



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTE **X** PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

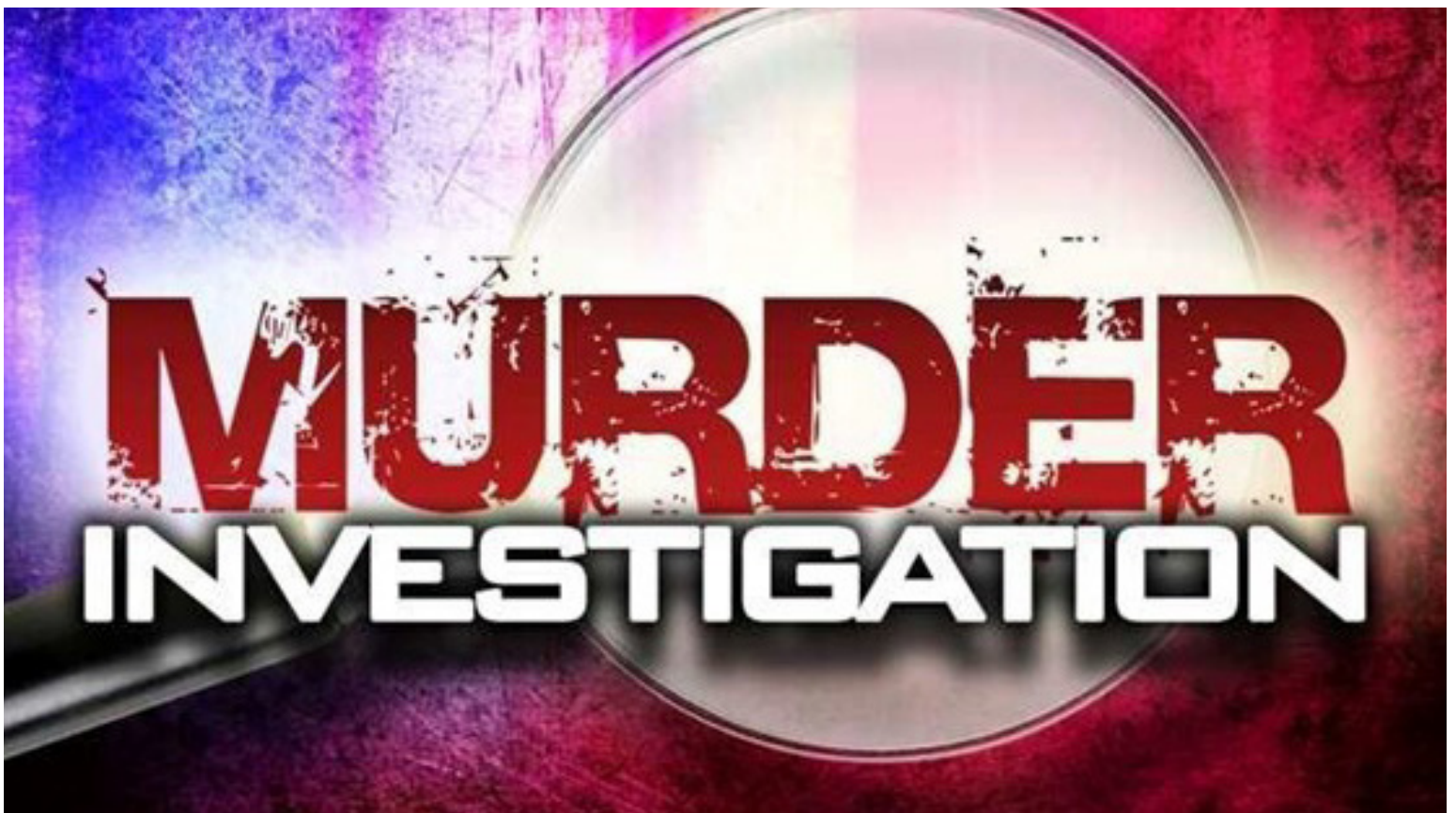
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PRICE **\$3**

# PM MEETS WITH CUSTOMS, POLICE

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## **Police do not rule out outside help - Page 2**



# Police do not rule out outside help

Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney, says he is not ruling out seeking outside assistance to help in solving the shooting death of customs officer, Nigel Christian.

In fact, Rodney confirmed that local law enforcement authorities have made contact with their regional partners to discuss several matters related to the investigation. He continued, however, that at the current stage of the investigation, he remains certain that local police have the expertise to solve the crime and to bring its perpetrators to justice.

Despite this, the top cop acknowledged that investigators may call on regional partners to support the forensic science and ballistics



*Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney*

aspects of the investigation.

As police continue to collect as much evidence as possible in this early stage of the investigation, the commissioner noted that 'small but important' steps are being taken.

"Hopefully, we will develop different theories and pursue several of these theories to see what we can get out of

them," Rodney remarked.

Commissioner Rodney has reiterated his appeal for assistance from the public which he says is crucial for a resolution of the crime.

"We want the public to come forward with any information they may have because what they believe to be insignificant may be critical to one of the leads that we

are pursuing," he explained.

According to the top cop, the police had already embarked on an exercise when word of Christian's abduction was first reported. He said the exercise was then expanded to include isolated back roads which resulted in the discovery of the former customs officer's bullet-ridden body.

He also disclosed that a stop-and-search was put into effect immediately after the report. This, however, bore no results.

Christian, 44, was abducted from his home late Friday afternoon by four armed men dressed in army fatigues. His body was found several hours later between Thibou's and New Winthorpe's.

## DAY 7/15

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme  
 Wind: E at 15 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 0.5 mm  
 Rain: 0.5 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1  
 Hours of Rain: 1

# 30°<sub>Hi</sub>



Partly sunny with a shower in the area

## NIGHT 7/15

Wind: ESE at 11 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 18 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 63%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 1.7 mm  
 Rain: 1.7 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1  
 Hours of Rain: 1

# 25°<sub>Lo</sub>



Partly cloudy with a couple of showers late

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
 5:42 AM

Sunset AST  
 6:45 PM



Duration  
 12:59 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
 1:22 PM

Moonset AST  
 2:22 AM



Duration  
 13:00 hr




*Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu*

*Prime Minister Gaston Browne*

## PM meets with Customs, Police

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, under whose portfolio the Customs and Excise Division falls, convened a meeting on Tuesday with the department's senior officials and Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney.

The meeting came at the request of the Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, who reported that the staff of the division has expressed concerns over the abduction and killing of customs officer, Nigel Christian, last Friday.

Christian's murder followed the attempted murder of another customs officer, Cornell Benjamin, late last year.

"We wanted to let the prime minister know that this latest incident has impacted us greatly and we wanted to request additional security for our officers, especially those working in critical and sensitive areas," Boddu reported.

According to the customs official many of the staff have become 'frightened and insecure' since the incident and are in need of sup-

port from the government and law enforcement agencies at this time.

He said the staff met on Monday and came up with a list of requests which were presented to Prime Minister Browne and the police chief during their discussions.

Following the meeting, the comptroller remarked that the prime minister was very attentive to their con-

cerns and gave instructions for their requests to be put into effect as soon as possible.

In addition to increased security, Boddu said the department has already implemented measures to provide psychological support and counseling for officers who have been traumatized by their colleague's death. Two counselors have been identi-

fied and will begin sessions with the staff shortly.

There will be another general meeting of the Customs and Excise Division today where they will discuss the outcome of Tuesday's talks with the prime minister and police hierarchy and the measures that will be put in place to ensure the safety and security of all customs officers.



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# Distraught mothers join picket

Among the protesters outside the Attorney General's office on Tuesday morning was a mother who was critical of the police's handling of her son's murder.

Angela Roberts is the mother of Dave Anthony who was murdered at his home in Potters in March.

Police discovered the body of the 45-year-old man in the kitchen of the house he occupied.

An emotional Roberts voiced her displeasure with how the police are

handling her late son's murder. She complained that she was promised that a reward would have been posted for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for her son's death but so far, she has heard nothing.

She also revealed that since the incident, she has suffered many sleepless nights as she misses her son deeply.

Another mother who was part of the group voiced displeasure at the manner in which police are investigating her son's disappearance.

Two years ago on 13th November 2018, Tray Griffith of Grays Farm disappeared without a trace. His mother recalled that he left home for work but never made it to his place of employment nor did he return home.

His mother claims that information has not been forthcoming from the police on the progress of her son's case. She too claimed that talks of a reward being offered for information leading to the whereabouts of her son were never fulfilled by law enforcement.

# All Social Security pensions for June paid

The Social Security Board is reporting that it has completed payments of June pensions to all beneficiaries.

Superintendent, David Matthias, said the last tranche of payments were sent out on Tuesday afternoon to the remaining banks and he expects that beneficiaries will receive disbursements to their accounts by today.

Earlier, the superintendent reported that intake at the SSB has declined by 40 percent because of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on the national economy.

"Our earnings from the hotel sector have been especially impacted with the closure of all hotels at the end of March. These earnings represent 77 percent of the decline with the remaining 23 percent coming from the transportation sector," Matthias revealed.

Although some hotels have since reopened, the SSB superintendent does

not expect that there will be significant intake from these properties as they continue to operate well below capacity, even for this time of the year.

The transportation sector is another area in which the SSB has reported a significant decline in contributions. Major financial contributors would have included employees of LIAT and other airlines, taxis and



Superintendent, David Matthias

bus operators.

Each month the SSB pays

out \$10 million to pensioners in Antigua and Barbuda.

# Hispanic woman who assaulted nurse fined

The woman who was charged for assaulting a nurse at the Hawksbill quarantine facility and breaking self quarantine restrictions was fined \$5,500 when she appeared in court on Tuesday.

Marelis Horsford of the Dominican Republic, but who resides in New York, attacked the President of the Nurses Association, Soria Dupie-Williams, while she was on duty at Hawksbill.

Horsford was charged for that offence and also for venturing out of her home to a tattoo parlour while she was expected to be under quarantine.

Appearing before Chief Magistrate, Joanne Walsh, Horsford was ordered to pay \$5,500 - \$500 of the fine being imposed for ripping the protective clothing of the nurse.

Prosecutors did not proceed with the charge of Use of Insulting Language. The accused woman also issued an apology for her behavior.

Marelis Horsford's reckless actions of breaking the quarantine to engage in unnecessary social activities, drew widespread criticism, with even Prime Minister Gaston Browne threatening to expel her from the country.



# Barbudans told not to drop their guards

A Barbudan doctor is cautioning residents against becoming complacent as coronavirus is still present in the country.

While Barbuda has no cases of coronavirus, Dr. Jeremy Deazle says residents are beginning to drop their guards and are disregarding COVID-19 protocols.

“Right now you see a lot of people socializing without face masks, you see a lot of gatherings with more than 25 persons per area. I hope people realise that COVID is still there and right now we should have more fear than before.

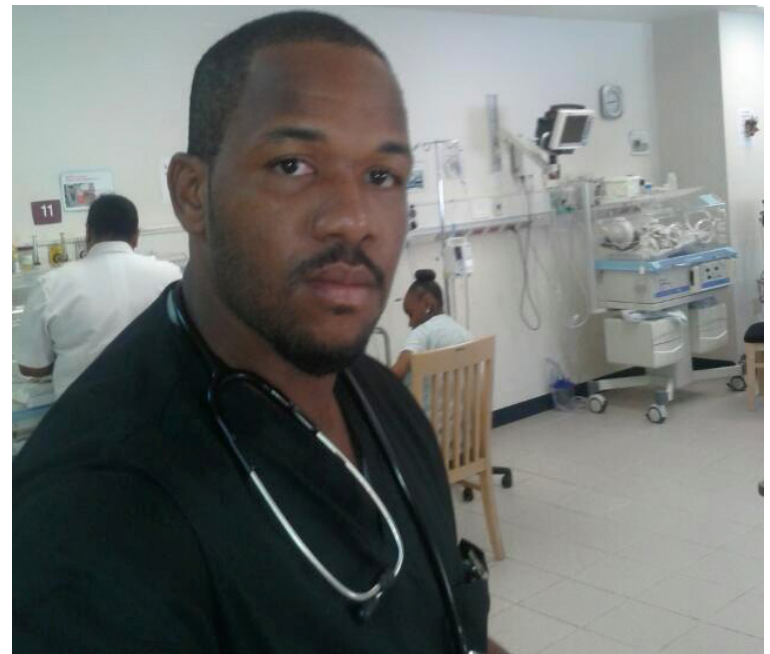
“We should be aware that the numbers have peaked to 74 persons with 14 active

cases and as the numbers in Antigua increase, that increases our chance of getting it here in Barbuda,” he warned.

The medical doctor is calling for a return to the enforcement of strict guidelines designed to aid in minimizing the spread of the virus.

“I think we should go back to the strict guidelines such as limits to the number of people in the supermarket at any one time. Everyone in the supermarket should wear face masks, even the supermarket owner.

“I think we should have someone at the door spraying hands to ensure hand sanitizing before customers



*Dr. Jeremy Deazle*

enter,” he urged.

He complained that as he drives around Codrington he still sees many people without face masks and is

calling on the police to enforce the health protocols laid down by the Ministry of Health as they are needed now more than ever.

## Announcement on school transfers due today

One of the most highly anticipated announcements from the Ministry of Education each year stems from its decision regarding requests for the transfer of scores of students by their parents and guardians.

Today, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will respond to the requests made for transfers following the announcement of the Grade 6 secondary school placements.

Over the last week, requests for transfers were accepted, and reviewed, by the Director of Education, Clare Browne, who has now completed the process.

“We remind all concerned that re-

quests for consideration for transfers do not automatically translate into transfers. The deadline for receipt of letters requesting transfers was Friday July 10 and following the ministry’s reviews, letters of response will be dispatched. No further letters will be accepted,” Browne stated.

He continued that several secondary schools have already begun their registration process and will need to be allowed to complete the process in preparation for the new school year.

Browne had earlier this month informed the public that Grade Six transfers will be granted only in instances of errors of placement or for

health and safety reasons.

The Grade Six Secondary placements were released on 3rd July.

This year, in the absence of the Grade Six National Assessment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials revealed that public secondary school placements were made using data generated at the school level from continuous in-school assessments, specifically from class work, homework, projects and tests.

A total of 1,451 registered students were assigned to secondary schools through outstanding achiever placement, health and safety placement, special educational needs placement and place of residence placement.

# Island wide bulk waste collection starts today

Despite the fact that the Ministry of Health has been inundated with its domestic fight against COVID-19, steps are being taken to improve the environment and aesthetics of the island.

Beginning today, and continuing until the 28th of July, the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment, in collaboration with the National Solid Waste Management Authority, Central Board of Health and the Antigua and Barbuda Police Force, will embark upon an island-wide national clean-up.

This clean-up will focus on the collection of bulk waste from communities across the country.

According to the health ministry, the national bian-



nual clean-up is done as part of "preparation for the Hurricane Season."

The ministry further explained that the 2020 hur-

ricane season, which began on June 1st and ends on November 30th, is predicted to have above normal activity.

"The National Clean-up has prompted a strong reminder for environmental waste management by eliminating excess refuse and garbage within our communities. In 2018 the Ministry's program resulted in significant environmental success as 3,358.1 tonnes of garbage was collected which lowered the probability of flying missiles of waste during a hurricane," the Ministry of Health stated.

The clean-up programme is a significant initiative of the government which targets wide scale bulk waste collection across the coun-

try. Large broken or unwanted items such as refrigerators, beds, furniture and other forms of bulk refuse will be removed as part of the free waste collection initiative.

The ministry was keen to note that the removal of these items forms an important part of its vector eradication programme as bulky waste, items when stored improperly around the home, create the perfect breeding environment for rodents, mosquitoes and other disease bearing pests.

The bulk waste collection programme, which commences today, will start in St. John's Rural North, St. Georges and St. Peters and eventually cover all parts of the island.





## AG responds to Concerned Citizens

Attorney General and National Security Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, is asking members of the Concerned Citizens group of activists for patience as the police carry out their investigation into the death of Nigel Christian.

On Tuesday morning, the group picketed outside the ministry's headquarters calling for Benjamin to seek external assistance with the investigation into Christian's shooting death on Friday night.

Insisting their protest was non-political, group leader, Dr. Jacqui Quinn, underscored the importance of having

outside help. She said the competency of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to solve such crimes is not being questioned, however, she believes they may be lacking in certain key areas.

Letters, signed by Dr. Quinn and Mary John, have also been dispatched to a number of government officials.

In part they have written: "Based on the magnitude, the brazenness and complexity of this case, we are of the view that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda needs outside professional assistance to solve this

outrageous crime."

Responding to the group, National Security Minister Benjamin described the incident as 'recent' and continued that the police 'ought to be given the opportunity to carry out their investigation'.

He indicated, however, should it be deemed necessary, the government will not hesitate to invite outside law enforcement agencies to assist local police.

See attached letters from the Minister of National Security and the Concerned Citizens group.



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Ministry of Legal Affairs  
Office of the Attorney General  
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14<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

Concerned Citizens  
P.O. Box W152  
St. John's  
Antigua

Dear Mesdames:

Your correspondence dated July 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 was hand delivered to me by Dr. Jacqui C. Quinn on today's date.

As Minister with responsibility for the Police, I am grateful for your Organisation's concern touching the heinous killing of Customs Officer Nigel Christian and your desire to ensure that the perpetrators are caught and brought to justice.

This is a recent incident and it is reasonable that the Police ought to be given an opportunity to undertake their investigations. Should there come a time when the Police request assistance from any External Law Enforcement Agency, you can be assured that the government will act expeditiously to provide the required assistance.


It is Good Governance that the Executive does not involve itself in the operations of State Institutions and State Authorities.

I have never involved myself in the internal operations of the Police Force and I shall not do so now. In any event however, a request for External Assistance in matters of this nature is normally made on the request of the Police Authorities. At this very early stage of the investigation, it is not my intention to interfere directly and indirectly, with the Police investigations by asking if they require External Assistance. If they do need it and it is requested, I repeat, I shall act on their request.

I appreciate your Organisation's concerns in this matter but the Police must be allowed to do their duty without interference by any member of the Executive.

I appreciate your Organisation's concern and applaud you for your deep interest and concern in that regard.

Very truly yours,

  
HON. STEADROY C.O. BENJAMIN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER  
OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, PUBLIC SAFETY & LABOUR

Cc: Hon. Gaston Browne  
Prime Minister

Hon. Maria Bird Browne  
Minister within the Ministry of Legal Affairs

Mr. Atlee Rodney  
Commissioner of Police

### Concerned Citizens

St. John's Antigua, P.O. Box W152; Tel: 268-561-5844



Hon. Steadroy Benjamin  
Minister of Legal Affairs  
Ministry Headquarters  
Government Office Complex  
Parliament Drive  
St. John's, Antigua

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Sir:

We are a group of Concerned Citizens writing to you regarding the dastardly crime committed against a young Customs officer, Nigel Christian, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

Nigel, 44, was ambushed in his home; his mother was assaulted, with a gun forced into her mouth; their car keys were taken; and Nigel was abducted by four men carrying weapons and dressed in military fatigues. A few hours later, his body was discovered in the Thibous/Royals/New Winthorpes area riddled with bullets: a brutal execution, very foreign to our peaceful country.

Nigel was a calm, quiet, diligent Customs officer who was simply going about his life when these thugs stole it from him.

Sir, this heinous crime has rocked the nation, and we do not believe that we are safe any longer in the sanctity of our own homes. This act has shaken right-thinking citizens to our core, as it is the second Customs officer to have been so targeted. Cornell Benjamin was shot in the legs last October, and now this shocking murder! We cannot help but wonder if others are being targeted, as well.

Based on the magnitude, brazenness and complexity of this case, we are of the view that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda needs outside professional assistance to solve this outrageous crime.

In light of the above, we are requesting that – in your capacity as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs with responsibility for the Police – you make a formal request for assistance from either Britain's Scotland Yard, the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Sunday's assurances from the Police top brass have done little to allay the fears of the citizenry. We believe that the tools, resources, forensic expertise and professional competence needed in this case are not available to the local Force, and this view is widely shared across the Nation and even within the ranks of the Police, themselves.

We commend the Government (through the Prime Minister) for offering a \$50,000.00 reward for information leading to an arrest, but we strongly feel you need to go further by inviting outside assistance.

Thanks in advance for your kind consideration in this urgent matter.

Sincerely

  
Dr. Jacqui C. Quinn  
Concerned Citizens

Cc: Hon. Gaston Browne  
Prime Minister

Hon. Maria Bird Browne  
Minister within the Ministry of Legal Affairs

Mr. Atlee Rodney  
Commissioner of Police

  
Mary John  
Concerned Citizens

## Sir Everton: The Way of the Prophet

*Regional Headquarters, Jamaica, July 10, 2020. The following statement is issued*

*by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI.*

In 1951, the global cricket fraternity expressed its peer appreciation for Sir Everton and designated him the best batsman in the game. In this selection and elevation he became the first Barbadian to be classified and celebrated as number one in the world in an approved and respected endeavour. This was a seismic, seminal moment. Barbados, not yet a nation-state, and under colonial oppression, had received its first international endorsement as a place that produced performance excellence. The island entered the annals of international popular culture as a society that gave life and nurture to a native recognised as a special gift to humanity.

Three hundred years prior, Barbados was chosen by English enslavers as the site of the first global slave system. The society, according to the wisdom of “Wisden” was finally beginning to unshackle its inhabitants from the old plantation scaffold. The heritage of the island was being turned upon its head and the demand for democracy seemed volcanic. Weekes was more than a Wisden’s choice. He was the metaphor that defined the eruption. He rose from the worst that humanity and Barbados had to offer and established himself and his country as a class above the cruelty of history. He became a champion for redemption with dignity.

Recognising that Sir Everton existed in a global class of his own was also to realise that he was the output imagined in the island’s political strategic plan. He was proof that the vision was attached to reality, and that his country was batting on the right wicket. The masses that followed Clement Payne in rejecting colonialism in preference for democracy had produced an icon that represented their dream for future generations. In the inner city of Bridgetown this recognition knew no boundary. In the four corners



*Sir Everton Weekes*

of the planet Everton was hailed a hero, an artist, a humanitarian, and the expression of goodness within greatness.

Representing his country in the 1940s, a time when the masses were politically disenfranchised, the burden of batting for the cause was burnished into his soul. His bat was the map for the road ahead leading to democratic liberation. He took the captaincy of his country before the nation was created and faced the ferocious resentment from an element born with the entitlement of Empire. His rise to leadership was a victory for communities below that were pushing to open all doors to the poor.

The success driven by his genius was the key to the confidence required to ensure the rise of the nation. His performance displaced selectors’ resistance and signalled liberation from colonial imprisonment. It was the beginning of the regional recognition that the power of merit would transcend the machination of money. He was the symbol of the revolution that made the nation possible and sustainable.

He was also the product that paved the way for the fantastic flood of greatness that found expression in the creation of Sir Gary, Sir Wes, and all the other bearers of the truth that a people can be enchained and disenfranchised but their intellect and eternal inner sovereignty

can never be driven from the fertile soil of their souls. Here was a brother whose spirit could not be broken. Here was a majestic man who withstood the pressures of the parochial to claim the victory of the global. Here was a human with the generosity of a gentleman who knew that he was sent with a message which said, “behind me there are many others and I am here to pave the way.”

The absence of hubris from any aspect of his living and legacy tells a narrative so pure as to invoke images of humanity at its finest, from subtle wit to the firm grip on the handles of principles not to be breached, but played with a straight bat. On and off the field, the display of dapper deportment spoke to a mind made up that elegance and eloquence should define the art of living.

There is no greater gift a man can give his mentees than that of the highest standards. Sir Everton was eternal in his teachings. Our society was enlarged by his giving and seemed sophisticated with his presence. Cricket was his profession and art ordered his contribution as a citizen. The demonstration of gentleness and humility at the intersection of brilliance and greatness was the proof of his art, not as a craft, but as a way of being. His gentle manner remained a mystery to many who observed his moments and movements.

He was my friend who I failed to fathom; possessed of too complicated a consciousness honed by a history and domesticity that produced perfection of form and performance. He gave more than anyone could imagine. It came from a complex interior that only the discipline of a sage could yield for display on the public stage of life. Now, with his departure to another realm, we offer in return a celebration in recognition that a prophet passed here to show us the way.





## PM Gonsalves, “You were there!”



**By Makeda Mikeal**

Dear PM Gonsalves and PM Mia Mottley, Please allow me to alert you that you are observing LIAT from the wrong end of the spectrum, hence the display of short sightedness in liquidating an airline of 64-years with an international brand and an impeccable safety reputation. Just that safety record alone establishes the value of LIAT and the goodwill which encourages passenger confidence and takes many years in the air to achieve.

Carrying the name of the region of islands (Leewards) from which the airline was born, this airline is not just the main mover of people within the Caribbean; LIAT also provides critical service to the regions tourism industries and cannot be replaced. LIAT must be allowed to continue to evolve as it has been doing through its many years of struggle against a nosedive.

LIAT's pilots are in demand even in the far reaches of the earth as the vicissitudes of LIAT have caused a serious drain of pilots to other skies. Several American carriers have sought out ways and means of buying into LIAT just to get its pilots.

LIAT is a success story for having done such a great job for the islands of the Caribbean, under such extraneous circumstances including the implementation of political decisions which are inimical to aviation growth. Mr. Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves,

sir, for the past 18-years you have proudly held the reigns of LIAT as Chairman during which time you, and other prime ministers and Ministers of Aviation, have held our airline by hand through some of its most parlous times. You were there! Sir, with 18 years at the head of LIAT and your CARICOM designated oversight in Aviation, one would have thought that shutting down LIAT could never be an option. Clearly, the consideration of changing the LIAT platform as an essential service and dropping unproductive routes to non-participating island nations is an opportunity provided by the COVID-19 pandemic which LIAT welcomes, but certainly not a shutdown.

May I remind you, Prime Ministers Gonsalves and Mottley, of an industrious island which, during the telecommunications crisis years ago, privatized into a PPP whose ownership it

opened up to its island's people who were able and willing to purchase shares in the national enterprise. Using this moment of nostalgia, our love for LIAT should encourage the leaders and shareholders of this archipelago of islands to open purses, both private and public, to seek out financial commitments from all and sundry, dollars and cents, to save our most important integrating component of Caribbean unity.

We need urgently to begin talking about opening up LIAT to local shareholders by the thousands! Asking the people of the islands to contribute a small sum to save LIAT is great advertisement and a show of gratitude for a well beloved carrier, recognizing that it is not the quantum of the cash/share component, but the commitment of LIAT to the people of the Caribbean. Even a small shareholding of our people will give dignity and a vote of confidence to LIAT.

# Tax holidays can help aviation and tourism recover



*If the Caribbean is to recover from the economic crisis it is facing, governments will need to stimulate tourism in unprecedented ways. David Jessop believes that one answer may be to remove, for a while, taxes and charges on aviation and tourism.*

After years of failing to find a way to reconcile whether LIAT, the Antigua based regional carrier, pri-

marily serves the interests of shareholder governments by providing tax revenue and employment or is a genuine for-profit operation rather than a form of monopoly, a moment of truth has arrived.

Late last month, courtesy of the pandemic, it was announced that with the approval of the airline's principal government shareholders, Barbados, Dominica, Antigua, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, it had gone into liquidation.

Antigua's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, subsequently said that he hoped that LIAT 1974 Ltd might be re-capitalised as LIAT 2020 Ltd with private sector support. However, Mia Mottley, Barbados' Prime Minister, as outgoing Chair of CARICOM, has said that she believes that "lean en-

tities that are private sector driven" should be taking the lead in providing alternative services.

"I think governments may keep small shares in whatever may be created to be able to give the private sector investors the comfort that we are not going to subject them to regulatory confusion and long, long processes, but predominantly we need lean entities that are private sector driven, where people are focused on how do they stay afloat through making a profit and through ensuring that there is adequate cash flow, while providing service to our people," she recently told the media.

The issue has since become the subject of angry exchanges which threaten to create new fault lines with-

in CARICOM and between OECS members.

More immediately however, the airline's demise highlights the need to find solutions that link economic development, tourism and the need for regional integration with having one or more viable, relatively low cost, lightly regulated, private sector operated intra-regional air carriers.

Understanding what is required is neither rocket science or new. The basic answers relating to LIAT, and regional aviation more generally, were set out in a document published by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in mid-2018.

The now two-year-old working paper, 'Air Transport Competitiveness and Connectivity in the Caribbean', demonstrated how improved connectivity could create economic growth and employment, especially in the smaller islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Its three authors noted that development was being held back by a combination of aviation related taxes, fees and charges which add to the cost of travel. They also observed that regulatory barriers, institutional impediments, and other factors were damaging competitiveness.

To remedy this, they proposed: a reduction in avi-

*cont'd on pg 15*





*cont'd from pg 14*

ation taxes, especially for inter-regional travel; a reduction in airport charges to attract airlines to operate in markets where yields are lower; and the signing of new bilateral air service agreements to encourage competition, new routes and improved connectivity. They also recommended reductions in air fares and making travel for residents and visitors alike as seamless as possible. Such actions they observed could create around 0.2m new jobs by 2036, add about US\$4.4bn annually in GDP across the Caribbean and result in an overall 26% increase in passengers.

The solutions proposed then are as relevant today as travel and tourism struggles to recover from the pandemic.

As Vincent Vanderpool Wallace, the Principal Partner of the Bedford Baker

Group in Nassau and a former Bahamian Minister of Tourism, observed during a recent webinar, the Caribbean is not only the most tourism dependent region in the world, but is also among the most aviation dependent. Airlift, he observed, is a fundamental precursor to Caribbean economic development.

Once the region establishes secure protocols that will allow the region to accept visitors from key markets, like the US where there is still a high incidence of COVID-19, it will be tourism because of its holistic and externally funded nature that will drive regional economic recovery.

This will, in part, require heavily indebted governments, at the right moment, to incentivise international carriers to resume services and increase their frequencies. It ought also to see countries giving serious

consideration to stimulating air travel by removing the multiple passenger and airport taxes and charges that make travel within the region more expensive per mile than to Europe or North America.

These are matters that the international financial institutions should be paying greater attention to, by finding ways of supporting fiscal measures, such as aviation tax holidays, as an element in a package of national and regionally agreed measures that stimulate tourism and private sector led recovery.

As a recent IDB paper pointed out, the COVID-19 collapse in tourism is 'an unprecedented extreme outlier event requiring government interventions to support the sector and citizens in equally unparalleled ways.

For this reason, the recent revelation by Prime Minister Mottley that the US administration has said

that it is committed to helping develop a multifaceted framework that will support both the region's immediate post-COVID-19 humanitarian needs as well as its long term recovery, is particularly welcome.

Although the subject of a future column, this involves Washington offering to help make the case for Caribbean access to multilateral funds and debt relief on concessional terms.

It suggests that this is the moment when governments and representatives of the tourism industry should develop a joint plan: one that demonstrates how, with the support of external agencies, a reduction in taxation and charges on aviation and tourism, over a defined period, might stimulate airlift and visitor demand, broaden government revenues in the medium term and hasten Caribbean economic recovery.


 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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# Trinidad: Bullet through arm, lung amid POS protests; man says shooter was cop

A 30-year-old man of Nelson Street, Port-of-Spain has sent a pre-action protocol letter to the Attorney General (AG), calling for compensation after he was allegedly shot by police amid protests in the capital.

Fiery demonstrations erupted in and around the city of Port-of-Spain on June 30 and lasted for two days, as residents of Beetham, Morvant, Laventille and Sea Lots expressed frustration over the police killing of three men on June 27. The victims were Joel Jacob, Noel Diamond and Israel Clinton.

However, as civilians clashed with police, Michael Mc Leod says he was targeted by cops and left with life-changing injuries, despite not being involved in the protests. He is seeking financial redress through his attorneys Wayne Sturge, Lemuel Murphy and Keishel Grant.

According to Mc Leod, the incident occurred between 1 pm and 1.30 pm on June 30. He says he was standing near the Housing Development Buildings 54-56 along George Street. At the time, he was having a conversation about the ongoing demonstrations and the reasons behind them with two people from the area.

Mc Leod says debris was burning and blocking the free flow of traffic on the one-way street. Shortly after, he says



*Cont'd on pg 15*



# Regional News

**PAGE 13**

a marked TTPS vehicle approached in the direction of Independence Square against the regulated traffic directions. The lawmen were forced to stop by the burning debris.

The Nelson Street man notes that four officers in plain clothes, armed with fire-arms, exited the vehicle and cleared the rubbish, placing it at the side of the roadway. He says they returned to their vehicle and continued along George Street, passing the trio but stopping a short distance away.

At this point, Mc Leod alleges that he sees an officer point his weapon in their direction and hears explosions. He soon feels a burning sensation to his arm and chest and runs to a nearby staircase

seeking cover.

Moments later, one of the witnesses whom he was speaking to, tried to assist him in getting a vehicle to take him to the Port -of-Spain General Hospital for medical attention.

Other onlookers, who had gathered on the street following the incident, reportedly began shouting at the officers saying, “allyuh shoot the man” and “allyuh take the man to the hospital”. The officers allegedly refused to assist.

Mc Leod found a driver willing to take him to the hospital however, he claims police refused to move their vehicle that was parked in the middle of the roadway. Consequently, the car which Mc Leod was in drove over the burnt debris which was placed

at the side of the roadway.

The injured man was taken to the hospital where he was treated. One of the bullets went through his lungs and a tube was inserted to remove excess fluid from both his chest and lungs. The second bullet damaged the nerves in his left arm and he has since lost feeling in the limb. Mc Leod must also undergo surgery for steel to be placed into his arm.

He was hospitalised from June 30 to July 5. During his stay, he was placed on a liquid-only diet and could only sleep in a seated position. Mc Leod says he frequently fell unconscious with black-out episodes due to immense pain which he still suffers. On July 5, he was discharged from

the hospital but remains an out-patient.

Mc Leod is now suing for pain and suffering, loss of amenities and the alleged high-handed and criminally negligent conduct by the police officers. He demands interest and costs.

The pre-action letter from his attorneys says the AG is “vicariously liable” for the actions of the police officer and adds that Mc Leod is not averse to settling the matter outside the courts if he is offered a reasonable and satisfactory compensation.

If the AG fails to acknowledge and respond within 14 days of the letter dated July 10, legal proceedings will be initiated without further notice.

## 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. Please note that electricity will be suppressed during period of maintenance

**Date:** Monday 13th July 2020  
**Time:** 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
**Affected areas:** Section of Piccadilly overlooking Christian Hill.

**Date:** Tuesday 14th July 2020  
**Time:** 08:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
**Affected areas:** Eastern section of Freemans Village

**Date:** Wednesday 15th July 2020  
**Time:** 08:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
**Affected areas:** Section of Marble Hill and Paradise View

**Date:** Wednesday 15th July 2020  
**Time:** 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
**Affected areas:** St. Phillips

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.





## TWO-STROKE

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# Guyana: Court Action Filed Against GECOM and Chair



The Guyana Chronicle has been reliably informed that Court action has been filed against the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) and its Chair Justice (Ret'd) Claudette Singh.

This is a developing story. We will provide more details as they become available. However, hours before this information was received, the newspaper was informed by Attorney General (AG) and Minister of Legal Affairs, Basil Williams S.C. that it is contrary to law for the Chair to invalidate the declarations made in March 2020 by the Returning Officers in the country's 10 Electoral Districts.

He pointed to the Caribbean Court of Justice's (CCJs) written judgement on the *Bharrat Jagdeo and Irfaan Ali v Eslyn David* case, paragraph 46 in which it states: "...It is clear that, under the legal infrastructure governing the electoral



*GECOM Chair Justice (Ret'd) Claudette Singh*

process, unless and until an election court decides otherwise, the votes already counted as valid votes are incapable of being declared invalid by any person or authority."

Just on Monday, the media received reports that Singh has

set aside the declarations made in March 2020 by the Returning Officers in the country's 10 Electoral Districts.

Her actions came after the Chief Elections Officer (CEO), Keith Lowenfield, in presenting his most recent Elections

Report to the Commission, did so on the basis of declarations made by the Returning Officers, in accordance with Section 96 of the Representation of the People Act.



## University Hospital of the West Indies Blamed For Overhiring Docs

Minister of Health & Wellness Dr Christopher Tufton has blamed a hiring binge by the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) for the termination of employment of some new doctors at the Papine, St Andrew, institution.

He has accused UHWI's management of hiring twice the numbers that are allowed in the establishment.

In a letter issued to hospital staff, UHWI's Department of Surgery said that "financial constraints induced by COVID-19, paired with the decision of The University of the West Indies to defer May/June 2020 DM examinations, have forced a change in the process of resident intake".

The correspondence said further that subsequent to June 9, "the committee decided that employment contracts for the chief residents, cleared for final exams and have been assessed by their supervisors having completed their training, will not be renewed by the UHWI".

The letter advised the affected practitioners to seek jobs elsewhere.

However, speaking with The Gleaner on Monday evening, Tufton said based on reports he had received, the UHWI operates differently than other hospitals and that the unemployment crisis was not replicated across the public health system.

"They have an establishment, for example, to hire 10 of a particular doctor and they



*Dr Christopher Tufton, minister of health and wellness.*

hire 20.

In terms of the rest of the public health system, the information I have is that they have interviewed persons but that doesn't mean that everybody interviewed is going to get a job, and that has been part of the challenge," Tufton said.

However, a doctor at the Bustamante Hospital for Children shared a letter with The Sunday Gleaner advising that that institution, too, could no longer accommodate her, days

after she took up a post there.

Tufton has denied that budgetary constraints have sparked the hiring shortfall, citing an increase in the number of trained medical officers and a decline in the staff turnover for reduced availability of posts in the public health system.

"What we have now is a case of training more, which has resulted in a higher demand, particularly because persons are not migrating as much, maybe because of COVID this year

and less turnover meaning less demand for the current establishment, both the established post and the existing contractual post. That results in some persons not being offered positions and there's no direct correlation or relationship between training and being offered a position in the public sector," the health minister said.

Tufton is scheduled to meet with the Jamaica Medical Doctors Association today.

## ‘Netanyahu resign’: Protesters in Jerusalem call for PM’s removal

Thousands of Israelis have protested in front of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s residence in Jerusalem, demanding his resignation as the government comes under fire over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Some placards carried by demonstrators on Tuesday read “Netanyahu’s corruption makes us sick” and “Netanyahu, resign”.

“The most deadly virus is not COVID-19, but corruption,” protester Laurent Cige, who came from Tel Aviv to take part, told AFP news agency.

Netanyahu was indicted in January for bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three cases.

In May, he forged a new unity government after more than a year of political turmoil and insisted the charges were trumped up to drive him from office.

The next trial date at Jerusalem district court is set for July 19.

Under Israeli law, a sitting prime minister is only required to resign if convicted of a criminal offence with all appeals exhausted, which in Netanyahu’s case, could take several years.

Protesters criticised Israel’s handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic, as the health ministry announced more than 1,400 new cases recorded in the past 24 hours.

On Monday, police dispersed a group of activists who set up tents outside Netanyahu’s official residence.



*Israelis protest against Netanyahu outside his official residence in Jerusalem*

Thousands also protested in Tel Aviv on Saturday to voice frustration at the prime minister and his economic policies.

Netanyahu is also facing a growing wave of discontent over his handling of the coronavirus crisis.

Israel is now experiencing a sharp rise in coronavirus cases and the economy is struggling as unemployment remains

above 20 percent.

The country of some nine million people has recorded more than 41,200 coronavirus cases, including 368 deaths.

After receiving widespread praise for quickly sealing Israel’s borders in March and imposing other restrictions, Netanyahu acknowledged last week that he reopened the economy too quickly.

The government lifted some restrictions at the end of May, but announced new ones last week, including closing bars, nightclubs and gyms.

Israel’s unemployment has jumped from 3.4 percent in February to 27 percent in April, before falling slightly in May to 23.5 percent.



## Harvey Weinstein: Judge rejects \$18.9m settlement

A US judge rejected a proposed \$18.9m (£15.3m) settlement of misconduct cases against abusive Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein on Tuesday.

The fund would have been distributed between dozens of female claimants.

However various other accusers had called it unfair, saying it “absolved” Weinstein, his producer brother and the company board of liability.

Weinstein was given a 23-year prison sentence for rape and sexual assault in March.

The settlement would have marked an end to nearly all of the civil claims against him, The Weinstein Company and several of its directors.

District Judge Alvin Hellerstein dismissed it for putting women who had merely met Weinstein on an almost equal footing with women who he had raped or sexually abused.

It also would have typically awarded \$10-15,000 to each claimant, whereas \$15m would have gone towards Weinstein’s defence costs. In a 20-minute phone hearing, Judge Hellerstein said: “The idea that Harvey Weinstein can get a defence fund ahead of the claimants is obnoxious.”

On Wednesday, lawyers for six of Weinstein’s accusers filed an objection to the proposed payout, calling it a “cruel hoax”.

They complained that Weinstein would not have to accept responsibility for his actions and would not make the pay-



*Harvey Weinstein was convicted of rape in February*

ments personally. What was in the settlement? The settlement, announced on 30 June, would have resolved a lawsuit filed in 2018 against Weinstein, his production company and his brother by the New York Attorney General’s office.

It would have also settled a separate class-action lawsuit brought on behalf of women who accused Weinstein of sexual harassment or assault.

“After all the harassment, threats and discrimination, these survivors are finally receiving some semblance of

justice,” Attorney General Letitia James said at the time.

“Women who were forced to sign confidentiality agreements will also be freed from those clauses and finally be able to speak.”

The settlement needed approval from both a federal judge and bankruptcy court.

Ahead of the hearing, lawyers Douglas H Wigdor and Kevin Mintzer, who represent six accusers, said: “While we do not begrudge any survivor who truly wants to participate in this deal, as we understand

the proposed agreement, it is deeply unfair for many reasons.” However, another of Weinstein’s accusers, Louise Geiss, said: “This important act of solidarity allowed us to use our collective voice to help those who had been silenced and to give back to the many, many survivors who lost their careers and more.”

In February, Weinstein was convicted in New York City of committing third-degree rape and a first-degree criminal sexual act, and later sentenced to 23 years in jail.

# Trump administration rescinds rule on foreign students

Facing eight federal lawsuits and opposition from hundreds of universities, the Trump administration on Tuesday rescinded a rule that would have required international students to transfer or leave the country if their schools held classes entirely online because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision was announced at the start of a hearing in a federal lawsuit in Boston brought by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs said federal immigration authorities agreed to pull the July 6 directive and “return to the status quo.”

A lawyer representing the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said only that the judge’s characterization was correct.

The announcement brings relief to thousands of foreign students who had been at risk of being deported from the country, along with hundreds of universities that were scrambling to reassess their plans for the fall in light of the policy.

With the policy rescinded, ICE will revert to a directive from March that suspended typical limits around online education for foreign students.

Under the policy, international students in the U.S. would have been forbidden from taking all their courses online this fall. New visas would not have been issued to students at schools planning to provide all classes online, which includes Harvard. Students already in the U.S. would have faced deportation if they didn’t transfer schools or leave the country voluntarily.

Immigration officials issued the policy last week, reversing earlier guidance

from March 13 telling colleges that limits around online education would be suspended during the pandemic. University leaders believed the rule was part of President Donald Trump’s effort to pressure the nation’s schools and colleges to reopen this fall even as new virus cases rise.

The policy drew sharp backlash from higher education institutions, with more than 200 signing court briefs supporting the challenge by Harvard and MIT. Colleges said the policy would put students’ safety at risk and hurt schools financially. Many schools rely on tuition from international students, and some stood to lose millions of dollars in revenue if the rule had taken hold.

Harvard and MIT were the first to contest the policy, but at least seven other federal suits had been filed by universities and states opposing the rule. The unexpected decision was welcome news to students across the country who had been on edge.

“I feel relief,” said Andrea Calderon, a 29-year-old biology graduate student from Ecuador. “It would have been a very big problem if I had to leave the country right now.”

The City College of New York student said returning home would have made it much harder to finish her thesis and pursue a Ph.D. Internet access at home in Ecuador is spotty, and going through the process to come back to the U.S. in the future would be too expensive, she said.

The American Council on Education, which represents university presidents, praised ICE’s pullback of the rule. The group said the policy was misguided from the start and drew unprecedented

opposition from colleges.

“There has never been a case where so many institutions sued the federal government,” said Terry Hartle, the group’s senior vice president. “In this case, the government didn’t even try to defend its policymaking.”

Some opponents, however, were hesitant to call it a closed case. Massachusetts’ Democratic attorney general, who is leading a separate lawsuit against the policy, warned that the Trump administration may attempt again to impose limits on international students.

“This is why we sue. The rule was illegal and the Trump Administration knew they didn’t have a chance,” Maura Healey said on Twitter. “They may try this again. We will be ready.”

Harvard and MIT argued that immigration officials violated procedural rules by issuing the guidance without justification and without allowing the public to respond. They also argued that the policy contradicted ICE’s March 13 directive telling schools that existing limits on online education would be suspended “for the duration of the emergency.”

The suit noted that Trump’s national emergency declaration has not been rescinded and that virus cases are spiking in some regions.

Immigration officials, however, argued that they told colleges all along that any guidance prompted by the pandemic was subject to change. They said the rule was consistent with existing law barring international students from taking classes entirely online. Federal officials said they were providing leniency by allowing students to keep their visas even if they study online from abroad.



## Delta CEO says air travel 'at a stall' amid resurgent virus, recovery over two years away



Delta Air Lines (DAL.N) warned on Tuesday it will be more than two years before the industry sees a sustainable recovery from the “staggering” impact of the coronavirus pandemic, with demand largely tracking the curve of infections in different places.

“We’re at a stall right now,” Chief Executive Ed Bastian told Reuters, saying demand that built up over June for travel to places like Las Vegas, Florida or New York had suffered due to fresh cases and quarantines, while picking up to some mountain and international destinations.

The Atlanta-based carrier has scaled back the flights it planned to add in August to 500 from 1,000.

Shares were down 1.9% pre-market.

Delta posted a \$2.8 billion

adjusted net loss, or \$4.43 per share, for the second quarter as passenger revenue plummeted 94% during a season that some analysts call the worst in aviation history.

Delta stuck to its target to halt a daily cash burn, which hit \$100 million at the start of the pandemic, though Bastian warned it hinges on demand.

“There’s a lot of risk because it’s hard forecasting what’s going to happen with the virus,” he said.

The airline slowed its daily cash burn to about \$27 million in June and sees a similar rate in July, with improvements as economies open and people feel more comfortable traveling.

Delta had \$15.7 billion in liquidity at the end of June. It has not decided whether to take a \$4.6 billion secured loan un-

der the CARES Act - available until Sept. 30 - as it eyes other options involving similar collateral, Bastian said.

It already received \$5.4 billion to cover payroll through September under the U.S. government stimulus package.

Large U.S. airlines have warned of furloughs in October when those funds run out, but Bastian said he hoped to avoid furloughs after more than 17,000 employees opted for buyouts and thousands more for extended unpaid leaves.

Over 45,000 employees have taken varying short-term leaves.

Delta may continue blocking middle seats beyond September thanks to demand for comfort, but warned it cannot make money filling only 60% of its planes.

“You can’t raise prices high

enough, particularly when your competition isn’t blocking middle seats and has a lot more supply out there,” he said.

Southwest Airlines (LUV.N) too is limiting seating capacity through September, but rivals American Airlines (AAL.O) and United Airlines (UAL.O) have added thousands of flights with all seats for sale on hopes of picking up leisure summer demand.

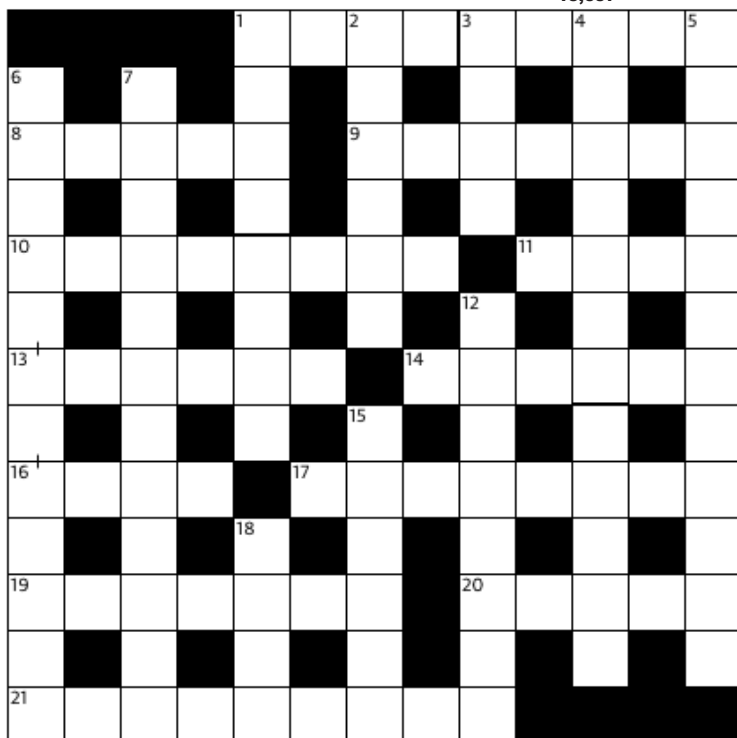
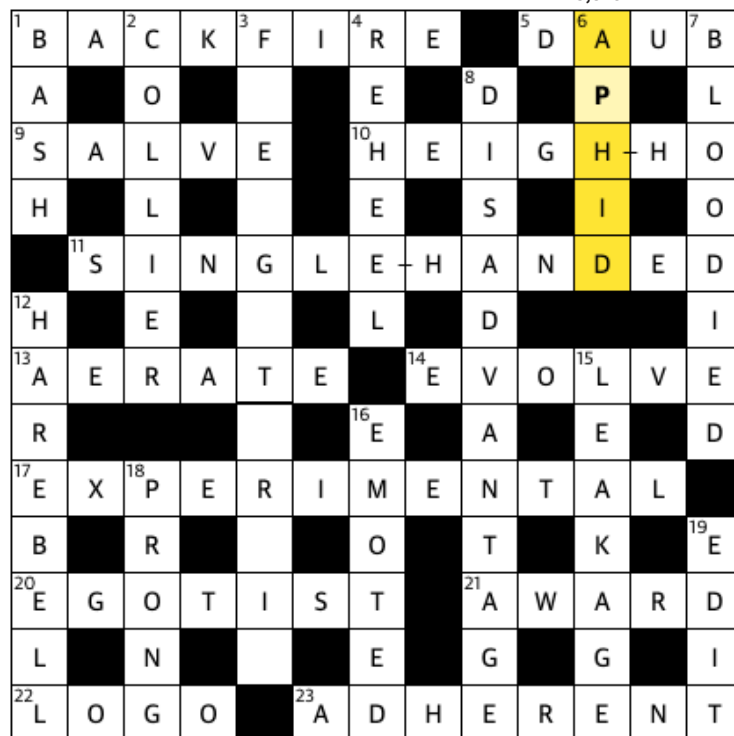
Delta, the first of the U.S. airlines to report quarterly results, is more geared toward business travel, which will be slower to recover, but Bastian said its SkyMiles loyalty data showed business customers traveling for personal reasons and willing to pay a premium.

“This is something that will take two to three years for us to walk through and we’ll be very disciplined as to how we walk it back up,” he said.

Delta, which had been expanding aggressively through international partnerships, wrote down \$1.1 billion against its recent LATAM Airlines (LTM.SN) investment and \$770 million against Grupo AeroMexico (AEROMEX.MX) after their Chapter 11 filings, and booked a \$200 million charge against its stake in Virgin Atlantic, which is also restructuring.

Delta flew 93% fewer passengers in the quarter, while its fuel expense was \$372 million versus \$2.3 billion a year ago.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No  
15,657Quick crossword No  
15,649

## Across

- 1 Late 1950s' genre combining R & B and gospel (4,5)  
 8 Thin cord (5)  
 9 Speak dramatically (7)  
 10 Space — role (8)  
 11 Reverse (4)  
 13 Contaminated (6)  
 14 Opening (of opportunity?) (6)  
 16 Carry (4)  
 17 Traditional Spanish lace scarf (8)  
 19 Acrid gas, NH<sub>3</sub> (7)  
 20 Training during term time for teachers in state schools (5)  
 21 Key (9)

## Down

- 1 Initial investment (4,4)  
 2 Renew (6)  
 3 Treat with contempt — imitation (4)  
 4 Feature in decorative windows (7,5)  
 5 Period following the English Civil Wars (12)  
 6 Oscar knitted (anag) —  
 what's necessary for carrying on a business (5-2-5)  
 7 Thick-skinned herbivorous animal of tropical Africa (12)  
 12 Invalid court procedure (8)  
 15 Wildlife-watching expedition (6)  
 18 In a little while (informal) (4)

## CARTOON CORNER

## Non Sequitur



"Carl, no! Just say 'Mine!'  
 You don't have to mark it."





## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** There may be an important project that requires your undivided attention. A passing fancy might tempt you to play hooky when you should be hard at work. Ignore the pull of transient desires and whims.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** It is not just about you, or just about them. Cooperation can't occur without a good deal of give and take from both sides. Rather than debating differences of opinion, find places where you share common ground.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Apply mind over matter. You may have to enforce your boundaries if faced with high-pressure sales tactics. Use logic and fact-gathering if you feel overwhelmed or pressured.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You could be so intent on reaching out to obtain the better things in life that you forget to take care of what you already have. Be especially kind and considerate towards loved ones and thoughtful about their needs.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** The importance of a project or assignment may be blown out of proportion. Nevertheless, you might still feel that your reputation is at stake. You may be willing to go to extreme lengths to accomplish something.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Be decisive, cut any losses and move on. Keep your goals firmly in mind and it will be easier to make an expedient decision. A romantic partner or close friend may provide some sensible and canny input.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.):** Libra is the sign of the scales, so you are probably well equipped to weigh your options and balance family with career. This isn't a fortuitous time to plunge headfirst into an enticing investment or an exciting new relationship.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You may dwell on the challenges that lie ahead and think about ways to accomplish your goals. The things that make you happy may not be the things that you must embrace to obtain security now.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Keep your expectations within with the realm of possibility. If your dreams are impossibly grand, you could set yourself up for a grand disappointment with love, money or possessions.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Persistence should pay off. It's easy to lose track of your purpose if many people and things clamor for your attention. Keep plugging away despite time-consuming interruptions and you will make headway.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Still waters run deep. Someone close may appear to have veiled secrets or hidden depths, but this is probably not the most auspicious time to dive in and investigate them. Put your financial ambitions on hold temporarily.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** You may be challenged to spend your money wisely. Family needs and home repairs could eat up some of your cash, leaving you unable to pursue your fondest dreams. Focus on saving and wait for better timing.

# REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## 25 – 30 MW LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS POWER PLANT

The APUA is requesting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the addition of 25 MW to 30 MW of natural gas fueled power generation capacity to be integrated to the APUA power grid. The Plant should also be able to operate on Liquefied Petroleum gas (LPG) as a secondary fuel. The proposed power generation facility will be located on the Crabbs peninsula on the island. The power generation facility site will be located a distance of less than 1/2-kilometer from fuel import facilities.

### FUEL SUPPLY

Natural gas will be delivered into the power generation plant under a long-term LNG fuel supply and handling agreement. LNG fuel suppliers will own and operate all fuel handling and storage equipment and deliver natural gas to the Power Plant at a metered location on a segment of gas pipeline near the inlet of the power generation facility. The fuel supplier will employ staff to monitor, operate, and maintain LNG storage, vaporization, automated metering, and automated safety measures between the LNG storage tanks and the metered point on the power plant supply pipeline.

### POWER PLANT

The power plant will consist of reciprocating engines manufactured by Wartsila, MAN, or Caterpillar and has a power generation capacity of between 7,000 kW and 11,000 kW each with a total plant capacity of between 25,000 kW and 30,000 kW. Only EOIs with consideration given to a new Power Plant with new engines and other new equipment will be accepted. The scope of work would also include substation equipment (Power transformer etc.) to accommodate the interconnection of the Power Plant to APUA's Electrical grid. APUA would assume ownership of all Interconnection Equipment after installation and will operate and maintain all these substation/Interconnection equipment throughout the life of the PPA.

Please note that EOIs will be accepted for any of three options:

- The delivery of fuel to the Plant
- The construction of the Power Plant and a PPA for a period to be agreed later
- The delivery of fuel, the construction of the Power plant and a PPA with APUA.

### ELIGIBILITY

#### Interested party's overview of expertise and relevant experience.

Respondents should provide company's background information outlining competence and experience in relevant areas including curriculum vitae of key personnel (to be involved in the project) and featured projects or customers. The information provided should focus on Fuel delivery to similar Power Plants and the delivery of Power Plants, especially Plants with LNG being the primary fuel and LPG the secondary fuel. Eligible countries are member countries of the CDB.

#### Technical Capacity – Fuel supply and Power Generation

Statement of interested party's experience relevant to delivery of fuel and construction and operation of Power Plant of similar capacity in the Caribbean, Central American, South American or relatively small markets similar to this project. Delivery of Power Plants using LNG and/or LPG would be of particular interest to the APUA. Interested parties should provide the fuel used in each of the Power Plant projects that the Company would have delivered and under what form of commercial arrangement e.g. BOOT etc.

Interested Party should present a Power generation development plan that includes Power generation equipment which includes preliminary list of main equipment manufacturers, e.g. engine manufacturer etc.

### Financial Feasibility

Each proponent will provide statements and documentation that verify their ability to meet the financial requirements commensurate with the interested party's activities.

### Interested Party Financial Capacity

Interested parties must provide summary information from 2019 financial statements certifying financial capacity to perform. The Financial performance of the company for the last five (5) years should also be presented.

### EVALUATION OF EOIS

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to technical competence, qualifications and experience (especially related experience on similar projects), financial capability and existing commitments. All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the address listed below between 09:00 and 16:00 hours Monday to Friday.

ONE electronic copy, in Portable Document Format (PDF), and ONE hard copy of the Expressions of Interest must be submitted no later than **16:00 hours on July 31, 2020**. The submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked for the three options mentioned above;

- **Expression of Interest - Delivery of LNG Fuel to 25-30MW Power Plant.**
- **Expression of Interest - Delivery of 25-30MW of LNG Power Plant.**
- **Expression of Interest - Delivery of LNG Fuel and delivery of 25-30MW Power Plant.**

### FOR COMPLETE DETAILS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT ELIGIBLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PLEASE VISIT:

<http://www.apua.ag/request-for-expressions-of-interest-power-plant/>





# West Indies look to retain the Wisden Trophy

The second Test of the three-match series begins at the Emirates Old Trafford on Thursday with the West Indies knowing that victory will see them retain the Wisden Trophy they earned with a series win in the Caribbean 18 months ago.

While the Caribbean team is seventh in the current World test Championship, albeit having only played three matches, one-day specialist, Carlos Brathwaite, believes they can become the best five-



Carlos Brathwaite

day team in the world.

"The only thing that can stop this team

from attaining number one is the batsmanship," said Brathwaite.

"The batters need to do exactly what Jermaine Blackwood did; come in, absorb the momentum and transfer the pressure back onto the bowlers," the Bajan observed.

"If our batsmen can improve then we can really challenge for number one or two in the world and we can really compete again on all fronts," Carlos said.



Jason Holder

## Jason Holder rises to number two in ICC test rankings

After a seven wicket haul against England, Jason Holder has climbed to number two in the Test bowler rankings.

The West Indies captain bagged 6/42 in the first innings of his team's four wicket victory in the first test over England, rattling the Englishmen in such a manner that they were unable to recover from it.

Holder's spell on day two, which limited England to 204, earned him 32 points taking him past New Zealand's Neil Wagner.

Kemar Roach, who went wicket-less in the match, is ranked 16 with 731 points, while man of the match, Shannon Gabriel who claimed 9 scalps in the game, is ranked 18 with 726 points.

## Criticism of England bowler's speed is unfair: Michael Vaughn

Criticism that Jofra Archer doesn't bowl at top speed often enough is "out of order" says former England captain, Michael Vaughn.

The 25-year-old bowled an exhilarating spell on the final day of the first Test against West Indies in Southampton, but his 3-45 could not prevent England falling to a four wicket defeat.

Vaughn, who believes it is "impossible" to consistently bowl in excess of 90mph, said, "I'd have him in my team at all times."

During the first Test against the West Indies, former fast bowler, Tino Best, appeared to criticize Archer's speeds tweeting that Archer has "not bowled quickly" since last sum-



Michael Vaughn

mer's Ashes series against Australia.

Vaughn however, says it is "impossible" for fast bowlers to reach top speed with every delivery.

Vaughn stated he was delighted with Archer's spell in the second innings as "he was back at his best".

# Sports

WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
**POINTX PRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## Intelligent, resilient, and mentally tough

National female volleyball player, Joelle Thomas, has been the latest athlete to sit down with PointXpress and discuss her journey through sports, university and her present career.

Raised in the Village of All Saints, Joelle's story depicts a young lady who is intelligent, articulate, resilient and mentally tough.

Thomas grew up around sports with a number of her family members, including her father, being involved as well. Joelle, who grew up not very far away from the Mc Pond Playing Field, was mentored by her older siblings: her brother, football player, and her sister a netballer.

It was Caroline Christian and Shorna Isaac, both residents of All Saints, however, who key in inspiring Joelle to take up volleyball. Both Christian and Isaac dominated the sport in their time.

On a visit to New York, Thomas decided to partici-



*National female volleyball player, Joelle Thomas*

pate in a summer camp and, upon returning home, made the decision to take the sport more seriously.

The national outside hitter traveled with the junior national team in 2003 until making her breakthrough to the Antigua and Barbuda National Volleyball team in 2006.

Eventually, the time came for Joelle to decide on a career path and she followed her passion into the field of Psychology. She made

a successful application to the Board of Education for a scholarship and thus began her journey to university in Cuba.

"I did not want to burden my parents with extra debts because they had taken out a loan for my sister to attend university in the United States, so I decided to write and apply for a national scholarship eventually leading me to Cuba from 2007 to 2013," Thomas explained.

"Life in Cuba was challenging and I had to hit the ground running. Many of my schoolmates were from

different countries and I enjoyed and learned a lot from the cultural differences," Joelle continued.

Having completed a degree in Psychology, Joelle is now employed at the Adelle School as an educator."

"My work is difficult on some days," Joelle remarked, "but I enjoy what I am doing."

Joelle is still involved in the sport and plans to play on for a while before moving on to administration or coaching, whichever area ultimately becomes her calling.

Thomas says her experience in Cuba has made her a tougher, more rounded individual.

# DEWS

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