



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTE<sup>X</sup>PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 128 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCALED DOWN

*Story on Page 2*

**- Page 3 -**  
**New deputy  
chief for  
ABDF**



## TOUCH LINE

with

**VERON 'EPLIUS' EDWARDS JR.**  
**VERNON A. SPRINGER**



POINTE FM

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
**9:00am - 10:30am**



Minister responsible for Festivals, Daryll Matthew today announced that Cabinet has approved a scaled down schedule of events for the country's celebration of its 39th Anniversary of Political Independence.

Minister Matthew said that the events running from Sunday 25th October to Monday 2nd November will feature the Independence Thanksgiving Service, National Heroes Day ceremony, Golden Age events, National Dress Day, a virtual Independence Calypso Competition, the Ceremonial Parade and Honors Ceremony and Barbuda Day activities.

# Independence celebrations scaled down

He noted that the new addition to the schedule, the Independence Calypso Competition, will be held at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre on Saturday 21st October and will be in the form of a virtual competition. He said that calypsonians will be required to sing one new patriotic/ song

of thanksgiving during the competition to win the main prize. Registration is now open at the Festivals Office on Redcliffe Street for interested artistes.

The Festivals Minister further outlined that the scaling down of the events is due to the country's fight against the spread of the coronavirus. It was point-

ed out that the Ceremonial Parade and the National Heroes Day Ceremony will be TV/Radio events with limited audience. "We will be strictly adhering to the protocols established to combat COVID-19," he said.

The theme for the events will be announced later this week.

## DAY 9/9

Wind: E at 13 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h  
 Humidity: 75%  
 Dew Point: 24° C  
 Cloud Cover: 50%  
 Visibility: 10 km  
 Probability of Precipitation: 41%  
 Precipitation: 0.3 mm  
 Rain: 0.3 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm

Partly sunny w/ showers

# 30° Hi



## NIGHT 9/9

Wind: ENE at 13 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h  
 Humidity: 76%  
 Dew Point: 23° C  
 Cloud Cover: 8%  
 Visibility: 10 km  
 Probability of Precipitation: 4%  
 Precipitation: 0.0 mm  
 Rain: 0.0 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm

Clear

# 27° Lo



## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
 5:55 AM

Sunset AST  
 6:13 PM



Duration  
 12:18 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
 11:17 PM

Moonset AST  
 12:40 AM



Duration  
 13:23 hr



## New deputy chief for Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

Career Army Officer with over thirty-five years of service in the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, Lieutenant Colonel Trevor K. Pennyfeather has been appointed as Deputy Chief of Defence Staff.

Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin said he is pleased to make the announcement of the elevation of Lieutenant Colonel Pennyfeather as he has worked tirelessly over the past three decades as a member of the force, moving upwards through the ranks. He said that he looks forward to continue working with Pennyfeather in reforming the ABDF.

Lieutenant Colonel Pennyfeather currently serves as Staff Officer Intelligence and Security and Staff Coordinator Force Headquarters. He has also served as Command of Antigua and Barbuda's – US-sponsored Counter Narcotics Intelligence Centre from 1993 to 2003, and Officer in Command of the Regional Security System Maritime School of Excellence from 2005 to 2007.

In addition, Lt. Colonel Pennyfeather has been Antigua and Barbuda's Alternate National Point of Contact on Intelligence since 2010. He has also served as Joint Coordinator Exercise



Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin, left, with the new Deputy Chief of Defence Staff Lieutenant Colonel Trevor K. Pennyfeather

TRADEWINDS and Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion Antigua and Barbuda Regiment and Service and Support Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Pennyfeather who is trained in intelligence and Counter Narcotics said that he is pleased to serve

and he welcomes the new appointment as he believes the ABDF is poised to play a more significant role in the safety, security and development of Antigua and Barbuda.

Lt. Colonel Pennyfeather is married for over 32 years and has four children.

# REAL TALK

With

## BEEF | RASTAMAN KENTAE & BERNARD

**MONDAY & THURSDAY**

**7pm-Until**

**TUESDAY**

**9pm-Until**

**POINTE FM**

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

99.1 FM



# Londel Benjamin gives back

As the nation's schools reopened this week in the heart of the coronavirus pandemic, a number of institutions and individuals have been the recipients of an outpouring of donations.

One such person who took a decision to support those facing extreme difficulty is the Member of Parliament for St John's Rural West, Londel Benjamin.

Benjamin made a significant donation of school and other supplies to the Greenbay Primary and Five Islands Primary schools on Tuesday..

In addition to school supplies, a wheel chair and beds to furnish a sick bay were donated .

Benjamin said he was happy to be able to give back to the community and to make a contribution to the children, many of whom may have been impacted negatively by the pandemic.



99.1 FM



POINTE FM

# STEELPAN MELEE

WITH KHAN KC CORDICE &amp; PETRA WILLIAMS

**TUESDAY  
5PM-6PM**



## Gov't rejects UK demands over capital punishment

A condition set by the United Kingdom government regarding a request it has received for its assistance with a local homicide investigation has been firmly rejected by the Antigua and Barbuda government.

Antigua and Barbuda approached the UK's Scotland Yard for assistance with investigations into the 10th July abduction and shooting death of former Customs Department officer, Nigel Christian.

The UK has since responded however, it has insisted it will only accede to the request if the government gives the commitment that anyone found guilty of murder will not face the death penalty.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, has since retorted that capital punishment falls under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and is a matter to be determined by the judiciary, not the executive arm of government.

"Until the people of Antigua and Barbuda decide in a referendum that they no longer wish to have capital punishment as part of the laws of the country, it is my view that the issue is one that should be left up to the courts to decide," Greene remarked.

The Foreign Affairs minister continued that if the government were to give that commitment it would expose the government to a flood-

gate of criticism by many Antiguan and Barbudans who may interpret the move as an attempt by the executive to interfere with an aspect of governance that is reserved for the judiciary.

"There are those who would see this as 'proof' that the courts are being manipulated by the government. Even those who oppose the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) would also jump on the bandwagon," he noted.

Despite the UK government's reluctance to offer assistance, the Christian investigation benefited from assistance provided by the USA's Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA COMPANIES ACT, 1995

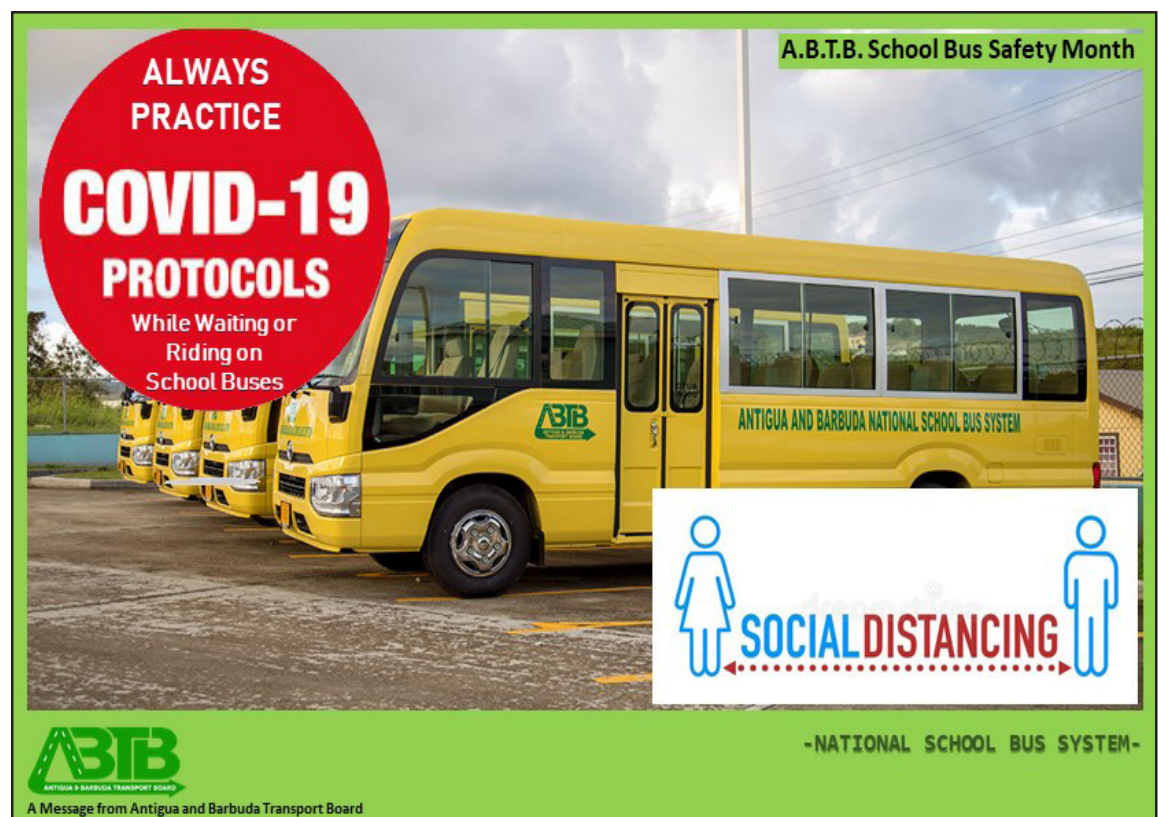
In the matter of  
**GLOBAL EXCHANGE  
 (ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA) LIMITED**  
 (In Voluntarily Liquidation)  
 Members' Winding-up

On August 31, 2020 the Shareholders of the above-named company duly consented to the following special resolution.

"RESOLVED that the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Cleveland Seaforth of Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival Gardens, St. John's, Antigua be appointed Liquidator for the purpose of such winding-up".

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named company which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 30th day of September, 2020 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, to the Liquidator at P.O. Box 3109, St. John's, Antigua, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made before such debts are proven.

Cleveland Seaforth  
 Liquidator



**ALWAYS PRACTICE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**  
 While Waiting or Riding on School Buses

**A.B.T.B. School Bus Safety Month**

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM**

**ABTB**  
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD  
 A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

**-NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM-**



# Big jump in traffic accidents

The Police Traffic Department is blaming negligence for a sharp increase in traffic accidents over the last week.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Rodney Ellis, who heads the Traffic Department said over the last seven days a total of 67 collisions were reported and on Tuesday at noon there were five.

Noting that most of the accidents were minor incidents, they reveal a disturbing pattern that needs to be addressed urgently.

“What I can say is that these accidents are caused by negligence from the drivers. Most of them are minor, and these are when

people are not paying attention to what they are doing. When you get behind the wheel of a vehicle your focus must be on the road, your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Once you do that, some of these accidents can be avoided. I am therefore advising motorists to focus on the road ahead to avoid accidents,” he urged.

He is also advising drivers to look out for other drivers and pedestrians.

ASP Ellis also admitted that speed bumps installed by the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board have contributed to some accidents.



“The type of asphalt that we use here is not suited for the speed bumps now being deployed because as soon as you drive over them they soon begin to move away. I have been in touch with the ABTB to inform them of the issue,” he reported.

Despite criticism from motorists that the rubber speed bumps were unsuitable for Antigua's roadways, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

has defended their installation which they view as a deterrent to drivers who insist on speeding.

In less than a year however, the speed bumps have caused among road users. Many have become uneven while others have sunken into the asphalt.

There are also those that have metal bolts protruding from them that can cause major damage to tires which can also contribute to accidents.





## Banks unlikely to return to 'regular' hours

At least one commercial bank has announced adjustments in its opening hours beginning next Monday, but a banking official has said it is unlikely they will return to pre-pandemic operating hours anytime soon.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) has informed its customers that as of Monday 14th September 2020, they will extend their hours to allow customers to conduct specific transactions between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m at their Redcliffe Street and Woods branches.

Clients will only be able to take advantage of the extended hours by appointment.

Between 2pm and 5pm account updates, online and mobile banking operations, online and mobile banking demos and debit and credit card applications will be handled.

Bank card and cheque book collection will also take place during the extended hours.

Recently, the Cabinet called on businesses, including banks to return to regular hours effective September 1, 2020 over concerns that reduced schedules were having a negative impact on the country's economy.

Despite the government's call, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Bankers Association, Michael Spencer, said returning to pre-pandemic hours is unlikely as the State of Emergency has led to banks being required to follow strict protocols which, among other things, limit the number of customers and staff allowed in the building at any one time. In addition,

there is regular cleaning that must also take place at each institution.

Spencer said since June, banks have been operating Monday to Thursday from 8:00am to 1:00pm and on Fridays 8:00am to 2:00pm. The Royal Bank of Canada closes one hour earlier.

"These are likely to continue for the foreseeable future," he remarked.

Spencer noted that cus-

tomers have not been made to suffer as a result of the adjusted hours as banks have encouraged their customers to make use of online banking and debit cards.

"These hours of operation have not affected the services that we offer. We currently are operating as normal as we can under the present circumstances," he stated.

## Gov't denies ownership of Great Bird Island

The Antigua and Barbuda government is denying media reports that it intends to sell Great Bird Island, one of the islands that formerly comprised Guiana Island Farms Ltd. (GIFL).

According to government spokesman, Lionel "Max" Hurst, this is because the government is not the owner of the Great Bird Island and is therefore incapable of selling it.

Hurst explained that GIFL, was owned by attorney John Fuller, who sold the islands to the government who in turn sold them to Malaysian investor Dato Tan Kay Hock.

Kay Hock was to have used the lands to develop the Asian Village project



which ultimately failed to materialize.

The original sale of the islands by Fuller, however, had not included Great Bird Island. Fuller transferred ownership of that island to another interest.

"Great Bird Island was never turned over to the Asian Village project as it was never included in the

sale. So the debate in sections of the media regarding a proposed sale of the island by the government is clearly without merit as the government cannot sell what it does not own," Hurst declared.

Hurst continued that the government was unaware of any existing plans to sell Great Bird Island.

# The key role of parents

Having returned to school on Monday, students are familiarizing themselves with the new system of face-to-face learning complemented with a virtual classroom environment.

This is one of the changes to take place as people continue to adjust to the “new normal” and as the government establishes mechanisms to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Despite these measures, the Principal of the Ottos Comprehensive School, Foster Roberts, is concerned that the system of blended learning will put at risk students who cannot afford the tools required to make the

most of the new learning environment at a disadvantage.

“The reality is that most of our children who are coming to this school are coming from homes where there are challenges. All of our children may not have access to a device. Those who have access may not have the internet. This now creates a challenge for the teacher.

“How do I reach all the children that I have in my form so that at the end of the day when I am doing my assessment I can fairly assess every child? That is going to be the challenge,” he indicated.

Roberts said while teachers are committed to rising to the challenge, parents must also play their part.

“We can’t achieve anything without the support of the parents, especially where online learning is concerned. If the parents do not lend support to children with the online learning; see to it that they do the work that is submitted by the teacher, then all of our efforts would be in vain,” he warned.

As the ability to return to a traditional learning environment is no longer possible, Roberts underscored the importance of parents ensuring that their children’s time is properly utilized.

# Royalton reopens in November

Royalton Hotel has announced that it will reopen on 29th November, 2020.

While this is welcomed news for an industry decimated by the coronavirus pandemic, one senior government official has said that this will depend on when Canadian borders are reopened.

The hotel is owned by the Sunwing Travel group which also owns Sunwing Airlines.

The closure of Canada’s borders has affected Sunwing Airlines ability to fly passengers to its many destinations. Sunwing’s inability to transport passengers out of Canada led to its decision to not renew the management contract of the Jolly Beach hotel which has since been put up for sale.

The Royalton Hotel is also assuring potential



guests they are putting safety first and have increased their health and safety protocols with advanced cleaning measures. They will now also offer free medical assistance for direct bookings through [www.royaltonresorts.com](http://www.royaltonresorts.com).

In March this year, ap-

proximately 500 workers employed by Royalton Antigua Resort and Spa were laid off due to a significant decline in bookings as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

The Royalton opened for business in 2019.

The 294 room resort,

located on the site of the former Royal Antigua Resort, employed a large number of Antiguan and Barbudans on a full and part time basis.

It is unclear how many of those that were laid off will return to the hotel when it reopens.



## Effective COVID-19 management allowed schools to reopen

Minister of Health, Molwyn Joseph has credited the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic for its ability to reopen schools this week.

Joseph said the low number of COVID-19 cases, the effective management of the pandemic and the health and safety protocols implemented, resulted in schools reopening after the premature closure of the previous academic year.

"If we had a lot of active cases, the recommendation from my ministry would be to delay the opening of schools, but there was a period of time where we had no laboratory confirmed cases and as we speak we only have one active case," Minister Joseph said.

According to reports from the Ministry of Health, as of Monday, 7th September 2020, there are no new laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda.

"Twelve samples were processed at the Mount St. John's Medical Center's (MSJMC) Laboratory which increased the pending results from zero to twelve," said a statement from the Ministry of Health.

The twelve samples yielded negative results.

As a result, the total number of persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Bar-

buda remains at ninety-five with one active case.

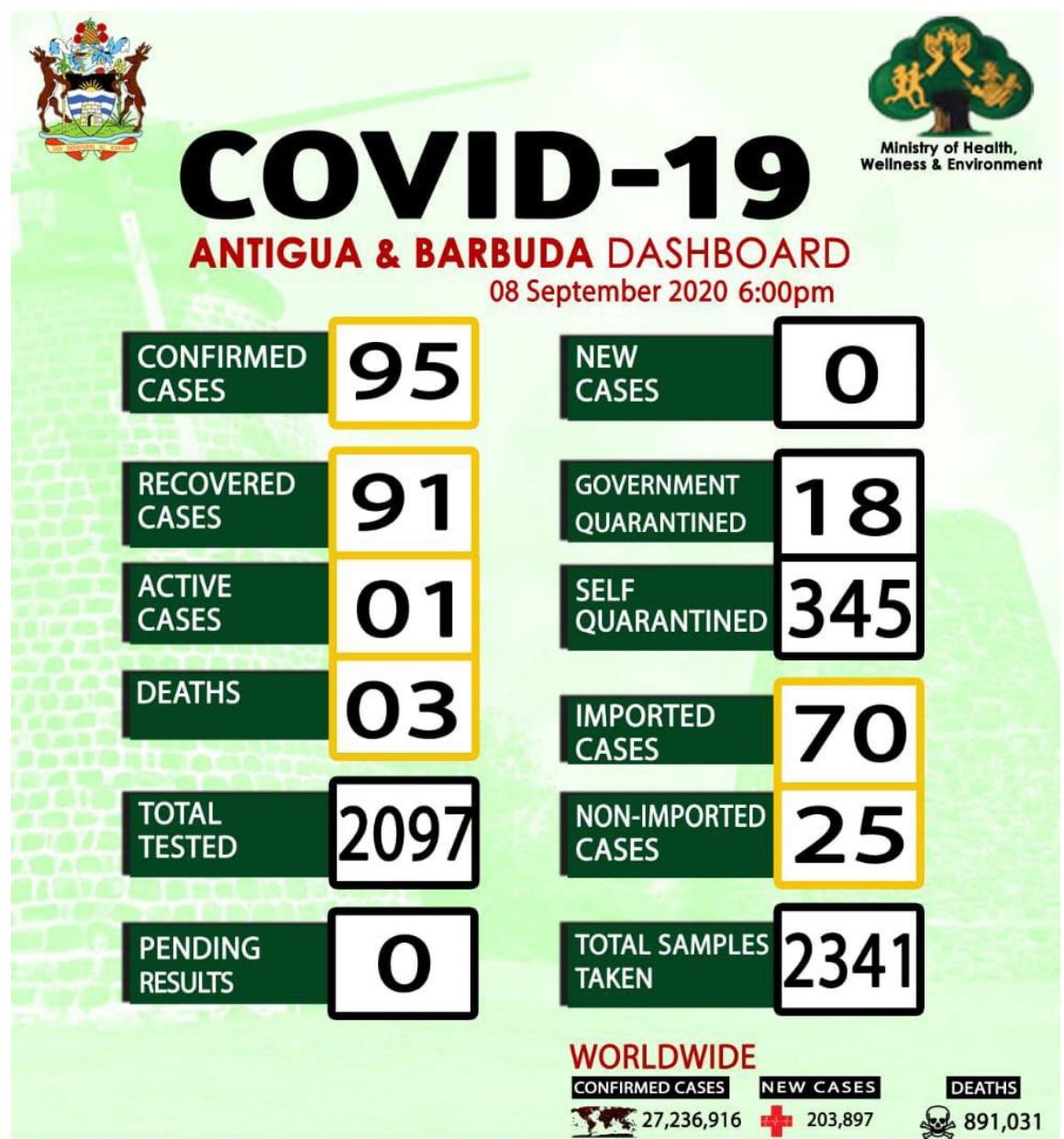
Minister Joseph said leadership, the psychological preparedness of the population and the commitment of the majority of Antiguan and Barbudans

to approach the pandemic seriously by following the advice of health officials and complying with the established protocols, all contributed to the low number of local COVID-19 cases.

A total of two thousand

and ninety-seven persons have been tested.

As of Tuesday, there were eighteen (18) persons in government staffed quarantine while three hundred forty-five (345) persons were under self quarantine.



**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



# Charity at Work



## Island Academy gets helping hand

As concerns grow over the operations of privately run schools, the Island Academy, located in Buckley's, has received a major financial boost from the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF).

At the start of the new school year last week, ten students from low income homes received admission to the institution thanks to a US\$100,000 donation in extra funding to the school.

Commenting on the disbursement, Executive Director of the CAF, Corinna Delowsky, said that donations of this nature significantly assist in eliminating school debt and provide motivation toward the goal of completing school.

According to Delowsky, this year's donation is in addition to the annual bursary of USD\$200,000 which presently supports twenty deserving students.

The COVID-19 pandemic



has resulted in many parents experiencing significant financial pressure through job loss or a reduction in salary.

It is expected that the

CAF donation to the Island Academy will provide welcome reprieve to the families of the students who have received scholarships.



## Back-to-school with the Rotary Sundown

Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown is stepping up its community service efforts by donating school supplies to students across Antigua.

The timely donations come as students head back to the classroom this week.

The donations include well stocked totes containing health related literature, healthy snacks, juices and milk, general hygiene products and multivitamins.

President Julian Wilkins pre-

sented 130 units to Dr. Jonathon McComie, who is based at the All Saints Clinic. The packages will be distributed to children who attend the clinic for health screenings.

The remaining items will be used in the club's annual Back To School "Backpack" programme.

The school Backpack programme is a joint initiative between the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown and Counsellor Koren Norton.



# Charity at Work

**PAGE 11**


## With a little help...

The Sandals Foundation is offering congratulations to Nicola James, whose education it has supported for several years.

James has successfully completed her Advanced Level studies at the Antigua State College.

The non-profit organisation has consistently supported James' academic journey as part of its focus

on education.

"The partnership commenced in 2013 with her enrollment at the Princess Margaret School, followed by her two years at the Antigua State College.

"James plans to become a certified accountant and also has her sights set on studying law," the foundation said in a media release.



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our client, a medium sized business operating in the wholesale and retail of food and beverage, is seeking to recruit and retain a qualified individual for the position of **Sales Manager**.

Reporting to the Managing Director, the **Sales Manager** will be responsible for expanding the customer base, building long term relationships and maximizing sales.

**The successful candidate will be required to perform the following:**

- ◆ Management of daily sales and marketing functions:
- ◆ Implement and execute annual Sales and Marketing budgets.
- ◆ Analyze industry trends and Identify ways to strengthen and enhance performance.
- ◆ Work closely with suppliers to promote and market new retail brands.
- ◆ Establishing and maintaining good relationship with suppliers and customers.
- ◆ Train and motivate staff to obtain maximum results and achieve targets goals.
- ◆ Should be a self- starter, strong team player and possess excellent communication skills.

**The candidate will possess the following:**

- ◆ Bachelor's degree in Sales & Marketing or Business Administration.
- ◆ Ten (10) years' progressive work experience in Sales or Marketing with at least three years (3) in retail and wholesale.
- ◆ Extensive knowledge of business operations and risk-based techniques.
- ◆ Experience in the execution of marketing promotions of goods and services.
- ◆ Ability to manage and supervise staff efficiently

Candidates should also be adaptable, detail oriented, and possess strong negotiation skills. Excellent written and oral communication, analytical, time management and organizational skills are also required.

All applications must be submitted along with a **detailed Curriculum Vitae** no later than **September 15, 2020** to:

**The Infrastructure Manager**  
**BDO Eastern Caribbean**  
**Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival Gardens**  
**P.O. Box 3109**  
**St. John's, Antigua**  
**e-mail: [execrecruitment@bdoecc.co](mailto:execrecruitment@bdoecc.co)**





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## Stop burnout dead in its tracks: Spotlight on self-care

As Human Resource Practitioners we work on the frontline to ensure that members of staff have everything they need to function as safely and productively as possible while at work. From facilitating the training to perform their roles to helping create a harmonious work environment, our efforts aim to give peace of mind and ensure that the employees' work contributes to the success of the organization.

In the age of COVID, we are intensifying our efforts to ensure that employees are safe and feel comfortable in the 'workplace', particularly in the face of new challenges such as remote working or enhanced COVID protocols on the job and personal anxiety caused by the pandemic. We are serving the diverse needs of our staff through counseling, mentoring and coaching. Some colleagues have been checking in with workers especially those with small children and those who are vulnerable to the physical impact of the virus. Our expertise as a trusted source of information on labour matters has been called upon by executives and we are leading tough layoff and severance processes.

These are stressful situations; but who takes care of us? As HR practitioners, we need to be mindful of the dangers of running on empty. We need to make our wellness a priority because we are also integral to the survival and success of the company.

Feel like you are running on empty? Remember "you can't pour from an empty cup". It is imperative that we focus on our wellbeing so that we can better assist others. For this reason, HRPAB dedicated this past month to pause and reflect on our wellbeing as members. We shared with each other

and our regional counterparts, how to improve our emotional health and resilience. We explored the various causes and types of stress, the impact of stress on our minds, bodies, and our productivity. Understanding the different methods that could remedy stress while we seek to develop a healthy balance between work and our personal lives was key this month.

The threat of burnout is real. Self-care is critical more than ever. You do not need to make drastic changes. Start small. Shift yourself from survival mode, try taking twenty long, slow diaphragmatic breaths each morning and night. This helps to activate the parasympathetic nervous system (PNS), the body's natural "rest and repair" system that balances out the "fight or flight" - the part of our nervous system called the sympathetic nervous system (SNS). It might not sound like much, but it can make a world of difference and is a great first step.

Adjusting our diet can be a tremendous help. Add foods like avocados, chocolate, oatmeal, and green leafy vegetables to help boost our body's

production of pleasure inducing hormones of dopamine and serotonin

Take time off to destress and unplug. For many of us, vacation overseas is off the table this year. Indulge in a staycation – you deserve it. Spend a device-free day at the beach off the grid.

Be more active. Step away from your screens and go outside. Take hikes or long walks.

Remember that while we take care of others, we are at our best when we take time out for ourselves as well. Let us commit to wellness.

*The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary.*





## Why vaccine nationalism should concern the Caribbean

*Wealthy countries are vying to be the first to produce and roll out a fully tested and safe vaccine, test their citizens, and seize the global financial opportunity that being first presents. David Jessop asks how prepared the Caribbean is to respond to vaccine nationalism.*

How well prepared is the Caribbean to respond to the politically led emergence of 'vaccine nationalism', an approach likely to see countries with advanced bio-pharma facilities initially restrict the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine?

At present about 100 vaccines are being developed around the world. If proven to be effective, one or more of these may play a role in either eventually eradicating or addressing the worst effects of the disease.

However, at present only two such candidate vaccines for equitable distribution have been included in a collaborative Coronavirus-related initiative known as COVAX, involving the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other global partners. One is being produced by Astra Zeneca in the UK and the other by Moderna in the US. Both are presently being tested in clinical trials on thousands of volunteers around the world for efficacy and safety, with the results expected sometime later this year.

COVAX is also evaluating vaccine development elsewhere and supporting the building of manufacturing capacity and procurement with the overall objective of having 2bn doses available for 'fair distribution' globally by the end of 2021.

The scheme is meant to work by encouraging wealthier nations to make a commitment to fund and buy vaccines, thereby creating a critical mass

of orders from suppliers in a way that ensures that low and middle income countries can receive the vaccine at lower prices.

In the last few days, however, it has become apparent that the financing of the scheme may be in trouble as some wealthy countries have decided to adopt a go it alone approach by sourcing their vaccine requirements independently. This, they say, is because they believe they can obtain the vaccine more rapidly and cheaply outside of the multilateral scheme that the WHO has developed.

In a statement, the US has suggested something more. It said that it would not join due to the group's association with the WHO. "The United States will continue to engage our international partners to ensure we defeat this virus, but we will not be constrained by multilateral organisations influenced by the corrupt World Health Organisation and China", Judd Deere, a spokesman for the White House told the Washington Post

Other governments pursuing a less political but unilateral path include Japan, the UK and Turkey, while others including Germany and the European Commission remain supportive.

The likelihood now is that a small number of wealthier nations able to finance their own requirements will see most of their citizens vaccinated as soon as a viable product becomes available, while poorer nations struggle to obtain enough vaccinations for at-risk citizens and their wider populations.

For the Caribbean and other regions like it, all of this is far from helpful at a time when it is becoming apparent that achieving a gradual return to normality is proving much harder than anticipated.



**David Jessop is a consultant to the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at [david.jessop@caribbean-council.org](mailto:david.jessop@caribbean-council.org). Previous columns can be found at [www.caribbean-council.org](http://www.caribbean-council.org) 6 September 2020**

Although the early introduction of measures to control the spread of COVID-19 meant that by the end of June most nations in the region had largely halted the domestic spread of the virus, a mix of social indiscipline, the sometimes lax enforcement of public health requirements, the human desire for social contact, and the importation of the disease by some visitors and returnees has meant that several countries are now seeing increasing rates of infection.

If the pandemic has proved anything it is that to again see growth almost every economy in the region will have to find a way to ensure the safe and full return of tourism.

A recently published International Labour Organisation (ILO) COVID-19 related report makes clear that up to half a million Caribbean workers in direct, indirect and induced employment in tourism face the prospect of job

**cont'd on pg 15**



*cont'd from pg 14*

losses, reductions in working hours, falling incomes, a higher incidence of informal employment, if the virus is not eradicated soon.

Three linked problems now face the region. How to resuscitate the wider economy and tourism in particular without visitors contributing to the renewed spread of the virus; how to obtain sufficient supplies of any vaccine that might become available next year; and how to address the complex logistical problems associated with developing national vaccination programmes.

The latter issue has been little discussed. Despite the region's relative success in delivering a vaccination programme during the H1-N1 2009 flu pandemic a recent paper for the Tony Blair Institute suggests that substantial logistical challenges now face every country in delivering national vaccination programmes.

Apart from indicating the need for early resolution of issues including regulation and logistics, who will have primary access, and the development of electronic immunisation records for all citizens, the paper's author expresses concern that efficient vaccine delivery will require 'radical, fast and global approach' at a time when international leadership is lacking.

The implication is that despite it being important for social, economic and public health reasons to vaccinate every Caribbean citizens as

soon as a vaccine becomes available, this may not be possible if primary access is determined by something akin to a bidding war, and the WHO's COVAX initiative is only able to meet a limited amount of the demand from developing countries.

There remain, in addition, many other imponderables and hard to answer questions. Will China's promise of universal access to its candidate vaccine and a loan fund of US\$1bn to support access to it for the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean, occur in time to ensure economic recovery? Can the Caribbean successfully combine with partners in the African Caribbean and Pacific group of nations (the ACP) to maximise buying power? Will Cuba's clinical trials of its candidate vaccine Soberana-1 prove successful, and its plans to build manufacturing capacity to produce enough vaccine to protect its population, be extended to the rest of the region? And above all, what will any vaccine's cost be to already heavily indebted nations?

The danger now is that the closer the world comes to achieving one or more proven vaccines, the more likely it is that availability will become the subject of divisive national and international politics and that wealthy countries vie to be the first to produce and roll out a fully tested and safe vaccine, then protect their citizens, and after that seize the global financial opportunity.

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# Guyana: Police detain more suspects in brutal killings of two cousins

(CMC) The Guyana Police Force (GPF) Tuesday said it had detained seven people so far for questioning in relation to the brutal murders of two cousins over the last weekend that have sparked widespread protest in the Hopetown, West Coast Berbice area.

“Relative to the murder of Joel and Isaiah Henry, please be advised that seven suspects have been arrested so far. Further the GPF would like to assure the general public that it is aggressively investigating this crime to bring the perpetrators to justice,” the GPF said in a brief statement on its Facebook page.

Acting Police Commissioner Nigel Hoppie in a video posted on the GPF Facebook page, said that the post mortem examination on the bodies of the two teenagers will be done on Wednesday. He also urged protestors to end their action and allow law enforcement authorities to fully investigate the murders of cousins Isaiah Henry, 16, and Joel Henry, 19.

Their bodies bore several chop wounds. Isaiah had the letter ‘X’ carved on the back of his head and forehead, while Joel’s chest was cut open, exposing his organs and also suffered several broken bones

Home Affairs Minister, Robeson Benn, Tuesday appealed for calm fear-



*Cousins Joel Henry and Isaiah Henry murdered.*

ful that the protest actions which began soon after the bodies were discovered on Sunday, could descend into further lawlessness.

Benn said the police are now being forced to investigate a number of illegal acts including robberies, urging “persons to desist from unlawful practices,” adding “we now have a joint services operation to restore calm and order to the affected areas.

“Unfortunately, there are repeated incidents where motorists and others are attacked and their property damaged and robberies of those persons and other unlawful and unruly incidents which in occurring do not bring calm to situation and runs the risk of bringing the general descent into lawlessness,” the Security Minister said.

“I note with regret the statements from some leading political persons and

some agitators who are characterizing the incident of the death itself without any evidence that it racially motivated and even worse that certain villages have to take steps to protect themselves in a vigilante mode,” Benn said.

On Tuesday several, pro-African groups called on the various leaders, as well as the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) to help the country grapple with political race relations worsened by the recent killings.

The African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA), said the “callous race-driven” murders of Orlando Jonas as well as cousins Isaiah and Joel Henry suggests the need for the ERC to find solutions to the political race problems facing the country.

“We call on the Ethnic Relations Commission, whose constitutional man-

date compels this entity to engage and work for racial harmony and justice,” said ACDA, adding that the growing tensions resulting from those murders must be addressed by condign actions that demonstrate adherence to the Rule of Law and its decrees on justice.

ACDA, a 27-year-old organisation, said it is hoping also that the police would be able to conduct a thorough investigation to arrive at incontrovertible evidence that would not be thrown out by a court of law and so free those who would be charged and prosecuted.

“We do hope that the Police Force will be allowed to conduct an independent investigation to bring to justice all those who were involved in these heinous acts. ACDA wants the charges to be properly executed so as not to include flaws that can result in members of the Judiciary having excuses for throwing these cases out on a legal technicality,” it said.

The International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly-Guyana (IDPADA-G) in appealing for calm dismissed suggestions that the killings were isolated incidents, adding that they symbolise Guyana’s deep-seated problems that have at times been ignored by the international community. “IDPADA-G begs to differ. We wish to

*cont’d on pg 17*

## Jamaican seeking \$27M in damages from Bahamas for false imprisonment

(Jamaica Gleaner) A Supreme Court judge in The Bahamas has ruled in favour of Jamaican Matthew Sewell after years of a legal battle with the government over his false imprisonment.

Eyewitness News in the Bahamas is reporting that Justice Ruth Bowe-Darville on Monday struck out the defence filed by the government respondents and upheld submissions made by Sewell in his application.

It is reported that the Jamaican was first arrested in June 2006 at age 18 after being accused of raping a six-year-old girl.

At the time, he was reportedly granted a stay of three weeks in the country to visit his father.

He was subsequently arrested five more times on different charges and detained at the Carmichael Road Detention Centre on the grounds that he was in the country illegally.

For more than nine years, he was reportedly imprisoned and detained on and off without facing a hearing on charges of sexual assault, housebreaking and murder.

Sewell is reportedly suing the government for damages pertaining to false imprisonment, assault and battery, malicious prosecution, arbitrary and unlawful detention, and breaches of his fundamental rights under the Constitution.



*Jamaican Matthew Sewell (centre) and his attorney Fred Smith in the Bahamas after his release in 2015*

He is asking the court to be awarded \$27,533,700 along with special damages.

The court is expected to hear submissions on the matter on October 28.

Sewell's attorney, Fred Smith, QC, reportedly described the ruling as "vindication" for his client.

"It's very disconcerting as a human rights advocate and as a lawyer who believes in the rule of law and fights for that for every person in The Bahamas, that despite dozens and dozens

of rulings by the Supreme Court, the executive branch of government continues to make the same mistakes," Smith was quoted as saying by Eyewitness News.

Smith reportedly indicated that over the nine years and nine months in and out of jail, courts, and the detention centre, Sewell has had his eye nearly gouged out with a pen, his nose broken, and has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder from the conditions in which he was held.

**cont'd from pg 16**

confront this act as yet another manifestation of the festering division, ethnic strife and utter contempt for the lives of those from other ethnic groups, which have characterized the evolution of Guyanese society and to which many, including various Governments and

foreign actors, have turned a blind eye and even aided and abetted from time".

IDPADA-G, which was established by the former coalition administration under the auspices of the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent, also lamented the mental racial violence that is being per-

petrated on social media.

"A cursory review of social media would reveal that this physically violent act is but the heinous physical manifestation of the everyday verbal ethnic violence that is prevalent in our society," it added.

The Society for African Guyanese Empowerment

(SAGE) in its appeal to the police to dispassionately pursue the perpetrators of this "racially motivated crime with political overtones," said there was no room for "silence and empty chats of peace"

It said resistance must be meted out depending on action by police and soldiers.



# Caribbean Airlines seeks approval for Barbados to Dominica flight

(LoopNewsBarbados) Caribbean Airlines could soon be adding a new route to its roster.

Starting September 19, the airline is looking to offer service between Barbados and Dominica.

In a release dated September 8, the regional carrier said this latest offering is subject to approval by the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority.

The addition of Dominica to the network is part of the airline's current strategic plan to expand into the Eastern Caribbean.

The increase in commercial flights will auger well for trade and economic activity in the region.

The flight schedule, the airline said, is timed to facilitate easy connections to/from regional and international destinations including London, UK.



CEO of Caribbean Airlines, Garvin Medera stated: "Our Eastern Caribbean expansion with the addition of Dominica to our network.

"We have set up a temporary base in Barbados, providing much needed airlift to Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada

and St. Lucia, with more destinations to be added in the coming weeks."

He said the flight schedule is also designed to offer seamless connections to international destinations including London, via our expanded interline agreement with Virgin Atlantic.

# PM Skerrit: Government delivering on its promise of 5000 houses

(LoopNewsCaribbean) Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said his government is delivering on its promise to deliver housing to the people of Dominica.

Last week he announced that 90 citizens will receive keys to their new apartment in a matter of days.

Prior to the last election, Prime Minister Skerrit promised to deliver 5000 homes to the people of Dominica.

During the last instalment of the Anou Palay programme, he said they're well on their way to delivering



Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit

ering on this promise as homes.

some 1500 people had already received keys to their

The Prime Minister reminded the public during

his Anou Palay programme recently of the government's self-imposed mandate to build 5000 resilient homes for Dominicans and indicated that about 1500 people had already received the keys to their homes.

Despite the challenges, he remains confident that the government will achieve its housing goals.

Prime Minister Skerrit said several housing projects are currently underway. These buildings which are located at Upper River Bank will house at least 60 families.

## Grenadian woman convicted for the murder of Maurice Bishop passes away

(Thenewtodaygrenada.com) 73-year old Phyllis Coard, the lone woman who was convicted for the 1983 murder of Marxist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, died a few hours ago in Jamaica.

Mrs. Coard is the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard who was often fingered as the mastermind of the bloody army coup in which Bishop was killed amidst a power struggle within the then ruling New Jewel movement (NJM) which created the 1979-83 ill-fated Grenada Revolution.

She and her husband and several government and army officials were rounded up by U.S and Caribbean troops that stormed the island on October 25, 1983 – six days after Bishop was executed at Fort George along with three ministers – Unison Whiteman, Norris Bain and Jacqueline Creft.

A close friend of the family told THE NEW TODAY that Phyllis Coard had been ailing for a number of years and virtually spent the last few months in and out of hospital suffering from medical complications.

The source quoted a daughter of Mrs. Coard as saying that her mother died at a hospital in Kingston.

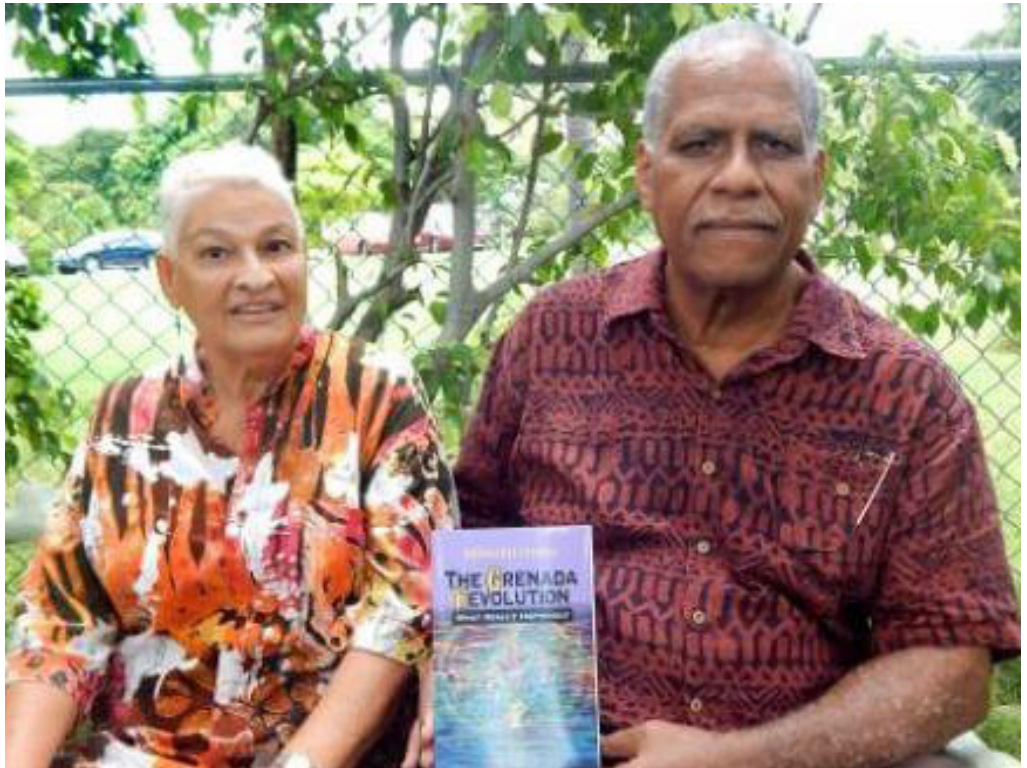
The medical doctor who was looking after Phyllis reportedly told the daughter that she was without pulse when they got to her.

“She was not breathing when they got to her. (They) tried to revive her (but it was) unsuccessful,” the daughter was quoted as saying.

According to the family member, Phyllis’ passing has shattered her husband, Bernard Coard who had been taking care of her personally over the years.

“He really, really, really loved Phyl,” he said.

The Jamaican-born Phyllis Coard was a member of the major decision-mak-



*The late Phyllis Coard and her husband, ex-deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.*

ing body of the NJM known as the Central Committee (CC) and also served as the Deputy Minister of Information in the People’s Revolutionary Government (PRG).

She was also the President of the powerful National Women’s Organisation (NWO) which was an arm of the NJM.

During the Maurice Bishop murder trial, state prosecutors were able to convince the jury panel that it was the CC that took the decision to carry out the executions.

A key witness that provided the evidence for the prosecution, headed by late Trinidad & Tobago, QC, Karl Hudson-Phillip was Cletus St. Paul, the former chief bodyguard to Prime Minister Bishop who was arrested by members of the security forces who were then loyal to Coard.

St Paul who is now facing a number of sexually related offences is now a key member of the security detail

around current Prime Minister Mitchell.

His key evidence was that the CC members held a meeting on Fort Frederick, which is overlooking Fort George, and voted overwhelmingly for the execution after Bishop was recaptured within hours of supporters storming his official residence at Mt Wheldale and freed him from house arrest.

Phyllis Coard was released from prison in 2000 on compassionate grounds by the New National Party (NNP) government of Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell to allow her to receive medical treatment abroad.

The Mitchell government had assured the nation that Mrs. Coard will be returning to Grenada after she received the medical treatment but this never happened.

The late Phyllis Coard came from a wealthy Jamaican family and was known to be heir to the Tia Maria coffee liqueur brand.



## AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine study paused after one illness

Late-stage studies of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine candidate are on temporary hold while the company investigates whether a recipient's "potentially unexplained" illness is a side effect of the shot.

In a statement issued Tuesday evening, the company said its "standard review process triggered a pause to vaccination to allow review of safety data."

AstraZeneca didn't reveal any information about the possible side effect except to call it "a potentially unexplained illness." The health news site STAT first reported the pause in testing, saying the possible side effect occurred in the United Kingdom.

An AstraZeneca spokesperson confirmed the pause in vaccinations covers studies in the U.S. and other countries. Late last month, AstraZeneca began recruiting 30,000 people in the U.S. for its largest study of the vaccine. It also is testing the vaccine, developed by Oxford University, in thousands of people in Britain, and in smaller studies in Brazil and South Africa.

Two other vaccines are in huge, final-stage tests in the United States, one made by Moderna Inc. and the other by Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. Those two vaccines work differently than AstraZeneca's, and the studies already have recruited about two-thirds of the needed volunteers.

Temporary holds of large medical studies aren't unusual, and investigating any serious or unexpected reaction is a mandatory part of safety testing. AstraZeneca pointed out that it's possible the problem could be a coincidence; illnesses of all sorts could arise in studies of thousands of people.

"We are working to expedite the review of the single event to minimize



*In this Aug. 14, 2020, file photo, laboratory technicians work at the mAbxience biopharmaceutical company on an experimental coronavirus vaccine developed by Oxford University and the laboratory AstraZeneca in Garin, Argentina*

any potential impact on the trial timeline," the company statement said.

It's likely the unexplained illness was serious enough to require hospitalization and not a mild side effect such as fever or muscle pain, said Deborah Fuller, a University of Washington researcher who is working on a different COVID-19 vaccine that has not yet started human testing.

"This is not something to be alarmed about," Fuller said. Instead, it's reassuring that the company is pausing the study to figure out what's happening and carefully monitoring the health of study participants.

Dr. Ashish Jha of Brown University said via Twitter that the significance of the interruption was unclear but that he was "still optimistic" that an effective vaccine will be found in the coming months.

"But optimism isn't evidence," he wrote. "Let's let science drive this process."

Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at

Columbia University in New York, tweeted that the illness may be unrelated to the vaccine, "but the important part is that this is why we do trials before rolling out a vaccine to the general public."

During the third and final stage of testing, researchers look for any signs of possible side effects that may have gone undetected in earlier patient research. Because of their large size, the studies are considered the most important study phase for picking up less common side effects and establishing safety.

The trials also assess effectiveness by tracking who gets sick and who doesn't between patients getting the vaccine and those receiving a dummy shot.

The development came the same day that AstraZeneca and eight other drugmakers issued an unusual pledge, vowing to uphold the highest ethical and scientific standards in developing their vaccines.

*cont'd on pg 21*

## Police chief resigns in wake of Daniel Prude's death

Rochester, New York's police chief abruptly resigned on Tuesday along with his command staff, saying there had been a "mischaracterization and politicization" of his actions following the death of Daniel Prude in police custody.

Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren told a City Council meeting that she had not asked Chief La'Ron Singletary to resign, though she said there was "information that was brought to light today that I have not previously seen before." She did not elaborate.

Rochester, a city of 200,000 people on Lake Ontario, erupted with protests last week after the Prude family released body camera footage showing officers had used a mesh hood and pinned Prude, a 41-year-old Black man, to the pavement during the March arrest.

The release of the footage



*Rochester Police Chief, La'Ron Singletary speaks during a news conference regarding the protests over the death of a Black man, Daniel Prude, after police put a spit hood over his head during an arrest on March 23, in Rochester, New York, U.S. September 6, 2020*

five months after Prude's death had raised questions of a possible cover-up and turned Rochester into the latest flashpoint in a summer of protests over racial injustice first sparked by George Floyd's May 25 death.

Seven police officers involved in the arrest were suspended last week. The medical examiner ruled Prude's death a homicide by

asphyxiation, with the drug PCP a contributing factor. He was having a psychotic episode when he was arrested.

Black Lives Matter activists had called for Singletary's resignation. But as recently as Sunday, amid a weekend of demonstrations, he had said he intended to stay on, and Warren backed him. Both he and the mayor are Black.

"As a man of integrity, I will not sit idly by while outside entities attempt to destroy my character," Singletary said in a statement, noting his 20 years on the force.

"The mischaracterization and the politicization of the actions that I took after being informed of Mr. Prude's death is not based on facts, and is not what I stand for."

Warren, who has also come under pressure for the

handling of Prude's arrest and death, said Singletary's deputy, Joseph Morabito, had also retired and that "there may be a number of others that will decide to leave as well."

The mayor said she was unsure when the retirements would take effect.

Free the People ROC, a local Black Lives Matter group, welcomed the resignations in a Facebook post but demanded more.

"Let's keep the pressure up until all those responsible for Daniel Prude's murder and cover up — including Mayor Lovely Warren — have resigned, taken responsibility and donated their pensions to the families they allowed to be harmed," it wrote.

Warren apologized to the Prude family last week and suggested she had been misled by Singletary — an allegation he denied. Singletary also pointed to his ordering of an internal investigation soon after the incident.

The Rochester police union's head, Michael Mazzeo, defended the officers last week, saying they followed procedure in using the so-called "spit hood," necessary because Prude claimed he had the coronavirus. Mazzeo also said Singletary's office told him after the arrest there were "no concerns" with the officers' actions.

### **cont'd from pg 20**

The announcement follows worries that President Donald Trump will pressure the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve a vaccine before it's proven to be safe and effective.

The U.S. has invested billions of dollars in efforts to quickly develop multiple vaccines against COVID-19. But public fears that a vaccine is unsafe or ineffective could be disastrous, derailing the effort to vaccinate millions of Americans.

Representatives for the FDA did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday evening.

AstraZeneca's U.S.-traded shares fell more than 6% in after-hours trading following reports of the trial being paused.



## Coronavirus: Social gatherings above six to be banned in England

(BBC) Social gatherings of more than six people will be illegal in England from Monday - with some exemptions - amid a steep rise in coronavirus cases.

A new legal limit will ban larger groups meeting anywhere socially indoors or outdoors, No 10 said.

But it will not apply to schools, workplaces or Covid-secure weddings, funerals and organised team sports.

It will be enforced through a £100 fine if people fail to comply with police, doubling up to a maximum of £3,200.

Several exemptions apply to the new rules - which come into force on 14 September - with households and support bubbles bigger than six people unaffected.

A full list of exemptions will be published by the government later.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to deliver further details at a Downing Street news conference on Wednesday.

In a preview of his address, the PM said: "We need to act now to stop the virus spreading. So we are simplifying and strengthening the rules on social contact - making them easier to understand and for the police to enforce.

"It is absolutely critical that people now abide by these rules and remember the basics - washing your hands, covering your face, keeping space from others, and getting a test if you have symptoms."

No 10 said any group of seven or more people gathering anywhere "risks being dispersed by police or fined for non-compliance".

The change applies to England only, to people of all ages, and to gatherings indoors and outdoors, in private



*It also became illegal for people in Bolton to socialise with those outside their own household in any setting, even outdoors*

homes, public outdoor spaces, and venues such as pubs and restaurants.

The devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are able to set their own coronavirus restrictions and, while largely implementing similar rules, have moved at their own pace during the pandemic.

Downing Street said Mr Johnson held a virtual roundtable with police forces which heard officers wanted clearer rules and enforcement on social contact.

Previously, guidance in England allowed gatherings of up to six people from different households - or up to 30 people from two households.

Ministers and government advisers earlier expressed concern over a "sharp rise" in cases and a "heartfelt" apology was issued following short-ages in England's testing system.

Overall, there have been 8,396 new cases reported since Sunday - with 2,460 reported on Tuesday alone.

There were also 32 deaths reported, but these will not have been related to the most recent rise in cases.

he rise in cases seen in recent days has caused alarm among ministers and their health advisers.

They believe the UK is at a critical point ahead of the onset of autumn and winter when respiratory viruses tend to thrive.

Close contact within homes remains the most common risk of transmission identified by contact tracers.

Clearly people living with an infected person are most at risk.

But, after that, the most common contact infected individuals have is with visitors to their household, according to data gathered by England's NHS Test and Trace service.

It is ahead of leisure venues, shops, workplaces and health and care settings.

Clearly large gatherings in homes - especially indoors which is more likely to happen when the weather turns - present the greatest risk.

Ministers will also make it clear on Wednesday further restrictions will follow if the rise in infections is not curbed.

## India, China accuse each other of firing shots at tense border

(Aljazeera News) China and India have accused each other of firing shots on their flashpoint Himalayan border in a further escalation of military tension between the nuclear-armed Asian rivals.

The relationship between the two countries has deteriorated since a hand-to-hand combat clash in the Ladakh region on June 15 in which 20 Indian troops were killed.

Experts fear the latest incident will intensify a months-long standoff between the Asian giants that erupted in late April.

Beijing's defence ministry accused India of "severe military provocation", saying soldiers crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western border region on Monday and "opened fire to threaten the Chinese border defence patrol officers".

"According to the Chinese side, Chinese troops approached the India side for negotiations, and then they say some Indian troops fired at the Chinese side," Al Jazeera's Katrina Yu reported from Beijing.

"As a result, China's military said it was forced to take countermeasures - although we don't know what those countermeasures were, or if there were any casualties," she added.

New Delhi was swift to give its own account, accusing Chinese border forces of "blatantly violating agreements" and firing "a few rounds in the air" to intimidate their Indian rivals.

"It is the PLA that has been blatantly violating agreements and carrying out aggressive manoeuvres," the Indian army said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Despite the grave provocation, (our) own troops exercised great re-



straint and behaved in a mature and responsible manner," the statement said.

Al Jazeera's Elizabeth Puranam, reporting from New Delhi said that, according to India, "China's army was trying to close in on one of India's positions - and that when they [China] were dissuaded by their own troops, they fired in the air".

The countries fought a brief border war in 1962 but, officially, no shots have been fired in the area since 1975 when four Indian troops were killed in an ambush.

A spokesperson for the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) gave no specifics and did not report casualties, calling on India to investigate the incident.

China's western military command said the incursion occurred on Monday along the southern shore of Pangong Tso Lake in the area known in Chinese as Shenpaoshan. On the Indian side, the area is known as Chushul, where the two countries' local military commanders have held several rounds of talks to defuse the tense standoff.

Zhang Shuili, spokesperson for the Western Theater Command of the

PLA, said India had violated agreements reached by the two countries and warned their actions could "easily cause misunderstandings and misjudgements".

China's foreign ministry said Indian troops had illegally crossed the LAC and had been the first to fire shots. "This is a serious military provocation," spokesman Zhao Lijian told a daily news conference in Beijing on Tuesday.

Late last month, India said its soldiers had thwarted the Chinese military's moves "to change the status quo", also on the southern shore of Pangong Lake, in violation of a consensus reached in past efforts to settle the standoff. In turn, China also accused Indian troops of crossing established lines of control.

Both sides have sent tens of thousands of troops to the disputed Himalayan border, which sits at an altitude of more than 4,000 metres (13,500 feet).

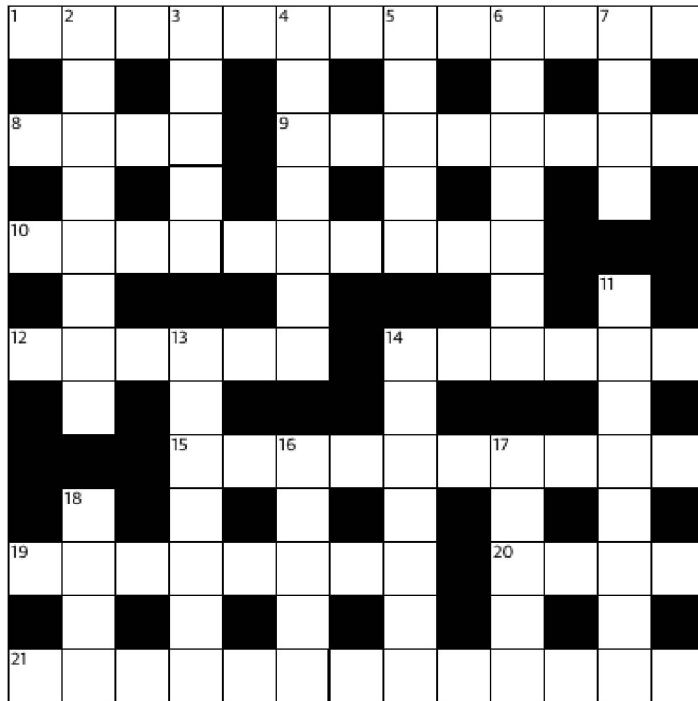
Their troops have had several show-downs since the June 15 clash. China has also acknowledged it has had casualties but not given figures.



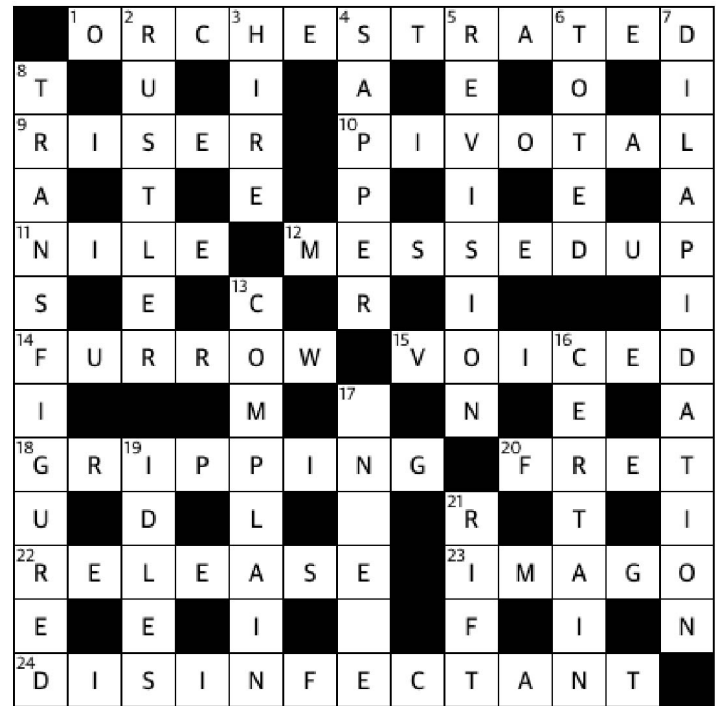


# QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No 15,707



Quick crossword No 15,594



## Across

- 1 Untiring — I fled a beating (anag) (13)
- 8 Short erect tail (4)
- 9 Bird sounds (8)
- 10 Act without due caution (4,3,3)
- 12 Straighten out (6)
- 14 Basement storage space (6)
- 15 Deeply agitated (10)
- 19 Like an angel (8)
- 20 Tender and full of juice (4)
- 21 TV operating device (6,7)

## Down

- 2 Short romantic composition for piano (8)
- 3 Devour (3,2)
- 4 It's off-limits for teetotallers (7)
- 5 Sugary topping for cakes (5)
- 6 Relating to the kidneys (7)
- 7 Circuits (4)
- 11 Swaggering masculinity (8)
- 13 Experience (7)
- 14 Liqueur made with peel of bitter oranges from an island in the Dutch Antilles (7)
- 16 Fencing sword (5)
- 17 Dark (5)
- 18 Brogue or moccasin, say (4)



### In the Bleachers



"That's great. You got a hole-in-one. Was it worth it?"



## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr. 19): *You might see only the choice between the frying pan and the fire. Although there are other options, you may not see them as yet. Try to let things simmer down before you make an impulsive decision you could regret.*

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20-May 20): *Risky activities or rapid decisions might trip you up. You may want to challenge the status quo but will make more progress working gradually and concentrating on finding solutions that work for everyone.*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): *With Venus in your sign, you may yearn for lighthearted fun and hope to fit seamlessly into a group or social activity. Test the waters by participating in an online video session or a conference call before you commit yourself.*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): *This may be one of those days when you might feel awkward and prefer to blend into the background. Don't gamble with your money, feelings or future unless you feel highly confident about the outcome.*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): *Some days it's hard to make the right choice. You may end up doubting that you've made the correct decision. Instead of overthinking it now, give things time to develop before you work out your next move.*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): *You may detect the subtle link between you and a loved one. Perhaps you think about someone special and just then the phone rings or a text message appears. Avoid buying unnecessary items on*

*a sudden whim.*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): *Don't be surprised to learn that someone thinks you are glamorous and accomplished. One admirer might want to strike up a new relationship, but it's best to spend time paying attention to your existing ties.*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): *Let things settle and do not meddle. Someone in the immediate environment could be disruptive or difficult to deal with. It may not be in your best interests to jump in to defend someone if a small disagreement erupts.*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): *You are usually wise about your finances, so be careful if someone tempts you with a get-rich scheme. Sudden changes at work or at home may either give you an enjoyable break from routines or stress you out.*

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

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): *First impressions count. Use your good manners, as that new person you talk to might be sensitive or easily upset. Beware of something you see as a surprise that could cause turmoil for someone else.*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): *You may receive unconditional love, but you shouldn't expect to receive unlimited gifts. Your great capacity for affection is best expressed through sincere acts of kindness rather than impulsive purchases.*



# Kevin De Bruyne named PFA Men's Player of the Year

Manchester City midfielder, Kevin de Bruyne, has won the Professional Footballers' Association Men's Players' Player of the Year award.

De Bruyne beat last year's winner, Virgil van Dijk along with Alexander-Arnold, Sadio Mane, Henderson and City teammate Raheem Sterling to the award voted for by his fellow players.

The 29-year-old Belgian is the first Manchester City player to win the award since its inception at the end of the 1973-74 season.

"This is a big honour," he said. "To be voted by your colleagues, competitors from other teams who you always play against on the field. That they vote for you for best player; it's amazing."

"It's maybe strange that I'm the first one at City, seeing all the good players who played there before and who are still playing. But it's nice to represent the club."

Commenting on Guardiola, he said,



Manchester City midfielder, Kevin de Bruyne

"He gives me a lot of freedom; I don't know why, that's just the way it goes between us."

"He knows in one way I will always put the team first and then obviously if I can help myself I'm going to do that. He trusts me completely."

For the third consecutive year, the top award for the men's category went to a player whose team did not

win the Premier League title.

Reds pair Van Dijk and Mohamed Salah were the past two winners and went on to lift the trophy last season, having come close in previous years.

De Bruyne, though, contributed a record equalling 20 assists and scored 13 goals as Guardiola's side came runners-up to Jurgen Klopp's team last term.

## Football still in crisis management mode

Football clubs are still in "crisis management" mode in the face of a 20% to 30% shrink in the transfer market, says European Club Association Chairman, Andrea Agnelli. This is despite a more upbeat message from Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) President, Aleksander Ceferin.

Football shut down across most of Europe amid the coronavirus pandemic and then adapted key competitions.

Games in empty stadiums, rebates to broadcasters and reduced sponsorship will continue to hurt clubs financially, according to Juventus Chair-

man Agnelli.

"I still think we are in the middle of a management crisis," he said.

Agnelli claims European governing body UEFA will lose about €575 million in income from international club competitions money that would have normally been distributed to clubs.

He added, "We are looking at a top revenue decrease of approximately €4 billion in the next two years and according to FIFA, 90% of those topline losses will be borne by clubs."

UEFA's President Ceferin said, "We cannot say everything is normal, but it will be normal soon."



European Club Association Chairman, Andrea Agnelli

# Trinbago Knight Riders one win away from perfection

The Trinbago Knight Riders spinners blasted a hole in the Jamaica Tallawahs top order to set up a cruise to a subpar total with a full five overs to go, and leave themselves one win away from completing the first perfect season in Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) history.

Knight Riders captain Kieron Pollard had enough faith in his opening bowlers to start with himself at short leg and Akeal Hosein repaid that faith by bowling Jermaine Blackwood.

The Tallawahs sprung a surprise sending Mujeeb Ur Rahman in at number three, who just about played out a wicket-maiden.

The Tallawahs were rocked further when Glenn Phillips cut Khary Pierre to Ali Khan. Nkrumah Bonner finally hit the game's first boundary, easing Hosein through cover, but the Mujeeb experiment failed as he edged a reverse sweep onto his pad and was caught at slip, and the Tallawahs had slumped to 10/3 off three overs.

Five wides from Pierre and a straight four by Bonner more than doubled the Tallawahs tally, however as Asif Ali got off the mark with a four over Hosein's head he fell next ball cutting to Pollard at point. Pollard immediately returned to short leg and remained there for the returning Sunil Narine who went for just three to close out a dominant power play for the Knight Riders which left the Tallawahs reeling at 28/4.

As Bonner continued to resist, he cut Fawad Ahmed powerfully for four, a misfield which gave him another off Narine to take him to 30. He pulled Fawad to take the Tallawahs past 50. Pierre returned with a tight over that went for just three and at the 10 over mark the Tallawahs were 55/4.

Hosein bowled out with an over of just five, and Fawad ended Bonner's resis-

tance with a quick googly. That finally brought Andre Russell to the crease, but Narine put an end to his innings before it got going. Russell was beaten in the flight, the ball looped to DJ Bravo at slip and the umpire adjudged it came off bat and pad. The Tallawahs had lost their biggest weapon, and were 68/6 in the 14th.

Three more boundary-less overs came and went. Rovman Powell had now faced 32 balls for his 26 runs, Carlos Brathwaite had managed only one off his 10 balls, and something had to give off Pierre's last over. Powell hit one Hero Maximum, the first of the innings, but picked out Pollard at deep mid-off trying to repeat the shot next ball. Even with that six, he finished under a run a ball, and the Tallawahs were 92/7 off 18.

Brathwaite was lucky not to be run out first ball of the 19th, bowled by DJ Bravo whose three overs didn't contain a single boundary. Ali Khan got the unusual job of bowling only the 20th over, and while Brathwaite finished the innings with a Hero Maximum that was only the third boundary in the last 11 overs of the innings.

Lendl Simmons steered then pulled Fidel Edwards for consecutive fours to end the first over, but Narine wasn't able to provide his usual powerful start, bowled by Mujeeb's arm ball. Powell followed Pollard's aggressive lead by putting himself at short leg, but Tion Webster was not intimidated, slapping Veerasammy Permaul through cover then slicing him for four to ruin a tight start to the over. After three overs, the Knight Riders were 23/1.

Webster was confident enough to cut Mujeeb's googly for four, and with wickets a must Powell for the first time in Hero CPL 2020 went to Sandeep Lamichhane in the Powerplay. Simmons



paddled him for four first ball and then pulled Mujeeb to the fence, and the Knight Riders closed the Powerplay at 42/1. The required run rate was already under five an over.

Simmons marred a good over from Lamichhane with a slog-swept Hero Maximum, bringing up the Knight Riders' 50. Simmons and Webster were able to work Lamichhane around as no-one had all tournament and though Permaul's second went for just two and his third was a maiden, at halfway the Knight Riders were comfortable at 61/1, needing just 47 more to win.

Russell was called on to bowl, but Simmons pulled him for a Hero Maximum and, when Russell bowled a second short ball which was called a no-ball, helicoptered the free hit for four. Permaul bowled out with another economical over, but Simmons again pulled Russell for six to take 10 off the 13th over. The Knight Riders were now 90/1 and needed just 18 more.

Webster guided Lamichhane through cover for four to end the Nepali's only wicketless spell of an excellent tournament, and Simmons became the leading 50-maker in the tournament's history, overtaking Chris Gayle with a cover drive for four off Brathwaite, and Webster finished the job that same over.

Simmons needs just three more runs in Thursday's final to overtake Gayle as Hero CPL's all-time leading scorer.



# Sports

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## Sports department remains active, creative

Director and Assistant Director of Sports, Heather Samuel Daley and Evans “Jawaki” Jones, both former national athletes, met with sports coordinators last week to continue discussions on the way forward for sport in schools during the coronavirus pandemic.

The coordinators present were Rosley Lewis, Ridley Jacobs, Mitchell Brown, William Richards and Larry Michael Joyce Odonohue. Carl “Boli” Knight was represented by a member of the basketball unit.

The Ministry of Sports

will soon engage the Ministry of Education to determine the most productive ways of working together and with students.

A decision has been taken in the Ministry of Sports to disallow coaches from returning to schools until comprehensive discussions with the Ministries of Education and Health have taken place. There will also be no competitive sports during the present semester.

Physical Education will return to schools this semester, however, the Ministries of Sports and Education are



Evans “Jawaki” Jones

to meet to discuss a plan to phase in the return of practical classes with coaches while observing national COVID-19 protocols.

Meanwhile coordinators and coaches have been en-



Heather Samuel Daley

gaging the students virtually while themselves engaging in regular meetings, workshops, theoretical and practical classroom sessions.

## Four Knights Academy heading in the right direction



Chief Executive Officer of CWI, Johnny Graves

The principals of the Four Knights Academy, Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Andy Roberts, Sir Curtley Ambrose and Sir Richie Richardson held a meeting last Friday with the Chief Executive Officer of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Johnny Graves, and Minister of Sports, Hon. Daryll Matthew, to discuss

the academy's future.

Speaking to PointeXpress, former West Indies captain, Sir Richie Richardson, described the discussion as very progressive and continued that the 4 Knights Academy will soon submit a proposal to the Coolidge Cricket Ground which is owned by the government and CWI.

Minister Matthew remarked that he was pleased



Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew

with the outcome of the discussions and promised that there will be ongoing meetings geared at charting a way forward.

**DEWS**

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