



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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PRICE \$3

PM, PWA HOLD 'SUCCESSFUL' MEETING

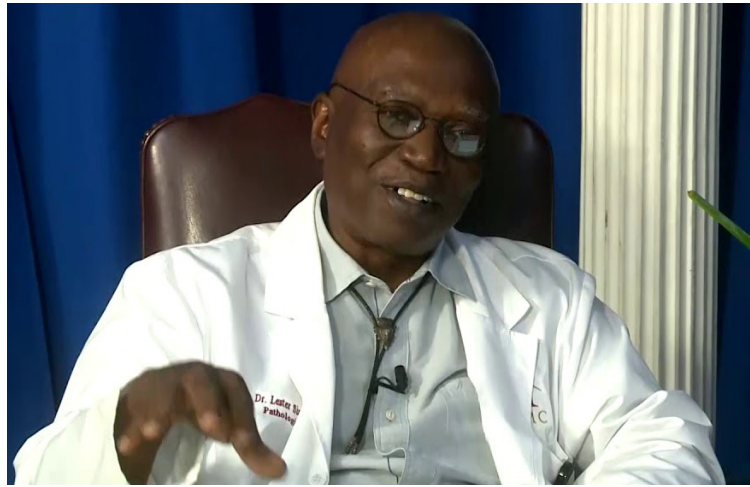


Disagreements over rapid testing

Antiguan Pathologist Dr. Lester Simon has criticized the use of rapid antibody tests being carried out by some private medical practitioners.

Dr. Simon's Facebook post came after it was revealed by the health minister that the doctor who carried out COVID-19 tests on employees of a hotel had breached several protocols.

In it, he revealed two separate private agencies were/are testing for COVID-19 using antibody tests. Those rapid antibody tests he noted are so inferior at this stage of their development, they should be disregarded.



Dr. Lester Simon

The consultant pathologist explained there are currently two different rapid antigen tests in the country, the Sofia2 and the second BD Sensor. Sofia2, Dr. Lester Simon declared will be

used by the government and BD Sensor is being used privately and he was clear in stating the local, privately used antigen test, BD Sensor, has not been evaluated by CARPHA or locally

using the listed claims by the manufacturer. "It does not meet at least two of the 14 parameters listed by CARPHA, and met by Sofia2. It is not authorized by FDA, neither the European Union," according to Dr. Simon.

The Minister of Health had previously warned the public against visiting private doctors to conduct COVID-19 tests.

A meeting was expected to be convened with the Ministry of Health and the doctor on Monday to discuss a range of issues. However, there are reports it did not take place.

DAY 7/1

Max UV Index: 7 High
 Wind: E at 39 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 56 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 78%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 29%
 Precipitation: 4.6 mm
 Rain: 4.6 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 2
 Hours of Rain: 2

31 °Hi



Spotty showers in the morning; otherwise, partly sunny and breezy

NIGHT 7/1

Wind: E at 15 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 30 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 24%
 Precipitation: 0.3 mm
 Rain: 0.3 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 0.5
 Hours of Rain: 0.5

27 °Lo



A stray evening shower; otherwise, partly cloudy

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:37 AM

Sunset AST
 6:45 PM



Duration
 13:08 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 3:27 PM

Moonset AST
 3:07 AM



Duration
 11:40 hr

PM, PWA hold 'successful' meeting

A Zoom meeting has been held between the Prime Minister and members of the Police Welfare Association and from all indications are that both sides walked away satisfied with the outcome of the discussions.

Concerns over rundown police stations, medical insurance and access to lands and housing are among the concerns of the PWA and after going public in expressing their feelings, both the government side and the association met virtually on Tuesday.

National Security Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, joined PM Browne at the meeting.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister,



Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst spoke to PointeXpress on the discussions held. "The police officers asked several questions after the prime minister made an opening statement at the meeting. Questions were also posed to Benjamin as the minister with direct responsibility for police affairs. I would describe the

meeting as cordial," Hurst noted.

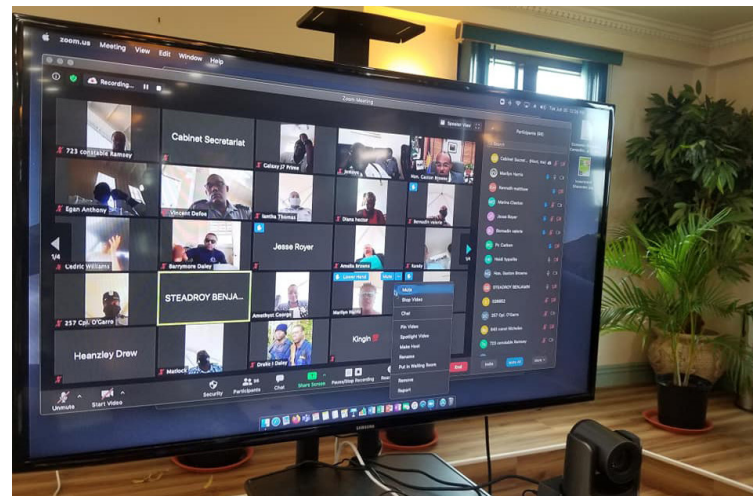
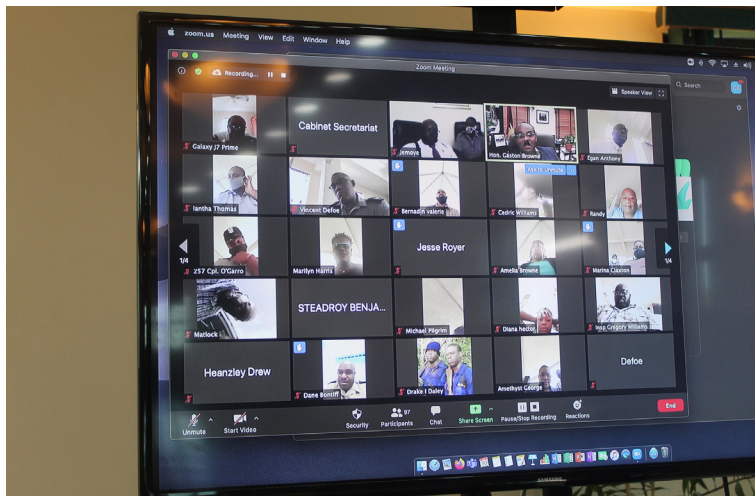
Towards the end of the meeting, PM Browne urged the police officers to end their weeklong protest action and to return to regular hours.

Cabinet will convene its weekly meeting today,

where the concerns of the PWA will be discussed with a view to resolving them. The invitation for the PWA executive to meet with the Cabinet was renewed and according to Hurst the PWA gave indications that they will accept.

However, efforts to reach PWA chairman, Roosevelt Browne proved futile. There's no indication therefore whether or not the police will heed the advice of the prime minister and return to regular hours.

According to Roosevelt Browne, Chairman of the Police Welfare Association, the body represents the interests of more than 700 law enforcement officers.



Booby Alley Project gets new jumpstart

The long-awaited 'Booby Alley' redevelopment project has received a new breath of life. The redevelopment of the poverty-stricken area is projected to provide adequate and comfortable homes to the residents of the community. However, that project has been plagued with a number of challenges since its inception. One major challenge according to a government spokesman, was the removal and relocation of the residents who currently live in the area for generations.

The spokesperson explained that for the project to commence, the area has to be cleared completely.

Due to this, "a decision was made to



provide them with temporary homes, superior to what they currently live in to entice them to move and do so comfortably," the spokesperson said.

According to a project officer on the Booby Alley redevelopment committee, there are currently 110 households in the area, with only two households that have moved thus far.

According to sources, the construction of temporary housing has been challenging and has contributed to the slowdown of the redevelopment project. The project, which is being sponsored by the Chinese Government, had required the lot to be empty by August of last year.

However, the government spokes-

cont'd on pg 5



Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Motorcyclists Safety

Pedestrian Safety Matters

DRIVE SAFELY

ATB
Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

PRESS STATEMENT!

Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment

Central Board of Health

Early Childhood Development Unit

Tuesday 30th, June 2020.

The Early Childhood Development Unit and the Central Board of Health are asking for All Nurseries, Daycares and Preschools to register their businesses for an inspection.

Owners can either visit the Early Childhood Development Unit Office at Gunthorpes to register, or call the Office at 462-1230 or 562-4305.

cont'd from pg 4

person noted that the temporary homes are now well underway for the relocation phase to commence. "We continue with the relocation and hope it can be done quickly once the temporary homes are completed," the spokesman stated.

These temporary homes are said to be pre-fabricated homes, constructed on a solid foundation formatted for two- and three-bedrooms homes, accompanied by plumbing and lighting fixtures.

Originally, eighty-nine (89) pre-fab homes were projected to be constructed for the relocated residents, however, according to communication officer from the Public Works Department (PWD), which is responsible for the pre-fab construction; twenty-six (26) of these homes are currently under construction, with two near completion on



lower Bay Street.

"The two that are near completion were a test run to understand the building process, now that they have a clearer picture, by next week the other homes will be going up much faster," the PWD communication officer explained.



AGHS NEW STUDENTS' REGISTRATION

Registration for new students for the Antigua Girls' High School will be on July 7th 2020 from 9 am to 1pm. Students are to accompany their parents to registration.

Items for registration:

Bank deposit slip (Registration fee is XCD\$280 payable at the Antigua Commercial Bank Ac# 100000059)
1 passport size photograph

Original and copy of birth certificate or Passport bio page
Original and copy of Health Card
Your own pen for filling out forms.



ANTIGUA'S DONKEY SANCTUARY,

located on the eastern side of Antigua, near Bethesda, is open to Visitors from Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We are COVID-19 compliant: masks must be worn; social distancing is in place and hand sanitizing and hand washing is available.

Our Donkeys would love to see you, especially if you will take photos and brush them

For more information, call us at (268) 461-4957.

Union, workers to hold post-LIAT discussion

The future of the approximately four hundred staff members of LIAT (1974 Ltd.) which is soon to go into liquidation, will be the subject of a meeting tomorrow with their bargaining agent, the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU). These workers are based in Antigua and Barbuda.

General Secretary, David Massiah, said the meeting is largely to update the workers on the outcome of

the meeting held on Monday between LIAT's Chief Executive Officer, Julie Reifer-Jones, and the trade unions representing all categories of the airline's staff.

"The meeting on Thursday is to basically explain to the workers what is on the table for them now that the airline has announced that it will cease operations. We, as their bargaining agent, will continue to fight to secure the severance payments

owed to them," he declared.

Massiah noted that he has heard through various means that there is a suggestion that because most of the airline's staff is based in Antigua and Barbuda, then the government here should carry the lion share of the burden to settle outstanding severance and holiday payments.

However, the union leader is of the view that the responsibility of making the payments ought to be based on the shareholding percentage in the airline. This means that Barbados, which



General Secretary, David Massiah

has the largest share, should shoulder the greater portion of that responsibility.

Chairman of LIAT's shareholder governments, St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, has put the figure at over \$80 million with severance payments to workers in Antigua and Barbuda alone amounting to \$62 million.

cont'd on pg 7

Tender Notice

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is inviting tenders for the pulling and packing of utility poles. The poles will be taken from the St. John's Deep Water Harbour to the APUA Pole Yard on the Sir George Walter Highway.

Interested parties must submit closed written bids for the supply of this service and address it to:

Financial Controller
 Antigua Public Utilities Authority
 4th Floor ABC Building
 Independence Ave.
 St. John's
 Antigua

Deadline for submission is July 6th, 2020.

For further Information please call 480-7175.

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Dated the 12th June, 2020

Rita Edwards
 Rita Edwards
 268-781-1544



Dr Isaac Newton wins case against PM Browne

A High Court Judge has ruled in favour of Dr. Isaac Newton who had filed suit against Prime Minister Gaston Browne for defamation.

The details of the judgment are still emerging, but the judgment was handed down in the High Court on Tuesday morning.

Legal action was taken against the prime minister following a war of words between him and Newton in 2017.

Newton had reportedly made comments regarding the prime minister's presentation in parliament and the



Dr. Isaac Newton

prime minister responded, not to Newton's liking, concerning his tenure as a diplomat under the UPP administration.

Newton's lawyers subsequently

wrote to the prime minister demanding an apology and retraction of his statements, which they contended at the time, risked damaging their client's reputation, but PM Browne refused to do so.

There were attempts for the matter to be settled in case management, but that proved unsuccessful and the case proceeded to trial.

Both the prime minister and Dr. Newton testified in Court in June last year during the trial.

Damages are to be decided at a later date.

Inspection of pre-schools, nurseries soon

The Central Board of Health is continuing the task of preparing various sections of the society for reopening in the era-of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Julianne Mannix, said the department is working in collaboration with

the Early Childhood Education Unit at Gunthrops to invite owners/operators of pre-schools, day-care centers and nurseries to register in order to have their inspection done. "We are looking to ensure that they have handwashing stations at their entrances, that the

seating in the classrooms are properly spaced out, that the rooms are adequate to accommodate the number of students and teachers and that arrangements are in place to conduct daily temperature checks on each student," Mannix told PointeXpress.

The inspectors will also look to see that there is adequate supply of cleaning agents for regular cleaning of handrails, toilets and door-handles. "These are frequently-touched areas by children and it is our job to make sure that they are properly cleaned several times each day to reduce the spread of germs," she explained.

The senior health inspector noted that some pre-schools serve meals to those in their care therefore the

inspection will also include those areas where the meals are prepared. "Everyone working in the kitchen must have a food-handlers certificate and a badge. Additionally, those stations where hot food is served must make provisions to keep the food at the right temperature and similar for cold food," she advised.

The CBH inspection will examine the toys with which the children are playing. "We don't want the children to be playing with soft-toys such as teddy bears. The so-called 'hard-toys' are allowed but the children must not be sharing toys," she added.

Mannix said the schools may soon be reopening and CBH wants to complete these inspections ahead of that announcement.

cont'd from pg 6

The ABWU general secretary also has a suggestion for the shareholder governments regarding the planned liquidation of LIAT. "LIAT is a CARICOM institution and the governments should come together to support the airline. As such, my suggestion would be to do a notional liquidation that will allow a scaled down LIAT to remain in the air and its relationship with staff etc. is not severed," he explained.

He said the union is awaiting the outcome of a meeting of CARICOM leaders on Monday where the airline was discussed.

Massiah indicated that he will have no problems if a small airline replaces LIAT. His primary interest is to protect the jobs of as many of the workers as possible and to secure severance of all affected.

Dialysis Unit receives donation

The Renal Society of Antigua and Barbuda has donated two dialysis recliners and two side tables valued at over fourteen-thousand dollars to the dialysis unit at Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC).

"When the Society was told that the dialysis unit needed new recliners and side tables the members of the Renal Society met and decided to supply these much-needed pieces of equipment.

"We trust that the donation will serve to make it easier to deliver the care needed by patients and we stand ready to assist whenever we are requested to do so," President of the Antigua Renal Society, Sir James Carlisle said.

He continued, "The Society has a Pre-Valentines din-



ner and Thanksgiving lunch annually. Funds raised from these two events are used to assist the dialysis unit.

"In addition, many private

individuals along with corporate sponsors make regular donations to the Antigua and Barbuda Renal Society. On behalf of the members I

would like to thank them for their generosity."

Speaking on behalf of the hospital, Nephrologist at MSJMC, Dr. Ian Thomas said the Renal Society is a valuable partner for the dialysis unit.

"Their recent donation of the recliners and side tables is already making a difference. However, it's important for me to note that the society does so much work with very little fanfare.

"They've assisted the hospital with not only equipment but also in education as well as our budding kidney transplant program.

"Because of their support, the dialysis team is able to focus more on what we do best - caring for our patients. And that's why we consider the Renal Society as a partner," he noted.



Chastanet will support leaner airline

St. Lucian Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has said his government will be supportive of a new regional airline, if one is to emerge from the dissolution of LIAT.

The Antiguan based airline appears to have reached the end of its service to the Caribbean.

The St. Lucian head of government has always been critical of LIAT, citing serious structural deficiencies that required urgent attention and stating his government was unwilling to invest in an entity with that many issues.

But with LIAT being unable to escape from the problems that have plagued it and possible talks on the formation of a new carrier, Chastanet says St. Lucia will be interested, once a proper structure is implemented. "If the airline has a very well selected



St. Lucian Prime Minister Allen Chastanet

board; a board that understands business, particularly aviation and one the company is allowed to make all the necessary business decisions and we are not just going to be a shareholder attending a meeting. If we see the executive not doing a good job and the executive can be fired, then St Lucia will support such a venture," he said, returning to a position he has held for

many years.

LIAT has been criticized for not making sound business decisions, especially on its routes, many of which are unprofitable.

The St Lucia prime minister noted that there are some territories – Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines for example – which depend on islands such as St Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados for their link to the international routes but determining the types of aircraft that is best suited for these routes is critically important.

"There are some hard economic rules that must be followed and observed," he stated.

The airline's shareholding governments are to meet and hold discussions on the possible closure of decades old carrier.

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

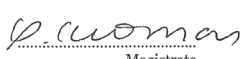
NOTICE OF HEARING


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 Verónica 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


Magistrate



"We  Care"

Medical Benefits Scheme

Important Notice

Do you have a receipt dated as far back as January 2020 which you would like to submit for a reimbursement?

GOOD NEWS!

We have extended the three months submission period for claims affected by the COVID-19 lockdown office closure.

Receipts dated from *January - April 2020* can be submitted to make claims.

Deadline for submitting receipts is July 31st 2020.

Please note after July 31st 2020, strict policy, as per The Medical Benefits Regulations, 2011 of submission of claims within three months of the date on which the benefit accrued will resume.

Rotary Club Sundown names new president

Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown has announced the election of a new president charged with leading the service organisation over the next year under the Rotary International Theme: Rotary Opens Opportunities.

He is Julian Wilkins, a telecoms executive by profession, who was inducted during a handover ceremony held virtually last Saturday. "Even though we are going through a difficult period with this pandemic, I am looking forward to the challenge of offering 'Service Above Self' to our community," Wilkins stated.

He said he is passionate about helping those in need and purposeful about demonstrating the aims and objectives of Rotary. The post of Rotary President is not entirely new to Wilkins as

he has held the seat of president in another Rotary Club while living in Trinidad and Tobago.

In his address to all present, the new president outlined many exciting plans for projects some of which will focus on key areas such as COVID relief, education, healthcare, youth development, autism and mother/child wellbeing and childhood obesity. Additionally, President Wilkins also plans to pay keen attention to the 7th area of focus in Rotary which is 'Supporting the Environment'.

Working along with him, will be a team of Rotarians and together they will carry on the mantel from those who served previously. The board of directors for the Rotary year which begins on July 1st are: Daniella Jo-



Julian Wilkins

siah, Stacy Cabrall, Corina Sealy, Christopher Pugh, Herald Rolland, Nircree Mills, Patrice Gardiner, Diana Browne, Jonah Ormond, and Kevin Jackman.

Flow launches summer promotion

Flow customers in Antigua and Barbuda will walk away with a "Bag ah Money" when the company's new summer promotion launches on July 1st.

The new and exciting "Bag Ah Money" promotion will run for 10 weeks until September 7th, 2020. EC\$30,000 in cash prizes will be given away to lucky Flow customers," said Flow Commercial Manager, Denise Dixon.

Two lucky FLOW customers will each win \$10,000 in Cash, while another 10 customers will walk away with \$1,000 each week of the promotion!



Flow Commercial Manager, Denise Dixon.

All new and existing entered to win a "Bag Ah Money" by simply doing Flow prepaid customers are eligible for a chance to be any one of the following:

1. Top-up \$25 or more at any Flow Top Up Vendor!
 2. Activate any 'Always On' Prepaid Plan!
 3. Sign up for new service or switch to Flow prepaid service for a chance to win!
- Weekly \$1,000 winners will also be entered into the main draw for the \$10,000 jackpot giving them the chance to win more than once!

Additionally, just to make Summer even more exciting for customers the promotion also offers customers weekly prepaid offers including Free Weekend Calling and Free Data offers.



Way of Life!

Unlock your
FUN
Side



VITARA

Starting at

\$76,600

Live on the fun side
with Suzuki!

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

>>> UPGRADED FEATURES

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

INCLUDES

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

*On The Spot Financing Available



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

LIAT is the real MVP of Caribbean Integration



Dr. Kai-Ann Skeete (First published on May 11, 2020)

INTRODUCTION

Conceptualised in 1956, LIAT predates the Caribbean Independence movement, although it became operational in 1974. Presently, it is comprised of a mere 10 aircraft, 5 ATR42s with 48 seats and 5 ATR72s with 68 seats which service 15 destinations among the English, French, Spanish and Dutch-speaking Caribbean around the clock. My parents' generations had the Federal Palm and Federal Maple to traverse the Caribbean Sea; in 2020, my generation and future generations to come, will only know about LIAT which 'has now become a household name.'

[1]

However, at the turn of the year, the Caribbean is now battling with COVID-19, a novel influenza virus that has rendered us incapacitated and unable to function as a Single Market. We are unable to par-

ticipate in the trade of goods or services. Across the Caribbean, many regional leaders have made the decision to close ports of entry and have decided to return to extreme isolation measures of every man is an island. However, well into national lockdowns, LIAT was operating facilitating trade within the region and shuttling persons and goods from country to country. Article 134 of Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas calls for a Community Transport Policy with the goal of providing 'efficient, reliable, affordable transport services throughout the Community' which is key to the path of achieving full, free movement of labour and by extension, critical to managing a Single Domestic Space. Thus, the LIAT remains integral to the functioning and movement of factors of production within the CSME.

This article seeks to add to the ever present LIAT discussion by introducing 2 points, comparing fares between LIAT and Caribbean Airlines, as well as a flight plan analysis of the air travel distance from Grantley Adams International Airport in Barbados to Piarco International Airport in the Republic of Trinidad.

ANALYSIS

Across the region, LIAT has been the main airline for destinations such as Roseau, Dominica and until a few months ago, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines due to their lack of international carriers. For Barbados, LIAT transported the largest number of passengers in 2010 and 2011. According to the Barbados Air Transport Licensing Authority Annual Report 2011-2012, the majority of the Barbados air passengers came from LIAT (an average of 41,000 passengers), followed by American Airlines (an average of 36,000 passengers) then Virgin Atlantic (an aver-

age of 25,000 passengers) for the period 2010-2011.

Comparison of LIAT and CAL Fares between Barbados and Trinidad Using the Google ITA Matrix Software on February 2020, the researcher compared the prices of direct return flights between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday, March 15 until Saturday, March 21, 2020 between Caribbean Airlines (CAL) and LIAT. The difference in fare was an astounding USD114.76 for the same distance between destinations. The CAL flight totaled USD210.15 with a base fare of USD88 going directly to CAL. The base fare represents a mere 41.8% of the ticket proceedings going to CAL. The LIAT flight totaled USD324.87 with a base fare of USD130 doing directly to LIAT. Incidentally, LIAT's base fare amounts to approximately 40% of the ticket proceedings. Aside from the base fares, both return tickets contained the same 7 taxes, charges and fees; all to LIAT's Fuel Surcharge (USD8.75) and Booking and Security Surcharge (USD24.00) per route. Simply put, LIAT is bogged down with several taxes, fees and charges included within the cost of the ticket. The region needs to reconsider the utility of these taxes and more importantly, the potential multiplier effect of reduced taxes on intra-regional movement and CSME participating states.

ONE-WAY FLIGHT PLAN FROM BARBADOS TO TRINIDAD

To determine a relatively accurate depiction of the flight plan between Barbados and Trinidad, the author chose to use the Flight Aware website to chart and analyze the one way flight plan. At the time of writing, the Piarco airport was closed as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Cont'd on pg 13



and LIAT is no longer flying into Piarco. However, CAL the national airlines of Trinidad and Tobago continues to undertake repatriation flights.

At approximately 8:58am the CAL flight takes off for Trinidad. The acceleration of the aircraft to become airborne is a very technical exercise and is specific to every flight. As the aircraft starts to climb it utilizes a significant amount of fuel to make the initial climb which takes approximately 8 minutes following take off, before the flight reaches its cruising altitude. According to Flight-aware, for the CAL flight, the cruising altitude was 22,000ft.

[2] The CAL flight reached its cruising altitude at 9:07am and stayed there for 11 minutes, at which point it began its initial descent. The flight's descent starts at 9:19am, approximately 21 minutes from the initial take off. It lasts

from 9:19am until the aircraft lands at 9:36am which is approximately 17 minutes. At the landing stage, this is a "... critical stage of flight where the aircraft slows to the such an extent that it literally falls out of the sky just inches from the ground."

[3] Following the taxiing to the gate, the flight enters into the Post-Flight stage where the crews are replaced or 'turn around' and begin preparations for another flight.

From a very basic analysis of the flight times, it is noteworthy that Caribbean citizens understand that approximately 23.6% of the duration of the CAL flight from Barbados to Trinidad was spent ascending, 31.5% spent at Cruising altitude but the largest component of the flight between Barbados and Trinidad was at the descent/approaching stage comprising of whopping 44.7% of the entire flight. Thus, for one of the more popular flight routes

in the Caribbean, the majority of the flight is spending descending/landing.

CONCLUSION

The aforementioned is used as an illustration to aid in understanding the true 'Costs' of having flights connecting the Caribbean. Due to the close geographical proximity of regional destinations, flights spend limited time in the air at cruising altitude but are either gearing up to take off or gearing down to land. Is it truly worth it to have twice daily flights between destinations for airlines that are not Government subsidized and paying the market price for jet fuel? The solution for the region may present itself as a double edged sword, where Governments cease to utilize LIAT as a means of revenue collection or the complete privatization of LIAT operating on a for-profit basis.

It is time that CARICOM leaders avoid sending 'mixed messages' as it relates to the

CSME and LIAT. The region cannot continue to approach regional transportation as a for-profit activity, while at the same time wishing to maintain commitments to the region and deepening the CSME. Therefore, the time is now for the region to remove ambiguity as it relates to its regional transportation policy by focusing on topics and matters that relate to citizens directly such as security, migration, climate, jobs and transport connectivity... that is, things that have the potential to make a considerable impact on the lives of regional citizens. Regional air transport is chief among them.

Dr. Kai-Ann D. Skeete is the Trade Research Fellow at the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy & Services of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. Learn more about the SRC by visiting www.shridathramphalcentre.com.

Trinidad borrows US\$150 million from CAF to combat COVID-19



Eric Williams Financial Complex where loans were signed.

The CAF-Development Bank of Latin America has signed two loans with the Government to aid in the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first loan is US\$100 million and will provide financial support to programmes implemented to contain the social, economic and financial emergencies generated by the global crisis.

The second loan at US\$ 50 million, will contribute to the strengthening of Trinidad and Tobago's healthcare system capacity through direct financial resources and the recognition of expenses and investments.

These two loans were preceded by a US\$400,000 donation that the multilateral organization made to the country

on April 3 to boost efforts against the novel coronavirus. CAF has also provided technical assistance by organizing capacity-building webinars for the country's health personnel.

The loans were signed by Finance Minister Colm Imbert and CAF's representative for T&T, Gianpiero Leoncini at the Eric Williams Financial Complex.

To cope with the effects of the pandemic in Latin America, in early March 2020, CAF offered a regional credit line of US\$50 million per country to address the health emergency as well as a grant of US\$400,000 per country and a regional emergency credit line of US\$2.5 billion to support countercyclical economic measures.

Anguillans vote for change



72 yearold former premier of Anguilla was defeated by first time candidate and former Great Britain Miss Universe, 27 year-old Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers.

Anguillans voted the main opposition Anguilla Progressive Movement (APM) into office in general elections held on Monday 29 June 2020.

The APM, led by medical doctor Ellis Webster, won seven of the eleven seats at stake, with the other four going to the incumbent Anguilla United Front of Premier Victor Banks. Mr. Banks was one of the casualties of the elections, losing his seat to 27 year-old Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers.

Under Anguilla's electoral system, the voters elect seven parliamentarians in single member constituencies through the first-past-the-post method, while four At-Large parliamentarians are elected

by voting across the entire island.

The 2020 electioneering has seen what was perhaps the most heated campaigning in the history of the island – and with a call for leadership by young people. A number of these adolescents, from 25 years old and much older, are spread across the two political parties and the independent candidates – all advocating for a voice and participation, not only in the electoral process, but in the leadership and governance of Anguilla. The Anguilla United Front, in particular, includes a number of seasoned and experienced politicians vying to continue their leadership roles and to have the confidence of the electorate.

Businesses In Trinidad Close Early As Persons Protest Fatal Police Shooting



Protests, clashes continue in Trinidad

National Security Minister Stuart Young Tuesday described as “carefully orchestrated and pre-planned”, the protests in the eastern part of the capital following the shooting deaths of three people by police over the last weekend.

Protesters blocked roads including the highways in and out of the capital, fired gunshots and demanded that the cops involved in the deaths of Joel Jacob, Noel Diamond and Israel Clinton in Morvant along the

east-west corridor on Saturday be brought to justice. Witnesses say at least one of the men had his hands in the air in surrender when they were shot. The police shooting came one day after an officer, Allen Moseley, 32, attached to the Guard and Emergency Branch, was shot dead in Morvant. Police Commissioner Gary Griffith has denied any link between the murder of the police officer and the deaths of the three men.

Young, speaking at a news

conference, told reporters that two investigations, including one by the Independent Police Complaints Authority, were underway as several businesses in the capital closed their doors as the violent protests, which began in Laventille and the Beetham Estate, spread to other parts of the city. A group of young men, all wearing bandanas and some with their hands in the air, marched along Independence Square in the capital chanting against the police shootings over the weekend.

“What we woke up this morning is very disturbing,” Young said, adding “this is not what we expect from law abiding citizens.”

He said that information coming to law enforcement authorities indicated that the protests were “orchestrated” and that “money is being paid to persons to go out” and disturb the peace.

“I am demanding that the criminal elements who are using the opportunity, and one asks the question, who is it that is stirring up the criminal elements to use this opportunity as well,”

Young said, adding, “I understand peaceful protests, I understand people being emotionally upset about the incident that may have taken place on Saturday, but it has become very obvious very quickly as a result of human intelligence provided and other means of intelligence that many of these incidents... shooting in particular are being stirred by the criminal elements.”

Young said that the members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force are now assisting the police in maintaining law and order. Gunshots were heard in various areas across the capital, and people were seen running in different directions including inside stores.

Young confirmed that a bullet had been found on the third floor of the Office of the Attorney General, adding “we are taking all the necessary precautions.”

He also confirmed that the security forces had detained Fuad Abu Bakr, the son of the Muslim leader, Yasin Abu Bakr, who in 1990 had staged an unsuccessful coup.

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Jamaica: Visitors from high-risk US states to pretest before arrival

Visitors from high-risk US states to pretest before arrival



Prime Minister Andrew Holness speaks at a virtual press conference at Jamaica House yesterday.

AS of July 1, some visitors from the United States who plan to enter the island on and after July 10 will have to be pretested for COVID-19 for their applications for landing to be considered.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness made the announcement at a virtual press conference from Jamaica House yesterday evening as the Government

continues to reconfigure protocols for entry and re-entry to the island in its push to fully re-open the country in spite of the pandemic.

The pre-requisite for entry applies to individuals coming from COVID-19 hot spots, including Florida, New York, Arizona, and Texas.

Holness said the Government had not moved to im-

pose the requirement for all US visitors due to issues with widespread availability of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, among other considerations.

Visitors must upload their test results to the Visit Jamaica portal.

The prime minister said, while approval for entry is subject to pretesting, negative

results do not mean automatic approval as permission to enter is still risk-based.

“Persons registering to visit Jamaica coming from these area, as of July 1, will be required to upload a valid PCR test [result], which must [not have] been more than seven days old from the expected date of their arrival... As of July 10, persons visiting Jamaica

[non-residents] from the declared high-risk areas will be required to present their PCR test,” he stated.

At the same time, Holness urged individuals to reconsider travelling at this time if they have been confirmed with COVID-19.

All arriving passengers will still be subjected to health screening and risk-based assessment at ports of entry. He said the controlled re-entry programme that was implemented between June 1 and 15, and the controlled entry programmed from June 15 to 30, had been generally successful.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Holness said that after a month of the controlled re-entry programme, the projected 2.5 per cent positive rate or 851 cases of COVID-19 has instead seen an outturn of 0.7 per cent, or 82 positive cases since June 1. He said the island would have, at this point, seen a flattening of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus outside of the controlled re-entry programme, but stressed that barring Jamaicans from coming home is not an option.

“It is unthinkable that we should do anything to prevent their return home and what you’re seeing here is a build-up of Jamaicans who wanted to come home, and now they are exercising their right so to do through the protocols which we have established,” he stated.

Reports are that, on average, this month 22 flights are expected into the island daily, bringing a total of 1,680 passengers, marking a significant increase over the five flights

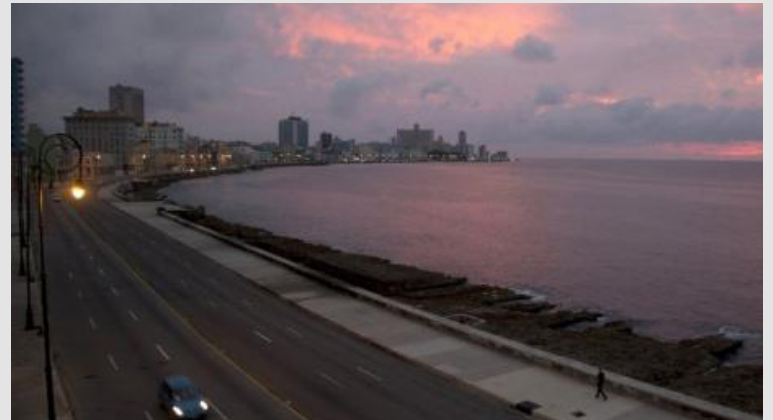
and 410 individuals per day who have been coming in. Thirty-one thousand applications have been processed for Jamaicans and visitors who wish to come to the island, which includes 23,000 residents and 8,000 non-residents, while approximately 14,600 people have arrived in the island since the controlled re-entry began — including 9,300 residents and 5,300 non-residents. An additional 15,000 people have been approved for travel here, 2,600 of whom are tourists.

The prime minister stressed that the increasing number of arrivals would stretch the public health resources and that the Government is still tallying the tab for the measures that have so far been put in place.

“You can imagine the resource constraints that we would face to keep the same levels of controlled re-entry that we have kept through the month of June. We did that very high-level control protocol so that we could establish, using very stringent criteria, what is the risk that the population faces from the re-entry programme,” Holness emphasised, adding, “We now know what the risk is... What it means is that we can reconfigure the limited resources that we have.”

He said with the health ministry now having the benefit of testing for entry for over a month, protocols can be reconfigured to allow for more efficient use of limited resources for testing and surveillance at ports and within the island.

New Cuban Tourism System To Isolate Visitors From Population



The Malecon waterfront is devoid of people during a lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, June 18, 2020.

With the coronavirus waning in Cuba, the government plans to restart its tourism industry by sending visitors to five narrow islands that will offer all-inclusive vacations and keep foreigners isolated from the rest of the nation.

The state-run system scheduled to debut Wednesday is designed to reopen a vital source of economic activity without reintroducing the virus to the country of 11 million people, where new cases have dwindled to just a handful a day.

Tourists will take charter flights to the islands or to central Cuba, where they will take tests to detect the virus.

Those who are negative will proceed straight to their hotels or get on a bus going directly through mainland Cuba to one of the low-lying, sandy keys that are connected to the northern coast by bridges or ferries, according to recent govern-

ment statements.

Anyone who tests positive will be “isolated,” presumably some combination of being quarantined and sent back home, though the details remain unclear.

Many other Caribbean islands are reopening to tourists and imposing testing on new arrivals.

But none has adopted a plan like Cuba’s that separates tourists almost entirely from the general population.

Tourist buses to the resorts will be prohibited from making stops along the way, and police officers will be assigned to each bus to enforce the rule.

Visitors will not be allowed to rent cars or take trips outside the fenced-in coastal resort areas.

There is no indication that tourists will immediately start to arrive.

China passes Hong Kong security law, deepening fears for future

People in Hong Kong could face life in jail for breaking a controversial and sweeping new security law imposed by China.

The legislation came into force on Tuesday but the full text was only revealed hours afterwards.

It was brought in by Beijing following increasing unrest and a widening pro-democracy movement.

Critics say the new law effectively curtails protest and undermines Hong Kong's freedoms.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, defended the law, saying it filled a "gaping hole" in national security.

Details have been closely guarded and the Beijing-backed politician admitted she had not seen the draft before commenting.

The UK, EU and Nato have all expressed concern and anger, while pro-democracy groups have started to disband amid fears of immediate reprisals. Washington, which also urged Beijing to reconsider, had already begun to end the preferential treatment Hong Kong enjoys in trade and travel with the US, bringing it in line with mainland China.

Full details of the new law only emerged after it had come into effect at about 23:00 local time on Tuesday (16:00 BST).

It applies to both permanent and non-permanent residents. Among the details: Crimes of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign



forces are punishable by a minimum sentence of three years, with the maximum being life

Inciting hatred of China's central government and Hong Kong's regional government are now offences under Article 29

Damaging public transport facilities can be considered terrorism - protesters often targeted city infrastructure during the long-running demonstrations

Those found guilty will not be allowed to stand for public office

Beijing will establish a new security office in Hong Kong, with its own law enforcement personnel - neither of which would come under the local authority's jurisdiction

Hong Kong's chief executive can appoint judges in national security cases, and the justice

secretary can decide whether or not there is a jury

Decisions made by the national security commission, set up by local authorities, cannot be challenged legally

China also says it will take over prosecution in cases which are considered "very serious", while some trials will be heard behind closed doors.

Management of foreign non-governmental organisations and news agencies will be strengthened

The law will not apply to acts which happened before it came into force.

Under the national security law, many of the acts of protest that have rocked Hong Kong over the past year could now be classed as subversion or secession... and punished with up to life in prison.

The city's pro-Beijing leader, Carrie Lam, said the law was long overdue.

Fearing repercussions, political activists are resigning their posts and one pro-democracy protester, who asked to remain anonymous, told me that ordinary people are now deleting posts on social media.

Many people are just stopping talking about politics, and stopping talking about freedom and democracy because they want to save their own lives. They want to save their freedom and avoid being arrested.

One contact of mine, a lawyer and human rights activist, sent me a message shortly after the law was passed. Please delete everything on this chat, he wrote.

EU excludes United States from 'safe' travel list

The European Union has excluded the United States from its initial "safe list" of countries from which the bloc will allow non-essential travel from Wednesday.

The 27-member bloc gave majority approval on Tuesday to leisure or business travel from 14 countries beyond its borders, the Council of the EU, which represents EU governments, said in a statement.

The countries are Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.

China has also been provisionally approved, although travel would only open up if Chinese authorities also allowed in EU visitors. Reciprocity is a condition of being on the list.

Russia, Brazil and Turkey, along with the United States, are among countries whose containment of the virus is considered worse than the EU average, and so will have to wait at least two weeks for approval. The bloc will carry out fortnightly reviews.

The move is aimed at supporting the EU travel industry and tourist destinations, particularly countries in southern Europe hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It acts as a recommendation to EU members, meaning they could potentially set restrictions on those entering from the 14 nations.



Within hours of the EU announcement, Italy, which has one of the highest COVID death tolls in the world, said it would opt out and keep quarantine restrictions in place for all nations that were not part of the free-travel Schengen area.

"The global situation remains very complex. We must

prevent the sacrifices made by the Italians in recent months have been in vain," Italy Health Minister Roberto Speranza said.

Canada also said it was extending its mandatory quarantine order for travellers until at the least the end of August and a travel ban for most foreigners

until the end of July.

The EU's efforts to reopen internal borders, particularly within the 26-nation Schengen area which normally has no frontier checks, have been patchy as various countries have restricted access for certain visitors.

Coronavirus: Fauci warns of 100,000 US cases per day



Dr Fauci (left) and Dr Redfield speak before the hearing

Top disease researcher Dr Anthony Fauci has told the US Senate that he “would not be surprised” if new virus cases in the country reach 100,000 per day.

“Clearly we are not in control right now,” he testified, warning that not enough Americans are wearing masks or social distancing.

During the hearing, he said

about half of all new cases come from four states.

Earlier, the New York governor said nearly half of all Americans must self-quarantine if they visit the state.

On Tuesday, cases rose by more than 40,000 in one day for the fourth time in the past five days.

The surge - which is occurring particularly strongly in

southern and western states - has forced at least 16 states to pause or reverse their reopening plans, according to CNN. Florida, Arizona, Texas and California are the four states referenced by Dr Fauci as being most heavily hit currently.

For some the new measures come over a month after they first began to reopen their economies.

Also on Tuesday, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo expanded the number of Americans who are required to self-quarantine for 14 days if they visit the state. There are now 16 states on the list.

The newly added states are California, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and Tennessee.

They join Alabama, Arkan-

sas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

All together, the order affects 48% all US residents, according to a USA Today analysis. Testifying to a Senate committee on the effort to reopen schools and businesses, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases criticised states for “skipping over” benchmarks required for reopening, and said cases will rise as a result. “I can’t make an accurate prediction, but it is going to be very disturbing, I will guarantee you that,” he told Senator Elizabeth Warren.

“Because when you have an outbreak in one part of the country even though in other parts of the country they’re doing well, they are vulnerable.”

“We can’t just focus on those areas that are having the surge. It puts the entire country at risk,” he added.

Dr Fauci also called on the US government to produce face masks to be distributed for free to all Americans, and condemned the “all or none phenomenon” of some people who have completely disregarded social distancing measures.

Robert Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - who was also testifying on Tuesday - told lawmakers that 12 states have seen rates of patients requiring hospital rising, and Arizona has recorded an increasing death rate.

“It is critical that we all take the personal responsibility to slow the transmission of

Covid-19 and embrace the universal use of face coverings,” Dr Redfield said.

“The disease impacts us all and it’s going to take all of working together to stop it.”

Before the hearing began, Republican Senator Lamar Alexander, who leads the committee, appealed to President Donald Trump to wear a face mask - an act he has yet to do in a public event.

“Sadly this simple life saving practice has become part of the political debate,” said the ally of Mr Trump.

“If you are for Trump you don’t wear a mask, if you are against Trump you do,” he continued, going on to “suggest that the president occasionally wear a mask”.

“The president has plenty of admirers that would follow his lead,” he said.

On Monday, Dr Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the CDC, warned that the US is not responding like other countries who have shown success in containing the coronavirus, and has allowed the virus to spread much more widely and rapidly. We’re not in the situation of New Zealand or Singapore or Korea where a new case is rapidly identified and all the contacts are traced and people are isolated who are sick and people who are exposed are quarantined and they can keep things under control,” Dr Schuchat said in an interview with The Journal of the American Medical Association.

“We have way too much virus across the country for that right now, so it’s very discouraging.”

Iran issues arrest warrant for Trump; Interpol denies help

Iran has issued an arrest warrant and asked Interpol for help in detaining US President Donald Trump and dozens of others it believes carried out the drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad.

Tehran prosecutor Ali Alqasimehr said on Monday that Trump, along with more than 30 others Iran accuses of involvement in the January 3 attack that killed General Qassem Soleimani, face “murder and terrorism charges”, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

Alqasimehr did not identify anyone else sought other than Trump, but stressed Iran would continue to pursue his prosecution even after his presidency ends.

Interpol, based in Lyon, France, said in a statement its constitution forbade it to undertake “any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character”.

“Therefore, if or when any such requests were to be sent to the General Secretariat ... Interpol would not consider requests of this nature.”

The US’s Iran envoy Brian Hook described the move as a “propaganda stunt”.

“Our assessment is that Interpol does not intervene and issue Red Notices that are based on a political nature,” Hook said at a news conference in Saudi Arabia.

“This is a political nature. This has nothing to do with

national security, international peace or promoting stability... It is a propaganda stunt that no-one takes seriously,” he said.

Alqasimehr was also quoted as saying Iran had requested a “red notice” be put out for Trump and the others, the highest-level notice issued by Interpol, requesting that seeks the location and arrest of the individual named.

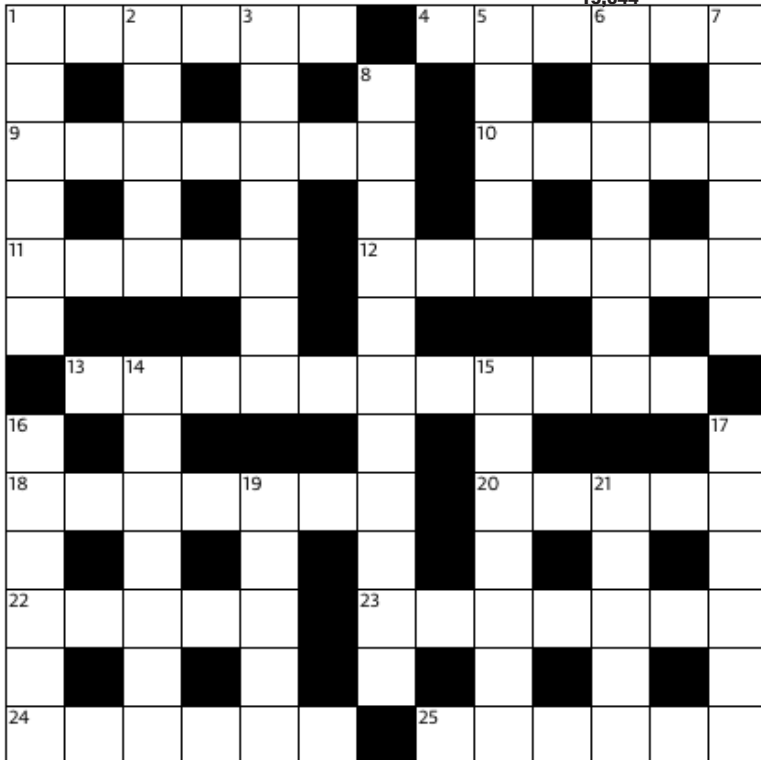
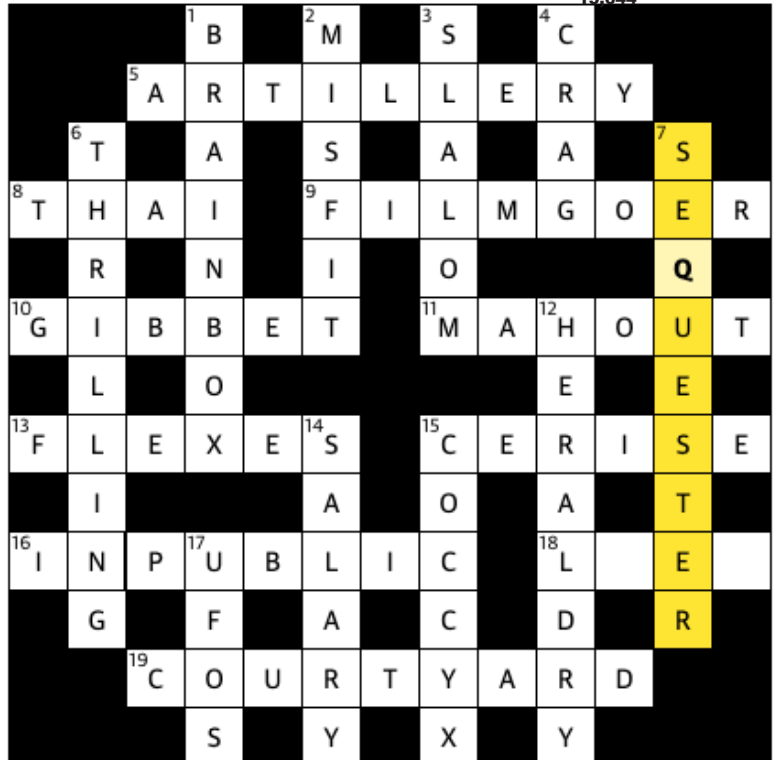
Under a red notice, local authorities make the arrests on behalf of the country that requested it. The notices cannot force countries to arrest or extradite suspects, but can put government leaders on the spot and limit suspects’ travel.

After receiving a request, Interpol meets by committee and discusses whether or not to share the information with its member states. Interpol has no requirement for making any of the notices public, though some do get published on its website.

The US killed General Soleimani, who oversaw the Revolutionary Guard Corps’s expeditionary Quds Force, and others in the January attack near Baghdad International Airport.

The assassination came after months of incidents raising tensions between the two countries and ultimately saw Iran retaliate with a ballistic missile strike targeting American troops in Iraq.

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
 15,644

 Quick crossword No
 15,644


Across

- 1 Easter ___, 1948 film
with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire (6)
- 4 Led (6)
- 9 Level out (7)
- 10 Roofing slabs (5)
- 11 Flexible (5)
- 12 Coach (7)
- 13 Strikingly different (11)
- 18 Long-suffering (7)
- 20 Solo (5)
- 22 Between (5)
- 23 Places of business (7)
- 24 Company (6)
- 25 Condition caused by lack of

Down

- 1 Learners (6)
- 2 Retaliate (5)
- 3 Most profound (7)
- 5 Spare (5)
- 6 Small toothed whale, larger than a porpoise (7)
- 7 Win over (6)
- 8 Calculation — or tacit snub (anag) (11)
- 14 End result (7)
- 15 Deal illegally (7)
- 16 Jumped suddenly (6)
- 17 Largest of the Channel Islands (6)
- 19 Rowing crew (5)
- 21 Crop up (5)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



"I'm glad the golf course is reopened —
I just wish they hadn't furloughed
the groundskeeper."



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): It could be fantasy and not fate that makes things seem more complicated than they really are. Avoid misunderstandings by being willing to go along with someone's harmless flights of fancy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Make imagery count. You may be able to spin your ideas and your appearance into a more favorable look. Be a leader and set an example when morals, principles and high ideals need to be demonstrated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Sometimes you have to fake before you make it. More can be gained by speaking your mind than by brooding in silence, but be considerate of others. Search out the win-win solutions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A stalemate might stall your progress. You may yearn for more romance in your life than is possible at this time. When your expectations are unrealistic, you are likely to be disappointed when people do not meet them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Gemstones form when ordinary elements are placed under fire and your status within a group might seem important now. A careless word or change of plan might create a situation that challenges your loyalties. Reach out to a trustworthy friend or family member.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do you really need that? Watch a tendency to spend money on wild and crazy fads. The little things you buy on impulse may bring a smile to your face, but things that are useful and lasting bring more true pleasure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): When they think you're good, don't disappoint them. You may receive more positive attention from others than usual, but you must work hard to live up to that favorable opinion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may believe in the eventual triumph of good over evil, or that all fairy tales have a moral message. Since you are inspired by positive and uplifting ideas, it is easier for you to be generous and show brotherly love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your passion for achieving financial success can keep you going long after the sun goes down. Your belief that there is always a happy ending may sustain you and help you overcome minor misunderstandings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When you are open-minded and grateful, you are able to see opportunities rather than obstacles. Pure logic alone may not work when it comes to human feelings and behavior. Cultivate empathy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some people believe that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. You want to believe that, but you are more of a pragmatist when it comes to handling your money. Encourage your friends to be more realistic.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Find your best path forward. Your social skills can give you a competitive edge, especially when it comes to making smart business moves. Fight off the urge to spend money frivolously to satisfy emotional needs.

Ben Stokes to be captain for first Test with Joe Root absent

Ben Stokes will captain England for the first time next week after it was confirmed Joe Root will miss the first Test against West Indies to attend the birth of his second child.

Root, 29, will leave England's training camp in Southampton today (Wednesday), with the birth expected later this week.

With the series being held in a bio-secure environment, Root will have to self isolate for a week after

leaving hospital before re-joining the squad.

England coach Chris Silverwood said Stokes was a "talisman" who leads from the front.

He added "He's conscious of the people around him, so I think he'll do a great job in Rooty's absence."

Root will rejoin the squad on 13 July before the second Test at Emirates Old Trafford, which begins on 16 July.

He will also miss the



three-day squad warm-up match in Southampton, which begins today (Wednesday).

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Integer placer-
Morbi et ipsum auctor,
volutpat vulputate ipsum id aliquam.
Præsent sagittis sapien vitae elei-
convalis ut suscipit sit amet, facilisis
orci facilisis, ac tincidunt nunc ultrices.

FIFA's coffers remain immune to coronavirus

In March, football went on lockdown. The global game could no longer escape the once-in a life time pandemic and in a scenario unprecedented since World War II leagues around the world shut down.

Suddenly, football was no long the land of honey and milk, but sport face with a specter of a financial catastrophe. In a bio-secure way with disinfected balls, training bubbles and empty stadiums, the game was hurried back into action to avoid rebates from broadcasters.

Even so football's financial future doesn't look rosy. World governing body FIFA, however, could prove to be the exception and steer clear of a downturn.

With no flagship competitions this calendar year, the world federation has been less affected by the coronavirus shutdown.

Last week FIFA announced a COVID-19 relief fund of \$1.5 billion that will be available to the football community through a system of grants and loans.

"It is only possible thanks to the very, very healthy position of FIFA said football supremo Gianni Infantino

In 2019, the world's federation's cash reserves soared to a record \$2.7 billion and revenue climbed to \$6.4 bil-



lion in the four year period the 2018 World Cup. The financials results underlined.

It has allowed FIFA to act on its promise that it has a duty to help out football during the coronavirus pandemic. As a Consequence of the relief fund's launch, the governing body reserves will plunge to about \$1.6 billion, still as very healthy financial position not-for-a profit organization.

Previously, FIFA's Finance Committee and the organization's Council set the minimum level of reserves at \$1.5 billion.

The fund comes on top of FIFA's announcement in April that it would distribute \$150 million in operational funding. All member associations will be given a universal solidarity grant of \$1 million, with an additional

\$500,000 grant specifically for Women's football.

Each confederation will also receive \$2 million.

In terms of loans, members associations will be able to apply for interest free loans amounting to up

to 35% per-cent of their audited annual revenues.

Loans will be between \$500,000 and \$5 million.

Each football confederation will also be able to access a loan of up to \$4 million.



No butting of heads

Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew, who appeared as a guest on Point FM TIM-EOUT program on Tuesday said there was no butting of heads between his ministry and the Antigua and Barbuda Athletic Association president, Everton Cornelius.

“We are singing the same tune in working together to complete the YASCO Sports Complex and improving athletics in Antigua and Barbuda for the benefit of everyone involved,” the former president of the local basketball association noted.

Matthew expressed surprise when he saw a certain story in a particular media outlet and after consultation with the president of the athletic association he stated that he was misquoted and we have been working together to achieve the ultimate goal the completion of the sports complex and to provide a pathway for the young athletes to excel.

“COVID-19 has been difficult for the Ministry of Sports,” the minister stated,



Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew

“because we have to scale back a number of plans despite having the biggest allocation of funds by the government ever. The coronavirus pandemic has crippled the government’s revenue stream and we have to change our focus to make sure that no one is left hungry in a time of need.”

Matthew explained that

the focus of the Ministry of Sports is to encourage as much young people as possible to participate in sporting activities. “When you are dealing with seven and ten year olds the direction should be holistic teaching them fair play, positive attitude and the importance of academics,” he said.

The ministry, he added, is working closely with the associations when it comes to producing elite athletes. He

suggested that the community and associations need to play an important role in the development of elite athletes noting that the ministry is working closely with them.

The minister was also high in praise for the different sporting departments in the Ministry of Sports for their creativity during the COVID-19 pandemic by producing virtual workouts that have been followed not only by participating student but by students who don’t participate in school sports.

 **DEWS**