



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

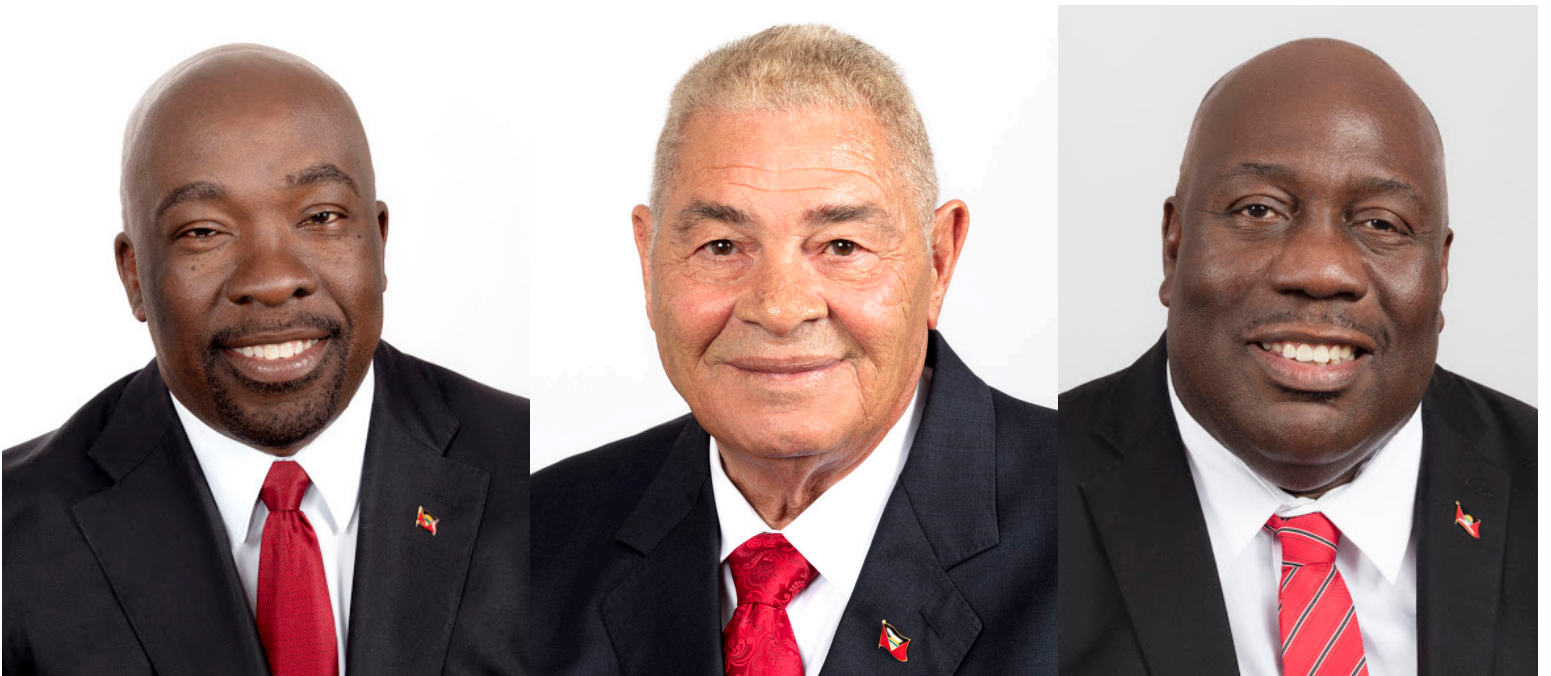
# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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PRICE \$3

# APUA GETS EXTRA HELP



Information Minister Melford Nicholas, left, and Works Minister Lennox Weston, right, will join Minister Robin Yearwood as part of a wider ministerial panel supporting APUA in trying to find solutions to the water problem. *See story on Page 3.*

**New HIV/AIDS cases  
continue to decline - Pg 4**

## One more COVID-19 case confirmed

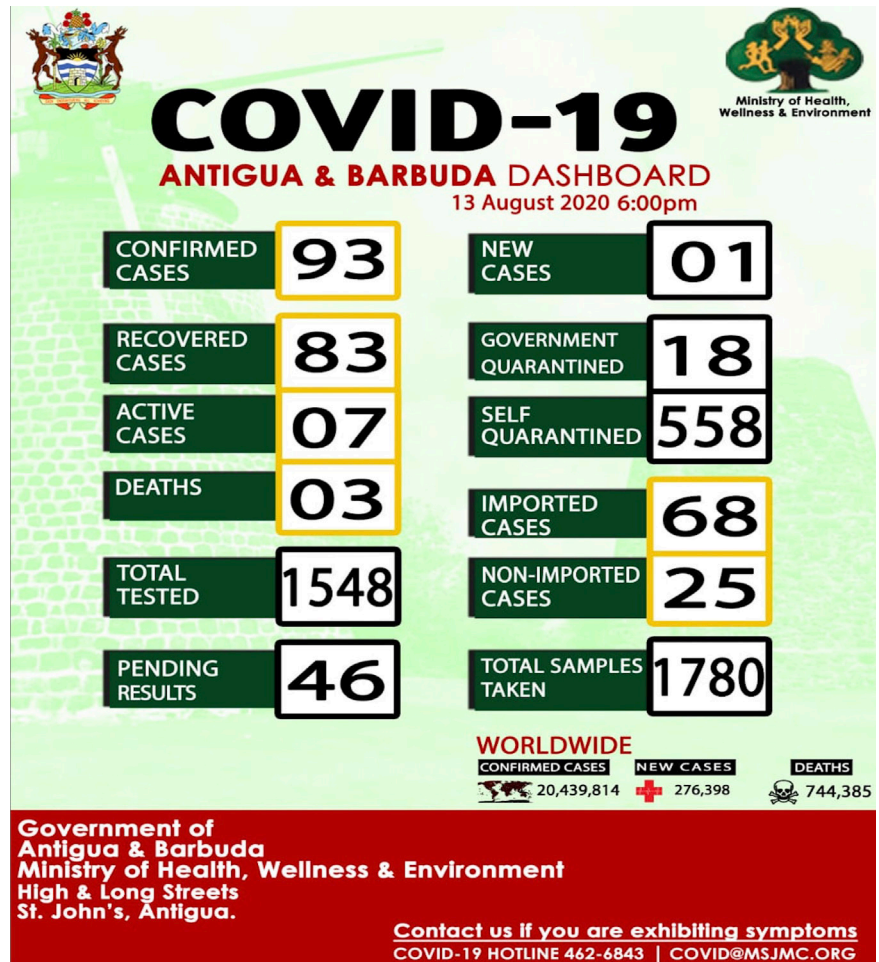
On Wednesday 12th August, 2020 the Ministry of Health confirmed that there is one new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in Antigua and Barbuda. This is based on tests results received from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

Of the forty-three samples tested, forty-two were negative and one was positive.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda stands at ninety-three with seven active cases.

Meanwhile, seven additional persons have recovered from coronavirus bringing the total number of recovered cases to eighty-three.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



### DAY 8/14

Max UV Index: 11 Extreme  
 Wind: ENE at 15 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 43%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 0.9 mm  
 Rain: 0.9 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1  
 Hours of Rain: 1

# 31° Hi



Partly sunny with a shower in places

### NIGHT 8/14

Wind: E at 9 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 44%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 1.1 mm  
 Rain: 1.1 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1  
 Hours of Rain: 1

# 26° Lo



Partly cloudy with a shower in places

### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
5:50 AM

Sunset AST  
6:33 PM



Duration  
12:43 hr

### MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
1:25 PM

Moonset AST  
2:51 AM



Duration  
13:26 hr



## APUA gets additional ministerial help

The Cabinet is taking bold steps to bring some resolution to the perennial problem of a sustainable supply of water to homes and business in the country.

Reporting on the weekly Cabinet meeting, Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, said the government's Executive branch has instructed that two ministers join the team at APUA in finding solutions to the water problem.

"The Cabinet has taken a decision to ensure that there is further ministerial support so both Works and Minister of State in the Finance Ministry, Lennox Weston, and I have been asked to be part of a wider ministerial panel supporting APUA through this process," he confirmed.

Nicholas noted that the expanded ministerial team is looking forward to a concerted effort being made to find solutions.

He made reference to the success of the cooperation between various agencies in 2016 which led to the eventual commissioning of the Ivan Rodriguez Plant and said he hoped for a similar outcome in this instance.

Nicholas added that the authority faces a challenging time as it moves over the next eighteen months to install three additional reverse osmosis plants and replace several miles of

old, rotted pipelines.

These activities, according to the minister, will involve going below the surface of many roadways and they will involve traffic diversions.

State media, he indicated, will assist APUA with informing the public about the temporary, but nonetheless inconvenient, disruptions they are likely to experience.

Nicholas revealed that statistics indicate that Antigua and Barbuda is experiencing its worst drought in eighty years.

This unprecedented dry season has completely depleted the supply of water from surface catchments and aquifers.

The Cabinet Notes further confirmed that APUA has successfully borrowed more than \$150 million from a local bank, but it has not yet begun to draw down on the loan.

APUA is now relying on its current cash flow to make the improvements to its water infrastructure.

APUA's General Manager, Esworth Martin, and Water Business Manager, Ian Lewis, have informed the Cabinet that a schedule has been set for the commencement of repair work to broken mains.

The pair further gave the assurance that within eighteen months, potable water lost to breaks and cracks in the old cast iron pipes, will

be restored.

Nearly thirty percent of the water produced and pumped through the pipes is lost because of breaks and cracks in the pipes that carry water.

Due to the ongoing drought, and the absence of water from surface storage like dams, reservoirs and underground aquifers, complete reliance on desalinated water has become necessary.

Three new desalination plants are to be constructed at Fort James, Ffryes Bay and Bethesda.

When these plants come online they are expected to increase APUA's water capacity to more than 8 million gallons daily.

**A.B.T.B. Frequently Asked Questions Month**

**DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN REGISTERING AN IMPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE:**

- 1). Insurance Certificate
- 2). Customs & Excise Documents:
  - Asycuda (SAD)
  - Motor Vehicle Information
  - Payment Receipt
- 3). Driver's Licence

**What Documents do I need to Register an Imported Motor Vehicle?**

**DRIVE SAFELY**

**A.B.T.B.**  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD  
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



# New HIV/AIDS cases continue to decline

New HIV/AIDS cases in Antigua and Barbuda have continued to trend downward with the total number of cases at the end of 2019 standing at 41 cases.

According to the National HIV/AIDS Programme, there were 24 males and 17 females.

This is in contrast to 43 in 2018, 60 in 2017 and 61 in 2016.

Commenting on the new data, National HIV/AIDS Programme Manager, Delcora Williams, said the downward trend has been taking place over several years, with only the odd spike in infections in any particular year.

The number of AIDS related deaths last year stood at seven.

According to Williams, the disease, which was once considered a death sentence to those contracting it, is largely treatable with medical professionals now considering it a communicable disease.

There are over one thousand persons living with the disease in Antigua and Barbuda.

The National HIV/AIDS Programme Director noted that the demographic with the highest incidence of the disease is the 24 to 49 age group, however, the prevalence of the disease in older men continues to be a worrisome matter.

Williams revealed that older men appear to be contracting the disease from their younger partners.



“This data suggests that the spread is intra-generational, something we have suspected for some time,” she explained.

With the focus over the past six months on the coronavirus outbreak, Williams said her department has re-

*cont'd on pg 5*







*cont'd from pg 4*

mained focused on its task.

“We continue to work to make persons know that HIV hasn’t gone anywhere; it is still here and persons have to protect themselves to ensure that they do not contract the disease,” she said.

Williams disclosed that her department continued to conduct testing during the lockdown as the office closed only briefly in May to facilitate the installation of systems to protect its staff and patients from contracting COVID-19.

These measures included reducing traffic to the department and creating separate entries; one area for people



conducting regular business at the department and the other exclusively for people wanting to have HIV tests done.

Additionally, flexi-glass cubicles were installed and persons desirous of being tested are now required to make



an appointment. The office has also stocked up on ample protective gear for the staff performing HIV tests.

The secretariat is now well stocked with both male and female condoms which are distributed free of cost to anyone requesting them.

According to Williams, the department’s outreach and education programme has remained active and she is welcoming inquiries from religious, social, community, educational or other groups.

Organisations that wish to receive information concerning HIV and AIDS are encouraged to contact the National HIV/AIDS which will respond to those requests promptly.





# Unemployment a concern for gov't

The level of unemployment in Antigua and Barbuda is a major concern of the government which has indicated that it intends to apply laser focus to the issue in the days ahead.

Thousands of workers in the hotel industry and its ancillary sectors have lost their jobs as a result of the impact of the coronavirus on global travel.

Additionally, the grounding of the Antigua-based air carrier, LIAT, has only served to exacerbate the problem. Nearly 400 people living in Antigua and Barbuda were employed by the airline.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, revealed that the government, having achieved some success in managing the coronavirus, feels that it can now turn some of its attention to other areas of the economy which require attention, including unemployment.

"In the remaining weeks of this month, you will see much more discussion on what the government intends to do with resuscitating the economy. Clearly there are still too many people who are unemployed and this is due to



Information Minister, Melford Nicholas

the fact that the economy had shrunk because of the extended period of the shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," the minister stated.

He indicated that on Wednesday, the Cabinet examined the impact of the pandemic on travel through the V. C. Bird International Airport and cruise calls at the St. John's Harbour.

"We had a brief look at the revival of cruise tourism and the associated challenges; what it is likely to mean and the respective details and protocols we

will have to put in place," he stated.

Meanwhile, the St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC) will commence and intensify training taxi drivers, bus operators, vendors and others with an interest in the reopening of ports in St. John's.

According to the government, although a precise date has not yet been fixed for the first cruise line to return to Antigua and Barbuda, preparations for a thriving cruise sector in the post-COVID dispensation are being pursued.

Dates of training and certification will be announced by the Ministry of Tourism, which is partnering with SJDC on the training initiative.

Meanwhile, work continues on construction of the fifth cruise pier. This also involves widening and deepening the harbour's channel and turning basin in order to accommodate OASIS Class ships which are the largest in the world.

Antigua and Barbuda was scheduled to welcome its first OASIS Class cruise liner at the St John's Harbour later this year.

## Dame Edris Bird to be laid to rest today

The nation of Antigua and Barbuda will celebrate the life of one of its outstanding daughters, the late Dame Edris Bird, in a funeral ceremony today.

The official funeral will take place at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in St John's and starts at 1:30 pm.

Dame Edris has been

widely acclaimed as an outstanding educator and a pioneer in the field of education.

She has been particularly recognised for her work in

encouraging women, and single mothers in particular, to pursue higher education.

Since her death last month, tributes have poured in from around the world praising her dedication to national development through education which she viewed as critical to lifting people out of poverty.

Under her guidance, the University Centre in Antigua became a hub for learning and the development of the Creative Arts, in particular, theatre.

## Dollar Barrel extended to Oct 29

The popular dollar barrel initiative, which was reintroduced to assist persons in coping with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, has been extended by three months.

An official statement said the initiative will run until October 29 when the current State of Emergency comes to an end.

With the exception of a \$10 processing

fee, barrels containing foodstuff and sanitizing materials are allowed to enter Antigua and Barbuda without incurring duties and other taxes.

Hundreds of families across the country have taken advantage of this opportunity as they have been able to import or receive care packages from friends and family around the world.



## The Foreign Affairs Minister to attend Arthur's funeral

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, is traveling to Bridgetown, Barbados, today for the funeral of that country's longest serving Prime Minister, Owen Arthur.

Greene is Antigua and Barbuda's official representative at the funeral, which is being held under strict COVID-19 protocols.

Arthur's funeral is expected to draw high level representation from across the region.

Owen Arthur died last month after suffering a heart attack.

Just weeks before his death, Arthur had been involved in critical meetings to save LIAT, which he served as Chairman of the Board.

The former prime minister agitated vigorously against liquidating LIAT, as had been proposed by some of the airline's major shareholders, and favoured alternatives which would seek to save the floundering airline.

Owen Arthur has been described as a regionalist and an exceptional economist.

## St. Paul's Constituency launches mask-making initiative

Under the aegis of the representative for the area, E.P. Chet Greene, the initiative aims at teaching new skills to people in the constituency.



## No arrests in Christian's murder

The police are seeking to clear the air regarding their investigation into the brutal killing of Nigel Christian, whose body was found at a roadside near New Winthropes one month ago.

In a statement issued Thursday, the Police Strategic Communications Department said there has been no arrest in the investigation.

The comment from the police is an apparent response to rumors on social media that an arrest had been made.

STRATCOM acknowledged that several 'persons of interest' have been questioned by the police, but



Nigel Christian

clarified that no one has yet been charged.

"The police are calling upon members of the general public to exercise patience, as the investigation into the murder of Nigel Christian continues," STRATCOM urged.

The press release continued, "It said it has been brought to the attention of the Police Administration that several persons have been positing and making comments on social media and elsewhere that a member of the public was

charged in connection with his murder.

The administration is appealing to those involved to discontinue this malicious practice of circulating false and misleading information surrounding any police investigation."

STRATCOM is assuring the public that as the investigation progresses, further updates will be provided.

A police raid of several businesses owned by a prominent individual on Tuesday triggered national interest and much speculation regarding a possible connection between the sting operation and Christian's murder.

### NOTICE

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

TO: HER WORSHIP  
Magistrate for District "A"  
Magistrate's Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. John's  
Antigua

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

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS WATS DAT TO U BAR

I, **Floyd E. Tonge**, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Wats Dat To U Bar" situated Jennings Village, in the Parish of St. Mary's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

*Floyd E. Tonge*  
Floyd E. Tonge  
727-2482

## FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION LAND AT FITCHES CREEK

Instructed by **Peyton Knight & Associates Attorneys**  
- At -Law, we shall sell by **Public Auction on Monday 17th day of August, at 12:00 PM**, one parcel of land situated at Fitches Creek registered as:  
**Registration Section: North Central; Block #12 2292B; Parcel #: 266 measuring 0.26 acre or approximately 11,325.60 square feet.** It is owned by Marlon and Alice Ho - Tack.

The property consist of one parcel of land. The auction will be held on site. Bidders **must** have a picture ID in order to be registered for the auction which will begin at 12:00 PM.

Further details may be obtained from

**Trevor "Teddy" Santos,**

Tel. no. (268)562 - 7653/ 464 - 7653

Fax (268) 560 - 7653

Email [info@go-going-gone.com](mailto:info@go-going-gone.com)

Web: [www.go-going-gone.com](http://www.go-going-gone.com)

**Trevor "Teddy" Santos**  
**Licensed Auctioneer**



## ‘Driftwood’ withdraws from UPP primary citing undermining

A primary election to select a candidate for the United Progressive Party (UPP) in the St Paul’s constituency was thrown into confusion with the withdrawal of one of the candidates on the day of the planned event.

Long-time UPP member and community activist, Gregory ‘Driftwood’ Athill, penned a letter dated August 12, 2020 to UPP General Secretary, Senator Shawn Nicholas, in which he announced his withdrawal from the primary claiming that his candidacy had been undermined by an unnamed ‘senior official’ in the party.

Additionally, he claimed that he was the subject of a frontal attack by a Progressive Radio talk show host. Progressive Radio is owned by the UPP.

Athill said the radio host made unsubstantiated claims that he received money to fund his candidacy campaign from an Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) politician.

Athill’s letter demanded that an apology be issued by the radio host by today, Friday 14th August, failing which he will seek legal recourse in addressing the host’s statements.

“We need to be bigger than that. It cannot be because an individual has a different opinion he or she is a traitor or a mole of the ABLP and I will go further to say that every member of the UPP has a right, if he/she chooses, to run for any position in the party. We are destroying the organization,” his letter stated.



Gregory ‘Driftwood’ Athill

Among the other reasons cited for his withdrawal were the ‘continuous verbal attacks’ on some media houses and his own view that family members ought not challenge each other in primaries.

Dr. Cleon Athill has been

named as a UPP potential candidate for St. Paul’s.

In a post on Wednesday, Nicholas advised the UPP’s members of Athill’s decision noting that the primary has been postponed until further notice.

## Unclaimed School Union vouchers exceed 1200

Coordinators of the School Uniform Grant Programme are appealing to parents and guardians to claim the School Uniform Grant Programme (SUGP) vouchers for which they have registered.

With two weeks remaining before the culmination of the programme, there are at least 1,200 prepared vouchers still unclaimed.

This year, in accordance with COVID-19 protocols, beneficiaries were made to utilize online registration and a drop box service to sub-

mit documents which were then processed.

Parents and guardians were then contacted to collect the uniform vouchers which can be redeemed at select vendors.

In many cases, repeated calls have gone unanswered, causing the vouchers to pile up.

Persons who have signed up for the School Uniform Grant Programme and have not received vouchers to date, are being advised to visit the National Archives located opposite

the St. John’s Fire Station during the hours of 9am and 3pm, Monday through Thursday and 9am to 2pm on Friday.

To collect vouchers, individuals must present identification.

Persons collecting vouchers on behalf of an applicant must be at least 18-year-old and must bring along with them an authorizing letter and the applicant’s identification.

The 2020 School Uniform Grant Programme comes to a close on 28th August, 2020.

# Prices & Consumer Affairs advocates for safe back-to-school shopping

Now that the dates for the new school year have been announced, parents have expressed concerns about safety and health protocols for the protection of students and teachers alike.

To reassure parents, the Ministry of Education hosted a live press conference in which they rolled out their plans and protocols for the reopening of primary and secondary schools.

To aid the parents in preparing their children for school, the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division issued a specialized consumer impact publication offering innovative ways that parents and

guardians can complete back-to-school shopping.

The magazine styled document included best practices in hand hygiene, tips on purchasing correct masks and other PPE's for children, recommendations for immune boosters and suggestions on how to shop without taking children into major stores thereby limiting their public exposure.

According to the publication, "Back-to-school shopping is one of the busiest shopping seasons and it is customary to see parents and students making purchases in stores in St. John's. With the

current COVID-19 regulations, however, many traders are worried that they will not have the footfall to generate the kind of business they once did this back-to-school season.

On the other hand, parents and guardians are concerned that shopping with your child could be a great risk at this time. The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division is mindful of the impact the coronavirus has had on both consumers and traders, and the need to keep consumers and traders safe."

The consumer protection agency is advising "parents and guardians to "go back to basics" and shop by measurements as an option to shopping with your child."

Measuring your child at home, including taking their height from heel to head, waist and shoe size were some of the examples the division gave that will aid in shopping for students without having them physically at hand.

"On average, uniforms and shoes are the two most likely reasons for in-store shopping with your child. However, your child can easily be measured to fit both goods. Leave a little room for extra comfort," the publication advised.

Minister with responsibility for Prices and Consumer Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene remarked, "Consumer education is an essential component of good governance and this year the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division within the Ministry of Immigration and Trade shares timely and relevant information to guide consumers in making responsible decisions."

The minister continued, "As we prepare for the new school year parents want to ensure their children are set with the right gears so they can be equipped to work hard. As you patronize the various traders, it would be imperative for everyone; traders, staff and consumers, to adhere to the guidelines already established by the Ministry of Health."



A Publication of the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division

## CONSUMER IMPACT

Vol. 9 No. 2 August 2020

Be Safe: Practice hand hygiene Page 2

How to shop for a mask Page 9

# MEASUREMENTS A 'DIFFERENT' WAY TO SHOP

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL





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# External Observation of Elections important to protect democracy and rights

*(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).*

CARICOM countries have been subject to intense scrutiny in the period March to August this year, relating to the conduct of general elections, maintaining democracy, and upholding the rule of law.

Elections were held in four countries – Guyana, St. Kitts-Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

No country was more closely scrutinized than Guyana by both vigilant domestic groups and watchful international observers. That is good for the elected government which gained strong legitimacy both at home and abroad.

Guyana's elections were held on March 2 and could not be declared until August 2, largely because of actions by officials of the Elections Commission who are expected to be investigated in the coming weeks. The role played by the international community was a key factor in the declaration of a credible result of the elections,

that led to the swearing-in of Irfaan Ali as country's new President.

The most outstanding country, however, was Suriname. Not only was its elections process transparent and judged to be so by local and foreign observers, but the President and party in power accepted the will of the majority of the electorate and handed over office peacefully after an initial, but brief, call for a recount of votes in some areas. The former President, Desiré Bouterse, himself sashed the new President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

There were no international observers at the St. Kitts-Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago elections. In both nations, quarantine restrictions, on persons arriving in the countries, prohibited the presence of external elections observation missions. It has been argued that incumbent governments took advantage of the curtailments, occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, to constrain political party campaigning and to exclude observers from organisations such as the Commonwealth, the Organisation of American States (OAS) and CARICOM – all of which played a vital role in Guyana.

Speculation still lingers over the St. Kitts-Nevis elections on June 5, where



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

opposition parties claimed that the government used border closures to prevent nationals from returning home to vote, and to exclude external observers.

In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, it is doubtful that the integrity of the elections suffered from the absence of external observers. Over the years, the electoral machinery, as an institution, has been strengthened, providing confidence in the process. This confidence was evident when the August 10 elections were hailed by all the parties as free and fair. It was only the main oppo-

sition party, that called for a recount of six constituencies. Nonetheless, the presence of external observers would have helped to engender trust in the elections and eliminate the claims that led to the recount.

The experiences of Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago – each of them plural societies in which ethnicity plays a part in political party support – underscore the vital importance of strong, independent bodies to oversee elections. In both Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, it is generally accepted that the elections bod-



*cont'd from pg 12*

ies are institutionally strong. This was not the case in Guyana, and it is precisely why the presence of international observers was so vital to a democratic result of the elections and maintenance of the rule of law. Similarly, international observers, and their assessment of the fairness of the Suriname elections, contributed to the acceptance of the results of the May 25 poll. Mr Bouterse, an army man and leader of two coups d'état in the past, might otherwise have fancied his chances of seizing office. An identical prospect also hung-over Guyana for five months. What this all

emphasizes is that external observation of general elections is important to guard against fraud and elections rigging, and for the maintenance of the rule of law and democracy. Even if the elections machinery in a country is strong, it takes only one or two key officials to act improperly to manipulate results in favour of political parties they support.

Almost every country in the world now accepts the value of external observation of its elections, even the United States of America. In 2016, both the OAS and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe observed the U.S.

Presidential elections and are preparing to do so again for the 2020 elections on November 3.

The value that external observation missions bring to the integrity of an election, the legitimacy of a declared winner, and the willingness of a population to accept a result, is vital and should be encouraged.

In this connection, Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced that early general elections will be held on September 3. While Jamaica has quarantine restrictions in place for visitors, there is time now for invitations to be issued to CARICOM, the Common-

wealth and the OAS either to send separate teams or to collaborate, to save higher costs, by sending a combined team to observe the elections. Such a mission would give greater credibility and acceptability to the elections for which parties have been gearing for weeks.

External elections observer missions proved decisive in Guyana and beneficial in Suriname – the peoples of both countries can attest to their crucial value.

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



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- Develops human resources operations financial strategies by estimating, forecasting and anticipating requirements, following trends and budgeting resources to ensure team development and fund welfare initiatives.
- Recommends, evaluates and participates in staff development for the organization. Guides management and employee actions by researching, developing, writing, and updating policies, procedures, methods, and guidelines; communicating and enforcing organization values.

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- Global and Cultural Awareness
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*Elite Island Resorts Human Resources*

*Email: [gm@pbcantigua.com](mailto:gm@pbcantigua.com)*

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.*



## Tribute to Dame Dr Edris Bird

It is difficult to know where to start, to pay tribute to someone so humble and one who has had such an influence in my life and the lives of so many.

My point of departure is first of all to express my profound sadness on the passing of Dame Dr. Bird. I want the family to know that my family and I are all reaching out in thoughts and prayers to her children, grandchildren and entire family. In this time of grief, the many memories of our dear departed will continue to be a bridge linking us all together. Our many memories are the chains that binds those of us who are living, to our dearly departed friends and families. With Dame Dr. Bird, these links are long and will never be broken or forgotten. Having reestablished contact with Dr. Jillia in the United States several years ago, she became fast friend and family to my wife and children. We all love Dr Bird and enjoyed visiting with her every time we are at home.

I met Dame Dr Bird back in the 70s and she immediately became a major influence in my life's direction. She became aware of me due to my work in the English Harbour community, and she immediately suggested that I go to study community work at the University. She was influential in ensuring that I received a scholarship

to the University of the West Indies initially to study social work but then to undertake my first degree. I was not special, because she was encouraging all young people who could to move ahead and go to study. She was fully responsible in 1979 for a friend of mine Cynthia Joseph and I to be amongst the first students in the region to be given the first scholarships from the UWI extension program. On my return to Antigua, Dr. Bird encouraged me to take up the law program at the center. I then joined a group of likeminded students including Harold Lovell, Jackie Walwyn, Conrad Luke and others. She worked with the University to be sure that UWI provided reasonable accommodation to facilitate my taking the exams and pursuing the course. You must remember that at that time, it was very rare for a person who is totally blind to be sitting in a UWI program on campus never mind off campus. She had to fight to ensure that I got the exams in Braille and to be sure that the conditions were appropriate to allow me to be able to sit and write the exams without been disadvantaged. As a result of my success in the program, I was offered a scholarship by UWI to continue my legal studies. I did not take it up. I went another way to follow my dream otherwise.

Even at that point, Dr. Bird

was not finished with me; she has been encouraging me all along to write a book about my life. She asked me a few years ago, if she could work with others to have UWI give me an honorary doctorate. I denied that wish.

Her contribution to my life was not only limited to her encouragement of my academic pursuit. If she was with us at this time, she would tell you she had a part to play in my coupling with my then girlfriend my now wife. In those early days, she encouraged me and all students to share the knowledge gained with others. The story of my coming together with other young leaders to discuss the constitution and how that got us into some trouble, is well known. Harold Lovell was with me on that occasion. I am extremely pleased that although it happened a bit late, that the government of Antigua and Barbuda recognized her contribution to the people of this nation by honoring her with our nation's highest award. If anyone in our society, deserved such an honor for : education, youth development, and social activism it is Dame Dr bird. Her contribution touched more lives than can be counted.

Our university which sit at Five Islands, is a legacy of the work she started through the distant learning program years ago. Our State College work for university



**Dr. Aubrey Webson**

preparation is also a legacy of her contribution through her work and commitment of the distant learning UWI program.

An important part of any house is the foundation. In this case, that foundation was started over forty years ago by Dame Dr. Bird and her appetite for Antiguan students to excel. She was committed to adult education as part of nation building. I will steal a thought from one of our great sons of calypso; Calypso Joe and say; "Edris Bird, we love, and we praise you, Antigua is proud of you."

My family and I are truly blessed to have been touched by Dame Dr Bird in our lives. May her soul Rest in Peace and may she Rise in Glory on that day when heavenly rewards are given out. There is a place for you in that line Dame Dr. Bird.

Aubrey and Rosemary and Family

# Jamaican Parties agree on code of conduct for Sept 3 election



THE country's political parties yesterday agreed on a code of conduct for campaigning leading up to the September 3 General Election in light of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Office of the Political Ombudsman, in a statement last night, said in a meeting held yesterday representatives of the Jamaica Labour Party, People's National Party, United Independents' Congress, and the Jamaica Progressive Party agreed on a

code of conduct for mitigating health-related risks to voters and managing the general challenges and constraints in conducting an election during this time. "In this meeting, with guidance from the 'COVID-19 Protocol for the Conduct of a National Election', published by the Electoral Office of Jamaica and the 'Interim Guidelines for the Conduct of Election Campaign during COVID-19', published by the Ministry

of Health and Wellness, we agreed that there have to be changes to the usual campaign practices. The increased use of public education of digital messaging and compliance with new health requirements was emphasised," Political Ombudsman Donna Parchment Brown said.

## AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION ON POLITICAL CONDUCT (CODE

The parties agree that their candidates will be held accountable for breaches of laws, codes and protocols. Vote-buying, damaging other candidates' campaign materials and violence were highlighted. The political parties have all agreed to uphold the provisions of the Code of Political Conduct and that custodees will be asked to witness the signing by all candidates as soon as possible after Nomination Day at a location to be arranged in each parish.

## CAMPAIGNING

Candidates and campaign organisers must ensure that the provisions of the Disaster Risk Management Act (Enforcement Measures) are observed. Social distancing, the wearing of masks, sanitisation, and the limitation on public gatherings will be enforced. Walkabouts and door-to-door campaigning should be carried out in groups of no

more than five people, with each group acting as a unit. There should be no mixing of these groups, and they are to remain six feet away from each other.

If a campaign group intends to enter a home, no more than two people within the group are to enter the dwelling. These two individuals are not to remain within this dwelling for longer than 15 minutes.

## DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

Digital communication will replace much of the usual large meetings. The parties have agreed to hold their candidates to the standards in the code regarding the use of social media. They have agreed to condemn posts which are defamatory, incite violence, or are malicious.

## NOMINATION DAY

To prevent large gatherings and to ensure the safety of all, it was agreed that only two people per polling division may be invited to join the candidates on Nomination Day.

## ELECTION DAY

It was reiterated that polling stations will remain open until everyone at the polling stations have cast their vote, and every effort will be made to enable access to the polls by all electors, including those in quarantined communities.



## Cancelled: Ramsaran Dairy Products pulled from grocery shelves in Trinidad and Tobago

The Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago (SATT) said it has taken note of “very derogatory statements” made by a member of the Ramsaran Family which owns Rasamran Dairy Products.

SATT said these divisive and inflammatory comments do not belong in Trinidad and Tobago’s multi-ethnic society.

“We recognize that given the rich diversity of cultures and ethnicities in our cosmopolitan nation that these actions will not be tolerated.”

As such, the association has advised all its members to boycott all Ramsaran’s Dairy Products immediately.

“This will stay in place until such time that the company seeks the appropriate remedial action in a consistent and satisfactory manner. SATT recognises the keen values which underscore the fabric of our society and is prepared to uphold the fundamental right that every creed and race is given an equal place and will adopt this policy until further notice.”

Grocery stores join boycott

West Bees Supermarket “Subsequent to feedback from our customers and listening to sentiments

expressed by the wider community, the Westbees Supermarket team has decided to remove Ramsaran Products from our stores at this time and temporarily suspend ordering from this vendor. We at Westbees believe in the message enshrined in our National Anthem that ‘here every creed and race find an equal place’ and look forward to the continued partnership with our vendors who feel the same.”

Xtra Foods

“As a responsible retailer, Xtra Foods makes every effort to align itself with

partners who hold similar values to ours. We value our customer’s feedback, and we listen to them. As such, we have decided to remove Ramsaran products from our shelves at this time and suspend the ordering of this product at all our stores.”

Persad’s D’ Food King

“We have been an organisation based on equality and built on the foundation of our core values. We have respect for the laws of Trinidad and Tobago and the fundamental rights of all our citizens. We embrace our national watch

words of Discipline, Tolerance and Production and We embrace ‘Every creed and race finds an equal place’. As a responsible corporate citizen and a member of the Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago, we join in listening to the clarion call of our customers and we have removed from our shelves with immediate effect Ramsaran products and temporarily suspend ordering of this product. May God bless our nation.”

Massy Stores has also pulled Ramsaran products from its shelves.



## Prime Minister Mottley nominated to serve as Development

*Committee Chair of the World Bank Group and the IMF*



*Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados*

Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados, and Mesdames Azucena Arbeleche, Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay, have been nominated to serve as Development Committee Chair.

In line with the nomination by the Chairs of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, the Board of the World Bank has approved Prime Minister Mottley and Minister Mesdames Azucena Arbeleche, to serve as Chair of the joint World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund

Development Committee (DC). Prime Minister Mottley is nominated to serve as Chair for the period November 2020 to October 2021, and Minister Arbeleche for the period November 2021 to October 2022. The first term will become effective following the October 2020 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The nominees stated: “We are honored by these nominations. We are aware of the challenging times all countries, especially developing ones, are facing, and the relevant role that Multilateral Organizations,

like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, must play in supporting all client countries during this health and socio-economic crisis.”

The DC is a ministerial-level forum of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund for intergovernmental consensus-building on development issues. Known formally as the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries, the Committee was established in 1974.

This is the first time that the

Chairmanship of the Development Committee is split at the nomination step. The Prime Minister and Minister have agreed to undertake the duties of the Chair as a team. They are planning to share the different tasks of the position in a cooperative way, allowing for more consistent and significant efforts in relation to the DC agenda. This is an innovative arrangement, which will leverage nominees’ experiences and diverse perspectives of the Caribbean and Latin America sub-regions, while at the same time embracing the region’s similarities.



## USVI COVID-19 cases Surge to 106 in 2 Days, With Infections at Seniors Home, Outbreak at Prison



*Governor Albert Bryan*

In the past two days, the U.S. Virgin Islands has experienced its highest single-day number of Covid-19 infections, an outbreak at the Alexander A. Farrelly Criminal Complex in St. Thomas, and 10 new resident and 6 new staff cases at the Queen Louise Home for the Aged — the most vulnerable of populations to be affected by the deadly virus in the USVI.

Yet, following his press briefing on Monday where Mr. Bryan vowed to strictly enforce Covid-19 protocols for restaurants, warned boaters against rafting, and curtailed funeral attendance to no more than 10 family members, Mr. Bryan has been mum on the concerning surge in Covid-19 cases in the territory.

The VI. Dept. of Health on Wednesday evening reported 43 new cases of the virus territory-wide, 9 on St. Croix, 2 on St. John and 32 on St. Thomas. St. Thomas is now leading the USVI

with 165 active cases, followed by 27 on St. Croix and 5 on St. John.

A day before, D.O.H. reported 63 new cases territory-wide, equating to a two-day total of 106.

Community spread represented 14 of the 32 new cases in St. Thomas, followed by 8 close contact cases, 2 through travel while 8 cases remained under investigation. On St. Croix, 2 of the 9 cases were transmitted through community spread, 1 through close contact and the other cases were under investigation as of Wednesday evening.

During his Monday press briefing, Mr. Bryan acknowledged that he considered limiting restaurants to takeout only and implementing an 8:00 p.m. curfew. “But we’re not going to do that. We’re going to fine the culprits that are having these mass gathering events — people congregating outside, drinking and having a good time; not adhering to social distancing

— we’re going to shut it down 30 days no questions asked,” Mr. Bryan said. At the press briefing, he said only the Federal Aviation Administration has the authority to shut down America’s airports, a reminder made to address Virgin Islanders who have called for Mr. Bryan to take tougher action at the territory’s airports to blunt the spread of the virulent disease.

In March, however, Mr. Bryan had ordered that all occupancy facilities stop accepting reservations, a move that essentially halted travel to the territory outside from residents returning home, as visitors had no where to stay. The governor reopened reservations as part of his administration’s “Open Doors” phase, which is currently the active mode of operation.

Mr. Bryan has pointed to data showing that travel-related transmission, over 70 thus far, was among the lowest causes of Covid-19 infections in the USVI. Instead, the governor has pointed to local transmission, including close contact and community spread, as the main means through which the virus has escalated. However, while travelers represent the least amount of cases, some of those travelers — many of whom are visitors who come for a short time and leave — have spread the virus to locals, which has exacerbated local transmission of the contagion. Last month, when St. Croix was experiencing a surge in cases at Limetree Bay, the outbreak was triggered by workers brought into the territory who tested positive for the virus. Following the outbreak, Mr. Bryan announced a temporary ban on new incoming contractors

for Limetree Bay.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week placed a Level 3 Travel Notice warning on the USVI. The advisory warns against non-essential travel to the territory, pointing to a high risk of contracting Covid-19 and limited medical resources to serve those who do fall ill. On Tuesday, New York added the USVI to the list of states and territories where travelers coming from those locations are required to quarantine for 14 days. Mr. Bryan has spoken about a strategy shift that would keep the USVI open while managing the number of Covid-19 cases through successful hospitalization and release of patients. “At the end of the day Albert Bryan makes the decision on whether we’re going to open or close. Not anybody else. one man. And I think we’ve done a great job of being able to keep it open and keep people healthy. Yes we have a lot of cases, but the problem isn’t getting the cases, the problem is dying. So we have the facilities and continue to grow our facilities in terms of treating people and making sure that they come out alive,” Mr. Bryan said.

Of the new strategy, the governor said, “That shift comes as a result of remember, when we started doing this, we thought we would be done by summer and then we would be okay. The realization that it’s not going to end anytime soon — even if we get a vaccine, we still have another year at least — and coronavirus is going to be around for years. So the most important thing now is being able to manage your hospitals and being able to make sure that people stay alive.”

## Lebanon parliament approves sweeping powers for the army

Lebanon's parliament has approved a state of emergency that grants sweeping powers to the army, citing the exceptional circumstances in the country following a massive explosion in Beirut last week. The cabinet had declared a two-week state of emergency on August 5, the day after the Beirut blast that left at least 200 dead and some 6,000 injured. Parliament on Thursday voted for the emergency declaration eight days in, as is legally required, though it could have also voted it down. The state of emergency allows the army to curb free speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press, as well as to enter homes and arrest anyone deemed a security threat. Judicial proceedings are to take place in the country's military courts, which Human Rights Watch and other rights groups have shown do not conform to standards on due process. Rights groups have raised serious concerns about the state of emergency, saying it would enable security forces to crack down on a public raging with anger against the ruling class following the blast.

The huge explosion - one of the biggest non-nuclear blasts in history - was fueled by some 2,750 tonnes of dangerous chemicals left in storage at Beirut's port for nearly seven years, with the knowledge of top security and political officials. Citing the "militarization of the state", parliamentarian Osama Saad was the only one

out of the 119-member chamber, a reduced number after the resignation of nine MPs since the explosion, to oppose the state of emergency.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri responded the army had "not taken steps that people fear, nor suppress television [channels] and despite the chaos in the media it did not intervene and left room for protest", according to local media. Sessions are not televised and, therefore, statements by lawmakers are carried by local media.

But the Lebanese army, Internal Security Forces, and armed plain-clothes officers were observed using excessive force against anti-establishment protesters on Saturday.

Some 728 people were injured, many left with serious wounds that required emergency surgery. About 12 journalists were also assaulted, including at least four who were assaulted by soldiers, one of whom was an Al Jazeera reporter.

The state of emergency is set to run until August 21 but it can be renewed.

Karim Nammour, a member of legal NGO Legal Agenda, told Al Jazeera the state of emergency was entirely unnecessary to address the aftermath of the Beirut blast, given that the country had already been in a state of "general mobilization" because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"This general mobilization already allows cabinet the



*Lebanese army soldiers are deployed during a protest in the aftermath of last week's deadly blast in Beirut*

powers to mobilize the armed forces and to control stores and matters of a strategic nature, including controlling the prices of things like glass and wood, as well as to raise the rubble and provide relief to people," said Nammour.

"The only real reason we can see for a state emergency is to grant security forces powers to

control the streets as much as possible - to give legal coverage to things that would otherwise be impossible," he said.

"The ruling regime knows that it is weak and unpopular on the streets, and they are afraid because the fingers are pointed at them, and there are calls for revenge."



## Israel and UAE strike historic deal to normalize relations



*Benjamin Netanyahu and Prince Mohammed Al Nahyan brokered the agreement with US help*

Israel and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to normalise relations, US President Donald Trump has announced.

A joint statement by Mr Trump, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed Al Nahyan said they hoped the “historic breakthrough will advance peace in the Middle East”.

As a result, they added, Israel would suspend its controversial plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

Until now Israel has had no diplomatic relations with Gulf Arab countries.

However, shared concerns over Iran’s regional influence have led to unofficial contacts between them.

In response to President

Trump’s announcement, Mr Netanyahu tweeted in Hebrew: “Historic day.”

In a TV address Mr Netanyahu said he had “delayed” West Bank annexation plans, but those plans remain “on the table”. Annexation would make some West Bank areas officially part of Israel.

“There is no change in my plan to apply our sovereignty to Judea and Samaria (West Bank) in full coordination with the United States. I am committed to it. That has not changed. I remind you that I was the one who put the issue of sovereignty over Judea and Samaria on the table. This issue remains on the table.”

He said Israel would co-operate with the UAE in developing a coronavirus vaccine, in energy,

water, environmental protection and many other fields.

It marks only the third Israel-Arab peace deal since Israel’s declaration of independence in 1948. Egypt signed one in 1979, and Jordan in 1994. Mauritania also established diplomatic ties with Israel in 1999, but froze the deal in 2009.

The UAE’s ambassador to the US, Yousef Al Otaiba, said the deal with Israel was “a win for diplomacy and for the region”.

“It is a significant advance in Arab-Israeli relations that lowers tensions and creates new energy for positive change,” he added.

But a senior Palestinian official, Hanan Ashrawi, condemned the deal, saying the UAE had “come out in the open on its secret dealings/normalisation with Israel”

and telling Prince Mohammed: “May you never be sold out by your ‘friends’.”

Senior Trump adviser Jared Kushner said he did not think Israel would move ahead with any annexation before discussing it first with the US, Reuters reported.

He said he expected to see interactions “very quickly” between Israel and the UAE, and the US would resume discussions with several other countries about a possible deal concerning Israel.

What has been agreed?

In the coming weeks delegations from Israel and the UAE will meet to sign bilateral deals regarding investment, tourism, direct flights, security, telecommunications, technology, energy, healthcare, culture, the environment, the establishment of reciprocal embassies, and other areas of mutual benefit.

“Opening direct ties between two of the Middle East’s most dynamic societies and advanced economies will transform the region by spurring economic growth, enhancing technological innovation, and forging closer people-to-people relations,” the joint statement says.

Israel will also “suspend declaring sovereignty over areas outlined” in President Trump’s Vision for Peace between Israel and the Palestinians, in which he backed an Israeli plan to annex Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the strategic Jordan Valley.

## US seizes digital currency accounts used by militant groups

The Justice Department said Thursday it has seized millions of dollars from cryptocurrency accounts that militant organization abroad, including al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, relied on to raise money for violent operations.

The Trump administration said the groups used the accounts to solicit donations for their causes, including through a bogus scam that officials say purported to sell protective gear for the coronavirus pandemic.

Officials described it as the largest-ever seizure of digital currency funds related to terrorism.

Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin are favored for illicit transactions because they are perceived as hard to trace, and one of the groups explicitly encouraged donations by telling potential contributors that the money trail would be difficult for law enforcement to untangle, the department said.

The legal move, which included undercover law enforcement work and forfeiture complaints filed in Washington's federal court, is meant to deprive the organizations of funds needed to buy weapons and equipment and develop fighters and plots, Assistant Attorney General John Demers, the department's top national security official, said in a conference call announcing the case.

"This action shows that law enforcement remains a step ahead of them," Demers said.

The department said it has seized about \$2 million and is seeking to seize more, in addition to more than 300 cryptocurrency accounts and four websites. The seized funds are expected to be turned over to a fund for victims of terrorist attacks.

The seizure also involved the military wing of Hamas, known as the al-Qassam Brigades, which last year began a public fundraising campaign through social media to solicit Bitcoin donations and reassured potential donors that such contributions would be untraceable, officials said. It also posted on websites instructions for how to make donations.

Law enforcement officials ultimately seized more than 150 cryptocurrency accounts that they say laundered funds to accounts operated by the al-Qassam Brigades.

"Without funding, you cannot have these operations conducted," said Michael Sherwin, the acting U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. "The focus here was a very proactive effort to target these organizations in a very wide-scale manner." The department also identified a scheme that officials say was orchestrated by an IS associate who



*The Justice Department has seized millions of dollars from cryptocurrency accounts that militant organization abroad, including al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, relied on to raise money for their operations, officials announced Thursday.*

manages certain hacking operations for the group.

Prosecutors say the man, identified as Murat Cakar, registered a website in Turkey through which he claimed to sell medically authorized face masks for the coronavirus. The masks were actually produced by a Turkish company and were not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Justice Department said it seized that site as well as four related pages that facilitated funding for the group. A separate scheme by al-Qaida and affiliates sought to raise funds through Bitcoin for attacks even as the groups purported to act as charities, according to the court documents.

An undercover agent for Homeland Security Investigations, part of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, messaged the administrator of one charity asking to make donations. The administrator replied that he hoped for the destruction of the United States and he shared a Bitcoin wallet address for the purpose of receiving funds.

"Bullets and bombs is all affordable, but the drone stuff, its very hard to unless u have like anti aircraft stuff which is like millions of dollars," the administrator wrote, according to court documents. "Here they shoot it with a ground to air missile ... its possible to hit them but hard. Or a 23mm machine gun. U know those big guns attached to a car."

The investigation involved officials from multiple agencies, including the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and HSI.



## In China, fears of financial Iron Curtain as U.S. tensions rise

A sharp escalation in tensions with the United States has stoked fears in China of a deepening financial war that could result in it being shut out of the global dollar system - a devastating prospect once considered far-fetched but now not impossible.

Chinese officials and economists have in recent months been unusually public in discussing worst-case scenarios under which China is blocked from dollar settlements, or Washington freezes or confiscates a portion of China's huge U.S. debt holdings.

Those concerns have galvanised some in Beijing to revive calls to bolster the yuan's global clout as it looks to decrease reliance on the greenback.

Some economists even float the idea of settling exports of China-made COVID-19 vaccines in yuan, and are looking to bypass dollar settlement with a digital version of the currency.

"Yuan internationalisation was a good-to-have. It's now becoming a must-have," said Shuang Ding, head of Greater China economic research at Standard Chartered and a former economist at the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

The threat of Sino-U.S. financial "decoupling" is becoming "clear and present", Ding said.

Although a complete separation of the world's two largest economies is unlikely, the Trump administration has been pushing for a partial decoupling in key areas related to trade, technology and financial activity.

Washington has unleashed a barrage of actions penalising



*Yuan and U.S. dollar banknotes are seen behind illuminated stock graph in this illustration taken February 10, 2020*

China, including proposals to bar U.S. listings of Chinese companies that fail to meet U.S. accounting standards and bans on the Chinese-owned TikTok and WeChat apps. Further tension is expected in the run-up to U.S. elections on Nov. 3.

"A broad financial war has already started ... the most lethal tactics have yet to be used," Yu Yongding, an economist at the state-backed Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) who previously advised the PBOC, told Reuters.

Yu said the ultimate sanction would involve U.S. seizures of China's U.S. assets - Beijing holds over \$1 trillion yuan in U.S. government debt - which would be difficult to implement and a

self-inflicted wound for Washington. But calling U.S. leaders "extremists", Yu said a decoupling is not impossible, so China should make preparations.

The stakes are high. Any move by Washington to cut China off from the dollar system or retaliation by Beijing to sell a big chunk of U.S. debt could roil financial markets and hurt the global economy, analysts said.

Fang Xinghai, a senior securities regulator, said China is vulnerable to U.S. sanctions and should make "early" and "real" preparations. "Such things have already happened to many Russian businesses and financial institutions," Fang told a June forum organised by Chinese media outlet Caixin.

Guan Tao, former director of the international payments department of China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange and now chief global economist at BOC International (China), also said Beijing should ready itself for decoupling.

"We have to mentally prepare that the United States could expel China from the dollar settlement system," he told Reuters.

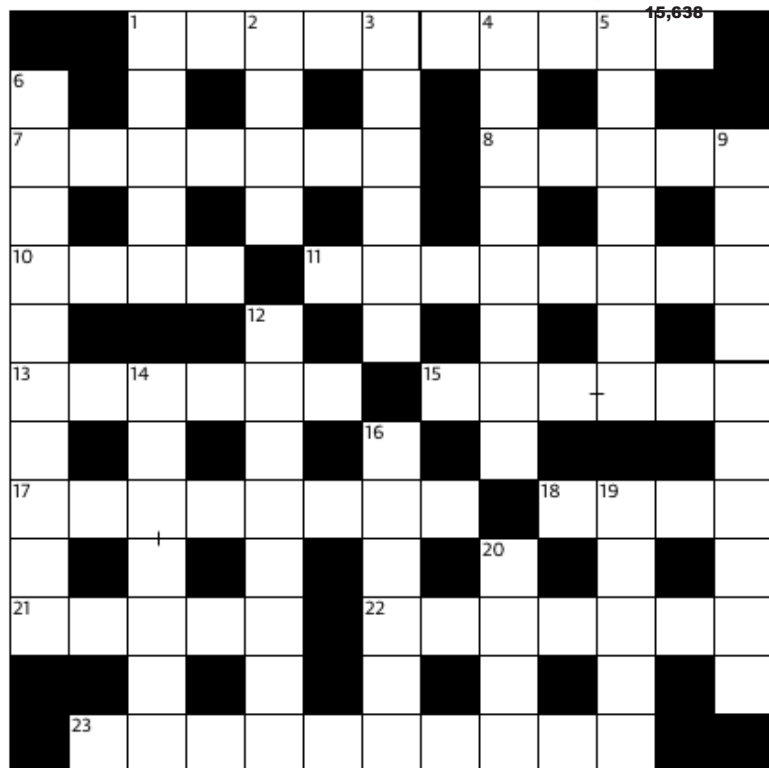
In a report he co-authored last month, Guan called for increased use of China's yuan settlement system, Cross-Border Interbank Payment System, in global trade. Most of China's cross-border transactions are settled in dollars via the SWIFT system, which some say leaves it vulnerable.

## LEISURE

## QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No

15,638



Quick crossword No

15,637



## Across

- 1 Nearby game? (5,5)  
 7 Cause of irritation (7)  
 8 Deduce (5)  
 10 Light fawn colour (4)  
 11 German or Austrian motorway (8)  
 13 Bear-like (6)  
 15 Daylight robbery (informal) (3-3)  
 17 Leave behind (8)  
 18 Sleepy gape (4)  
 21 Given under oath (5)  
 22 Diminish (7)  
 23 Short movement between main parts of a symphony (10)

## Down

- 1 Pilsner, for example (5)  
 2 Signals for action (4)  
 3 Hit hard (6)  
 4 Intermittent (8)  
 5 Animal whose milk made mozzarella initially (7)  
 6 Sycophantic (10)  
 9 Digit for the marital gold band (4,6)  
 12 Example (8)  
 14 (Inactive) industrial action? (3-4)  
 16 English actor, comedian and singer-songwriter (1915-2010) (6)  
 19 Television sound (5)  
 20 Catnap (4)

## CARTOON CORNER

## In the Bleachers



"I couldn't get off work."





## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** Your innocent flirtations may just be a habit or a way of passing time for you, but someone may take it seriously. In the week to come, think of every meeting as a chance to show that you are sincere and real.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** It's the first day of summer, and your fancy may turn to thoughts of business affairs and money-making activities rather than love. Tackle practical subjects like your bank balance as the week begins.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Play life like a game of chess. Sometimes it is necessary to sacrifice something unimportant in order to win the game. In the upcoming week, you can put your brainpower to work and upgrade your financial status.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** There is a New Moon in your sign, and although you cannot see it, you might feel it as the upcoming week unfolds. You may feel better able to express yourself once you accept your strengths as well as your limitations.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** It is hard to find a rainbow without seeing a little rain first. A few bumps may lessen your confidence in the beginning of the week, but your optimism will quickly return. You might prefer to think through a strategy by yourself.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Turn obstacles and dropped balls into learning opportunities. Take a few ideas that have been floating around in your head and put them into motion this week. You and a partner can draw up viable plans and find practical solutions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.):** Some of your fantasies might come true, but there is a reason they're fantasies. Try not to make irrevocable decisions or major purchases unless they make good sense. You must be perceptive enough to read the writing on the wall.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Your ideas may be too big to handle alone. You could get a project off the ground if there's a good supporting cast to help you in the upcoming week. If you don't have all the answers, at least you know how to get them.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You have the hammer and someone else has the nails. In the week to come, you and a partner can work together to achieve your dreams. Your powerful enthusiasm can be the driving force behind intricate plans.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** The first day of summer can light up your life. Not only is the day longer but your patience can last longer, too. As the week unwinds, you may grow closer and more comfortable with a partner or special someone.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** The difference between failure and success could depend on whether you phone it in or do your best. Remember in the week ahead that a task done correctly the first time will not need to be done again.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** In the upcoming week you might be tempted to spend time on frivolous things that could rattle your bank account. Put creative energy to good use by focusing on a new artistic project or educational experience.

# Sports News

ANTHONY AND BARBARA  
**POINTE PRESS**  
WINTER NEW AND INSPIRING NEWS

## Blazers escape Nets to reach play-in

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -- When the idea of the NBA creating a bubble at the Walt Disney World Resort was first floated, Portland Trail Blazers star Damian Lillard had one request: if he was asked to come play in Florida, that the NBA give him the opportunity to make the playoffs.

Lillard and the Blazers were given that opportunity -- and he made sure they took advantage of it.

While it might not have been of the same vintage as his 51- and 61-point explosions in the prior two games, Lillard finished with 42 points Thursday night -- including 12 in the fourth quarter -- as Portland eked out a 134-133 victory over the Brooklyn Nets to earn the second spot in the league's inaugural play-in tournament this weekend.

Portland has to win just one of the two potential play-in games -- Saturday at 2:30 p.m. ET and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. ET, both on ABC -- against the Memphis Grizzlies in order to face the Los

Angeles Lakers in the first round of the NBA playoffs. The Grizzlies, on the other hand, have to win both games to make the postseason.

While the two teams in the hunt for play-in tournament spots that won earlier Thursday -- the Grizzlies and Phoenix Suns -- scored victories against depleted Milwaukee Bucks and Dallas Mavericks teams, respectively, that were preparing for the playoffs, the Blazers got a full effort from the Nets.

Brooklyn will be playing the Toronto Raptors beginning Tuesday in the first round of the NBA playoffs, but after the Nets have had guys in and out of the lineup over the past several weeks, they chose to play their full rotation its typical allotment of minutes in order to prepare for the postseason.

The Nets certainly kept that focus throughout, as Caris LeVert (37 points on 16-for-29 shooting, with 9 assists) led Brooklyn to a 10-point lead late in the third quarter,



as the Nets as a team shot a scorching 59.7% from the field through three quarters against Portland's flammable defense that entered Thursday's game ranked 21st in defensive efficiency.

But Portland, as it did against both Philadelphia and Dallas, fought back, and took the lead with 1 minute, 47 seconds remaining on a layup by Jusuf Nurkic that made it 132-130 Portland, and CJ McCollum doubled the lead with a free throw line jumper with 53.4 seconds left following a frenetic sequence that saw both Nurkic and Lillard diving on the floor for loose balls. The Blazers gave up a multitude of offensive rebounds in the fourth, howev-

er, and it appeared that would come back to cost Portland dearly when LeVert scored over Nurkic, plus a foul, with 37.7 seconds left, cutting Portland's lead to 134-133.

Portland had a chance to seal the game when Carmelo Anthony had a wide-open look in the corner that would've pushed the lead back to four, but Anthony missed. Brooklyn then came down and chose to play for the win, with LeVert isolated against McCollum -- whom he'd relentlessly attacked in the fourth quarter.

But though LeVert got off a quality shot, it went wanting, and the Blazers escaped with their playoff lives -- and live to fight again Saturday.

## CONCACAF seeds preliminary groups for Qatar 2022 qualifying

CONCACAF will hold the draw for its reformed 2022 World Cup qualifiers next Wednesday (August 19) and has announced the seeded spots for the first round group stages that will see 30 teams in action.

El Salvador, Canada, Curacao, Panama, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago are the top seeded teams for the first round

group draw that will create six groups of five teams. These matches are scheduled for the October and November 2020 FIFA match windows with the caveat that the coronavirus pandemic does not mean that playing them creates a potential public health threat.

CONCACAF's new format will see teams in each group playing each other

once with the six group winners progressing to the knock-out stage.

The three knock-out winners will then go through to meet the top five ranked nations - Mexico, USA, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Honduras - in a final league of eight teams to qualify three nationals to Qatar 2022 and one for the intercontinental play off.



## Swimming is in a good place

Vipers Swimming Club Coach, Wayne Mitchell, says his athletes have been back in the pool for the past two months under new conditions and protocols.

"We do temperature checks, our swimmers and coaches come to training with their mask and we practice social distancing," Coach Mitchell explained in a recent conversation with PointeXpress.

"The Federation sent us the necessary information and we passed it on to the parents instructing them to share with the children," Mitchell said.

He also explained that his club has partnered closely with local health authorities to ensure compliance with regulations in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

"We have been inspected and passed by the Ministry of Health, so the past couple of months our athletes have been working hard for future engagements," he explained.

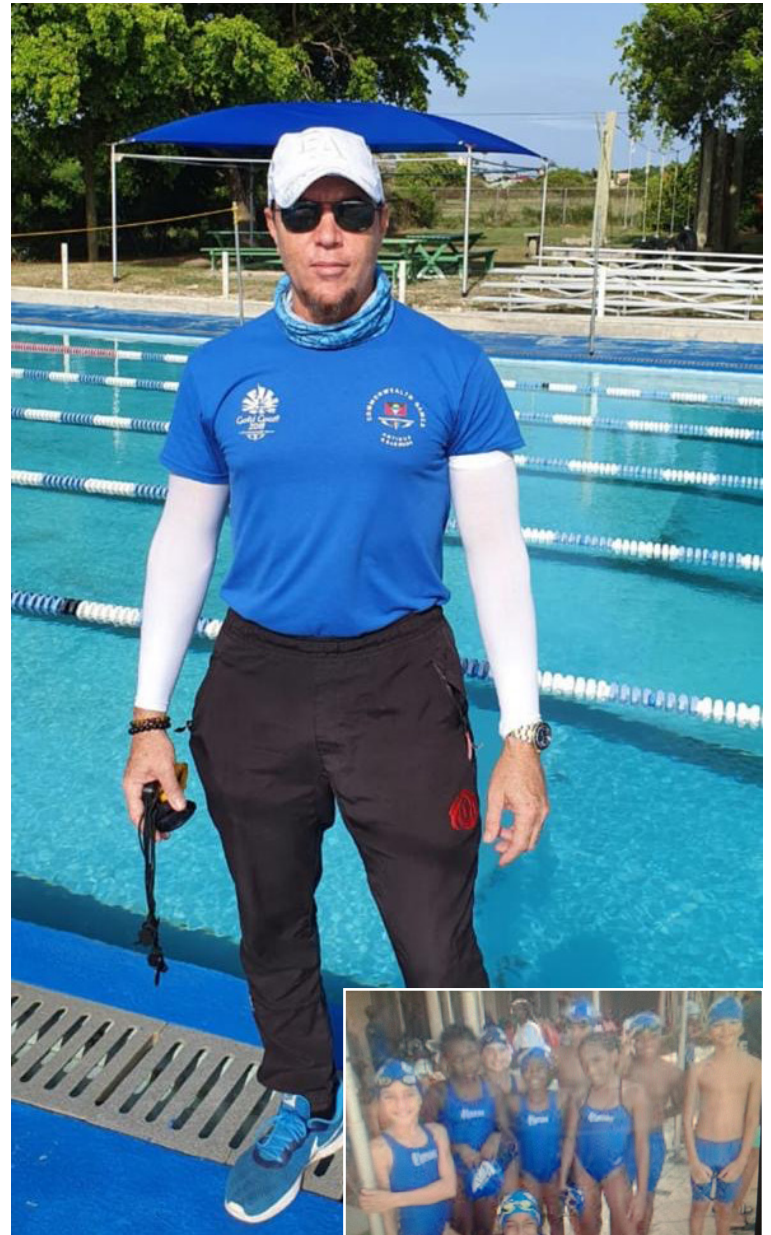
Coach Mitchell said the club resumed training with only one individual in a lane, however the advance to phase two increased that number to two to a lane which has brought the total pool capacity to twenty-four persons.

"The children have adapted well to the new way of life in our sport as we continue to educate them daily, but swimmers are naturally disciplined so the tradition has not been that difficult," Mitchell said.

With 2020 all but ended, Mitchell says that he is now preparing his athletes to set their focus on the future. To this end, the swimmers will participate in time trials at the Vipers Swimming Club as they prepare to qualify for CARIFTA.

"Swimming is in a good place and the future is bright," Mitchell stated.

"The only slight setback," he continued, "is the athletes not being able to compete. That's what drives them."



Vipers Swimming Club Coach, Wayne Mitchell

## West Indies to tour New Zealand

Cricket New Zealand disclosed Tuesday that the West Indies will participate in a packed summer cricket tour which will see Australia, Pakistan and Bangladesh featuring prominently.

New Zealand Cricket Chief Executive, David White, said he had already received confirmation from Cricket West Indies that the Caribbean team will participate in a bilateral tour to be played under the same bio-secure environment which gov-

erned West Indies three-test tour of England.

The West Indies are scheduled to tour New Zealand for three Tests in November under the Future Tours Programme, but White did not indicate whether the West Indies tour would comprise Tests or limited overs matches.

New Zealand had been slated to tour the Caribbean for three One Day Internationals and three Twenty20 Internationals last month but the se-

ries was scrapped due to the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

White said NZC was currently collaborating with the government on measures to guide protocols for the upcoming tours which would involve a now standard two week quarantine for all arriving players.

New Zealand has been widely praised for the way it has handled the pandemic making it one of the safest countries in the world.

# Sports

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## Sports is my life

The Deputy Director of Sports, Evans “Jawacki” Jones is of the view that local coaches want ready made talent without putting in the effort necessary to teach and develop athletes.

Talking to PointeXpress Jones, a certified coach of 37 years and IAAF Lecturer, is urging local coaches to equip themselves with the knowledge required to take the nation’s young athletes to the next level.

Jawacki, as he is affectionately known, was raised between Ottos and Grays Green starting his career in football at the Princess Margaret School before taking up athletics at the age of 21.

“I started running at 21 and within three months was the national 400 meters champion heading to the Dominican Republic to represent my country.”

An injury cut Jones’ running career short and he immediately moved into coaching rapidly acquiring his qualifications after completing courses in Mexico in 1983 and then in St. Kitts.

“I learned a lot in Mexi-



*The Deputy Director of Sports, Evans “Jawacki” Jones*

co,” Jones noted, “and my eyes were opened to the scientific aspects of coaching which I have studied and perfected over the years.”

Jawacki believes sports should be approached scientifically, technically, and structurally.

“Sports is my life,” explained Jones, “but I am not happy with the development of our young athletes in all sports and as coaches we

have too much egos among ourselves. If we are not in charge of whatever is being done, it is wrong.”

Jones continued, “With the wealth of experience and knowledge I possess I have not been taken seriously by the people in authority.

“I have presented many documents on how to develop young talent to my peers that have been pushed aside over the years. If we are going to produce top athletes we must have elite programmes.

Jones also emphasised the

fact that coaches must be good teachers.

Jones is the only Sports Coach in Antigua who has experience as a coaching Educator and he has been able to share his knowledge throughout the Caribbean.

In addition to his service here at home, the former national athlete has lectured in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Kitts and Montserrat.

He is still active today as he continues to work with many local clubs in a variety of sporting disciplines and as a strength and conditioning trainer.

 **DEWS**

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