



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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PRICE \$3

BACK TO SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 7

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New LIAT Administrator calls for airline's property to be returned

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India hands over vital medical equipment to the government

The Indian government is demonstrating the strength of its longstanding relationship with Antigua and Barbuda by coming to the country's aid as it seeks to come to terms with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a brief, virtual platform based presentation today, India will symbolically present the Antigua and Barbuda government with US\$1 million.

The government has used these funds for the purchase of medical supplies.

"The grant assistance of US\$1 million through the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda was allocated towards Medical Equipment/PPE for a specially designed infectious disease and isolation centre procured that will address

the negative effects of COVID-19 and the socioeconomic and health impacts on the population of Antigua and Barbuda," a Ministry of Foreign Affairs senior officer disclosed.

The officials said all the supplies have arrived in the country and are in the hands of health authorities.

They include: 115,000 surgical masks, 2000 full cover protective goggles, 200,000 examination gloves, 2000 face shields, 10,000 disposable gowns (impervious) and 6 ventilators.

The Indian government has also made available a donation of 10,000 hydroxychloroquine tablets to the government.

The official continued that India, through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative, also hosts various webinars and other annual training opportunities

for healthcare professionals

These training courses have greatly enriched Antigua and Barbuda's invaluable human resource stock.

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, is expected to express sincere appreciation to the Government of India under the India-UNDP fund for this crucial and timely assistance to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, he is expected to convey that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda welcomes new areas of cooperation with India to deepen the bilateral ties and economic linkages between both countries.

Antigua and Barbuda and India have enjoyed a long-standing and cordial relationship since 1981, based on their shared Commonwealth heritage, trade, people to people links and a common passion for cricket.

DAY 8/7

Max UV Index: 11 Extreme
 Wind: E at 22 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 55%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 40%
 Precipitation: 2.5 mm
 Rain: 2.5 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

32° Hi



Clouds giving way to some sun with a shower or thunderstorm around

NIGHT 8/7

Wind: ENE at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 45%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 29%
 Precipitation: 1.2 mm
 Rain: 1.2 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

25° Lo



Patchy clouds and warm with a shower in spots

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:49 AM

Sunset AST
6:37 PM



Duration
12:48 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
9:33 PM

Moonset AST
9:50 AM



Duration
12:17 hr

Schools to reopen on September 7

The new academic year, 2020 - 2021, for students in Antigua and Barbuda begins on September 7, one month from today. Students across the country have been absent from the classroom since March 13 when the government instituted a national lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The announcement comes following a meeting among officials of the Ministry of Education, including Director of Education, Clare Browne, the Board of Education and the Cabinet of Ministers on Thursday.

“While teachers will be called on to commence the term one week earlier, on August 31, 2020, the classroom lectures will be both face-to-face and by virtual means, at several densely populated schools,” the post-Cabinet Notes stated.

It was also noted that the decision to reopen the economy was a signal that schools would reopen as well, one official said.

“Many parents are workers whose children need school for learning as well as a lifeline. Children need supervision if they are to learn and the classroom exposure is the very best which a student can have,” the Director Browne explained.

Browne further explained that COVID-19 has created a burden for the education system as classes of thirty or more students will be divided into two classes of approximately fifteen students

in order to achieve social distancing as teachers cannot be compelled to teach for twice as many hours daily.

“Hence, one half will experience the lesson face-to-face while the other half will rely upon the virtual experience. Several schools will also have tents erected on their green space under which classes can be held when the classrooms are all full and occupied,” he indicated.

There are 2,000 teachers and more than 21,000 students in the school system.

The Cabinet notes said in order to achieve the virtual experience, new laptops will be purchased for secondary school students and their tablets will be passed on to the primary school

students. These new laptops will be programmed to foreclose cheating during CXC examinations.

It is estimated that the cost of the laptops for all teachers and secondary school students, including additional devices to cover the possibility of damage or loss, will hover at around \$2 million dollars.

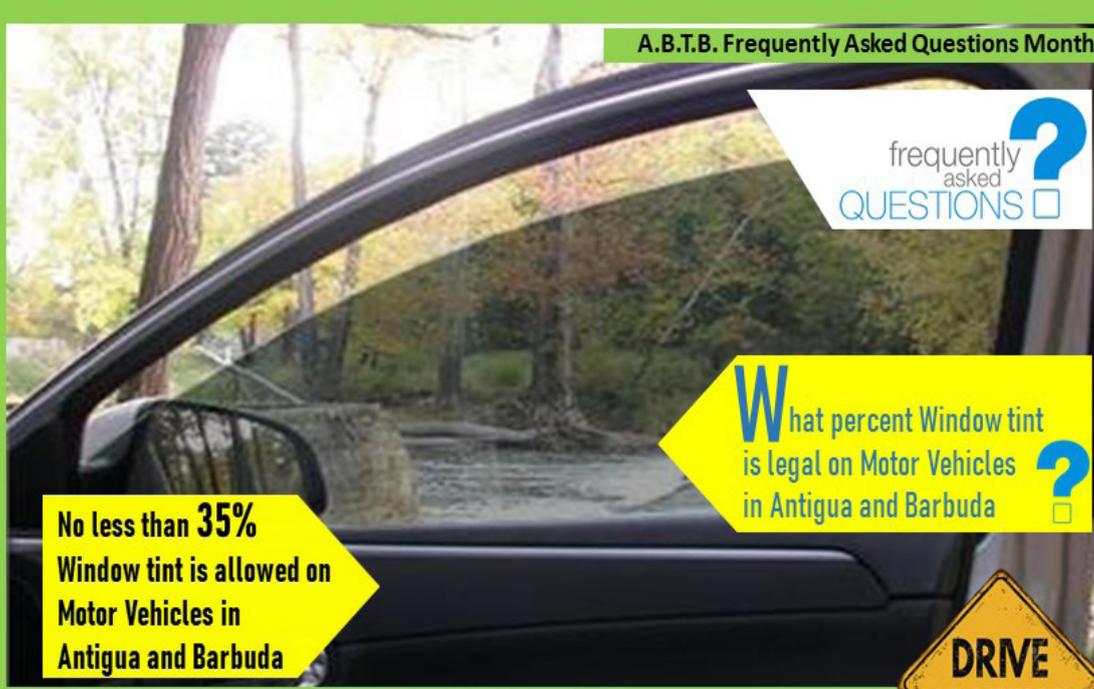
The Board of Education will also depend upon the government to subsidize the cost of this initiative due to the fact that the collections which fund it have declined significantly as a large cross section of the workforce and employers remain unable to contribute to the Education



Director of Education, Clare Browne Levy.

The Ministry of Education’s delegation also included the Deputy Director, the Assistant Director, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Board of Education.

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



frequently asked
QUESTIONS 

No less than **35%**
Window tint is allowed on
Motor Vehicles in
Antigua and Barbuda

What percent Window tint
is legal on Motor Vehicles
in Antigua and Barbuda 





A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

New LIAT Administrator calls for airline's property to be returned

Recently appointed LIAT Administrator, Cleveland Seaforth, has announced that creditors have a little over a week to submit claims. In addition to this, individuals holding company assets must return these properties and individuals or entities indebted to the airline must pay up.

In a notice issued on Thursday, the Seaforth stated, "Any person, who believes that the Company holds property belonging to him/her or property in which he/she has rights, should submit his/her claim in writing to the Administrator with all supporting documents in respect of such ownership or right."

Seaforth continued, "All persons holding any property, documents, books, and records of the Company are requested to deliver them forthwith to the Administrator."

Seaforth, who was appointed Ad-



LIAT Administrator, Mr. Cleveland Seaforth

ministrator of the cash-strapped airline by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in July, further indicated that, "Any person having a claim against the Company, whether liquidated, unliquidated, future or contingent, is required to present particulars of their claim in writing to the Administrator

not later than August 15, 2020."

The administrator's notice went on: "Notice is further given that all sums due to the Company should be payable to the Administrator, and receipts for such payments shall only be valid if they bear the signature of the Administrator or his duly appointed representative(s)."

Until LIAT is out of the woods and the court gives further instructions concerning the regional airline, Seaforth will assume full control of the business, assets, and affairs of the Company and, as an agent of the Company, he acts without personal liability.

Persons or businesses affected by the notice have been advised to direct all correspondence to the Corner Factory Road & Carnival Gardens, P.O. Box 3109, St. John's, Antigua. They

cont'd on pg 5



Bar owner, patrons fined for violating protocols

A total of twelve people were fined in the court on Wednesday and Thursday for breaching social distancing protocols following a raid on a bar on Old Parham Road.

On 1st August, reports

are that police and Central Board of Health (CBH) officials were patrolling when they came across a bar whose patrons were not abiding by strict COVID-19 guidelines and in particular, those which address social

distancing.

The bar was raided, and while some of the customers escaped, twelve people including the bar's owner, were arrested.

On Wednesday, six women appeared before Chief

Magistrate Joanne Walsh charged with breaching social distancing protocols. They were each fined \$1,000.

On Thursday, six men had their day in court. Five of the men were each fined \$1,000, while the bar owner was fined a total of \$8,000 for several infractions, including operating with an expired liquor license.

A total of \$19,000 in fines were paid immediately by the offending individuals who were then sent on their way.

cont'd from pg 4

may also call 268-462-8868/9; Facsimile: 268-462-8808; or email: administrator.liat@bdoecc.com.

Meanwhile, the three LIAT planes which were flown to Grenada for safekeeping when a tropical storm threatened the region recently, were returned to Antigua on Thursday and are hangared at the VC Bird

International Airport.

Social media was abuzz after the airline flew into the V.C.Bird International Airport with many commenting that it was pleasing to see LIAT in the sky again. Many calls were also issued for the airline's stakeholders to increase their focus on revitalizing the Antigua based regional airline.

LIAT (1974) LTD. (Under Administration)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Cleveland Seaforth of BDO Eastern Caribbean, Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival Gardens, St. John's, Antigua, have been appointed as Administrator of LIAT (1974) LIMITED with effect from 24th July, 2020.

Notice is also given to any person, who believes that the Company holds property belonging to him/her or property in which he/she has rights, should submit his/her claim in writing to the Administrator with all supporting documents in respect of such ownership or right.

All persons holding any property, documents, books and records of the Company are requested to deliver them forthwith to the Administrator.

Notice is further given that all sums due to the Company should be payable to the Administrator and receipts for such payments shall only be valid if they bear the signature of the Administrator or his duly appointed representative(s).

Any person having a claim against the Company, whether liquidated, unliquidated, future or contingent, is required to present particulars of their claim in writing to the Administrator not later than August 15, 2020.

The business, assets and affairs of the Company are under the control of the Administrator, who is an agent of the Company and acts without personal liability.

All correspondences should be addressed to:

**Cleveland Seaforth
Administrator**

Contact for enquiries:

Name: Cleveland Seaforth

Telephone: (268) 462 8868/9 Facsimile: (26) 462 8808

Email: administrator.liat@bdoecc.com

Address for Service:

Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival

Gardens P.O. Box 3109

St. John's, Antigua

Sherfield Bowen wins UPP primary

Sherfield Bowen has won the United Progressive Party's primary in the St. Phillip's South constituency, and in so doing, has become the opposition party's candidate in the next general elections.

Bowen, a former parliamentary representative for the St. Phillip's South constituency, received 38 votes

to beat Shawn Nicholas who secured 20 votes. A third contender, Phillip Harris was unable to secure a single vote.

The attorney formerly represented the constituency on an Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, but later resigned over differences with the party's leadership.

In 2005, Bowen was con-

victed and sentenced to five years in prison for the manslaughter of 23-year-old Tessa Barthley. Bowen had been found guilty of shooting the young woman to death.

Two years later Bowen was released from prison after the Court of Appeal quashed his conviction, but the Court also ruled that the



Sherfield Bowen

Director of Public Prosecutions could reindict Bowen.

Bowen walked free from Her Majesty's Prison on 21st June 2007.

More donations for MSJMC

A financial institution operating in Antigua and Barbuda is the latest business to make a much needed donation to the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC).

Medical equipment, valued EC\$15,000.00, was donated by Scotiabank as part of its COVID-19 community response efforts in the countries which fall across its global footprint.

Included in the donation were twenty (20) wheelchairs, twenty (20) utility scissors and forty-eight (48) incentive spirometers.

"Our hospital is deeply grateful for the generosity demonstrated by Scotiabank, which is surely needed at this time of uncertainty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," said MSJMC Medical Director, Dr. Albert Duncan.

Dr. Duncan highlighted the fact that all of the items donated are critical at this time.

"As we all know, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and both wheelchairs and ICU spirometers play a role in the care of all our patients, especially those who have respiratory illnesses," he remarked.

Scotiabank Country Manager, Suzan



Snaggs-Wilson, said the bank is of the view that it is an important part of the economic and social fabric of the communities in which it operates.

"Hospitals, like Mount St. John Medical Centre, have been at the forefront of this pandemic, stretching resources to help those in need," said Snaggs-Wilson.

"At Scotiabank," she continued, "we

wanted to help in a more tangible way, and as such, when the request came to us to assist with medical equipment and supplies, we readily committed our donation of these essential items.

"We know that these supplies will help the hospital continue to provide quality healthcare to those in need during the pandemic as well as in the future."

No new COVID-19 Cases, active cases drop to 13

The Ministry of Health, through the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC), has indicated that there are no new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 5th August 2020 at 6 pm.

On Thursday night, health authorities reported that forty-nine (49) samples were tested at the MSJMC after the last COVID-19 press update was given on Wednesday.

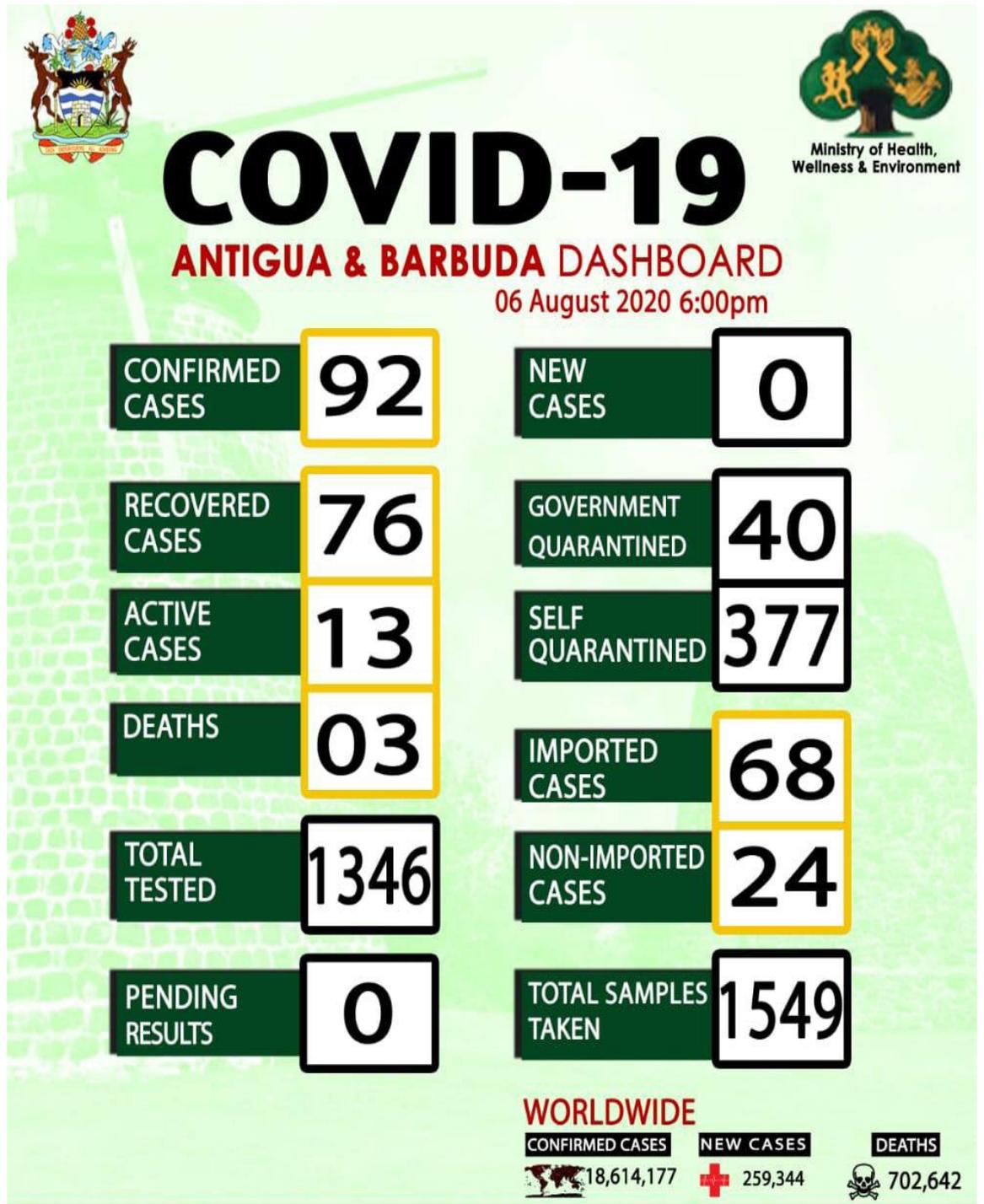
All forty-nine samples that were processed yielded negative results.

"Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda remains ninety-two with thirteen active cases," the Ministry of Health revealed in a written statement issued on Thursday.

While the number of active cases has been reduced, the health ministry continues to advocate for the general public to practice preventative measures to reduce the chances of contracting the virus.

These measures include social distancing, good hand hygiene and adherence to mask wearing policies.

The Ministry of Health is expected to host a press conference today.



Government of Antigua & Barbuda
Ministry of Health, Wellness & Environment
 High & Long Streets
 St. John's, Antigua.

Contact us if you are exhibiting symptoms
 COVID-19 HOTLINE 462-6843 | COVID@MSJMC.ORG

TENDER NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Construction and Assembling of 150 Vending Booths

CARIFESTA XV – August 2021

Ministry of Sports, Culture, National Festivals and the Arts

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Ministry of Sports, Culture, National Festivals and the Arts, invites interested vendors to submit bid/proposal, for the supply of works and or services related to the construction and assembling of 150 vending booths, to host CARIFESTA XV, Grand Market, in August of 2021, at the Multipurpose Cultural Center and Exhibition Hall – Perry Bay.

The Scope of Works related to this tender, can be accessed through our e-Procurement Platform, accessible via the following link:

<https://ra.easibuy.com/advertisements/1199?token=7923781c08da5a9188bc62b1>

The e-Procurement Platform for this tender is hosted by EASiBUY. Should you require any assistance in accessing the platform, please feel free to contact Mr. Daniel Knight, email: Daniel.Knight@ab.gov.ag or Mr. Jamal Barnes, email: Jamal.Barnes@ab.gov.ag

Please be advised that it is imperative that you submit the following documents when uploading your Proposal to the site:-

1. Business Registration
2. Company Profile and
3. References

*Bids/Proposals for this tender must be uploaded to the e-Procurement Platform no later than **Friday 12:00 noon on 21 August 2020**. Queries regarding the specified requirements of this tender must be directed and delivered to **Chairman, Tenders Board (tenders.board@ab.gov.ag)** via the platform. Please note that the *final day for considering queries* related to this tender is **2:00 PM on Friday 14 August 2020**.*

MSJMC commences PCR testing

The Mount St. John’s Medical Centre (MSJMC), the country’s main public hospital, has announced that it is conducting Polymerase chain reaction or PCR testing for COVID-19.

“With the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), MSJMC understands that you are concerned and worried. Please rest assured that we are following guidelines from local, regional, and international health authorities, and that because the health and safety of our patients, employees, and community is always our highest concern,” a statement from the hospital read.

MSJMC has also produced a Frequently Asked Questions or FAQ sheet which seeks to answer several questions frequently asked by the public. Many of these concerns are answered in the detailed FAQ which was published on Thursday. The topics covered include who can get tested, how the test is performed and at what cost.

COVID-19 testing is conducted Mondays through Fri-

days by appointment only. Results are made available on Tuesdays and Thursdays by 6 pm. The hospital underscored that, “There may be instances in which COVID-19 test results are referred to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). This could delay your test result. If this happens, efforts will be made to contact you via email or phone.”

Patients who are scheduled for elective surgeries, which include pregnant women with planned cesareans, and persons traveling abroad can apply to be tested.

According to the hospital, there is a cost associated with getting the test at S300 XCD for Antigua & Barbuda citizens and Citizens of CARICOM member states while it is at USD 300 for all other nationalities.

To get an appointment, payment must be made in advance of you being swabbed and a copy of your receipt (or your receipt number with your full name) should be emailed to this email address (covidresults@msjmc.org).



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

With the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Mount St. John’s Medical Centre understands that you are concerned and worried. Please rest assured that we are following guidelines from local, regional and international health authorities, and that the health and safety of our patients, employees and community is always our highest concern.

Here are answers to frequently asked questions about COVID-19 testing:

The Basics

When will COVID-19 testing begin?

Testing has already begun. If you require a test for the purposes stated below, please complete a request form following the steps outlined (see below).

Who can get a COVID-19 test?

- Patients scheduled for elective surgeries. This includes pregnant women with planned cesareans
- Persons travelling abroad

What does the test consist of? What is the process?

Generally, the test involves a swab (“q-tip”) inserted into the back of the person’s nostrils.

When will my results be ready and how will I be informed?

Test results are available Tuesdays and Thursdays by 6pm. Notification is done by email (COVIDresults@msjmc.org). It is very important that you provide accurate and complete information when completing your PCR Test Request Form as this is what is used to send you results.

NOTE: There may be instances in which COVID-19 test results are referred to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). This could delay your test result. If this happens, efforts will be made to contact you via email or phone.

Do I need a referral from my doctor to get this test?

No. The goal is to provide easier access thereby further reducing any barriers to testing. All you need to do is complete the COVID-19 PCR Test Request Form – Make Payment – Make an Appointment. PCR Test Request Forms are available at the MSJMC Information Desk, Outpatient Clinic and our Admissions & Billing Department. You can also find a printable copy on the MSJMC Facebook page.

- Requirements Documents (needed when making payment)
 - Completed PCR Test Request Form
 - Government issued picture ID
 - Copy of the travel itinerary (for travellers)

Will I have to pay for the COVID-19 test?

Yes. There is a cost associated with getting the test. It is:

- \$300 XCD – Antigua & Barbuda citizen AND Citizens of CARICOM member states
- \$300 USD – ALL others

NOTE: Payment must be made at least three (3) working days prior to test. For those with private health insurance, please check with your insurance company regarding any reimbursement as there may be restrictions on what is covered.

Is there a specific schedule for testing - And what's required?

Yes. Here are the details...

- Testing Days: **Weekdays from 2pm to 4pm (APPOINTMENTS ONLY)**

NOTE: Please ensure you have the following ready for your appointment:

- Completed PCR Test Request Form
- Proof of payment (receipt)

How do I get an appointment for my test?

To schedule an appointment send an email with your full name and receipt number to:

COVIDresults@msjmc.org

What if I have other questions?

For other questions or concerns related to COVID-19 testing, please call 484-2788/13 or send an email to COVIDresults@msjmc.org.

General COVID-19 Testing Info

Can I test negative and later test positive on a viral test for COVID-19?

Yes, it is possible. You may test negative if the sample was collected early in your infection and test positive later during this illness. You could also be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and get infected then. Even if you test negative, you still should take steps to protect yourself and others.

What do I do while waiting for my results?

Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Wear a face covering when you are around others; clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Pay attention to your health. If you begin developing symptoms of COVID-19 and they get worse, please call your doctor. If you are having a medical emergency, such as difficulty breathing, call 911. Tell the 911 operator that you were tested for COVID-19 and are waiting for results.

What should I do if I believe I may have COVID-19?

Stay away from other people to avoid spreading the virus – and contact your doctor, especially if you have a high-risk underlying health condition. You can also call the COVID Hotline at 46-COVID (462-6843) for guidance. If they determine you need to be tested, they will coordinate with the appropriate public health officials to determine next steps.

Will my positive COVID-19 test results be reported to public health entities?

Yes. Positive COVID-19 test results will be reported to the appropriate public health agency in accordance with applicable Antigua & Barbuda laws and regulations.



**Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
TEST REQUEST FORM**

PATIENT INFORMATION

NAME: (Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

SEX: Male [] Female [] DOB (DD/MM/YYYY):

Nationality:

Address: Parish: Phone:

Email Address:

TRAVEL DETAILS:

Airline & Flight #:

Departure Date (DD/MM/YYYY): Time:

PRE-OPERATIVE REQUIREMENT:

Proposed Surgery Date: (DD/MM/YYYY): Service:

Application Requirements:

- Completed PCR test request form for each person
- Copy itinerary for travel
- Government issued photo ID
- Processing Fee

FACILITY INFORMATION:

MPI#: Receipt #: Collection Date: (DD/MM/YYYY)

Type/Source: Acute Convalescent

Hospitalization: Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Cashier Stamp, Signature & Date:	Physician Stamp, Signature & Date:
Pre-Op: Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>		
Travelling: Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>		
Other: _____		

Cabinet addresses processing procedures at airport

Concerns over how arriving passengers at V. C. Bird International Airport are being processed have reached the Cabinet of Ministers who have sought to get an explanation of the systems that are currently being employed.

During its meeting on Thursday, the Cabinet invited Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas, to update its members on the operation of the systems that have been implemented at the airport to move all arriving passengers through various check-points.

The invitation to the CMO came as what the body of ministers referred to as ‘detractors’ have claimed on social media and in other electronic mediums, that the system is “facing meltdown”.

Those same critics also purport that returning nationals are being “treated differently” to tourists who enter the country at the same time.

“The CMO pointed out that the steps which lead to all arriving passengers being cleared to leave the airport are identical; the temperature checks; the nine kiosks manned by

medical personnel; the appearance before the Immigration and Customs officers, do not change for any of the arriving passengers,” the Cabinet notes declared.

The CMO noted that returning nationals are likely to be sent to self-quarantine, although several have been sent to the Hawksbill Hotel for quarantine if the home is deemed inadequate.

This, she explained, occurs as returning nationals are likely to mix with family and friends and could unwittingly pass the coronavirus on to their loved ones.

On the other hand, the CMO explained that tourists are dispatched to hotels where there are systems in place to ensure that they do not spread the virus, should they be infected.

“All arriving passengers would have presented a COVID-free certificate to the medical authorities at the airport. Yet, that certificate is not deemed sufficient for entry into Antigua.

“It is the best which can be done to ensure that a passenger can board a flight heading to Antigua. The claim of unequal treatment is untrue,” the Cabinet notes declared.

Meanwhile, Medical Director of MSJMC, Dr. Albert Duncan, who also attended the Cabinet meeting, responded to allegations leveled by an unidentified young man that the majority of new doctors who are allowed to join the internship programme at the MSJMC are from countries other than Antigua and Barbuda.

The Medical Director provided facts which proved this to be a false claim.



Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas

While the number of applicants to the internship programme annually can be as many as twenty-six, only twelve persons are accepted.

Every applicant cannot be accepted and those who are not admitted must wait for a succeeding year to gain acceptance to the internship programme Dr. Duncan informed the Cabinet.

The Medical Director was also questioned regarding the shortage of nurses and the examination that must be successfully completed in order to become a registered nurse in Antigua and Barbuda.

In 2015, there were 250 nurses. Today, in 2020, there are only 179 nurses attached to the MSJMC.

“Nurses are also required at the Infectious Disease Control Center at the old Holberton Hospital and additional nurses at the mini-hospital on Nugent Avenue.

However, nurses trained in Antigua and Barbuda are drawn to the USA, the UK and Canada, jurisdictions that pay far more than Antigua and Barbuda can afford.

The Cabinet is giving some consideration to amending any laws that may inhibit the use of nurses from other jurisdictions to join the MSJMC,” the Cabinet notes revealed.



Medical Director of MSJMC, Dr. Albert Duncan

Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown receives donation from Sagicor

The Rotary Club Sundown has received a major shot in the arm for its annual ‘school backpack’ programme designed to help needy children in the community.

The assistance comes from one of the country’s leading insurance companies, Sagicor, whose representative, Simon Marshall, made the donation to the President of the club, Julian Wilkins.

“The donation of school bags would become part of our annual School Backpack initiative now in its 9th year where the Rotary Club of Antigua is a partner in a programme which provides stocked school bags to needy children in both primary and secondary

schools,” Wilkins said.

He thanked Sagicor for responding to the call and deciding to partner with the club during these extremely challenging times.

“Sagicor has demonstrated the core value of Rotary of providing “Service Above Self,” Wilkins said in his acceptance speech.

In thanking the management and staff of Sagicor, Wilkins noted that the gift was a very practical donation and he pledged to channel the donation to areas where it would be put to best use.

Sagicor reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the causes of Rotary as it recognizes that by supporting the Rotary they are supporting good for all human-

ity.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club (Sundown) is providing insights into its areas of focus for this year. It identified them as, focus on COVID-19 relief, education, youth development, autism and mother to child wellbeing.

It said so far, the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown has successfully undertaken a COVID-19 food programme to needy families in Barbuda; in lieu of the Annual Pediatric Health Fair the club will be offering health care packages to 150 students from spon-

sor schools and will install hand washing stations in several sponsor schools. This last project comes as a result of a partnership with the Consulate of Switzerland in St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda.

It has also sponsored an Annual School bag programme where many students will benefit from a gift of a well packed school bag readied with essential school supplies and will also host a Lupus Awareness Seminar in addition to moving forward with the installation of a wheelchair lift at the Care project.



PDV CAB announces changes to the distribution schedule for the voucher booklets for the period September 2020 to February 2021 for its Senior Citizen Utility Subsidy Programme. This distribution will take place at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre, Perry Bay for Antiguan beneficiaries from **Monday August 10th until Friday August 28th** from 9am to 3pm daily. Special arrangements have been made to have the booklets delivered to our beneficiaries in Barbuda.

Distribution will still be done alphabetically by surname but as follows:

Mon August 10th	A.	Mon August 17th	G.	Mon August 24th	O, P & Q.
Tues August 11th	B.	Tues August 18th	H&I.	Tues August 25th	R.
Wed August 12th	C.	Wed August 19th	J.	Wed August 26th	S.
Thurs August 13th	D.	Thurs August 20th	K&L.	Thurs August 27th	T, U & V.
Fri August 14th	E&F.	Fri August 21st	M&N.	Fri August 28th	W, X, Y & Z.

Distribution will be conducted with strict adherence to the protocols established to limit the spread of COVID-19. That is, the mandatory wearing of face masks to cover nose and mouth, hand sanitization and adequate physical distancing.

Please present the beneficiaries’ expired booklet or Social Security pension card along with your valid Antiguan/Barbudan picture ID in order to collect the new voucher booklet and make every effort to collect at the place and time as specified, to **avoid any loss of benefits.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE PDV CAB OFFICE AT 562-6185 OR 562-6189.



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- Reverse Camera
- Parking Sensors
- Touch Screen
- Automatic AC
- Automatic Wipers
- And Headlamps

INCLUDES

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- Registration and Plates
- Gas And Service

*On The Spot Financing Available



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

ABDF head issues stern warning

The head of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) is reminding the public that it is an offense for anyone, other than its members, to wear any military style uniform.

Lieutenant Colonel Telbert Benjamin said any non-ABDF personnel found wearing its uniform, or other military style uniforms, will be brought before the courts and made to answer for the offence.

Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin's comments were made in connection with the murder of customs officer, Nigel Christian, who was allegedly abducted by four men who were dressed in military garb.

Christian was discovered shot to death several hours after his abduction.

Benjamin revealed that immediately after learning of the crime, the ABDF conducted an inventory of its uniforms, in the presence of police investigators, to determine if any items were missing.

According to Benjamin, there were no missing uniforms.

The Chief of Defense has also confirmed his organisation has launched an investigation into allegations that military styled clothing was worn by the perpetrators of the crime. Should the information turn out to be credible, the ABDF has vowed that no effort will be spared in bringing those responsi-

ble to justice.

Benjamin explained that the ABDF uniform was designed specifically for the army with a number of markings and features unique to the force. He added that it is important to determine whether the camouflage garments used were genuine ABDF uniforms or commercially available military style clothing.

Benjamin confirmed that exhaustive efforts are underway to get to the bottom of the issue.

Whether it is ultimately determined that the crime involved soldiers or civilians in military attire, Benjamin gave the assurance that the ABDF will not take this matter lightly.

He noted that the law forbids any person who is not a member of the armed forces from using military paraphernalia, including the uniform. Military paraphernalia of any sort is reserved only for members of the ABDF.

Even in cases where individuals travel into the country wearing military type clothing, Benjamin indicated that they are asked to remove them immediately. Similarly, when individuals who are not ABDF officers are discovered wearing articles of camouflage clothing in public, they are stopped by the police and required to remove the garment and change into other attire.

Benjamin said he remains



Lieutenant Colonel Telbert Benjamin

hopeful that the investigation will come to a successful conclusion into Christian's murder.

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

UWI scientists appointed to International Science Council

Two scientists from the University of the West Indies (UWI) have been appointed to the International Science Council to provide expertise for Small Island Developing States. The UWI said in a statement that Professor Terrence Forrester and Dr Michelle Mycoo have recently been appointed to the International Science Council (ISC).

In an announcement made by the ISC earlier this month, the two were named among eight distinguished scientists selected from around the world, who will comprise a Small Island Development States (SIDS) Liaison Committee.

According to the ISC, the Committee will advise on strategic matters, such as mobilizing input from the SIDS scientific community for the UN Decade of Ocean Science in Sustainable Development.

The members are also expected to bring other matters to the attention of the ISC so that representation of the SIDS scientific community is strengthened across the Council's activities. Professor Terrence Forrester is currently Chief Scientist for UWI SODECO (Solutions for Developing Countries) and a Professor of Experimental Medicine in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at The UWI, Mona Campus.

As a clinical scientist with a longstanding interest in cardiovascular disease—primarily hypertension—he is renowned



Professor Terrence Forrester and Dr Michelle Mycoo have recently been appointed to the International Science Council (ISC).

for his work with, and dedication to tropical medical research. Dr Michelle Mycoo is a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at UWI, St. Augustine Campus.

As an urban planning expert, her work, recognised regionally and internationally is dedicated to pivotal inter-related issues such as land use planning, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water management and integrated coastal zone planning.

Their appointments are until December 31, 2021 in the first instance, and will then be reviewed for renewal. They

will meet with other members virtually during the period and updates on the Committee's activities will be shared with other ISC members and via the ISC's website. The UWI said it continues to intensify its efforts at leveraging its inter-disciplinary research and scientific expertise on the unique issues faced by SIDS to address the multi-dimensional development challenges facing the Caribbean. 'The appointment and commitment of Professor Forrester and Dr Mycoo are testament to this effort.'

'Earlier this year, the world's most reputable ranking agen-

cy, Times Higher Education recognised The UWI in its 'Impact Rankings 2020' which maps how universities are responding to the world's biggest concerns, outlined in the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).'

'This is the only global performance table that assesses universities on their research, outreach and stewardship of the SDGs. Of the 768 universities on the table, The UWI ranked among the top 200 for its work on SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing; SDG5: Gender Equality and SDG13: Climate Action.'

The UWI secures high-tech testing machines and 2000 COVID-19 test kits for Jamaica.

The UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica. Tuesday, August 4, 2020 — The University of the West Indies (The UWI), through the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS) has brokered a deal for a welcomed donation of COVID-19 testing resources for Jamaica. Director of the ICENS, Charles Grant negotiated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the donation of a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) machine and 2000 testing-kits valued at approximately US\$100,000.00.

According to the IAEA, RT-PCR is a nuclear derived technique that allows for rapid detection, tracking and study of COVID-19 and other viral diseases. It is one of the most accurate laboratory detection methods and is able to deliver reliable diagnoses in as little as three hours. When compared to alternative virus isolation methods, RT-PCR is significantly faster and reduces the potential for contamination or errors.

Commenting on the deal, Mr Grant said “Jamaica has had a longstanding and fruitful collaborative history with IAEA particularly with the Technical Cooperation Division, with whom Jamaica has partnered on numerous national developmental projects. This latest donation will play an important part in



our fight against COVID-19. I would also like to thank the Government of the United States of America who provided much of the funding for the donation.”

Professor Clive Landis, Chairman of The UWI COVID-19 Task Force also noted that the University’s response to COVID-19 has been both rapid and sustained. “The UWI through its COVID-19 Task Force has been an integral component of the region’s planning and response to the pandemic even before the first case was registered in the Caribbean. The success of the region’s response thus far has been based on accurate and timely testing and

surveillance along with close collaboration between governments, the health and non-health sectors, the disaster and emergency relief agencies, The UWI, and our international partner agencies. It is pleasing to see ICENS broker such a generous donation from the IAEA that will strengthen the testing infrastructure of Jamaica, helping to keep citizens safe,” he said.

The ICENS has received high commendation by Jamaican Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr The Honourable Christopher Tufton who expressed his gratitude and noted that the donated resources will aid in meeting the increased testing requirement in

Jamaica. The testing resources were handed over to the National Public Health Laboratory on July 16, 2020. ICENS Director General, Mr Charles Grant represented The UWI.

Notably, for his work leading the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS) Mr Grant is also nominated to receive this year’s UWI Vice-Chancellor’s Award for outstanding contribution to public service.

For more on The UWI’s response to COVID-19 visit <https://uwi.edu/covid19/task-force>.

Barbados: Pandemic cripples economy, but Gov't still on track to meet IMF targets

The Barbados economy experienced a major decline in economic activity over the past three months, and experts are maintaining that a double-digit decline is imminent this year.

However, Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados Cleviston Haynes is confident that the Mia Mottley administration will still meet its targets under the US\$290 million four-year extended International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, which began in October 2018.

Haynes was delivering his half year review on the island's economic performance.

"The virtual cessation of activity in the tourism sector, combined with curfews and temporary business closures, deepened the initial contraction that was realised during the first three months of the year," said Haynes. "Preliminary data now suggests that economic output fell by 27 per cent in the second quarter, resulting in an overall decline of almost 15 per cent over the first six months of 2020," he reported. The governor said output from the island's main foreign exchange earning sector – tourism – sank by more than 50 per cent, with long-stay visitor arrivals declining by an estimated 54 per cent and cruise passenger by 34 per cent.

From the end of March to the end of June, unemployment claims surged to well over 33,000, with 31 per cent coming

from the hotel and restaurant industry. The distribution sector accounted for 17 per cent of the unemployment claims; manufacturing eight per cent, construction six per cent, real estate, transport, storage and communication, three per cent; domestics four per cent and "other" accounted for 28 per cent of the claims. So far, unemployment payments have exceeded \$70 million, and Haynes said, "Further expenditure is anticipated in light of the expected protracted nature of job losses this year."

For the six months under review, Government's revenue was adversely affected, falling by ten per cent, to reach \$657.7 million. Meanwhile, current expenditure rose almost eight per cent, to \$570.7 million.

Government had renegotiated the primary surplus target for the financial year 2020/2021 from six per cent to one per cent of GDP. Haynes said while the primary balance fell by just over \$100 million, it "outperformed the target agreed with the IMF".

During the review period, the international reserves grew significantly, by \$536 million, to reach over \$2 billion or 27 weeks of import cover, largely attributed to borrowings from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the IMF.

Haynes said: "Tax revenue that was sourced in foreign exchange and continued net purchase from the banking system



Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados Cleviston Haynes

also contributed to the reserve accumulation."

He added: "Public sector external debt service payments rose slightly as Government began to pay interest on its restructured debt, but these outflows remained substantially below pre-debt restructuring levels and placed no pressure on reserves."

He also pointed out that the combined impact of borrowing and the contraction of economic activity during the period, raised the Government's debt ratio to 124.7 per cent of gross domestic product. Pointing out that two of the main targets under the IMF programme were the fiscal performance and the international reserves, Haynes said "We have done a lot better than we might have anticipated when this problem (COVID-19 pandemic) arose. "We have an opportunity

now to take advantage of that improved performance as we go through the rest of the fiscal year. We believe that achieving our targets remain attainable. Obviously, with all of the uncertainty, one still has to continue to manage carefully because we still have to monitor how our revenue comes in over the rest of the year," said Haynes.

"The expectation is that as the economy re-opens you will get a gradual improvement in tax collections, but not to the point where Government was collecting in 2019/2020. Therefore, we have to monitor very carefully what happens in terms of revenues, but we believe that we should be able to attain the targets we have set for ourselves over the medium-term, which is the one per cent of GDP," he said.

Dengue fever grips Saint Lucia amid COVID-19 pandemic

Saint Lucia has recorded increased cases of dengue fever for 2020 when compared to the previous year 2019.

To date, over 40 cases of the virus has been recorded, leaving local health officials concerned.

“We’ve noted to date that the age group most affected would be 5-9, so our kids are being affected followed by the age group 10-14 years,” National Epidemiologist, Dr Michelle Francois disclosed.

“The areas of Reduit, Millet, Old Victoria Road, Morne Road, Monier and Trois Piton areas have the highest cases of dengue reported to the Ministry of Health,” Dr Francois said.

As a result of this, the Ministry of Health has called on all communities across the island to exercise caution and support the elimination of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito or the yellow fever mosquito’s breeding sites to help combat the virus.

The mosquito is the main carrier leading to the spread of dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika fever, Mayaro and yellow fever viruses, and other disease agents.

“The mosquito live among humans,” Dr Francois said, observing “The mosquito live in fresh water, in our homes and are daytime feeders.” The mosquito can be recognized by white markings on its legs and a marking in the form of a lyre on the upper surface of its thorax.

Francois says, “Dengue is found throughout the tropics and it is mainly affected by rainfalls and humidity. Therefore, you



find places that have high level of rainfall you tend to get more breeding of the mosquitos as well as in places that have rapid urbanization, places that have developed suddenly and do not have measures in place to control waste disposal.”

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and other experts have pointed to climate change as one of the leading causes for the surge in numbers, with poor environmental management and increased adaptability of mosquitoes listed as other causes.

Health officials say it is extremely important now more

than ever to safeguard against contracting dengue fever as it share similarities with that of the coronavirus.

“It is important for us to take all measures to prevent the transmission or spread of dengue and COVID-19,” Dr Glenford Joseph, Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health and Wellness said.

“If you think based on your symptoms that you have either dengue or COVID-19, it is important that you take the necessary steps, the necessary measures, protecting against the transmission of COVID-19

while you seek medical advice,” Joseph lamented.

Symptoms of dengue fever include:

- High fever —
- Headache.
- Muscle, bone and joint pain.
- Nausea.
- Vomiting.
- Pain behind the eyes.
- Swollen glands.
- Rash.

In January 2019, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) warned the Caribbean region of an expected spike in dengue fever.

T&T opposition says Rowley is afraid to admit COVID spike

Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley is afraid to admit that there is a spike in the Covid-19 virus as this is the basis of the People's National Movement (PNM) electoral campaign says Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

Speaking at a virtual meeting on Thursday the former Prime Minister said that the PNM is playing games with the population and if there was no pandemic the Government would have absolutely nothing to boast about.

"Rowley is aware that if he admits a spike it will only allow that to contradict his campaign rhetoric that we handled it well. So he's playing games with this thing," she said.

Persad-Bissessar said Trinidad and Tobago followed the health protocols



Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

of other countries globally in terms of closing the borders but more planning was needed to battle the virus which the PNM Government failed to provide.

"Ask yourself if the borders were closed where did the spike come from?" she said as she reminded that

when the borders were supposed to be closed Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez and her entourage entered T&T.

Persad-Bissessar said hundreds of illegal immigrants are coming through the borders and action is needed.

She said what the country needs now is a clear plan and the political will to take tough action to protect citizens.

The UNC, she said, has a proper plan.

She said the party has launched a nine-point plan to defeat the risk posed by this virus, which we will implement immediately upon entering office.

Persad-Bissessar said the plan includes maintaining closed borders, ensuring a visual safety net to protect the borders and repatriating stranded citizens.

She further said that Covid testing will be ramped up.

Persad-Bissessar also reminded that in the 2015 general election Rowley had called for international observers which were provided.

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Bahamian digital currency, Sand Dollar to launch nationwide in October



Central Bank of The Bahamas

The digital Bahamian currency Sand Dollar is expected to be available nationwide in October, according to Central Bank Governor John Rolle.

Rolle said there has been significant progress with regards to the Sand Dollar roll-out.

“We are doing the work behind the scenes to complete the integration of the infrastructure with the rest of the banking system, in terms of connectivity with deposit accounts, and there is also focus on addressing the

assessment of the security of the infrastructure in terms of the resilience of the infrastructure against cyber attacks and other mishaps,” he said.

“Once that work is concluded we will have most of the assurances we need to make the currency available to the wider public.”

He said: “We are anticipating that access on a national basis could begin during the month for October.

“We could do it today but it is

not prudent for us to do it until we have completed the various security assessments and have at least out some markers in terms of what could be the minimum amount of regulatory structure around operations.”

With regards to digital payment providers, Rolle noted that between money transmission businesses and entities licensed under the Payment System Act there are nine entities that can provide digital payment services.

“They are in various stages

of engagement with the Central Bank and participating in the digital currency roll-out,” said Rolle. “We have had less intense but still engagement with the commercial banks around making sure that on a minimal level they will also be tied into the system. We do not anticipate in the early states that the commercial banks will be sponsoring digital wallets. They are automatically able to participate in the infrastructure even if it is only at the wholesale level,” said Rolle.

New York AG seeks to 'dissolve' US National Rifle Association



New York state attorney General, Letitia James, said the NRA 'operated as a breeding ground for greed, abuse and brazen illegality'

New York Attorney General Letitia James has filed a bombshell lawsuit in a state court seeking to dissolve the National Rifle Association and alleging millions in donor funds were diverted under the leadership of NRA president Wayne LaPierre.

The NRA "operated as a breeding ground for greed, abuse and brazen illegality", James said in a news conference. "For these years of fraud and misconduct we are seeking an order to dissolve the NRA in its entirety."

New York's lawsuit, filed in state court in Manhattan, is a civil complaint, but James said the investigation was continuing and she expected criminal referrals would be made if war-

ranted by evidence.

The NRA is the largest organisation of gun owners and for decades has been a powerful supporter of Republican politicians and an effective opponent in the US Congress of Democrat-backed gun control proposals.

The association responded in a series of tweets calling the suit "a transparent attempt to score political points and attack the leading voice in opposition to the leftist agenda".

With headquarters in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC, the NRA is a non-profit organisation incorporated in New York state. Attorney General James began investigating the NRA more than a year ago when accusations

surfaced about the misuse of donor funds by NRA president LaPierre.

The lawsuit, filed in state court in Manhattan after an 18-month investigation, highlighted misspending and self-dealing allegations that have roiled the NRA and its longtime leader LaPierre, in recent years - from hair and makeup for his wife to a \$17m post-employment contract for himself.

Simultaneously, the Washington, DC, attorney general sued the NRA Foundation, a charitable arm of the organisation designed to provide programmes for firearm safety, marksmanship and hunting safety, accusing it of diverting funds to the NRA to help pay for lavish spending by its top executives.

The troubles, which James said were long cloaked by loyal lieutenants and a pass-through payment arrangement with a vendor, started to come to light as the NRA's deficit piled up and it struggled to find its footing after a spate of mass shootings in the US eroded support for its pro-gun agenda. The organisation went from a nearly \$28m surplus in 2015 to a \$36m deficit in 2018.

On hearing of the lawsuit President Donald Trump said on Thursday, "It's a very terrible thing that just happened. I think the NRA should move to Texas and lead a very good and beautiful life. This has been going on for a long time. They've

been absolutely decimated by the cost of that lawsuit. And it's very sad."

James, a Democrat, argued that the organisation's prominence and cosy political relationships had lulled it into a sense of invincibility and enabled a culture where nonprofit rules were routinely flouted and state and federal laws were violated.

Even the NRA's bylaws and employee handbook were ignored, she said.

"The NRA's influence has been so powerful that the organisation went unchecked for decades while top executives funnelled millions into their own pockets," James said in a statement announcing the lawsuit. "The NRA is fraught with fraud and abuse, which is why, today, we seek to dissolve the NRA, because no organisation is above the law."

A spokesman for the NRA's legal team had no immediate comment, according to the Reuters news agency.

In addition to LaPierre, the New York lawsuit names NRA executive's chief of staff Wilson Phillips, general counsel John Frazer and operations director Joshua Powell as defendants. James is taking aim at the NRA after her office last year dismantled President Donald Trump's charitable foundation and fined him \$2m to settle allegations he used donations meant for worthy causes to further his own business and political interests.

Saudi crown prince accused of sending hit squad to Canada

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been accused of sending a hit-squad to Canada in order to kill a former Saudi intelligence official.

The failed plan to kill Saad al-Jabri was soon after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey, court documents filed in the US allege.

Mr Jabri, a veteran of the government of Saudi Arabia, fled into exile three years ago.

He has been under private security protection in Toronto since.

The alleged plot failed after Canadian border agents became suspicious of the hit-squad as they attempted to enter the country at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, court documents say.

The 106-page unproven complaint, which was filed in Washington DC, accuses the crown prince of attempting to murder Mr Jabri in order to silence him.

Mr Jabri says this is down to him possessing "damning information". The document says this includes alleged corruption and overseeing a team of personal mercenaries labelled the Tiger Squad.

Members of the Tiger Squad were involved in the murder of dissident journalist Khashoggi, who was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018, it says.

"Few places hold more sensitive, humiliating and damning information about defen-

dant bin Salman than the mind and memory of Dr Saad - except perhaps the recordings Dr Saad made in anticipation of his killing," the document says.

"That is why defendant bin Salman wants him dead, and why defendant bin Salman has worked to achieve that objective over the last three years."

After fleeing Saudi Arabia ahead of a purge by the all-powerful crown prince in 2017, Mr Jabri fled to Canada via Turkey.

He alleges Mohammed bin Salman made repeated efforts to return him to Saudi Arabia, even sending private messages, including one that read: "We shall certainly reach you".

Then, less than two weeks after the murder of Khashoggi, Mr Jabri says the Tiger Squad travelled to Canada with the intention of killing him.

The court filing says the group - which included a man from the same department as the man accused of dismembering Khashoggi - were carrying two bags of forensic tools.

However, Canadian border agents "quickly became suspicious" of the group and refused them entry after interviewing them, it says.

"Bin Salman in fact dispatched a hit squad to North America to kill Dr Saad," the claim asserts.

Mr Jabri is accusing the crown prince of attempted extrajudicial killing in violation of the US Torture Victim Protection Act and in breach of in-



Saad al-Jabri (circled) was welcomed by then UK Home Secretary Theresa May (right) during a visit to London in 2015

ternational law.

The Saudi government did not respond to a request for comment. Canada's Federal Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair said he couldn't comment on the specific case but said the government was "aware of incidents in which foreign actors have attempted to monitor, intimidate or threaten Canadians and those living in Canada."

"It is completely unacceptable and we will never tolerate foreign actors threatening Canada's national security or the safety of our citizens and resi-

dents. Canadians can be confident that our security agencies have the skills and resources necessary to detect, investigate and respond to such threats," he said.

"We will always take the necessary action to keep Canadians and those on Canadian soil safe and we invite people to report any such threats to law enforcement authorities."

In May, the BBC reported that Mr Jabri's children had been seized as "hostages", according to his eldest son, Khalid.

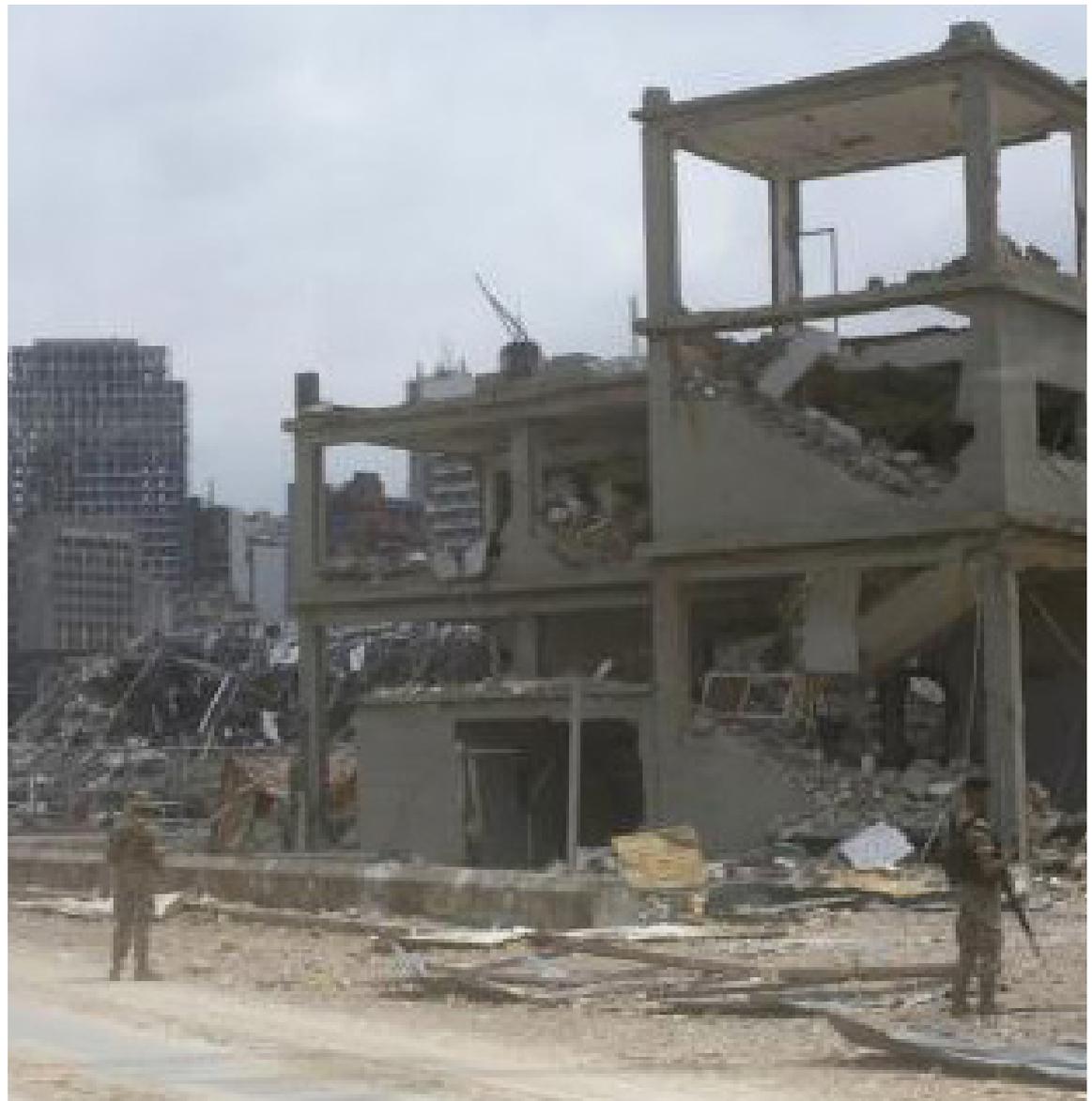
16 Port Workers Arrested Over Beirut Blast

Residents of Beirut vented their fury at Lebanon's leaders Thursday during a visit by French President Emmanuel Macron, blaming them for the deadly explosion that ravaged the capital.

Shouting, "Revolution!" they crowded around the visiting leader who promised to press the politicians for reform. A military judge leading the investigation into Tuesday's blast said 16 employees of Beirut's port, where the explosion took place, had been detained. He said 18 had been questioned, including port and customs officials, according to the state news agency.

But while investigators focus on port officials, many Lebanese put the blame squarely on the political elite and the corruption and mismanagement that even before the disaster had pushed the country to the brink of economic collapse. The Cabinet was previously warned by a security agency that a stockpile of explosive chemicals stored at the port was dangerous, Lebanon's customs chief told the Associated Press — a report that could raise questions of high-level neglect.

That stockpile of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate set off the massive blast, apparently when touched off by a fire at the port. The chemical had



Soldier stand at the devastated site of the explosion at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, August 6, 2020.

been left sitting in a warehouse ever since it was confiscated from an impounded cargo ship in 2013. The explosion, powerful enough to be felt in Cyprus across the Eastern Mediterranean,

killed more than 130 people, wounded thousands and blasted buildings for miles around.

Two days later, some 300,000 people — more than 12% of Beirut's population — can't return to their homes,

officials estimate. Damaged hospitals are still struggling to deal with the wounded.

Dozens are still missing. Officials have estimated losses at \$10 billion to \$15 billion.

Los Angeles can cut off power and water at properties hosting parties during the pandemic



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced this week LAPD officers can request to shut off service to properties that repeatedly host large gatherings.

Authorities in Los Angeles can soon request a shutoff of water and power from homes and businesses that host egregiously large gatherings.

The order targets repeat offenders who have hosted large gatherings several times during the pandemic, Mayor Eric Garcetti said Wednesday.

It's meant to deter them from hosting parties or events in the future, during a period of the pandemic when California continues to lead the country in coronavirus cases. Over 530,000 people in California have been diagnosed with coronavirus, and over 9,800 of them have died, according to CNN's US coronavirus case tracker. Nearly 40% of those cases have been reported in and around Los Angeles County, the

county's public health department reported. Starting this Friday, if the Los Angeles Police Department responds and confirms that a large gathering is taking place at a property, they'll give notice and request that the city's Department of Water and Power shuts off service to that property within the next two days.

"This enforcement is not focused on small and ordinary gatherings in people's homes. These are focused on the people determined to break the rules, posing significant public dangers and a threat to all of us," Garcetti said during a Covid-19 news conference.

Garcetti called the parties "super-spreader events," attended by "super-spreader people."

Partying has become a prob-

lem in Los Angeles, where cases have surged in the weeks since California reopened. Gov. Gavin Newsom said in late July that coronavirus was on track to become the second-leading cause of death in Los Angeles County, after heart disease.

On Monday, a mansion party with over 100 guests on Los Angeles' ritzy Mulholland Drive turned deadly when someone opened fire, killing one person and injuring four more. Before the shooting, Los Angeles news helicopters filmed attendees without masks on, and most guests filmed were not social distancing.

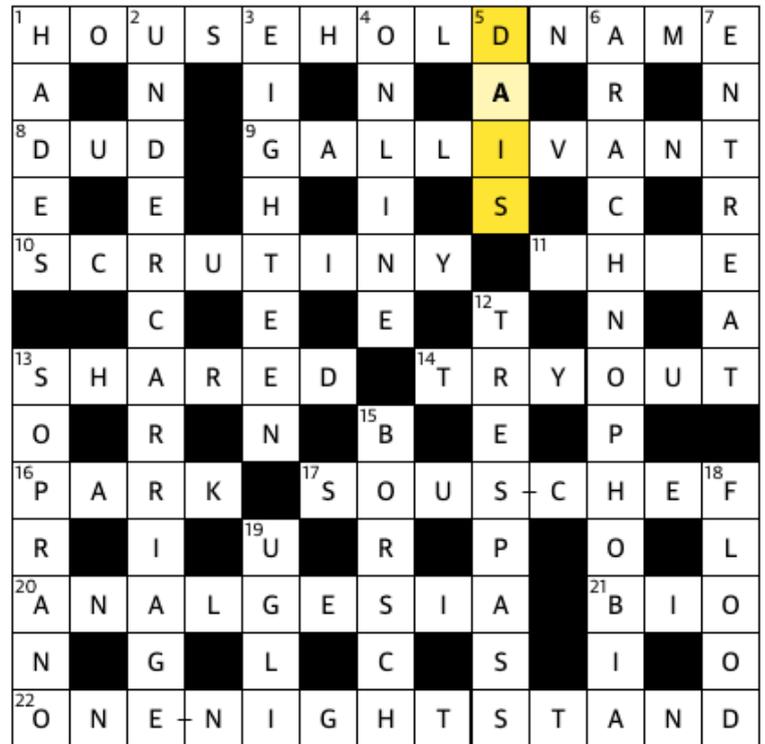
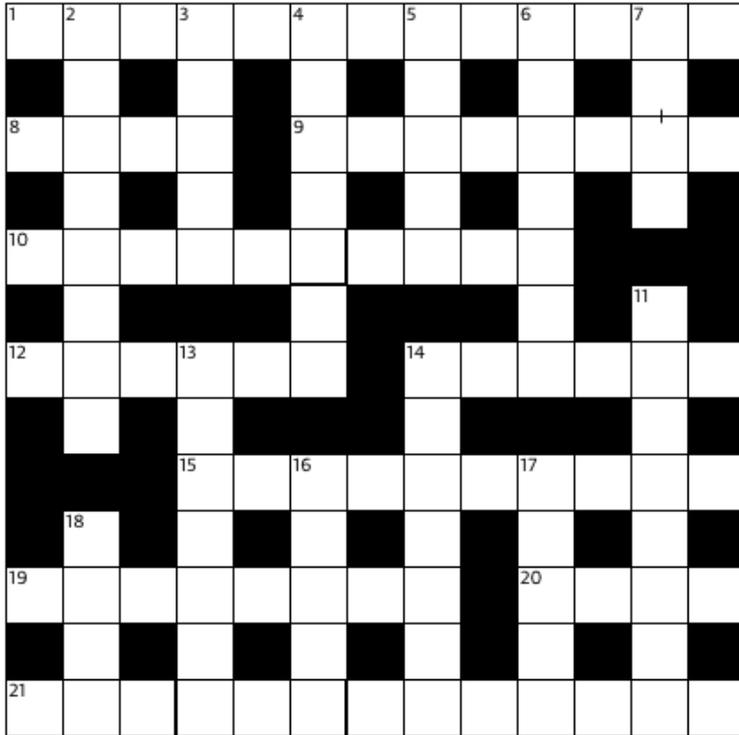
YouTube celebrities like Jake Paul have filmed themselves hosting or attending large gatherings at their mansions in the area

(Paul's home was recently raided by the FBI for reasons the agency didn't disclose).

And earlier this week, over 100 Los Angeles first responders attended a party where masks and social distancing were not enforced, according to CNN's reporting from the scene. The bar that hosted the event said it was meant to celebrate the first responders' profession.

Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, said this week that California remains in the "red zone," with at least 10% of coronavirus tests coming back positive. The virus continues to creep up the state's Central Valley, which includes Sacramento and Fresno.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Selfish (13)
- 8 Reddish-brown colour (4)
- 9 Give up (8)
- 10 Not ideal (6,4)
- 12 Solid (6)
- 14 One who holds forth (6)
- 15 Solo (10)
- 19 Merchant (8)
- 20 Winding spool on a fishing rod (4)
- 21 Group that does each other favours
— not rowdy bloke (anag) (3,3,7)

Down

- 2 Disgust (8)
- 3 Go one better than (5)
- 4 Support (5,2)
- 5 Dimwit (5)
- 6 Boat racing event (7)
- 7 Farewell (informal) (2-2)
- 11 Ancestor (8)
- 13 Leafstalks usually cooked, sweetened and eaten in puddings (7)
- 14 Abide by — watch (7)
- 16 Soothe (5)
- 17 The Turn of the ____, 1898 Henry James horror story (5)
- 18 Legendary Swiss crossbowman and folk hero (4)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



“Whaddaya mean, ‘Which ones are we?’”



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Make yourself comfortable. There's no reason you can't work in an environment where you are relaxed and at ease. Getting involved in other people's turmoil could drain you of vital energy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): True love should unfold naturally. Therefore, if a first date feels more like work than something fun or interesting, you may be better off moving on. Tact and diplomacy can help you to seal the deal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the first step. Now is the time to get the latest project started, even if the effort is more ceremonial than tangible. Financial advice from those who are knowledgeable could be worth your time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Have a blast from the past. Running into an old flame or long-lost pal could provoke fond memories of wild escapades and good times. Shop around for a better price if an item seems too costly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This could be the start of something big. Budding relationships could blossom into full-blown romances if you wait to see if all the pieces fall into place. Philosophical discussions could yield interesting insights.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take one for the team. You can recover quickly if you must shake up your schedule to go to bat for a friend or colleague today. Events could play out more beneficially than you had originally planned.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): A partner can help pick up the slack. An alliance with someone who excels at your weak points and vice versa could create a formidable team. You can maneuver through social situations with ease.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can do it all in one go. Taking care of several short errands in one outing could prove both time- and cost-effective, so plan accordingly. A family member may shed light on personal troubles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't burn the candle at both ends. You may have taken on more work than you can handle, so focus on one job at a time. Your go-getter mentality is great, but be sure to get some rest, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's not whether you win or lose but how you play the game. Your integrity is worth a lot more than any temporary win. Pay attention to important rules and standards and you'll get more support than you expected.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The buck stops here. Honor your promises and responsibilities and avoid the temptation to delegate onerous task to others. Your weekend plans may hinge on what you can accomplish today.

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(3) Keep your dog on your own property or under your direct control at all times, as is required by law.



Ben Simmons

76ers' Ben Simmons out indefinitely

Two-time All-Star Ben Simmons is out indefinitely after an MRI revealed he has suffered a subluxation of the left patella (knee cap). Simmons suffered the injury in Philadelphia's game against the Washington Wizards on Wednesday in the third quarter and did not

return. The MRI showed no ligament damage for Simmons and both he and the Sixers are working on a treatment option for the injury. Sixers coach Brett Brown told reporters Thursday he wouldn't give a timeline when asked if Simmons

would be out all season. "Some of the information is fluid ... It's just that the stuff is still being evaluated," Brown said. Simmons grabbed a rebound and appeared to tweak his knee. He left the game and hobbled toward the locker room. He left

the locker late in the fourth quarter wearing street clothes.

Coach Brett Brown said after the game the team doesn't know anything on the extent of the injury.

"We don't know," Brown said. "I'm sure the club will make some announcement. But as far as knowing more than that, I don't. Obviously I'm very curious."

Simmons had eight points on 2-for-10 shooting before his departure.

Philadelphia is off Thursday before facing Orlando on Friday and Simmons is expected to miss that game vs. the Magic.

NBA Scores for games played on 6 August

New Orleans Pelicans	125	Los Angeles Clippers	126
Sacramento Kings	140	Dallas Mavericks	111
Miami Heat	116	Portland Trail Blazers	125
Milwaukee Bucks	130	Denver Nuggets	115
Indian Pacers	99	Los Angeles Lakers	97
Phoenix Suns	114	Houston Rockets	113

JFF goes after Calvin Phillips

The Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) has reportedly sought to secure the services of Leeds United central midfielder Calvin Phillips.

The 24-year-old is fresh off playing a crucial role in the team's successful bid to secure promotion to the English Premier League (EPL).

The Caribbean team is hoping that he can play a similar role in their bid to secure a return to the FIFA World Cup. A feat they first accomplished in 1998.

Phillips is of Jamaican heritage and could represent the county by virtue of the fact that his father is Jamaican. The player has, however, also attracted the interest of his birth nation En-

gland, with his progress already being monitored by the team's manager, Gareth Southgate.

The Jamaicans are currently in an eight-team final round World Cup qualification group, which will see three teams qualify directly to the tournament and another secure a play-off spot.

The JFF has already reportedly contacted Leeds asking for permission to sit down with Phillips and try to convince him to pick the Caribbean unit. Phillips, who was born in Leeds, has never been selected to represent that Three Lions at any level and could have a tough time securing a spot in a talented England team.



Calvin Phillips

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England v Pakistan: Shan Masood century inspires tourists

England are already facing defeat in the first Test after a Shan Masood-inspired Pakistan dominated the second day at Emirates Old Trafford.

Opener Masood worked his way to 156, forming the basis of Pakistan's 326 all out.

He added 105 with Shadab Khan, who busied his way to 45 in a post-lunch period where England surrendered the initiative with some baffling tactics.

When they came to bat, the hosts were exposed to Pakistan's skilful, enthusiastic and dangerous attack and limped to 92-4.

Rory Burns was lbw to Shaheen Afridi in the first over and Dom Sibley fell in the same way to Mohammad Abbas. When Abbas bowled Ben Stokes, England were 12-3.

Joe Root and Ollie Pope managed to add 50, only for Root to be caught behind off the leg-spin of Yasir Shah for 14.

Pope ended unbeaten on 46 in the company of Jos Buttler, England 234 adrift



Shan Masood

and looking to the lower order to retrieve a dire situation.

Even if England can get somewhere near Pakistan's total, they face the prospect of batting last on a dry surface offering turn and showing signs of uneven bounce.

England gift the game

This was a miserable day for England, who were the architects of their own disarray and once again face losing the first Test of a series.

The crime is that, at lunch, they had control. With their

four seamers, particularly James Anderson and Stuart Broad, expertly utilising the overcast conditions, they picked up three wickets for only 48 runs in the morning session, including Anderson having Babar Azam caught at first slip without adding to his overnight 69.

After the break there were only five overs remaining until the second new ball was due. Perhaps to hasten its arrival and save his pacemen, captain Root opted to bowl his part-time off-breaks in tandem with Dom Bess. It was a mistake from which England never recovered.

Previously shackled,

Masood and Shadab added 27 in five overs. With the momentum reversed, Pakistan continued to score against the second new ball, bumping along at more than four an over in the afternoon session.

England strangely ignored Jofra Archer, bowled bouncers when the new ball was only 12 overs old and were ragged in the field. Wicketkeeper Buttler, who twice reprieved Masood on day one, dropped Yasir off Bess, albeit an error that did not prove costly.

When they came to bat, they were tortured by the contrasting styles of Shaheen and Abbas, and were left in danger of capitulating after losing three wickets in six overs.

IDEWS