



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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MORE THAN JUST TALK

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Honorary Lions

At a brief ceremony at Government House, Their Excellencies, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams were inducted as Honorary Lions. Outgoing Chairman, Mr. Franklin Maynard, accompanied by a number of executive members presented Their Excellencies with a pin and a Lion's vest. His Excellency commended the President and Lion's Club as a whole for their charitable work, particularly during these difficult times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lion's Club of Antigua is one of over thirty organizations which fall under the Patronage of the Governor General and Lady Williams.

New home for Industrial Court

A week after the Civil Registry found its new home in the newly refurbished old Treasury Building, the Ministry of Works is set to hand over another completed renovated courthouse.

The keys to the Industrial Court are set to be officially handed over tomorrow, Thursday with a brief ceremony at the court's location.

The court is said to suffer from a constant backlog of cases which has been described as a "sore point", will now have a new and improved home-base upstairs Costpro Supermarket, Woods Mall.

According to the Project Manager who worked on the renovations, Jamilla Hodge, the court facilities will feature several new additions such as two courtrooms, a new archive, a typist center, or typist area, several officials and staffing areas along with a conference room.

It is anticipated that with the additional courtroom along with a president and a vice president, the immense backlogged cases will be fast-tracked, in conjunction with enhanced services.

Hodge will also make history on Thursday, as being the Work's Ministry's first



Ministry of Works' Project manager, Jamilla Hodge

female Project Manager.

According to Works Minister, Lennox Weston, the Ministry of Works believes

in and seeks to practice gender equity within the very male-dominated government division.

DAY 6/17

Max UV Index: 11 Extreme
 Wind: E at 20 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 55%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.0 mm
 Rain: 1.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

31°_{Hi}



Partly sunny with a brief shower

NIGHT 6/17

Wind: E at 15 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 55%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.2 mm
 Rain: 1.2 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

26°_{Lo}



Patchy clouds with a passing shower

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:34 AM

Sunset AST
 6:43 PM



Duration
 13:09 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 2:47 AM

Moonset AST
 3:40 PM



Duration
 12:53 hr

More than just talk

Minister of Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall, not only wants to talk about improving relations between the central government and the Barbuda Council...she wants to take positive steps to ensure that this happens.

To this end, parliamentary secretary in the ministry, Senator Knackcynta Nedd, is heading for Codrington on the weekend to look at the building that will house the Barbuda Affairs Office there.

"There's some work needed to bring the building to an acceptable standard and while there, she is expected to tour the facility with a team to determine the extent of the work to be done. Following this, we all intend to visit the island as a group in another three weeks or so," Marshall said.

The minister, who took the appointment earlier in the year, said she has since reached out to the current chairperson of the council, Kelsie Beazer-Joseph, to discuss the reopening of the school among other matters of concern.

"The relationship now is what I would term 'amicable' as there is no room for animosity at this time. We want to get things done especially with the economy in the state that it's in. We have been looking at food security and trying to develop a plan going forward," she explained.

Marshall said the focus now is to determine the key areas that Barbuda can undertake in the areas of livestock, agriculture and fisheries. "We have been talking to the local International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), representative, Craig Thomas, who has been giving us insights into what are the best crops for Barbuda; whether it's Irish potato, peanuts or palm trees for both islands," Marshall further explained.

The plan envisages the production of meat from the island, the minister noted, especially since its deer and boar are unique to the island.

"We have lots of things on the table to implement in Barbuda with assistance and cooperation from the council working in concert with



Minister of Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall

the Barbuda Office in Codrington," she declared.

Meanwhile, as it relates to the overall work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Marshall, the senior minister, said her ministry is putting in place a plan to develop the country's livestock sector.

"We want to improve the breed or pedigree of the animals that are reared here.

To this end, we are seeking assistance to improve better pedigree of goats, sheep, cows and pigs as it is our intention to become competitive in meat production.

"We are eyeing the tourism industry where we hope to do import substitution but this cannot be achieved unless we improve the quality of meats that we produce," she remarked.

CHECK YOUR SPEED MONTH

NO ONE'S A KING
OF THE ROAD.

When it comes to road safety, no one is a royalty.
We all share the equal responsibility of protecting ourselves
and those around us from driving-related accidents.

No one is above the law.

Observe traffic regulations at all times. Be an alert and mindful driver.
Together, let us ensure that Antigua and Barbuda's roads stay safe and tragedy-free.



ATB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



**DRIVE
SAFELY**

Upper House passes the Digital Assets Business Bill

After being sent back to the Lower House in May for amendments, the Digital Assets Business Bill was successfully passed in the Senate on Tuesday.

The regulatory bill is an act that is put in place to “regulate persons carrying on digital asset business and for the protection of the interests of clients or potential clients of persons carrying on digital asset business and to provide for other matters connected and related.”

The bill which regulates the use of block-chain technology and the like, seeks to set out the definition of digital asset business and the activities that are considered as being engaged in a Digital Asset. The bill is said to contain 56 clauses distributed over seven (7) parts which include, Licensing requirements, administrative matters, Investigations, Disciplinary measures, requirements for proper accounting re-



Senator Shenella Govia

cords and Offences and Penalties.

Speaking in Parliament on Tuesday’s sitting, Senator Mary-Claire Hurst Leader of Government’s Business in the Senate underscored the im-

portance of passing the bill so that the novel sector can be regulated to avoid any possible international sanctions.

The longstanding senator regarded the bill as innovative as the country finds ways of diversifying the economy in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking with Pointe Xpress following the debate, Senator Shenella Govia also weighed in on the importance of the regulation act. According to Senator Govia, “it is such a delight to see forward-thinking legislation that supports innovation and new technologies for financial services in the area of digital assets that ensures effective investor protection, financial stability, and transparency. The act serves to ensure that only digital assets businesses that are suitable/proper get access to Antigua and Barbuda’s financial system, thus preventing the abuse of the system.”

Gomes still in custody

Murder accused Mikhail Gomes is still in custody at HM Prison as the bail conditions set about a month ago appear to be out of the reach of his family, at least for now.

In May, Gomes was granted bail by Justice Ian Morley, three years after he was arrested and charged in connection with the disappearance of Vincia James.

Justice Morley approved bail in the sum of \$200-thousand with a cash component of \$40-thousand.

But the \$40,000 appears to be the reason why the Pig-

otts resident has remained behind bars. Reports are it seems to be a tall order for his relatives to find that amount of cash to secure his freedom.

Bail was granted despite strong objection from the prosecution.

The judge considered several factors before granting bail, including the fact that the accused has had his trial date postponed several times and the uncertainty on when the case will go to trial, due to adjustments made in the courts as a result of COVID-19.



Mikhail Gomes

Vincia James was captured on surveillance camera leaving her workplace Dixie Betting Company on 7th April, 2017. It was the last time she was seen.

Several weeks after her disappearance, ex-boyfriend Mikhail Gomes was arrested and charged with murdering James, though her body has not been found.

Lockdown at HMP continues

While Antigua and Barbuda is slowly re-opening now that it has brought some control over the COVID-19 pandemic...HM Prison remains closed to visitors for the foreseeable future.

Prison superintendent, Lt Col. Eugene Phillip, said the panel institution went into lockdown in March as did the rest of the country, but he is not prepared to open the institution to visitors just yet.

"We went into lockdown mode early and I believe that this is what has made it possible for us to report that there have been no cases of the coronavirus in the prison. We have heard that there is likely to be a second wave and we are taking every step to prevent the respiratory illness from entering the prison," he declared.

Currently, only lawyers are allowed into the prison as well as members of the visiting committee. But even here strict rules are in place to protect the prison and its inmates from possible in-



fection. "The lawyers are not allowed to go into the yard. They must follow the protocols established by the Ministry of Health; wearing a mask, washing hands and observing the social distancing when talking to their clients," he stated.

Over the years it has become customary for relatives to prepare meals for family members who are inmates at the prison. However, under the new protocols, this too has been discontinued. "Except for five prisoners who have special medical conditions, all the inmates, convicted and on remand, are fed the food prepared by our



kitchen," Phillip reported.

He added that Antigua and Barbuda is not alone in this regard as prisons across the Caribbean remain off-limit to visitors. He gave as example the case of Haiti, which has reported several cases of the virus. Interestingly, he noted, the countries of the Eastern Caribbean can boast that their prisons have been COVID-free.

And according to the superintendent, HMP is fully prepared to deal with any eventually at the prison. "We have been supplied with a number of items from the British government that would aid us should the virus be detected within the prison



walls. These include personal protection equipment, masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, disinfectants and liquid soap," he indicated.

Phillip said preparation at the prison goes beyond COVID as the Caribbean enters the 2020 hurricane season, preparation for the season is already underway. The prison is stocking up on essential items and food as well as calling in both NODS and the Ministry of Public Works to look at the buildings to see what is needed to make them better able to withstand a hurricane.

There are 286 inmates at HMP; 278 males and 8 females.



Samples of the food being served at HM Prison

Tourism officials refute claims of COVID-19 positive tourist

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James, has refuted claims that some passengers arriving on AA-2405 on Wednesday, June 10 tested positive for COVID -19.

According to the CEO, "Health Officials have put a full system of protocols in place to protect both visitors and our own people from COVID -19. For details on these procedures please refer to www.visitantiguabarbuda.com."

At this time all results for persons arriving at the VC Bird International Airport have been negative. There have been no positive results to date for those entering the country.

In a statement from the tourism au-



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority, Mr. Colin James

thority, "Visitors arriving in Antigua & Barbuda on commercial flights staying at approved accommodation are evaluated for COVID -19 with a series of health screenings, temperature checks and nose swabs taken for the coronavirus test. Returning nationals receive health screenings and temperature

checks but are not routinely tested.

Returning Nationals are required to self-quarantine for up to 14 days when their home accommodation is deemed suitable. There is an option to quarantine at the Government's Quarantine facility if they are unable to safely quarantine at home."

James stressed that the total number of COVID-19 cases in Antigua & Barbuda remains at 26 with only 1 active case presently, as reported by the Ministry of Health.

On June 1, 2020, Antigua and Barbuda opened its borders to all regional and international flights, making the island among the first travel and leisure destinations in the region to have started welcoming tourists again.

Ayre: No fan of 'all-inclusive'

Not everyone is a fan of the all-inclusive resort concept that has populated the Antigua and Barbuda tourism landscape over the past two decades.

One who clearly is not is billionaire Calvin Ayre, who has voiced his displeasure at the all-inclusive model that exists within the hospitality industry in Antigua and Barbuda.

Ayre who was appointed an economic envoy by the government believes all-inclusive resorts are bad for the country.

The Canadian/Antiguan businessman is constructing a luxury resort at Valley Church, scheduled to open in 2023.

The resort will incorpo-

rate an Ayre Wellness Centre and Spa and a Bodog Casino Club, in addition to other more common resort facilities.

But it will not be all-inclusive.

"It will have everything and more but it will not be an all-inclusive as I am fundamentally against all-inclusive at all levels.

"I think they are horrible experiences and I believe they are bad for Antigua and Barbuda," the naturalized Antigua and Barbuda national declared.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show at the weekend, Ayre cited the country's overdependence on tourism, which he contends is the first to disappear



Calvin Ayre

and the last to return when disasters and health crisis present themselves.

He says such instances require the moving away from the reliance of a single sector, highlighting the importance of a diversified

economy.

When one takes an all-inclusive vacation, it means your stay, unlimited food; drinks, activities and entertainment are included in the booking price of the resort – without any surprise costs.

New Standing Orders for Senate approved

The upper house of parliament, the Senate, has approved new Standing Orders that will govern the way the business in the chamber is conducted in the future.

The new Standing Orders will replace the current set of rules that have been in place since April, 1967, when Antigua was a semi-independent state in association with Britain.

Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Senator Mary Claire Hurst, said the soon-to-be-replaced Standing Orders had become outdated and that there was a need to have them updated to take into account developments over the past fifty-three years.

The new Standing Orders recognise the fact that the proceedings of the

Senate are now broadcast LIVE and what this entails. Additionally, there are clearer definitions for such items as “personal explanation” and what a member must do in order to be allowed to make a statement under this caption.

Support for the updated Standing Orders came from members on the opposition bench, with Minority Leader, Richard Lewis, describing the new rules as ‘comprehensive’ as he congratulated the framers of the document for a job well done.

“I am especially pleased to see in No.48 (f) it allows for a little bantering (between both sides of the aisle) which is good.

“This adds to the debate but should



Senator Mary- Claire Hurst Leader of Government's Business in the Senate

not be excessive. We must not overdo! I hope we all adhere to the new rules,” he stated.

The senate spent several hours in committee stage discussing each of the new Standing Orders one by one. According to Senator Hurst several amendments were made at this point.

The updated Standing Orders now head for the desk of the Governor General for his assent before they go into immediate effect.

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

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Monday 15th June 2020

Time: 08:30AM - 11:30 AM

Affected areas: Section of Bathlodge near s-corner.

Date: Tuesday 16th June 2020

Time: 09:30AM - 10:00 AM

Affected areas: Scotts Hill, American Rd, Radio Range and section of Ottos.

Date: Thursday 18th June 2020

Time: 08:30AM - 12:00 PM

Affected areas: Small section in Hodges Bay near Le Bistro.

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.



Barbudan Hospitality workers to benefit from COVID-19 training

As the country reopens its borders to international flights, and tourism re-ignites, the sister isle of Barbuda is to benefit from a series of training in protocols against the COVID-19 pandemic in the tourism industry.

Over sixty (60) Barbudans will today join a thirteen (13) member delegation from Antigua for three (3) in-person sessions on procedures and best practices in the wake of COVID-19 in tourism-related activities.

This Barbudan specific training exercise comes on the heels of recently completed training and protocol certification in Antigua. According to officials from the Tourism Ministry, approximately thirteen hundred (1300) tourism industry persons benefited from the intense training. Among the participants were “taxi drivers, tour operators, destination management coordinator, airport dispatches, and large and small property staff.”

The delegation visiting Barbuda today comprises of representatives from



In May, some 280 taxi operators in Antigua who operate at the airport and hotels were trained ahead of the reopening of the airport.

the Ministries of Health and Tourism. The training sessions, which will have participants separated by industry categories, are expected to be a day-long series of training geared towards hotel staff (security, managers, reception and food and beverage, maintenance and housekeeping), taxi drivers, bar, restaurant, and cook-shop operators.

The training sessions will focus on providing key information about COVID-19 and how it is transmitted, what is expected of the operators to minimize their risk of infection, and

protocols they are expected to follow to protect their passengers and guests.

According to Training Coordinator Dr. Adele Blair, “The training is an hour long and interactive, with a short quiz administered at the end. Hotel properties will be issued a certificate which is to be mounted in the establishment, while Taxi drivers will be given sticker decals to be placed in their vehicles stating that they have been officially certified/trained in COVID-19 operational protocols”, Dr. Blair said.



HONORARY LIONS

At a brief ceremony at Government House, Their Excellencies, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams were inducted as Honorary Lions. Outgoing Chairman, Mr. Franklin Maynard, accompanied by a number of executive members presented Their Excellencies with a pin and a Lion's vest. His Excellency commended the President and Lion's Club as a whole for their charitable work, particularly during these difficult times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lion's Club of Antigua is one of over thirty organizations which fall under the Patronage of the Governor General and Lady Williams.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

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 **Information Technology Manager**.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Provide leadership in aligning ICT and organisational needs and help streamline business processes, improve productivity, and increase competitive advantage.
- Provides strategic and tactical leadership of ICT design, architecture, equipment, software, integration, maintenance, and processes.
- Monitor and analyse ICT performance and recommends solutions that maximize operational effectiveness and minimize costs.
- Provide Project Management services as required for IT related projects which will involve crafting project plans, managing related resources, documenting status, and ensuring accountability.

QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Master's degree in Management Information Systems, Management, Computer Science, or related field, or equivalent work experience.
- Minimum 5 years' experience managing, supporting and delivering exemplary quality ICT services in a medium or large organization.
- Knowledge of Project Management methodologies.
- The ideal candidate should also have a record of successful administrative innovation, change management and motivational leadership towards the transformation of Institutional culture.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills coupled with an ability to carry a heavy work load, perform under pressure, and contribute to the innovative transformation of job processes.
- Excellent organizational, 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.

LIAT clears the air

LIAT, the troubled regional carrier headquartered in Antigua, issued a statement overnight to 'clear the air' regarding news reports that indicated that one union representing a group of its workers was demanding payment for its members.

The LIAT statement reads: "LIAT has taken note of news articles reporting statements made by the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) in Barbados with regards to LIAT's employees and the company considers it necessary to clarify the facts.

LIAT operates across several jurisdictions and we continue to engage all our Union Partners during this COVID-19 pandemic. The National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) is not a recognised bargaining agent for any of LIAT's employees. Pilots are represented by the Leeward Island Airline Pilots Association (LIALPA) registered in Antigua and Barbuda. The company has been in discussion with LIALPA on all issues regarding the pilot body.

Prior to the COVID crisis, the NUPW approached LIAT on certain matters, affecting Barbados based pilots, which LIAT has responded to as a matter of courtesy, as the NUPW is not the recognised bargaining agent of LIAT's pilots. Contrary to news reports, the Chairman of the LIAT's Board of Directors, Professor Owen Arthur has had no discussions with the NUPW.

As borders were closed across the regional network, LIAT suspended its scheduled passenger services from 16th March in certain territories and subsequently implemented a network wide suspension on April 4th. These services remain suspended through to 30th June 2020. Consequently, most of LIAT's staff, including pilots were laid off in accordance with labour laws. All staff including pilots were paid their



full salaries for the month of March.

The current pandemic has heavily impacted the company's operations and staffing as has been the case with airlines worldwide. LIAT continues with union engagement and frequent communication to its staff on the matter. In this regard, LIAT is presently discussing the extension of the layoff period with the recognised unions in light of the continued closures, travel restrictions and slow reopening of borders across the LIAT network.

LIAT continues to engage with Governments across the region concerning their reopening plans and is working towards the restart of flight operations when the situation allows. LIAT's Management continues to work with its recognised union bodies in the interest of all its employees, in these challenging times."

The LIAT statement was responding to reports that the National Union of Public Workers' (NUPW) is calling on the Government shareholders of cash-strapped regional airline LIAT to pay its Barbados-based employees.

Acting general secretary Delcia Burke, whose union represents 30 Barbadian pilots, has expressed concern that those workers have not been paid since March after being laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Burke explained that even though the workers

are based in Barbados, because LIAT is based in Antigua the workers are employed under the conditions and laws of Antigua and Barbuda. She said Antigua did not have an unemployment benefit and the workers had last been paid in March for February.

To make matters worse, she said LIAT had decided to extend the layoffs for a further three months. However, Burke said it was now incumbent on the Government shareholders of LIAT to come to the aid of those workers.

She maintained that they should not be left "out to dry."

Burke said two members of the same household — a husband and wife — had been laid off from LIAT.

"They had to read in the newspaper, because no one contacted them, that LIAT is extending the layoffs for another three months."

She said while LIAT had kept its base in Antigua opened, a decision was taken to close the base in Barbados.

Burke said the NUPW had tried on several occasions to have a meeting with LIAT to find a solution.

She said after several failed attempts, it was now left up to the Caribbean governments to come to the rescue of the workers.

She said the pilots were also in jeopardy of losing their licences if they did not fly an aircraft soon.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEFENCE FORCE

"Always Ready to Serve"

On May 18, 2020 Second Lieutenant Jaheel Cannonier assumed the position of Training Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force.

A graduate of the Princess Margaret Secondary School and the University of the West Indies Open Campus, Second Lieutenant Cannonier, who is also #2 Platoon Commander, has been trained in Martinique, Guyana and the People's Republic of China.

During his five year career in the ABDF, Cannonier has also completed or participated in other training exercises and operations, to include the Joint task force training and operations, Basic First Aid (Red Cross), Mass Casualty Emergencies (NODS) and of Regional Security System Peace Keeping Operation - Dominica.

Second Lieutenant Jaheel Cannonier believes strongly in the ABDF Core Values. "Through hard work, determination, perseverance and consistency anything is attainable."

2 Lieutenant Jaheel Cannonier
#armyproud

2 Lieutenant
Jaheel Cannonier
#2 Platoon Commander
Training Officer

Barbados Workers Union threatens 'workers' shutdown'



Deputy General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) Dwaine Paul

While Barbados moves closer to fully re-opening the country after a crippling COVID-19 public health shutdown, another threat of a different kind looms.

Deputy General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) Dwaine Paul has put the country on notice that industrial action is on the cards against construction company Preconco and other unnamed firms he is accusing of unilaterally cutting employees' wages.

Paul told Barbados TODAY the BWU and the workers have had enough of the "uncaring" treatment being meted out to members across the island.

"We have reached a point... this is a case for industrial action. I can't say what day it is, but definitely it is on the cards

for industrial action," the deputy union leader warned.

Paul charged that Preconco went ahead and cut the workers' wages in the middle of discussions on the issue.

"We said that we were discussing the process and while we were discussing, the management had already gone ahead and cut the workers' money. The company is of the view that they told us that they sent out a letter saying they were going to cut it, and they cut it...with or without agreement," the BWU senior official stated.

Paul said industrial action had not been taken up to this point because the union wanted to ensure it gave ample vent in public to the treatment meted out to workers, while at

the same time providing employers with opportunities to resolve the dispute.

"After six weeks of trying to get this matter resolved when we have been able as a country to implement other policies and change so much other legislation, why is it that labour must not now go on industrial action?" the BWU spokesman asked. "When we do take industrial action nobody will be able to say that the workers did not try. But we have a system that continues to fail labour. Why is it that every time something goes wrong in this country that in law, that it is a worker's right that you have to go and picket? Why do you have to go on strike and withdraw labour and demonstrate because their salaries were cut

when they didn't give permission," Paul added.

"In this case, I am strongly believing in my recommendations to council that it can't only be Preconco. We would have to look at an action that would see labour in general having to support these guys," the BWU Deputy General Secretary told Barbados TODAY.

"You had a COVID shutdown, so you may have to have a workers' shutdown," he warned. He said owners of construction companies in Barbados were treating their employees unfairly on the back of wages' cuts.

He suggested that Preconco and its affiliate companies are likely to bid for the hundreds of houses which Government recently advertised seeking bids.

Jamaica: Cops Left In The Dark As Councillor Brokers Gang Truce

Rosalie Hamilton, councillor for the Rae Town division in Kingston Central, has pushed back at concerns that the local police were not invited to a recent meeting she hosted to broker a truce between warring factions in the area.

Speaking with *The Gleaner* on Sunday, Hamilton said there had been ongoing clashes among gangsters in Spoilers, Tel Aviv, and Franklyn Town, but since last week's meeting, there has been limited gun violence.

States of emergency were imposed in both Kingston Central and Kingston Western on Sunday in response to flare-ups of deadly shootings in both areas.

"When mi sit and see how dem a kill dem one another, I said I going to intervene," Hamilton said.

"I started networking to find out what was happening, and we set up a meeting. We couldn't invite the police because of the type of guys that were there. If we invited the police, dem woulda lock up some a dem, and the trust with us and dem woulda gone."

Hamilton said that the gangsters agreed that enough blood had been shed and that it was time for peace to reign in the area.

"Before the meeting, we did the groundwork in meeting with them and telling them that them born and grow together and 'a stupidity unnu



Rosalie Hamilton, councillor for the Rae Town division in Kingston Central, talks on Sunday about a truce brokered between rival gangsters. She was at her Gold Street office in downtown Kingston.

a gwaan wid', and di man dem decide seh dem nah mek nuh more things happen," the councillor said.

"Dem seh dem a go accept them losses, nuh care how fresh or stale it is, and just move on," the councillor said.

Hamilton insisted that she could not invite cops to such a meeting and did not mean to slight the police.

"I did not disrespect the police. I could not invite them to the meeting because trust

would be lost. How could I say to them that I am carrying them somewhere and then we turn up with police pon dem? We couldn't do it. The police made the public lose trust in them, so we cannot make them lose trust in us."

Hamilton said that after the meeting, the men, in a show of unity, marched through the streets of the various communities, surprising many residents. During the walk, residents who knew some of the men scam-

pered into their yards out of fear but later realised that peace was imminent, Hamilton said.

"Dem left di meeting and start walk pon one another corner, and di residents start run. When dem see di man dem a hug up, dem wah know wah happen."

Attempts by *The Gleaner* to get a comment from the Kingston Central police on the matter were unsuccessful.

Trinidad: Two soldiers, two cops get \$400K bail for instructing man to drink rum

Two policemen and two soldiers were each granted \$100,000 bail on Friday, after being charged with common assault and misbehavior in public office. Police Officers Anthony Alert and Kadeem Cadiz, along with soldiers Kevin Rawlins and Dane Williams appeared before Justice of the Peace (JP) Stephen Young this week. They were charged after investigations were conducted into the incident that occurred on March 29, 2020.

The men, who were in uniform and on patrol in a marked police vehicle on the night in question, allegedly approached Dennis Moses and handed him a bottle of alcohol. They are also accused of instructing him to drink it, do push-ups and run alongside the vehicle. One of the men is also alleged to have pointed a firearm and threatened to shoot Moses. Investigations were conducted into the incident and they were all arrested and formally charged on Friday as advised by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The matter was adjourned to September 16, 2020. In an interview with the Trinidad and Tobago Newsday on March 31, Moses told journalist Jensen La Vende that he was down on his luck after losing his job as a security guard.

He also detailed the adverse effects he experienced after consuming more than one small bottle of puncheon rum.



USA: Virginia governor to propose Juneteenth as state holiday

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced Tuesday that he's making Juneteenth — a day that commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S. — an official holiday in a state that was once home to the capital of the Confederacy.

Juneteenth, which is also called Emancipation Day and Freedom Day, is celebrated annually on June 19. Texas first made it a state holiday in 1980. The holiday would be a paid day off for all state employees. Northam said he thinks Virginia would be only the second state to do so.

"It's time we elevate this," Northam said of the June 19 commemoration. "Not just a celebration by and for some Virginians but one acknowledged and celebrated by all of us."

The Democratic governor is giving every executive branch employee this Friday off as a paid holiday and will work with the legislature later this year to pass a law codifying Juneteenth as a permanent state holiday. The legislation is likely to pass the Democratic-controlled legislature with little trouble.

The holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, when news finally reached African Americans in Texas that President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves living in Confederate states two years earlier. When Union soldiers arrived in Galveston to bring the news that slavery had been abolished, former slaves celebrated. The an-

nouncement came less than two weeks after Northam announced he was ordering the removal of a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee along Richmond's prominent Monument Avenue. It is one of the country's most iconic monuments to the Confederacy. Earlier this year, Northam signed legislation scrapping Lee-Jackson Day, a state holiday named after two Confederate generals.

Nearly forced from office last year after a racist yearbook photo surfaced, Northam has won widespread praise among black lawmakers for his actions in Virginia following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a Minneapolis officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck as he pleaded for air.

President Donald Trump announced last week that he has rescheduled a campaign rally that was planned in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Juneteenth. The announcement of the rally had sparked an outcry because Tulsa was the site of one of the worst instances of racial violence in U.S. history in 1921, when hundreds of African Americans were massacred by a white mob that burned black-owned businesses and homes.

Northam was joined Tuesday at his news conference by musician Pharrell Williams, who is from Virginia. Williams said Juneteenth deserves the same level of recognition and celebration as Independence Day.

"Here's our day, and if you love us, it'll be your day too,"



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam speaks during a news conference in Richmond, Va. Northam announced Tuesday, June 16, 2020 that he's making Juneteenth — a day that commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S. — an official holiday in a state that was once home to the capital of the Confederacy.

Williams said. In a statement, state House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert echoed the same sentiments.

"July 4th is the birthday of our nation, but Juneteenth is the day where it truly began to fulfill its promise of freedom for all," Gilbert said. "For the first time since enslaved Africans landed at Jamestown in 1619, the chains

of bondage were finally cast off."

Joseph Rogers, a 29-year-old activist who has been a regular protester in Richmond during more than two weeks of demonstrations over Floyd's killing, hailed Northam's announcement.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Rogers.

Beijing imposes soft lockdown citywide and tightens outbound travel as coronavirus infections spread

Authorities in Beijing have imposed a soft lockdown on the entire city, after the Chinese capital reported more than 100 new locally transmitted coronavirus cases in the past five days.

The city raised its alert level from Level 3 to Level 2 -- the highest alert being Level 1 -- the Beijing government's Deputy Secretary Chen Bei announced in a press conference Tuesday night.

The move comes as the city's latest coronavirus outbreak continued to spread Tuesday, with at least 106 new infections since Thursday following an outbreak at Xinfadi, the city's largest wholesale food market.

Officials had earlier locked down more residential compounds, ordered more than 30,000 restaurants to be disinfected and tightened outbound travel.

All residents living communities deemed medium or high risk, as well as people connected to the Xinfadi market, are banned from leaving the city.

The sprawling, bustling market in Beijing's southwestern Fengtai district occupies 277 acres and has more than 2,000 stalls, selling mainly fruit and vegetables as well as meat and seafood. It supplies about 70% of the city's vegetables and 10% of its pork, according to officials.

The market has been shut down since Saturday, but its sheer size and the amount of

people who work or visit there from in and outside of Beijing have heightened the risk of the outbreak spreading.

For the rest of the city's more than 20 million residents, non-essential travel out of town is strongly discouraged, according to the government announcement. Those who must travel need to present a negative result from tests conducted within seven days of departure.

The city is reintroducing strict access rules in and out of all local residential communities, and shutting down all schools and recreational venues. Sporting events will also be canceled.

Via door-to-door visits and calls, authorities have tracked down nearly 200,000 people who had been to the market during the two weeks prior to its closure. They have been told to stay at home for medical observation and are being tested for the coronavirus, a city official told a news conference on Monday.

Two other Beijing food markets have been shut down due to confirmed cases linked to Xinfadi, leading to strict residential lockdowns in their vicinity.

On Tuesday, Xicheng district -- which neighbors Fengtai -- announced that seven residential communities around the Tiantao Honglian market will be locked down following the discovery of a coronavirus

case on Sunday. This follows similar lockdowns on residential compounds near Xinfadi and the Yuquandong market in Haidian district. In total, 29 residential communities have been locked down across the city. The residential lockdown measures are similar to the ones imposed earlier in the city of Wuhan, the original epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak.

Wang Du, who lives in one of the communities under lockdown near Yuquandong market, said residents couldn't leave the compound to buy groceries, and had to order food online or buy from a truck that came to the compound once a day with potatoes, fresh vegetables and eggs.

She said all residents in her community had nucleic acid tests for the coronavirus yesterday.

day. "To be honest, I'm not too worried," she said. "I think we have a lot of experience in containment measures, and we're able to react very swiftly (to the new outbreak)."

As of Tuesday morning, 276 agricultural produce markets and 33,173 restaurants across the city had also been disinfected, officials said.

The outbreak has also spread beyond Beijing, with the nearby provinces of Liaoning and Hubei reporting a total of eight coronavirus cases linked to the capital clusters.

On Tuesday, Sichuan province in the country's southwest also reported a confirmed case -- a woman who returned from Beijing on June 9. She was infected while visiting her husband, who worked at Xinfadi market.



India-China clash: 20 Indian troops killed in Ladakh fighting

At least 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash with Chinese forces in a disputed Himalayan border area, Indian officials say.

The incident follows rising tensions, and is the first deadly clash in the border area in at least 45 years.

The Indian army initially said three of its soldiers had been killed, adding that both sides suffered casualties.

But later on Tuesday, officials said a number of critically injured soldiers had died of their wounds.

India's external affairs ministry accused China of breaking an agreement struck the previous week to respect the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Galwan Valley.

BBC diplomatic correspondent James Robbins says violence between two armies high up in the Himalayas is very serious, and pressure will grow on the two nuclear powers not to allow a slide into full-scale conflict.

What have both sides said about the incident?

Early on Tuesday the Indian army said three of its soldiers, including an officer, had died in a clash in Ladakh, in the disputed Kashmir region.

Later in the day, it released a statement saying the two sides had disengaged.

It added that "17 Indian troops who were critically injured in the line of duty" and died from their injuries, taking the "total that were killed in action to 20".

China did not confirm any

casualties, but accused India in turn of crossing the border onto the Chinese side.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said India had crossed the border twice on Monday, "provoking and attacking Chinese personnel, resulting in serious physical confrontation between border forces on the two sides", AFP news agency reported.

Both sides insist no bullet has been fired in four decades, and the Indian army said on Tuesday that "no shots were fired" in this latest skirmish.

How a clash that did not involve an exchange of fire could prove so lethal is unclear. There are reports that it was fought with rocks and clubs.

Local media outlets reported that the Indian soldiers had been "beaten to death".

The LAC is poorly demarcated. The presence of rivers, lakes and snowcaps means the line can shift. The soldiers either side - representing two of the world's largest armies - come face to face at many points.

But there have been tense confrontations along the border in recent weeks.

India has accused China of sending thousands of troops into Ladakh's Galwan valley and says China occupies 38,000sq km (14,700sq miles) of its territory. Several rounds of talks in the last three decades have failed to resolve the boundary disputes.

The two countries have fought only one war so far, in 1962, when India suffered a



India and China have been locked in a border dispute for decades

humiliating defeat.

In May, dozens of Indian and Chinese soldiers exchanged physical blows on the border in the north-eastern state of Sikkim. And in 2017, the two countries clashed in the region after China tried to extend a border road through a disputed plateau.

There are several reasons why tensions are rising now - but competing strategic goals lie at the root, and both sides blame each other.

India has built a new road in what experts say is the most remote and vulnerable area along the LAC in Ladakh. And India's decision to ramp up infrastructure seems to have infuriated Beijing.

The road could boost Delhi's capability to move men and materiel rapidly in case of a conflict.

India also disputes part of Kashmir - an ethnically diverse Himalayan region covering about 140,000sq km - with Pakistan.

The two nuclear armed neighbours have a chequered history of face-offs and overlapping territorial claims along the more than 3,440km (2,100 mile), poorly drawn Line of Actual Control separating the two sides.

Border patrols have often bumped into each other, resulting in occasional scuffles. But no bullets have been fired in four decades.

That is why Sunday's night's clash following months of roiling tension has taken many by surprise.

Whatever the result, the latest incident is likely to trigger a fresh wave of anti-China sentiments in India.

It will also present daunting foreign policy and security challenges to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government, which is struggling to contain a surge of Covid-19 infections and revive an economy which looks headed for recession.

Police officers across the US have quit their jobs in recent days. Here is where there have been resignations



Since George Floyd's death three weeks ago, the role of America's criminal justice system has been catapulted to the forefront of national conversation with thousands calling for sweeping changes within the country's policing system.

Protesters have called on their community leaders to hold officers accountable and defund police departments -- in hopes those funds could be redirected toward other programs.

And many local leaders have responded, signing orders changing how depart-

ments operate, promising further reform and acting quickly on incidents of police brutality that have surfaced in recent weeks.

But as anger bubbles in parts of the country, some US police departments are facing their own crises and some officers have now opted to walk away.

In Minneapolis, at least seven police officers resigned from the department since protests sparked by Floyd's death in late May flooded the city's streets. More than half a dozen officers are also in the process of leaving, a city spokesperson told CNN.

he number of officers who are no longer with the department doesn't include the four men who were involved in Floyd's death and were fired, according to Casper Hill, the city's spokesperson,

"There's nothing that leads us to believe that at this point the numbers are so great that it's going to be problematic," police spokesman John Elder told the Minneapolis Star Tribune of the departing officers, which include both patrol officers and detectives.

"People seek to leave employment for a myriad reasons -- the MPD is no exception," Elder said.

Members of the department condemned the actions of ex-Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin -- who pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes -- in an open letter last week.

"Derek Chauvin failed as a human and stripped George Floyd of his dignity and life. This is not who we are," said the letter, signed by 14 officers. "We're not the union or the administration," the letter says.

In Atlanta

Atlanta became the epicenter of protests this week after a black man was shot in the back and killed Friday night.

Following Rayshard Brooks' killing, Atlanta's police chief stepped down and the officer who killed the 27-year-old father was fired. A second officer was placed on administrative duty. Atlanta police said in a statement eight officers have resigned from the department this month. "Our personnel data indicates that we have had anywhere from two to six officers resign per month in 2020," Atlanta police said in a statement.

The Atlanta Police Foundation earlier reported that 19 officers had resigned "since the start of social justice protests." The foundation has since retracted that incorrect

number. Prior to Brooks' killing, some were critical of charges that six officers faced after video captured the group violently handling a pair of black college students who were in their car and were stuck in traffic caused by ongoing protests. Those critics included Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields, who had already fired two officers involved, and said she didn't expect charges.

Criminal charges "were never part of any discussion that I had with the Mayor or her administration," Shields wrote in the memo provided to CNN by the department. "I called the DA and strongly

expressed my concern, both to the appropriateness and the timing of any charges,"

In South Florida

In South Florida, 10 officers resigned from their city's SWAT unit over concerns about safety, saying they feel "restrained by the politicization of our tactics," according to documents obtained by CNN.

In Buffalo

In Buffalo, New York, nearly 60 officers resigned from the force's emergency response team over the suspension of two police officers who were caught in a video pushing an elderly protester to the ground. "Fifty-seven

resigned in disgust because of the treatment of two of their members, who were simply executing orders," Buffalo Police Benevolent Association president John Evans had previously told CNN affiliate WGRZ. The two officers captured on video were charged with assault and pleaded not guilty. The 75-year-old protester was seen falling to the ground and bleeding from his head.

The 57 officers that turned in their resignation did not quit from the force -- but made up the entire active emergency response team of the department, the Buffalo mayor's office told CNN.

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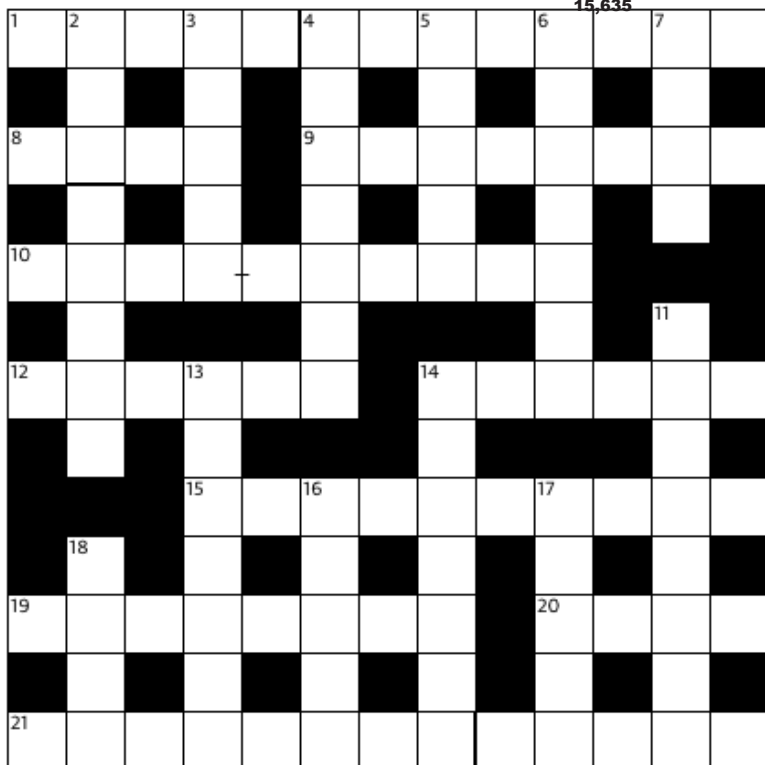
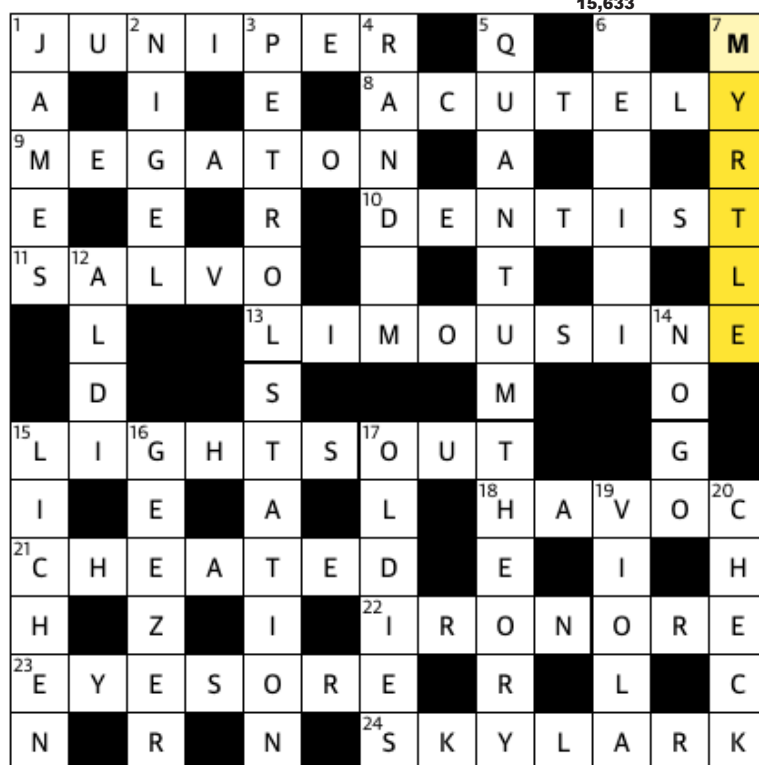
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QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No
15,635Quick crossword No
15,633

Across

- 1 Parliamentary activity not marked by strong principles? (5,8)
 8 Shoe ___ or family ___ (4)
 9 Muddled (8)
 10 Marked by strong principles (4-6)
 12 Temporary fault (6)
 14 Blurred (6)
 15 Liquid added to car radiator (10)
 19 Non-sexual (8)
 20 Step up the ladder (4)
 21 Mitt worn by fielders (8,5)

Down

- 2 Pellet firer (3,5)
 3 Choppers (5)
 4 Mischievous (7)
 5 Marked with wrinkles (5)
 6 Move along heavily (7)
 7 Cook (4)
 11 Soviet Union president, d. 1982 (8)
 13 Hot sandwich (7)
 14 Allowing for distant and near vision (7)
 16 Polynesian monarchy, member of the Commonwealth (5)
 17 Become a member (5)
 18 Kind of seaweed (4)

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You might see only the choice between the frying pan and the fire. Although there are other options, you may not see them as yet. Try to let things simmer down before you make an impulsive decision you could regret.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Risky activities or rapid decisions might trip you up. You may want to challenge the status quo but will make more progress working gradually and concentrating on finding solutions that work for everyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): With Venus in your sign, you may yearn for lighthearted fun and hope to fit seamlessly into a group or social activity. Test the waters by participating in an online video session or a conference call before you commit yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This may be one of those days when you might feel awkward and prefer to blend into the background. Don't gamble with your money, feelings or future unless you feel highly confident about the outcome.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Some days it's hard to make the right choice. You may end up doubting that you've made the correct decision. Instead of overthinking it now, give things time to develop before you work out your next move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may detect the subtle link between you and a loved one. Perhaps you think about someone special and just then the phone rings or a text message appears. Avoid buying unnecessary items on a sudden whim.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Don't be surprised to learn that someone thinks you are glamorous and accomplished. One admirer might want to strike up a new relationship, but it's best to spend time paying attention to your existing ties.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let things settle and do not meddle. Someone in the immediate environment could be disruptive or difficult to deal with. It may not be in your best interests to jump in to defend someone if a small disagreement erupts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are usually wise about your finances, so be careful if someone tempts you with a get-rich scheme. Sudden changes at work or at home may either give you an enjoyable break from routines or stress you out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can't please all the people all the time -- someone might be envious or just having a bad day. When dreaming of the future, remember that the possibilities are endless, but potential pitfalls must be considered too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): First impressions count. Use your good manners, as that new person you talk to might be sensitive or easily upset. Beware of something you see as a surprise that could cause turmoil for someone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You may receive unconditional love, but you shouldn't expect to receive unlimited gifts. Your great capacity for affection is best expressed through sincere acts of kindness rather than impulsive purchases.

Top Brazilian clubs defy order to resume playing as epidemic rages

Two of Brazil's top soccer clubs, Botafogo and Fluminense, said they would defy an order from their federation to resume playing competitively this week, as the country's daily coronavirus death toll

hovers around 1000.

The Rio de Janeiro state football federation proposed that the state championship, one of several state-wide tournaments that take place in Brazil before the national

leagues begin in the second half of the year, restart on June 18, pending state government approval.

Botafogo president Nelson Mufarrej called the ruling "disconnected from reali-

ty", and both clubs said they planned legal action on health and safety grounds to avoid having to resume playing so soon.

"Unfortunately, the majority of clubs understand that this is the time to play games again, in spite of the chaotic scenes we're living through right now," Mufarrej said in a statement. "We're against it."

Brazil's documented deaths from the pandemic stand at just below 44 000, more than any country in the world except the United States, and that toll has been rising by around 1000 per day for the past week.

City rival Fluminense's chairman Mario Bittencourt said his players, inactive since action was halted in mid-March, were also not ready to play competitively again.

"The pandemic persists," Bittencourt said. "The dates set for our games (22nd and 24th) are unacceptable from the point of view of the health of our players and we won't be taking the field, and we will look to take action in the sporting court to do what is right."

Botafogo and Fluminense have been asked to play in the first round of rescheduled games. All four of the state's top teams, which also include Flamengo and Vasco da Gama, are down to play a game between June 18 and 22.

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Uncertainties still with basketball tournament

In Barbados, the fourth edition of the Under-23 basketball championship hosted by Next Generation Athletics and Basketball Academy will tip-off later than usual this year, says founder Zahir Motara.

In a telephone interview, Motara explained that the tournament that is normally held in January had been pushed back to November because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and also the uncertainty where venues were concerned.

And even November is not a guarantee for the three-week competition. He said they were looking to see whether the Barbados Amateur Basketball Association (BABA) season would resume

for the remainder of 2020 in order to avoid a clash.

In addition to the accessibility of venues and the BABA season, Motara also explained: "Also because of the COVID and sponsors obviously this might not be a good time. So, we are still waiting to see because the way the tournament is run if we don't have sponsors we can't really get it to the quality that we want it. And we don't want to put on a tournament for putting it on sake."

"The way we do the under-23 tournament with all the promoting and the entertainment and stuff we want to keep a certain quality. So, our major factors right now are venues, time of the year and sponsorship."

With how the entire COVID-19 situation played out locally, Motara said he was thinking about writing off this year's tournament which attracts large crowds annually.

After Prime Minister Mia Mottley made her announcement last week that local sport could resume, Motara revealed that he received a number of messages from players asking when the tournament would be played.

"So many of the boys just started to message me asking when the tournament will be and they are so excited, they just want to play so badly. I told them I will see what I can do but I haven't put a timeline on it but I will have to do that shortly."

cont'd from pg 24

for the past few years. Injury had sidelined him for months, but after undergoing ankle surgery he was declared fit enough to be listed among 11 reserve players on the tour.

The West Indies squad, which arrived in England on June 9, is scheduled to stage two internal practice matches later this month before heading down to Southampton for the opening Test, set to start July 8.

The four-week period gives Gabriel, who has captured 133 wickets in 45 Tests, the opportunity to prove his fitness.

"Shannon, as we know, has come back from injury. Being a senior member of the squad in the past two or three years we definitely

have to look at him coming into the 14, if he is up to that fitness level coming into the first Test," Simmons, who played 26 Tests for West Indies between 1988 and 1997, told reporters.

During Sunday's press conference, veteran seamer Kemar Roach sang the praises of Chemar Holder and Gabriel, as well as the rest of the cadre of pace bowlers.

"To have Shannon back in the squad is fantastic. Hopefully he can prove his fitness and obviously work his way back into the Test side [comprising] I think me, Jason, Shannon, Alzarri, and we have some other guys coming through as well who have been doing very well in the domestic regional tournament back home," he

said.

Roach, only seven away from joining the 200 Test wickets club, has bowled many spells in regional cricket, with his young compatriot Chemar Holder

steaming in from the other end. Both, along with Keon Harding — who is a member of the reserves — were integral to Barbados Pride topping the four-day tournament.



Holder, Gabriel a force to be reckoned with

West Indies Head Coach Phil Simmons has identified fast bowlers Chemar Holder and Shannon Gabriel as key components in their plan to win a Test series on English soil for the first time since 1988.

The 22-year-old Barbadian Holder, arguably the most exciting in a pool of emerging Caribbean pacers, is a member of the 14-man front line squad in England. He is expected to debut in the first Test next month after outstanding displays in regional circles since last year.

"He [Holder] is in the squad, so there's obviously a strong likelihood that he will play. I think his ability to hit the right lengths [is an asset]. He's got good pace, as in high 80's [miles per hour], and his...stamina, ability to bowl long spells," Simmons said during a virtual press conference on Saturday from the team's current base at Old Trafford in Manchester.

"I think those give him a lot of pluses in being a fast



bowler and somebody who can spend a long time in the West Indies cricket team. I think he has a lot of attributes that will make him one of the greats in West Indies cricket in the future," added Simmons in reference to Holder, who is no relation to captain and all-rounder Jason Holder.

West Indies are holders of the Wisden Trophy after

stunning the Englishmen 2-1 in the Caribbean last year. Hostile pace bowling was their main weapon, with Kemar Roach, Jason Holder, Gabriel and young speedster Alzarri Joseph unnerving England's batsmen.

England, rated fourth in the world Test rankings, again start favourites against the eighth-ranked West Indies.

Chemar Holder, a major factor in West Indies winning the Under-19 World Cup in 2016, has been in

outstanding form in first class cricket, dating back to last summer's unofficial Test series against India A in the Caribbean.

He picked up 15 wickets in three matches against the high-powered batting of the visiting team.

The long-limbed pacer, delivering with accuracy and menace, was almost unplayable during the domestic four-day competition, tallying 36 wickets at 18.91 apiece for Barbados Pride.

Trinidadian Gabriel, 32, has been one of the team's top bowlers in Test cricket

cont'd on pg 23

DEWS