



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

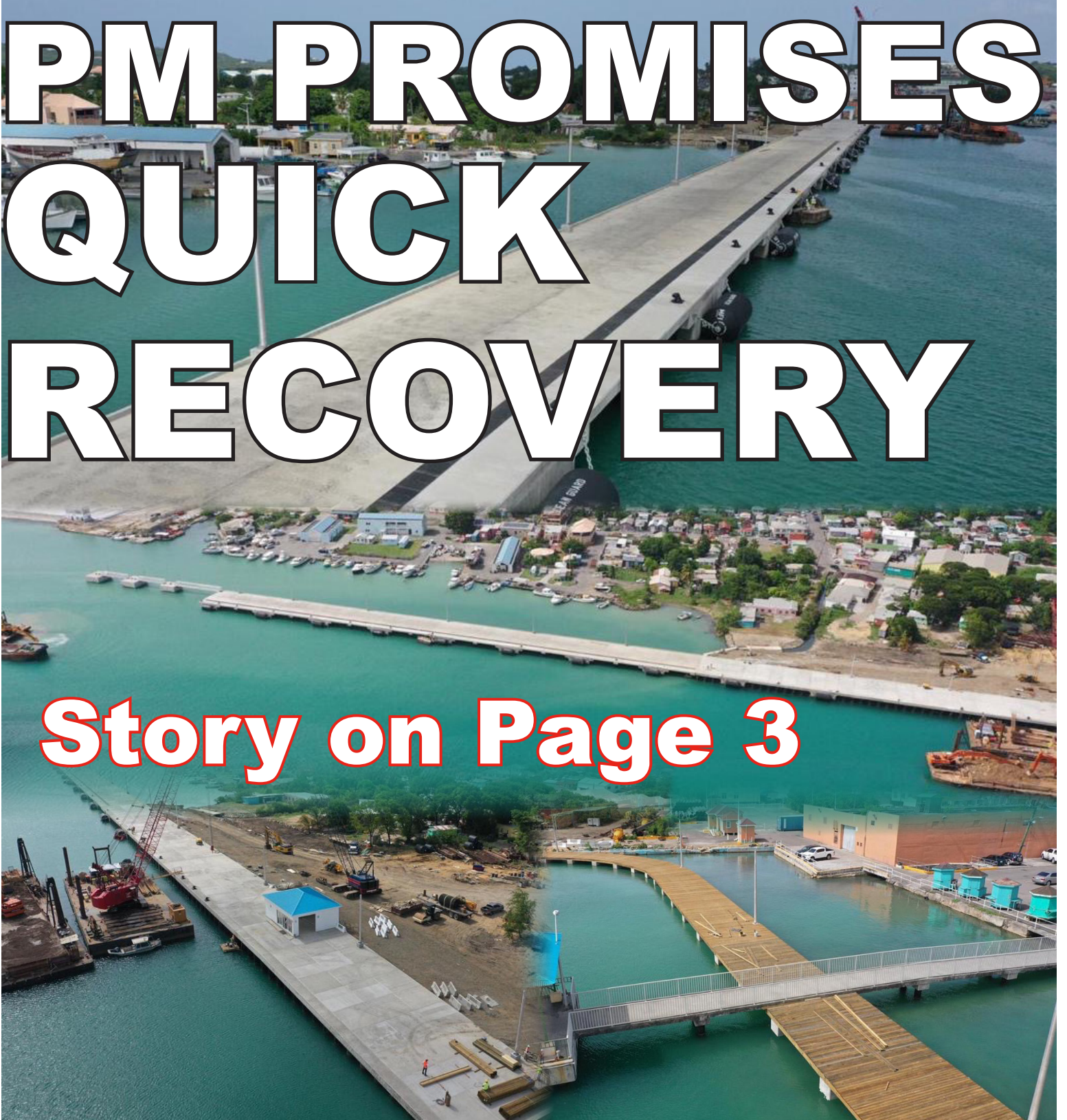
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 24TH AUGUST 2020 | ISSUE 122 | [www.pointville.ag](http://www.pointville.ag)

PRICE \$3

# PM PROMISES QUICK RECOVERY

Story on Page 3



# Government wants national effort to reduce food import bill

A call has been made for more nationals to become involved in agricultural development as the government ramps up its efforts to increase local production as part of its mission to attain food security.

The charge has come from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who has stated concern over the country's \$18 million annual produce import bill of products which can easily be grown locally.

"The actual import bill is higher, but in terms of those crops that we can produce, the amount is \$18 million annually. I am talking about onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers, melons among others that we can grow here," he remarked.

According to the nation's leader, the

government is seeking to increase local crop production in order to reduce imports of certain items. One crop identified was onions which incurs an annual import bill of \$2 million.

"Why are we importing this much onion when because of our climate we produce some of the best onions in the world. We should not only be growing more vegetables but we should also embark on developing coconut and avocado orchards to meet the demand for coconut water and for avocados," he urged.

The prime minister is currently developing his own farm with the intention of leading the national effort from the front. He also wants farmers to come together to coordinate their production to avoid crop glut.

"You have to be smart with the crop you grow because it doesn't make sense to grow lots of a particular crop when the demand in the marketplace is not there. The Farmers' Forum is one group that can help in this regard," he advised.

Among the many advantages of growing more foods locally, according to Browne, is an increase in food security and the reduction in the outflow of foreign exchange from the country.

There are also health benefits to be reaped. Specifically the prime minister advanced the position that an increase in coconut production could lend to the efforts of health professionals in encouraging persons to replace harmful, sugary soft drinks with fresh coconut water.

## DAY 8/24

Max UV Index: 11 Extreme  
 Wind: E at 15 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 55%  
 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

# 30°<sub>Hi</sub>



Partly sunny with a passing shower

## NIGHT 8/24

Wind: ESE at 13 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 52%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 60%  
 Precipitation: 2.4 mm  
 Rain: 2.4 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1.5  
 Hours of Rain: 1.5

# 26°<sub>Lo</sub>



Partly cloudy and warm; an evening shower in spots followed by a thunderstorm late

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
 5:52 AM

Sunset AST  
 6:26 PM



Duration  
 12:34 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
 11:15 PM

Moonset AST  
 11:01 AM



Duration  
 11:49 hr



## PM promises quick recovery

The economic contraction that was predicted at the start of the coronavirus pandemic may not be as deep as was previously expected.

According to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the government now expects that the economy will recover quickly once the pandemic is brought under control through the development of a vaccine or other therapeutic means.

The prime minister believes this rapid economic recovery will come as a result of the many infrastructural projects the government is now undertaking which will poise the country for 'take off' when the pandemic subsides.

"In fact the contraction in the economy that we anticipated earlier in the year may not be as severe as we thought.

"We now believe that it would be much less than the twenty percent that was predicted. We are hoping that it could be no more than ten percent," Browne stated.

PM Browne recalled that at the start of 2020, Antigua and Barbuda was on course to record one of its best years ever based on earnings in the first quarter and tourist arrivals. This was all derailed by the onset of the pandemic, which no one could have anticipated.

He identified one of the projects in the pipelines as a major tourist shopping centre that will extend from the



present location of Barnes Funeral Home to the parking lot on lower Newgate Street.

"This project will be implemented by Global Ports and it is expected to be of a scale rivaling Heritage Quay.

"Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, it will not start until the first quarter of 2021. Additionally, there are discussions to further dredge the area between the new pier and the shoreline to accommodate another smaller cruise ship," he declared.

With the expansion of the St. John's Harbour, the prime minister revealed plans to construct a marina in the area near the former Food City supermarket which will accommodate fishing vessels and other seacraft that normally berth at the Point Wharf.

Barbuda will also enjoy its own developments as PM Browne has announced that the government will soon

sign the documents for the completion of the airport.

This is one of two public sector projects for the island.

The other is a green energy facility that will reduce

the island's reliance on fossil fuel in favour of renewable energy sources including solar.

Browne wants to ensure that development on Barbuda occurs in step with development on Antigua.

Coupled with public sector infrastructural developments are private sector projects including the Calvin Ayre Tourism Development and the Peace Love and Harmony project in Barbuda.

The prime minister said he is confident that tourism will return 'in a big way' and he wants Antigua and Barbuda to be ready to take advantage of its resurgence.

## Apology to Miss Donna Chaia

The Board of Directors of Pointville Communications expresses regret at the statements uttered by Member of Parliament for St. Peter's, Honourable Asot Michael, aimed at Miss Donna Chaia during the Browne & Browne show on Saturday 22, August 2020, on Pointe FM 99.1.

MP Michael's presentation was not in keeping with the standards of the organization and was out of sync with the vision of positive information sharing which is the basis of the show.

We hereby apologise to Miss Donna Chaia and assure her that we will use this unfortunate and regretful encounter as an opportunity to enhance our quality controls to ensure that we significantly reduce the likelihood of any such occurrence to members of our community who are desirous of making meaningful public contributions via any of our platforms.

# Reconstruction of Keeling Point wharf to commence this week

Work on the dilapidated fishing wharf at Keeling Point is expected to commence today, according to officials.

The wharf, which collapsed last week, was visited by the construction and engineering team from Blue Ocean along with Port Manager, Darwin Telemaque, and local contractors last Friday.

Conley Browne, General Manager of Blue Ocean, the engineering and dredging team working on the fifth cruise pier, will lead efforts to restore and rehabilitate the fishing wharf at Donovans.

According to Browne, once all materials and workmanship have been secured, the work on the wharf should be completed within seven days.

Minister with responsibility for Agriculture and Fisheries, Samantha Marshall, commended the effort to put Keeling Point which she said is a priority.

"I am comforted that no one suffered any serious injuries. It is unfortunate that despite the will of the Cabinet to ensure that this matter was addressed, the unfortunate pandemic of COVID-19 caused a shift in attention and support to shift towards the management of COVID-19. I am indeed happy to know that we have again placed Keeling Point as an immediate priority as that work will commence next week until completion," Marshall stated.



Senator Gail Christian

Marshall also revealed that plans are afoot to meet with fishermen as her ministry will be examining ways of improving the fisheries sector.

Minister Marshall said, "I will be meeting with the Head of Fisheries this week to prepare for consultation in three weeks or so with the fishermen, however, prior thereto we will be completing visits at all the fishing units. The aim is to have better support structures in place and to ensure that the fisherfolk are more involved to ensure that the units serve them and are kept in a manner that can support them."

The minister continued, "We also need to have greater collaboration for the development and protection of the fishing industry."

Changes at the fish market downtown are also expected.

The poor conditions at Keeling Point reportedly existed for some according



to lawyer and Grays/Green community advocate, Senator Gail Christian. Speaking with PointeXpress, Senator Christian expressed delight that work on the wharf will commence.

"The fisherfolk who ply their trade at Keeling Point have done so under the most adverse of circumstances. This is not a new problem and has existed for as long as I can remember. In 2003/2004 it was a political talking point and an election promise made by the then opposition that obviously did not materialize but we must not look back but look forward," Senator Christian said.

Christian went on, "This Government voiced its commitment to addressing the Keeling Point issue and it's now making good on its promises and keeping its word notwithstanding the prevailing economic conditions. This is what commitment to people and nation is about. This is how wrongs are made right and this is how promises made are kept. I don't think I've ever walked out on that pier to get fish from my dear friend Leslie with-





## Officials defend decision to issue warning

Officials at the Meteorological Office and National Office of Disaster Preparedness (NODS) are defending their decision last Friday to issue warnings related to the approaching Tropical Storm Laura.

There has been criticism in some quarters over the decision because the storm was not fully organized as it approached Antigua and Barbuda and had little effect on the islands.

In fact, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunter team had difficulty locating the centre of the storm which eventually passed between Antigua and Guadeloupe.

There were no reports of injury or major damage to property as a result of the storm.

Rainfall of up to three

inches was recorded on the eastern side of Antigua, however, the western region of the island received an inch or less. Barbuda reported up to an inch of rain.

Acting Director of the Met Office, Dale Destin, and Director of NODS, Philmore Mullin, say the decision to issue warnings was based on information from the US National Hurricane Center.

According to Destin, the centre of the tropical storm was difficult to locate when the warnings were issued based on the information they received.

“We were not the primary source of the information. We based our decision on the data presented by a most reliable source. If we did not issue the warnings and something major happened here in Antigua and



*Dale Destin*

Barbuda we would have been called irresponsible,” he said in defence of his office.

His sentiments were echoed by Mullin who added that despite the criticism, the experience was a ‘teaching moment’ for his department. He noted that the storm enabled NODS to mobilize its disaster preparedness machinery with scores of shelters opened and manned by volunteers. These volunteers were also given COVID-19 kits, including temperature guns.

“Only one shelter, located in the Grays/Green Community, received anyone al-



*Philmore Mullin*

though shelters on both islands were opened,” Mullin reported.

This, he explained, offered an opportunity to ‘test’ the system as he is of the view that storms with similar behavior patterns will develop in the future.

Last Friday, public sector workers were advised to go home at midday ahead of the storm.

While Antigua and Barbuda was spared the full impact of the storm, Dominica experienced flooding and in St. Kitts, a landmark tree believed to be more than 100 hundred years old, was uprooted by strong winds.

### *cont'd from pg 4*

out being impressed by her resilience and that of the other vendors and so I’m pleased that the government is matching that resilience by delivering an improved pier.”

Opposition Senator, Richard Lewis, also addressed the dilapidated conditions of the fishing wharf on social media. According to Senator Lewis, he is happy and relieved that work will start on the pier.

“I am indeed heartened by the news that the Keeling Point Pier will be repaired in the coming days. Having written to the Ministry of Agriculture

and Fisheries since January 31, 2020 on the perilous state of the pier and the need for urgent repairs to be done, I am disappointed that it took so long and a near catastrophe for attention to be given. The livelihoods of many depend on activities at the Keeling Point Pier and I am happy that relief is finally coming. Once the pier is rehabilitated, a proper maintenance system must be implemented so we do not find ourselves in such a precarious position in the future,” Senator Lewis told our reporters.

During an exploratory visit to the collapsed pier last Friday, Port Man-

ager, Darwin Telemaque explained that although everything within the harbour falls under the Port’s management, fisheries is the domain of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Nonetheless, the Port manager said, “Due to the need to expand the turning basin, changes to the current structure are being designed. The Port shall be working with the Agriculture and Fisheries ministry to ensure that the adjustments are affected with minimum disruptions, and will lead to safer and more efficient use of the environment and service to the fisherfolk and the public.”



# CBH moves into phase two of vendors' training

The Central Board of Health (CBH) is stepping up its training of vendors who ply their trade at schools across Antigua and Barbuda.

This week, the department will roll out phase two of the training that involves inspection of the areas where these vendors prepare the food they sell to students.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Julianne Mannix, said this follows the successful completion of phase one of the training last week.

"We were able to train 209 vendors at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre at Perry Bay where the training covered the COVID-19 protocols as well as the five keys to safer foods," she indicated.

The five keys are: 1. Keep the preparation area clean, 2. Separate raw from cooked food, 3. Cook thoroughly, 4. Time and temperature are important and 5. Pay attention to raw materials as well as use safe water.

This week's inspection will be carried out at the locations in which the vendors prepare their food including their homes and the school compound. The CBH inspectors will seek to ensure that the vendors have personal protection equipment including masks, aprons, hair nets, hot holding devices and proper cold holding devices such as coolers.

They will also inspect the general



sanitation of the areas, look for signs of rodent or insect infestation and test the water that is used. For example, if water is used from a cistern to make frozen treats or drinks, the inspectors will test the water to ensure that it is

*cont'd on pg 7*





## Regional governments aim at lowering ticket taxes

With discussions on intra-regional travel taking centre stage in the reorganisation of LIAT, Caribbean governments appear committed to removing some of the taxes that affect ticket prices.

Word of this comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who has reported that there is recognition that this is vital for a revival of intra-regional travel.

“There’s general commitment among regional heads [of government] to reduce taxes applied to intra-regional travel as part of efforts to reduce the price of tickets in the region,” PM Browne reported.

He said these discussions are taking place among the governments of the OECS and Barbados.

His comments come on the

heels of appeals from LIAT’s court appointed administrator, Cleveland Seaforth, for regional governments to remove the taxes on tickets which are responsible in large part for dramatically elevating ticket prices.

The impact of government taxes on LIAT’s airfares has long been identified as a primary reason for the high cost of travel within the region.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has confirmed that his government has made US\$1 million available to pay LIAT’s staff for the month of July.

“We have made the money available to the administrator to pay more than 100 staff members who have been held over throughout the LIAT system,” he indicated.

PM Browne explained that

his government has taken the position that liabilities incurred prior to July are the responsibility of the receivership estate.

It was in July that the Antigua and Barbuda government took steps to avoid the liquidation of LIAT. As such, Browne said the government felt responsible for paying July salaries.

With respect to LIAT’s return to the skies, PM Browne acknowledged that there are several proposals from individuals and entities desirous of investing in LIAT. He added that it is now the responsi-

bility of the administrator to review all the proposals and to arrive at a decision which will serve the best interest of LIAT.

The prime minister also disclosed that he supports a call from the administrator for Caribbean governments to wipe off outstanding debts owed by LIAT. He said this will help considerably with attempts to revive the airline.

Browne is of the view that a resuscitated LIAT is the best way forward for all involved when compared to its liquidation as was proposed during a meeting in July.



*cont'd from pg 6*

this information can be used to sensitise workers in these establishments especially in the area of food handling,” the vendor said.

CBH has conducted the training as part of preparations ahead of the reopening of schools across Antigua and Barbuda on September 7.



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### **KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

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- Negotiate and achieve growth targets annually.
- Assist the Manager in establishing and implementing short- and long-range departmental goals, objectives, policies, and operating procedures in pursuit of the broader organizational goals.
- Represent the Bank externally to key stakeholders.
- Supervise the daily activities of staff in the department.
- Assume responsibility for the operations of the Retail & Commercial Banking Department in the absence of the Manager.

### **ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Banking and Finance or related discipline;
- Master's Degree would be an asset;
- Advanced knowledge of the banking industry
- Competent in the evaluation of financial statements

### **SKILLS/ EXPERIENCE**

- 7 years' experience in a senior banking position with a lending focus
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- Excellent interpersonal, communication and problem-solving skills.
- Critical thinking skills, strategic thinking, effective analysis of data, and the ability to analyze business plans.
- Strong organisational and prioritizing skills, the ability to successfully complete several tasks concurrently and meet deadlines.
- Adaptable/flexible
- Project Management Skills
- Keen business acumen.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Interested persons are asked to submit applications to the Manager, HR & Employee Engagement, email: [human.resource@cub.ag](mailto:human.resource@cub.ag). Please note the deadline for applications is Friday, 28th August, 2020.



# The UWI Five Islands Campus courses to go online

The University of the West Indies Five Islands campus (The UWI FI) has announced that all courses for Semester One of the 2020-21 academic year will be delivered entirely remotely.

In a media release, the UWI FI said it is taking this step as it prioritizes health and safety ahead of the new semester beginning August 30.

“In a meeting of the Senior Management Team to assess the readiness and potential risks to the campus upon reopening with increased face-to-face teaching, it was determined that given the recent spike in new cases across the Caribbean and the assessment from the scientific community, the second wave of the virus might be accelerated in the winter.

The campus decided that it will not hold face to face classes for semester 1 of the 2020-2021 academic year,” the release stated.

Face-to-face teaching at the Five Islands Campus was suspended in March this year following a government mandated shutdown.

Following this, the university initiated online delivery of its courses.

“In light of the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19

pandemic, The UWI Office for Online Learning for staff conducted a comprehensive course on online delivery to the teaching staff of all UWI landed campuses,” the statement continued.

With the new training, lecturers transitioned to e-learning platforms to deliver their coursework and student assessments in that environment.

During the summer session, students of the Five Islands Campus accessed courses and received instruction primarily via online modalities and upgraded teaching methods.

A phased hybrid structure

of engagement for the UWI Five Islands Campus will be implemented for the academic year 2020/2021. Semester 1 will be delivered entirely online with exceptions made for courses and programmes requiring laboratory work.

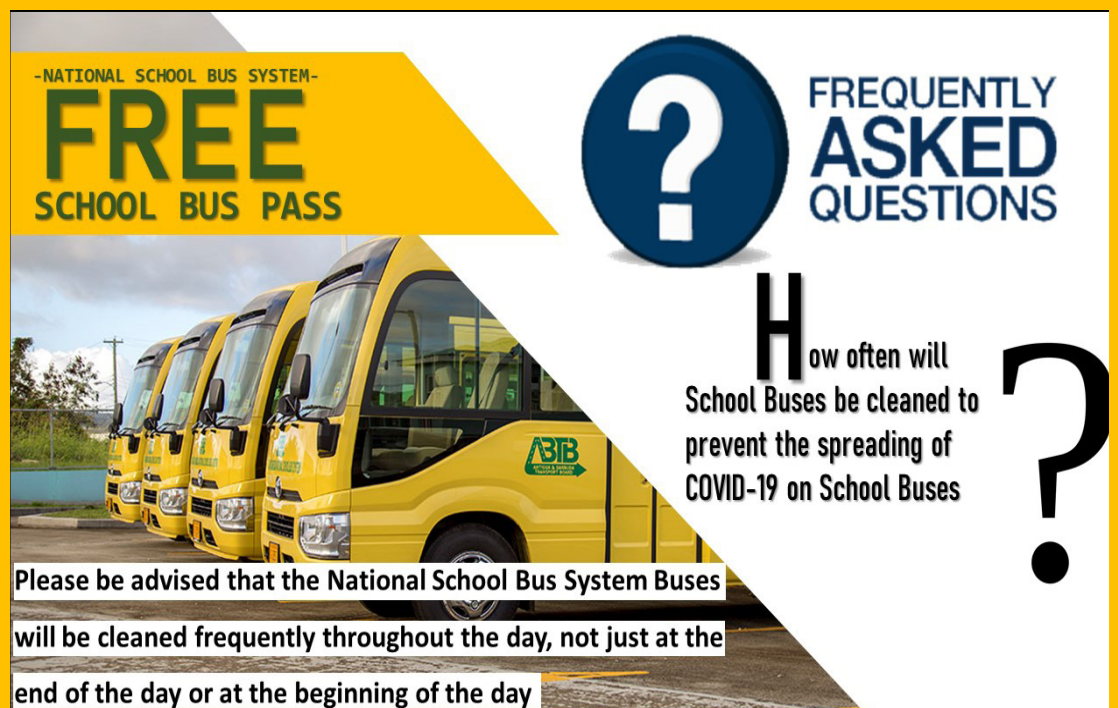
In Semester 2, robust online delivery will continue. Limited face-to-face elements for smaller classes will be initiated with the maintenance of social distancing and other health and safety protocols.

The planning and design necessary to ensure the successful delivery of an effective hybrid model specific

to the needs of the Five Islands Campus is ongoing.

The UWI Five Islands Campus added that it is confident that all its teaching staff are competent to instruct students for extended periods via these new modalities and committed that training will be continuous to ensure high quality delivery.

The use of the physical plant, and the support services required, are being fully assessed to assure implementation of all measures in support of the hybrid academic model in the safest and most equitable manner.



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# COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship Series:



## Pandemic or No Pandemic, NeNe Candy Frozen Treats sets up shop

By: Angelica O'Donoghue

According to an article in the Washington Post, "The coronavirus pandemic is reshaping spending patterns, creating new winners and losers."

This is true, because although we continue to witness a global, bleak economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are equally pleasantly to feature a new, local, young entrepreneur every week.

This week, we were able to hear the story of an entrepreneur who has overcome adversity through creativity and benefited from taking major risks.

Tiffany 'NeNe' Jacobs took a monumental step earlier this month, when she decided, despite the recovering economy, to open her own ice cream and treats parlor. A physical location offering delightful frozen desserts and candies to customers across the island.

When we first learned of NeNe's



store, we thought, "Who would take the risk of opening a store in the middle of a global pandemic?"

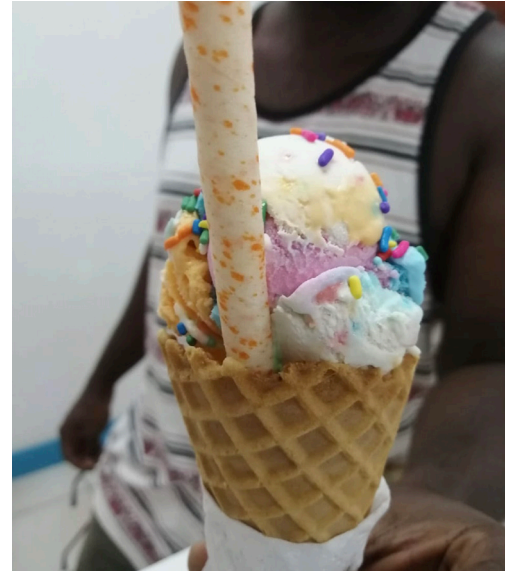
According to Tiffany, however, "Life is all about taking risks, even more so during a pandemic."

She admitted to us that she was concerned about how people would react to her taking such a major step and faced some anxiety about whether her business would be able to secure the support it needed to survive.

Tiffany opened her coloured doors on August 18th 2020, almost a year after her ice cream van, then her main source of income, broke down. The young entrepreneur explained that she often felt depressed and "like giving up" as the months went by without an income.

Two months ago, after witnessing her frustration, Tiffany's husband suggested that she dive back into the ice cream business, as it was clear that she loved her job and was committed to it.

She shared her apprehension



about opening a business during the COVID-19 pandemic but continued that she saw an opportunity to get back to work when a location for rent popped up one day while she was browsing social media. She knew the time had come to make a leap of faith after she visited the location and fell in love with the space right away.

"When we saw the spot we said, 'Yes, this is it, this is it!' Since then, we have just been working on putting smiles on our customers' faces."

NeNe Candy Frozen Treats is literally what her parlor sells. Some of the most innovative and delectable frozen treats can be found at this one of a kind ice cream parlor.

To take on this feat, sourcing financing for the start up was crucial for Tiffany. This is where her family came into play.

Tiffany said, "I definitely needed finances and I just want to say a big thank

*cont'd on pg 11*







*cont'd from pg 10*

you to my dad who saw my vision from day one and he supported me. He said, 'Listen, Tiffany, I am going to give you the funds to start up and you take it from there.' From then to now, he has been there. Not only him but I have to also say thank you to my mother. She also believes in everything I am doing. She said she saw my vision and sees what I am doing and has been lending support to me."

We always ask entrepreneurs how they are managing to survive through the pandemic. To this, Tiffany immediately replied that COVID-19 has impacted her business in a positive way.

"Despite COVID-19, things have been going good because people are happy that they can sit down with their family and children and actually have ice cream instead of running in and running out. The colours

of the treats and the setting of the venue has brought back smiles to a lot of people. Especially the creativity of the treats. Despite COVID the word is getting out there about the business and people are just happy to be able to come out and get ice cream, to get something different," the entrepreneur explained.

Although there are a few other ice cream parlors in St. John's, NeNe Candy Frozen Treats easily stands out due to its colourful and family orienting setting.

Tiffany revealed that she does see her business expanding in the future.

"We are not stopping here when it comes to ice cream. That's the most I can say for now," she chuckled.

With plans to create empowerment through employment soon, NeNe Candy Frozen Treats is already supporting the wider community. The business recently

staged a promotion offering ice cream free of cost to reward the essential workers on the frontline of the pandemic.

As is the norm, our featured entrepreneur gave a word of advice to other aspiring or existing business owners.

Tiffany said, "Ensure that you have a good support system; it may not be financially, it could just be some-

one there motivating you to keep going. Even though it's COVID time and you know within yourself that this is something you want to do, you go ahead and do it and you ensure that while you are at it, you spread the word of your business, no matter what negative energy or negative feedback is there. Let that motivate you. Keep going, keep pushing and believe in yourself."

## 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 24th August 2020

Time: 08:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Affected areas: Section of Lyon Hill north of Roadhouse

Date: Monday 24th August 2020

Time: 08:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Affected areas: Section of Sutherlands south of Old Parham Road & Wireless Junction

Date: Monday 24th August 2020

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Affected areas: Section of Johnson Village and Simon Bullivard areas

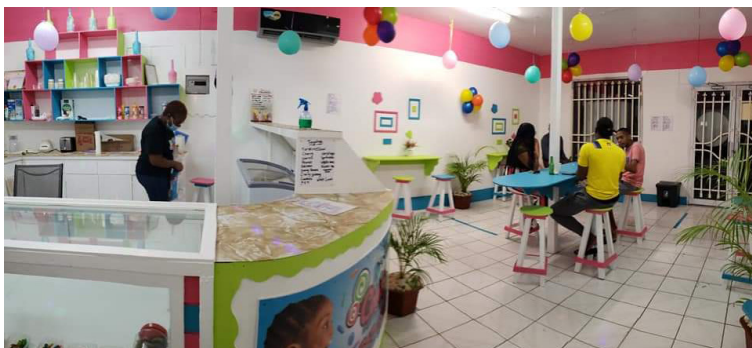
Date: Tuesday 25th August 2020

Time: 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Affected areas: Section of Urlings, Johnsons Point and Crabb Hill areas

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.







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# Mutiny on the bountiful LIAT

***By Makeda Mikael***

One month into administration, and the mutiny on LIAT, the Caribbean Airline, is controlled by an order of the court.

The two main combatants have hunkered down to build their air services while LIAT struggles to hold on to its vital units in engineering, piloting and operations, keeping the aircraft in check and ready for emergency movements in this COVID era.

Just seeing the occasional LIAT in the skies is a reassuring sign that life as we knew it may soon return, though on a reduced scale.

In this down time while the administrator cuts and contrives the new LIAT's rebirth, it is important to clear the air on some of the reasons for the LIAT reincarnation.

Admittedly, terms like 'rebirth' and 'reincarnation' presume a death of some sort, but that too has been deferred, so the 'sins of LIAT' can be exposed.

Not-so-good management and extreme taxation by the governments of the Caribbean almost killed the regional airline! In the first place, governments do not run businesses well, and LIAT was an exhibition case.

The LIAT Board was government appointed and



filled by ministers and their choice officers and the government ministers themselves held, and voted on, LIAT's shares.

It follows that the exceedingly high taxes levied on airline tickets by the very governments sends a very strange message.

In private business, the shareholders (the people) could very well have requested audited financials to establish collusion and misappropriation. Again, it is said that the reason LIAT has not been able to produce financials is because the

company did not carry its debts, but farmed them off on the shareholder governments.

Further, there remains the issue of the non-participating islands which failed to pay their way but expected flight frequency.

All of these elements combine to create a recipe for business failure.

Despite these issues, LIAT, for all the mismanagement it suffered, has served the region very well.

So what is the big deal if sometimes you arrive a little late and have to run to

make your connection? It is good to feel safe, as only LIAT can make you, with its internationally recognised and respected safety record. It is good to go into a travel agency in India or in Africa and be offered a connection home via LIAT from Barbados or St. Maarten.

It is good to know that our LIAT pilots are trained in the best pilots' flight training area in the world which makes them the envy of other airlines. It is even better knowing that LIAT will soon begin to connect the Caribbean again!

## America's Unholy Crusade Against China

By **JEFFREY D. SACHS**

*Last month, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered an anti-China speech that was extremist, simplistic, and dangerous. If biblical literalists like Pompeo remain in power past November, they could well bring the world to the brink of a war that they expect and perhaps even seek.*

Many white Christian evangelicals in the United States have long believed that America has a God-given mission to save the world. Under the influence of this crusading mentality, US foreign policy has often swerved from diplomacy to war. It is in danger of doing so again.

Last month, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo launched yet another evangelical crusade, this time against China. His speech was extremist, simplistic, and dangerous – and may well put the US on a path to conflict with China.

According to Pompeo, Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China (CPC) harbor a “decades-long desire for global hegemony.” This is ironic. Only one country – the US – has a defense strategy calling for it to be the “pre-eminent military power in the world,” with “favorable regional balances of power in the Indo-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, and the

Western Hemisphere.” China’s defense white paper, by contrast, states that “China will never follow the beaten track of big powers in seeking hegemony,” and that, “As economic globalization, the information society, and cultural diversification develop in an increasingly multi-polar world, peace, development, and win-win cooperation remain the irreversible trends of the times.”

One is reminded of Jesus’s own admonition: “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:5). US military spending totaled \$732 billion in 2019, nearly three times the \$261 billion China spent.<sup>2</sup>

The US, moreover, has around 800 overseas military bases, while China has just one (a small naval base in Djibouti). The US has many military bases close to China, which has none anywhere near the US. The US has 5,800 nuclear warheads; China has roughly 320. The US has 11 aircraft carriers; China has one. The US has launched many overseas wars in the past 40 years; China has launched none (though it has been criticized for border skirmishes, most recently with India, that stop short of war).<sup>5</sup>

The US has repeatedly rejected or withdrawn from



**US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo**

United Nations treaties and UN organizations in recent years, including UNESCO, the Paris climate agreement, and, most recently, the World Health Organization, while China supports UN processes and agencies. US President Donald Trump recently threatened the staff of the International Criminal Court with sanctions. Pompeo rails against China’s clampdown on its mainly Muslim Uighur population, but Trump’s former national security adviser, John Bolton, claims that Trump privately gave China’s actions a pass, or even encouraged them.

The world took relatively little notice of Pompeo’s speech, which offered no evidence to back up his claims of China’s hegemonic ambi-

tion. China’s rejection of US hegemony does not mean that China itself seeks hegemony. Indeed, outside of the US, there is little belief that China aims for global dominance. China’s explicitly stated national goals are to be a “moderately prosperous society” by 2021 (the centenary of the CPC), and a “fully developed country” by 2049 (the centennial of the People’s Republic).

Moreover, at an estimated \$10,098 in 2019, China’s GDP per capita was less than one-sixth that of the US (\$65,112) – hardly the basis for global supremacy. China still has a lot of catching up to do to achieve even its basic economic development goals.<sup>1</sup> Assuming that Trump loses in November’s presi-

*Cont’d on pg 15*



dential election, Pompeo's speech will likely receive no further notice. The Democrats will surely criticize China, but without Pompeo's brazen exaggerations. Yet, if Trump wins, Pompeo's speech could be a harbinger of chaos. Pompeo's evangelism is real, and white evangelicals are the political base of today's Republican Party.

Pompeo's zealous excesses have deep roots in American history. As I recounted in my recent book *A New Foreign Policy*, English protestant settlers believed that they were founding a New Israel in the new promised land, with God's providential blessings. In 1845, John O'Sullivan coined the phrase "Manifest Destiny" to justify and celebrate America's violent annexation of North America. "All this will be our future history," he wrote in 1839, "to establish on earth the moral dignity and salvation of man – the immutable truth and beneficence of God. For this blessed mission to the nations of the world, which are shut out from the life-giving light of truth, has America been chosen..."

On the basis of such exalted views of its own benef-

icence, the US engaged in mass enslavement until the Civil War and mass apartheid thereafter; slaughtered Native Americans throughout the nineteenth century and subjugated them thereafter; and, with the closure of the Western frontier, extended Manifest Destiny overseas. Later, with the onset of the Cold War, anti-communist fervor led the US to fight disastrous wars in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia) in the 1960s and 1970s, and brutal wars in Central America in the 1980s.

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the evangelical ardor was directed against "radical Islam" or "Islamic fascism," with four US wars of choice – in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Libya – all of which remain debacles to this day. Suddenly, the supposed existential threat of radical Islam has been forgotten, and the new crusade targets the CPC.

Pompeo himself is a biblical literalist who believes that the end time, the apocalyptic battle between good and evil, is imminent. Pompeo described his beliefs in a 2015 speech while a Congressman from Kansas: America is a

Judeo-Christian nation, the greatest in history, whose task is to fight God's battles until the Rapture, when Christ's born-again followers, like Pompeo, will be swept to heaven at the Last Judgment.

White evangelicals represent only around 17% of the US adult population, but comprise around 26% of voters. They vote overwhelmingly Republican (an estimated 81% in 2016), making them the party's single most important voting bloc. That gives them powerful influence on Republican policy, and in particular on foreign policy when Republicans control the White House and Senate (with its treaty-ratifying powers). Fully 99% of Republican congressmen are Christian, of whom around 70% are Protestant, including a significant though unknown proportion of evangelicals.

Of course, the Democrats also harbor some politicians who proclaim American exceptionalism and launch crusading wars (for example, President Barack Obama's interventions in Syria and Libya). On the whole, however, the Democratic Party is less wedded to claims of US hegemony than is the Re-

publican Party's evangelical base. Pompeo's inflammatory anti-China rhetoric could become even more apocalyptic in the coming weeks, if only to fire up the Republican base ahead of the election. If Trump is defeated, as seems likely, the risk of a US confrontation with China will recede. But if he remains in power, whether by a true electoral victory, vote fraud, or even a coup (anything is possible), Pompeo's crusade would probably proceed, and could well bring the world to the brink of a war that he expects and perhaps even seeks.

*Jeffrey D. Sachs, Professor of Sustainable Development and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University, is Director of Columbia's Center for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has served as Special Adviser to three UN Secretaries-General. His books include *The End of Poverty*, *Common Wealth*, *The Age of Sustainable Development*, *Building the New American Economy*, and most recently, *A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism*.*

## GOT NEWS

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# Barbados: Gov't pumping millions into major project to resolve water woes

Government is pumping millions into a major project to resolve the water woes of residents of rural parishes.

The Barbados Water Authority (BWA) is moving ahead with the project to augment the water supply in the water-starved sections of St Andrew, St Thomas, St John and St Joseph. According to the BWA, in order to achieve this, infrastructural upgrades are required to move the water from the Vineyard Reservoir in St Philip to Golden Ridge in St George via Mount Pleasant St John.

Over the next five months, the BWA team in conjunction with six sub-contractors will therefore be carrying out works, including the construction of a Booster Station at Vineyard adjacent to the existing Vineyard Reservoir, the laying of 2.7 km of 16-inch mains from Vineyard to Mount Pleasant, the construction of a Reservoir and Booster Station at Mount Pleasant and the laying of additional 4.6 km of 16-inch mains from Mount Pleasant to Eastmont, St John.

It is anticipated that this infrastructure will move approximately one and a half million gallons of water per day from Vineyard into St John. The source of the water into Vineyard will be from Groves.

Minister of Transport, Works and Water Resources Ian Gooding-Edghill, who

toured the Vineyard project on Saturday with other Ministry and BWA officials, told members of the media that Government is fully committed to the water works being carried out in the two parishes and stressed that BWA has done an outstanding job in putting together required resources and the project team necessary to facilitate the works seen on the tour.

"You would have seen and heard earlier that we would have commenced 7.3 kilometers of mains replacements throughout this constituency. But I also want to advise you that the Government of Barbados, through funding from the Caribbean Development Bank also negotiated a \$14.8 million facility to also help with mains replacement within this constituency of St John. "I must tell you that at the conclusion of the mains process, the Barbados Water Authority as the executing agency, would have spent in excess of 23.8 million dollars on the mains replacement programme in St John. In other words, the residents of St John will benefit from perhaps having the most modern mains laying programme and mains facility within the parish. We are spending the money here because it is going to have a reach all the way through to St Joseph, right through to St Thomas and St Andrew. The people of St John and St Joseph will



have better water access as a result of the significant capital expenditure that will be made available in this area," Edghill said.

Member of Parliament for St John and Minister in the Ministry of Water Resources Charles Griffith who noted that the water problems in St John and other rural areas have been severe in recent years, told the residents of that parish that he is fully aware that in short order, these issues will be resolved, noting that this particularly will cost government over \$10 million.

However, Griffith assured that issues with water outages will not only be fixed in St John, St Joseph and the eastern corridor, but noted that

all water concerns across the country will be addressed.

"So, there is a new push. My phone is constantly blowing up with problems in terms of leaks, in terms of persons not having water and we understand the fractured nature that was there before. I am saying that the same way you would have seen today that we are fusing those pipes together, we are going to fix the fractures that are happening as it relates to the water resources," Griffiths said.

Griffith acknowledged that BWA has done extensive work in St John, as it relates to extensive mains replacement in various areas, in an effort to resolve the pressing water issues.



## Election Spike - Jamaica To See Surge In COVID-19 Cases In The Wake Of Polls, Warns Medic

Jamaica should brace for an even greater spread of COVID-19 following the September 3 general election. The ominous warning came yesterday from Dr Alfred Dawes, medical director at Windsor Wellness Centre and Carivia Medical Limited, as he cautioned election campaigners against politicising the COVID-19 pandemic. "We need the COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed free of cost to all Jamaicans, [but] this should not be in an effort to gain votes, but to ensure that the population can be protected from the ravages of the coronavirus and allow the economy to reopen fully," said Dawes as he urged Jamaicans to be extra vigilant during the election campaign season.

"On or about September 17, we will start to see a massive spike in cases due to the activities of the election campaign. Why do I say that? Because America was getting it (COVID-19) under control, and then the George Floyd protests started. Two weeks after that, they had the massive surge in cases and they were never able to contain it again," he argued.

"Even though we have curtailed activities now, on election day, you are going to have people coming out from all over and then there is going to be a massive spike," he said, adding that like in the protests in the United States, the local election will draw large crowds together, "which is exactly what you want to avoid".

Up to Friday night, Jamaica had recorded a total of 1,346 COVID-19 cases and 16 deaths. The latest victim is a 69-year-old woman. The health ministry said



four patients were critically ill and seven persons in moderate condition. There were 471 active cases and 788 recoveries.

That concern is shared by Public Defender Arlene Harrison Henry, who yesterday noted the disregard for some COVID-19 protocols on the campaign trail.

"It is observed that since the announcement of the date of election, there have been a number of motorcades, rallies, and general jollification across the island and with reckless abandon of all COVID-19 protocols in both political camps, thereby facilitating the continued exponential increase in the rate of infection. This is undeniably to the detriment to the health of all of us," she said in a release.

"The most recent spikes have been attributed to the celebration and other activities related to Emancipation and Independence holidays. Similarly, it is anticipated that the next surge will be as a result of nomination activities. On that trajectory, yet another is in the making after the general election," Harrison Henry added. Up to press time, the statistics for Saturday had not yet been released. Last week, Director of Elections Glasspole Brown outlined a raft of measures

to be undertaken at polling stations across the island to minimise the spread of the disease. These include enforcing current social-distancing protocols, mask-wearing, and the sanitising of pencils and other utensils after each use. He said the care of elderly voters will also be a priority on election day.

COVID-19 'The Third Candidate' In spite of this, the coronavirus will be a "candidate" on election day, opined Raymond Pryce, People's National Party (PNP) candidate for St Catherine East Central and whose campaign Dawes manages.

"COVID-19 is the third candidate on every ballot, and in those cases where you have independent candidate, it is the fourth candidate. ... Money that you would have [traditionally] spent on T-shirts and those things, we have included a line item on our recurrent budget for hand sanitisers and masks," he said, adding also that novel measures will have to be taken to ensure the turnout and protection of more vulnerable voters.

"It would have been nice if the Electoral Office of Jamaica, recognising that the elections are being held in the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic, would have

put a special system in place for voters above 65. Just as how you have election-day workers voting on a particular day, it is within the remit of the EOJ to have made a determination that voters over 65 can come out on a fixed day. That way they will not have the pressure of being in the line with everybody else," Pryce said.

At 47.72 per cent, the 2016 election recorded the lowest voter turnout since Independence, with the exception of the 1983 election which was boycotted by the PNP. Last week, voter turnout was a common concern for candidates who fear the pandemic could scare the electorate.

Still, some diehard supporters, including elderly voters, said they would not be deterred from exercising their right.

Brown steered far from predicting voter turnout in the face of COVID-19, saying that will be based on how motivated voters are. Trinidad and Tobago has been grappling with a spike in COVID-19 cases in the wake of their general election held earlier this month. In the aftermath of the polls, the technical director of the Epidemiology Division at the Ministry of Health, Dr Avery Hinds, warned that Trinidad and Tobago should brace for an upsurge in coronavirus cases, given the increased movement of people over the campaign period.

Like in Jamaica, there had been multiple complaints during the campaign of people not adhering to the various protocols put in place to prevent the spread of the virus that was first detected in China last December.

# Snap elections called in Bermuda



*seeking second term: David Burt, the Premier (Photograph by Akil Simmons)*

Voters will go to the polls on October 1 after the Premier called a General Election yesterday. David Burt, the Progressive Labour Party leader, said the decision was based on financial prudence because of the possibility of multiple by-elections.

But Craig Cannonier, the leader of the One Bermuda Alliance, claimed that a General Election could cost more than \$1 million at a time when civil servants faced pay cuts. Political commentators had mixed reactions to the announcement — one branded it a distraction, but another said it would allow the Government to get a clear public mandate. Mr Burt said yesterday that John Rankin, the

Governor, had accepted his advice to call the election. He added: “The prospect of a series of by-elections does not represent the best use of the public purse at this time, but a General Election by which the people of Bermuda will safely cast their votes will allow us as a community to devote our efforts to the rebuilding of our economy and the creation of greater opportunity for Bermudians who have shown strength and commitment to each other during this challenging period.”

The PLP notched up a landslide win in the last General Election on July 18, 2017.

Mr Burt asked: “With the Government entering its fourth year, I had to make an important

economic choice.

“Do we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on three, four, five or more by-elections and then have to pay for a General Election?”

“Or, is it more financially prudent to just go ahead and call a General Election and allow those MPs who wish to retire the opportunity to do so?”

“I chose the option that saves Bermudian taxpayers money.”

He added: “I also thought about the 20 months of bickering that a series of by-elections would bring. Instead of subjecting Bermudians to months of division, I found it prudent to call a General Election that would allow the Government chosen

by the people to focus squarely on our economic recovery and make tough choices.

“I chose to get on with it.

“The truth is, tough times lie ahead and the Government needs the backing of the people to make the hard decisions today that will benefit all Bermudians in the long run. Mr Burt told the public: “We ably led us through to the new normal and now we seek your support to rebuild the economy in a way that works for all Bermudians, and not just the rich and powerful, who have always had it all. “Bermuda and the world have changed since the last election. These times require capable, steady and proven leadership — leadership that cares for Bermudians, is focused on ably managing the coronavirus and our economic recovery, providing affordable healthcare, and phasing out middle schools.

“We need strong leadership, solid plans for the future and vision to see us through to better times.” The Premier, earlier this month, posted a letter on social media addressed to Mr Cannonier, where he highlighted that three of the OBA’s 12 MPs had resigned since the 2017 General Election. He asked how many more resignations were expected and whether it was anticipated that they would happen “in the near future”.

Mr Burt wrote: “As you are aware, by-elections cost money. Specifically, each by-election costs taxpayers \$30,000.”



## Guyana AG: US\$20M was collected in alleged pyramid scheme

Accelerated Capital Firm Inc (ACFI), an alleged pyramid scheme that is now the subject of an investigation, collected approximately US\$20 million from would-be investors, according to Attorney General Anil Nandlall, who yesterday echoed the call for those who committed funds to approach the Guyana Police Force (GPF). "We need to put together a database of investors and the sums invested so that if possible they can be reimbursed," he announced at a virtual press conference.

According to Nandlall, an investigation has so far revealed that approximately US\$20 million was turned over to ACFI. He had previously indicated that some 17,000 Guyanese had been affected by the scheme.

"I am shocked at the number of persons who allowed themselves to be ensnared and the volume of money they invested," he exclaimed before adding that no one knows where the money is.

ACFI has no bank account as its application for a commercial bank account was denied. Also denied was an application to the Guyana Securities Commission (GSC) for a licence to operate.

A release from the Bank of Guyana (BoG) last evening also showed that the company and its principals, Yuri Garcia Dominguez and Ateeka Ishmael, never deposited anything near the sums it is alleged they collected.

According to a BoG press release, ACFI had one bank account, with the Bank of Baroda (BoB). While the current bal-



*Anil Nandlall*

ance was not revealed, the release noted that the highest sum ever retained in the account at one point was \$14.6 million. The account has from January to February, 2020, conducted transactions totalling \$21 million. This account was closed in April of this year.

Dominguez, a Cuban national who was recently naturalised, had two bank accounts; one with BoB and another with the Demerara Bank Limited (DBL).

At BoB his highest balance was \$200,000 while at DBL it was \$2.3 million. There were no transactions recorded at BoB but at DBL transactions ranging from \$17,000 to \$447,000 were recorded. The account at BoB was closed in April while the

DBL account was closed in July.

As for Ishmael, her accounts were held at DBL, Republic Bank Limited (RBL) and the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI).

At RBL, the highest balance recorded was \$341,000, at DBL \$459,000 and an unidentified amount at GBTI.

At two of the three banks the accused is said to have engaged in transactions between \$5,000 and \$10,000 while the transactions at GBTI ranged from \$5,000 to \$459,000. Deposits made across all three accounts totalled \$7 million.

The BoG was keen to note that all transactions recorded including foreign transfers were "small and insignificant."

The question of where the invested money went is one of the primary concerns of investigators.

The BoG has committed to co-operating with authorities as the investigation continues.

According to Nandlall, Dominguez has claimed that he holds bank accounts in Las Vegas and Germany.

The AG, however, expressed doubt as to the veracity of this statements, while noting that American authorities have peculiar rules about Cuban nationals doing business in their country and were unlikely to allow such a sum to just appear in an account there.

## Donald Trump's sister says he's an 'unprincipled phoney'



*Maryanne Trump Barry said her brother Donald just "wants to appeal to his base"*

US President Donald Trump's eldest sister, a former federal judge, has said her brother is a liar who "has no principles", secret recordings reveal. The critical remarks by Maryanne Trump Barry were recorded by her niece, Mary Trump, who last month published a book excoriating the president.

"His goddamned tweet and lying, oh my God," Ms Barry is heard saying. "It's the phoni-ness and this cruelty."

Mary Trump said she had

taped her aunt to protect herself from litigation. Mr Trump responded to the latest revelations in a statement issued by the White House, saying: "Every day it's something else, who cares." The recordings were first reported by The Washington Post, after which the Associated Press obtained them. In the secret recordings, Ms Barry criticises the Trump administration's immigration policy, which has led to children being held at migrant detention centres at the border.

"All he wants to do is appeal to his base," she said. One of the claims made in Mary Trump's memoir - *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man* - is that her uncle paid a friend to take a SAT test for him - a standardised exam which determines university placement. Ms Barry refers to this in the recording, even suggesting that she remembers the name of the friend involved. "He got into University of Pennsylva-

nia because he had somebody take the exams," she said. Ms Barry has been supportive of her brother Donald and has previously said the two were close. She once told the story of how he had visited her every day she was in hospital following an operation. "Once would have been enough - the duty call. That's how love shows, when you go that extra yard." She also said she "knew better even as a child than to even attempt to compete with Donald".



## Israel's Netanyahu accepts compromise, avoids election

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Sunday that he had accepted a proposal to extend budget negotiations, preventing the government from collapsing and plunging the country into a new election. In a nationally televised address, Netanyahu said that now was not the time to drag the country into a fourth parliamentary elections in less than two years. "Now is the time for unity. Not for elections," he said.

Netanyahu and his rival and coalition partner, Benny Gantz, had faced a Monday night deadline to agree on a budget. Otherwise, the government would have collapsed and automatically triggered a new vote.

Netanyahu said that following a historic agreement to establish official relations with the United Arab Emirates, and with the country struggling with a coronavirus outbreak, he felt it was wrong to go to elections.

He said he accepted a compromise that would give the sides an additional 100 days to reach a budget deal, and in the meantime direct spending to struggling areas of the economy and society.

His announcement came after Israeli lawmakers spent much of the day unsuccessfully trying to agree on a compromise.

The current political crisis pitting the prime minister against rival-turned-partner Gantz is ostensibly over the country's national budget. But the crisis has deeper roots in the troubled partnership between Netanyahu and Gantz, economic troubles stem-

ing from the country's coronavirus outbreak and the prime minister's ongoing corruption trial. Critics accuse Netanyahu of using the budget battle to force a new election in hopes of securing a friendlier parliament that could help solve his legal troubles.

After three deadlocked elections, Netanyahu and Gantz reached a power-sharing agreement in April to form a government to address the virus crisis. As part of their coalition deal, Netanyahu's Likud party and Gantz's Blue and White agreed to pass a two-year budget.

But Netanyahu has insisted on passing a budget to cover only the remainder of 2020, saying it will provide immediate assistance to the economy. Gantz is adamant that the government honor its agreement and pass one for 2020 and 2021. Their disagreement has again brought the country to the brink of political meltdown. The Knesset, or parliament, must pass the legislation in two rounds of voting in parliament before Monday night's deadline. But pushing back the deadline would only kick the budget crisis down the road. The two parties are at loggerheads over several key issues — including judicial appointments and the annexation of West Bank settlements — and the government has been beset by infighting. Gantz also complained that Netanyahu left him and Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi in the dark about the deal announced earlier this month to normalize relations with the United Arab Emirates.



*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz issue a statement at the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Israel.*

If the budget deadline is not deferred, and new elections are triggered, it would plunge the country into political chaos during a deep economic and public health crisis and while the prime minister is on trial for corruption. Netanyahu is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases. His criminal trial began in June, but he has refused to step down from office and denies any wrongdoing. At the same time, Israel has recorded more than 100,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 800 deaths. Unemployment remains over 20% despite the government's reopening of the economy in May, following a more than month-long lockdown.

Netanyahu has faced intense criticism over his government's handling of the crisis, and the largest sustained protests against his rule in nearly a decade. On

Saturday, an estimated 10,000 people took part in a weekly protest outside the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem, calling on Netanyahu to resign.

Nonetheless, recent polls indicate Netanyahu would score a sizable victory if snap elections were held. By dissolving the government, Netanyahu would avoid giving Gantz the premiership in November 2021 as required by the coalition agreement. Netanyahu appears determined to remain prime minister — and therefore not legally obligated to resign while under indictment — through the duration of his trial, which is expected to last several years.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz issue a statement at the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Israel.

## Peru: 13 killed as police raid club breaking coronavirus curbs



*Local media reported that those who died were in their 20s [Screengrab/Reuters]*

Thirteen people have been killed in a stampede at a nightclub in Peru's capital, Lima, after a police raid to enforce the country's coronavirus lockdown measures, according to officials. At least six others were injured, including three police officers, as about 120 people tried to escape the Thomas Restobar club on Saturday night shortly after police arrived to break up a party on its second floor, national police and government officials said.

Local media reported that the victims were in their 20s.

Neighbours had alerted police about the raucous event at the club in Lima's Los Olivos district.

"In these circumstances when people begin to fight to get out, it's tumultuous, everyone goes against each other," Orlando Velasco, of the national police, told local radio station RPP.

An interior ministry statement said the partygoers, fleeing all at once, tried to squeeze through the only entrance door and became trapped between the door and a staircase leading to the street. "Faced with the police operation, which did not use any type of weapon or tear gas, those attending the party tried to escape through the single exit, trampling each other and getting trapped in the stairway," the ministry said.

Police arrested at least 23 people at the scene, the ministry said. However, some who were at the party and others living near the nightclub disputed the ministry's version of events, according to reports.

"It appears that police entered and threw tear gas canisters at them, and boxed them in," one resident told RPP radio.

Women's Minister Rosario Sasieta said she was outraged, aiming her ire at the club's owner. "It should never have happened. We are in a pandemic, in a health emergency. I am calling for the maximum punishment possible for the nightclub owners," she told RPP.

Nightclubs have been

banned from operating in the country since March because of the pandemic.

Peru started lifting quarantine restrictions on June 30 in an effort to get the economy moving again.

However, in recent weeks, the daily reported number of virus infections has doubled to more than 9,000, prompting new restrictions to be put in place. Those include a ban on family gatherings and a Sunday curfew.

To date, Peru has reported about 27,500 coronavirus-related deaths amid 576,000 cases, the second-highest case count in Latin America after Brazil.



## Belarus opposition protests begin amid heavy police presence



DMITRI LOVETSKY

*Thousands of protesters gathered at Independence Square in Minsk on Sunday.*

Belarus's embattled government vowed to take control of national monuments to protect them from protesters, as opposition demonstrators gathered in Minsk on Sunday.

"We are strictly warning: In case of disruption of the order and peace in these places – you will have to deal not with the police, but with the Army," the Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

There was a strong security force presence in the capital city as opposition protesters began arriving at Independence Square, with protesters warned over a loudspeaker to disperse and stop violating public order laws.

A convoy of police vehicles drives down the street ahead

of another scheduled protest in Minsk on Sunday.

It has been two weeks since a contested presidential election saw Alexander Lukashenko retain his 26-year grip on power, sparking mass opposition protests across the country.

Independent observers criticized the country's August 9 poll for being neither free nor fair. And much of the international community has expressed solidarity with the protesters, piling pressure on Lukashenko to give in to calls for another vote.

But the President has doubled down, even insisting that there won't be new elections "until you kill me." Last Sunday, Lukashenko told a rally in central Minsk that Belarus was being threatened by "foreign forces."

The United Nations said Friday it was "disturbed" that reportedly no action had been taken to investigate reports of "large-scale torture and ill-treatment" of people and children arrested in connection with the protests. European Council President Charles Michel said two days earlier the European Union would "shortly" impose "sanctions on a substantial number of individuals responsible for violence, repression and election fraud" after an emergency summit of the bloc's leaders on the "increasingly concerning situation" in the country.

"The protests in Belarus are not about geopolitics. This is in the first place a national crisis. It is about the right of the people to freely elect their leadership. We

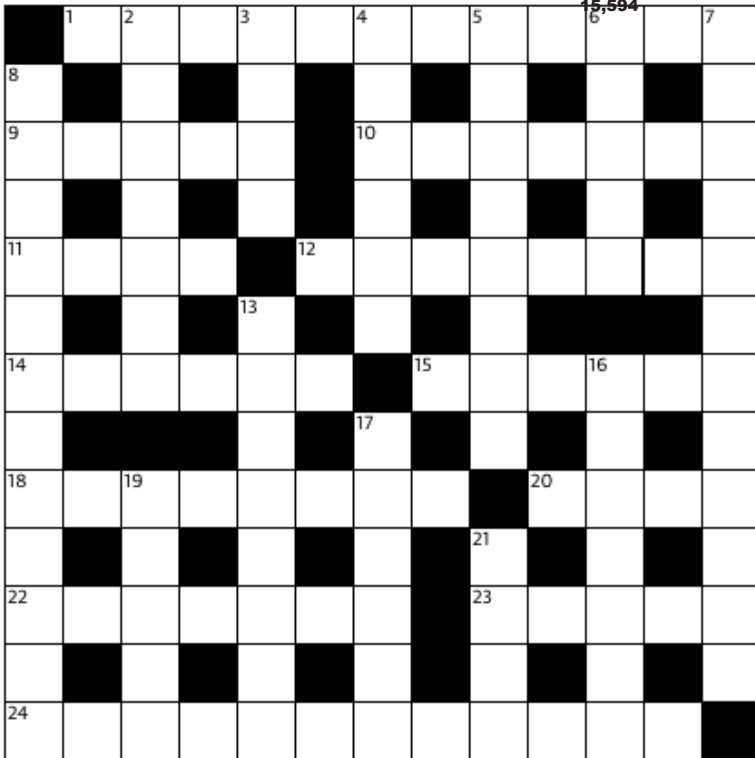
stand firmly behind the right of Belarusian people to determine their own fate," Michel said.

"On August 9th, Belarus held elections. These elections were neither free nor fair and did not meet international standards. We don't recognize the results presented by the Belarus authorities," Michel said, adding that "the people of Belarus deserve the democratic right to choose their leaders and shape their future." Michel also condemned the "shocking and unacceptable" violence against "peaceful protesters."

Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya remains in Lithuania, where she fled to after the disputed presidential election.

# QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No



## Across

- 1 Musically arranged (12)  
 9 Part of a step (5)  
 10 Decisive (7)  
 11 River (which is originally blue and white) (4)  
 12 Muddled (6,2)  
 14 Shallow trench made by a plough (6)  
 15 Expressed (6)  
 18 Suspenseful (8)  
 20 Worry unnecessarily (4)  
 22 Liberate (7)  
 23 Winged insect — amigo (anag) (5)  
 24 Agent that destroys bacteria (12)

## Down

- 2 Cattle thief (7)  
 3 Rent (4)  
 4 Private soldier in the Royal Engineers (6)  
 5 Studying just before an exam (8)  
 6 Carried (something heavy) (5)  
 7 Ruin (12)  
 8 Metamorphosed (12)  
 13 Grizzle (8)  
 16 Indisputable (7)  
 17 Audible and uncontrolled expulsion of air through nose and mouth  
 19 Wastes time (5)  
 21 Fissure in something (4)

# CARTOON CORNER

## Garfield







## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** Your most important relationships can fly high if you pay attention to the direction the wind is blowing. Your sense of values may have changed, making something that once seemed desirable now seem bland and unexciting.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** Do your own thing without investing in bling. It's more important to stick to what is real and authentic for you. You might make startling discoveries and breakthroughs if you put your mind to it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Better to be safe than sorry. This is a good time to keep a low profile on social media to avoid an embarrassing situation. Friends might be reluctant to tell you the truth about something you might need to hear.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Nothing is impossible. When you want something that's hard to get, make the effort to develop a game plan so you can earn it. You might become enthused about putting money to work on your own behalf.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You may have the incentive to show off leadership skills and executive abilities. Competition may stoke the fire of your ambitions so that you're willing to go the extra mile to win. Focus on clarity regarding your career.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Enlightenment can light the way. Learning new facts and techniques may have a great deal of merit. Talk things over with a partner and get any misunderstandings straightened out before they create a barrier to intimacy.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Rise above any passing misunderstandings. You possess enough imagination to figure out why someone is holding back. Having good times with favorite people may be enough to satisfy your need for love.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You may need to step up your brainpower to keep up with a quick-thinking partner or friend. Hold off on making important purchases, since good taste and lasting values may be in short supply at this time.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Take care to not give someone the impression that you are dissatisfied with the status quo when you merely want to be up to date with the latest information. Conversations can turn mere acquaintances into fast friends.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You're never too old to learn new tricks, although sometimes it takes longer to learn them thoroughly. Borrow brilliant ideas from discussions and make them your own by taking key concepts to the next level.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** If you look at your bank account, it might seem like easy come, easy go ... and go and go. Some of the latest budgeting ideas and technology can help you keep track of expenditures and eliminate guesswork.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** You may assume that everything is just fine between you and a mate or close companion, but there might be something unexpressed that could create issues. Avoid disputes with family members.

# 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.**





## Bayern Munich are UEFA champions

Bayern Munich overcame Paris St. Germain in a tightly contested Champions League final at the Estádio Sport Lisboa e Benfica in Portugal to claim the crown for the sixth time on 23rd August 2020.

Kingsley Coman, who started his career at PSG, settled a tense affair with a 59th minute header at the far post from Joshua Kimmich's cross to leave the French giants still searching for that elusive Champions League triumph.

It was a night of joy for Bayern coach, Hansi Flick,



who added the Champions League to the Bundesliga

after initially taking over as interim coach from sacked Niko Kovac in November

2019.

In contrast, it was a night of bitter disappointment for PSG's two attacking superstars, Neymar and Kylian

Mbappe, who failed to produce their best and found themselves frustrated by Bayern keeper and man of the match, Manuel Neuer, when they had the best of the first-half chances.

Mbappe's frustration increased in the second half when he looked to be tripped by Kimmich in the area, but PSG's penalty claims were ignored - leaving Bayern to celebrate being crowned champions of Europe once more, becoming the first team to win the trophy by winning every Champions League game in a single campaign.

## Djokovic feels it's important he play in the 2020 US Open

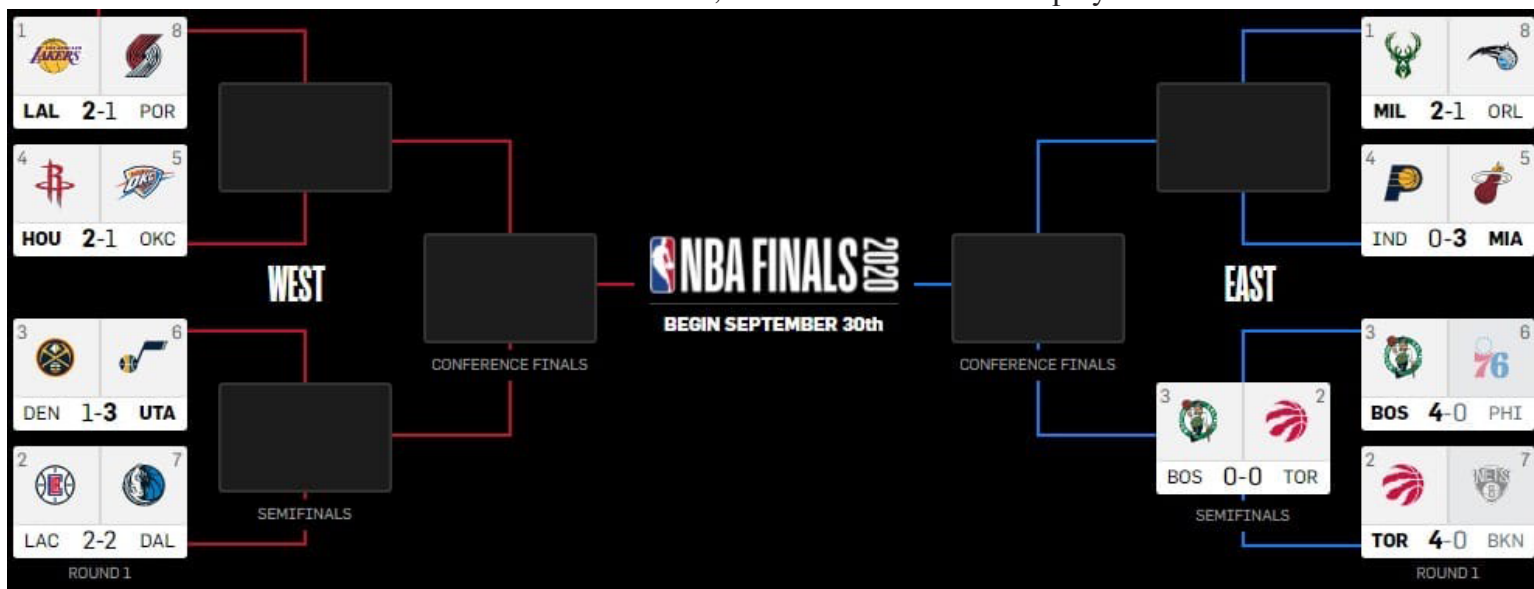
Serbia's world number one, Novak Djokovic, says one of the reasons he decided to play the US Open was to help the sport "keep going".

Djokovic, 33, is in the US preparing for the Grand Slam event which takes place from 31 August in New York. A number of players, including reigning champion Rafael Nadal and Bianca Andreescu, have pulled out because of health and travel fears.

"I felt responsible as a top player to be here," Djokovic told the New York Times.

Spain's Nadal, ranked second in the world, withdrew earlier this month because he felt the coronavirus pandemic was "not under control".

Canada's Andreescu, 20, is one of six players inside the women's top 10, including Australian world number one Ash Barty and Wimbledon champion Simona Halep of Romania, who have decided not to play.



## Professional and athletic

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA), Kebra Nanton, says despite the COVID-19 pandemic the executive of the local association has been in constant communication with its members and has been proactive in ensuring that they hit the ground running when competitive sports resume.

“Like other sporting organisations, the ABBA season came to an abrupt end on March 13 when the coronavirus outbreak caused governments across the region to bring all sporting activities to a halt. We were very excited about 2020 and everything was going well. The league was tight and headed to an exciting finish,” said the former national player.

“The season ended halfway but since our executive has met several times since the restrictions has been released practicing social distancing,” said Nanton.

Nanton, who attended Kirkwood Community College in Iowa and Mississippi Valley University, said

ABBA has remained active through virtual meetings. She continued that the experience was exciting and fruitful and would encourage young athletes to pursue scholastic sports and education.

Antigua and Barbuda participated in FIBA Under-17 Skills Challenge and Nanton showered high praise on George Hughs, Michael Freeland and Carl ‘Boli’ Knight for their assistance with the teams.

Nanton, a certified accountant, says she was introduced to the executive of basketball by former president and Minister of Sports, Daryl Matthew. She disclosed that she and Minister Matthew have held discussions about the development of an indoor basketball facility in the future.

“We can’t achieve the building of an indoor facility by ourselves, so we have had discussions with the Ministry of Sports, National Olympic Committee (NOC) and hopefully in the not so far future such a facility will be a reality,” said



Kebra Nanton

Nanton.

Basketball is community based and the president is encouraging young people to participate in sports in

general and learn to balance sports and education.

Nanton indicated optimism about the future of basketball and added that she and her team are actively preparing for the start of the 2021 season.

**DEWS**