



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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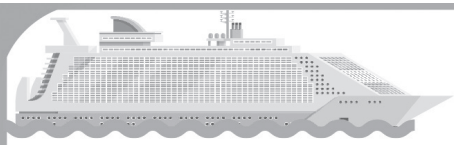
MOLWYN DEFENDS DECISION










Story on Page 3



Antigua Hash House Harriers has made another donation to the Mount St. John's Medical Centre. This time the group has made a cash donation of \$5,700.00 to the hospital for use in its Emergency Room department. **Story on Page 3**



Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2020

Date	Cruise Ship	Arrive-Depart	
25 February, 2020 Tuesday	 MSC Divina	07:00	18:00
25 February, 2020 Tuesday	 Britannia	07:00	18:00
26 February, 2020 Wednesday	 Celebrity Summit		17:00
26 February, 2020 Wednesday	 Serenade Of The Seas	08:00	17:00
27 February, 2020 Thursday	 Celebrity Silhouette		17:00
27 February, 2020 Thursday	 Seven Seas Explorer	08:00	19:00
28 February, 2020 Friday	 MSC Preziosa	08:00	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 2/26

Max UV Index: 8 Very High
 Wind: ENE at 13 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 48%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.6 mm
 Rain: 1.6 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1.5
 Hours of Rain: 1.5

28° Hi



Intervals of clouds and sun with a couple of showers

NIGHT 2/26

Wind: ENE at 13 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 22 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 51%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 2.0 mm
 Rain: 2.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

22° Lo



Partly cloudy with a passing shower or two

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:28AM

Sunset AST
6:13PM



Duration
11:45 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
8:26 AM

Moonset AST
8:45AM



Duration
12:19hr

Molwyn defends decision

Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, is clearing the air regarding the decision made more than a week ago to turn back a cruise ship, Aida Perla, from docking in Antigua and Barbuda.

Joseph was speaking in parliament on Tuesday where he rose to issue a national update on measures instituted by the government to combat a possible outbreak of the coronavirus (Covid 19) should an infected person arrive in the country.

The minister refuted suggestions from the president of the Cruise Tourism, Nathan Dundas that the vessel was turned back because of a decision made in another country.

Joseph said this was not the case, in fact the decision to turn back the vessel was based on the absence of proper information from

the cruise ship. "Two days before the vessel arrived in Antigua, we were told that as many as 90 passengers were experiencing respiratory problems. When it was due to dock in St. John's the number was down to eight," the health minister told parliament.

Based on the uncertainty, Joseph said he asked for a report from the ship regarding the true situation on board. According to the minister, the information did not reach the ministry in a timely manner a proper assessment to take place.

"If we are not going to get the information on time then there will be consequences as the ship will not be allowed entry into the country," he declared.

Joseph, a former minister of tourism, said he quite understands that the indus-

try is vital to the economic well-being of the country, but that when decisions are made this only happens after careful examination of the facts.

"It's one thing to talk about economic benefits, but as the minister of health, my first duty is to the people of Antigua and Barbuda and I will not deviate from that responsibility," he stated.

The minister informed his colleagues and the nation that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Covid 19 virus is knocking at the door of every nation in the world. Based on this warning, he

said sometimes tough decisions must be made.

"When we take tough decisions, residents of Antigua and Barbuda should appreciate that this is done based on what we believe is in the best interest of the country after careful analysis of the situation," he contended.

He said his ministry remained very concerned as the number of infected people around the world continues to grow. WHO, he said, has confirmed 79,331 cases globally with 2,069 of these in countries outside of the people's Republic of China. There have been 2,618 deaths.

More donations for MSJMC

Antigua Hash House Harriers has made another donation to the Mount St. John's Medical Centre.

This time the group has made a cash donation of \$5,700.00 to the hospital for use in its Emergency Room department. The money was raised during their annual 'red dress run', a major fundraiser.

MSJMC sources say this is the second year that AHHH is partnering with the health institution to improve its services to the community. Last year, the group donated \$5,000.00 towards the Oncology department.

"We appreciate the work of AHHH and the group's efforts to assist us help members in our community. It is always good that civic groups in our society are motivated to assist the institution in what ever way they can," MSJMC spokeswoman, Salma Crump stated.



THE PASTOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
BAXTER MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

INVITE YOU TO IT'S ANNUAL

FOOD FAIR

TICKETS \$20

SATURDAY
MARCH 7, 2020
1PM - 9PM

ENGLISH HARBOUR BASKETBALL COURT

ENTERTAINMENT

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

PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH UPKEEP





Break-in at Holberton

Thieves have set back the timetable for the completion of the Margetson Ward at the Holberton Hospital, which is being readied to serve as a quarantine area for anyone affected with the coronavirus (Covid 19) in Antigua and Barbuda.

Work has been ongoing for about two weeks to complete the ward by the end of the month. However, health Minister Molwyn Joseph has disclosed that when he visited the site on Tuesday morning, he was informed that the site has been broken into and the culprits made off with several items.

PointExpress newspaper visited the site Tuesday morning and learnt that missing included one a/c unit, one vacuum, two buckets of paint with several tool items was stolen.

It is believed that the



thieves entered from the eastern side of the building and left footprints in paint as they went through all the rooms.

Minister Joseph said the development was a 'distressing piece of news', noting that the act will likely setback the completion

date. Fortunately, during the parliamentary discussion, Works Minister, Lennox Weston gave a commitment to double up the work men assigned to the task in a bid to have the work completed by the end of the week.

"We have procured additional necessary equipment

and supplies for early detection and infection control such as thermometers, masks and gloves," he reported.

He added that the ministry has fully established communication links with students and other nationals who are currently residing in China. A few have returned and have been quarantined, he stated.

According to the minister...19 who traveled between China and Antigua have been quarantined. Five have been repatriated. Ten of the quarantined have been students of Antigua and Barbuda studying in China. Four have been Chinese nationals resident in Antigua. There are currently eight people in quarantine; two Chinese diplomats and 6 students.

All are monitored daily and their temperatures taken...none has developed respiratory symptoms.



Multiple uses for new Civil Registration Bill – Minister Nicholas

The Civil Registration (Vital Statistics) Bill 2020 was one of the pieces of legislation considered by the House of Representatives at its sitting on Tuesday.

Minister for Information Technology, Melford Nicholas, hailed the bill as paving the way for the establishment of “a first world system for the provision of civil registration, vital statistics and personal identification management in one solution”.

He went on to explain why improvement of the Civil Registration process was of such critical importance. He said there were several duplicate registers under the previous district-based registration, which the new system would make a thing of the past.

Using the sister isle as an example, he illustrated his point thus: “Persons born at the Hanna Thomas Hospital, or perhaps born to a visiting district medical practitioner in Barbuda, there was a certain delay; and even with the extraction of vital information from the registry – let’s say a birth certificate or a marriage certificate – it necessitated a visit over to mainland Antigua for them to be able to have it; so we have good news to speak about today.”

Nicholas said “the whole labour intensive process to



produce certificates from the registry was a problem”, but the new system contains a full range of foundational information that could be utilized for manifold purposes such as birth certificates, drivers licenses, social security registration, and ease of doing business as just some examples.

He said automation of the civil registry would be a first for Antigua and much of the region when it came to “civil registration, vital statistics and personal information management in one solution”.

Nicholas said this would make the compilation of reporting of statistics pertaining to births, deaths, divorces and such matters becoming much easier to compile and report – as required by many international bodies to which Antigua and Barbuda was a signatory member.

“We will seamlessly produce vital statistics for de-

cision making. We can augment census processes with key bits of data collected through the various civil registration processes; and

other agencies will be able to benefit from the data, rather than have to collect data on their own,” Minister Nicholas stated.



Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association
 secretary@antiguaandbarbudascouts.org
 Motto: Be Prepared



NOTICE

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SCOUT ASSOCIATION**

RE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section IV(4)(b) of the Constitution, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Antigua and Barbuda Branch of the Scout Association will be held at Government House (located on Independence Avenue) on Thursday 27th February 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

All Members are invited to attend and to be punctual.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2020 are now due and payable.



Janil Gore-Francis
Honorary Secretary

“Be prepared”

Local News

New home construction starts in Barbuda

Work is now in progress on reconstructing houses for the first twenty beneficiaries under the European Union (EU) funded Housing Support to Barbuda project.

Led by the Antigua and Barbuda Government and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the project aims to repair or rebuild 150 residential structures of the most vulnerable persons in Barbuda using the “Build Back Better” (BBB) approach.

Earlier, the UNDP signed a contract with Harrigan Building Construction for commencement of the work on the 20 houses. Local contractors will also share in the work. The project will facilitate the return of displaced families following Hurricane Irma, increase the resilience of the community and ultimately support the sustainable development of Barbuda.

Beneficiaries were selected by the Beneficiary Selection Committee (BSC)



using criteria which placed emphasis on the most vulnerable households. Significant preparatory activities were advanced by UNDP in collaboration with ONAO prior to the start of construction. The BSC comprises of officials from the follow-

ing organisations: Office of the National Authorising Officer (ONAO), Barbuda Council, Development Control Authority (DCA), Public Works Department (PWD), National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), and Ministry of Barbuda

Affairs.

The UNDP serves as technical advisor to the BSC. The project also includes the purchase of a shredder for debris management, capacity building, technical assistance, and greening through tree planting.

ASC acting principal sent home

News has reached PointExpress newspaper that the acting Principal of the Antigua State College has been relieved of her duties and sent home temporarily.

Word is that the acting head of the institution, Na-AjeleGadija Williams-Buffonge, was appointed to the post by the Public Service Commission (PSC) effective December 18, 2019, following the departure on retirement of long-serving principal,

Hiram Forde.

It is alleged that Williams-Buffonge was involved in an incident that also involved Minister of Education, Michael Browne.

Reports indicate that officials in the ministry of education dealt with the matter initially and forwarded a report to the PSC.

The reports also say she was served with a letter on Monday by the permanent secretary in the ministry acting on

the instructions from the PSC.

The report said an investigation is currently underway and the acting principal has been sent on special leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

The information suggests that based on the outcome, she may be asked to continue or asked to revert to her substantive position of Head of the A-Level Department since she was on probation in the acting position.

Prime Minister Browne visits the UAE to strengthen economic ties

Dubai – The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Gaston Browne was in Dubai this week, to support a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening economic ties with the United Arab Emirates.

During the visit, Prime Minister Browne unveiled Antigua and Barbuda's first ever Economic Office in the UAE.

"The UAE is the melting pot of the region and it is important for us to have a solid presence in representing our economic and cultural interests," shared Hon. Gaston Browne.

Located in the central Burj Khalifa District, the Economic Office will act as liaison between the two countries and streamline the sustainable development of future projects and economic activities.

With a growing surge of investment opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda, whether in real estate or the booming tourism industry, many investors within the Middle East are inclined to discover ways to diversify their investment portfolio.

Antigua and Barbuda also offers a leading Citizenship-by-Investment Program, which allows individual investors and their families to choose amongst several attractive investment options to qualify for the nation's passport—amongst the strongest in the Caribbean.

In addition to meeting with individuals who have invested in the program, Prime Minister Browne also held meetings with several institutional investors tasked with the upcoming projects on the island, including the Callaloo Cay project with the Commercial Bank International (CBI) and Antigua's first business hotel, Marriott Courtyard, set to start construction in April 2020.

"Antigua is striving to become the economic powerhouse of the Caribbean, and continues to reinforce their influence on the world stage by leveraging relations abroad," stated Armand Arton, Antigua and Barbuda's Economic Envoy to the UAE, and President of Arton Capital.

According to Browne, "Arton has been instrumental in helping us develop our relations with the UAE."

Additional opportunities emerging from Dubai also include a potential project with the Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD) and the Kerzner Group, to bring the One & Only brand to the shores of Antigua and Barbuda.

While in Dubai, PM Browne also visited the Expo 2020 site to see the progress of Antigua's Pavilion in the Mobility District. Antigua's pavilion placement in the Mobility district is a testament to the country's commitment to welcoming and empowering global citizens and investors alike.

Dubbed 'The World's Greatest Show', the Expo 2020 in Dubai will open its doors on October 20, 2020, to host over 190 participating countries for 6 months, to celebrate culture, collaboration, and innovation

Elizabeth Makhoul
Marketing Manager
Arton Capital



Prime Minister The Hon. Gaston Browne tours the Dubai Expo 2020 site with Special Economic Envoy Armand Arton and Elizabeth Makhoul of Arton Capital





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, 2018, 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, 2018, and its financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-size Entities ("IFRS for SMEs").

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs"). Our responsibility 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.



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, 2018

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		881,887	653,412
Non-current assets			
Plant and equipment	8	7,807	3,333
Long-term investments	9	12,957,045	13,476,585
Total assets		13,846,739	14,133,330
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses		88,916	41,416
Other current liabilities		186,309	—
Deferred revenue	7	526,226	607,517
Total liabilities		801,451	648,933
Fund balances			
Unrestricted net assets		64,092	3,184
Temporarily restricted net assets	10	24,151	4,628
Permanently restricted assets	9	12,957,045	13,476,585
Total fund balances		13,045,288	13,484,397
Total liabilities and fund balances		13,846,739	14,133,330

The notes on pages 1 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board of Directors on November 25, 2019

Ashton Williams Treasurer Garry Gose Chairman

Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the period ended December 31, 2018

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
Grant and other revenue	6	192,036	150,130
Operating expense			
General and administrative expenses	4	(131,128)	(147,226)
Total operating income for the year		60,908	2,904

The notes on pages 1 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows
For the period ended December 31, 2018

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Operating income for the year		60,908	2,904
Items not affecting cash:			
Depreciation expense	8	2,460	1,370
Changes in working capital:			
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities		233,809	5,962
Deferred revenue		(81,291)	472,134
Net cash from operating activities		215,886	482,370
Cash flows used in investing activities			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(6,934)	(4,703)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Temporarily restricted assets		19,523	4,628
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents for the period		228,475	482,295
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		653,412	171,117
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		881,887	653,412
Represented by:			
Cash and cash equivalents		881,887	653,412

The notes on pages 1 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.



Trinidad: Two cops held for human trafficking

Two police officers are among three people charged with trafficking of a child for the purpose of exploitation. Acting Insp Rajesh Gokool, 47, and acting Sgt Richard Lalbeharry, 43, both of whom were assigned to the Central Division, were also charged with receiving a benefit knowing it resulted from the offence of trafficking of a child, supporting a gang in the commission of gang-related activity and misbehaviour in public office. Gokool was also charged with sexual penetration of a child.

Also charged was Matthew Ross, 39, a bar manager of Freeport. He was charged with supporting a gang in the commission of gang-related activity. The three men are expected to appear before a Chaguanas magistrate on Wednesday. They were charged on Monday. They were among four suspects arrested by officers of a special task force put together by the Commissioner of Police, in conjunction with the Counter-Trafficking Unit, during an anti-crime exercise conducted in the Central Division on Friday. The special task force was assisted by officers of the Special Operations Response Team and the Inter-Agency Task Force. Police said investigations into the suspected trafficking in persons, mainly minors, from Venezuela, are ongoing.



Cruise Ship With Patient In Isolation Denied Docking At Ocho Rios



Carl Gilchrist

An MSC Meraviglia cruise ship that arrived in Ocho Rio, St Ann Jamaica from Miami this morning has been ordered to remain at sea over health concerns.

The decision was taken after it was discovered that a crew member, who has a travel history to countries with cases of the Coronavirus, was placed in isolation aboard the vessel.

“We saw that there was somebody there who is in quarantine because that person came from the Philippines and the 14 days have not elapsed,” public relations and advocate officer at the North East Regional Health Authority, Angenice Whyte, told The Gleaner.

“They have that person in quarantine but that was not told to us before the ship docked, so as part of our public health standard and regulation handed down by the Ministry of Health

on how we deal with communicable diseases, we did not allow persons to leave the ship,” Whyte explained.

She said currently there is no Coronavirus threat to Jamaica or Jamaicans as no one from the ship has been allowed to leave and there is a possibility that no passenger or crew member will be allowed on land.

According to the MSC schedule, the MSC Meraviglia would have left Miami on February 23 and after spending a day in international waters, would dock in Ocho Rios on February 25 at 9:00 a.m. and depart at 5:00 p.m.

The vessel is then scheduled to continue its Caribbean cruise, heading firstly to Grand Cayman, then to Cozumel in Mexico and The Bahamas.

The MSC Meraviglia has a capacity to carry 5,400 passengers and a crew of 1,500.

POINTE FM RADIO

Broadcasting from the Point Community

Highlights

5AM - 6AM	-	TRUTH AND PRAISE GOSPEL
7AM - 9AM	-	TIME OUT
10AM - 1PM	-	BROWNE AND BROWNE (REBROADCAST)
1PM - 4PM	-	DRIVE POINT
4PM - 6PM	-	THE PULL UP SHOW
6:30PM	-	NIGHTLY NEWS
8PM - 11PM	-	REAL TALK

CARICOM mounting election observation mission for Guyana's Elections

Members of the CARICOM Election Observation Mission (CEOM) began arriving in Guyana on February 24, to monitor the country's Regional and General Elections early next month.

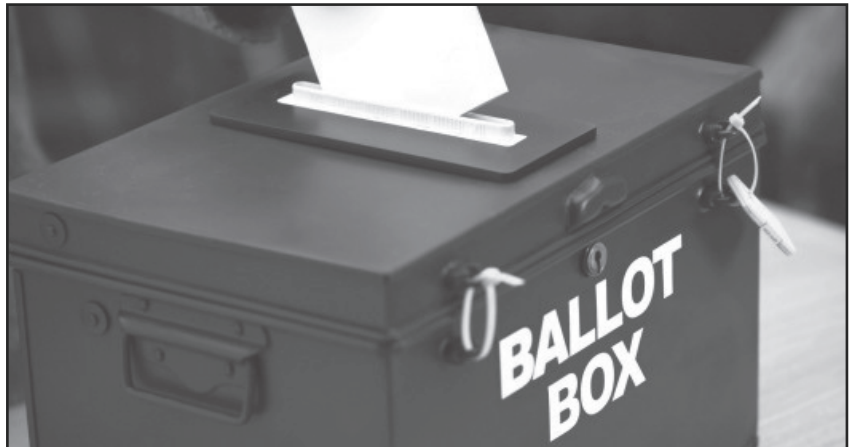
The full complement of the 14-Member Mission will be in Guyana on February 27, and will be on the ground until March 4.

In November, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings officially informed the CARICOM Secretariat of President H.E. David Granger's proclamation that General and Regional Elections will be held March 2. The CARICOM Secretariat was also invited to mount the CEOM, to ensure the transparency of all electoral processes

and to invest confidence in the results of the elections.

Ms. Cynthia Cleopatra Combie Martyr, a national of Saint Lucia is leading the Mission which includes electoral management experts from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The Observation Mission will be assisted by Mr. Brian Bellevue, Ms. Serojnie Seetaram and Ms. Denise Morgan of the CARICOM Secretariat. The Chief of Mission will depart Guyana on March 5.

Please see the Members of the Observation Mission below:



Please see the Members of the Observation Mission below:

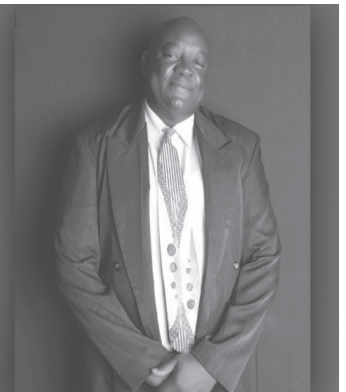
1. Ms. Cynthia Cleopatra Combie Martyr, (National of Saint Lucia)
2. Mr. John M. Jarvis, Commissioner, (National of Antigua and Barbuda);
3. Ms. Carolyn Thomas-Parker, (National of Antigua and Barbuda);
4. Mr. Philip Anthony Turner, (National of The Bahamas);
5. Ms. Lesa Collins, (National of Barbados);
6. Mr. Leonard Walters, (National of Barbados);
7. Ms. Yves-Marie Edouard, (National of Haiti);
8. Mr. Glendon Ricardo Bennett, (National of Jamaica);
9. His Excellency Mr. Lionel Sydney Osborne, (National of St. Kitts and Nevis);
10. Mr. Gaspar Jn. Baptiste, (National of Saint Lucia);
11. Mr. Sylvester Anthony King, (National of St. Vincent and the Grenadines);
12. Ms. Renuka Raghoe, (National of Suriname);
13. Ms. Fern Narcis-Scope, (National of Trinidad and Tobago); and
14. Dr. Noel Kalicharan, (National of Trinidad and Tobago).



REAL TALK SHOW

WITH DAVE "BEEF" JOSEPH
& RASTAMAN KENTAE

99.1 FM RADIO MONDAY | TUESDAY | THURSDAY FROM 8PM - 10PM



IMF Credits CIP for Positive Economic Performance of OECS Countries with the Programme, Local And Regional Authorities React

Regional Citizenship by Investment (CIP) countries are welcoming positive statements made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the impact of the CIP to the socio-economic structure of participating countries.

The IMF is remaining consistent in recognizing the programme as a significant contributor of revenues and it lauds the programme for assisting in reducing national debts, as well as its contribution to

the country's gross domestic product.

Commenting on the statements from the IMF, the CEO of the Investment Migration Councils, Bruno L'ecuyer says that he is delighted that the IMF has recognized CIP programmes as a major socio-economic contributor to developing states.

From inception, the CIP has been the center of many discussions as developed countries debate concerns of the validity of



such programs. These negative global influences can deter potential investors and cause missed economic opportunities for participating countries. When positive counteractions are made by organisations, which are as prestigious as the IMF, it gives encouragement to CIP participating countries.

CIP Head for Saint Lucia and Chairman of the Citizenship by Investment Programme Association (CIPA), Nestor Alfred, supports the IMF's statements and seeks routes for the programme's sustainability to create a positive assurance to developed countries.

Alfred cites OECS's founding CIP countries St. Kitts and Nevis and the Commonwealth of Dominica as examples of economies which would have

been disastrously impacted had the CIP been terminated. The two countries have been involved in CIP programmes for 35 and 25 years respectively and CIP programmes have contributed in excess of 50% of the countries' GDP.

Still, on the subject of collaboration, the Governor of the Eastern Central Banks (ECCB), Timothy Antoine is calling for unity of CIP countries as an attempt to strengthen the region's CIP product.

Currently, there are five CIP countries - Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Grenada. However, each of these countries host programmes unique to their territory.

Antoine continued that the ECCB's view is that the region is seen as one

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CIP brand despite what individual countries do.

Speaking on the ECCB's call for collaboration, Nestor Alfred comments that the ECCB would be the most qualified institution to speak on the impact of CIP programmes on the economic development of the OECS islands.

Leading CIP experts, Henley and Partners supports the IMF's statements and agrees with the ECCB's calls for collaboration. Managing Partner for Henley and Partners Saint Lucia, Mark Maraj states that we should be encouraged by the IMF and ECCB to continue the steps that we are taking to harmonize the region's CIP programmes.

Both Henley and Partners and the Citizenship by Investment Programme Association collectively accept the IMF's endorsement and agree that the OECS CIP countries will benefit from greater opportunities by forming alliances.

CIPA is therefore willing to work with the OECS Secretariat and the ECCB to ensure that the collaboration is successfully executed.



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Coronavirus: Iran's deputy health minister tests positive as outbreak worse



Iran's deputy health minister and an MP have both tested positive for the new coronavirus, as it struggles to contain an outbreak that has killed 15.

The country is one of three hot-spots outside China causing concern that the virus could be becoming a pandemic.

The deputy minister, Iraj Harirchi, on Monday denied covering up the scale of the outbreak. He appeared in physical discomfort as he spoke to reporters.

Iran has reported 95 cases, but the actual number is thought to be higher.

The director general of

the World Health Organization (WHO) has said the sudden increase in cases in countries outside China is "deeply concerning".

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday that Washington was concerned that Iran may have concealed "vital details" about its outbreak and urged all nations to "tell the truth about the coronavirus".

More people have died in Iran from the virus than anywhere else outside China. The two countries have strong trading links.

The other countries currently in the spotlight are South Korea and Italy,

where cases have surged in recent days.

More than 80,000 cases of the Covid-19 respiratory disease have been reported worldwide since it emerged late last year. About 2,700 patients have died - the vast majority in China.

But the situation in Iran - home to holy sites that attract millions every year and in a region where several countries have weak health systems - has caused great concern about a potential mass outbreak in the Middle East.

Of the current hot-spots outside China, Iran is the most concerning because of the lack of an accurate pic-

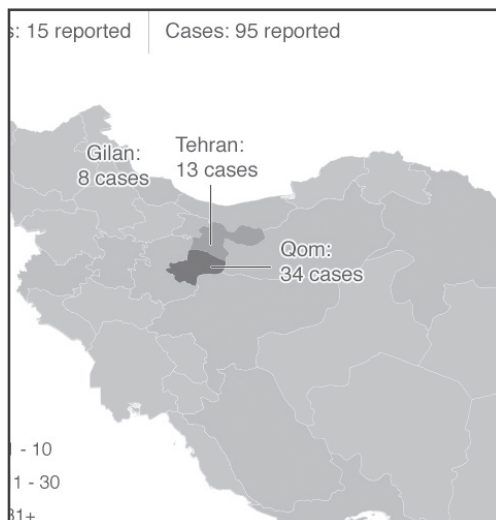
ture of how widespread the outbreak really is, said Dr Nathalie MacDermott, an expert in infectious diseases at King's College London.

Most of the reported cases have been people who are elderly and dying, she said. "It seems like we're hearing about the tip of the iceberg and missing that chunk underneath who may be younger and may not be particularly unwell."

What's happening with the virus globally?

- A hotel in Tenerife, in Spain's Canary Islands, is in lockdown after a doctor from Italy visiting the hotel tested positive for the virus

- Italy - Europe's



worst-affected country - confirmed the deaths of four more elderly people, bringing the total number of fatalities there to 11

- The virus has spread to the regions of Tuscany, Sicily and Liguria but Italy's PM said his country remained safe for tourism

- Several countries - Austria, Croatia, Switzerland, Algeria - reported their first cases, all involving people

who had been to Italy

- While Italy's European neighbours have agreed to keep borders open, some are screening arriving travellers

- US health authorities warned Americans to brace for the coronavirus to spread and potentially cause severe disruption

What happened to the Iranian official?

"I had a fever as of last night and my preliminary test was positive around midnight," Mr Harirchi said in a video released on Tuesday.

"I've isolated myself in a place since... and now I am starting medication. "We will definitely be victorious against this virus in the next few weeks," the minister added.

Mr Harirchi's positive test for Covid-19 was announced a day after he took part in a news conference, where he coughed occasionally and appeared to sweat heavily. During the

briefing, the minister denied a claim by a member of parliament for Qom - the centre of the outbreak - that the authorities were engaged in a cover-up.

Ahmad Amirabadi-Farahani alleged that Covid-19 had arrived in Qom three weeks ago and that 50 people had died in the city alone.

The death toll was rejected by Mr Harirchi, who vowed to resign if it could be proven that even half that number had died. Mr Amirabadi-Farahani subsequently refused to retract his claim, saying he had sent a list of 40 people who had died to the minister and awaited his resignation.

The secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran Ali Shamkhani, said on Tuesday that he had asked the prosecutor-general to "check the validity" of the MP's allegation. Meanwhile, an MP from the Iranian capital Tehran, Mahmoud Sadeghi, said he had also tested positive for the virus

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House candidate in Arizona suspends campaign after drug overdose

(CNN) A combat veteran running for US Congress in Arizona suspended his campaign on Monday after a relapse and drug overdose.

“Today, I have suspended my campaign for the US House of Representatives and am seeking treatment for substance abuse disorder. I will fully cooperate with local authorities on any matters arising from my recent relapse and overdose,” Chris Taylor, a Safford, Arizona, city council member, told CNN in a statement. The Arizona Republic reported Monday that Taylor was suspending his campaign after a heroin overdose last week.

“I’m not going to hide from this. I’m not ashamed of what happened. I wish to sincerely apologize to the amazing people who have supported me,” Taylor said.

He added, “I don’t know

what went wrong. I recently relapsed after having so many solid years in sobriety. I have to figure out where I went wrong.”

Taylor, a father of two, said, “The only thing I can do is face this head on in complete humility and put one foot in front of the other so that I can get the help needed to be the father and husband that my family deserves. I’m human and I have never pretended to be anything but.”

Taylor, who enlisted in the US Army in 2007 and served two combat tours in Afghanistan, has been open about his past addiction to drugs.

“The horrors I witnessed on the battlefield came home with me and like many veterans, I didn’t know how to cope. I sought help at the VA but fell victim to a government that forgot its promises. I began misusing prescriptions and developed



an opioid addiction. It was a long road to recovery,” he said in a congressional campaign video.

Taylor also founded a nonprofit, Desert Eagle Addiction Recovery, to help individuals, including combat veterans, with drug addiction, according to his cam-

campaign website’s biography.

Taylor was seeking the Republican nomination for Arizona’s 1st Congressional District, which is currently held by Democratic Rep. Tom O’Halloran. O’Halloran won reelection in 2018 with about 54% of the vote.

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Ethiopia to free high-profile prisoners 'for the national good'

Among those to be released are from National Movement of Amhara, an opposition group blamed for attacks last year.

Ethiopia has announced it would release dozens of high-profile prisoners from jail, including opposition activists held over an alleged coup and other high-ranking government critics.

A spokesman for the attorney general's office said on Tuesday that investigations had been dropped against 63 individuals and they would be released from custody later this week "for the national good".

"The Ethiopian govern-

ment hopes to widen the political and democratic space in the country with the freeing" of these individuals, the spokesman, Zinabu Tunu said.

Among those to be released are cadres of the National Movement of Amhara (NAMA), an ethno-nationalist opposition group blamed for attacks last year that the government described as a regional coup attempt. Hundreds were arrested in the aftermath of the June violence in Ethiopia's north that left five high-ranking officials dead and heaped pressure on a government struggling to cope with ethnic tensions.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who had been praised for loosening control in long-authoritarian Ethiopia, and was later awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, was accused at the time of using the violence as a pretext to jail critics.

NAMA chairperson Belete Molla said their officials should never have been imprisoned in the first place and welcomed the announcement of their release.

"We consider their imprisonment a politically motivated act intended to weaken Amhara nationalism," he told AFP news agency.

Among others scheduled for release are activists from

the Sidama ethnic group, which voted in November to form their own regional state after a long campaign for more autonomy.

Biniam Tewolde, a former deputy director of Ethiopia's cyberintelligence agency INSA, who was jailed in 2018 for corruption, is also among those to be pardoned, his lawyer Haileselassie Gebremedhin told AFP. Authoritarian tendencies Critics have accused Abiy of authoritarian tendencies, including locking up opponents, even as he embarked on sweeping reforms to foster a more open political and media environment. Ethiopia is scheduled to hold elections in August and Abiy hopes to secure a mandate to pursue an ambitious agenda of political and economic reform.

But opposition parties and civil society organisations have questioned whether the elections will be peaceful and credible. Ethnic violence has persisted since Abiy was appointed in 2018 following several years of anti-government protests.

Nearly 30 people were injured on Sunday in an explosion at a pro-Abiy rally in Ambo, roughly 100km (60 miles) west of the capital, Addis Ababa.



Delhi clashes: Thirteen killed as Hindu and Muslim groups clash

The clashes first broke out on Sunday, between protesters in favour of a controversial new Indian citizenship law and those against it.

The violence has taken on religious overtones, with Hindu and Muslim groups fighting each other.

The clashes have come during US President Donald Trump's first official visit to the country.

The violence is centred on Muslim-majority neighbourhoods in north-east Delhi - about 18km (11 miles) from the heart of the capital, where Mr Trump has been holding meetings with Indian leaders, diplomats and businessmen.

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) - which critics say is anti-Muslim - has sparked massive protests since it was passed last year, and some of those have turned violent. But the demonstrations in Delhi have been peaceful until now.

When asked about the violence during a press briefing, Mr Trump evaded the issue, saying the incident was "up to India" to handle.

However, he said he had brought up the issue of religious freedom in the country and was impressed by the government's response.

Correspondents say the current unrest is an embarrassment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as it has



Thirteen people have been killed in Delhi in the deadliest violence the Indian capital has seen in decades.

taken the spotlight away from Mr Trump's visit.

BBC reporters in north-east Delhi saw Hindu mobs throwing stones and shouting slogans, with some in the crowd shouting "shoot the traitors".

Our correspondent Yogita Limaye saw plumes of smoke rising from a tyre market that has been set on fire.

In another incident on Tuesday afternoon, a mosque was vandalised in the Shahadra area. Widely shared footage showed men trying to rip the crescent from the top of the minaret.

Where is the violence?

It broke out in three Muslim-majority areas in north-east Delhi on Sunday and has continued since.

Protesters are split along religious lines, and each side blames the other for

starting the clashes.

But the violence has been linked to a BJP leader, Kapil Mishra, who had threatened a group of protesters staging a sit-in against the CAA over the weekend, telling them that they would be forcibly evicted once Mr Trump left India.

Delhi police spokesman MS Randhawa told reporters that the situation was under control and a "sufficient number of policemen" had been deployed.

However, BBC reporters in the area said that mobs continued to chant slogans and throw stones.

Mr Randhawa said police were deploying drones and scanning CCTV camera footage. He action would be taken against trouble-makers.

Orders that limit the gathering of four or more peo-

ple have been imposed in the area.

Eyewitnesses said they saw charred vehicles and streets full of stones in areas like Jaffrabad and Chand Bagh on Tuesday morning. Police were allowing people to enter only after checking their identity cards.

Some metro stations have also been shut.

Who are the dead and injured?

Thirteen people have been killed in the violence, according to hospital officials. The dead include Muslims and Hindus, as well a police constable, Ratan Lal.

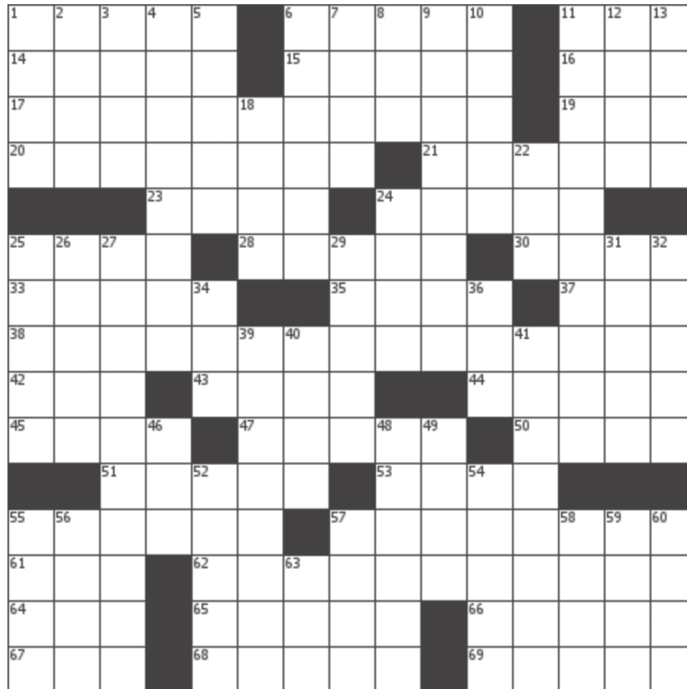
Two journalists belonging to the NDTV news channel were badly beaten on Tuesday morning.

Another reporter from a local channel called JK24x7 was shot at and wounded.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

cross

- . Absurd comedy
 . Corps of employees
 1. Word in a sequel title
 4. Island greeting
 5. Varied in pitch
 6. Feedbag morsel
 7. Persevere
 9. Swiss canton
 0. Respond to a strong head
 it, perhaps
 1. Wields the scepter
 3. Con's switchblade
 4. Unexpected difficulty
 5. Head honcho
 8. Actor Leary
 0. Chinese gooseberry
 3. Better suited
 5. Amorous look
 7. Craggy hill
 8. Persevere
 2. Finish the dishes
 3. Workplace watchdog org.
 4. Composer John Philip
 5. Ketch cousin
 7. Quick to get ticked
 0. Family of a Giants legend
 1. Region of ancient Greece
 3. Word after town or dance
 5. Second half of an inning
 7. Lighter-than-air aircraft
 1. Sound of disgust
 2. Persevere
 4. Mr., in India
 5. Something else
 6. Contract conditions
 7. Even so
 8. Joins with a torch
 9. Horace or Pindar



Down

1. Devotees
 2. Away from the wind
 3. Knock about
 4. One place to find kings and queens
 5. Soil
 6. "Feed a cold, --- a fever"
 7. Christmas gifts, often
 8. What's more
 9. Kind of patterned sweatshirt
 10. Group of vehicles
 11. Persevere
 12. Give notice
 13. He helped raise people to higher levels
 18. Mentioned before
 22. "That's gross!"
 24. Companion of mighty
 25. Humorously coarse
 26. "Fidelio" for one
 27. Persevere
 29. "--- a Stranger" (1955 film)
 31. Sorriest
 32. "My Friend" and "La Douce"
 34. 17th Greek letter
 36. Slalom curve
 39. Educated guess
 40. Cassowary's cousin
 41. Digs for a pick and shovel?
 46. Realty parcel
 48. Belonging to others
 49. Fish story
 52. Not at all
 54. Numbers game
 55. Tied up
 56. Hobgoblin
 57. Like good swiss
 58. Actress Hatcher
 59. Lethal weapons
 60. Put through the paces
 63. Rink grp.

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

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Non Sequitur



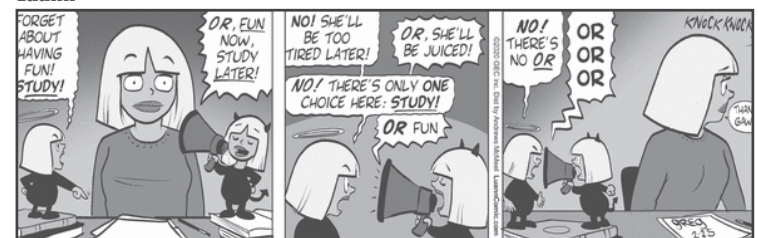
Cathy



Garfield



Luann



Kaila Charles gets inspiration from her mother, an Olympic sprinter

Rupert Charles knows what it's like to be away from home for long periods of time, missing family milestones and home-cooked meals. So every year, when the Fourth of July rolls around and the members of the Maryland women's basketball team are still on campus and yearning — either for good food or family or anything that's not the inside of their apartments in College Park — it's guard Kaila Charles's mother who feeds them.

For a Sunday gathering, the cooking begins Friday. In the Charles household in Glenn Dale, there is no catering allowed.

Rupert whips up the same food she cooks for her own family, the food she ate growing up in Antigua and Barbuda: barbecued chicken, curried goat with roti, macaroni and cheese, rice and peas, oxtail, and casserole, to name a few dishes. Kaila's teammates leave with full bellies and paper plates stacked with food.

"Well, you see, I thought since Kaila is local, she's home, that's the perfect opportunity to have the girls over," Rupert said, laughing. "One girl, Stephanie [Jones], is [also] from Maryland, but everybody else is so far away from home. My idea behind that is giving them the opportunity to get a little home feel."

Rupert knows all the good a little taste of home can do for a college athlete — not just because she has raised three of them, but because she was one herself. A former sprinter, Rupert is a two-time inductee to Howard's Hall of Fame. She competed in the 1984 Olympics, where she and her 4x400-meter relay teammates finished eighth.

Now she serves as a de facto team mom for the seventh-ranked Terrapins and as a mentor for her youngest child,



Rupert Charles, left, is a member of the Howard Hall of Fame. Kaila Charles, right, stars for the Maryland women's basketball team.

Kaila, one of four seniors along with Jones, Blair Watson and Sara Vujacic who will be honored in Tuesday's senior night ceremony before Maryland (23-4, 14-2 Big Ten) faces Purdue (17-11, 8-8).

It will be Kaila's final regular season game at Xfinity Center, her final go-round as Maryland's longtime centerpiece. The 6-foot-1 guard leads the Terps at 15.0 points and 7.6 rebounds per game as they speed toward the postseason as the top-ranked team in their conference.

Kaila has shined for the Terps for the better part of four years with her scoring talent, ballhandling and all-around game. But it's her outstanding quickness — her ability to lead Maryland full-throttle in its transition offense or change speeds while driving for a layup — that perhaps dazzles most.

That's all Rupert.

"I brag about her. She's the original GOAT," Kaila said, using the acronym

for greatest of all time. "Just seeing how hard she's worked, what she's accomplished, I'm so proud of my mom and I'm so glad she's mine."

Rupert started running at 13, streaking through the grass and dirt tracks on her tiny home island at a time when it was far from the norm for girls to dedicate themselves to sports. A talented netball player before she caught the eye of regional track coaches, Rupert was only allowed by her parents to train and travel full time when they understood a college scholarship could be at stake.

She ran well enough at the bigger track meets held among different Caribbean states that scholarship offers from Tennessee, Arizona and Howard rolled in. Rupert chose Howard because it was the closest to home, but even then, when she arrived in Washington at 17, the only people she knew were a few Bison track teammates she

cont'd on pg 21

Grammar School, Jennings Secondary play to draw

In the Ministry of Sports Under-19 Cricket two-day program Antigua Grammar School and Jennings Secondary School played to an exciting draw.

Batting first AGS posted 119 all out with Devon Brandon and Malique Jacobs posting 21 and 25 respectfully.

Leading the bowling for Jennings was Micah McKenzie with 4 for 42 with assistance coming from Matthew Miller, Tanez Francis and Glenton Williams with two wickets each.



Coaches Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph (former West Indies player), left, and former National player Ian Tittle.

In response, Jennings accumulated 282 all out from 62 overs.

Jahiem Africa made 63, Tavis Austin 54, Glenton Williams 46, and the talented Dahri Francis scored

44 runs.

Marcus Williams picked up 2 for 53.

Batting a second time AGS put up 42 for 5 from 17 overs. Matthew Miller had 2 for 12.



Tyree Moore after a beautiful catch dismissing Dahri Francis

cont'd from pg 20

had met through competitions.

"It was hard. I was away from home," Ruperta said. "I also got here in the summer and everything was green, so it wasn't so different, but winter — something that shocked me was how life just went on when it was snowing, when it was raining. Nothing stopped."

Dealing with the difficulties of being away from her family for an extended period for the first time, Ruperta took solace in her sport. She ran the 200 meters in 24.09 seconds to set a Howard record in 1983 that stood until 2018. She competed in the 1983 World Games in Finland and in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics before marrying Walter Charles, a fellow Howard student who himself was an immigrant from Trinidad and Tobago.

When her four children were young, Ruperta purposefully kept them from track until high school in an effort to give Darron, Afia, Akil and Kaila something she didn't have in her

youth: weekends off and summer vacation. As a result, the Charles siblings drifted among activities until they found a sport they loved. The talent, of course, came naturally — Afia eventually decided in high school to run track for Central Florida, Akil played college basketball in Canada, and for Kaila, basketball won out over dance and volleyball.

"I tried not to really push them, but they just had a natural ability and they just developed a love. That made it easier," Ruperta said. "My husband, he played soccer, too [growing up]. He likes to think that mentally, the mental toughness came from him. But I say, 'Okay, if you want to claim something, that's fine.' But of course, everybody knows where it really came from."

Kaila may not run track like her mother and sister, but Ruperta's experience as a college athlete shaped her own. She originally wanted to go farther from home for school — she initially loved Duke — but at the last minute she decided to stay close by.

In College Park, Kaila is far enough from home that she has space when she wants it and close enough that she can drive home and have sleepovers with her grandmother on a whim, as she did the weekend before senior night. She has watched her three nieces grow up and was nearby when her first nephew was born last week.

"I know next year I might be in a whole different state, a whole different country," Kaila said. "So I'm just trying to cherish every little moment that I can get because things aren't going to be like this ever again. I'm so glad I can play for my hometown."

As for Ruperta, watching Kaila succeed in college has been like watching a dream come true a second time. She fears she and her husband will have withdrawal once Kaila graduates — but she has decided that for any Terapins player who might be craving a home-cooked meal, her kitchen will remain open.

"I think we'll keep cooking," Ruperta said, "for anyone who asks."

Dominica's LaFond Makes History as First OECS Woman To Hit Tokyo 2020 Mark

The Commonwealth of Dominica has hopped, stepped, and jumped out to the forefront of the push for participation in the 2020 edition of the Olympic Games, with the republic's top female triple jumper making the minimum standards for this year's showcase.

Turning 26 in April, Thea LaFond reset her Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) women's record in February, clearing 14.33 metres at the 2020 University of Albany Winter Classic Competition in New York. That mark puts the 1.73m-tall University of Maryland graduate in pole position to return to the Olympics, having previously competed at Rio 2016.

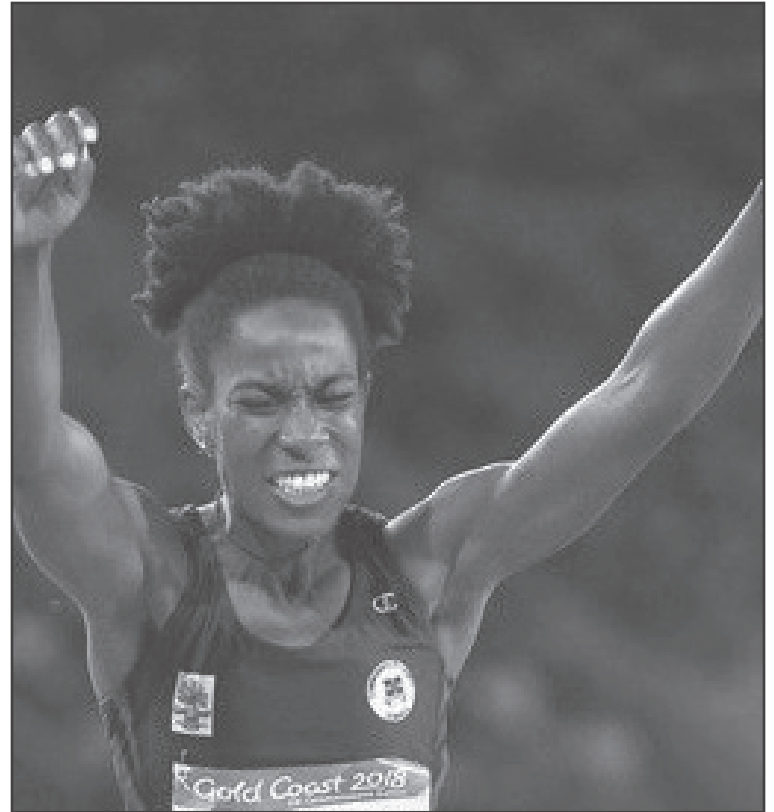
For this iteration of the Summer Olympics in Tokyo (24 July to 9 August) the qualification system for athletics has been tweaked by global governing body, World Athletics. Qualification standards have been set, but there will also be a maximum field. In other words, no more than a certain number of athletes will be entered in each event, based on the world rankings at a particular cutoff date.

In any case, LaFond should be safe. Dominica's first and only Commonwealth Games medallist, with a 13.92m bronze in triple jump at Gold Coast 2018, LaFond is ranked 21st in the world at the time of writing. A total of 32 athletes will be entered for women's triple jump.

Having moved to the USA with her family as a child, LaFond only got into athletics because her family could no longer afford to pay for her dance classes. The younger LaFond starred in multiple events, and even multiple sports at John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. Her mother had earned her PhD whilst pregnant, a feat that earned her daughter's admiration.

In 2019, LaFond set the OECS outdoor record of 14.38m, before sustaining a season-ending injury. She is clearly getting back to her best early this season. Her 7 February mark at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in New York City surpassed the Olympic standard by a centimetre. But LaFond, the first woman from the OECS to make the Tokyo 2020 standard, aims to improve further still.

Triple jump featured for Dominica at the country's first Olympic appearance, Atlanta 1996. But for the most part, participation has been in track events. In what will be the nation's seventh appearance at the Summer Olympics, La-



Terry Finisterre

Fond will be aiming to better her disappointing 37th place from 2016. After all, she says her pre-qualifying performance "feels like this is just the beginning."

OECS QUALIFIERS FOR TOKYO 2020 (21.2.20):

- Thea LaFond, Women's triple jump - Commonwealth of Dominica
- Anderson Peters, Men's javelin throw - Grenada
- Lindon Victor, Men's decathlon - Grenada
- Eldred Henry, Men's shot put - British Virgin Islands
- Kirani James, Men's 400m - Grenada
- Kyron McMaster, Men's 400m hurdles - British Virgin Islands

Francis fights against the odds in baseball

On our lovely shores of 365 beaches the sport of baseball is hardly mentioned across the nation when sports are discussed.

Meet 6-foot-6-inches, 210 pounds, 19-year-old Jarred Francis; an Antiguan who made the move from cricket to baseball.

Francis attended the St. Joseph's Academy where he graduated in 2017.

After graduation Jarred ventured to the United States to navigate a career in baseball, for which he had developed a passion and love for after being introduced to it by his father in their backyard.

While in the U.S., Francis' hard work and development at an academy, earned him a full scholarship to Florida Tech University, where he was the only black player on the roster.



Jarred Francis, center, chose to play baseball.

The 19-year-old outfielder was red shirted in his first year to allow him to adjust to the competitive college circuit.

The Antiguan travelled with the team for a full season and developed a bond with his teammates who were all Caucasian.

Jarred explained that, living in a predominantly white community was his first experience of being notable black once he ventured

intentions of pursuing a professional career he should abandon such thoughts.

Francis said, hearing such thoughts from someone he expected to develop him holistically led to him making a decision to return home and reorganize his career.

Speaking to TIMEOUT on POINTE FM Tuesday the young man presented the host with an autographed baseball.

Francis requested that the host remembers this moment because one day he will watch him playing professionally. "I will never give up" were his last words.

Lots of action in Second division

In the ABFA second division on Monday, Attacking Saints, Garden Stars, English Harbour, and Glanvilles enjoyed success.

Attacking Saints brushed aside Mahico Stars 2-nil with goals from Devonte Geron, and Ronaldo Fenton.

Garden Stars, enjoying their most successful season in local football, hammered Freemans village 8-none. On target for the men from Liberta were Tarek Charles and Wilden Cornwall who both produced hat-tricks with support coming from Omri Simpson and Jahred Williams.

English Harbour rolled over Real Blizzard 3-1 with goals from Allan Martin, Gengue George and Tamasso Bobbio.

Glanvilles were dominant over 5P's F.C Wadadli 4-2 thanks to strikes from Jeff Nicholas Carter, Anius Daniel, Randy George, D'Manin Thomas.



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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

Sports

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WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2020

New coach righting the ship at Old Road

Premier League powerhouse Old Road started the 2019/2020 season with high expectations after a massive recruitment drive featuring nine players from overseas; two from Argentina.

Former coach Vincent “Nabu” Samuel and the supporters were filled with enthusiasm and excitement of possibly winning a third championship.

But their season got off to a terrible start, which saw the team sitting in the bottom half of the table while supporters and onlookers were crying foul at the obvious lack of proper scouting of players.

Four weeks ago, Samu-

el tendered his resignation choosing to focus on his female team Cutting Edge.

Up stepped assistant coach Chestley Brown into the hot seat with a club he has been associated with since his childhood days.

The two South American players were immediately shipped out and changes were made with an emphasis on local players led by the electrifying Raheem Deterville leading the charge.

This change has led to a positive transformation in energy, and mode of play and confidence.

Joseph, a coach for 18 years has been able to steady the



Coach Chestley Brown

ship that was sinking in the first half of the season. The Antigua Grammar School Physical Education teacher

admits that there were some glitches in their overseas recruitment policy, which have since been addressed.

Brown says more attention has since been placed on local players and he believes more attention needs to be paid to the development of local talent.

The coach’s favorite player is Lionel Messi and his club of choice is Arsenal.

Coming off a win over defending champions Libertá Blackhawks last Sunday, Old Road will clash against league leaders Grenades on Sunday in the featured game at 7pm.

