivors of bus operators who pass away.

According to Black and Waldron, relatives of the deceased members often call the Association to inquire if any financial assistance or benefits are available and, sadly, have to be answered in the negative.

President Keithroy Black also noted that the Bus Association is in need of its own office, adequately equipped and staffed. He is hoping that accumulation of the extra money will be able to provide for this in the near future.

Single Caribbean approach to virus

Tourism officials have made a strong case for a standardised Caribbean approach to dealing with outbreaks of infectious diseases that may affect people arriving in the region aboard cruise ships.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cruise Tourism Association, Nathan Dundas, said the region should implement the protocols that were put in place back in 2009, when there was the SARS virus outbreak. His comments come as both local and

regional officials in both government and the private sector discuss approaches to the current coronavirus (Covid 19) outbreak.

"We need to have all the countries of the region adopting one common approach to this virus or any future outbreaks. Back in 2009, we met with all the chief medical officers from across the Caribbean and came up with a set of procedures on how the region as a whole would respond to an outbreak," he stated.

He made reference to the cruise ship – Aida Perla, which was turned away from at least two Caribbean ports, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda. He explained that much of the problem surrounding that issue had to do with poor communications between the ship and local officials. For example, he noted that the number of people who were reported to have been ill aboard the ship kept fluctuating leav-

cont'd on pg 4

Antigua and Barbuda supports Baroness Scotland

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has announced that his government will support the bid of Baroness Patricia Scotland to seek a second term as Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

Last week Prime Minister Browne told reporters in Barbados, following the CARICOM Heads Meeting, that CARICOM has given their full-throated endorsement to Scotland's second bid.

"With the support of all of CARICOM and I believe that we had unanimity in the decision to support her and with the African states that we understand are also supporting her along with a number of states in Asia, we are pretty sure that she will have the majority support when we deal with this issue in Kigali in June of this



year.

"So in terms of probability, I believe that she would more than likely maintain her position as the secretary general of the Commonwealth," noted Prime Minister Browne.

During a recent meeting in St. John's with Baroness Scotland, she assured Prime Minister Browne that she will continue to work assiduously in the interest of the 54 countries of the Com-

monwealth.

She said that she has been honoured to serve the Commonwealth and is looking forward to continue the work started four years ago.

"It was pleasurable to see that hard work that we have all been doing and engaged in to be applauded and appreciated by CARICOM, even though you don't do things for applause and appreciation," she recently told reporters in Barbados.

"Baroness Scotland is and has been the candidate proposed by Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda and Belize and I wish I was there because Barbados would have been one of the proposers too, let me state that for the record.

"We are happy with the work that she has done for the countries of the region. We are happy with the work she has done for countries in the Pacific and Africa.

"We believe that every other Commonwealth Secretary General, has performed perhaps not as much, had the benefit of a second term," said Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados following the CARICOM Meeting last week, during which Prime Minister Browne gave his support for Baroness Scotland's second term in Office.

cont'd from pg 3

ing officials with little choice but to take the actions that they did.

"Are we saying that in one island, 32 passengers showing symptoms of (respiratory illness) is too much in one island, and 8 is too much in another?" he asked rhetorically.

Former secretary general of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, Hugh Riley, agreed with Dundas said the cruise ships themselves should be aware of the protocols that are in place around the world.

He believes that if there's an issue in one part of the world, then it would be quite easy for the Caribbe-

an to adopt some of these procedures to protect their citizens and visitors alike.

However, he feels that while each Caribbean state should exercise its own sovereignty, there's an argument to be made for closer collaboration among these countries towards a common approach.

According to Riley, the region is often seen as one tourist destination and not as individual territories so that should one island experience an outbreak of a virus such as Covid 19, then the entire region will be viewed as being infected.

"It is in the interest of the region for

the countries to work together so that there is one set of standards that are used across the board," he declared.

Meanwhile, Vice Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association, Alex Debritto, said his organization has held meetings with the prime minister as well as the tourism minister to find out what steps the government is taking to deal with a possible outbreak.

Additionally, he said individual properties are conducting training sessions amongst their staff on what to do to avoid getting infected with the virus should a guest develop symptoms of the virus.

Senator Eustace Lake lauds recovery from health ordeal

Senator Eustace “Teco” Lake, the former elected MP and Government Minister – who was forced out of running in the March 2018 general elections due to kidney failure requiring dialysis – says his recovery has been nothing short of remarkable since he became the recipient of a kidney transplant in 2017.

Lake entered Parliament in 2009 as a fresh face when he wrested the St. John’s Rural South seat, relegating then UPP Minister Winston Williams to a single term.

But with his Antigua Labour Party failing to capture the government that year, Teco had to wait another five years before the Baldwin Spencer administration was unseated in a 14-3 landslide that included him comfortably retaining the constituency.

He was handed the influential Ministry of Public Works and appeared to be sailing smoothly when, after three years in government, debilitating illness struck that was later revealed to be kidney failure.

The prognosis initially looked bleak, until Lake’s girlfriend at the time – in extraordinary act of altruism – donated one of her kidneys, which was successfully transplanted, literally yanking him from the danger zone of dialysis and possible



Senator Eustace “Teco” Lake

death.

During Pointe FM’s popular Browne and Browne Show on Saturday 22 February, Lake spoke to the host about life since his almost miraculous change of fortune and health turnaround.

Lake disclosed that his kidneys were damaged by years of untreated high blood pressure (hypertension), which, at the time of his 2017 crisis, had peaked to 220/120.

He said his partner had offered to donate the kidney without flinching, without him even asking, but for which he is eternally grateful.

He said his progress has been so good that his follow-up checks have now moved from monthly tests of his kidney function and energy levels to much longer intervals.

He disclosed that unlike the norm of kidney patients

hours of daytime sleep for him – he has been able to function continuously for 12 hours and more without nodding off for a single moment.

Asked whether this seeming endurance did not come with some perils, Lake replied: “At this point I’m fine and my doctor is fine with it. I am fine with it; it does not affect me in any way. I go to sleep at night and wake up in the morning.”

Lake stated, “Things have come a long way; praise and thanks to the Almighty.

sleeping a lot – with his doctor recommending four

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SATURDAY
MARCH 7, 2020
1PM - 9PM

ENGLISH HARBOUR BASKETBALL COURT





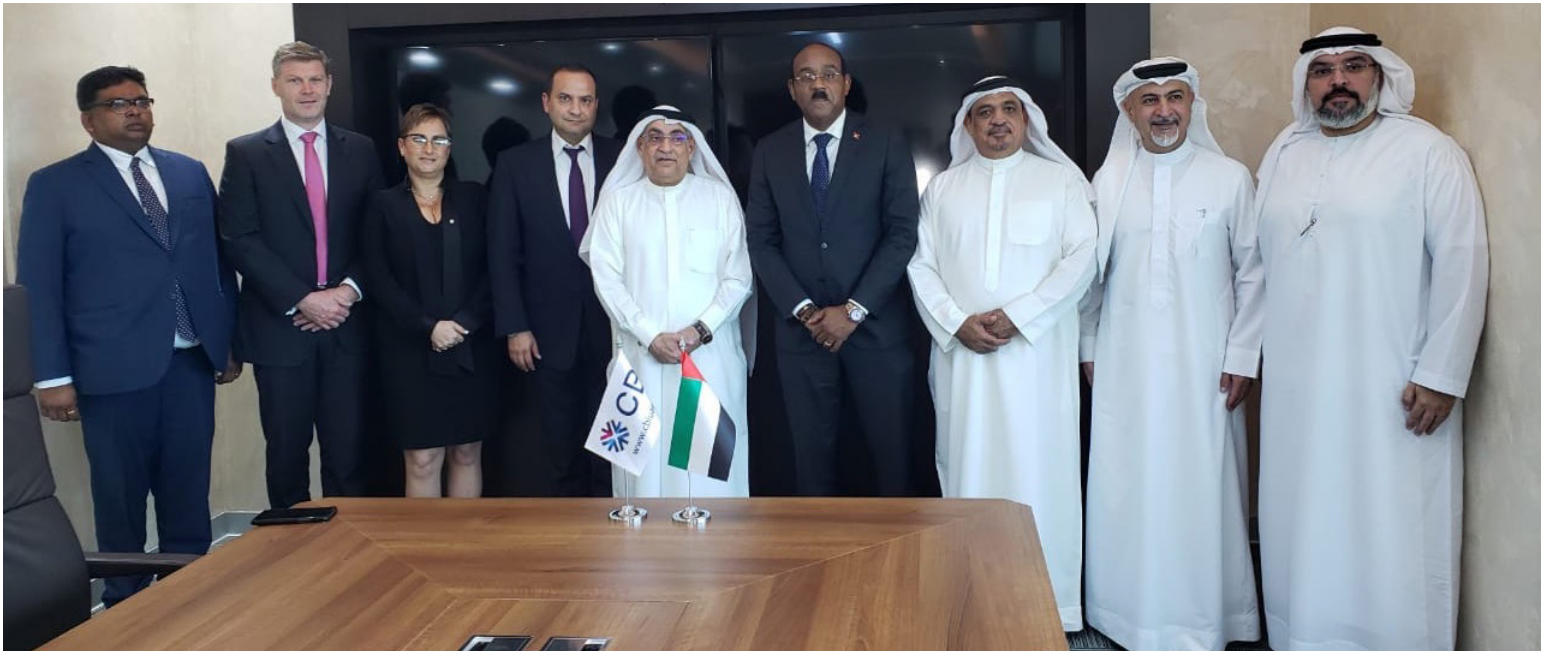
ENTERTAINMENT

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- BAXTER DEVOTIONAL DANCERS
- BOUNCE CASTLE
- GAMES AND MORE!



PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH UPKEEP

Local News



New funding for Callaloo Cay

Prime Minister Gaston Browne and His Excellency Mohammed Sultan AL Qadi, Chairman of Commercial Bank International (CBI) PSC of Dubai, along with several other board members of the bank, held successful meeting on the recommencement of the Callaloo Cay Project located at Morris Bay, Old Road village, Antigua.

The project which was started by Sheik Tariq has now been replaced by the bank and will be completed in partnership with the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Browne, who is currently in Dubai for a series of engagements, says that his government welcomes this partnership and looks forward to the completion of the project.

While in Dubai, Prime Minister Browne opened the Economic Office of Antigua and Barbuda and met with the Board of the CBI and visited the site of Expo2020. The country's leader also held meetings with the Investment Corporation of Dubai at the One & Only Resort.

Today Monday, Prime Minister



Browne will continue a series of business meetings to include a meeting with His Excellency Tariq Al Gurg, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Cares, an organization that is dedicated towards providing children of developing countries with access to quality primary education. He will also meet with His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibane, Director General of the Ruler's Court, Government of Dubai, a prime government body of the Emirate of Dubai.

Prime Minister Browne returns to the nation on Wednesday.

As a local UAE bank, Commercial Bank International (CBI) has been helping leading companies and ambitious people of the UAE manage their business and personal finances with confidence since 1991. This confidence comes from its financial strength and stability, supported by its investment grade rating from Fitch, a globally recognized, independent rating agency.

Five Island campus to formalise Guild

Less than a year since it opened its doors for full operations, the Five Islands Campus of the University of the West Indies will soon have its own Guild of Students, the recognized student government on campus.

One major step in this direction happened when the University Finance and General Purposes Committee (UF&GPC) recently approved the Constitution of the Guild of Students.

“The Guild Council is the recognised means of communication between students as a body, and the authorities of the University, with Guild Council members serving on major Campus and University Bodies,” Public Relations Representative on the Guild,” Chaneil Imhoff disclosed.

She said the Five Islands Guild Constitution was drafted by Level Two student, Ezekiel Francois, who acts as the Vice President of the Guild Committee alongside Caleb Gardiner, President of the Committee, Chaneil Imhoff, Public Relations Representative, Anasha Maloney, Committee Secretary, Michael Mitchell, Committee Treasurer, D’Jorné Davis, Danitrea Merchant and Kareena Thomas with the guidance of Daniella Hickling, interim Director of Administration and Finance.

“With the approval of



L-R Chaneil Imhoff, D’Jorné Davis, Danitrea Merchant, Ezekiel Francois, Daniella Hickling, Caleb Gardiner, Anasha Maloney

the Constitution, the student body will now have the power to elect a Guild of Students Council that will represent their rights, interests and concerns throughout their university life,” she added.

Positions being contested are The President, Vice-President (Head of ICC Committee, Guild Secretary, Guild Treasurer, The Unions Committee Chairperson, The Games Committee Chairperson, The Publications Committee Chairperson, National and International Affairs Chairperson, Representatives of Schools, The Returning Officer, The Guild Librarian, The Public Relations Officer, The Events Officer, Post-Graduate Representative and any other officer deemed necessary by the Guild from time to time.

To facilitate the elections, Ms. Kayah Ward,

and will oversee the historic election process which is constitutionally due between the 1st and 31st of March each year.

On May 27, 2019, the University Finance and General Purposes Committee (UF&GPC) approved the establishment of Five Islands Campus as The UWI’s 5th Campus and its 4th landed Campus, located in Antigua and Barbuda.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles made the official announcement at a media conference hosted on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at The UWI Regional Headquarters in Jamaica.

2019/2020 top Matriculant has been appointed as Guild Returning Officer



Government of Antigua and Barbuda

Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

Ministry of Headquarters
Cassada Gardens
St. John’s, Antigua

Telephone # 1-268-468-8500/01/02/03
Facsimile # 1-268-468-8518/468-8519

Ref: PUCATE 7/298

10th February 2020

To whom it may concern:

Re: Air Traffic Controller Assistant

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is advertising vacant positions for Air Traffic Controller Assistant within the Air Traffic Services (ATS) at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Position Requirements:

- A sound basic educational background with no less than five (5) CSEC subjects with passes at grades 1 and 2 proficiency level.
- English, Mathematics and a Science subject are compulsory, Geography will be an asset.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are a must.
- Initial shortlisting does not guarantee a placement into the V.C. Bird Air Traffic Services.
- Applicants must be between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty Four (24) years and should successfully qualify for a Class 3 Medical Certificate and Psychiatric Evaluation.

Applications should reach the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy no later than **28th February 2020**.

Please note, only suitable applicants will be contacted.


Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transport and Energy

Cc: Sir Robin Yearwood- Minister of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

Evaluate private sector wages

There's a need for a comprehensive analysis of wages paid to workers in Antigua and Barbuda...especially of wages for people in the private sector.

That's the view of government senator, Aziza Lake, who noted that the minimum wage that is paid in Antigua and Barbuda, already among the highest in the OECS, must not be viewed in isolation.

"The minimum wage should be looked at together with the cost of living and the rate of inflation. There should also be dialogue not only within government but amongst the private sector, NGOs and community-based organizations," she suggested.

Lake disclosed that the Ministry of Social Transformation in its 2020 Business plan, indicated that there was a plan to enact the National Social Protection Bill through a repeal of the Poor Relief Act of 1961.

According to the plan, its goal is "to provide the Government of An-



Senator Aziza Lake

tigua and Barbuda with the appropriate, supportive, legal framework to improve integration of social protection policies and programmes germane to current and future needs of the poor and most vulnerable in society."

In addition, the Ministry will also establish the National Integrated Beneficiaries Registry with support

from the European Union (EU) as well as conduct the second Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) which will help to properly gauge the poverty level in Antigua & Barbuda.

Senator Lake highlighted that the minimum wage as detailed by statistics posted by the Social Security Board shows that workers in the private sector take home less money on average than those in the public sector.

"Therefore," she stated, "some analysis needs to be eventually made with respect to the mobility of salaries and wages in the last ten years in the private sector."

Lake queried whether wages across the board remained stagnant even though cost of living has increased. Noting that there's a view that the private sector is risk averse and seen as stagnant in certain areas she wondered if the private sector has ever looked closely at current wages to determine where adjustments may be made.

Big donation to fight breast cancer

CIBC First Caribbean presented Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) and Breast Friends with a check for \$60-thousand for funds raised at the bank's 2019 annual CIBC First Caribbean Walk for the Cure.

The proceeds will be shared evenly between the two organizations (\$30-thousand each) and will aid cancer education, detection, treatment and support programs offered to the community.

"There is nothing more powerful than when

people collectively care – and this donation is the manifestation of that; people caring about each other," said Salma Crump, MSJMC Head of Marketing & Communications.

Crump said both MSJMC and Breast Friends are extremely grateful for the bank's longtime support of the hospital and they are delighted to receive this gift.

"We are proud to have an organization care so much about what we do.

"The donations we have received from the bank over the years have touched



many lives and with our continued partnership they will impact countless more

through the work we will be able to do in the Oncology Department," she stated.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.** (the "Company") which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2017, and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2017, and its financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities ("IFRS for SMEs").

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the Eastern Caribbean, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS for SMEs and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.



Partners:
Antigua
Charles Walegh - Managing partner
Robert Wilkinson
Rafael David
St. Kitts
Jefferson Harris

Audit - Tax - Advisory
Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of the Company's internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in the Company's internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Grant Thornton

Chartered Accountants
November 25, 2019
St. John's, Antigua

Audit - Tax - Advisory
Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd



Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.

Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2017

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

| | Notes | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|--|-------|-------------------|----------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 653,412 | 171,117 |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Plant and equipment | 8 | 3,333 | — |
| Long-term investments | 9 | 13,476,585 | — |
| Total assets | | 14,133,330 | 171,117 |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Accrued expenses | | 41,416 | 35,454 |
| Deferred revenue | 7 | 607,517 | 135,383 |
| Total liabilities | | 648,933 | 170,837 |
| Fund balances | | | |
| Unrestricted net assets | | 3,184 | 280 |
| Temporarily restricted net assets | 10 | 4,628 | — |
| Permanently restricted assets | 9 | 13,476,585 | — |
| Total fund balances | | 13,484,397 | 280 |
| Total liabilities and fund balances | | 14,133,330 | 171,117 |

The notes on pages 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.



Approved by the Board of Directors on November 25, 2019

Ashton Williams Treasurer Garry Gore Chairman

Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the period ended December 31, 2017

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

| | Note | 2017 \$ | Period May 22, 2015 to December 31, 2016 \$ |
|---|------|----------------|---|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Operating income for the year/period | | 2,904 | 280 |
| Items not affecting cash: | | | |
| Depreciation expense | 8 | 1,370 | — |
| Changes in working capital: | | | |
| Accrued expenses | | 5,962 | 35,454 |
| Deferred revenue | | 472,134 | 135,383 |
| Net cash from operating activities | | 482,370 | 171,117 |
| Cash flows used in investing activities | | | |
| Purchase of plant and equipment | | (4,703) | — |
| Cash flow from financing activities | | | |
| Temporarily restricted assets | | 4,628 | — |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents for the period | | 482,295 | 171,117 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | | 171,117 | — |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | | 653,412 | 171,117 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 653,412 | 171,117 |

The notes on pages 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.

Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds
For the period ended December 31, 2017

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

| | Japanese Biodiversity Fund (JBF) \$ | Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) \$ | International Community Foundation (ICF) \$ | Other \$ | Total \$ |
|---|--|---|---|--------------|----------------|
| Receipts | | | | | |
| JBF Receipts | 246,535 | — | — | — | 246,535 |
| ICF Project Management Receipt | — | — | 679,590 | — | 679,590 |
| Total receipts | 246,535 | — | 679,590 | — | 926,125 |
| Payments | | | | | |
| Consultants | 169,547 | — | — | — | 169,547 |
| Barbuda Relief and Recovery | — | — | 148,921 | — | 148,921 |
| Disbursements to DOE | — | 83,137 | — | — | 83,137 |
| Travel and accommodation | — | 14,780 | — | — | 14,780 |
| Reimbursement of Funds to Grantor | 7,157 | — | — | — | 7,157 |
| Computer equipment | 5,277 | — | — | — | 5,277 |
| Program officers | 3,373 | — | — | — | 3,373 |
| Workshop expenses | — | 2,200 | — | — | 2,200 |
| Bank charges | 360 | 232 | 50 | 429 | 1,071 |
| Board expenses | — | 630 | — | — | 630 |
| Website design | — | 361 | — | — | 361 |
| Legal expenses | — | 316 | — | — | 316 |
| Printing and stationery | — | 195 | — | — | 195 |
| Settlement of prior years' accruals | — | 6,863 | — | — | 6,863 |
| Total payments | 185,716 | 108,714 | 148,971 | 429 | 443,830 |
| Total net cash receipts for the period | 60,819 | (108,714) | 530,619 | (429) | 482,295 |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents | 47,239 | 123,598 | — | 280 | 171,117 |
| Ending cash and cash equivalents c/fwd | 108,058 | 14,884 | 530,619 | (149) | 653,412 |



Jamaica: Legal Charges Expected For High-Level Politicians ...

Six MPs Could Face Courts For Breaching Anti-Corruption Law ...

Recommendations Made For Very Senior Government Official To Be Arrested And Charged



Jamaica Gleaner

Six members of parliament (MPs) from both sides of the political divide could soon face legal charges for breaches of Jamaica's anti-corruption laws. Case files for all six lawmakers have already been referred to Director of Corruption Prosecution (DCP) at the Integrity Commission, Keisha Prince, for action, Sunday Gleaner sources have revealed. The commission is the body established to police Jamaica's anti-corruption laws. The parliamentarians have allegedly been found to be in breach of the Integrity Commission Act, which requires them to file annual declarations of their income, assets and liabilities.

Local integrity officials said the politicians are in violation of the law, having

been recalcitrant in furnishing the anti-corruption oversight body with information that they have been mandated to provide under the two-year-old legislation.

No further details were provided to The Sunday Gleaner on the alleged breaches. However, chairman of the Integrity Commission, retired Justice Seymour Panton, was at pains on Friday to address swirling reports that the commission's director of investigations, David Grey, had recommended that a very senior government official be arrested and charged for failing to comply with the law.

CONCERNS ABOUT ASSET The proposed charge, according to multiple sources, stems from the continued failure by the

top-ranking official to provide the commission with information requested about the acquisition of an asset that was included in his 2017 statutory declaration of income and liabilities.

But since then, the sources said, the recommendation has been sitting before the commission with no action. "Nobody wants to touch it," one source insisted.

However, Grey could not be reached for comment, and when pressed on the issue, Panton denied that the top investigator at the commission had made a recommendation to higher-ups at the oversight body from at least June last year for the matter to be prosecuted.

In fact, the chairman said the only matter referred to the DCP in recent times was in relation to the six parliamentarians who did not comply with the law in relation to their statutory declarations.

"I thought that whatever it was that went to the director of investigations last year was settled. The fact that nothing came back to us, I thought it was a dead matter," Panton stressed.

"It was never raised with us. The commissioners have not made any decision on that particular matter."

FAILING TO PROVIDE

INFORMATION

But according to Sunday Gleaner sources, the senior official's 2017 declaration first raised red flags for members of the previous Integrity Commission, which is one of three legacy agencies subsumed under the new commission.

One source insisted that the old commission concluded, after conducting a verification exercise, that the high-level government official was in breach of the law for failing to provide all the information requested.

Since the establishment of the current commission, the source said, a second "investigation" was conducted. "Meaning, the reverification was done ... and in June last year the recommendation was to charge [name redacted]." Parliamentarians are required by law to furnish to the commission a statutory declaration of their assets, liabilities and income as at the date of their election or appointment, and thereafter by December 31 each year.

The 2017 annual report of the Integrity Commission had revealed that five current and three former parliamentarians' statutory declarations that were submitted to the oversight body did not receive the all-clear signal from the agency.

EU, CDB Launch Standby Facility for Capacity Building *(CDB Press Release)*

The European Union (EU) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) (on 14 February 2020)

launched the new round of a EUR8.7 million programme designed to make Caribbean businesses better equipped to access new trade opportunities. The programme – the CARIFORUM-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building – will be financed by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) and administered by CDB. Speaking at the launch in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration, the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, welcomed the Standby Facility, noting that "as small developing States, there is a need for us to become more economically resilient." "I take pleasure in congratulating the EU for providing these resources ... aimed at

addressing our trade-related challenges and constraints," added Minister Greene.

Through this programme, CDB will select and fund projects to build capacity in the public and private sectors so that Caribbean businesses can take full advantage of the EPA and CSME agreements, and trade successfully in the EU and throughout CARIFORUM. CDB Director, Projects, Daniel Best said the programme aligned with the Bank's ongoing work to improve trade facilitation in the Region.

"These funds have the potential to facilitate significant progress in improving intra-regional trade and making it easier for our private sector, especially MSMEs, to access international markets," he emphasised.

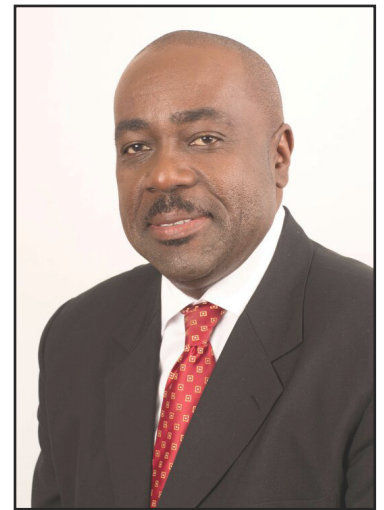
Trade Policy Manager with the EU Delegation, Adam Wisniewski, acknowledged that "many have asked questions about the effectiveness of the EPA signed more than 10 years ago and the real pace of the

CSME implementation." He continued that the programme was designed to help the Region overcome some of the challenges that have slowed full implementation of the EPA and CSME, including strengthening capacity, legislative drafting and support of the CSME focal points.

"These Standby Facilities are designed to address some of these challenges. [They] were created out of a need for a flexible and rapid mechanism to provide capacity building to CARICOM and CARIFORUM Member States," stated Wisniewski. Deputy Programme Manager at the CARIFORUM Directorate, Karen Dhani-Coonjah highlighted

the opportunities ahead if the Region could overcome these challenges through programmes such as the Standby Facility, stating:

"It is well recognised and documented that the key to unlocking the trade potential between CARIFORUM and the EU will be a sustained



effort to improve trade facilitation at the national

level." This is the second iteration of the programme managed by the Bank, which oversaw the previous facility between 2012 and 2018 under the 10th EDF and which funded nearly 30 projects in the agriculture, food processing and manufacturing industries, among others. Projects under the previous facility included one to support the accreditation of the Belize Citrus Growers Association Laboratory and another to improve the Bureau of Standards of Jamaica Packaging Laboratory.



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New Machine-Readable OECS Electronic Laissez-Passer for Officials of OECS Institutions

Unlike its predecessor, this new travel document is of international standard and is in compliance with Doc 9303 of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), an agency of the United Nations (UN) responsible for providing guidance on the issuance of Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs). A highlight of the security features of the new Electronic Laissez-Passer includes the following:

- Iridescent ink: Ink containing semi-opaque



The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission has begun the issuance of its new Electronic Laissez-Passer. The new OECS Electronic Laissez-Passer replaces the previous travel document utilised by staff and representatives of OECS Institutions and Organs on official travel missions.

pigments that become visible/invisible depending on the angle of view as well as

the light.

- Letterpress printing: A printing technique that creates a recessed image, pressed into the substrate by, for example, a stamp or punch. Letterpress printing may be recognised by the sharp edge surrounding the image (the bead) and a possible relief on the other side of the substrate.

- Collated: A text or image that has been applied to the substrate at successive positions. Together, they form a complete image or give the appearance of movement.

- Duotone watermark: An image and/or text created during the paper-production process by varying the density of the paper. This type of watermark consists of lighter and darker sections (positive and negative).

- Contactless chip: Located in the back cover

that meets ICAO specifications. The use of the new OECS Electronic Laissez-Passer ensures that staff and representatives of OECS Institutions and Organs on official travel duties are afforded the relevant privileges and immunities as granted under the Revised Treaty of Basseterre.

The new OECS Electronic Laissez-Passer will therefore ease the movement of staff and officials of OECS Institutions and Organs through regional and international borders.

OECS Director General, Dr. Didacus Jules, welcomed the introduction of the new official travel document noting that “the new machine-readable Laissez-Passer is in keeping with the standards set for international organisations and I look forward to the full roll-out in the coming months.”

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Five Caribbean countries eligible for United States H-2A and H-2B visa programmes



(CMC) — The Trump administration has listed five Caribbean countries among 84 worldwide that are eligible for H-2A and H-2B visa programmes that allow US employers to bring foreign nationals to the US to fill temporary agricultural and nonagricultural jobs. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Department of State (DOS), said the five Caribbean countries are eligible to participate in the programmes in 2020. The Caribbean countries are Barbados, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

But USCIS said while the Dominican Republic is eligible to participate in the H-2A programme, it is not eligible to participate in the H-2B programme.

For 2020, USCIS said the DHS has

determined, with the concurrence of the Office of the Secretary of State, that the countries designated as eligible in 2019 will remain unchanged.

“DHS maintains its authority to add countries to the eligible countries list at any time, and to remove any country whenever DHS and DOS determine that a country fails to meet the requirements for continued designation,” said USCIS in a statement.

It said examples of factors that could result in the exclusion of a country or the removal of a country from the list include fraud, abuse, denial rates, overstay rates, human trafficking concerns, and other forms of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the H-2 visa programmes by nationals of that country.

Typically, USCIS said it approves H-2A and H-2B petitions only for nationals of countries that the DHS

secretary has designated as eligible to participate in the programmes.

However, USCIS said it may approve H-2A and H-2B petitions, including those that were pending as of the date of the Federal Register notice, for nationals of countries not on the list on a case-by-case basis “only if doing so is determined to be in the interest of the United States”.

USCIS said the list does not affect the status of H-2 beneficiaries who currently are in the United States, “unless they apply to extend their status”.

It also said that the list does apply to nonimmigrants changing status in the United States to H-2A or B.

“Each country’s designation is valid, subject to removal for failure to meet the requirements for continued designation, from January 19, 2020, until January 18, 2021,” USCIS said.

Mecca governor orders arrest of Saudi female rapper

Saudi officials have ordered the arrest of a female rapper who appeared in a music video for her song *Bint Mecca*, or *Girl from Mecca*, stating that it is offensive to the customs and traditions of the holy city.

In the video, a Saudi woman identified as Ayasel Slay raps about her pride in being from Mecca, home to the holiest site in Islam, the Kaaba.

The video was uploaded to Ayasel's YouTube channel - which has since been removed - last week and featured her rapping in a cafe with a group of smiling children as her backup dancers.

"A Mecca girl is all you need/Don't upset her, she will hurt you," sang Ayasel, describing how a woman from

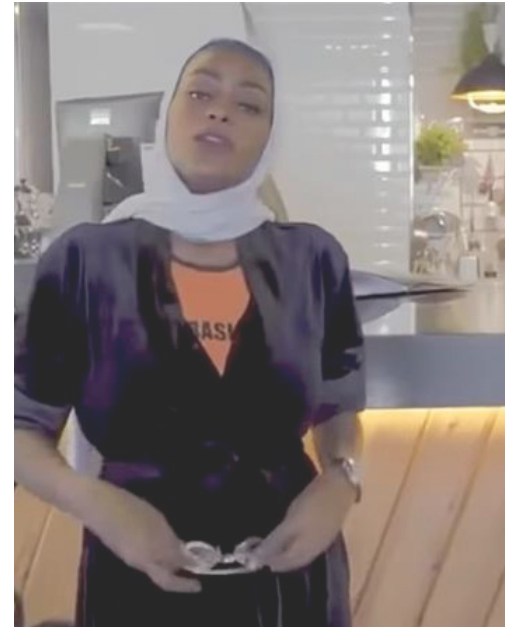
Mecca exceeded all other Saudi women in beauty and strength.

"With her, you can complete the Sunna [get married]/Your life with her will become Paradise," she asserts proudly. On Thursday, Mecca regional authorities said in a Tweet that the governor had issued orders that Ayasel and the video production team be prosecuted.

"Prince Khalid bin Faisal of Mecca has ordered the arrest of those responsible for the *Bint Mecca* rap song, which offends the customs and traditions of the people of Mecca and contradicts the identity and traditions of its esteemed population," the tweet said.

Social media storm

The song has attracted strong reac-



Ayasel Slay

tions from social media, with racial undertones used in the hashtag #You_Are_Not_Mecca's_Girls directed at **cont'd on pg 15**

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Asasel's African origins.

"Enough of this depravity," one user said, referring to the video. "I hope the punishment for this African woman will be imprisonment then deporting her back to her country."

"Immediate deportation is the answer, in addition to holding every foreigner who claims to be from Mecca accountable," one user said.

"Including all Somalis living here," another replied in agreement.

Others spoke out against these comments.

"If anything needs to be deported, it is your racism, your arrogance, and your deep reverence for yourselves," one Twitter user retorted.

"The singer is young and has maybe realised her mistake, as Mecca is a holy place and has revered status," Twitter user Nouf al-Qahtani said. "But don't let your comments fall to racist levels

... racism is a disease in society."

"[Some] Saudis are saying that the singer is black and can't be from Mecca, as if Mecca is known for its blond-haired and blue-eyed women," another social user commented sarcastically.

Comments also pointed out what they said was hypocrisy and double standards on the part of Saudi authorities and their reaction to the rap video.

"What a contrasting situation ... [the government] invites singers and dancers to the country and no one objected but this girl did this song and now everyone is against her?" social media user Sultan al-Hamedi asked.

It is not the first time a Saudi female rapper has released a video. In June 2018, a rapper by the name of Leesa A dropped a video where she celebrated the country's lifting of a ban that prohibited women from driving. The video went viral but, unlike Asasel Slay's

song, was well received.

Saudi Arabia has in recent years implemented a series of social and economic reforms, championed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), including giving women the right to drive and opening up the conservative kingdom for entertainment and tourism.

The reforms have, however, been accompanied by a deepening crack-down on government critics, including the detention of high-profile women's rights activists including Loujain al-Halhloul, and the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents at country's consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

Amnesty International has described Saudi Arabia's human rights record as "abysmal", adding the nation is in the "grip of a sweeping crackdown against critics of the government".

U.S. prosecutors to lay out case against Julian Assange at extradition hearing

LONDON — The U.S. government and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will face off Monday in a high-security London courthouse, a decade after WikiLeaks infuriated American officials by publishing a trove of classified military documents.

A judge at Woolwich Crown Court will begin hearing arguments from lawyers for U.S. authorities, who want to try Assange on espionage charges that carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.



By The Associated Press

The extradition hearing follows years of subterfuge, diplomatic dispute and legal drama that have led the 48-year-old Aus-

tralian from fame as an international secret-spiller through self-imposed exile inside the Ecuadorean Embassy in London to incar-

ceration in a maximum-security British prison.

Assange has been indicted in the U.S. on 18 charges

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International

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over the publication of classified documents. Prosecutors say he conspired with U.S. army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to hack into a Pentagon computer and release hundreds of thousands of secret diplomatic cables and military files on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. authorities say WikiLeaks' activities put American lives in danger. Assange argues he was acting as a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection, and says the leaked documents exposed U.S. military wrongdoing. Among the files published by WikiLeaks was video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

Journalism organizations and civil liberties groups including Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders say the charges against Assange set a chilling precedent for freedom of the press.

"What we have is an assault on journalism," left-wing Greek lawmaker Yanis Varoufakis said at an Assange support march in London on Saturday. "The only charge against Julian, hiding behind the nonsense of espionage, is a charge of journalism."

Assange's legal saga began in 2010, when he was arrested in London at the request of Sweden, which wanted to question him about allegations of rape and sexual assault made by two women. He refused to go to Stockholm, saying he feared extradition or

illegal rendition to the United States or the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2012, Assange sought refuge inside the Ecuadorean Embassy, where he was beyond the reach of U.K. and Swedish authorities.

For seven years Assange led an isolated and increasingly surreal existence in the tiny embassy, which occupies an apartment in an upscale block near the ritzy Harrod's department store. Confined to the building, he occasionally emerged onto a small balcony to address supporters, and received visits from celebrity allies including Lady Gaga and "Baywatch" actress Pamela Anderson.

The relationship between Assange and his hosts eventually soured, and he was evicted in April 2019. British police immediately arrested him for jumping bail in 2012.

Assange's legal team insists the American case against him is politically motivated. His lawyers say they will present evidence that the Australian was offered a pardon by the Trump administration if he agreed to say Russia wasn't involved in leaking Democratic National Committee emails that were published by WikiLeaks during the 2016 U.S. election campaign.

Assange's lawyers say the offer was made in August 2017 by then-Republican Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, who claimed to be acting on behalf of President Donald Trump.

The White House has called the

claim "a complete fabrication and a total lie." Rohrabacher acknowledges discussing the Democrat leak with Assange, but denies offering a pardon from the president.

An end to the saga could still be years away. After a week of opening arguments, the extradition case is due to break until May, when the two sides will lay out their evidence. The judge is not expected to rule until several months after that, with the losing side likely to appeal.

If the courts approve extradition, the British government will have the final say.

The case comes at delicate time for trans-Atlantic relations. The U.K. has left the European Union and is keen to strike a trade deal with the U.S.



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Neighbours close borders with Iran as virus concerns rise



Medical staff worry hospitals are not equipped to handle outbreak while others say authorities failed to act swiftly.

by Maysam Bizaer

Iran has reported eight deaths and 43 infections from the new coronavirus, prompting neighbouring states to cut travel links with Tehran amid concerns authorities failed to respond fast enough to the rapidly-spreading epidemic.

Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Armenia closed their land borders with Iran on Sunday as officials in Tehran reported three new deaths and 15 new cases in one day.

Since the infection, officially known as COVID-19, was first detected in the Iranian city of Qom on Wednesday, there has been a sharp increase in cases in the country while Lebanon and the Unit-

ed Arab Emirates (UAE) said people travelling from Iran had tested positive for the pathogen upon entering their territories. The death toll in Iran is the highest number reported outside China, the epicentre of the outbreak, where the virus has claimed more than 2,400 lives and infected over 77,000 people.

As the virus spread in Iran, authorities closed down schools and cancelled art and film events in a bid to stem the outbreak. They also designated at least 230 hospitals across the country to treat infections. But some medical staff are expressing concern over what they called a lack

of adequate equipment at hospitals, while some members of the public accused the government of failing to take adequate preventive measures. A senior official from the World Health Organization (WHO), meanwhile, expressed concern crippling sanctions imposed by the United States as part of a "maximum pressure" campaign could affect Iran's ability to deal with the epidemic.

A nurse in the city of Rasht in Gilan said there was a lack of equipment at hospitals in the northern province, where four cases of the infection have been recorded.

"We are [at] the forefront

of dealing with people who are suspected of being infected. But we do not have the standard protective clothes or masks. We've been given the gowns that are used in operation rooms, we know that it is not effective. We also do not have the necessary disinfectant and sanitizer liquids." Meanwhile, a physician in Tehran, also speaking on the condition of anonymity, said: "They [authorities] are not prepared to tackle the disease at all. Even hospitals are not well-equipped." Fahimeh, a civil servant in Tehran, echoed the sentiment, saying she feared for her 42-year-old husband, who suffered a heart attack two years ago.

"I'm concerned about my husband, because I am not sure whether hospitals are really prepared to provide required services to patients," said the 32-year-old, who preferred to give one name, noting the warning by the WHO the infection posed risks to elderly patients or those who have underlying conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. "I am not happy with the government response, because they are not well-prepared even though they knew the coronavirus could come to Iran. For example, the health ministry keeps saying that there's no shortage of

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International

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UNBIASED NEWS AND ANALYSIS

cont'd from pg 17

masks and hand-sterilising gels. But, on the ground it's not like this," she said, noting how pharmacies in the city were facing a shortage of masks and hand sanitizers.

In the hard-hit city of Qom, an important Shia religious city, a journalist said one sign of health officials not being prepared for a potential outbreak was how they only "conducted diagnosis tests only after deaths happened".

The situation in Qom, where 26 infections and several deaths have been recorded, "will get worse", he said.

Some also questioned why authorities were slow to cut air links with China, one of Iran's closest trading partners. Tehran suspended flights to Beijing on February 3, four days after WHO declared the outbreak that emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan a global health emergency.

Ali Fathollah-Nejad, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Centre, said the outbreak has further eroded the Iranian public's trust in the government, as it comes amid widespread dissatisfaction over perceived mismanagement at a time of a worsening economy, as well as anger at the Iranian authorities' heavy-handed crackdowns on dissent including a bloody crackdown on people protesting a rise in fuel prices in November. "There is concern that Iranian

authorities delayed informing the public of the outbreak, similar to the actions of the Chinese government," he said, referring to anger in China after it emerged that authorities there had been aware of a deadly new viral outbreak in late December but only began taking precautionary measures weeks later, in late January. Fathollah-Nejad added: "It deepens the feeling [in Iran] that the government failed to take the precautions necessary to protect the health and the lives of the people. Because of Iran's need to keep its contacts with China intact, they kept up flights and other links to China, while other countries were more careful."

But Iranian authorities have defended their conduct, with government spokesman Ali Rabiei saying on Friday that the health ministry has acted "honestly and transparently" in handling the outbreak.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki told the semi-official ISNA news agency that the government has "acted honourably in preventing the epidemic of infectious diseases".

The latest such example is our colleagues' management in dealing with countrywide floods in March last year when no pandemic broke out," he said, referring to measures to deal with waterborne diseases in the wake of unprecedented and deadly flooding that hit 25 out of 31 provinces in Iran in March last year.

Peyman Saberian, head of Tehran's emergency services, told PANA news agency on Wednesday the capital was ready for an outbreak. "We have no shortage of clothing and equipment," he said. "The most important thing is for people to take care of their own health and personal hygiene."

Dr Abdinasir Abubakar from WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean also expressed confidence in Iran's ability to handle an outbreak.

"Iran has one of the best healthcare systems in the region and they have the capacity to handle the outbreak," he told Al Jazeera on Sunday. However, he said US sanctions could hurt Tehran's ability to respond to the crisis.

"The embargo may have impacted [the] overall economy and Iran may not [be] able buy [the] technology required to produce essential equipments and medicine. However, Iran is one of the countries in the region with adequate preparedness and capacities for such outbreaks."

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NIGHTLY NEWS

WITH **PHIL GEORGE**

MONDAY - FRIDAY

6:30PM | 6:30AM



99.1 FM RADIO



New citizenship law protests in India ahead of Trump's visit

Police have used tear gas to disperse large crowds protesting a new citizenship law in India's capital New Delhi just a day before US President Donald Trump begins a two-day visit of the country.

In the latest eruption of violence at protests on Sunday, hundreds of people supporting the new law clashed with those opposing it, with the two groups pelting each other with stones in the Maujpur area in the northeastern part of the city, according to television footage.

On Sunday, a separate protest also erupted in the northern Indian city of Aligarh, where protesters threw stones at the police, state administration official Chandra Bhushan Singh said. India's Citizenship Amendment Act, which eases the path for non-Muslims from neighbouring Muslim-majority nations to gain citizenship, has triggered weeks of sometimes violent protests against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The law is seen by opponents as discriminating against Muslims and

has deepened concerns that Modi's administration is undermining India's secular traditions.

Trump is expected to raise the issue of religious freedom in the country with Modi. The US president left for India on Sunday, predicting that "many millions" will greet him on a lightning visit with Modi.

"I look forward to being with the people of India," Trump said as he left the White House on his first trip to India.

"We're going to have many millions and millions of people," he said. "I hear it's going to be a big event, some people say the biggest event they ever had in India. That's what the prime minister told me."

Ahead of the India trip, which will see him and his wife Melania visit the Taj Mahal and attend a rally with Modi in the world's largest cricket stadium, he has repeatedly mused on the "millions" he expects to turn out.

Enormous crowds are guaranteed during the one-night trip, given Modi's own prowess at staging mega-rallies.



Kittians Win Antigua Open 2020

Kittitian Golfer Adrian Norford summoned the lion in him as he came roaring back to claim his maiden Antigua Open Golf Title at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on Sunday.

Down four shots heading to the back nine during Sunday's grand finale, Norford began to roar loudly and his main rivals, Dion Massiah and Marlon George began to crumble.

The 35 year old took the lead after number 11, and from then on it was smooth sailing for the hard hitting Kittitian as he came home with a 73 for a two day total of 143. For his successful efforts, Norford took home the overall replica trophy, the championship flight trophy, bottles of rum, perfume, golf apparel and an umbrella. Massiah, who ended the tournament with 144 finished as the runner up while George finished third. In the ladies division, it was another first time winner as Sabiena Winston excelled over her rivals to claim her inaugural crown.

She had a tally of 169, to edge her nearest rival, Serafina Nicholas by a single stroke. Kris Karmajian was declared the ladies overall net winner. Victory as well for Dwayne Hill, Leon

"Kuma" Rodney, Canice Louis and Ceri Mort.

Hill took the men's A flight, Rodney was the victor in the B division, Louis had the better of his rivals in the seniors category while Mort prevailed in the super seniors section.

Victory as well for Rick Solsberg, who walked away with the super seniors Net trophy over Hilroy Humphreys, Leroy "Jawanza" Daley took the seniors equivalent and Eugene "Kasseba" Silcott captured the A Flight's Net prize.

But the biggest Net winner of the day was the People's favorite, Anderson "Newman" Wynter who secured the double, winning the B flight and overall net prizes.

Thanks to his two day tally of 138, He will have a free pass to play in the Royal Marriott St Kitts Open over the Whit weekend.

The junior winner was Keion James.

Sponsorship for the annual event came from the West Indies Oil Company, H&G Paints, Cool and Smooth, Flo's Perfumes Plus, Hawk-eye Security, Horizons Food Ltd, Frank Wall and Snickers Candy, Walter Heaven and Goddard Catering Group.

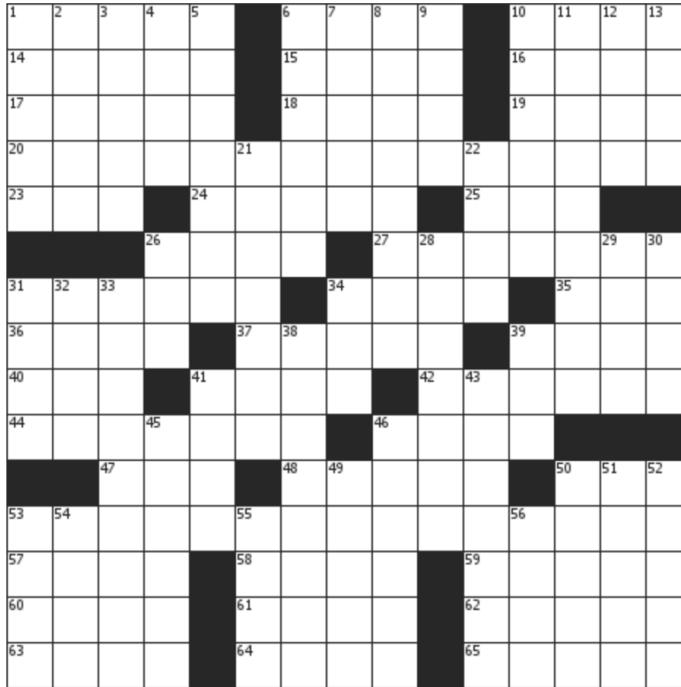
Over sixty golfers took part in the championship...



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Across

1. Caesar, e.g.
6. Goes out to sea
10. Stuff to be crunched
14. Surrogate
15. Lunar plain
16. Actor Jannings
17. Drop flavor
18. Cut ____ (dance)
19. Flying start?
20. Talkative one's question, part 1
23. Pongee color
24. Robin's creator
25. Waikiki neckwear
26. Cotton deseeders
27. Medium states
31. Talkative one's question, part 2
34. One thing among several
35. Marilu, on "Evening Shade"
36. Balcony section
37. Didn't take part, (with "out")
39. Turow work
40. Ticker tape?
41. Sitter's handful
42. Talkative one's question, part 3
44. Your overall circumstances
46. "How the Other Half Lives" author
47. Grass structure
48. Grammy winner Black
50. Moo goo ____ pan
53. Talkative one's question, part 4
57. "Incredible" one
58. "Why don't we?"
59. Serve the purpose
60. Look at too intently
61. French play part
62. Sculpt
63. Optimistic
64. Ref's decisions, sometimes
65. Baby bouncers



Down

1. 7-10, e.g.
2. Fight card site
3. Play salesman?
4. Neuron part
5. Exhibiting charisma
6. Forgoes the USPS
7. Peerage member
8. What some dye to become
9. Utah's state flower
10. Overwhelm with sound
11. Mom and apple pie, e.g.
12. Lose steam
13. Succulent plant
21. Two-bit
22. Certain drumbeat
26. Word before "I don't know"
28. Burgundy, for one
29. Word with when or where
30. It may follow the pitch
31. Way to go downhill
32. Pig's place?
33. Walking surface for the nervous
34. Addams cousin
38. Worker's carrot
39. Yiddish complaints
41. Take the bait
43. Retaliate
45. Really bad film
46. Salon offerings
49. Numbers game
50. Scowl
51. Kicking partner
52. Guernsey and Jersey
53. Noted hammer thrower
54. Science fiction award
55. Developer's map
56. Netman Lendl

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Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | | 4 | | | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | | | 7 | 9 | | 6 | |
| | | 9 | | 6 | | 7 | | |
| 1 | | | | | | 8 | | |
| | 8 | | | 4 | | | 1 | |
| | | 7 | | | | | | 2 |
| | | 4 | | 1 | | 5 | | |
| | 5 | | 2 | 9 | | | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | | | 5 | | 3 | 9 |

Daily Comics presented by azcentral.

Non Sequitur



Cathy



Garfield



Luann



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTE X PRESS

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Cutting Edge slice Wadadli United in women's football

The technical center was booming with excitement last Friday with Cutting Edge slicing Wadadli United 2-0.

On target was Denica Samuel in the 20 before Marlena Lesnioski closed the door in the 38 minute with a lovely finish.

The featured game saw



Fort Road and Trendsetters play to a one-all draw.

Nicola Stewart gave Trendsetters the lead before Fort Road equalized in the 30 minute with a neat finish from Kitanya Hughes.

WI women avoid upset

West Indies avoided upset against Thailand before winning by seven wickets Saturday at the WACA in Perth.

Thailand on their Global debut at the Women's T/20 World Cup managed only 78 for 9 in their 20 overs.

Koncharoenkai led the way with 33 while Stephanie Taylor picked up 3 for 13.

In response the Caribbean ladies survived a mini-collapse that saw them fall to 27 for 3.

Taylor and Campbelle restored order to the innings with 26 and 25 not out.

West Indies next outing is Wednesday against Pakistan after Thailand face England in Canberra.

West Indies name T/20 squad

Cricket West Indies (CWI) selection panel named the 14 member squad Saturday for the upcoming T/20 international series against Sri Lanka.

Andre Russell and Oshane Thomas have been recalled

to the squad.

Russell, 31 is a two time ICC T/20 World Cup winner. He has successfully completed the CWI return to play assessment programme under the supervision of CWI medical team

in his native Jamaica.

The powerfully built all rounder has so far played 47 T/20s for the West Indies.

Thomas, who turned 23 last week, is selected after making a full recovery from a car accident in Jamaica

recently.

The squad is led by Captain Kieron Pollard, Fabien Allen, Dwayne Bravo, Sheldon Cottrell, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Brandon King and Nicolas Pooran.

Also included are Rovman Powell, Andre Russell, Lendl Simmons, Oshane Thomas, Hayden Walsh Jr., and Kesrick Williams.

The two T/20s will be played at the Pallakele International Stadium in Kandy on Wednesday, March 4 and Friday, March 6. First ball 9:30am Eastern Caribbean time.

Empire beat West Ham 4-2

Cool and Smooth Empire continued their fine form this season with a comfortable 4-2 win over bottom of the table West Ham at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday.

Rakeem Beauty Joseph the leading marksman in the division with 15 strikes from 12 games dominated the attack with a hat-trick.

The USVI International netted in the 33,

44, 75 minutes after teammate the talented Jayvaughn Pope Joseph open the scoring in the 8 minute with a right foot shot just outside the 18 year box.

West Ham improved in the second half with a goal from Junto Jeffery after a Rati-jah Hulk Davis own goal.

Empire move to 36 points from 16 outing behind league leaders Sap who lead the division with 37 points from 17 games.

Sports

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PAGE 24

MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2020

Grenades draw; Parham beat Five Islands 2-1

In the Premier Division on Sunday the action kicked off in-front of 3500 spectators with Grenades continuing their poor form over the last two weeks with a boring goalless draw against Pigotts Bullets.

Both teams lacked creativity, penetration and suffered from the blistering sun which saw the officials giving a 10 minute break in the first half.

Grenades remain top of the league with 27 points

In the second game Parham continued their recent rich form with a 2-1 win over Five Islands.

On target for Parham was Daryan James in the 12th and 35th minute.

National player Quinton Griffith scored a well placed penalty in the 41 minute for Five Islands who failed to convert on a number of occasions in the second half.



The featured game arrived between defending champions Liberta Black-hawks and Old Road.

But the evening belongs to the men from South who looked sharpe early led by Raheem Deterville who struck in the 4 and 90. Jamoy Stevens added one in the 28 minute.

Malique Martin scored the lone goal for Liberta.

Meanwhile over the weekend at the ARG Swetes narrowly defeated All Saints United 1-nil Saturday.

Akeem Weekes found the back of the net early in the 13 minute, but would be disappointed after wasting a number of chances in the first half.

All Saints United lacked penetration as they continue to show a need for a good striker a problem they failed to address in the transfer window.

In the second game of the evening Cool and Smooth Hoppers destroyed Rangers 5-nil.

Hoppers accumulated their goals in the 37, 67, 63, and a 91 minute own goal via Terry Roberts.

Hoppers now move to 26 points one point behind league leaders Grenades on 27.

