



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 126 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

KEYS FOR DENFIELDS



Page 3



STARTING POINTE

ON AIR

with

Shelton Daniel
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
7am-9am



99.1 FM

'Peter Reds' is UPP candidate for St. Peter

Popular footballer, Trevaughn 'Peter Reds' Harriette has emerged the winner in a three-way primary held last night to select a candidate for the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) in the St. Peter constituency.

Harriette won by a comfortable margin securing 65 of the 110 votes cast in the primary.

The UPP candidate in the 2018 general elections, Colin Isaac, could muster 23 votes while UPP Youth Arm member and business woman, Chaniel Jackson-Imhoff, secured 20 votes.

This victory means that the national footballer has secured the right to contest the next general elections as the UPP's candidate for St. Peter.

This is the latest in a series of primaries the party has staged to identify its



Trevaughn 'Peter Reds' Harriette candidates ahead of the next polls due in 2023.

Meanwhile, in a move that continues to baffle, the current representative for St. Peter, the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's (ABLP) Asot Michael, has offered congratulations to Harriette stating that he wishes him 'success in his political career'.

Noting that Harriette will now like-

ly be his opponent in the next general elections, Michael, said he is unsure of his future in politics at this time.

"I am not sure that I will be running in the next general elections. It is a matter which I have to discuss with my family before a final decision is made."

Highlighting the fact that he has served in active politics for more than twenty-five years, he continued that uncertainty now looms over his political future.

"I may give up politics!" he declared.

Michael was fired from the Gaston Browne Cabinet in late 2018 after he was named in a scandal involving British real estate mogul, Peter Virdee. Michael, however, retained his parliamentary seat.

DAY 9/4

Wind: E at 20 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
 Humidity: 73%
 Dew Point: 24° C
 Cloud Cover: 70%
 Visibility: 10 km
 Probability of Precipitation: 54%
 Precipitation: 0.5 mm
 Rain: 0.5 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

Mostly cloudy w/ showers

31 °Hi



NIGHT 9/4

Wind: ESE at 15 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 22 km/h
 Humidity: 79%
 Dew Point: 24° C
 Cloud Cover: 34%
 Visibility: 10 km
 Probability of Precipitation: 54%
 Precipitation: 1.0 mm
 Rain: 1.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

Partly cloudy w/ showers

28 °Lo



SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:54 AM

Sunset AST
 6:18 PM



Duration
 12:24 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 8:06 PM

Moonset AST
 8:31 AM



Duration
 12:25 hr

Denfield's Development homeowners receive keys

During a ceremony today, the keys to five of the sixty-four completed homes in the Denfield's Development in the St. John's Rural West Constituency will be turned over to the new homeowners.

Parliamentary Representative for the area the Hon. Londell Benjamin and Manager of the National Housing and Development Company Limited, Telly Cornelius, will deliver the keys to the two, three and four bedroom homes that are sustainably designed with amenities including pump facilities, water cisterns and water heating systems.

The Denfield's housing development is located in an area boasting pristine views including that of the



famous historical range of hills known as the "Sleeping Indian". They are avail-

able at a cost of \$220,000 to \$320,000.

The residential devel-

opment features concrete roads and sidewalks and exquisite landscaping.



Uncertain future for Jolly Beach workers

Tough times are ahead for the nearly five hundred staff members at the Jolly Beach hotel as they meet with their union today to discuss their future.

The government has confirmed that the sale of the hotel is imminent and there are indications that more than 484 staff will be on the losing end as their severances will be affected when the sale of the property is complete.

Reports suggest that there is a serious buyer interested in the hotel, however the exact selling price has not been determined.

The as yet unmanned potential and the owners, of



Jolly Beach, the ABI group are now in negotiations.

During a meeting on Wednesday, the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, urged the potential

buyer's lawyer to determine a timeframe within which a final offer for the purchase will be identified and agreed upon.

The Cabinet's spokesman, Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, disclosed that once the sale is finalized, severance will be paid, but less than that which is due to staff.

"The economic fallout for those persons at Jolly Beach is an issue and a cause for concern as there is going to be an economic impact on those workers because the hotel is currently insolvent.

"Already the former operator has not renewed the contract and against this background it means that the workers do not have an ongoing business enterprise to which they can look forward to getting a paycheck," he explained.

Nicholas is anticipating a gap in the employment of the workers as it is unclear how soon the sale will be fi-

nalized.

"It is a matter of concern for the Cabinet because if the purchase also includes demolition and rebuilding that will take some time to complete. In the meantime, we are concerned about the economic fallout. It's an area that the government has to tread carefully," he advised.

Nicholas underscored the important role the Jolly Beach hotel has played in the past, helping airlines fill the 'back of the planes'.

"It is something that we have to look at carefully and one in which we are looking at from all angles," he stated.

Jolly Beach Hotel is indebted to the government and other entities in excess of \$80 million.

A meeting will be convened on Friday by the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union to discuss these latest developments with employees and chart the way forward.

NOTICE

TO: HER WORSHIP
The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate's Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

TO: HER WORSHIP
Magistrate for District "A"
Magistrate's Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS THIRTY SIX 5 BEACH BAR

I, **Keyon Hamilton**, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 1st October, 2020 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Thirty Six 5 Beach Bar" situated Fort James, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 25th August, 2020

Keyon Hamilton
Keyon Hamilton
736-3017
779-6156 KH

Closer scrutiny for major development projects

A new policy has come into immediate effect which will allow authorities to monitor all current and future development projects taking place in the country.

The move comes in response to a request by the Environment Division for a 'stop order' to be placed on the Peace, Love and Harmony (PLH) project which is underway in Barbuda.

The government watchdog raised the alarm over what it identified as deviations by PLH from the agreed to plans that were submitted for approval by the developers.

To prevent a similar occurrence, the government wants the Environment Division to appoint a special officer to continuously monitor development projects, starting with PLH.

The decision was made at the Cabinet level, after the Environment Division requested a stop order from the Development Control Authority (DCA) after the violations, which included the threat to protected wetlands and the destruction of sand dunes, among others.

Cabinet Spokesman Melford Nicholas said going forward, the appointment of an environmental officer to projects of this kind will go a long way in resolving issues before they escalate to the point where 'stop or-

ders' are sought.

'I don't think that it serves anyone's best interest that the process for inspecting the project for compliance often leads to these interruptions.

'Therefore, one of the changes we expect to see from this project going forward would be a full time assignment of someone from the division to oversee the compliance issues in relation to these projects. The management of the environment is a key cornerstone of the government's process of leading development. This goes back to the start of the administration when we made changes to the Envi-

ronment Management and Protection Act," Nicholas said.

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to environmental protection.

"We don't want anyone to harbour any alternate view," he declared.

Minster Nicholas dismissed suggestions that the steps being taken amount to interference.

He said a decision regarding the consequences of PLH's violations will be dealt with solely by the DCA and acknowledged that gaps exist in the way the PLH project has been monitored.

"Whereas in the past it

may have been impractical or not feasible to deal with the adherence to the environment's regulations, where these projects are large and are ongoing, the government is now saying we want to move to a stage where there will be full time monitoring of these projects.

Going forward, there will be someone from the division nested with the project to ensure ongoing compliance. This will be for all major projects where there will be environmental impact and where there is an expectation of compliance to the division's strictures," he reiterated.



CIP donates to Rotary Club

Three major projects being undertaken by the Rotary Club of Antigua (RCA) have received support, monetary and in kind, from the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU).

CIU Chief Executive Officer, Charmaine Donovan, presented a cheque of EC\$25,000 to the Club's President, Kevin Silston.

EC\$10,000 of the donation will be used towards expanding the club's oversubscribed COVID-19 Relief Food Voucher Programme. The remaining EC\$15,000 will be used to assist with building two new classrooms at the School for the Deaf.

The CIU also made a donation of school supplies which included bags, books, pens and pencils to the club's Back to School initiative.

Donovan said the CIU's



gesture forms part of its efforts to execute small social projects which could positively affect the community.

"We think it is important that fellow Antiguan and Barbudans are able to see the CIP programme working for them in tangible ways. We view the expansion of

the School for the Deaf and the distribution of school supplies to underprivileged children as an investment in our country's future.

"We are also delighted to partner with the RCA, an honoured social partner, whose charitable work improves the lives of us all,"

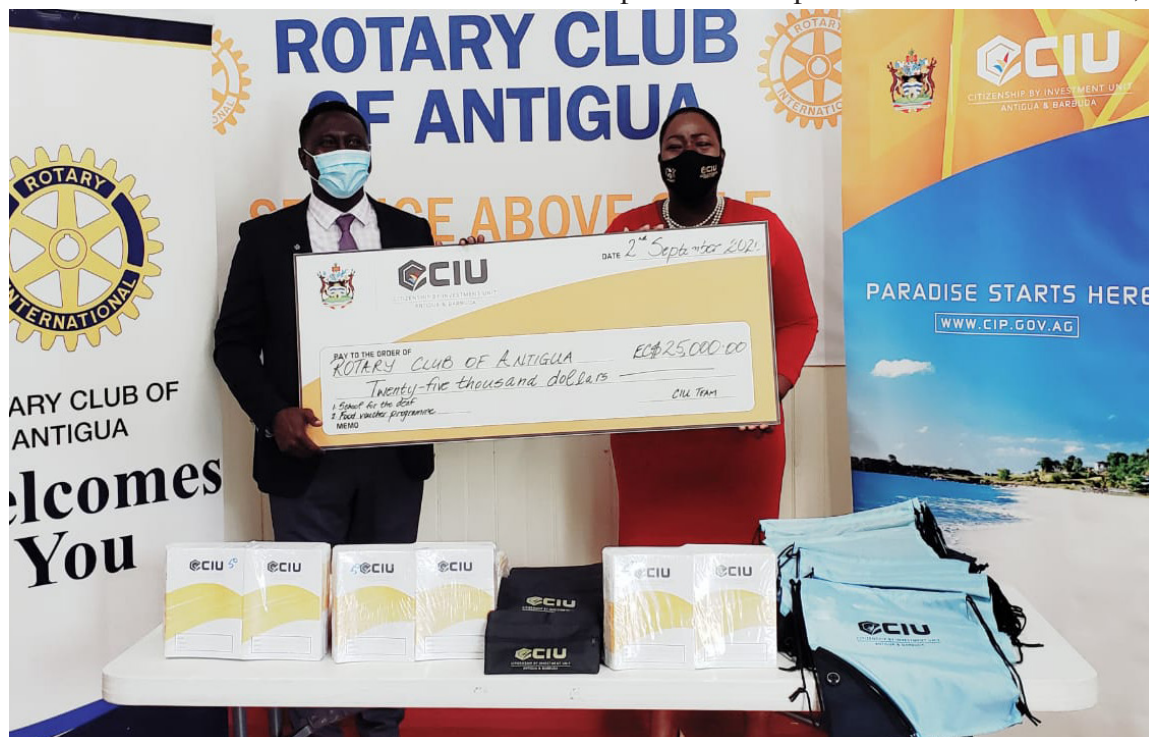
said Donovan.

The RCA's President Silston, expressed profound gratitude to the CIU for the large and timely donation.

"We are extremely happy for this type of support and these are three major projects that will impact the community directly; two of them are geared towards youth development, one of the Club's main areas of focus this year.

"We are committed to making sure that our future leaders receive the best chances for being successful.

"The Food Voucher Programme has been oversubscribed from the inception and there are still a lot of persons who continue to reach out for assistance. Hence, we are truly grateful that we will be able to assist more individuals in a positive way," he remarked.



Barbuda secession: a non-starter!

Registering clear dissatisfaction with the way they are being treated by the central government, the Barbuda Council has given notice that it wants to separate from Antigua and move forward determining its own future alone on behalf of Barbuda and its people.

This bold move is unlikely to gain traction as Cabinet spokesman, Melford Nicholas, has indicated that the government is not in favour of a separation of the two islands.

In a letter to Cabinet

Secretary, Konata Lee dated 31st August, 2020 and copied to international organizations, including the United Nations, Barbuda Council Secretary, Paul Nedd accused the Gaston Browne led administration of neglecting Barbudan's. Nedd said the central government's mistreatment of Barbudans intensified following the passage of Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Claiming to have no choice but to expose the mistreatment they have been subjected to, the Secretary

Nedd attempted to support the Council's case by citing, among other things, the Barbuda Land Act 2007, a declaration by Prime Minister Gaston Browne that "Barbudans are squatters" and derogatory name calling of Barbudan's by the head of government.

Nedd says these incidents have created a strain on the failing relationship between Antigua and Barbuda. He expressed the opinion that Barbuda is being used as a bread basket for Antigua, which is supported by the

abuse of the island's resources without benefit to their people.

As a result of these and other issues, the Barbuda Council asked that the government take steps that will lead to secession.

In addressing the matter at Thursday's post-cabinet briefing, Nicholas described the letter as 'without merit' and accused the Council of dwelling on matters of the past.

He acknowledged however, that the management of the environment in Barbuda is one area in which differences exist between the Barbuda Council and the central government.

"The Barbuda Council often assumes that it has equal authority and powers as the central government and until it is willing to accept its subordinate role in the governance of Barbuda we are not going to get very far," he remarked.

Nicholas holds the view, however, that the tone of the dialogue needs to change.

He recalled a cordiality between the two entities once existed in the past. The information minister is recommending that this be revived as part of efforts to improve the relationship between the Council and the central government.

New system for the Public Library

A new system will come into effect at the National Public Library to coincide with the start of the new academic year on Monday.

According to the Ministry of Education, commencing 7th September, 2020, under the new guidelines, parents will no longer be allowed to drop off, or send their children to the library, after school or during the school day.

Primary school students will only be allowed to borrow and return books, while those in secondary schools will be permitted to use the library's computer for one hour.

"With the new arrangements, anyone entering the public library will be required to wear a mask, which should be kept on for the duration of the time there. Loitering around the premises is forbidden. If stu-

dents are not on the compound for matters relating to research and/or computer use, then they must proceed home," the statement added.

The public library will operate between the hours of 9am-5pm Monday through Thursday and 9am-3:30pm on Friday.

Director of the National Public Library, Ryliss Mannix, explained the new guidelines are being implemented in accordance with the COVID-19 protocols promoted by the Ministries of Health and Education and the World Health Organization (WHO).

She said the measures being implemented are a demonstration of the National Public Library's commitment to playing its part in protecting its employees and the general public and in helping to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Full scholarship for Shaveesa: 'From adversity to triumph'

This may be the guiding principle for Shaveesa Gasper, who has secured a full scholarship from the Antigua and Barbuda government to pursue studies in performing arts at the prestigious, Edna Manley School for the Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica.

Gasper is a highly acclaimed actress who won the Best Performance by an Actress for two consecutive years, 2015 and 2016, following the National Drama Festival staged for competing secondary schools.

The announcement that Gasper had been awarded a scholarship was made in post-Cabinet Notes on Thursday.

When contacted by PointeXpress newspaper, the 21-year-old said she was overwhelmed and very grateful to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"There is a rush of emotions that I am feeling at this moment as I am very excited to get this scholarship," she said.

She will pursue studies in drama and education as she hopes to teach, as well as pursue a professional career in acting.

For now however, she must wait as the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed her departure to Jamaica.

"Because of the spike in cases in Jamaica, there are discussions taking place on how teaching will be done under these circumstances. So my departure has been delayed," she disclosed.

Gasper has appeared in several successful local plays – Blood in the Earth, Whispers in Walling and Light in the Dark.

Gasper who was severely injured during a domestic incident in 2017. She was flown first to Guadeloupe



Shaveesa Gasper

and then to Paris, France, where she underwent treatment and has since continued the road to recovery.

She is a graduate of the Antigua Girls High School and the Antigua State College.

"The Cabinet is pleased with the progress the student has made since the incident, and has shown a determination to succeed. All of Antigua and Barbuda wishes her well," said the Cabinet Notes.

REAL TALK

With

BEEF | RASTAMAN
KENTAE & BERNARD

MONDAY & THURSDAY
7pm-Until

TUESDAY
9pm-Until



Redeployment to fill teaching vacancies

Eighty-five teachers will be recruited from among the public service to meet the demands of the new school year.

The manpower required to meet the demands of the upcoming school year will be drawn from the public sector, as the government has indicated that “no new employment is contemplated.”

As schools prepare to reopen next week, education officials say they need at least eighty-five new teachers, and other support staff,



Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas

in order to meet the challenges of COVID-19.

Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas, indicated once potential teachers

are identified, they will be trained before being placed in the classroom.

He says recruiting persons already in the public service is a more cost effective option when compared to recruiting persons outside given the financial constraints the government faces.

According to Nicholas, the recruitment drive is being undertaken, “To ensure that, in the event a teacher is absent, and there cannot be a doubling of classes in this COVID-19 era, there will

be no need to send students home.”

The Information Minister says that for subjects requiring a special skill or certification, teachers may be sought outside of the government system.

He continued that persons who will become custodians and security officers, “...will all be drawn from those in the public service who are currently not very busy, because of the impact of COVID-19 on many government services.”

Chevening Scholarships applications welcomed

Nationals of Antigua and Barbuda desirous of pursuing studies in the United Kingdom, under the aegis of the Chevening Scholarship programme, may now submit applications for consideration.

The UK High Commission in St. John's, has announced that the application period for the UK Government's 2021/2022 Chevening Scholarships opened on Thursday and runs until 3 November 2020.

Interested persons can submit their applications via www.chevening.org/apply.

The UK government's statement explained that Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals with demonstrable leadership potential

who also have strong academic backgrounds. The scholarship offers full financial support for future leaders to read for eligible master's degrees at any UK university whilst gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

Since the programme was created in 1983, over 50,000 outstanding professionals have had the opportunity to develop in the UK through Chevening. There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2021/2022 academic year, demonstrating the UK's ongoing commitment towards developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Scholars are offered an exclusive programme of events and activities,

enabling them to experience Britain's heritage and history, discuss international policy and interact with thought leaders at a range of academic, cultural, and social events.

Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, has celebrated the number of scholarships awarded to Antigua and Barbuda this year and is encouraging talented individuals to apply for placement in the upcoming year.

The call for new applicants follows the selection of nine 2020 scholars from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean who have secured scholarships to study at UK universities this year. A third of this number came from Antigua and Barbuda.

New case of COVID-19 discovered

After several COVID-19 free days, the country has recorded one new case of the virus.

This was announced by the Ministry of Health on Wednesday evening.

“Reports received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment 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 in Antigua and Barbuda as of Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 6 pm,” a statement revealed.

The health ministry explained that of thirty-one samples sent to CARPHA recently, one returned positive, twenty-nine were negative and one was voided.

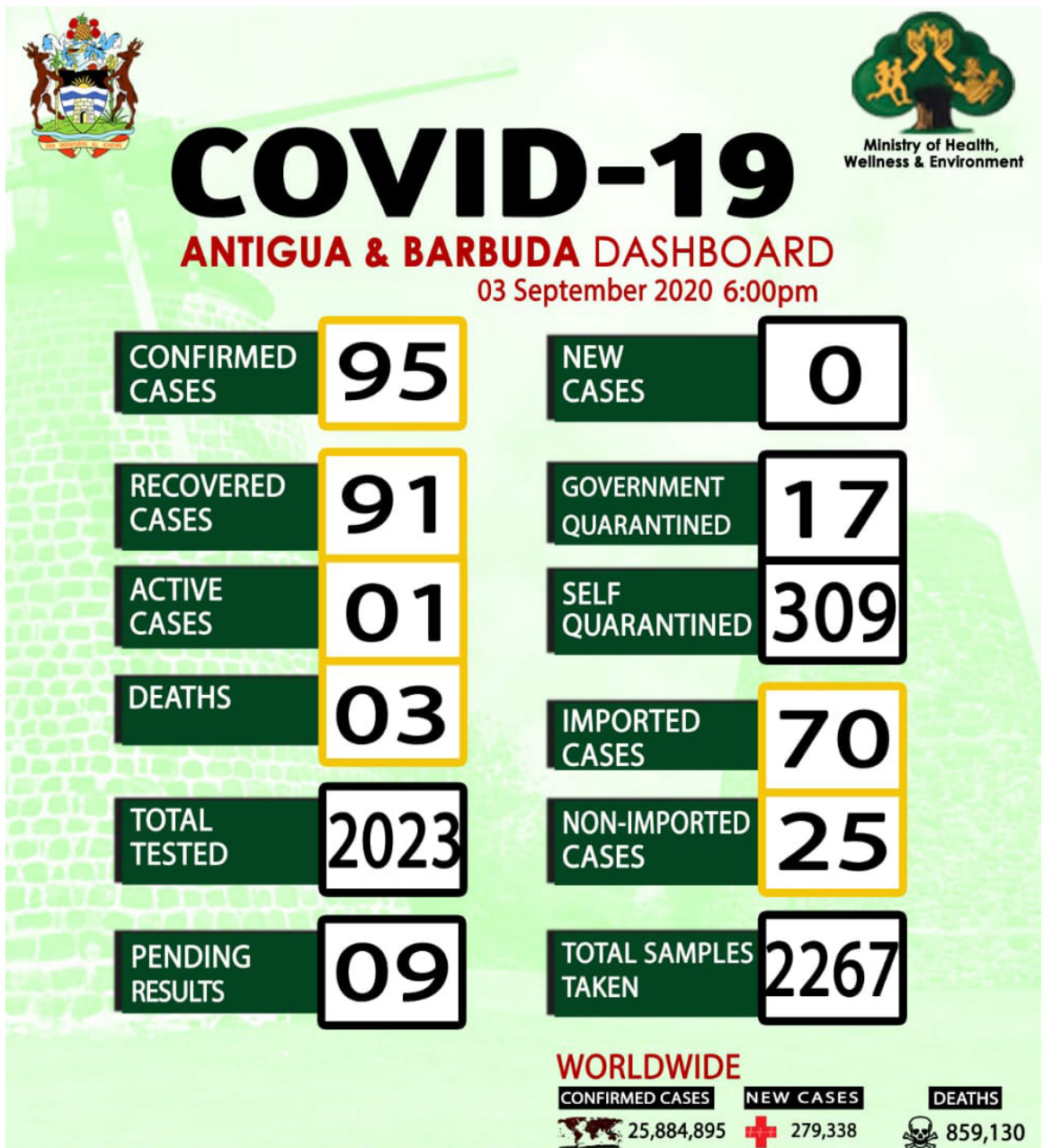
The single positive case has a recent travel history.

As of Wednesday 2nd September 2020, the MSJMC has revealed no new laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda.

Nonetheless, nine samples were sent to CARPHA on Wednesday. They are still pending.

According to the Ministry of Health, “The total

number of persons with COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda remains at ninety-five with one active case.”



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

“No consultation” says ABASA

ABPSA Press release

The Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association (ABPSA) was advised by its members of the instructions given for ALL Civil Servants to immediately return to their normal work schedule of Mondays to Thursdays 8:00am to 4:30pm and on Fridays 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. There was no consultation with the Union regarding this new development.

We are mindful that the health, safety and welfare of Civil Servants MUST be prioritized as the Economy is fully reopened given the situation with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We ALL agree that individual personal responsibilities must be exercised and caution should not be thrown to the wind since if one worker is infected that person can infect the entire office.

The ripple effect such as infection of other family members and members of the wider community continue to be of grave concern for the union. Please be reminded that workers' lives may be at stake here as well.

Although there are health protocols issued by the Ministry of Health, the Union is not convinced nor satisfied that department heads are implementing these protocols consistently.

Department heads need to take charge of the Ministries and Departments. We have received complaints from Members that offices are not being sanitized and adequate cleaning/sanitization supplies such as simple Lysol sanitizers or PPE's are not provided.

Implementation of proper and consistent protocols cannot be left at the discretion of others when the country is faced with a health and Safety concern unlike any other in the past.

With the reopening of schools on a blended timetable and the reduction of the public transportation schedule, our members will be adversely affected by these changes.

It appears as if there was no consideration given to the impact on Civil Servants especially those persons whose children are expected to be enrolled at school both virtually and face to face.

The issue of monitoring children who are not accustomed to this new reality is of concern to the Union and the inherent impact on our membership.

The Union therefore, is of the view that, without consultation, decisions that impact workers should NOT be communicated via radio and television programs bearing in mind we are fac-

ing a pandemic that has repercussions on the workers' health, safety and welfare whether at work or in the public sphere.

With the latest pronouncement, it appears as though there is a “one size fits all” model for every Ministry and Department to implement.

Consideration should be given to the peculiar nature of each department or ministry bearing in mind that previous mandates dictated that the provision of ALL government services should be available Monday-Friday during regular working hours.

Therefore, the Union is recommending that a thorough assessment be done and where necessary, adjustments are made according to the specific Department/ Ministry.

Senior Officers need to be given an opportunity to strategize the way forward both for the benefit of the workers and the organization as a whole.

Further, the potential impact of the death of a major bread-winner in a family is a serious blow at any time and in the current pandemic situation can have devastating consequence ABPSA is therefore asking its Members to report any unsafe working conditions so that the Union's Executive can give proper guidance.



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

STEELPAN MELEE

TUESDAY 5PM-6PM

WITH KHAN KC CORDICE & PETRA WILLIAMS

POINTE FM

A nation's right to decide its friends

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 view expressed are entirely his own)

Nelson Mandela in 1990 was a towering symbol of the triumph of right over wrong. Released from prison after 27 cruel years for his unrelenting stand against apartheid and the dehumanization of the black peoples of South Africa, he was universally admired. His walk through the gate of Victor Verster Prison to freedom was watched on television by an emotional audience of millions of people the world over. Quite literally, there was an explosion of joy.

Every leader in the world wanted to be seen with him, even though a few of them were uncomfortable with his refusal to deny or condemn governments to which they were opposed for their own political reasons.

Visiting the United States one month after his glorious release from prison, Mandela refused to repudiate the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi - all denounced by successive governments of the U.S. and some European nations. "Our attitude toward any country is

determined by the attitude of that country toward our struggle," the great man said.

It was a principled statement he repeated time and again when pushed to criticize Castro and Gadhafi. He declared, "No state can dictate to another what it should do. Those that yesterday were friends of our enemies have the gall today to tell me not to visit my brother Gaddafi. They are advising us to be ungrateful and forget our friends of the past."

Mandela was teaching a simple but cogent lesson of international relations that powerful governments ignore to their own cost. Essentially what Mandela was saying is "the enemy of my friend is not necessarily my enemy" and, more importantly, just as ingratitude is a quality to be deplored in human relations, so, too, is it to be condemned in relations between states. Such behaviour by a state marks it as untrustworthy and unreliable.

The countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have each had a beneficial relationship with Cuba. At times of natural disasters throughout the region, Cuba has been a first responder, even at times when it has endured catastrophe itself. Conscious that Cuba's own resources are meagre, the willingness of its government and people to provide help to its neighbours has earned them great respect.

Cuba has also contributed significantly to the knowl-



By Sir Ronald Sanders

edge base of CARICOM societies, training its young people through scholarships in a range of disciplines, particularly medicine, for over four decades.

There is no CARICOM country that has not been a beneficiary of Cuba's investment in medical science, through the provision of much needed medical personnel. In confronting the immense challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba has been outstanding in supplementing the medical personnel of CARICOM countries with experienced doctors and nurses, putting their lives at risk.

It is not insignificant that the CARICOM countries, with the lowest number of

deaths and the highest number of recoveries of infected persons, were buttressed in their efforts by Cuban personnel.

Therefore, it should not be unsurprising that regional governments have not reacted well to a bill, introduced in the U.S. Senate by republican Senators Rick Scott, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, which seeks to classify Cuban medical brigades as victims of human trafficking, and calls for punitive sanctions against countries which request them.

The basis for declaring Cuban medical brigades as "forced labour" and accusing Caribbean - and other governments - of "human trafficking" for requesting them,

Cont'd on pg 13

Cont'd from pg 12

has no evidential foundation.

This effort follows decades of a U.S. blockade against Cuba which has intensified in recent years, contributing to unemployment, poverty, and human suffering. Cubans have been deprived of remittances from their relatives in the U.S., air traffic and cruise tourism has been banned, US companies have been warned on pain of severe penalties not to do business with Cuba, and even non U.S. companies, if they also conduct business in the U.S., face sanctions. Each of these actions cause Cubans to lose their jobs, affecting the livelihoods of their families.

Cuba is far from perfect, although it has made astounding leaps to provide free and widespread health and education services despite the stifling circumstances of the embargo.

Its governing political apparatus is intolerant of the formation of opposing political parties and the government cracks down on protesting voices that it believes are encouraged and funded by external forces.

All that needs to change, and a democratic system established in which the people can choose, without interference, a government and an opposition in contested elections.

However, such democratic norms cannot be established in a country to which international democratic norms are not extended, and which exists under an external siege intent upon regime change and the restoration of rule

by interests self-exiled in the U.S. and longing to install domination enjoyed before the Castro revolution.

Next month, the U.S. trade embargo will be in place for 60 years. To endure the resulting extraordinary circumstances of hardship required extraordinary policies and practices.

In any event, Cuba poses no threat to the security of the U.S. or the wellbeing of its people, something about which CARICOM countries would be deeply concerned were it so.

CARICOM countries share with the U.S. a fundamental commitment to democracy. They also hold dear another

value shared with the U.S. - true self-determination.

So, they walk a line between the U.S. and Cuba, always ready to help broker an end to the embargo and promote normal relations between two countries, in which democracy can thrive. But also exercising their right to determine their own friends.

Form RLNC 6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34 of the Act

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
GILBERTS	22 2488A	93

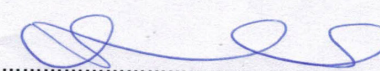
NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 30th day of July 2020 by **LAURIE FREELAND ROBERTS**, Attorney At Law of Chambers, Milburn House, Old Parham Road, in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua on behalf of **DENLEY JARVIS**, the Applicant herein **HEREBY APPLY** for the replacement of the Land Certificate No:3558/1994, issued the 24th day of August 1994 to **DENLEY JARVIS**; being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of the 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 in the newspaper 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 7th day of August 2020.


 Registrar of Lands



HADEED MOTORS LTD.

ANTIGUA'S #1 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERSHIP

www.hadeedmotors.com



Way of Life!

Unlock your
**FUN
SIDE**



UNLOCK YOUR FUNSIDE WITH A NEW 2020 SUZUKI D-ZIRE.
CHOOSE YOUR COLOUR, YOUR STYLE, YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

DZIRE
starting at
\$49,500

>>> UPGRADED FEATURES

- Power Windows
- Reverse Camera
- Touch Screen
- Bluetooth
- Parking Sensors
- Automatic AC

INCLUDES

- Free Licensing and Insurance
- Registration and Plates
- Gas And Service

*On The Spot Financing Available

- Automatic Headlamps



located on
Old Parham Road

contact us
Tel: (268) 481-2500

follow us on
f Facebook & @ Instagram

JLP wins second term

The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) was returned to office in today's general election, with a landslide victory that People's National Party (PNP) vice-president and campaign co-director Phillip Paulwell described as "shocking".

With 6,841 of 6,978 boxes counted at 9:10 pm, the JLP had won 35 seats compared to the PNP's 14.

The victory was also significant for the number of big PNP scalps taken by the JLP, among them Peter Bunting in Manchester Central, Wykeham McNeill in Westmoreland Western, Luther Buchanan in Westmoreland Eastern, and Fenton Ferguson in St Thomas Eastern.

Wearing his trademark green-coloured Clarks shoes, Holness told a virtual press conference that the government is grateful for the victory.

The win is significant for the JLP since it marks the first time that the party has enjoyed consecutive victories in contested elections since



Jamaica Labour Party leader Andrew Holness arrives at the JLP headquarters (Photo: Joseph Wellington)

1967.

The then Edward Seaga-led party, after winning the 1980 elections,

got a bly in 1983 when the Michael Manley-led PNP boycotted the general elections.

 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTE X PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

**SHARE YOUR NEWS
AND VIEWS WITH US**
CALL 268-562-4989



PAHO: Infection rates among healthcare workers “alarming” in region



PAHO Director Dr Carissa Etienne

Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) Dr Carissa Etienne yesterday urged countries in the region to take necessary steps to protect healthcare workers, whose rate of infection treating patients with the novel coronavirus has been “alarming”.

“The scale of this pandemic is unprecedented and no other group has felt this more acutely than the very men and women who make up our health workforce,” Etienne said during a virtual press briefing.

“Our health workers are our heroes. “They are working longer hours than ever before under more stressful conditions than any of us could imagine, often making extraordinary personal sacrifices as they risk their own safety to help patients in need.” The PAHO director pointed out that while healthcare workers make up a small percentage of populations, data reflects that almost 570,000 of them across the

region have become infected and more than 2,500 have died from the virus.

In The Bahamas, at least 72 healthcare workers have been infected with COVID-19, according to data presented by the Ministry of Health.

This represents three percent of the total infections in the country.

In Canada, healthcare workers represent 25 percent of COVID-19 cases.

In the United States and Mexico, healthcare workers represent one in every seven cases.

According to Etienne, the two countries account for some 85 percent of all COVID-19 deaths among health care workers in the region.

“Women, who are the majority of our health workforce, have been disproportionately affected,” she said.

“Nearly three-quarters of health workers diagnosed in our region with COVID-19

are women. “These numbers are alarming and they beg the question, why are so many health workers becoming infected?”

She said one explanation is as several regional countries “scrambled” to respond to the virus, healthcare workers were directed to the outbreak response without sufficient training to protect themselves while treating infected patients.

She also said in some jurisdictions hospitalized patients who were seeking care for other conditions were exposed to the virus early on as those countries took too long to implement proper protocols.

Etienne did not name these countries, but said in Chile for example 70 percent of health workers were worried about contracting COVID-19, particularly early on in the outbreak when personal protective equipment (PPEs) dwindled and they were forced to reuse masks and other equipment.

Last month, more than 50 Princess Margaret Hospital technicians walked off the job, raising concerns over a lack of adequate supplies of PPEs.

But the Public Hospitals Authority has denied claims of insufficient PPEs, assuring supplies have never been under threat. Asked about additional protection for healthcare workers on Tuesday, Minister of Health Renward Wells said while he did not know there was an issue among healthcare workers, other essential service workers were “being

challenged” He said: “We are in contact with those requisite ministries seeking to ensure that the health protocols are being carried out in those essential services. You would look at an essential service like the police for instance.

“You would find that police officers, they use a particular firearm, they turn that firearm in and another police officer who may come on shift or on duty will take that firearm.

“So, we need to look at all those practices that we may not have taken into consideration to ensure frequently touched items are always sanitized.”

According to Etienne, after months of unrelenting spread, cases have begun to stabilize in the United States and Brazil, though the two countries continue to record the highest number of new daily infections — a sign that transmission remains active.

However, the PAHO director said cases in the Caribbean continue to surge.

She pointed out The Bahamas has recorded 50 percent more cases of the virus in the last two weeks.

Two weeks ago, there were 1,531 cases in The Bahamas.

Another 806 cases have been recorded since then, pushing the total to 2,337 as of Tuesday.

According to PAHO officials, the virus will remain for years to come and countries must continue to shore up healthcare capacity for this pandemic and future health crises.

SVG approves first cannabis dispensing licence

The Cabinet of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has given the green light for the start of operations of the first cannabis pharmacy in the country.

This follows approval of the first cannabis dispensing licence.

This means that the company can now procure and dispense medicinal cannabis products legally in the country. The company, Green Lava (SVG) Inc., was among the first entities to receive the approval of Cabinet for a medicinal cannabis licence on July 10, 2019.

After making the requisite investments to implement the stipulated security and operational requirements, Green Lava officially launched operations on Nov. 15, 2019.

The company has a staff compliment of over 20 persons, involved in medicinal cannabis production at its five-acre farm in Queensbury, Vermont.

With the gazetting of the Patient Access to Medicinal Cannabis Regulations by the

Government on May 6, 2020, Green Lava will now further roll out its business model with the establishment of a pharmacy to provide medicinal cannabis products to persons with qualifying medical conditions.

The first step involved an application for a Retail Pharmacy Permit, which received approval from the SVG Pharmacy Council on July 28, 2020.



Workers on the site of their Green Lava medicinal cannabis productions at Queensbury

Pursuant to the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act and its regulations, an application was then submitted to the Medicinal Cannabis Authority for a dispensing licence. Cabinet subsequently approved the granting of this licence on Aug. 10, 2020.

Green Lava has signed agreements with two local traditional cultivator's groups to procure raw cannabis product from their farm to make available in its dispensary.

There are some 20 "qualifying medical conditions" through which patients can access medicinal cannabis in SVG under the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act 2018. These include, pain associated with cancer, severe and treatment resistant nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, sickle cell anaemia, anxiety, sleep disorders and chronic pain.

There is also provision for any other illness or condition to be incorporated as a qualifying medical condition upon declaration by the Minister, acting on the advice of the Medicinal Cannabis Advisory Council.

"This milestone is but one of several achieved in the local Medicinal Cannabis Industry so far for 2020, despite the challenges of COVID-19," a press release said.

BVI: Non-locals engaged in smuggling will be deported, all offenders will be 'vigorously sought after'



Premier Andrew Fahie

Since the territory's spike in COVID-19 cases is linked to persons who have been smuggling themselves in and out of the BVI, non-locals found to be involved are being threatened with deportation.

This is according to Premier Andrew Fahie who said in an address on Tuesday his government will be taking a zero-tolerance approach to all guilty offenders.

He said: "Our residents and businesses must not be made to continue to suffer due to misconduct by a few persons out of greed and lack of respect for our Virgin Islands ... Your Government will not allow the actions of a few individuals

to endanger the welfare of the BVI and our economy."

"Persons engaging in all or any illegal activities will be sought after vigorously and brought to justice. Those that need to be deported will be deported. The BVI will not be used as a hub for human smuggling to the USVI and also from the USVI to the BVI en route to their home country," he added.

Premier Fahie also said a new task force will be established to "aggressively" halt smuggling in and out of the territory.

He did not specify whether the task force will be a separate component to the previously mentioned joint unit consisting

of members from Her Majesty's Customs, the Immigration Department and the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force.

However, he said the task force will be collaborating with the border security from the United States Virgin Islands.

"I say here again that our people and businesses should not be made to suffer for a few lawless people. BVI will not be a hub no more for these illegal activities. We are small in size and we cannot continue to allow this behaviour to continue," Fahie stated.

The Premier further said his government had the economy back on the track to recovery but the actions of "lawless"

persons has placed the territory almost back to square one.

The BVI went from having only a total of eight positive cases on May 28, to now 47 positive cases as of August 31.

Fahie said the increase in cases is because of residents "who have not been taking COVID-19 seriously and have not fully embraced the level of personal responsibility that is needed to reduce transmission of the virus."

These include businesses and residents that have been failing to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols.

Of the positive cases, 38 remain active.

The UWI Open Campus Launched Student Entrepreneurial Competition on Climate Change

Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Open Campus recently launched its inaugural Student Entrepreneurial Competition on Climate Change. The competition was launched at a joint Webinar between ACCA and The UWI Open Campus entitled Investing in the future: business and finance professionals can tackle climate change. The competition is scheduled to run from September 2020 – July 2021 and will see student teams competing at the national and regional levels in the two stages of the competition.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Dr Luz Longworth in her remarks at the Webinar indicated that “The UWI has been a leader in the area of SDG 13, which is the sustainable development goal that deals with climate change, and has for decades been at the forefront of climate research and advocacy that highlight the need for this issue to permeate not just the scientific community but all communities that need to sur-

vive...” She noted that “in order for leaders in 4.0 environments to address and mitigate the issues of climate change there are five areas of which they should be aware: social responsibility, data driven decision making, innovation—which is the key element of the future, leadership—thinking without any concept of a box, and creating talent champions—thinking of future leaders.”

“The climate change competition is aimed at our youths and is challenging them to look at entrepreneurial solutions to climate change. The future is now and we as leaders must empower our young people to take us there,” said Dr Longworth.

The goal of the competition is to provide useful educational and entrepreneurial experience focused on important real-world experiences. It will focus on climate change and how the Caribbean can best adapt to and mitigate resulting social, economic and environmental impacts. It will seek to address short and longer term challenges in the region as a result of climate change. The competition will see student teams from

The UWI campuses and other universities across the region, working together to submit their ideas in the form of proposals, business plans and concept papers on topics focused on current and projected climate change impacts on the Caribbean’s environmental, economic and societal sectors. President of the Guild of Student, Mr Leon Dawson in endorsing the competition on behalf of the Open Campus Guild of Students stated “as a student of The UWI Open Campus and a resident of the region who depends so heavily on mother nature for survival, it is imperative for us to know and understand the importance of protecting the environment and to know how to reduce the threats of climate change.” Dawson added, “this competition will provide a platform for students to showcase their different instruments on ideas, such as policies, regulations, technological devices and financial incentives that are needed for climate change mitigation and adaptation.” This competition will serve as an important catalyst for environmental and social sustainability and business devel-



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES

opment throughout the Caribbean. It will focus on environmental conservation and justice, country specific or regional policies and laws, innovative businesses to reduce carbon footprint, impactful communication and environmental education as well as urban and community resilience.

As the region continues to heed the call for climate action, The UWI Open Campus looks forward to working with the student teams to develop and support sustainable solutions to the Caribbean’s climate change mitigation efforts. Teams will be awarded points based on impact, innovation, team dynamics, use of social media, viability and potential. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

For information on how to participate in this competition, please visit www.open.uwi.edu/climate-change. The deadline for entry is September 30, 2020.

Guyana creates history with first indigenous Deputy Speaker

As Guyana celebrates its indigenous people this month, the country has created history with the election of its first indigenous Deputy Speaker. Lenox Shuman, who represents a coalition of smaller parties, was elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly on Tuesday, September 1. He was elected after he was nominated by PPP/C Prime Minister Mark Phillips and seconded by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Gail Teixeira. Shuman is a member of the opposition holding one seat as part of a coalition with two other parties which contested the March 2 general elections. His nomination was opposed by the country’s main opposition in the Assembly, the APNU/AFC, which argued that the post of Deputy Speaker traditionally goes to the main Parliamentary Opposition. They nominated Raphael Trotman for the post.

The APNU/AFC walked out of Parliament following Shuman’s election. Speaking to the media, Shuman described the walk out as “showboating”. “The first sitting of Parliament and that is how you conduct yourself? It shows that you are not being constructive,” he said. Shuman also serves as the Government’s advisor on aviation. He assured that would not interfere with his neutrality in Parliament.

He said: “If they think my position as advisor on aviation would conflict with this and may not reflect their views, well I’ll tell you what, the Speaker does not represent anyone’s views, likewise, the deputy Speaker does not represent anyone’s views. That is an apolitical objective position.”

Guyana kicked off Amerindian Heritage Month festivities on Tuesday.

A month on, signal in Beirut rubble raises hope for survivor

A pulsing signal was detected Thursday from under the rubble of a Beirut building that collapsed during the horrific port explosion in the Lebanese capital last month, raising hopes there may be a survivor still buried there. The effort unfolded after the sniffer dog belonging to the Chilean search and rescue team first detected something as the team was going through Gemmayzeh Street in Beirut and rushed toward the rubble of a building. The street was one of the hardest-hit in the Aug. 4 explosion. The team then used audio detection equipment for signals or heartbeat, and detected what could be a pulse of 18 to 19 beats per minute. The origin of the pulsing signal was not immediately known but it set off a frantic search and raised new hope. It is extremely unlikely that any survivors would be found a month after the blast that tore through Beirut in August when nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate ignited at the port. The explosion killed 191 people and injured 6,000 others and is considered to be one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded. Thousands of homes were damaged.

"Ninety-nine percent there isn't anything, but even if there is less than 1% hope, we should keep on looking," said Youssef Malah, a civil defense worker. He said his men would continue working throughout the night, adding that the work was extremely sensitive. A Chilean volunteer, however, said their equipment identifies breathing



Chilean and Lebanese rescuers search in the rubble of a building that was collapsed in last month's massive explosion, after getting signals there may be a survivor under the rubble, in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020.

and heartbeat from humans, not animals, and it detected a sign of a human. The worker who identified himself as Francesco Lermonda said it is rare, but not unheard of, for someone to survive under the rubble for a month.

The past few weeks have been extremely hot in Lebanon, including a current heat wave with high levels of humidity.

As night fell, rescue workers set up light projectors to work through the darkness. The Lebanese Red Cross set up a tent nearby. Every now and then, the Chilean team asked people on the streets, including a crowd of journalists watching the operation, to turn off their mobiles and stay quiet for five minutes so as not to interfere with the sounds being detected by their instruments. Two days after the explosion, a French rescue team and Lebanese civil defense volunteers had looked into the rubble of the very same building, where the ground floor used to be a bar. At the time, they had no reason to believe there were any bodies

or survivors left at the site.

In another chilling reminder of the horrific explosion a month ago, the Lebanese military said it discovered more than 4 tons of ammonium nitrate near Beirut's port on Thursday. According to the military, army experts were called in for an inspection and found 4.35 tons of the dangerous chemical in four containers stored near the port. There were no details on the origin of the chemicals or their owner. The military statement said that customs officials had called in the army to inspect containers at a facility near the port, where they found 4.35 tons of ammonium nitrate. It said army experts were "dealing with the material," an apparent reference that it was being destroyed. The port chief, Bassem al-Qaisi, told reporters on Thursday that there are 43 containers containing flammable material left in the area, adding that the army is doing its best to keep the containers safe. Al-Qaisi said he has repeatedly asked customs authorities to take away

the material.

Days after the Aug. 4 blast, French and Italian chemical experts working amid the remains of the port identified more than 20 containers carrying dangerous chemicals. The army later said that these containers were moved and stored safely in locations away from the port.

French experts as well as the FBI have taken part in the investigation into the Aug. 4 blast, at the request of Lebanese authorities. Their findings have yet to be released. So far, authorities have detained 25 people over last month's explosion, most of them port and customs officials.

Also Thursday, the lead investigator in the port blast, Fadi Sawwan, heard testimony from the country's caretaker prime minister, Hassan Diab, according to the official National News Agency.

Diab, who resigned under pressure following the explosion, is the most senior politician to testify before judicial authorities.

Seven police officers in Rochester, NY suspended over Black man's death, mayor says

Seven police officers were suspended Thursday over the arrest and asphyxiation death of Black man Daniel Prude in Rochester, New York after video of the March incident was released, the city's mayor said, calling it an act of racism.

Prude's family this week released body camera footage from his arrest, showing a group of officers putting a hood over his head - apparently to prevent his spit from possibly transmitting the novel coronavirus - as he knelt on the ground, handcuffed and naked. Prude's family has called for the arrest of the officers involved in his death seven days after the incident on March 23 in the upstate New York city. Prude was 41. The Monroe County medical examiner ruled Prude's death a homicide caused by "complications of asphyxia in the setting of physical restraint," according to an autopsy report, the New York Times reported. The autopsy report said "excited delirium" and acute intoxication by phencyclidine, or the drug PCP, were also contributing factors to his death, the Times reported. "Mr. Daniel Prude was failed by our police department, our mental health care system, our society, and he was failed by me," Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren, who is Black, told reporters. "I'm filled with grief, and anger at myself for all the failures that lead to his death."

Warren, who said she was not made aware of the circumstances of Prude's death until August, condemned the death as an act of



Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren

racism.

"Institutional and structural racism led to Daniel Prude's death. I won't deny it, I stand before it, and I call for justice upon it," Warren said.

Prude's asphyxiation occurred two months before the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, which spurred international protests against police brutality and racial injustice in the United States.

Prude's family obtained body camera footage after filing a freedom of information act request, CBS-affiliate WROC-TV reported.

Rochester police chief La'Ron Singletary, who is Black, told reporters on Wednesday that internal and criminal investigations were underway. Rochester police declined further comment on Thursday, and a lawyer for Prude's family did not respond

to a request for comment. The office of New York Attorney General Letitia James is investigating, as state law requires whenever police are involved in a civilian's death.

In the video, an officer placed a "spit hood" over Prude's head. Prude could be heard shouting, "Take this...off my face!" and "You're trying to kill me!" before his shouts turned to cries and became muffled. Officers were heard saying "Calm down" and "stop spitting."

Later, the video showed an officer kneeling on Prude's back while Prude was silent and snow fell around them. Someone was heard saying, "start CPR." Minutes later, the video showed Prude being loaded into an ambulance on a stretcher.

Activists were planning protests in Rochester and New York City's Times Square on Thurs-

day calling for the officers to be charged. Protests broke out on Wednesday in downtown Rochester, a city near Lake Ontario about 300 miles³ (480 km) north of New York City. Police released pepper spray on the demonstrators and arrested nine people, the Democrat and Chronicle reported.

Mayor Warren said she was joined by City Council in calling for the charges against the protesters to be dropped on Thursday.

Prude's family told reporters that Prude had been struggling with mental health. His brother, Joe Prude, said he had called police because he was worried when his brother left home that night.

"I placed a phone call for my brother to get help, not for my brother to get lynched," Joe Prude said.

Mexico has world's most health worker deaths from pandemic, Amnesty International says

More health workers have died from the coronavirus in Mexico than any other country on the planet, Amnesty International said on Thursday, highlighting the high toll the pandemic was taking on frontline medical staff around the globe. At least 7,000 health workers around the world have died after becoming infected with the coronavirus, including 1,320 in Mexico, Amnesty said.

Other countries with high mortality rates include United States, Brazil and India, where health worker death tolls stand at 1,077, 634 and 573.

"Many months into the pandemic, health workers are still dying at horrific rates in countries such as Mexico, Brazil and the USA," said Steve Cockburn, Head of Economic and Social Justice at Amnesty International. "There must be global cooperation to ensure all health workers are provided with adequate protective equipment, so they can continue their vital work without risking their own lives."

The United States, Brazil and India have registered the highest number of overall deaths and confirmed cases. Between them, they have recorded more than 14 million coronavirus cases and almost 387,000 deaths, according to Reuters data.

A Reuters analysis of Mexican government data in August found that the healthcare work-



Healthcare workers speak with a woman before transporting her in an ambulance during a house by house walk to test people for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

ers' risk of dying in Mexico is four times higher than in the United States, and eight times higher than in Brazil.

Mexico has registered more than 610,000 cases and nearly 66,000 deaths. Mexico's government earlier this week said

102,494 health workers had contracted coronavirus and the death toll had climbed to 1,378

Amnesty called for more help for workers, citing Brazil as an example of a place where health professionals complain about the lack of protection

equipment.

"Throughout the pandemic governments have hailed health workers as heroes, but this rings hollow when so many workers are dying from a lack of basic protection," added Cockburn.

Europe pushed the limit of how far to reopen. Now it may be too late to prevent a second virus wave

Coronavirus cases in Europe are “almost back” to the levels seen in March when infection rates first peaked, scientists have warned as concerns grow over a potential second wave.

Countries across the continent have been easing lockdowns and reopening restaurants, retail stores and offices in an effort to kick-start their economies. But the relaxation of restrictions has seen a surge in infections that puts Europe in a vulnerable position.

“The virus hasn’t been sleeping over the summer, so it didn’t take vacation and that is something that we see now,” Andrea Ammon, the director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), said on Wednesday during a debate held by the European Union.

She said the rise in reported infection rates had been slower than in March, when countries such as Italy and Spain were hit particularly hard by Covid-19, but had now been increasing for weeks.

However, deaths in Europe are down from a seven-day rolling average of about 4,000 in early April to around 300 at the start of September, according to CNN analysis of figures from Johns Hopkins University.

“We have seen now this week that the notification rate in the EU and EEA [European Economic Area] countries and the UK is now 46 per

100,000,” Ammon said. “You may remember that at one point we have been already below 15, so there is an increase and this increase we have been seeing now for more than five weeks ... We are almost back to the numbers that we have seen in March.” In mid-August, the ECDC said that new infection clusters seemed to be tied to younger people who were venturing out into bars, restaurants and other public places. Ammon said Wednesday that the resurgence was now also being seen among older demographics. “In August ... we are seeing more that also [an] older population is affected, indicating that it’s really a true increase in transmission,” she said. Professor Mark Woolhouse, an epidemiologist at the University of Edinburgh, told CNN that while initial lockdowns had helped to slow the rapidly escalating epidemic and bring case numbers down, “it was simply pushing the problem a few months down the line.”

“Now we’re facing the problem we had in March, that the virus is out there, it has the potential to cause a major epidemic just as it did in March; in that respect, we’re no further forward at all, we simply delayed everything,” he said.

Woolhouse said it was important to be cautious when comparing case numbers, because most countries now have far greater testing capacity than in March, but he noted that



the proportion of tests coming back positive is also starting to increase. “Out of all the indicators ... that’s the one that catches my eye,” he said.

“It comes back to this crucial R number [reproduction number, which indicates the spread of the virus], of whether it’s above one or below one, but in the early stages of first wave it was near three. And I simply cannot see it being allowed to get anywhere close back to that,” Woolhouse added.

He added that countries now have better surveillance and can have more targeted local lockdowns, but careful monitoring is vital.

“If we’re going to try and return to some form of normality, we have very little option other than to take it easy, take it cautiously, and see what happens ... there is a two- or three-week lag in the system.”

Schools have recently reopened in many European countries, but Ammon said there were still “very few significant outbreaks in schools

that have been documented and the evidence is really at the moment conflicting [on] whether it’s useful or not from a transmission point of view to close schools.”

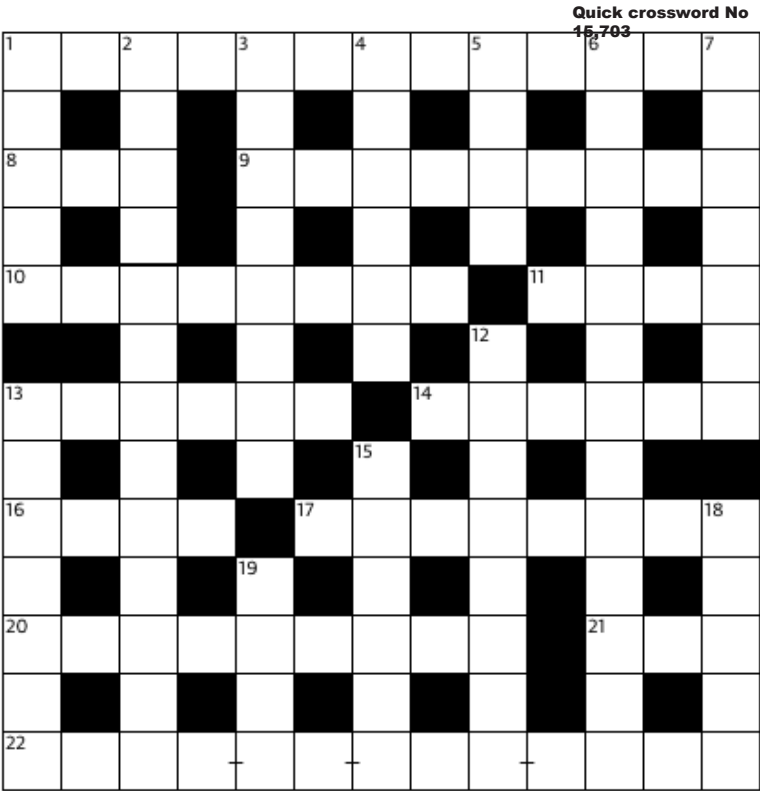
France, Germany, Italy have all reported their highest new case numbers in months, and Spain last week hit its record 24-hour tally for the entire pandemic. Countries including Greece and Croatia, largely spared by the first wave, saw fast case number rises in August as tourists took summer vacations following June’s reopening of Europe’s internal borders.

Governments hoping to avoid second national lockdowns have introduced new measures including nightclub closures, curfews and mandatory masks in public spaces. But the rules have been met with mass protests in countries such as Germany and the UK.

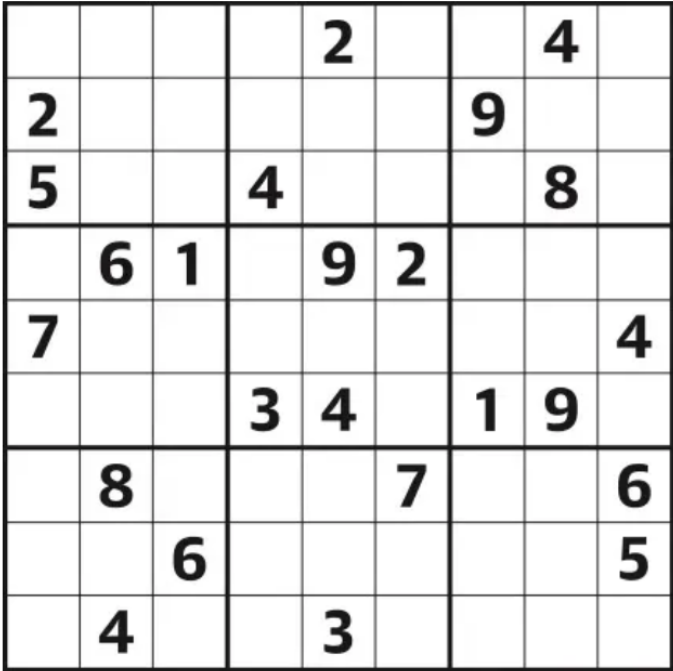
As the days grow shorter, Europe is preparing for the next phase of this ever-changing battle.

LEISURE

QUICK CROSSWORD



Sudoku 4,943 hard



Across

- 1 Attention-seeking behaviour (13)
- 8 Silence — joke (3)
- 9 Relating to government (9)
- 10 Adolescent (8)
- 11 Skip (4)
- 13 Smartly turned-out (6)
- 14 In Ancient Greece, gazing into her eyes was petrifying! (6)
- 16 State of feeling (4)
- 17 Relish (8)
- 20 Occurring at three-year intervals (9)
- 21 Behave unnaturally (3)
- 22 Entrenched (4-2-3-4)

Down

- 1 Roget (anag) — plant disease (5)
- 2 Dynamite (4,9)
- 3 Aircraft such as the de Havilland Tiger Moth (8)
- 4 ___ Girls, chorus line dancers (6)
- 5 Cereal (4)
- 6 Unable to have contact with other people (13)
- 7 Citizen army (7)
- 12 Military wake-up call (8)
- 13 Downgraded (7)
- 15 Orthopaedic immobilising device (6)
- 18 Praise (5)
- 19 Hostile to (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Dilbert





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Your innocent flirtations may just be a habit or a way of passing time for you, but someone may take it seriously. In the week to come, think of every meeting as a chance to show that you are sincere and real.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): It's the first day of summer, and your fancy may turn to thoughts of business affairs and money-making activities rather than love. Tackle practical subjects like your bank balance as the week begins.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Play life like a game of chess. Sometimes it is necessary to sacrifice something unimportant in order to win the game. In the upcoming week, you can put your brainpower to work and upgrade your financial status.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There is a New Moon in your sign, and although you cannot see it, you might feel it as the upcoming week unfolds. You may feel better able to express yourself once you accept your strengths as well as your limitations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It is hard to find a rainbow without seeing a little rain first. A few bumps may lessen your confidence in the beginning of the week, but your optimism will quickly return. You might prefer to think through a strategy by yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Turn obstacles and dropped balls into learning opportunities. Take a few ideas that have been floating around in your head and put them into motion this week. You and a partner can draw up viable plans and find practical solutions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Some of your fantasies might come true, but there is a reason they're fantasies. Try not to make irrevocable decisions or major purchases unless they make good sense. You must be perceptive enough to read the writing on the wall.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your ideas may be too big to handle alone. You could get a project off the ground if there's a good supporting cast to help you in the upcoming week. If you don't have all the answers, at least you know how to get them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have the hammer and someone else has the nails. In the week to come, you and a partner can work together to achieve your dreams. Your powerful enthusiasm can be the driving force behind intricate plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The first day of summer can light up your life. Not only is the day longer but your patience can last longer, too. As the week unwinds, you may grow closer and more comfortable with a partner or special someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The difference between failure and success could depend on whether you phone it in or do your best. Remember in the week ahead that a task done correctly the first time will not need to be done again.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): In the upcoming week you might be tempted to spend time on frivolous things that could rattle your bank account. Put creative energy to good use by focusing on a new artistic project or educational experience.

Britain's Johanna Konta gets knocked out of the US Open

Ninth seed Johanna Konta has been eliminated from the US Open.

Konta led initially by a set and a break, but the Romanian world number 77, Sorana Cirstea, fought back to win 2-6 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 at Flushing Meadows.

It is a second early exit in a Grand Slam in 2020 for 29-year-old Konta, who lost in the first round of the Australian Open in January.

"My opponent played better than me, that's really about it," said Konta.

"She obviously raised her level and then we were battling toe-to-toe. She was better in the end.

"I did the best that I could. I really fought hard."

There was no hint of controversy about their meeting in New York with Konta seemingly set for a routine win as she broke Cirstea's serve



Johanna Konta

three times in the first set and then again to lead 2-1 in the second set.

However, Cirstea broke back immediately and upped her level to turn the match around.

Konta had break points at 4-4 and 5-5 in the second set but could not convert and was taken to a tie-break.

Cirstea dominated it and although Konta saved three set points, Cirstea levelled the match with an ace on her fourth opportunity.

Poorly executed drop shots were an

issue for Konta in the final set, and one particularly feeble effort helped Cirstea get the first break for 2-1.

Konta levelled immediately but was now routinely having to fight to hold her own service games, winning only 34% of points on her second serve during the match.

She fought back from 0-30 down to go 3-2 up but a gripping seventh game which lasted more than 10 minutes - proved pivotal, Cirstea converting her sixth break point by superbly picking up a volley.

Konta had three break-back points in the next game but they were quickly snuffed out as Cirstea held for 5-3. Excellent serving allowed the Briton to stave off two match points in her next service game, but Cirstea was not fazed as she coolly sealed victory with an ace in two hours and 49 minutes.

England FA announces equal pay between Men's and women's teams

England have been paying the men's and women's teams equal match fees and bonuses since January.

This announcement was made by the Football Association.

The decision followed Wednesday's announcement that Brazil are to pay their international women's team the same as the men's.

The England match fee is in the region of \$1000 pounds per game.

England and Brazil now join Australia, Norway and New Zealand and a few other nations which pay their male and female players equally.

Last year's current women's champions, the United States of America, sued their federation alleging discrim-



ination over pay and conditions.

The team appealed earlier this year after a judge dismissed their case.

The world cup champions long run-

ning feud with US soccer has been a public and bitter one which has resulted in the players seeking \$66 million in damages under the equal pay act.

WI women prepare for five match series

The West Indies women's team are preparing for their five match Twenty 20 International Series schedule against England next month after arriving in England Monday and awaiting the results of COVID-19 tests.

The touring party of eighteen players and a twelve member management team, were all tested prior to departing the Caribbean. Once the second tests are also negative, they will begin their preparation in a biosecure "bubble" identical to that which the men's team performed under in their recent tour



of England. Head coach of the regional team, Andre Coley, said

the hotel is well thought out and well laid out.

"We had a briefing around the protocols and so on. We had our first COVID tests so we're awaiting the results."

Coley also said the players were in "good spirits" adding that management and staff were getting ready to get on the park.

For the West Indies, the series will be the first bilateral fixture in nearly a year, following their series against India in the Caribbean last November.

St Kitts and Nevis Patriots eliminated

Heavy rain at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, San Fernando on Thursday, ruined the HERO Caribbean Premier League (CPL) clash between the Jamaica Tallawahs and the St. Kitts/Nevis Patriots which was adjudged as a no-result. Both teams got a point each.

Only twenty-four minutes of play, or 34 deliveries, were possible in a match that saw the Tallawahs win the toss and ask the Patriots to take the first knock.

They made it to 46 without loss with Chris Lynn 23 not out, a run which included two sixes and a four from the fifteen balls he faced. Evin Lewis made it to 21 not out off 19 balls, including two fours and a six.

With the Patriots enjoying their start to the series at around 10:25am, the rain came in from the direction of the Gulf of Paria which is, which is an unusual occurrence as it normally would



occur from the opposite direction. The downpour was continuous ending play.

By the time a decision was made to end the game at 1:10pm the rain had slowed to light showers.

Now having played nine matches, the Patriots have accumulated three points which means they will be eliminated from the final four.

The Tallawahs have accumulated seven points from eight matches and must now win at least one of their final two matches to reach the semi-finals.

The washout has brought the defending champions, the Barbados Tridents, back into the equation and they will have to win their final two matches against Guyana Amazon Warriors on Thursday, and the Tallawahs on Saturday. The Tridents also need the Tallawahs to lose against the St. Lucia Zouks on Sunday, if they are to reach the semi-finals.

SCORE CARD: St. Kitts/Nevis Patriots 46/0 (5.2)(Chris Lynn 23no, Evin Lewis 21no) - Match Abandoned.

ABFA new office up and running

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) new head office, located at the Technical Center at Paynters, is up and running.

The facility, made possible through the FIFA Forward Project Funding, features a conference room, executives offices, I.T area, kitchen and club desks which members can utilize to execute their daily functions.

General Secretary of the ABFA, Rohan Hector, explained to PointeXpress that the conference room is available to all members for meetings, elections and any other business once booked in advance.

Hector also highlighted the significance clubs now having a space in which they can conduct their business free of cost.

Quizzed as to whether the FIFA COVID-19 relief funding was as yet available to its active mem-



bers, Hector said clubs have received and returned application forms which will give them access to \$8000.00 EC.

He confirmed, however, that defending Premier League Champions Liberta Black Hawks, who were first to collect their forms, have requested a meeting which is slated for Friday 4th September 2020.

PointeXpress has also been reliably informed that the Black Hawks are not satisfied with the amount allocated to them and are petitioning for \$15000.00 on the first installment for Premier League clubs.

Hector, challenged that the initial payment represented the first of two installments.

FIFA has made \$1.5 billion available to all its members to assist with the backlash of the coronavirus pandemic which



brought all sporting activities in Antigua and Barbuda to a halt on 13th March, 2020.

The ABFA has made 146,000 US available to its members in the first of two installments expected to be utilized for football activities.

All clubs will have to account for monies received through the ABFA to FIFA.

DEWS