



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEX PRESS

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PRICE \$3

# BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

*law goes to parliament*



**Pg 4 - Nearly \$4 million in  
illegal drugs confiscated**

# Decline in serious crimes reported - CID

Antigua and Barbuda has recorded a decline in serious crimes for the first half of 2020 when compared with the corresponding period last year.

Statistics from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) show a sharp drop in most categories of serious crimes, except in the case of murder, which recorded an increase of over 100 percent over the same period.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, said the period under review – January 01 – June 30, 2020 – saw these crimes decline by 330 reports when compared with the same period of 2019.

“In 2019, total serious crimes totaled

1,449 reported incidents. This is compared with a total of 1,119 for the same period this year,” the commissioner reported.

He listed serious crimes as; breaking and larceny, larceny, praedial larceny, wounding, malicious damage, rape, unlawful sexual intercourse, shooting, robbery and murder.

Accompanied by the head of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Assistant Commissioner of Police, Samuel Joseph, Rodney said practically all categories of crime recorded significant decline except for murder.

“At this time last year, we only had two murder cases.

“This compares with 5 cases reported so far this year. Among the five are two cases of shooting – the shooting deaths of Dave Anthony of Potters in March and Troy Neiland Baptiste of Bendals,” he revealed.

According to the commissioner, the two shooting deaths remain unsolved and the investigations into both crimes are ongoing.

Antigua and Barbuda’s top cop attributed the reduction in crime to better policing methods as well as the fact that the curfew imposed in the country since the end of March has placed considerable limitations on people’s movement.

## DAY 7/10

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme  
Wind: E at 22 km/h  
Wind Gusts: 30 km/h  
Probability of Precipitation: 25%  
Probability of Thunderstorms: 1%  
Precipitation: 0.0 mm  
Rain: 0.0 mm  
Snow: 0.0 cm  
Ice: 0.0 mm

# 32°<sub>Hi</sub>



Partly sunny

## NIGHT 7/10

Wind: E at 20 km/h  
Wind Gusts: 30 km/h  
Probability of Precipitation: 60%  
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
Precipitation: 2.0 mm  
Rain: 2.0 mm  
Snow: 0.0 cm  
Ice: 0.0 mm  
Hours of Precipitation: 1.5  
Hours of Rain: 1.5

# 26°<sub>Lo</sub>



Partly cloudy and warm with a couple of showers

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
5:40 AM

Sunset AST  
6:45 PM



Duration  
13:05 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
11:01 PM

Moonset AST  
11:10 AM



Duration  
12:09 hr

# Bankruptcy protection law goes to parliament

The House of Representatives is convening a meeting today in which one of the main items on the agenda is an amendment to the Companies Act that was passed in 1995.

Cabinet spokesman, Lionel Max Hurst, announced in the post-Cabinet Notes that

the Cabinet had invited the Solicitor General and three lawyers from the Ministry of Legal Affairs to Wednesday's meeting to advise them concerning the legal ramifications of two amendments to the Companies Act No. 18 of 1995 and its several amendments. These amendments go before the House today.

"The object of the amendments is to introduce a provision to the Companies Act that will provide an alternative to liquidation of companies.

"Under the existing legislation, reorganization of a company and protection of that company from its creditors, during a fixed period, has not been included in the Antigua and Barbuda law," Hurst noted.

He explained that the intention of the amendments is to provide bankruptcy protections similar to what is referred to as Chapter 11 in the United States.

"The equivalent law in the USA, and in many other developed economies, allows for companies that are facing

difficult periods to be given protection by the courts which appoints a receiver/manager whose function is to manage the affairs of the firm until it is able to begin meeting its obligations to its creditors once again," he further explained.

The Cabinet Notes pointed to the Covid-19 situation in Antigua and Barbuda which has made many companies unviable and has placed them in need of protection from liquidation and from creditors until they are able to recover.

The law, as amended, will seek to prevent bankruptcies and liquidation of companies and bring relief to companies that are failing until they recover.

Meanwhile, beleaguered LIAT could be among the recipients of the amendments to the Companies Act.

During Thursday's post-Cabinet press briefing, Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, suggested that it is feasible for LIAT to find protection under the law if it is passed by the parliament and signed into law.

"The measure that is being proposed, would allow for a period of time, under the supervision of a competent authority assigned by the court, to be able to protect the business and to ensure that it returns to a degree of viability. Details in terms of

the timeline for all of these measures to be done are going to be subject to different regulations that are to come from the legislations to be discussed today," Nicholas stated.

He added that the measure could affect LIAT based on the current discussions taking place concerning the airline's future.

"If the shareholder govern-

ments find agreement with the position of the Antigua and Barbuda government, then the legislation, if and when it is approved, could actually assist that process because then it could give LIAT an opportunity to be protected, for a while, from some of its creditors while it does the restructuring and returns to a level of viability," he added.



**Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic the Princess Margaret School will hold its registration for the academic year 2020-2021 online. This will be a two part process.**

## **PHASE 1: 13th - 17th July, 2020.**

During this phase parents will be required to complete the online registration form. This form can be accessed at <http://forms.gle/TXpnQjGaDU4w355d7>. This link will be made available on the school's Facebook page "Princess Margaret School." Please ensure that you include an email address at which you can be easily reached in order to complete the second phase of the registration process.

## **PHASE 2: 20th July – 7th August, 2020**

Once we have received your initial registration form the school will send a link to the email address you provided. Click on this link and it will take you to a second form which should be completed in its entirety. This form will require you to upload a picture or scanned copy of the following:

**Passport photo**  
**Birth Certificate**  
**Health Card (both sides)**  
**Data information page of passport**  
**Proof of payment of registration fee (Deposit Slip)**

There is a registration fee of \$220 for each child which should be paid into the school's account #10000569 at the Antigua Commercial Bank.



# Nearly \$4 million in illegal drugs confiscated

The police are reporting that their anti-drug strategies have intercepted drugs with a street value of just under \$4 million during the first six months of the year, an increase over the same period last year.

In giving the latest update on crime in the country for the first half of 2020, Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney, said the police seized an estimated \$3.9 million of illegal drugs.

“A total of 393 pounds of cannabis was seized with an estimated street value of \$3.9 million along with 28 grams of cocaine valued at \$982.00. The police also

seized nearly thirteen hundred ecstasy tablets with a street value of \$64,000,” he reported.

Between January 1 and June 30, 2019, an estimated \$3,623,061.91 worth of illegal narcotics were seized and removed from the streets of Antigua and Barbuda.

This dollar value represents 362 pounds of cannabis with an estimated street value of \$3.6 million; 34.1 grams of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$1,161.91; and thirty-eight ecstasy pills with an estimated street value of \$1,900.00.

Already this year, one

hundred and eight persons were arrested and charged with drug related offences; ninety-six of those charged are male while sixteen are female.

The commissioner further revealed that a number of these cases have already been adjudicated in the courts with fines totaling \$160,000 having been handed down.

Last year, there were a total of 86 drug related cases where 114 persons were arrested and charged. Of the persons charged, 99 were male with the remaining 15 being female. Additionally, of the cases com-

ing before the court, 48 of them received fines totaling \$417,630.

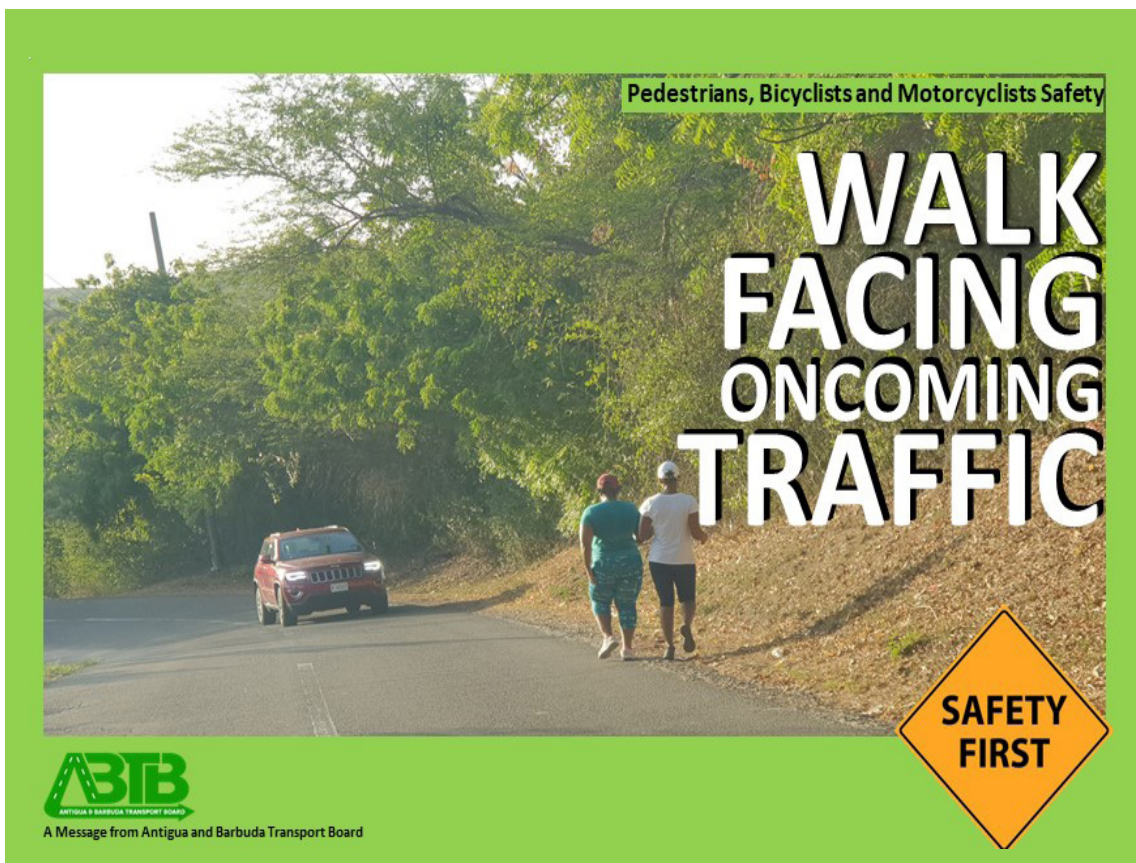
Commissioner Rodney has further reported that, to date, police have also recovered 24 firearms and 264 rounds of ammunition. This is broken down into 16 pistols, 5 revolvers and 3 flare guns.

“To have a flare gun in one’s possession needs a special permit as these can be modified and used as shotguns,” Rodney explained. He added that fishermen in particular need to be aware of this requirement.

For the corresponding period last year, seven persons were arrested and charged for possession of illegal firearms, while six persons were arrested and charged for ammunition recovered during police drug operations.

From these cases, the court has handed down fines totaling \$34,000.00 for illegal firearms and \$6,000.00 for illegal ammunition.

With respect to traffic, the commissioner said there has been a decrease in accidents compared with the first half of last year. In 2019 from January to June, there were 1,237 traffic accidents compared with this year’s total so far of 941 with two recorded fatalities.



Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Motorcyclists Safety

**WALK FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC**

**SAFETY FIRST**

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



## No pushback anticipated!

The government is not anticipating any issues related to possible human rights violations as it prepares to introduce a phone app that will assist in the management of visitors entering the country during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This move forms part of the government's overall plan to minimize the spread of the coronavirus among the local population.

At Thursday's post-cabinet press briefing, Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas, told reporters that the introduction of the app should not be an issue, especially as passengers bound for Antigua and Barbuda will be given the opportunity to make a decision prior to boarding their flight as to whether they will fully comply with the improved standards.

The multi-function app, which is being developed by Jamaica based technology company, Amber Group, is already being utilized by that country's government as part of its reopening plan.

"It's an end to end solution of an enterprise-wide application system that deals with not only the customs and immigration side of the application of persons who want to travel to our shores but the whole question of the management of persons coming through the airport, meeting all of the health requirements, all the way down to the ability to track



*Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas*

them electronically and this application system is now being used by Jamaica and from all our information its intended to be used by at least four other countries of CARICOM," Nicholas detailed.

The details of the use of the Amber Group technology, which has been endorsed by the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology, are presently being finalised ahead of its implementation.

While it has not been revealed how much the new app will cost the government, it is expected that the mobile phone application will come into use before the end of this month.

The app will make it easier for healthcare workers to carry out contact tracing

and monitor visitors. The app also makes it possible for authorities to trace a visitor's location during their stay as often as every fifteen minutes.

For those visitors who may not have the use of a mobile phone, bracelets which serve a similar location tracking purpose will be issued to them upon their arrival to Antigua and Barbuda.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Nicholas has provided an explanation as to why a local entity was not given the opportunity to develop the app that will be used in managing visitors to Antigua and Barbuda.

Following the announcement that Amber Group Limited was selected to provide the technology, questions were raised as to

whether or not preference was given to locally based app developers.

Cabinet Spokesman Nicholas, clarified, however, that the decision to work with Amber Group Ltd. was based on the present level of urgency that exists with regard to the implementation of this initiative.

"We are operating in an environment where our tourism product has to be competitive with our regional competitors and we do not have the luxury of time to go through the process of developing a local app. Ordinarily, this would have been the case, but the difference between specifications and development can be a minimum of six months or a maximum of two years. We do not have that luxury!" he declared.

Nicholas went on to explain that there will be other opportunities in the future for nationals to be able to secure mobile technology contracts.

"In other areas of the government's endeavour, we will be publishing a tender for the provision of service to the health facilities. In this case, we have the opportunity to allow for some more time for that development to be done and I think local developers will be given every opportunity to tender for that project. It's a much larger project than the one we are looking at," he revealed.

# A&B sets up 'travel bubble'

Antigua and Barbuda is to establish what is known as "a travel bubble" that will allow citizens from identified countries within the region to travel here without the need to undergo Covid-19 testing or to present testing certificates upon entry.

A statement from the government this week stated that citizens of the O.E.C.S. and Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago,

Guyana and Jamaica will be accorded the privilege of being included in this "bubble". Reciprocity is also deemed to be a requirement.

"The number of infected persons in these jurisdictions is deemed sufficiently low so as not to cause a threat, although the citizens of these CARICOM countries, upon entry, will be made to undergo non-invasive temperature tests. Only

two of the states have opened their borders since the Covid-19 epidemic," the statement noted.

All other persons of every citizenship who intend to travel to Antigua and Barbuda must now undergo Covid-19 testing within seven days of their visit to the country and they must also provide a certificate which proves that they have tested negative for the virus.

## 13 cases of COVID-19 remain active

As of Wednesday 8th July 2020, the country has recorded a total of 73 cases of COVID-19 since the virus entered the shores of Antigua and Barbuda.

Health authorities indicate that the majority of the cases, fifty-three (53), were imported cases while twenty (20) were of local origin.

Although there was a spike in the number of confirmed cases following the country reopening its borders to international travel, the Cabinet announced earlier this week that it has agreed to establish what it describes as "a travel bubble" that will allow persons traveling from specific countries and locations to visit Antigua and Barbuda without being required to undergo Covid-19 testing or to present testing certificates upon entry.

According to notes from Cabinet, receiving this exemption are the citizens of the O.E.C.S. and Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Jamaica who will be accorded the privilege of being included in this "bubble". Reciprocity is also deemed to be a requirement.

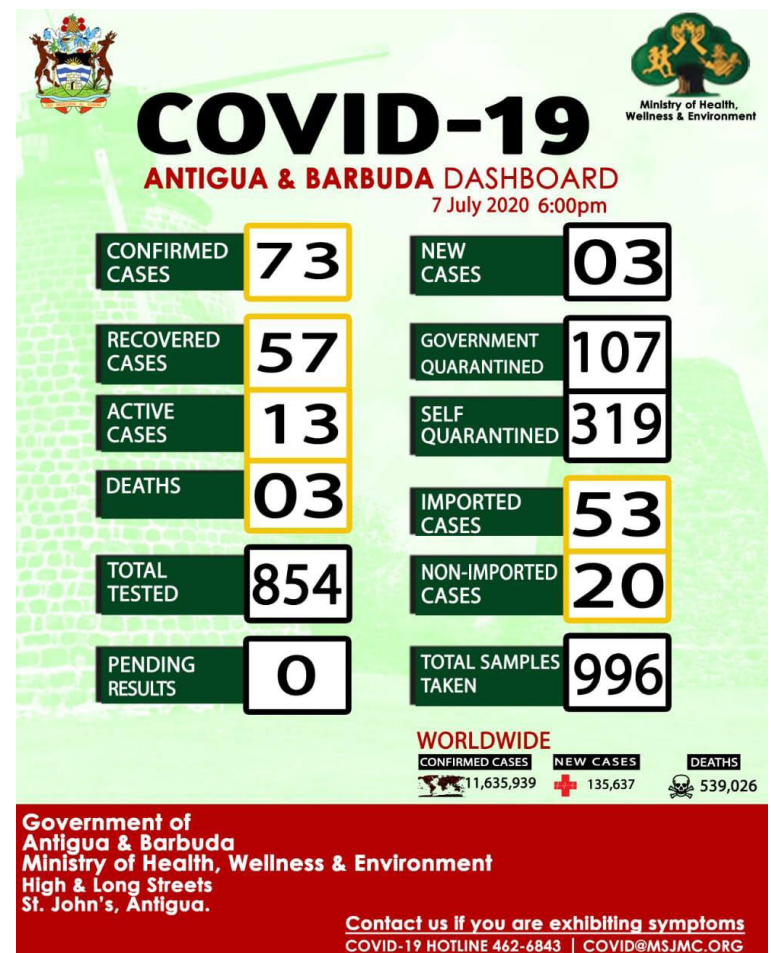
Cabinet spokesperson, Chief of Staff, Ambassador Lionel Hurst, outlined in his notes to the media that the number of infected persons in these jurisdictions is deemed sufficiently low so as not to cause a threat. The citizens of these CARICOM countries will, upon entry, however, be made to undergo non-invasive temperature tests.

Only two countries in the region have reopened their borders following the regional shutdown prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment noted: "The most recent results for the 57 samples sent to Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) revealed four positive and 53 negative results. Seven of these were repeat samples from previously confirmed cases. Only one of the samples from the repeated cases remained positive."

The health ministry's statement went on to offer a breakdown of the new identified cases this week.

"Of the four positive results, three represent new



laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The three new laboratory confirmed cases are associated with individuals of the group repatriated from the Dominican Republic on June 19th, 2020 who were placed in quarantine and subsequent isolation. These 3 new cases bring the total number of

persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda to 73.

As a result of testing over the last few days, 35 of the persons repatriated from the Dominican Republic will be released from quarantine. The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes," the ministry concluded.



## Shareholders agree to meet

Shareholders of the Antigua-based regional carrier, LIAT which is now facing possible demise, are to meet on Monday to hear Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, outline his proposals to save the airline from collapse and liquidation.

PM Browne has been on a mission to save LIAT since a meeting two weeks ago where a decision was made to liquidate the airline. He has written letters to his colleague heads of government urging them to rethink their decision, or at least give consideration to the start of a new entity, LIAT 2020 Ltd.

In preparation for Monday's meeting, the prime minister participated in a virtual meeting on Tuesday with a number of the airline's staff who represented various departments in the organisation. The LIAT staff's proposals were to have been submitted to Mr. Browne today.

The Antigua and Barbuda government has already indicated that a US\$15 million loan from the ALBA Bank for the airline earlier this year is being held in escrow and that it is prepared to pump that amount into a new entity.

Browne has also received the backing of his counterpart in Dominica, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrett, for the proposed new venture should the majority shareholders reject the Anti-



gua and Barbuda plan.

As the second largest shareholder and home of LIAT, Antigua and Barbuda is asking the other shareholder governments, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados, to give it at least 30 days to come up with a restructuring plan or to allow it to use the LIAT name to start a new entity.

Browne said Antigua and Barbuda has been mobilizing private sector support for the proposed new venture as the country prefers not to undertake the operation of a restructured LIAT alone.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of LIAT's major shareholder governments, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, is quoted as saying that it was a unanimous decision by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Vincent and Grenadines and Dominica to liquidate regional airline, LIAT.

Prime Minister Browne has since declared that he is not in support of LIAT's liquidation and has removed himself completely from being a part of that decision.

The Vincentian leader told Roundtable Talk on NBC Radio in St. Vincent that the decision to liquidate LIAT

was the consensus of all of the major shareholding governments coming out of a meeting he summoned on 27th June prompted by a recommendation from the airline's Board of Directors.

Despite the position taken by St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados however, Prime Minister Browne has said publicly on several occasions that he believes the airline can

be saved through reorganization and has pleaded with his counterparts to rethink their position.

Gonsalves, who has acknowledged receipt of Prime Minister Browne's letters, has since responded, although the details of his response are unclear.

LIAT has suffered historic losses and the Chairman of the shareholding governments has taken the position that it is too burdensome for regional governments to continue to prop the air carrier.

The next virtual meeting regarding the fate of LIAT takes place on Monday at 5:00 pm.

### APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Monday 6th July 2020  
Time: 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
Affected areas: Eastern section of Freeman Village.

Date: Tuesday 7th July 2020  
Time: 08:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Affected areas: Table Hill Garden.

Date: Wednesday 8th July 2020  
Time: 08:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Affected areas: Section of Crosbies east of Boon's Haven.

Date: Thursday 9th July 2020  
Time: 08:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Affected areas: Section of Cedar Grove near Royal Garden pond.

Date: Friday 10th July 2020  
Time: 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
Affected areas: Section of English Harbour north of the old gas station.

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.



Apua Apua Apua  
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# CAF names local contractor for Barbuda relief project

Managing Director of Challenger's Enterprises Ltd., Vernon Challenger, has been awarded the contract for the first phase of the Wa'omoni Cottages, Barbuda Hurricane relief project.

The project is being funded by the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) in partnership with The Prince's Foundation.

The two foundations announced their partnership in January, 2020, with CAF significantly contributing US\$1M to the initiative which is intended to provide resilient homes for families left homeless as a result of the devastation wrought on the island by hurricanes Irma and Maria.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the partners on Wednesday 20th May 2020 at Government House which signaled the start of the next stage of the Barbuda housing relief initiative.

"Challenger's Enterprises Ltd. is pleased to be asso-



*Vernon Challenger*

ciated with the Wa'omoni Cottages project and The Prince's Foundation. We are also delighted to be working (again) with The Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) which has a proven track record of community-building and excellence," said Challenger.

He explained that the project has taken on added significance not only because of the positive impact it will have on the housing stock on Barbuda, but also because during the dislocation caused by Covid-19, where each person must play a part, it will be a net



positive for the country.

Reacting to the US\$1 million donation by CAF, Challenger added, "This is money that will go directly into the economy via the workers who will come from both islands and through the procurement of goods and services from local providers."

The local contractor travelled to Barbuda last Wednesday to officially meet with the Barbuda Council, who have been closely involved in the development of the initiative. He also visited the construction site that was cleared

and surveyed in January, in preparation for construction.

Chairman of CAF, Ambassador Calvin Ayre, said that with the current Covid-19 climate, his foundation could have adopted a wait-and-see approach until the uncertainties of the pandemic had passed.

"We feel," Ayre said, "that this project is important in supporting the recovery of the local economy and we are keen to help it press forward as soon as possible."

Jeremy Cross of The Prince's Foundation, who visited Antigua and Barbuda in January to help advance the plans, said, "We are pleased to be working closely with the Antigua and Barbuda government, the Barbuda Council and our key partners to ensure that Barbuda gets much needed homes that are resilient, sustainable and appropriate for the island. With the extremely generous support

*cont'd on pg 9*



*Barbuda Council Members along with Calvin Ayre Foundation members*



## New communications head promises a 'different approach'

Ananthsa McDonald has been named the new Communications Director within the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.

Commenting on her appointment, McDonald, who holds a degree in Health Sciences, remarked, "The Public can expect a different approach to COVID-19 communications, including better integration and release of information. Updating the new dashboard with a newly added column with a breakdown of what each column indicates, updates on the website for the general public and visitors. A monthly newsletter regarding developments in the ministry is also part of the strategy. My role also entails assisting the Health Minister, Molywn Joseph, with his duty of communications which will include internal communications within departments and external communications with international high end clients."

Upon announcing McDonald's appointment, the Ministry of Health de-

tailed her academic and professional achievements stating that "she has clinical experience from North Shore Hospital, Miami Dade, with extended experience in marketing and sales, Public Relations and broadcasting."

The communications head indicated that first on her agenda will be "improving the communications between the health officers and departments internally, especially related to COVID-19 to ensure effective and more accurate media responses and releases. Where there is misconstrued information to ensure clarification to the general public."

In explaining her duties as Director of Communications, McDonald said, "The scope of the position is to effectively communicate the fluid developments within the ministry to the general public by paying special emphasis on the pandemic. The agenda of the ministry will be effectively communicated via selective measures including press releases, newsletters, updated



*Ms Ananthsa McDonald is now on board as the Communications Director in the Ministry of Health and Wellness.*

websites and so forth."

In addition to her degree in Health Sciences, McDonald has extensive experience in marketing and public relations, broadcasting and journalism and considerable managerial experience acquired in the hotel industry during periods of employment with the Royalton Antigua and Sugar Ridge.



**cont'd from pg 8**

that CAF has committed to the project, as well as other partners including the Halo Foundation, it is exciting that work will now soon start on site. "

The Prince's Foundation's

support to Barbuda follows a visit to the twin-island state by charity president HRH The Prince of Wales following the 2017 natural disasters. Having seen the desolation firsthand, The Prince's Foundation wanted

to help rebuild in a way that ensures housing is resilient in the face of future climate challenges.

The Calvin Ayre Foundation, well known for a range of philanthropic activity and support in Antigua and Bar-

buda and beyond, was also keen to find a way to respond to the housing needs of the people of Barbuda, supplying funding and technical support to the design and construction of the houses.

# How COVID-19 will change the education of children

*By Dr. Lisset Bird-Pickens*

*Faculty Member, School of Education,  
American Public University*

During this COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to understand that we are on an unceasing roller coaster of stress. If you feel this stress, keep in mind that there is a great chance that your children also feel it.

It is important to be mindful of the various ways that stress manifests itself in children. Their actions may include:

Outbursts

Difficulty sleeping or staying asleep

Increased or decreased appetite

Disruptive behavior

Teaching children during the pandemic is no easy feat, especially for parents who now find themselves assuming the added role of teacher in addition to working part- or full-time. But with a focus on supporting your child's social and emotional development, there is much that you can accomplish that will essentially be beneficial in keeping your children motivated while they are learning virtually.

**Keeping Children Motivated to Learn at Home**

If you're teaching children at home, it's necessary to understand the concept of the "Whole Child."

According to child education researchers Bo Stjerne Thomson and Edith Ackerman, "Research suggests that 'whole child development,' not routine or standardized classroom-based learning, empowers children as creative and engaged citizens who can strengthen the well-being of a whole society. It is crucial, then, to nurture their creative abilities to express themselves, understand others, and navigate complex amounts of information so that they can confidently solve the problems of a world that's changing faster than ever."

Keeping the concept of the whole-child approach at the forefront during

periods of home-schooling, results in a shift in perspective, especially during these uncertain times. Seeing through this lens is vital in empowering children to continue their progression along the social and emotional developmental continuum.

This shift in focus allows children to not only experience calm amidst moments of confusion in our world today, but it also allows them to maximize on opportunities to socialize with peers, interact in new ways and formulate reflective thought. It is imperative that parents practice valuable strategies to respond to their children's needs and to support their connection to the surrounding environment. A few strategies are:

Utilize the open-door approach and let your children know that you are there to listen and discuss any questions or concerns that they may have. Now is the best time to allow your children to talk openly about what they may be feeling about everything that is happening in the world today.

Apply the flexible use of time and space. Children need sufficient time to dive into an activity and work at their own pace without pressure, especially when they are learning at home.

Ensure strong opportunities for peer collaboration. For example, use meaningful group projects to build teamwork skills which can be accomplished virtually. Thomsen and Ackermann also recommend building a respectful relationship between teachers and learners, where dialogue and inquiries are encouraged.

New technologies and project-based activities greatly enhance online learning opportunities. Today, we can readily and actively utilize a new lens and available resources to support our children during these challenging, often confusing times.

**The COVID-19 Pandemic Will Likely Prompt Permanent Changes in Schools**

Prior to the start of a new school year, it is not uncommon to see massive efforts taking place to prepare schools for the coming academic year. There is attention placed on cleaning, organizing, planning, and preparing teachers to meet students and their families.

But it is no surprise that the start of the upcoming school year will look and feel very different for students near and far. As we have learned, the coronavirus is highly transmissible, and experts predict that infections will increase during a second wave.

Actions such as the closure of schools nationwide continue to be necessary in preventing further infection. What has been interesting is that schools across the country had proactively outlined procedures and plans in the event of unexpected school closures.

However, not all of these procedures and plans were intricately constructed. And not many people perceived that they would be put into motion in this way. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2016, approximately:

74% of school districts had crisis preparedness plans that included procedures for responding to pandemic outbreaks.

65% of districts required schools to include responding to pandemics in their preparedness plans.

64% of districts had one or more district-level leadership group(s) that addressed the management of infectious diseases, like in pandemics.

But in 2020, we are now in a major public health crisis. We're seeing a record number of infections, which means that it is now essential that school districts have well-designed plans to continue student learning during unexpected school closures.

Everyone is asking, "Are schools now changed forever because of the pandemic?" Schools have definitely had to make significant changes in how students are

*cont'd on pg 11*



# Guest Editorial

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*cont'd from pg 10*

educated.

There have been some challenges as a result of these alterations, and we may continue to see these changes evolve. My prediction is that education will undergo significant changes from what it is today, including:

A shift to more virtual classrooms: The long-term impact from the coronavirus on schools, whether preschool or higher education, will be felt for some time. As a result, we may see a greater shift from brick-and-mortar campus registrations and enrollments to virtual classrooms.

The flexibility of online classes appeals to adult learners and to the parents of younger students during this time and for the foreseeable future. The convenience of taking online classes is equally popular, since the format allows students to navigate through their studies at their own pace.

The degree of the popularity of online learning is currently being researched. However, the outcome may be fluid for some time while we are at the mercy of this virus, not knowing which way it may evolve or dissipate from day to day.

More technological advances: We are often resistant to change until an issue stares us in our faces and forces us to make that change. This is what has likely happened to many individuals and families as we've had to rely significantly on technology.

Now that the need for technology has commanded our attention, it is highly likely that there will be even more available resources at our fingertips. Tapping into the use

of technology will be more frequent, and as a result, educators worldwide will now be forced to rethink their teaching strategies.

Technology now plays a key role in educating children and adults around the world. The momentum that has been built on the back of technology will not stop any time soon.

A change in the digital divide: Every school system experienced some degree of disparity as inequalities within the education system were widely exposed. We all saw firsthand the impact of the digital divide on opportunities for student success. For example, students without mobile devices, laptop computers or reliable internet connections were significantly impacted by the shift to 100 percent online learning.

Additionally, we learned that a number of students who rely on school for food and a safe environment were cut off from these resources as a result of the school closures. This change left many districts scrambling to arrive at solutions.

Although these factors impacting student education were considered in written plans some time ago, some educators did not give them significant thought or proper planning until the pandemic occurred. This change in the digital divide, in my opinion, will be improved significantly as a result of this pandemic experience. In the defense of schools worldwide, however, many school systems were not prepared to move online overnight.

A change in socialization: With the importance of ongoing, consistent sanitization

of classrooms and school buses, teachers and children will need to wear masks and other protective gear should schools reopen fully in a face-to-face environment.

There will also be continued temperature checks coupled with required hand washing, in addition to an adoption of new procedures and rules that allow for as much social distancing as possible. Some schools have already laid out social distancing plans for the fall, which includes students eating lunch at their desks instead of in a cafeteria, student desks spread six feet apart, and a closure of playgrounds.

A greater use of the flipped classroom model: As a result of the pandemic, I predict that we will see even more classrooms and schools today take on a more "flipped classroom" approach to instruction. In this model, children will do more learning about basic skills and knowledge at home via videos or online platforms, and then come to school to do work together.

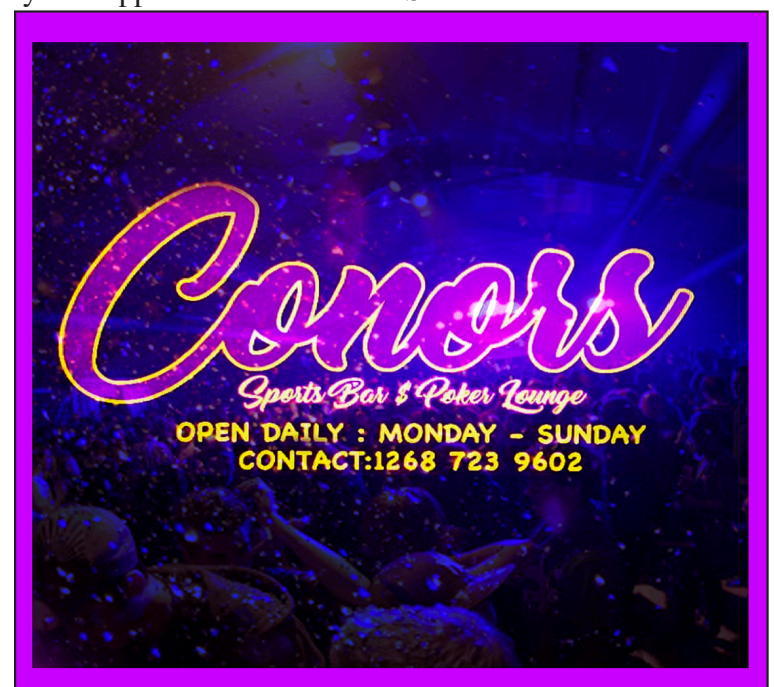
With this instructional approach, teachers can definitely find opportunities to zoom

in on higher-level skills such as analysis and evaluation, while working directly with students. This approach allows teachers to maximize on their time spent teaching students critical concepts.

In essence, this pandemic has provided a sandbox for new approaches to children's education to be practiced and, in many circumstances, adopted. It is important to also be mindful that as a result of this approach, parents should begin asking for different types of support and resources.

*Reprint from onlinelearningtips.com*

*Lisset Bird-Pickens, Ed.D., is a professor at American Public University. She holds a B.S. in psychology from Georgia Southern University, an M.Ed. in early childhood education from Mercer University, an M.Ed. in school counseling from The University of West Alabama and an Ed.D. in education/instructional leadership from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Lisset Bird-Pickens is also the last daughter of V.C Bird Snr.*



**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**MINISTRY OF WORKS**

**REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION LOAN PROJECT**

**PSYCHOSOCIAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) has received resources from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to assist with the implementation of the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Loan (RRL) Project. The Project which will be executed by the Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU), Ministry of Works, under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, includes the delivery of socially inclusive and gender-responsive psychosocial services to children and their families from Antigua and Barbuda. Against this background GOAB wishes to engage an individual to provide consultancy services for the provision of psychosocial services for Barbudan children affected by Hurricane Irma.

Although this Project is being facilitated by the PIMU, the Consultant will be required to report to the Education Officer, Guidance Counselling and Family Life Services in the Ministry of Education (MOE). The Education Officer will oversee the work of the Consultant and make available project-related information and act as liaison between the Consultant and stakeholders.

The MW (hereinafter referred to as “the Employer”) now invites interested, eligible consultants to submit Expressions of Interest for the provision of these psychosocial consultancy services.

**OBJECTIVE**

The overall objective of the technical assistance is enhanced provision of socially inclusive<sup>4</sup> and gender-responsive psychosocial services for children in Antigua and Barbuda, following natural disasters.

**SCOPE OF WORKS**

The services are to be performed in accordance with generally accepted international standards and professional practices acceptable to CDB. The Consultant(s) will work closely with the MOE; Directorate of Gender Affairs; Ministry of Social Transformation; Ministry of Youth; other relevant Government ministries/agencies, non-government organisations and international organisations working in the sector.

The Consultant shall prepare and implement a Work Plan for providing psychosocial services, following natural disasters. This Work Plan shall be based on the Psychosocial Curricula and Tools for service delivery provided by the MOEST, with two of the three modules targeting two cohorts of school-age children, and the remaining module targeting both teachers and principals. The target population of school-age children for this consultancy shall constitute four groups: (a) Barbudan children remaining in Antigua; and (b) Barbudan children 3-4 years at the early childhood level, (c) Barbudan children 5-12



years at the Primary school level; (d) Barbudan children 13-18 years at the Secondary school level. The deliverables of this assignment shall be socially inclusive and gender-responsive, giving attention to vulnerabilities associated with, *inter alia*, disability<sup>5</sup>, gender, geography (Antigua and Barbuda respectively), age (children 5-12 years and adolescents 13-18 years), and socioeconomic status.

## **TIMING, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

5.01 The assignment is expected to require a maximum of 240 person-days over 14 months.

5.02 The Consultant shall have at least:

- (a) Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Psychology, Counselling, Clinical Social work or a related field.
- (b) Minimum of three (3) years practical professional experience, including psychosocial training and/or specialisation in mental health.
- (c) Minimum of one (1) year practical experience with post-traumatic stress disorders.
- (d) Knowledge of psychosocial, gender and social inclusion issues affecting vulnerable groups of children, youth and PWDs as distinct assets.
- (e) Knowledge of the Caribbean Region and Barbuda are distinct assets.
- (f) Skills and abilities: Good communication skills, interpersonal relationship skills, participatory qualitative and quantitative research skills, and training skills.

Individual Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) the persons are citizen or *bona fide* residents of an eligible country and;
- (b) in all cases, the consultants have no arrangement and undertake not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to any person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications and experience on similar assignments. All information must be submitted in English. Further information can be obtained from the third address below between 0800 and 1600 hours, Mondays to Fridays.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted electronically to the first address below ([tenders.board@ab.gov.ag](mailto:tenders.board@ab.gov.ag)) to be received no later than 1500 hours on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020 and must be simultaneously copied to CDB at the second address below ([procurement@caribank.org](mailto:procurement@caribank.org)). The submission should include the name and address of the consultant and shall be clearly marked in the subject box **"Expression of Interest – Psychosocial Consultancy -Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan Project (RRLP)"**.

Following the assessment of submissions, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced individual will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. GOAB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not selecting any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

1.	Chairman, Tenders Board Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance Government Office Complex Queen Elizabeth Highway St. John's <b><u>ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA</u></b>  Tel: (268) 562-5825 / 5826 Fax: (268) 562-1717 Email: <a href="mailto:tenders.board@ab.gov.ag">tenders.board@ab.gov.ag</a>	2.	Procurement Officer Procurement Policy Unit Caribbean Development Bank P O Box 408, Wildey St. Michael <b><u>BARBADOS, W. I.</u></b>  Tel: +246-431-1600 Fax: +246-426-7269 Email: <a href="mailto:procurement@caribank.org">procurement@caribank.org</a>	3.	Project Coordinator Ministry of Works St. John's Street St. John's <b><u>ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA</u></b>  Tel: +268 562 1867 Fax: +268 462 4622 Email: <a href="mailto:projectcoordinator.works@ab.gov.ag">projectcoordinator.works@ab.gov.ag</a>
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# RE-THINKING CARICOM DEVELOPMENT MODEL AFTER COVID-19

*(The writer is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organisation of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own).*

Governments around the world, including in Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, have emerged as the principal players in the health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The private sector, for the most part, has taken a back seat with many companies turning inwards and concentrating on safeguarding their own survival, rather than playing a broader role.

This occurrence could foreshadow a new model for economic development in the future, particularly for small states.

Governments had to embrace extraordinary roles to provide economic relief, including for private sector workers. In richer nations, governments have provided what is called 'furloughs'. Under this scheme, governments in the United States and some countries in Europe have extended unemployment benefits to these private sector workers who, though they still technically

retain their jobs, receive no pay from their employers.

In CARICOM countries, where governments lack the resources of richer countries to furlough private sector workers, governments have intervened with Central Banks to make money available to commercial banks at low interest rates so that these banks can, in turn, extend repayment periods for mortgages at reduced rates of interest. Additionally, they have provided food hampers for the needy.

Governments have also become the leaders in investing in health services, enlarging hospital and other medical facilities – a task which will continue into the future. One of the influential factors in the active involvement by governments in the health sector is the need for 'health sovereignty' – the ability to cope with the health needs of citizens at home, rather than sending them abroad.

For example, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of State in the Finance Ministry, Lennox Weston, pointed out recently, that whereas, as part of its medical benefits scheme, the government sent its citizens abroad for treatment not available at home, the epoch of COVID-19, which closed borders and severely restricted air transportation, underscores the importance of 'health independence'. In the future,

Governments will have to establish and sustain medical facilities for conditions formerly treated abroad.

The retreat of the private sector from economic activity left many governments in small countries solely with the burden of keeping their economies from total collapse. Not only did employment in the private sector decline but so too did their payment of taxes. Indeed, some private companies looked to governments for economic relief.

If the effects of COVID-19 continue to disrupt supply chains and sales in industries such as tourism and manufacturing, more private sector companies will either fail financially or seek financial aid from governments. All of this points to a larger role for the state in the economy in the years ahead, following decades in which Western nations, that control the global economy, dismissed the value of state intervention. They preached that the private sector is the driving force behind sustainable economic growth and a key source for creating wealth and jobs – a theory that collapsed in the pandemic.

There is no question that a viable private sector has a role now, and will continue to have a role, in recovering economies as nations come to grips with living in a COVID-19 world. However, going forward, governments



By Sir Ronald Sanders

might have to re-evaluate the relationship of the public sector and the private sector in economic growth and development. The shortcomings and vulnerabilities of too great a reliance on the private sector, as the engine of growth, have been revealed by the effects of the pandemic. There is now, perhaps, a case to regulate companies more robustly to make them more resilient to future shocks and downturns. It is alarming that many companies operated on small margins of retained capital with little provisions for emergencies. A review of business models that rely on lengthy tax concessions and endless duty-free waivers from governments, may also now become appropriate. One thing is certain, if these private sector vulnerabilities and shortcomings are not addressed and reformed, they are doomed to

*Cont'd on pg 15*



## UWI sets up high-powered investment committee

The University of the West Indies has announced that it has established a Corporate Investment Committee (CIC) in fulfilment of one of its long term goals.

Five years ago, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) approved as one of its strategic goals, the alignment of its operations with regional and global private sectors. The intention was to promote regional economic development specifically to roll out a road map to take the institution to bond and equity markets with bankable projects.

The establishment of the CIC is seen as the mechanism through which The UWI will guide this initiative. This committee, which

resides within the Office of the Vice-Chancellor will serve as an advisory team for the University's participation in large scale private sector investments.

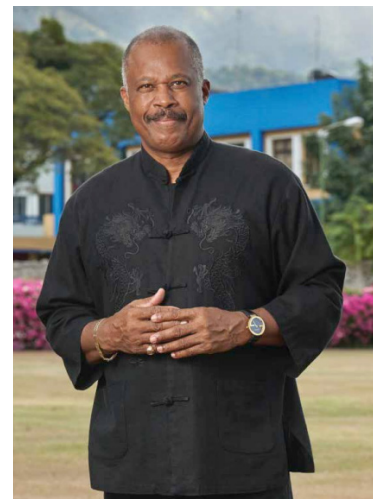
Leading the effort to restructure The UWI's financial model is Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, who is an Economic Historian and well known in corporate Caribbean as a long serving Director of Sagicor Financial Corporation Limited, former Director of Cable and Wireless and Sagicor Jamaica Ltd., and current Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council. Working alongside him is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic-Industry Partnerships and Planning and Pro-

fessor of International Business, Densil Williams.

The newly formed committee is composed of three Co-Chairs; two members with long experience from the private sector and a UWI expert in business and management. The committee also includes other members with expertise in business, finance and entrepreneurship from the private sector, and The UWI.

The purpose of the committee is to provide business intelligence for projects to be taken to market and to guide the formulation of business plans and decision-making models at the university.

One of the projects before the committee is a proposal



*Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles*

by the St. Augustine Campus which is currently preparing a venture to establish a for-profit global medical school to take to the bond market. The proposal has been presented to and supported by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and all relevant university statutory committees, save for University Council, which will be held in two weeks.

### *cont'd from pg 14*

be repeated, pushing governments to become the chief burden-bearer, even as their own revenues from taxes and duties dwindle.

This consideration applies to the governments of all CARICOM countries. As members of an integration organisation, bound by treaty, and committed to a single market, they should adopt a mutually supportive stance in constructing a new model for their relations with the private sector, particularly foreign investors. One of their weaknesses is their own competitive approach to the private sector, whereby they vie to secure investment based on who gives away the most.

In the wake of the destructive effects of COVID-19 on the economies of CARICOM states, existing and unresolved issues have flared-up. A case in

point is the imbroglio over LIAT 1974 Ltd, the financially troubled airline which, despite all the struggles it has faced, has served the Caribbean safely for 64 years.

Like all other airlines throughout the world, COVID-19 pointed a dagger at LIAT's heart. In the U.S. and elsewhere, airlines survived the effects of the pandemic, only with government help. For example, the U.S. government is reported to have pumped \$25 billion into six big airlines, including Delta, American and JetBlue, along with four smaller carriers, to pay workers and keep them employed until September.

The principal government shareholders in LIAT, except the government of Antigua and Barbuda, faced with their own daunting financial constraints, chose to liquidate the company. This

action has created friction in the regional group and predictions of its demise. But, history has shown that, despite such predictions in the past, CARICOM has proved to be politically resilient with all parties recognizing that there are more benefits in retaining the organisation than abandoning it.

Solving the problem of LIAT and regional transport, like the issue of re-evaluating the role of governments in relation to the market, requires a re-shaping of CARICOM based not on national rivalry but on regional collaboration so that every nation benefits from the fruits of integration. The equation will never be equitable given the differences in populations and resources, but at least it should be fair.

**Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)**

# Jamaica: Hunger Strike - Prisoners Protest Death Of Fellow Inmate After Altercation With Warders



*The maximum security Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre.*

The authorities are trying to reduce tension at the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre where prisoners have gone on a hunger strike in protest of the death of an inmate during an altercation with correctional officers last Saturday.

The Independent Commission of Investigations, which probes reports of abuse of power and deaths in custody in relation to the security forces and the correctional services, said that 39-year-old Darron Brown “fell ill” after being struck with a reg-

ulation baton. It said that it would probe further to uncover what else transpired. The officers have been served notices to provide statements to the commission and attend interviews.

The Gleaner understands that Brown was taken to the medical area of the institution and subsequently transported to the Kingston Public Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The incident has increased tension in the facility.

Information reaching The Gleaner is that the inmates re-

fused all meals on Monday and Tuesday. It was not clear up to press time yesterday whether they had relaxed their protest, but our news team gathered that officials have met with the disgruntled inmates.

“They were trying to assure the inmates that the warders in question will not be allowed back into the prison without an escort and that the matter would be properly investigated, a correctional officer not authorised to speak told The Gleaner. “Nuff a dem nah eat and some wah

eat and can’t eat. Prison system thing. Dem turn back everything since Monday.”

It is understood that discussions are also under way to ban physical punishments being meted out to inmates.

Questions sent by our news team on Tuesday to Matthew Samuda, minister without portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, have not been answered.

The Gleaner has also been unable to reach Commissioner of Corrections Lt Col Gary Rowe.



## Trinidad: Bar owners protest reduced hours; prepared to head to courts.



*Members of the Barkeepers and Operators Association (BOATT) staged a protest near the Prime Minister's Office at Whitehall, Port-of-Spain on June 9*

Bar owners claim they are suffering huge losses as a result of Government's decision to reduce their operating hours.

Members of the Barkeepers and Operators Association (BOATT) staged a protest near the Prime Minister's Office at Whitehall, Port-of-Spain on Thursday.

On June 29, National Security Minister Stuart Young announced a reduction in the operating hours of bars from 8 am-10 pm to 8 am-8 pm, just one week

after reopening. It followed reports of non-compliance of the COVID-19 regulations by some bars.

The Association has also threatened legal action against the state.

It has issued a pre-action protocol letter to Attorney General Faris Al Rawi seeking a return to regular operating hours for all bars.

Speaking during the protest, BOATT President Teron Mohan said there has been no con-

sultation with bar owners on the matter.

He said the Association has written numerous letters to the Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Trade.

However, Mohan said there has been no feedback to date.

He said the bar owners have therefore initiated legal action against the state.

This, as he claimed that the industry is suffering significant losses on a daily basis due to the

change in operating hours.

"Some people (are) not even making enough money to cover the day's operations; I would say anywhere from as much as 50 to 75 percent losses on a daily basis."

Mohan added if the Association does not receive a response from the Attorney General by Thursday (today), the matter will then head to the courts.

"The next step will be our day in court."

## CCJ Rules Guyana Court of Appeal's Judgement, Chief Election Officer's Report Invalid

In a judgment delivered (on Wednesday), the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) ruled that the judgment handed down by the Guyana Court of Appeal on 22 June 2020, which judgment was used by the Chief Election Officer (CEO) to invalidate over 100,000 votes, was invalid. The Court also decided that, as a consequence, the 23 June 2020 report of the Chief Election Officer was also invalid.

The CCJ's judgment was a unanimous one to which all the sitting Judges contributed.

The case turned on whether an Application made to the Court of Appeal by Ms Eslyn David fell under Article 177(4) of the Guyana Constitution. That Article addresses questions as to the validity of an election of a President. Decisions of the Court of Appeal made under that Article are final and cannot be appealed to the CCJ.

Ms David's Application challenged the credibility of the recount, undertaken by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), of the votes cast at the elections held on 2 March 2020. Ms David claimed that GECOM had created a new and completely different legal regime by an Order it had issued (Order 60) authorising the recount and that GECOM had abdicated its responsibility to determine the election's credibility.

By a 2-1 majority, the Court of Appeal had held that it had



jurisdiction to entertain Ms David's Application.

The judges in the majority concluded that the words in Article 177(2)(b) of the Constitution, "if more votes are cast in favour..." must be interpreted to mean "if more valid votes are cast in favour". Messrs Ali and Jagdeo applied to the CCJ for special leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal's decision.

The CCJ accepted that any decision made under Article 177(4) is final. The Court stated, however, that, as Guyana's final court of appeal, it had the jurisdiction and a constitutional obligation to determine not only whether any such decision genuinely fell under that Article but, generally, to ensure that the Constitution was being upheld. The Court determined that the Court of Appeal's decision neither fell under Article 177(4) nor was it in conformity with the Constitution.

The Court noted that there is

no separate election of a President in Guyana as there used to be when Article 177(4) was originally introduced as Article 30(13) of the Constitution. A Presidential candidate is deemed to be President and so declared as a result of the election that takes place for members of the National Assembly. It was always intended that questions as to the validity of the election of a President could arise only after the members of the National Assembly had been elected and a Presidential candidate had been deemed and declared to be President. The Court stated that Ms David's Application was therefore premature. Further, the questions raised by her fell under the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court under Article 163 and not under the Court of Appeal's jurisdiction under Article 177(4). Whatever irregularities the CEO may have been concerned about

were required to be addressed by an election petition filed in the High Court. The Court held that the GECOM Chairperson was right to note that GECOM lacked the legislative authority and the machinery to embark upon a determination of such irregularities.

The Court took the view that what the Court of Appeal majority did was to embark upon an exercise of interpreting Order 60 and a consideration of the effect of that Order on the responsibilities of GECOM. The Court of Appeal then applied that to the clear words of Article 177(2)(b). Article 177(2)(b) of the Constitution has always said what it meant and meant what it said and there was no need for an interpretation of that Article or any other Article of the Constitution. There was nothing, therefore, in Ms David's Application to trigger the Court of Appeal's jurisdiction



under Article 177(4).

The Court noted that the concept of “valid votes” is well known to the legislative framework governing the electoral process. The concept has a particular meaning in that context. Validity in this context means, and could only mean, those votes that are valid on their face. The determination of such validity is laid down in the Representation of the People Act. It is a transparent exercise that weeds out of the process, for example, spoilt or rejected ballots. This is an exercise conducted in the presence of the duly appointed candidates and counting agents of contesting parties. It is after such invalid votes are weeded out that the remaining “valid” votes count towards a determination of not only the members of the National Assembly but, incidentally as well, the winner from among the various listed Presidential candidates.

If the integrity of a ballot, or the manner in which a vote was procured, is questioned beyond this transparent validation exercise then that would be a matter that must be pursued through Article 163 after the elections have been concluded and the winners declared. Unless and until an election court decides otherwise, the votes already counted by the recount process as valid votes are incapable of being declared invalid by any person or authority other than the High Court through an election petition.

By the unnecessary insertion of the word “valid”, the Court of Appeal impliedly invited the CEO to engage unilaterally in a further and unlawful validation exercise that trespassed on

the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court established by Article 163.

For all these reasons the Court adjudged that the provisions of Article 177(4) were not triggered by Ms. David’s Application to the Court of Appeal and the finality clause in that Article was inoperable. The Court of Appeal lacked jurisdiction to make the orders that were made as those Orders were not made under Article 177(4) of the Constitution. Under the laws of Guyana, the CCJ had jurisdiction to hear and determine the Application by Messrs Ali and Jagdeo and to set aside the decision of the Court of Appeal that was made without jurisdiction. It followed that the Appeal of Messrs Ali and Jagdeo succeeded, the decision of the Court of Appeal was ordered invalid and of no effect. The 23 June report of the CEO, that was based on this decision, was similarly of no effect.

The Court noted that it has been four months since the elections were held and that the country has been without a Parliament for well over a year. No one in Guyana, the Court said, would regard this as a satisfactory state of affairs. The Court expressed the fervent hope that there would quickly be a peaceable restoration of normalcy.

The Court was presided over by the President, the Honourable Mr Justice Saunders along with the Honourable Mr Justice Wit, Mme Justice Rajnauth-Lee, Mr Justice Barrow and Mr Justice Jamadar.

## Grenada elected as a VP of United Nations General Assembly



*Keisha McGuire is a Vice President of UNGA 75th session*

Grenada’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, is one of 16 elected Vice Presidents appointed to serve for the 75th session.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected the island’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency, Keisha A McGuire as a Vice President of its 75th session, by consensus, on Monday, 29 June 2020.

Grenada will serve as one of 16 elected Vice Presidents in the 193-member body. The election comes amid the historic celebration of the United Nations, which marks its 75th anniversary in 2020. Since joining the United Nations in 1974, Grenada has served as Vice President on 3 occasions.

On 17 June 2020, Volkan Bozkir of Turkey was elected President of the 75th session of the General Assembly. The session will open on 15 September 2020. The United Nations General Assembly is one of the 6 principal organs of the United Nations, serving as the main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ of the UN. Its powers, composition, functions, and procedures are set out in the United Nations Charter.

## Harvard, MIT Sue To Block ICE Rule On International Students

Colleges and universities pushed back Wednesday against the Trump administration's decision to make international students leave the country if they plan on taking classes entirely online this fall, with Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology filing a lawsuit to try to block it, and others promising to work with students to keep them on campus.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement notified colleges Monday that international students will be forced to leave the U.S. or transfer to another college if their schools operate entirely online this fall. New visas will not be issued to students at those schools, and others at universities offering a mix of online and in-person classes will be barred from taking all of their classes online.

The guidance says international students won't be exempt even if an outbreak forces their schools online during the fall term.

In a statement, the U.S. State Department said that international students are welcome in the U.S., but the policy "provides greater flexibility for nonimmigrant students to continue their education in the United States, while also allowing for proper social distancing on open and operating campuses across America."

The guidance was released the same day Harvard announced it would be keeping its classes online this fall. Harvard says the directive would

prevent many of Harvard's 5,000 international students from remaining in the U.S.

Harvard President Lawrence Bacow said the order came without notice and that its "cruelty" was surpassed only by its "recklessness."

"It appears that it was designed purposefully to place pressure on colleges and universities to open their on-campus classrooms for in-person instruction this fall, without regard to concerns for the health and safety of students, instructors, and others," Bacow said in a statement Wednesday. "This comes at a time when the United States has been setting daily records for the number of new infections, with more than 300,000 new cases reported since July 1."

Universities across the U.S. say the more than 1 million international students have an important place in their communities. Many schools have also come to depend on revenue from international students, who typically pay higher tuition rates.

It creates an urgent dilemma for thousands of international students who became stranded in the U.S. last spring after the coronavirus forced their schools to move online. Those attending schools that are staying online must "depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction," according to the guidance.

"They may have just resigned leases on apartments

... Our university starts in six weeks or seven weeks. They have been planning to be here, they have already spent money so it's really devastating," said University of Southern California lecturer Melanie Johnson.

The university last week reversed course on a plan to bring students to campus, saying classes will be hosted primarily or exclusively online. Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and Rutgers in New Jersey this week made similar announcements amid surging COVID-19 cases.

Johnson worries that even students who start off on campus will be prevented by travel restrictions from going home if a surge forces classes online mid-semester.

"What if a student like that, who for no fault of their own, finds themselves here without their classes and ends up in a detention center or deported?" she said.

The lawsuit, filed in Boston's federal court, seeks to prevent federal immigration authorities from enforcing the rule. The universities contend that the directive violates the Administrative Procedures Act because officials failed to offer a reasonable basis justifying the policy and because the public was not given notice to comment on it.

The White House's press secretary on Wednesday sidestepped a question about whether it was designed to pressure colleges to reopen their campuses, saying the policy "speaks for itself."



*pedestrians walk through the gates of Harvard Yard at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.*

"You don't get a visa for taking online classes from, let's say, University of Phoenix, so why would you if you were just taking online classes generally?" Kayleigh McEnany said at a press briefing.

New York University President Andrew Hamilton also promised to work with international students to keep them in the U.S., calling the rule "needlessly rigid."

"If there were a moment for flexibility in delivering education, this would be it," he said. "Both on our own and in association with other universities, NYU will be reaching out to federal officials urging them to revoke or modify this rule."

An online petition in favour of letting international students stay if classes were online had drawn more than 220,000 signatures by Wednesday.



## US slaps sanctions on four China officials over abuse of Uighurs



*The United Nations estimates more than a million Muslims have been held in camps in China's Xinjiang region*

The United States on Thursday slapped sanctions on Chinese officials, including a member of the country's powerful Politburo, accusing them of serious human rights abuses against the Uighur Muslim minority, a move likely to further ratchet up tensions between Washington and Beijing.

The sanctions that include the Xinjiang region's Communist Party Secretary Chen Quanguo and the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau were announced amid already-high tensions between Washington and Beijing over China's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and its tightened grip on Hong Kong.

"The United States calls

upon the world to stand against the CCP's acts against its own minority communities in Xinjiang, including mass arbitrary detention, forced labor, religious persecution, and forced birth control and sterilization," a White House official said.

The Chinese embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a Reuters news agency request for comment.

However, China denies mistreatment of the minority group and says the camps provide vocational training and are needed to fight "extremism".

The sanctions are imposed under the Global Magnitsky Act, a federal law that allows the US government to target human rights violators around

the world with freezes on any US assets, US travel bans and prohibitions on Americans doing business with them.

The sanctions were imposed on Chen, a member of China's powerful Politburo; Zhu Hailun, a former deputy party secretary of the region; Wang Mingshan, the director and Communist Party secretary of the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau; and former party secretary of the bureau Huo Liu-jun.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement said he was also imposing further visa restrictions on Chen, Zhu, and Wang, barring them and their immediate family from the United States.

The US Treasury Department said Chen, the highest-ranking Chinese official to be hit with sanctions, implemented "a comprehensive surveillance, detention, and indoctrination program in Xinjiang, targeting Uighurs and other ethnic minorities" through the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau.

The United Nations estimates more than a million Muslims have been held in camps in the Xinjiang region.

China threatened retaliation after US President Donald Trump signed legislation in June with little fanfare, calling for sanctions over the repression of China's Uighurs.

## US Supreme Court rules Trump financial records can be subpoenaed

The United States Supreme Court on Thursday ruled the Manhattan district attorney can obtain President Donald Trump's tax records and Congress may not have access to his financial records for now.

Court observers thought the justices might combine the two cases - they have not - ruling in favour of release in one case and sending the second, involving US Congressional requests, back to a lower court.

The court upheld New York prosecutor Cyrus Vance's demand for Trump's tax returns as part of a criminal investigation that includes hush-money payments to women who claim they had affairs with Trump, but the ruling does not mean the president's financial records will be immediately released.

The justices rejected arguments by Trump's lawyers and the Justice Department that the president is immune from investigation while he holds office or that a prosecutor must show a greater need than normal to obtain the records. The tax returns are being sought as part of a grand-jury investigation.

Because the grand jury process is confidential, the rulings make it likely that none of Trump's financial records will become public soon, likely not before he stands for re-election in November.

Trump's two high court appointees, Justices Neil Gor-

such and Brett Kavanaugh, joined the majority in both cases along with Chief Justice John Roberts and the four liberal justices. Roberts wrote both opinions.

"Congressional subpoenas for information from the President, however, implicate special concerns regarding the separation of powers. The courts below did not take adequate account of those concerns," Roberts wrote in the congressional case.

The ruling returns the case to lower courts, with no clear prospect for when the case might ultimately be resolved. The tax returns case is also headed back to a lower court.

The justices heard arguments in the two cases by telephone in May.

Trump's lawyers argued at the time that a president cannot be investigated while he holds office, suggesting a ruling validating the subpoenas would open the door to harassing future presidents.

The president claimed he was being treated differently - suggesting in a tweet courts have given previous presidents "broad deference".

"This is a tremendous victory for our nation's system of justice and its founding principle that no one - not even a president - is above the law," said Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, a Democrat, in relation to the ruling in his case.

The cases resemble earli-



er disputes over presidents' assertions that they were too consumed with the job of running the country to worry about lawsuits and investigations. In 1974, the justices acted unanimously in requiring President Richard Nixon to turn over White House tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor. In 1997, another unanimous court allowed a sexual harassment lawsuit to go forward against President Bill Clinton.

In those cases, three Nixon appointees and two Clinton appointees, respectively, voted against the president who chose them for the high court.

Appellate courts in Washington, DC and New York ruled that the documents should be turned over, but those rulings were put on hold pending a final court ruling. The appellate decisions brushed aside the president's broad arguments, focusing on the fact that the subpoenas were addressed to third parties asking for records of Trump's business and financial dealings as a private citizen, not as president.

House committees want records from Deutsche Bank and Capital One, as well as the Mazars USA accounting firm. Mazars is also the recipient of a subpoena from Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.

Two congressional committees subpoenaed the bank documents as part of their investigations into Trump and his businesses. Deutsche Bank has been one of the few banks willing to lend to Trump after a series of corporate bankruptcies and defaults starting in the early 1990s.

Vance and the House Oversight and Reform Committee sought records from Mazars concerning Trump and his businesses based on payments Trump's then-personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, arranged during the 2016 presidential race to keep two women from airing their claims of extramarital affairs with Trump.

Trump sued to block the subpoenas. He was represented by personal lawyers at the Supreme Court, and the Justice Department supported the high-court appeal.



## WHO promises 'honest evaluation' of how world handled COVID-19



*World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday it was setting up an independent panel to review its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the response by governments.

The announcement follows strong criticism by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration of the global agency's role in the crisis - though the WHO said the review was not linked to the United States.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and former Liberian president

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf have agreed to head the panel, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"The magnitude of this pandemic, which has touched virtually everyone in the world, clearly deserves a commensurate evaluation, an honest evaluation," Tedros told a virtual meeting with diplomats.

The panel will provide an interim report to an annual meeting of health ministers in November and present a "substantive report" next May, he said.

Trump has accused the WHO of being too close to China and not doing enough to question Beijing's actions at the start of the crisis. Tedros has dismissed the suggestions and said his agency kept the world informed.

In May, Trump said the United States, the agency's biggest donor, would pull out of the organisation unless there were real reforms, a threat he followed up on this week by giving a one-year notice of withdrawal. "The President has been clear that the WHO needs to get its act together. That starts with demonstrating significant progress and the ability to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks with transparency and accountability," a senior U.S. official in Washington told Reuters on Thursday.

The WHO issued a statement saying the review was not linked to the United States and that its 194 member countries had asked in May for an evaluation of the global response.

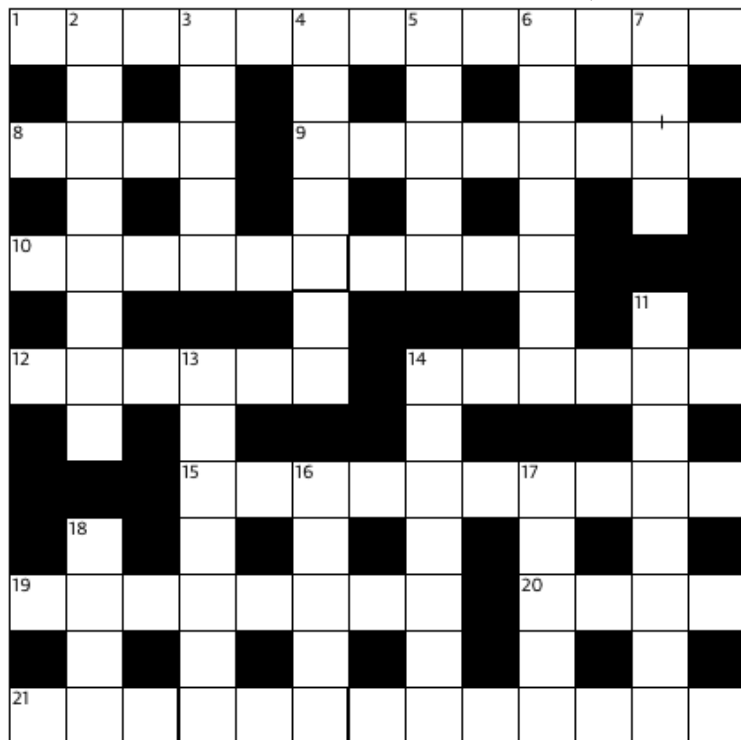
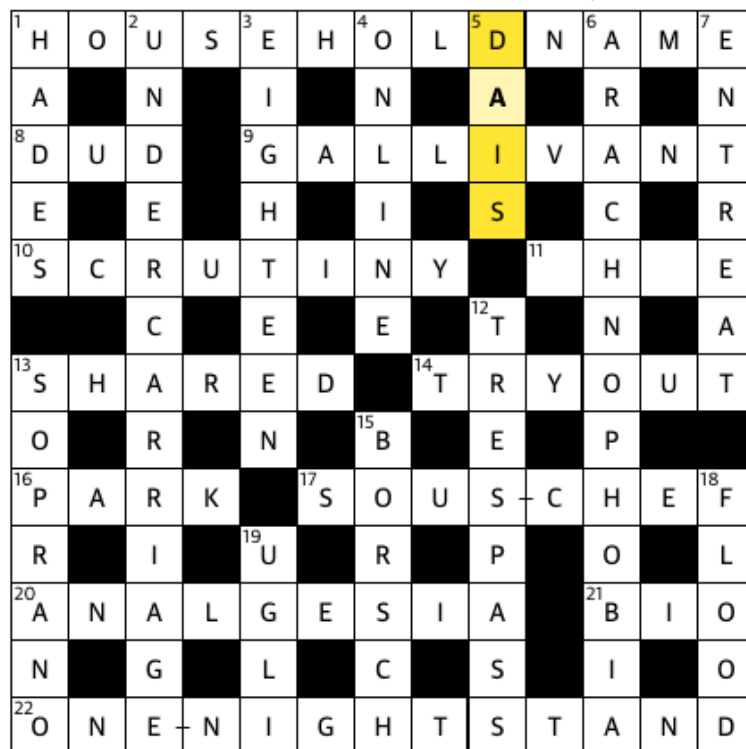
More than 12 million people are reported to have been infected by the novel coronavirus worldwide and 548,429 have died since the virus emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year, according to a Reuters tally.

Lawrence Gostin, a professor at Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C., said the panel should not be "an inside job" driven by states close to the WHO, nor should it pander to what he called "Trump's conspiracy theories".

"What is really vital is we have truly independent experts from a variety of disciplines that will honestly and frankly review the situation with COVID," Gostin told Reuters.

"Are they going to review China's action, are they going to review WHO's initial response to China, look at things like ... WHO's power to independently verify states' reports?," he added.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No  
15,649Quick crossword No  
15,649

## Across

- 1 Selfish (13)  
 8 Reddish-brown colour (4)  
 9 Give up (8)  
 10 Not ideal (6,4)  
 12 Solid (6)  
 14 One who holds forth (6)  
 15 Solo (10)  
 19 Merchant (8)  
 20 Winding spool on a fishing rod (4)  
 21 Group that does each other favours  
 — not rowdy bloke (anag) (3,3,7)

## Down

- 2 Disgust (8)  
 3 Go one better than (5)  
 4 Support (5,2)  
 5 Dimwit (5)  
 6 Boat racing event (7)  
 7 Farewell (informal) (2-2)  
 11 Ancestor (8)  
 13 Leafstalks usually cooked, sweetened  
 and eaten in puddings (7)  
 14 Abide by — watch (7)  
 16 Soothe (5)  
 17 The Turn of the \_\_\_, 1898 Henry  
 James horror story (5)  
 18 Legendary Swiss crossbowman and folk hero (4)

## CARTOON CORNER

## In the Bleachers



"Whaddaya mean, 'Which ones are we?'"





## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** Make yourself comfortable. There's no reason you can't work in an environment where you are relaxed and at ease. Getting involved in other people's turmoil could drain you of vital energy.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** True love should unfold naturally. Therefore, if a first date feels more like work than something fun or interesting, you may be better off moving on. Tact and diplomacy can help you to seal the deal.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Take the first step. Now is the time to get the latest project started, even if the effort is more ceremonial than tangible. Financial advice from those who are knowledgeable could be worth your time.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Have a blast from the past. Running into an old flame or long-lost pal could provoke fond memories of wild escapades and good times. Shop around for a better price if an item seems too costly.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** This could be the start of something big. Budding relationships could blossom into full-blown romances if you wait to see if all the pieces fall into place. Philosophical discussions could yield interesting insights.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take one for the team. You can recover quickly if you must shake up your schedule to go to bat for a friend or colleague today. Events could play out more beneficially than you had originally planned.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.):** A partner can help pick up the slack. An alliance with someone who excels at your weak points and vice versa could create a formidable team. You can maneuver through social situations with ease.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You can do it all in one go. Taking care of several short errands in one outing could prove both time- and cost-effective, so plan accordingly. A family member may shed light on personal troubles.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't burn the candle at both ends. You may have taken on more work than you can handle, so focus on one job at a time. Your go-getter mentality is great, but be sure to get some rest, too.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** t's not whether you win or lose but how you play the game. Your integrity is worth a lot more than any temporary win. Pay attention to important rules and standards and you'll get more support than you expected.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** The buck stops here. Honor your promises and responsibilities and avoid the temptation to delegate onerous task to others. Your weekend plans may hinge on what you can accomplish today.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** You are a tough act to follow. If anyone feels envious over the enthusiasm you show toward work, it's a sign to them that they need to step up, but that's their issue, not yours. Wisdom takes time; be patient..



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## Holder and Gabriel dismiss England for 204

Leading from the front, West Indies captain Jason Holder tore into England's batting line-up with a superb 6-42 on day two of the first Test in Southampton bundling out the host for 204.

Holder at one stage took 3-1 in 14 deliveries. His attack was supported by Shannon Gabriel who quickly bagged 4-62.

England's batsmen showed signs of rustiness in their first Test since the coronavirus lockdown on a pitch offering plenty for the

bowlers.

Captain Ben Stokes was dropped twice in his 43; wicketkeeper Jos Butler briefly impressed for 35 while Dom Bess was unbeaten on 31.

England was lackluster with the ball with West Indies losing just Campbell for 28 at the end of day two on 67-1, 147 behind.

The weather forecast for today (Friday) is expected to improve meaning the Caribbean team could benefit from the best batting conditions.



*West Indies captain Jason Holder*

## Holding endorses Black Lives Matter: says education critical to change

West Indies legend, Michael Holding, gave one of the most powerful speeches in the game's history on Wednesday, articulating the widespread disgust with the ills of racism and outlining how education could be used to eradicate this nefarious menace to society.

Speaking on SkySports ahead of the start of the first Test between West Indies and England at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, Holding's powerful words on unity, justice and equality resonated across the globe.

"What people need to understand is this thing stems from a long time ago, hundreds of years ago. The dehumanization of the black race is where it started and people will tell you that is a long time ago, get over it," Holding said.

"No, you don't get over things like



*Michael Holding*

that and the society has not gotten over things like that," the Jamaican stated.

Holding continued, "Everybody has heard about this lady in Central Park in New York (Amy Cooper) who was asked by a black man to put her dog on a leash, which is the law. She threatened this black man (Christian Cooper) saying that she was going to call the police and tell them there was a black man threatening her.

"If the society in which she was living did not empower her or get her to think that she had that power of being white and being able to call the police on a black man, she would not have done it," Holding opined.

Holding continued that he believes that the large number of Caucasians who have come out in support of the Black Lives Matter movement could help bring about change and urged all people to fully understand what BLM represents.

He stressed: "When people say All Lives Matter or white lives, please, we black people know white lives matter. I don't think most white people know that black lives matter." Holding said he found it completely inappropriate for persons to respond to BLM activists and protesters All Lives Matter.

## The man behind Cutting Edge Academy and female program

Vincent “Nabu” Samuel, who hails from Greenbay, is perhaps one of the most humble individuals on the local sporting landscape. Speaking to PointXpress recently, Samuel said he has been using the downtime created by the Covid-19 pandemic to work on plans to take the Cutting Edge Football Academy to the next level.

Nabu, the founder of Cutting Edge, who himself has four daughters who representing Antigua and Barbuda in football at different levels, has developed a reputation for harnessing young talent both male and female.

The former Hoppers, Empire and Old Road football coach underscored that the Cutting Edge Academy spends a great deal of time teaching the fundamentals and proper technique of soccer to young athletes.

Samuel also expressed his gratitude for having been given the opportunity to travel in his time as a football coach which in turn afforded him the opportunity



Vincent “Nabu” Samuel, centre.

to expand his knowledge and gain considerable.

Nabu spent over three years in the British Virgin Islands assisting the local association with the development of young talent in the territory. He also worked closely with the BVI’s national teams before returning home to share his expertise in his country of birth.

Samuel, who is presently employed by the Ministry of Sports as a coach, believes that the time has come to develop a national plan to

take football forward.

The man from West, who was also an outstanding youth cricketer, captaining the St. Joseph Academy team in the schools’ league and the Empire Cricket Team at the tender age of 17, also outlined his desire to become involved in coaching cricket at the school level and has already begun discussions with former West Indies player, Ridley Jacobs, who oversees the schools cricket programme.

Nabu also shared his view that more emphasis needs to be placed on community sports development which

will aid in exposing young people to sports at an earlier age which in turn could lead to talented youngsters becoming proficient in the motor skills required to master a sport as early as age seven or eight.

Local coaches work hard and dedicated, often going into their own pockets to assist children and the programmes they oversee Samuels noted.

He also offered high praise to former national player and coach, Veron Edwards Sr., who he described as his mentor.

In concluding his discussion with PointXpress, the Cutting Edge coach called on young athletes to stay in school and remain focused.

**DEWS**