



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEX PRESS

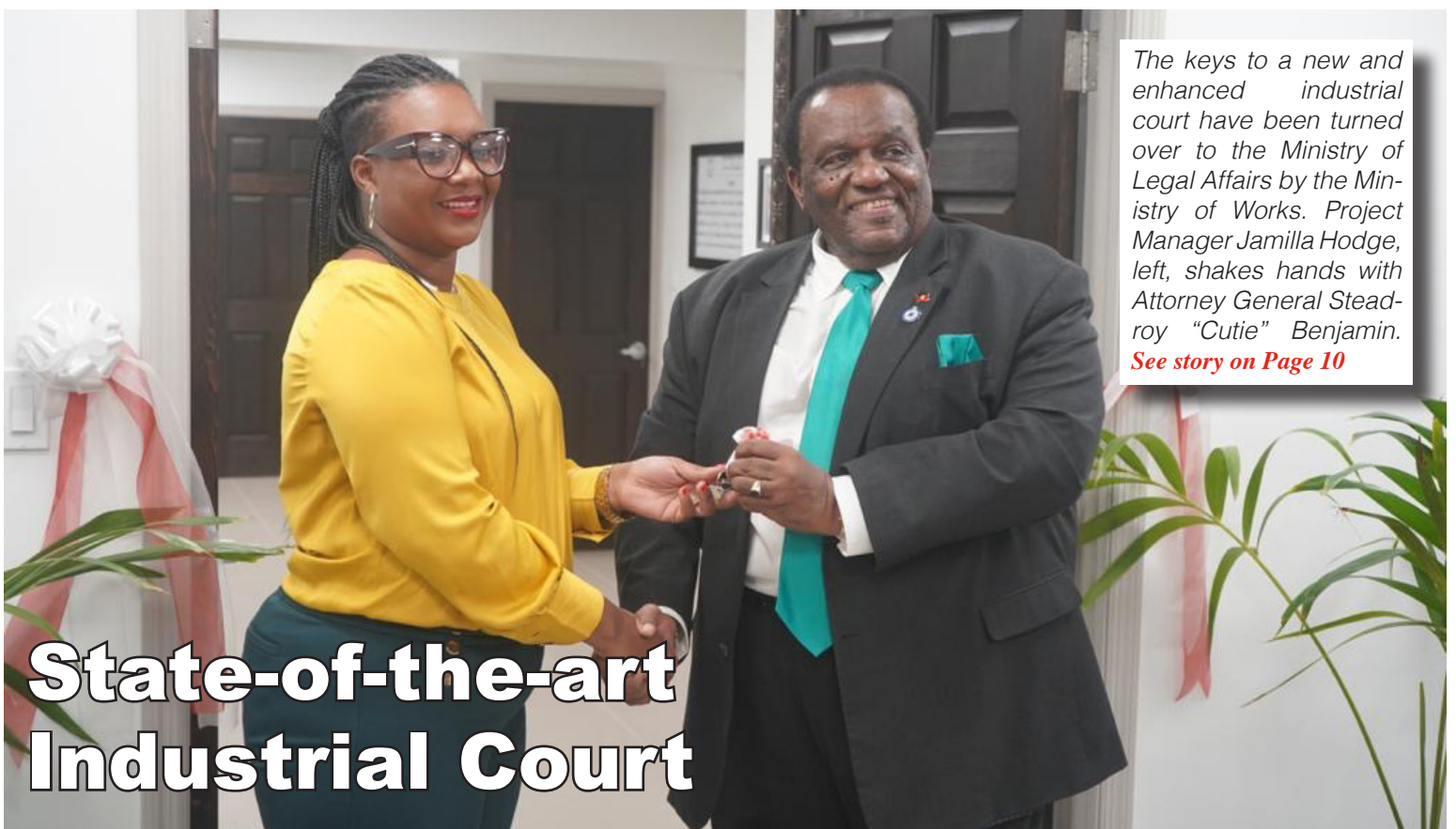
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2020 | ISSUE 93 | www.pointville.com

PRICE \$3

OECS BLASTS PROPOSED US LAW

Story on Page 2



The keys to a new and enhanced industrial court have been turned over to the Ministry of Legal Affairs by the Ministry of Works. Project Manager Jamilla Hodge, left, shakes hands with Attorney General Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin. See story on Page 10

State-of-the-art
Industrial Court

**Cuban students get
free flights - Page 5**

OECS heads blast proposed US law against Cuba

Leaders of OECS member states have denounced a new bill that has been introduced in the United States Senate that seeks to target countries that engage Cuban medical teams to help buttress their health systems.

The heads met in a virtual session on Thursday for the 69th meeting of the OECS Authority, the body's highest decision-making institution. A statement said the heads discussed reports of new draft legislation introduced in the US Senate by Florida Republican Rick Scott on Wednesday, 17th

June.

"The legislation targets countries that contract Cuban doctors through the Cuban Government's medical brigades deployed in over 60 countries around the world. The bill requires the US State Department to publish the list of countries that contract Cuban doctors; and to consider that as a factor in their ranking in the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report," the release indicated.

It said the meeting regarded this as a 'dangerous development' that, if successful in removing Cuban

medical teams from OECS countries, could severely undermine the delivery of health-care in member states. "Heads agreed on a course of action to confront this challenge to their social safety net," according to the release.

In related developments, the Heads of Government also examined a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba relating to apparent attempts by certain elements within the US Government to place Cuba (again) on a US State Department list of countries deemed to be non-coopera-



Florida Republican Rick Scott is active in the fight against international terrorism, which would trigger unilateral coercive measures by the US.

Cuba, the release noted, had been removed from the list in 2015 as part of a diplomatic normalization process between the US and Cuba that took place during the Obama administration.

For more on this see Page 14.

DAY 6/19

Max UV Index: 10 Very High
 Wind: E at 22 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 65%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 3.9 mm
 Rain: 3.9 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 2
 Hours of Rain: 2

32° Hi



Variable cloudiness with spotty showers

NIGHT 6/19

Wind: E at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 60%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 29%
 Precipitation: 2.1 mm
 Rain: 2.1 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1.5
 Hours of Rain: 1.5

25° Lo



Partly cloudy with spotty showers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:34 AM

Sunset AST
6:43 PM



Duration
13:09 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
4:08 AM

Moonset AST
5:25 PM



Duration
13:17 hr

Barbuda Council pleased with COVID-19 protocol training

Chairman of the Tourism and Culture committee in Barbuda, Jaqueline Frank, said she is very pleased with the attendance and the training exercise as tourism-dependent businesses on the island prepare to open to help revive the economy.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Tourism this was the response from the recently concluded Barbuda hosted training in protocols against COVID-19 for the hospitality sector.

A 13 member team from the Ministries of Tourism and Health, along with the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association visited Barbuda this week to facilitate training and protocol certification for industry personnel on the sister isle.

A number of participants from various industry sectors such as hotel staff, land and water taxi operators, bars, restaurants, and cook-shop operators attended the one-day event.

Health and Safety Consultant, Andrea Marshall, tasked with conducting the training, said discussions were focused on food safety, hand hygiene, social distancing, mandatory mask-wearing and other measures that service providers should implement



to minimize occupational health risks and to keep their customers and guests safe.

The training is expected to encourage the industry workers to put safety measures into practice when Barbuda is ready to accept tourists again.

“Our focus is safety and we want service providers to follow these protocols so that they are prepared should COVID-19 present itself here,” Marshall said.

The tourism ministry stated that Training in Protocols Against COVID-19 certificates were issued to

hotels and guest houses, bars, restaurants, and cook-shop operators, while land and sea taxi operators were given decals to be placed on their vehicles and vessels.

Following the Barbuda exercise, Training Coordinator, Dr. Adelle Blair, said the training will continue in Antigua with another round of training for taxi drivers and hotel staff, destination marketing companies, tour operators, Jet-ski, horseback, donkey and segway operators, as well as vendors operating on the beaches, Nelson’s Dockyard and the Heritage Quay Vendors Mall.

Saharan dust returns

Meteorologists say a fresh surge of Saharan Dust is moving across the Atlantic and it is expected to reduce air quality and visibility, while inhibiting rainfall in Antigua and Barbuda and neighbouring islands.

In Antigua and Barbuda, climatologist Dale Destin is predicting the air quality

index is expected to fall to moderate levels into the middle of next week, as a result of particulate matters associated with the fresh surge of Saharan Dust.

The climatologist is cautioning at-risk individuals to be mindful of the presence of the dust and to take precautionary measures to pro-

tect themselves.

“This (Saharan Dust) has implications for persons with respiratory problems, heart problems, the elderly and the young. These persons who are part of these particular groups, should avoid any prolonged exertion and should be taking the necessary mitigating

actions as well as consulting with their physician,” he advised.

The air quality index is predicted to be between 50 and 70, while the alert level is at two.

Researchers claim despite the discomfort, Saharan Dust suppresses hurricane activity in the Atlantic.

No charges have yet been filed against the two men who are assisting the police with their investigation into the discovered of a shipment of drugs that was intercepted at the Deep Water Harbour on Wednesday.

Police spokesman, Inspector Frankie Thomas said the suspects are still in police custody while they continue the investigation into the matter.

Thomas reported that over half a million dollars' worth of Cannabis was seized

No charges...so far

during an Anti-Narcotics operation at the country's main seaport...

The Police Narcotics and K-9 Departments, along with Customs seized a total of 40 ¼ pounds of Cannabis with a street value of \$536,500.

The illegal substance was discovered hidden inside a shipment of household appliances coming out of Canada.



September Assizes for UPP-3

The three former United Progressive Party government ministers – Dr. Jacqui Quinn, Harold Lovell and Wilmoth Daniel - are to stand trial in the High Court during the September Assizes.

The three high-profile members of the then administration are facing embezzlement, fraud and other charges. They returned to the St. John's Magistrate's Court on Thursday when their cases were committed to the higher court.

Last week Thursday, Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh ruled a prima

facie case was made out against the three former ministers of government, who served in the Baldwin Spencer administration in the case involving three buses.

In 2016, the trio was charged with corruption, embezzlement, larceny and fraud for allegedly converting gifts from the Korean Government. Three Daewoo buses that were donated to the government were allegedly converted for personal use by the three former ministers, with the vehicles being registered in their names.

The case was dismissed in 2017 af-

ter 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.

In her ruling last week, the chief magistrate dismissed a no case submission filed by the attorneys representing the three former ministers and ruled there was enough evidence for the matter to be tried in the High Court.

Stranded nationals head home

Antigua and Barbuda passport holders who have been stranded in the Dominican Republic since the closure of the borders in both countries are expected to arrive at VC Bird International today.

However, even before their flight leaves the Dominican Republic, the approximately 50 passengers have been advised that they must undergo mandatory quarantine upon their arrival.

There have been several attempts to have the nationals return from the Spanish-speaking country but the arrangements have hit a snag in the past. This time, the specially-arranged flight seems likely to take off.

Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, said the consideration given to arriving passengers for the last two weeks to quarantine at home in some instances, will not be extended to the passengers from Santo Domingo.

He explained that the DR is a 'hot bed' for the coronavirus with an infection rate 24,645 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 635 confirmed deaths.

He said as far as he is aware, there are no students among the passengers as they are people who got stuck there when the pandemic outbreak forced countries to close

their borders.

Meantime, 50 students studying in Cuba will be flown to Antigua on 23rd June on a flight made possible through diplomatic arrangements between the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela.

Nicholas explained that unlike students returning from Jamaica earlier, those traveling from Cuba will not have to bear the cost of travel as the aircraft chartered specifically for the flight will be paid for through the facilities of the Venezuelan government.

Those who will arrive have completed their examinations and represent only a fraction of Antiguan and Barbudan students in

universities in Cuba.

Those remaining are yet

to complete their examinations.

NOTICE

TO: HER WORSHIP
The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate's Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

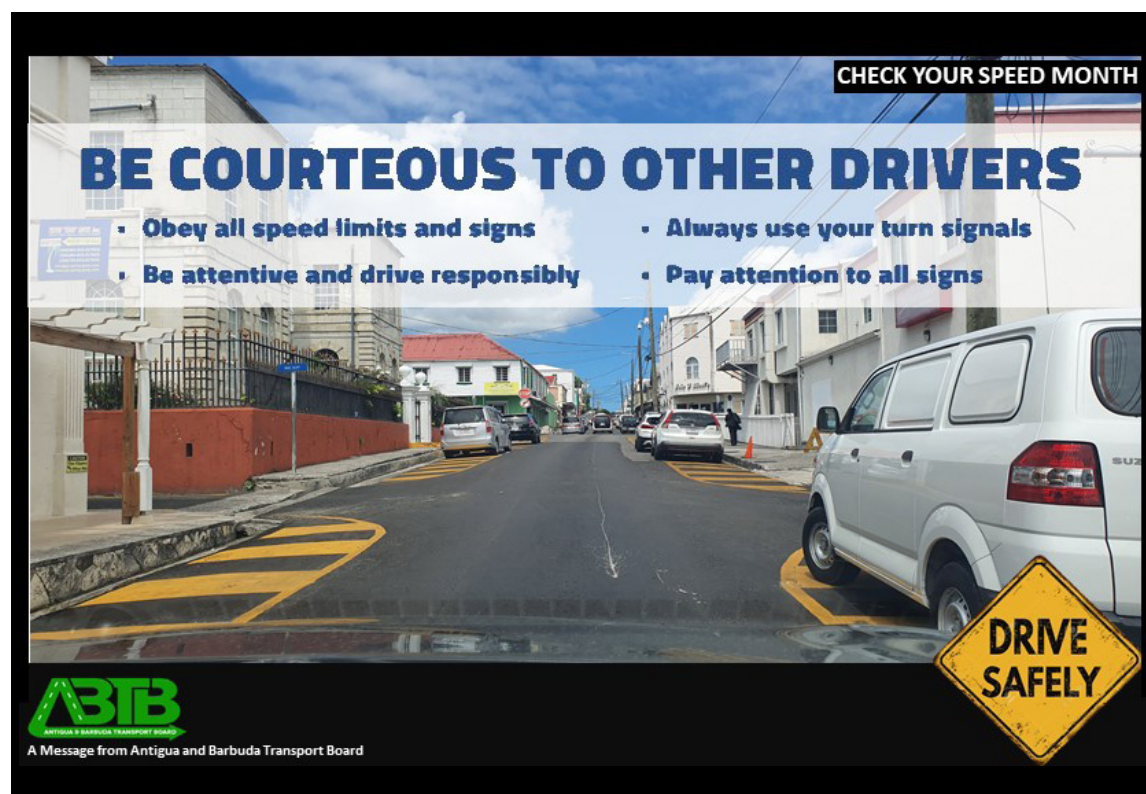
TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS RITA'S WEEKEND DELIGHTS

I, Rita Edwards, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 2nd July, 2020 next ensuing for a Bottle license in respect of premises known as "Rita's Weekend Delights" situated Freeman's Village, in the Parish of St. Peter's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 12th June, 2020

Rita Edwards
Rita Edwards
268-781-1544



CHECK YOUR SPEED MONTH

BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER DRIVERS

- Obey all speed limits and signs
- Always use your turn signals
- Be attentive and drive responsibly
- Pay attention to all signs

DRIVE SAFELY

ATB
Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Kudos for OECS countries

Prime Minister Gaston Browne commended fellow OECS member states for their firm and decisive action in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic by putting in place comprehensive and timely measures that mitigated the pandemic's worst impacts on the region.

PM Browne was speaking at Thursday's 69th meeting of the OECS Authority which was held via video-conference. It was the first meeting of the Authority that did not involve face-to-face interaction.

Browne told his colleagues that from the emergence of the pandemic everyone acted decisively and with a strong degree of cohesion, and as a result, their countries are all better for it. He noted that as he has passed the baton of leadership to Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit of Dominica, he is urging that as the sub-region faces the next episode in this uncertain drama, the leaders should strengthen their collective determination as this is the only way their countries can survive this existential crisis.

Prime Minister Browne took a few moments to cite some of the highlights of his tenure as chairman, including the revival of the OECS Assembly as a parliamentary forum for building consensus on the regional integration agenda.

He pointed out that the profile of the OECS Assembly was heightened when its last session was live-streamed for the first time and the Assembly session had an unprecedented 200,000 persons following. The agility and responsiveness of the OECS, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, was a feature of OECS actions during the past year, in PM Browne's view.

He highlighted the institutional tenacity of the Organization in sourcing much-needed COVID-19-related equipment and supplies through its pooled procurement process that re-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

sulted in lower prices. Much of the equipment came from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) including PPE and RT-PCR testing machines, the most sophisticated and reliable testing equipment available.

Having led the Organization through its greatest crisis, with member states now on the cusp of re-opening their economies, PM Browne encouraged his colleagues to keep the course they had charted to see them through the pandemic and to recover robust economic growth.

OECS Heads reviewed the state of play regarding the OECS COVID-19 mitigation and prevention measures in a broad range of areas, and they also examined other priority matters of their agenda, including the annual work programme of the OECS Commission; the budget of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court presented by

the Chief Justice, Her Ladyship Dame Janice Pereira; an update on the state of the Organization's finances; as well as a progress report on the actions taken so far by ECCAA to have its category 1 status restored by the US FAA.

Chairman of the Authority, Roosevelt Skerrit, invited PM Browne to continue to play a leading role in the resolution of the ECCAA matter.

On the question of the re-opening of their economies, the Heads listened attentively to the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda as he explained the measures put in place by his government to facilitate safe air travel and tourism.

Many of the other OECS member states are due to begin re-opening their economies in the coming weeks. Heads discussed the practicalities of a safe 'travel bubble' between their countries.

The Ministry of Tourism is stepping up its certification campaign as more tourism-related properties and accommodations seek passing grades for COVID-19 protocols adherence.

This week approximately 70 properties have received certification and approval for operations in the first phase of the reopening of the country's tourism industry.

Shantia Weatherill of the Quality Assurance Unit explained that only properties that have been certified and approved can resume operation. The Quality Assurance spokesperson said, "Tourism accommodations are encouraged to get registered to facilitate scheduling of inspections in a timely manner since only those properties that meet the COVID-19 protocols will be allowed to operate in this phase of the reopening."

According to a statement

70 tourism-related accommodations certified for reopening



from the tourism ministry, "Once registered, an email is sent to the property with

an attachment of a 14-page COVID-19 Protocol Assessment Form. This form is the primary assessment tool used during scheduled inspections. They are encouraged to review the document and contact the ministry to schedule an appointment when their property has achieved the requirements applicable to their operations."

The ministry explained that the appointment involves an inspection with a 3 member team from the ministry's Quality Assurance and the Ministry of Health. On the completion of the inspection, the property owners will know if they met the requirements

for reopening and they are issued a signed certificate stating such. The tourism ministry indicated that a response normally takes up to 24 hours.

In a statement to the media, the tourism ministry announced that "the first phase of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Industry Re-Opening process runs from June 4th to September 30th, 2020."

However, certification continues in earnest and all tourism accommodations desirous of commencing business are asked to register immediately at the Ministry of Tourism Headquarters on Queen Elizabeth Highway.

Melford offers clarity

A misunderstanding is how the Cabinet spokesman has described the recent action taken by the police force to close some business establishments hours before the 11pm curfew comes into effect.

There has been an outcry from those that are affected, in particular bar operators, who were recently granted approval to re-open their business places once standards set out by the Central Board of Health are met.

At Thursday's Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, Information Minister Melford Nicholas told reporters modifications were made to paragraph 13 of regulations 5a of the Public Health Act that will allow businesses including bars, barbershops, salons and gyms to remain open until



Information Minister Melford Nicholas

11pm.

"I think this brings some degree of clarity and removes any ambiguity in

relation to what the law enforcement officials are going to be required to enforce. This clears the way

so there's no ambiguity in terms of the hours in which any of the businesses may operate; subject to them meeting the requirements laid down by the Central Board of Health," Nicholas explained.

He added that business, at their own discretion, may open between the hours of 5:00 am and 11:00 pm.

As of 12th June, 2020, 126 bars have been inspected by the Central Board of Health. That is in addition to 15 gyms, 20 casinos, 84 barbershops, 212 beauty salons and 70 restaurants.

Eight tour companies were also inspected along with 45 churches.

All establishments must be approved by CBH and a certificate of approval issued that must be displayed at the place of business.

Only one COVID-19 Case remains - first retest states negative

While the country remains in a state of emergency to July 31, 2020, and curfew measures are steadily relaxing, only one patient is said to still be infected with COVID-19. However, according to Cabinet notes, this patient has recently received a negative result when he was last tested.

A second consecutive test will be sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency and then a third before a declaration of being COVID-19 free can be stated. It was revealed that this patient has survived 9 weeks of infec-

tion from the deadly virus.

Both the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and a nurse who is responsible for returning nationals follow-up were present in Cabinet this week to deliver the news. It was also disclosed that the young girl who was once infected is now COVID-19 free and free to proceed home from being quarantined.

While the meeting of Cabinet continued, the Minister of Health indicated that COVID-19 protocols have been established to work as a guide

for businesses that would lead to a reduction of any possible infections by COVID-19 patients, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic.

The protocols developed and established here in Antigua and Barbuda, "have been shared with several CARICOM states who sought technical advice from Antigua and Barbuda as the first to open its borders to international flights."

Thus far, the country has recorded 26 COVID-19 cases, with three COVID-19 related deaths.



Way of Life!

Unlock your **FUN SIDE**



VITARA

Starting at

\$76,600

Live on the fun side
with Suzuki!

Unlock your funside with A New 2020 Suzuki Vitara.
Chose your colour, your style, your way of life.

>>> UPGRADED FEATURES

- Power Windows
- Bluetooth
- 4WD Drive
- Reverse Camera
- Parking Sensors
- Touch Screen
- Automatic AC
- Automatic Wipers
- And Headlamps

INCLUDES

- Free Licensing and Insurance
- Registration and Plates
- Gas And Service

*On The Spot Financing Available



**GIVE US A CALL 481-2500
OR VISIT ON OLD PARHAM ROAD, CHOSE AND DRIVE**

State of the art Industrial Court officially opened

The keys to a new and enhanced industrial court have been turned over to the Ministry of Legal Affairs by the Ministry of Works.

The court, which now resides upstairs Costpro Supermarket in the Woods Mall is said to boast 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.

According to Project Manager, Jamilla Hodge, "All specifications required for an industrial court were included in every phase from planning through to competition. Special mate-



rials were ordered to provide soundproofing within the courtroom. New judges' tables and witness stands were crafted by local handy-

men and staff comfort was given special attention in the workplace. Productivity will meet the highest expectation from the leadership of

the ministry of works, the ministry of legal affairs, and the government of Antigua and Barbuda."

cont'd on pg 11





President of the Industrial Court, President Charlesworth Browne extended his sincere gratitude for the long-awaited court. At the handing over ceremony held Thursday, the president expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to the team that worked on the court.

According to the Industrial Court President, "This moment marks a watershed.

It is indeed an auspicious moment, and the Attorney General, I am sure, will no doubt consider it so to be a watershed. So that at the end of the day, this is to be a beginning of the court, a new beginning so that we will improve the services provided by the court, we will improve not only the conduct of day to day proceedings, but we will improve the level of our adjudication."



Updates on the Airline Resumption of Service Post COVID-19

June 11th 2020

ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...



Delta will resume once weekly service July 4th 2020
1x ATL-ANU-ATL (SATURDAY)



United not yet confirmed to return to the Caribbean before August

US FLIGHTS



American Airlines

MIA-ANU-MIA – Daily (changes to 10:30 a.m. departure and 1:50 p.m. arrival, from first week in July)
JFK-ANU-JFK – resumes 25th October 2020 (Saturday only moving to Daily from JFK, as of mid-December)
CLT-ANU-CLT - 1 weekly flight resumes mid Dec 2020



JetBlue Resumes twice weekly services 2nd and 4th July 2020 Thursdays & Saturday

ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

Canada Flights

Air Canada services suspended out of Canada until July



WestJet has suspended service until July

Sunwing has suspended its services until July



Updates on the Airline Resumption of Service Post COVID-19

June 11th 2020

ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

UK and European Flights

Resumes November 2020
Malpensa, Italy
Blue Panorama



Resumes twice weekly flights
LGW-ANU-LGW (Sun, Thu)
overnights and returns (Mon, Fri)
British Airways

1 Weekly Service resumes
August 2020
Virgin Atlantic



ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

Caribbean Flights



InterCaribbean will resume service
on July 19th 2020 to coincide with
BA's return. Route ANU-BVI-DR-CUB



Caribbean Airlines will resume service on
Sunday 14th June 2020
KIN-ANU-KIN



LIAT all commercial service still suspended, and staff on
furlough until end July. They're awaiting Board approval for
final schedules



Seaborne no confirmation yet as to when flights
will resume

Caribbean among countries unfairly targeted by US Senators over Cuba

(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).

Three U.S. Senators, who have done little to advance the interests of the Caribbean and with whom requests for meetings by many Caribbean Ambassadors are usually shunted to their staff, are now proposing U.S. government punishment for Caribbean countries that request assistance from Cuba for medical personnel.

The three Senators are all members of the Republican Party. Two of them represent Florida – Marco Rubio and Rick Scott – and the other, Ted Cruz, is a Senator from Texas. Senators Rubio and Cruz have strong Cuban heritage and are known to be virulently opposed to the Cuban government. Senator Scott is a former Governor of Florida and has been a senatorial representative of the State since 2019, having run a campaign wooing the significant Cuban-American population.

On June 17, the three Senators introduced in the U.S. Senate, the “Cut Profits to

the Cuban Regime Act”, which, if it is adopted, will penalise any government, worldwide, that contracts with the Cuban government for the provision of medical personnel. Since many Caribbean governments have such contracts with Cuba, they all stand to be targeted.

Among the measures that the Bill, sponsored by the three Senators, seeks to impose are “a requirement that the Department of State publishes the list of countries that contract with the Government of Cuba for their medical missions program”, and that the contracts be considered “as a factor in considering that country’s ranking for Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report”.

In other words, these three U.S. Senators are seeking to disregard the sovereign right of other countries to enter arrangements with Cuba. In any event, a principle of international law and norms is being casually disdained, as if the rights of States do not matter.

The Senators also show a remarkable indifference to the critical public health emergency confronted by all Caribbean countries, particularly now in the seemingly endless era of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disastrous effects.

Had the three Senators considered a discussion with Caribbean representa-



By Sir Ronald Sanders

tives before they introduced their Bill, they would have learned that, for many countries of the Caribbean, the presence of Cuban medical personnel has made a huge and beneficial difference to their capacity to manage COVID-19 and its spread. It is no exaggeration to say that, without the Cuban medical personnel, the medical system of several Caribbean countries would have collapsed.

The Senators would also have been reminded that the United States, despite all its great resources, found it difficult – and are still finding it difficult – to respond to the demands that the pandemic has placed on its public health system. If the U.S.

cannot cope, how would any objective person believe that the Caribbean can do so without help?

Further, the Senators might have considered what assistance the U.S. provided to the region in terms of the medical personnel that they urgently needed and continue to need.

Senator Scott is reported to have said that “Any country that requests medical assistance from Cuba is aiding their human trafficking efforts”, because, in his view, Cuban medical personnel sent abroad are “forced labour”. Caribbean countries have had no experience that substantiates this opinion. Indeed, Cuban medical personnel have conducted

Cont'd on pg 15

themselves with professionalism, integrating well with local medical teams and passing-on their knowledge and experience. Caribbean countries have no basis for believing that the medical personnel are “forced labour”. But, if the government of any country believes this claim to be true, there are international bodies to which it can be taken, and evidence proffered in support of a decision to uphold the allegation. Caribbean representatives would have encouraged the Senators to pursue such a definitive course of action, which all governments would have respected. One attempt to internationalise this claim by a private European-funded group came to nothing.

Had they had the chance to

do so, Caribbean representatives would have reminded the three Senators that COVID-19, in addition to being a public health emergency, is wrecking the economies of Caribbean countries, some more severely than others but all without exception. They are now confronted with their greatest economic challenge. Government revenues have dropped drastically, expenditures have increased extraordinarily, and employment and poverty are expanding rapidly. In all this, there has been a poor response from richer countries that could have helped.

The Caribbean needed to get COVID-19 under control not only to save lives in their communities, but also to salvage their economic

prospects, now and in the future.

Cuba has provided Caribbean countries with medical assistance for over 30 years; the present contingent of Cuban personnel is not a new development. These arrangements have been formally negotiated and set out in contracts. Further, Caribbean governments have knowledge of the circumstances of Cuban medical personnel because for three decades, Caribbean doctors have trained in Cuba on scholarships that richer neighbouring states have not offered.

Until and unless other Governments step up to help, Caribbean governments will be constrained to get assistance from where they can, including Cuba.

The Senators would also have been advised that most Caribbean countries have worked closely and well with the U.S. government to curb human trafficking. An attempt to mar this cooperative work by introducing a political dimension to it – particularly a very narrow one – would be tragic. A conversation with the Senators would be welcome.

The hemisphere – like the rest of the world – needs cooperation in improving the human condition; what it does not need is coercion for political purposes.

A Caribbean conversation with the Senators would be welcome.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

POINTE Printery
PRINTING AT YOUR FIGURE TIPS

**INVITATIONS
BI-FOLDS
CALENDARS
POSTER
FLYERS
BOOKLETS
BUSINESS CARDS**

CALL US TODAY 268 562 4989
LOWER NORTH STREET, POINT WHARF, ST. JOHN'S ANTIGUA
PRINTJOBS@POINTVILLE.AG

ALEXANDER W.
HEAD OF ENGINEER

COMPANY NAME
YOUR FIRST ADDRESS LINE
YOUR SECOND ADDRESS LINE
JOHN.SMITH@YOURMAIL.COM
+0 123 456 789
+0 987 654 321
WWW.YOURCOMPANY.COM

Grenada: 8 cruise ship workers test positive for Covid with rapid test, but negative with PCR

Health Minister, Nickolas Steele, has disclosed that 8 of the 113 cruise ship workers who arrived on MS Mariner on Monday, 16 June 2020 tested positive for Covid-19 during the screening stage in which rapid test kits are used, but a PCR test conducted immediately after showed the same workers were negative.

This group of 8 are in quarantine and are scheduled to undergo another PCR test. Steele said that the result of the second test will either change Grenada's situation or maintain the status of zero active cases.

"We have people in quarantine that we will continue to test, so there is a possibility that one or two or God forbid, that some of those individuals who are in quarantine may test positive for Covid-19, then we may have to say one person has tested positive," he said on Thursday during a news conference where details were outlined about the protocols that will be enforced for all returning nationals allowed to enter the country on Friday, 19 June on a special repatriation flight from New York.

Explaining that the rapid Covid-19 test looks for signs that a person has evidence of the virus in the body, while the PCR find the virus, Steele said keeping returning nationals in mandatory state facility quarantine for a minimum of 4

days is the government's way of ensuring that when a person is released or removed from quarantine there is zero or minimal possibility of transmitting the virus to others.

"That is why we insist on quarantine. We are making it mandatory," he said, explaining that the results of both the rapid test and the PCR to all arrivals at the airport will determine the length of stay in mandatory quarantine. The World Health Organisation (WHO)

is continuously amending and adjusting the science guideline for living with Covid-19 and recently disclosed that quarantine can be reduced to 10 days. "That is why we are now using the figure of 10 days, but the health professionals will make that final determination based on the passenger's history," Steele told the media. Grenada recorded its first confirmed Covid-19 patient in March and to date, there are 23 cases. Steele said at present all

the cases have been declared as recovered. "So, we have no active case but this can change and so the call here is that we do not become complacent." He advises the general public to comply with all the health protocols. In total, the island with a population of 110,000 conducted 853 PCR tests and 4,500 rapid tests. Grenada recorded no Covid-19 related death. All patients admitted to the General Hospital are tested for the virus.



Trinidad: Kamla tells PM: Stop 'bullying' citizens



Opposition Leader, Kamla Persad-Bissessar

Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar is accusing Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley of 'bullying' and 'harassing' citizens and business organisations.

It comes after the Prime Minister on Wednesday accused head of the T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce Gabriel Faria of having an 'acid tongue' and attempting to sway voters.

In a statement on her Facebook on Thursday, the Opposi-

tion Leader expressed concern over the Prime Minister's statements.

"I note with tremendous concern Prime Minister Rowley's ongoing, vicious and very dangerous personal and professional harassment and attacks on T&T's citizens and business organisations. Only yesterday, he launched a scathing, and frankly very baffling, assault on TT Chamber of Commerce's head, Mr Gabriel Faria."

"He recently similarly attacked heads of media conglomerates and unnamed "business interests" of what he called "the establishment". Cabinet Ministers have also bullied reporters and demonized stranded nationals in Barbados who were begging to come home."

She further accused Dr Rowley of seeking to silence all dissenting views ahead of the upcoming general elections.

"PM Rowley's infamous rage

also seems to be in overdrive in the wake of the upcoming elections. Perhaps it's because he knows that the population is patiently waiting to vote out his corrupt, dictatorial, failed Government. In the meantime, however, he would do well to "take a chill pill", as the young people say, and stop bullying, harassing and attacking our citizens at once."

Barbados To Introduce National Digital Identification System



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley

Barbados is working towards introducing a national digital identification, which could be rolled out over the next six months.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley made the disclosure on Wednesday as she spoke about the delivery economy, which has emerged significantly with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The delivery economy is right now with us and we only need to nurture it. For decades, the supermarkets were trying

to do it, they never got anywhere; banks were trying to do it, they didn’t get any buy-in; and all of a sudden, everybody now realises contactless commerce is here and needs to be exploited,” said Mottley.

She was speaking at a webinar hosted by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States titled ‘Business Unusual: Recalibrating Business and National Strategies for Economic Growth and Investment Creation’.

Mottley continued: “So that not only matters pertaining to food, but the delivery of pension cheques from our social security agencies will be a thing of the past. That we can literally have welfare benefits and child maintenance benefits and all of these things ultimately loaded on to a phone or card We are now moving, in our own case in Barbados, to the national digital ID, which, hopefully, will be rolled out over the course of the next six

months.” The prime minister also expressed the view that the region must protect the health of its citizens and its visitors in this COVID-19 environment.

She opined that the region must exploit its good track record in public health during this crisis, noting that over the years, the region had produced public health giants who made a difference regionally and globally.

Bahamas: Police officers to wear body cams by August



With concerns regarding encounters between police officers and citizens across the globe, the government of The Bahamas will rollout 200 body-worn and dash-cameras for officers on the frontlines by August of this year.

In February, the government invested nearly \$700,000 on the equipment, which has arrived in The Bahamas.

During the budget debate, Minister of National Security Marvin Dames said the government has sought to keep relevant with critical issues involving policing, and Bahamians, like citizens around the world, expect officers to perform their duties with the highest degree of professionalism.

“This is why our government has invested in technologies that will strengthen police accountability and transparency,” he said.

He continued: “This is being complemented by the Neighbourhood Watch Programme and the re-established Police Complaints Inspectorate.”

According to the minister, training is ongoing online for the use of the cameras due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The signaling units for the dashcams have been installed in the new patrol vehicles, according to Dames, who announced another \$232,000 will be expended this month, and another \$232,000 will be spend during the upcoming fiscal year for maintenance.

“This cutting-edge police technology is expected to provide critical evidence for both internal and external investigations,” Dames said.

The announcement of the rollout of body-worn cameras comes days after police offi-

cers shot and killed three men who “ambushed” one of the officers on Cowpen Road.

The standoff prompted debate about justifiable force.

Commissioner of Police Paul Rolle said while he was exploring introducing non-lethal weapons, the public should expect officers to defend themselves when confronted and shot at.

Today, Dames reaffirmed the government was exploring less than lethal devices for the police force as part of a use of force continuum policy initiative.

Announcing crime has trended downward overall by three percent between January 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020, the minister said this can be attributed to the work of law enforcement agencies and the integration of additional technology such as closed circuit

television (CCTV).

In the budget, the government has increased the allocation for CCTV by 700 percent — from \$200,000 to \$1.62 million.

Dames said this month over \$985,000 will be invested to advance the program.

The end result, following all installments, will be 750 operational cameras.

Seventy-five cameras have already been installed in key hotspots, according to the minister.

Over \$1.3 million invested in ShotSpotter technology in 2019/2020. Another \$600,000 investment will be made in the upcoming fiscal period.

The technology, which detects gunshots, has detected 920 shootings, the majority of which took place in eastern and central New Providence.

US Supreme Court rules against Trump in 'capricious' DACA case

The US Supreme Court on Thursday dealt US President Donald Trump a major setback on his hardline immigration policies, ruling against his bid to end a programme that protects from deportation 650,000 immigrants, dubbed "Dreamers", who entered the United States as children without documentation.

The justices upheld lower court rulings that found that Trump's 2017 move to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programme, created in 2012 by his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama, was unlawful.

Those who receive relief through the plan are typically called "Dreamers" by advocates and commentators alike, after the US Congressional DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act legislation that took up their cause.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) moved to end the programme in September 2017.

In its decision, the court wrote the "dispute before the Court is not whether DHS may rescind DACA. All parties agree that it may. The dispute is instead primarily about the procedure the agency followed in doing so."

However, the court concluded that the "total rescission" of DACA "was arbitrary and capricious".

For now, Dreamer immigrants retain their protection

from deportation and their authorisation to work in the US.

When Trump's administration moved to end the act, protests were organised against the move across the country with Dreamers and advocates calling for new legislation that would provide a path to citizenship.

The programme grants deportation relief and work permits - but not a path to citizenship - to 649,000 immigrants brought to the US as children without documentation.

Trump lashed out at the Supreme Court decision and another on Monday that extended federal employment protections to gay and transgender workers under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

He called the decisions "horrible and politically charged" and tweeted, "Do you get the impression that the Supreme Court doesn't like me?"

Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer, speaking at the US Capitol on Thursday, called the decision "surprising and welcome".

"Let me say this - in these very difficult times the Supreme court provided a bright ray of sunshine this week, with the decision on Monday ... and now with this decision," Schumer said.

The Supreme Court outcome seems certain to elevate the issue in Trump's re-election campaign, given the anti-immigrant rhetoric of his first presidential run in 2016 and



DACA students rally in front of the US Supreme Court in Washington, DC, following the ruling allowing them to remain in the US

immigration restrictions his administration has imposed since then.

The Biden campaign told Reuters news agency in early June that dismantling DACA would backfire on Trump.

"Immigration is a unifying issue for Latinos," Biden campaign senior adviser Cristobal Alex said. "It doesn't matter if you're Puerto Rican, if you're born a citizen, you understand that attacks on Latinos based on immigration [are] really an attack on all Latinos."

Any decision to end DACA could motivate Hispanic voters in pivotal states, said Stephen Nuno-Perez, director of communications for the Seattle-based political opinion firm Latino Decisions.

The firm's polling suggests immigrant rights ranking among the top issues for His-

panic voters, just behind the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, healthcare and economic matters.

Action by Trump to end DACA also could have helped convince undecided moderate, college-educated swing voters to choose Biden, even if they agree with Trump's economic message, according to Democratic pollster Nick Gourevitch of the New York City-based Global Strategy Group.

"Generally speaking, voters are pretty sympathetic to Dreamers," Gourevitch told Reuters, noting that about 27,000 DACA enrollees are working in healthcare jobs during the pandemic. "The president likes to pick a lot of immigration fights, but I think the DACA immigration fight is a bad one for him to be having."

Atlanta police call out sick to protest charges in shooting

Atlanta police officers called out sick or refused to answer calls Thursday to protest the filing of murder charges against an officer who shot a man in the back, while the interim chief said members of the force feel abandoned amid protests demanding massive changes to policing.

Interim Chief Rodney Bryant told The Associated Press in an interview that the sick calls began Wednesday night and continued Thursday, but said the department has sufficient staff to protect the city. It's not clear how many officers have called out.

"Some are angry. Some are fearful. Some are confused on what we do in this space. Some may feel abandoned," Bryant said of the officers. "But we are there to assure them that we will continue to move forward and get through this."

Prosecutors brought felony murder and other charges against Garrett Rolfe, a white officer who shot Rayshard Brooks after the 27-year-old black man grabbed a Taser and ran, firing it at the officer, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said.

Howard said that Brooks was not a deadly threat at the time and that the officer kicked the wounded black man and offered no medical treatment for over two minutes as he lay dying. Another officer, Devin Brosnan, who the district attorney said stood on Brooks' shoulder as he struggled for



Interim Atlanta Police Chief Rodney Bryant speaks to the Associated Press on Thursday, June 18, 2020, in Atlanta. On Saturday, June 13, Former Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields resigned after an officer fatally shot Rayshard Brooks after a struggle in a Wendy's restaurant parking lot.

his life, was charged with aggravated assault and violation of his oath. Rolfe and Brosnan turned themselves in Thursday. Jail records show Brosnan was released a \$30,000 signature bond, meaning he only has to pay if he fails to show up for court, while Rolfe was being held without bond. Less than 24 hours after Friday's shooting, police chief Erika Shields resigned, and Bryant took over on an interim basis. Bryant wore a navy blue shirt Thursday, rather than the white shirt typically worn by command staff, to show solidarity with the officers. "This is the uniform that the men and women of the police department wear, and I felt that it was important that they have an understanding that we are one organization, and we will dress as one organization," he said.

In the roughly three weeks since protests first broke out in Georgia's capital after George Floyd was killed by police

in Minnesota, officers have worked shifts of 12 or more hours and have been yelled at, spit on and had things thrown at them, Bryant said.

"At some point, people get tired, I recognize that, and physically exhausted," he said. "But we'll get beyond that. We will definitely get beyond it and I'm certain that we will see our sick-outs drop back to normal, average." The decision to prosecute the officers came less than five days after the killing rocked a city — and a nation — still reeling after Floyd's killing set off nationwide protests that have urged an extensive rethink of policing and an examination of racism in the United States. On Wednesday night, the largest labor group in the Seattle area voted to expel the city's police union, saying the guild representing officers failed to address racism within its ranks. Bryant said he was surprised at how quickly Fulton County District Attorney

Paul Howard reached the decision to charge the officers, noting that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation hadn't yet had time to finish looking into the shooting. He would not say how many officers called out, but just one officer showed up for work Thursday morning in Zone 6, which covers much of Atlanta's east side and which several dozen are assigned to patrol, said Vince Champion, southeast regional director for the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. Atlanta officers are walking off their shifts or not responding to calls because they feel "abandoned, betrayed, used in a political game," Champion told the AP.

"What they realized is that the city, meaning the mayor and the police department, does not support them," Champion said. Champion said he's heard from several officers that they fear using force to protect themselves will get them fired or arrested.

Image appears to show nail-studded rods used in India-China brawl

An image has emerged showing a crude weapon purportedly used by Chinese forces in the fatal brawl along China's disputed border with India on Monday.

The fight in the Galwan Valley left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead and raised tensions between the two powers.

China did not acknowledge any casualties among its forces. Both sides accused the other of an incursion.

The border between the two nations in the region is poorly demarcated and can shift with topographical changes.

The image that emerged on Thursday showed crude weapons that appeared to be made from iron rods studded with nails. It was passed to the BBC by a senior Indian military official on the India-China border, who said the weapons had been used by the Chinese.

Defence analyst Ajai Shukla, who first tweeted the image, described the use of such weapons as "barbarism". The absence of firearms in the clash dates back to a 1996 agreement between the two sides that guns and explosives be prohibited along the disputed stretch of the border, to deter escalation.

The image was widely shared on Twitter in India, prompting outrage from many social media users. Neither Chinese or Indian officials commented on it.

Media reports said troops



An image passed to the BBC by an Indian military official shows crude weapons purportedly used in the fight

clashed on ridges at a height of nearly 4,267m (14,000 ft) along a steep terrain, with some soldiers falling into the fast-flowing Galwan river in sub-zero temperatures.

The two sides have brawled along the disputed border in recent weeks, but Monday's clash was the first to lead to fatalities in at least 45 years. Unconfirmed reports in Indian media said at least 40 Chinese soldiers died, but China is yet to issue any information about casualties.

Indian officials said all of their soldiers involved in the clash have been accounted

for, following reports some were missing.

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

China on Wednesday claimed "sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region" - a claim rebutted by India as "exaggerated and untenable".

Members of the public in both nations have since staged protests over the clashes in the

disputed Himalayan border area, while officials have spoken cautiously and moved towards a diplomatic resolution.

Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the foreign ministers of both countries had shared a phone conversation on Wednesday on the developments and "agreed that the overall situation should be handled in a responsible manner".

"Making exaggerated and untenable claims is contrary to this understanding," Mr Srivastava was quoted as saying by Press Trust of India news agency.

An Indian government statement after Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's conversation with China's Wang Yi said Chinese forces tried to erect a structure on the Indian side of the de facto border, the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The statement accused the Chinese of a "premeditated and planned action that was directly responsible for the resulting violence and casualties" and urged China to "take corrective steps".

Meanwhile, a Chinese statement quoted Mr Wang as saying: "China again expresses strong protest to India and demands the Indian side launches a thorough investigation... and stop all provocative actions to ensure the same things do not happen again."

Putin's rating is collapsing as anger grows in Russia

The coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout have been the top concern of people across the world and naturally this has affected ratings of governments and heads of state.

In some places, those in power struggling with unpopularity have managed to gain public support. For example, Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's public approval rating jumped from 50 percent in February to 70 percent in March. In France, beleaguered President Emmanuel Macron had a 51 percent approval rating in a March poll, the highest since February 2018, before it fell back to 33 percent in June.

In April, the UK government saw the highest approval ratings in nearly 10 years - 52 percent - before slipping back to 39 percent in June. In Germany, the Christian Democratic Union, the party of Chancellor Angela Merkel, saw support soar from 27 percent in February to 39 percent in June.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been struggling. The pandemic did not give him a boost, and in fact just solidified the downward trend his approval rating has been suffering over the past two years.

Austerity measures, such as a particularly unpopular pension reform, have caused anger in the general public, even among his supporters. The collapse of oil prices and a looming economic crisis - a second for Russia in the past 10 years

- have also severely affected public opinion.

Putin's decision to introduce constitutional changes, which would allow him to stay in power until 2036, when he would be 84 years old, have also been particularly unpopular. Although the Kremlin may consider this the best time to push through these amendments, given that protests are banned due to the coronavirus outbreak, they are making the Russian public that much more frustrated. The idea of Putin remaining in power for life is causing indignation even among his staunchest supporters.

In a May poll conducted by independent research centre Levada, just 59 percent approved of the Russian president, down from 69 percent in February. Just five years ago, amid the Russian intervention in the Ukrainian crisis and the annexation of Crimea, Putin's approval rating stood at 85 percent. Support for his presidency was never so low, even during the anti-government protests of 2011-13.

Other indicators of public support have also fallen dramatically. In another May poll by Levada, just 25 percent of people said Putin is among the Russian politicians they trust - the lowest value this indicator has had for the past 20 years he has been in power (even during his premiership in 2008-12). In January this year, public trust in him stood at 35 percent; just



Polls indicate that trust in Russian President Vladimir Putin is at an all time low

three years ago, it was as high as 59 percent. The Russian youth are particularly opposed to Putin; just 10 percent of respondents aged 18-24 responded that they have trust in the president. Distrust is high even among the less educated, poorer citizens and among those who reside in smaller cities and villages. This is quite unusual given that since 2011, Putin has been trying to polarise the electorate, pitting the educated middle class of the bigger cities against the poorer rural classes. By now, it is clear this strategy is no longer working for him.

This downward trend has been registered even by VCIOM, one of the large state-linked pollsters. Last year, it had to change its methodology after the Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov criticised the results of its survey which showed that only 31.7 percent of respondents had trust in the president; after the change, the number jumped to 72 percent.

A focus group study conducted by sociologist Mikhail Dmitriev and psychologist Anastasiya Nikolskaya early

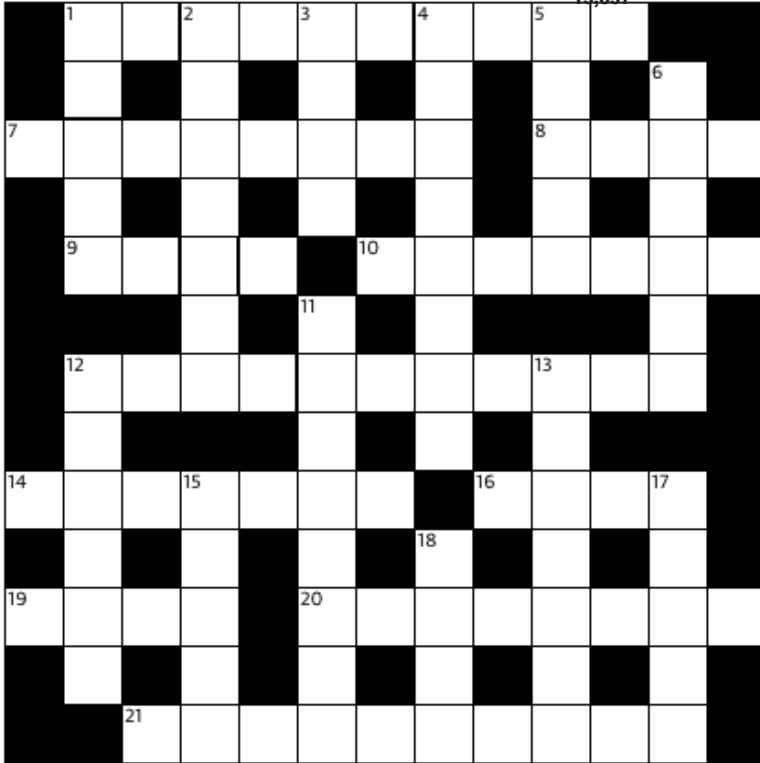
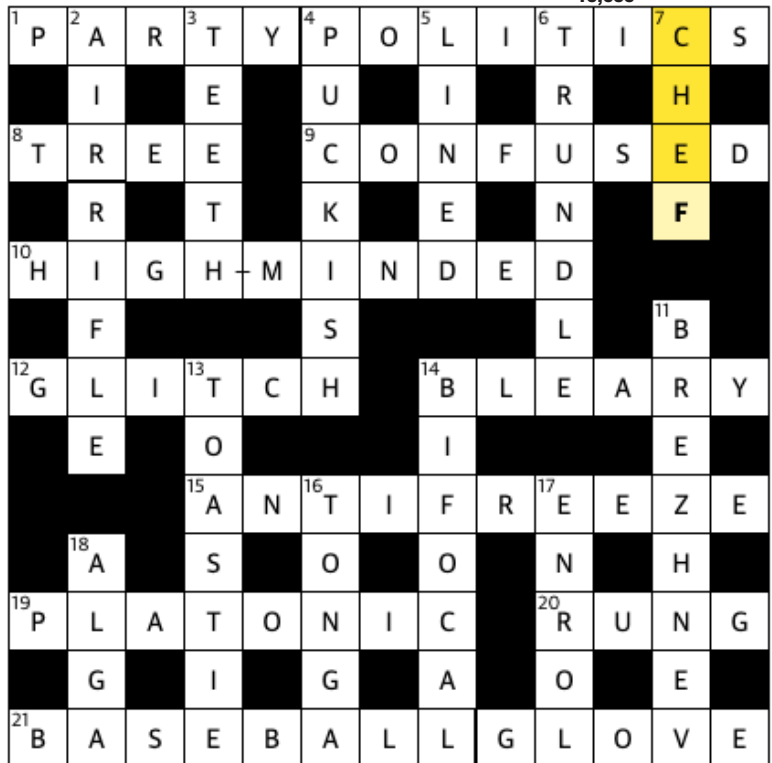
this year showed not only that popular dissatisfaction with Putin presidency has increased sharply, but also that it has become more politicised.

If in the past, public discontent focused on social matters, such as the pension reform, ecological issues, the low standard of living, today Russians increasingly are upset about the absence of rule of law and democratic rights and liberties.

Apart from that, Dmitriev and Nikolskaya's research indicates that there is increased aggressiveness in society; their respondents were more emotional in their replies, not shying away from using swear words about those in power or even hanging up during the interviews.

Given the coronavirus restrictions, this pent-up anger cannot be released in the streets, so it will continue to simmer. What the Kremlin is counting on is that the economy will pick up after the pandemic and public discontent will decrease.

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
 15,637

 Quick crossword No
 15,635


Across

- 1 Scram! (2,4,4)
 7 Herb — arrogant (anag) (8)
 8 Bantu language of south-eastern Africa (4)
 9 Exactly right (2,1,1)
 10 One who sings like Bing? (7)
 12 Container buried with items to be discovered in the far future (4,7)
 14 Old pseudoscience hoping to turn base metals into gold (7)
 16 Uterus (4)
 19 Go (4)
 20 Land turtle (8)
 21 Stylised picture found in ancient Egyptian writings (10)

Down

- 1 Abstract visual style for the 1960s, giving the illusion of movement (2,3)
 2 Either end of a spar on a square-rigger's mast (7)
 3 Impel (4)
 4 Penniless (8)
 5 Toy wind instrument that buzzes (5)
 6 Swindle (6)
 11 Sword with curved blade (8)
 12 Body of Jewish law (6)
 13 Study of alien craft (7)
 15 Vietnamese capital (5)
 17 Dutch painter, Hieronymus, d. 1516 (5)
 18 Amphibious jumper (4)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



"Do you really expect this jury to believe that you didn't know my client was endangered?"

GOT NEWS
 BECOME A CITIZEN JOURNALIST!

SHARE YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS WITH US.
 CALL: 268 562 4989 | EMAIL: NEW@POINTVILLAGE





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Explain yourself. Human relationships can be endlessly complicated, but you may have the chance to simplify the status of your connections. Strive to straighten out misunderstandings in a sincere and heartfelt way.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): You sparkle and shine when you have a chance to take the stage. It is time to welcome something new into your life whether it's contact with a circle of new acquaintances or a unique learning experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This may not be the best day to make important personal decisions since an overabundance of caution might smother your enthusiasm. However, you may be more down-to-earth and practical about handling money.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): New thoughts could make an impression on your senses, but be sure to check out the fine print. You may find it to your advantage to adopt a more businesslike persona and let common sense act as a guide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Like Goldilocks, you may find through trial and error that some things are too big and some too small. Wait for clarity before making a crucial decision. Validate yourself if you do not receive the validation you want from others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're smart enough to realize that offers that sound too good to be true usually are. Think carefully before signing contracts and agreements that involve the repayment of large sums of money since there could be hidden flaws.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The symbol for your sign is the scales. You might weigh a chance to circulate within a new social setting against sticking to your loyal friends. Don't forget that it's possible to do both without hurting feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A loved one could want to take you to do something new and exciting. Don't dig your heels in and refuse to budge. You could enjoy an opportunity to explore some places off the beaten path and expand your horizons.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Try to follow through on an ongoing creative project even if you encounter opposition. Offer reassurance for any doubts and describe the process in colorful words so that you receive the support you want.

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): Your romantic desires might be powered up, but it's not necessarily the right time to make key decisions about a relationship. Gain a new perspective on ways to handle your assets, but wait to implement new ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Using common-sense tactics will be more productive than trying to please people you don't know. Don't hesitate to assert yourself if something doesn't feel right or was done without your knowledge or authorization.

Nino Henry - Talented all-rounder

Nino Henry is a bowling all-rounder who has been making his mark in local cricket and for the Leeward Hurricane where he is a contracted player.

The tall powerfully built fast bowler has been representing his country since the age of 11 when he was drafted into the Under 13 national team and he has since then played for the Under-15 Leeward Island squad, Antigua and Barbuda and presently with the Hurricanes.

Henry, who hails from the village of New Winthropes, pointed to former Leeward Islands captain and West Indies player, Sylvester 'Bouncing' Joseph, as his idol. "I watched a lot of videos of Curtly Ambrose and Winston Benjamin as I look to improve my bowling," Bleau said.

Talking to PointeXpress, Henry who was the recipient of a scholarship to UWI in 2014, talked about his expo-



Nino Henry

sure to league cricket in Barbados. "There is much more cricket played there, bigger crowds, and the games are more competitive than Antigua," Henry noted.

He also talked about the discipline he gained playing for the CCC; having to get up at 5:00 am to workout at the gym, then training at 9:00 am followed by school from 2:00 pm into the evenings.

"I had to perform with the book or lose my scholarship so balancing cricket and school was difficult so I learned time management," he explained.

In 2016, Henry took the second most wickets in the Barbados league with 16 scalps only one behind the top guy, a spinner with 17.

"My ultimate goal is to make the West Indies senior team and I am in a good place with the Hurricanes to achieve that goal," he indicated. Henry says during the COVID-19 lockdown he has been working hard with trainer Carl K.C; running on the beach and hitting the gym.

"I invested in some gym equipments recently so I was also working out at home during the total lock-down," the man from New Winthropes added.

Keep an eye on Leeward Hurricanes bowling all-rounder Nino Henry!



Gabriel: Root exchange blown way of proportion

West Indies paceman, Shannon Gabriel, says his role in a homophobia row with England captain Joe Root was “blown way out of proportion” and he is keen to leave the incident in the past.

Last February during a test match in St. Lucia, Root was heard on the stump microphone telling Gabriel “don’t use it as an insult there is nothing wrong with being gay”.

The Trinidadian’s part of the conversation was not picked up but following the umpires report he accepted a charge that saw him fined 75% of his match fee and hit with three demerit points, enough to see him banned for four one-day internationals under

the totting up process.

Gabriel felt he was guilty of verbally abusing his opponent but not using homophobic slurs.

The 32 year old, who is part of the present team in England for the three Test series as a reserve, said the story that was told was not entirely the truth but he just wanted to move on and forget it.

“That’s the past and I am looking forward to the future now,” the fast bowler said.



Shannon Gabriel

TAKE ME HOME



Two year old Beauty is now available for adoption from the Humane Society in Bethesda. She has been spayed, wormed and vaccinated. She is a lovely dog who would make a great addition to your family.

If you would like to offer her a home.

WE ARE OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

PLEASE CALL THE HUMANE SOCIETY 461-4957 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Connors
Sports Bar & Poker Lounge
OPEN DAILY : MONDAY - SUNDAY
CONTACT: 1268 723 9602

Sports

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
POINTX PRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2020



Played with grace and passion

Former national footballer, Desmond Zico Bleau, was introduced to the sport watching firstly, his father, who is originally from Dominica, play for Sea View Farm but other members of his family as well.

“It was a natural progression for me,” Bleau noted, “because I was playing outside with friends while my grandmother was cleaning the house and watching members in the family play.”

Zico as he is called attended the Antigua Grammar School and he is considered one of the better players of his generation.

“I was selected to the Combined Schools team to play Puerto Rico after an outstanding year in school football, which led to selection to the national senior



set-up,” Bleau explained.

Bleau credits his speedy progression in the national team to former technical director, Zoran Vranesh, who noticed his talent and pointed him in the right direction. “I had the opportunity to rub shoulders with former great players like Quintin Clarke, Derrick ‘Prettyboy’ Edwards, Gary Gonsalves and Veron Epilus Edwards before they left the scene

and will always remember Quintin handing the number 10 shirt to me and telling me I deserved it,” he recalled.

After a few years in the national team Veron Epilus Edwards who had been impressed with Bleau’s talent and field awareness, recommended him to his former University coach Bob Gustavson and soon Bleau was on his way to Siloam Springs Arkansas to represent John Brown University.

The journey continued as he moved on to University

of South Carolina where he completed his studies.

The former midfielder is presently the coach of the national Under-15 team and he has worked with the Under-17 as the assistant coach.

“My aim is to become the national senior coach since I approach coaching like I did as a player, always looking to improve,” Bleau stated.

Bleau, given his alias after the great Brazilian player of the 1980’s Zico, believes that the drop in production of great players locally has to do with technology.

“We live in a Facebook, Whatsapp world and most of the children lack athleticism and good motor skills which we have to be teaching when we get them” he said.

The former AGS and Sea View Farm graduate is encouraging local Antiguan players to use the influx of foreign players to our shores as motivation to improve and continue to work hard.

DEWS