



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTE X PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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CELEBRATING
100
ISSUES



PM: Sean Bird is lazy

“Sean Bird is lazy!”

This was the immediate and concise assessment of Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, in his initial reaction to the news that Sean Bird, grandson of the Father of the Nation, the Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr., will appear on the United Progressive Party (UPP) ticket against the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's (ABLP) Maria Bird-Browne in the next general elections.

Prime Minister Browne went on to recount how he had approached Sean Bird prior to the 2018 general elections with the intention of offering him the opportunity to replace Sir Lester Bird, his uncle, as the ABLP candidate for the St. John's Rural East constituency.

“I told him to go into the constituency and to do the work, however, after about two weeks he disappeared.

“We gave him a job as the National Authorising Officer, (NAO) but after about eighteen months we had to let him go because he refused to even show up for work for months on end,” Browne revealed.

He further suggested that the decision to relieve him of his duties may have angered Bird, who is the current station manager of ZDK.

The prime minister is of the view that Sean Bird believes that he should be handed the reins of power simply because his last name is Bird.

“I have no problems with ambition but when you have bad motives

that's where we depart company. He was the first choice to replace Sir Lester. I just didn't know that he was so lazy. He is the kind of person who believes that because he is V. C. Bird's grandson that he doesn't have to do the work,” the ABLP leader declared.

Last Thursday, Sean Bird won a UPP primary to become that party's candidate for St. John's Rural East where the sitting parliamentary representative is his cousin, Housing Minister, Maria Bird-Browne.

The move has raised the ire of many members of the Bird family as well as that of the membership of the ABLP who have all strongly condemned Sean Bird's move as ‘a betrayal’.

DAY 7/6

Max UV Index: 10 Very High
 Wind: E at 22 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 45%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.2 mm
 Rain: 1.2 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

32°_{Hi}



Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a shower in spots

NIGHT 7/6

Wind: E at 20 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.6 mm
 Rain: 0.6 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

27°_{Lo}



Patchy clouds with a shower in spots

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:39 AM

Sunset AST
 6:45 PM



Duration
 13:06 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 8:18 PM

Moonset AST
 7:47 AM



Duration
 11:29 hr



'Give us 30 days to save LIAT'

As Antigua and Barbuda explores ways to save the regional airline, LIAT, the country has placed two proposals on the table for the other shareholder governments to consider.

One includes giving the country 30 days to come up with a rescue plan.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who wrote to his colleague heads of the shareholder governments asking them to halt the planned liquidation of the airline, said Antigua and Barbuda opposes the liquidation of the regional carrier without some consideration of a replacement airline to serve the transportation needs of the region.

"Our proposal is we are asking them (shareholders) to give us thirty days to arrive at a plan to save LIAT and in the event that we fail, we are asking them to allow us to move on with the formation of a new airline, LIAT 2020," Browne disclosed.

Browne continued that



he is not asking for any financial commitment from the other shareholders and that Antigua and Barbuda is prepared to 'go it alone' if that becomes necessary, although, he added, this was not the preferred route.

Browne said only one prime minister has replied to his letter; the Dominica Leader, Roosevelt Skerritt, who gave a commitment to be part of a new entity to replace LIAT 'if that is the decision'.

Prime Minister Browne further revealed that there has also been an expression of interest by the regional

private sector to participate in a revival of LIAT or the launch of a new entity.

According to the prime minister the idea is not to continue with a 'bloated LIAT' or the status quo. Rather, he expects that as part of the reorganization of the airline, meetings will be held with the staff and to tell them that they need to take a cut in salaries as part of the plan going forward.

"The survivability of the new venture will require their full cooperation and if they don't cooperate, we will start the new entity," he cautioned.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader took issue with the manner in which the other two main shareholder countries leaders; Barbados' Mia Mottley and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, have approached the dilemma facing LIAT.

Browne has deemed both leaders as being determined to proceed with the liquidation of LIAT without full consideration of the concerns of the Antigua and Barbuda government, the staff and creditors.

He explained that people offer credit to the airline because it is owned by governments who they expected to always take care of the liabilities. Browne has gone further to accuse the Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines leaders of making clandestine deals without his knowledge or involvement or that of Dominica's Prime Minister Skerritt.

Prime Minister Browne has said that he is now awaiting a response to his

CIP on the rebound

The Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP), the country's main non-tax revenue source, is experiencing a rebound after undergoing a fall off in applications in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A senior board member of the Citizenship By Investment Unit (CIU), has informed PointeXpress newspaper that things are 'looking up' for the programme upon which the government relies significantly to finance its domestic initiatives.

"Initially there was a slowdown due to COVID-19 but the CIU made certain quick adjustments to its processing

arrangements to allow for digital documentation submission and document drop-off and now we're seeing an uptick in interest in our programme which we think augurs well for future growth," the official stated.

The official declined to provide what he termed 'too much information' concerning the adjustments the CIU has made as the programme operates in a highly competitive environment resulting in a desire to keep sensitive information and strategies confidential. The comments from the local CIP insider have come on the heels of a recent announcement by the

St. Kitts and Nevis government concerning a drop in the rates of their Citizenship By Investment Programme.

Like many Caribbean nations reliant on tourism for the great part of their economic activity, borders in St. Kitts and Nevis remain closed to the world. As a result, the re-elected Team Unity government is seeking to replenish its dwindling coffers and stabilize its once thriving economy through this initiative.

The modified rates in St. Kitts and Nevis, which became available on July 3rd and will continue through to December 31st 2020, will allow families of up to four persons to acquire citizenship of that country through a contribution of \$150,000 USD to the Sustainable Growth Fund. This represents a significant reduction

from the usual contribution of \$195,000 USD.

"In today's uncertain world it is only right that individuals and families want the ability to travel the globe as flexibly and confidently as possible," said Les Khan, Chief Executive Officer of the St. Kitts and Nevis Citizenship Investment Unit.

Unlike its neighbour, the CIU official reported that Antigua and Barbuda is not likely to offer a reduction in its fees as some avenues of investment for citizenship are already more affordable than the St. Kitts and Nevis programme's discounted rate.

"We come in at approximately US\$140,000.00, so St. Kitts and Nevis is still more expensive than us and no, the board is not contemplating any change at this time," the official declared.

Tender Notice

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

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

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

Deadline for submission is July 6th, 2020.

For further Information please call 480-7175.




Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Motorcyclists Safety

Drivers have a bad habit of not looking for pedestrians.

Be sure to make eye contact before crossing in front of a car.

SAFETY FIRST

ATB
 A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Ministry Of Health distributes seedlings to persons with diabetes

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Antigua Barbuda Diabetes Association and the World Diabetes Association, distributed vegetable seedlings to thirty-five individuals whose lives have been affected by diabetes.

According to the Health Ministry, this initiative aims to support and promote healthy eating habits among persons living with diabetes and to further encourage them to grow some of the food that they consume.

Among the many varieties of produce seedlings distributed were cucumber, okra, chive, lettuce, kale and beets.

The seedling distribution initiative forms part of a larger community outreach project targeting families



PAHO's Administrative Assistant, Rhea Ireland, presenting the items to Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill.

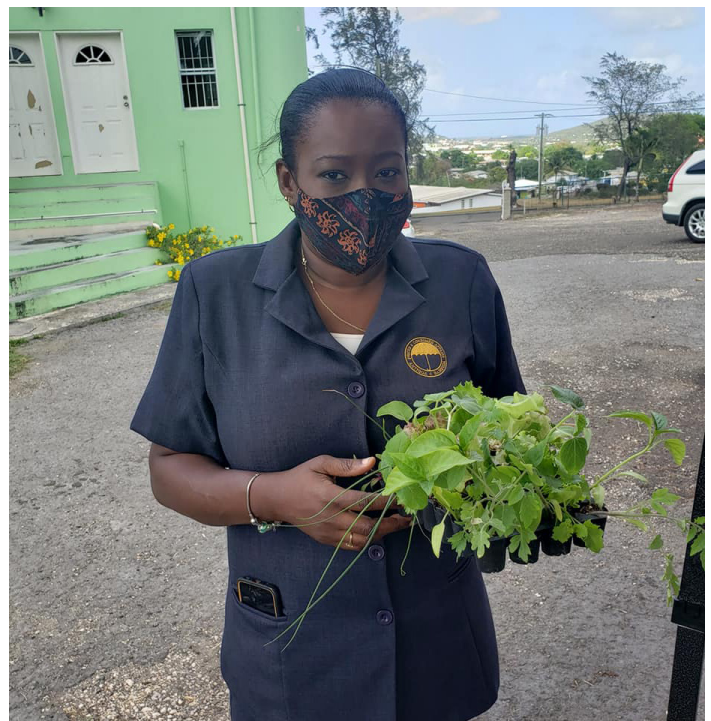
affected by diabetes with health promotion and education as its principal objectives.

To further these efforts, and to aid in other areas, on

Friday it was also revealed that the Health Ministry received three Microsoft Surface laptops through a donation from the Pan American Health Organiza-

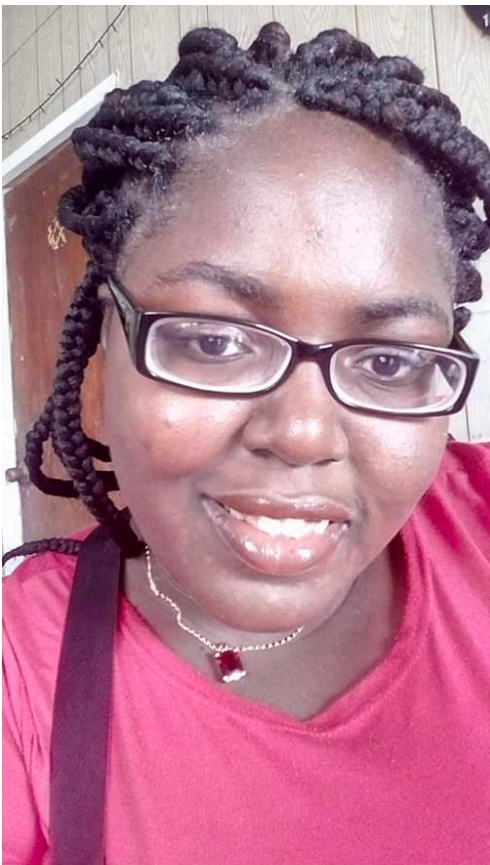
tion (PAHO).

According to the Ministry of Health, these laptops will be used for surveillance and contact tracing purposes.



COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship Series:

‘Shae Organic Soap’ - No ordinary soap business



Sherieta Charles

By Angelica O'Donoghue

While it has created much uncertainty and hardship, the COVID-19 pandemic has also created a fertile environment for ambitious entrepreneurs who have seen the birth of many of their innovative business ideas. This week, we feature a business birthed in the midst of this global crisis.

It is now very evident that the coronavirus pandemic has evolved from the realm of a global health and medical catastrophe into an unprecedented international economic recession with implications for all industries, economies and markets around the world.

This economic crisis has affected the public and private sectors, challenging every organization's internal structures.

The same rings true for the ordinary men and women who make up the workforce around the globe who have been faced with furlough, redundancy

and severance resulting from business closures. Among the hardest hit of all groups facing the fallout of coronavirus, however, are single parents.

In the face of this crisis, however, a twenty-eight year old single mother has declared that she will not become “just another statistic” in the ravages of this pandemic.

Sherieta Charles has made bold moves toward redefining the local soap making industry through her robust and creative vegan soap line.

Sherieta owns and operates, ‘Shae Organic Soaps’ which was officially launched in June 2020.

The organic soap business boasts of being a vegan, natural soap line created for those with sensitive skin and which offers antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties.

The young businesswoman explained that despite the present economic situation, she understands that skincare, particularly for those persons with various skin conditions, remains paramount.

Sherieta went on to explain, “My inspiration behind coming up with this particular business is my eczema and having sensitive skin. I wanted a soap that would help to keep down the flares associated with that skin issue.”

Understanding that skin related issues are common, the young entrepreneur continued that her aim was to appeal to others suffering similar skin conditions.

Shae Organic Soaps
Show your skin some love

cont'd on pg 7

Special Feature

PAGE 7

cont'd from pg 6

Although her soaps were initially created as a skin-care product, Sherieta noted that with the advent of COVID-19 and the recommendations of increased handwashing and sanitization, her soap business has been able to thrive despite the crisis.

Nonetheless, with the many restrictions and lockdowns associated with the pandemic, the young entrepreneur admitted that her business has faced challenges as many ingredients she needs to produce her soaps are not locally available and must be imported. Never one to back away from a challenge however, Sherieta explained that she invested the time available to her resulting from the government mandated lockdown to further research and development of her products and to prepare for a robust product launch and marketing plan.

Shae Organic Soaps is easily identified as a result of Sherieta's creative soap production, but as the business grew, the young mother disclosed that it was necessary for her to secure financial assistance early on.

"I needed money to start my business but I was grateful for someone special for giving the greatest push I could ever get to make my dreams a reality. I didn't have a big pool of capital to start with. I'm making the best of the money I do have right now," Charles quietly stated.

She proclaimed firmly

however, "I'm a 28 year-old single mother of a two-year-old and I refuse to be just another statistic, I am the only one that controls my own destiny and I make the rules."

With the excitement of her growing business, Sheieta revealed that she has plans to expand and venture into other small businesses.

"As I invest in my business, I am planning on launching more products and I'm presently thinking about getting into other business ventures as well," she said.

Sticking with tradition, we asked Sherieta to offer her advice to other persons seeking to go into business on their own to which she responded, "To anyone thinking about starting a business during these difficult times just remember, every journey in life is a great learning experience if you are willing to take the plunge."

To learn more about Sherieta's skincare line, visit her Facebook page, 'Shae Enterprise'.





Tourism Authority announces month-long TV campaign in UK

As the country begins to welcome more visitors to its shores with the recent opening of its borders, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is amplifying its international marketing strategy through advertising campaigns in the United Kingdom throughout July. The new campaign will appeal to persons planning their next vacation in the hopes that they will consider Antigua and Barbuda as a post-lockdown getaway.

According to the ABTA, the marketing campaign themed, 'Your Space in the Sun', will invite people to discover a new type of social distancing thanks to Antigua and Barbuda's famed 365 beaches along 95 miles of coastline.

Chief Executive Officer of the ABTA, Colin James, indicated that the campaign showcases the expan-

siveness of the country's tourism product.

"Our islands have 365 beaches, an expanse of blue sea, and panoramic sunsets every night but broadly speaking, our awareness remains relatively low. At a time when people are dreaming of being able to escape, we want to inspire people to broaden their horizons and consider Antigua and Barbuda for when they are ready to plan their next trip," James explained.

The CEO continued, "The campaign represents our country and what we stand for beautifully – the idea of space is something we have in abundance and is undoubtedly what attracts people to visit. We're very happy with the way this flows throughout all of the executions whilst maintaining a premium, aspirational feel."

The tourism authority explained that stunning aerial photography and video footage of the twin island nation will hopefully demonstrate the vastness of the space available to visitors to enjoy.

"The campaign has been created to position the destination as the perfect remedy for the 2020 blues; one without the crowds found elsewhere," the authority shared in a statement to the media.

Hannah O'Neill of McCann Demand, with whom the ABTA is partnering to promote the ad campaign said, "Antigua and Barbuda is without a doubt a luxury destination and our approach was to maintain a premium feel through contemporary and modern creative which centered on this feeling of space, all communicated through authentic imagery of what the islands have to offer."



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LIAT, LIAT I love you!

Those were the words to the first remembered jingle on radio as LIAT in its early life broke through as a little feeder airline and could now pay for a Sales and Marketing Manager. Everybody felt it!

LIAT is still loved and must be saved; saved from the politics which is a knee in the neck of any airline. LIAT is an heirloom of the Eastern Caribbean which rejuvenates itself every season and grows in spite of its political wounds.

Aviators of vision are eagerly awaiting the new LIAT rising into the blue from the cannibalizing of the many LIATs!

This is the much abused and immortalized regional airline, born of the brain and air-power of Frank Delisle of St. Kitts, the Mother colony, living and breathing life into LIAT on the emerald isle of Montserrat, and locating its headquarters on the beautiful island of Antigua.

LIAT has been 'too big for its breeches' from its inception with two seater aircraft to five seater, to eight and then nineteen seater and beyond to forty-eight and seventy-two!

By this time, Sir Frank had passed on the airline to the control of gov-

ernments where it rose and fell, was privatized, and bought back and thereafter continued to operate like an aerial extension of a dysfunctional public service. All this because LIAT had become recognized as an Essential Service.

We all know that essential services in government become riddled with politics; LIAT was no different and perhaps even more vulnerable because ownership of the airline was extended to some island nations while the others rode free on LIAT and only spoke up to offer criticism.

What is now happening was inevitable. It just so happened that the coronavirus was the bullet that shot LIAT in the heart, grounding its passengers.

Even as the Windward Islands devise ways and means of devouring LIAT's lucrative northern routes, and as Barbados grudgingly tries to snare the OECS' coveted Category 1 rights, LIAT's star team of engineers kept LIAT in the air with charters, cargo, rescuing students and Caribbean people stuck outside their islands.

In other words, doing what LIAT has always done: LIAT saves the Ca-

ribbean in crisis.

So now the cat is out of the bag and the fight for OECS unity could become intense as the Lady PM of Barbados no longer cares.

It is dreadful how women are forced to become men in the male dominated arena of politics, where the brute force takes over to preempt the winning attributes of female wisdom and unity as it overrides the power of possession.

This is going to be the deciding factor regarding the eloquent talk shop which CARICOM leaders provide and the real institutions which the OECS has established i.e ECCB, (own currency) ; ECCAA (aviation/ Cat 1?); LIAT the Caribbean Airline!

So, Gaston Browne is right! Bring it on! We will keep LIAT and what is ours alive!

We will privatize (75/25 Gov hopefully) with or without the Windward Islands and Barbados!

We will keep our Northern routes and serve those in need and rename our LIAT again and rise into the blue undaunted.

After all Leeward Islands Air Transport says it all!

Makeda Mikael

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The Board of Commissioners, Management and Staff of APUA would like to express gratitude to our valued customers for your patronage!

2020 has proven to be one of the most challenging times in lives and livelihoods everywhere. In this period of transition to the “new normal”, we are encouraged to reflect and express gratitude for all things. Antigua and Barbuda’s pride rests in its ability to boast of a home grown utility company that offers three distinct services; a unique quality of no other utility company within the region.

APUA Necessary... for Life



ABWU supports saving LIAT

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU), which represents the majority of LIAT's locally based staff, is throwing its full support behind regional efforts to save LIAT from liquidation.

ABWU General Secretary, David Massiah, said the union's position has always been to save the regional carrier, not only because of its importance as a main employer in the region, but also because of its critical role in the tourism industry of several territories and its being the principal means of regional transportation.

"We want to see LIAT saved but equally, we want to see what the plan is for the airline going forward.

"All the unions (which represent the airline's staff) want to see LIAT run properly so we are not in favour of liquidating the airline," Massiah stated.

According to the union executive, over the years there have been numerous recommendations submitted to the airline's management from the unions across the region, with collaboration from the airline's staff, aimed at resolving some of the employment and human resource factors affecting the regional carrier. Unfortunately, little was done by the airline to implement the suggestions.

The unions have also submitted other recommendations regarding LIAT's operations to include ways in which the airline could reduce the high taxes associated with airfares and sourcing a more efficient reservations system.

Massiah also revealed that there have been discussions regarding the placement of a union representative on the airline's board of directors.

This too, although discussed, was never implemented.

Meanwhile, the ABWU is to organize a meeting this week which will engage Prime Minister Gaston Browne and LIAT staff for a frank discussion on the way forward; be it a revived LIAT 1974 Ltd. or the launch of a new entity, LIAT 2020 Ltd.

The ABWU General Secretary was also critical of many Caribbean nations' approach to funding the regional carrier.

According to Massiah, many countries in the region which benefit from LIAT's services have no difficulty paying hefty fees to international carriers to guarantee airlift, however, those same countries find it challenging to provide even a fraction of those financial resources to LIAT, which is the lifeblood of their tourism industries.

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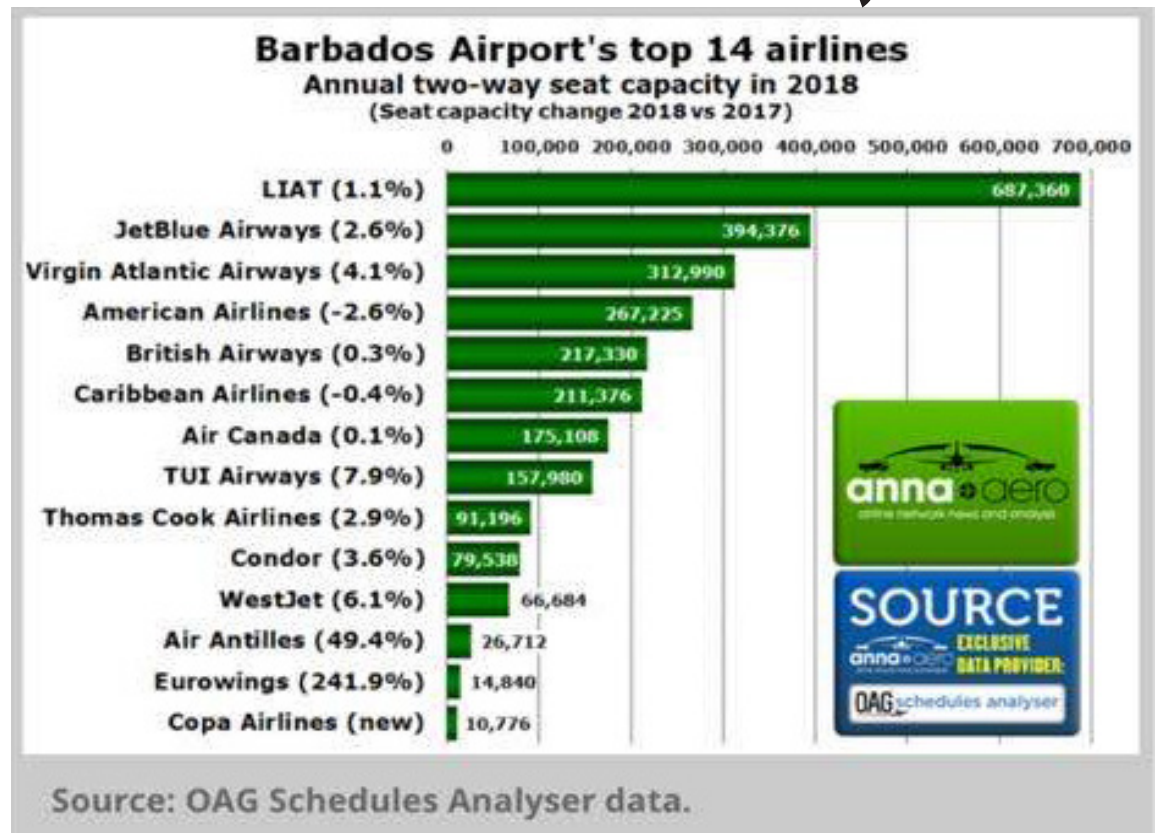
LIAT - A value for Barbados, OECS

Statistics have indicated that LIAT is of tremendous value to Barbados and OECS economies.

“With a head tax, as little as EC\$50 per head, Barbados would have earned \$35M in head taxes annually from the almost 700K LIAT passengers.

“This does not include the broader economic benefits from employment and the passenger-spend in Barbados,” one official said.

Barbados’ investment in LIAT brings the country a net positive return, since the subsidies are a fraction of the annual revenue yield. LIAT is an asset to our region: it accounts for the single largest number of passengers of any carrier,



er, regional or extra regional operating in the OECS and Barbados.

“The story of LIAT’s value is largely hidden in malice, envy and insularity.

Let’s save our regional carrier from liquidation,” the official declared.

Rejoicing and anguish as DR elects new president

The people of the Dominican Republic have elected a new president however, for the large Dominican community in Antigua and Barbuda, while this has come as good news for some others are in anguish.

Spokesman for Dominican community in Antigua and Barbuda, Theo Noso, reported that the new president, Luis Abinader of the Partido Revolucionario Moderno (PRM) will be sworn in during a ceremony in the country’s capital, Santo Domingo, on August 16.

According to Noso, President-Elect Abinader won in a big way with his

PRM securing fifty-seven percent of the vote. The PRM also won most of the provinces in the election.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the vote counting process for ballots cast by Dominicans at polling stations set up at the Multi-Purpose Cultural centre went late into the night. At the time of going to press, here in Antigua and Barbuda the Dominican vote seemed to follow the trend in the Dominican Republic with Abinader securing a comfortable lead in the count.

The Dominican Republic’s outgoing president, Danilo Medina, did not contest the elections as his two term limit

had expired.

Commenting on what the election result means for the resident Dominican community, Noso expressed confidence that there would be many positive benefits coming from the PRM victory.

“Better diplomatic representation, an introduction of a pension scheme for Dominicans living abroad, automatic 5 % down payment for new house owners including Dominicans overseas, are some of the platform promises of the new president,” Noso, who campaigned on behalf of the new president revealed.



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade
Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's, ANTIGUA.
Telephone: (268) 462-1052
Fax: (268) 462-2482
Email: foreignaffairs@ab.gov.ag

July 2, 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TRAVEL ADVISORY

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has updated its travel advisory effective 72 hours from date of issue to ensure the continued safety of travelers and residents. The V.C. Bird International Airport is opened for international and regional air traffic. The Antigua Port Authority is opened to Cargo Vessels, Pleasure Craft and Ferry Services which are required to follow all protocols issued by Port Health.

The State will be working on a combination of screening, testing, monitoring and other measures to mitigate the risk of importing any new cases of COVID-19 into the country. Additionally, measures will be implemented for the quick detection of any imported cases. This strategy is intended to protect and safeguard the health of both residents of and visitors to Antigua and Barbuda.


During this period several protocols will be implemented as follows:

1. All arriving passengers by air **must** have a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (real time polymerase chain reaction) **taken within seven (7) days of their flight. (this includes transiting passengers).**
2. Passengers arriving by sea (private yachts/Ferry Services) are subject to quarantine according to guidelines issued by Port Health.
3. All arriving passengers must wear a face mask on disembarkation and in all public areas. Additionally, the wearing of face mask in public spaces is mandatory throughout Antigua and Barbuda and social/physical distancing protocols must be adhered to.
4. All arriving passengers must complete a Health Declaration Form and will be subjected to screening and temperature checks by Port Health Authorities upon arrival in Antigua and Barbuda.
5. All arriving passengers will be monitored for COVID-19 for periods of up to 14 days in accordance with the directions of the Quarantine Authority and the Quarantine (COVID-19) Guidelines. Visitors may be required to undergo testing for COVID-19 on arrival or at the hotel or place of lodging as determined by the Health Authorities.
6. Arriving passengers with symptoms of COVID 19 may be isolated as determined by the Health Authorities.
7. Transiting passengers/Crew members who require an overnight stay will be required to proceed to a hotel or government designated facility to await departure.
8. All Marine Pleasure Craft and Ferry Services will enter ONLY at the Nevis Street Pier.

Military Vessels/Aircraft and other Watercraft transporting food, medical supplies, humanitarian and emergency supplies will be required to follow the Quarantine Guidelines established by the Quarantine Authority as well as issued by Port Health and must give prior notification before arrival.

These restrictions for maritime traffic, and the consequential Antigua Port Authority guidelines, issued during the State of Emergency, shall not restrict vessels engaged in innocent passage and/or transit passage, within the territorial seas and/or archipelagic waters of Antigua and Barbuda, under the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This Travel Advisory replaces ALL previous Travel Advisories issued by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.


ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

100 and counting!

Today's issue of PointeXpress newspaper marks the 100th edition of this publication which made its debut on November 1st 2019. Since its inception, the paper has rapidly expanded its readership through both its hardcopy (suspended) and electronic editions.

Despite the diminutive size of the PointeXpress staff, we regard our motto, 'Producing Above Our Weight Class,' with great seriousness as our competent and qualified team continues to display a deep and tangible commitment to the task of producing a premier quality newspaper.

PointeXpress newspaper operates with its chief goal being the production of a viable publication which covers the news in an unvarnished and unbiased manner.

In addition to the accuracy and timely content of our publication, we have come to take great pride in the fact that we have been the first to break top stories and to report on significant matters occurring in our country.

It is necessary to interject here that PointeXpress' ability to cover in great depth and detail issues of national import has little to do with

the publication's perceived 'relations' with individuals in the government.

Rather, our articles are the result of the tried and tested journalistic triad of good old-fashioned news reporting, tenacity and hard work.

While the newspaper is currently published three times per week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday – we are making concerted strides toward satisfying the growing demand of our audience to increase the frequency of the publication to five days weekly in the first instance.

A move in this direction represents the next milestone we hope to achieve in advance of our 200th publication.

As we move forward, we wish to thank our committed team members for the dedication and hard work they have unfailingly offered up through the journey to our first 100 issues.

Our Board of Directors and Management team wish to recognize your contribution to the success of this enterprise and we urge you to remain steadfast as together we undertake our duty to provide a quality newspaper for many years to come.

The Board of Directors, Editor

and staff of Pointe Xpress newspaper also wish to thank the many advertisers who have partnered with us in the journey to our first 100 issues.

We are thankful for your support of this venture and we offer you the assurance that, with your assistance, we will continue to provide the nation of Antigua and Barbuda with a newspaper whose content they can trust.

To our loyal readers, without whom today's achievement would have been impossible, and particularly to those readers who have taken the time to offer us their feedback on occasion, we thank you for making PointeXpress your preferred source for current affairs, sport and information. You, dear reader, are our *raison d'être*.

As the newest, and perhaps the most impactful news publication in the nation, we take our responsibility to the public we serve seriously.

We therefore offer the guarantee that you will continue to enjoy the benefits of our continued growth and pursuit of excellence in both the short and long terms.

Jamaica: Holness Admin Gets Failing Grade For Corruption

Despite occasional howls from civil society, Jamaica will not see a dramatic decline in corruption – or the perception thereof – until enablers in high places are collared and locked away, insists management consultant Dr Henley Morgan as three analysts last week rapped the Andrew Holness administration for its efforts to tackle corruption.

Morgan, founder and chairman of Agency for Inner City Renewal (AIR) who has worked for decades in the gritty Trench Town community, said corruption has long become attractive to the populace, and successive administrations have made no real progress in stamping out the practice. “It is said that a people get the government they deserve. It is also said that a government reflects the people from which it comes. The only thing that can tame the beast of crime and violence, corruption and other behaviours that now inform the culture of a people are laws, rules, [and] regulations properly enforced,” Morgan told *The Sunday Gleaner* last week.

“Unfortunately, in Jamaica, there has been a problem with enforcement.” Acknowledging that Jamaica has benefited from significant financial contributions to civil-society and state watchdogs, including the Integrity Commission, and has taken some steps with legislative advances, Morgan reasoned that corruption has become institutionalised and will not go away any time soon.

For him, there is only one solu-

tion: “Dig it out from the roots through enforcement.”

Added Morgan: “This is where people do jail time. Where corruption pays, corruption stays. It’s simple mathematics. And until corruption costs more than it pays, it cannot be eradicated. And [it’s] the same thing for its first cousin, crime and violence,” he posited. Asked to grade the country’s progress in rooting out corruption, Morgan said the Government’s efforts left much to be desired.

“Giving a grade is not necessarily finger-pointing,” he said. “I think Government should bear the heavy end of what is allowed, and I would say that based on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and what we see every day, administrations across the board have a failing grade.”

SPOILS COULD DETERMINE WHO WINS ELECTIONS – MITCHELL

Former Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica head Howard Mitchell said that with many Jamaicans holding the belief that they should benefit from political spoils, the practice would be hard to stamp out.

“People see their elected representatives as a means to getting scarce benefits and spoils. Politics and politicians are not seen as making a contribution to making a state and society a stable place to live. They are viewed as the gatemen to benefits and spoils,” said Mitchell, who is also chairman of the Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal (JAMP), a



Prime Minister Andrew Holness

non-profit organisation dedicated to improving governance in the island.

“A person can lose an election because of their inefficiency in giving out spoils,” he added.

“That mindset will not change until people see how much they are losing by virtue of corruption and how corruption is linked to crime and violence. It is a mindset that is ingrained in our society, that is linked to the patron-client relationship, that is linked to slavery and the busha-slave relations: What can you do for me?” he explained. Mitchell said that successive administrations have made attempts to deal with the scourge of corruption with little success, crediting the Bruce Golding administration of 2007-2011 with many of the anti-corruption measures now in place.

He gave the Portia Simpson Miller administration (2011-2016) a passing grade, while the Golding and current Andrew

Holness governments received failing grades.

The issue of corruption was placed squarely on the table again last week with the release of a report detailing findings of an Integrity Commission probe into the Petrojam saga, shedding further light on the state-owned oil refinery’s apparent culture of excess, cronyism, and mismanagement.

In the 2019 Corruption Perception Index released in January by Transparency International, Jamaica slipped four places down the ranking to 74 out of 180 countries and territories, after also falling two places the previous year. The 2019 report gave the island a score of 43, down from 44 a year earlier. A country’s score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Caribbean to receive billions in assistance from US

After months of lobbying, the United States has leveraged its leadership at the International Monetary Fund to provide \$1.7 billion in new emergency funding for Caribbean countries, as a direct response to COVID 19.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley made the announcement yesterday during the Twentieth Special Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), which was held virtually, as she demitted chairmanship of the Caribbean Community to Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

Mottley told fellow Heads of Government that both US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, and Secretary of Treasury, Steven Mnuchin, had officially signed a letter to support the funding grant, and promised that if requested, the United States would support temporary access to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for COVID-19 related assistance for the Bahamas and Barbados, the two Caribbean graduates from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

She said the emergency funding from the IMF was also expected to address the humanitarian and economic ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the poorest countries in the region, and would see Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines also benefiting from assistance.

Mottley added that the De-

partment of Treasury's technical assistance office was ready to provide help in areas ranging from economic reforms, tax administration, public financial management, capital, market development and infrastructure.

"Let me say that we have been arguing this case for over two years. And we have made it more recently again, in all of our correspondence to the heads of the international financial institutions, and to the heads of government across the entire global community That at the very least those countries in the Caribbean that have been graduated from access to concessional funding from the World Bank ought to be given access now, largely because of their needs and a pandemic, or the needs

coming out of a hurricane, as was the case with the Bahamas with Hurricane Dorian, require that they have access to concessional funding that will allow us to meet the most urgent demands of survival first, and then thereafter to begin the journey of transformation," she noted.

Mottley said that the United States Government had pledged to develop a "multi-faceted framework" that would help the region address its "immediate humanitarian needs", as well as assist in long-term recovery in light of COVID-19.

The United States has advanced the G20 and Paris Club debt service suspension initiative, with five CARICOM member states being currently eligible, specifically Saint Lucia,

Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Haiti.

Mottley noted, however, that the "ball was in the court" of the Caribbean community to determine what they were prepared to accept within the context of the support that they were finally receiving.

She stated that regional leaders now had to negotiate and see how the assistance could work in the best interest of the region, "on our terms in circumstances that allow us to be able to frame what is best for us, and how best do we restructure aspects of our economy, aspects of our debt, to be able to allow us to meet the needs of our population going forward".



Guyana: Woman arrested after keeping friend's baby four months

Police have arrested a 50-year-old woman who failed to return her friend's one-year-old baby girl after taking her to see a doctor.

The woman, Beverly Gomes, was caught with the infant, Luis Mari La Concha, on Friday at her of Lot 30 Kildonan Village, Corentyne, Berbice home.

Gomes has since admitted that she had decided not return the baby because she fell in love with the child.

On March 5, at Quartz Stone Backdam, Mazaruni, Region Seven, Gomes was asked by the infant's 24-year-old mother, a Venezuelan national, Maira La Concha, to take her sick child to see a doctor in the city.

The mother, in a telephone interview, explained that rash-like white spots started appearing on her baby's skin, which made her very worried.

There was no hospital nearby and she could not speak English very well to travel with the baby herself. She then decided to ask her friend (Gomes) to do her the favour.

Gomes willingly agreed and left with the infant but she never returned.

The mother claimed, that at first, she was not worried despite she had no contact with the woman.

She waited but weeks turned into months and she began to fear the worst.

After three months of waiting, and no contact, Maira became desperate and lodged a



Arrested: Beverly Gomes

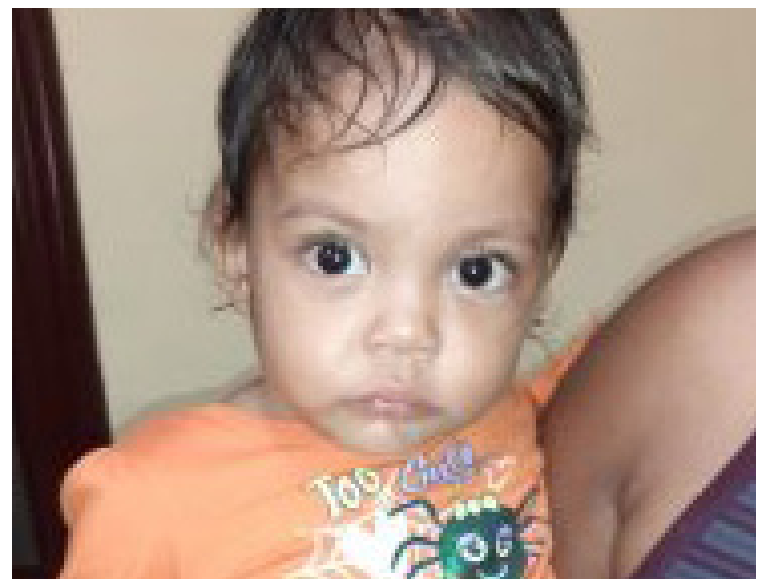
complaint with police at Bartica, last month-end.

Ranks at Bartica sprang into action and the search for Gomes began.

Information was later received that the woman was seen somewhere in Berbice.

Without wasting any time, police in the Berbice area were notified and the arrest was made and the baby sent back to her mother.

The woman told the police that she really "liked" the child.



Little Luis Mari reunited with her parents.

St. Lucia Labour Party urges Caribbean to once and for all address regional air transport



The announcement of the pending liquidation of the regional airline LIAT (1974) Ltd has been received with deep concern by the Saint Lucia Labour Party.

The demise of an institution that has steadfastly served the region and the regional integration process for approximately sixty years is to be regretted. Of even greater concern is the fact that this will destroy the livelihoods of hundreds of persons in the Caribbean, including Saint Lucia, adding yet another unfortunate episode to the ravages wreaked upon our economies by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Despite all the financial difficulties and travails that have

battered LIAT over the years, the airline has, without doubt, proven to be of immensely significant importance to the region.

This is underscored by the current situation, in which, without LIAT, the people of the region are facing the alarming prospect of the impossibility of intra-regional travel, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean, in the months ahead, even as their Governments are opening their borders after months of lockdown as result of COVID-19. The value of LIAT cannot be seen in purely profit and loss terms.

The Saint Lucia Labour Party is, therefore, calling upon all the governments of the Ca-

ribbean Community to make a concerted and determined effort to finally put in place a workable structure for regional air transportation, whether or not this involves a remodelled LIAT, but that takes into account the objective realities of operating air services in a region of very small islands with their concomitant small populations.

In that regard, the Party notes the statement by the outgoing Chair of CARICOM that Governments will be reviewing taxes on regional air travel as well as licensing of airlines. Regional air transportation has to be regarded as a public good and it is therefore incumbent upon all regional governments

to accord it the attention that this implies.

Further, the single market which CARICOM and the OECS have been building over the last decade should be accompanied by a single air space in order to give true meaning and success to the goal of the free movement of people, goods and services.

The Saint Lucia Labour Party looks forward to an urgent resolution of this LIAT crisis, particularly the airline's financial obligations to its employees, and to decisions that will redound to the long term benefit of regional aviation and the regional integration movement in the Caribbean.

Kanye West again says he will run for president

“We must now realize the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future,” he tweeted. “I am running for president of the United States!”

His wife Kim Kardashian West and entrepreneur Elon Musk endorsed him.

But it’s unclear whether West is really running.

He does not appear to have registered his name with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for November’s election. The closest name the FEC database shows is a candidate called “Kanye Deez Nutz West”, who filed their papers with the Green Party in 2015 under the address “1977 Gold-digger Avenue, Suite Yeezus” and appears to have raised no money. It is also not the first time West has claimed that he is running for the White House.

At the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards, he said he had decided to run for president in 2020. But last November he pushed the date back, saying he would actually run in the 2024 contest.

“What are you laughing at?” he asked the crowd at Fast Company’s Innovation Festival. “We would have created so many jobs that I’m not gonna run, I’m gonna walk,” he said, adding he was considering changing his name for the run to “Christian Genius Billionaire Kanye West”.

In his tweet on Saturday, US Independence Day, West, 43, did not say if his supposed run would be affiliated with a par-



Kanye West and Kim Kardashian West are among the world’s wealthiest celebrities

ticular political party.

In any case, contesting the nomination of one major parties would be impossible at this stage, with the election only four months away.

In order to appear on the ballot as an independent candidate, West would have to gather a certain amount of signatures and register in states by a particular deadline. The deadline has already passed in some major states but the music star would still technically have time to file in many others.

This year’s contest is likely

to be a straight battle between Republican President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

In 2018, West made a bizarre appearance at the White House with President Trump during which he wore a Make America Great Again hat and made an expletive-filled rant that Mr Trump described as “quite something”.

“I love this guy right here,” West said, walking behind the desk to hug the seated president, who said: “That’s really nice.”

The rapper also pushed back on the idea that African-Americans are overwhelmingly Democratic Party voters, saying: “People expect that if you’re black, you have to be Democrat.”

Kim Kardashian West retweeted her husband’s statement about the presidential run with an American flag.

She has in recent years become a significant voice in the US movement for criminal justice reform and has successfully lobbied President Trump to release several prisoners.

Drunk people cannot socially distance, say England police



“What was crystal clear is that drunk people can’t/won’t socially distance,” John Apter told London radio.

He said his own police department in the southern city of Southampton “managed to cope”. “I know other areas have had issues with officers being assaulted,” Apter said.

A scan of police reports from Saturday night showed a level of mischief-making across England. Officers in the south-western Devon and Cornwall region had logged up nearly 1,000 reports of “drink-related disorder and anti-social behaviour” by late Saturday.

There were also reports of illegal raves in London and the northeast that resulted in mass arrests as well as disorder in the north Midlands. Pubs in Wales and Scotland will partially reopen by mid-July while those in Ireland on Friday resumed table service. Some fear the British government is being overly hasty, even reckless, in sanctioning the changes. The UK’s confirmed virus death toll of 44,198 is the third-highest in the world, behind the United States and Brazil. The reopening of bars and restaurants in the US and elsewhere has been blamed for a spike in new infections. David King, a former chief scientific adviser to the British government, criticized the latest lockdown easing. He said it looked like the strategy is to “maintain” the current level of about 3,000 new coronavirus infections per

day across England in order to open up sections of the economy. “We need to look at the fastest route out of COVID-19 and that is not the current route, and that means a better economic recovery as well,” he told Sky News.

The four nations of the UK - England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - are moving at different speeds out of the coronavirus lockdown. The restrictions in England, with a population of about 56 million, have been lifted the most, triggering concerns that Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson is being unduly influenced by a desire to kick-start the UK’s ailing economy.

A safe reopening that averts the need for second lockdowns over large areas is seen as vital to Johnson’s long-term success. Health secretary Matt Hancock defended the government’s decision-making and played down any immediate safety concerns.

“From what I’ve seen, although there’s some pictures to the contrary, very, very largely people have acted responsibly,” Hancock told Sky News.

“So overall I’m pleased with what happened yesterday. It was really good to see people out and about and largely, very largely social distancing.”

Johnson’s government shuttered stores in the central city of Leicester last week because of a local infections spike.

UK police said on Sunday revellers who packed London’s Soho district the night pubs finally reopened made it “crystal clear” drunk people cannot socially distance.

England’s hospitality sector sprung back to life after a three-month coronavirus hiatus on what the media dubbed as either “Super Saturday” or “Independence Day”.

Pubs and restaurants were allowed to start seating clients and barbers could get their clippers out for the first time since March. For the most part, people appeared to abide by the rules and rejoiced at the chance on Saturday to raise a glass in the company of their friends. But in some places, large crowds raised concerns the deadliest outbreak in Eu-

rope may find fresh legs.

Chris Newell, a 33-year-old courier, travelled to trendy Shoreditch in east London to see friends.

“As long as everyone’s keeping their distance, we’re going to have a few drinks and just enjoy it and try and get back to a bit of normality,” he said.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced queries about why he decided to schedule the grand reopening for a Saturday instead of a potentially less chaotic Monday. Johnson said on Friday it would not have made much of a difference either way. But the head of the United Kingdom’s police federation said he ended up dealing with “naked men, happy drunks, angry drunks, fights and more angry drunks” while on shift.

UAE orders government shake-up as coronavirus hits economy

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced a broad government restructuring on Sunday for more “agile and swift” decision-making amid the coronavirus pandemic, merging government entities and appointing new economy and industry ministers.

The head of Abu Dhabi’s national oil company ADNOC, Sultan al-Jaber, was named as industry and advanced technology minister and Abdullah al-Marri was appointed economy minister.

The restructuring was announced by the UAE’s vice president and prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, on his official Twitter account.

“The aim ... is a government that can more quickly make decisions and deal with changes and more adeptly seize opportunities in dealing with this new stage in our history; a swift and agile government,” Sheikh Mohammed said. He gave it a year to achieve priority targets for the country, which is the region’s business, trade and tourism hub. Changes include abolishing half of government service centres and converting them to digital platforms within two years and merging about half of federal agencies.

The energy and infrastructure ministries were merged under a single portfolio to be headed by current energy minister Suhail al-Mazrouei.

An ADNOC spokesperson



Prime Minister and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced the government shake-up on social media

said al-Jaber would retain his post as ADNOC chief executive. The Federal Water and Electricity Authority, Emirates Post, Emirates General Transport Corp, and Emirates Real Estate Corp were placed under the Emirates Investment Authority. The economy ministry got two ministers of state - Ahmed Belhoul for

business and small and medium enterprises, and Thani al-Zeyoudi for foreign trade. Omar al-Olama was named minister of state for digital economy and artificial intelligence. Many powerful officials kept their jobs under the Cabinet shake-up. They include the ministers of interior and foreign affairs, who hail

from the ruling Al Nahyan family of Abu Dhabi, the federal capital that also controls the presidency.

“The future working environment in medicine, education and trade will change dramatically and we aim to be at the forefront of these changes,” Sheikh Mohammed said. A woman was named to head

the nascent Emirates Space Agency. Sarah al-Amiri is currently leading the UAE's Hope Probe to Mars, which will launch this month from Japan with the goal of providing a new look at the planet's climate and atmosphere.

Additionally, the ministries of culture and youth were merged. The new ministry will oversee the country's National Media Council that accredits all local and foreign journalists and oversees media outlets operating in the country. The ministry will be led by Noura al-Kaabi, formerly the culture minister.

In June, the central bank forecast the oil-exporting country's economy would likely contract by 3.6 percent this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The non-oil private sector grew in June for the first time this year, emerging from months of contraction as coronavirus restrictions were lifted. While hundreds of thousands of migrant workers in the UAE and wider Gulf who hail from India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Nepal and Egypt have appealed to their embassies for flights home due to a loss of income amid the pandemic, Emirati citizens - who number about 1.4 million - have numerous perks to cushion economic blows.

The government provides Emirati citizens with subsidised housing, free healthcare, free higher education and scholarships abroad, generous government salaries and pension plans, as well as assistance in finding work and occasional debt relief.

A case of a rare, brain-destroying amoeba has been confirmed in Florida.



The Florida Department of Health on Friday announced the confirmed case of *Naegleria fowleri* -- a microscopic single-celled amoeba that can infect and destroy the brain. It's usually fatal, the DOH said.

Since 1962, there have only been 37 reported cases of the amoeba in Florida. This one was found in Hillsborough County, though the DOH did not give any further details.

Naegleria fowleri is typically found in warm freshwater like lakes, rivers and ponds. The DOH has cautioned people

who swim in those freshwater sources to be aware of the amoeba's possible presence, particularly when the water is warm.

"Adverse health effects on humans can be prevented by avoiding nasal contact with the waters, since the amoeba enters through nasal passages," the DOH said.

The DOH recommended people avoid bodies of warm freshwater around power plants and shallow fresh water during periods of high water temperature. They should

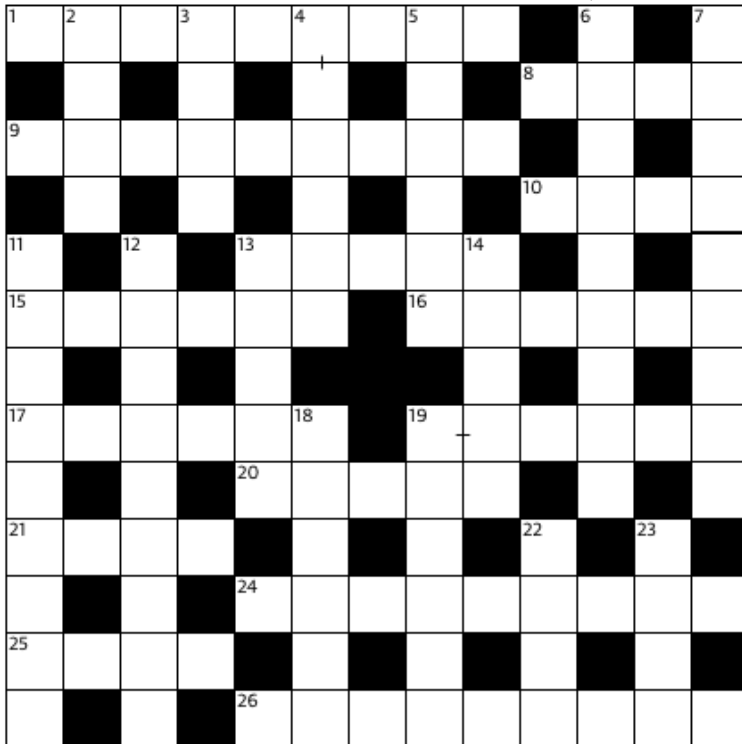
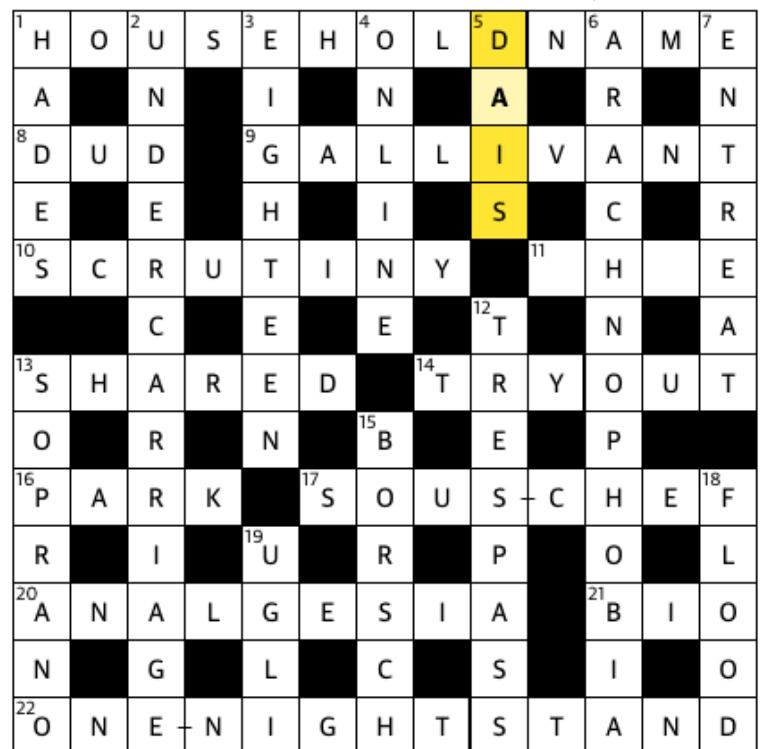
pinch their nose when playing in warm freshwater.

The DOH also noted that you could possibly be exposed to the amoeba through a neti pot when rinsing congested sinuses.

"Use only boiled and cooled, distilled, or sterile water for making sinus rinse solutions for neti pots or performing ritual ablutions," it said.

In the US, there have been 143 known infected cases of the amoeba, according to the Florida DOH. Only four have survived.

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
15,649

 Quick crossword No
15,649


Across

- 1 Museum housing collection started by Catherine the Great (9)
 8 Pastry used for baklava (4)
 9 Where unwanted items end up (9)
 10 Large wading birds with down-curved bills (4)
 13 Moved stealthily (5)
 15 Come down (6)
 16 Writer (6)
 17 Earnings (6)
 19 Inferior film (1-5)
 20 Jerusalem's composer (5)
 21 Individually (4)
 24 In an ungainly way (9)
 25 Mark of approval (4)
 26 Accord (9)

Down

- 2 Use acid to design on metal or glass (4)
 3 Express pain (4)
 4 Simple top (1-5)
 5 Italian spirit made from grape residue after pressing (6)
 6 Act up (9)
 7 Colour — eg sermons (anag) (4,5)
 11 Political statement of intent (9)
 12 Film director (the 'Master of Suspense') (9)
 13 Title holder (abbr) (5)
 14 Stomach (informal) (5)
 18 Eavesdrop (6)
 19 Graze (6)
 22 Reduce slightly (4)
 23 Panache (4)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



"Is it a double-KO if they take a nap at the same time?"



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Make the most of your spare time. Use it to be constructive and diligent, as free time may come at a premium later in the week. Prioritize responsibilities to be sure to get things done.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): You may have an urge to walk on the wild side, but some minor changes may be all it takes to relieve apathy or boredom. Stay with what has been proven good for you and don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Go all in or don't go at all. You will enjoy activities more if you fully commit to being a part of the festivities rather than hesitating to become involved. Overthinking a problem might make it seem more difficult.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Believe it when you see it. Do not rely on promises or assurances from someone until you have concrete evidence in front of you. You will fare better when you do not seek outside help for your projects.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink. Point someone in the right direction but don't bend over backward or try to force the issue if they are not ready. Rely on your own skills to succeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There is a time and place for everything. Make sure of this through the careful planning of your schedule for the coming week. Too much spontaneity could use up needed time and leave you struggling to catch up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Build a strong foundation. Your judgment may be slightly off today, so get information and advice from as many sources as possible. Friendships should stand on their own and not be subject to conditions

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Remember that it's often the thought that counts. Be gracious when someone offers a token of esteem, even if it's something you do not really care to receive. Don't let the heat of competition make your temper boil.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Let your imagination run wild. Daydreaming about excitement and adventure can be the next best thing to being there. Show that you really mean business when the workweek begins.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be setting the bar too high. Ideals are for you to strive for; if you hold others to impossible expectations, it creates disappointment on both sides. Accept others for who they are and don't be judgmental.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Winning isn't everything. You shouldn't get so caught up in competing that you forget to enjoy yourself and others. Concentrate on friendship and fun and don't worry about who is the best.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Make tea for two. Give a special someone your undivided attention this Sunday and find something to do that you can both enjoy. Have it your way today, as free time could be scarce in the week ahead.

Bucks latest NBA team to close practice facility after positive coronavirus test

The Milwaukee Bucks are the latest NBA team to close their practice facility after an unnamed player tested positive for COVID-19, according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski. The Bucks plan to keep their facility closed for workouts until the team leaves for the Orlando "bubble" on Thursday. The Miami Heat, Denver Nuggets, Los Angeles Clippers, and Brooklyn Nets have also all closed facilities due to positive tests.

Star Nuggets center Nikola Jokic contracted the disease in his native Serbia, while at least one member of the Clippers traveling party and three other members of Denver's traveling party to Orlando



have also tested positive. As a response, the Nuggets closed things down last Sat-

urday, according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski, and the Clippers followed suit on Thursday.

The Nuggets are currently scheduled to make the trip to Orlando on July 7, the first day that teams will travel. The Clippers and Heat are each slated to fly on July 8. As of now, teams are in the individual workout stage of getting back up to speed for the restart of the season. Group workouts are set to begin once teams have arrived in Orlando.

The Nets reopened their facility last Tuesday after it had previously been closed for a number of days. The Nets, like the Nuggets, are experi-

encing an outbreak. DeAndre Jordan and Spencer Dinwiddie both tested positive last week, with Jordan ruling himself out for Disney. Dinwiddie, meanwhile, has not yet made up his mind.

The NBA knew that positive tests were going to come out of this restart, though it likely hoped that they could be delayed at least until players arrived in the Orlando bubble. Now the NBA must figure out how to prevent traveling parties from contaminating that bubble. The league has its work cut out for it in protecting players from COVID-19 now. (Reprinted from www.cbssports.com)



West Indies legend, Sir Everton Weekes, dies at 95

Legendary West Indies batsman, Sir Everton Weekes, has died at the age of 95.

The Barbadian, who scored 4,455 runs at an average of 58.61 in 48 Tests, is the only cricketer to accumulate five centuries in five consecutive Test innings.

Weekes was recognized as one of the three Ws' along with Sir Clyde Walcott and Sir Frank Worrell.

The historic cricketer also has the highest average in Test history, among those who have played at least 20 innings.

The Bajan, who made his Test debut against England in 1948 and retired in 1958, was honoured with a



Sir Everton Weekes

knighthood in 1995.

Cricket West Indies President, Ricky Skerritt, described Sir Everton as a pioneer in West Indies cricket.

"He is literally a founding father of regional crick-

et," Skerritt said, "He was a wonderful human being and an outstanding regional ambassador.

The great man averaged 91.61 in seven seasons for Bacup in the Lancashire

league and an average of 158.25 in 1954 remains the league record.

Upon his passing, West Indies players paid tribute to the legendary batsman leading the observation of a minute of silence on the third day of their intra-squad warm-up game at Old Trafford last week.

Minister of Culture, Creative Economy and Sports in Barbados, John King, paid tribute to the great man noting that not only Barbados, but the entire region, had lost an outstanding citizen.

King extended condolences to the family on behalf of his country and the region.

cont'd from pg 28

fering a career ending injury at an early age.

After turning his attention back to tennis, the powerfully built athlete noted that early in his training he dominated his brother, Carlton. That took a turn as the brothers, and their games matured as by eighteen Carlton became an unstoppable force in tennis, not only in Antigua and Barbuda but on the regional circuit.

Careem proudly described his sibling as, "the greatest tennis player this country has produced."

"Carlton was a hard worker, focused and deadly," Careem remarked.

Talking to PointeXpress, Bed-

minister, who is now employed by the Ministry of Sports as a coach, underscored the fact that tennis needs more facilities and financial support if the country is to produce world class athletes.

"My brother and I defeated a number of players who went on to success professionally because they had the support, but everything was on my mother and father and it was hard. But if we had that support the sky would have been the limit," he stated.

Now in his present athletic evolution as a coach to youngsters, Bedminister has expressed the desire to dedicate the rest of his life to sports and to assisting young athletes achieve their dreams.



Sports

MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
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Battle of brothers brought out the best in each other

Careem Bedminister, originally from the quiet village of Liberta, ranks among the most outstanding athletes of his generation and is one of the best tennis players Antigua and Barbuda has produced.

In a candid discussion with the seasoned athlete, Bedminister noted that, "I attended a number of schools because I was a little hot headed, but I played every sport growing up except golf."

Careem also recalled accompanying his elder brother, Carlton Bedminister, to training sessions. The boys were introduced to tennis by their parents. His journey to starting the sport was not as straightforward as his brother, however, as he fondly recalled.

"I would chase down the balls when he was hitting and we had an understanding that when there were fifteen minutes left in the training he would complain about being tired or ill and I would get the remaining time to hit. That's

how I was introduced to the game," he stated.

The former national tennis star was also competent in football and cricket. He was not fortunate to make much headway in cricket however as while training with the Under-15 National Cricket Team his hopes for a future in the sport were dashed when he was informed by Antiguan cricket legend, Hayden Walsh, that he would not be selected for the team. This resulted in his departure from the sport.

Bedminister fared better in football however, where he proved to be a speedy striker.

"I remember following my friend, Kerry Skepple, to training at English Harbour. They had a scrimmage and were short of a player and I filled in and after training, former Antigua football legend, Quintin Clarke, encouraged me to join the squad," Bedminister said.

With his speed and power, it wasn't long before Careem was spotted by



Careem Bedminister

former National Technical Director, Zoran Vranesh, who selected him for training with the national team.

"I loved the ball over the top in the channels and that was Vranesh's style of play and I was game on," Bed-

minister noted.

These remarkable achievements aside, the multi-talented sport phenom will be best remembered for his outstanding performances in tennis where he represented his country on the international tennis circuit before suf-

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DEWS

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