



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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UPP MINISTERS' CASE HEADS TO HIGH COURT

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**Sir Viv named
county cricket's
greatest
overseas player**

Pg 24

UPP ministers' case heads to High Court

Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh has ruled a prima facie case has been made out against three former ministers of government in the case involving three buses.

In dismissing a no case submission filed by the attorneys representing Dr. Jacqui Quinn, Wilmoth Daniel and Harold Lovell on Thursday, Walsh ruled there was enough evidence for the matter to be tried in the High Court.

In 2016, Quinn, Daniel and Lovell were slapped with corruption, embezzlement, larceny and fraudulent charges for allegedly



Dr. Jacqui Quinn, Wilmoth Daniel and Harold Lovell

converting gifts from the South Korean Government. Three Daewoo buses that were donated to the then Baldwin Spencer administration were allegedly converted for personal use by the three former

ministers, with the vehicles being registered in their names.

An investigation was subsequently launched and charges were instituted.

The case was dismissed in 2017 after Magistrate

Conliffe Clarke ruled in part that the evidence that was laid before the court was scant and he also had difficulty in determining who the virtual complainant was.

But the prosecution successfully appealed the case, which was sent back to the lower court.

The former ministers contend the charges are trumped up and have in the past described them as political persecution.

The chief magistrate has set 18th June as the date when committal proceedings will begin.

DAY 6/10

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
Wind: ESE at 13 km/h
Wind Gusts: 20 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 25%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 6%
Precipitation: 0.0 mm
Rain: 0.0 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm

31° Hi



Beautiful with times of sun and clouds

NIGHT 8/10

Wind: ESE at 9 km/h
Wind Gusts: 17 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 60%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 60%
Precipitation: 2.2 mm
Rain: 2.2 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 1.5
Hours of Rain: 1.5

24° Lo



Partly cloudy; a couple of evening showers followed by a thunderstorm in spots late

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:33 AM

Sunset AST
6:41 PM



Duration
13:08 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET



Duration
11:42 hr

Curfew hours reduced further

There's a further relaxation of curfew restrictions.

Government has agreed to reduce the curfew hours further; from eight hours to six hours effective from last night. The new hours were announced Thursday by Information Minister, Melford Nicholas during the weekly post-Cabinet press conference. The hours are from 11:00 pm to 5:00 am. This is down from the 9:00 pm to 5:00 am that had been in effect for the past several weeks.

Nicholas also announced that the curfew will now conclude on July 31 when the state of emergency imposed since March will also come to an end.

"If by any stage we are forced by any circumstance, we may have to revert to a different curfew condition. It may also mean that we may have to go back to parliament to change the state of emergency it remains in place as is," the minister cautioned.

The Cabinet spokesman was asked whether the easing of curfew restrictions mean all businesses will be allowed to open. "The overriding intention is that we should return to a degree of normalcy but they have to operate within new guidelines that have been developed, which must now be incorporated into the way these business operate; these include bars, casinos and restaurants," he noted.

The further easing of restrictions is in keeping with government's plan to re-energize the economy, following the lockdown caused by the spread of the Coronavirus.

Government has acknowledged concerns being expressed over the risks associated with the easing of restrictions, but is citing the success of the plan it has implemented to curb the spread of the virus.

"There is a risk that as we welcome home our brothers and sisters and as


we welcome guests to our shores, a risk does exist that we may have more COVID-19 cases. We have already demonstrated that of the 26 who have been diagnosed positive for the virus, the health system has proven that we can cope. It is a mark of distinction that we have been able to nurse most of them back to good health," he emphasised.

Through the post-Cabinet Notes, the government has made it clear that its revenue has declined sharply due to the lockdown imposed in response to the coronavirus pandemic. "Revenues continue to fall below required expenditures; however, the Cabinet has agreed that all will be done to ensure that salaries, wages, pensions and emoluments are paid on time at

each pay period; and, that essentials are provided to the nation's many institutions for their safe operation," the statement read.

It noted that the closure of the country's borders on March 26, 2020, essentially triggered a significant reduction in economic activity and employment, both of which will remain challenging until such time as the economy is fully opened-up.

"All government employees and pensioners have been paid their salaries, wages and pensions on-time at the end of March, April and May 2020. COVID-19, the Cabinet agreed, will continue to be a threat to Antigua and Barbuda's well-being for many months ahead," the Cabinet Notes warned.



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS: ☎ (268) 480 7733 📠 (268) 480 7042

Water Distribution Update

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, June 11th, 2020 - The past two (2) months, April and May, have been recorded as one of the most intense periods of drought within the last eighty (80) years. This has not only affected the availability of water in natural catchments, but also resulted in the rapid depletion of storage for residents as well. In light of this, the demand for water produced by the Authority has increased whilst production remains the same.

Over the past few weeks, specific areas of the island have experienced delayed delivery of water service and prolonged periods of water suppression for various reasons. There has been a sharp increase in demand due to COVID-19 protocols and more frequent fractured mains as a result of the shifting of mains as a consequence of the unprecedented dry conditions. The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) Water Business Unit would like to advise customers that efforts are being made to produce a more consistent and reliable service to customers with the introduction of a water conservation schedule for challenged areas.

APUA joins with fellow water production companies throughout the region who aggressively attempt to mitigate the impact of drought to consumers. St. Lucia, Grenada, Nevis and even larger territories such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and further abroad in California and parts of Florida in the United States have resorted to the introduction of water conservation schedules or legislative restrictions on water usage.

The APUA Water Business Unit recognizes its obligation to provide potable water to customers and to improve its communication in this regard. In the coming week, customers will experience adjustments to their regular times that water service is received as the Authority seeks to initiate the implementation the 2020 Water Conservation Schedule and monitor its effectiveness and efficiency. This schedule will be released on Friday, June 19th 2020 during a scheduled press conference.

APUA is committed to continuing to meet the needs of its customers and every effort is being made to provide this critical resource.

Murder accused quarantined in prison

The four security officers who have been charged with the murder of Bruce Greenaway and who have been remanded to HM Prison...are currently undergoing quarantine within the prison.

The disclosure comes from Superintendent of the Prison, Lt Col. Eugene Phillip, who confirmed to PointeXpress newspaper that the four – three ABDF officers and a policeman – are under his care at the prison. This, despite reports and suggestions that the accused are being housed at Camp Blizzard, the ABDF headquarters.

“The accused are here at HM Prison and they are undergoing a mandatory 14-day quarantine period that each inmate or person on remand must undergo when they first enter the facility. This policy has been instituted since the COVID-19 outbreak. It has been working well for us because we

have been able to keep the virus out of the prison population,” Lt Col Phillip reported.

He further disclosed that the officers – police officer, Jason Modeste, 44, and ABDF officers, Shakiel Thomas, 25, Armal Warner, 20, and Aliyah Martin, 20 – are being quarantined in an area of the prison away from the general population. He said should they remain in prison past their quarantine period, then they will join the general population in the remand area.

The three males will then join the male section and the lone female will join the other females in the remand group.

The superintendent said he is aware that there are suggestions that efforts are being made to have all four of the accused transferred to Camp Blizzard, but so far, he has seen no official corre-



The four members of the security forces – one police officer and three from the defense force – who face murder charges.

spondence or requests on the matter.

In explaining the process, Lt. Col Phillip said the petition to have them removed to Camp Blizzard must have the endorsement of the Governor General who is autho-

rized under law to declare parts of the camp a prison.

He said in the case of the British national, former Metropolitan police officer, Lee Martin-Cramp, housed at the former U.S Air Force Base at Coolidge, now part of Camp Blizzard — was placed there under special arrangements with the British government. In that case, the room where he stays was declared a prison.

If similar arrangements were to be made for the security officers, then the rooms where they will be housed, or the entire Camp Blizzard will first have to be declared a prison.

According to the superintendent, accommodating them at Police Headquarters would have been easier as that has already been declared a prison.

Returning to Category 1 a priority

The government has stated its intention to work diligently towards getting the VC Bird International airport to regain its Category 1 status.

The Minister of Aviation, Sir Robin Yearwood, has informed the Cabinet that assistance is forthcoming from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to place the nation's airport back into a Category 1 status.

The countries of East Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority were downgraded to a Category 2, about one month ago. Every effort is being made to ensure that the OECS states—all members of ECCAA—are returned to a Category 1.

However, an official familiar with the

subject, said despite Antigua and Barbuda's best intentions, regaining the Category 1 status does not rely on the actions of the Antigua and Barbuda government alone.

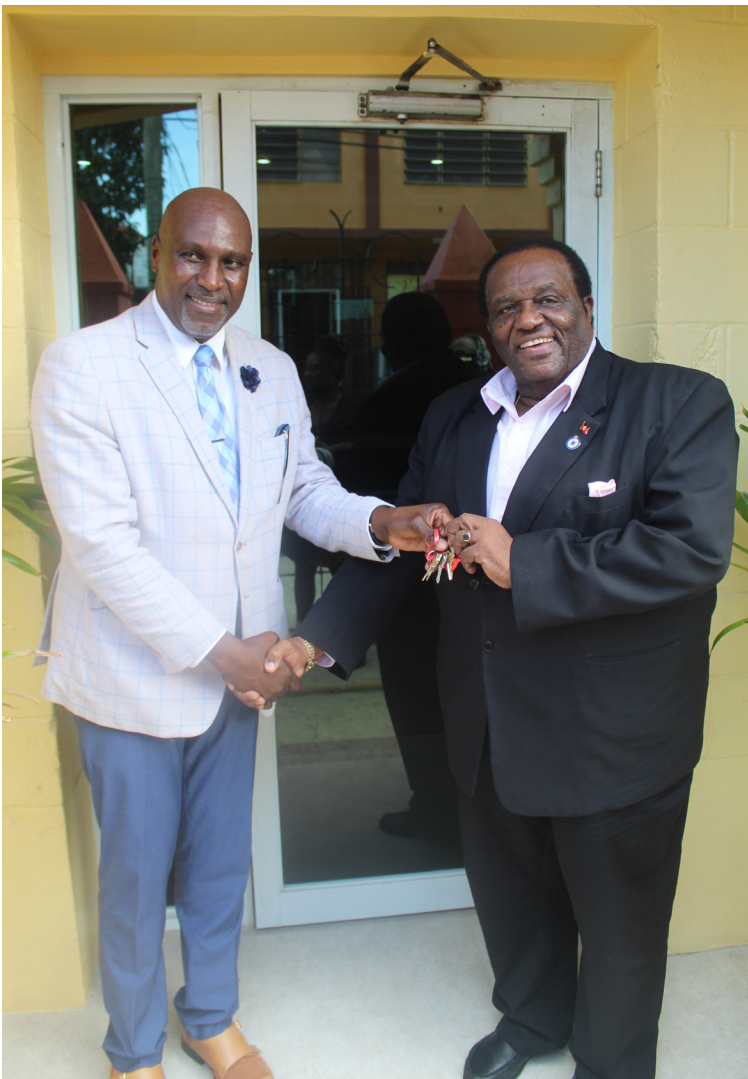
The official said the civil aviation authority headquartered in St. John's is an OECS entity therefore the downgrading affected all the countries served by the authority.

According to the official there are a number laws and regulations that must be passed by all of the member states of the OECS. However, most of the other territories are nowhere close to completing this task. Antigua and Barbuda is way ahead of the others where this matter is concerned.

The laws are designed to make ECCAA a more autonomous entity.



The Old Treasury building is now the Civil Registry



What served as the treasury building on High Street for decades, has been renovated and handed over to the Ministry of Legal Affairs as the first Civil Registry building in the OECS. The civil registry is currently housed in the high court, issuing and processing birth and death certificates as well as marriage certificates and the like. It is the country's sole repository or database of all government records of vital events of the country's citizens.

According to the Project Manager, Deputy Director of Works, Wesley James, and the cost of renovations was in excess of \$2- million. "We took just about 12 to 14 weeks to complete the project. We were working short days in some instances because of COVID and the curfew," James announced.

The Deputy Director of works used the opportunity to give some brief remarks on the opening of the building, focusing on the history of the building on High Street.

"The building was constructed in 1932; it is now 88 years old. It was first used as a Convent High School. In 1974, the Ottos Comprehensive School took residence on the property next to the building in a wooden structure. They shared the space what was then the treasury with two workers who came and occupied two offices in the building. In 1984 the building was in a depilated state and the treasury department was forced to relocate into the Chandler building for about three years as they demolished the top floor or the old treasury building

cont'd on pg 6

PM Browne/ALBA heads meet

Presidents and prime ministers of the countries comprising the ALBA (the People's Agreement of the Americas) convened a virtual meeting on Wednesday to discuss their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, participated in a videoconference of heads of state, and government of the members of ALBA-TCP, which is the trade and economic arm of the inter-governmental organization ALBA. Member states include Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda.

Under the chairmanship of President Nicolas Maduro, the discussions focused on the shape of the post-COVID economy in ALBA member states.

Sources close to the meeting said it was noted that, while the member states of ALBA had handled the world pandemic relatively well and there had been only a small number of cases, real challenges lay ahead in restoring the various economies to robust health.

"The meeting proposed various initiatives designed to prioritize intra-ALBA collaboration in certain key sectors including tourism and food security. Several heads spoke of the unresponsive nature of the international financial institutions to the COVID pandemic and the severe economic dislocation it had triggered," the sources revealed.

The ALBA heads were of the view that more innovative solutions were needed to address the peculiar circumstances faced by regional economies

in the post-COVID world order.

The meeting authorized a ministerial committee to flesh out the technical details of the agreed proposals and to revert to the plenary with firm recommendations.

"Many heads of government commended Cuba and Venezuela for the prompt and generous actions they had taken to assist ALBA members in their fight against COVID-19. Cuba and Venezuela had been vital in supplying members with PPE and medical teams to bolster their public health infrastructure as COVID-19 arrived in the region," the sources added.

The ALBA-TCP Secretariat will canvas member states regarding a convenient date for the next summit, once the ministerial committee would have finished its work.

cont'd from pg 5

and rebuilt it. The top floor was made of wood and not what it is today. This is the second major renovations." The Project manager summarized.

He went on to explain the renovation of the building required the roof removal and replacement, the replacement of the second floor, repainting the building to preserve the historical look along with some other

major renovations.

"All of the building services are fixed and upgraded. The lighting, the plumbing, the generator is now back online and running, the air-conditioning is upgraded," Wesley stated.

In thanking the Works Ministry for completing the work on the New Civil Registry home, Minister of Legal Affairs and the Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin said "I am particularly



proud because Antigua and Barbuda has been regarded as the leading territory in the legal professions. In terms of structures, we have got the best court in the OECS.

"This country was the first to have a model sexual offenses court, we have introduced so many laws to make it simple and easy, we have e-litigation processes now."

The AG went on to declare that he wanted to leave his mark on the physical in-

frastructures in the country. "Minister Weston looked at me and said, Comrade, you have been in politics for a very long time, leave your mark on the legal infrastructure and this is what he is doing for me with this building."

"This building is the first of its kind in the OECS. This is the first country to have a civil registry and this is something important," The AG said.



New Industrial Court to open next week

Fresh on the heels of the handing over of the old treasury building to the Ministry of Legal Affairs on Thursday, Minister of Works, Lennox Weston disclosed that the new Industrial Court will be handed over next week Thursday.

According to Weston “Today (Thursday) is the first building we have delivered to the AG, and next week, he will also have the second one in terms of the industrial court, and it will be the first major project we have done and the project manager will be a lady. You will see her in full action next week.”

Weston indicated that with the opening of the industrial court, there will be an enhancement of its services. He said, “Next week we are going to hand over the industrial court which has been a sore point for a long time and that is going to really facilitate the whole issue of labour dispute management and enhance the efficiency of government.”

Speaking with PointeXpress, Project Manager for the Industrial Court renovation, Jamilla Hodge, said that the building took approximately three (3) months to complete. “Due to COVID, it took a little longer than expected. It should have taken about two



Project Manager Ms. Jamilla Hodge and Engineer Mr. Beavon Burke

months but we had some delays in getting things out of Miami to complete the building,” Hodge explained.

She is making history as the first female project manager within the Ministry of Works.

The Project Manager went on to describe the functionality of the new court. “It will have two court rooms; one is larger than the other. A new archive, a typist center, or typist area, it will also have offices for the registrar

and all other personnel staffing up to 12 persons. The building will also contain a conference room.”

Engineer within the Ministry of Works, Beavon Burke, highlighted that with the new Industrial Court space; one can expect some clearing up of backlogged cases.

“There is an immense backlog of cases, so currently there is a president. However, there will now be a vice president, so with the

new two courtrooms they will be able to fast track the backlog of the cases,” the engineer explained,

Next Thursday’s handing over ceremony will mark the fifth (5th) government project building the Ministry of Works has completed for the year thus far, following the completion of the old Education Building, the Infectious Disease Control Center, The PDO Building and the Old Treasury Building.

Technology training for teachers

The Ministry of Education, Science and technology is forging ahead with plans to introduce Google Suites for Education through a series of training programmes.

To be introduced in all schools across Antigua and Barbuda, the training will be divided into six phases.

Phase one will include the installation of all public primary and secondary schools as well as interested private and tertiary institutions into the administrative suite.

The second phase involves training of Google Suite administrators,

which is expected to extend into the new academic year, while phase three was successfully completed, where education officers with responsibilities for curriculum were trained, allowing them to now become trainers in curriculum-based intervention, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teachers will also be trained to effectively use the Google Suites for Education Programme and will in turn educate students in the intricacies of Google Classroom. Their sessions, which commenced on 10th June, 2020 and includes

face to face tutorial, accompanied by self-paced online training.

Phase five will make provisions for parents to familiarize themselves with the programme through the Government Information Service (GIS), channel 11.

The final phase will focus on trouble shooting and user support.

Acting Deputy Director of Education, Mrs. E. Jonah Greene commented the training is geared towards standardizing the process.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic and while remote learning was going on, teachers and schools were doing different things and persons were using a wide range of platforms...”

“We want all our teachers to use the G-Suite for Education, simply because

the security in G-Suite is higher.

“We want to use a platform where our students are protected and our teachers can operate on conditions that are the best for the education system,” Mrs. Greene noted.

The training she pointed out is intended to ensure teachers are doing the “right thing”.

“Everyone in the system using one platform and we standardizing the process, will ensure our systems will have that momentum and that the quality of the instructions our students will receive will be better,” the education official stated.

Princess Margaret School is being used as the central location where the training is facilitated.

Man charged with attempted murder

One day after he was arrested and charged with attempted murder, a Grays farm man is due to appear in court to answer the charge today.

The police have identified the accused as, Ashbirth Damian O’Brien, 20, of Parliament Street, Grays Farm for the alleged attempted murder of Miguel George, also of Parliament Street.

Police reports say the accused allegedly used an object to inflict a wound to George’s head on the evening of June 5th at Parliament Street. A report was made to Grays Farm Police Station, and further investigations into the matter led to O’Brien’s arrest.

George is currently a patient at Mount St. Johns Medical Center nursing head injuries.

VACANCY

Our client is seeking suitable applicants for the role:

MANAGER - GENERAL INSURANCE

The General Insurance Manager will be responsible for the management and supervision of the general department’s operations. Responsibilities include managing adjusters, investigators, and appraisers as well as ensuring claims are processed in a timely manner and resolving issues that arise during processing. In addition, the manager will ensure the growth of the department in line with the company’s mission and vision.

Skills

- Leadership and management skills
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Decision making skills
- Organizational skills
- Analytical skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite

Qualifications: Education

- BSc. in Management, or related field.
- ACII certification (or in pursuit of similar qualification, e.g. CII certification) or equivalent
- Five (5) years’ experience in Underwriting and Claims Management
- Proficiency in Policy and Contract wording
- Risk Management

Experience and Additional Competencies

- Five (5) years’ experience in Financial Services
- Knowledge in reinsurance negotiations and reinsurance contracts
- Experience in the interpretation of financial statements

All interested persons should send a copy of their application to include a CV and Cover Letter to nibbsandassociates268@gmail.com — Deadline: June 15th, 2020



SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR/ Assistant Registrar

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development. In 2019, the UWI placed 32nd among the 150 best ranked universities across Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Latin America University Rankings. After 71 years The UWI remains the number 1 ranked university, out of more than 200 registered universities in the Caribbean. The UWI is currently within the top 3% of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a complement of over 2,000 registered universities.

The Five Islands Campus is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar, Student Administration Services.**

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Manage the operations of Student Administration Services relating to all application, admission, registration and assessment functions for the Campus.
- Oversee the administration and maintenance of student administration-related information systems.
- Initiate and implement improvements in all areas of Information Systems responsibility within the student administration functionality. Includes Applications, Admissions, Registration and Assessment functions.

QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Have a postgraduate degree in Information Technology, Higher Education Administration or a related field.
- Have considerable experience working in administrative/management with significant supervisory responsibility.
- Have a record of successful administrative innovation, change management and motivational leadership towards the transformation of Institutional culture.
- Excellent verbal and written skills.
- Knowledge of the structure of The University of the West Indies, its rules and regulations, its systems including their enterprise software will be a distinct asset.

Applicants are required to submit a completed employment application form, curriculum vitae giving particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current organization) and copies of academic qualifications. These are to be sent by electronic mail to **hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu** addressed to the **Director of Administration and Finance, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies.** Full CV and application forms, which must be completed and can be obtained at <http://www.uwi.edu/jobs>, must be submitted. The final date for receipt of applications is June 29, 2020. In order to expedite the appointment procedures, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above address without waiting to be contacted.

Immigration chief meets Jamaica Honorary Consul

Chief Immigration Officer (CIO), Katrina Yearwood, convened a meeting this week with the Jamaican Honorary Consul in Antigua and Barbuda, Onika Campbell-Foie.

Surrounded by her senior staff, Yearwood called the meeting as an introduction to the diplomat and to give her an understanding of the workings of the department and some of the concerns as they relate to the large Jamaican community resident in Antigua and Barbuda.

Yearwood expressed her department's desire to resolve many of the issues of concerns regarding Jamaicans.

"The Jamaica community in the country is perhaps the largest and it is good that we now have someone with whom we can discuss the varied immigration issues that come up from time to time.

"Some of the laws on immigration have been updated and this information needs to be communicated not just to the Jamaicans but to every other nationality group resident here," Yearwood stated.

Campbell-Foie, in her response, said she recognizes that the Jamaicans are afforded an extension of stay here as a courtesy and not a right and that she is willing to work along with the de-

partment to solve whatever problems may have existed in the past between the department and Jamaicans.

The meeting then went into a lengthy discussion on some of the problems with which the department has had to contend over the years.

One of the main ones relates to the growing issue where minors travel from Jamaica to Antigua ostensibly in the company of a family member coming to meet a mother or father in Antigua.

"We don't know if the person with whom the child is travelling is truly a relative, and quite often, we get reports that the par-

ent back in Jamaica may be unaware of the fact that the child is travelling.

"These issues border on human-trafficking and it is something that we don't want to encourage or to be a part of," senior officer in charge of headquarters, Nigel Emmanuel stated.

Additionally, these children end up in the school system and therefore become a burden on the country.

Another problem deals with sports; this is where local football clubs contract Jamaicans to play in the football competition.

However, at the end of the season, these players quite often remain in the country illegally as they never return to the immigration department to have their status upgraded.

After listening to the concerns and the issues, both Yearwood and Campbell-Foie agreed to meet again to further discuss the matter and to agree on a set of recommendations that would lead to solutions.

The other senior staff members in attendance were the head of enforcement, including VC Bird International, Wesley Simon, head of Intelligence, Teresa Thomas and head of extensions, Donalie Hunte-Daley



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

BARBUDA ENERGY RESILIENCE PROJECT CONSULTANCIES

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority in partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) wishes to invite interested eligible firms to express interest in providing consultancy services for the Barbuda Energy Resilience Project. The Authority serves as the executing agency.

PREPARATION/SUPERVISION RECONNECTION SUPPORT PROGRAMME CONSULTANT

The objective of this consultancy is to undertake the preparation and supervision of a Reconnection Support Programme (RSP) for Barbuda. During the Preparation phase the Consultant will be expected to undertake analysis to identify the unconnected consumers on Barbuda and design the most effective RSP. During the Supervision phase the Consultant will support APUA in procurement of services or works required to deliver the RSP and supervise the implementation of the RSP. The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of three (3) months.

The consultancy team should have the following qualifications and experience at a minimum:

- Bachelor's degree Social Development, Sociology, Social policy, Gender and Development Studies, International/Community Development, Public Policy or other related field with at least ten (10) years' experience
- Electrician with Level III in Electrical Installation (Caribbean Vocational Qualification) or equivalent.
- Minimum of Five (5) years directly related experience in building inspection for compliance with electrical codes or seven (7) years of experience in electrical construction or building trades including reading construction plans, estimating and commissioning of new construction.
- Prior experience on Barbuda or with APUA's electrical codes and national laws would be an advantage.
- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking as well as excellent communication and analytical skills.
- Individual résumés are not required at this stage of the procurement process.
- Experience in the region

ELIGIBILITY

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) In the case of a body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organised in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50 per cent beneficially owned by citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;
- (b) In the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- (c) In all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of the CDB.

Interested consulting firms must provide the following information to establish their competence in the performance of the services required:

General background of the consulting firm;

Description of similar assignments undertaken in Engineering and Design Supervision for electrical utilities

Experience as a consulting firm having been contracted for at least two (2) similar assignments with one (1) within the last five (5) years.

For complete details to prepare and submit eligible expressions of interest please visit:

1. Engineering Design and Supervision Consultant:

<https://www.caribank.org/work-with-us/procurement/procurement-notices/barbuda-energy-resilience-project>

2. Preparation/Supervision Reconnection Support Programme Consultant:

<https://www.caribank.org/work-with-us/procurement/procurement-notices/barbuda-energy-resilience-project-0>

Deadline for the submission of expressions of interest is **Monday 15th June 2020 by 4:00pm.**

ENGINEERING DESIGN AND SUPERVISION CONSULTANT

The objective of this consultancy is to design specifications for: the undergrounding approximately 8km of the distribution network on Barbuda; and the installation of Solar PV Hybrid systems on approximately 11 Government buildings. The consultancy must ensure the design delivers an environmentally sound, climate resilient, socially inclusive and sustainable electricity system; and second provide supervision and monitoring support to the executing agency during the procurement and implementation phase. The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of six (6) months.

The consultancy team should have the following qualifications and experience at a minimum:

- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering with at least ten (10) years' experience
- Bachelor's degree Social Development with at least ten (10) years' experience or equivalent
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance with at least five (5) years' experience or equivalent
- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking as well as excellent communication and analytical skills.
- Individual résumés are not required at this stage of the procurement process.
- Experience in the region



Visit us at www.apua.ag

Another knee on the Caribbean's neck

(The writer is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organisation of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own).

The failure of the world's richest nations to respond adequately to the abrupt and rapid decline in the economies of developing countries, including the Caribbean, is resulting in huge increases in unemployment and poverty, and could, ultimately, erode democracy and the rule of law.

As a new World Bank report issued on June 8 rightly states: "A major natural disaster on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic would be economically devastating for some countries in the Caribbean region". Yet, the G20 countries have engaged in public relations exercises that point to their "pledges" to inject up to US\$8 trillion into the global economy. But there is no evidence of

this money being delivered, or that it is accessible by every country that needs it.

The G20 has also failed to be responsive to the issue of suspending debt payments and rescheduling them on realistic terms that would allow countries to use scarce funds to help keep their economies afloat, and prevent a large number of their people from collapsing into abject poverty. Instead, several G20 countries in the creditors' organisation, called 'The Paris Club' are insisting on debt payments by countries whose revenues have dropped so precipitously that they can barely meet basic domestic obligations. What is worse is that the Paris Club is refusing to authorise the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide funding to these debtor countries under emergency facilities.

When the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies around the world became patently obvious, the heads of the World Bank and the IMF called for official creditors to suspend debt repayments by the world's very poor countries



By Sir Ronald Sanders

and those eligible for support from the International Development Association. But despite appeals to recognise that some Caribbean countries, regarded as 'middle and high-income', also needed urgent attention, the main policy makers of the two institutions did not budge on changing their criteria.

Since then, it has become clear that COVID-19 will deliver a debt blow to these countries from which there will be no short or medium-term recovery. They simply cannot pay the debts now.

Against this backdrop, the Washington-based journal, 'Latin American Dialogue', published on June 10, asked me to respond to the question of how pre-

pared are Caribbean countries for this year's hurricane season in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic? I provided this answer.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has decimated Caribbean economies many of which lost at least 20% of their GDP in the first quarter of 2020 and are forecast to experience a further 10% decline by the end of August.

Unemployment has reached unprecedented high levels and government revenues have drastically declined while expenditures have increased extraordinarily to contain the coronavirus and treat its victims, including through purchase of medical supplies and construction of facilities for infectious diseases.

Debt levels have also risen, and many governments are unable to service repayments which, even before the pandemic, were absorbing as much as 48 cents of every dollar. Consequently, government spending on hurricane preparations has been diverted to mount programmes to feed the poor and to support the unemployed.

Payments for insurance of properties against hurricanes have lapsed through unemployment and business closures, rendering communities unable to rebuild easily in the wake of destruction by storms.

Many Caribbean countries are denied access to concessional financing from the

International Financial Institutions on the sole criterion that they are classified as middle and high-income countries, even though they share many of the structural limitations of less developed countries. The Paris Club is also opposing suspension or rescheduling of debt payments on the same basis.

Therefore, there is little more that Caribbean countries can do to prepare for dangerous storms this year. Regrettably, the G20, which could help, have remained wedded to policies that fail to recognise the dire circumstances of Caribbean countries, abandoning them to a fearsome hurricane season that could damage them even more severely”.

The picture could not be any clearer. COVID-19 is devastating Caribbean countries, categorised as ‘high-income’ as much as it is hurting low- and middle-income ones, adding to their debt burdens and threatening a far-reaching sovereign debt crisis.

COVID-19 has worsened the problem: countries are facing high health-care costs; collapsing revenues; no capacity to service debts, and a struggle to keep their economies afloat.

There is an urgent need for a stop to sovereign debt payments to official and private creditors, to give Caribbean countries a chance to cope with yet another shock to which they did not contrib-

ute, but that now puts another knee at their necks.

If the G20 allocated a mere 0.5%, or US\$40 billion, of its pledged global injection of US\$8 trillion to Caribbean countries to pay off Paris Club debt and for new soft loans, the region will have a fighting chance.

This problem will not go away by ignoring it, and Caribbean governments and private sectors must ensure it is not ignored by rich governments and the international bodies they control. The Caribbean is not owed a living, but it is owed the right to live.

Responses and previous Commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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CCJ ISSUES DECLARATIONS AGAINST CARICOM AND BARBADOS BUT CEMENT TARIFF INCREASE STANDS

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In a judgment released today, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) upheld the decision of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) to raise the tariff on “other hydraulic cement” imported into Barbados. The CCJ declared, however, that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Barbados failed in their respective duties to conduct prior consultation with the importers, Rock Hard Cement Limited (“Rock Hard”). The Court’s decision was given in the original jurisdiction matter of *Rock Hard Cement Limited v The State of Barbados and The Caribbean Community and Arawak Cement Company Limited, Intervening* [2020] CCJ 2 (OJ).

On June 17, 2019, COTED, the organ of CARICOM responsible for altering or suspending the Common External Tariff (CET), approved the application of Barbados to suspend the CET of 5% on other hydraulic cement in order to replace it with a tariff of 35%. The suspension was authorised for a period of two years and not the five years requested.

Rock Hard imports other hydraulic cement manufactured in Turkey into Barbados. Rock Hard was not consulted or notified before the application to raise the tariff was made or granted although

both Barbados and COTED were aware of the impact the COTED decision would likely have had on that company. Rock Hard claimed that the decision to raise the tariff should be annulled because it had a legitimate expectation that Barbados would keep the tariff steady at the CET rate of 5%. The basis of this legitimate expectation was alleged representations made to Rock Hard by Barbadian officials in 2015 when Barbados reduced the tariff from 60%, where it stood in 2015, to the CET rate of 5%.

The Court held that, in order for Rock Hard to succeed in the Court’s Original Jurisdiction, the alleged representations that gave rise to its expectation must have come from CARICOM, but there was no claim or evidence that it was COTED that made the alleged representations to Rock Hard. The Court held that subsequent knowledge by COTED of the alleged representations could not make COTED a party to them as those representations had not been made on COTED’s behalf. The Court also dismissed Rock Hard’s claims that the COTED decision was arbitrary or irrational. The Court stated that the rationale and justification presented to COTED by Barbados were supported by the factual circumstances and that in any event the grounds on which the request was ap-

proved clearly fell within a category which allows COTED a broad discretion and where the scope for the Court’s intervention is narrow.

On the other hand, the Court decided to declare that Barbados and CARICOM had failed to ensure that Rock Hard was consulted before the application for the suspension was approved. Because the consultation required for an application of this type was limited to obtaining information as to the impact of the proposed tariff increase, the Court decided that the effect of the failure to consult did not call for annulment of the decision. The Court expressed dismay that CARICOM had failed to maintain an effective system of consultations at the national and regional level as required by Article 26 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC). The Court noted that the agreed procedures for the processing of requests to COTED, such as this one made by Barbados, had not yet been formally brought into force. The Court found that this was a weakness in the system.

The Court concluded by stating that it is a matter of Barbadian domestic policy whether that State wished to

adopt measures to facilitate the importation of cement produced extra-regionally or encourage locally produced cement manufactured by Arawak Cement Company Limited. The Court emphasised, however, that any such measures and the processes accompanying them must comply with the rule of law.

The judgment was delivered by the full Bench of the CCJ comprising the President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders and the Honourables Justice Jacob Wit, Justice Winston Anderson, Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, Justice Denys Barrow, Justice Andrew Burgess and Justice Peter Jamadar. Mr Allan Wood, QC and Ms Symone Mayhew, QC appeared for Rock Hard Cement Limited. Ms Gayle Scott and Mr Jared Richards appeared for the State of Barbados. Dr Corlita Babb-Schaefer and Mr O’Neil Francis appeared for the Caribbean Community and Mr Eamon Courtenay, SC and Mr Raphael Ajodha appeared for Arawak Cement Company Limited.

The full judgment of the Court and a judgment summary are available on the Court’s website at www.ccj.org.

Air of uncertainty surrounds Baroness Scotland

Commonwealth governments have rejected a fresh attempt to give the organisation's secretary-general Baroness Scotland an automatic second term of office. In a letter - obtained by the BBC - Boris Johnson says a "significant and diverse number" of heads of government "from across the Commonwealth" opposed the idea of Lady Scotland being reappointed for another four years without facing re-election. The prime minister - who is the current "chair-in-office" for the Commonwealth - says that he hopes the heads of government can instead agree just to extend Lady Scotland's contract temporarily until they meet next year. The 54 heads of government had expected to decide Lady Scotland's future at their big biennial summit - known as CHOGM - in Rwanda this month but the meeting was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A Commonwealth Secretariat spokesman said the proposal for automatic reappointment had been made because of the uncertainty of when CHOGM might take place, probably next year. Commonwealth governments now have until 22 June to decide whether to extend Lady Scotland's current term until next year.

There is a need for haste because Lady Scotland's existing contract expires on 27 June. This is the second time that Commonwealth heads of government have rejected the automatic reappointment of Lady Scotland. At the end of last year, some supportive member states put forward the proposal but twice as many countries opposed the idea.

In the letter, dated 8 June, Mr Johnson wrote: "As you will recall, I wrote to you on 13 May, in my capacity as Commonwealth chair-in-office, to ask whether there were any objections to the

proposal from Her Excellency the Prime Minister of Barbados, subsequently supported by others, that we should reappoint Baroness Scotland as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth for a second four-year term now."

He went on: "In response to my letter, a significant and diverse number of colleagues from across the Commonwealth have communicated that they do not support that proposal, but prefer that the decision on the next substantive secretary-general appointment should be taken at CHOGM, according to our established practice. Therefore I must respectfully confirm that there is no consensus for the immediate reappointment of the secretary-general for a second four-year term."

Instead, Mr Johnson argues for the temporary extension of Lady Scotland's current term, which he says "would follow our established practice, and would also be the option most consistent with the spirit" of the current rules "according to which secretaries-general are to be appointed by us collectively". A Foreign Office spokesperson said: "We don't comment on private correspondence between Commonwealth member states. "Decisions on the appointment of secretaries-general are a matter for heads of government.

"In the past, those decisions have been made at CHOGMs.

"We will work with other Commonwealth countries on the process of appointing a secretary-general for the next four-year term." A Commonwealth spokesperson said: "The reappointment process for Commonwealth Secretary General's occurs when leaders gather for the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

"The secretary-general, Baroness Scotland, came into post on 1 April 2016 for a term of four years. "The usu-



Baroness Scotland is head of the Commonwealth Secretariat - the organisation's main intergovernmental

al convention is that an incumbent seeking a second term in office is elected unopposed for his or her second term. "The secretary-general, Baroness Scotland has been supported to serve a second term by Dominica, her country of birth.

The statement went on: "Commonwealth member states agreed to extend the current secretary-general's contract in order to consider the reappointment at CHOGM in Rwanda in June 2020.

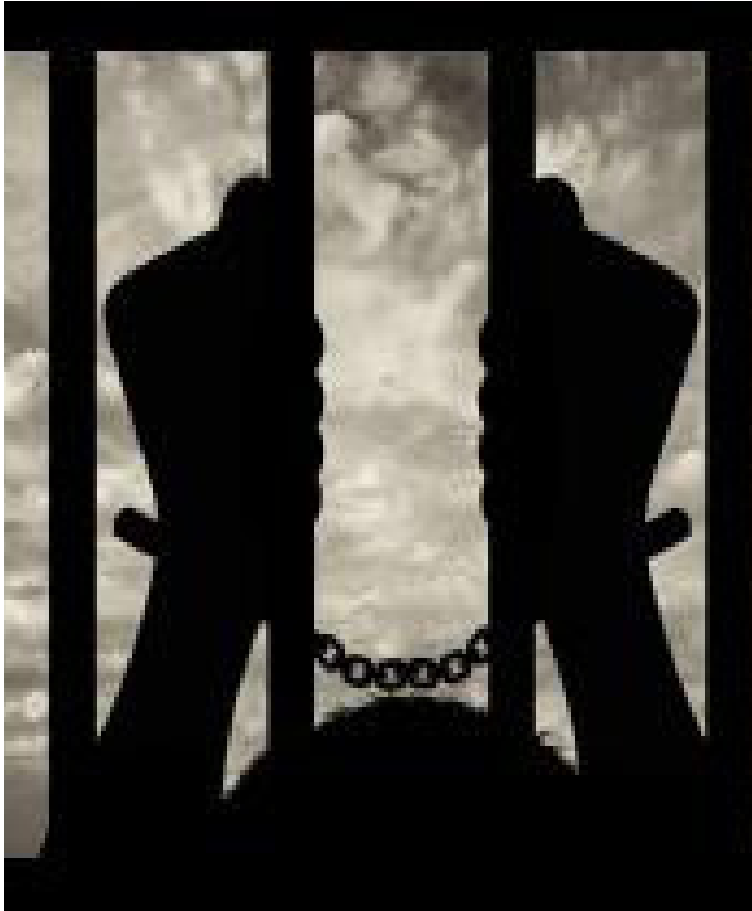
"However, CHOGM has been postponed of due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"A member state wrote to the chair in office to request that Heads of Government consider reappointment now due to the uncertainty of when CHOGM will be able to take place due to the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. "The chair in office wrote to member states on 8 June 2020 to state that consensus was not reached for reappointment to occur now in the absence of CHOGM.

"Therefore, the chair in office has proposed that, as is customary, the reappointment process will now take place when CHOGM is able to meet."

Earlier this year the British government suspended its funding of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the body that runs the international organisation from London.

50 Years In Prison Without Trial



George Williams was a mentally ill 20-year-old when he was arrested by the police in 1970 and charged for allegedly killing another man.

Now, nearly 50 years later, Williams is believed to be one of the seven persons identified by the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) who have been languishing in Jamaica's penal system for more than 40 years.

Isat Buchanan, the attorney hired by the civil-rights group Stand Up for Jamaica to represent Williams, disclosed yesterday that his now 69-year-old client has been declared "fit to plead" but has not been to court in 48 years.

"His last court appearance

would have been 1972 ... when he was remanded at the governor general's pleasure. He has never been back to court," Buchanan told The Gleaner yesterday.

Williams was arrested and charged on December 29, 1970, for the murder of Ian Laurie on July 21 that year, according to documents perused by The Gleaner. The documents show that two days later, he was also charged with malicious destruction of a motor car owned by Laurie's father and wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm for attacking the alleged victim's mother.

INDECOM, in its first quarterly report to Parliament for

the first three months of this year, detailed the case of Noel Chambers, who was held at the governor general's pleasure for four decades until his death on January 27 this year.

Chambers, who, like Williams, was a Rastafarian, was charged with murder, but was declared unfit to plead.

The report cited data compiled by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), which shows that a total of 146 mentally ill persons deemed unfit to plead are currently being held at the governor general's pleasure or at the court's pleasure at three penal institutions in Kingston and St Catherine.

INDECOM cited, in the report, the case of 'GW', who has been incarcerated for 49 years at the court's pleasure for the offence of murder. The oversight body said it was unable to determine whether 'GW' was fit or unfit to plead and that his last court date was 1970.

Buchanan, who visited Williams at the St Catherine Adult Correctional Centre yesterday, told The Gleaner that up to February this year, a prison psychologist had declared his client fit to plead. "Yet no documentation was brought before the court," he said.

"This is a man that has been in prison before I was born."

ARREST QUESTIONED

Amid plans to write to the governor general and the director of public prosecutions to secure Williams' quick release, the attorney questioned the initial decision by the police to

arrest his client on a murder charge at a time when he was mentally ill.

According to him, Williams' history of mental illness meant that prosecutors would have a tough task proving that his client had the intent to commit murder, a key element required to ground the charge.

"To charge him for murder, given his history, would mean that the Government would, at no time, be in the position to prove the elements of murder, which is intention. So charging him for murder in the first instance was inflammatory because it was not something that they could prove," he said.

Jamaica's top prosecutor, Paula Llewellyn, dismissed that assertion, saying that once an individual commits the offence of murder, the police have a duty to lay a criminal charge regardless of whether the accused is mentally ill.

"All the police are concerned with is whether an offence was committed and whether they have gathered enough material to determine who is responsible," Llewellyn explained.

She said that it is after the case goes before the court that a judge can order that a psychiatric report be generated to determine whether the accused is fit to plead.

"The police cannot take it upon themselves to be psychiatrist. It's a legal issue for the court to determine," said Llewellyn, the director of public prosecutions.

Barbados: BHTA looks to intra-regional business, airfares lobby

Three months after closing down its commercial flight activity because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Barbados is looking to re-open for passenger business as early as next month, Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) Senator Rudy Grant has announced.

At the same time, he has given an indication that the association would consider lobbying the Mia Mottley administration for a temporary removal of government taxes on regional travel.

Grant was today addressing the BHTA's first annual general meeting convened via the Zoom online platform.

He said as Barbados and other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states continue to open their borders, accommodation sector operators here should extend their staycation programme to nationals of the region.

"With the resumption of regional airlift let us further expand our staycation programme into the region. We can provide attractive packages through CARICOM, which provide discount for accommodation, dining, attractions and car rentals. In addition, we can lobby Government to consider temporarily removing taxes for regional travel, while encouraging our partner associations in the region to do the same," Grant told the more than 120 members on the virtual meeting.

He said: "Let us use this opportunity to encourage CARICOM nationals to explore the beauty, attractiveness, history and heritage of our destinations while stimulating economic activity to assist with maintaining jobs and business survival."

Grant stressed that the resumption of international commercial flights next month was not yet a done deal and could change, adding that a lot would depend on how source markets were managing the pandemic.

The Grantley Adams International Airport is expected to be reopened to commercial flights from CARICOM by the end of this month.

The BHTA head said American Airlines, JetBlue and Air Canada are expected to be among those resuming service come July.

"WestJet is expected in winter, so not before November/December. With the UK carriers, while there are some expectations that they will come possibly in July, there are discussions being undertaken through the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. with respect to what type of support can be provided and realistically what level of airlift we can expect coming out of the UK.

In relation to other airlines, Grant said they were expected to resume service by December.

"I know that the BTMI is looking at the creation of air bubbles, where with those destinations where there has been adequate management of the

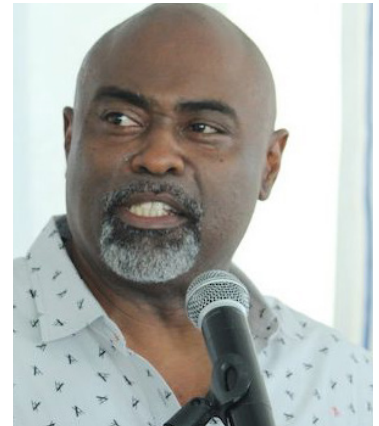
transmissions we can have easier and better flow of passengers going through the necessary protocols," he said

He warned members that while the recovery of the tourism product is anticipated to start in July, they should expect that things could change.

Pointing to the tourism task force, which he said continued to meet and put together necessary reports, Grant said: "In relation to the protocols for the reopening of Barbados we have expressed our agreement with Prime Minister Mia Mottley that we should not reopen until we have adequate and appropriate protocols in place that have been agreed to.

"While Barbados has been successful in flattening the COVID-19 curve, there are still significant challenges being observed in our major source markets, those being the UK and the US. We, therefore, must ensure that the resumption of tourism business does not accelerate a second wave of COVID-19, which, unless properly managed, can have a debilitating effect on the country and force us back into those lockdown procedures that had to be undertaken to ensure that the COVID-19 transmissions are significantly reduced," said Grant.

He gave the assurance that discussions were ongoing between industry officials and representatives of the Barbados Workers' Union and the Ministry of Tourism in relation to protocols.



Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) Senator Rudy Grant

He reported that the STR report for April 2020 showed that when compared to the same period last year, occupancy declined by a whopping 89 per cent and the average daily rate fell by 55.7 per cent.

Stating that the decline was expected, Grant promised that marketing of the destination would be modified.

"We now have to, with this reality, identify new modalities and marketing avenues to ensure that with our partners in our major source market we are able to keep Barbados top of mind," he said.

"We must really seek to ensure that in this environment we look at these new realities and that we think outside our box in such a manner that we are able to imagine that imaginable dream. As challenging as that may seem, I think that in order for us to be better able to transform this industry we do have to ensure that we go outside the box and become very imaginative in how we move forward in this important age," said

Trump authorizes sanctions against International Criminal Court officials

President Donald Trump on Thursday authorized sanctions and additional visa restrictions against International Criminal Court personnel -- the latest attempt by the administration to strong-arm the international body out of an investigation into a potential war crimes by US military and intelligence officials. Under the new executive order, any individuals who "have directly engaged in any effort by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any United States personnel without the consent of the United States" or have attempted the same against a US ally without that country's consent may be subject to sanctions.

The latest move comes months after the ICC authorized a probe into alleged war crimes committed in Afghanistan by US and Afghan forces as well as alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Taliban. It also follows a push by the court's Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to investigate potential crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinians -- a prospect about which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said they were "gravely concerned." The green light to sanction ICC officials has already drawn concern from international officials and human rights organizations.

Trump administration officials have long rejected the authority of the ICC -- noting that

the US is not a party to the international tribunal -- and had already taken steps meant to deter the investigation, including revoking Bensouda's entry visa last year. "The International Criminal Court's actions are an attack on the rights of the American people and threaten to infringe upon our national sovereignty," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said in a statement.

"As the President's Executive Order makes clear, the United States will continue to use any means necessary to protect our citizens and our allies from unjust prosecution by the International Criminal Court," she said.

Speaking at the State Department Thursday, Pompeo said, "We cannot and we will not stand by as our people are threatened by a kangaroo court." Pompeo said the economic sanctions would be determined on a case by case basis. He also said the visa restrictions would include family members of the targeted officials.

"It gives us no joy to punish them, but we cannot allow ICC officials and their families to come to the United States to shop, travel, and otherwise enjoy American freedoms as these same officials seek to prosecute the defender of those very freedoms," the top US diplomat said.

CNN has reached out to the ICC for comment.



General Charles Brown Jr, the first African American chief of staff of the United States Air Force, speaks during a Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC

The ICC prosecutor Bensouda sought authorization in November 2017 to open an investigation into crimes connected to the conflict in Afghanistan. According to documents from the time, Bensouda's office determined that there was "a reasonable basis to believe" that members of the Afghan National Security Forces, the US armed forces and the CIA had committed "war crimes," including torture and rape.

Although Bensouda's initial request for authorization to open the investigation was denied in April 2019, in March, the ICC Appeals Chamber ruled unanimously in favor of allowing the investigation.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said that the administration expected "information about alleged misconduct by our people to be turned over to US authorities so that we can take the appropriate action as we have consistently done so in the past."

"Ultimately, our justice system ensures that our people are held to account under the Unit-

ed States Constitution, not the International Criminal Court or other overreaching inter-governmental bodies," Esper said at the State Department alongside Pompeo, Attorney General William Barr and national security adviser Robert O'Brien.

None of the officials took questions from the press.

In his remarks Thursday, Barr said "the US government has reason to doubt the honesty of the ICC." He claimed the Justice Department had "substantial, credible" information about longstanding "financial corruption and malfeasance at the highest levels of the office of the prosecutor" and expressed concern "that foreign powers like Russia are also manipulating the ICC in pursuit of their own agenda." Barr did not elaborate on or provide evidence for those claims, which were also contained in McEnany's statement. Russia withdrew as a signatory to the ICC's founding statute in 2016.

UN expresses 'horror' at reported mass graves' discovery in Libya

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has expressed "horror" at reports of at least eight mass graves being discovered in an area retaken last week by the country's internationally recognised government from renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar's forces.

According to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), most of the graves were found in Tarhuna, Haftar's last remaining stronghold in western Libya. The city was used by his forces as a launchpad during an ill-fated 14-month offensive to seize the capital from the GNA.

"UNSMIL notes with horror reports on the discovery of at least eight mass graves in past days, the majority of them in Tarhuna," the UN mission wrote on Twitter. "International law requires that the authorities conduct prompt, effective & transparent investigations into all alleged cases of unlawful deaths".

Reporting from Misrata, Al Jazeera's Malik Traina said the GNA, which seized Tarhuna on June 5, reported being "able to recover ... over a hundred bodies in these mass graves".

The GNA has said the remains are those of imprisoned government soldiers. They have also reported civilians among the dead, Traina said.

"These mass graves are yet another indication of the brutality of the Libyan conflict and the toll on the residents in the



The United Nations Support Mission in Libya says 'International law requires that the authorities conduct prompt, effective & transparent investigations into all alleged cases of unlawful deaths'

area," he added.

On Thursday, the GNA's justice ministry launched a committee to investigate the graves, according to the UN mission.

UNSMIL called on members of the committee "to promptly undertake the work aimed at securing the mass graves, identifying the victims, establishing causes of death & returning the bodies to next of kin".

In March, UNSMIL said it had received reports of hundreds of enforced disappearances, torture, killings and displacement of entire families in Tarhuna by forces loyal to Haftar.

Among the victims were "private individuals, state officials, captured fighters and civil society activists", according to the mission.

UNSMIL said it had also verified numerous summary

executions at Tarhuna prison on September 13.

Toby Cadman, an international human rights lawyer, told Al Jazeera that based on the reported conditions of the dead, including reports that some may have had their hands tied behind their backs, the newly discovered graves appeared to be evidence of war crimes.

"Of course, they will need to be an investigation to identify the cause of death," he noted.

Human Rights Watch Libya senior researcher Hanan Salah said the GNA should invite neutral international forensic experts to help preserve possible evidence of crimes and identify the remains.

"We urge the GNA to follow through with their promise to investigate apparent mass

graves in a speedy and transparent manner," she said.

Libya, a major oil producer, has been mired in turmoil since 2011, when longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in a NATO-backed uprising. It is now split between two rival administrations: the GNA in Tripoli and the eastern-based House of Representatives allied with Haftar.

The GNA is backed by Turkey while Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army is supported by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia.

In recent weeks, the GNA, with the support of Turkey, has made major military gains, forcing Haftar's forces to retreat. The GNA has since launched a military operation to take the central coastal city of Sirte and al-Jufra further south.

George Floyd death: Gen Mark Milley sorry for joining Trump walk to church

The 1 June event created “a perception of the military involved in domestic politics”, Gen Mark Milley said.

Mr Trump walked to the church and held up a Bible after a peaceful protest at the death of African American George Floyd was forcibly dispersed.

The use of troops to tackle the protests has provoked fierce US debate.

Mr Trump has regularly referred to “law and order”, calling in the National Guard to the US capital, vowing to deploy the military to other cities and condemning violent protests.

Some of the mostly peaceful initial protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month did turn violent with looting in several cities.

But since four police officers were charged in connection with the death, the protests have been more peaceful, spawning an international movement against police brutality and racial inequality.

Video footage of the death in Minneapolis shows a white officer kneeling on Mr Floyd’s neck for nearly nine minutes.

The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff was speaking



Gen Milley (R) was on the walk with the president, as was Defence Secretary Mark Esper

in a video for a National Defense University commencement ceremony.

He said: “I should not have been there. My presence in that moment and in that envi-

ronment created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics.

“As a commissioned uniformed officer, it was a mistake that I have learned from, and I sincerely hope we all can learn from it.”

Gen Milley added: “We must hold dear the principle of an apolitical military that is so deeply rooted in the very essence of our republic.”

He also said he was outraged at the “senseless, brutal killing” of George Floyd.

Gen Milley said: “The protests that have ensued not only speak to his killing but also to centuries of injustice toward African Americans.”

The general was wearing battle uniform as he walked with the president and critics said this suggested his support for the deployment of the military against protesters.

Defence Secretary Mark Esper was also on the walk and, although he has not said he was wrong to be there, suggested in a news conference that he thought the walk was for a different purpose of mingling with troops and inspecting damage.

Senior officials told US media that Mr Trump had yelled at Mr Esper after the conference.

US protests trigger calls by India's Dalits to end discrimination

Spurred on by the anti-racism protests in the United States, Dalits (a marginalised community once referred to as “untouchables”) have called on India to acknowledge centuries of oppression they have endured.

Dalits find themselves outside the Hindu caste hierarchy - a membership determined at birth - and have historically faced violence, segregation and been barred from even having their shadows touch those of people from more privileged castes.

Dalit campaigners said they supported the Black Lives Matter protests in response to the death of George Floyd after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, and hoped it would ignite a similar conversation in India.

“We extend our solidarity because we feel them and we have faced discrimination ourselves,” said Omprakash Mahato, president of the Birsā Ambedkar Phule Students Association, a Dalit organisation at New Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University.

India banned discrimination based on caste - a system which divided Hindus into groups based on occupations - in 1955.

But ancient biases against Dalits and members of the less privileged Hindu caste groups persist, making it harder for them to access education and jobs and buy homes.

“In India, people need to ad-

mit their role in everyday discrimination faced by Dalits and only then can a dialogue for change be initiated. We hope what they are seeing unfolding globally will lead to soul searching,” said Mahato.

“People need to understand that every life matters.”

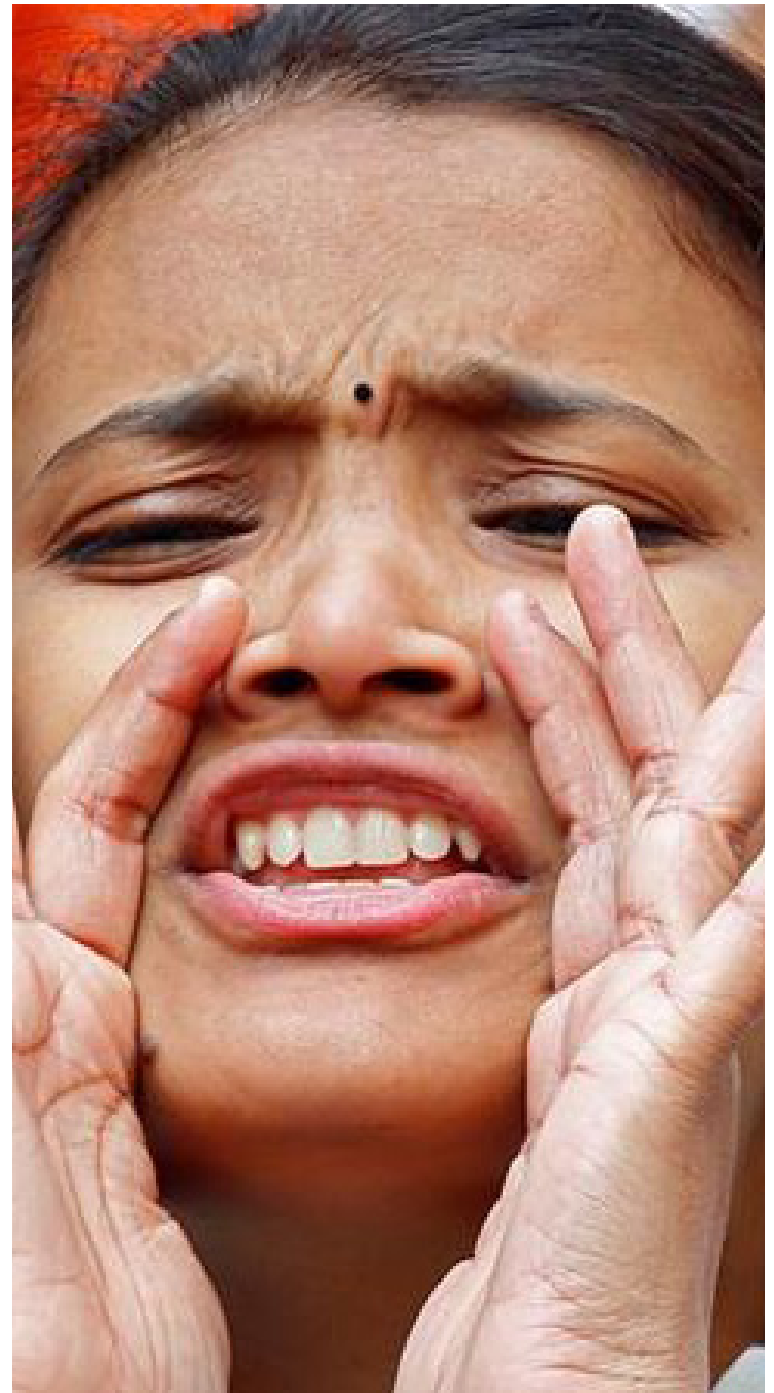
Dalits, who were sometimes forced to perform “unclean” tasks like disposing of corpses, and scheduled tribes - Indigenous peoples who are often isolated or disadvantaged - make up about a quarter of India’s population of 1.3 billion.

“Indian Dalits have historically learned a lot from the struggle of the African Americans,” Ruth Manorama, who works for rights of Dalit women, told the Reuters news agency.

“This is a good moment to challenge the narrative in India also and talk about the age-old repression of Dalits, which is visible even during the COVID-19 pandemic with discrimination denying people aid.”

Dalits were among the worst-hit by India’s strict lockdown, often having to wait longer for their turn to receive food or financial aid at local distribution points, and even being turned away, she said.

About 300 people have signed a Change.org petition emphasising that the “lives of Dalits and minorities matter too” and urging Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to “admit ... that caste discrimi-



A member of the Dalit community shouts slogans during a protest in Mumbai in this 2018 photo

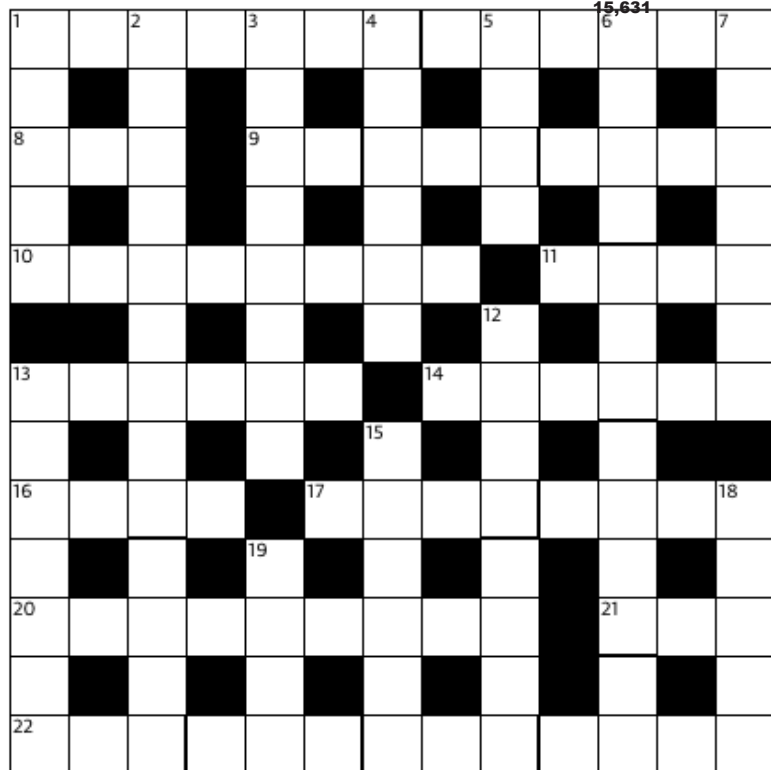
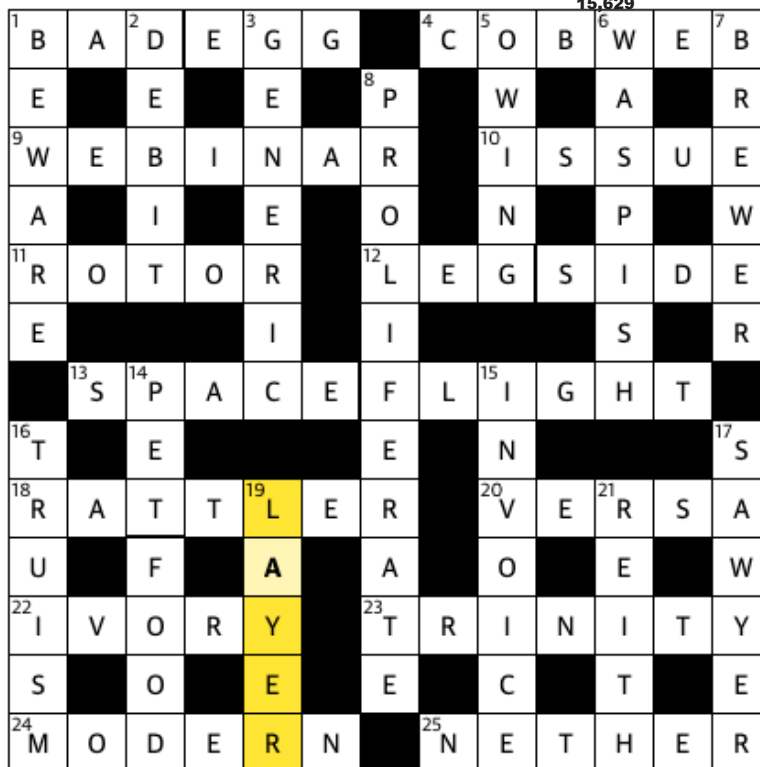
nation is included in racial discrimination”.

“It is a good time for people in India to understand and to point out to the government that racial discrimination is not only what you see in America,”

said Henri Tiphagne of People’s Watch, a charity backing the petition.

“It is the same as how so-called ‘untouchables’ are treated in India.”

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
 15,631

 Quick crossword No
 15,629


Across

- 1 Drink made from West African beans (7,6)
 8 Meadow (3)
 9 Regardless of the price to pay (2,3,4)
 10 Gob (informal) (8)
 11 Roofed colonnade (4)
 13 Blooming? (6)
 14 Very nice — coy elm (anag) (6)
 16 Fizzy drink (4)
 17 The 'x' in x3 (4,4)
 20 Winter sporting device (9)
 21 Pair (3)
 22 Seek the impossible (3,3,3,4)

Down

- 1 Antiquity (5)
 2 Striped stick from Lancashire (9,4)
 3 Baldie (informal) (8)
 4 Land for growing crops (6)
 5 Kind of agate (4)
 6 Immediately at the beginning (4,3,4,2)
 7 River mouth (7)
 12 Extremely inactive (4,4)
 13 Pendulous-flowered shrub (7)
 15 Gulf kingdom (6)
 18 Prickle (5)
 19 Longest river in Spain (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Garfield



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You may be surprised. Discussions that go beyond polite banter may yield startling revelations, but don't believe everything you hear. No matter what you choose to do today, you'll probably fare better if you bring a friend.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Stay on point. Alluring distractions may try to divert your attention from the important tasks that should be done today. Don't be surprised if a new admirer makes his or her presence known.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Air out your grievances. You'll feel a whole lot better about it if you discuss what's bothering you rather than keeping it bottled up. You'll probably say the right thing if you speak from the heart.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at both sides of the situation. Your optimism over a project may cause you to see only the positives and ignore the negatives. You may need an objective third party on your side to find the right path.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Fantasy may be better than reality. Your illusions could be dashed to pieces when you finally meet someone you've admired from afar. Doing what's best for the common good can be difficult but is certainly achievable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When you talk, people will usually listen. You'll not be at a loss for words when it comes to getting your way, and others may be pleased to accommodate you. Your wisdom and charm earn respect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Have it your way. Be a star of the business world or the spark that kindles a blazing romance, as you probably can exert your will on anything today. Your performance may suffer if you do too many things at once.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): All's fair in love and war. You may be able to take advantage of a romantic situation by being in the right place at the right time. Make sure your financial picture isn't in need of tweaking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Strut your stuff. Don't blend into the background; you're far more appealing than you think. Exude confidence and charm, and you should be able to conquer any situation that comes your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There's more to it than meets the eye. Don't take a cold reception personally, as there is likely something else going on behind the scenes. Take what is offered but don't pry into private matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Honey works better than vinegar. You may get to the bottom of someone's problem if you show tact and compassion. Try to encourage someone to improve rather than being overly critical.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Read between the lines. You'll need to be perceptive to tell the difference between what someone says and what they actually mean. Your trust should be earned rather than given lightly.

CLASSIFIEDS

G. MIGHTY PHARMACY

located @ NEVIS STREET, St. John's, Antigua is looking for a full-time pharmacist with two (2) to (5) years of experience. Call 462-8911 to be Qualified !!!!!

VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

*Registration begins 3rd-12th June, 2020

*Scheduled Hours 9:30am - 1:00pm

*Registration Requirements

1. Passport Size Photo
2. Birth Certificate Health Card
3. Parents ID for Proof of Address

*Registration Fee is \$70.00 which includes:
P.E Shirt, P.E Skirt & Pant

*Face mask must be worn when entering the school campus.

*All social distancing protocols must be adhered too

Sir Viv Richards voted county cricket's greatest overseas player

Sir Vivian Richards has been voted as English County cricket's greatest overseas player by BBC sport users.

The Antiguan took 43.2% of the final vote, finishing ahead of another former West Indies captain Sir

Clive Lloyd, 9.2% and ex-New Zealand all-rounder, Sir Richard Hadlee, 8.3%. Richards, 68, represented

Somerset and Glamorgan in the English domestic game.

BBC sports ran votes from each individual county side in May.

The 17 county winners then went through to the overall vote.



Sir Vivian Richards



Darren Sammy calls out the ICC

Former West Indies captain, Darren Sammy, has called on cricket's governing body to do more to support nations outside the big three of England, India and Australia.

Speaking to the English press, Sammy asked what is the international cricket council doing to help lesser boards.

He noted West Indies are in England right now during the coronavirus if it was in the Caribbean right now and England had to tour, would it be the same thing he asked and how many players would turn up.



England may join a West Indies protest - Anderson

England will consider joining West Indies if the tourists make an anti-racism gesture during the forthcoming Test series, says James Anderson.

Windies captain Jason Holder said on Wednesday he will discuss with his team if they will add to the protest seen since the death of George Floyd.

"It's been a very thought provoking few weeks for everyone. It made me do a lot of thinking," said Anderson, "We will discuss what we can do as players to make a stand."

Floyd, 46, an unarmed black man, died when his neck was knelt on by a police officer for nearly nine minutes while he was being restrained.

Vaughn “Hungry” Walsh: I went after the head

Regarded as one of the fastest bowlers Antigua and Barbuda has produced, Vaughn “Hungry” Walsh who comes from a family with a rich cricket history from the Village of Liberta, had a sit-down and reflection with PointeXpress.

Hungry, as he is called said, he grew up playing cricket on the streets of Liberta bowling to the village first class players who used it as warm up for their games later in the day.

“If you wanted a chance to bat you had to bowl out these senior players which was very difficult and that’s where I started honing my cricketing skills,” he stated.

Walsh played “a little” school cricket but noted that back in the day, they would prepare the pitches early in the morning before attending school then request permission from the principal to leave later in the day to compete.

At 5’8, Walsh was incredibly skiddy (which describes how the ball skidded off the wicket) and quick, terrorizing batsman wherever he played. “I usually go for the head,” the pace bowler noted, “Because that’s the control panel and once you dismantle that nothing can work.”

Walsh reflected on an early battle he had with the legendary Brian Lara in their



earlier days putting him on the back foot for three overs aiming for his head.

“The only time I ever hit a player and felt sorry was when I put down my brother Hayden Walsh Sr. who dared me during a practice session,” Walsh added. He disclosed that their mother was upset. “You could have killed him!” their mother shouted, he recalled with a smile.

Walsh represented Antigua and Barbuda, Leeward Islands, a number of teams in Leicestershire and Griqualand West in South Africa.

“I really enjoyed my time in Africa,” Walsh said, “The pitches were nice and bouncy.”

Many take the view that ‘the man from Liberta’ was unlucky not to have cracked the West Indies senior team after bagging 92 wickets

in only 27 first class appearances, but Walsh says he hold no grudges and he is still enjoying the game which he says he will continue to play until he cannot move.

Walsh is very happy with the strides his nephew Hayden Walsh Jr. has made

breaking into the West Indies team and he hopes that he continues to work hard and excel.

“There is too much book work in cricket and we need to hone our own style because of our situation in the Caribbean,” was his parting shot.



We enjoyed the support

National female football players say their sport is among, the sporting community that has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three of the players - Divita Samuel, Devikka Tittle and Shenan Nicholas - were guest on the Point FM Timeout program on Tuesday where they expressed their appreciation for the support they received during the female football league at the Technical Center before it was brought to a halt by COVID-19 pandemic.

The ladies voiced support for their male counterparts during their season at the ARG and that they were happy to see a lot of the men attending the games.

Samuel, the daughter of Derrick Prettyboy Edwards, said the large crowds inspired them to play harder and to perform better. On the other hand, Tittle explained that she looked forward to weekends with high anticipation.

There were two more rounds left in the league before March 13 when action was postponed.

The ladies are now en-



gaged in coaching as they work to develop the next generation of female players.

Nicholas has encouraged parents not be scared and to allow their children to participate because there is a lot of scholarships available in the United States.

"We feel like most of the times we travel to participate in tournaments, we are underprepared with not enough training time. But we hope that this changes in the future," she said.



Shenan Nicholas plays for Ottos Tigress F.C while teaching and coaching at Pares Secondary. She is also the female Under15 assistant coach.

Divikka Tittle who is the daughter of former Antigua national cricketer, Ian

Tittle, is the head coach of the girls Under-16 and she is also working at the Princess Margaret Secondary School. Her club is Fort Road F.C.

Devita Samuel coaches the female national team and plays for Grenades F.C.

The ladies are appealing to the general public to support female football.

DEWS