



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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# APUA LOAN NEEDS PARLIAMMENTARY APPROVAL

*Story on Page 3*

## Boys will be boys



*In the midst of commercial development and a bustling Point Wharf, these lads were focused on having fun, while beating the heatwave earlier this week. (Photo credit: Travis Ogen)*

# Information technology: a pathway to future growth

Antigua and Barbuda is placing great emphasis on developing its information technology infrastructure as a means of transforming the nation's economy.

According to Information and Technology Minister, Melford Nicholas, the government has been taking the necessary steps required to achieve this goal.

Nicholas reported that over a period of several years, his ministry has helped digitize the operations of a number of gov-

ernment agencies.

These include government registries, customs, immigration border control, the civil registry and passport office.

"We will soon be moving to electronic signing and electronic certification of documents," he declared.

The government has also secured assistance through the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Complete Caribbean to upgrade the services of the Development Control

Authority (DCA).

"We are moving to have all government agencies become fully digitised enabling them to offer their services in cyberspace where persons can access these services in real time.

"This will mean that as we offer ourselves globally through the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index, Antigua and Barbuda will place itself at the forefront in the Caribbean and be able to boast of having a truly digitally transformed administration," Nicholas added.

Nicholas believes that this will make Antigua and Barbuda very attractive to potential investors.

Despite the progress, there is a caveat.

The country's telecommunications infrastructure is somewhat dated, but the government is moving to ensure that it is brought up to date and modernized. Nicholas said a portion of the \$168 million loan which APUA has negotiated with a local bank will go toward putting the required infrastructure in place.

"This will enable APUA to transform its broadband platform and system making it able to provide fibre to homes and businesses, thus ensuring adequate in-

ternet supply to everyone; businesses, schools and homes," he declared.

Under the digitization programme all public secondary schools have received service and the Antigua State College is now being upgraded.

Extending digital services to primary schools is also currently underway.

Minister Nicholas is promising that by this time next year the full range of government services will be available to individuals accessing them on a range of devices including mobile phones and other handheld devices.

In related news, Minister Nicholas has announced that the government is on the verge of rolling out the Nomad programme which will allow individuals traveling to Antigua and Barbuda to work remotely.

Antigua and Barbuda is following Barbados which has already implemented a similar programme.

"These individuals are expected to stay at Bread-and-Breakfast' or other accommodations such as time sharing and utilize the country's upgraded technologies to work.

"This will result in increased economic activity as well as a diversification of the economy," he remarked.

DAY 9/18



32° Hi

Intermittent clouds

NIGHT 9/18



26° Lo

Partly cloudy with a passing shower

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
5:56AM

Sunset AST  
6:06PM

Duration  
12:10 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
7:01 PM

Moonset AST  
7:23 AM

Duration  
12:22 hr

## APUA loan needs parliamentary approval

The \$168 million loan which APUA has negotiated with a local bank has hit a snag; the bank wants the government, which is guaranteeing the loan, to get parliament to give its approval.

This development was announced in this week's post-Cabinet Notes which also revealed that although the loan has been approved in principle, APUA has not yet been able to drawdown the money.

Cabinet spokesman, Melford Nicholas, explained why.

"The term-sheet offered by the bank has been duly executed and this particular loan was given on the basis of the government guaranteeing the debt. Accordingly, based on the requirements which the bank has established, they would expect us to go the full

length which means taking the matter to parliament. So at the next sitting of the parliament, we are obliged to take this matter to parliament and to get its consent."

Nicholas added that this step will ensure that all 'I's are dotted and 'T's crossed allowing APUA to access the money.

APUA already has plans for how the money will be used. Chief among its plans is the purchase of the supplies necessary to facilitate the installation of a new pipe network in St. John's.

APUA will also consolidate several current loan obligations under the new line of financing. The loan agreement is being negotiated with the Antigua Commercial Bank.

APUA will collaborate with the

Ministry of Works in respect of the re-piping project. This is necessary to ensure that roads dug up during the installation of the new pipe system can be restored beginning some time after Christmas 2020.

The Cabinet also credited the strength of the local banking sector as a factor which made a loan of this magnitude possible.

"The resilience now being displayed by local banks, the Cabinet concluded, is the outcome of the increased faith which other banks now have in these local financial institutions, since the value which they secured from the pending purchases has redounded to the benefit of their clients, including APUA," the Cabinet Notes concluded.

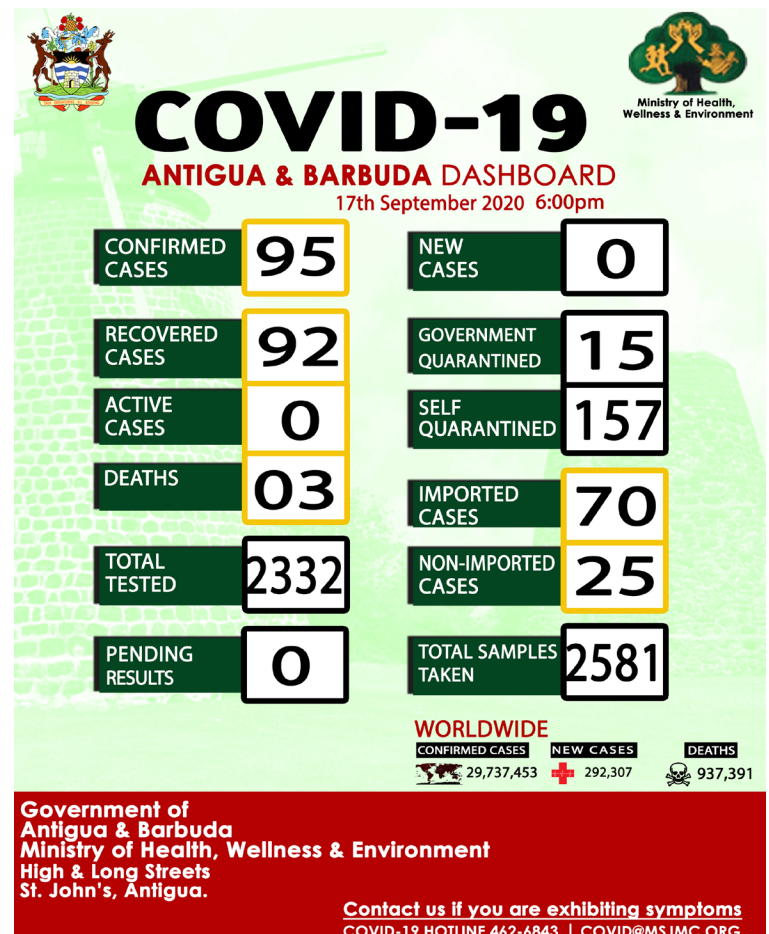
## Zero active cases of COVID-19

The Ministry of Health has reported that the last active COVID-19 patient has recovered. Reports from the Mount St. John's Medical Center and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) have also revealed no new laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday, 16th September 2020 at 6 pm.

According to the Health Ministry, the total number of persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda remains at ninety-five with zero active cases.

In a release issued on Thursday evening, the Health Ministry stated, "Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard on Wednesday 16th September 2020 with the cut off time of 6 pm, twenty-eight samples were processed at the Mount St. John's Medical Center's (MSJMC) Laboratory which increased the pending results from eleven to thirty-nine.

All thirty-nine samples yielded negative results and are reflected in the total samples taken and total tested columns of the dashboard."





# Local produce for PM Browne

A basket of locally grown produce was recently presented to Prime Minister Gaston Browne by the staff of the Agricultural Extension Division.

The staff made the presentation as a show of appreciation to the prime minister for his role in commissioning the newly refurbished PDO building.

The Agricultural extension division, which is now housed in the PDO building, is primarily responsible for crop production and logistical support for farmers.

The division also spearheaded a free crop seedling drive earlier this year.

In presenting the basket filled with melons, pineapples, breadfruit, eggplants, tomatoes, sweet peppers and other varieties of fruit and vegetables, Agricultural Extension Officer, Owolabi Olobanjo said, "We thank you and we thank the government for




its support. We can assure you that agriculture is going to be on a different plain moving forward."

Moved by the gesture, PM Browne responded, "You can be assured of the continued support of my government. We want to make sure we continue to support the Ministry of Agriculture,

especially to address our issue of food insecurity.

We are also not only committed collectively as a Cabinet but also individually. Several of my colleagues are involved in backyard farming. We are encouraging everyone to get involved."

## VACANCY



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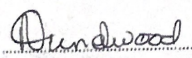
To: The Commissioner of Police  
 Police Headquarters  
 St. John's Parish  
 Antigua


10<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Subject: Application for Bottle License – 'Annie's Café'

I, Ann-Marie Underwood of Wetherill's Department, St. John's Parish, Antigua, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's Parish, Antigua, on Thursday, 01<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2020, to obtain a Bottle License pursuant to Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act, Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, for the premises of my business place registered as "Annie's Café" is situated in #20 West Bus Station, St. John's Parish, Antigua.

Yours sincerely,

  
 Mrs. Ann-Marie Underwood  
 Proprietor- 'Annie's Café'  
 764-0343





## Statement from Trade Minister E.P. Chet Greene

### *Response to Observer Article – Paint retailers decry unfair policy changes*

I refer to the Article posted on Thursday September 17th, 2020, in the Daily Observer entitled, “Paint retailers decry ‘unfair’ policy changes” written by Elesha George. In my review of the named Article several pertinent information were not referenced, which would have given readers the correct background and context to the newspaper Article.

As a signatory to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) of CARICOM, (i.e. Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Monserrat, Haiti, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) are beneficiaries of Article 164 (Promotion of Industrial Development).

In essence, Article 164 provides a special provision for disadvantaged countries in the context of industrial development within the LDCs. The provision is designed to promote the development of fledging industries in LDCs of CARICOM, which are allowed to suspend community origin treatment and levy higher duties on imports of identical products originating from Most Developed Countries (MDCs) of CARICOM and Third States.

In pursuit of the Government’s policy option to ignite and expand the local manufacturing sector to produce and export more goods within the region rather than being mere buyers of



Trade Minister E.P. Chet Greene

goods, an application for the inclusion of water base paints of tariff heading 3209, under the list of items benefiting from the application of Article 164.

This application was made against the backdrop that Lee Wind Paints at the time, needed support to redevelop its business operations and model. Subsequently, the company fell into financial difficulty and a decision was taken to sell the property to Harris Paints Ltd., which filled the manufacturing void of paints.

With the regional approval through the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), to renew the list of products which includes curry powder, flour, pasta, water, aerated beverages, malt, beer, stout, animal feed, paint, candles, oxygen, acetylene, and furniture under Article 164 in 2018, the Cabinet agreed to a phased approach to its implementation.

To this end, the implementation of the duty changes to the importation of paints and water was initiated and the legislative changes were made. Accordingly, the Ministry of Trade

in collaboration with the Customs and Excise Department facilitated a consultation with manufacturers and importers of water and paint on Friday 6th, March, 2020, and all of the business persons with the exception of Sandy Chaia Bahir referenced in the Observer Article were present at the meeting.

The consultation outlined the context of the regional decision and the Government’s approach to implementation. The meeting was also advised that a three (3) month moratorium would be given to all businesses where the duty rates would remain the same until June 30th, 2020, to accommodate imports that were already ordered and on route to Antigua. Further, given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic another extension was given, and the Statutory Instrument (No. 40 of 2020) came into effect on September 1st, 2020.

Let it be clear, the Government has not, “given the entire painting sector to one company – Harris Paint”.

Through the implementation of the Article 164 the opportunity has been given to the private sector to expand their business operations while encouraging new investments in the manufacturing sector.

As the Minister with responsibility for trade, my Ministry has not presided over no segmentation of the market or placed any restriction on the importation of any product(s), particularly paint, but the tariff must be strictly upheld.



# 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.



## Fisheries Division: Do not interfere with buoys

The Fisheries Division is urging mariners not to interfere with a number of buoys that have been placed in the waters surrounding the islands as they are part of a French government project.

In a media release, the fisheries division said the French Institute for Research for the Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) recently deployed six drifting buoys equipped with GPS beacons off the coast of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

“One of these buoys was recently spotted off the Northeast coast of Antigua while a second appears to be drifting along a similar path.

“The buoys have been deployed as part of a regional project, Car-



ib-Coast, led by the Geological and Mining Research Bureau (BRGM), with the aim of preventing coastal risks related to climate change in the Caribbean region,” the release said.

The Fisheries Division is therefore asking anyone who sees the buoys



not approach or remove them from the water as they are collecting valuable data.

## MP Michael to rehabilitate two schools

Member of Parliament for St. Peter, Asot Michael, has committed to raising funds for the rehabilitation of two learning institutions

in his constituency which he says have been neglected over the past twenty years.

Michael says the rehabil-

itation process will commence as soon as possible with painting and the installation of hand washing sinks and hand sanitizer

stations at Pares Primary and Parham Primary. A security booth is to be placed at the entrance to Pares Primary.

MP Michael made the announcement during visits to the schools this week. During his tour, he handed over Back-to-School packages to 221 students at Pares and Parham Primary Schools.

Kindergarten to Grade 1 students received school bags, lunch kits, crayons, stationery sets, face masks and sanitizers.

The packages for the Grades 2 to 6 students contained school bags, lunch kits, pens, pencils and exercise books.

### NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM

**Tip  
#3**

REMEMBER

REDUCE SPEED WHEN DRIVING  
THROUGH SCHOOL ZONES

A Message from  
Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

# Change your network, keep your number

With Mobile Number Portability (MNP) on the horizon, a key element to its operationalization is the establishment of a telecommunications commission, in accordance with the Telecommunications Act.

The commission will serve, independent of the three telecommunications providers APUA, Digicel and Flow, to facilitate, among other things, the switch of the numbers database.

Telecommunications Minister Melford Nicholas was asked about the status of the commission after it was re-

vealed that steps are being taken to establish MNP.

"The evaluation that is being done by the consultant will in time identify any technical, operational or regulatory gaps in the system and we will need to close them. It is a process that has commenced and will be pursued to the end," he said.

UK consultancy firm, Soneva, has been contracted by the government to engage with the three providers that will be affected by the change.

"They [Soneva] are actually conducting the situational

analysis of both the technical and operational requirements for all of the operators to be able to participate in the new environment, when mobile number portability takes place," the information minister told reporters at yesterday's post-cabinet press briefing.

Mobile Number Portability, which enables consumers to keep their current mobile telephone numbers when switching from one phone service provider to another, was launched on 3rd June, 2019 in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

At the time the service was implemented in the five countries, the telecommunications minister said Antigua and Barbuda was not at the level of those states. He added that

implementing MNP is not a simple process, but affirmed that the country is on course to achieving the technology upgrade.

He reiterated that position yesterday, but stated that there are no project schedules or timelines thus far.

With respect to Antigua and Barbuda's coming implementation of MNP, Minister Nicholas said the aim is to learn from those Caribbean states that have completed the process.

"Two of the three carriers here in Antigua would have participated in some of those studies in the other islands and so clearly it is familiar grounds for them. We expect to benefit from that learning curve and we do not expect that our development cycle, to be able get to that outcome, to be as long as those instances."

## FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION LAND AT FITCHES CREEK

Instructed by **Peyton Knight & Associates Attorneys** – At –Law, we shall sell by Public Auction on **Thursday 1st day of October, at 11:00 AM**, 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 11:00 AM.

Further details may be obtained from **Trevor "Teddy" Santos**, Tel. no. (268) 562-7653/ 464-7653; Fax (268) 560-7653; Whatsapp: (268) 464-7653; Facebook: Auction Antigua; Instagram: tts\_auction\_antigua; Email info@go-going-gone.com Web: www.go-going-gone.com

**Trevor "Teddy" Santos**  
Licensed Auctioneer



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## Chef Dwaine Joseph gives back to his community

Giving back to the communities which sustain them has become a challenge for many small businesses, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic which has negatively impacted doing business.

Despite the fluctuating demand from his regular clientele because of reduced income, Dwaine Joseph, the owner and chef at “Nyam Um Kitchen”, has moved ahead with plans to stage activities in which he gives back to his communities, Point and Villa.

This year, Joseph undertook an initiative in which he provided essential school supplies to scores of children.

Community engagement is not new to Chef Joseph. He has organized community streetball for young men, participated in and supported the Point Iron Band and has organised initiatives to foster greater community entrepreneurial spirit.

“I have even put on a street fair one time which was very successful and beneficial to the vendors of the area,” said Joseph.

‘Nyam Um Kitchen’ is the incarnation of his original business, Joseph’s Catering. The change in name was inspired by his commitment to keep all

aspects of his enterprise local.

In addition to local breakfast served daily on lower St. John’s Street from 6am to 10:30am, Chef Joseph has invested a great deal of time in writing and compiling recipes in a cookbook titled, “Nyam Um Antigua Barbuda Style & More”.

He has also hosted a live cooking show on social media.

Dwaine Joseph remains deeply rooted and committed to his immediate community, Point. He intends to continue sharing with his neighbours, whom he considers his extended family, and to grow his cooking enterprise over time.



# REAL TALK

With

**BEEF | RASTAMAN  
KENTAE & BERNARD**

**MONDAY & THURSDAY**  
7pm-Until

**TUESDAY**  
9pm-Until



# Local News

## Antigua and Barbuda's cuisine highlighted in New York

Despite the difficulties created by the coronavirus pandemic, Antigua and Barbuda is moving ahead with efforts to promote its rich culture.

Antigua and Barbuda's cuisine and culture were highlighted at the New York Tristate market earlier this month when Antiguan Chef, Claude Lewis, participated in the WPIX 11 Morning News show.

In the segment which fea-

tured Caribbean cuisine, Chef Claude Lewis prepared saltfish fritters with "Antroba" or eggplant and ducana, a traditional breakfast in Antigua and Barbuda.

In addition to the recipe, the chef also shared memories of growing up in Antigua and Barbuda.

The four minute segment on the popular daily morning show has an audience of millions of people from around

the world and in Tristate.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's United States office played a key role in organising Chef Lewis' appearance.

"Antigua and Barbuda is home to some of the best cuisine in the Caribbean, and we wanted to share some of our local flavours and culture, with persons residing in one of our key markets.

"Having previous televi-

sion experience, and sharing our same passion for Antigua and Barbuda, we knew Claude Lewis was the perfect fit to represent our twin-island nation. We look forward to welcoming new visitors eager to taste our exciting cuisine first-hand," said Dean Fenton, US Director of Tourism at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

Claude Lewis, born to two Antigua and Barbuda US immigrants, is an established chef, having won the Food Network's popular Chopped series in 2019. He also owns the restaurant, 'Freetown Road' which opened earlier this year.

Based in Jersey City, New Jersey, the 'Freetown Road' menu introduces diners to Antiguan and Barbudan cuisine.

The restaurant doubles as a pantry and soup kitchen which provides meals to the homeless twice weekly.

## Sandals Foundation helps Potters Primary

The Potters Primary School has received a donation of school supplies from the Sandals Foundation.

A press statement from the foundation revealed that backpacks, pencils, pencil cases, notebooks and pencil crayons were among the items handed over to Principal Jasinter Athill and Education Officer for Zone 2 Alvacea Burton.

Athill extended gratitude to the non-profit organisation and noted that the items will be of significant help to the

school's 267 students. Burton commended the Sandals Foundation for its consistency over the years in supporting Antigua and Barbuda's education system.

On hand to make the donations on behalf of the charitable arm of Sandals Resorts were the Environmental Health and Safety Manager at Sandals Grande Antigua Jasiel Murphy, Public Relations Manager Amar Spencer-Sayers and Photo and Video Operations Manager Levor Ricketts.

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# *Sistah Soul Jahs want your help*

Antigua and Barbuda's leading female sound system, Sistah Soul Jahs, is participating in an international competition involving other female DJs.

Sistah Soul Jahs is now part of a platform D-JaneMag which features thousands of female DJ's from around the world. Each year, the platform runs a competition to select the Top 100 female DJs from around the world based on the number of votes they attract.

"Voting in the competition ends next Tuesday (September 22) and we are asking all of Antigua and Barbuda to vote for us by visiting the site [Djanemag.com](http://Djanemag.com) to cast their votes. We are the only entry from the OECS countries so we are hoping to get as much support as possible," group leader, Damara 'Selecta DD' Phillips,

told PointeXpress.

Phillips disclosed that entries have been submitted by Trinidad and Tobago and two New York sound systems which have Caribbean roots.

Other entries come from the United States, China, Japan, the Middle East and Europe.

"We really want to make it to the Top 100 because that's a big deal as that is the site where many people go to source female DJ's. It would be nice to make that list representing the smaller islands of the Caribbean," Phillips stated.

Selecta DD said she began DJing as a hobby when she was still a student at the Antigua Girls High School. After completing school in 1995 she lost her mother and has been on her own since.

She recalled that she was performing at a store when DJ Nes, who was visiting the business, heard the set she played. Upon learning that she was responsible for the mix, DJ Nes encouraged her talent to move her talent radio and get greater exposure.

Phillips was able to get a job on Hits FM which opened her up to booking more performances.

"I was always interested in the sound culture, mainly reggae and dancehall. My MC, the other half of Sistah Soul Jahs – Joelle 'MC Steppa' Thomas has been my best friend since we attended school and she has been with me throughout.

She filled the spot as MC or 'Hype Girl' as that is her forte. I am shy and timid; I just select the music. It works out well because we have been together since 2006," she explained.

Sistah Soul Jahs has played at venues around the world playing music. These include several Caribbean is-



lands, the United States and China.

"It's very exciting and adventurous to come from a small island and to be playing in places like Beijing, China," Phillips remarked.

According to Phillips, Sistah Soul Jahs is happy to share its talent at local events; most of its engagements are overseas. She hopes there will be more offers to perform locally even with the impact of pandemic still very present.

When she is not immersed in music, Phillips is a freelance graphic artist who is involved in new media and website development. She has turned the internet as a means of expanding the sound systems portfolio offering performances via stream to events including funerals and weddings.

To vote visit [djanemag.com/sistahsouljahs](http://djanemag.com/sistahsouljahs)





# Remembering Arrow

The people of Montserrat and the international entertainment community recently commemorated the 10-year anniversary of the death of the Most Excellent, Alphonsus 'Arrow' Cassell ONH, MBE, who took his last breath on September 15, 2010

One of Arrow's last major performances was at the Music For Montserrat benefit concert in September 1997. Musicians from across the globe came together to raise funds for Montserrat after Soufrière Hills Volcano eruptions began in 1995 destroying two thirds of the island.

The headliners on the show's billing included Phil Collins, Ray Cooper, Jimmy Buffet, Sting, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Sir Paul McCartney, and many others.

The concert arranged and produced by the late Sir George Martin raised £1.5 million. Proceeds from the



show, and subsequently produced DVD of the show, provided immediate relief for the island and its people and assisted with the construction of a new cultural centre in Montserrat. Upon its completion in 2006, Sir George gifted the centre to the island's people.

When Arrow recorded "Hot, Hot, Hot", initially at

Leston Paul's renowned studio in Trinidad in 1982 and later at the Right Track in Manhattan and the House of Music in New Jersey, where it was perfected, he had no idea it would become a worldwide classic. After its release, the song went on to become Arrow's biggest hit and the biggest selling soca record of all time.

"Hot Hot Hot" is estimated to have sold more than 4 million copies in various versions, including a 1994 remix that reached number 38 on Britain's music charts.

"Hot Hot Hot" was later adopted as the theme song of the 1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico in a cover by Buster Poindexter, Menudo and Babla & Kanchan.

Recorded in Hindi as Kuchh Gadbad Hai, it became a very popular record performed by the Indian duo, Babla and Kanchan, in 1985.

It was also regularly licensed for commercial and advertising purposes including television ads for KFC, Toyota, and Pizza Hut and was used in two movie soundtracks.

Arrow produced 33 albums over his musical career.

Gone, but certainly not forgotten, Alphonsus 'Arrow' Cassell, 16 November 1949 - 15 September 2010.



**POINTE FM**



## STEELPAN

## MELEE

**WITH KHAN KC CORDICE & PETRA WILLIAMS**

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



**POINTE FM**

# Opinion

## Has the time come for Caribbean Republics?

In 1994, shortly after Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba established diplomatic relations, Fidel Castro and Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Lester Bird, had a memorable conversation in Havana.

The conversation is worth recalling in the context of the third announcement by a Government of Barbados that by November 2021, it intends that Barbados should be a Republic, shedding monarchical status and Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State.

The conversation between Lester and Fidel, at which I was present as a member of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation, started with the revolutionary Cuban leader asking Lester (now Sir Lester) what big plans he had in mind for

Antigua and Barbuda. Lester told Fidel that he was contemplating moving to make Antigua and Barbuda a Republic, relinquishing the monarch as the country's Head of State.

Fidel's response stopped Sir Lester and the entire Antigua and Barbuda delegation in our tracks.

"Why?", asked the legendary revolutionary. "Does she interfere with your government?"

Sir Lester explained that she did not and that, in a real sense, while Antigua and Barbuda like many other Caribbean countries was one of the Queen's realms, her role in the government of the country was performed by a local representative and, apart from assenting to legislation which could not be withheld, was only ceremonial, having no executive authority.

"In which case", Fidel responded, "you might consider remaining as you are."

The Queen doesn't interfere with your government and she provides to foreign investors and others a level of confidence in the constitutional arrangements of your state".

The surprising conversation did not go much beyond that.

It was staggering to the Antigua and Barbuda delegation, but it demonstrated the practical sense of Fidel Castro, which might account, in part, for the survival of Cuba despite the punishing embargo by the United States.

That 1994 conversation between Fidel and Sir Lester took place at least nine years before Owen Arthur, as Prime Minister of Barbados, first proposed Republican status for Barbados in 2003; eighteen years before Jamaican Prime

Minister, Portia Simpson suggested it in 2012; twenty-one years prior to Prime Minister Freundel Stuart echoed the proposition in 2015 for Barbados; twenty-two years before Andrew Holness as Prime Minister repeated it in 2016 for Jamaica; and twenty-six years before the latest announcement by the Barbados government of Prime Minister Mia Motley on September 15.

So far, none of the countries in which this proposal has been made, has gone through with it.

While the Throne Speech, in which the most recent Barbados announcement was made, referenced Barbados' first Prime Minister, Errol Barrow, cautioning against "loitering on colonial premises", there would be many who would draw a distinction between seeking independence from the colonial authority of the British (which was the context of Barrow's



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

remarks) and retaining Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State.

Both Owen Arthur and Freundel Stuart might have retreated from the idea not because they did not believe it to be right, but because within the Barbados society, including the business community, a great value is placed on the Queen as a symbol, if nothing else, of stability and maybe even of unity above the fray of politics.

This is probably true, too, in the case of the Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, and the five other independent countries of the Eastern Caribbean where the Queen is still head of state.

In the event, the present government of Barbados has the greatest chance of success in achieving the objective of becoming a Republic by next year.

Unlike the remaining independent countries of the Caribbean of which the Queen is head of state, the Barbados constitution allows for this significant change in constitutional

*cont'd on pg 15*



*cont'd from pg 14*

status by “votes of not less than two-thirds of all the members of the House”.

No referendum of the electorate is required. Given that the present Motley Government controls twenty-nine of the thirty seats in the House of Assembly, achieving the vote should be easy.

The one obstacle would be how intense, if at all, will be resistance by elements of the Barbados society and the business community against the idea, and how much it threatens to divide the country.

This was a matter that clearly influenced both Arthur and Stuart, during their premierships, not to press ahead with the idea.

Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica and

the other six independent Caribbean countries require not only a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives, but also a majority vote by the electorate in a referendum.

Winning referenda in the Caribbean has proven to be as difficult as pushing a boulder up a mountain. In 2009, a referendum in St Vincent and the Grenadines rejected the proposal to oust the monarchy and substitute it with a republic.

And, several referenda have failed in other Caribbean countries to alter the Constitution to allow the Privy Council to be replaced by the Caribbean Court of Justice, signifying a reluctance by the majority of the electorate for radical change.

While becoming a Republic is regarded by Caribbean intellectuals as “rounding the circle of independence”, the argument is not as much about the head of state not being a white woman living in a distant former colonial power;

it is more about confidence in good governance when institutions perceived as beneficial are changed.

That argument can only be won by political parties in every Caribbean country, demonstrating that they will maintain the rule of law, civil and political rights, and democratic principles, including non-discrimination particularly in race and religion.

However much ruling political parties might wish

to join the Barbados government in pursuing republican status, “the matter is really in the hands of the Caribbean people” as the Queen said in 2012 when Portia Simpson declared:

“I love the Queen, she is a beautiful lady, and apart from being a beautiful lady she is a wise lady and a wonderful lady. But I think time come”.

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the U.S. and the OAS. He is also a senior fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)*

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



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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# Veteran Jamaican Politician Dr DK Duncan passes

(JamaicaObserver) Former Cabinet minister Dr DK Duncan has died.

Dr Duncan, who recently tested positive for COVID-19, died in hospital this morning.

Dr Duncan was diagnosed last month, and was then admitted to hospital.

A statement from his family at the time said after experiencing some signs of sinusitis and tiredness, out of an abundance of caution Dr Duncan did a COVID-19 test and the results indicated that he was positive.

A veteran politician, Dr DK Duncan was a former Cabinet minister, former Member of Parliament and former general secretary of the People's Na-



Dr DK Duncan

tional Party (PNP).

In 1977 Dr Duncan was appointed Minister of National Mobilisation & Human Resource. He was awarded the Order of Distinction, Commander Rank for outstanding service to the Electoral Commission.

Tributes to Dr Duncan have been

pouring in since the news of his passing.

Opposition Leader Dr Peter Phillips said on social media that he was “a true revolutionary”.

“[He was] a faithful soldier and a stalwart for the cause of the people. He dedicated his life to the liberation struggle. He kept the red flag flying high despite the barriers and setback,” Dr Phillips said.

“I take this opportunity to express sincere condolences to his wife Beverly, his children and grandchildren as we hold them dearly in our thoughts and prayers during this period of bereavement. He will forever be in our hearts.”

## New Haitian ambassador accredited to CARICOM

CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque expressed his desire to have Haiti increase its participation in the regional Single Market and Economy as he accredited the country's new ambassador to CARICOM in an on-line ceremony on Tuesday.

Ambassador Beausoleil Sam presented his credentials in a ceremony witnessed by members of CARICOM's Committee of Ambassadors, government officials in Haiti and representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat.

“I'm sure you would agree that the CARICOM Single Market and Econ-

omy, CSME, is a key element in strengthening our integration process,” Secretary-General LaRocque told the new Haitian Ambassador.

“It also has the potential to provide opportunities for Haiti with your comparative advantage in the cultural industries, as an example,” he added.

The secretary-general however noted that while significant efforts have been made towards the full integration of Haiti into the CSME, the task is not yet completed.

“I recall Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, Lead Head of Government with responsibility for the

CSME and I visited Haiti and had fruitful discussions with his Excellency President Moïse on advancing Haiti's compliance with the measures under the CSME.

“An implementation plan, in that regard, was agreed upon and approved by the heads of government at a special session in Port-of-Spain in December 2018. It is my hope that during your tenure we can work together to advance the plan,” the secretary-general told Ambassador Sam.

The new ambassador in his remarks reaffirmed his country's strong commitment to the regional integration process.

“Mr secretary-general, de-



Ambassador Beausoleil Sam

spite COVID-19, I believe we can continue furthering the work geared at achieving the objectives set out in the Community Strategic Plan.

“I know my job as ambassador also entails serving as a link through which national stakeholders would engage in regional processes and vice-versa and I intend to deliver in that regard. With your help, I think I'll be able to succeed despite challenges of all sorts,” Am-

*cont'd on pg 19*



# T&T Commissioner suspends senior cop

(CMC) Trinidad and Tobago's Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith, Wednesday confirmed he had suspended with immediate effect the assistant Commissioner of Police Irvin Hackshaw after receiving a report from the Police Complaints Authority (PCA).

In a statement, Griffith said that he had agreed to the suspension following a meeting on Tuesday with the PCA director, David West.

Earlier this year, the Trinidad Express newspaper reported that Hackshaw had been flagged by three financial institutions for suspicious activity.

The newspaper said that the banks had reported the multi-million dollar (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) following deposits into over 15 personal accounts belonging to Hackshaw.

In the statement, Griffith is quoted as saying that now that the PCA's investigations are complete, he is now in a position to act on



*Trinidad and Tobago's Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith*

the matter.

"Weeks ago, Commissioner Griffith said he was not prepared to bow to internal and external pressure, based on newspaper articles, to take action on ACP Hackshaw as the investigations were incomplete," the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) statement said.

Griffith had said prior to the latest development, "there were no recommendations made by either the PCA or the TTPS with regard to any criminal offence.

He said what he received in August was a recommendation for disciplinary action based on an initial report.

"Now that a recommendation that a criminal offence may have been committed based on an investigation, the Commissioner of Police said he was now in a position to suspend ACP Hackshaw," the statement noted.

The PCA in a separate statement said it had completed its preliminary investigation into the allegations of unusual financial transactions Hackshaw and has sent

its findings to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The PCA said its preliminary investigation was completed on September 11 and that Griffith had been updated on the findings.

It said that in keeping with section 30(1) of the PCA Act Chapter 15:05, it has sent its findings for further action, in accordance with the principles of due process.

Earlier this year, Griffith told a news conference that the police investigation of Hackshaw found no evidence of criminal conduct and that the police findings had been sent to the DPP to ensure complete transparency in the police service and its investigations.

Hackshaw is expected to retire from the TTPS later this year.

**cont'd from pg 18**

bassador Sam said.

Secretary-General LaRocque also used the ceremony to again express condolences to the government and people of Haiti and particularly the relatives of those who lost their lives during the recent passage

of Tropical Storm Laura. At least nine deaths were reported during Laura's passage in late August.

"This new normal of frequent and more intense storms continues to pose a challenge to our Community," the secretary-general said.

# Not our business, says British High Commission

(BarbadosToday) Barbados' decision to release itself from British monarchical rule appears to be of little concern to the British High Commission in Bridgetown.

When contacted for a reaction to the announcement by Governor General Dame Sandra Mason in Tuesday's Throne Speech of Barbados' move to become a Republic, the High Commission's response was short and simple.

"This is an internal matter for the Barbados people and Government," said a spokesperson relaying the sentiment of High Commissioner Janet Douglas.

In a BBC report earlier in the day, a source at Buckingham Palace described the development as one that "was not out of the blue"



*High Commissioner Janet Douglas*

and "has been mooted and publicly talked about many times".

It has, in fact, been suggested since the days of Barbados' Father of Independence Errol Barrow. Former Prime Minister

Owen Arthur who came to power in 1994 appointed a commission to examine the issue, and Freundel Stuart who headed the government until 2018 also spoke of instituting such reforms.

While assessing the deci-

sion, UWI lecturer Dr Kristina Hinds expressed doubt that the move would result in significant fallout in relations between Bridgetown and London, or have any bearing on the country's standing within the British Commonwealth.

"There are republics that are a part of the Commonwealth, so it will not affect our international ties to any entities, including to Britain," she told Barbados TODAY.

"As far as I can see, moving toward republican status has not negatively affected any countries within the region in terms of their connections with other states around the world. I guess it is the content and character of the state that really affects that," Hinds added.

## Babies, small children, teens, and elderly among BVI's COVID cases

(BVInews) The latest COVID-19 figures from the Ministry of Health show slightly more than 10 percent of the territory's COVID-19 cases are infants and small children.

The latest figures were shared by the Minister for Health Carvin Malone in his live COVID-19 update on Wednesday, September 16.

Of the 69 positive COVID-19 cases found in the territory, Malone said the majority of the persons who tested positive were between ages 21 and 59. But he expressed concern that young children, teens, and elderly BVI residents

contracted the virus as well.

He said seven COVID cases were between the ages of 10 months and 10 years, three cases were between the ages of 10 and 20 years, and three COVID cases were over the age of 60.

Local statistics also indicate that slightly more males have tested positive for the virus than females.

The minister said 52 percent of the overall positive cases were males. This percentage represents just about 36 males.

In the meantime, 81 percent of people who contracted COVID-19 got it from

someone else.

The remaining 19 per cent of the positive cases were found among returning individuals and residents seeking health-care.

According to Malone, Tortola had 64 of the positive cases detected in the BVI while the remaining 5 were found on Anegada.

COVID-19 Statistics

Confirmed cases – 69

Active cases – 28

Recoveries – 40

Deaths – 1

Number of Persons Tested – Over 4,000



# Xinjiang: China defends ‘education’ camps

(BBC) China has defended its controversial policies in the Xinjiang region, just days after the US government announced import restrictions on products coming out of the area.

Beijing has come under fire for a network of detention centres which mostly house Muslim minorities.

But a new document says millions of workers have benefited from “education and vocational training”.

The US has likened the centres to concentration camps.

It has placed sanctions on Chinese politicians allegedly involved and earlier this week blocked some exports it said had been made with “forced labour”.

A new Chinese government white paper, however, says “vocational training” is increasing job opportunities and combating poverty.

“Xinjiang has built a large knowledge-based, skilled and innovative workforce that meets the requirements of the new era,” the report reads.

It says the training provided includes written and spoken Mandarin, labour skills and “knowledge of urban life”.

The report says people from rural areas have started their own businesses or got jobs in factories after re-



*China says the camps are a necessary measure against terrorism following separatist violence in Xinjiang*

ceiving state support.

China has long insisted that mass “vocational education and training” is necessary in far-western Xinjiang to counter terrorism and alleviate poverty.

But human rights groups have said at least one million people have been incarcerated in camps which they describe as “re-education” centres.

The Chinese report said that 1.3 million people had been through Xinjiang’s “vocational training” scheme annually for six years.

It’s not clear how many of those “retrained” were sent

to the specially built camps or if any of them went through the programme twice.

But in total nearly eight million people out of a population of 22 million could have been through the programme, the new figures suggest.

On Wednesday, Swedish clothing giant H&M said it was severing ties with a Chinese yarn producer amid accusations that the company was using “slave labour” from Xinjiang.

The US measures announced on Monday target four companies and one manufacturing site.

They fall short of the region-wide ban that had been considered, officials said. However, they were still exploring that possibility.

“These extraordinary human rights violations demand an extraordinary response,” Kenneth Cuccinelli, the Department of Homeland Security’s acting secretary told reporters at the time. “This is modern-day slavery.”

China hit back at the US over the block on exports. A foreign ministry spokesperson said accusations of forced labour had been fabricated by Western countries.

## Belarus president closes western borders, puts army on high alert

(Aljazeera) Belarus's president, beleaguered by six weeks of mass protests demanding his resignation, has announced he is putting troops on high alert and closing the country's borders with Poland and Lithuania.

President Alexander Lukashenko's decision on Thursday underlined his repeated claim that the wave of protests is driven by the West. He faces increasing criticism from the United States and the European Union.

Protests began after the disputed August 9 presidential election. Official results gave the authoritarian leader a sixth term in office but opponents say the results were manipulated.

"We are forced to withdraw troops from the streets, put the army on high alert and close the state border on the west, primarily with Lithuania and Poland," Lukashenko said at a women's forum.

Lukashenko also said Belarus's border with Ukraine would be strengthened.

"I don't want my country to be at war. Moreover, I don't want Belarus and Poland, Lithuania to turn into a theatre of military operations where our issues will not be resolved," he said.

"Therefore, today in front of this hall of the most beautiful, advanced, patriotic



*Protests in Belarus began after the disputed August 9 presidential election.*

people I want to appeal to the peoples of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine - stop your crazy politicians, don't let war break out!"

He did not mention neighbouring Latvia, which like Poland and Lithuania is a NATO member.

Earlier on Thursday, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, the main opposition candidate in the disputed presidential election, said activists are compiling a list of law enforcement officers who were allegedly involved in violence against protesters denouncing the results of the vote.

Nearly 7,000 people were detained and hundreds were brutally beaten by police during the first several days of post-election protests.

Human rights groups are working with opposition

activists to identify the officers and officials, Tikhanovskaya said, adding the list will be shared with the US, the EU and Russia.

Tikhanovskaya, who left for Lithuania in the wake of the election under pressure from Belarusian authorities, said the opposition will name the list in honour of Alexander Tarakovsky, a protester who died in Minsk the day after the election as police dispersed peaceful demonstrators.

Authorities initially said an explosive device Tarakovsky intended to throw at police blew up in his hands and killed him. However, a video by The Associated Press news agency showed he was not holding any explosives when he fell to the ground, his shirt bloodied.

The US and the EU have

criticised the presidential election as neither free nor fair, and urged Lukashenko to start talks with the opposition - a call he has rejected.

Washington and Brussels have been pondering sanctions against Belarusian officials for alleged vote-rigging and the violent response to protests.

On Thursday, the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution rejecting the official election results and saying it would not recognise Lukashenko as the legitimate president once his current term expires on November 5.

Belarus's foreign ministry responded strongly, saying: "We are disappointed that the European Parliament, positioning itself as a seri-

*cont'd on pg 21*



# Biden warns UK on Brexit: No trade deal unless you respect Northern Irish peace pact

(Reuters) U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden warned the United Kingdom that it must honour Northern Ireland's 1998 peace agreement as it withdraws from the European Union or there would be no separate U.S. trade deal.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is proposing new legislation that would break the Northern Ireland protocol of the Brexit divorce treaty that seeks to avoid a physical customs border between British-ruled Northern Ireland and EU-member Ireland.

"We can't allow the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland to become a casualty of Brexit," Biden said in a tweet on Wednesday.

"Any trade deal between the U.S. and U.K. must be contingent upon respect for the Agreement and preventing the return of a hard border. Period."

Johnson insists he is defending not threatening the Good Friday pact, which ended three decades of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland between pro-British Protestant unionists and Irish Catholic nationalists.

He accuses the EU of trying to divide the United Kingdom and of putting a revolver on the table in talks to set rules for an estimated \$1 trillion in



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden

annual trade after Britain's post-Brexit transition period expires at year-end.

"The PM has been clear throughout that we are taking these steps precisely to make sure that the Belfast Agreement is upheld in all circumstances and any harmful defaults do not inadvertently come into play," Johnson's spokesman said.

The prime minister says the United Kingdom must have the ability to break parts of its Withdrawal Agreement with the EU if London is to uphold commitments under the 1998 peace deal.

The EU says any breach of the Brexit treaty could sink trade talks, propel the United Kingdom towards a messy exit when it fully departs on Dec. 31, and thus complicate the Northern Irish border, the country's only land frontier with the EU.

The EU's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier told the bloc's 27 national envoys on Wednesday that he was still optimistic, three diplomatic sources told Reuters.

"Barnier still believes a deal is possible though the next days are key," said one of the EU sources.

*cont'd from pg 20*

ous, objective and democratic structure, could not find the political will to look beyond its nose, overcome one-sidedness and not become a hostage to conventional clichés."

Russia, Lukashenko's main ally and sponsor, has maintained staunch support for the Belarusian leader.

Moscow announced this week it would offer a new \$1.5bn loan to his government.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Friday during a trip to Lithuania the two countries - both Belarus's neighbours - will continue to offer medical and material assistance to Belarusians who were

hurt and persecuted during the protests.

He argued the EU and international lenders should offer at least one billion euros (\$1.18bn) in economic support for Belarus and its businesses.

## Indonesians caught without a mask forced to dig graves for victims

(CNN) Villagers who refuse to wear masks are being forced to dig graves for victims of Covid-19 by local authorities in one part of rural Indonesia, in the hopes that a little bit of manual labor and empathy will convince others to do their part to help stop the pandemic.

Three middle-aged men and five minors in Cerme district of Gresik Regency, East Java, were given the unique punishment on September 9, authorities said.

Though mask-wearing is mandatory in public throughout Indonesia, there has been a vocal segment of the population that has been reluctant to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Experts say the lack of public vigilance has made it more difficult for Indonesian authorities to stymie the spread of the virus, which to date has infected nearly 230,000 people in the country. More than 160,000 of those patients have recovered, while at least 9,100 have died, according to the Indonesian Health Ministry.

As cases spiked in recent months, Indonesia's government passed a law in July requiring people to wear masks in public, but left it to local officials to determine punishments for noncompliance. A joint



*A man caught not wearing a face mask in public lies in a mock coffin while members of the public and the media take pictures as part of punishment by local authorities and enforced by local police in Jakarta on September 3.*

team called the "three pillars" -- which consists of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, Indonesian National Police and local law enforcement -- are in charge of enforcing mask restrictions across the country.

In Cerme, the "three pillars" gives those caught not wearing a mask the option of accepting a fine of 150,000 rupiah (\$10) or accepting what the government calls "social punishment," according to the district's leader, Suyono.

Suyono, who goes by one name, told CNN most people have accepted the

social punishment, which often involves push-ups or cleaning. But he hopes options like grave-digging would be educational and show "firsthand the real and serious effect of Covid-19." None of those punished were present when the dead were buried, Suyono said.

Authorities in the capital of Jakarta adopted a similar idea earlier this month. A man there was required to sit in a coffin in public after being caught not wearing a mask.

However, it's not clear if these types of penalties have increased mask-wear-

ing in Indonesia. The country has failed to flatten the curve for months and infections are still on the rise -- only the Philippines has recorded more cases in Southeast Asia.

Large-scale social restrictions were put in place in Jakarta on Sunday, the second time authorities have been forced to do so since the pandemic began.

With cases still climbing, the city's health infrastructure may be nearing a breaking point. The emergency units in all 20 Jakarta hospitals approved to treat Covid-19 patients are full, officials said Monday.





## DAILY HOROSCOPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

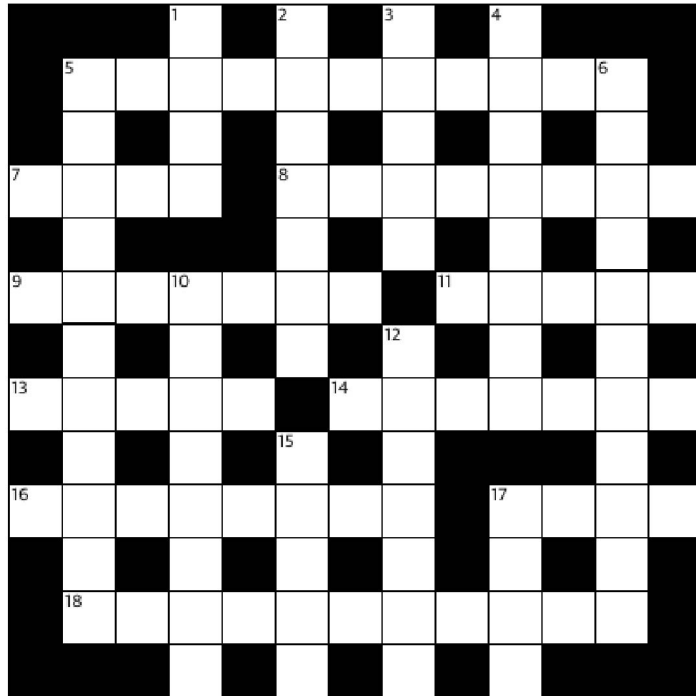
**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** Using common-sense tactics will be more productive than trying to please people you don't know. Don't hesitate to assert yourself if something doesn't feel right or was done without your knowledge or authorization.

## LEISURE

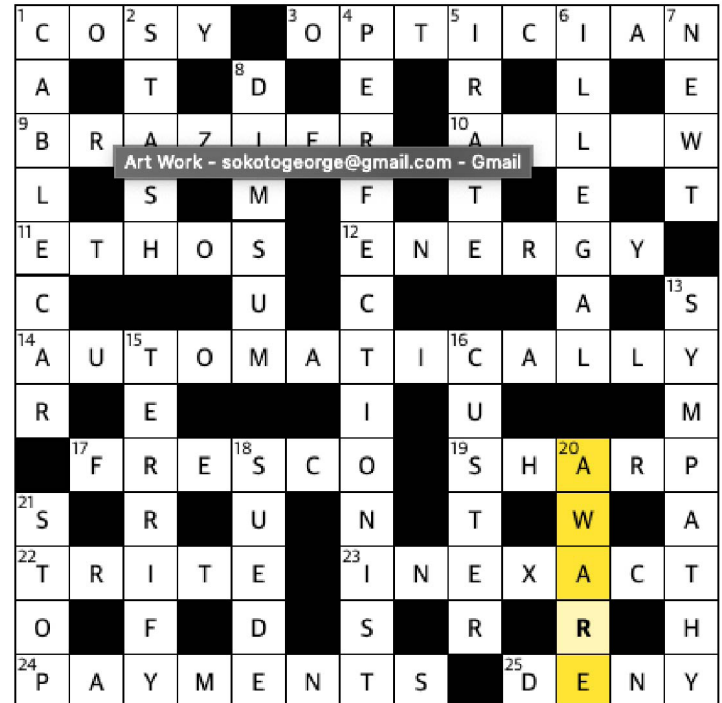


## QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No 15,715



Quick crossword No 15,712



Art Work - sokotogeorge@gmail.com - Gmail

## Across

- 5 Healing (11)  
 7 Commotion (4)  
 8 Immortal (8)  
 9 Similes (anag) — weapon (7)  
 11 Save up for future use (5)  
 13 Feeble (5)  
 14 Daydream (7)  
 16 Encouragement (8)  
 17 Gloat (4)  
 18 Shakiness (11)

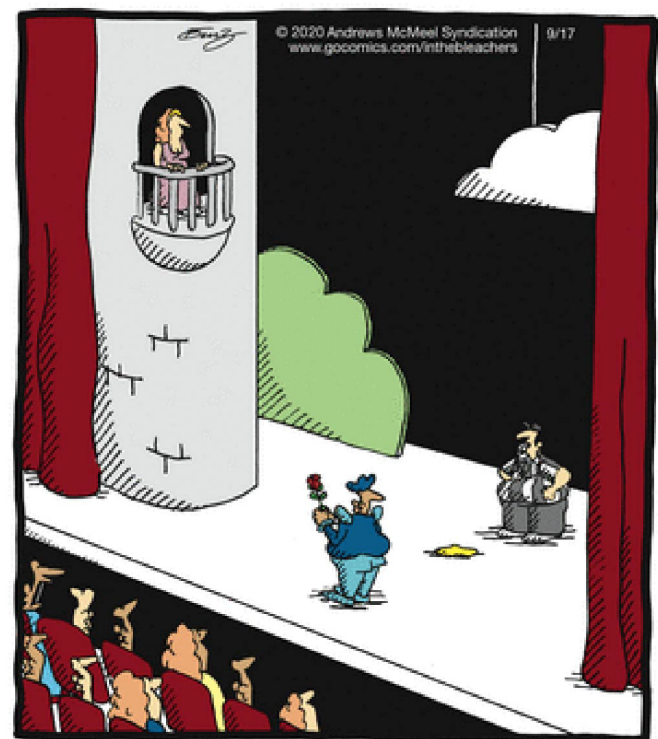
## Down

- 1 Swerve (4)  
 2 Touchy-feely (7)  
 3 French woman (sometimes fatale) (5)  
 4 Reliable (8)  
 5 1955 Little Richard hit (5,6)  
 6 Information detailing patient's illness (4,7)  
 10 Scuffle (8)  
 12 Legal action (7)  
 15 Suggest — drift (5)  
 17 Loop (4)



## CARTOON CORNER

## In the Bleachers



"There's a flag on the play."



## Comeback Heat do it again, rally past Celtics for 2-0 lead

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Down by 14 in Game 1, the Miami Heat found a way.

Down by 17 in Game 2, they did it again Thursday night. And after making the Boston Celtics lose another big lead on the court — as well as their cool in the postgame locker room — the unheralded Heat are two wins away from the NBA Finals.

Goran Dragic scored 25 points, Bam Adebayo led a big third-quarter rally to finish with 21, and the Heat pulled off another comeback to beat the Celtics 106-101 and take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

“We got grit,” Adebayo said. “That’s about all I can tell you. We got grit, man.”

Duncan Robinson scored 18 points, Jimmy Butler had 14, Jae Crowder 12 and Tyler Herro 11. The Heat were down by 17 in the second quarter and trailed by 13 at halftime.

They had been 0-21 in playoff games when trailing by at least that many at intermission. They’re 1-21 now, and two wins away from their first NBA Finals since 2014 — and the team said the 17-point comeback matched the biggest in Heat postseason history.

“We like to make it hard on ourselves,” Butler said. “We like being down double-digits and being the comeback kids.”

Kemba Walker had 23 points for Boston, which got 21 apiece from Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum. Brown missed a corner 3 that would have tied it with 15 seconds left, and Butler sealed it with two free throws with 7.4 seconds remaining.

The Celtics had a loud, animated conversation in their locker room postgame, the walls unable to hold in the sound. They tried to downplay whatever was happening afterward.



Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro (14) leaps to make a pass over Boston Celtics' Kemba Walker (8), Brad Wanamaker (9) and Jayson Tatum (0) during the second half of an NBA conference final playoff basketball game, last night, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

“It was nothing,” Walker said. “It was nothing.”

Added Tatum: “We’re frustrated. But that’s team sports. Not supposed to be happy we’re down 0-2. But that’s nothing out of the ordinary. Just talking about the game. It’s cool.”

Dragic — playing on the third anniversary of his fondest basketball moment, that being when he led Slovenia to the EuroBasket Championship — scored nine points in the fourth quarter.

“Feels exactly the same,” Dragic said, when asked to compare Slovenia’s golden moment to the Heat win Thursday. “A great day.”

The Heat took a 2-0 series lead for the 11th time in coach Erik Spoelstra’s tenure. They’ve won all previous 10 instances. Game 3 is Saturday.

The Heat got in big trouble in the series opener by scoring 18 points in the first quarter and 16 points in the third. In Game 2, another 18-point quarter — the second — sent Boston into the half up comfortably, 60-47.

And then it all changed.

Miami outscored Boston 37-17 in the third quarter, with Adebayo — the defensive hero of Game 1 — outshooting and nearly outscoring the Celtics by himself. Boston went 4 for 12 from the floor in the quarter, Adebayo went 7 for 8 on his way to a 15-point period and the Heat led 84-77 when it was over.

“We pulled apart and we didn’t play well,” Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. “And they did a good job. We’re not beating this team if we’re not completely connected on both ends of the court. So, got to get back to being that, which we’ve been at times. But right now, they’re a better team. We’re going to have to fight to get back in this series.”

They showed some fight in the fourth. The Celtics went on a 15-2 run, silencing the Heat for nearly seven minutes and going up 94-89 on a 3-pointer by Walker with 4:25 left. That only set the stage for another Heat rally: Miami finished the game on a 17-7 run.

“Team effort,” Butler said.





## Number of France Open fans cut

The number of fans allowed to attend each day of the French Open has been cut to 5,000 because of surging coronavirus figures in the country.

Last week, the French Tennis Federation (FFT) said it planned to allow 11,500.

“The evolving hygiene situation in the Paris area has prompted the Paris police department to limit the number of spectators who may enter Roland Garros,” said the FFT on Thursday.

The Grand Slam is set to start on 27th September at Roland Garros in Paris.

France recorded 10,593 cases on Thursday the highest daily number since the pandemic began.

“The FFT will therefore assume the responsibility of organizing the tournament with a new layout,” said the organizers.

“It is important for the sporting, social and eco-

nomie life of the country that a major event like Roland Garros can be put on while respecting health imperatives.”

The French Open usually begins at the end of May

and finishes a fortnight later in early June but was rescheduled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last week the FFT announced that a maximum of 5,000 fans would be al-

lowed in ‘zones’ around Court Philippe Chatrier and Court Suzanne Lenglen the two main show-courts and a further 1,500 in another containing the smaller Court Simonne-Mathieu.

## FIFA president Infantino meets Donald Trump

FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, has met United States President, Donald Trump, to discuss the 2026 World Cup.

The US is hosting the 2026 event along with Canada and Mexico.

The “United 26” bid was selected by FIFA member nations in 2018, winning 134 votes compared to 65 for Morocco.

Infantino and Trump discussed the establishment of a FIFA headquarters in the US and reviewed preparations for the tour-



namment.

The USA last hosted the World Cup in 1994.

Infantino visited the office of the US Department

of Justice (DOJ) where he thanked US authorities for their work in the fight against corruption in football.



## Premier League calls on gov't to open Stadiums on 1 October

Premier League clubs have urged the UK government to stick to its proposal of allowing fans to return to stadiums from 1 October.

The government has restricted pilot events to 1,000 spectators and is reviewing its initial target date of when more fans could attend venues.

The move followed a rise in coronavirus cases in parts of the country.

The Premier League met with clubs on Thursday and ensured stadiums "will be among the safest public places".

"Clubs will adopt a range of common standards, which will help deliver bio-secure, safe environments for fans across the League," the Premier League said.

"Taking into account the high safety standards which will be set by the Premier

League in conjunction with the relevant public authorities, the League and clubs urge Government to remain committed to the 1st October date for the controlled return of fans to sporting venues."

The majority of sports in England have been played behind closed doors since the coronavirus lockdown in March.

During Thursday's meeting, Premier League clubs

said the loss of revenue generated at stadiums from matches "is having a significant impact across the League as well as on the football pyramid and local and national economies".

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters has already said a failure to return fans to stadiums quickly could cost the league's 20 clubs £700m during the 2020-21 season.

## Criminal probe of Ex-TTFA boss

An exclusive investigation by CNC3 Trinidad sports journalist Mark Bassant has prompted a criminal probe by the white-collar division of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) into the activities of former TTFA boss David John Williams, a Panamanian bank account and all business transactions involving the Home of Football project.

The investigation was opened almost a week after the exclusive CNC3 documentary titled, "TTFA's Secret Panama Trail" which detailed some of John Wil-

liams' activities regarding the Home of Football project while in office.

The police probe will look at financial mismanagement and malfeasance at the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association.

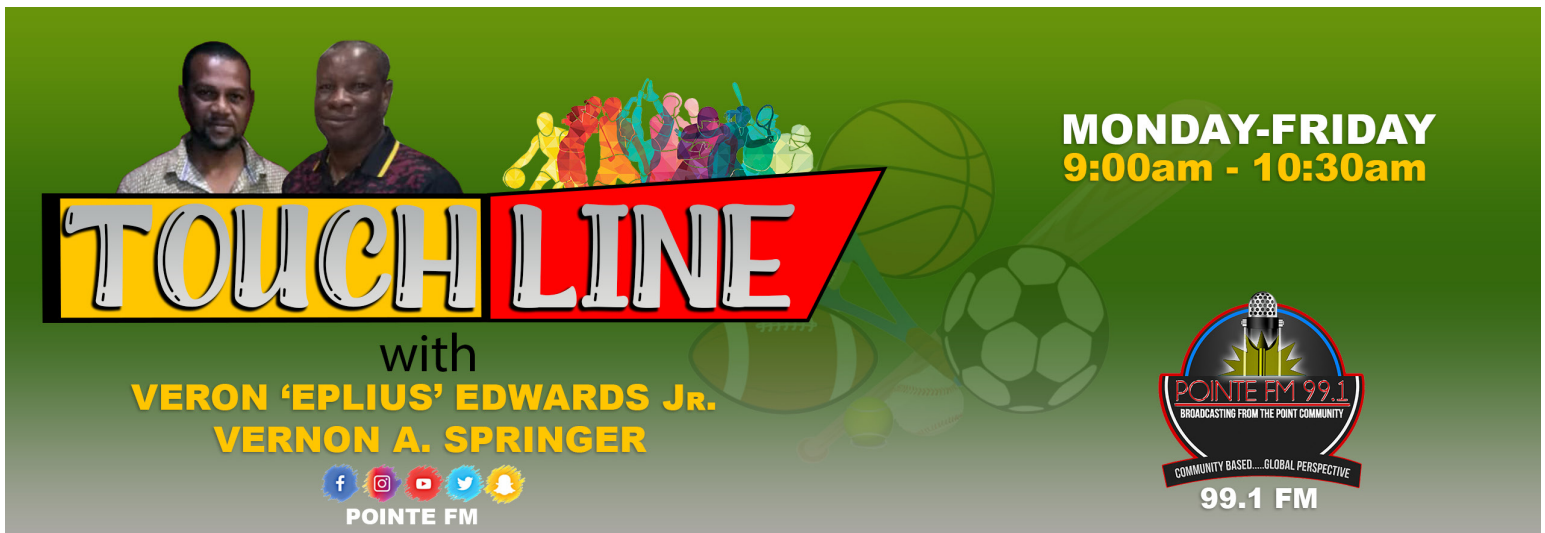
A forensic report unearthed that deposits amounting to over US\$500,000 were made in April and August 2017 and another US\$1 million deposited into the account in 2018.

Appearing as a guest on PointeFM's Touchline programme on Wednesday, Mark Bassant said he started his in-

vestigation into the financial affairs of TTFA and ex-boss John Williams in January 2018.

The criminal investigation comes at a time when FIFA is locked in a legal battle with TTFA which had been asked to withdraw its court matter over the installation of a Normalisation Committee that had been appointed to restructure local football.

If the TTFA does not withdraw the matter it faces possible suspension from FIFA when the FIFA Congress convenes today.



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## Physical Education in schools this semester

Physical education will return to schools this semester.

This is according to Physical Education Officer, Sean Samuels who indicated while most schools have resumed offering the course, others have not due to a shortage of teachers.

“We are working on a number of issues with class size and spacing to make sure the children’s environment is safe during the coronavirus pandemic,” said Samuel.

“Physical education teachers will also be reducing the amount of equipment being used and go back to basic skills that require little or no equipment and can be done utilizing social distancing,” Samuels added.

The Physical Education Officer pointed out that they are facing some challenges at the fourth and fifth forms and Cape levels as there is a rigorous syllabus to complete in a short period of time.

Meanwhile, there have been ongoing meetings between representatives from



the Ministries of Sports and Education regarding the way forward and how coaches can be integrated back into the school during the pandemic.

Samuels said if coaches accompany physical education teachers to schools to assist there will be no issues, but if the coaches want to enter the facilities to conduct specific training with the students, that presents a problem for his



Physical Education Officer, Sean Samuels department.

There are 52 physical education teachers employed by the Ministry of Education.