



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTE<sup>X</sup>PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 130 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# DEADLY CAR ACCIDENT



**See story  
on Page 3**

## REAL TALK

With

**BEEF | RASTAMAN  
KENTAE & BERNARD**

**MONDAY & THURSDAY**  
7pm-Until

**TUESDAY**  
9pm-Until



**99.1 FM**

# Missing 11-year-old boy found

11-year-old Ajeante Wong, who went missing over the weekend, has been located. He was reportedly found and taken to his home in Hatton.

According to police, Ajeante was seen on Sunday morning wearing black shorts and white sneakers.

Sometime around 11:30am Sunday, Ajeante and his

14-year-old sister had a disagreement.

Following the argument, the preteen left the house and was not seen or heard from.

A report was made to Gray's Farm Police Station on Sunday at about 6:00pm.

Police officers attached to the Gray's Farm outpost commenced a search for the boy.



## DAY 9/14

Wind: E at 13 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 19 km/h  
 Humidity: 70%  
 Dew Point: 24° C  
 Cloud Cover: 25%  
 Visibility: 9 km  
 Probability of Precipitation: 53%  
 Precipitation: 0.5 mm  
 Rain: 0.5 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm

# 32° Hi



Partly sunny w/ showers

## NIGHT 9/14

Wind: E at 13 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 19 km/h  
 Humidity: 78%  
 Dew Point: 24° C  
 Cloud Cover: 11%  
 Visibility: 9 km  
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%  
 Precipitation: 0.3 mm  
 Rain: 0.3 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm

# 28° Lo



Partly cloudy w/ showers

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
5:55AM

Sunset AST  
6:09 PM



Duration  
12:14 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
2:54 PM

Moonset AST  
4:16 AM



Duration  
13:22 hr



## Deadly accident mars weekend

A man tragically lost his life in a traffic accident on Saturday morning the weekend which police have described as busy and full of vehicular collisions.

Police are now investigating the fatal accident, which occurred at approximately 11:55pm on Saturday 12th September on Friars Hill Road in the vicinity of the Sir Wright George Police Academy.

It is alleged that Vijai Persaud of Hodges Bay, the driver of a silver Honda Step Wagon, C16005, was travelling from west to east on Friars Hill Road at a high rate of speed.

Persaud reportedly lost control of the vehicle and ran off the southern side of the road causing the vehicle to flip several times before coming to a stop.

He was thrown from the wreckage and was found lying face down some distance away.

A medical doctor pronounced Persaud dead at approximately 12:31am on Sunday 13th September.

His death brings the

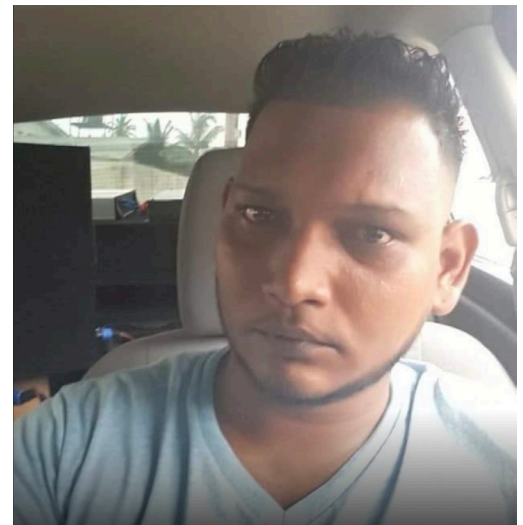
number of road fatalities this year to three.

Head of the Traffic Department, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Rodney Ellis, said there were about ten traffic accidents between Friday and Sunday afternoon.

Ellis said while the number of accidents is 'not alarming', a recent trend suggests that traffic accidents tend to spike at the weekend.


In another accident on the Friars Hill Road on Saturday morning, a driver collided with a utility pole. There were no serious injuries.

On Friday night, a utility pole at Buckley Line was upended when a driver slammed into it.




Vijai Persaud, deceased.


### NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM



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COVERING THE CARIBBEAN

\*TERMS APPLY

# Social Security hopes to pay pensioners this week

The Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Scheme's revenues have suffered a severe decline as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This has caused pensioners to receive their payments late for several months.

According to Social Security, its monthly revenue has declined by approximately forty percent.

Despite the financial setback, Superintendent of the scheme, David Matthias, has reported that approximately sixty percent of pensioners have received their August payments.

It is expected that several contributors to the scheme will pay their premiums today, therefore, Matthias continued that the remaining forty percent of unpaid pensioners will receive disbursements this week.

Pensioners who receive payment via the Antigua Commercial Bank, Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank and First Caribbean International Bank are among those to be paid.

Each month, the Social Security Scheme pays out close to \$12 million in pensions and short-term payments. Short-term payments include maternity payments or those on certified med-



David Matthias  
ical leave.

The government of Antigua and Barbuda has made efforts to remain up to date on its premium payments to the scheme and has assisted in closing the shortfall the organisation suffered in the early months of the pandemic.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said, however, that the impact of the pandemic on the government's own revenues has made it increasingly difficult to make the extra payments.

"The government has been making its payments, but the private sector has been so decimated that it has not been able to make the quantum of payments that it usually makes to the scheme," Browne reported.

Matthias, meanwhile, has confirmed that Social Security has resorted to

selling some of its assets in order to bridge the revenue shortfall.

In July, the Social Security Scheme sold a building it owned which once housed government offices including the Immigration Department. That building is located on Redcliff and Market Streets.

"We are selling these assets because it would cost us more money to repair than they are currently worth. Another such building is the former Stanmars Building on Long Street opposite the former SSS headquarters building. That property has been valued at \$1.1 million," Matthias explained.

Superintendent Matthias also announced that the scheme is set to commence the reconstruction of its former headquarters building.

"Only the frame and the foundation will remain. We will remove all the interiors and on completion it will not resemble what you currently see now," he disclosed.

Architectural drawings have been completed and tender offerings are expected to be announced soon.

Work on the project is expected to start in 2021.



**STARTING POINTE**

ON AIR

with  
**Shelton Daniel**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

**7am-9am**

POINTE FM

POINTE FM 99.1  
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY  
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99.1 FM



# Centralised sewage system for St. John's

Financing for a central sewage system for St. John's has been secured, but work on the project will not start before January 2021.

Government spokesman, Lionel 'Max' Hurst said the government has successfully negotiated with the Kuwaiti Fund for Development for funding to the tune of US\$13 million dollars to finance the project.

The Ministry of Public Works has been awarded the contract to deliver the project.

Hurst said the city's new

sewage system should be completed in eighteen months, barring any unforeseen circumstances such as hurricanes.

According to Hurst, the Public Works Department (PWD) and Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) will use the opportunity to replace old, cast-iron pipes in St. John's and replace them with the new polyethylene pipes.

"We are waiting until after the Christmas holidays to begin work because we are aware that the holidays are

a time when many pedestrians converge on the city and there's an increase in the traffic into the commercial district as well," Hurst explained.

Hurst said both the PWD and APUA have pledged to work quickly and to reduce the disruption the work will have on free flow of traffic in the city.

The benefits to be derived from the new sewage system are two-fold. First, the new system will go a long way toward improving the city's aesthetics and second will

eliminate the malodour sometimes present in St. John's.

"Our city smells. You and I live here so we don't often notice it, but tourists coming off the cruise ships often complain of the smell of the city," Hurst explained.

The new sewage system for the commercial area of St. John's which spans the area between Sit Vivian Richards Street and Dickenson Bay Street is the first of a four-part project that will ultimately cover all of St. John's and surrounding communities.

# Labour movement bids farewell to Sir Keithlyn Smith

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) is hosting a special ceremony today in which members of the labour movement will bid farewell to Sir Keithlyn Smith who was considered a giant of the labour movement.

General Secretary of the ABWU, David Massiah, said the function will take place at the union's headquarters, Freedom Hall, on Lower Newgate Street.

Representatives from the member unions of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), of which the ABWU is a key member, will pay tribute to Sir Keithlyn.

Sir Keithlyn's body will be open for viewing at Freedom hall during the ceremony.

Tributes will also come from the An-



*Sir Keithlyn Smith*

tigua and Barbuda Employers Federation, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel and Tourism Association and other organisations.

While the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) is not a member of the TUC, its President Wigley

George will address the gathering.

Sir Keithlyn's roots in trade unionism were established when he joined the AT&LU as an employee of the Antigua Sugar Factory.

In addition to his outstanding legacy as an advocate for the rights of workers, Sir Keithlyn was also an acclaimed writer who co-authored the seminal book 'To Shoot Hard Labour' which chronicled the life of Samuel 'Pappa Sammy' Smith, his grandfather. The book offers rare insight into life in Antigua and Barbuda following the abolition of slavery into the first decades of the 20th century.

The official funeral for Sir Keithlyn Smith will take place on Tuesday 15th September at the St John's Pentecostal House of Restoration.



# PM Browne leads community clean up

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, together with a dozen volunteers from his constituency, joined National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) staff in a community-wide, bulk waste clean-up exercise over the weekend.

The NSWMA has been engaged in a national bulk waste clean-up throughout the island since July 15, 2020. From Saturday 12th September to Wednesday 16th September, communities within St. John's City West are being cleaned by the NSWMA.

Early Saturday morning, Parliamentary Representative, Browne, NSWMA staff and a team of twelve from City West joined together to collect garbage, bulk waste materials and

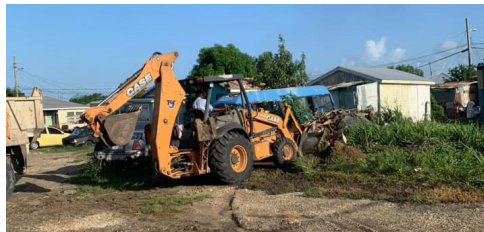


clean up drains. Tons of waste material such as used beds, cribs, furniture, appliances and other forms of debris were hauled away by trucks.

According to PM Browne, "The activity continues until next weekend. Let me thank Spencer and the team at Solid Waste, Senator [Shenella] Govia, and Team City West Youth Group."

The Prime Minister also revealed that the efforts of the volunteers and workers from NSWMA were aided by the contribution of two 20 ton dump trucks and two backhoes, by his eldest son, Gaston Browne III.

An earlier statement from the Min-



*City West Parliamentary Representative, Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Daryl Spencer, General Manager of the National Solid Waste Management Authority*

istry of Health said, "The National Clean-up has prompted a strong reminder for environmental waste management by eliminating excess refuse and garbage within our communities.

The initiative, which is targeting bulk waste collection, runs for six weeks covering all communities in Antigua and Barbuda. The clean-up is complimented by a rodent and mosquito breeding site eradication programme.







# VACANCY

Our Client is seeking to fill the position of Accounting Manager. Please see the requirements for employment. Suitable Candidates are asked to send a letter of application and CV to the following email address: [zanetrainingconsultancy@gmail.com](mailto:zanetrainingconsultancy@gmail.com)

**Application period will expire on 25th September**

## **PURPOSE OF THE JOB:**

To manage the accounting operations by controlling and verifying our financial transactions. The person filling this position will be responsible for maintenance of the company's accounting software and maintaining accurate financial records to secure the financial health of the organization.

## **SECONDARY FUNCTIONS:**

Undertaking any other duties that would normally be expected of an Accountant as a consequence of holding the position

## **EDUCATION, QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS**

- Must have a BSc in Accounts
- Must have professional qualification at the CPA, ACCA, CGA or CMA level

## **REQUIRED:**

- Knowledge or accounting principles and practices
- Knowledge of finance principles
- Knowledge of IFRS Standards
- Technical accounting Skills
- Extensive working knowledge of the QuickBooks Accounting Software, both the Accounting and the Point Of Sale Software and Microsoft Excel
- Good interpersonal skills and organizational skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

## **EXPERIENCE:**

A minimum of 5 years work experience managing an accounting department is a requirement. Priority will be given to qualified applicants with wholesale and retail experience.



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# Establishing region-wide 'travel bubble'

The countries that make up the English speaking Caribbean are moving to establish a 'travel bubble' that they hope will lead to increased intra-regional travel.

A senior government official disclosed to PointeXpress that discussions among governments across the region are now underway with a view to establishing the travel bubble as soon as possible.

"In Antigua and Barbuda and the OECS territories, we have been able to manage our COVID cases. So the idea is that the travel bubble will start with us and Barbados.

"These territories have been said to have what has been described as 'low levels of infection'," he explained.

A low level of infection is described as a country with less than twenty active COVID-19 cases per one hundred thousand of the population within the last two weeks.

No COVID-19 testing will be required for passengers traveling between countries within the bubble.

The official anticipates that the travel between

'low-level' countries could be up and running within two weeks.

The expectation is that countries with 'moderate levels of infection' will move to reduce their rates of infection and move on to become full participants in the travel bubble.

Countries with 'moderate/medium' or 'high rates of infection or fifty or more per one hundred thousand, will be excluded from the travel bubble.

"This is good news for us all as it will enable some level of movement of people within the region as well as some level of trade between the countries," the official observed.

Antigua and Barbuda only has one active case of COVID-19 after going for several weeks of no new cases.

The country's lone COVID-19 patient is reported to be asymptomatic with health officials saying that they anticipate a negative result to be returned when they are tested again later this week.

In the last Dashboard update, seventy-four samples were sent off for testing which were processed by CARPHA and yielded negative results.





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# Hundreds receive back-to-school supplies

Parliamentary Representative for St. John's Rural North, Charles 'Max' Fernandez's fifth annual back-to-school donation initiative is taking place this year despite the pandemic.

The St. John's Rural North Constituency Liaison Team confessed that the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic did cast doubt upon the likelihood of the exercise this year.

"Despite the pandemic we are fighting, Education remains important. The annual back-to-school backpack initiative is still on the table."

Over the weekend, three hundred school bags were distributed throughout the constituency. The bags were filled with an assortment of pens, pencils, lunch kits and water bottles, geometry sets, sharpeners, paint sets, coloring books, rulers and a special message from the parliamentary representative.

*cont'd on pg 11*





*cont'd from pg 10*

According to the team, "The packages were also sanitized to ensure health and safety." In the message to his constituents, MP Fernandez said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world, according to Nelson Mandela. During this global crisis, as educators, students and parents we are experiencing a huge change and uncertainty at the moment. However, the importance of education; your education, remains consistent. Have a safe, happy, productive and successful school year!"

Fernandez said despite the fallout from COVID-19, he is still committed to equipping the children of his community with the necessary tools for their education.





# Antigua and Barbuda congratulates new IDB president

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne has congratulated Mauricio Claver-Carone on his election on Friday as the new President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The election by the Board of Governors of the IDB took place in Washington D. C. where the bank is headquartered.

Claver-Carone, who was nominated by the United States of America, was elected unopposed. His election marks the first time in the bank's 61-year history that a representative of a Latin American country will not hold the Presidency of the Bank.

Claver-Carone is presently the Senior Director of the Western Hemi-



Mauricio Claver-Carone

sphere Affairs Directorate of the U.S. National Security Council.

Although the U.S., Canada and eight Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries are members of the IDB, none of them have ever occupied the bank's top position.

In his letter of congratulations to Claver-Carone, Antigua and Barbu-

da's Prime Minister said: "Although Antigua and Barbuda is not a borrowing-member of the IDB, we are a beneficiary of the bank's programmes through its on-lending to the Caribbean Development Bank, specifically for projects in the member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)."

Prime Minister Browne continued, "IDB Invest, which supports private sector projects in areas such as clean energy, modernizing agriculture, strengthening transportation systems and expanding access to financing, is an important institution for the Eastern Caribbean, particularly at this difficult time, occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic."

## 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 14th September 2020

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Affected areas: Section of Cedar Valley Springs

Date: Tuesday 15th September 2020

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Affected areas: Section of Bethesda east of the football field

Date: Wednesday 16th September 2020

Time: 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Affected areas: Section of Hodges Bay near the country club

Date: Thursday 17th September 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Affected areas: American Road, section of All Saint Road, Radio Range, Ottos Comprehensive School & MSJMC

Date: Friday 18th September 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Affected areas: Section of Sea View Farm

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

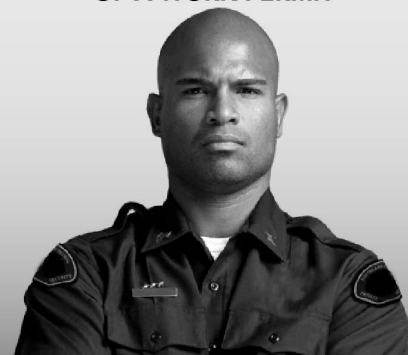
Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.



## Max Prestige security Firm

Max Prestige Security Firm is seeking a suitable person to be employed with our firm; Applicants will be screened and interviewed before selected.

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Resumes can be emailed at [alex.hunte2013@yahoo.com](mailto:alex.hunte2013@yahoo.com) or drop off at Multipurpose Cultural Center Office located at Perry Bay during working hours Mondays- Fridays 8am- 3:30 pm daily before Thursday 17th September, 2020.



## Carifesta XV Secretariat pays tribute to “King Swallow”

The Director and team of the CARIFESTA XV Secretariat wish to express our deep sadness at the passing of one of the legends of the music of Antigua and Barbuda, our beloved Sir Rupert “King Swallow” Philo.

In doing so, we express condolences to his family and friends as together, we mourn this great loss for our country. To the family, I say that even in grief they can take comfort in the fact that he was loved and respected by the Calypso/Soca fraternity of Antigua and Barbuda.

King Swallow’s contribution to the Calypso/Soca arena has been phenomenal. Over the years, our people could always expect the best of lyrical and musical arrangements from him as he worked tirelessly to ensure that our country’s music was recognized across the Caribbean and the world.



Annette Aflak

He played a major role in the maturing and development of the music and was an example to young artists who looked up to him with great admiration and pride for his dedication and com-

mitment to the art form. For this, he was always a source of motivation and inspiration within the wider public through his energetic and scintillating performances.

We at the Secretariat are

dismayed that we will not be able to showcase King Swallow on stage among the vintage brand of the music of Antigua and Barbuda during CARIFESTA XV in August 2021, however, while he will not be present physically, his outstanding impact on our music will be celebrated. His name will always be called whenever the giants of the music of Antigua and Barbuda are recognised.

For his outstanding contribution as a cultural icon, he was knighted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and revered by our people.

King Swallow, you will be greatly missed. Rest in peace my friend. May light perpetually shine upon you as you forward in the sunshine of beautiful Antigua and Barbuda.

*Annette Aflak*  
*Director of CARIFESTA*

**POINTE FM**

# STEELPAN

# MELEE

**WITH KHAN KC CORDICE & PETRA WILLIAMS**

**TUESDAY**  
**5PM-6PM**





# All hail King Swallow!

The outpouring of tributes for the legendary calypso and soca star, Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo, has continued as the nation marks the end of a musical era.

King Swallow died peacefully at his home in Willikies on Friday afternoon.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne joined his colleagues and the nation in offering tribute to King Swallow and his sterling contribution to the calypso and soca genres here at home and around the world.

"Our country has lost an icon, a great talent, a man who dedicated his adult life to the calypso/soca artform. He delighted many here in Antigua and Barbuda and the regional with his soca songs and his outstanding stage performances as well as entertaining members of the Caribbean diaspora in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom," PM Browne said.

Browne said while King Swallow was best known for his soca hits, he also produced timeless social commentaries including 'Man to Man', 'Who Is Your Friend' and 'Children of the Universe'.

The prime minister, accompanied by a group of others, traveled to King Swallow's home just over a month ago and sang with the ailing artist as he sat on his bed.

On Friday night, Culture Minister, Daryll Matthew said that the local and international calypso fraternities had lost an icon and an avid promoter of the calypso art form.

"Sir Rupert 'The Mighty Swallow' Philo through his legendary performances and hits to include Party in Space, Subway Jam and Satan Coming Down set the bar very high for other calypsonians to emulate.

"Sir Rupert loved calypso and lived

calypso. In Antigua and Barbuda through his Swallow's Calypso Peppercot, King Swallow nurtured scores of calypsonians in perfecting their craft. The calypso tent was also known for creating numerous calypso monarchs. Swallow and his work in the tent have helped to develop the calypso art form to the stage it is today," Matthew said.

He continued that King Swallow's pioneering work in the field of soca was unmatched and recognised him as a trend setter in soca in Antigua and Barbuda and the region having acquired many road march titles.

"Antigua and Barbuda and the world have lost a true icon, patriot and pioneer who through his work placed Antigua and Barbuda at the forefront of the calypso and soca arenas. On behalf of the government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Ministry of Culture, Fest-

*cont'd on pg 15*



*cont'd from pg 14*

tivals, Sports and the Arts, we extend our profound sympathies to his immediate family, friends and fans. May his soul Rest In Peace,” Matthew concluded.

E.P Chet Greene, former Minister of Culture and Chairman of the Carnival Development Committee, described King Swallow as, “A true Antiguan and Barbudan icon who has left us but whose memory will live forever through the body of work which he has left behind and for which our country is now known globally.

“Say King Swallow and you’re sure to conjure up images of our national flag and the sweet strains of calypso, benna and soca.

“Party in Space, Man to Man, Children of the Universe, Fire in de Back Seat, Satan Coming Down, Don’t Stop the Party, Pan Conversation are among a repertoire of classics which will live on forever.

“Our nation has lost a true patriot and a servant. Long live Sir Rupert ‘King Swal-

low’ Philo!” Greene wrote.

Ambassador to the Organisation of African States, Franklyn “King Frank-I” Francis, also had words of praise for the fallen calypso hero.

“Farewell Maestro of the ‘jamming calypso’, Sir Rupert, Birdie as I always called him,” said Ambassador Francis.

King Frank-I recalled a 1979 visit to a pan-yard in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1979) where he was thrilled by the excellent arrangement of “Don’t Stop the Party”.

Francis also recounted a visit to Trinidad and Tobago in January this year, when in a radio appearance he was inundated with questions about King Swallow.

“Well respected in the land of calypso [Trinidad and Tobago]. Rest brother. You fought a good fight and helped out Antigua and Barbuda on the carnival map,” he added.

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission, calypso writer, judge and his-



torian, Dorbrene O’marde said, “I lived through and seriously participated in the Short Shirt/Swallow debates/arguments as a rabid fan of the former. 1977, in writing, I was forced to accept that there existed what I then defined as ‘Swallow magic’; magical in melody, in imagination, and critically, a foremost exponent in the art of calypso singing, the traditional phrasing that separates calypsonian from calypso singer.

“He brought joy and excitement even in his social commentaries and was a delight to behold on the calypso competition stage. Interesting to me is that the magic was clearly his for it was there regardless of arranger and he worked with many of the greats including our own William Lewis.

“Condolences to the family; Ants, Suga, Shennette and others and to the calypso/music fraternity, especially those who found their way in the Peppercot Tent.

“RIP Sir Rupert. We are better because of you,” O’marde remarked.

Soca superstar, Machel

Montano, also paid tribute to the 78-year-old music stalwart.

“The Legendary Antiguan Calypso King was a mentor to us growing up and a great influence on my career. As a teenager and bandleader of Pranasonic Express, I remember his songs being a great part of our repertoire as they had heavy dominance in the music scene of Trinidad and Tobago.

“‘Fire in the Backseat’, ‘Wine on Something’ and of course ‘The Man with the Pepper Sauce is Boss’. He was a friend and inspiration to us all, soft spoken and humble. In this picture we stood side by side singing ‘Now is the Time’ the Calypso for Africa project at Rawlston Recording studio in Brooklyn, New York, back in 1985.

“I had the privilege of spending time with him in December 2019 at Charlie’s Records along with Charlie where we sat and laughed about old times, he was just as humble and quiet. May he Rest In Peace and his legacy live on! Don’t stop this Party!” said Montano.





# JetBlue to launch major expansion in the Caribbean

(CMC) US-based carrier, JetBlue is set to launch a major Caribbean expansion in November, with new routes across the region, from Aruba to St. Maarten.

In a recent announcement, the airline said that starting November 19, it will be launching seven new non-stop routes to the wider Caribbean region, all out of Newark Liberty International Airport.

The new routes will include one daily flight to Aruba; two daily flights to Cancun, Mexico; one daily flight to Montego Bay, Jamaica; one daily flight to



Nassau in The Bahamas; one daily flight to Providenciales, Turks and Caicos; one daily flight to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; and one daily flight to St Maarten.

“The new routes are aimed at immediately gen-

erating cash and capturing traffic on a variety of new, non-stop routes – many never flown before by the airline,” JetBlue said.

“This is the latest example of JetBlue’s ability to be nimble and play offence as we quickly adjust to

new customer behaviours and booking patterns,” said Scott Laurence, head of revenue and planning at JetBlue.

“This latest series of new routes – even in the current environment – advances our revised network strategy, returns more aircraft to the skies, and doubles down on our ability to generate more cash sooner. It’s a huge boost for many Caribbean destinations that have seen a reduction in airlift amid the ongoing pandemic.”

The carrier has already launched reservations on all of the new routes.

## Barbados: Decision on job cuts at GCG Group coming soon

(Barbados today) Anxious workers at a leading provider of airline, industrial and event catering services will soon know whether they will be on the breadline.

The Barbados Workers’ Union (BWU), which represents employees at the GCG Group, a member of the Goddard Enterprises Group of Companies, says the final numbers and other details could be known by next week.

The company plans to send home a number of workers because the sluggish return to commercial flights into Barbados and other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, due to COVID-19 restrictions and the apparent fear of flying, have hit the catering business hard. The BWU’s Deputy General Secretary Dwaine Paul said

discussions with the company on the possible cuts are at an advanced stage.

“Those discussions are still ongoing as it relates to possible changes in the staff at Goddard’s. We are hopeful that we should have a concluded position by next week as it relates to what that organisation will or will not be doing,” he told Barbados TODAY.

“We are advanced in the discussions, but we have to deal with the critical part of the details of staffing as they relate to the actual cuts and where they will be. We anticipate we should have that next week, so that we can be able to have fuller discussions with the employees who are aware there will be changes to the operation.”

Paul said the union and the company were trying to push through the talks so



*Barbados Workers Union’s Deputy General Secretary Dwaine Paul*

they could get back to the employees who are anxious to know their fate.

“It is a difficult discussion because of the state of affairs with the main business of the company, which is travel catering,” he lamented. The GCG Group offers commercial airline catering such as cooking full meals for first class passengers or providing snacks to be served throughout economy class.



## ‘Toots’ Hibbert, Jamaican reggae legend, dies aged 77

(CNN) Jamaican reggae legend Frederick Nathaniel “Toots” Hibbert has died aged 77, his band Toots and The Maytals said in a statement early Saturday.

Hibbert “passed away peacefully” in Jamaica “surrounded by his family” at the University Hospital of the West Indies late Friday, the Twitter statement said.

While the cause of his death has not been announced, the band said on September 3 that Hibbert had been taken to intensive care and was waiting to receive the results of a coronavirus test.

“The family and his management team would like to thank the medical teams and professionals for their care and diligence, and ask that you respect their privacy during their time of grief,” Saturday’s statement said.

It added that Hibbert is survived by his wife of 39



“Toots” Hibbert of Toots and The Maytals performs at the Grand Prix in Singapore on September 20, 2019.

years and seven of his eight children.

Trojan Records, the reggae label that released albums by Toots And The Maytals, was among those

paying tribute to Hibbert on Saturday.

In a statement posted on Twitter, it said: “We are so sad to hear of the passing of Toots. A true pioneer who changed lives and brought so much joy through his music. We have lost a true legend. Your music will live on forever Fredrick Nathaniel ‘Toots’ Hibbert.”

The frontman’s death comes weeks after the band released “Got To Be Tough,” its first album in more than a decade.

Ziggy Marley, the son of reggae star Bob Marley, contributed to the Toots and

The Maytals’ recent album, featuring on a cover of his late father’s song “Three Little Birds.”

Paying his respects to Hibbert on social media, Marley tweeted that he saw the musician as a “father figure,” before adding that he would “never forget” him.

Marley also said the pair had spoken a few weeks before Hibbert’s death.

Toots and The Maytals’ hits include “Pressure Drop,” “Monkey Man” and “Do The Reggay,” the last of which is said to have given the genre its name.





# Guyana urged to disclose Venezuela position ahead of US Secretary of State's visit

(Stabroeknews) With preparations underway to facilitate a state visit by the United States' Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to Guyana this week, the Irfaan Ali administration has been urged to make its position known on non-negotiable elements with respect to Venezuela.

Sunday Stabroek has learnt from well-placed sources that Pompeo is expected to be in Guyana from September 17 to September 18. He would be the highest-ranked US government official to visit Guyana in decades.

Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Audrey Waddell yesterday confirmed that a visit is expected but indicated that details as to the purpose of the visit are not yet available. "The government will issue a press statement when the information is available," Waddell said.

A spokesperson for the US Embassy in Guyana also indicated that "there is no announcement" in relation to the visit.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance Gail Teixeira, however, described the scheduled visit as "important and significant."

"Especially in light of what has happened over the five months and the US government's support to Guyana during that time this visit is important," the minister stressed while explaining that she was unaware of whether it was a trip to the Caribbean and Latin America region or to Guyana alone.

The last time Pompeo visited the Caribbean region – in January – he ran afoul of then Chair of the Carib-



*United States' Secretary of State Michael Pompeo*

bean Community (CARICOM) Mia Mottley for failing to engage with all of CARICOM.

"As Chairman of CARICOM, it is impossible for me to agree that my Foreign Minister should attend a meeting to which members of CARICOM are not invited," Mottley said at the time while suggesting that it would be an attempt at divide and rule among CARICOM countries "if some are invited and not all".

Over the last month, Pompeo has been touring the world in what the Associated Press has described as an attempt to burnish the foreign policy credentials of President Donald Trump ahead of November's presidential election.

He was most recently in Qatar, where the negotiating teams of the Taliban and the Afghan government have begun hammering out a road map for a post-war Afghanistan. These negotiations follow a peace deal the United

Sates and the Taliban signed in February in Qatar's capital of Doha.

In this region, the US government has been trying to drum up support against the Venezuelan government led by Nicholas Maduro.

Ahead of planned parliamentary elections in that country, Pompeo announced sanctions against four individuals he claimed were conspiring against free and fair elections.

These include Indira Alfonso and Jose Gutierrez, who were appointed earlier this year by the pro-government Supreme Court to oversee the national electoral council, which has called elections for this December.

Pompeo had also been very vocal during the five-month long delay in the finalisation of Guyana's general and regional elections process.

His voice was one of the loudest calling for the APNU+AFC coalition to concede and allow for the Irfaan Ali

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Trinidad and Tobago PM takes Police Commissioner, partiers to task: The law must apply to all

(LoopTT) Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley is calling on Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith, to distribute the law equally. His statement follows days of uncertainty and uproar surrounding police officers' decision to let a group of pool partiers in a gated community go uncharged.

In a media conference today, Dr Rowley called on the Commissioner to hold everyone to account for their errant actions.

"In Trinidad and Tobago, we expect that the law must be applied to every person, regardless of race, colour, creed, class or social standing," he said.

Dr Rowley said that while he's in no position to tell the Commissioner how to do his job, he does expect the police to act responsibly in all situations.

"It is not for me to tell the Commissioner of Police who to arrest or how to arrest or how to apply the law, but as Prime Minister, I could tell the Commissioner of Police that the law must apply to protect us in Trinidad and Tobago from those who are not prepared to listen and not prepared to fight the fight that we want to fight to bring this



Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley

virus under control," he said.

The Prime Minister also turned his gaze on those who thought it suitable to gather for the event. He called on the citizenry once again to be responsible.

"Persons who are partying and spreading this virus must be addressed in the full brunt of the law in Trinidad and Tobago," he implored.

Dr Rowley called on Minister of National Security, Stuart Young to further clarify whether the police had jurisdiction on public property. Young, confirming that police can intervene, called on the Commissioner to distribute the law equitably.

"The police will be very cautious about getting involved in private prop-



Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith

erty as they rightfully should be, but they do have jurisdiction.

"As the Prime Minister said, and I'd just like to join him, we have always said: No one is above the law and the law applies for everyone," he said.

Earlier this week videos and photos circulated on social media of a group of people at Bayside Towers, having a pool party on the premises. A newspaper reported that the group was warned multiple times before police were called in and even then, they were dispersed without charge.

Since then, Commissioner Griffith has repeatedly defended his officers' action, explaining that there is some complexity in treating with private premises.

.....  
*cont'd from pg 18*

to be sworn in as president.

Ali was sworn in on August 2 and two weeks after the United States' Assistant Secretary of State Michael Kozak publicly thanked this country for supporting a Lima Group statement which, among other things, reiterated a firm commit-

ment to Venezuela's Juan Guaidó, who was referred to as interim president, and rejected "the illegitimate regime's announcement it would hold parliamentary elections without the minimum guarantees and without the participation of all political forces."

"Great to see Guyana

adds its voice for the call to restore democracy in Venezuela.

The US encourages all democratic countries to commit to helping the Venezuelan people achieve a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future," Kozak had Tweeted.

Guyana, however, is not

listed as one of the countries which signed the joint statement that was issued and no member of the Guyana government has acknowledged its contents.

This action has been seen by some as an attempt by the US government to steer Guyana's foreign policy position on Venezuela.



# India considers emergency authorisation of vaccine as COVID-19 cases surge

(Reuters) India said on Sunday it was considering granting an emergency authorisation for a COVID-19 vaccine, particularly for the elderly and people in high-risk workplaces, as the country's number of reported infections passed 4.75 million.

India, which has consistently reported over 1,000 COVID-19 deaths daily this month, has now recorded 78,586 fatalities from the disease. It lags only the United States globally in overall number of infections, but it has been adding more daily cases than the United States since mid-August.

"India is considering emergency authorisation of a COVID-19 vaccination," said Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

"If there is a consensus we may go ahead with it, especially in the case of senior citizens and people working in high-risk settings."

Vardhan said the timeline on Phase III trials could be shortened by giving emergency authorisation, but stressed no corners would be cut in clinical trials and that a vaccine would only be made available when the government could en-



People wait to board passenger buses during rush hour at a bus terminal, amidst the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Mumbai, India, September 9, 2020. REUTERS/Niharika Kulkarni

sure its safety and efficacy.

He said no date has been set for a vaccine launch, but added results of trials should be clear by the first quarter of 2021.

"A vaccine expert group has been established recently by the government to look into various issues related to the delivery of vaccines to vulnerable populations,"

The comments came as the Indian health ministry reported 94,372 new COVID-19 cases and 1,114 deaths on Sunday.

The government's efforts to kickstart the economy, which saw a 23.9% contraction in the April-June quarter, have been hamstrung by the surge in cases.

The western state of Maharashtra, the nation's richest and a key industrial hub, has recorded more than 1.03 million infections.

In a briefing on Sunday, the state's chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray, urged residents to wear masks, maintain social distancing

and avoid crowds, amid growing fatigue over a drawn-out lockdown that has made many people lax about precautions.

The state has been easing various restrictions gradually and it recently allowed hotels to operate under certain conditions, though many businesses remain shut.

Thackeray said Maharashtra was considering reopening dine-in restaurants and gyms following appeals from business owners.





*The Almeda fire, which caused this damage, is only 50% contained*

## US West Coast fires: Wind warning prompts fears of further spread

(BBC) Gusts of up to 40 mph (64 km/h) are expected in parts of southern Oregon, with no rain.

Fires have been raging for three weeks in Oregon, California and Washington, burning land and destroying homes.

Tens of thousands of people have had to flee and at least 33 have died.

Dozens of people are missing in Oregon alone, with one emergency official saying the state should be preparing for a "mass fatality incident".

Cooler, moister conditions on Saturday allowed firefighters to make some progress with the fires.

However, the forecast for Sunday prompted a warning of winds of 15-25 mph and gusts of 30-40 mph in the Shasta Valley and east of the Southern Oregon cascades.

A red flag warning is the highest alert for events which could result in major fires, and which demands extreme caution by residents.

This area includes in Jackson Coun-

ty, Oregon, where the Almeda fire has destroyed hundreds of homes and remains only 50% contained.

The fires have so far scorched an area of land the size of New Jersey, officials say.

The smoke pollution from the wild-fires has left Oregon's largest city, Portland, with the worst air quality in the world, followed by San Francisco and Seattle, according to IQAir.com.

In Oregon, where firefighters are battling 16 large blazes, 40,000 people are under mandatory evacuation orders.

Oregon's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) says the fires have killed 10 people, but officials warn the final death toll could be much higher.

Oregon's Fire Marshal Jim Walker resigned on Saturday, shortly after he had been placed on leave amid a personnel investigation.

There are hopes that a chance of rain on Monday could alleviate smoke problems and dampen the fires.

The Almeda fire is being treated as

suspected arson.

In Washington state, firefighters are tackling 15 large fires. A one-year-old boy died earlier this week as his family tried to escape a blaze. His parents remain in a critical condition.

US President Donald Trump is due to visit the community of McClellan Park on Monday to be briefed on the fires, amid a row over their cause.

Democrats have warned of the existential threat of climate change and accuse Mr Trump of denying "that reality", while the president blames the fires on poor forest management.

The North Complex Fire, which has been burning since 18 August, is among the deadliest in history. Twelve bodies have been found so far and a number of people are still missing.

California has seen at least 22 deaths in total from fires since 15 August. Tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders as 14,800 firefighters continue to combat 28 major fires in the state.



## Israel to set new nationwide lockdown as virus cases surge

(AP) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday announced a new countrywide lockdown will be imposed amid a stubborn surge in coronavirus cases, with schools and parts of the economy expected to shut down in a bid to bring down infection rates.

Beginning Friday, the start of the Jewish High Holiday season, schools, restaurants, malls and hotels will shut down, among other businesses, and Israelis will face restrictions on movement and on gatherings.

“Our goal is to stop the increase (in cases) and lower morbidity,” Netanyahu said in a nationally broadcast statement. “I know that these steps come at a difficult price for all of us. This is not the holiday we are used to.”

The tightening of measures marks the second time Israel is being plunged into a lockdown, after a lengthy shutdown in the spring. That lockdown is credited with having brought down what were much lower infection numbers, but it wreaked havoc on the country’s economy, sending unemployment skyrocketing.

The lockdown will remain in place for at least three weeks, at which point officials may relax measures if numbers are seen



*Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men pray in divided sections which allow a maximum of twenty worshippers in line with government measures to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, at the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, in Jerusalem's Old City.*

declining. Israelis typically hold large family gatherings and pack synagogues during the important fast of Yom Kippur later this month, settings that officials feared could trigger new outbreaks.

A sticking point in government deliberations over the lockdown was what prayers would look like during the holidays. While the details on prayer during the lockdown were not nailed down in the government decision, what were expected to be strict limits on the faithful. That prompted Israeli Housing Minister Yaakov Litzman,

who represents ultra-Orthodox Jews, to resign from the government earlier Sunday.

Israel has had more than 150,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and more than 1,100 deaths. Given its population of 9 million, the country now has one of the world’s worst outbreaks. It is now seeing more than 4,000 daily cases of the virus.

Israel earned praise for its initial handling of the coronavirus outbreak, moving quickly to seal the country’s borders and appearing to bring infections under control. It has since

been criticized for opening businesses and schools too quickly and allowing the virus to spread unchecked.

Much of that criticism has been aimed at Netanyahu, who has faced a public outcry over his handling of the crisis and has seen thousands of protesters descend on his Jerusalem residence every week.

While lauded for his decisive response following the spring outbreak, Netanyahu appeared distracted by politics and personal matters, including his trial for corruption allegations, as infections rose over the

*cont'd on pg 23*

## About 8,800 unaccompanied children expelled at US border

(Aljazeera news) The US has expelled more than 159,000 people under a pandemic-related measure that effectively ended asylum in March.

About 8,800 unaccompanied children have been quickly expelled from the United States along the Mexico border under a pandemic-related measure that effectively ended asylum, authorities have said.

The Trump administration has expelled more than 159,000 people since the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emergency order took effect in March, a figure that also includes more than 7,600 adults and children who crossed the border in families.

The figures on children were reported for the first time in a declaration by Raul Ortiz, the Border Patrol's deputy chief, as part of the administration's appeal of an order to stop housing children in hotels.

The administration "immediately" expelled most children and families to Mexico but more than 2,200 unaccompanied children and 600 people who came in families were held until flights could be arranged to return home, Ortiz said on Friday.

The administration asked the 9th



*In this file photo from 2018, immigrant children are led by staff in a single file between tents at a detention facility next to the Mexican border in Texas*

US Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a ruling last week that found the use of hotels skirted "fundamental humanitarian protections".

US District Judge Dolly Gee in Los Angeles ruled that using hotels for long-term detention violated a 20-year-old settlement governing the treatment of children in custody.

She ordered border agencies to stop placing children in hotels by Tuesday.

Justice Department lawyers argued that settlement does not apply during

the public health emergency and that hotels were appropriate.

"While in these hotels, the government provides minors with supervision by specialists, recreation, amenities, and protective measures against COVID-19," the lawyers wrote.

Before the pandemic, unaccompanied children were sent to state-licensed shelters operated by the Department of Health and Human Services and often released to family members while seeking asylum.

*cont'd from pg 22*

summer.

Netanyahu has also been lambasted for seeming to cave to pressure from various interest groups, including most recently his ultra-Orthodox governing partners, who appeared to have convinced him to relax a pinpointed, city-based lockdown plan that would have mostly affected

ultra-Orthodox and Arab communities.

At the press conference Sunday announcing the lockdown, Netanyahu defended his response, saying Israel's economy had emerged from the first lockdown in a better state than many other developed nations and that while cases were high, the country's coronavirus mortality num-

bers were lower than other countries with similar outbreaks.

The country's power-sharing government, made up of two rival parties who joined forces in a stated aim to combat the virus, has also been chided for the new outbreak.

The government has been accused of mismanagement, failing to properly

address both the health and economic crises wrought by the virus and leading the country to its second lockdown.

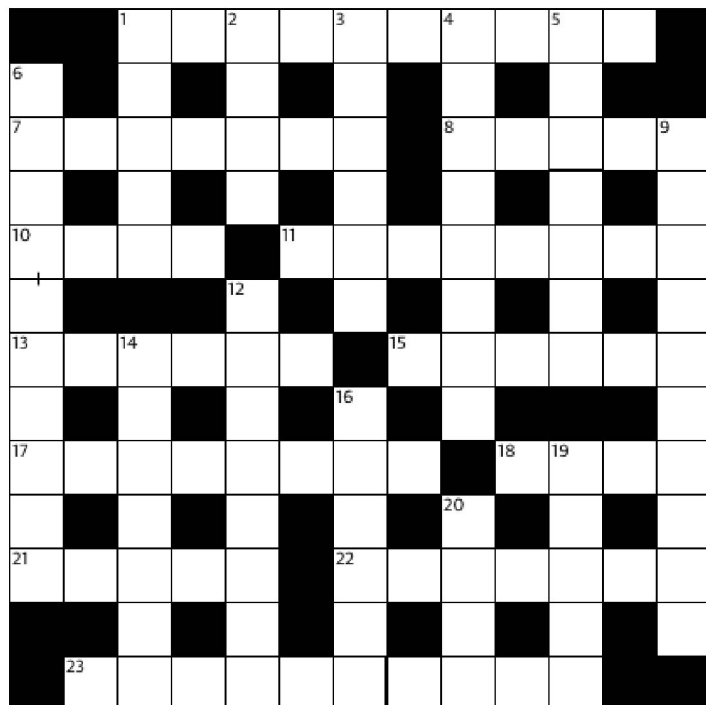
Some government ministers meanwhile have pointed fingers at what they've called an undisciplined public, who they have accused of violating restrictions against public gatherings and mask wearing.





# QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No 15,710



Quick crossword No 15,709



## Across

- 1 College courtyard (10)
- 7 Give up (7)
- 8 Absolute (5)
- 10 Silent (4)
- 11 Resonant (8)
- 13 Debauched gatherings (6)
- 15 Reprobate (6)
- 17 Paid attention (8)
- 18 \_\_\_ Driver, 1976 Scorsese film (4)
- 21 Histrionics (5)
- 22 Worry intensely (7)
- 23 Absorbent or cushioning material (6,4)

## Down

- 1 Feeling of unease (5)
- 2 Close adviser (4)
- 3 Haphazard (6)
- 4 Overwrought (8)
- 5 Deflate (3,4)
- 6 Cynical (4-6)
- 9 Reader isn't (anag) — unemotional (10)
- 12 Pertinent (8)
- 14 Nazi secret police (7)
- 16 Get back (6)
- 19 Prospero's spirit (5)
- 20 Dorothy's canine friend (4)



## CARTOON CORNER

### In the Bleachers



"Sorry ... I meant the other Batman."



## 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.



# England beat Australia in second ODI to level series 1-1

World champions England claimed an astonishing 24-run victory as Australia crumbled in the second One Day International at Emirates Old Trafford.

Despite looking uncomfortable, Joe Root and Eoin Morgan guided England to 90-2, Root just beginning to cut loose with back-to-back boundaries before he edged Zampa to slip in his first over.

With the run-rate going nowhere, wickets fell regularly. Jos Buttler was trapped lbw by Pat Cummins, Morgan fell in similar fashion to Zampa, Sam Billings chopped the leg-spinner on to his stumps and Sam Curran edged Starc behind.

Chris Woakes played a handy cameo but it was Rashid and Tom Curran who helped England finish strongly.

The final six overs went for 67 runs, including 18 off the otherwise excellent Cummins. Rashid slapped Cummins over deep mid-wicket for just the second six of England's innings as the two shared a 72-run stand.

Chasing 232 to win the series, Australia were cruising at 144-2 before



Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer induced a collapse of four wickets for three runs in 21 balls.

A reeling Australia lost their final eight wickets for 63 runs as they were bowled out for 207, despite a valiant last-wicket partnership of 31 between Alex Carey and Josh Hazlewood.

England earlier collapsed to 149-8, with leg-spinner Adam Zampa taking 3-36 before Adil Rashid and Tom Curran pushed them to 231-9.

When Archer and Woakes returned to the attack, with Marnus Labuschagne and Aaron Finch sharing a 107-run stand, it felt like the game was over.

However, the two stifled the run-rate

before Woakes trapped Labuschagne lbw, and six balls later Mitchell Marsh chopped Archer on to his stumps.

When captain Finch, who had led the way with 73, was bowled by Woakes in the next over, England upped their intensity, and it paid off as Glenn Maxwell played a wild slog and was bowled.

It was the speed with which the collapse happened that was so surprising, with Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc falling to consecutive Sam Curran deliveries as the left-armer used all his variations.

Australia had this match within their grasp and, for the second time on this tour, they let it slip.

Finch and Labuschagne countered a tricky pitch with aggression and calm running, although Finch was dropped on 58 by Rashid in his follow-through.

But Australia twice had the chance to close this match out, the first coming with the ball when they failed to clean up England's tail, and secondly as they cruised past the halfway stage with the bat.

## Five Players sent off after brawl between PSG and Marseille

Neymar was one of five players sent off after an injury-time brawl as Marseille beat Paris St. Germain in Ligue 1.

The injury-time drama started when Marseille's Benedetto nudged Paredes in the back, with the PSG midfielder then punching him to the ground before appearing to headbutt Alvaro.

A melee broke out, with Kurzawa and Amavi punch-

ing and kicking each other.

Benedetto and Paredes were each shown second yellow cards, with Kurzawa and Amavi shown straight reds.

The VAR review showed Neymar had punched the back of the head of Alvaro, a player he had been in a running battle with, and he was shown a straight red card, having earlier been booked.

Alvaro had also been involved in a big first-half flashpoint when he suggested Angel di Maria spat at him.

As he left the pitch, the Brazilian told the fourth official he had heard a racist comment.

PSG substitutes Leandro Paredes and Layvin Kurzawa, and Marseille duo Jordan Amavi and Dario Benedetto, were also sent off.

After the match Neymar tweeted that his "only regret" was not hitting Alvaro Gonzalez in the face, having struck him on the back of the head.

In the post-match press conference Marseille manager Andre Villas-Boas said: "There is no place for racism in football but I don't think that was the case. We'll have to look at it."

## Naomi Osaka says self-reflection during quarantine helped her win

US Open champion, Naomi Osaka, says the time she was forced to take off tennis because of the coronavirus pandemic helped her win a third Grand Slam.

Osaka, 22, fought back from a set down to beat Victoria Azarenka in Saturday's final at Flushing Meadows in New York.

"The quarantine definitely gave me a chance to think a lot about things, what I want to accomplish, what I want people to remember me by," said Osaka.

"I would definitely say it's been an important few months."

Victory earned her a third major title after winning the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.

Osaka has demonstrated a growing

maturity during the US Open bubble, which included last month's Western and Southern Open being held at Flushing Meadows before the Grand Slam event. On the court, her improved mental resilience helped her to forge an 11-match winning streak since the professional tours returned last month.

The Japanese fourth seed needed that against Azarenka after being overwhelmed in a one-sided first set, and being a point away from trailing 3-0 in the second set, before recovering to win 1-6 6-3 6-3.

Off the court, she has used her platform to speak out about racism and police brutality in the United States.

"For me, my life was always go, go tennis-wise, especially after the previ-



ous US Open that I won," she said when asked about the impact of the disrupted season.

"It definitely accelerated things, and I've never had a chance to slow down.

"I feel like I've definitely tried to mature. I wasn't really sure the process that I was going to have to take, but I feel like the lessons that I learned with life definitely developed me as a person more."

## David John Williams pushes Trinidad and Tobago football to the brink

FIFA is being criticized for its gross ignorance of its own regulations and gross negligence concerning its actions regarding the former Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) president, David John Williams.

FIFA also is being accused of imposing a Normalization Committee on the TTFA after removing John Wallace, who was duly elected late last year, and his executive to prevent the forensic investigation that had been ordered by the TTFA Board to cover up all of John Williams financial shenanigans.

The unexpected and shocking revelations of Mark Bassant's investigative report, "TTFA's secret Panama trail" have not only confirmed what was already known by United TTFA and others, but have added new facts and allegations to the long file of financial mismanagement of the previous TTFA administration.

David John Williams was removed as



*David John Williams*

president on 24 November 2019 after losing the elections to William Wallace. After only four months in office, however, FIFA appointed a Normalization Committee on 17 March 2020 to run the affairs of Football in Trinidad and Tobago.

A financial trail of secret Panama deals, a hidden Panamanian bank account and a hefty Concacaf loan are some of the things unearthed during a year long investigation into the affairs of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association under the tenure of David John Williams between 2015 and 2019.

Williams is being accused of pushing T&T football to the brink and not Wallace.

Guardian Media unraveled a complex web of suspicious financial transactions done in the name of the Home of Football during its investigation.

According to Guardian Media, former president John Williams was granted permission by a FIFA top official to purchase structural material for the Home of Football project that has now resulted in a negative financial backlash to Trinidad and Tobago football development.

Given John Williams' background as a contractor, there was also a possible conflict of interest. He is further accused of failing to provide the TTFA board with information about the project as they were unsure who the contractor for the project was.

Guardian Media believes, based on their findings, that the contractor was John Williams himself.



# Sports

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
**POINTE X PRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## Football bosses dissatisfied with FIFA COVID-19 relief

Recently, the St. Kitts and Nevis Football Association upgraded the amount offered to their clubs from the FIFA COVID-19 relief funds to over \$20,000 EC per club on the first installment.

This move by neighbouring St. Kitts and Nevis has sent shock waves throughout the Antigua and Barbuda football fraternity with questions being raised by local club bosses concerning the meagre \$8000.00 EC per club being offered to them.

A high ranking official in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association told PointeXpress, however, that there was no need for alarm as the difference in disburse-

ments came down to numbers. In St. Kitts and Nevis, there are only twenty-one active clubs while Antigua and Barbuda has forty-nine.

The ABFA official said starting this week, clubs will receive their first installment of \$8000.00 EC based on a decision arrived at by a committee of two football administrators from each division, ABFA President, Everton "Batow" Gonsalves and Secretary, Rohan Hector.

The ABFA official noted that a total of \$146,000 US is being disbursed. Another \$80,000 US is to be spent on sanitizers, masks, balls, uniforms and water bottles for their members.

A second draw down will be made once a decision is reached on the promotions and demotions as Premier League teams are expected to receive more money than the first and second division clubs.

The ABFA also explained that \$392,000 EC will be made available even before it is clear when football can resume on the island. The official added once the association is clear on a start date, the overall payout to local clubs will surpass that received by their Kittitian and Nevisian neighbors.

Liberta Football Club has openly voiced its displeasure with the amount being paid out with the club's coach and President, Rowan "Porridge" Benjamin and Kenneth Ben-



jamin respectively, being most vocal on the issue.

Football came to a halt on March 13th 2020. No competitive sports have been allowed since.

All member associations of FIFA received \$500,000 US in August with another \$500,000 US expected to arrive in January 2021. An additional \$500,000 US payment will be made specifically to female football for a total of \$1.5 million US.

Grants and loans have also been made available through the FIFA COVID-19 relief funds.

# DEWS

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