



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 135 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG



MEN'S HEALTH

THE NATION'S WEALTH

Local News

DAY 9/25

31 ° Hi

Periods of clouds and sunshine with a passing shower

NIGHT 9/25

28 ° Lo

Mostly clear

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:57 AM

Sunset AST
6:00 PM

Duration
12:03 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
2:02 PM

Moonset AST
1:24 AM

Duration
11: 22 hr



**PROGRAM LINE UP
FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**PROSTATE CANCER
AWARENESS SPECIAL
FEATURE**



4AM - 6AM	MORNING PRAISE WITH SEAN ONEAL
6:30 AM	MORNING NEWS
6:45 AM	OBITUARIES & MEMORIALS
6:55 AM	PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE ON PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS
7AM - 9AM	STARTING POINTE WITH SHELTON DANIEL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS FEATURE INTERVIEW WITH DR ADRIAN RHUDD, UROLOGIST
9AM - 10:30AM	DEWS TOUCH LINE SPORTS SHOW WITH VERON 'EPILUS' EDWARDS & VERNON SPRINGER PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS FEATURE INTERVIEW WITH DR DWAYNE THWAITES, UROLOGIST DEWS
10:30AM - 2PM	PARLIAMENT
2PM - 3 PM	THE ROOT KULCHA SHOW WITH JUBBA THE ARTIST AND JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER - PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESSZ FEATURE DISCUSSION 'EAT IT TO BEAT IT'
4PM - 6PM	THE PULL UP SHOW WITH MENACE XL AND CREW PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS FEATURE DISCUSSION - MEN'S HEALTH: PROSTATE AND INTIMACY
6:30PM	EVENING NEWS
7:00PM	OBITUARIES & COMMUNITY NOTICES
8: 00PM UNTIL	CALYPSO WITH BLINDS

NOTICE

Due to continued upgrade and maintenance work on Saturday 26 and 27 September, the regularly scheduled programs may not be aired and the station could be off air intermittently. We apologise for the interruption to your listening pleasure.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

NATIONAL HONOURS NOMINATIONS

The deadline for submission of nominations for the 2020 National Honours is September 30th, 2020. Forms may be collected from the Office of the Governor General Monday to Thursday from 8am to 3pm and Friday from 8am to 1.30pm. Forms must be returned by 2pm latest on the day of the deadline. Nominations may also be submitted by email. Completed and signed forms with supporting documents can be returned electronically. Call 4620002/3/5 for details. Nominations made in 2018 and 2019 will also be considered this year and do not need to be resubmitted. All persons visiting the Office of the Governor General must comply with COVID-19 related protocols.

WORK ON FRIARS HILL ROAD

Line marking work will continue in phase 1A between Cedar Grove junction to Sincere Drive from September 21 to 27. Motorists are asked to exercise extreme caution while workers carry out the line marking exercise.

ROAD CLOSURE

Road work will continue in phase 3F between St. John's Street and Cross Street. There are plans to undertake general earthworks and paving at the junction with YMCA. Local access is being maintained. Business owners, customers and residents seeking access to the area are asked to enter at the northern end of closure, the Dickenson Bay Street junction.

ROADWORK ON SIR GEORGE WALTER HIGHWAY

Road work will continue in phase 2B between Micas a Imports Ltd to Sir Sidney Walling Highway (Factory Rd) junction from Monday, September 21 to October 3, 2020. Local access will not suffer interruption. Business owners, customers and residents seeking access are asked to enter from the northern end of the closure from the Dees Service station (Rubis) junction.

A&BUT BY-ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT

Nominations for the Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers' bylection for the position of President MUST BE SUBMITTED by Friday 28th September 2020. The elections, which will be conducted by secret ballot, will be held from 7am to 5pm on Wednesday 28th October 2020 at the union's headquarters on Factory Road and Teachers Lane. All COVID-19 protocols must be followed. Please 462-3750 for more information.

Submit your community notices to news@pointville.ag

Two positive COVID-19 results in 48 hours

Two cases of the COVID-19 virus have been reported in Antigua and Barbuda over the past forty-eight hours.

The Ministry of Health said the latest results from the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) have revealed one new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case as of Tuesday.

Forty eight hours later, by Thursday night, another positive case was reported.

The total number of people to have tested positive in the country is now 98 with three (3) active cases.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.

Meanwhile, the government is appealing for persons to exercise respon-

sible behavior as there is real danger of community spread of the coronavirus if health protocols continue to be flouted.

The Ministry of Health has warned that community spread of the virus would put a tremendous strain on its human resources, in respect of both the treatment of persons who contract the virus and contact tracing.

ABS employee tested positive for COVID-19

An employee at state owned ABS Television has reportedly tested positive for COVID-19.

A leaked internal memo by the station's general manager, Erna-Mae Brathwaite, revealed that the employee was assigned to an evening shift.

As a result, the entire evening crew at ABS has been sent off duty.

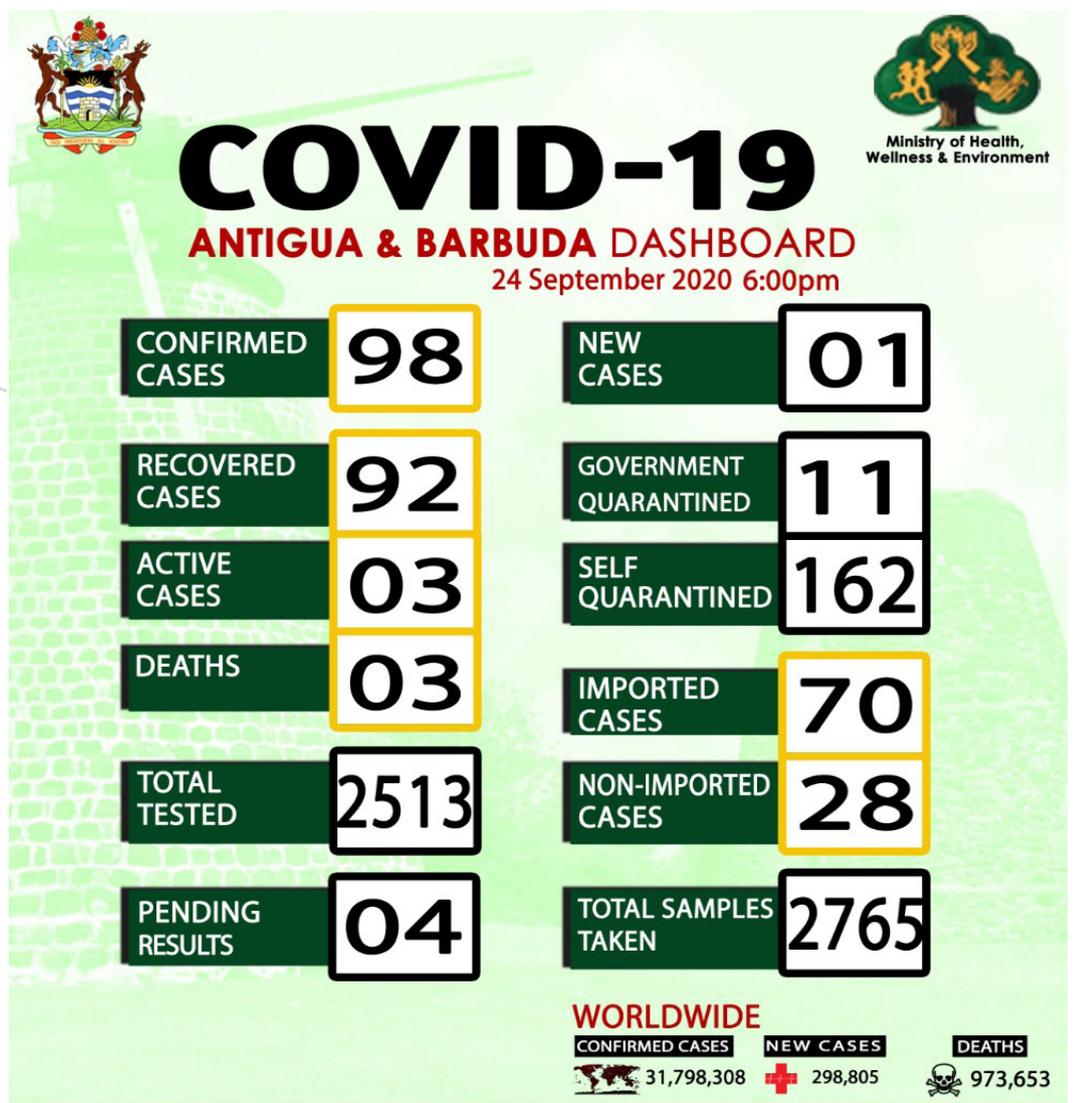
Members of the news department who may have come into contact with the employee have also been asked to remain home.

Employees unlikely to have been affected will be informed of their working hours going forward.

The memo also noted that arrangements have been made for the ABS premises to be sanitized.

The general manager expressed confidence that through ABS' ongoing efforts, the management is confident that the risk to the general staff body is mitigated.

Members of staff have been encouraged to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines as issued by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.



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

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

Health Minister reiterates COVID-19 warnings

Against the backdrop of two new cases of COVID-19, Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, has slammed the reckless conduct of those citizens and residents whose actions go against the government's efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

According to Joseph, the circumstances under which at least one person allegedly contracted the virus is cause for grave concern.

Despite the established protocols, authorities are asserting that some people are flouting the regulations and placing the country at risk.

Health minister Joseph says if this continues, there will be dire consequences.

"We are beginning to see people in this country who

feel they have a right to hold their private parties and not observing any of the protocols. Private parties without masks, people standing elbow to elbow.

"Yet when they exhibit that reckless conduct they want to come back into society, a society where we have children going to school with a potential to affect our innocent children," he emphasized.

The minister stressed the importance of observing the protocols in an effort to contain the virus.

Joseph is of the opinion that persons have become complacent and fears that their recklessness can fuel the spread of COVID-19.

In support of his view he pointed to The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Guy-

ana and Jamaica where the virus is spiking, in part, because of the attitude of the people.

If Antigua and Barbuda is not careful and fails to learn from the lessons playing out in neighbouring Caribbean nations, contends Joseph, the country could find itself in a similar situation.

"This is no time to let our guard down," he cautioned.

In a recent appearance before the Parliament, Joseph said the government is doing all in its power to curb the spread of COVID-19, but added that the actions of some people could demolish this plan.

Minister Molwyn Joseph is concerned that a combination of COVID-19, the flu and dengue fever seasons could exacerbate the



Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph

strain on health officials. With this in mind, everyone, Joseph says, must take personal responsibility.

"The last incident of a positive case involves the conduct of an individual who should know better.

"This morning (Thursday) it was reported to me that the people in contact tracing had to put over 100 persons in quarantine because of one person who decided to be irresponsible to go to a party without a mask.

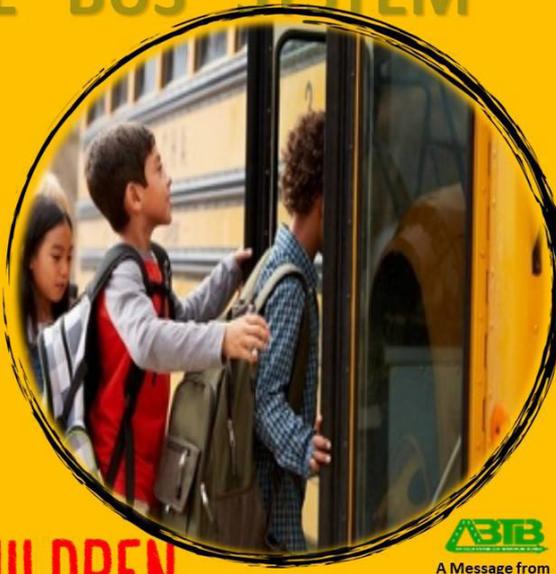
"Where it is now, it appears that one other person was infected and there's a potential of another person getting infected. So we can have three persons infected from the behavior of one individual.

"Additionally, we may have to place about 120 persons in quarantine as well as to conduct tests of many of these persons," he declared.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM



Tip
#6



WATCH OUT
FOR SCHOOL BUSES
LOADING AND UNLOADING CHILDREN



A Message from
Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Debate is underway in the House of Representatives on whether Barbuda should secede from the unitary state of Antigua and Barbuda.

The debate started on Thursday when Prime Minister Gaston Browne tabled a resolution on which members were invited to speak.

He indicated however, that at the conclusion of the debate on the matter it is his intention to call for a 'division' in which each member of the house will be required to individually vote 'for' or 'against' secession.

PM Browne began the debate by providing historical context to the issues at the heart of the problems between the Barbuda Council and the Antigua based central government.

Browne said his government has only one aim which is to see that development in Barbuda stays apace of that taking place

Fiery and emotional debate on Barbuda

in Antigua. Despite his efforts, he continued, the Barbuda People's Movement led Barbuda Council has chosen a path of confrontation with the government rather than joining hands to advance the interests of the people of Barbuda.

He complained that many administrations have attempted to ignite Barbuda's development, however they all encountered resistance on the part of the Barbuda Council.

The prime minister also addressed the divisive Barbuda land issue which has been at the centre of the most heated disagreements between the central government and the Council.

He said the Barbuda Land Act, which was introduced by the UPP administration,

did not confer any rights to the land as it was then suggested by the UPP. Rather, Browne said, rights to the land are vested in the crown.

He stated that the decision of his administration to enable Barbudans to purchase lands for the symbolic amount of \$1 was meant to empower the island's people.

In his rejection of the request for separation, Browne called for the cessation of hostility between the Council and the central government rather than secession.

The Barbuda representative, Trevor Walker, gave a spirited, and at times emotional rebuttal of the issue, detailing what he viewed as the 'bad' treatment that the

island has received from the government.

He highlighted issues including the contribution of Barbuda to the national treasury by way of taxes which he claimed is sufficient to run the affairs of the island.

He claimed much of the money raised by the island ends up in the national treasury and should be used for the island.

Walker also noted that over the years the island's sand has been exploited to the benefit of elements in Antigua to the disadvantage of Barbudans.

He said he will continue to fight for what he believes is right for the people of Barbuda.

The debate continues today.



TALKING POINT

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
10:30AM TO 1:30PM

DR. MASERATI *SENATOR COLIN BROWNE*

POINTE FM 99.1
 BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
 COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

f t y i gtv
 CHANNEL 9

Constitutionality of monitoring bracelets settled

It has finally been determined that the government's move to monitor persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19 with tracking bracelets is not unconstitutional.

This also applied to the technology associated with the tracking devices.

The first sample of the product is expected to arrive in the country shortly.

News that the government intended to utilize monitoring devices caused public concern over the legality of the move.

Cabinet Spokesman, Melford Nicholas, has said,

however, that the measure falls within the scope of the State of Emergency.

"The State of Emergency still obtains and it is under the State of Emergency that these regulations come into being. The action of the ministry and the government comply with obligations and

authority that come with the implementation of the state of emergency.

"We are still in a State of Public Health Emergency and the government is protected under law with introducing such measures," he explained.

The Ministry of Technology and a Canadian company are collaborating in the development of technology to facilitate the process.

While the date of the implementation of the bracelet monitoring has not been announced, the technology minister told reporters on Thursday they are much closer to making major improvements to monitoring and contact tracing systems.

"We have been working behind the scenes to develop the capability of these devices. Hopefully by Friday, we should have the first prototype to allow us to better manage the home based quarantine," Nicholas noted.

No top CSEC student named

The Ministry of Education has identified three students from which one will likely emerge as the country's top CSEC student.

Names have not been revealed and they will not be made public until all analysis of the results have been completed, but CXC's Local Registrar, Myrick Smith, confirmed the country's top students attend the Baptist Academy of Antigua and St. Joseph's Academy.

This news comes against the backdrop of widespread displeasure over the Caribbean Examinations Council's handling of this year's examinations.

Complaints surround the fact that results have not been reported for English B. Smith said this omission has been reported to CXC. This is an example of one of the problems associated with this year's exams.

Despite these issues, Antigua and Bar-

buda's students have recorded impressive grades in several subject areas including English A, Music, Office Administration, Principles of Business, Social Studies and Information Technology.

Releasing preliminary figures on Antigua and Barbuda's performance at the July sitting of CSEC, Director of Education Clare Browne expressed satisfaction and added that this year's results are consistent with 2018 and 2019. This positive outcome is despite the fact that paper two was removed from many subjects as a result of the modified version of the examinations.

"I think in spite of the unprecedented context, the difficult circumstances under which our students wrote the exams, I think our students were able to still give a decent showing and we want to congratulate them," Director Browne stated.



STARTING POINTE

ON AIR

with **Shelton Daniel**

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

7am-9am

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Athill drifts away from UPP

The contentious issues between the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) and Gregory 'Driftwood' Athill, have escalated to the point where the former candidate has decided to 'pack up his Georgie bundle' and leave the party.

Athill was a candidate for the UPP in the 2018 general elections in the St. Paul constituency. He was defeated by the incumbent, E. P. Chet Greene.

"I think what pushed me over the edge was that last Sunday the party was having its General Council meeting and while that was happening, many persons at the meeting were calling me via whatsapp to let me



Gregory 'Driftwood' Athill

hear the talk about the St. Paul's branch alleging that the executive was a problem among other issues," Athill explained.

The former UPP candidate said there were persons at the General Council meeting who stated that he controlled

the members of the executive resulting in the need to get rid of him.

"If I have been there for the past six years doing the work wouldn't it make sense for the people to be supportive of me knowing that I have been doing the work?" he

queried.

Athill said he was also accused of not supporting the candidacy of Dr. Cleon Athill, who has replaced him on the UPP ticket for St. Paul.

"She hasn't reached out to me. Why should I be reaching out to her? She is the one that needs the support," he retorted.

According to Athill the things being said about him personally, and the executive, at the meeting 'wasn't nice'.

He also revealed that there was an attempt to suspend the executive which was later abandoned after it was pointed out that this move, if executed, would have no legal binding.

'Nomad Digital Residency' programme launched

Antigua and Barbuda has now formally launched its 'Nomad Digital Residence' (NDR) programme.

Under the programme, Antigua and Barbuda will offer eligible persons from anywhere in the world the opportunity to live in Antigua and Barbuda for up to two years.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, in announcing the NDR programme, said applications can be submitted from anywhere in the world to via the website <https://antiguanomadresidence.com/>

The prime minister said the purpose of the programme is to attract persons to Antigua and Barbuda who have the ability to work remotely while serving the needs of their employers or clients.

"In turn, these persons will rent accommodation, lease motor vehicles, shop in supermarkets, eat in restaurants, visit places of entertainment and

help to put money in the pockets of Antiguan and Barbudans and aid the economy," PM Browne explained.

According to Browne, Antigua and Barbuda is in a unique position to offer the 'Nomad Digital Residence' programme due to its very low fatalities from COVID-19, small number of active cases and its effective system of containing community spread. This, he continued, makes the country one of the safest environments in the world.

Prime Minister Browne continued that, "The government has invested in modern medical facilities, including a state-of-the art Infectious Disease Clinic and Personal Protective Equipment, for a brigade of medical personnel."

The country's telecommunication system, linked seamlessly to the rest of the world, also places it in an ad-

vantageous position to attract persons seeking a safe environment in which to work and live.

Browne stressed that persons entering Antigua and Barbuda on the NDR programme will be required to comply with the country's protocols regarding COVID-19 in their own interest as much as for the welfare of the Antigua and Barbuda community.

"This is an opportunity for the country to earn some of the money that we have lost from the decline in the tourism sector that has affected everyone. Therefore, it is in our collective interest to support and promote our 'Nomad Digital Residence' programme, and I urge everyone, persons and companies, to publicise the dedicated website on their web pages and social media pages. This is in everybody's interest," Prime Minister Browne concluded.

Bar Association rebukes Asot Michael

The Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association has chastised Member of Parliament, Asot Michael, for recent actions initiated by him against Chief Magistrate, Joanne Walsh.

Magistrate Walsh recently issued a bench warrant for the arrest of the Saint Peter MP after he failed to appear before the court to answer on a matter in which he had been named.

Michael subsequently instructed his attorney to ask Chief Magistrate Walsh to recuse herself from the case, because, he asserted, she had no authority to issue a bench warrant and, as a result, was no longer appropriate to continue to exercise judicial function in the matter going forward. He further asserted that her actions undermined the necessary objective perception of the administration of justice as independent and untainted by bias, whether conscious or unconscious.

There are also reports he communicated with Chief Magistrate Walsh directly concerning the matter via Whatsapp.

In a statement on Thursday, the Council of the Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association said it takes seriously MP Michael's accusations of "corruption and skullduggery" and would call upon him to present evidence to the proper authorities to support his



Member of Parliament, Asot Michael claims.

"It is not acceptable for any person, and especially a Member of Parliament, to make such a pointed and defamatory accusation against a Magistrate, without evidence," the statement read.

In a stern rebuke of the parliamentarian, the Bar Association made reference to Michael's apology to the court for his actions, which it described as inadequate.

"Having made such a public accusation of corruption against the head of the Magistracy, a private apology is insufficient, and a public apology specifically retracting those accusations is necessary," said the Bar Association's statement.

"A litigant may ask a Judge or Mag-

istrate to recuse himself or herself. A judge should not sit to hear a case in which a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts, would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Judge was biased. In the first instance, it is up to the Judge to recuse himself/herself. If, however, he or she does not and the litigant feels aggrieved the litigant may appeal the Judge's decision to the Court of Appeal," the statement noted.

The Bar outlined if the issue of bias is raised by a litigant, the truthfulness of the accusation is not what is considered by the court, but rather the mere appearance of bias.

It contended that the Chief Magistrate, as a member of the Judiciary, is deserving of the utmost respect which must be shown to her at all times. It continued that it is only a legacy of history that has created the present construct within which the Chief Magistrate is an employee of the government rather than of the Chief Justice or a Judicial and Legal Services Commission, a situation which the Bar Association hopes will be rectified in the shortest possible time.

Judges and Magistrates, the Bar asserted, are independent and it is critical to democracy that they remain as such.

REAL TALK

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MONDAY & THURSDAY
7pm-Until

TUESDAY
9pm-Until



POINTE FM



99.1 FM

Miss Show-Off Pageant set for Sunday

The fifth annual Miss Show-Off Pageant will take place this year on Sunday 27th September under the theme, "Once Upon A Time".

It is also the first in the show's brief history which will be staged virtually.

The organisers say due to COVID-19 regulations, the show will be streamed live on Facebook on the Ms. Show-Off page.

Viewers will be able to enjoy the show from the comfort and safety of their homes.

This year, six beautiful and talented young women will vie for the coveted crown. Over several months, the contestants have been locked in rehearsals preparing for the show, under the guidance of renowned designer, Shirrine Gillon of the Dream Catchers Modelling Inc.

Ahead of the competition, Gillon said she has a new appreciation for the word perseverance.

"There have been a lot of challenges. We have had to work around the curfew and the other protocols, but even with the challenges, the ladies are talented. I really love doing this and at the end of the day I will put my best foot forward to give the audience the best show possible," Gillon promised.

The contestants are Ashella Pluck, Cariesa Corbet, Aurlae Aaron, Myrrisha Richards, Latasha Williams and Milove Fontaine.

The reigning queen is Kessy-Ann Samuel.

The Ms. Show-Off Pageant provides a platform for young women to develop their pageantry and scholastic potential. The winner will receive

a two year scholarship to a local tertiary institution with additional support to pursue two years of college or university.

The organizers of this not-for-profit event are inviting corporate sponsors to support the initiative by reserving advertising slots which will be run during the live show.

Founder and benefactor of the show, Colin James, said this year's event

being able to occur is the result of the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

The contestants will perform at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre. The show can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/Ms-Show-off-Pageant-497467207396666>.

The public is also being encouraged to like and share the Facebook page in anticipation of a memorable night.



First of a kind dance competition for Independence

The Department of Culture (DoC) has announced plans to stage a Virtual National and Regional Dance

Solo Competition under the theme 'Dancing Together, Distances Apart'.

In a release the DoC said

the national competition will form part of the official 2020 Independence Celebrations on Monday

26th October while the regional component will be hosted on Tuesday 15th

cont'd on pg 11

Prime Minister Browne: Get checked for prostate cancer!

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has added his voice to the prostate cancer awareness campaign in Antigua and Barbuda.

In a video message posted on his office's social media pages, the country's leader called on men to pay attention to their health.

"As we continue to recognize prostate cancer awareness month, men let's talk about the power of knowledge. The power of knowing. To know is to be sure and free of doubt. To be sure is to be clear about what you know and don't know. Knowledge truly is power," PM Browne said.

The prime minister went on to say it was vitally important for men to be knowledgeable concerning the health of their prostate.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Browne continued, "Aside from eating well, staying physically active and avoiding unhealthy habits, getting your prostate checked can help to save your life. It is a fact that preventive health checkup is associated with healthier men and healthier men help to make a stronger country."

A recent study from the Caribbean Public Health Agency and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that prostate cancer accounts for 18% – 47% of cancer deaths in the Caribbean region, making it the leading cause of male cancer deaths and the third leading cause of male

deaths overall.

Locally, studies indicate that prostate cancer accounts for 45% of all cancers diagnosed in men.

The prime minister continued, "These figures are alarming considering that prostate cancer can be prevented through lifestyle changes and early detection and treatment. So from age 40, men, be sure to get your prostate checked. I want to encourage us to take our health seriously. Our society needs our fathers, brothers, uncles, and sons. Get your regular check-ups and screenings. Protect your prostate. Get checked."

Prostate Cancer awareness and education campaigns are recognized annually in the month of September.

cont'd from pg 10

December 2020. The competition is the first of its kind.

"The Virtual National Dance Solo Competition is open to Antiguan and Barbudans, sixteen (16) to thirty-five (35) years. The participants are encouraged to explore all genres of music. They may also integrate spoken word and/or percussion as the accompaniment for the performance. The dance disciplines that can be performed are Caribbean/Folk, African, Modern/Contemporary, Street Jazz, Hip Hop and Ballet," the release stated.

Only the top three participants will be announced. The winner will then

represent Antigua and Barbuda in the regional competition in December 2020.

"As a former dancer with a passion for the performing arts, I am very happy to spearhead this initiative. Even though we are being affected by COVID-19, our energies and talents can still find ways to manifest themselves. This virtual dance completion does exactly that," Special Events Coordinator, Gilbert Laudat, stated.

Commenting on the developmental aspect of this project, Laudat said this competition will encourage creativity and innovation while providing an opportunity for participants

to be exposed to new disciplines of dance.

In addition to honing the talent of new dancers, it will allow seasoned dancers to remain active and expand their dance repertoire.

Director of Culture, Khan Cordice, commended Laudat and the Dance Division at the Department of Culture for initiating the project.

Registration for the competition is now open. Application forms can only be accessed online by visiting the Cultural Development Division's Antigua and Barbuda Facebook page. The deadline for registration and video submission is Friday 16th October.

My challenges with prostate cancer

Reflections by Peter 'Wong' Joseph shared with PointeXpress

My attention was first brought to prostate cancer about ten years ago when I listened to a popular radio personality who quite often 'dissed' the method of carrying out the prostate examinations.

It resonated with me as I have struggled with the reality of prostate cancer.

This radio host often stated that nobody will put their finger up his anus. After listening to the individual on the radio, I too found myself adopting that stance.

However, about one year

later, I recognized that I was often visiting the bathroom to urinate especially at night. After noticing this for several weeks into months, I decided to ignore my 'nobody go touch me' policy and I went to the annual Lion's Club prostate clinic that year.

I recall the young lady who conducted the examination exclaimed 'mmmmm' during the procedure. She repeated the procedure and came up with the same outcome. One month later, I was called by Dr. Dwayne 'Baba' Thwaites to do another examination and finally a biopsy.

The result of the biopsy

was that there was a mass in my prostate that was cancerous.

The doctor gave me a number of options for treating the cancer and I opted to do surgery. During the operation, the doctor removed the cancerous tissues from the prostate. The surgery was done in January 2012.

For several years after, my life returned to normal. I continued regular check-ups to ensure that my PSA remained within normal levels. Unfortunately, over the past year, my PSA returned to very high readings and, following a series of tests, it was discovered



By Peter 'Wong' Joseph

that the cancer had returned.

This time the recommended treatment was radiation therapy which would be done at the Cancer Centre. I also have to take some special tablets every three months over an eighteen month period. These tablets are good for treating the cancer but the side effects take a toll on my body.

Despite this, I am happy and so far I have been doing quite well.

My advice to all men in our society is to do your regular check-ups to include tests for prostate cancer or other prostate issues.

In Antigua and Barbuda each time we feel a pain we say its 'gas'. We should get into the habit of checking our bodies as we can see what's happening inside us.

Everybody wants to live long lives but to do that there are three things that men should do: eat right, exercise and do regular check-ups.

VACANCY

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Men's health: The nation's wealth

While COVID-19 occupies the center stage, health officials are largely focused on encouraging our population to continue to observe protocols intended to restrict the spread of the disease, however, there is still a need for us to pay keen attention to the myriad of health concerns which can also affect us.

September is internationally designated as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. It is used to raise awareness of prostate cancer and to encourage men, especially those likely to be at risk, to undergo a prostate exam.

In our twin island nation there has been a steady improvement in the public relations and education campaigns designed to encourage men to get tested and to adjust their lifestyles to minimize the risk.

Upon examination of the risk fac-

tors associated with prostate cancer, Pointville Communications Inc identified the facts that black men over age 45, and those with a family history of prostate cancer, are at greatest risk of being diagnosed with the condition.

Black men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than other men of other races, a fact which is supported by data gleaned from various credible sources

Conversations across our community reveal the large numbers of our men who, because of early diagnosis, have benefitted from successful treatment and have moved on to resume normal lives.

Unfortunately, there are still significant numbers of men who are still not accessing testing or who remain ignorant of the ways they can reduce their risk of developing the disease.

Today, Pointville Communications Inc emphasizes our role in guiding the narrative surrounding prostate cancer as we actively contribute to building awareness of the disease across our community.

While we embrace the international theme 'Eat it to Beat it', we wish to remind that 'Men's Health is our Nation's Wealth!'

All our media platforms will feature discussions, infomercials and special discourse intended to build awareness and encourage our men to get tested and adjust their lifestyles to reduce the risk of developing prostate cancer.

This year, we pledge to continue the annual commemoration of this critically important awareness campaign. It will form part of our efforts to engage our community on meaningful initiatives.

NOTICE

To: The Commissioner of Police
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

To: Your Worship
 St. Johns Magistrate Court
 Gray's Farm
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

To: Your Worship
 St. Johns Magistrate Court
 Gray's Farm
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

Dear Sir/ Madame,

Re: Notice- Application for Liquor Licence

I, Ivelise Valdez De Oleo of Lower All Saints Road, with registered business situate at St John's Village in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda **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, Antigua on Thursday 1st October, 2020 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Clary Bar" situated at St John's Village in the parish of St. John, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 27th day of August, 2020

Ivelise Valdez De Oleo

VACANCY



Seeking skilled **carpenters, masons, steel fabricators and laborers to work in Barbuda.**

Negative drug test and clean police record (no prior convictions) mandatory.

Applications available at #55 Bendals Road until September 25th,

**MON-FRI BETWEEN
10 AM-2 PM ONLY.**

Caribbean wouldn't tolerate external interference on Republic status

(The writer is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organisation of American States. 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).

Of all the fanciful reasons imputed to the decision of the government to make Barbados a Republic, shedding its monarchical status with Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State, the most surprising has come from the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British House of Commons, Tom Tugendhat.

The Foreign Affairs Committee, comprised of parliamentarians from all political parties in the House, is a serious body. It has produced important and influential reports in the past. Therefore, when its Chairman makes a statement, it would be imprudent just to dismiss it.

‘The Times’ newspaper quoted him as saying on September 23, eight days after the Barbados Government’s decision was declared: “China has been using infrastructure investment and debt diplomacy as a means of control for a while and it’s coming closer to home for us.

British partners have long

faced challenges from rivals seeking to undermine our alliance. Today we’re seeing it in the Caribbean. Some islands seem to be close to swapping a symbolic Queen in Windsor for a real and demanding emperor in Beijing.”

As head of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Tugendhat should have been better informed.

The Barbados government was no more influenced by China to change its status to a Republic, than it was under pressure by the British government to continue to share Queen Elizabeth as the Head of the two separate realms.

It is unfortunate that some in the international community regard small states as inexpert, seeing them as ready objects of manipulation by big powers through either coercion or enticements.

Thus, the presence of China in the Caribbean, where it has made investments that have aided economic development, is characterised as “a means of control”, as Mr. Tugendhat puts it.

Discounted altogether is that, in many Caribbean countries, China has given much needed loans and grants when others have been significant by their absence, or where, by their presence, they institute unhelpful policies of ‘black listing’ countries without

consultation, or blocking much needed loans from international financial institutions on criteria that takes no account of the vulnerability of small states.

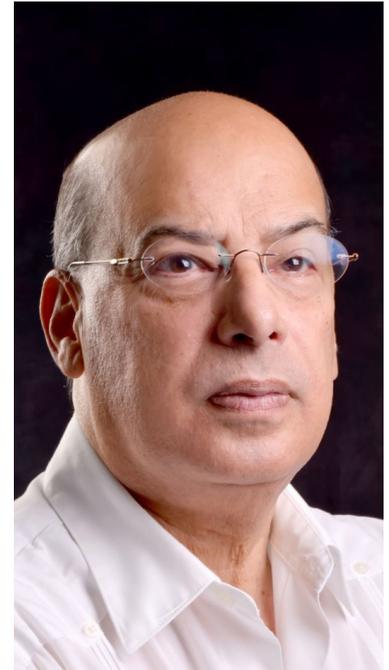
Do loans translate into coercive influence over small Caribbean states? The answer is unreservedly no. Loans must be repaid, including Chinese ones whose main attraction is their longer repayment periods and lower interest rates. If their rivals met their terms, competition would win out.

In any event, amid the COVID-19 crisis, China has shown no desire to forgive debt or to defer interest payments to give developing countries more breathing space.

However, unlike the members of the Paris Club of official creditors (mostly G7 countries), China has deferred principal payments on loans.

If anything, it is other powerful states that provide space for China in the Caribbean by not offering money on competitive terms and by refusing to support issues that are vitally important to Caribbean States.

Among those issues are curbing Climate Change, promoting debt forgiveness in the epoch of COVID-19, and removing the skewed criteria of per capita income that prohibits many Caribbean countries from



By Sir Ronald Sanders

access to concessionary loans.

Whether large and powerful nations accept it or not, governments of small states are not vassals; in making foreign policy and domestic decisions, they make them in the context of what is in their best interest. That choice may result in upsetting one or other of powerful rival states, but it would be wrong for them to believe that Caribbean governments are incapable of making reasoned decisions in their country’s interests.

On other comments made about the Barbados’ wish to proceed to Republican status, should it do so it will not cease to be member of the Commonwealth of Nations which stopped being “British” in 1949 on the independence of India and

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Pakistan and their becoming Republics.

At that time, it was accepted that the British Crown would be the “Head of the Commonwealth” and, as such, “the symbol of the voluntary association” of its members. Of the 54 member states of the Commonwealth, 31 are Republics.

There also appears to be a perception that, in swearing allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II in Barbados and other Caribbean countries, fealty is being sworn to the Queen of the United Kingdom. This is not so.

The Queen is head of state of each of her realms separately. So, in each country

when the oath of allegiance is made, it is to the sovereign as head of that state only.

Another point worth making is that if, in becoming a Republic, the choice is made for a non-Executive President (as was recommended by a Constitutional Commission headed by Sir Henry Forde in 1998), no change in the system of government will occur in Barbados or any other county that follows that pattern.

The decision of the Barbados government, which has been in contemplation for 17 years, resides in one overarching consideration.

It is this: the people of Barbados have a right to

decide that their Head of State should be a symbol of their nation – someone who is from, and of the country, who lives within it, who shares its challenges and its benefits and who encompasses their common identity.

That decision has not one jot to do with external influences. It is simply a national conclusion whose time has come, logically, emotionally, and intellectually.

Will other Caribbean monarchical states do the same? Highly likely they will, for the same important reason that motivates Barbados.

But because their constitutions, unlike Barbados’,

requires them to hold a referendum in which the majority of the electorate vote in favour (and they have to obtain a two-thirds majority vote in the elected House), the political parties – in government and opposition – have to agree to proceed.

More importantly, they will have to jointly explain the implications to the people, or political rivalry and distrust of politicians will defer the change. Unless they do so, “God Save the Queen/King” may still be sung alongside the national anthems of remaining Caribbean realms for another decade.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sir-ronaldsanders.com

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

RLNC6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The Registered Land, Cap. 374

The Registered Land, Cap. 374

Section 34
Of the ActREGISTRATION SECTION
SOUTH WESTBLOCK
55 1182APARCEL
274

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an Application was filed in the Land Registry on the 16th day of September 2020 by **MICHAEL ARCHIBALD** of Phillips, Phillips & Archibald, of St. Mary's Street, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of **NOVELLE JAMES** the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificate RL-201104562 dated the 16th November, 2011 issued to **NOVELLE JAMES** being the owner of the above mentioned parcel of land, which has been lost.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the Original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the second publication of this Notice inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 16th day of September 2020.


Registrar of Lands



Schools should close because of dengue outbreak - health educator

(iwnsvg) A public health professional with 35 years' experience says it would have been best if children were not in school during the dengue outbreak, the worst St. Vincent and the Grenadines has seen in eight years.

Of the 374 persons who have been laboratory confirmed as having the mosquito-borne viral illness, more than half are persons under the age of 15 and anecdotal evidence suggests that many of them are contracting the illness at school.

Speaking on the main opposition New Democratic Party's radio programme on Tuesday, Harvey Farrell, a retired health educator, noted that the country is experiencing the dengue outbreak even as it is still in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"... so it makes dengue even more critical for us... Why I say so? It's because a number of the early symptoms of the dengue fever are also similar to what we can have in COVID," Farrell said on NICE Radio.

"And the fact that our children are back into school already can even make it worse for us," he said.

He noted that the Ministry of Edu-



Health educator Harvey Farrell.

cation has a COVID-19 protocol that requires the recording of students' temperature on arrival at school, daily, and steps that should be followed once the student has an elevated temperature.

He said that the number of laboratory confirmed cases is not a true reflection of the prevalence of dengue, adding, "... it means that we can multiply that by a number of factors, it could be by four, it could be by two".

Farrell pointed out that further tests would be required to determine whether a person with an elevated temperature has dengue, COVID-19 or another illness.

The Ministry of Health has said that anyone treated at a public healthcare facility with symptoms of dengue is also administered a test for COVID-19.

Farrell said:

"Ideally –and this is from my own judgment as a public health practitioner — it would have been best if our children were not at school now.

"The school plant is an area where dengue can spread very, very easily. And I'll tell you why.

"It is because of the habit of the mosquito we have that spreads the disease, the aedes aegypti mosquito."

Farrell noted that the mosquito bites mainly in the daylight hours.

"Of course, it would bite at night, given good light, but mainly it's in the day light hours. The mosqui-

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CARICOM competition authorities encouraged to co-operate

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) national competition authorities are being encouraged to co-operate together in the detection and prevention of anti-competitive business conduct.

Senior Technical Coordinator at the CARICOM Secretariat CSME Unit, Mr. Philip McClaren, made the comment today while commending the Barbados Fair Trading Commission (BFTC) and the Guyana Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission (CCAC) for establishing a cooperation agreement.

The regional official, in a comment to the BFTC says



Senior Technical Coordinator at the CARICOM Secretariat CSME Unit, Mr. Philip McClaren

the initiative is a bold one [CAR-

aimed at advancing the enforcement of the rules of competition in the Caribbean Community [CAR-

ICOM]. According to Mr. McClaren, the agreement between the BFTC and the CCAC could provide the

impetus for other national competition commissions to follow suit and fulfil the mandate of cooperation set out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

He says this action is being formalized at a time when assistance has been provided by the European Union (EU) to establish such agreements and collaborations with allied agencies.

The BFTC and the CCAC signed the agreement last Friday, 18 September 2020. Such formal arrangements are expected to further advance CARICOM competition law policy and some of the outputs under the projects supported by the EU.

cont'd from pg 16

to lives in and around where people habitate (sic). They don't travel very far from where people are. So a school plant provides easy access and the mosquito likes to hide in dark areas. Or areas where we are."

Farrell said that the aedes aegypti mosquito likes to hide in dark places.

"So they will hide under the desk. The mosquito, at that time, will bite normally around the ankles. So when we have children going to school, perhaps it is a good thing for them to wear socks.

"I know a lot of people go for fashion these days, people wear short skirts, we perhaps need to look at our teachers."

He said that while he did not know the demography of those who have been diagnosed with dengue, he

would bet that teachers make up a large number of the adult population.

"...because the teachers are right there at school too. And if teachers are wearing short skirts and so on — I will even say now more female teachers would be impacted than male teachers.

"The same thing in offices, so if you are going to tell persons at this time we must be protecting ourselves from the bite of the aedes aegypti mosquito, we have to look at the way we dress, to go to the office because it is the same way they will hide under the desk and bite you during the course of the day."

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Health said it had written one day earlier to the Ministry of Education, suggesting that students be allowed to wear long trousers and long sleeves to

school.

Farrell noted the aedes aegypti mosquito's reproduction habit, adding that it would lay eggs even in a moist container.

"The container does not necessarily have to have water. Once it's moist, the mosquito will lay her eggs there and a female mosquito may lay about three or four times in their life cycle and each time, a mosquito can lay up to about 100 eggs."

Farrell said that the eggs can survive for up to seven months in dry conditions.

"But, as soon as the container becomes flooded, the eggs will emerge and with that it only takes between when the container has been flooded and the time when an adult mosquito emerges; it's just about seven days," he said.

PM: Bahamas nearing end of second wave, third wave possible

(EWnews) Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis yesterday said it is possible for The Bahamas to face a third wave of COVID-19 infections, but it has the right “ammunition” to prevent that.

The prime minister stressed the best defense against the coronavirus is wearing a mask.

He made the statement during debate on a resolution to extend the state of emergency to October 31.

“We entered the global pandemic without ammunition,” Minnis said.

“The world knew not what to do.

“We were all fighting an invisible enemy and we had no ammunition.

“They were aggressively working on vaccines, which would permanent ammunition.

“But as the virus progressed, we then recognized that we have an ammunition, an ammunition of mask wearing, ammunition of social distancing, and ammunition of proper sanitization.”

Quoting former US President the late John F Kennedy during his famous 1961 inaugural address, Minnis said Bahamians should ‘ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country’ to mitigate a third wave.



Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis

“I say to you this is what you can do: by wearing this simple mask it is a shield against viral infection,” he said holding up a surgical face mask.

“It is an anti-viral scud missile. And in fact, some of the professionals today are saying that the mask is just as effective as the vaccine.

“Some of the most prominent professionals today are saying that this mask is just as effective, and in some cases more effective than a vaccine, and they recommend we use the anti-viral scud missile that I have in my hand.”

A scud missile is one of a series of tactical ballistic missiles developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Turning to House Speaker Halson Moultrie, Minnis said despite a COVID-19 case of a House of Assembly staffer, the speaker and House Chief Clerk David Forbes tested negative for the virus.

He attributed the outcome to their diligent wearing of facial masks during parliamentary proceedings.

Minnis said based on existing data, The Bahamas appears to be nearing the

end of the second wave of cases.

The first wave, which spanned between mid-March and the end of June, saw 104 cases.

The country’s borders remain closed during that period and opened on July 1 to international commercial carriers.

As of yesterday, there were 3,618 cases in The Bahamas.

While the prime minister maintained he does not envision widespread lockdowns, as residents must learn to live with the virus, if particular commu-

cont’d on pg 19

Education Minister calls for an ‘urgent’ probe into CXC results

(Barbados Today) Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Santia Bradshaw, has called on the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) to conduct an “urgent investigation” into concerns over the recently released CAPE and CSEC examination results.

Ms Bradshaw issued a statement on the matter:

“The disquiet among students who recently received the Caribbean Examinations Council’s CAPE and CSEC examinations is definitely cause for concern. I am of the view that an urgent investigation must be carried out by CXC into this matter to preserve the integrity of the examinations.

“I know that the Council has already responded to indicate the procedure to initiate the review process by Friday, October 23. And while there must be respect



Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Santia Bradshaw

for process, I do feel however that given the unprecedented number of students who have raised concerns, particularly those online, I would strongly urge CXC to move swiftly to investigate and also to consider the waiver of fees associat-

ed with the review. “Indeed, these are not normal times and as a cloud of uncertainty looms over the heads of several of our students who are preparing to go off to university, it is incumbent on CXC to urgently resolve this matter

so that they can get on with their lives,” she stated.

The results for the July 2020 examinations were released on Tuesday, September 22, following a ceremony at CXC headquarters, Pine Plantation Road, St Michael.

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nities experience exponential surges, the government could lockdown the area.

For example, Minnis said if there was a surge in the Gambier area or Mount Pleasant, the areas could be locked off.

He called these selective and not broad-based lockdowns.

The prime minister said other jurisdictions battling with new waves of the virus, have reinstated lock-

downs.

Minnis said the government does not enjoy lockdown measures and understands the challenges posed on residents and their mental health, businesses and ordinary life.

He said when cases increase, the government explores alternative measures, but it has to constantly find the right balance concerning the health, social and economic crises.

Further easing of restrictions was announced yesterday, including the

resumption of commercial and social activities for 11 islands, excluding New Providence.

Minnis said he soon expects to make further announcements concerning travel and the need to quarantine.

He said the country’s aim should be to keep the infections down, but it cannot achieve zero cases.

“It’s not going to happen,” he acknowledged. Just like the flu is with us, it will be with us.”

Palm oil labor abuses linked to world's top brands, banks

(AP) — Jum's words tumble out over the phone, his voice growing ever more frantic.

Between sobs, he says he's trapped on a Malaysian plantation run by government-owned Felda, one of the world's largest palm oil companies. His boss confiscated and then lost his Indonesian passport, he says, leaving him vulnerable to arrest. Night after night, he has been forced to hide from authorities, sleeping on the jungle floor, exposed to the wind and the rain. His biggest fear: the roaming tigers.

All the while, Jum says his supervisor demanded he keep working, tending the heavy reddish-orange palm oil fruit that has made its way into the supply chains of the planet's most iconic food and cosmetics companies like Unilever, L'Oreal, Nestle and Procter & Gamble.

"I am not a free man anymore," he says, his voice cracking. "I desperately want to see my mom and dad. I want to go home!"

An Associated Press investigation found many like Jum in Malaysia and neighboring Indonesia — an invisible workforce consisting of millions of laborers from some of the poorest corners of Asia, many of them enduring various forms of exploitation, with the most



A young girl collects palm oil fruit on a palm oil plantation in Sumatra, Indonesia, Nov. 13, 2017. Some workers who fail to meet impossibly high quotas can see their wages reduced, forcing entire families into the fields to make the daily number.

serious abuses including child labor, outright slavery and allegations of rape. Together, the two countries produce about 85 percent of the world's estimated \$65 billion palm oil supply.

Palm oil is virtually impossible to avoid. Often disguised on labels as an ingredient listed by more than 200 names, it can be found in roughly half the products on supermarket shelves and in most cosmetic brands. It's in paints, plywood, pesticides and pills. It's also present in animal feed, bio-fuels and even hand sanitizer.

The AP interviewed more

than 130 current and former workers from two dozen palm oil companies who came from eight countries and labored on plantations across wide swaths of Malaysia and Indonesia. Almost all had complaints about their treatment, with some saying they were cheated, threatened, held against their will or forced to work off unsurmountable debts. Others said they were regularly harassed by authorities, swept up in raids and detained in government facilities.

They included members of Myanmar's long-persecuted Rohingya minority,

who fled ethnic cleansing in their homeland only to be sold into the palm oil industry. Fishermen who escaped years of slavery on boats also described coming ashore in search of help, but instead ending up being trafficked onto plantations — sometimes with police involvement.

The AP used the most recently published data from producers, traders and buyers of the world's most-consumed vegetable oil, as well as U.S. Customs records, to link the laborers' palm oil and its derivatives from the mills that process it to the

cont'd on pg 21

China says US has 'created enough troubles for the world'

(CNN) China's Ambassador to the United Nations said Thursday that the US has "created enough troubles for the world already" as the two nations continued to spar over the coronavirus pandemic during a tense meeting of the UN Security Council.

US Representative to the UN Kelly Craft criticized China over what she said was a "decision to hide the origins of this virus, minimize its danger, and suppress scientific cooperation." Craft claimed Beijing's actions "transformed a local epidemic into a global pandemic."

China's Zhang Jun swiftly rejected Craft's characterization of events.

"I must say, enough is enough. You have created enough troubles for the world already," Zhang said.

"Regrettably, we have once again heard noises from the US that are so at



Zhang Jun

odds with the atmosphere of the meeting."

Zhang added that Beijing rejected the "baseless" accusations.

The spat came two days after US President Donald Trump used much of his pre-recorded video address to the General Assembly to blame China for the Covid-19 pandemic and for withholding information about the virus.

On Tuesday, Trump ac-

cused Beijing of "allowing flights to leave China and infect the world" and referred to Covid-19 as the "China virus" on Tuesday.

On Thursday, Zhang said the US had only itself to blame.

Since January, the US has diagnosed more than 6 million coronavirus cases in its population, and lost more than 200,000 lives to the illness.

The Russian representa-

tive at the Thursday session also criticized Craft's accusations.

"We regret the fact that the representative of the United States chose this meeting and the platform of the UN Security Council to make unfounded accusation against one of the members of the Security Council," said Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia.

Covid-19 has loomed heavily over this year's summit, which was forced online due to the pandemic and the 14-day quarantine regulations in New York City.

UN Secretary General António Guterres has repeatedly pleaded for unity between member states and warned on Thursday that the relationship between the US and China was moving "in a very dangerous direction."

Thursday's Security Council meeting was held virtually.

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supply chains of top Western companies like the makers of Oreo cookies, Lysol cleaners and Hershey's chocolate treats.

Reporters witnessed some abuses firsthand and reviewed police reports, complaints made to labor unions, videos and photos smuggled out of plantations and local media stories to corroborate accounts wherever possible. In some cases, reporters tracked down people who helped enslaved workers

escape. More than a hundred rights advocates, academics, clergy members, activists and government officials also were interviewed.

Though labor issues have largely been ignored, the punishing effects of palm oil on the environment have been decried for years. Still, giant Western financial institutions like Deutsche Bank, BNY Mellon, Citigroup, HSBC and the Vanguard Group have continued to help fuel a crop that has exploded globally, soaring from just 5 mil-

lion tons in 1999 to 72 million today, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. alone has seen a 900 percent spike in demand during that same time.

The AP is not identifying most of the workers or their specific plantations to protect their safety, based on previous instances of retaliation. Many of the interviews took place secretly in homes or coffeeshops in towns and villages near the plantations, sometimes late at night.

US, UK, Canada plan sanctions on Belarusians

(Reuters) The United States, Britain and Canada plan to impose sanctions on Belarusian individuals following what they view as a rigged election and violence against peaceful protesters since, six sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Four of the sources, all speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S., British and Canadian sanctions could come as early as Friday.

They said the sanctions aimed to show there would be consequences for the disputed election and the treatment of protesters in Belarus, a former Soviet state where President Alexander Lukashenko has ruled for 26 years.

Lukashenko claimed a landslide victory in the Aug. 9 election. Since then, his forces have detained or driven out all of Belarus's leading opposition figures, arrested thousands of protesters and clamped down on news reporting.

He was abruptly sworn in for a sixth term on Wednesday.

The ceremony would normally have been publicized as a major state occasion but was instead held without warning. The opposition, which has staged regular mass protests since the election demanding his resignation, denounced it as



An opposition supporter waves a historical white-red-white flag of Belarus in front of law enforcement officers during a rally to demand the resignation of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko more than a month after the disputed presidential election, in Minsk, Belarus September 20, 2020.

illegitimate.

Local media footage showed helmeted riot police pinning protesters to the ground, and marching or carrying them away into detention. Several people were injured after water cannon were fired, the Russian news agency Interfax reported.

“Up to now, the abiding goal for U.S. and European officials has been to prevent the level of regime-instigated violence from getting out of hand,” said Andrew Weiss of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think tank in Washington.

“Anyone who watched the image of yesterday’s police riot on the streets of Minsk knows that Western policy has failed.”

On Sept. 1, a senior U.S. State Department official told Reuters the United States was considering imposing sanctions on seven Belarusians who it believes were involved in falsifying the results of the election and in violence against protesters.

One of the six sources said the number was now eight Belarusians, but could change.

The U.S. State Department and the Canadian foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the possibility of joint sanctions.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told parliament that Britain was preparing sanctions against those responsible for seri-

ous human rights violations in Belarus and coordinating with the United States and Canada “as a matter of urgency”.

Separately, Canadian Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said Lukashenko was not the legitimate leader of Belarus and that his “so-called inauguration” behind closed doors followed a “fraudulent” election.

The European Union said his swearing-in had gone directly against the will of the people.

Washington had hoped to impose sanctions in concert with the EU, but the bloc has been unable to achieve consensus because of an unrelated dispute over the Eastern Mediterranean.

Sudan jails artists for gender-mixed theater workshop

(Washingtonpost) A Sudanese court convicted six artists of “public nuisance” and sentenced them to two months in jail on Thursday for mixing with members of the opposite sex, bringing the total number charged to 11 after a similar ruling last week.

The group was prosecuted after holding a mixed-gender theater workshop last month, under laws often abused by the autocratic regime of Omar Hassan al-Bashir, which was deposed in a popular uprising last year. They were also fined around \$90 each.

Among those sentenced to jail was Hajooj Kuka, 44, who just this year was inducted as a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which awards the Oscars.

The award-winning filmmaker was co-producing a play that used experimental dance to reenact the break up of a sit-in protest by security forces last June, which killed more than 100 and allegedly involved the rapes of dozens of women.

Leaders of the security forces present that day have fervently denied the allegations.

“The workshop was about body rhythm. The [security forces’] issue was women’s participation,” said Kuka in a voice message smuggled out of prison using a friend’s phone after he was prevented from receiving visitors. “There was a time, during the revolution, where these rules were not enforced, but now they are back because they were never changed.”

Bashir’s infamous “public order” laws, which restricted the mixing of genders and dictated women’s dress, were a major factor in drawing young Sudanese into the streets to call for his ouster in early 2019.

The members of the artists’ collec-



Sudanese security forces members stand guard outside the Judicial and Legal Science Institute in the capital Khartoum on Sept. 22, 2020

tive, known as Civic Lab, were all actively involved in the protests.

“The case underscores how police, prosecutors, and judges are still operating as they did under former president Omar al-Bashir, using vague provisions that give wide discretionary powers for authorities to restrict basic rights and freedoms,” Human Rights Watch said in a statement. “... Sudan’s transitional government has been slow on reform, and these artists are paying the price.”

The rights organization said that a female member of the group had been assaulted by police officers and was not allowed to file a complaint against them.

Since Bashir was deposed, a transitional government has taken some steps to loosen social restrictions and roll back some hard-line laws adopted from the Islamic sharia code.

In July, female genital mutilation was criminalized, non-Muslims were

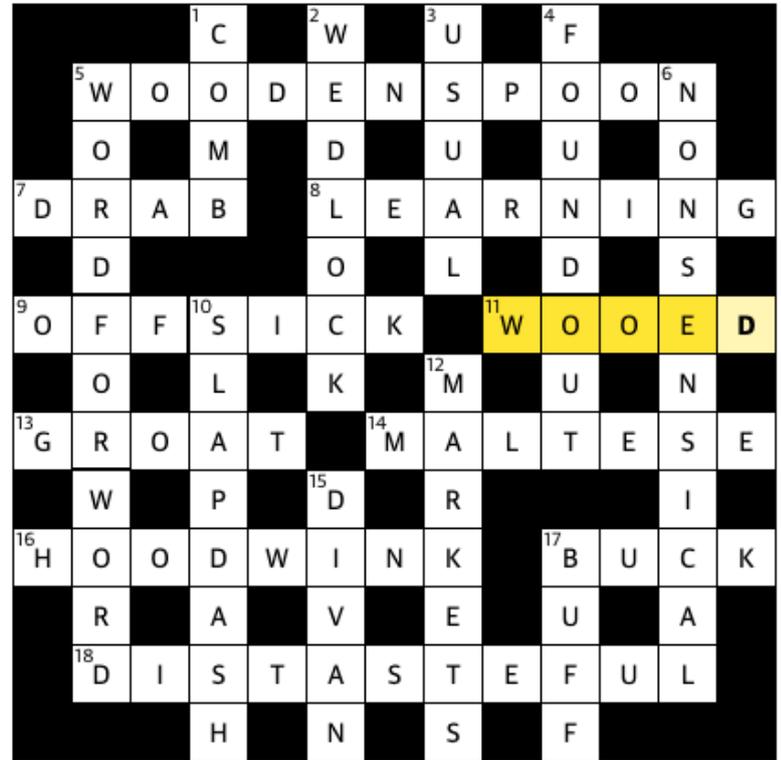
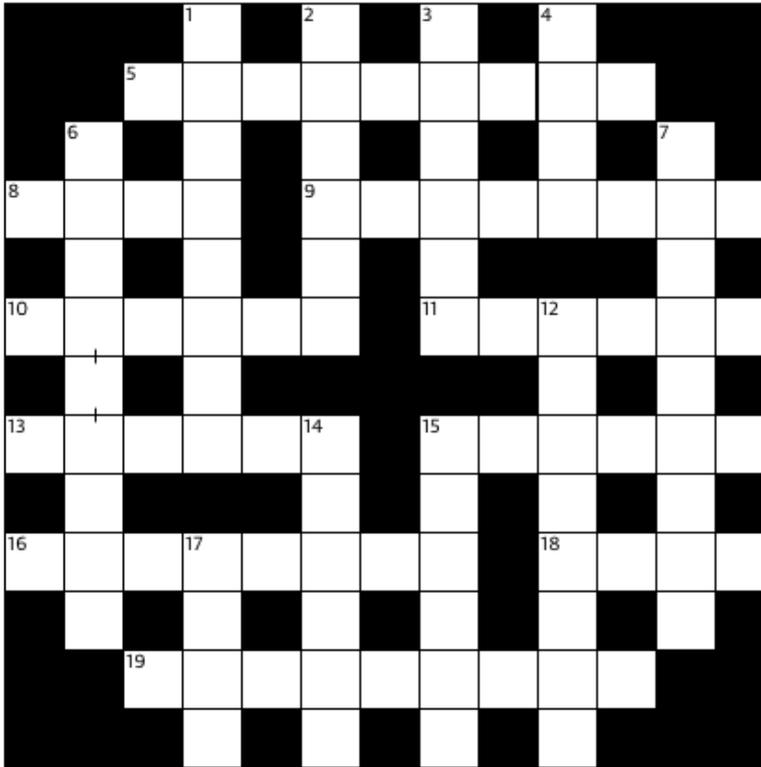
permitted to consume alcohol and a ban on conversion from Islam to other religions was lifted. Earlier this month, the government signed a peace deal with an armed group in which it promised to separate religion and the state.

Most of Sudan is Muslim, but a large Christian minority in its southern regions has chafed against the imposition of Islamic law.

For some who risked their lives against Bashir’s security forces last year, the artists’ arrests is evidence that there is still a long way to go before the type of crackdown the former ruler was known for are a thing of the past.

“It is a betrayal of the revolution’s gains,” said Nadine Elsir, an activist and protest leader. “As women and men, we marched against the former regime, pursuing freedom, peace and equity, and to end all of humiliating laws.”

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Grit sweeper on? (anag) — it makes driving easier (5,8)
- 85 Hitting the hay (7,2)
- 8 Long walk in the mountains? (4)
- 9 Huge — bashing (8)
- 10 Write carelessly (6)
- 11 Punctuation mark (6)
- 13 Places to live (6)
- 15 Positive aspect of a situation (6)
- 16 Chary (8)
- 18 Bill of fare (4)
- 19 Able to predict events (9)

Down

- 1 New Zealand's largest city (8)
- 2 Put into place (6)
- 3 Sufficient (6)
- 4 Floppy (4)
- 6 Miscellaneous objects (4-1-4)
- 7 Insufficiently cooked (9)
- 12 Fine fabric made from goat's wool — sham pain (anag) (8)
- 14 What they speak in Liverpool? (6)
- 15 Not made explicit (6)
- 17 Open fruit pie (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Non Sequitur





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You might rush to get something done on time and only end up slowing yourself down. This is one of those weeks when you should be extra polite and avoid letting anyone get under your skin. Hold off on making major changes.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Let sleeping dogs lie. You might feel that it's best to be forthright when discussing a financial matter. Unfortunately, all you may do is stir up resentment and controversy. Remain discreet in the week ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dialogues about the past can needlessly complicate the present. Put personal meetings and serious discussions on the back burner during the first half of the week. There may be obstacles to handling your budget.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The New Moon arrives in your sign early tomorrow. The next few days could be difficult to navigate because there may be a pileup of duties and realities to face. Wait until the second half of the week to make weighty decisions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The shift in focus during tomorrow's New Moon might be all it takes to reveal hidden problems and mistakes. Be glad to have a chance to fix them as the week unfolds and learn from them for the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can solve crossword puzzles easily but may not easily handle cross words. There could be a competition or struggle over money, policies or ethics, so it's best to let a sense of fair play prevail in the week ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): You may feel your achievements are unsatisfactory if you compare yourself to others. This is not a good week to negotiate better terms because other people may be focused on their own agenda and could be less empathetic than usual.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may briefly feel you're out of your depth in the upcoming week. You could be dismayed by family dramas or feel uncertain when faced with a dilemma. Make a deliberate effort to fill in the gaps in your knowledge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In the week ahead, you may be discouraged when people don't react to your ideas with the level of enthusiasm you expect. Remain budget-conscious and be sure to pay your bills on time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let a spat turn into a grudge. When people are stressed out, a few harsh words can quickly turn into hard feelings. In the week ahead, be aware that unmindful criticism of others might build an unscalable wall.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Performing the dullest duties may show others that you are diligent but may not earn you any credit. Do not expect to receive glowing praise for just being there. Avoid disputes and dissension during the upcoming week.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Put creative energies to work on your own behalf as this week unfolds rather than being distracted by lingering problems. Wait until a project is perfected and polished before presenting it to the world.

FIFA President loses a layer of protection

The pressure on FIFA president Gianni Infantino was ratcheted up a level this week as accusations were made in the Swiss parliament that FIFA was unduly attempting to influence the process.

At the same time the Swiss parliament has appointed special prosecutor Stefan Keller to investigate former attorney general Michael Lauber for his undocumented meetings with Infantino against whom criminal proceedings were opened in July.

Infantino has consistently rubbished the case against him as “absurd” even though Keller said he found “elements that make up reprehensible behavior” linked to those much-publicized meetings with Lauber in 2016 and 2017.

FIFA’s legal team has reportedly asked the Swiss authorities several times to replace Keller with someone more experienced, saying that he is not competent. The FIFA PR machine has similarly briefed against Keller with press journalists Switzerland.

The backlash is not what FIFA had hoped for as they scramble to protect Infantino, with Andrea Caroni, Di-



FIFA president Gianni Infantino

rector of the National Courts Commission, in a letter to parliament saying FIFA was unduly influencing the process: “The unanimous judicial commission and all parliamentary groups recommend the election of Mr Keller,” he said. “But I also notice that the accused are trying to publicly cast him in a wrong light.”

FIFA may have lost a significant ally as Caroni was initially not in the anti-Infantino camp but has reacted angrily to support Keller who has a reputation of being independent and tough.

The Infantino investigation relates to suspicion of abuse of authority, violation of official secrecy and obstruction of criminal proceedings in the context of three meetings with Lau-

ber and with the regional prosecutor of Switzerland’s Upper Valais region, Rinaldo Arnold, a friend of Infantino who is reported to have facilitated the encounters.

It now appears there are other issues under investigation including the lie he told that he had to take a private jet to meet UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin in Geneva when Ceferin was actually in Armenia.

The introduction of the investigation of Lauber is significant. Swiss lawmakers had already agreed to Keller’s request to lift the immunity from prosecution from which Lauber had benefited until he resigned last month.

In a vote Wednesday, lawmakers confirmed Keller as the only candidate to investigate Lauber who was severely disciplined in March and quit five months later.

For Infantino the news was not improved with the announcement that the special prosecutor been granted CHF200,000 for this year and CHF300,00 for next year for the investigation. Both are considered large amounts for this kind of investigation.

Former Australian cricketer dies

Former Australia batsman, Dean Jones, has died at the age of 59.

Jones was in Mumbai where he was working as a commentator on television coverage of the Indian Premier League when he passed away.

Stylish in the middle order, Jones played 52 Test from 1984 to 1992, averaging 46.55 and winning the Ashes on two occasions. He was also part of the Australia team that won the World Cup in 1997, beating England in the final. In his 164 one-day in-

ternationals, Jones averaged 44.61.

Cricket Australia chairman, Earl Eddings, said, “Dean Jones was a hero to a generation of cricketers and will forever be remembered as a legend of the great game.”

Caribbean cricket lovers



will remember Dean Jones’ battle against Sir Curtley Ambrose when he asked Ambrose to remove his white sweatband from his right hand which unsettled him. Sir Curtley, irate by the request is remembered for responding with a series of quick deliveries.

England cruises past WI

England overcame a middle-order wobble to claim a comfortable 47-run win against West Indies in the second T20 to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

England was in danger of squandering a strong start after slipping to 96-6, with Stefanie Taylor taking 2-12, but Sarah Glenn’s

aggressive 26 from 19 balls lifted England 151-8 in 20 overs.

In reply, West Indies reached 72-1 and looked relatively untroubled before Glen removed Deandre Dottin for 38. The tourist struggled to 104-8 in 20 overs. England clinched the series Saturday in the third match.

NPL plans restart ahead of Ministry of Health's approval

In Jamaica, plans are afoot which will see the resumption of the nation's Jamaica's top football competition, the 2020-2021 National Premier League, on Saturday, November 14.

The move is supported by an allocation of US\$250,000 from FIFA's COVID-19 relief fund to help with local club's preparations for the new season.

In light of the novel coronavirus pandemic, however, the start of the new season hinges on the approval of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the announcement of guidelines to govern football.

The season had initially been planned to resume on October 15, but this was postponed due to continuing cases of COVID-19.

In the so-called "new normal", the health ministry must now issue protocols to govern sporting activities in the interest of public safety.

These proposals are yet to be approved, and has further been delayed as the Ministry of Health's Dr. Nicole Dawkins-Wright, the Director of Emergency Disaster Management and Special Services, was forced to skip Tuesday's press conference after being summoned to a regional meeting with Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

Meanwhile in a press conference at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Tuesday, Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) President, Michael Ricketts, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the newly formed Professional Football Jamaica Limited. The body agreed to undertake the commercialization of the league which will replace the Premier League Clubs Association.

"As part of our commitment to ensuring that we meet all requirements of the country and our health authorities, we

are pursuing a plan to hold the games at central locations as opposed to individual club venues. You will realize that this will allow us to manage all the protocols more successfully. The health authorities will determine any potential for spectators," Ricketts said.

He noted that clubs will be restricted from having fans at training venues, which will be transformed into secure environments. This will allow for more effective management of the health and safety protocols.

"As an important step and in order to provide a level of assuredness during the preseason preparation of the teams, the JFF will take the unprecedented step of having all players, technical staff, auxiliary staff, administrative and executive personnel, totaling approximately 600 people, complete a COVID-19 test commencing on Monday, September 28, 2020. This process will be repeated before the planned kick-off on November 14," Ricketts declared.

It is expected that each test will cost about \$5,000, for a total of \$3,000,000. There is no definitive idea of the number of tests which will be conducted or how often.

"I want to also announce today that in keeping with a public commitment we made, the JFF has allocated US\$250,000 of the COVID-19 relief funds received from FIFA to the Jamaica Premier League.

"Specifically, each of the 12 clubs will receive \$1.2-million, and the additional amount will be used to cover costs related to the administration of the league including outstanding debts. These funds will be disbursed in short order to the clubs," said Ricketts.

The JFF boss outlined the changes which have been developed with which

the clubs and other stakeholders are becoming acquainted pending his board's ratification.

Some of the changes are related to COVID-19 and its negative impact.

The National Premier League, which is yet to secure a title sponsor, is slated to run from Saturday, November 14 through to June 30, 2021.

Instead of the usual three rounds of matches, this season will see two rounds plus the play-offs.

At the end of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 seasons there will be no demotion of teams. Two clubs will be promoted from the corresponding season of the JFF play-offs or second tier, whichever is applicable. This therefore means that for the 2021-2022 season there will be 14 teams and for the 2022-2023 season, 16 teams.

Team rosters must include eight players, up from seven, who are under 21 years of age, and a maximum of six players, up from four, of foreign nationality, including players eligible to play under CARICOM rules.

For matches, substitutes will be up from three to five for the 2020-2021 season.

Also, Ricketts said that they have been using the time to get the house in order and to plan for the revival of the premier league under a stronger professional footing, planning for the establishment of a tier-two structure and the implementation of a women's legacy program as part of the professional structure.

He added that this entire effort is linked to Jamaica's thrust to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, win the 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup, qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, and qualify for the Youth World Cups for both genders.

Sports

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
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Individual testing coming soon

Dr. Dwayne “Baba” Thwaites, a Urologist and representative for the Regional Anti-Doping Agency (RADA) in Antigua and Barbuda, says the coronavirus pandemic has hampered plans to start testing athletes on the island individually.

“When we assumed responsibility two years ago we were behind, and late last year plans were being put in place to start testing. Our group had gone out and gotten materials and videos to distribute to the public and athletes before being blindsided by COVID-19,” Thwaites said.

RADA has been conducting Zoom meetings, and programmes, as they move to resume athlete testing, Thwaites explained.

“In the immediate future, we will be handing out information to the public and athletes, indicating that at some point with the consent of the athletes and their organization surprise testing



will start,” he stated.

Dr. Thwaites said testing is necessary to avoid doping by athletes who hope to gain an unfair performance advantage.

“We want to ensure a level playing field. We are now putting together the programme to train doping control officers. Urine or blood will be tested then sent off under security to an appropriate Laboratory,” he said

Meanwhile, September is Prostate Cancer Awareness month and Dr. Thwaites, who is part of a group called ‘Do Blue’ says his organization was founded to raise funds for people who have the disease and can’t afford to pay for treatment options.

Cancer survivors are also among the group whose mantra is ‘From Is To Was’ in recognition of those who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer but have recovered.

Thwaites, speaking to

PointeXpress, said prostate cancer is very curable if detected in its early stages.

“It can be treated and the cure rate is 95% once diagnosed in the early stages.”

Thwaites pointed to the importance of men submitting to prostate and blood screening especially between the ages of 55 and 65 when the chances of prostate pathology increases.

There are four risk factors associated with the increased likelihood of developing prostate cancer, Thwaites added. They are being black, of East African descent, genetics and age.

DEWS

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