



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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PRICE \$3

APUA DISCOUNTS ELECTRICITY BILLS



**LIGHTING THE
PATH TO THE
FUTURE**

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announces shift
in strategy**



APUA increases COVID-19 relief efforts

As the country continues to grapple with the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, the country's sole public utilities company has announced further discounts. APUA announced on Tuesday that the company understands the socioeconomic disturbance the pandemic has caused for many of its clients. To aid with the financial displacement many persons may be faced with, the public utility company said, "the APUA partnership with the Antigua Power Company (APC) recognizes the need to offer a further concession on the provision of electricity service to domestic customers. In light of this, an additional five (5) percent reduction



**LIGHTING THE
PATH TO THE
FUTURE**

will be applied to electricity accounts. This brings the total utility relief discount to twenty-five (25) percent."

This additional 5% discount comes after a March 2020 decision to suspend disconnections for water and electricity noting the financial difficulties many persons encountered in light of the closure of many places of employment. This relief decision is said to be

further extended until September 2020. Though the policy of no disconnection is in place for a period of time, the state-owned utility company is advising users to continue to service their bills in an effort to avoid an unmanageable accumulative amount.

In a statement to the media, officials from the company stated that "APUA remains fully committed to

maintaining resilience and we will continue to deliver efficient and reliable services necessary for life and livelihoods. Personal responsibility, comradery, and being our brother's keeper have brought us thus far and it will continue to be the guiding force that will see this nation through to the other side of this crisis. Remain vigilant and continue to stay safe!"

DAY 6/24

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: E at 22 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 41%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.7 mm
 Rain: 0.7 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

Partly sunny with a shower in places

31° Hi



NIGHT 6/24

Wind: E at 20 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 56%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.5 mm
 Rain: 1.5 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

Mainly clear with a shower

26° Lo



SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:35 AM

Sunset AST
 6:44 PM



Duration
 13:09 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 8:38 PM

Moonset AST
 9:56 AM



Duration
 13:18 hr

Ministry announces shift in strategy

Plans are in the pipeline to reduce the number of food packages distributed since the onslaught of COVID-19, and instead increase the number of food vouchers issued.

That's the word from the Ministry of Social Transformation which administers the programme.

Permanent Secretary, Sharon Stevens, said the switch comes as a result of increased need for spending power since several NGO's are already engaged in food packages distribution. Stevens said, "We realized that persons have other needs, and there are a lot of community groups and social groups that are already giving food packages, so we decided that if we give the vouchers, persons will be able to purchase other necessities," PS Stevens noted.

Social Transformation Minister, Dean Jonas, also hinted that the shift will allow mothers to have more independence in purchas-



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy, Sharon Stevens

ing items for their babies and children. This would include items such as formula and diapers, items that are not available in the food packages.

"A lot of young mothers have been complaining that they need items for babies, therefore, the vouchers will enable them to meet these specific needs.

"And so, it is important that we sort of transition away from the food packages, getting more supermarkets involved, so all needs can be met adequately," Minister Jonas said.

The vouchers which range in value from \$150 to \$250 can be redeemed at the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC), VM's Supermarket, Antigua Fisheries, and Spencer's Supermarket.

The ministry has also announced that to speed up the distribution of food packages in the Grace Relief COVID-19 Food program, additional collection centers will be commissioned shortly.

According to Stevens, "the Antigua and Barbuda Center for Persons with Disabilities has been earmarked as the first satellite center, thereby catering to

those persons with disabilities."

The P.S explained that a separate collection center should speed up relief packages collections for persons living with a disability.

"As it stands right now the distribution center is at NODS, and we realized that sometimes that may be a little crowded with the number of persons coming.

"What we have decided is to have various distribution centers. So instead of having persons with disabilities standing in line at NODS, they will be able to apply at the center and collect their packages there as well," Stevens noted.

Children (Care and Adoption) Act, 2015
 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
 IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT
 FAMILY DIVISION



SUIT NO. ANUFCP2019/

In the Matter of an Application made by the Director of Family & Social Services Division
 for a Care Order for the child named
ELIJAH MATTHEW AARON THADDEUS
 under the powers of the Court pursuant to Section 36 of the Children (Care and Adoption)
 Act, 2015

NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Application filed herein on 24th day of December, 2019 and the Amended Application filed herein on the 29th day of May, 2020 seeking a Care and Protection Order for the Child now known as Elijah Matthew Aaron Thaddeus who was estimated to have been born sometime in March, 2019 and who was found abandoned on the gallery of a residential dwelling situated in the Gray's Hill Community on the 30th day of March, 2019 is set to be heard on the 31st day of July, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. before Her Honour Magistrate Veronica Thomas in the St. John's Magistrate Court (Family Division) situated on the First Floor, Ryan's Building, High Street, St. John, Antigua.

Any person interested in or affected by the Application and who wishes to be heard on the Application shall attend at the hearing where they will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The said Application can be viewed at the offices of the St. John's Magistrate Court (Family Division) situated on the First Floor, Ryan's Building, High Street, St. John, Antigua or the Family and Social Services Division situated at High Street, St. John's, Antigua or the Attorney General Chambers, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Queen Elizabeth Highway, St. John's, Antigua Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m to 4:00 p.m and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Dated the 29th day of May, 2020

P. Thomas
 Magistrate

COMMUNITY NOTICE

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology announces the arrival of timetables for the July sitting of CSEC/CAPE, 2020.

Antigua private candidates are asked to visit the Examinations Department of the Ministry to uplift their slips.

All other candidates are asked to make contact with their respective centres regarding timetables.

Campaign to woo tourists launched

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority on Tuesday launched a campaign called 'Your Space in the Sun' that aims to position Antigua and Barbuda as the perfect location for travel in the 'new normal' created in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 'Your Space in the Sun' campaign is designed to specifically speak to the new desires and needs of travelers and it gives people something to dream about when they are ready to book their first holiday, according to a statement.

The concept speaks to people's newfound desire of space and freedom to move and explore after many have been holed up indoors, with little space to themselves, with restricted access to the outside world. The campaign shows Antigua and Barbuda has the

perfect antidote of space and invites people to broaden their horizons and enjoy all the space they need.

"All indications are that travelers' expectations have fundamentally changed, and destinations must adapt and address these concerns in order to attract business now that travel is resuming and consumer confidence is being restored," Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez said.

CEO of the Tourism Authority, Colin James noted after months of confinement, travelers seeking a well-deserved respite will find no better place than Antigua and Barbuda. With 365 beaches, an expanse of blue sea, secluded harbours, boutique properties, private villas and one-of-a-kind attractions, Antigua and Barbuda is the perfect place to escape, broaden horizons



CEO of the Tourism Authority, Colin James

and enjoy all the space needed.

The campaign will utilize a blend of professional as well as user generated content, featuring a series of iconic locations with an open invitation to find "Your Space in the Sun" in Antigua and Barbuda it was noted.

No hurricanes yet... but four storms named

The current hurricane season is living up to the prediction of being 'above average' with four named storms already, less than a month into the season.

According to Climatologist, Dale Destin, there are signs that the Caribbean region is in for an active season. "We usually get a storm in June every other year and already we have had two named storms and for May, the norm is for a storm every seven or eight years and this year we have



Climatologist, Dale Destin

had two as well. This tells me that we are in a period of heightened activity with respect to the weather," he stated.

Destin noted that the re-

gion is in his mind 'going beyond a regular pace' for hurricanes just one month into the season. He said there are predictions of 21 named storms this season; nine of which are expected to develop into hurricanes with five major hurricanes.

On the issue of the rainfall for the year, Destin said the year got off to an 'excellent start' for rainfalls for January, February and March. However, he said this was followed by a sharp decline in rainfall

for the months of April and May.

The rainfall statistics are: January – May, 10.81 inches versus the norm of 14.38 inches. April – May, 1.45 inches versus the norm of 7.45.

"We went from wet to dry rapidly and this has resulted in a 'shock' to the system as things dried up quickly because of the very low rainfall for April and May," he remarked.

Meanwhile, Tropical
cont'd on pg 5

Union, LIAT workers to meet

Employees of Antigua headquartered airline LIAT are to meet with their union in a meeting planned for Wednesday. They are represented by the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union ABWU).

The meeting comes amid uncertain times for the workers, who have been out of work since borders in the airline's network closed to protect countries from the spread of the coronavirus.

LIAT recently told the travelling public its services remain suspended through to 30th June 2020.

Consequently, it said most of its staff members including pilots, were laid off in accordance with labour laws. All staff members, including pilots, were paid their full salaries for the month of March.

LIAT says it continues with its



union engagements and frequent communication to its staff on the matter. In this regard, LIAT noted it 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.

It declared the current pandemic has heavily impacted the company's operations and staffing as has been the case with airlines worldwide.

Wednesday's meeting will be held at the union's headquarters, Freedom Hall on Newgate Street at 10.00 am.

cont'd from pg 4

Storm Dolly formed over the north Atlantic Ocean, about 370 miles south southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Tuesday, the National Hurricane Center announced.

The thunderstorms that had made up subtropical depression 4 contracted around its center low pressure on Tuesday morning, providing it with tropical characteristics, and its maximum sustained winds increased to 45 mph, above tropical storm strength, according to Hurricane Specialist Robbie Berg.

The storm continues to move east northeast at 13 mph, with a turn toward the northeast and an increase in forward speed

expected Tuesday night and Wednesday.

"Weakening is forecast during the next day or

two as Dolly moves over colder waters, and the system is expected to become post-tropical on Wednesday," Berg said in a forecast message. "The low should then dissipate by early Thursday."

PAY ATTENTION

To Your Rearview Mirror

You just never know who's trying to overtake you.

CHECK YOUR SPEED MONTH

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Fernandez offers assurances

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez in a conversation with the Caribbean Tourism Organization has assured that being quarantined on island is not like a jail.

Some arriving passengers are sent to quarantine for 14 days as part of the standard protocol in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Appearing on Zoom as the CTO's first guest in a series on 'Live Updates', Minister Fernandez said there is mostly satisfaction being expressed by those who are taken to Hawksbill Hotel, adding one woman who was told she can pay for a COVID-19 test and leave if the result was negative, opted to stay out the 14 days at the resort.

"You're confined to your room where the meals are supplied by the hotel with one of the most beautiful beaches where you can get all the Vitamin D you need. You are not allowed to leave



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez

the property and you are required to stay there for 14 days," the minister revealed.

Fernandez told the CTO planned engagement no

positive case for the virus has been reported since the airport re-opened, but he assured if there is, the government is equipped to handle

those cases. These include isolating them in one of the rooms at the hotel and if determined by the doctor, the patient will be taken to the hospital.

"Most important to us is that the visitors know that when they come to Antigua and Barbuda there is a certain amount of confidence about the steps being taken to protect them whilst in the country," he added.

The tourism minister says plans are moving along for the full re-opening of the local tourism sector.

"I can tell you that as of Tuesday, 26% of our rooms have been reopened with another 10 percent coming on stream in July. We also expected that 32% additional rooms will be available as of October and the final 32% has not yet provided a timetable. However, we have put everything in place to accommodate them," he indicated.

Another Saharan dust cloud heads our way

Years ago, a popular radio station had a promo that says; one song quits...another hits....that's how most Antiguan and Barbudans must be feeling as there seems no end in sight from the Saharan dust that has invaded the airspace over the past week.

Climatologist at the Met Office, Dale Destin, said the current cloud of Saharan dust is disappearing just as another dust storm in on the horizon and it likely to affect visibility later today into tomorrow.

Up to Tuesday, Destin said the air-quality across both islands was

unhealthy for members of sensitive groups; these are young children, the elderly and those with heart and lung disease. He noted that the air quality continues to improve from Monday when it was recorded at the worst levels yet. "On Monday, it got to the level where it was described as 'very unhealthy' to the general population," he added.

The senior Met officer explained that there are several levels of air quality as determined by the United States Environmental Agency (USEA) which the local Met Office follows.

These are; moderate, unhealthy to sensitive groups, very unhealthy and hazardous.

As the dust drifts away, Destin said the air quality continues to improve. He predicts that by today there will be a noticeable improvement in the atmospheric conditions to what many describe as 'good'.

But Destin is predicting that there will be only a brief respite as another Saharan dust cloud will begin affecting the area from Thursday night.

He said it is too early to determine

cont'd on pg 8



Lieutenant (JG) Karl Jarvis
Acting Operations Officer
Antigua and Barbuda
Defence Force Coast Guard

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEFENCE FORCE

"Always Ready to Serve"

One who is not shy about being **ARMY PROUD**. Lieutenant (JG) Karl Jarvis recently completed his university studies, graduating with a BSc. Degree in Maritime Transportation from the Caribbean Maritime University.

Lieutenant Jarvis is a graduate of the Princess Margaret Secondary School, successfully passing eight CSEC subjects with a distinction in Spanish; and served as Head-Boy and later appointed the title of Valedictorian for the graduating class of 2007. He subsequently attended the Antigua State College A-Levels Department and is a graduate of the class of 2009.

Lieutenant (JG) Karl Jarvis stands proud to be a member of the ABDF Coast Guard. He joined the army 2009 and while in the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps he rose to the rank of acting Staff Sergeant. He has embarked on several military training which includes several Basic entry courses for the ABDF, International Boarding Officer Courses, IT Networking courses, and Officer Candidate School (OCS). He participated in several workshops/exercises which include Tradewinds, Record-Keeping, Customer Care/Service, Intelligence, and Human-Trafficking. He has represented the ABDF in St. Vincent, Venezuela, Barbados and the USA.

Throughout his educational and military careers, Lieutenant Jarvis has acquired a number of outstanding awards which include Student of the Year 2007 (PMS), Cadet of the year 2009 (ABNCC), Best OS 2010 (ABDF CG), Sailor of the Year 2010 (ABDF CG) and Cadet of the Year 2015 (CMU).

Lieutenant (JG) Karl Jarvis' dedication to the ABDF is unshakable. He embraces the force's motto, Paratus Ad Serviendum (Ready to Serve), as he discharges his duties as Acting Operations Officer.

Lieutenant (JG) Karl Jarvis
#armyproud

National museum re-opens post-lockdown

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda has reopened to the general public, following the closure forced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, like all businesses and offices in the country, the museum too has had to put in place health protocols that have been mandated by the Ministry of Health.

The Historical and Archaeological Society manages the museum and according to its Chairman, Walter Berridge, it was no easy task to get reopened as all the national protocols had to be implemented. He specifically thanked CIBC FirstCaribbean for a donation of five thousand dollars which assisted in the purchase of a water tank, pump and accessories to facilitate a hand washing station.

“We contacted FirstCaribbean Bank for assistance and they immediately agreed. In addition to hand washing, there will also be sanitizing stations and social distancing. Masks must be worn at all times and no more than 5 persons will be allowed in the main gallery at any time,” he said.

Speaking during the presentation, the bank’s country manager, Ladesa James-Williams, said that a museum is a very important institution as it docu-



ments and preserves a country’s historical and cultural heritage.

“Our museum must be supported so that everyone, especially our young people, our students, can have easy access to our history. We at CIBC FirstCaribbean have decided to add the Museum to our Adopt-a-Cause projects and will be more involved with supporting the work of the museum,” she noted.

The bank also recently contributed approximately EC\$15,000 towards the government’s Food Voucher Programme and just under \$50,000 to as-

sist with the purchase of critical equipment and supplies for Mount St. John Medical Centre.

The Museum will be open to the public between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Mondays to Thursdays and on Fridays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Research Library will remain closed but enquiries can be made via researchmab1985@gmail.com or by calling 462-1469/462-4930.

CIBC FirstCaribbean has a staff of approximately 3,000 across 16 Caribbean countries.

cont’d from pg 6

just how bad it will get but he doesn’t expect it to be worse than this current storm which is slowly disappearing.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has issued an advisory to the general public regarding the Saharan dust urging residents to take precautions.

It said: “Recent atmospheric conditions occasioned by an increase in Sahara dust have resulted

in a reduction in overall air quality.

“This increase was noted by the Antigua Metrological Services to occur during the period June 20-23, 2020.

“When this dust travels across the ocean, the particulate matter can scatter sunlight and reduce visibility. As a result, Monday, June 22 appeared to be a shorter day, unlike Saturday, June 20, the longest day in the year and the start of summer, also known as the

Summer Solstice.

“Reports from Government-run health facilities have not shown an increase in respiratory compromise as was predicted by Metrological officials.

“However, with most people heeding to current health advisories, the wearing of masks and face coverings might have had a positive impact on mask users by helping to shield them from this increase in particulate matter.

Notwithstanding, the Ministry of Health continues to advise the public to seek medical attention for shortness of breath and any other breathing difficulty. Other negative impacts of an increase in Sahara dust include worsening of asthmatic symptoms to include cough and chest tightness and worsening of allergic conditions such as allergic conjunctivitis (red itchy eyes) and allergic rhinitis (runny nose).”



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ACB, Rotary Club continue charity work

Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) is combining efforts with the Rotary Club of Antigua as it extends its programme of assistance to charitable organisations in the country against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three organisations have benefited from the latest donations from the bank's ongoing COVID-19 relief efforts. They are Ex-Servicemen Association of Antigua and Barbuda, the Good Sheppard Home for Girls, as well as the

Sunshine Home for Girls.

"After visiting and dialoging with the principal members of the organizations, we were able to clearly identify some immediate needs and determine the best ways to assist, and ACB is happy to

have been able to meet these needs," ACB's Marketing and Public Relations Representative, Shantia Edwards, remarked.

She said all members of the Ex-Servicemen Association and the spouses of some of the deceased members were gifted with food vouchers valued at EC\$250 each.

The House Mothers of the Good Sheppard Home for Girls and Sunshine Home for Girls were presented with desktop computers, to assist the residents of the respective homes with their academic pursuits.

President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Dr. Vanetta Rodgers, who played an integral role in this project, was also present at the event to assist with the presentation of the items.

"It was a humbling and rewarding experience to interact with the various insti-

cont'd on pg 11



Major road closures ahead

The Friar's Hill road rehabilitation project is reaching a critical stage as major road closures have been announced, one of which goes into effect today.

Road closure # 1: The junction of Cross Street and Friars Hill Road

The agency carrying out the road works said this junction closure is scheduled to facilitate APUA's Electricity Business Unit to carry out work in the area and it is expected to last three days. St. John's Street will be deemed a **NO PARKING ZONE** for the duration of this road closure.

Date: Wednesday 24, 2020 until Friday 26th June, 2020.

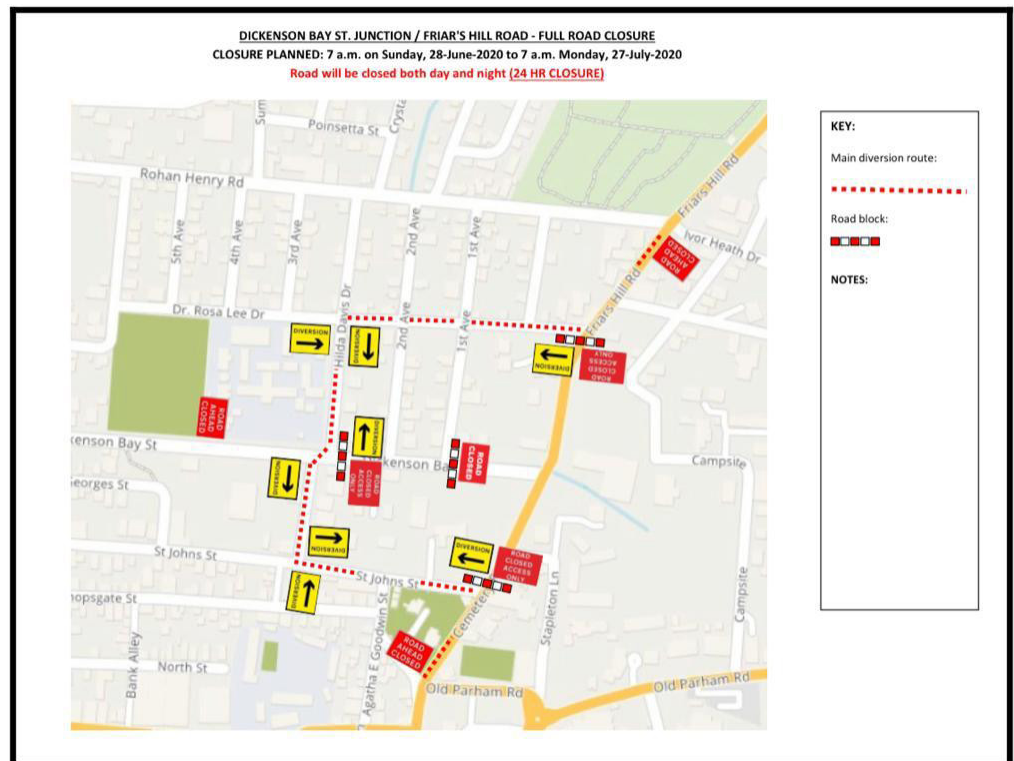
Time: 7:00am until 1 6:00pm

Main Diversion: Access to Stapleton Lane will be via St. John's Street only.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda will be providing traffic management support. Road users are urged to proceed with extreme caution.

Road closure # 2: Dickenson Bay St. junction closure

The junction where Dickenson Bay



Street meets Friars Hill Road will be closed to facilitate ongoing road rehabilitation works. This full road closure is expected to begin on Sunday 28th June, 2020.

Date: From Sunday 28th June 2020

until Monday 27th July, 2020.

Time: 7:00am

Closure Limit: Dickenson Bay St / Friars Hill Rd Junction.

Diversion: St. John's Street, Hilda Davis Drive (Map attached)



cont'd from pg 10

tutions and to learn of their needs, alongside the ACB team. The contributions of the Ex Servicemen cannot be forgotten and now that they are vulnerable due to

COVID-19, we need to show our support.

"I commend ACB for funding this initiative and for going above their initial cash commitment by additionally organizing the computers for

the two homes," she commented,

Representatives from the three organizations applauded the Antigua Commercial Bank and the Rotary Club of Antigua for always demon-

strating exemplary corporate social responsibility, and expressed their gratitude for the timely donations, which will provide relief to some of the country's most vulnerable individuals.

UWI Five Islands, Rotary Club award scholarship

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Five Islands Campus in collaboration with the Rotary Club named the first recipient of the Rotary/UWI Five Islands Campus Scholarship. The award goes to Sharon Henry-Phillip, a student at the university.

The scholarship, designed to assist a current student of the campus who maintains scholastic excellence, covers the cost of study for one year leading to the completion of a bachelor's degree.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus

Principal, Professor Stafford Griffith gave remarks during the presentation of the inaugural scholarship, stating, "Today is a historic day for the Campus."

"I want to thank the Rotary Club of Antigua for its service and commitment to promoting the welfare and wellbeing of individuals. We are thankful for the scholarship and we note this is the first benefactor scholarship to be awarded through the Five Islands Campus and it is therefore historic."

President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Dr. Vanetta Rodgers, said the organisation has always placed high priority on its education mandate and celebrates its record of making the historic first award to a student of the The UWI Five Islands Campus.

"At the start of the planning of my Rotary year, one of my main goals was to give a scholarship to someone who is most deserving. After deliberations with The University officials,

"I am satisfied with the relationship between the Rotary Club of Antigua



Scholarship recipient Mrs. Sharon Henry-Phillip (centre) accepts the award from President of the Rotary Club of Antigua Dr. Vanetta Rodgers (right) and Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Stafford Griffith (left).

and The UWI Five Islands Campus and I look forward to further collaboration, be it a Rotaract Club or otherwise," Dr. Rodgers stated.

Henry-Phillip, who is enrolled in a Bachelor of management programme at the School of Management, Sciences and Technology was encouraged by one of her lecturers to apply for the scholarship.

She said after clearing the application and interviewing processes, it was even more gratifying to be the recipient of the first ever Rotary of Antigua/UWI Scholarship.

Henry-Phillip, a teacher by profession, decided to pursue tertiary education to "make a more significant contribution" to the management of education in Antigua and Barbuda. She urged all Antiguan and Barbudans to continue to support the Rotary Club of Antigua in its efforts to offer education opportunities to young people who are seeking to improve themselves and the country.

The scholarship valuing EC\$6,444.76 will cover tuition, books and Guild fees.



From left: President of the Rotary Club of Antigua Dr. Vanetta Rodgers, scholarship recipient Mrs. Sharon Henry-Phillip and Past President of the Rotary Club of Antigua Dr. Errol Samuel.



From left: Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Stafford Griffith, President of the Rotary Club of Antigua Dr. Vanetta Rodgers, Dir. of Academic Affairs Mr. Hynam Forde, scholarship recipient Mrs. Sharon Henry-Phillip and her husband Glenroy Phillip, Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Antigua Mrs. Julietta Rhudd, Past President of the Rotary Club of Antigua Dr. Errol Samuel and Dir. of Finance and Administration of The UWI Five Islands Campus Ms. Daniella Hickling.

Post-Lockdown Considerations



“We are virtually COVID-free”. Those are the words of government officials used to justify the reopening of the economy to workers to earn an income. How prepared though are our businesses to welcome our respective human resources back to our premises and office spaces?

The COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying safety protocols have had devastating impacts on our health and economic systems. To date, almost 7.4 million persons have contracted the virus globally. In Antigua & Barbuda, to date, twenty-six persons have contracted the virus, with three fatalities.

The Safe Return to Work Guide for Employers on COVID-19 Prevention, produced by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on May 7, 2020, declares, “Until the development of a vaccine or medicine, COVID-19 virus is likely to continue circulating in our communities. Physical distancing measures, increased hygiene and other precautions will, therefore, have to be maintained to contain infections, including those in the workplace”.

Any guidelines for reopening after the lifting of restrictions post-pandemic should be aimed at adjusting public health and social measures while managing the risk of a resurgence of cases after the lifting of restric-

tions. Certain actions should be taken post lockdown not only to ensure a safe return to the workspace but also to improve on the changes that have become necessary since the pandemic was declared. This pandemic has highlighted weaknesses in our organizations that left us vulnerable as we scrambled to put our contingencies in place. Our disaster plans for the hurricane season were woefully inadequate to negotiate the challenges of this pandemic. Special leave and mental health support had to be instituted for those persons who lost relatives and friends to the virus and those who had general anxiety about the impact that the virus and the ensuing protocols had on their lives and livelihood. Financial counseling and other employee assistance programs (EAPs) also had to be implemented to combat the negative impacts caused by the pandemic.

These modifications now have to become the normal course of doing business. Virtual meetings, electronic signatures, online check-in and check-out services, cashless payments, curbside pickups, deliveries, in-home personal grooming, and all the other adjustments need to be made to reduce the physical contact we are accustomed to.

Workplaces also have to consider flexibility and employee upskilling as some workers may need to be redeployed since there

may no longer be a need for their skills and expertise in a particular area. Working from home has now become commonplace even for some entities that never thought it possible, bringing with it the challenges of motivating employees from a distance and the remote management of productivity.

As HR professionals, we admonish our business partners to carefully chart the way forward. Ask and seek answers to the questions related to becoming more human and seeking strategic partnerships with leaders. The end goal being to create more fluid protocols and less stringent policies. Collectively we must strive to become more adaptable in our approach to business continuity. We have to motivate our staff to be more comfortable with managing change and preparing themselves for opportunities. The continuous development of new skills will lead us to the realization that there is no longer such a thing as a job for life.

Governments and unions need to be prepared to make clear decisions based on evolving data as the workplace as we know it has changed. Employees who now prefer to work from home must be able to do so without the interruption of service to clients. Immediately addressing the realities of employment gaps created by voluntary separation or automation will become necessary.

We recommend that any return-to-work document has to contain more than just health and safety precautions such as mandatory temperature checks, the wearing of masks, allowing only essential visitors onto the premises, safe physical distancing, and the continuation of proper sanitization and hygiene practices. Such a document must also deal with how the organization moves forward in a post-COVID-19 pandemic era ensuring that the lessons learned are not wasted but that there are improvements at the management and staffing levels for the benefit of all. Now more than ever, the focus must be on our greatest resource, our human resource.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began assembling informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary.

Caribbean Airlines Records Over US\$14 Million In Losses Due To COVID-19

Caribbean Airlines (CAL) has recorded a loss of more than US\$14 million in just over a one-month period as a result of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Allyson West, has disclosed.

She told the Senate that the airline, during the period March 23 to April 30, had estimated its losses at US\$14.2 million.

“The financial impact to Caribbean Airlines Limited from losses arising from the COVID-19 pandemic took effect from the beginning of March 2020, prior to the closure of our national borders,” she told legislators, adding that demand for air travel had “already been reduced significantly.”

“The impact was further exacerbated following the closure of our borders at midnight on March 22. As a wholly-owned state enterprise, Caribbean Airlines Limited has complied with government policy during the COVID-19 pandemic and maintained all of its staff on payroll”.

She said in addition to that measure, notwithstanding the fact that air travel is severely restricted currently, CAL is also required to keep its aircraft leases up to date and also ensure that the planes are airworthy and all of its systems functioning in readiness for the resumption of flights.

Last November, the airline reported its unaudited summary financial results for January to September 2019, showing it continues to achieve an operating



profit and a positive net income. The unaudited results for the nine months ending September 2019 show earnings before interest and taxes of TT\$121 million, with revenue for the period being TT\$2.3 billion, up 3.8 per

cent. “It has truly been a breakout year for Caribbean Airlines. Another strong financial performance means we can continue our investments into new planes and services for our customers, building a better place to work

for our employees, and supporting communities across the Caribbean through sponsorship, economic activity, and global connectivity.” Garvin Medera, the airline’s chief executive officer, said then.

Statement by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States on Cuban Medical Brigades



The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) expressed its deep appreciation to the Republic of Cuba for the medical support provided to six (6) member countries of the Organisation to assist with efforts to combat the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the OECS and wider Caribbean

region.

The provision of specialised health care through the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigades has not only augmented the scarce medical resources of OECS Member States but has provided assurance to the general populations of the region's capacity to fight and manage COVID-19. Four

hundred and seventy-three (473) Cuban medical personnel are working alongside their Caribbean counterparts in eight countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) to assist in managing the spread of COVID-19.

Cuba's support to the health sector in the Caribbean has a long and exemplary history that has benefitted numerous Caribbean citizens. One noted invaluable assistance to the region is "Operation Milagro" – a programme which provides free eye medical treatment to OECS nationals requiring interventions to prevent blindness or to restore vision. These conditions include cataract, diabetic retinopathy and other reversible types of visual impairment. The OECS acknowledges with gratitude the extensive global contributions of Cuba, particularly in the fields of health and disaster management, this in spite of its material limitations and the economic hardships resulting from US imposed sanctions.

The Organisation notes with deep concern and repudiates the recent bill introduced by Republican Senator Rick Scott which classifies Cuba's humanitarian assistance as "human trafficking" and seeks to extend punitive measures against countries accepting this medical assistance.

The OECS Authority greatly values the work of the Henry Reeve Medical Brigades and has reiterated its desire to work with ALL friendly Governments that offer tangible support in the face of the grave existential threat posed to lives and livelihoods in the small island states of the Caribbean.

St. Vincent: 2,596 persons receiving COVID-19 income support

A total of 2,596 Vincentians are receiving income support through the displacement supplementary income or the unemployment benefit, Minister of Finance, Camillo Gonsalves told Parliament on Monday.

"These 2,596 Vincentians represent 82% of the 3,164 claims that have been filed to date. Many of the unpaid claims are awaiting additional supporting documentation while some have been rejected on various grounds," he told lawmakers in a ministerial statement. The minister said 60% of the beneficiaries of these two programmes are women, and that 66% of the beneficiaries are under the age of 44. On average, these programmes replaced approximately 30% of the beneficiaries' pre-pandemic wages, he told lawmakers and media audiences, as he spoke in Parliament. The minister said that as the Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves announced in his March 25 national address, the National Insurance Services (NIS) has provided a prepayment of two months pension benefits for all categories of pensioners.

This was to facilitate upfront costs of pensioners at this time and benefited 8,189 pensioners. The finance minister said that as of June 12, the government had paid displacement supplementary income to 1,496 Vincentians.

"These 1,496 Vincentians were affected by closures in the hospitality sector. To date,



the roughly \$300 monthly payment to these 1,496 Vincentians has cost the government \$1.02 million," Gonsalves said.

He further said that as of June 12, an additional 1,100 Vincentians have received a similar EC\$300 per month via the unemployment benefit offered by the NIS.

"This programme has paid just over EC\$600,000 to date. In total, therefore, 2,596 Vincentians are currently receiving income support through either the displacement supplementary income or the unemployment benefit."

Further, workers in the informal sector, particularly vendors in towns and those who traditionally are dependent on trade adjacent to schools, are eligible for interim assistance benefits of EC\$300 per month for three months.

"A special window was created to make a one-off payment of \$300 to hand cart operators. In total, 1,644 informal sector workers inclusive of 105 hand-cart operators have received in-

terim assistance benefits."

Gonsalves said that to date, those benefits have cost approximately EC\$460,000.

Additionally, a further 60 vendors who traditionally ply their trade along the sea wall running from Little Tokyo to Rose Place in Kingstown were given a compensation package of EC\$4,500 each to remove their structures and vacate the seawall area as a prelude to the construction of the modern port and cargo terminal.

The compensation, totalling EC\$275,000, makes provision for three months' income support of EC\$715 per month, in addition to amounts for the values of their structures, removal allowance, and a bonus for timely removal. "The compensation previously agreed by the Cabinet was timed to maximise its benefit to those vendors affected by the pandemic-related slowdown in activity," Gonsalves said. Also, vulnerable Vincentians, particularly the elderly, the disabled, or those experiencing increased finan-

cial vulnerability as a result of the pandemic, are receiving a monthly payment of EC\$200 for the remainder of the year.

Some 600 Vincentians are currently receiving this benefit.

"To date, approximately \$260,000 has been spent on this programme," the finance minister said. He told Parliament that 451 minibus operators have registered to receive two months' income support of EC\$500 or EC\$600 for 18-seater and 25-seater or larger buses, respectively.

Last month, the government paid approximately \$180,000 to 351 minibus operators, Gonsalves said, adding that a further payment to the larger 451-operator cohort is expected shortly.

"Additionally, through negotiations with the minibus operators, the government agreed to accelerate the process by which changes in the price of fuel is passed on to the consumer."

He said that taking advantage of falling oil prices, the government dispensed with the rolling three-month average model and reduced gasoline and diesel prices twice in quick succession.

"While these fuel reductions benefit all automobile-owning Vincentians, they are of particular benefit to minibus operators who fill their tanks multiple times per week. Indeed, some owners are saving between \$500 and \$800 a month on fuel as compared to their pre-COVID prices."

Guyana: Elections case cannot be appealed

People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Executive, Anil Nandlall stated on Tuesday that his party has filed and served an appeal to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in relation to the ruling on Guyana's elections case but the Attorney General's Chambers has reminded the party and the public that no appeal can be made to the matter. In a release on Tuesday, the Attorney General's Chambers stated that the CCJ, while accepting its position as a superior court of record, has continuously recognised that it only possesses such jurisdiction and powers which are conferred on it by the Agreement establishing the CCJ or by the Constitution or any other law of the contracting party.

Though the CCJ is Guyana's apex court, the Caribbean Court of Justice Act, Chapter 3:07 limits the appellate jurisdiction of the Court in Section 4 (3) which states: "Nothing in this Act shall confer jurisdiction on the Court to hear matters in relation to any decision of the Court of Appeal which at the time of entry into force of this Act was declared to be final by any law."

In the elections case brought by Eslyn David, the Court of Appeal ruled that it had jurisdiction to hear the matter based on Article 177 (4) of the Constitution which also declares that any decision made by the said Court on such matters is final. Article 177 (4) states: "The Court of Appeal shall have

exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine any question as to the validity of an election of a President in so far as the question depends upon the qualification of any person for election or the interpretation of this Constitution; and any decision of that Court under this paragraph shall be final." The Caribbean Court of Justice Act took effect in 2004 at which time Article 177 (4) of the Constitution was already a part of the laws of Guyana. "It made the decisions of the Court of Appeal final in respect of matters determined thereunder and expressly ousted the jurisdiction of any higher appellate Court," the AG's Chambers noted.

Even so, Nandlall, who is also the country's former Attorney General, took to his Facebook page on Tuesday morning to inform his supporters that: "appeal to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) filed and served."

At its ruling on Monday, the Court of Appeal had granted the request of a three-day stay of its judgement but Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Basil Williams told the newspaper later that day that he is unsure why such was granted when the Court's decision, according to law, is final.

"The election of the President which is reflected in an instrument under the hand of the Chairman of the Elections Commission is final and conclusive and cannot be inquired



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Basil Williams

into in another Court," he stated.

"I don't why they asked for a stay because Article 177 (4) says quite clearly that any decision made there under was final so that they can't appeal it and, equally under our Caribbean Court of Justice Act, Chapter 3:07, there's a provision also which states that the Caribbean Court would not exercise jurisdiction or hear any matter coming from our Court of Appeal which is stated to be final."

In the release from the Attorney General's Chambers today which provided greater clarity, the public's attention was also pointed to Article 177 (4) of the Constitution; Section 4 of the CCJ Act Cap 3:07 and the Agreement establishing the

Caribbean Court of Justice, which speak to jurisdiction of the CCJ as being derived from three sources: the Agreement, the Constitution and the law of a contracting party.

The Attorney General's Chambers stated: "Therefore, where the effect of the provisions of the Constitution or the local law is to oust the jurisdiction of the Court, even where there is conflict with the Agreement, regard must be given to such local law. The Constitution is, after all, the supreme law of the land (Article 8 of the Constitution of Guyana) and nowhere in the Constitution exists a provision that mandates that the CCJ is to exercise appellate jurisdiction in respect of all matters determined by the

Trump promises jail time for protesters pulling down statues

US President Donald Trump says he has authorised the government to arrest anyone caught trying to tear down monuments or statues, threatening they could be jailed for 10 years. Trump said on Tuesday the new order applies “retroactively” so those who previously participated in bringing down memorials could be arrested. “I have authorised the federal government to arrest anyone who vandalises or destroys any monument, statue or other such federal property in the US with up to 10 years in prison, per the Veteran’s Memorial Preservation Act,” the president wrote on Twitter.

Commenting as he departed the White House for a trip to Arizona on Tuesday, Trump reiterated his threat and said, “I will have an executive order very shortly, and all it’s really going to do is reinforce what’s already there, but in a more uniform way.”

The federal statute Trump referred to subjects anyone who willfully injures or destroys, or attempts to injure or destroy, any structure, plaque, statue or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person or persons in the armed forces of the US to fines, up to 10 years imprisonment, or both.

A wave of nationwide rallies calling for racial justice has swept across the United States since May 25 when George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, was killed by a white



Protesters attempt to pull down the statue of Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Square near the White House

police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Trump’s order on Tuesday follows a statement by Republican Senator Tom Cotton, from the state of Arkansas, who demanded the federal government take action against the pulling down of statues of historical American figures. “Violent mobs have, in recent weeks, defaced and torn down statues, memorials, and monuments around our country,” Cotton said in a letter to Attorney General William Barr. “These criminals masquerade as protesters exercising their lawful right to peaceably assemble, but there can be no right to destroy public or private property.”

Cotton has taken a hard line against the anti-racism demonstrations that have gripped the US after the police killings of Floyd and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta.

Speaking on the floor of the US Senate on Tuesday, Ma-

jority Leader Mitch McConnell echoed the sentiments expressed by both Trump and Cotton. “Americans know an imperfect nation built by imperfect heroes is still the most perfect Union the world has ever seen,” he said. “And when the dust settles, it is never the mobs or bullies whom we honor. It is the brave leaders who confront them.”

Trump has threatened to deploy the US military on the streets - a move widely condemned by rights activists, politicians, and even US military leaders.

On Monday night, protesters tried to pull down a statue of former US President Andrew Jackson near the White House before being dispersed by police with pepper-spray at Lafayette Square, where the Jackson statue is located.

Videos posted on social media showed demonstrators climbing on the statue, tying

ropes around it, then unsuccessfully trying to pull it off its pedestal. Trump tweeted late on Monday that “numerous people” had been arrested for “the disgraceful vandalism”.

The statue shows Jackson in a military uniform, riding a horse that is rearing on its hind legs. The 19th-century president’s ruthless treatment of Native Americans has made his statue a target of demonstrators protesting the US’s legacy of racial injustice.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt was at the scene on Monday and issued a statement.

“Let me be clear: we will not bow to anarchists. Law and order will prevail, and justice will be served,” said Bernhardt.

On June 1, law enforcement officers forcefully cleared peaceful protesters from Lafayette Square so Trump could stage a photo opportunity at a nearby church.

Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro ordered to wear mask in public



The BBC's South America correspondent Katy Watson looks at how Bolsonaro has responded to the virus in Bra-

A judge in Brazil has ordered President Jair Bolsonaro to wear a protective mask when he is in public spaces in the capital, Brasilia, and the surrounding federal district.

The far-right president has been criticised for belittling the risk posed by coronavirus.

He dismissed it as "a little cold" at the start of the pandemic.

Brazil has the second-highest number of coronavirus cases and Covid-related fatalities in the world after the US.

There are more than 1.1m confirmed cases of coronavirus in Brazil and more than 51,000 coronavirus-related deaths

have been recorded, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Despite these high figures, President Bolsonaro has repeatedly appeared in public without a mask while greeting his supporters.

At one rally, he was filmed coughing without covering his mouth and on another occasion he was seen sneezing into his hand and shaking the hand of an elderly woman immediately afterwards.

The requirement to wear masks in the federal district came into force on 30 April.

The rule was brought in by the governor of the federal

district, Ibaneis Rocha, and requires people to cover their nose and mouth in all public spaces, including public transport, shops and commercial and industrial premises.

On 11 May, the rule was further tightened with those flaunting it facing fines of 2,000 reais (\$387; £310) per day.

Federal Judge Renato Borelli's ruling means Mr Bolsonaro is not exempt and that the president and any other public officials who do not comply with the requirement will also incur the 2,000-reais fine.

President Bolsonaro has argued from the start of the pandemic that measures taken

to curb the spread of the virus could be more damaging than the pandemic itself.

On Monday, he renewed his call for the easing of lockdown measures and the reopening of shops and businesses.

He said that the way the pandemic had been handled had "maybe been a bit over the top".

The president's insistence that the economy should be prioritised has been deeply divisive and he has clashed with state governors who have introduced restrictions of movement and requirements to wear masks in public.

Twitter puts warning on Trump tweet for 'threat of harm' against DC protesters

Twitter on Tuesday put a warning label on a tweet from President Donald Trump in which he warned if protesters tried to set up an "autonomous zone" in Washington DC they would be "met with serious force!" "We've placed a public interest notice on this Tweet for violating our policy against abusive behavior, specifically, the presence of a threat of harm against an identifiable group," Twitter said.

Twitter users, including Trump's supporters, will be unable to retweet the offending tweet due to the measure.

The company explained that although the tweet broke its rules it "will remain on the service given its relevance to ongoing public conversation." Trump posted the same message on Facebook. CNN has reached out to Facebook for comment.

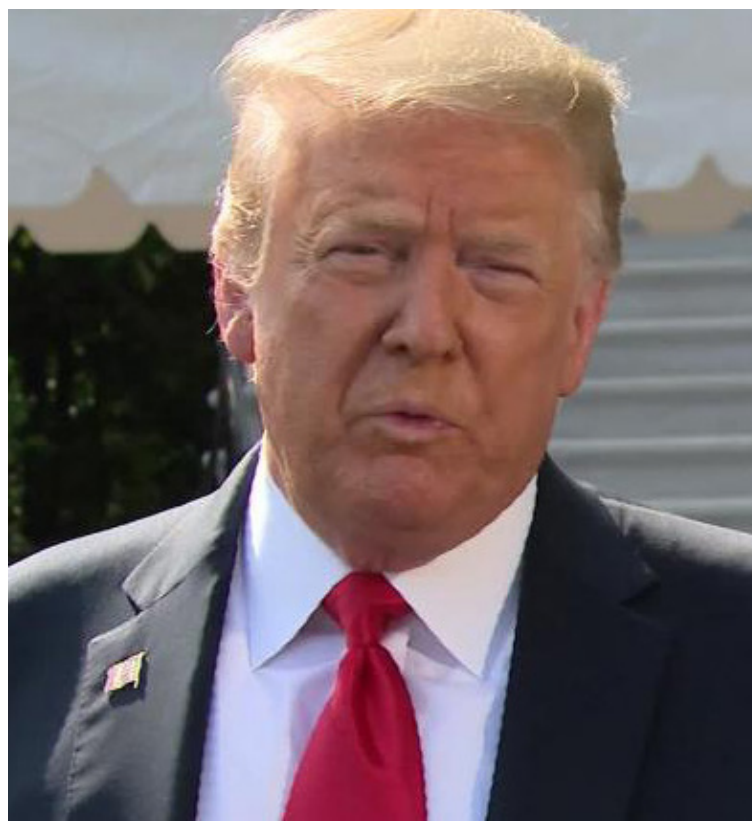
"There will never be an 'Autonomous Zone' in Washington, D.C., as long as I'm your President. If they try they will be met with serious force!," Trump posted on

Twitter and Facebook.

Trump has been critical of the "autonomous zone" in Seattle, an area occupied by protestors for much of this month. Criticizing Twitter's decision Tuesday, House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy tweeted that "citizens have a right to hear directly from their President and decide for themselves what to think about it."

Twitter announced specific rules for politicians last year that allows them to sometimes violate the platform's rules without their tweets being removed. The company says there is a "public interest" in people being able to see and debate statements from elected officials. This is the fourth time Twitter has taken action against Trump's account in just a few weeks.

In May, Twitter labeled two Trump tweets that made false claims about mail-in ballots in California. A few days later, Trump tweeted that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts," which Twitter labeled as a glorification of violence.



Facebook and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, were criticized by some of its staff when the company took no action on the same post on its platform.

Last week, Twitter labeled a video Trump tweeted of two toddlers as "manipulated." It was later removed entirely due to a copyright claim.

The labeling of tweets has

enraged the President and his supporters and even prompted Trump to sign an executive order targeting social media companies.

Facebook last week took down a set of Trump campaign ads because, the company said, the ads included a Nazi symbol.

European Union considering recommendation to block entry to Americans due to coronavirus surge

As European Union nations continue to ease coronavirus restrictions, the EU is considering recommending that member states block American visitors from visiting their countries due to the surge of coronavirus cases in the US,

according to two EU diplomats. "The criteria will be focused on circulation of the virus," said one EU diplomat, adding that Brussels is looking to keep out travelers from countries "where the virus is circulating most actively."

No final decisions have been made and it is ultimately up to individual members to decide who can enter each country.

The New York Times was first to report on the possibility. The EU diplomats had

not seen the draft lists of acceptable travelers the Times reported on, but they said they are aware that discussions are ongoing.

CNN has asked the State Department for comment.

Powerful earthquake shakes southern Mexico, at least 2 dead

A powerful earthquake centered near the southern Mexico resort of Huatulco killed at least two people, swayed buildings in Mexico City and sent thousands fleeing into the streets.

Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said one person was killed and another injured in a building collapse in Huatulco, Oaxaca. Otherwise he said reports were of minor damage from the magnitude 7.4 quake, including broken windows and collapsed walls. Oaxaca Gov. Alejandro Murat later said a second person was killed in an apparent house collapse in the tiny mountain village of San Juan Ozolotepec.

The state-run oil company known as Pemex said the quake caused a fire at its refinery in the Pacific coast city of Salina Cruz, relatively near the epicenter. It said one worker was injured and the flames were quickly extinguished.

López Obrador said there had been more than 140 aftershocks, most of them small.

Seismic alarms sounded midmorning with enough warning for residents to exit buildings. Power was knocked out to some areas.

Helicopters flew over downtown Mexico City and police patrols sounded their sirens.

Groups of people still milled around in close proximity on streets and sidewalks in some



A policeman removes rubble from a building damaged by an earthquake in Oaxaca, Mexico, Tuesday, June 23, 2020. The earthquake was centered near the resort of Huatulco, in the southern state of Oaxaca

neighborhoods of the capital about an hour after the quake. Many were not wearing masks despite past appeals from municipal officials for them to do so as a way to curb the spread of the new coronavirus.

Inside a Mexico City military barracks converted to COVID-19 hospital, medical staff suited in protective equipment tried to calm anxious patients. Unable to evacuate isolation areas, patients huddled under a large beam in the women's ward while a nurse tried to calm one having a panic attack.

Teresa Juárez could only wish for it to pass quickly from her hospital bed where she lay connected to oxygen. Diabetic and with high blood pressure,

Juárez said she thought about her five children. "It's horrible, you're here and you don't know what to do," she said.

The U.S. Geologic Survey said the quake hit at 10:29 a.m. (11:29 a.m. Eastern) along Mexico's southern Pacific coast at a depth of 16 miles (26 km). The epicenter was 7 miles (12 km) south-southwest of Santa Maria Zapotitlan in Oaxaca state.

In Huatulco, a laid-back beach destination known for surfing and small protected coves, the earthquake knocked goods off shelves and some rubble from buildings.

Mari González of the Princess Mayev hotel in Huatulco said staff and guests were able to evacuate the building before

the quake, but that 45 minutes after the initial quake they were still outside as strong aftershocks continued.

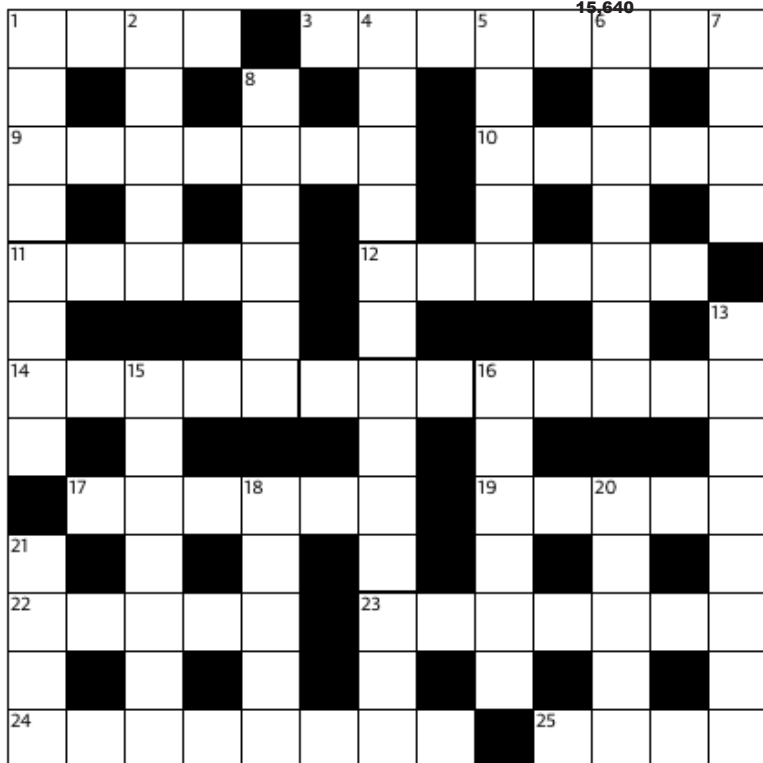
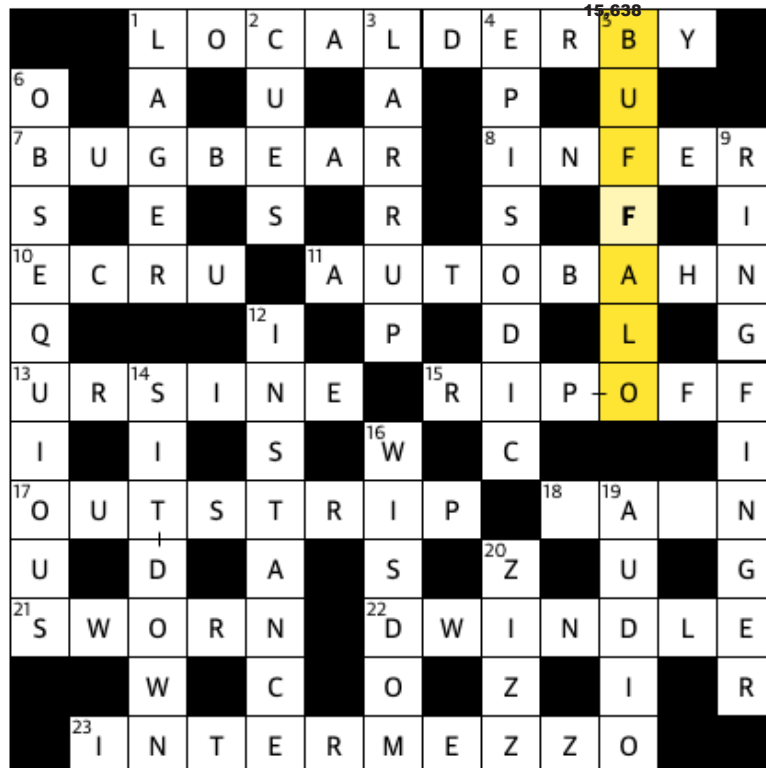
"It was strong, very strong," she said.

González said there was some visible broken glass and mirrors, but no major damage. The staff was waiting for the aftershocks to dissipate before fully evaluating the property.

Local news media reported damage to some buildings in the state capital, Oaxaca city. State officials said they were looking for damage.

The USGS estimated that some 2 million people felt strong or moderate shaking and another 49 million felt weak or light shaking.

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
 15,640

 Quick crossword No
 15,638


Across

- 1 Religious song (4)
 3 Trunks and bikinis (8)
 9 Bacterium, for example (7)
 10 Start — launch (5)
 11 Terror (5)
 12 Confine (6)
 14 Prim and proper virtuous type (5,3,5)
 17 Look up to (6)
 19 Andean animal (5)
 22 Another time (5)
 23 Plantation of fruit trees (7)
 24 Joy — eloquence (8)
 25 Conference fruit? (4)

Down

- 1 First point of call on website (4,4)
 2 Dry white Burgundy wine (5)
 4 Always (Monday to Sunday) (4,2,4,3)
 5 Connector for computer to telephone line (5)
 6 Ban (7)
 7 Customary observance (4)
 8 Ticklish (6)
 13 Inhabitant of Skye, say (8)
 15 Strange (7)
 16 Comfort (6)
 18 Style of Greek column used for the British Museum and the US Capitol (5)
 20 At speed (5)
 21 Muscular back of the shank (4)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



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DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Go your own way. What's best for the group may not be in your best interests, so it could be wise to fly solo. Sometimes those who are overly committed to supporting their own cause see only what they want to see.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Negotiate a better deal. Shop around and you might find there are excellent values and discounts. You are better equipped than most people to come up with reasonable trade-offs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put the pieces together by finding an alternative solution. Someone close may have the vision while you have the practical knowledge to make a business idea or a minor home remodeling project a resounding smash.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be appreciated and applauded for being reliable and principled even when things do not go your way. To get ahead, avoid emotionally charged subjects and concentrate on being down to earth and sensible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Yield to peer pressure with good grace. If you engage with others while maintaining a sense of community spirit, the community will likely support you. This could be a good time to reach out and ask others to contribute to charitable organizations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Say what you mean and mean what you say. When you are consistently levelheaded, your loved ones will find it difficult to misunderstand your meaning. Those in charge will take note of your candor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on facts that are unadulterated by spin or opinion. It isn't necessary to agree to something you'd rather say "no" to just to please someone. Being honest about your boundaries won't offend people who really care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Whatever you can visualize you can often achieve. It may be important to promote your interests and show people how they can benefit, too. Work goes faster and more is accomplished when there is a partner on hand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It is a mistake to be misleading. You may cloak your thoughts because you're embarrassed to share them, or you may misunderstand someone because you don't want to pry. Being straightforward always gets better results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Endless enthusiasm and a visionary viewpoint is at your beck and call. Put all your energy into the pursuit of a pet project. You may need to clarify past actions or amend mistakes to avoid a dent in your reputation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): People might find you more attractive than usual, so make sure the first impression they receive counts. Your "all for one and one for all" attitude at work can make a project or task run more smoothly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): A one-track mind could blind you to opportunities. While engrossed in creating a business venture or financial strategy, you could be oblivious to someone's input or might inadvertently confuse a friend or loved one.

Gayle opts out of 2020 CPL

Chris Gayle has opted out of the 2020 CPL, a day before the players draft is scheduled to take place on June 24.

The Jamaican left hander communicated his decision

on Monday to St. Lucia Zouks, the franchise he was going to play for in this year's CPL, saying he would not be available to play for personal reasons.

Ten Pakistan players test positive for coronavirus.

Seven more Pakistan players have tested positive for coronavirus, taking the total to 10.

However, players who have tested negative will depart for the tour of England on 28 June.

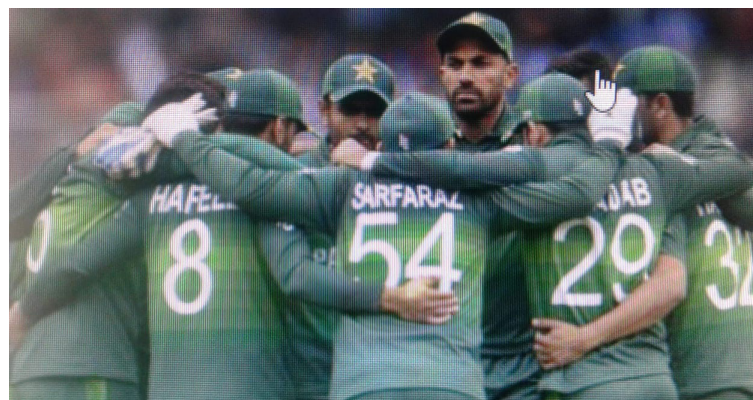
Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive, Wasim Khan, said the tour to England is very much on

track and the side will depart per schedule.

Pakistan are due to meet England in three Tests and three Twenty20s, beginning in August.

All the players who have tested positive have been told to observe strict quarantine at their homes.

Players who have tested positive will have to return two negative tests before they are allowed to travel.



Pakistan team



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Local cricket is not moving in the right direction

Local cricket is not moving in the right direction!

That's the view of former West Indies fast bowler Kenneth Benjamin.

Benjamin says people need to understand their role if the sport is to return to its glory days when Antigua were spitting out test cricketers on a regular basis.

"We need a comprehensive plan and I think the Ministry of Sports missed the boat when they did not continue with the Sports and Games Department that was been put in place by former minister of sports, Paul Chet Greene.

"Development has to be community based so when the players are chosen to play for their schools they already have the basics and motors skills they would have learned if there are strong

coaching and programmes within the communities," Benjamin suggested.

Benjamin said there's a need for people to understand that development is everything; personnel, facilities, the whole nine yards. "That's why I say the Ministry of Sports dropped the ball when they abandoned community development," he declared.

President of the Liberta Sports Club believes that too often coaches and administrators accept mediocrity in local cricket.

Benjamin, speaking with PointeXpress, also talked about the Leeward Hurricanes set-up where he pointed to the fact that there are not 15 quality players in the region deserving of central contracts. Perhaps, he recommends, President Enoch

Lewis and his board should consider giving out eight contracts to players who deserve it and let the other players be paid as they play.

The local league was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic and the former Leeward Islands pacer was critical of the decision noting they should have waited and take the decision in stages because of the different competitions that are hosted locally.

Benjamin says work is due

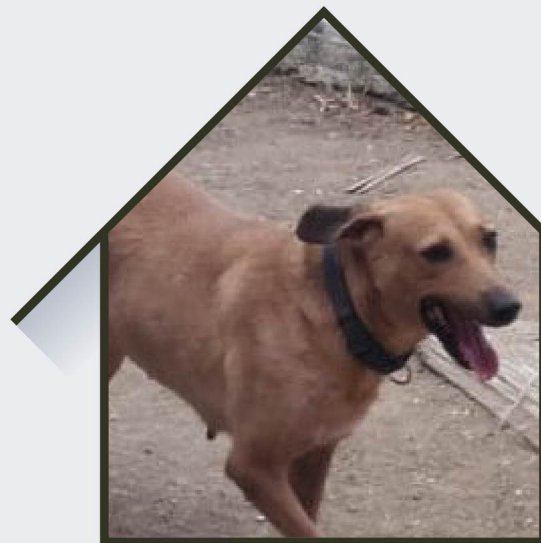


Former West Indies fast bowler Kenneth Benjamin.

to resume of the upgrade of the Liberta Sporting facility in a few weeks and the cricketers are waiting for the 'ok' to resume training.

An Under-14 male and female development program is scheduled to bowl off in the summer, the Liberta Black Hawks coach noted.

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Sports

WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2020

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He was calm and collective

Kevin Saxman Watts was introduced to football at the late age of fourteen, but he was a fast learner and he naturally gifted.

Despite never being exposed to much youth football, especially the Shipwreck league which was responsible for the development of many players during the 1980's and 90's, Watts managed to develop quickly making his way to the national senior team four years after being exposed to the game.

"I received my first pair of boots from Hilmore Carr, but while my friends were heading to town on Saturdays to participate in the Shipwreck league, I had to

stay back and attend church because my Grandmother was a devoted Seventh Day Adventist and church was a must," Watts stated.

Watts started his career in the First Division with Bassa after dominating school football with All Saints Secondary winning everything in sight.

After Bassa, a team from the central part of All Saints who boasted three teams back then, gained promotion to the Premier division, Watts' skills were being noticed by many spectators and coaches.

"I prefer playing midfield but after being pushed to play upfront by coach Micah Samuels in a Combined



Kevin Saxman Watts

Schools game after my team was down 3-nil, and I scored three goals I pushed as a center forward," he recalled.

Watts represented the Antigua and Barbuda national team for twelve years and was Bassa's main marksman during their dominant period of five premier league championships in seven years.

There are some who believe that the player was never given his just do for his contributions to a sport he dominated for many years bringing joy to the people of All Saints and further afield.

Watts credits the tight bond he and his teammates shared among each other for their successes and he is hoping his former team, which is rooted in the second division for over five years, can regain its swag.

The skillful forward is not happy with the amount of foreign players being drafted into the local league and he believes it's hampering the development of local players.

Watts is also of the view that for football to return to its former glory it has to be community based like in previous years, to bring out the rivalry and best efforts from the local stars.

"I am not happy with the way I had to walk away from the national set-up, and I feel that my teammates and I have never received the credit we deserved after dominating the Premier Division for over seven years," he bemoaned.

Watts is encouraging young players to stick with their teams and stop moving from club to club as soon as things don't go their way.

The man from All Saints also wants players to be devoted to their teams and work hard.



DEWS

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