



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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PRICE \$3

BARBUDANS GET NEW HOMES

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Hannah Thomas Hospital reopens

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Marcus Mosiah Garvey Jr: 133rd anniversary of his birth

Marcus Mosiah Garvey was a Jamaican political activist, publisher, journalist, entrepreneur and orator.

He was the founder and first President General of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL, commonly known as UNIA), through which he declared himself Provisional President of Africa.

Ideologically a black nationalist and Pan-Africanist, his ideas came to be known as Garveyism.

Some of the ideas of Gar-



Marcus Mosiah Garvey

veyism were found to be attractive to leaders of the Caribbean including the Father of the Nation, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr.

Garvey visited Antigua twice in the late 1930's where

he spoke at the Anglican Schoolroom building, then located immediately east of the St. John's Cathedral where a parking lot stands today.

So impressed was Sir Vere

with Marcus Garvey, while Antigua gained independence in association with Britain on February 27, 1967, when full independence was obtained in 1981, November 1 was chosen as independence day to mark the date that Marcus Garvey spoke in Antigua in 1937 and again in 1939.

Garvey's influence has been profound.

He is seen as a national hero in Jamaica and his ideas exerted a considerable influence on influential movements such as Rastafari, the Nation of Islam and the Black Power Movement.

DAY 8/17

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: E at 24 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 30 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.5 mm
 Rain: 0.5 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

31°_{Hi}



Sunshine and some clouds with a shower in places

NIGHT 8/17

Wind: E at 24 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 30 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 65%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 3.9 mm
 Rain: 3.9 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 2
 Hours of Rain: 2

26°_{Lo}



Partly cloudy and warm with spotty showers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:51 AM

Sunset AST
6:31 PM



Duration
12:40 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
4:11 PM

Moonset AST
5:38 AM



Duration
13:27 hr

Rehabilitation of Hannah Thomas Hospital complete

After almost three years following the passage of hurricane Irma, Barbudans can once again receive full medical care at the Hanna Thomas Hospital.

This has been made possible through a USD \$1million donation from the Government of India which was solicited by Prime Minister Gaston Browne. The grant was used to fully rehabilitate, equip and upgrade the island's sole hospital, which was destroyed in 2017.

Under the oversight of the Government of Antigua & Barbuda, the project, funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund reconstructed the severely damaged hospital and provided equipment to improve patient care.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implemented the project, utilizing a \$1M contribution from India through the Fund, using 'Build Back Better' principles to ensure greater structural resilience and inclusive access.

The hospital was officially reopened last Friday during a handing over ceremony in Barbuda.

Speaking at the ceremony, UNDP Head of Office in Antigua and Barbuda, Mellissa Johnson, said, "We extend



our gratitude to all stakeholders who played a pivotal role in seeing this project come to fruition."

Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Molwyn Joseph, was also in Barbuda as part of a Cabinet delegation led by Prime Minister Browne. During the ceremony, Minister Joseph used the opportunity to underscore the importance of the hospital to the Barbudan community.

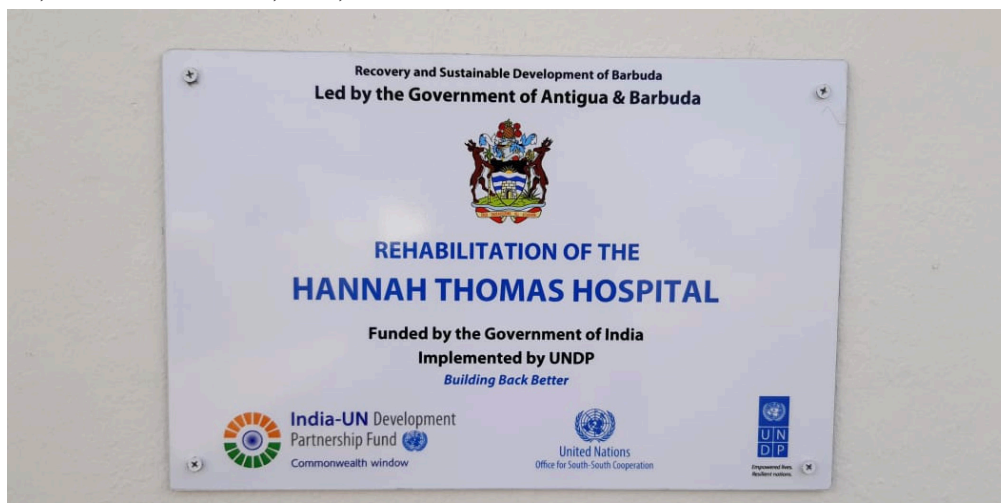
He added that the upgrade the hospital received was timely as its design was engineered by experts in both architecture and healthcare.

"We are pleased to assist the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) and work with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works, Development Control Authority (DCA), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Barbuda Affairs, and the Barbuda Council in delivering the project. The leadership and support of the organizations in the design and implementation were indispensable," said the UNDP.

The organization continued, "On October 30th, 2019, the UNDP and Roberts Construction and Engineering Co. Ltd, after intensive consultations with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, signed a contract to rehabilitate the Hannah Thomas Hospital."

The scope of work included work on the Matron's Office, a conference room, orderly rooms, electrical room, male and female wards, restrooms, sterilization ward, maternity ward, cleaning area and hallway.

Safety mechanisms such as fire extinguishers, emergency lights, and shutters were also included in the hospital upgrade.



Helping Barbuda Build Back Better: 20 Barbudans receive new homes

A delegation of Cabinet ministers led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, traveled to Barbuda on Friday to join a team from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the official handover of keys to new homes to twenty vulnerable Barbudans.

These new homeowners were among the victims of the devastating 2017 hurricane, Irma.

The twenty Barbudan families received newly rebuilt and repaired houses which were designed to be stronger and more resilient.

The newly constructed homes are a part of the European Union funded Housing Support Project which offered assistance to the

Government of Antigua and Barbuda in its recovery efforts on the sister island.

According to a statement from the Office of the Prime Minister, "With a strong collaboration with the UNDP and key government stakeholders, we are working towards the rehabilitation and rebuilding of 150 residential homes using the 'Build Back Better' approach. This approach is in compliance with the OECS Building code as well as the Antigua and Barbuda Building guidelines and DCA."

The project is being facilitated through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) which aided in the turnover of the homes last Friday.



According to the UNDP, "Five of the houses required major repairs while fifteen new homes were built to replace ones which were destroyed in Hurricane Irma.

The milestone represents the completion of the first phase of the project which is being led by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda and

cont'd on pg 5



cont'd from pg 4

implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A bidding process is currently underway for the second phase of the project, which aims at rebuilding up to an additional 130 houses with EU grant funding."

The beneficiaries of the first twenty homes fell under Level 3 and Level 4 categories for the scope of work.

The scope of work undertaken for homes classified as Level 3 damages included demolition works, reinforcement of structural elements including walls, columns, and beams, roofing, doors and windows and basic infrastructure such as foundation and internal electrical system per project design. The UNDP added that, "The reconstruction has been done using the 'Building Back Better' principles and national building codes to promote resilient infrastructure."

The international agency noted that the repaired or reconstructed house does not include wall plastering, paint, tiles, external storm drains, water and sewage systems or a connection to the APUA power grid.

The scope of work for Level 4 damages is classified as a construction of a new 500 square foot one bedroom house with an entrance, living room, kitchen and dining room, bedroom, closet, passage, bathroom, and terrace/laundry. The fully rebuilt homes do not include wall plastering, paint, tiles, external storm drains, water and sewage systems or a connection to the APUA power grid.

"It is expected that homeowners or occupants will complete the cosmetic and other finishes as part of the beneficiary's contribution to the project," the UNDP indicated.

The new homeowners and their families collected their home packages from PM Browne and UNDP representative, Mellissa Johnson.

The recipients were Roxie James, George Charles, Norris Desouza, Odean Charles, Paulette George, Tenesha Beazer, Norma Drinkwater, Carl Francis, Akuwaah Benjamin, Fifi Richards, Erica Harris, Celina Williams, Brad Frank Desouza, Mike Yearwood, Joseph Mapp, Chesley Christian, Emmiel Floyd Harris, Relton Jeffery, Cheryl Gore and Emeka Mussington.



PM concerned about rising level of miscreant behaviour

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has lauded the Ministry of Education for the comprehensive programme it has formulated to protect the nation's youth when schools reopen in September.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on the weekend, the prime minister said he fully endorses the initiatives being adopted by the ministry with the start of the school year less than a month away.

However, Browne has again voiced concerns over the prolonged absence of students from the classroom and the impact this is having on some young people.

Some weeks ago, the prime minister said as he drove around the country he noticed many young people



congregating in large groups in violation of the health protocols in place under the State of Emergency.

Now, Browne says that reports have reached which suggest that young people have been gathering at the Fisheries Complex at the Point Wharf and engaged in vandalising the facility.



These acts, according to the prime minister, increase the urgency for schools to be reopened so that young people can return to a learning environment and avoid 'criminal behaviour'.

He also repeated his earlier position that if the country's economy has been reopened, then it is only right

that schools should reopen as well.

"We can't reopen the economy and not reopen the schools. Our parents have to work and they can't do both; work as well as take care of their children," he remarked.

With the reopening schools imminent, Browne said the aim is to create a secure bio-sphere at each school where all the required COVID-19 health protocols are practiced.

Arrangements will be established to accommodate both face-to-face and virtual learning.

A government representative in Miami is currently undertaking the purchase of six thousand laptops for distribution among the nation's students.

Mixed response to new schools' protocols

The Ministry of Education is reporting that it has received a mixed response to the COVID-19 arrangements it intends to implement in the upcoming academic year.

Last week, the ministry announced the regulations that will go into effect when schools reopen on September 7.

In an appearance on Pointe FM's Browne and Browne talk show over the weekend, Deputy Director of Education, Jonah Greene and Education Officer for School Administration and Services, Dr. Desiree Antonio, reinforced the information provided to the public during a press conference last Wednesday.

Greene said there was widespread consultation with stakeholders in education concerning the new measures in order to ensure that there was a 'buy-in' regarding the regulations.

Consultations were held with the Ministry of Health, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, principals, teachers, the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers and parents.

"We gained valuable information from these interventions which have helped to guide the framing of the new measures. While nothing is cast in stone, we are prepared to revisit these arrangements in the future should that become necessary," she stated.

Despite this, the ministry said there is still a fair amount of anxiety among some parents who have expressed misgivings about sending their children back to school in this era of COVID-19.

"Some parents don't want to send their children back to the classrooms. They have been following what's been happening in other countries where parents have taken this stance. On the other hand, we have cases where parents are prepared to send their children back to school if they are satisfied that the measures being put in place by the ministry are sufficient to protect their

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Antigua and Barbuda congratulates India

Antigua and Barbuda has joined the international community in extending congratulations to the government and people of India on the occasion of its 74th anniversary of political independence.

In a statement issued over the weekend by the Office of the Prime Minister, it was noted that India's independence in 1947 heralded a volcanic shift in the relations between the colonized and the colonizers all over the world.

India has played a leadership role in dismantling the subjection of colonized peoples and securing the sovereignty and independence of states both large and small.

India's role is deeply etched in the history of the struggle for freedom and equality.

Since 1981, India and Antigua and Barbuda have enjoyed friendly diplomatic relations and have entered into technical cooperation projects to the benefit of both sovereign states.

Following hurricane Irma a few years ago, India stepped forward to provide vital resources which allowed the Hanna Thomas Hospital on Barbuda to resume operation. The hospital was severely damaged, and its equipment destroyed, by the vicious winds and



Prime Minister Gaston Browne with the Indian High Commissioner Dr. K J Srinivasa.

rain which accompanied Irma in September 2017.

Most recently, in the wake of the global war against COVID-19, India donated \$1 million USD worth of life saving equipment and PPE's to the twin island state.

According to the letter from the Prime Minister's Office, the government and people of the Republic of India have continued to cooperate with their counterparts in Antigua and Barbuda in this era of the destructive coronavirus pandemic.

India is also leading the way in global

efforts to find a vaccine which will reverse the harm COVID-19 has caused to people and economies globally.

The Office of the Prime Minister continued that India's outstanding expertise in producing the best technology engineers will ensure that its undiminished expertise will again prevail.

The letter closed by confirming that the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda reaffirm their faith in the greatness of the Government and people of the Republic of India and used the opportunity to renew the assurances of their highest esteem and friendship.

cont'd from pg 6

children," Dr. Antonio added.

She explained that the Education Act provides for home schooling if parents decide to go that route. If this option is decided upon, the Act requires that parents write to the Director of

Education to seek approval for home schooling. Home schooled children will also be constantly monitored by the ministry.

Meanwhile, the officials confirmed a phased return to the classrooms for students at both the primary and secondary levels.

In primary schools during week one, kindergarteners and Grades 1, 2 and 6 will report to school and all students in the second week. For secondary schools, each cohort of students will report to school on different days. For example, first form students will report

on day one, second form on day two and so on.

Greene said the success of the schools in managing the COVID-19 situation will depend largely on students and how they will adhere to social distancing, hand washing and mask wearing measures.

‘The Lift Off’: Antigua and Barbuda’s new ‘attraction’

With the increasing popularity of virtual and socially distanced happy hours, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has approached award winning mixologist, Altino Spencer, to create a new cocktail to transport people to Antigua and Barbuda.

Inspired by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority’s ‘Your Space in the Sun’ campaign, the expert mixologist produced a signature cocktail perfect for those dreaming of an escape to the twin-island paradise.

Launched in June when the destination reopened to visitors, the ‘Your Space in the Sun’ campaign invites



Altino Spencer

travelers to visit Antigua and Barbuda to broaden their horizons and enjoy all the space they need to move, think and be themselves.

Spencer, a national of Antigua and Barbuda, created the ‘Lift Off’ cocktail to evoke the flavours and bliss of an escape to idyllic Antigua and Barbuda.

The beverage highlights ingredients readily available in Antigua and Barbuda so the cocktail can easily be replicated at home.

Made with crisp, light flavours, ‘The Lift Off’ conjures up images of Antigua and Barbuda’s 365 beaches, boundless blue waters, secluded harbours, boutique properties, private villas and one-of-a-kind attractions and dining options.

Spencer combined citrus flavours, the famed Antigua Cavalier Rum, Blue Curaçao and fruit garnishes to create a drink reminiscent of the turquoise waters surrounding Antigua and Barbuda.

The recipe calls for 0.5 oz simple syrup, 0.5 oz lime juice, 0.5 oz Grand Marnier, 1.5 oz Antigua Cavalier white rum, 0.5 oz Blue Curaçao, an orange wedge garnish and ice.

-NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM-

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ASKED
QUESTIONS



A

re Teachers
Allow to ride on School Buses

?

Teachers are allowed to ride on school buses however,

Students are given first preference when

The school bus is full.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

3 MILLION IMPERIAL GALLONS PER DAY

REVERSE OSMOSIS PLANT AT WILLOUGHBY BAY IN BETHESDA

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) wishes to invite eligible parties to express interest in the construction of a three million imperial gallon per day Reverse Osmosis Plant at Willoughby Bay in Bethesda as the Authority seeks to fulfill its mandate of ensuring the provision of an adequate supply of water to meet the daily demand.

The expression of interest should make provision for an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) arrangement with APUA. It should be noted that APUA will be responsible for the civil and building works for the pumping station, product tanks, the building housing the main equipment and the electricity supply to the various equipment.

Interested parties should provide their company's background information outlining competence and experience in relevant areas including curriculum vitae of key personnel to be involved in the project and featured projects or clients. The information provided should focus on the installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants, especially with capacity in the range of 3.0 million imperial gallons per day. Statement of interested parties experience relevant to supply and installation of RO Plants of similar capacity in the Caribbean, Central American, South American or relatively small markets similar to this project. Interested parties should present a general plan that includes a preliminary list of main equipment manufacturers etc.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to technical competence, qualifications and experience (especially related experience on similar projects), financial capability and existing commitments. All information must be submitted in English.

APUA reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not short-listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

FOR COMPLETE DETAILS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT ELIGIBLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PLEASE VISIT THE HOME PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.apua.ag>

Deadline for the submission of Expressions of Interest is **Monday 31st August by 4:00pm.**



Only two active COVID-19 cases remain

There are no new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda, according to the Ministry of Health.

This is the word on the coronavirus situation in the country based on the very latest information available to the ministry.

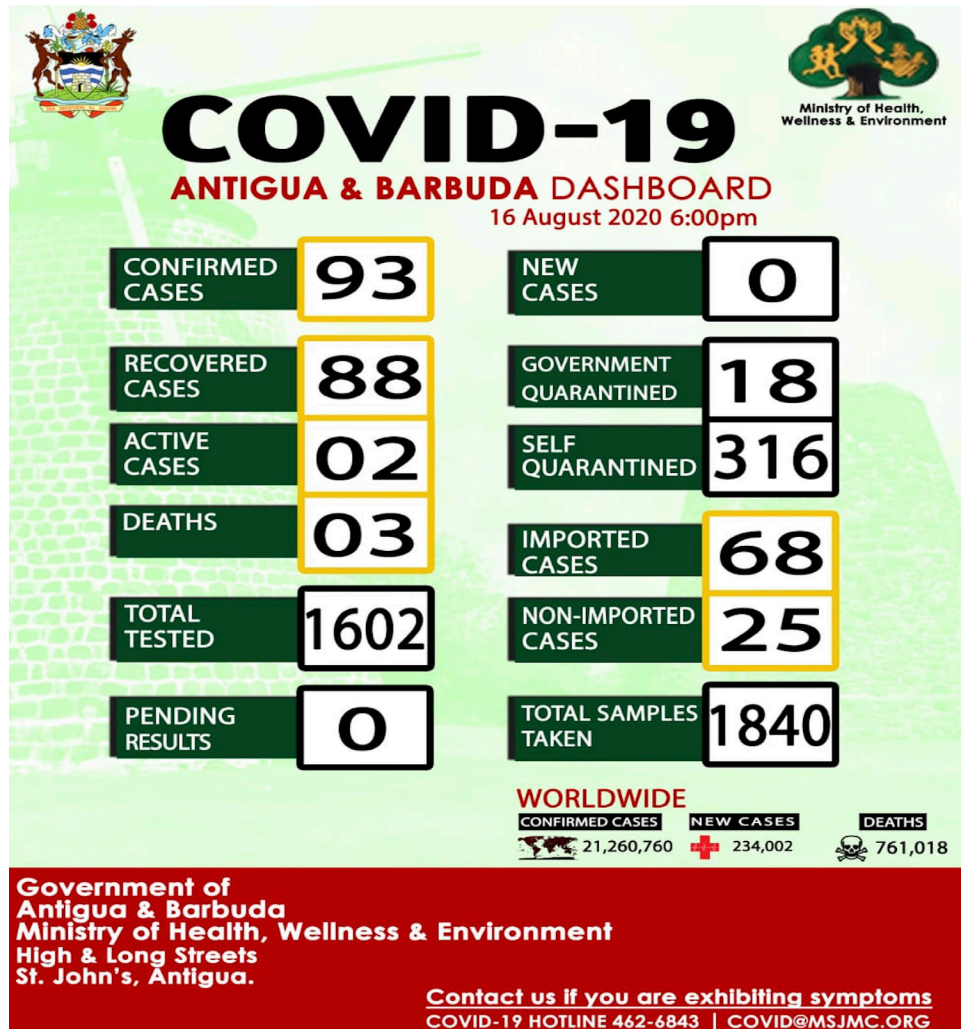
In addition to the fact that there are no new cases, the Ministry of Health also disclosed that there are only two active cases of the coronavirus.

"The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has revealed no new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 14th August, 2020 at 6pm.

"All thirty-four samples which were processed and sent to CARPHA yielded all negative results," the release stated.

Meanwhile, an additional five recovered cases now brings the country's total to eighty-eight.

Consequently, the total number of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda since the start of the pandemic stands at ninety-three with two active cases.



More training for St. Paul's residents

Following the successful introduction of face mask training sessions for residents of the St. Paul constituency, additional training opportunities will soon come on stream for those seeking new skills.

The area's parliamentary representative, E.P Chet Greene, has announced that the next community training programme will focus on floral design and arrangement.

"Our instructor for this training, Ronis Spencer, comes with more than 30 years of experience in floral designs and is one of Antigua's leading florists.

"I welcome her with greatest excitement and anticipated enthusiasm on the part of the trainees," Greene announced in a circular distributed to his constituents.

The programme, which commences on August 25, will be offered to fifteen

trainee florists over a period of ninety days.

Registration opens today at the constituency office in English Harbour. Due to limited space in the programme however, Greene is encouraging interested persons to register early.

"This is another empowerment initiative targeting primarily the unemployed in our community and it is geared towards skills transfer and ultimately in-

come generation capacity," Greene explained.

He added that as the nation negotiates its way through the COVID-19 pandemic, he has committed himself to doing all in his power to protect the lives of his constituents and providing them with opportunities during these challenging times.

Greene also hinted that a soap making initiative will be announced shortly.



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ABDF farm bolstered

The agricultural farm (ABDF) has announced the expansion of its vegetable production and plans to

venture into animal husbandry.

Head of the ABDF, Colonel Telbert Benjamin, said his officers have taken Prime Minister Gaston Browne's call for increased food production as part of attaining some level of food security for the country very seriously.

Among the variety of fruits and vegetables the

farm currently produces are butternut squashes, melons, beets, potatoes, sweet peppers and spinach.

Telbert explained that the farm, located at Crabbes Peninsula, has completed its test phase and it is now producing food based on a business plan developed specifically for it.

The farm has also begun

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rearing pigs as part of an overall meat production initiative.

Following a visit to the farm earlier this month, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, expressed delight over the operations of the farm and encouraged the ABDF to continue its worthwhile venture. Sir Rodney also offered to secure a donation of goats to add to their livestock.

Over the weekend, Sir Rodney approached the

patriarch of the Hadeed family, Radwan Hadeed, an experienced farmer who has produced vegetables, meats, and eggs for both the consumption of his family and for charity.

Hadeed presented the ABDF with two pregnant ewes and one ram. He promised to provide additional goats as they become available.

Colonel Benjamin said the farm's immediate aim is to produce enough food to supplement the dietary

needs of the members of the ABDF with the long term goal of providing support for the Fiennes Institute and Clareview Psychiatric Hospital.

Additionally, the ABDF is in discussions with a private sector entity concern-

ing the establishment of a poultry farm.

The Governor General has highly commended the ABDF for rising to the challenge issued by Prime Minister Browne for increased local food production.



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 1st 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 6th August, 2020

Floyd E. Tonge
Floyd E. Tonge
727-2482

Traffic Police get customer care, professionalism training

Twenty police officers from the Traffic Department of the Antigua and Barbuda Royal Police Force were engaged in an afternoon of intense professionalism and customer care training conducted by JCI Antigua.

The one day session, facilitated by Senator Dorothy Peters-Nicholls from Peters Nicholls and Associates Ltd., and Senator Clovis St. Romain from the Business Success Institute, engaged the officers in an interactive, two part seminar focusing on internal and external customer care and professionalism among staff and the public.

The training session forms a part of the JCI Antigua Continuous Busi-

ness Seminars and Training workshops offered to the public.

JCI Antigua is widely known for its training seminars, however, due to COVID-19 restrictions, most of the seminars and training conducted by the JCI Antigua Business Seminars Committee have been held via the online meeting platform Zoom.

The organization opted to offer face-to-face training this time around, by observing and practicing health and safety measures through social distancing with the police officers.

According to a Co-chair of the Business Seminars Committee, Delicia Bonny, "We extended this training to the officers. We see

this time during COVID as not sitting back and doing nothing, but to use the time to develop ourselves and others through training.

"The police have always

provided services when requested and when in need. This is our way of saying thanks and enabling us to perform our corporate so-

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cial responsibility.”

Due to social distancing policies, only twenty officers attached to the traffic department attended the session at the Wright George Police Training School.

Senator Dorothy Peters-Nicholls, who addressed the internal aspect of professionalism in customer care said, “The Traffic Department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is on a path of continuous improvement and development.

“In this light, JCI Antigua, a leadership development organization delivered Professionalism in Customer Care on Saturday.

“This session was designed to improve professionals by highlighting key skills that are necessary to excel in any role. Participants learned the power of professionalism and the impact that it has on the objectives of the department.

“There is no doubt that the training was well received by the officers who

reaffirmed their commitment to serving the public with excellence.”

Terressa Edwards, Co-chair of the Business Seminars Committee noted that now is the opportune time to carry out training and development activities that will enhance services in Antigua and Barbuda.

Last Wednesday, JCI Antigua also conducted a similar training session with the Ministry of Agriculture through a webinar.



Tribute to Owen Arthur

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Mr Chairman

I join my colleagues from CARICOM countries in thanking you for agreeing to celebrate the life of Professor the Right Honourable Owen Arthur, former Prime Minister of Barbados.

It is fitting that this meeting coincides with his funeral service now taking place in Barbados.

Owen Arthur was elected by the people to serve as Prime Minister for three terms- 14 consecutive years.

His stewardship of Barbados transformed a small island state into a successful economy, improving the lives of every Barbadian, but particularly those from the underprivileged rural community in which he was born.

By 2007, Barbados was ranked as being the equivalent of a developed country on the strength of the quality of its human development indices.

Owen Arthur was born in Barbados and served it with distinction, but he was also profoundly Caribbean.

He placed great store in the benefits of regional integration, and to creating, within the Caribbean, a single economic space in which nations could pool

their individual resources to make a vibrant economic community that is greater than the sum of its parts.

He was the guiding light behind transforming a trade and investment agreement between the European Union and the Caribbean into an "Economic Partnership".

For him the time had long gone when the Caribbean should simply be a market for goods and services from Europe; he led the way to transform an exploitative colonial trading relationship into one with practical benefits for the Caribbean people.

Up to the day that he was suddenly hospitalized, the interests of the Caribbean Community and the importance of making it a more perfect union, occupied his every waking moment.

I can attest to this, Chairman, because for many weeks, prior to his untimely passing, he and I spoke almost every day about the issues faced by the region – issues related to regional transportation, to democracy and political rights, but mostly about the importance of strengthening CARICOM.

His work as a development economist never stopped, nor did his deep commitment to democracy



and the rule of law.

His last official duty was as the Head of the 54-nation Commonwealth's Electoral Observer Mission to the general elections in Guyana.

He continued that duty until his dying day, insisting that democracy in Guy-

ana must be safeguarded, and that CARICOM had a sacred responsibility to fight for it.

Guyana's validly elected President, on the day of his inauguration, said of Owen Arthur: "He was a man committed to justice

Cont'd on pg 17

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and to right; a warrior in our cause”.

He was also a strong advocate of Caribbean countries joining their individual sovereignty into a single authority in global affairs, recognising the wisdom of Benjamin Franklin's words to the fledgling states of America, “We must hang together or surely we shall hang separately”.

He led many Caribbean struggles in the international community, one of which I was privileged to be his deputy.

That was the Caribbean's resistance to dictation by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to arbitrarily impose tax standards.

He brought to those negotiations in 2001 not only compelling logic and solid economic arguments, but also an insistence that the rich countries

of the world understand that one-size shoes do not fit all feet; and that small states require different treatment because of the limitations that size imposes.

Much of what he said in international fora, including to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, continues to express compelling truth, especially now as the effects of COVID-19 pandemic wrecks the economies of small states.

He said, for instance, that the need for reform of the global financial architecture is accepted by the Caribbean, but “we submit that it must include representation and participation from all of us.

“The practice and the politics of exclusion and dictation must cease.”

That is a position of principle that we maintain today, including in this Organization of American States.

In 1998, he made arguments to the

global community that have particular resonance today in the context of the criteria by which Caribbean states are measured and treated.

He said, “Even before the start of the current world crisis, many of our own economies were already in crisis.

“Those economies are still in crisis and are facing the prospect of being engulfed in larger problems, not of our making.

“More than ever now there is urgent need for those who regard themselves as leaders of the world economy to demonstrate that leadership”.

Mr Chairman, the Caribbean has lost a great thinker and an outstanding champion.

We are the poorer for his passing and so too is this Organization of American States of which CARICOM countries are an integral part.

Thank you.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Monday August 17th, 2020

Time: 8:30AM – 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of All Saints Road east of Anglican Church

Date: Tuesday August 18th, 2020

Time: 8:30AM – 10:00AM

Affected areas: Barnes Hill, Powells and section of Sir George Walter Highway near National School Meals

Date: Wednesday August 19th, 2020

Time: 8:30AM – 12:00PM

Affected areas: Western section of Tyrells

Date: Thursday August 20th, 2020

Time: 8:30AM – 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Martin's Village

Date: Friday August 21st, 2020

Time: 8:30AM – 12:00pm

Affected areas: Fort James

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.



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

Web: www.go-going-gone.com

Trevor “Teddy” Santos
Licensed Auctioneer



Elite Island Resorts CARIBBEAN

Elite Island Resorts seek to recruit an experienced and highly motivated professional to join our team as

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

POSITION SUMMARY:

Reporting directly to the CEO and his designates, the HR Director promotes and implements human resource values by planning and managing the human resources programs and our teams. The suitable candidate will support the resorts General Managers by providing human resources advice and counsel.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develops organization strategies by identifying and researching human resources issues and establishing human resources objectives in line with organizational objectives.
- Implements human resources strategies by establishing department accountabilities, including talent acquisition, staffing, employment processing, compensation, health and welfare benefits, training and development, safety and health, succession planning, employee relations and retention and labor relations.
- Manages human resources operations by recruiting, selecting, orienting, training, coaching, counseling, and disciplining staff. Establishes a system for planning, monitoring, appraising, and reviewing staff work contributions; maintaining compensation; quality and customer-service strategies; resolving problems and implementing change.
- 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.

KEY COMPETENCIES:

- Sound Business Acumen and problem solving skills
- Good Communication Skills
- Global and Cultural Awareness
- Proven HR & Leadership Expertise
- Confidentiality & Service Excellence

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Master's Degree or Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management
- Training experience a plus
- Minimum of five (5) years' work experience in a similar position overseeing a large and diverse team.

Suitably qualified persons who are interesting in joining our team should submit their application

By 19 August 2020. Please send your curriculum vitae via email to:

Elite Island Resorts Human Resources

Email: gm@pbcantigua.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

DOG LOVERS vs BLACK PEOPLE

Recently I educated myself with regard to my opinions about animals after I had a big fight with my dog loving friend whom I felt did not care enough to help an abandoned horse that caused my heart to bleed as a result of the neglect, suffering it was enduring due to a broken, swollen and infected ankle.

It was time for it to be put down and I was frantic for help!

It was then that I came to realise that it is not that black people do not like animals; they just are not friends with the dog.

Like most black people, I was born afraid of dogs, even though my family had dogs, which were reared to know their place. Later, as I moved around the white world and their black worker population and the black of Africa, I found the same lack of affection for dogs.

Always, it would seem, black people have been chided and abused for not being kind and loving to dogs.

In Antigua and Barbuda, with the advent of tourism and the multitude of dog lovers who have descended upon our country and the region, we are often told off about the number of hungry, stray dogs in the city, in Heritage Quay and on the sidewalks uncared for and abandoned.

Tourists love these dogs and often bring them food. A group of dog lovers went



By Makeda Mikeal

so far as to transport a number of Antiguan stray dogs by air to Canada, the United States of America and other countries!

As we sadly say here, “Dog better than you!”

Dogs have haunted and hunted the black man, the black woman and child from our days of capture in Africa, to the slave markets, to the plantations and especially runaway slaves, black revolutionaries. This negative relationship between black people and dogs has continued now as police weaponize their dogs against using a similar manner to that employed by white proper-

ty owners who control the economies of the region.

Do you know what courage it takes to walk past a bull mastiff almost as tall as you are as its white owner smilingly welcomes you past your eternal enemy?

This period of Black Lives Matter has given us an unique opportunity to educate ourselves about our history and the impact of our painful past which continues to haunt us today, and which will continue to follow us into the future, if we do not educate ourselves and our children. Recently a Republican party member in America called slavery

“a necessary evil” for the growth and development of that country and considered it a part of the proud history of the powerful “American Dream”.

Slavery was clearly the nightmare of black people as it built the fortunes and powered the same American Dream denied to black Americans.

What thrives, and what BLM seeks to conquer, is the U.S. President’s use of fear; the fear of dogs, political and otherwise, which as black people we carry in our DNA after four hundred years and counting.

Jamaica: first-of-its-kind ‘MP Tracker’

Members of Parliament (MPs) from the two main political parties have embraced an initiative by one civil society group that seeks to empower citizens to hold them accountable, but with an important caveat.

The first-of-its-kind ‘MP Tracker’ is an online portal created by Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal (JAMP), with backing from the European Union.

With Jamaica having no official job descriptions for MPs, the initiative seeks to bridge the gap between citizens and their elected representatives by disseminating information, sourced from official government documents, that sheds light on the conduct and performance of MPs and some of the things required of them.

Citizens can visit the portal to find out how often their MPs attend Parliament, whether they are compliant with Jamaica’s anti-corruption law, and whether they hold consultations with residents to decide on the projects that are to be funded from the Constituency Development Fund. JAMP also uses the data to grade MPs. “MP Tracker is a clinical, fact-based, evidence-based approach to try and determine what is your job and how well you are doing it,” explained Jeanette Calder, executive director of JAMP.

“You cannot hold somebody to account unless they have a job description and

terms of reference. Neither can that individual do their best job if they don’t know what is required of them,” she said. The initiative had a rocky introduction last week when a number of MPs questioned the methodology used to arrive at the scores that were assigned to them, forcing the pro-accountability group to issue a public apology and temporarily close the website. It is expected to be back up tomorrow.

Phillip Paulwell, the long-time MP for Kingston Eastern and Port Royal, and St Andrew West Rural’s Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn welcomed the latest tool to the accountability landscape, but insisted that care must be taken to ensure the accuracy of the data provided.

Cuthbert-Flynn questioned the methodology used to determine the grades assigned to MPs, disclosing that, since the publication of her score by JAMP, she has been inundated with calls from constituents.

“Instantly, after the poll came up, ... I got phone calls from my constituents. I think that more Jamaicans want more transparency, want that accountability from their members of parliament. We have gotten a bad rap over the years in terms of who we are and what we stand for,” said the Olympian-turned-politician.

“So, anything when it comes to trying to show more accountability is always a



JAMP Executive Director Jeanette Calder.

good thing. However, the persons doing it must get it right the first time, because then your credibility can be ruined,” she continued. With less than three weeks before the next general election, Paulwell believes the MP Tracker would be a good tool for voters to help them decide whether to support their incumbent parliamentarians.

Further, he expressed the view that it will force elected representatives to up their

game or, at the very least, maintain a consistently good performance.

“But you have to make sure you are accurate,” he insisted.

Amid criticisms about the methodology for its grading system, Calder said a critical issue for JAMP is to ensure that all elements of subjectivity are omitted and “we base our assessment on objective data”. “Attendance in the House [of Representatives] is crucial to getting the job

done. Are you there? Are you showing up? That is a matter of parliamentary records, not our view," she said, citing one example.

"The matter of whether you are meeting with your constituents to discuss how the \$20 million [allocated to MPs] each year will be spent in the constituency and whether you are meeting with them, and give account as to how it was spent, is a government policy," she added, disclosing that the source of this information is the Constituency Development Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister.

Data about whether MPs are complying with the Integrity Commission Act, Calder said, is a valuable tool for citizens. MPs and other public officials are required, each

year, to file a statutory declaration of their income, assets and liabilities.

"If I see that my MP has committed an offence [under this act] four out of the last five years, then the next meeting I have with him I can have a conversation. Citizens could not have that conversation before, because the information was simply not provided," she noted. "There are some MPs who have been out of compliance every single year, for different offences, but every single year. Now, if I am concerned about corruption, then I am going to be concerned about this member of parliament."

Calder acknowledged that some MPs are doing more than what the MP tracker is currently capturing, but made

it clear that such efforts will not be taken into consideration "if these activities cannot be assessed subjectively and if we cannot find government reports that can provide an objective review".

The JAMP executive director wants the initiative to get the conversation going on the issue of job descriptions for MPs.

In the lead-up to the 2016 polls, then Opposition Leader Andrew Holness promised that a Government led by him would introduce job descriptions for Cabinet ministers. Calder said, over the last four years, she was very interested to see the build-out of that conversation. "It did not happen and it didn't seem like it was going to happen. So the question always is what can

we do as citizens to move the process that we want along further. We don't have to wait on the prime minister. A conversation is a two-way thing, so any of us can begin the conversation," she said.

"In order to start a conversation that should have begun in 1962, we have to ask ourselves, as citizens, how can we start it? Because it can begin with them (MPs), but it can also begin with us."

The former technocrat in the housing ministry said the initiative was motivated by the numerous "governance challenges" she witnessed.

"I wanted to see improvement in public goods and services and wanted to shed some more light on the very important position called member of parliament."

Trinis crowd beaches for 'last dip' ahead of new restrictions

Hundreds of people flocked to beaches on Sunday for a "last dip" ignoring Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley's advice to behave as though new COVID-19 rollback measures are already in place. Rowley, on Saturday, announced that beaches and rivers would be closed to the public until mid-September in light of the recent spike in virus cases.

These measures take effect from 6 am tomorrow. But beaches along the North Coast were packed with citizens on Sunday.

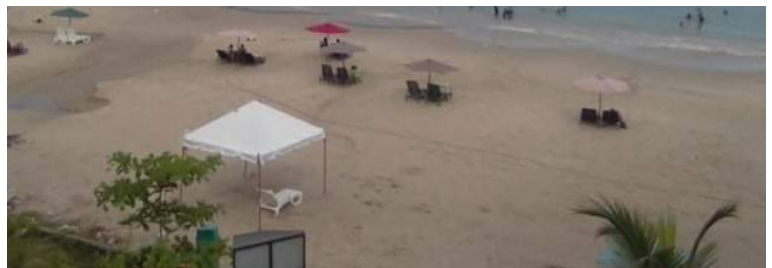
Reports have come in that Maracas Beach and Las Cuevas are packed today, with heavy traffic along the North Coast Road up until the time of publication.

At Las Cuevas, the beach's Eco Friendly Association reported that throngs of mostly families were at the beaches from as early as 9 am. The group pleaded with citizens to take extra precaution in light of the recent spike in cases. A post on the Association's Facebook page read: "Las cuevas Beach already!! 9am smhh

ppl stay home why rush to the beach the beach will always be there... Think about yourself your kids is it safe to have them out here with

Covid19 spreading like wildfire already?"

Measures announced by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley on Saturday will remain in



effect for the next 28 days.

Additional measures include the suspension of in-house dining at bars and restaurants, the closure of gyms, casinos and members clubs and houses of worship. Public transportation will revert to operating at 50 percent capacity while domestic travel will be limited to essential travel only. These restrictions are expected to help curb the spread of the virus which saw a significant jump in cases in the past week owing to communi-

ty spread. Trinidad and Tobago has recorded an additional death related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) bringing the number of related deaths to 11.

The patient, an adult male, had pre-existing medical conditions. This is the third reported death in as many days.

Active cases of the virus now stand at 36, with 22 new positive cases reported, bringing Trinidad and Tobago's confirmed numbers of the virus to 519.

Barbados: NHC holds 'successful' land fair



Barbadians are on the hunt for a 'piece of the rock'. This was evident today with the large turnout at the National Housing Corporation's (NHC) land fair at Deanstown Heights, St James.

The fair started at 10 a.m. and was scheduled to end at 2 p.m., however all the lots were sold just after 12 p.m.

Scores were left disappointed as they were turned away because there were no more lots available at the location sit-

uated between Apes Hill Polo Ground and St Silas Heights, overlooking Westmoreland Development. The lots which are between 5 000 to 7 000 square feet are being sold at BDS\$18 per square foot.

However, those who missed today's opportunity have a chance to apply for lots, with Phase 3 of the NHC's housing project, at Lancaster, St James where 183 lots will be made available to the public.

Minister of Housing Dr Wil-

liam Duguid said his Ministry hopes to break ground at Lancaster soon. The Minister said his focus was on creating employment for Barbadians by paving the way for the construction of houses through land sales.

"We will be putting in the roads and doing a land fair like this again, to be able to get more lots available for the people of Barbados. What I urge, and hope very soon, is once we have the conveyances done that

we will see some houses," the Minister said.

In addition to the anticipated Lancaster Phase 3, NHC will be rolling out projects in Chancery Lane, Christ Church; Colleton, St Lucy; and Pool, St John.

Several representatives from financial institutions were present at the land fair to engage potential buyers in conversations regarding mortgage opportunities and to start the application process.

Local 'non-oil economy' shrunk by 4.9% at mid-year



Vice-President, Bharrat Jagdeo

GUYANA'S 'non-oil' economy was unable to withstand external and internal shocks caused by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and a protracted electoral process, but the newly-elected People's Progress Party/Civic (PPP/C) government is looking to mitigate the potential impacts and reverse the decline of 4.9 per cent, which was recorded at mid-year. Coming off of a good run in 2019, with recorded economic growth of 4.7 per cent, Guyana's continued progression and transformation was inevitably halted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has so far infected about 674 persons and killed 22 locally.

The necessary restrictions in place to curtail the spread of the disease, as seen in countries across the world, has "slowed down" the economy because businesses either reduced their productive hours or are closed indefinitely, and the public sector has also scaled down its operations for the time being.

Unlike other countries, Guyana was faced with the effects of a protracted electoral process which started on March 2, 2020 and ended only on August 2, 2020.

In presenting quantitative data on the performance of the country, Vice-President, Bharrat Jagdeo, said the oil economy grew by 45.9 per cent, but the non-oil economy,

which comprises the traditional, labour intensive sectors, shrunk by 4.9 per cent in the first half of the year. "If you take out oil and gas, economic activities shrunk by nearly five per cent for the first half of the year... this shows that these sectors require a lot of help, in order to resume positive growth," said Jagdeo during a press briefing on Friday.

The sectors, which were affected, have the greatest linkages to other sectors and they are labour intensive, said the vice-president.

In disaggregating the impact on the various sectors, he said wholesale and retail trade shrunk by 14 per cent; transport shrunk by 25 per cent; accommodation, 33 per cent; bauxite, 42 per cent; and other

mining, 57 per cent. Other sectors such as forestry and fisheries also registered a significant decline, in the first half of the year.

On the positive side, it was reported that there was a 13 per cent increase in export of non-traditional agricultural commodities in the first half of 2020 when compared to its corresponding period January to June 2019, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the period January to June 2020, a total of 5,160 metric tonnes of non-traditional agricultural commodities valued at GY\$1.3 billion or US\$6 million were exported from Guyana. This represents a 13 per cent increase when compared to the same period in 2019.

Tens of thousands hold biggest protest yet in Belarus

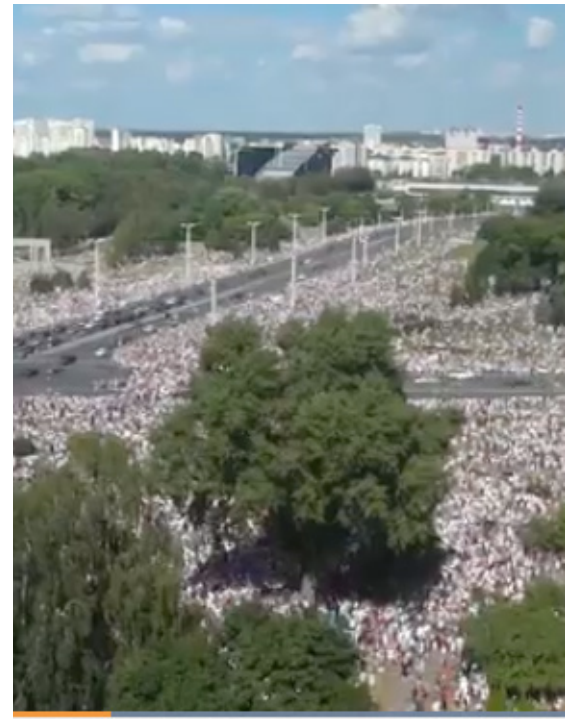
Tens of thousands of opposition protesters have rallied in Belarus's capital for the biggest demonstrations yet against the disputed re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko, even as the leader rejected calls to step down and hold fresh polls. In a defiant speech at a smaller rally of his own supporters in Minsk's Independence Square, Lukashenko said Belarus would "die as a state if it agreed to hold new elections under pressure" and accused NATO of massing on his country's western border.

"I called you here not to defend me ... but for the first time in a quarter-century, to defend your country and its independence," said the 65-year-old leader. Belarus has been rocked by a week of street protests after protesters accused Lukashenko of rigging a presidential election last Sunday in which he claimed to have secured 80 percent of the votes.

Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus for the last 26 years and is facing the greatest challenge to his leadership, denies the allegation.

Tens of thousands of Belarusian opposition supporters gathered in Minsk in the morning to join a 'March for Freedom' over President Alexander Lukashenko's disputed re-election [AFP]

"I am not a fan of rallies but alas, it's not my fault I had to call you to help me," he said as some 5,000 supporters waved national flags and shouted:



"Thank you!" and "Belarus!"

Wiping his brow, the president, standing at a podium in a short-sleeved shirt, insisted on the legitimacy of his election victory over popular opposition candidate, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. "The elections were valid. There could not be more

than 80 percent of votes falsified. We will not hand over the country," he said.

He warned of a threat from neighbouring NATO countries as well as from the opposition movement calling for new elections, as the crowd shouted "No!" Lukashenko's rally

coincided with the opposition movement calling for nationwide "March of Freedom" protests, which saw tens of thousands gathering in Minsk.

Other major Belarusian towns and cities also saw large rallies, local media reported.

First Mediterranean cruise launches after five-month pause



MSC Cruises says all passengers and crew have been tested for coronavirus before boarding

The first major cruise ship to set sail in the Mediterranean in almost five months has disembarked from the Italian city of Genoa.

The MSC Grandiosa will stop at three Italian ports and the Maltese capital Valletta in a seven-day voyage.

Operator MSC Cruises, say all passengers and crew have been tested for coronavirus before boarding.

It comes as virus cases continue to rise around Italy, with more than 600 reported by authorities yesterday.

In response, Italian authorities have ordered the closure of all dance halls and night clubs from Monday. Face masks will also be mandatory from 18:00 to 06:00 local time in public spaces where social distancing isn't possible.

MSC Cruises said it will also

be operating the MSC Grandiosa at around 70% of its normal operations, with approximately 2,500 passengers onboard, to ensure safety protocols.

Its launch is seen as a first step towards rebooting an industry that generates an estimated \$150bn (£114bn) for the world economy, according to the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

For Italy, badly hit by corona-

virus, it is particularly important. It ranks seventh among the cruise ship operating nations, carrying more than 800,000 passengers in 2018.

Last week Italy's government gave permission for cruise lines to resume operations in the country from 15 August.

MSC Cruises, which operates the MSC Grandiosa, will launch another cruise from the Italian port of Bari on 29 August, but has otherwise suspended its Mediterranean cruises until mid-October.

The international cruise industry has taken huge financial losses due to the pandemic. Several carriers have also been criticised for leaving thousands of passengers stranded aboard ships in Asia and the US in the early months of the pandemic. As of 11 June, 3,047 people were infected and 73 died while aboard 48 cruise ships affiliated with CLIA, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The company said its new security protocols - including daily temperature checks for those onboard - exceed national and industry standards. But the sailing of MSC Grandiosa represents a key test for the industry amid lingering concerns over passenger safety.

At the end of July, a small Norwegian operator, Hurtigruten, was forced to suspend its newly restarted service after dozens of passengers and crew tested positive for coronavirus.

Trump makes call for new White House doctor's virus advice

President Donald Trump has found a new doctor for his coronavirus task force — and this time there's no daylight between them.

Trump last week announced that Dr. Scott Atlas, a frequent guest on Fox News Channel, has joined the White House as a pandemic adviser. Atlas, the former chief of neuroradiology at Stanford University Medical Center and a fellow at Stanford's conservative Hoover Institution, has no expertise in public health or infectious diseases.

But he has long been a critic of coronavirus lockdowns and has campaigned for kids to return to the classroom and for the return of college sports, just like Trump. "Scott is a very famous man who's also very highly respected," Trump told reporters as he introduced the addition. "He has many great ideas and he thinks what we've done is really good."

Atlas' hiring comes amid ongoing tensions between the president and Drs. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, and Deborah Birx, the task force's coordinator. While Birx remains closely involved in the administration's pandemic response, both she and Fauci have publicly contradicted the rosy picture the president has painted of a virus that has now killed more than 167,000 people in the United States and infected millions nationwide.

Atlas, the sole doctor to share the stage at Trump's pandemic

briefings this past week, has long questioned policies that have been embraced by public health experts both in the U.S. and abroad. He has called it a "good thing" for younger, healthy people to be exposed to the virus, while falsely claiming children are at near "zero risk."

In an April op-ed in *The Hill* newspaper, Atlas bemoaned that lockdowns may have prevented the development of "natural herd immunity."

"In the absence of immunization, society needs circulation of the virus, assuming high-risk people can be isolated," he wrote.

In television appearances, Atlas has called on the nation to "get a grip" and argued that "there's nothing wrong" with having low-risk people get infected, as long as the vulnerable are protected.

"It doesn't matter if younger, healthier people get infected. I don't know how often that has to be said. They have nearly zero risk of a problem from this," he said in one appearance. "When younger, healthier people get infected, that's a good thing," he went on to say, "because that's exactly the way that population immunity develops."

While younger people are certainly at far lower risk of developing serious complications from the virus, they can still spread it to others who may be more vulnerable, even when they have no symptoms. And while their chances of



Scott Atlas, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, speaks at a news conference in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington. Trump has announced that Dr. Scott Atlas, a frequent guest on Fox News channel, has joined the White House as a pandemic adviser.

dying are slim, some do face severe complications, with one study finding that 35% of young adults had not returned to normal health two weeks to three weeks after testing positive. But Atlas' thinking closely aligns with Trump's perspective on the virus, which he has played down since its earliest days. While Trump eventually supported the lockdowns that once helped slow the disease's

spread, he has since pressured states to reopen schools and businesses as he tries to revive a battered economy before the November election.

Public health experts have long bemoaned Trump's efforts to politicize the virus and have encouraged him to let doctors and scientists lead the nation's response. But they questioned the decision to bring on Atlas, whose expertise is in magnetic

resonance imaging and whose research has focused on factors impacting health care policy.

"I think he's utterly unqualified to help lead a COVID response," said Lawrence Gostin, a Georgetown University law professor who specializes in public health. "His medical degree isn't even close to infectious diseases and public health and he has no experience in dealing with public health outbreaks." "It's very clear to me," Gostin added, "that the president brought on somebody who will just be a mouthpiece for his agenda and a 'yes' person." Gostin expressed concern that Trump was sidelining other doctors, including Birx and Fauci, because he had soured on their advice.

"In the face of an epidemic that's killing hundreds of thousands of Americans, that's unforgivable," he said. "You want clear independent advice from people with long experience in fighting novel pandemics and he has none of those credentials." Kavita Patel, a primary care physician and health policy expert who served in the Obama White House, said there's little that can prepare a doctor for the crucible of a presidential staff, let alone working for the famously volatile Trump.

"I expect Dr. Atlas' time will be marked with highs and lows and hopefully he will realize that the country really needs credible expertise and guidance, not partisan bias," said Patel. "By being partisan or political while having such an important (role), doctors undermine their credibility and ultimately dilute the role of

science." White House spokesman Judd Deere, in a statement, praised Atlas as "a world renowned physician and scholar" and dismissed questions about Atlas' qualifications.

"We are all in this fight together, and only the media would distort and diminish Dr. Atlas' highly acclaimed career simply because he has come to serve the President," he said.

Deere declined to say how long Atlas, who is now a paid special government employee, has been advising the president, and insisted his addition would not diminish the roles of Fauci and Birx.

Paul E. Peterson, director of the program on education policy and governance at Harvard University and a senior fellow at Hoover with Atlas, praised Atlas as "a really brilliant guy" with "a tremendous knowledge base" about the virus. Peterson said Atlas is someone who conducts "the most rigorous and careful research before he comes to a conclusion."

Some colleagues have found Atlas abrasive. But Peterson, who has written several op-eds with Atlas advocating the reopening of schools and who appeared with Atlas at a White House event this past week, praised Atlas as "delightful to work with" and stressed the value of Trump having input from people with a variety of backgrounds.

"If you get a variety of people from one perspective or one kind of training out there, that's not desirable," he said. "It's extremely important to have diversity on the advisory board."

Italy closes nightclubs as coronavirus cases rise among young

Italy is to shut discos and clubs and make it compulsory to wear a mask outdoors in some areas during the night-time in the first reimposition of restrictions as cases of coronavirus pick up across the country, especially among younger people.

New cases in the past week in Italy, the first European country to be hit hard by the coronavirus, were more than double those registered three weeks ago and the median age of people contracting the virus has dropped below 40, data showed. The new rules will start on Monday - two days after an Italian holiday when many young Italians go out dancing - and will run until early September. Masks will be required between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. in areas close to bars and pubs and where gatherings are more likely.

"We cannot nullify the sacrifices made in past months. Our priority must be that of opening schools in September, in full safety," Health Minister Roberto Speranza said on Facebook.

Speranza on Saturday urged young people to be as cautious as possible as "if they infect their parents and their grandparents, they risk creating real damage".

The government had kept clubs open despite mounting criticism that they attracted large crowds, that social distancing was not being respected and masks were not being worn.



Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza

The industry has yearly revenues of 4 billion euros, the sector's lobby group Silb said, calling on the government for support. Industry Minister Stefano Patuanelli conceded there would be economic damage, but said he saw no alternative.

On Sunday, 479 new cases were confirmed, down from 629 on Saturday, with nightlife, the return of holidaymakers, and younger generations flouting social distancing rules being blamed by medical experts for the recent hike.

Since its outbreak came to light on Feb. 21, Italy has recorded more than 35,000 deaths.

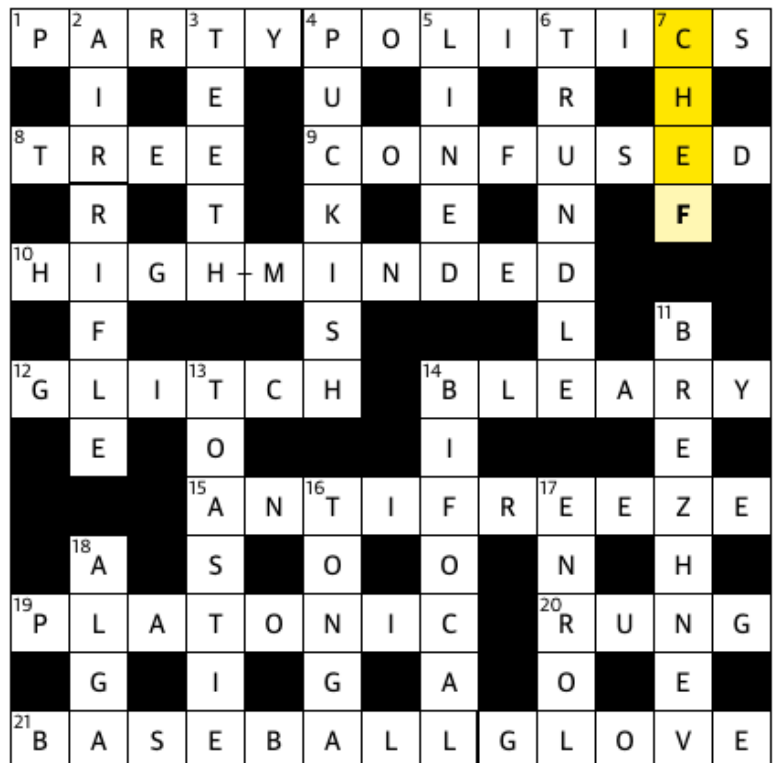
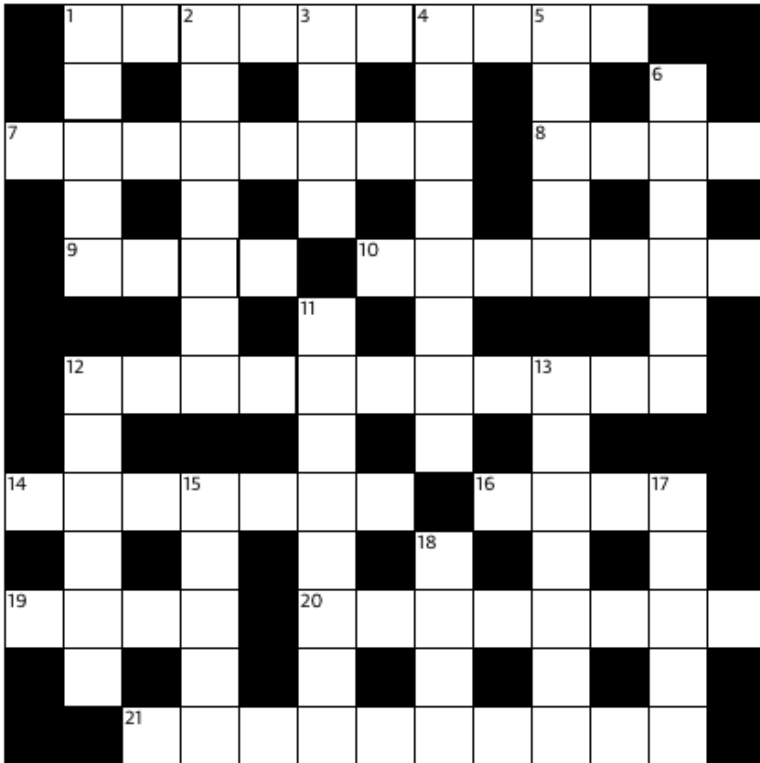
Testing on holidaymakers landing in Rome's airports began on Sunday after the government said on Wednesday that people travelling from Croatia, Greece, Malta and Spain must be screened for the virus.

LEISURE

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No

Quick crossword No



Across

- 1 Scram! (2,4,4)
 7 Herb — arrogant (anag) (8)
 8 Bantu language of south-eastern Africa (4)
 9 Exactly right (2,1,1)
 10 One who sings like Bing? (7)
 12 Container buried with items to be discovered in the far future (4,7)
 14 Old pseudoscience hoping to turn base metals into gold (7)
 16 Uterus (4)
 19 Go (4)
 20 Land turtle (8)
 21 Stylised picture found in ancient Egyptian writings (10)

Down

- 1 Abstract visual style for the 1960s, giving the illusion of movement (2,3)
 2 Either end of a spar on a square-rigger's mast (7)
 3 Impel (4)
 4 Penniless (8)
 5 Toy wind instrument that buzzes (5)
 6 Swindle (6)
 11 Sword with curved blade (8)
 12 Body of Jewish law (6)
 13 Study of alien craft (7)
 15 Vietnamese capital (5)
 17 Dutch painter, Hieronymus, d. 1516 (5)
 18 Amphibious jumper (4)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



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"Do you really expect this jury to believe that you didn't know my client was endangered?"



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Explain yourself. Human relationships can be endlessly complicated, but you may have the chance to simplify the status of your connections. Strive to straighten out misunderstandings in a sincere and heartfelt way.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): You sparkle and shine when you have a chance to take the stage. It is time to welcome something new into your life whether it's contact with a circle of new acquaintances or a unique learning experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This may not be the best day to make important personal decisions since an overabundance of caution might smother your enthusiasm. However, you may be more down-to-earth and practical about handling money.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): New thoughts could make an impression on your senses, but be sure to check out the fine print. You may find it to your advantage to adopt a more businesslike persona and let common sense act as a guide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Like Goldilocks, you may find through trial and error that some things are too big and some too small. Wait for clarity before making a crucial decision. Validate yourself if you do not receive the validation you want from others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're smart enough to realize that offers that sound too good to be true usually are. Think carefully before signing contracts and agreements that involve the repayment of large sums of money since there could be hidden flaws.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The symbol for your sign is the scales. You might weigh a chance to circulate within a new social setting against sticking to your loyal friends. Don't forget that it's possible to do both without hurting feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A loved one could want to take you to do something new and exciting. Don't dig your heels in and refuse to budge. You could enjoy an opportunity to explore some places off the beaten path and expand your horizons.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Try to follow through on an ongoing creative project even if you encounter opposition. Offer reassurance for any doubts and describe the process in colorful words so that you receive the support you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can't please all the people all the time -- someone might be envious or just having a bad day. When dreaming of the future, remember that the possibilities are endless, but potential pitfalls must be considered too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your romantic desires might be powered up, but it's not necessarily the right time to make key decisions about a relationship. Gain a new perspective on ways to handle your assets, but wait to implement new ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Using common-sense tactics will be more productive than trying to please people you don't know. Don't hesitate to assert yourself if something doesn't feel right or was done without your knowledge or authorization.

FIFA coronavirus recovery funds have arrived



President of the ABFA, Everton "Batow" Gonsalves

Earlier this year the FIFA Council approved a USD \$1.5 billion coronavirus relief fund for world football to help its members in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) received USD \$1 million as its share which will be used to assist its sixty-two members make the necessary financial adjustments to jumpstart their football operations for the new 2020/21 season.

Football in Antigua and Barbuda came to a halt on March 13 due to the coronavirus lockdown.

As a result of the suspended season, many clubs have expressed concerns

over losses in revenue from sponsorship and others have indicated that they may be without a sponsor when football resumes.

A number of clubs which secured players from Cuba, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia have also incurred major costs as a result of the pandemic as many of those athletes became stranded after the country's borders closed.

One football boss told PointeXpress that a few of his players are still on island and the club has had to assume responsibility for their maintenance by providing meals, transportation, accommodation and a stipend.

The ABFA has since decided on an amount that will be disbursed in two installments to national clubs around once these clubs satisfy FIFA's requirements for accessing and using the funds.

Clubs that receive the FIFA relief funds will be expected to provide an account of their use of the funds to FIFA via the ABFA.

While the support from FIFA has been welcomed, many clubs are unprepared to access the financial support as many have disclosed that they lack proper internal accounting systems with more than a few indicating that they do not have a bank account.

President of the ABFA, Everton "Batow" Gonsalves, says however, that the association will facilitate clubs which require assistance in satisfying the basic requirements necessary to access their share of the coronavirus relief fund.

An additional donation of USD \$500,000 is expected in the coming months for the development of women's football on the island.

Meantime, President Gonsalves, a former national football captain, has informed PointeXpress that he will be seeking reelection for the presidency of the ABFA. The three time winner is expected to face challenges from young members of the football fraternity.

ABFA elections are due in 2021.

Disappointment for Manchester United in Europa League

Sevilla wrecked Manchester United's hopes of ending the season with silverware as they edged a hard-fought Europa League semi-final in Cologne.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side lost their third semi-final this season despite taking the lead when Bru-

no Fernandes scored their 22nd penalty of the season after Marcus Rashford was fouled by Diego Carlos.

Sevilla, Europa League specialists, equalised before the interval when former Liverpool forward Suso swept a finish past David de Gea at the far

post.

United's fate was sealed when they missed a succession of chances early in the second half as Sevilla keeper Yassine Bounou emerged as the hero, denying Anthony Martial several times.

And Sevilla, who saw off Wolves in the quarter-final,

secured their place in the final when Luuk de Jong swept home a cross from Jesus Navas with 12 minutes left, United punished for poor defending which led to recriminations as Fernandes confronted Victor Lindelof in the aftermath.

ECB and CWI in talks over women's series

The England and Wales Cricket Board and Cricket West Indies are in talks over a potential women's series next month.

South Africa was due to play two Twenty20's and four One Day Internationals in England in September, but because of the coronavirus restrictions in South Africa they may not be able

to tour.

West Indies are keen to replace South Africa if several hurdles can be overcome. Many West Indies women players are not in full training as borders in some Caribbean countries remain closed because of coronavirus.

England players are currently in a training camp in Derby.

The series would be played in a bio-secured environment if a decision is reached.

The West Indies men became the first international sports team to play in the UK earlier this summer since the start of the pandemic when they participated in a three Tests series against England.

NBA playoffs start today

The 2020 NBA play-offs start on Monday in what is set to be one of the most unpredictable post-seasons in years, after a regular season like no other.

The play-offs usually begin in April but the coronavirus pandemic saw the season postponed on March 11.

It finally restarted without fans inside the NBA 'bubble' at Walt Disney World in Orlando at the end of last month, featuring 22 of the 30 franchises still in contention for a play-off place.

Those franchises have now been whittled down to 16. Here is what to look out for as they battle it out for a spot when the NBA Finals start on 30 September.



Roxy Joseph: 'I was competitive and still am'

Roxy Joseph recently sat down with PointeXpress to reflect on cricket in Antigua and Barbuda.

A lifelong resident of All Saints who attended the All Saints Secondary School, Joseph started playing the game at an early age and recalls traveling around the island the village team to their matches.

"One day a player who worked at the airport could not make it and I was given the opportunity to play at a very young age," Roxy said.

The spinning all-rounder said back in the early 80's the game was very competitive with challenges from the island's top teams including Liberta, Empire and Rising Sun.

"I did not reach as far as I would have wanted because there was so much competition for places at the national level," Joseph explained.

Roxy, who is now employed by the Ministry of sSports as a cricket coach, has played a major role in the development of many

young cricketers. He also recalled admiring the talent of young players, Rakeem "Jimbo" Cornwall and Devon "Booby" Thomas who both excelled in the Leeward Islands youth tournament.

"Jimbo was hitting sixes at the age of nine," Roxy stated, "and Bobby was making big centuries at the age of ten. Both players have since moved on to represent West Indies.

Speaking to the evolution of the sport, Roxy said he believes there is not enough contact time with players in school sports and lamented the distractions athletes are now inundated with in the modern iteration of the game.

"Players have laptops, cell phones, access to the internet and tablets these days and as soon as practice is over they are gone," he said.

"I remember in my days we would stay for hours after training discussing cricket and sports in general because we did not have



Roxy Joseph

such distractions," he went on.

Joseph is appealing for more cricket nets to be installed around the island as he thinks this will play an instrumental role in developing the sport by creat-

ing more opportunities for young players to work on specific areas of their game.

He is also appealing for more consultation and collaboration between the Ministry of Sports and the local governing body to improve the development of young cricketers in Antigua and Barbuda.

DEWS