



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

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CURFEW TO BE EXTENDED

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Curfew to be extended

With Antigua and Barbuda still being impacted by the global coronavirus pandemic, the current curfew, which expires at the end of this month, is likely to be extended until the end of the year.

Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, has indicated that he will be making the recommendation to extend the duration of the curfew to his Cabinet colleagues when they convene their weekly meeting today.

Joseph also said that he intends to petition the Cabinet to reduce the time of operations for bars from 11:00pm to 8:00pm. The curfew now in place begins at 11:00pm and ends at 5:00am.

This move, he explained, is to help reduce the local spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“Based on comments made by the Chief Health Inspector, I am going to initiate discussions this week on whether or not we should look at the bars in particular because we cannot take chances.

“I don’t think it is fair or just to have a situation where people can’t forego a few months of frolic and fun for their own health and put the burden on the healthcare system. I just can’t rationalise that,” he stated.

The latest dashboard indicates no new confirmed cases of the coronavirus in

Antigua and Barbuda up to Sunday night, however, with active cases still at eleven, it has increased the economic consequences to the country as Antigua and Barbuda has been designated a ‘Level-3 high risk’ area by the US CDC and the state of New York.

Upon querying the country’s ‘high risk’ classification, Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders was informed that the designation applies to countries with more than ten active COVID-19 cases per one hundred thousand population.

People arriving in the US from these countries must spend two weeks in quarantine.

Ministry of Health: Clarevue Hospital is not in ‘dire’ condition

A social media post claiming that food reserves at the Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital are in a ‘dire’ state has been strongly rebuffed by the Ministry of Health.

Permanent Secretary Ena Dalso-Henry, said when the allegation was brought to the ministry’s attention, she immediately initiated an investigation.

According to health officials, although it became

apparent that the person responsible for the post had not visited the hospital for some time and may have acted on misinformed ‘hearsay’, the post was nonetheless circulated widely.

Dalso-Henry described the matter as ‘troubling’ and ‘worrying’ for her as the chief administrative officer of the ministry. She said for such a situation to exist, management of the institution would

have had to explain why such an incident occurred without being reported to the ministry so that the necessary interventions could take place.

“If we knew that this was taking place, we would have made representation to the Ministry of Finance, the Treasury or even Cabinet, to have the matter rectified.

“Secondly, an investigation was done of the stock level that supplies the kitch-

en and I am comfortable that while the stock level is not what we would like it to be, we have food supplies on hand to continue to meet the daily needs of patients,” she revealed. The permanent secretary questioned the motive of the person who made the post and pondered whether it had been motivated by ‘malicious intent’.

“I, however, wish to inform the public that the statement is false as there was adequate food to supply patients’ needs,” Dalso-Henry added.

She acknowledged that members of the public have in the past assisted the hospital in several ways, but reaffirmed that it is the government’s duty to look after the needs of patients at the hospital despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Murder charge for 16-year-old

The 16-year-old accused of murdering his brother last weekend appeared in court on Tuesday charged with the offence.

He was remanded to prison following his court appearance.

The confrontation inside Don’s Barbershop on Bishopgate Street resulted in the death of 20-year-old Aden Jean-Baptiste, who was allegedly stabbed with a sharp object.

The homicide led the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to appeal for persons to

seek professional help in resolving conflicts, including domestic disputes.

Law enforcement officials have said that Saturday’s incident and “other similar acts of violence have become a very serious concern for the administration within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda”.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, is appealing to families to find less confrontational and non-violent methods of settling their differences.

Port Authority takes possession of RoRo ramp

In what has been billed as the first in a series of handing over ceremonies, the Antigua Port Authority on Tuesday took possession of the RoRo ramp marking the completion of a critical stage of the port expansion project.

The ceremony included a formal sign over of the ramp and ribbon cutting participated in by representatives of the port and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

Port Chairman, Senator Mary Clare Hurst, said the ramp will serve as a docking and cargo loading area for smaller vessels including those which ply their trade between the islands.

“This is not an upgrade as we have built brand new. The old ramp posed significant challenges to users and allowed for only 60 percent of ramp space for use.

“With the new facility we



can now utilize 100 percent of the berth including handling multiple vessels,” Hurst stated.

She also called upon the staff at the port to increase their productivity and efficiency, particularly as the port is seeking to establish itself as a regional hub for goods entering the Caribbean. This, she noted, will require the level of service offered at the port to be

comparable or better than that which is available in competing countries.

CCECC representative, Chen Zhongzheng, said his company faced serious challenges as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, including insufficient funding for some projects.

Zhongzheng confirmed however, that CCECC will complete the port development project by the end of

2021.

“I am glad to tell everyone that the headquarters of CCECC Caribbean is being constructed. After completion, it will be the operation and production centre for CCECC in the Caribbean,” he declared.

Zhongzheng described the arrangement as a ‘win-win’ for both CCECC and the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

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ECAB to acquire Scotiabank (Antigua)

It is now official: the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) has reached an agreement to acquire the Antigua and Barbuda operations of Scotiabank.

The welcome announcement, which now signals the end of months of negotiations, was made public by ECAB in paid advertisement in today's paper.

Discussions regarding the sale of Scotiabank's Antigua operations had been ongoing for several months. ECAB was ultimately able to finalise the sale at a cost which was less than that which was offered by Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Scotiabank abandoned its efforts to sell its Antigua branch to the regional financial giant last year after Prime Minister Gaston Browne's insistence that he would now grant the Canada headquartered financial institution a

vesting order to complete the sale to Republic Financial Holdings Ltd.

Instead, the prime minister demanded that a local banking consortium be given the first right of refusal in the sale. Browne had been vocal in registering his disapproval of the manner in which the sale had been approached by Scotiabank which failed to notify the Antigua and Barbuda government.

This is the second acquisition of a commercial bank by a local financial institution.

Last year it was announced that Antigua Commercial Bank had purchased the Antigua branch of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst told PointeXpress that this latest purchase serves as a testament to Prime Minister Gaston Browne's insistence that local banks

should be given first preference in instances such as these.

Ambassador Hurst noted that it is an important lesson which has borne fruit as other Scotiabank branches affected by the company's cessation of business in the region are being offered for sale to local banks in the Caribbean countries where they operate.

"This is one of the greatest victories of the Gaston Browne administration since it took office. This ability to persuade by stating publicly that [the proposed sale to Republic Bank] would not go down in Antigua and Barbuda," he remarked.

Meanwhile, the union representing employees of Scotiabank has met with the staff following the announcement of Scotiabank Antigua's sale to ECAB.

Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union reportedly met with employees at 4:00pm on Tuesday, but the details of that meeting remain unknown. It is believed, however, that discussions centered mainly on their future employment.

Counselor wants early family intervention

Counselor and consultant, Koren Norton, is advising parents to be more vigilant with regard to their children's deviant behaviour and to immediately seek professional assistance before situations spiral out of control.

Norton said anyone coming into contact with children should pay close attention to signs of aggression, especially those displayed at an early age.

She said parents should not dismiss abnormal displays of behavior including a child constantly attacking a sibling or hurting a

pet. Too often, Norton said, these behavioural red flags are brushed aside by parents as the at risk child being "miserable and disgusting".

Norton continued that these patterns of disturbing behaviour in children are a reasonable indication that something might be wrong with their child and she pleaded for parents to seek professional help right away.

"You have to look at it and see if this child has a deviant behaviour or if the child is prone to aggression or violence and then you need to figure out if this child seems

like he or she is prone to aggression or violence, where it is coming from," Norton said.

She said that there are a number of triggers which parents should pay attention to, including the cartoons their children are watching.

Norton said once the triggers have been identified, action should be taken to reduce or halt exposure to them.

"So you have to be observant, you have to know where it's coming from, you have to put a stop to it and if it's starting to get to the point where you can't help

the child anymore, then ask for help. You can talk to your pastor; most of the churches have youth leaders who are trained in conflict management, or you can take the child to the Child and Family Services Department. They have a Probation Department and they have another department for older youth who are displaying behaviour that is aggressive and violent," Norton advised.

Norton said that the interventions that may be deployed depend on the age of the child and the factors behind the triggers.



NEWS RELEASE

Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited to Acquire The Bank of Nova Scotia's Operations in Antigua

ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA – October 13, 2020 - The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited ("ECAB") announced today that it has reached an agreement to purchase The Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank)'s operations in Antigua and Barbuda. The agreement is subject to regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

This transaction supports ECAB's broader strategic plan to expand operations and to provide additional growth opportunities for customers, employees and shareholders.

Scotiabank is a Canadian-headquartered Bank with a focus on high-quality growth markets. Their Antigua operations offer a complete range of retail and commercial banking services. Scotiabank currently has over 65 employees and 11 ATMs across Antigua.

This acquisition represents a major milestone for ECAB. Mr. Michael Spencer, ECAB's General Manager stated, "We are very pleased to have reached this agreement with Scotiabank, as both organizations possess strong business models centered on supporting customers with their personal and business financial needs. We believe that this transaction will complement ECAB's strategy to deliver long-term value for customers and all stakeholders as well as increase earnings."

ECAB's Board of Directors commended the team for the progress made and expressed their confidence in the team's ability to close the transaction and ensure a seamless transition.

ECAB acknowledges the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's support for this transaction and looks forward to working with the relevant authorities to obtain the required regulatory approvals.

Until regulatory approvals are obtained and the transaction closes, operations at both institutions will be uninterrupted and will continue as usual.

About the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited

ECAB is a full-service commercial bank located in Antigua and Barbuda offering personal and commercial banking products and services including deposits, loans, cards, foreign exchange and other services to individual and business clients in Antigua and Barbuda and across the Caribbean. ECAB is also committed to growing its business and providing high quality products and services to all stakeholders.

For media enquiries only:

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Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited
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Phone: (268) 480-6114

-END-



Decision in PLH vs Barbuda Council case due next week

Judgment in the case brought against Peace Love and Happiness (PLH) by the Barbuda Council is to be handed down next week in the High Court.

An injunction was granted by the court, restraining PLH from carrying out work on the golf course on the project site at Palmetto Point until remedial work was completed to correct breaches identified by the Environment Division.

The Barbuda Council says the project is located in an environmentally sensitive area which is recognised by the Ramsar Convention.

The body also maintains that the project has encroached upon, and is causing damage to, the protected wetlands.

When the matter came up for hearing on Tuesday, the Barbuda Council's attorney argued that it could be proven

that the damage caused to the area has not been remedied and that remedial work had not commenced.

Attorneys for PLH argued that Barbuda Council was determined to halt the project in its entirety. T

hey continued that the pertinent question should be whether the court is considering granting a permanent injunction as a replacement to the interim injunction now

in place as this would result in PLH seeking damages as they have already incurred significant losses.

Although candidly admitting that destruction to the wetlands had been caused, PLH's attorney indicated that this was only the case in less than 1% of the land occupied by the golf course.

The matter is being heard before Justice Marisa Robertson.

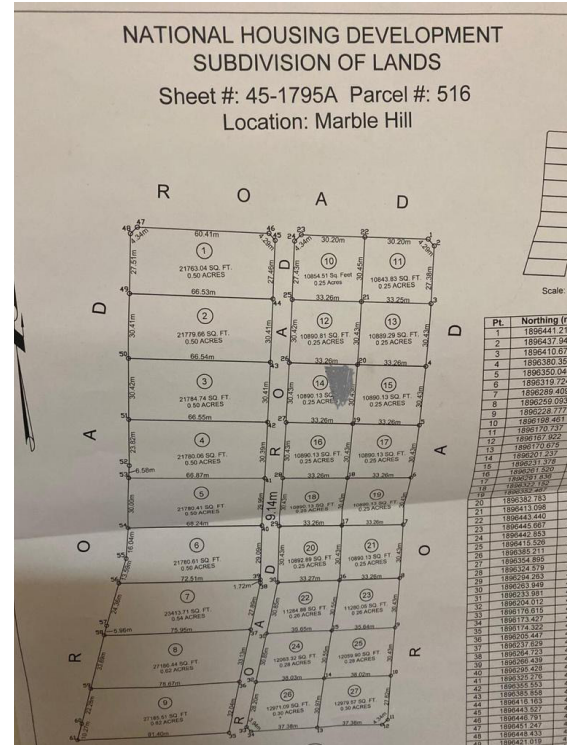
NHDURC issues statement on Marble Hill land ownership

ANTIGUA LAND REGISTER
A — PROPERTY SECTION

Registration Section: MCKINNON'S
Block and Parcel No.: 45.1795A 516
Approx. area: 10.08 Acres

B — PROPRIETORSHIP SECTION

INSTRUMENT NO	NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROPRIETOR(S)	SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR
RI-201600694	NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL COMPANY LIMITED situated at the Attorney General's Office, Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive, St. John, Antigua	<i>[Signature]</i>



It has come to the attention of the National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company Limited, false information circulating on social media, claiming that 10.8 acres of land in the Marble Hill area, adjacent to the newly constructed Chinese Embassy, is owned by the Hon. Prime Minister, Gaston Browne.

National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company Limited wishes to categorically state that this information is false and wishes to place on record that the National

Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company Limited is the sole beneficial owner of the lands previously registered to Adams Investment Management of Trinidad and Tobago. The lands were transferred to National Housing on 18th April 2016 and the entire area is earmarked for housing development for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, with eight (8) commercial lots and eighteen (18) residential lots.

The said lands are still in the ownership of National Housing and have not

been transferred or sold to anyone, including the Hon. Prime Minister Gaston Browne, or any member of his family.

The National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company Limited continues to provide the highest quality of affordable homes to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.



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Antigua and Barbuda Innovation Centre tackles real world problems

The recently established Antigua and Barbuda Science and Innovation Park (ABSIP) is beginning to make an impact on the country's economic, social and cultural development.

Chief Executive Officer of ABSIP, Winston Williams, said, "ABSIP is positioned to empower and advance the skills of talented Antiguan and Barbudans through skills training and providing a business incubator service for entrepreneur startups. 2021 is slated to be a productive year for ABSIP and its growing international partners."

ABSIP's current initiatives include answering the call to develop a National Contact Tracing mobile application. Williams swiftly pulled together a team of local developers and supporting visionaries to design the application and connected wearable device for monitor-

ing and tracing.

Leading the local team of developers are Mako S. Williams and Andrea Andrew.

The digital solution is designed to provide automated dashboard updates, manage COVID-19 data for locals, returning nationals, visitors, provide rapid tracing and maintain communication between the Ministry of Health and the Royal Police Force.

Among other things, the app will have the additional capacity to provide support to the Immigration Department.

Once completed, the Ministry of Health will implement a framework which will make the app and the connected wearable device one of the most secure and advanced protocols available.

Meantime, Williams' schedule in-

cludes several training and skills development programmes for Antigua and Barbuda's youth population. Together with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), one of its international partners, ABSIP will host the fourth Hackathon which will focus on building start-ups to address local problems.

The ABSIP Project Advisor, Ambassador Aubrey Webson, Antigua and Barbuda's permanent representative at the United Nations, has confirmed that the solution of access to high quality technical training and access to capital and international startups will develop innovative thinking among the youth population and will be invaluable toward the future of Antigua and Barbuda's participation in the knowledge industry and the emerging global market.

Pentecostal Assembly of the West Indies names new Bishop

The Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies (PAWI) has elected a new District Executive and a new District Presiding Bishop.

PAWI announced recently that Bishop Dr. Lyndon P. Mottley was elected as the new District Presiding Bishop and Reverend Dr. Cedric Forbes was elected as Assistant District Presiding Bishop.

Additionally, Bishop Rudolph Harris was elected as the new District Administrator while Reverend Dexter Laurence was re-elected as the Church Ministries Director.

Pastor Mildred Philip was



(From left: Rev. Dexter Laurence, Rev. Dr. Cedric Forbes, Pastor Mildred Philip, Bishop Rev. Rudolph Harris, Bishop Rev. Dr. Lyndon Mottley)

appointed as the District Missions Director.

These leadership appointments took immediate effect following the 44th Annual District Conference held on Friday August 21st, 2020.

The elections are held biennially.

"Our current times are challenging politically, socially, financially and spiritually. PAWI has a role to play and will continue to rise

in performing that role so as to mitigating the socio-spiritual fallouts and PAWI will perform its function with integrity, fairness and fear only to The Lord Jesus Christ," Bishop Mottley said in recognition of his appointment and responsibilities of PAWI.

PAWI Antigua and Barbuda, a full gospel organization, has been serving the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the twin island state since the 1940s. It became incorporated in 1972.

At present there are thirteen churches, including on Spanish speaking congregation, throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

National Park Authority issues stern warning

The National Park Authority (NPA), which has oversight of all commercial and developmental activities in the Nelson's Dockyard National Park, has strongly rebuked a business owner who has repeatedly flouted its regulations.

NPA Commissioner, Ann-Marie Martin, says too often the authority has to remind business owners that they are obliged to operate within the framework of the laws that govern the National Park.

Reports are that the NPA received a call late Friday

afternoon bringing its attention to the violation of park regulations.

The NPA Commissioner, and members of her management team, visited the Colibri property on Dockyard Drive where the business operator was observed directing backhoe operations in excavating a sidewalk from which between four to six inches of material had been removed.

In the past, the same business owner has violated the NPA's building regulations. The NPA is also investigating whether the property owner has ex-



panded his restaurant business onto Crown land.

Section 5 (2) a of the Park regulations of 2012 is clear and unambiguous in outlining the list of activities which require the written permission of the National Parks Authority.

Martin pointed out the said gentleman however went that the businessman has at all turns disregarded these legal requirements and gone ahead with undertaking work without making any effort to consult with, or seek the permission of, the NPA.

"When you do things without consulting, you run the very real risk of doing more harm than good," Martin declared.

These actions, she added, are occurring too often

which indicates that there is blatant disregard for the law and disrespect for the process by some business owners.

"Of course we welcome businesses and visitors to the area, but the regulations of the park are clear. I am quite certain this is not the way they would operate in the countries from where they come. We certainly will not tolerate it here. They are not above the law," Martin said firmly.

In August, the NPA cooperated with the Development Control Authority to halt the unauthorised construction of a plunge pool at a home located within the park because of the potential threat it may have caused to the health of the coastline.

Antiguan elected to serve as JCI West Indies Vice President

Over several days, the Junior Chamber International West Indies held a series of virtual events to mark the observance of its 60th National Convention.

Among the highlights of the annual event, which were the Board of Directors elections and the regional awards night.

Normally, the week long event would have enjoyed the participation of hundreds of young professionals from across the Caribbean.

JCI Antigua President, Andrea Smithen, through an active virtual campaign, was successful in becoming elected to the position of National Vice President of the JCI West Indies Board of Directors.

While the leader of the local chapter won her seat, JCI Antigua managed to also capture fourteen of twenty-two available awards.

The awards included par-

ticipation in the Peace is Possible campaign; World Clean-up Day; Disaster Risk Management; largest delegation at the virtual convention; Public Relations Champion award; Public Speaking Champion; Jaycee Therese Mills Debating Champion captained by Janelle Saunders and team members, Vice President Janet Simon, Donte Walter and Jasheeda Brodie.

JCI Antigua also secured the Most Professional Local President and Most Outstanding Local President, Andrea Smithen; Most Outstanding West Indies Board Officer, Secretary General Shenique Barry; Most Outstanding Member, Public Relations Officer, Laurel Jonas; Most Outstanding New Member, Donte Walter and Most Outstanding Local Organization.

The Senator Leandra James Cancer Awareness Campaign, which includes



the Virtual Colour Run and Fitness Jam, copped several awards including Best Local Long Term Community Programme and Best Local Global Goals.

JCI Antigua's business seminars received the Best

Local Corporate Social Responsibility award.

JCI Antigua's public speaking champion, Therese Mills, will also represent the West Indies at the Conference of the Americas in Panama in May 2021.



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Peak performance in a crisis environment

Robert Hislop is an Executive Coach, Brand Strategist, and Innovation Consultant whose career spans twenty plus years in Sales, Marketing, Business Development, Business Analysis and Brand Management.

Currently, he is the principal consultant at 2Tumb International where he coaches individuals to clarify objectives and develop strategies to achieve those goals.

Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) caught up with Robert to get his insight on performance management in a crisis environment as we are in the last quarter of the year and many companies will be focusing on their annual performance appraisals. We asked Robert from his experience as an executive coach, how management could focus on performance at a time when everything seems to be up in the air.

“Some organizations are doing a good job of managing in the current environment while some are not,” he said.

He furthered that many employees were not mentally prepared for working remotely/working from home or on reduced rotating schedules. Additionally, people are feeling disconnected, but Robert believes that HR and Management need to look at the employees from a mindset

perspective.

“For those who are not in the office to connect with other coworkers, they may be feeling the effects negatively by not being able to have this level of interaction virtually and resultantly feeling lost and left out. HR will have to encourage and support initiatives in the rest of the organisation to amplify the human element into their daily functions as well as the technical and productive sides,” he explained.

We then asked what a well-performing company looked like from the employees, customer and management perspective.

“Firstly, there has to be buy-in from all persons to understand that all concerned are moving in the same direction. Secondly, we must be able to build the trust that is necessary for all persons to perform well. Thirdly, employees must understand how revenue is derived to keep the organization functioning optimally and lastly understanding how poor customer service affects the employer’s brand from a sales perspective and also from a recruiting top talent perspective.”

HRPAB then asked Robert about the idea of doing away with performance management, as we were curious as to what this would look like.

“Performance Management can’t be done away

with in totality, but the system should be tweaked to be specific to the various segments of the organization being evaluated.”

According to Robert, using the same tool to evaluate salespeople as engineers may cause one group to be unfavorably rated. To this, he added that as jobs are done differently, individuals should be assessed differently to their colleagues while maintaining the human element of their ability to perform.

This means that adjustments would be required since the tool used to evaluate employees working in office may not be as effective when evaluating remote workers, especially if it depends on peer feedback or a 360° review. We are also reminded that performance management should involve continuous evaluation of an employee’s output instead of waiting until the end of the year to bring shortcomings to their attention.

As it ultimately relates to the end of year appraisals, Robert stated that management would have to look

at the reality of lockdowns and lost productivity as no fault of the employee. Therefore, management must consider all things while planning for this year’s year-end review. This change, he added, will have to be led by the HR Department to ensure equality across the board and to ensure the system is one that can be replicated for years to come regardless of the economic outlook.

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.



Ethiopia stretches forth her hands unto God

By *Makeda Mikeal*

The oldest Christian church in the world, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC), stretched forth her hands unto God in Antigua. For bible readers, it is a poignant story of the Ethiopian eunuch being the first Ethiopian to be taught by Phillip the meaning of the passage where Isaiah speaks of Christ and is baptized. Returning rejoicing to his homeland Ethiopia, the experience brought into being the first Christian nation and the first Christian Orthodox Church.

Such is the story of Antigua's first EOC in Bendals where Abba Gebre Yesus Weldesamuel Negatu tends his small, but growing, flock of Rastafari families and other Orthodox Christians.

In the 1970s, Antigua received help from the Ethiopian World Federation of London in connecting with the Ethiopian Orthodox Churches of Kingston and Bermuda from where the first priest, Kes Kedane, was sent to Antigua to help a small group of Rastafari families begin their church.

The Francis home, directly across from the Methodist Church on St. Mary's Street, was the first premises to house the first EOC services in Antigua. As the flock outgrew the front room of



the house, the Church moved to the old Bryson's building in Point, where drums and other musical instruments could be heard and the congregation, which includes many children, were free to worship and be happy.

The EOC in Antigua reached out to the church in St. Kitts as it continued to grow. The EOC in Trinidad also came forward to help the growing EOC in Antigua in securing their own priest from Ethiopia. In order to have a priest stationed permanently on the island, the

Antigua EOC chapter had to be organized enough to establish their ability to maintain the church and its priest.

The Antiguan Ethiopian Orthodox Christians worked hard and held their congregation together in the hope of having their own Ethiopian priest to teach and preach the customs of Ethiopia and the culture of the true Orthodox Christian. Abba Gebre Yesus Weldesamuel Negatu, a monk of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Ethiopia, has since been received with love and respect by his Antiguan Ethiopian Orthodox Church congregation and is happy and at home in Bendals where he resides.

The EOC in Bendals is a simple building housing the dynamic and powerful presence of the Ark of the Covenant, a prevailing liturgical center of the faith from the days of King Solomon.

Rastafari receive the blessings and the culture of Ethiopia and the church directly from its source through Abba Gebre Yesus, a gentle soul sharing the genuine Ethiopian culture with all who enter his church and all who love God.

Antigua now with Ethiopia stretches forth her hands unto God!



Under US leadership the IDB develops an 'America First' strategy

By David Jessop

In his first address, IDB's new President said that his appointment would lead to a stronger commitment from the US to support the region and its institutions. David Jessop believes his remarks indicate that for strategic reasons, the US is moving gradually towards an 'America First' policy.

"The IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) will work with the region to boost investment through greater integration and nearshoring. My goal is for the Western Hemisphere to be the most attractive region for direct investment in the world", Mauricio Claver-Carone, the bank's new President told IDB staff on 1 October.

In a positive and detailed first address deserving careful consideration, the former Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere at the US National Security Council painted a picture of a very different future hemisphere; one that is economically integrated, and in which the US plays a critical role not just bilaterally but by exercising leadership with other multilateral development institutions.

Mr. Claver-Carone envisages that the IDB can become central to consolidating the economy of the whole of the Americas. To achieve this, the IDB would need to increase its lending from US\$12bn to nearly US\$20bn annually and, to this end, he intends mobilising the support of the US Treasury and Congress. He also told staffers that he intends to "better leverage and arbitrage other international financial institutions".

His plans, he said, will make more creative use of blended finance and co-financing and speed up and simplify lending processes and execution. Mr. Claver-Carone said too that he wants to see the Washington-based IDB "lead the way globally" in working with the

World Bank and the IMF in the Americas, creating joint country platforms.

Speaking about nearshoring and deeper economic integration, IDB's new President said, "My goal is for the Western Hemisphere to be the most attractive region for direct investment in the world."

This, he said, will mean greater growth, more jobs and capital to invest in the type of modern infrastructure and digital networks needed to compete.

"The IDB should be the flagbearer for nearshoring to the benefit of all borrowing countries."

From a Caribbean perspective, Mr. Claver-Carone accepted that "the serious effects of climate change are a scientific fact" and that the IDB must continue working towards doubling climate finance and develop a clear plan of action that strengthens existing programmes. He also plans to construct a strong and diverse executive team to "ensure that the voices of small countries are heard".

Mr. Claver-Carone, controversially the first US citizen to hold the post, made clear that his candidacy was a signal of a stronger commitment from the United States to support the region and its institutions and a belief that the bank could play a transformational role in accelerating recovery and growth.

Although not commenting specifically on the Caribbean, at a media briefing he described how he sees Guyana's future development as the potential model for the region.

"If Guyana is able to manage as the fastest growing economy in the world, it will be really the first emerging economy, first developing nation, first liberal democracy, to do so successfully," he said. "If Guyana succeeds, I think that the region will succeed and will be a model to follow", he said in answer to a question from Stabroek News.



David Jessop

Unsurprisingly perhaps, Mr. Claver-Carone's thinking compliments recent US policy themes in relation to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and could well be another element in Washington's subtle redefinition of the Monroe Doctrine and broader wish to secure a geographically proximate sphere of influence.

Although the new IDB President did not say so, the overall approach he is proposing will have the effect of strengthening the US position in the hemisphere in relation to China and its willingness to deploy resources, invest, and gradually exercise economic influence.

At its most basic, China has a population of 1.39 billion and an economy close to overtaking that of the 328 million strong US, however, an economically stimulated and better integrated Americas, including Mexico and Canada, would have a total population size of 965m enabling the US and its hemispheric partners to be better placed to compete globally in future.

Put another way, while President Trump, for domestic reasons, has been pursuing a political agenda intended to regenerate the US economy, those who work with or around him have recognised that economic size and closer integration with Latin America and the

cont'd on pg 15

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Caribbean will matter when it comes to outpacing China globally.

The unspoken implication is that through US-led and supported nearshoring, digitization, improved connectivity, entrepreneurship, the private sector and new funding mechanisms, an economically integrated hemisphere will be less susceptible to China's growing global influence and the strategic threat the US believes this poses.

For the LAC region however, a more likely, and for many a more welcome eventual outcome, may be a better development balance between the two global superpowers.

China is already embedded in the whole region making the success of any comprehensive policy of North-South economic integration uncertain. Its cooperative partnership with the Caribbean and many Latin nations is well advanced, well-funded, multifaceted and linked to its broader 'Belt and Road' global trade initiative. Moreover, despite the impact of the pandemic, it is the only

G20 nation expected to experience real GDP growth this year and, assuming global economic recovery occurs in 2021, is forecast to grow faster than any other group member except India.

Despite this, the new IDB President's words will be well received in those Latin American and Caribbean nations that want to see serious leadership and clear development objectives when it comes to recovery from the long term economic damage

caused by COVID-19 and the need for a rapid response to the challenges posed by climate change.

The fact that Mr. Claver-Carone's remarks contained no hint of political conditionality is also welcome, although much will now depend on his actions in office, what the IDB's lending and borrowing nations think and what the requirements of the US administration and Congress will be when they come to consider additional fund-

ing.

The new IDB President's remarks are a practical sign, perhaps the first, of the wider significance of a US policy that is moving gradually from 'America First' to one that becomes 'the Americas First', with or without the divisive presence of President Trump.

David Jessop is a consultant to the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at david.jessop@caribbean-council.org

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE
A celebration of our islands heritage

Warri
(meaning "house") is the national [mancala game](#) of Antigua and Barbuda.

The game is a variant of [Oware](#), which was brought to Antigua in the early 18th century by African slaves.

ABIB
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

PLEGE to DRIVE SAFELY

THE PULL UP SHOW

FRIDAY 7PM-9PM

POINTE FM 99.1

MENACE | ADRIAN | MYÁ | ERIC | WALLY

COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

ASK MENACE

Call for \$50 billion in reparations

(Barbados Today) The CARICOM Reparations Committee wants \$50 billion as money for an Investment Development Fund donated as a starting point by entities that profited from slavery, and apologized for their role, to begin the Caribbean growth process, and to be managed both regionally and globally.

The initial money from this Fund is not intended to be passed on to individuals but, with approval of the regional and global management committee, go towards capital outlay for much needed productive projects across the Caribbean and to prop up the social advancement of the people.

Those who are being asked to contribute to the fund span from organizations which have in recent times publicly admitted to using gains from slavery for the start-up of their operations that remain profitable today, to persons who stacked up individual wealth which they admitted founded its seed financing in the enslavement of Africans in the Caribbean.

“Every bank on the high streets of England, all the banks that you know, Lloyds, Barclays, National Westminster, Midlands, all of them began their journey in the financing of slavery and colonization, and they all issued [apologies].” said University of the West Indies Vice-Chancellor, Hilary Beckles, yesterday.

UWI’s principal academic and administrative officer who also heads the CARICOM Reparations Committee spoke of the organization’s intent during an Internet live stream interview, conducted by Professor Andy Knight, commemorating International Day for Reparations designated for 12 October.

Incidentally, 12 October is the anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ first landing in the Americas when he touched down on the Bahamian island

later named, San Salvador in 1492.

Professor Knight of the University of Alberta said, “in doing so he [Columbus] ushered in a cycle of occupation, violence, genocide, and slavery and heralded the advent of colonization.”

“And that colonial legacy continues to plague the people of our region.”

Beckles, a foremost Caribbean historian and author of many books detailing the region’s past, singled out two financial houses that to this day owe their successful existence

to some 200 years of free labour of Africans in the Caribbean.

“Lloyd’s of London the largest insurance company in the world that made its fortune from ensuring not only the slave ships but insuring the Africans as property. They have issued their apology.”

Another, and even more significant company to admit its role and apologize in recent months is the Bank of England which, Beckles said, “was established to regulate all of the cash coming into England from slavery.

There was so much cash and so many small provincial banks the government put the Bank of England together to regulate all of that cash coming in, standardize it, and make it available to industrialists in England who could borrow that money from the provincial banks and invest it to build factories for industrial development. So Caribbean cash would circulate in the British economy through a guided model”.

“We have said an apology is never enough when the damage is [still] here,” the Vice-Chancellor said, adding, “what we are looking at now, is that there should be launch under the auspices of the United Nations, one of its agencies, an Investment Development Fund, in which all of the countries, companies, persons, and insti-



University of the West Indies Vice-Chancellor, Professor Hilary Beckles

tutions, that gave all those apologies in recent years for the extraction of wealth from slavery and colonization, they put this money into this fund”.

He explained that the Fund will be globally and nationally managed for the purpose of sponsoring economic and social development at the site of the wealth extraction, the Caribbean.

According to Beckles, the CARICOM Committee’s concept is not new.

“This is the model that was used largely by the Jewish Reparations Committee ... [that] got reparations out of Europe.”

The initial deposit into the Fund is chicken feed compared to the amount of earnings European countries, especially the UK, benefitted from Caribbean slavery.

Beckles disclosed, “we did the numbers, 200 years of free labour, from about 15 million people... including adults and children, you’re talking about seven trillion pounds [sterling].”

Beckles sought to clarify a popular misconception that CARICOM states are seeking cash payments directly into national coffers or the hands of citizens.

“The reparations that we are talking about is about laying the foundation
cont’d on pg 17

St. Lucian PM says gov't can't afford to fund stabilisation programme

(CMC) Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has told St. Lucians that it is “no secret” that the island has exhausted all of the efforts aimed at providing financial assistance to citizens in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and appealed to nationals to follow the various protocols and measures aimed at curbing the spread of the virus that has so far infected 29 people here.

In a television broadcast on Sunday night, Chastanet, flanked by the Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sharon Belmar-George Belmar and Police Commissioner Severin Moncherry, acknowledged that it had become difficult to raise funds both locally and overseas to finance the programme.

“It is no secret the government has exhausted all of the efforts, all of the resources with the NIC (National Insurance Corporation) and donor agencies to provide a social stabilisation programme for the public and



St. Lucia Prime Minister Allen Chastanet

for those persons who have lost their jobs.

“We have no more money. What we are hoping to do is to regain the strength of our economy so many persons can be re-employed,” Chastanet said, thanking those hoteliers that have re-employed their workers “despite knowing that they are going to lose money for several months.

“I want to thank those businesses that in the worst of times maintained the employment and showed the humanitarian side of economics. But the reality is we have a battle. If in fact there is a community outbreak we

have to do everything in our power to contain it as fast as possible,” Chastanet added.

His statement came as health authorities here confirmed that a 48-year-old bus driver had become the country's latest COVID-19 case and Chastanet warned that if St. Lucia lost its status as and the confidence “the rest of the world has with us it is going to significantly impact the arrivals that we are having into our country is to lower your standards and so that would be difficult, if not impossible for me and my cabinet to agree to that.

“I have seen other countries go forward into a similar trap and at that point the only way to continue the economic growth Therefore we have to work doubly hard to make sure if we do have a community spread that we can contain it as fast as possible

Chastanet seemed to link the latest case with the illegal entry into the island mainly from the neighbouring French island of Mar-

tinique adding “we don't know if these people have COVID. Everybody wants to keep it a secret”

Chastanet said St. Lucians have to act as if everyone has the virus, noting also that the public transport drivers were also guilty of not following the protocols and allowing more passengers than required into the buses.

He said he was urging all St. Lucians to realise the situation “is not a joke” and that there were many people here going about their daily business without wearing masks and advocating that “there is no COVID in St. Lucia”.

He also dismissed suggestions that health authorities here were falsifying the figures relating to the pandemic, adding “this is irresponsible.

“We have always told the truth. The moment information is received (the CMO) notifies me and within three minutes that information is made public. So I am asking all of us to not listen to this fake news. Don't fall prey to this idea that St. Lucia is some special place in the world and we can have an environment where everybody around us has COVID and we don't. We earn that status together and the appeal is to put all of us on notice that those liberties we have had are in jeopardy,” Chastanet said.

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for investment in the economic development of the Caribbean.

“At the same time, it is about building institutions to allow for issues of identity and sovereignty and rights and education to be rooted in the pedagogy of identity and education and culture.

“So this is not a hand-out process. It is about negotiating the economic and social transformation of the Caribbean that had been extracted to the max in terms of its wealth and the call for a return, repatriation, of at least a part of that wealth to support economic transformation and social development.”

Bahamas: Government secures \$US600 million bond financing

(EW News)The government has been able to secure US\$600 million in bond financing from international capital markets to help finance its 2020/2021 budgetary needs and repay debt.

The transaction will add an additional \$352 million to the debt level of the country, and falls within the \$1.334 billion in approved financing for the current fiscal year.

The proceeds of the issuance will be used to finance the Government's general 2020/2021 budgetary needs and to repay its indebtedness of US\$248 million under the 2020 Bridge Facility.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Finance, The Bahamas successfully priced a US\$600 million issue of 8.95 percent bonds, due 2032 in the international debt capital markets.

The MOF said the new transaction benefited from the momentum created during



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance K Peter Turnquest

a successful virtual investor roadshow that The Bahamas conducted on October 5 and 6, 2020, at which time the Government met with over 45 global investors.

“A team from the Ministry of Finance, led by the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance, and including the Acting Financial Secretary and the Director-General of the Ministry of Tourism, presented investors with an update on economic and financial trends in The Bahamas, as well as the Government's recent policy initiatives for

combating the COVID-19 pandemic and plans for re-opening of the tourism sector,” the Ministry of Finance said. The order book closed with indications in excess of US\$1.1 billion, and with over 140 accounts participating—including many new investors in Bahamas debt.

The 11-year weighted average life bond was priced with a coupon (interest rate) of 8.950 percent per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears, with principal amortization payable in three equal annual installments, commencing on October 15, 2030 and a final maturity date of October 15, 2032.

Commenting on the transaction, Finance minister Peter Turnquest said: “Given the strong shock to the Bahamian economy caused by Hurricane Dorian and now COVID-19, we are satisfied with the successful pricing of this bond issue and the

positive response from the investor community, which reflects the market's ongoing confidence in The Bahamas.

“Despite the interruption in our fiscal consolidation objective, the Government is undeterred in its commitment to pursue a credible fiscal policy and achieve debt sustainability and to pursuing the structural reforms that would release a strong level of economic growth.”

Turnquest added: “...(This) will improve The Bahamas' prospects for enhancing its funding cost fundamentals vis-vis the credit markets.”

Consistent with its debt management strategy, the Government intends to establish a sinking fund to assist in managing the future repayment obligations arising from this debt issuance.

Credit Suisse Securities (USA) Inc. and RBC Capital Markets, LLC. managed the offer as joint book runners.

UK has weaponised ‘accountability’ to cripple, exert influence over BVI

(BVI News) Government minister Vincent Wheatley has said words such as ‘accountability’ and ‘good governance’ have been weaponised in British Overseas Territories and continues to hinder the functionality of government.

Wheatley said ‘accountability’ has become an instrument used by the British government to “exert implicit influence” over Overseas Territories.

He shared those sentiments in a recent session of the House of Assembly while raising fresh concerns that a fear of be-

ing labelled ‘corrupt’ has gripped many public officials who are guardians of the public purse.

“I ain't going to jail for nobody”, is the mantra chanted by many public officials whenever asked to approve financial and other resources that elected representatives need to assist the public.

“Which is a worse evil: to have relief money sitting in a bank when a majority of our people face losing their homes, can't pay rent, can't buy food, can't pay bills? Or to pay out relief funds to



Government Minister Vincent Wheatley

persons who don't need it?” Wheatley asked before saying public officials have become so fearful that resources often

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White House advances drone and missile sales to Taiwan - sources

(Reuters) The White House is moving forward with more sales of sophisticated military equipment to Taiwan, telling Congress on Tuesday that it will seek to sell MQ-9 drones and a coastal defensive missile system, five sources familiar with the situation said.

These possible sales follow three other notifications first reported by Reuters on Monday that drew China's ire in the run-up to the Nov. 3 U.S. election.

China considers Taiwan a wayward province that it has vowed to reunite with the mainland, by force if necessary. Reuters broke the news in September that as many as seven major weapons systems were making their way through the U.S. export process as the Trump administration ramps up pressure on China.

The pre-notification to Congress for the MQ-9 drone case is the first after President Donald Trump's administration moved ahead with its plan to sell more drones to more countries by reinterpreting an international arms control agreement called the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

Tuesday's other congressional pre-notification was for land-based Harpoon anti-ship missiles, made by Boeing Co, to serve as a coastal defense against cruise missiles.



Taiwan's navy sailors take part in the commissioning ceremony of PFG-1112 Ming Chuan and PFG-1115 Feng Chia.

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations and House of Representatives Foreign Affairs committees have the right to review, and block, weapons sales under an informal review process before the State Department sends its formal notification to the legislative branch.

Leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations and House of Representatives Foreign Affairs committees were notified that the planned weapons sales had been approved by the U.S. State Department which oversees foreign military sales, said the sources, who are familiar with the situation but declined to be identi-

fied.

Reuters reported on Monday that informal notifications had been sent to Congress for a truck-based rocket launcher made by Lockheed Martin Corp called a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), long-range air-to-ground missiles made by Boeing called SLAM-ER, and external sensor pods for F-16 jets that allow the real-time transmission of imagery and data from the aircraft back to ground stations.

Representatives for the U.S. State Department and China did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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go to waste before they reach the general public.

"We saw it happen. We had food here after the hurricanes on the festival grounds spoiling while people were in their houses going hungry. You know why that happens? They are afraid of not knowing where something is. They would rather know where it is although it is totally useless,"

Wheatley explained.

Widespread fear frustrating legislators He said the fear of not being accountable is so widespread among public servants that elected officials are often frustrated whenever they try to get government resources to assist the public.

"Elected members are often frustrated to death, trying to do what they were elected to do. The civil servants

are not afraid of us but they have a fear of doing certain things. Every minister who ever went to an Accounting Officer has heard them say, 'Minister, you ain't going to make me go to jail'. And all we are trying to do is to help our people," Wheatley explained. The minister's criticisms of accountability in government comes amid recent cries of many business

owners who said they were waiting too long to receive their COVID-19 stimulus funds under the government's Small Business Sector Grant Relief Programme.

Wheatley as well as Premier Andrew Fahie have said the cheques were delayed because of bureaucratic processes that have followed to ensure accountability in government.

Cyprus to suspend 'EU golden passports' scheme

(BBC) Cyprus is suspending a scheme that grants citizenship and guarantees visa-free travel throughout the EU for those who invest a minimum of €2m (£1.8m).

It comes after Al Jazeera reporters filmed Cypriot officials using the scheme to assist a fictional Chinese businessman with a criminal record.

One of those filmed was Cyprus's parliamentary speaker, Demetris Syllouris, who said he would step down until an investigation was completed.

The move comes into force next month.

Mr Syllouris, who is Cyprus's second-highest ranking state official, said he would withdraw from his duties from 19 October.

In the video footage captured by undercover Al Jazeera journalists and released on Monday, Mr Syllouris appears to offer his influence to assist in obtaining citizenship for the fictitious businessman.

On Tuesday, Mr Syllouris released a statement apologising for "this unpleasant image conveyed to the Cypriot public... and any upset it may have caused".

His announcement came shortly after the government said it had approved a proposal to suspend the scheme - the citizenship for investment programme - follow-



Cypriot parliamentary speaker Demetris Syllouris was filmed by undercover journalists investigating the scheme

ing an emergency session on Tuesday.

In a statement posted on Twitter, the office of Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades said the proposal was put forward in response to "weaknesses" in the scheme that could be "exploited".

Cyprus, which joined the EU in 2004, currently provides passports to non-EU nationals who make sufficient investments in the country.

Last November, it emerged that fugitive financier Jho Low - a central figure in the global scandal which saw billions of dollars go missing from the Malaysian state fund 1MDB - had obtained Cypriot citizenship in September 2015 and reportedly

bought a €5m property in the Cypriot resort of Ayia Napa.

Mr Low is wanted in the US, where prosecutors say he laundered billions through its financial system.

Mr Low has denied any wrongdoing, and his current whereabouts are unknown, although there have been reports of him in various locations.

Cyprus later revoked his "golden passport" and those bought by 25 foreign investors, including nine Russians, eight Cambodians and five Chinese.

Last year, the EU Commission told EU states to tighten checks on non-EU nationals who acquired citizenship through invest-

ments. Malta and Bulgaria operate similar schemes to that of Cyprus.

The commission said the programme could be abused and used for tax evasion and money-laundering.

It added that applicants could acquire citizenship of Cyprus, Malta and Bulgaria - and hence EU citizenship - "without ever having resided in practice in the member state".

EU citizens can move easily throughout the bloc, as well as live and work in another member state without the bureaucratic hurdles that non-EU nationals face.

Some other EU states and the UK offer "golden" residence visas in exchange for large investments.

‘Poor are getting poorer’: IMF warns of severe pandemic plight

(Aljazeera) The global economy is “coming back” the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday, but warned that the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will likely be long and uncertain with “uneven recoveries” in emerging and developing economies significantly worsening the prospects for redressing income inequality within and between nations.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF revised its forecast for global growth to negative 4.4 percent this year – a less severe contraction than the negative 5.2 percent it had forecast in June, but still on track for the worst performance since the Great Depression.

“We are projecting a somewhat less severe though still deep recession in 2020, relative to our June forecast,” said chief economist Gita Gopinath in a foreword to the October revision of the World Economic Outlook. “The revision is driven by second-quarter GDP outturns in large advanced economies, which were not as negative as we had projected,” she added, citing China’s stronger-than-expected return to growth as a key driver.

But a lack of fiscal space and ballooning debt has left less wealthy countries – where most of the world’s people live – in economic shambles.

“The poor are getting poorer with over 90 million people expected to fall into extreme poverty just this year,” said Gopinath during a virtual presentation on Tuesday. “Policies for the next stage of the crisis must see lasting improvements and create a prosperous future for all.”

Inequality within countries is growing as well, with low-skilled workers, women and young people being hit



Gita Gopinath, chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, warned on Tuesday that inequality within countries is growing with low-skilled workers, women and young people hardest hit by the coronavirus crisis

harder than others.

Preventing the divergence will require ending the health crisis, said Gopinath, and getting countries to work together to ensure the rapid development of coronavirus treatments and vaccines.

The IMF upgraded its economic outlook for the United States due to stronger than expected performance in the second and third quarters.

“In the second quarter the recovery in the US came sooner than expected [and] quarter three has been strong as well,” despite a resurgence in coronavirus cases, Gopinath said, adding that the projection still remains in negative territory of minus 4.3 percent.

But even a partial recovery in the US economy has positive spillover to other parts of the world. Action taken by the US Central Bank, the Federal Reserve, early in the pandemic has helped stabilise the global market,

she said.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 20 million people are projected to fall into extreme poverty this year.

These countries simply do not have the fiscal space and policies to deal with a crisis of such magnitude.

India, where the hit on the economy has been large and broad based, is seeing a significant growth downgrade of minus 10.3 percent.

“There’s been some efforts to improve medium-term prospects with some progress on labour reform bills,” Malhar Nabar, Division Chief at IMF Research, said during the virtual briefing.

Extraordinary fiscal and monetary support is critical for least developed, developing and emerging economies in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East that rely heavily on tourism and oil exports, said the IMF officials.

Trade body rules EU can put tariffs on \$4 billion of US goods

(Washington Post) International arbitrators said Tuesday that the European Union can impose tariffs and other penalties on up to \$4 billion worth of U.S. goods and services over illegal American support for plane maker Boeing. The move further sours transatlantic ties at a time when the coronavirus has doused trade and savaged economies.

The ruling by the World Trade Organization arbitrators, which could inflame Trump administration criticism of the Geneva-based body, amounts to one of the largest penalties handed down by the WTO.

It comes a year after another ruling authorized the United States to slap penalties on EU goods worth up to \$7.5 billion - including Gouda cheese, single-malt whiskey and French wine - over the bloc's support for Boeing rival Airbus.

The latest decision is final, cannot be appealed, and puts the final word on a standoff dating back to 2006. It is just one part of a string of long-running disputes between the two plane-making giants at the WTO. And it sets the stage for what could become intense negotiation between the EU and U.S. to end what could become tit-for-tat transatlantic sanctions.

The arbitrators were tasked with setting a dollar value in



Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President of the EU Commission, speaks at a press conference in Berlin, Germany, following the informal talks of the EU Trade Ministers on Monday, Sept. 21, 2020.

sanctions such as tariffs that the EU could impose after the WTO's appellate body found last year that Boeing had received at least \$5 billion in subsidies that were prohibited under international trade rules.

The United States had argued that the illegal support merited no more than \$412 million in penalties, while the European bloc had countered that they deserved nearly \$8.6 billion. The award in essence was nearly 10 times more than what the U.S. had claimed, and under half that the EU wanted.

The EU had argued that tax breaks for Boeing from Washington state, which was once headquartered in Seattle and has major manufacturing operations in the state, unfairly harmed Airbus jets in the large single-aisle civil aircraft market — namely the A320neo and A320ceo aircraft. The U.S. argues that those tax breaks ended this

year, eliminating any basis for the award.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told The Associated Press that the decision “doesn’t really authorize any action on their part” because Washington state has already repealed the tax breaks that the WTO deemed illegal. “Our view is that we’re in compliance,” Lighthizer said. He also said that negotiations with the EU on a resolution to the dispute are ongoing.

The WTO arbitrators said that the lifting of the tax breaks was not enough to prevent the award in favor of the EU.

European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said Tuesday’s ruling move will allow the EU to slap tariffs on American goods entering Europe, but “I would much prefer not to do so - additional duties are not in the economic interest of either side, particularly

as we strive to recover from the COVID-19 recession.”

“It is my hope that the U.S. will now drop the tariffs imposed on EU exports last year,” he added. “This would generate positive momentum both economically and politically, and help us to find common ground in other key areas.”

Bernd Lange, chairman of the European Parliament’s trade committee, said the EU should enact the tariffs now, though he urged both sides to enter talks. He cautioned that “the EU should not be naive” in case of a lack of “constructive engagement from the American side even after the presidential elections.”

Boeing, in a statement, wrote: “We are disappointed that Airbus and the EU continue to seek to impose tariffs on U.S. companies and their workers based on a tax provision that has been fully and verifiably repealed.” It also argued that WTO rules are only used to force compliance - and the plane maker insisted the U.S. is now in compliance — so any EU tariffs “would not be permissible.”

“Rather than escalating this matter with threats to U.S. businesses and their European customers, Airbus and the EU should be focusing their energies on good-faith efforts to resolve this long-running dispute,” Boeing said.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

VIRTUAL CALYPSO SHOW The general public is kindly reminded that registration for the Virtual Calypso Monarch will officially conclude on Friday 16th October. Therefore, all persons desirous of participating in this year's competition are kindly asked to complete their registration, as the deadline is swiftly approaching. Registration forms can be collected at the National Festivals Office (NFO), located upstairs the Cecil George-John Building on the corner of Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley. Persons can also complete their registration online by visiting the Antigua Carnival website, www.antiguacarnival.com/virtualcalypsomonarch. Tracks (music) can be hand-delivered to the NFO on a flash drive or CD, or submitted online as an attachment to their online registration form.

ROAD WORK ON SIR GEORGE WALTER HIGHWAY: Road work continues in Phase 2B between Mi Casa Imports Ltd to Sir Sidney Walling Hwy (Factory Rd) junction from. Local access will be maintained for the duration of this closure and there will be business as usual. Business owners, customers and residents trying to gain access are asked to enter from the northern end of closure from Dees Service Station (Rubis) junction.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS

The Labour Department wishes to inform the general public that the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has decided that until further notice, work permit renewal applications are not required to be advertised by employers. ALL new work permit applications, including change of employers, MUST be accompanied by proper proof of advertisement, copies of applications received in response to job advertisement and a proper justification for work permit application. Please be guided accordingly.

CADET CORPS REGISTRATION

Registration to the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps for children aged 13-18 will take place each Saturday in October from 9am - 12:30pm at the Ex-Servicemen Association Building, Camp Site (opposite Sagicor Insurance, close to the Prime Minister's Office). Each child should be accompanied by a parent or guardian and should have a copy of their birth certificate, a passport picture, proof that the child is enrolled in an educational institution, including the Antigua State College, ABICE, ABITT. This proof can be the acceptance letter or school bus pass and a registration fee of EC\$25. Please wear masks and bring your own pen.

WOMEN LEADERS

Young women aged 18 to 25 who are interested in leadership and living in Antigua and Barbuda, are being sought ahead of an upcoming conference. The Antigua and Barbuda Parliament in partnership with ParlAmericas will be hosting a "Young Women in Leadership" conference through October and November 2020. Visit www.civil.org or call 462-4822 or 464-2705 for more information. Submit your community notices to news@pointville.ag

FREE MATH CLASSES IN ST. PAUL'S

Another learning opportunity is being offered in the St. Paul's community. CXC Math classes facilitated by veteran mathematician, Anthonyson King. These classes are geared toward 4th and 5th form students and those desirous of retaking CXC Mathematics. You must be a resident of St. Paul. Classes commence on Wednesday 14th October and will continue every Wednesday at 4:00PM. Early registration is encouraged to facilitate scheduling.

TAKE AWAY FOOD SALE

The Cathedral Parish of St. John the Divine will be holding a fundraising Take Away Food Sale on Saturday 17th October, 2020 at the Deanery Grounds from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale \$20.00 each, available at the Deanery or from members of the congregation.

SJA INDEPENDENCE LUNCH

St. Joseph's Academy presents its annual Independence Lunch on Saturday 31st October, 2020 at the school grounds. Tickets are \$25.00 and available at the school.

Submit your community notices to news@pointville.ag

DAY 10/14

NIGHT 10/14

30° Hi



Some sun with a couple of showers

26° Lo



Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:00 AM

Sunset AST
5:46 PM



Duration
11:46 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

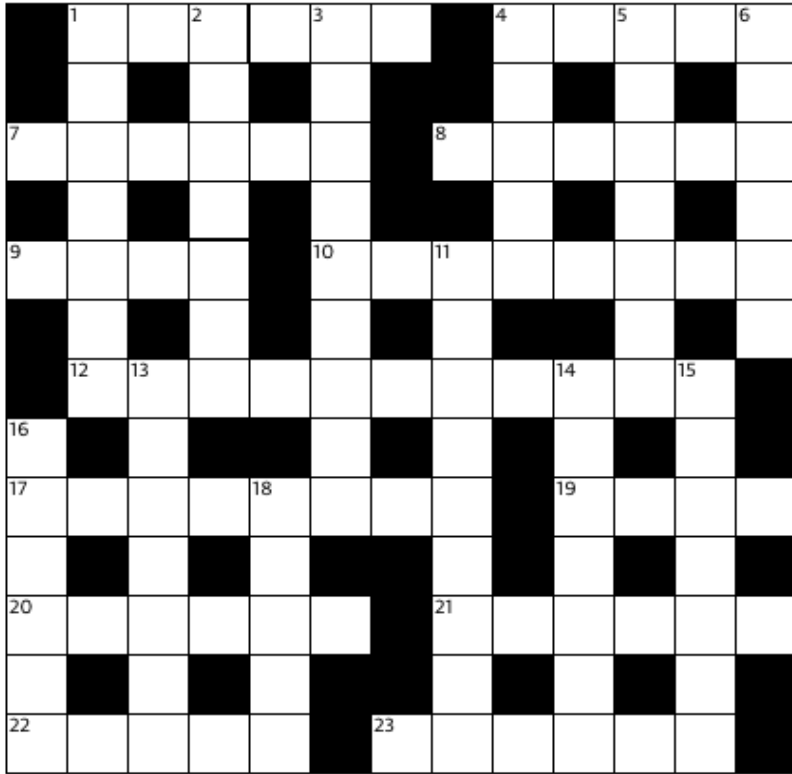
Moonrise AST
3:36 PM

Moonset AST
4:26 AM

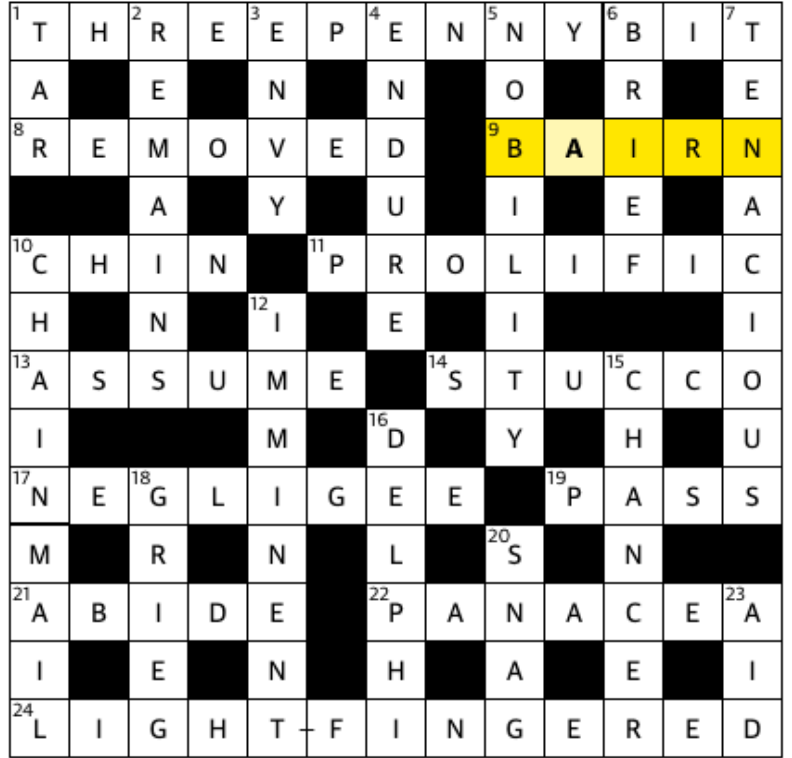


Duration
12: 47 hr

Quick crossword No 15,736



Quick crossword No 15,735



Across

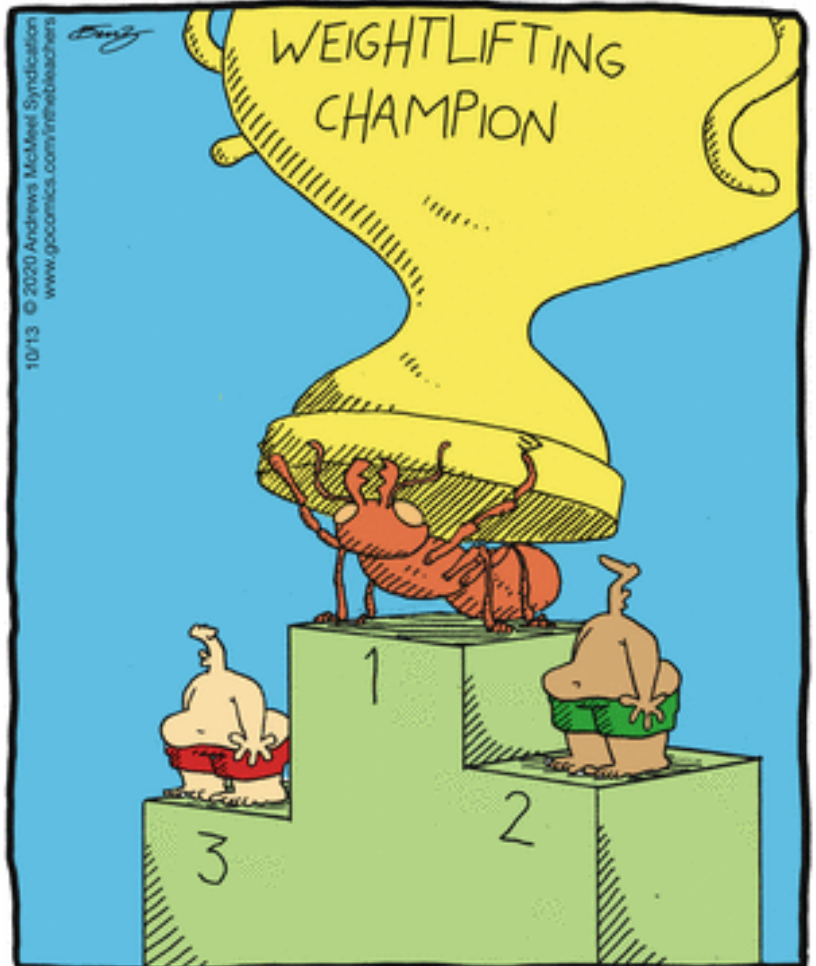
- 1 Discourage (3,3)
- 4 Monk's garb (5)
- 7 Rather — with less delay (6)
- 8 Runner-up's award (6)
- 9 Enthusiastic enjoyment (4)
- 10 Mad, bad Roman emperor, assassinated AD 41 (8)
- 12 Study and collection of coins (11)
- 17 Team game with sticks (8)
- 19 Fall in drops (4)
- 20 £10 (6)
- 21 Do something as a favour (6)
- 22 Austrian symphony composer, d. 1809 (5)

Down

- 1 Essential dietary requirement (7)
- 2 A Christmas Carol character (4,3)
- 3 Predictions (9)
- 4 Country forming the western part of Hispaniola, independent since 1804 (5)
- 5 Temporary encampment (7)
- 6 Jungle hero created by Edgar Rice Burroughs (6)
- 11 Type of tenure (9)
- 13 Eerie (7)
- 14 Gratify one's appetites (7)
- 15 Mass of small rounded pebbles (7)
- 16 Brood of chicks (6)
- 18 Large expanse of water (5)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



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ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): It's not your circus. Don't get sidetracked by other people's problems unless they interfere with your ability to achieve your own objectives.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Find out what lies beneath the facade before you jump to conclusions. Someone could appear fierce and domineering on the outside but turn out to be wonderful once you get to know them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A creative mind sees opportunities, not obstacles. A good-natured partner may be optimistic and encourage you to take risks with cash, but you may prefer to be cautious about your budget.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Although you might feel that this is a good time to make a change, it may be better to wait until the impulse passes. Know the difference between an urge for change and a need for change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Turn the other cheek. When someone pushes your buttons, it shows you where they are. Work on healing an old issue in order to be triggered less in the future. Stay centered to meet any challenges which may arise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on handling your money as if it's in danger of becoming extinct. Look to a partner to offer new ideas that will allow you to economize without sacrificing creature comforts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Stressful situations could place you in a quandary. Avoid beginning anything new that could become a source of contention, and try not to make drastic changes that could cause complications.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Maintaining privacy is paramount. Avoid becoming involved in disputes that are none of your business since you may have your own objectives to work toward. Focus on achieving your personal goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may not always be able to master a situation, but you can always choose your attitude and master yourself. Cut back on extravagances and things you don't need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Swimming against the currents can take its toll. Your desire to be known as a leader could meet with some competition. Recheck all the details and find any errors.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let outside drama pull you out of your own center. It's a much better use of your energy to focus on finding ways to build the life you have always dreamed of.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Follow the herd. You'll achieve better results if you adhere to conventional wisdom about the highest-quality purchases and the best ways to safeguard your money.

Walsh cautions Thomas: 'Fitness is key to success'

West Indies legend Courtney Walsh has cautioned up and coming fast bowler, Oshane Thomas, that being in top physical shape is a key component to success on the international cricket stage.

Thomas burst on the scene during the 2017 Caribbean Premier League (CPL), where the fast bowler regularly registered speeds of over 90 miles per hour.

That level of promise quickly landed the 23-year-old a spot in the senior Windies set-up, where, so far, he has played twenty ODIs and twelve Twenty20 Internationals.

Things have not been going smoothly for the player since then however as bouts

of indifferent form have resulted in less impressive showings in subsequent seasons of the CPL.

In 2018, Thomas finished with the second most wickets on 18, but the following season he took only 9 and none in the 2020 edition where he was also faced with being given limited time on the field.

There are those who believe that Thomas' dip in form coincided with his noticeable weight gain. The player certainly appears several pounds heavier than when he first debuted three years ago.

"I think he has a lot of work to do. He has to get himself back in shape," Walsh told the Mason and



Oshane Thomas

Guest radio programme. talent and pace, but he has "He has the raw ability, *cont'd on pg 27*

17 TITLES		
BOSTON CELTICS		
NBA WORLD CHAMPIONS		
1957	1959	1960
1961	1962	1963
1964	1965	1966
1968	1969	1974
1976	1981	1984
1986	2008	
LOS ANGELES LAKERS		
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION WORLD CHAMPIONS		
1949	1950	1952
1953	1954	1972
1980	1982	1985
1987	1988	2000
2001	2002	2009
2010	2020	

Lakers tie Celtics for most NBA Championships

The Los Angeles Lakers' latest championship clinched Sunday night with a win over the Miami Heat pulled the franchise into a tie with the Celtics for the most in NBA history, 17 apiece.

The Celtics beat the Lakers in the 1963 NBA Finals giving Boston its sixth title

to the Lakers' five. For the past 20,990 days, Boston remained alone atop the list of most championships.

When the 1986 season ended, Boston had 16 titles to L.A.'s nine.

The championship count since is Lakers winning 8, and Celtics getting one.

Christiano Ronaldo tests positive for COVID-19

Portugal and Juventus forward, Cristiano Ronaldo, has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) has announced.

The 35-year-old is “doing well without symptoms, and in isolation,” the FPF said in a statement.

The remainder of the Portugal squad has tested negative for COVID-19.

The Portugal captain became the first European to score 100 international goals in men’s football when his side beat Sweden in the reverse Nations League fixture in September.

As a result of his period in quarantine, Ronaldo will miss today’s game against Sweden, the Serie A fixture at Crotona on 17 October and his side’s opening Champions’ League group



Portugal and Juventus forward, Cristiano Ronaldo

game against Dynamo Kiev on 20 October.

Ronaldo posted a selfie with the Por-

tugal squad on social media on Monday night with the caption “United on and off the field”.

Dustin Johnson tests positive for coronavirus



Tennis’ world number one, Dustin Johnson, has tested positive for coronavirus, the PGA Tour has announced.

Johnson, 36, who is now self-isolating, has withdrawn from the CJ Cup which starts on 15 October at Shadow Creek.

The American last competed in September’s US Open where he finished tied for sixth.

“I am very disappointed. I was looking forward to competing this week but will do everything I can to return as quickly as possible,” said Johnson. On Monday Johnson notified Tour officials that he was “experiencing symptoms” of COVID-19 before taking a test.

“Johnson will have the PGA Tour’s full support throughout his self-isolation period under CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines,” a Tour statement said.

cont’d from pg 26

to reign himself back in and I had a very serious talk with him.

“If he wants his career to take off and be consistent, then he has to get himself back in shape, in fighting condition,” he added.

“That’s one of the challenges that we had. A lot of people probably don’t

know that behind the scenes we had to do things to stay at the top of our game.

“If it means running that extra lap, probably that extra bit of bowling in the nets or going to the gym.

“Whatever it takes for you to be able to maintain that fighting weight and good body fitness for longevity,” Walsh said.

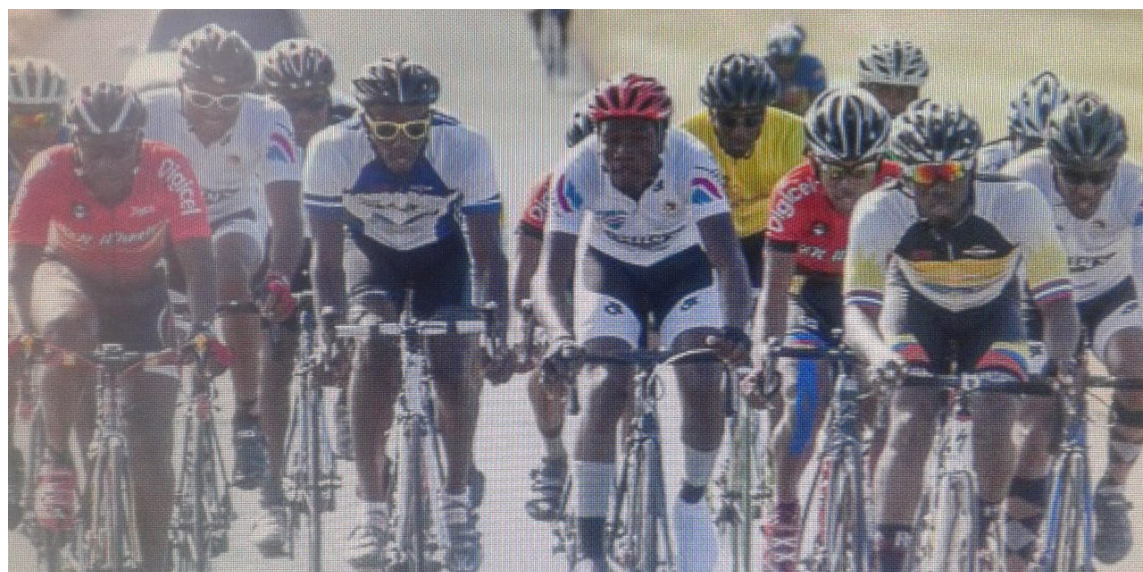
Antigua and Barbuda to host international cycling in 2021

The Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) will host the Subway® 3 Stage Race next year.

The sport's governing body, Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) has sanctioned the event as part of the 2021 road racing calendar.

This is a massive achievement for the ABCF who have been pursuing ways of attracting more attention to, and improving cycling, in the twin island state.

President of the ABCF, St. Clair Williams, said part



of their mission was to promote one of their signature races to a wider audience in

order to attract cyclists and cycling lovers from the region and internationally.

Williams explained that the executive has accomplished the goal of bringing international cycling to Antigua and Barbuda, which

will improve the country's sports tourism product, as teams from around the world are expected to participate in the race.

The event, which is scheduled for 21 August and 22 Aug 2021, will include Individual Time Trial (IRR), Individual Road Race (ITT), and team Time Trial (TTT).

DEWS

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