



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2020 | ISSUE 105 | www.pointville.com

PRICE \$3

POLICE SEEK HELP FROM FBI, SCOTLAND YARD



Story on Page 3



**Page 4 - Young people make
recommendations to ERC**

Government rejects developers' proposal

The government has rejected a proposal from the developers of the Peace, Love and Harmony project in Barbuda over the arrangements for the repayment of money it has advanced for the completion of the new airport on the island.

A senior government official said PLH will advance the government \$7 million to complete the runway now under construction, a 'modest' terminal building and build a road that will lead from the new airport to the River Road. As part of the arrangement, the company is to operate an FBO in Barbuda that is expected to handle most of the private jets that are expected to arrive with guests for the PLH development.

On Wednesday however, two lawyers

from the Attorney General's Office/Ministry of Legal Affairs were invited to Cabinet to address the contents of a critical contract that will govern the relationship between PLH and the Antigua and Barbuda Aviation Authority (ABAA).

The lawyers raised a few troubling issues that were partially resolved by the Cabinet. Ultimately it was determined that the new runway being built by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, would change the relationship between aircraft flying to Barbuda and the ABAA.

"The landing fees and other charges will be collected by the ABAA and the debts owed to the private developer will be paid from those funds. One of

the conditions in the draft agreement would have had the private firm collecting landing fees, depositing the same in a joint account and being able to pay itself from that account," the official said.

Under the arrangements which had been proposed, the ABAA would collect the landing fees and then pay the company the agreed amount monthly.

According to the official, the UPP Administration had an arrangement with the Sandals group that allowed it to retain ABST payments.

"We were opposed to this arrangement when the UPP did it and we would never enter into one as you will never know how much money is collected by the company," he indicated.

DAY 7/17

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: E at 15 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 22 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

31°_{Hi}



Partly sunny with a stray shower

NIGHT 7/17

Wind: E at 9 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 18 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

25°_{Lo}



Patchy clouds with a shower in spots

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:42 AM

Sunset AST
 6:44 PM



Duration
 13:02 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 2:46 PM

Moonset AST
 4:09 AM



Duration
 13:23 hr

Police seek help from FBI, Scotland Yard

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, who are presently conducting investigations into the shooting death of customs officer, Nigel Christian, are getting help from two of the top investigative agencies in the world; the United States of America's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the United Kingdom's Scotland Yard.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P Chet Greene, has dispatched formal written requests for assistance to be given to local police to the British representative in St. John's and the US Embassy in Barbados.

Christian was abducted from his home at gunpoint late on the afternoon of Friday 10th July, 2020. Several



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P Chet Greene

hours later, his bullet ridden body was discovered near New Winthorpes.

His death sent shock waves through the community leading to several calls for authorities to engage the assistance of external crime fighting agencies to help solve the crime.

On Wednesday, Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rod-

ney, and the force's Deputy Commissioner, were invited to discuss the issue of seeking assistance from two policing agencies which have, in the past, offered their expertise in instances where Antigua and Barbuda police investigators have identified the need for outside intervention, this week's Cabinet Notes disclosed.

According to the Cabinet Notes, the issue has arisen as the RPFAB intensifies its investigation into Christian's murder. A reward of \$50,000 has been offered by the Gaston Browne administration to anyone providing information leading to the arrest of those involved in the murder.

Cabinet spokesman, Lieutenant Max Hurst, indicated

that the FBI has already made contact with the RPFAB as that agency has a presence in the region.

With respect to Scotland Yard, Hurst noted that that body has always shown a willingness to dispatch experts to assist in investigations here when requested.

"The borders of the UK are closed at this time, but that body would likely make its experts available as soon as that condition changes. The Commissioner has asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to seek the assistance of the Resident Commissioner of the UK in Antigua to seek their assistance," Hurst reported.

The investigation by the RPFAB into the murder of Mr. Christian continues.

Barbuda Council secretary arrested, charged

The Secretary of the Barbuda Council, Paul Nedd, as well as another Barbuda resident, Alexander Garvey, have been released on bail after being arrested and charged following an incident on the sister isle on Thursday morning.

Reports are that the two were jointly charged in connection with the blocking of the entrance to the Palmetto Point Development in Barbuda.

"They were charged with Obstruction of traffic, Disorderly Conduct and Obstructing Police in the Lawful Execution of their Duties. They are now on bail in the amount of \$2,500 each and are to appear in court in September," according to police sources.

The PLH Project is developing an 18-hole golf course at Palmetto Point as part of its multi-billion dollar investment.

Police allege that one of the men blocked the area with a truck on Thursday morning. Nedd, 51, and Garvey, 52, were later arrested at about 8am.

There have been claims that additional police have been dispatched to Barbuda to help deal with the situation there, but both the police and the defense force have denied that this is so.

Meanwhile, the Barbuda Council on Wednesday erected a fence around a security hut on the site of the PLH project in the hope of forcing the company to

open dialogue with the Council.

The Council has expressed concerns that the protected wetlands around the project site could be negatively impacted.

Parliamentary representative for the island-constituency, Trevor Walker, says the Council has written to PLH expressing its concerns, but the developers have not responded. This forced the Barbuda Council to take action.

Walker believes a clear message must be sent to the developers that authorities on the sister isle cannot be disregarded.

He contends there must be compliance with regulations that are in place for protected areas.

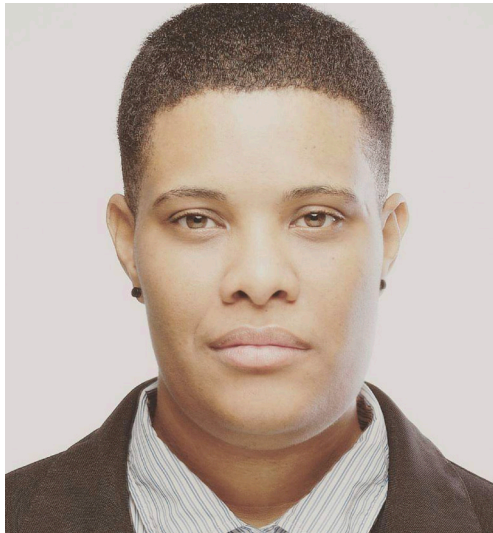
Young people make recommendations to Economic Recovery Committee

As the country seeks to navigate the economy through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC), comprised of leaders from a wide cross section from the private sector, professional associations and public sector, met again yesterday to continue planning the country's roadmap for life after COVID-19.

With government ministries and the business sector submitting reports and presentations in nearly four hour long zoom meetings, the national Youth ERC sub-committee made their presentation on Thursday this week.

The sub-committee, made up by Senator Aziza Lake, Senator Shenella Govia, Louis Rivera, Kamalie Mannix, President of National Youth Parliament, Guishonne Powell and President of National Youth Council. Kamalie Mannix presented their eight point plan.

The youth subcommittee was able to provide suggestions to the ERC focusing on vocational certification and development, technology, incubator development programmes, marijuana, sargassum product initiatives inclusive



Senator Aziza Lake

of fertilizer, bricks and paper products. They further made recommendations for the establishment of a National Youth Advisory Council, Youth Resiliency Development Fund and microfinancing.

According to Senator Lake, "The formation of the Economic Recovery Committee is an important step in reshaping our economy and its purpose of reimagining and reengineering every sector therein and exemplifies that going forward nothing will be the same. This virus will change the way our economy is designed, how health-care is managed and how society at large functions particularly on an interpersonal level."

Lake continued, "The contribution of the youth on this committee is important in helping to shape the economic policies of Antigua & Barbuda. This crisis will adversely affect the youth as they try to navigate and plan their future.

"A suggestion that received positive feedback was related to the formation of a youth advisory body to Cabinet that can provide feedback on initiatives that benefit the youth especially as it relates to policies put forward by the



Guishonne Powell

government. The potential uses of sargassum were also received favorably by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and committee members," Senator Lake explained.

Guishonne Powell, President of the National Youth Council also commented on yesterday's historic presentation.

"I must applaud the government, and by extension, the Chair of the ERC for taking the opportunity to hear the issues and recommendations brought forward from the youth. The presentation brought to the government by the youth in my opinion was well received by both the committee."

The youth council president also highlighted that the Chairman of the ERC, PM Browne and Dr. Eroll Cort, who also serves on the ERC, have commented on the recommendations submitted.

The youth president is urging the government to continue to engage youth in Antigua and Barbuda through the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council to the Cabinet to ensure that there is no disparity between youth and the government's decision making.

"Just a little more time should have
cont'd on pg 5



Kamalie Mannix



Louis Rivera



Senator Shenella Govia

cont'd from pg 4

been allocated to the youth for a more in depth discussion,” said Powell who added, “We are looking forward to the creation of the Youth Advisory Committee.”

Senator Shenella Govia, the country’s youngest, twice appointed senator, remarked that the Youth’s presence and recommendations to the ERC plays a pivotal role in the roadmap to economic recovery post-COVID-19.

“The presentation by some of our country’s youth change-makers in yesterday’s ERC meeting represents a continued presence of youth involvement in the decision making process that we have witnessed in the last few years.

The recommendations, plans, and initiatives put forward to the ERC are both youth-centric and progressive to foster sustainable development beyond COVID-19. I am proud of my fellow youth advocates

and look forward to further collaborations,” Senator Govia commented.

Louis Rivera, a youth advocate and political candidate on the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) ticket, expressed his gratitude to being included in the economic think tank.

“What I liked most about it was the fact that every presentation and every discussion around the ERC was around how do we increase revenue, increase the livelihood of Antiguan and Barbudans and figuring out how to do so without taxes.”

Rivera went on that in his

opinion some of the suggestions the youth contributors made were “explained away” but continued that other suggestions, including the development of a Youth Advisory Committee to the Cabinet and accredited vocational training, were readily accepted.

Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Motorcyclists Safety

TEACH ROAD SAFETY TO KIDS

SAFETY FIRST

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

Illegal dumping of garbage still a major problem

Two days into the national clean-up campaign, the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is reporting that illegal dumping continues to be a major challenge in Antigua.

NSWMA General Manager, Daryl Spencer, has said that the current campaign is conducting a mapping exercise to assist with the clean-up which is based on a similar exercise carried out two years ago. Based on the information gathered so far, Spencer reported while the number of illegal dumping sites has been reduced, the problem still persists.

With the aid of an app, the NSWMA has completed mapping out about a quarter of the island, mainly in the northern and eastern regions. In the coming weeks, the activity will be replicated in the



southern, central and western regions of the island.

“When compared with the mapping carried out in 2018, we are seeing less illegal dumping this time around, but the indiscriminate dumping of waste is still a major problem for the authority,” Spencer said.

This time too, the NSWMA personnel are encountering a variety of hazardous materials. These items include discarded transformers, motor vehicles containing oil, gypsum board containing asbestos and asbestos containing roofing material, microwaves and other electronic

items.

Spencer warns that these items pose a threat to the health and safety of the NSWMA’s employees and the environment.

On the first day of the campaign, 200 tons of garbage were removed using forty-two trucks, eight of which were twenty ton trucks.

While Spencer described the campaign as ‘going very well so far’, he noted that one challenge has been the need to carry out a “mopping exercise” after the workers have finished working an area.

“What we find is that after we have completed an area and have moved on, other residents put out additional garbage and we are forced to return to do another ‘sweep’ of the area,” he added.

The national clean-up runs until the end of August.

LIAT Chairman hospitalised

Amidst the present talks surrounding LIAT, Barbados-based media house, Nation News, has reported that the Chairman of the Antigua based airline, Owen Arthur has been hospitalized.

Reports indicate that the former Barbados Prime Minister was rushed to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Wednesday evening with what were believed to be heart related complications.

Arthur is said to be in stable condition.

The former prime minister assumed the chairmanship of LIAT earlier this year following the retirement of fellow Barbadian, Jean Holder.

Arthur appears to be among those who



Owen Arthur

support starting the process of the dissolution of LIAT. At a recent meeting of shareholder governments, he reportedly advised gathering that, based on LIAT’s deep financial crisis, the recommendation was for the carrier to be liquidated.

Residency Programme under consideration

As the government looks at alternative options to diversify the economy in the wake of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the tourist industry, consideration is being given to setting up a Residency Programme.

The idea is to attract professionals who can work from home, known as knowledge workers, and high net worth individuals become residents of Antigua and Barbuda for up to two years in the first instance.

“The Remote Workers’ Residency Programme would add significantly to the numbers of wealthy people who choose to spend considerable lengths of time in the beautiful setting of an Antigua and Barbuda landscape while creating value for the economy,” a government press release stated.

This was reinforced by Chief of

Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel “Max” Hurst, who noted, “It’s a programme that is utilized by several states in Europe where these persons can reside without becoming citizens. Antigua and Barbuda already has a similar programme but it has to be tweaked to bring it in line with what we are trying to achieve.”

The current law calls for the payment of \$20,000 annually, but Hurst said under the proposed arrangement this will likely change. He was unable to say, however, what the revised figure is likely to be as the issue must first go to parliament for debate.

Legislation to govern the revised residency programme is expected to be introduced in the parliament at its next sitting which will likely occur before the end of the month.

This programme, which has been in the discussion stage for some time according to Hurst, is being accelerated as the government seeks to recoup significant losses in revenue from tourism and other sectors as a result of the pandemic.

Hurst said the pandemic has caused professionals and high net worth individuals to seek out places to reside where they can be safe and remain relatively unaffected by the COVID-19 virus. Applicants wishing to take up residence in Antigua and Barbuda will, however, be required to produce certification upon arrival to the country showing that they have undergone COVID-19 testing and are of the virus.

Barbados has implemented a similar programme which early indications suggest has been successful.



Half a million dollars drug seizure

Cannabis weighing a total of 54 ¼ pounds with a street value of \$542,500.00, was seized at Deep Water Harbour this week.

The illegal substance was discovered

among food items, during a joint operation between the Narcotics, K-9 and Customs Departments. The items were taken to Police Headquarters, where further investigations are ongoing.

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/>



Another 100 years milestone achieved

The 100 Year Club is today welcoming a new member.

Sarah Ann Elizabeth Sweeney Townsend was born in the Emerald Isle, Montserrat, on the 17th July, 1919 to parents, Martha Lee and John Sweeney.

Nell, as she is affectionately called, the third of four children, attended St. Mary's School in Plymouth.

At an early age she traveled to Antigua to care for her sick brother. After his recovery, she found employment as a maid with families who formed part of small Portuguese community living in Antigua in the early 20th century. She first found employment with the De Silva's and later with the Pereira's.

Nell was a helper to the De Silvas who were cake makers. After a few years she she moved on to work with Perieras as a cook in their Market and Redcliffe Street home. The Periera family eventually let her go in 1973 when social security was established as her wages could not afford to pay



the required contribution.

Although times were difficult, Nell was an industrious woman and did not allow this setback to stop her. She made a living selling lettuce she had grown to Mill Reef Club and homemade ice cream to eager customers on the weekend. In times of real hardship, she also earned an income reaping cotton.

She also never forgot her family back home in Montserrat. From her small earnings, Nell would purchase food supplies including potatoes, yam and breadfruit, and send off care packages to her loved ones.

While she never had children of her own, Nell fulfilled

her maternal calling by caring for her siblings whom she invited to live with her in Antigua. Her first nephew lived with her for a while before migrating

to England. After his departure she was eventually joined by two nieces and a nephew; Eleanor, Catherine and Franklyn, who she raised as her own.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

July 17, 2020

Ms. Sarah Ann Townsend
Upper North Street
St. John's, Antigua
Antigua and Barbuda

Dear Ms. Townsend,



We regret that due to the restrictions on celebrations occasioned by the State of Emergency in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, we are unable to join you today as has been our tradition to visit the special men and women who have attained the milestone of 100 or more years of life.

On this your very special day and on behalf of the nation, Lady Williams and I celebrate with your family and friends by extending heartiest congratulations on your 101st Birthday.

You have seen more than a century of challenges, changes and celebrations. In spite of the challenges which the globe now faces with the COVID 19 pandemic, we are delighted that we can still take the time out to acknowledge you on your special day.

Happy 101st Birthday!

Best wishes

Rodney Williams
His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KSt.J, MBBS, PhD(h.c)
Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda





Way of Life!

Unlock your
FUN
Side



VITARA

Starting at

\$76,600

Live on the fun side
with Suzuki!

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

>>> UPGRADED FEATURES

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

INCLUDES

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

*On The Spot Financing Available



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

LIAT board to convene meeting with creditors

The process of winding up the operations of LIAT (1974) Ltd. is moving forward even as the Antigua and Barbuda government continues to explore ways of restructuring and reorganizing the airline.

On Thursday, the airline's Board issued notice of a meeting with its creditors slated for July 31. The meeting will take place at the company's head office in the Sealy Building on the Sir George Walter Highway 'to consider winding up the company'.

A draft agenda has also been circulated with six items listed: Chairman's Remarks, Adoption of Agenda, Winding Up The Company – Note On Special Business and Liquidator, Committee of Inspectors and Any Other Business.

Meanwhile, all persons having claims against the company are required to submit the same on or before Monday 27th July, 2020, at its headquarters to the attention of Rojer Joseph Inglis.

All this is taking place against the backdrop of continued discussions at the highest level here in St John's to arrive at a common ground among the airline's major shareholder governments that will



hopefully lead to the reorganization of LIAT.

"The Cabinet discussed the perilous state of LIAT which remains inoperable because of the closed borders in the Caribbean territories to which LIAT flies.

"Antigua and Barbuda regards LIAT as an aviation export product that produces and supports nearly 400 high-paying jobs that are filled by many CARICOM nationals," cabinet spokesman Lionel Max Hurst stated.

He explained that LIAT also pays landing fees, rentals to the Airport Authority along with other purchases including fuel, that add significantly to the economy of Antigua and Barbuda and every country to which LIAT flies.

"It is imperative that a rescue plan be designed to ensure LIAT's continuance, under new management and a new mandate.

"The Cabinet has encouraged the Prime Minister to seek an audience with other shareholder governments in order to advance the re-organizational plan that has been designed to ensure that LIAT keeps flying and delivering when borders reopen," Hurst noted.

Earlier this week on Monday, a meeting of LIAT shareholder government heads that was scheduled to explore the possibility of saving the company was postponed with no new date fixed.

This was the result of the Barbados Prime Minister,

Mia Mottley's, inability to commit to attending the meeting.

This is not good news for the Antigua and Barbuda-led efforts to save LIAT as, unless this meeting is held soon, the process of winding up the airline will continue apace.

Meanwhile, the Companies (Amendment) Act 2020 was Gazetted on Wednesday, July 15 2020, making it law in Antigua and Barbuda.

Firms that find themselves in trouble may now apply to the Court for protection from their creditors rather than be compelled to liquidate which, prior to the amendments to the Act, was the only option available to businesses and their creditors.



*from Rev. Algernon Lewis
of the Moravian Church*

Imagination and Insight A message of hope...

The refrain has been the same over the last four months – we are in uncharted territory, no one knows what will happen next. This is what happens when we are dealing with unfamiliar situations where the rules of engagement keep changing.

As a church, we too must graciously engage the information and intentionally explore the existing conditions within our context and appropriately respond.

One of the casualties of the pandemic has been church life. Fellowship was curtailed. Corporate worship was curtailed. Missions were affected. Tithes and offerings were threatened. Why is God allowing this? Could it be that rather than oppressing the church, God is positioning the church for the next move – for the shift?

Whatever our response, we must be resolute in our most holy faith, affirming that in this phase of our existence, we are certain that God is with us.

Quite often, our first response is to look inward to mourn the

loss that we feel, however at some point, it should become obvious that this pandemic is of biblical proportions and it is not about us. In some ways, we find ourselves saying like the Israelites – “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land (Psalm 137:4)?” (In face shields and masks). The Lord’s song is a song of worship unto God for who God is. The Lord’s song extols the greatness of God in spite of the circumstances that we face. The imperative is that we sing the Lord’s song, not our songs of lamentation. As people of faith, we must consistently come to our Red Seas knowing that God is never out of options. Waters do not move for people to pass, but God will move the waters so that those who trust in divine providence can cross over (Exodus 14:21-22).

Whoever heard of bread raining down from heaven and quail arbitrarily falling from the sky (Exodus 16: 12-14)? Water from the rock is a nice garden feature now but God first did that back in the wilderness (Numbers 20:8). These are miracles that God performed to secure those who trust in him. Hopefully, we will begin to understand that God is up to something.

God is calling us to reimagine what it means to be church and how we do church. Imagination and insight beckon us to go boldly forward to imagine and in some cases reimagine, asking: how might we worship differently with all the re-

strictions? How do we conduct funerals; burying our dead in ways that dignify them and enable us to mourn? How do we do baptisms, confirmations, communion and weddings without bastardizing the sacred rituals and cheapening the experience?

It is obvious that new creative and meaningful ways must emerge. This is possible!

Our God has gifted us with insight and imagination, and we must use them now to imagine the way forward. The process has begun. Worshiping online and all the things that have been done as “church activity” are imaginative. They utilize the technology available to enable the people of God to continue their corporate devotion, worship and ministry. New initiatives arose that kept the body alive while shuttered.

Now that we are coming back to the sanctuary, we need to continue to imagine what church will look like. What about a hybrid worship service which has active participation from both people inside the sanctuary and at home where worshippers are present through a monitor inside the sanctuary? Saturday evening worship is an option to reach a different demographic. The same may be said for a midday service or a weekday service for people on their way from work. We have all seen or heard of the drive-in or evening community park services. These are just a few and would all require

adjustments for the context.

None of these sacrifice our core values which should not be violated. There are also banking apps that allow for tithes and offering to be given as usual. For those who prefer old school giving, arrangements can be made with individual members.

God has made a way through the wilderness! The truth is, unless we dig deep for insight from God and begin to imagine without our own version of the Lord’s song playing in our heads, we may end up wishing for yesterday and settling for empty rituals.

We will find it difficult to ‘sing the Lord’s song’ for singing in a strange land requires new learning. We must S.H.I.F.T! God is up to something! God is doing a new thing! Can you perceive it? God is creating a way out of this wilderness and times of refreshing are before us! I challenge us, personally and collectively, choose to ‘sing the Lord’s song’ knowing fully well that God is in this! Choose to trust the heart of God and His provision! Choose to believe that God is up to something and will perform great and mighty things in our midst! Choose to embrace the call of God upon your life and play your part! Choose to use your imagination and insight! Choose to S.H.I.F.T, not because we know what is ahead, but because God knows! (Job 23:10).

Hugh Charlesworth Marshall - The missing link



By Makeda Mikeal

Hugh Charlesworth Marshall was born in Jennings to 'Baby Marshall', his beloved mother, whom he has always quoted and praised for raising him to be fearless and ambitious.

I was a student of Hugh Marshall whom I met when I worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Tourism and Energy as the Administrative Aide to the substantive Minister, Lester Bird.

Hugh Marshall represented one of the wonders of our little Antigua and later the region as

his knack for economics reduced complex issues to raw and easily understood solutions. He was also a regionalist who, from the Ministry of Trade, ultimately was responsible for the Regional Development Agency in the early days of economic regionalism and led the Ministry's expansion of industry and manufacturing.

Minister Marshall looked out for the poor and jobless in a way that could be very loud if necessary, and unceasing, until the issues affecting these persons had been fully resolved.

To do this, however, required jobs and investors.

Marshall was never ashamed of his humble background and often proudly told of his upbringing as a poor boy from the country whose mother made certain that her son remembered who he was and where he came from.

He was the right hand, and sometimes the left hand, of Lester Bird as he and Robin Yearwood shared implementation responsibility in a trinity of political strategic planning for the economic powerhouse that Antigua became. As Yearwood bragged about his goats and spreading APUA throughout the island, he willingly stayed home to manage domestic affairs while Marshall moved throughout the Caribbean networking and persuading regional leaders with his ideas employing his rough and direct approach to economic growth.

It was in the 80's that Lester Bird and Hugh Marshall took on the world, borrowing ideas and micro-designing them to suit Antigua and Barbuda.

High-end tourism blended with the middle market, small product manufacturing linked

Antigua to names like Victoria's Secret and small electronics parts to a brand name global company.

Hotel rooms matched the aviation sector in growth to its highest level. Antigua became a Caribbean hub, growing LIAT and dispatching more travel than any other regional gateway.

The triad linking this incredible progress was Minister Marshall, the mouthpiece of economic growth, with Sir Robin implementing the vision on the ground and Sir Lester diplomatically moving forward internationally at the highest diplomatic levels representing Antigua and Barbuda and becoming the voice of small islands demanding global attention.

Needless to say, Sir Lester Bird, Sir Robin Yearwood and 'the boy from the country' Hugh Marshall, as a team brought Antigua & Barbuda into recognition as a tourism paradise, an offshore financial centre and an island where ideas and internationalism produced an Economic Powerhouse.

"Hugh I'm with you!"

GOT NEWS

BECOME A CITIZEN JOURNALIST!

SHARE YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS WITH US.
CALL: 268 562 4989 | EMAIL: NEW@POINTVILL.AG



Guyana political circus has outrun its time

(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).

It is long past time for good sense to prevail in Guyana amongst the leadership of the APNU-AFC coalition that has been a caretaker government since the March 2 general and regional elections.

Without exception, the regional and international community has clearly indicated that the result of the elections – now awaited for four and half months – must be declared on the basis of a national recount of the votes that was scrutinised by a CARICOM team and observed by the Organization of American States (OAS).

Being entered into the Guinness Book of Records is usually for a remarkably deserving event. Guyana has now been inscribed in its pages for the unworthy event of having achieved the longest delay, in the world's history, between an election and the declaration of a result.

The unfortunate, but obdurate, response of the AP-

NU-AFC leadership has been to lash-out at everyone that has urged that they concede defeat, and allow the Guyanese people to move on, taking advantage of their newly found oil wealth that could transform the country from being the second poorest in the Caribbean to the richest.

It seems everyone is wrong but they. And the list is long. It ranges from the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, through the former Chair and present Chair of CARICOM, Prime Ministers Mia Mottley and Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, two former Caribbean Prime Ministers, Owen Arthur and Bruce Golding, who led the Commonwealth and OAS Electoral Observer Missions, Sir Hilary Beckles, the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies and even the smaller countries of CARICOM.

The latter were accused of having populations “too sparse” to understand Guyana's history, politics and nuances, or to “rightly tell us what to do or give us even proper guidance as to what to do.” Ignored in this false narrative are the facts that, apart from the coup d'état in Grenada in 1979 – and unlike Guyana – the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean have a proud history of free and fair elections and abiding peacefully by the

results; they have also been the refuge for Guyanese who have been fleeing Guyana since the 1960s. Putting aside, the institutional treaty relationship of CARICOM, both on their own democratic record and their accommodation of Guyanese, CARICOM countries have a right to speak. Whether ill-advised by their lawyers, or ill-instructing their lawyers, the APNU-AFC, using surrogates, have indulged in the worst form of abuse of the Court system to delay the delivery of democracy in Guyana. Guyana's highest Appellate Court, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), has pronounced authoritatively on this matter. As Dr Ralph Gonsalves, the current Chair of CARICOM observed in a “Personal Editorial on Guyana”, published on July 15 (and Dr Gonsalves is himself an experienced lawyer in Constitutional matters), “any attempt, however ingeniously clothed, to litigate all over again this or that matter upon which there has been a final determination or upon which the CCJ has pronounced authoritatively, is tantamount to an abuse of process of the court or is frivolous and vexatious”. In other words, democracy delayed is democracy denied.

In truth, Guyana has many friends and admirers in the Caribbean and beyond,



By Sir Ronald Sanders

and that applies to some of the leaders of APNU-AFC whose implacable positions have been cause for sadness. They would have preferred these leaders to accept the elections result gracefully and carry on their lives, political or otherwise, in dignity. They are astonished at the egregious rejection of democracy whose vicissitudes, at the will of the majority of their electorates, they have had to respect. In this regard, democracy in Guyana is not the exclusive domain of any political party; it belongs to the nation of Guyana and to the CARICOM region of which Guyana is an integral part.

No one, outside of Guyana, has any interest in one political party or the other

Cont'd on pg 15

winning the election. The only interest is in a credible election result and the peaceful transition to an elected government.

The situation in Guyana has become a political circus of tiresome ploys to hold on to power in a country that has not had a Parliament for a year and a half. The patience of the regional and international community has worn thin. Not surprisingly, action is now being taken in frustration over the recalcitrance of officials of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) and the caretaker government.

Those, in the leadership of APNU-AFC and others,

upon whom the U.S. government has imposed visa restrictions because they “have been responsible for, or complicit in, undermining democracy in Guyana” have brought this upon themselves, as they have brought the humiliation to Guyana. The U.S. has not identified these persons; they will be denied visas when they seek to travel. The fact that, because of privacy laws, the persons have not been officially named, should be no comfort to anyone. It is the beginning of sanctions that will be graduated in proportion to further violations of democracy and the rule of law. That the governments

of Canada, Britain and European Union countries are contemplating similar action demonstrates that they have reached the end of the long rope they gave to Guyana officials to pull back from the precipice to which they took themselves.

The Permanent Council of all 33 member states of the OAS will meet on July 21 to consider the situation in Guyana. The matter will not end there, particularly as three of the largest OAS members, Brazil, Canada and the US, have now announced strong positions publicly. The next step would be a ‘Ministerial Meeting of Consultation’ at which all member states

could be urged to take actions, including sanctions, in accordance with their own laws and capacity.

The people of Guyana, who have shown remarkable patience, deserve freedom from the suffocating circumstances into which they have been plunged. And, any government that comes to office must honour the Guyanese people by delivering good governance and policies of equality and transparency that tolerate no form of discrimination.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

POINTE Printery
 PRINTING AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

**INVITATIONS
 BI-FOLDS
 CALENDARS
 POSTER
 FLYERS
 BOOKLETS
 BUSINESS CARDS**

CALL US TODAY 268 562 4989
 LOWER NORTH STREET, POINT WHARF, ST. JOHN'S ANTIGUA
PRINTJOBS@POINTVILLE.AG

ALEXANDER W.
 HEAD OF ENGINEER

COMPANY NAME
 YOUR FIRST ADDRESS LINE
 YOUR SECOND ADDRESS LINE
 JOHN.SMITH@YOURMAIL.COM
 +0 123 456 789
 +0 987 654 321
 WWW.YOURCOMPANY.COM

Grenada to reduce airline ticket taxes

Prime Minister, Dr Keith Mitchell, has disclosed that Grenada will soon be reducing taxes on airline tickets as part of measures aimed at encouraging intra-regional travel within Caricom, as governments implement various strategies to encourage travel within the region.

Speaking on the pending liquidation of LIAT, Dr Mitchell said that there are other airlines which will be filling in the void left by LIAT which suspended its service in April after most regional states shut down airports as part of measures aimed at containing Covid-19. The first set of Covid-19 patients were all classified as imported, because they were visitors from mainly the United Kingdom, the USA and Canada.

LIAT which has served the region for more than 40 years, has been experiencing financial challenges before the onset of Covid-19 and the closure of the airports around the regions placed in the airline states in a more difficult position.

Most airports in the region reopened as of 1 July for commercial passengers since closure in late March, but there is little or no regional commercial air traffic because there are few airlines offering services. The Eastern Caribbean is significantly affected by the non-availability of LIAT.

In an interview on Wednesday, Dr Mitchell said, "There is a combination of opportunities that will be available to ensure



Maurice Bishop International Airport (MBIA), Point Salines, St George, Grenada

that we have, not just to replace what LIAT was bringing if it has not returned, but to have expanded opportunities."

He said, "We expect with the additional transport to the individual countries in the region and the reduction of taxes in general and airport fees, in general, we will see further development of inter-island travel."

Naming One Caribbean, SVG Air and interCaribbean as airlines which are about to include Grenada and other Eastern Caribbean territories to their routes,

he said reducing airline taxes has become a necessity. "So far, some countries, and we will be following suit, have in fact taken the initiative to reduce the taxes on airline tickets already. We will be doing so in the not to distant future," he said without providing a timeline for government to make such an announcement.

Tourism Minister, Clarice Modeste, has already confirmed that interCaribbean Airways, known for its services in the northern Caribbean, is one of the airlines with which government

has finalised an agreement. The airline's management has announced that it will be expanding its services to the Eastern Caribbean.

The regional Civil Aviation Authority which is based in Antigua has also provided the necessary approval for these regional airlines to expand to other islands. These regional carriers are expected to make Barbados their hub for the Eastern Caribbean service.

PM Harris Wants Regional Air Travel to be Affordable, Reliable, Safe

Regional Air Travel



Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis Dr. the Honourable Timothy Harris has commented on the proposed liquidation of LIAT noting that air travel within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) should meet three main attributes.

“We have always said that we want affordable, reliable and safe transportation for people

leaving St. Kitts and coming into St. Kitts,” Dr. Harris stated on Tuesday (July 15) during the Leadership Matters Virtual Forum Series. His comments were in response to a question about the regional air carrier, which has struggled to achieve profitability and has significant liabilities.

Dr. Harris noted that there is a difference of opinion among

regional Heads of Government about the future of the airline established in 1974. What is not disputed, however, is the need for intra-regional travel.

“Whatever comes forward, we are willing to give support and to participate because a regional mechanism for transporting our people is critical to the way we live, our tourism industry and re-

gional integration,” Prime Minister Harris expressed.

He added that the majority shareholders “wield significant power and control over LIAT and in that regard their plans have not yet been shared with ... those who are not significant shareholders and we await that so that we can make an informed decision.”

Trinidad: Gary Griffith chastises CMO who 'never kicked a lime'

Police Commissioner Gary Griffith is taking Chief Medical Officer Dr Roshan Parasram to task for his recommendation that youth avoid sporting activities until September, which is when schools are set to reopen.

Parasram was speaking at the daily media conference hosted by the Ministry of Health on Wednesday to update the nation on the country's COVID-19 statistics.

He was asked about the Youth Pro League in particular, since Griffith previously said approval was granted for the games.

The CMO responded saying: "My statement that I have said all along is that, I mean you know, children should have been held until September. I don't know, in terms of the regulations, the regulations, as far as I know don't speak to the age of persons being able to conduct any sort of activity so... that's where I stand."

In a press release on Wednesday, the Police Commissioner expressed concern that Dr. Parasram's comments were "confusing" as he saw it as an instruction, rather than an expert opinion.

He said: "I continue to hear comments by certain appointed individuals as it relates to young people playing sports, it being a matter of concern that may increase the risk of some acquiring COVID-19. These comments continue to do nothing other than to confuse the life out of my Police Officers, as they are the individuals who



Police Commissioner Gary Griffith

have to enforce the law, and likewise parents as they are left to wonder if their children playing sport is against the law."

The top cop further sought to clarify the misunderstanding saying there was no law preventing any young person from participating in a sport. He said, however, that the stipulated numbers under the Public Health Ordinance must be maintained.

He said: "The CMO does not draft, approve, or enforce laws. I have received absolutely no policy from any Government official to stop any young person from taking part in sport."

"In fact, as the COP, preventing or trying to persuade young people not to play sport after being boxed in their homes for months, is an avenue that can frustrate many young persons and hence their energies can very well be diverted in non-productive, if not criminal avenues, hence these continuous comments trying to pre-

vent young people from playing sport, are indeed a liability from a TTPS perspective, and does not help us in our role and function."

Meanwhile, Griffith complained that the CMO's comments failed to consider the TTPS' role

He stated: "As someone heavily involved in Sport, this comment to try to scare parents and young people from playing sport, makes absolutely no sense and serves little purpose, as it causes more harm than good. When certain persons who never kicked a lime in contact sport, they may not understand the bigger picture."

"Their logic is that persons may train and practice in a sport, but not play in a tournament, meaning that COVID-19 is selective pandemic, that would not affect a young person who may be huddled with dozens of people in a small area, but if it is a tournament, then it becomes a concern as COVID-19 would

strike for tournaments but not "a sweat".

The Police Commissioner said healthy, fit players are less prone to contracting the flu and added that the Secondary Schools' League is expected to commence in early September.

He lamented: "To those who do not understand the importance of Sport, especially as it pertains to the importance of exercising and good health, young people especially, need to exercise. Failure to do this, apart from causing frustration, can make them unhealthy, so such comments actually can make more young people unhealthy and susceptible to sickness."

Griffith advised that several measures can be taken to safeguard young people other than avoiding sports such as: no huddling before and after games, no sharing of snacks and persuading the non-attendance of supporters. He said this is done in other countries.

BVI remains on 'white lists' of two global economic superpowers despite COVID-19 setbacks

Despite suffering massive financial setbacks as a result of COVID-19, the British Virgin Islands continues to remain on the 'white lists' of fully cooperative tax jurisdictions for at least two major international economic organisations.

Premier Andrew Fahie gave that indication while updating the public on the recent developments of the BVI's financial services sector on Tuesday.

"In regard to international tax, the Virgin Islands remains on the white lists of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Union (EU)."

After years of difficulty, the BVI made it on to the EU's 'white list' back in February.

BVI inline with international regulatory obligations

Fahie who is also the Minister of Finance stated that the BVI continues to meet the international regulatory obligations in the financial services industry, thanks largely to the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search system (BOSSs).

"Whilst many saw the EU's Economic Substance initiative as a major threat, we have successfully negotiated the initial elements of that and are now implementing the data collection requirements it brings," he stated. "Utilising the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search system platform has enabled us to also rise to meet EU standards on data collection with an efficiency and effectiveness that



Premier Andrew Fahie

some of our competitors may e BOSSs information available to other authorities

Premier Fahie also said the information from BOSSs will also be available to other authorities in the Virgin Islands to ensure that they are able to meet their international obligations. He, however, noted that the system will not be accessible by the public.

Letter to UK reiterating commitment Meanwhile, Fahie said the BVI government had penned a letter to the govern-

ment of the United Kingdom reiterating its commitment to exchange beneficial ownership information under the Exchange of Notes on Beneficial Ownership agreement signed in 2016. He said that the UK's National Crime Agency along with other law enforcement agencies have found the arrangement to be effective.

"We also took the opportunity in the letter to highlight that the BVI continues to meet and adhere to the highest international standards as a respon-

sible, cooperative and quality financial centre. The Virgin Islands, in this regard, communicated that this jurisdiction has been deemed largely compliant by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," Fahie explained.

The Premier sees the aforementioned achievements as underscoring the BVI's commitment to upholding the integrity of the global financial system and at the same time proving that the territory is a cooperative jurisdiction.

British Vogue editor was 'racially profiled' by security guard at magazine's offices

British Vogue's editor Edward Enninful has revealed that he was racially profiled on his way into the magazine's own offices, with a security guard instructing him to enter the premises via the loading dock.

Enninful, who became the magazine's first ever Black editor-in-chief in 2017, posted details of the incident to Twitter and Instagram on Wednesday evening.

"Today I was racially profiled by a security guard whilst entering my work place," he wrote. "As I entered, I was instructed to use the loading bay.

"Just because our timelines and weekends are returning to normal, we cannot let the world return to how it was. Change needs to happen now."

In a caption accompanying the Instagram post, Enninful told his 1 million followers that Vogue's publisher, Condé Nast, had "moved quickly" to dismiss the security guard in question.

"It just goes to show that sometimes it doesn't matter what you've achieved in the course of your life: The first thing that some people will judge you on is the colour of your skin," he added.

The fashion industry says it stands against racism. Critics aren't buying it

Condé Nast confirmed to CNN that the security guard, who worked for a third-party contractor at Vogue's London headquarters, was dismissed from the site and "placed under



Edward Enninful

investigation by their employer."

On social media, the likes of Cynthia Erivo, Marc Jacobs and supermodel Iman offered messages of support for the 48-year-old editor.

Enninful's longtime friend Naomi Campbell commented: "When will this change? Been happening in UK for so long ... so sorry you had to go through that!! Don't let it deter you.

Stay STRONG."

British Vogue's deputy editor Sarah Harris replied to Enninful's Instagram post saying that the incident was "inexcusable," while actress Gemma Chan wrote: "There's so much more work to do. Sorry this happened to you Edward."

Enninful is known for championing models of color and race-related topics throughout a three-decade career that has

included roles at magazines including i-D and Vogue Italia. His commitment to diversity was recognized by Queen Elizabeth II in 2016, when she awarded him the Order of the British Empire, or OBE, in her birthday honors list.

Born in Ghana and raised in west London, Enninful was named the sixth most powerful Black person in Britain in the annual Powerlist 2020 ranking.

Brazil hits grim milestone as COVID-19 outbreak worsens

Brazil is expected to report more than 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases on Thursday, hitting that grim milestone at an alarming pace as anger grows over President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the outbreak.

Just 27 days have passed since Brazil, which has the world's second-largest outbreak after the United States, reached a million cases. It has accelerated since then, hitting a plateau of nearly 40,000 confirmed new cases per day in recent weeks, according to government figures.

Despite the rapid spread of the virus, Bolsonaro, a far-right former army captain, has pressured local governments to lift lockdown restrictions.

By contrast, 43 days passed between 1 million and 2 million confirmed cases in the United States, where the spread of COVID-19 eased briefly in May before accelerating again in June, according to a Reuters tally.

Brazil, the largest country in Latin America, is home to around 210 million people - roughly two-thirds the size of the U.S. population.

In both countries, contagion has exploded as the virus gains steam in new areas far from the largest cities. A patchwork of state and city responses has held up poorly in Brazil in the absence of a tightly coordinated policy from the federal government.

Bolsonaro, who tested positive for the virus last week, has played down its health



Gravediggers wearing protective suits bury a coffin at Vila Formosa cemetery during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 16, 2020

risks and fought against social distancing orders, calling their economic effects worse than the disease itself. Under pressure, many governors and mayors have loosened restrictions in recent weeks, fueling bigger outbreaks.

Brazil's Health Ministry reported an accumulated 1,966,748 cases on Wednesday evening, with 75,366 related deaths.

Polls show Bolsonaro's popularity has been sinking during the pandemic. The share of Brazilians that see his government as bad or terrible has risen to 44% according to a late June survey by pollster Datafolha. That was up from 38% in April and 36% in December.

"The government didn't budge despite the health crisis. They thought more about money than about people," said Rafael Reis of Rio de Janeiro, who lost his 71-year-old mother to the illness. "They mocked the disease. They didn't believe in it ... They wanted everyone back in the streets."

In some big cities such as Rio and Sao Paulo, where the outbreak first emerged in Brazil, new daily cases have stabilized and even begun to decline slowly. However, that has been offset by worsening outbreaks in other regions.

Among the the states with the fastest growing outbreaks are Rio Grande do Sul and Parana in southern Brazil, which

had kept a lid on their outbreaks early on.

"The disease has evolved not only over time, but also over geographies," said Roberto Medronho, a professor of medicine at Rio de Janeiro Federal University. "We still have not reached the peak in Brazil because of these successive epidemics occurring in various regions."

He said models show the next million cases in Brazil may come more slowly, as there are now fewer untouched corners of the country. By the end of July or first half of August, Medronho said new daily cases could begin to decline nationally.

Shamima Begum can return to UK to fight for citizenship, Court of Appeal rules

Shamima Begum should be allowed to return to the UK to fight the decision to remove her British citizenship, the Court of Appeal has ruled.

Ms Begum, now 20, was one of three schoolgirls who left London to join the Islamic State group in Syria in 2015.

Her citizenship was revoked by the Home Office on security grounds after she was found in a refugee camp in 2019.

The Court of Appeal said she had been denied a fair hearing because she could not make her case from the Syrian camp.

The Home Office said the decision was “very disappointing” and it would “apply for permission to appeal”.

The ruling means the government must now find a way to allow the 20-year-old, who is currently in Camp Roj in northern Syria, to appear in court in London despite repeatedly saying it would not assist removing her from Syria. Lord Justice Flaux - sitting with Lady Justice King and Lord Justice Singh - said: “Fairness and justice must, on the facts of this case, outweigh the national security concerns, so that the leave to enter appeals should be allowed.”

The judge also said that the national security concerns about her “could be addressed and managed if she returns to the United Kingdom”.

Former Home Secretary Sajid Javid, who made the deci-



Ms Begum was 15 and living in Bethnal Green, London, when she left the UK in 2015

sion to strip Ms Begum of her citizenship in February 2019, tweeted a statement saying he was “deeply concerned about the judgement”.

He said that regardless of the outcome of her case, if Ms Begum came to the UK “it will prove impossible to subsequently remove her”.

Daniel Furner, Ms Begum’s solicitor, said: “Ms Begum has never had a fair opportunity to give her side of the story. “She is not afraid of facing British justice, she welcomes it. But the stripping of her citizenship without a chance to clear her name is not justice, it is the opposite.”

Her father Ahmed Ali told the BBC he was “delighted” by the ruling, adding that he hoped his daughter would get “justice”. The prime minis-

ter’s official spokesman said that while the government “doesn’t routinely comment on individual cases”, the decisions it made about Ms Begum had not been “taken lightly”. He said the government would “always ensure the safety and security of the UK and will not allow anything to jeopardise this”.

Shamima Begum is not yet packing her bags to return to the UK - there’s no government plane warming up the engines at a military airfield to bring the young Eastender home. But the Court of Appeal could not have been clearer in its wording - she needs to be allowed back to make her case in the interests of justice.

This is an unprecedented ruling - and the government

has a matter of weeks to convince the Supreme Court to look at it again.

If it stands, it could have major implications for the UK’s policy of excluding some British-born IS supporters by depriving them of nationality once they’re out of the UK. Scores of these people - all deemed a threat to national security - could seek to return to the UK as they fight their case to get back their British citizenship.

Other governments have voluntarily repatriated these fighters and sought to contain their threat through prosecutions, monitoring and intensive deradicalisation. The UK has so far refused to do the same.

Chinese executives get ‘pre-test’ injections in vaccine race



In this March 2, 2020, photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping learns about the progress on the research into COVID-19 vaccine candidates during a visit to the Academy of Military Medical Sciences in Beijing.

In the global race to make a coronavirus vaccine, a state-owned Chinese company is boasting that its employees, including top executives, received experimental shots even before the government approved testing in people.

“Giving a helping hand in forging the sword of victory,” reads an online post from SinoPharm with pictures of company leaders it says helped “pre-test” its vaccine.

Whether it’s viewed as heroic sacrifice or a violation of international ethical norms, the claim underscores the enormous stakes as China competes with U.S. and British companies to be the first with a vaccine to help end the pandemic — a feat that would be both a scientific and political triumph.

“Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is the new Holy Grail,” said Lawrence Gostin, a global public health law expert at Georgetown University. “The political competition to be the first is no less consequential than the race for the moon between the United

States and Russia.”

China has positioned itself to be a strong contender. Eight of the nearly two dozen potential vaccines in various stages of human testing worldwide are from China, the most of any country. And SinoPharm and another Chinese company already have announced they’re entering final testing.

Both China and SinoPharm have invested heavily in a tried-and-true technology — an “inactivated” vaccine made by growing the whole virus in a lab and then killing it, which is how polio shots are made. Leading Western competitors use newer, less proven technology to target the “spike” protein that coats the virus.

That protein is “a good place to make our bet,” Dr. Gary Nabel, chief scientific officer of the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi, said at a U.S. biotechnology industry meeting. But “it’s good to have some diversity. I like the fact that there is an inactivated, whole vaccine. That provides an alternative in case

one of these should fail.”

SinoPharm’s claim that 30 “special volunteers” rolled up their sleeves even before the company got permission for its initial human study raises ethical concerns among Western observers. The company’s post cites a “spirit of sacrifice” and shows seven men in suits and ties — a mix of scientists, businessmen and one Communist Party official with a background in military propaganda.

“The idea of people willing to sacrifice themselves ... is pretty much expected in China,” said Yanzhong Huang, a global health expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. non-profit organization.

But with corporate and government officials getting vaccinated, other employees “might feel pressure to participate. That would violate the voluntary principle” that is a bedrock of modern medical ethics, Huang said.

The first round of human testing — a Phase I trial — requires permission from a country’s drug regulators, who decide

whether there is enough laboratory and animal evidence to justify the attempt.

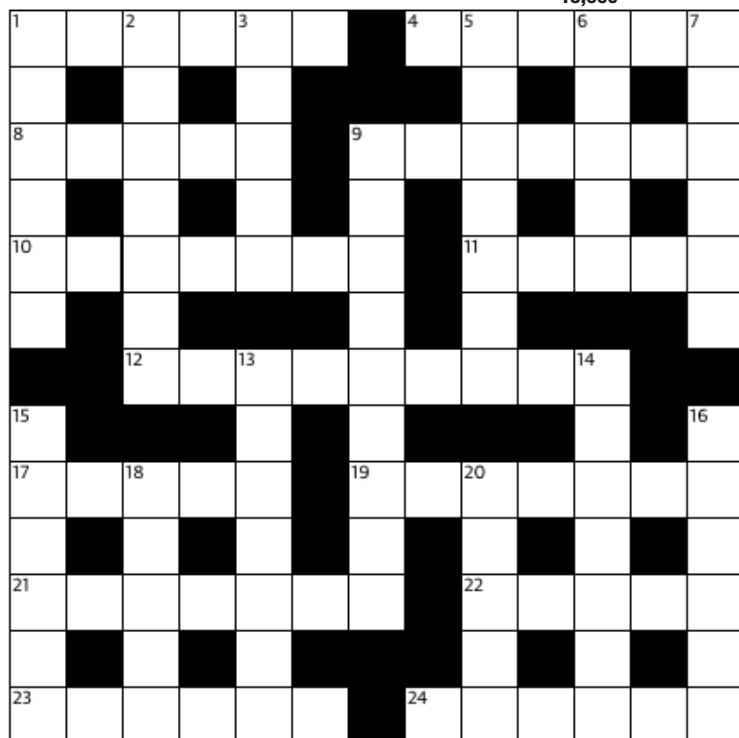
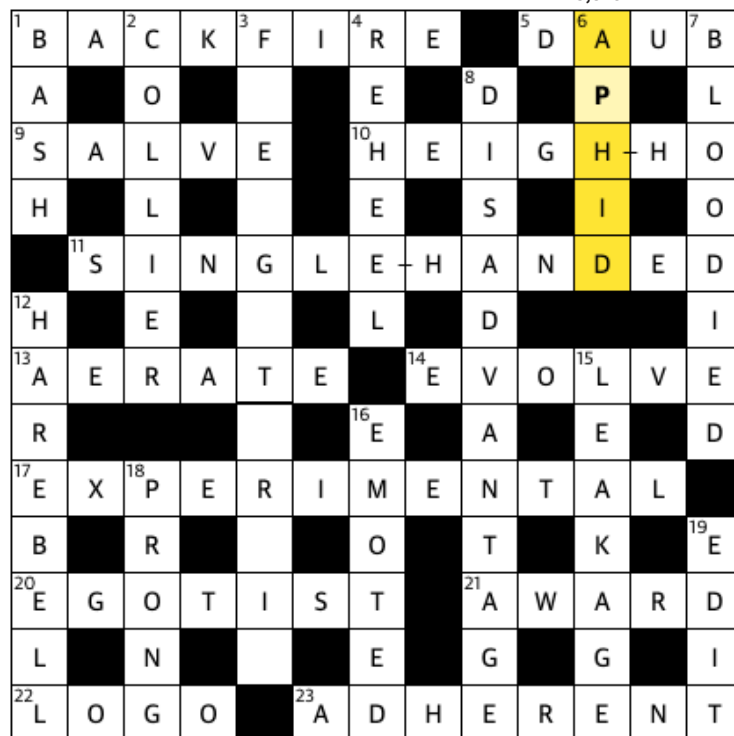
SinoPharm, which declined to comment for this story, is testing two vaccine candidates that received government permission for Phase 1 trials in mid- to late April. In a post on its subsidiary’s official WeChat account, the company says it conducted its “pre-test” at the end of March “to make the vaccines hit the market as early as possible.”

It would not be the only shortcut China is taking. In late June, the government gave special approval for the military to use an experimental vaccine made by another company, CanSino Biologics, skipping the final testing needed to prove if it really works. CanSino now says it’s in talks with four other countries about doing that research.

Some participants in the first CanSino clinical trial in March said in social media posts that researchers on the project claimed they had been injected Feb. 29, before regulators gave the study the go-ahead. A researcher said team leader Chen Wei, a renowned military virologist, was the first to receive the experimental vaccine, one of the participants told state-owned Beijing News.

CanSino and Chen’s Academy of Military Medical Sciences turned down requests for information and interviews. The National Medical Products Administration, which approves vaccine trials, also declined to comment.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No
15,660Quick crossword No
15,649

Across

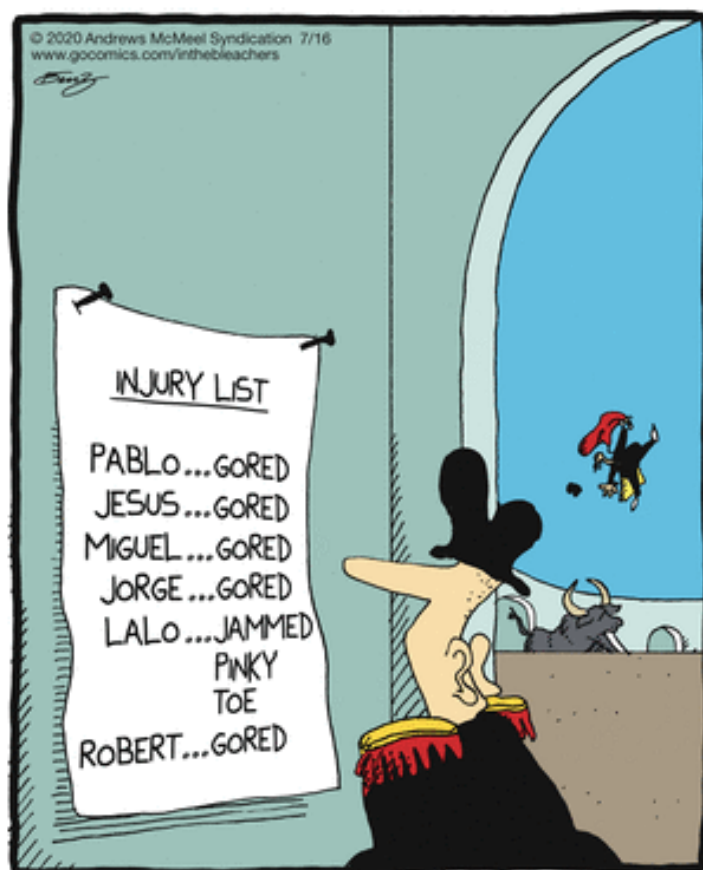
- 1 Next to (6)
 4 Piece of jewellery (6)
 8 Saying (5)
 9 School bag (7)
 10 Up in the air (2,5)
 11 Minister to (5)
 12 Office — factory (9)
 17 Catalogues (5)
 19 Quick — exact (7)
 21 Cinchona bark extract used to treat malaria (7)
 22 Make amends (5)
 23 Value (6)
 24 Stand-in ruler (6)

Down

- 1 Nut (from South America?) (6)
 2 Ingest (7)
 3 Fantasy (5)
 5 Do a turn (anag) — circular domed building (7)
 6 Distinct (5)
 7 Occupant (6)
 9 Outstanding example (9)
 13 Short break (7)
 14 Monstrosity (7)
 15 Inner circle (6)
 16 Upward slope (6)
 18 Go round the edge (5)
 20 Helping of food (5)

CARTOON CORNER

Non Sequitur





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Dig for true facts to attain clarity. It may be difficult to trust what you read and hear, so it may not be easy to make plans. Shy away from business deals and plans that might not be as solid as you would like.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Loosen up. You may have a routine that you stick to come rain or shine. However, be flexible now, as some may not want to follow your lead or adhere to your schedule. Be willing to change when needed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): When you look and feel your best you can truly shine. Some cheerful banter or friendly smiles could brighten your day. Grab the new outfit from the closet or meet up with friends while you are happy and upbeat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you want to make friends and build your tribe, you must be your unique self and try to be at your best. Put major decisions on the back burner, as your optimism may blind you to drawbacks at this time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refer to a map or ask directions if you end up at a crossroads. You may need some quiet time to reassess both people and plans before you move forward. An educated guess cannot compete with experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your own counsel. There are times when two heads may not be better than one. A partner or close friend might mean well but tell you something that causes you worry or concern. Do not act on gossip or unsubstantiated facts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Be sure to explain your meaning as clearly as possible. Close companions may be frustrated if they think you are behaving in a vague or hesitant manner. Focus on using imaginative techniques on the job.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Help the senior or the new mom cross the street. There are many rewards you can enjoy if you act in a friendly and kindhearted way. You might not receive cash but can relish a sense of satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A loved one might be more affectionate and playful than usual. It may be difficult to make sense something that arrives in the mail, but having a friendly face to discuss it with can make it seem less stressful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you fear that someone will react badly to your indecision, the answer is not to make a snap decision just to appease them. The answer is to delay making that choice until you are more confident about a win-win outcome.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Speed might not translate into efficiency if you overlook an obstacle. Do not try to rush through a deal or transaction at the last minute just to get it completed. Your strategic plots and plans might not work out yet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Listen to your instincts and you will know what will please others in your social circle. Your intuitions will guide you to choose the words and actions that will attract the best results in business, too.

Ben Stokes and Dom Sibley put host in strong position

Dom Sibley and Ben Stokes steadied the English ship which was shaken by the early loss of three wickets, which included captain Joe Root to Alzarri Joseph, on the first day of the second test at Old Trafford.

Both men batted England into a strong position with Sibley inching to 86 not-out from 253 balls, sustaining an unbroken 126 partnership with Stokes who batted with patience and class for his unbeaten 59.

In closing on 207 for 3, England had recovered from being reduced to 29 for 2 by off spinner Roston Chase who removed Rory Burns and Zak Crawley with successive balls on either side of lunch.

Pace bowler, Jofra Archer, was left out after travelling



to his Brighton home between the first Test in Southampton and this game at the

Emirates Old Trafford.

Scores in the game: England 207-3, Sibley 86,

Stokes 59, Chase 2/53 off 16 overs, Joseph 1/41 off 15 overs.

Giles: Archer dropped the ball

Former England player, Ashley Giles, says Jofra Archer's protocol breach could have been a disaster.

Archer breached the bio-secure protocols traveling to his home Brighton before the second Test at Old Trafford.

The pace bowler, 25, was dropped for the second Test against the West Indies which started Thursday at the Emirates for visiting home after the first Test. All of the England home matches this year are being played behind closed doors in a bio-secure environment.

"The ripple effect it could have had could have cost tens of millions of pounds," said Giles Director of Crick-



Jofra Archer

et for England.

Giles continued, "The potential knock-off effect of his actions, I don't think he could have fully understood. We made it very clear what the proto-

cols mean, but maybe he didn't quite understand what the consequences could be."

Giles said Archer was not at home for a "particularly long period of the time" and that he visited someone who has since returned a negative coronavirus test.

The Barbados born player is now serving a five-day period of isolation and must return two negative COVID-19 tests before he can rejoin the England squad. Giles, a former England spinner, also noted that Archer will face a disciplinary process.

Jofra has since apologized to his teammates and everyone involved.

South Africa cricket still haunted by racism

It has been 29 years since South Africa was readmitted to international cricket with the end of apartheid in that country, but almost three decades on, racism remains a problem in the sport.

The latest issue surrounds current international player, Lungi Ngidi, who was criticised on social media by white former players for supporting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.

Many black former South African internationals have offered public support for Ngidi, who was named the country's Men's One Day and T-20 Cricketer of The Year last weekend.

On Thursday, Ngidi's teammate, Rassie van der Dussen, posted his support



Lungi Ngidi

of his colleague and BLM in Afrikaans on social media.

"I support BLM. I am against all murders - physical, character and cultural murder," Van der Dussen said.

On Wednesday, Hashim Amla, one of South Africa's greatest batsmen, joined many of his fellow black cricketers in backing Ngidi.

Ngidi, 24, was criticized

by former Proteas players, Pat Symcox, Boeta Dippenaar and Brian McMillan, after he called on his international teammates to support the Black Lives Matter movement.

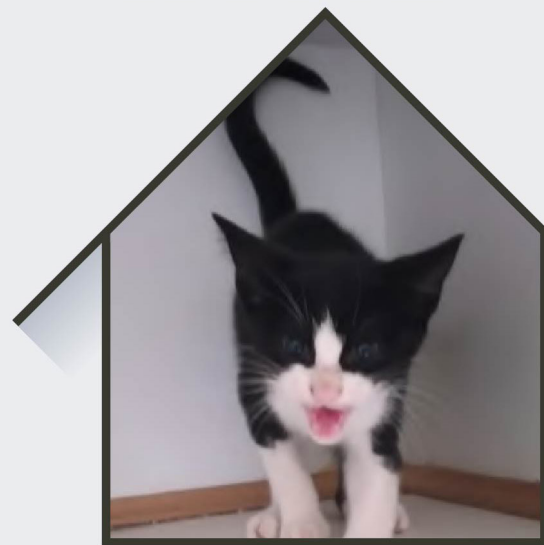
Symcox responded, blasting Ngidi commenting, "What nonsense is this?!" adding that Ngidi "... must take his own stand if he wishes."

A seemingly incensed

Symcox went on to say when "...Ngidi has a next meal, perhaps he should rather consider supporting the farmers of South Africa who are under pressure right now. A cause worth supporting."

Cricket South Africa (CSA) and the South Africa Cricketers Association (Saca) have since voiced their support for the BLM movement.

TAKE ME HOME



This sweet little girl is speaking to you, asking you to come to the Humane Society's Animal Shelter in Bethesda and adopt her! She has been wormed, litter box trained and is ready to join your family.

If you would like to offer her a home, please call the

HUMANE SOCIETY AT 461-4957

OR VISIT US MONDAY TO SATURDAY FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.



Sports

FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
POINTEXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Stars in the making

Jaden Andrew and Jamaine Charles have been making a name for themselves in Prep School Basketball in Florida.

Andrew, an Antiguan, is 6ft tall with incredible ball handling skills, an eye for winning and the ability to control the flow of a game.

As a student, representing the St. Joseph Academy, Jaden won Most Valuable Player awards in Grade 5, first, second and third form before leaving for the United States.

Andrew has embraced the challenge of Prep School basketball at Victory Rock adjusting to the grueling schedule of hitting the Gym at 5:30 each morning, followed by classes which run from at 7:45am to 12:30pm with mandatory practice sessions from 1:30 to 4pm.

The 15-year-old point guard was All-County with his school making the semi-finals.

"My ultimate goal is a top division one school followed by the NBA," the confident player said.

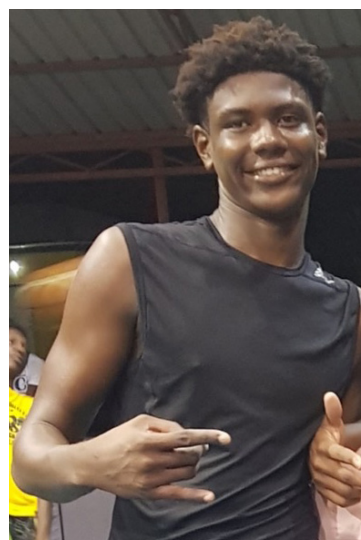
His teammate, Barbudan 17-year-old Jamaine



Charles also has aspirations of making it as part of a top division one school and then the NBA.

"The only thing on my mind is the NBA," the 7ft tall Charles told PointeXpress.

"I never played much basketball in Barbuda," he continued. "I would just follow my bigger brother to the court, but after moving to Antigua and being introduced to the sport my interest grew and I have been improving rapidly ever since,"



Jamaine Charles

the seven footer noted.

"I am working on my fundamentals and my strengths are protecting the basket, rebounding and I have a



Jaden Andrew

good mid-range jump shot," Charles beamed.

Both players are presently at home taking time off before returning to Florida to continue their journey to fulfilling the dream of becoming NBA stars.

DEWS

Editor : Everton Barnes, Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua Tel:-1-268-562 4989, Editor: editor@pointville.ag
Advertisement: sales@pointville.ag, Reporting: news@pointville.ag