



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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PRICE \$3

END OF AN ERA

LIAT is no more

See Page 3



New health protocols go into effect

Faced with the threat of possible lawsuits, particularly from American visitors, the government is again strengthening the health protocols for entry into the country.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said anyone boarding a flight to Antigua and Barbuda must first do a COVID-19 test and be found negative before they are allowed to board the flight to St John's.

"Every person entering the country will be tested although we are adjusting that further because we are now learning that a number of passengers have become litigious and they are inquiring whether the government has the right to do invasive tests such as the one for the coronavirus," he disclosed.

Additionally, these visitors also quoted from international regulations about what are permitted and what are not under these conventions. "We also have a situation where two people tested positive and returned to the United States after threatening to sue the country if they were kept from travelling against their will claiming that their right to travel were being violated," Browne revealed.

Against this backdrop, the prime minister said this development now presents a new challenge for the government as some are claiming that the tests are invasive and a violation of their rights and holding them here if they test positive is another violation of their rights.

He said as a responsible coun-

try, health officials here are against sending people who test positive for the virus back on an aircraft where healthy people are also travelling.

"This represents a serious challenge for us and we are now looking towards changing our policy to allow for testing of individuals before they travel to the country as opposed to being tested on arrival. This must be an approved COVID-19 test prior to travelling," he announced.

He noted that the airline too may have an interest in ensuring that all its passengers are tested and proven negative prior to travelling.

This new policy will also apply to returning nationals who must first get a negative result prior to travelling to St John's.

DAY 6/29

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
Wind: E at 13 km/h
Wind Gusts: 20 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 56%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
Precipitation: 1.4 mm
Rain: 1.4 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 2
Hours of Rain: 2

31 °Hi



Partly sunny with a brief shower or two

NIGHT 6/29

Wind: ESE at 13 km/h
Wind Gusts: 18 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 45%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 29%
Precipitation: 1.3 mm
Rain: 1.3 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 1
Hours of Rain: 1

25 °Lo



Partly cloudy with a shower in spots

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:37 AM

Sunset AST
6:45 PM



Duration
13:08 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
1:29 PM

Moonset AST
1:34 AM



Duration
12:05 hr

LIAT, the Antigua-based regional carrier, is to be liquidated.

The announcement comes from chairman of the shareholders governments, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

At a weekend virtual meeting of the shareholders – Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica – and attended by the board and senior management as well as representatives of the Caribbean Development Bank, the decision was made to liquidate the airline that has transported millions across the region over the past 46 years.

“The four major shareholders received a recommendation from the board to liquidate the airline. The relevant notices under the law regarding liquidation will go out as prescribed under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda. I have no doubt the process of liquidation will be proceeded as required. The question is whether anything with ‘LIAT’ will still fly while the process of liquidation is taking place,” he remarked.

The St Vincent and the Grenadines leader said his immediate concern is how the Caribbean, especially the southern Caribbean, will continue to move people from island to island during this time. “There are two airlines based in St Vincent – One Caribbean and SVG Air. They have some assets and I am going to be

LIAT is no more!

talking to One Caribbean today (Sunday) and SVG tomorrow (today) to see what we can do.” Dr. Gonsalves stated.

He noted that there are other providers in the region and it’s a question of who can fill the void left by LIAT. Gonsalves, a life-long regionalist, expressed the view that the Caribbean has reached a ‘turning point’ in its aviation history with the planned liquidation of LIAT.

He indicated that he is unsure at this time whether anything named LIAT will be around following the liquidation as has been suggested by Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister, Gaston Browne. He said he is however optimistic that ‘we will find ways’ to move people around the region.

According to the shareholders chairman, there’s



been much talk in the past of liquidating LIAT and allow the private sector to become involved; this he added is the opportune time for them to come forward. “Let’s see those who are talking put their money where their mouth has been’,” he declared.

He disclosed that LIAT does not have any significant assets to satisfy its obligations. These include severance payments to its

Antigua-based employees of \$62-million and a further \$10 million in holiday pay across the network. Then there’s an additional pre-liquidation cost of about \$10 million, according to Dr. Gonsalves.

He said there’s now an attempt to have a CARICOM-wide meeting to discuss the problems of aviation and to arrive at some solution to regional travel which is now in crisis.

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With Pedestrians,
Bicyclists and
Motorcyclists**

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Responsibility, However We Get
Around →

ATB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

**DRIVE
SAFELY**

CHECK YOUR SPEED MONTH

Hotel workers test positive for COVID-19

According to reports over the weekend, four (4) hotel workers have tested positive for COVID-19 using a rapid testing kit. It has been reported that Doctor Joseph John, a private doctor, tested over 60 workers at the Hodges bay resort with a testing kit originating out of South Korea.

Minister of Tourism, Charles, "Max" Fernandez was at the resort during the testing and also participated in the rapid tested. He has tested negative.

The South Korean testing kit is said to use the rapid antigen method; however, some reports have indicated that the four workers who



Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez undergoes a COVID-19 rapid test and tested negative over the weekend.

tested positive may be re-tested using the PCR method for further verification. The workers who were all tested over the weekend, were reportedly said to have been in quarantine at the hotel before being tested.

Dr. John, a vocal med-

ical practitioner who has made several pronouncements about COVID-19, lauded the resort for their proactive approach towards COVID-19 since reopening.

"They were really on top of this and other hotels need

to do the same," he commented to a media house. The doctor who owns and operates his own surgery and medical center indicated that the rapid test was very accurate and on par with the PCR testing method in his opinion.

Though it was suggested that the resort workers were in quarantine before testing, contact tracing has to be done if any of the staff went home.

According to reports reaching our media house, the Ministry of Health now has Rapid Tests, however, up to press time, it was not revealed what type of rapid test was on the island.

Alcohol consumption up due to COVID-19

The Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP) says it has detected an increase in the purchase of alcohol since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a message to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed last Friday, head of the ONDCP, Col Edward Croft, said its findings are that alcohol consumption is up while drug abuse is down because of the pandemic.

"Locally, the Substance-Use Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation Center (SPARC) have noted



an increase in the number of alcohol purchases at supermarkets during the pandemic. With respect to drug con-

sumption on an international level, the United Nations suggests that the production and trafficking of drugs have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

As a result, they have stated that "drug shortages have been reported and could have negative health consequences for people with drug use disorders," he said.

Croft added that the ONDCP continues to work closely with its partners in the Drug Information Network which comprises of the Royal Police Force of

cont'd on pg 5

DC Albert Wade 'stepped out of line'

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Albert Wade, is under fire for addressing junior officers of the police force as a show of support for their protest action.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Point FM on Saturday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said

Students in Cuba return today

Several Antigua and Barbuda students who have been studying in Cuba are expected back home today.

They will travel aboard a specially arranged flight utilizing an aircraft provided by the government of Venezuela. It's the same aircraft that will take the Cuban health professionals and others back to Havana.

Although the students have been asking to return to the country for some time now, a senior government official said they will not be allowed to board the flight unless they pass a COVID-19 test.

"We have communicated to them that they have to do a COVID test prior to boarding the flight because if they are proven positive they will not be allowed to fly. Clearly we have to protect the health and well being of the country," the official said.

Wade clearly stepped out of line for appearing before the junior officers and making what was tantamount to a 'political statement'.

"The national security of a country is sacrosanct and the success of the police force is predicated on the discipline, loyalty and commitment of its members to serve and protect the people, especially its senior officers who are expected to maintain the security of the citizenry," he declared.

He said the behaviour and impudence displayed by Deputy Commissioner Wade is 'extremely egregious' and he now considers this a matter of national security. "Generally speaking, when we entrust the national security into senior members of the force, we expect the highest levels of trust, discipline and loyalty to the state and the upholding of the laws of the country. No senior officer should lose his marbles to the extent that he is prepared to join a group



Deputy Commissioner of Police, Albert Wade

of individuals to compromise the national security of the state," Browne warned.

The prime minister also thanked members of the Police Service Commission who recommended the appointment of Commissioner Atlee Rodney, first to act as commissioner and then to confirm him in the post.

"I have a policy that people should be promoted based on merit; not based on political affiliation, not based on lobbying for power or leadership," he advised.

According to the prime minister prior to the appoint-

ment of Commissioner Rodney there was a strong lobbying campaign to ignore the recommendation of the PSC and to appoint someone else. But he said when he listened to the arguments put forward; no one said the other candidate was a better option than Rodney.

And the prime minister gave thanks to the fact that he had 'strong legs' because of the intensity of the lobbying campaign because based of what has transpired over the past week, the decision to follow the recommendation of the PSC was the right one.

cont'd from pg 4

Antigua and Barbuda; the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force; the Ministry of Public Safety; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Agriculture; the Ministry of Education; the Customs and Excise Division; the Immigration Department; Her Majesty's Prison; the Substance-Use Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation Center; Gender Affairs and all medical establishments to keep the nation safe from threats related to drug supply and misuse.

"It is well known that criminals are innovative. Consequently, this cooperation and determination amongst stakeholders will allow law enforcement and rehabilitation organizations to be more effective in reducing

the supply and consumption of illicit substances, and provide the impetus for meeting the dynamic challenges posed by drug traffickers head on," he stated.

Croft emphasized that the ONDCP, along with its partners, continues to do what is necessary to keep the borders of Antigua and Barbuda safe from new and emerging threats related to the trafficking of drugs. We urge the public to abstain from drug abuse and misuse, and to be mindful of the threats that these activities pose, especially during this pandemic. Abstinence from sharing glasses, pipes, needles and other drug related paraphernalia will help to diminish the spread of this virus and will keep us all safer and healthier.

PM proposes ZOOM meeting with police

There is a proposal to end the ongoing unrest among members of the Police Welfare Association (PWA) who have been engaged in 'meetings' as part of demands to meet with the prime minister in the hope of settling outstanding issues.

Following a stand-off, now one week old, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said he has no difficulty meeting with the rank and file members of the force; except under the present circumstances he has to protect both himself and the country from contracting the deadly coronavirus.

Instead, PM Browne is proposing the meeting that the police seek could take place via the virtual meeting platform, ZOOM. "They can all join the meeting if they wish, but I will not be attending any meeting where more than 150 police officers congregate and in the process expose me to contracting the virus," Browne declared.

He said he has instead invited the executive of the PWA to a meeting of the Cabinet, the highest decision-making body in the country, where they can speak directly not just to the prime minister but to the other members under whose portfolio the issues which are their concerns may be addressed.

The prime minister added that the Cabinet has also agreed to address many of their concerns with immediate effect, including repairs to the headquarters building and rental of properties to house outlying police stations.

"My issue why I have refused to meet with them has nothing to do with me trying to prove a point because if it wasn't for COVID I would have attended the meeting. I have no difficulty doing that," he reiterated.

However, there are reports that the PWA has declined the invitation to meet with the Cabinet causing the prime minister to publicly question their mo-

tives. "It is clear that there is something sinister here because they want to meet with the prime minister who on his own cannot make certain promises, but the Cabinet can and they don't want to meet with the Cabinet," he remarked.

Browne declared that his Cabinet comprises educated and experienced men and women 'who know subterfuge when we see it'. He added that the Cabinet however must look at the bigger picture when considering a request from any group of workers.

"If we are to give the police an additional \$750.00 on their salaries then the nurses, defense force, customs, teachers, immigration and other workers will soon come knocking for their slice of the pie at a time when revenues are down dramatically," he explained.

Browne added that he hopes the police will rethink their position as neither he nor his Cabinet 'has a fight with the police'.

Unions and LIAT CEO to meet

Now that the word is out regarding the liquidation of LIAT, the Antigua-based carrier, a meeting is taking place today with all the trade unions across the Caribbean that represent all categories of the airline's staff.

The meeting will take place via a virtual platform and it comes at the request of chairman of the trade union group, Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union general secretary, David

Massiah.

"We have heard about the plans to wrap up the airline and we represent a key part of LIAT and so on behalf of the different trade unions I requested a meeting with the airline's Chief Executive Officer, Julie Reifer-Jones and she agreed to the meeting for today (Monday)," he indicated.

Matthias said the unions want to hear directly from the airline what is the plan going forward and he wants

to wait until after the meeting before making any public statement.

Antigua and Barbuda stand to lose much with the closure of the airline as it represents a significant contribution to the economy.

For Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, he is hopeful that a regional airline, even with the name LIAT 2020, could rise out of the ashes of today's LIAT.

"We should not be run-

ning away from the LIAT brand. LIAT is a regional airline that has served us well in the Caribbean and it has survived much longer than many better financed airlines," Browne stated.

He is also suggesting that if another airline is given birth following the liquidation of LIAT and ought to be based in Antigua as well as there's not much that the country has to show for its membership in the several regional bodies.



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COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship Series:

‘Ray of Sunshine’ Butter Business through COVID-19

By Angelica O’Donoghue

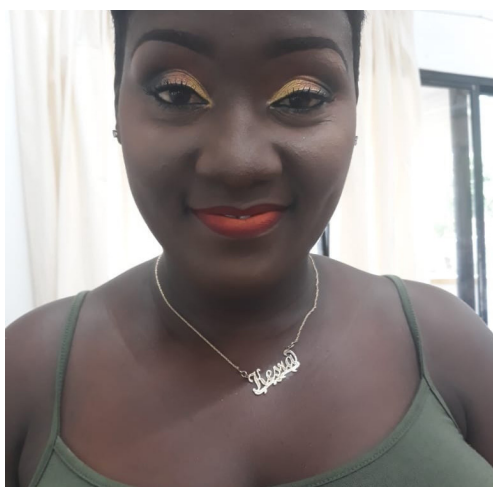
“I was tired of the pity party.”

Those were the first words uttered by this week’s featured entrepreneur when asked about her business venture.

Kesra Pelle, a young wife, and mother of two decided not to be a victim of the harsh economic fallout from COVID-19 but instead use it, as a foundation upon which to build a business.

Kesra is the owner and producer of “A Ray of Sunshine Garlic Butter.” A small, home-based producer of freshly made garlic butter spread right here in Antigua.

Having had an encounter with the product, it can easily be described as a light, flavorful garlic butter spread that is perfect for cooking, used as a garlic spread on sandwiches, pizzas, lobster,



fish, bruschetta or any of your favorite food items.

Now that we know what the product is, the story behind how it came about is nothing short of inspirational.

According to Kesra, it has always been her passion to be a business owner and COVID gave her a chance to do so. But it wasn’t entirely a smooth road on the journey.

Having lost her job at a resort because of earlier closure due to COVID-19, Kesra noted how difficult it was for her and her young family.

“When I first learned about COVID, I prayed it did not come to Antigua for fear of losing my job,” Kesra stated.

While sitting with PointeXpress, Kesra’s husband chimed in, “there were tears in a parking lot one day after thinking how hard we struggled and now out of employment.”

Nonetheless, “I was tired of the pity party,” Kesra added.

A Ray of Sunshine Garlic Butter is said to be borne out of both a desire to



create personal income and also to fill a void in local supermarkets.

The young entrepreneur indicated that there was no other business like hers when she started earlier this month.

“Given the fact that importation of garlic butter was delayed or halted there was a shortage on the island and it became scarce. It was here I saw the opportunity to tap into that market to try and fill that void,” Pelle told us over the weekend.

Amid significant uncertainty, in an unprecedented global health crisis, trade has been adversely affected studies have shown.

According to the OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19), “An important priority is keeping the key supply chains for essential goods

cont’d on pg 9



Females take top three positions in Lion's Club

The Lions Club of Antigua has installed a new executive board for 2020-2021.

The new executive board comprises President, Lion Desiree Edwards, Club Secretary, Lion Erica Edwards and Club Treasurer, Lion Leandra Lewis. This marked historic moment for the club as the top three positions in the Club are now being held by women. Other installed Board Members are Lion David Matthias- 1st Vice President; Lion Gerard Shoul- 2nd Vice President; Lion Virgil Daniel MJF- Membership Director; Lion Franklin Maynard, MFJ- LCIF Coordinator; Lion Carol Scholar-Marketing Communications Chairperson; Lion Gail Henry Lewis- Service Chairperson; Lion Kim Joseph- Tail Twister and



Lion Kadesh Bailey- Lion Tamer.

“As we social distance we must not lose the human connection and caring. That is why I have chosen my theme ‘LIONS IN SERVICE: CARING FOR OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR ENVIRONMENT’. Coincidentally, our District Governor Mau-

reen Graham PMJF has as her theme ‘Building a Better Tomorrow through Kindness’.

We both recognized that in times like these we need more compassion. We are called to care more and serve more in this time,” the new president stated.

Since the club’s chartering in 1968, its members have worked on a variety of projects in the local community, such as the Annual Prostate Screening and Eye Screenings in schools.

Proceeds from fundraising events have gone to the continuity of the Hot Meals Program, Bursary Program for Primary Schools and visits to ClareVue Psychiatric Hospital. The Lions Club of Antigua has 65 members and meets on the first and third Tuesday every month.

cont’d from pg 8

for the crisis – including medical supplies, food products, and ICT goods and services – open and functioning. However, we are starting to see several challenges to keeping these supply chains going related to the business of trade.”

Due to the possible effects on imports, Kesra saw it as an opportunity to capitalize on it.

“I hope many others can see what is happening and use it to our advantage to produce more locally made and sourced products,” the entrepreneur said.

She continued, “let us really take this ‘buy local’ slogan more seriously.”

Kesra revealed that the small business required some level of a financial startup. “We used everything we had. First, we start-



ed using a hand-held garlic mincer which broke, then we used a small food processor which only served us once, then we had to source another food processor and the containers with what we had left,” the young businesswoman recalled.

Despite the setbacks, the entrepreneur was delighted to share that all her ingredients are 100% Antiguan. “My product is heavily compounded with garlic and parsley and made with love with all locally grown ingredients. My seasonings and garlic are all local!” she indicated with enthusiasm.

When asked about the challenges she has faced thus far, Kesra stated, “Our major challenge right now is getting more retailers on board, sourcing cost-effective containers and trying to get at least one more food processor so we can produce more.”

So far, the young business is heavily advertised on social media and has gotten Little Canton Supermarket on board and in talks with some other supermarkets such as CMC.

Kesra revealed that despite their limited equipment, they are currently producing approximately 72 containers of butter a day.

During the interview, the entrepreneur’s husband stated, “I have to support her, help to push her towards her goal. She is so ambitious and has so many great ideas.



I just want her to be heard, to be seen.”

Following tradition, Kesra offered a piece of quick advice to future budding entrepreneurs, “Do not give up! Even when it seems like nothing is happening and people seem to be turning you down your time is just around the corner.” To find out more about “A Ray of Sunshine Garlic Butter, visit their Facebook page at @ rayofsunshinegarlicbutter.

Cuban medical staff completes assignment

After spending the past three months in Antigua and Barbuda assisting with the fight against the COVID-19 disease...thirteen members of the Cuban medical brigade are returning to Havana today.

They are part of the team of twenty five who arrived on the island on March 26 and are among more than forty Cubans who will board a special charter for the trip to Cuba made possible with assistance from the Venezuelan government.

A brief send off ceremony was held Sunday afternoon at the Cuban Embassy at Blue Waters where Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, thanked the Cuban health professionals for



their service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking in fluent Spanish, Greene, who studied in Cuba, said while it's regrettable that they were

leaving Antigua and Barbuda...he believes that within the context of the relationship between the two countries...he would not be surprised if some of

them return to the St John's sometime in the future.

"I wish to add my voice to the desire of many to see the Cuban revolution con-

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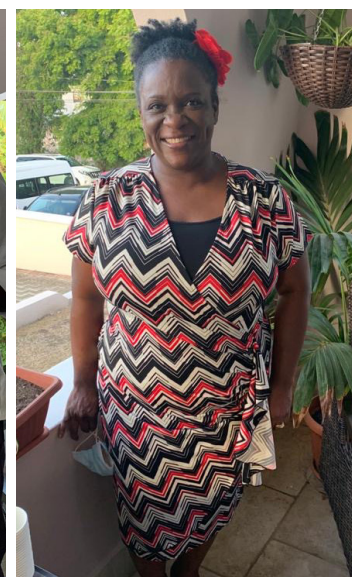
tinue to succeed and I again thanked the medical team for being part of the vision of internationalism where Cuba provides medical professionals to help countries around the world deliver health care to their people," he remarked.

Words of thanks also came from the Director of Nursing at the Mount St. John's medical centre, Jacqueline Jno Baptiste, who noted that while their assignment in Antigua was brief...their contribution was significant and the impact will last a long time.

Certificates and gift packages were also presented to the Cuban health professionals by Minister Greene.

Cuban Ambassador Maria Fiffe Cabreja as well as the head of the Cuban health brigade in Antigua and Barbuda, Lady Pedeta also addressed the team.

The ambassador said the departing Cubans include a number of baseball players who were struck here when the country's borders were closed and at least one member of the electrical team working along with APUA.



Thousands locked into JCI Antigua Virtual Fitness Jam

With thousands of viewers locked in on ABS TV last Saturday afternoon, JCI Antigua hosted their first Virtual Fitness Jam. For the past five years, the JCI Antigua Senator Leandra James Cancer Awareness Campaign has hosted the island's largest fitness jam and health walk consistently and without fail. Year after year the number of registered participants has steadily increased into the thousands with over 1500 participants on the road in 2019.

However, with health security measures in place



because of the world-wide pandemic of COVID-19, the non-profit organization was determined to find a way to ensure the 2020 edi-

tion of the fitness jam is still on the books.

That creativity led to the youth-based organization to host the first-ever, vir-

tual fitness jam utilizing the country's state media – ABS, which through social media and online platforms such as Facebook and zoom allowed for participants to 'jam for the cause'.

To host an event which typically engages well over a thousand persons on the road, JCI Antigua brought together thousands more this year through social media.

According to the President of JCI Antigua, President Andrea Smithen, "We could have easily cancelled

cont'd on pg 13

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Tuesday 30th June 2020

Time: 08:30AM - 1:00 PM

Affected areas: Section of Potters east, north & south of Pentecostal church.

Date: Friday 3rd July 2020

Time: 10:00AM - 12:00 PM

Affected areas: Western section of Piccadilly, overlooking Christian Hill.

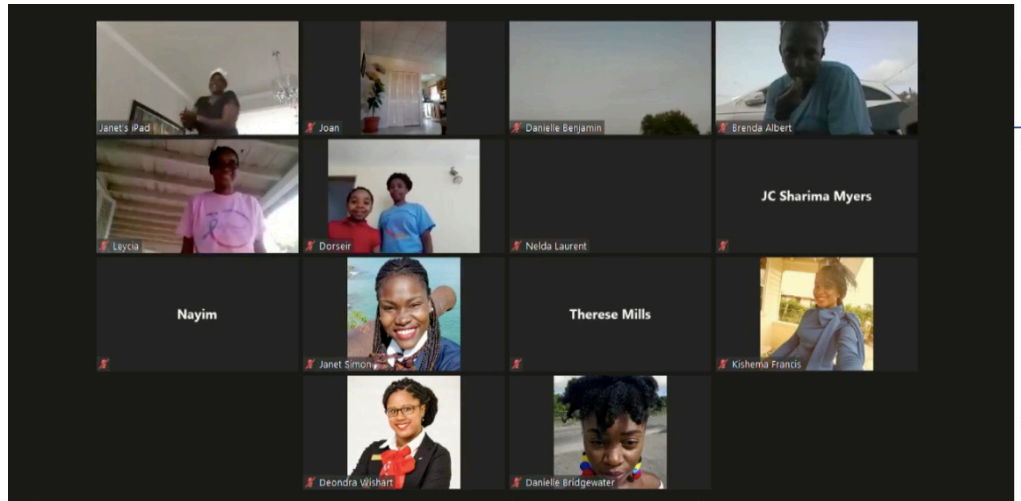
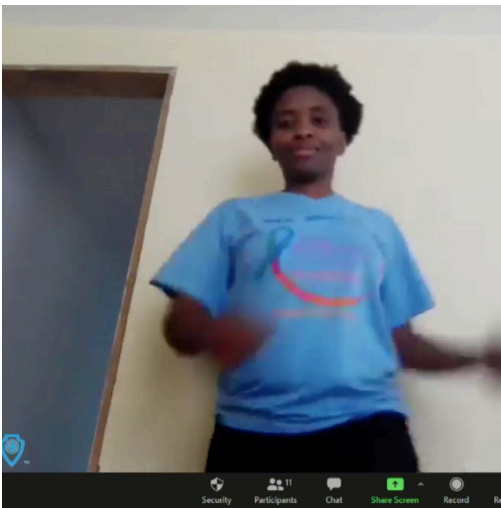
Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

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



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cont'd from pg 12

Colour Run. However, that is not the JCI Antigua way! We instead capitalized on the digital tools available. Of course, there was some uncertainty about moving it online but JCI teaches us to be enterprising.

The first-ever Virtual Fitness Jam is reflective of how JCI Antigua has adapted its initiatives to virtually create a positive impact. In this

our Diamond Jubilee year, history is constantly being made with the new and innovative ways that we fulfill our mandate of service to humanity.”

The event, which is a key staple in the organization's campaign in its fight against cancer, noted that this campaign is focused on increasing awareness and educating the public about the deadly disease of cancer.



Holding the nation to ransom

It is a well established practice in industrial relations to take action when the best opportunity presents itself; the principle of 'strike while the iron is hot'. This is axiomatic and no one will argue with that logic. However, it's another matter to take such action, and by a section of the security forces, at a time when the country is in a crisis; quite frankly at war with an invisible but deadly enemy.

No one alive in Antigua and Barbuda today can speak with any clarity about having been through a similar situation such as the current coronavirus pandemic. It has brought the most powerful economy in the world, the United States, to its knees. In the People's Republic of China, where it was first discovered, entire cities have been lockdown in a bid to stem the spread of the virus. The situation in Europe is no better and according to the reports from Brazil,

the news is quite frightening. In fact, the two nations with the highest numbers of infections and deaths are in our hemisphere; the United States in the north and Brazil in the south.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, we did quite well to stem the spread of the virus. But it came at a severe cost. The country's borders were closed for over two months wrecking havoc to the economy that is heavily dependent on tourism. Cruise ship calls have been cancelled, airline flights have been grounded and in its wake, thousands of hotel workers have been made idle. The Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union in collaboration with a number of the hotels and other agencies has had to be handing out food packages to hotel workers.

For many taxi drivers the story is no better. Unpaid loans to the banks for mortgages, buses etc. with no indication of where to turn

tell a tale of woe. The gradual reopening of the country is the only flicker of hope in an otherwise dark tunnel. However, as the news of 39 imported cases of the COVID-19 and four cases at a local hotel reminds us, this too, is fraught with danger and setbacks.

The fallout in tourism has ricocheted across the entire economy with other sectors that are dependent on a vibrant industry also feeling the impact. For example, the West Indies Oil Company saw a fall off in revenues because of the lockdown causing less use of vehicles (which has impacted government's revenues from consumption tax). Other parts of the economy have laid off or furloughed workers. The statutory bodies – Social Security, Medical benefits and Education Levy – have all seen drastic reduction in their intakes as less people are working.

It has just been announced

that LIAT, the Antigua-based regional carrier, is being liquidated. LIAT, a significant player in the Antigua and Barbuda economy, is no more, nor are the jobs of as many as 400 of its employees based in Antigua.

This has not been the fault of the government, the opposition or anyone in Antigua and Barbuda. We are part of the global community and there's a well established maxim: when the U.S gets a cough, we in the Caribbean catch a cold; that's what's happening here in Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the region today. (This time it's the world that has the cough (virus) and we are feeling the effect).

Yet despite, the reduction in revenues, closure of the economy and demands by the health sector for increased spending to tackle the crisis, all salaries, wages, and pensions are paid to public servants on time. Additionally, there's no im-

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Cont'd on pg 15

mediate threat to any public servant, in spite of the difficulties. There are further demands from education, to provide improved internet services to the country as teachers have had to resort to virtual teaching.

No adult in Antigua and Barbuda can truly say that he or she is not aware of what's happening in the country, the world. It's everywhere; television, social media, normal conversation, just about everything.

So the nation was taken aback when police officers decided to use the crisis of today to force the government to meet their demands of else! So important and urgent were their concerns that they demand that the prime minister must stop whatever

he was doing and go to their meeting forthwith! We don't hear of anywhere else in the world where police officers are demanding that the prime minister, president or anyone else for that matter must drop whatever he/she is doing to attend a meeting with the police. This is not only highly irregular; it is as disrespectful as it is unconscionable. So let's look at the grievances of the police.

1. The state of the police stations. This has been a problem going back decades. It is long overdue and ought to be addressed as soon as possible, the prime minister said 'as soon as practicable'. Work is to begin perhaps as early as today on the headquarters building while at the same time arrangements

are being made to house a number of police stations in rental accommodations. On the matter of housing and lands for officers, the Cabinet has agreed to increase the allocation of houses and lands to police officers. This is a 'good faith' gesture to the men and women in uniform. This commitment does not account for the fact that a third of all the houses at Paynters has been allocated to police officers, a significant portion of the houses at North Sound and many others benefitting from lands allocation at several of the developments that are opening up.

If the government is forced to pay risk allowance to police officers and include their families on medical in-

surance plans, this would place an additional strain on an already over-burdened treasury. It may mean that the government may have no other choice but to lay off public servants. With all that's we see happening in the economy/country today, which public servant wants to be the first to be laid off? Should we start in the ranks of the police force itself; should we start with nurses, teachers, or the people who clean the streets and collect our garbage? Where do we start?

The actions of the police are tantamount to holding the government and by extension, the entire nation, to ransom. Isn't holding hostages a crime?

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BILLION\$ EMERGENCY CALL - Telecoms Ring Gov'ts For Massive COVID-19 Bailout To Prevent 'Upheaval', Citing Huge Losses Across Caribbean

The Caribbean's COVID-19-ravaged telecommunications industry is in need of "urgent" government bailout, amounting to millions of dollars, to prevent poor-quality service and higher prices for consumers, a powerful regional lobby group for firms like Digicel and FLOW has warned. Jamaica, meanwhile, has confirmed that at least one telecoms provider here has submitted a request for the waiver of fees.

"It's fair to say that those authorities that choose not to act will ultimately come to regret it," said David Cox, the chairman of the Caribbean Association of National Operators (CANTO).

The Sunday Gleaner has obtained leaked documents CANTO submitted to CARICOM begging the regional institution to lobby Jamaica and other governments for assistance, pointing out that some operators have lost more than 60 per cent of revenues during the last three months as a result of the global pandemic. CANTO, which represents 48 operators in 28 countries, has proposed a cut in licence fees by 50 per cent for three years retroactive to 2019; and that firms be allowed to reclaim debts governments owe from taxes and other fees. The proposal was contained in a May 28 letter Cox wrote to CARICOM for consideration at the June 19 ICT-focused meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED). Jamaica's CANTO membership includes Fujitsu Transaction Solutions and Spatial Innovision along with FLOW and Digicel –

the two biggest service providers in the CARICOM region.

Whether Jamaica owes debts to local telecoms and the amount, if so, is not clear.

The Nigel Clarke-run finance ministry has projected an \$81-billion loss in revenues for the current 2020-2021 fiscal year because of the coronavirus.

While the new figures are not known, the Government had anticipated \$1.16 billion in revenues from telecoms licence fees, which means that if Jamaica buys into CANTO's proposal, the Government stands to lose over \$600 million. The telephone tax is also expected to yield \$2.5 billion.

The target, though, was unlikely, given the industry-wide impact, a point CANTO implied when it argued that without intervention, government targets were in jeopardy. In fact, it said some operators have been using cash reserves, a clear picture of COVID-19's deep cut into business operations.

Approximately 70 per cent of all collections by telecoms operators in the Caribbean are direct cash transactions, CANTO said, and with lockdowns and the ensuing economic downturn, cash flows have almost dried up, posing a serious liquidity problem.

The regional executive said most operators have reported "incredible" increases in traffic to their networks – an ordinarily positive indicator – but without the accompanying financial inflows. Firms reportedly incurred high costs to operate systems that would allow staff to work from



home, also having had to abandon investment plans to reroute money for maintenance. Retail sales have also plummeted, with store closures, although virtual stores have grown.

CUSTOMERS UNABLE TO PAY

Operators are also reportedly not disconnecting customers unable to pay their bills. And results from a survey of some global players suggest that payment delays from an average of 45 days to up to 90 or 120 days are now expected, the International Finance Centre, a World Bank institution, has reported.

Despite the cash-flow problems, telecoms dropped prices for students, zero-rated some websites, provided free services to government and healthcare workers, and now "the industry as a whole is unsure of how much it's spent", Cox said.

The shuttering of the tourism industries has been particularly hard, especially since limited travel reduces high-cost services such as roaming. "Several large customers – businesses like hotels – on whom telecoms traditionally depend to

fund investments in services for regular customers have simply evaporated," Cox told The Sunday Gleaner, emphasising that "the public's ability to pay is at an all-time low". To recover, he said, governments want investments in networks to accelerate, but with the reduced revenues and limited cash flow, states will have to step out to prevent an "upheaval" in the telecoms industry. "It is urgent that support be provided now," said Cox, who is also head of regulatory affairs for Cable & Wireless Communications, which trades as FLOW. "It would be short-sighted to think that telecoms will take care of itself and that there is simply no need to intervene or help."

He added, "The bald truth is that if policymakers do not support the telecoms industry, their larger objectives for their countries are unlikely to be achieved."

The challenge for governments is that, even with complaints here about poor-quality service, the requests cannot be ignored. The authorities have accepted that leading an effective response to the pandemic and reviving growth in service-based

economies like Jamaica's depend heavily on telecoms services such as broadband and mobile communications.

'COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY' DECISION

COTED has not given a public response since its meeting a week ago and Cox has refused to say whether it has got one, and if the lobby group was satisfied.

However, Fayval Williams, Jamaica's technology minister, has disclosed to The Sunday Gleaner that COTED decided that CANTO's request should be considered on a "country-by-country basis", as a unified approach was not required.

She also confirmed that a local provider has requested that Spectrum Management Authority (SMA) waive spectrum and regulatory fees. The entity was not disclosed. A spectrum pricing policy that will assess the current regime for licence fees is also being developed by the technology ministry and the SMA, a statement from the ministry said.

Asked whether the ministry is open to considering adjusting telecoms fees, Williams disclosed that during the "heights of the COVID-19 pandemic", consideration was given to waiving spectrum licence and regulatory fees for the temporary assign-

ment of additional spectrum to assist telecommunication providers. Digicel, whose global headquarters is based in Jamaica, was battling a US\$7-billion debt crisis before the onset of COVID-19, and international ratings agency Fitch has said the outlook is not very good.

'SENSITIVE INFORMATION'

Meanwhile, noting that it does not disclose 'sensitive' information like revenue loss, FLOW Jamaica said all areas of its business have been affected by the pandemic.

Asked if FLOW supported CANTO's position for government intervention, Kayon Mitchell, the company's communications director, said the entity needed to review the proposal first.

She also would not confirm whether FLOW has approached the Government for help. "This is sensitive information that we do not share externally. However, we continue to engage the Government in dialogue regarding the impact of COVID-19 on our business."

Similar questions asked of Digicel Jamaica were not answered up to press time.

The Jamaican finance minister has also declined to comment on the issue.

The bite the telecommunications players are feeling is part of the devastating economic fallout that institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have predicted for regional economies.

Jamaica's economy is expected to contract by almost six per cent for this fiscal year alone, as employment and key earners like tourism slowly pick up.

jovan.johnson@gleanerjm.com

What CANTO wants from governments

1. Partial or complete forgiveness or moratorium on all regulatory fees for 2020.

2. Temporary provision of additional spectrum at no cost for an agreed period, to support increased data usage. Such spectrum to be provided by way of an abbreviated approval process.

3. Accelerated approvals for new product releases, product modifications, price reductions and promotions as required.

4. Access to the Universal Service Funds to support the socially displaced in obtaining telecommunications packages.

5. Relaxing or removing any net neutrality restrictions to allow operators to manage congestion and safeguard the security and integrity of their network. This is also crucial for permitting opera-

tors to zero-rate government and educational websites, among others.

6. Taking Government and regulatory interventions to require streaming platforms, such as Netflix and other similar streaming services, to move from High Definition (HD) to Standard Definition (SD), so that more capacity is available on the network for emergency services, persons working from home and homeschooling.

7. Directing regulatory authorities to place moratoriums on consultations, and in particular on any proceeding that may affect the financial position of any company.

8. Adopting moratoriums on reporting requirements and/or other regulatory obligations for the next six months.

9. Providing support and joining with the industry to disseminate public education programmes on responsible use of the Internet during national shutdowns or curfews.

10. Set-offs of government debt on taxes owed by operators.

Photo caption: Jamaica Technology Minister Fayval Williams says the request would have to be considered on a country-by-country basis.

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Historic Brain Surgery - Woman Sings Through Procedure At KPH As Doctors Remove Tumour

When 49-year-old Marjorie Pearson went into surgery three weeks ago at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), it was not lost on her and the medical team that the high-risk brain procedure could go horribly wrong.

Dr Dwaine Cooke, consultant neurosurgeon at KPH, and a team of anaesthesiologists, residents and specialist nurses were about to pull off a first-of-its-kind brain surgery in the island's public health sector.

As they painstakingly conducted the craniotomy – removing part of Pearson's skull to operate on her brain – the patient talked to and responded well to the team of medics as they removed a tumour during the hours-long procedure, even bursting into song at one point.

The operation went exactly as planned, to the relief of Pearson and the medical team, with the patient requiring minimal post-surgery assistance. By the next day, she was up and about.

Cooke said Marjorie was the ideal patient for such a surgery.

"The anaesthetics that she got intravenously were mostly short-acting painkillers that would be enough for her to be comfortable and relaxed, but not making her sleep," Cooke said of the procedure, adding

that Pearson was briefed on what to anticipate.

"To open the skull, we had to use a drill. So we had to make sure that she was not scared by the humming sound. And once we were ready to take out the tumour, then we asked questions," he told The Sunday Gleaner. "We asked her to count, and at one point, she began singing a song from church."

Last week, a smiling Pearson expressed gratitude to the Cooke-led team and gave a rendition of a part of the song she belted out during surgery.

"I wonder what I have done that makes this race so hard to run. Then I say to my soul, 'Take courage, the Lord will make a way somehow'," she sang.

"I told my daughter not to worry because what God wants for me, He inspired Dr Cooke to do it. So I told her I would be okay. I love that song. I am not a Christian, but I always sing it in church," Pearson told The Sunday Gleaner.

STAYING AWAKE CRITICAL TO SUCCESS OF PROCEDURE

A history of headaches and occasional arrest of speech was accompanied by numbness and heaviness in the right



Commissioner Anthony Anderson has placed the rooting out of corruption among police ranks as an important target.

Cont'd on pg 19

side Pearson's face, triggering alarm bells. Coupled with that, she was also diabetic and hypertensive.

A scan confirmed the presence of a tumour on the left side of her brain, which is considered the dominant hemisphere for 90 per cent of right-handers and 70 per cent of left-handers.

Cooke said it is the hemisphere that also controls speech, adding that sometimes tumours present symptoms mimicking strokes.

An initial CAT scan confirmed the presence of the tumour, and an MRI was later done for closer analysis.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the schedule for surgeries, emergency cases like Pearson's were still allowed to go ahead.

"With the surgery considered groundbreaking, a team of four anaesthesiologists, who worked closely with the neurosurgery team, which included myself and my junior staff (residents), four other doctors, and specialist nurses working hand in hand, carried out the surgery," Cooke told The Sunday Gleaner.

"If we are going to take out a brain tumour or an aneurysm, we normally put them to sleep. So they would get a full general anaesthetic, and at the end, you wake them up and assess to see if their function is intact," he explained. "In this scenario, we knew that this tumour was close to areas where if they were affected during surgery, she would have problems speaking and [restricted] movement in her face. We did not want to take that risk."

Cooke was exposed to the procedure while working with a senior neurosurgeon at Yale University in Connecticut, USA, and in Nova Scotia, Canada.

"These were the exact reasons why they would do this type of surgery. So while you are about to resect the tumour, you want to test the patient's ability to speak or move a body part. She was very much aware of everything that was going on in the procedure," disclosed Cooke.

He said that while the team could do a "pretty operation", if the patient's speech was impaired, the entire procedure would have been for naught.

'A CREDIT TO CALIBRE OF SKILLS AT KPH'

Pearson sought medical attention after an early-morning seizure left her without speech and feeling in her face, as well as weakness in her feet. The situation paralysed her with fear and she was unable to notify relatives of her dilemma. After what seemed like eternity, one sister woke up and saw her distress. After quick consultations, they decided to take her to KPH.

During the journey, her speech returned and went again by the time she reached the hospital.

When Cooke was called, after consultations, emergency surgery was recommended and the medics would then start making their assessments to perform the operation, the first in the public sector in the island.

Trinidad: Man shot and killed at Petit Valley 'COVID party'



A 22-year-old man is dead following a shooting on Sunday morning in Petit Valley.

Police identified the deceased as Jessie Mascall and said according to his identification card, Mascall would have celebrated his 23rd birthday on Monday. According to police reports, just after midnight around 12.30 am, officers got a report of a 'COVID party' along Ravine Road. The officers arrived at the location and observed a group of persons had assembled and were drinking alcohol. The officers warned the group and ordered persons to go home.

The group, police said, adhered the advice and dispersed.

Ten minutes later, however, police got a report of gunshots at the same address. Upon ar-

riving, they observed the body of a man lying in a pool of blood in a track off the roadway. In an unrelated incident, a man was taken to hospital after a shooting in Diego Martin on Sunday morning. According to police reports, around 4.10 am residents of Bamboo Lane, Waterwheel Road, Diego Martin, heard several loud explosions.

Upon investigating, they found a man bleeding from gunshot injuries. The police were notified and the wounded man was taken to the St James hospital, where he was treated.

An operation was launched in the community immediately following the incident, and a group of men who are known to the police were held and are aiding with enquiries.

Russian metal giant admits pollution in Arctic tundra

A Russian mining giant behind an enormous Arctic fuel spill last month said it had suspended workers at a metals plant who were responsible for pumping wastewater into nearby tundra.

Norilsk Nickel cited a “flagrant violation of operating rules” in a statement on Sunday, announcing it had suspended employees responsible for dumping wastewater from a dangerously full reservoir into wildlife.

The incident occurred at the Talnakh enrichment plant near the Arctic city of Norilsk, the company said, one month after the unprecedented fuel leak led President Vladimir Putin to declare a state of emergency.

More than 21,000 tonnes of diesel leaked from a fuel storage tank at one of the company’s subsidiary plants near Norilsk. The fuel seeped into the soil and dyed nearby waterways bright red.

A source told Russian Interfax news agency on Sunday that in the most recent case, approximately 6,000 cubic metres of liquid used to process minerals at the facility had been dumped and that the discharge had lasted “several hours”.

It was impossible to determine how far the wastewater had dispersed, the source said.

Independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta published videos from the scene showing large metal pipes carrying wastewater from the reservoir and dumping foaming liquid into



The incident occurred at the Talnakh enrichment plant near the Arctic city of Norilsk

nearby trees.

The journalists claimed the factory deliberately funnelled the wastewater into wildlife areas and hastily removed their pipes when investigators and emergency services arrived on the scene. The Investigative Committee, which probes serious crimes, said it had received reports of “unauthorised dumping of liquid waste into the tundra” on the site of the facility, and had opened an inquiry. Heavy machinery used to clear the pipes crushed a car delivering officials to the scene, national Novaya Gazeta newspaper reported. Interfax

said no one was injured in the incident which was also being probed. Norilsk Nickel spokeswoman Tatiana Egorova earlier on Sunday told the AFP news agency that employees of the factory had pumped out “purified water” and that an internal investigation was under way.

Russia’s natural resources agency said the decision to remove water from the reservoir was taken to avoid an emergency after heavy rains and recent tests had caused water levels to increase dramatically.

The local emergency services in a statement said the

wastewater was unlikely to reach the nearby Kharayelakh River. The massive fuel spill last month took place at a plant owned by a subsidiary of Norilsk Nickel, which had said the fuel tank had collapsed or sank due to melting permafrost due to climate change. Putin declared an emergency situation after the accident and the head of Norilsk Nickel, oligarch Vladimir Potanin, promised to pay the costs of the clean-up.

The Russian authorities said earlier this month they had cleared the spill from the surface of a river, but the full clean-up could take years.

Global coronavirus deaths top half a million

The death toll from COVID-19 reached half a million people on Sunday, according to a Reuters tally, a grim milestone for the global pandemic that seems to be resurgent in some countries even as other regions are still grappling with the first wave.

The respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus has been particularly dangerous for the elderly, although other adults and children are also among the 500,000 fatalities and more than 10 million reported cases.

While the overall rate of death has flattened in recent weeks, health experts have expressed concerns about record numbers of new cases in countries like the United States, India and Brazil, as well as new outbreaks in parts of Asia.

More than 4,700 people are dying every 24 hours from COVID-19-linked illness, according to Reuters calculations based on an average from June 1 to 27.

That equates to 196 people per hour, or one person every 18 seconds.

About one-quarter of all the deaths so far have been in the United States, the Reuters data shows. The recent surge in cases have been most pronounced in a handful of Southern and Western states that reopened earlier and more aggressively.

The first recorded death from the new virus was on Jan. 9, a 61-year-old man from the Chinese city of Wuhan who was a



A burning pyre of a man who died due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), is seen as another one is carried for cremation at a crematorium in New Delhi, India, June 3, 2020.

regular shopper at a wet market that has been identified as the source of the outbreak.

In just five months, the COVID-19 death toll is now equal to the number of people who die annually from malaria, one of the most deadly infectious diseases.

The death rate averages out to 78,000 per month, compared with 64,000 AIDS-related deaths and 36,000 malaria deaths, according to 2018 figures from the World Health Organization.

The high number of deaths has led to changes to traditional and religious burial rites around the world, with morgues and funeral businesses overwhelmed and loved ones often barred from bidding farewell in person.

In Israel, the custom of

washing the bodies of Muslim deceased is not permitted, and instead of being shrouded in cloth, they must be wrapped in a plastic body bag. The Jewish tradition of Shiva where people go to the home of mourning relatives for seven days has also been disrupted.

In Italy, Catholics have been buried without funerals or a blessing from a priest. In New York, city crematories were working overtime, burning bodies into the night as officials scouted for temporary interment sites.

In Iraq, former militiamen have dropped their guns to instead dig graves for coronavirus victims at a specially created cemetery. They have learned how to conduct Christian, as well as Muslim, burials.

Public health experts are

looking at how demographics affect the death rates in different regions. Some European countries with older populations have reported higher fatality rates, for instance.

An April report by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control looked at over 300,000 cases in 20 countries and found that about 46% of all fatalities were over the age of 80.

In Indonesia, hundreds of children are believed to have died, a development health officials have attributed to malnutrition, anemia and inadequate child health facilities.

Health experts caution that the official data likely does not tell the full story, with many believing that both cases and deaths have likely been under-reported in some countries.

India opens one of the world's largest hospitals to fight coronavirus



Medical professionals and health workers during the inauguration of Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital in New Delhi, India, on June 27, 2020.

India has opened one of the largest hospitals in the world to help fight coronavirus, as health authorities announced the country's biggest one-day increase in the number of new infections.

The Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre, the largest facility of its kind in India, became partly operational on Sunday, with 2,000 of its 10,000 beds available, according to the Delhi government.

The remaining 8,000 beds at the facility, which is located in the Chattarpur area

of Delhi, will be in use from Wednesday.

India's Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the care center on Saturday ahead of its launch.

In a message posted on Twitter that day, Kejriwal described the center as being "among the largest hospitals in the world."

Meanwhile, the Home Minister tweeted that the 10,000-bed facility "would provide huge relief to the people of Delhi." The administration

and operations of the facility will be run by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Shah confirmed.

"I applaud our courageous ITBP personnel, who would be operating this COVID Care facility during these trying times. Their commitment to serve the nation and people of Delhi is unparalleled," he added in a tweet.

The opening of the hospital coincided with the release of India health ministry data on Sunday which showed the largest rise in the daily num-

ber of new Covid-19 cases.

The country reported 19,906 new infections and 410 new deaths from the virus, bringing the total to 528,859 positive cases and 16,095 fatalities.

Delhi became the country's worst-hit city on Wednesday, surpassing Mumbai's coronavirus tally. Only the west India state of Maharashtra with 159,133 cases has had more infections than the capital.

Coronavirus: UK 'on knife edge' ahead of lockdown easing, scientist warns

The UK remains "on a knife edge" and must act "sensibly" over the summer months to stop a second wave of coronavirus, a scientist has warned.

Sir Jeremy Farrar said he is "worried" about a surge in cases ahead of pubs and restaurants reopening next month.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said people have to be "conscientious" about the risk of a second wave. She said the city of Leicester could face a localised lockdown after a rise in cases.

Sir Jeremy, a member of the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (Sage) and director of the Wellcome Trust, has warned there could be a "very nasty rebound" of the virus in the winter.

He told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show: "We're on a knife edge, it's very precarious the situation, particularly in England at the moment, and I would anticipate we would see an increase in new cases over the coming weeks."

The warning comes after Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a major easing of England's lockdown restrictions, to help to reopen the economy. Pubs, restaurants, hotels and many other businesses will welcome back customers from 4 July.

Each UK nation's lockdown measures differ, including varying rules on the reopening of food and drink outlets.

In Scotland, beer gardens and outdoor restaurants will be allowed to reopen from 6 July,

and indoor areas can be used from 15 July. In Northern Ireland, pubs and restaurants can open from 3 July.

The Welsh government has promised talks with the hospitality sector about a "potential phased" reopening, but no dates have yet been given.

Asked about the concerns raised by Sir Jeremy, the home secretary told the BBC that "nothing would be more damaging for our country and for our economy" than a second spike in virus cases, adding that the government's plans to ease measures were "pragmatic and responsible".

Earlier, the PM told the Mail on Sunday that if the virus was a "lightning flash", the UK is about to have the "thunderclap of economic consequences".

Mr Johnson made the comment as he set out his plans for a post-lockdown economic recovery - which will include a new taskforce to look at fast-tracking the building of hospitals, schools and roads.

The UK's coronavirus death toll rose by 36 on Sunday to 43,550. Most of the deaths were in England, while Scotland recorded no new coronavirus deaths for a third consecutive day.

The government's daily figures for virus deaths and new confirmed cases peaked in April and have been falling since then, although the downward trend is slowing.

There have been concerns about people gathering around the UK during this week's heat-



A major incident was declared on Bournemouth beach as people flocked to the coast during this week's heat-wave

wave, including illegal street parties in London, Manchester and Cardiff, crowded beaches and Liverpool FC fans taking part in mass celebrations.

But Ms Patel encouraged people to go to pubs when they reopen, while urging customers to "be responsible" and follow social distancing and hygiene guidance.

The West Midlands police and crime commissioner, Labour's David Jamieson, described the decision to reopen pubs in England next Saturday as "pure madness."

He told the BBC he feared peoples' "pent-up feeling" after three months of lockdown would "explode out onto the streets".

Mr Jamieson said senior policing figures disagreed with the government's timetable, and raised their concerns last week in a meeting with the policing minister, Kit Malthouse - but were not listened to.

He said had they been asked, they would have suggested a "mid-week" reopening date so that police could have "built up" to the weekend.

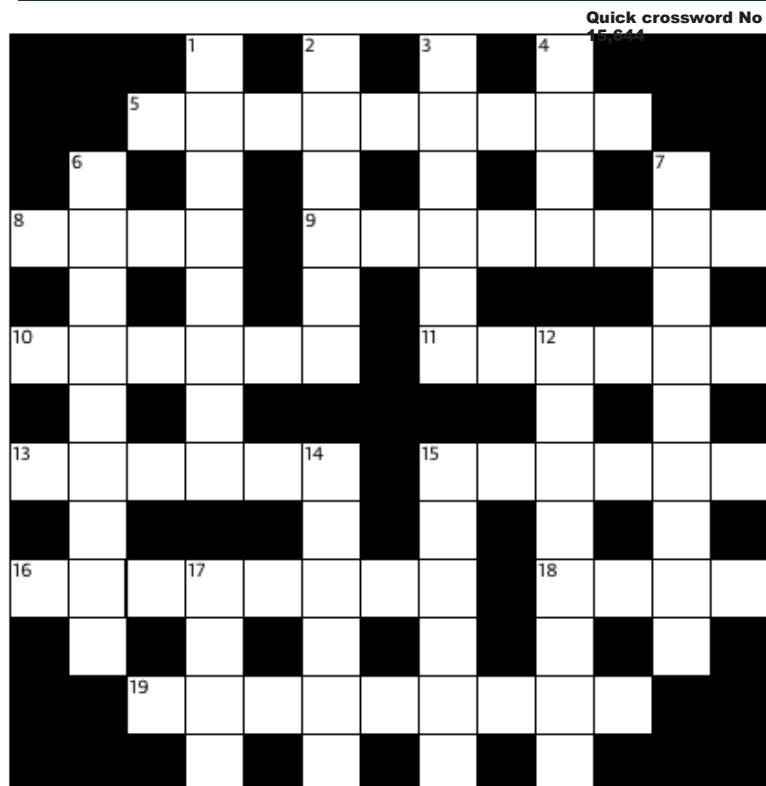
The Home Office said it trusted the public to "comply with more subtle social restrictions" and that there was "no excuse" for disorderly behaviour.

Meanwhile, the home secretary also told Andrew Marr that the government is considering imposing a localised lockdown in Leicester after 658 new cases were recorded in the two weeks to 16 June.

She said she had spoken to Health Secretary Matt Hancock about potentially enforcing a local lockdown, and said "extra support" would be going into the area.

But the city's mayor Sir Peter Soulsby said there was "no immediate prospect" of a lockdown, adding that data from testing was still being analysed.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 5 Ordnance (9)
 8 Native to Phuket, for example (4)
 9 Regular movie fan (8)
 10 Old hanging frame (6)
 11 Jumbo rider (6)
 13 Bends (6)
 15 Cherry-red (6)
 16 Openly (2,6)
 18 Did not speak the truth (4)
 19 Quad (9)

Down

- 1 Egghead (8)
 2 Fish out of water (6)
 3 Winding ski race (6)
 4 Rocky cliff (4)
 6 Gripping (9)
 7 Confiscate (9)
 12 Classification of armorial bearings (8)
 14 Regular income (6)
 15 End of the human spinal column (6)
 17 Flying saucers? (4)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



"Our thermostat broke, so we're improvising."



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): The road to harmonious romantic encounters and serene family relationships could be paved with a few speed bumps. Try to not make any impulsive decisions or overreact to little misunderstandings in the early part of the week.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Your popularity could hit its zenith in the week to come. However, don't get complacent just because someone admires you or people are talking about your work. Put new ventures on the back burner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may find it difficult to feel understood or to charm your way into someone's good graces in the week ahead. Honor existing commitments but don't make additional promises or enter into new agreements.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Challenge your assumptions and be sure you have everything you need before you start a new venture. You might be drowning in imaginative ideas, but the time is not ripe to put them into motion. Gather your resources and wait until next week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Gemstones form when ordinary elements are placed under extraordinary pressure. You too can be at your shining best when challenged to perform under pressure. Your expert opinion will likely be valued and your services in demand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Unexpected bills or unpredictable behavior can challenge even the most mindful and thorough person. Communications can go awry during the upcoming week, so be especially careful with your money, mail and packages.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can never control the opinions of others, and they're none of your business anyway. When you are at your most authentic and operating with high integrity, you always win. In the upcoming week, uphold these standards in business and in love to get the best results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen to the other person's unique point of view. This may bring about a change of perspective that triggers new ideas and brings you closer together. What may seem surprising now could be helpful in the week to come.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): More money means you're obligated to find wise ways to use it. Celestial conditions are favorable for receiving a little bit extra in your bank account, but take your time deciding on any investments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You might appear in the spotlight, but this may mean that other people in your life feel isolated. In the week ahead, be sensitive to the possibility that loved ones could feel overlooked or left out of the loop.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Heads up. Key circumstances within your household could change for the better as this week unfolds. However, at your job, a health issue or a pet could be at the center of a misunderstanding or emotional turmoil.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You might think that a financial situation is a matter of sink or swim, but it could be beneficial to just tread water. Rather than making a snap decision about a purchase or investment, wait several days until all the facts are in.

Simmons enters self-isolation as Joseph downplays disruption

Alzarri Joseph has downplayed the significance of the news that West Indies head coach Phil Simmons is self-isolated in his Old Trafford hotel room as a health precaution.

Simmons left the West Indies bubble to attend a funeral on Friday, and has since been self-isolating since then in his room on-site.

He will watch the squad's second intra-squad warm up game from his balcony this week, and he will be permitted to join back up with the group on Thursday if he returns two negative COVID-19 tests.

That means the burden will fall on assistant coaches, Roddy Estwick and Rayon Griffith, ahead of the four-day first class fixture that starts today (Monday), with Floyd Reifer helping out as



West Indies head coach Phil Simmons

batting coach.

CWI spokesperson confirmed that Simmons is in self-isolation currently on Saturday after the Daily Mail broke the story, but Joseph said that it would not present the team with any major problems.

Joseph, who looks set to form part of a four-man seam attack in the first Test along

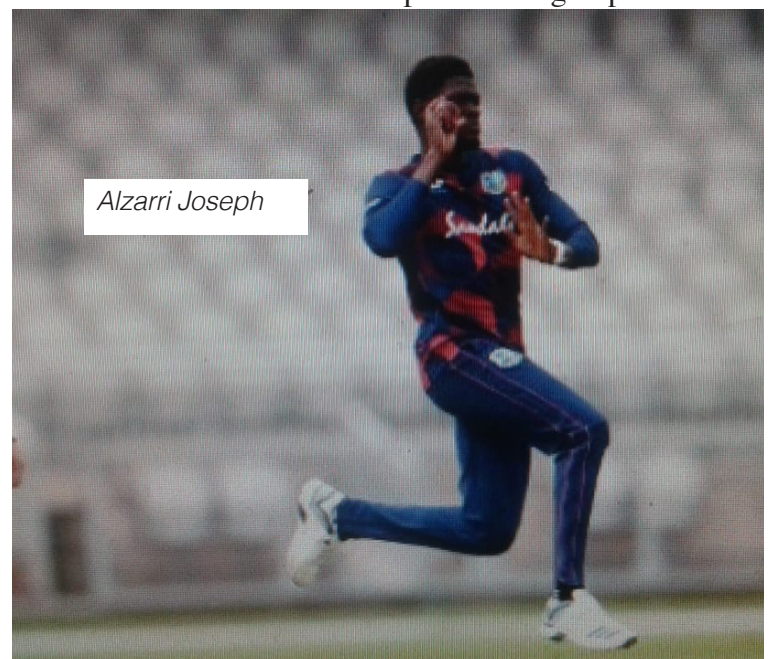
with Kemar Roach, Shannon Gabriel, and Jason Holder, said he hopes he could use any perception of him as a weaker link to his advantage.

"Obviously those three players have a lot more experience than I do," he said, "I'd think more often than not, teams would see me as the weaker link. I think my job is to come in and just back those bowlers up and keep the pressure on."

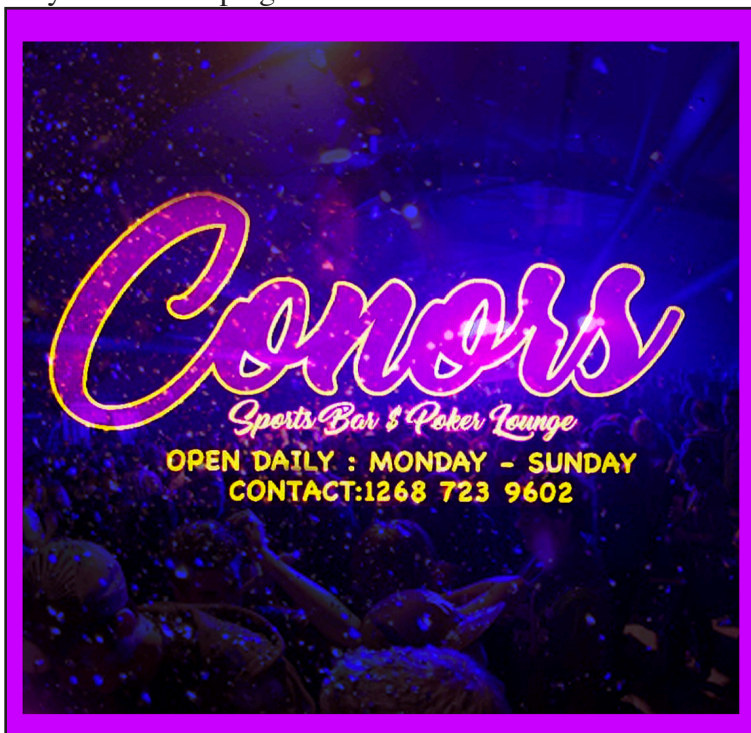
The Antiguan says he sees the tour as an opportunity to help the team to get higher up the rankings. "Any opportunity to get to play, I'll take it, and, whatever the captain and the team require me to do, I'll put my best foot forward," he explained.

The Antiguan pacer said the 2017 tour was for him, a really big learning experience as it was his first time in England and this has given him some experience of what to expect there.

"The ball does a bit more here in England than in the Caribbean. It's just some slight adjustments, nothing too big but some simple adjustments," the Leeward Hurricanes star pacer said, "For me I think it's about being consistent round the good area, extracting whatever movement you can get off the pitch, and sticking to plans as long as possible."



Alzarri Joseph



Cameron seeking CWI support

Former CWI president Dave Cameron confirmed Friday he would be seeking to become the next head of the international Cricket Council (ICC) and asking Cricket West Indies (CWI), which he led for three terms, to back his nomination.

The Jamaican said it has really been about the big three (India, England, Australia) for a very, very long time. Hence why he thinks he would definitely put his hat into the ring.

“But the other boards need to want a change and the need to want to move world cricket forward,” he said in an interview with Nationwide Sports.

Cameron will require the support of two full members of the ICC in his bid to succeed Shashank Manohar of India as chairman of cricket’s world government body.



Asked whether he would be approaching CWI for one such endorsement, the former ICC executive member responded in the affirmative. “Absolutely, of course, I will ask the West Indies Cricket Board.

Racism should be treated as seriously as match-fixing, doping

There’s a call for decisive action against players who display any form of racism on the cricket field.

“Players found guilty of racism should face the same penalties as match-fixers and dopers,” says West Indies captain Jason Holder has suggested.

While International

Cricket Council (ICC) rules allow for a life ban for on-pitch racist abuse, culprits are rarely punished to that extent.

The Barbadian said he doesn’t think the penalty for doping or corruption should be any different for racism.

Holder said if there are

issues within the sport of cricket, and must deal with them equally.

Under the ICC anti-racism policy, a first offence is usually punished with between four and eight suspension points. Two suspensions points equate to a ban for one Test or two one-day internationals or two

T/20 international matches.

Holder cited the experience of England’s Jofra Archer, who has been a target of racial remarks from the crowd both in home and away Tests, and teammate Moeen Ali, who it is believed was targeted by India fans in a 2014 match because of his Pakistani background.

I’ve not experienced any racial abuse first-hand but I have heard or seen a few things around it. It’s something you just can’t stand for,” Holder noted.

West Indies will take on England in a three Tests series starting 8 July in Southampton.

Windies to wear Black Lives Matter logo on Test Shirts

West Indies will wear a Black Lives Matter emblem on the collars of their shirts during July’s test series against England.

Captain Jason Holder hinted in his first press conference of the tour that West Indies would look to support the movement in some way, and said in a statement on

Sunday: “We believe we have a duty to show solidarity and also to help raise awareness.

The logo used will be that worn on the shirts of all 20 premier league Football clubs since the sport’s restart earlier this month.

Sports

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He was fast, powerful, and lethal

Rohan 'Three Fives' Isaac grew up in the village of All Saints coming up under the watchful eyes of Colin James with Attackers Juniors, a team that was later renamed ESPN Attackers.

"I remember my days in the Shipwreck League on Saturdays representing ESPN Attackers," the former national player noted, "The league was instrumental in my development offering competitive football at an early age."

Isaac attended the All Saints Secondary School, which dominated school football over a two year period, going undefeated and featuring players such a former national player Schyan Jeffers, 'Gear', the Smith brothers and 'Three Fives' Isaac.

"My nickname came from the fact that I was given a shirt with three fives on it by my mother, to attend a game and Shipwreck saw me in the shirt and started calling me three fives," he stated.

Isaac represented Antigua at the junior and senior levels before jetting off to Bartersville University in the United States. "After only one semester I was invited to join John Brown University on a full scholarship. Since I was



not on a full scholarship at Bartersville, I took up the offer," Isaac stated.

Former John Brown University captain Veron Epilus Edwards Jr. said he received a call from the coach, Bob Gustavson, asking his opinion of the Antiguan player. Edwards advised the coach to sign Isaach because of his pace, power and good character.

"One of the things that impressed me in college was the facilities which encouraged me to work hard and improve my game," he explained.

On returning to Antigua from college, Isaac teamed up with Quintin Clarke at English Harbour, forming a potent partnership before



moving to Villa which was responsible for his move to the USA.

Isaac is now the head coach at Parham F.C after honing his coaching skills with Poters F.C and Five Islands.

The man from All Saints believes that a lack of finishing in-front of goals is the major reason for Parham's poor performance this season

which sees them rooted in ninth position in the ten-team competition.

Isaac is being encouraged to run for the presidency of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association, a venture, he says, he is considering.

Isaac believes all clubs should meet and exchange ideas as to the best way to restart football on the island before making a presentation to the ABFA.

DEWS

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