



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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HELLSGATE CELEBRATED IN PARLIAMENT

Story on Page 3



The staff of the Statistics Division within the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, join the region and international community in observing Caribbean and World Statistics Days on the 15 and 20 October 2020 under the Theme, "Connecting the World with Data we can Trust". We take this opportunity to highlight the value and importance of official statistics. Happy Caribbean Statistics Day 2020 to the National Statistical Offices across the region, including the OECS Commission and CARICOM Secretariat.

Editorial

Catch the vision, live the dream

A small twin island nation with powerhouse dreams! Dreams that become the vision, guiding the leadership whose passion and determination keep its residents on edge, but moving in the right direction.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne continues to utilise unconventional means for an open, small, vulnerable island nation to carve out more space for nationals to become involved in the economic growth and development of Antigua and Barbuda. In his brand of nationalism, the vision is to ensure that whenever possible the people of Antigua and Barbuda are the primary beneficiaries of wealth creation.

The approach has been declared unconventional but it continues to reap dividends.

Only a non-patriot would have remained unmoved at the news that the battle over the transfer of ownership of a multinational financial institution has been settled in the interest of Antigua and Barbuda. Only one driven by partisan motives, devoid of

national economic development interests, would be able to find negatives in the news that Antigua and Barbuda is the only country in the OECS that was successful in acquiring ownership of a financial gem; a gem which previously repatriated management fees and profits externally and not retained for the benefit of those whose 'dollars and cents' were responsible for these earnings.

There is resounding and widespread acclamation on learning that local commercial financial institutions now account for the majority ownership of our banking sector. This could not have been achieved without the 'gall and gumption' of the prime minister. The government took the extraordinary step of going against the recommendations of the ECCB and refused to issue the vesting order for the preferred sale, and declined to budge, notwithstanding pressure from all quarters, until the sale aligned with the declared interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Browne's

ability to see issues from an unorthodox perspective to an end which serves the interest of Antigua and Barbuda, has now become a part of the fabric and pathway for our national economic development.

The vision is clear and we continue to realise the dream of strengthening domestic banking resilience.

In this instance, Prime Minister Browne stood up and, disregarding his regional colleagues, realised the vision for the future of wealth creation capacity for future commercial financial operations. He was emphatic that the time was at hand for domestic ownership of those assets. He remained resolute, even in the face of plentiful criticism from other experts who lacked the vision necessary to appreciate the importance of taking control of significant assets in the interest of the nation, when many doubted his likely success.

This was a protracted two-year battle where the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda stood in unison to defend the inter-

ests of the nation's people.

The result is that the people of Antigua and Barbuda are now richer in assets with a stronger foundation for domestic ownership, domestic wealth creation and future economic empowerment. No one in Antigua and Barbuda can deny this reality.

The prime minister's unique position on many important issues of national, regional, and international importance, even if often out of sync with his regional colleagues, has opened our twin island nation to scrutiny.

We have stepped out of the small island dependent cog and will do more to chart a unique path that seeks to advance the empowerment of our citizens and residents.

Today, our government continues to stand firmly in the interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Regardless of our political persuasions, we must link hands and join the battle. The development of our nation requires the ability to think outside of the box, perhaps to even go as far as to toss out the traditional box in favour of pursuing bold, new initiatives that will need strong defense in our interest.

Today, we the people of Antigua and Barbuda are owners of a stronger, more resilient nationally dominated commercial banking sector. This was accomplished by unique thinking and unparalleled vision.

Even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic challenges, our government continues to fight in our best interest as WE the People catch the vision and live the dream.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE

A celebration of our islands heritage

Steelpan Music



Once dubbed the devil's music, a ghetto pastime with instruments as rudimentary as hubcaps and scrap metal, traditional Caribbean steel bands are today as much part of Antiguan culture as Carnival and fried dumplings.



Hellsgate celebrated in Parliament

Antigua and Barbuda's oldest steel ensemble, the Hellsgate Steel Orchestra, continued its storied journey on Thursday when it was celebrated in the House of Representatives.

The steel band was specially invited to the sitting of Parliament, where among other things, an amendment to the National Honours Act was on the order paper. The amendment will enable the steel band to receive a national honour.

Prior to the amendment, only individuals were eligible for national awards. The amendment also makes it possible for other institutions, groups and non-profit organizations to receive awards in the future.

Captain of Hellsgate Steel Orchestra, Keithly Athill, expressed delight on behalf of the band at the news they will be included in the National Honours List for Inde-



Members of the Hellsgate Steel Orchestra in Parliament

pendence 2020.

It is the first time an organisation will receive a national honour.

Speaking from Parliament on Thursday, Hellsgate's Captain Athill also thanked those who made the decision to grant them the honour and paid tribute to all the persons, past and present, who have played a role in the band's success.

Athill showered praise on the pioneers of the band for their vision and for laying a solid foundation upon which the band's successes over the years have been built.

There was bipartisan support in the House of Rep-

resentatives of the amendment, which will now allow Hellsgate to be bestowed the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage.

"I'm very happy to be presenting this amendment to the House to facilitate the granting of these awards (for institutions), a gold plaque, a silver plaque and a bronze plaque. Clearly, in this case Hellsgate will be given the highest award," Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the mover of the amendment, said.

Browne paid homage to the band's pioneers and pledged his government's commitment to ensuring

that Hellsgate is provided with a home and the support required to continue its operation.

Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle, in giving support to the amendment to the National Honours Act said: "There are several agencies and groups throughout Antigua and Barbuda that are making significant contributions to the development of not only an individual, but communities. I think that this amendment will give that encouragement for groups to work harder within their communities. I therefore have no objection (to the amendment)," Pringle said.

Several other members of the House joined in celebrating the steelband for its longevity and for representing Antigua and Barbuda proudly in its performances the world over.

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UWI CHTM alumni convene reunion

The University of the West Indies Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management (CHTM) convened a reunion of its alumni earlier this month which combined serious discussions with Caribbean fun utilising a virtual platform.

A CHTM newsletter said the ambitious undertaking targeted all year groups of CHTM from 1981 to the present. Initial plans to have an in-person reunion event were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the decision was made in June 2020 to pivot to a virtual event.

The event, which spanned two days,

featured roundtable discussions on topics covering a broad range of issues of relevance to the hotel and tourism sector.

Among the attendees was Tourism Management and Training Consultant, Shirlene Nibbs, Antigua and Barbuda's first graduate of the CHTM. She led a roundtable discussion of the topic 'People as critical Assets HR Management and Talent Development'.

According to the CHTM, "The roundtable conversations were rich, bold, and thought provoking, an exceptional tapestry of perspectives, ideas and recommendations for the re-

covery and revitalization of Caribbean Tourism by optimizing the opportunities presented to 'resilience proof' the Caribbean's most important economic sector.

The quality and richness of the engagement between contributors, participating graduates and visitors was testimony of vital importance of dialogue."

CHTM graduates in year group 'epochs' 1981 – 1989, 1990 – 1993, 1994 – 1998, 2000 – 2006, 2007 – 2012, 2013 – 2020 met in virtual breakout rooms, caught up with old friends and formed new bonds with other cohorts.

Customs container checking department quarantined over COVID-19 concerns

The Customs and Excise Division quarantined the entire staff of one of its departments over concerns related to the COVID-19 virus.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Customs Division said it activated several measures to contain any possible threat emanating from its Container Checking Department at the Deep Water Harbour as part of COVID-19 protocols.

“Management was alerted by health authorities on Thursday 15, October, that a family member of one of the officers was identified among persons who may have been in contact with someone who had tested positive for COVID-19.

“In consultation with the authorities, management of the Customs and Excise Division have ensured that a programme of sanitisation begins with immediate effect and the officers be placed in quarantine,” the Customs

Division statement disclosed.

The Customs Division noted that none of its officers have been tested positive for COVID-19, but it is taking these precautionary measures ‘out of an abundance of caution’ to ensure the safety of all its employees and the public which it serves.

The response is part of internal measures that were adopted months ago in response to the pandemic geared at reducing any exposure to COVID-19 among officers or the onward transmission to members of the public.

The Customs Division said it will be fully cooperating with the health authorities in ensuring that they are fully satisfied that the department is safe for officers, members of the public and all other businesses to operate.

“The safety of all remains our highest priority and management will continue to ensure that the various measures being used to prevent the spread

of the illness are given strictest adherence,” the press statement concluded.

Meanwhile, the Establishment Division is closed and its employees are in quarantine after a senior civil servant was diagnosed with COVID-19.

Seeking to allay the fears of those who may have come in contact with the senior employee or others in the department, the Ministry of Health gave the assurance that its contact tracing machinery has been activated.

Recently several employees of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education were placed in quarantine.

As health officials continue to work to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, a call has been issued for Antiguan and Barbudans to remember the serious nature of the disease and the necessity of fully complying with health and safety protocols which are intended to prevent its spread.

St. Paul prostate and breast cancer clinics this weekend

The Health Month activities in St. Paul will take a giant step forward this weekend with breast screenings and prostate tests.

The area’s Parliamentary representative, E. P. Chet Greene announced that this Saturday screenings with Dr. Kezia Gardner will take place at the branch office in English Harbour while on Sunday Dr. Dwayne ‘Baba’ Thwaites will meet patients at the Liberta Sports Club

building.

Services on both days commence at 10:00 am.

Breasts screenings will be conducted by a team of medical doctors led by locals, Dr. Jerry Simon and Dr. Casim Williams, on both days. The clinics are part of the annual St. Paul’s Health Month events which last throughout the month of October.

This year it is being celebrated under the theme, ‘Serious About My Health’.

MP Greene is encouraging residents to take full advantage of the services in order to learn the health of their breasts and prostate.

“We continue to witness cases across our community of persons afflicted with breast or prostate cancers and even deaths.

The intervention here is to heighten awareness and increased personal responsibility. Regular and timely

medical checks can make all the difference. I implore my people to make full use of the services during our celebration of Health Month 2020,” he urged.

The combining breast and prostate screenings is designed to encourage couples to travel together to either Liberta or English Harbour as a tangible demonstration of their commitment to being ‘serious about our health’

Antigua avoids St. Lucia scenario

By **Shelton Daniel**

Questions are being raised about how long Antigua and Barbuda can continue to hold up economically, given the heavy financial drain caused by measures to control the coronavirus pandemic.

The matter came up during Thursday's post Cabinet press briefing in light of a recent admission by St. Lucia's Prime Minister Allen Chastanet that COVID-19 had drained his government financially.

Chastanet said the protracted financial support provided by the state to persons whose employment and livelihoods had been adversely impacted by the pandemic could not be sustained.

He said it had become difficult to raise funds locally, or overseas, in order to continue financing its stimulus programme which drew heavily on the resources of St. Lucia's national insurance (social security) system.

"How long is it before Antigua is in the same situation, and what are the contingency plans for the economy?" were the questions posed by a reporter to Information Minister Melford Nicholas.

Nicholas replied that the risk of economic collapse as a result of drastically reduced revenue due to measures implemented to protect the Antiguan and Barbudan population due to the coronavirus pandemic was a ma-

jor factor that contributed to the government's decision in June to reopen the country's borders and revitalise the stagnant economy.

"The faster that we were able to restore economic activity and to restore normalcy to government's revenues and the health of the private sector, it was going to be better for us."

He recalled, "Many persons had called for a stimulus and by that they meant that the government should have doled out cash to persons who were unemployed. We felt that cash would have been burned up in the first instance and that was not the way to go."

Nicholas believes that by reopening earlier than other states in the sub-region, Antigua and Barbuda gave itself a head start where

economic recovery is concerned.

"We are seeing upwards of 40 percent occupancy in several of the hotels. We are seeing increased flights that are returning to the country and so the breadbasket of the economy is what we are trying to re-stimulate."

According to the minister, the Gaston Browne-led administration is "actively moving to put in place the infrastructure that will cause the Antiguan economy to be restored to full strength and even go beyond where we were before COVID."

He admitted however, that this will "take some time", as "the government has undergone significant stress and strain".

"We have suspended a number of our loan obligations to ensure that we can

keep the public sector in place and that is critical and important because the public sector, inasmuch as providing government services, it also ensures a level of employment that will ensure there is no bottoming out of the economy and there is no collapse in aggregate demand."

In summary, Nicholas said the government's economic strategy has been "to ensure that we can keep employment at an optimal level [and] restore the economy as quickly as we possibly can."

He added that another key area of focus would be the agricultural sector, with a view to ramping up food production, in order to reduce the food import bill and conserve vital foreign exchange.

Port operators donate emergency bus to EMS

Antigua Cruise Port and Global Ports Holding (GPH) have donated a much needed emergency response vehicle to the Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Medical Services.

The Toyota Noah, which will be used for this service, was purchased from local auto dealer, Harney Motors.

"The addition of this emergency response vehicle to our emergency fleet is vitally important," said Shawn Greenidge, Director of Antigua & Barbuda Emergency Medical Services.

"Demand is high and having this vehicle available could mean the difference between life and death for many in our com-

munity who need urgent care. We thank Global Ports Holding PLC and Antigua Cruise Port for providing us with this very timely and meaningful donation and look forward to future opportunities to collaborate."

Dona Regis-Prosper, General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, said, "We're very proud to donate this emergency response vehicle."

The health and safety of our community is one of our top priorities, particularly during these unprecedented times. If we do not have proper access to essential services, we cannot function properly as a society."

Hodges Bay Club apologises for late night fireworks

The owner of the Hodges Bay Club, Jeff Wellmeyer, has offered an apology to residents of Hodges Bay for the disturbance caused by a late night fireworks display during a surprise 40th birthday party for Grammy Award winning singer, Ashanti.

The recording artist, her entourage and other celebrity guests traveled to Antigua for the event on Tuesday night.

Following the event, Wellmeyer said he was sorry for causing the resort's neighbours to lose sleep because of the event.

"I did not appreciate the noise level that would be

a part of the fireworks and certainly did not expect them to go off that late," Wellmeyer said in a written apology.

He explained that the fireworks were delayed, in part, to a number of precautions which had to be taken. The fireworks show was originally to have occurred from 10:00pm to 10:30pm, however it was delayed until Ashanti arrived at the surprise party at about 1:00am.

According to Wellmeyer, he received a call from Ashanti's agent who requested that the resort host the surprise party late last week.

The hotel owner said host-

ing the event was a major undertaking given the short amount of time in which they had to prepare.

"As most of you know, Ashanti is a Grammy Award winning singer, songwriter, record producer, model and actress and the fact that she wanted to come to Antigua for her 40th birthday is very special.

"To make it even more complicated this elaborate birthday celebration included some of the biggest names in music and included a number of famous guests coming to Antigua for the first time as well as a "Virtual Party" which was filmed for MTV," said Well-

meyer.

He continued that it had been challenging to implement social distancing measures with the number of guests in attendance while still creating a fun atmosphere for the star and her famous guests.

Wellmeyer also commented on the global exposure Antigua and Barbuda has received, and will continue to receive, as a result of the hosting of the event.

"It represented a massive opportunity for Antigua, signaling to the world that we are open for business and have the capability to accept guests in a COVID safe environment," he said.

George Goodwin presents credentials to Cuban government

Antigua and Barbuda's new Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba, George Maurice Goodwin, has presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel.

Ambassador Goodwin among eight persons, including Ambassador Philip St. Hill of Barbados, who presented credentials on behalf of their countries.

The Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister, Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, accompanied Diaz-Canel at the ceremony.

The presentation took place at the historic Place of the Revolution where a guard of honour waited to receive the Ambassador Goodwin on the red carpet. This was followed by an official salute and renditions of the nation-

al anthems of both countries under the raised flags of Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda.

Following the presentation, Ambassador Goodwin engaged in a brief conversation with the Cuban President and Foreign Minister. The President Diaz-Canel expressed his satisfaction with the excellent ties of friendship and cooperation between his country and Antigua and Barbuda in various fields. He also extended an invitation for Antigua and Barbuda's participation in the 7th Cuba-CARICOM Summit set to take place in December in Havana, Cuba.

Ambassador Goodwin expressed delight in taking up diplomatic duties in Cuba, with which he is very familiar



having enjoyed over a forty year relationship with the country, and pledged to strengthen the already strong bonds between Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda.

Government's action led to ECAB's purchase of Scotiabank (Antigua)

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has credited his government's firm stance on the sale of Scotiabank to the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank's (ECAB) ability to successfully finalise the acquisition.

This week, ECAB confirmed its purchase of Scotiabank Antigua. The move solidifies ECAB's position as one of the top three commercial banks in the OECS.

In a statement to its customers on Tuesday, ECAB explained that it had "reached an agreement to purchase the Bank of Nova Scotia's operations in Antigua and Barbuda" adding that "the agreement is subject to regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions."

Last year, Scotiabank abandoned efforts to sell its Antigua branch to overseas interests after Prime Minister Browne indicated that he would not grant the Canada headquartered financial institution the vesting order required to complete the sale to Republic Financial Holdings Ltd. Instead he demanded that a local banking consortium be given the first right of refusal in the sale.

Browne also registered strong disapproval over the fact that Scotiabank moved to sell the bank without notifying the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Commenting on the sale, Browne



said ECAB's position as a major financial institution in the sub-region will be cemented.

"ECAB will now become, if not the second, then the third largest indigenous bank in the OECS. It also means that the profits that are earned going forward will more than double. This means that the bank will be able to recover from the COVID-related downturn much faster as it is now a more resilient financial institution," Browne explained.

Browne, who is also Minister of Finance continued that the government also stands to benefit from ECAB's rise, but conceded that there are 'obstacles' standing in the way.

He has called on the Antigua and Barbuda representatives on the bank's board to follow through on the government's request to have its preferred shares transferred to ordinary shares.

According to the prime minister, this request has been before the board for some time however there appears to have been reluctance in fulfilling the request. According to Browne, con-



verting to ordinary shares will increase the government's shareholding in the bank.

"We want it done now!" Browne told the locally-appointed directors.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Lennox Weston, described the development as testimony to the government's capacity to handle matters of any scope which serve the best interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"We are equal to anyone and the example of Scotiabank demonstrates that the Antigua and Barbuda government is a leader in the Caribbean when it comes to development issues," said Weston.

Weston described the development as 'a watershed moment' in the nation and region's history with respect to how different governments have approached critical issues relating to finance and the economy.

Public viewing of King Swallow today

A public viewing of Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo will be held today ahead of his official funeral next week.

Sir Rupert passed away on September 11th at the age of 78. The late calypso legend's body can be viewed at Barnes

Funeral Home between 12pm and 2pm.

His funeral service will take place on Monday at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium at 10am.

King Swallow made a name for himself as a prolific

singer and songwriter nationally, regionally and internationally, with hits including 'Party In Space' and 'Subway Jam'.

He had been ailing for sometime before passing away last month.

Tributes have poured in from calypso and soca artistes from around the world who worked with the legend or whose lives were influenced by his talent and contributions to the artforms of calypso and soca.

Opinion

OAS: In danger of undermining the 'Right to Protect'

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

A noteworthy event occurred on the afternoon of Saturday October 10, that could have implications for nations across the globe. It merits attention.

The Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro, issued a statement, indicating that he "designated international human rights lawyer Jared Genser as Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)". This appointment happened when the OAS is again facing dire financial circumstances and staff contracts are not being renewed.

Still, even in such difficult circumstances, an appointment of someone greatly needed to carry out the Organization's work would be understandable. The difficulty with this appointment is that it is not a priority identified either by Ministers of mem-

ber states or the Permanent Council of the OAS. Further, R2P is, rightfully, a matter on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly and under the authority of the Security Council.

Consequently, it is intriguing that, in his statement, Mr. Almagro said unequivocally that: "If existing international mechanisms are not responding to the demands and needs of the victims of mass atrocities in the Americas, at the very least the OAS should try to design and build a regional mechanism that can prevent and respond more efficiently, and in a timely manner, to crimes of this nature in the Western Hemisphere". Whether intended or not, this sounds like a dismissal of the UN Security Council and an arrogation by the OAS to act in its place "in the Americas".

It is important to note that R2P was unanimously endorsed by the member-states of the United Nations at a World Summit in 2005. The agreement is designed to protect people the world over from four crimes: "genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing". The question arises, therefore, about the identity of the countries "in the Amer-



By Sir Ronald Sanders

icas" where Mr. Almagro suggests that such crimes are being committed and against which action is required "more efficiently, and in a timely manner".

If such countries exist in the Americas, why have they not been brought before the UN Security Council? And why is this matter not being raised for discussion, with the evidence of atrocities, by member governments of the OAS in appropriate bodies of the Organization?

The way this matter has crawled into the OAS - not in the full light of transparent discussion and decision

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Country Classics
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 BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
 COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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but in a weekend media statement from the Secretary-General - is why suspicion surrounds the OAS. It is a suspicion with which all its member states are tainted as complicit. Silence is taken as consent.

A further consideration is that the R2P does not replace the UN Charter; R2P is a UN-led response to the problem of mass-atrocity crimes, and actions in furtherance of it require UN Security Council authorization. Therefore, why would the OAS – a group of only 33 governments – seek to usurp the UN of 193 states, and a 15-state Security Council?

Dr. Adrian Gallagher, Co-Director of the European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, makes the following salient point: “R2P does allow states to consider all coercive and non-coercive measures under Chapters VI, VII, and VIII of the UN Charter when a government

is “manifestly failing” to protect its population from the four crimes. Though this does include the use of force, any action taken has to be authorized by the UN Security Council”.

In his statement, Mr. Almagro makes another point that merits attention. He says: “The costs of not having an R2P regional mechanism at the OAS so far have been the continued loss of human lives and the persistence of impunity for mass atrocities crimes”. He continues: “Yet, over time, there have been mass atrocities committed in far too many countries by repressive and undemocratic regimes”.

Sadly, where there have been such instances in the past, in OAS countries, governments of other OAS member states have ignored them for narrow, political reasons. Such politically selective and convenient responses must stop if the OAS is to have any credibility in advancing the prin-

ciple of R2P.

In this regard, another observation by Dr. Gallagher is worth recalling: “It is important that those who champion the R2P do not overstate the scale of the crimes being committed. OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro has invoked the Rwandan genocide as a pretext to justify R2P action in Venezuela, but clearly any such analogy is deeply flawed, as there is no pending threat of mass genocide”.

To be clear, the principle of R2P should be embraced by every country in the world. Every government should uphold the human, civil and political rights of its people, not oppress them and certainly not murder them or eliminate any ethnic group within them. Where governments execute heinous atrocities, the wider international community, particularly neighbouring states, should act to prevent and punish them within the UN agreed

framework.

The OAS should be discussing this openly and transparently, paying attention to every country in the Americas, and not just to those where the political or ideological interests of powerful states are served, one way or the other. If the OAS continues the selective path that it has followed, it will reverse every step that it now makes to be regarded universally as a credible and respected organization.

That is not an OAS that will serve the peoples of the Americas well.

As a regional organization, the OAS should not seek to supplant global efforts at the UN; it would better serve the region and the world by providing objective and non-discriminatory leadership in upholding and advancing the principle of R2P within the UN agreement of 2005.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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Hellsgate celebrated



HELLSGATE STEEL ORCHESTRA [ESTB. 1945]

Researched by Jessy James Stafford Joseph [Panthologist]

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THE HELLSGATE STEEL ORCHESTRA - FIRST

- FIRST IRON BAND
- FIRST STEEL BAND
- FIRST TO PERFORM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE – 1947
- FIRST TO PERFORM AT MILL REEF CLUB – 1949
- FIRST TO PERFORM IN A CHURCH – 1950, ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL, PARHAM TOWN
- FIRST STEEL BAND CHAMPION – 1949
- FIRST 4-PEAT STEELBAND CHAMPION
- FIRST TO BRING THE IDEA OF CARNIVAL TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA - 1951
- FIRST TO PERFORM FOR PRINCESS MARGARET – 1955, OPENING CEREMONY OF PRINCESS MARGARET SECONDARY SCHOOL
- FIRST ANTIGUAN STEEL BAND TO TRAVEL TO TRINIDAD - 1958
- FIRST TO TOUR THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS – 1951
- FIRST TO PERFORM FOR SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL – FEBRUARY 2ND 1962, ON BOARD ONASSIS YATCH, THE CHRISTINA, AT NELSON'S DOCKYARD
- FIRST TO CONDUCT A STEELPAN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM IN ARUBA – 1996 AND 1997
- FIRST EVER INDEPENDENCE STEEL BAND CHAMPION - 2004
- FIRST TO BE TUTORED FROM SCORED MUSIC – BERTHA HIGGINS - EARLY 1950'S
- FIRST TO ESTABLISH A JUNIOR STEEL BAND – [EARLY 1960'S] JUNIOR HELLSGATE – PRESENLY 'HARMONITES INTERNATIONAL STEEL ORCHESTRA'
- FIRST TO BE RECORDED FOR THE WORLD'S FIRST EVER STEEL BAND WAX RECORDING – 1952
- FIRST TO LEAD AN ORGANIZED ANTIGUA TRADES AND LABOUR UNION STRIKE ACTION AGAINST JOSEPH DEWS AND SONS – 1952 TERMINATION OF KEM ROBERTS
- FIRST TO TAKE STRIKE ACTION AGAINST THE CARNIVAL ORGANIZING AUTHORITY - 1957
- FIRST TO DEVELOP, EXECUTE AND MASTER TO 'ROLLING TECHNIQUE' ON THE STEELPAN
- FIRST TO REPRESENT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR – 1964
- FIRST TO ESTABLISH A STEELPAN ACADEMY – 2002, EUSTACE "MANNING" HENRY STEELPAN ACADEMY
- FIRST TO REPRESENT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AT CARIBANA [TORONTO] AND A TOURISM AND PROMOTIONAL TOUR [MONTREAL] – 1968
- FIRST TO REPRESENT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AT A CULTURAL AND TOURISM PROMOTIONAL TOUR IN MEXICO - MEXICO CITY, CANCUN, COZUMEL AND ISLA MUJERES
- FIRST TO REPRESENT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AT THE LONDON NEW YEAR'S DAY PARADE – 2005 TOURISM AND PROMOTIONAL TOUR
- FIRST TO PRODUCE THE YOUNGEST STEEL BAND ARRANGER – 2009, MASTER KHAN CORDICE
- FIRST TO HAVE WON TWENTY-ONE (21) PANORAMA CHAMPIONSHIPS



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grown
experience
WITH LAWRENCE M
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SATURDAYS
2PM - 4PM





Of Carnival and Caribana

The Minister of Sports, Culture, National Festivals and the Arts, Daryll Matthew, says that there is still quite a bit of time before any determination will be made regarding Antigua's Carnival 2021.

During an appearance on Pointe FM's Touch Line where he ventilated issues, Minister Matthew indicated that the structure of Carnival allows for a decision to be delayed as late as April.

He stated, "Carnival can take place with a local audience only, as participants and spectators."

Matthew further indicated that Carnival does benefit from an influx of visitors, but their absence will not hinder the event.

Meantime Jackie Frank, Chairperson of the Tourism and Culture Committee Bar-



buda, under whose portfolio the annual Caribana festival falls, indicated the team is "looking positively towards executing the cultural tradition".

Planning has not yet begun, however, they are expecting that the event will bring a well needed boost to economic activity on the island. In addition to the usual Barbudan participants

and spectators, Caribana benefits from an influx of artists, service suppliers and spectators from Antigua.

To date, Barbuda has not recorded any COVID-19 cases even though there is heavy traffic to the island from Antigua via ferry services.

There are also several construction projects in progress on the island which



Minister of Sports, Culture, National Festivals and the Arts, Daryll Matthew

employ scores of day workers and tourists who have resumed day trip visits.

All persons arriving in Barbuda are subject to the established national health protocols.

Ashanti celebrates birthday in Antigua



Antigua and Barbuda's reputation as a safe hotspot from which special occasions can be celebrated during the COVID-19 pandemic is reaping benefits.

International recording artist, Ashanti, chose to celebrate her 40th birthday enjoying Antigua's tranquil beauty at the Hodges Bay Club.

Her trip with friends included a lavish birthday party, in which COVID-19 protocols were observed, sailing, dining and enjoying the best of the island.

Ashanti was also photographed in bikinis from GSaints by celebrity photographer, Phillip Silverstein.

The photos posted on the singer's social media pages had combined

views of more than 1 million, providing a priceless marketing opportunity for our twin island.

About Ashanti

Ashanti Shequoiya Douglas remains one of the most celebrated contemporary R&B singer/songwriters.

Since her first self-titled, Platinum-certified debut in 2002. She has released four studio albums and three compilations and has collaborated with the likes of Akon, R. Kelly, Nelly, Cadillac Tah, Lloyd, Scarface, Crooked I, Nas, Keyshia Cole, The Game, Jim Jones, T.I., Jagged edge, Irv Gotti, Black Child, Charli Baltimore and many others throughout her prolific career.



A Tribute to King Swallow: A fan's reflections

By Colin James

Growing up in the mid-1970s in Antigua & Barbuda you were either a Swallow (Sir Rupert Philo) or Short Shirt (Sir McLean Emmanuel) fan. When King Obstinate (Sir Paul Richards) re-entered the fray in the late 1970's, a third star sparkled.

Carnival and the calypso art form were the domain of these heavyweight artistes and even their colleagues sang about their seemingly unbreakable dominance. Latumba, to his credit, would have given stern rivalry but just couldn't break down the 'Big Two or Three'.

It is impossible to chronicle Swallow without referring to his tumultuous rivalry with Short Shirt, and later King Obstinate, the undefeated monarch, as the three giants of Antiguan calypso and soca locked horns on the stage during Carnival celebrations between 1970-1985.

Carnival City, the world famous Antigua Recreation Grounds, was packed to the rafters from as early as 6 pm - two hours before the contest - on Calypso competition nights as the trio's electrifying performances lit the big stage. Busload, truck-load, car-load, on foot; the people came in droves. Nothing was left for the imagination as their presentations bordered on rivaling a Hollywood film production.

Hailing from Willikies, a fishing village on Antigua's east coast leading to the popular Long Bay beach, Swallow, famous for his elaborate suits and capes and outrageous props on stage, was the darling of the 'country' fan base.

Short Shirt, who originated from the Pointe, an inner-city community (some say the ghetto) that straddles the Deep Water Harbour, ruled the 'town'.

The 'country' versus 'town' debate was rife. It was good banter. When Ob-

stinate, who brought the Grays Farm/Green Bay (Grengren) posse, rejoined it was "three the hard way".

They were as popular as the Beatles, as Elvis Presley who dominated Rock n Roll, as Michael Jackson the King of Pop, as Sparrow and Lord Kitchener who ruled calypso in Trinidad.

Politically, in Antigua and Barbuda at that time, you were either a red, Sir V. C. Bird's ALP or a blue, Sir George Walter's PLM, supporter. Such was the polarisation of the nation that there was hardly any neutrality or 'third' calypsonian or party to back.

If they had vied for political office, their popularity would have guaranteed them a seat in Parliament or leadership of the country.

The Swallow-Short Shirt rivalry was so dominant that it also polarised radio announcers or DJs who were never afraid to let you know with whom their allegiance lie. Al Jackson, ZDK's morning man who Short Shirt branded as Swallow's "radio station pal to give him a helping hand", unapologetically supported the man from the east while the late C-Jacks (Carl Jackson), another ZDK 'jockey', jammed his Pointe man tunes.

Those were the days when you either listened to ZDK or ABS radio stations. There were no 'third' airwaves then in Antigua except, if you consider, Montserrat's Radio Antilles, which also beamed into our transistors or stereos.

The record shows Swallow winning four monarchies and five road march titles, while Short Shirt ruled supreme with 15 calypso crowns and six 'roadies'. Had it not been for the mesmeric emergence and stellar domination of the Burning Flames, and later Red Hot Flames from 1985 to 2018, both Swallow and Short Shirt would have re-



mained champions of the coveted J'ouvert prize.

In my parents' household, my late father, Alfred 'Colo' James, supported Short Shirt while my mom, Tessie 'Aunt Tess' James, was a Swallow diehard. I gravitated fondly towards Swallow maybe because I always fancied rating the so-called 'underdog' as Short Shirt enjoyed seemingly unbeatable domination.

At age six I wouldn't have experienced Swallow's first calypso crown in 1973 when he won with his hard-hitting social commentary 'March For Freedom', a political rebuke of the policies of the then-Progressive Labour Movement which he viewed as anti the fledgling Black Power movement which was mushrooming across the Caribbean, Antigua being no exception.

As he sang the chorus, "Freedom, We go march in peace! We don't 'fraid no police! You could tell Halstead, I say go to hell! Freedom for our Black brothers up in Africa!"

His up-tempo 'Push Yah, Push Dey' not only helped to spur him to his maiden monarchy, but it also earned him his second successive road march title hav-

cont'd on pg 14



ENTERTAINMENT



ARTICLE AND BASKET
POINTE PRESS
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

cont'd from pg 13

ing won it previously in 1972 with *'Pow Pow'*.

Having surrendered the monarchy to Short Shirt for the next three consecutive years, 1974-76, Swallow stormed back with a vengeance to restore himself to the perch over the next two years.

As if to herald his second coming at the cusp of soca's emergence, a new genre of the calypso beat that still resonates today, Swallow's 1977 album *'De Inner Man'* and hit track *'Man To Man'* set him apart from his contemporaries, *'One Hope One Love One Destiny'* and *'Jam Session'* spurred him to regain the crown.

It was raucous celebrations for my mother and me when the results were announced on the radio, not like today when you are crowned on stage, and by the time I could have ridden my bike from Bassa (Mack Alley) to Osbourne in All Saints to gloat

to my late uncle, Paget who was also known as Sabu, he had already conceded that Short Shirt was beaten.

Swallow ensured he was no one year wonder as he retained the monarchy with what many consider his greatest piece, *'Dawn of A New Day'*, a social commentary whose lyrics are still relevant: *"Only when we start to see eye to eye*

We'll move to higher heights by and by

Only when we stop all this back-biting

We'll have a true country progressing

When we work together through that stormy weather

When we file our motion into one direction.

We'll definitely be opening up our eyes to see

That dawn, beautiful dawn, of a new day.

and 'Jump Up Time', in his trademark, up-tempo ready-for-road style.

Jump Up, like if you mad Jump Up, it's Carnival."

1979 was another seismic year for Swallow who was flying high, literally and figuratively, as his LP (a long-playing record) heralded him into the soca kingdom with mega-hit, *'Don't Stop the Party'*, a tune which, notwithstanding its sweet melody, he didn't perform in the competition because of the soca beat.

It also launched Swallow firmly into the burgeoning New York market and his baptism into the jealously guarded Trinidad domain through Charlie's Record label.

In 1981, *'Subway Jam'* took Labour Day celebration on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn by storm transforming New York's famed transit network like J'ouvert in Antigua, Trinidad and the rest of the Caribbean.

I remember my aunt, Tesha Carr, who had migrated to NY in the 1970s, among legions of Antiguan clamouring for Swallow's records whenever they were released. My mom would remind everyone that his song *'Sexy Tessie'* was made for her sister.

Move forward to 1983 when Swallow, Short Shirt and Obstinate squared up for the Titanic clash.

Most, except the judges, who flocked the ARG were convinced that Swallow's *'Party In Space'*, an apt portrayal of the superpowers' machinations in the early 1980s as then US president, Ronald Reagan, Russia's leader, Yuri Andropov, and Cuba's liberator, Fidel Castro, took time off from their "tension" to attend metaphorical 'party' to settle their differ-

ences, was the clear winner.

Obsti's *'Children Melee'* and *'True Heroes'* won the judges' nod, but Swallow's compensation was the road march title, a feat he repeated with *'Satan Coming Down'*, his last, as Burning Flames prevented a three-peat with *'Style Tight'* in 1985 despite the popularity of *'Town Mash Down'* which helped earned Swallow's fifth and last monarchy.

How that hit and *'Rude Boy Bacchanal'* didn't win the road title is a testament to the Flames' dominance.

From there Swallow went on a regional and international crusade producing songs for both markets, especially Trinidad, where hits like *'Benwood Dick'*, *'Borokeete'*, *'Calaloo'*, *'fire In De Back Seat'*, *'Trinidad the Godfather'*, *'Pepper Sauce'*, *'Steam'* and *'Soca Kingdom'* are still cherished today.

His tunes transcended the traditional Afro-Caribbean markets and the diaspora and were favourites in European markets such as Germany and even Asia.

My friend, Ercil 'Bedi' Hurst, told me he danced fondly to Swallow's songs during his attendance at the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996.

Swallow was never afraid to praise or criticize the powers-that-be in any sphere with his lyrics.

He immortalized Sir Vivian Richards and Sir Andy Roberts in 1975 on their elevation to West Indies cricket team selection singing: "Born with the cricket blood in your vein,

cont'd on pg 15





cont'd from pg 14

Vivi Richards, the master” and “Bowling them fruity (Andy), bowl down de Englishman.”

He paid homage to National Hero, Sir VC Bird, on his ‘50 Years’ in politics and government in 1993. He described the Father of the Nation as “a great champion” who “... came to conquer”.

Sir Curtly Ambrose, who rated Swallow from childhood and wished to back him up on bass after retiring from his illustrious cricket career, would reminisce on their impromptu performances as ‘Ambi’ mimicked Swallow’s patent stage movements.

Swallow would take on the then Coordinator of the Carnival of the Development Committee for her perceived bias against calypso and the tent:

“If you want to know about Carnival, Mr. Frank

Go down and check Nova Scotia Bank

Swallow, she wicked and bad, and worse than Lucifer.»

Swallow’s Pepperpot, dubbed the University of Calypso, would have spawned the careers of many Antiguan artistes and provided wily entertainment for its patrons. The late Boldface, the undisputed King of Pepperpot, King Progress, Destroyer Sr., Young Destroyer, Solo, Smarty Sr. and Jr., Queens Althea, Ivena, & GB, among others, would have developed from the tent. He reciprocated for his acceptance in the tents in Trinidad by welcoming his regional counterpart to the ‘Pot’.

Sir Rupert, as he was lov-



ingly referred to in his latter years (Trinis revered Rupert long before), had a philanthropic heart as he gave back to society in no small measure with his complimentary appearances at public and private events home and abroad.

He collaborated with artists and groups evidenced by his remix of ‘Party in Space’ with the late Tyrone ‘Edimelo’ Thomas, who preceded Swallow in April, Davidson ‘King Bankers’ Benjamin with ‘Higher’; and Leon ‘Kuma’ Rodney’s Roots Steelband live in concert.

Swallow was fittingly knighted in 2013 by the Antigua and Barbuda government, an honour he carried with distinction, for his exemplary contribution and devotion to the calypso and soca artforms.

A writer, composer, arranger, a former teacher and LIAT employee, Sir Rupert mentored many, advised scores, fathered several and counselled countless.

To his children, family, friends, fans, the Willikies community, wider Antigua

and Barbuda community, Trinidad and New York, we have lost a true maestro, an icon, a legend and a national treasure.

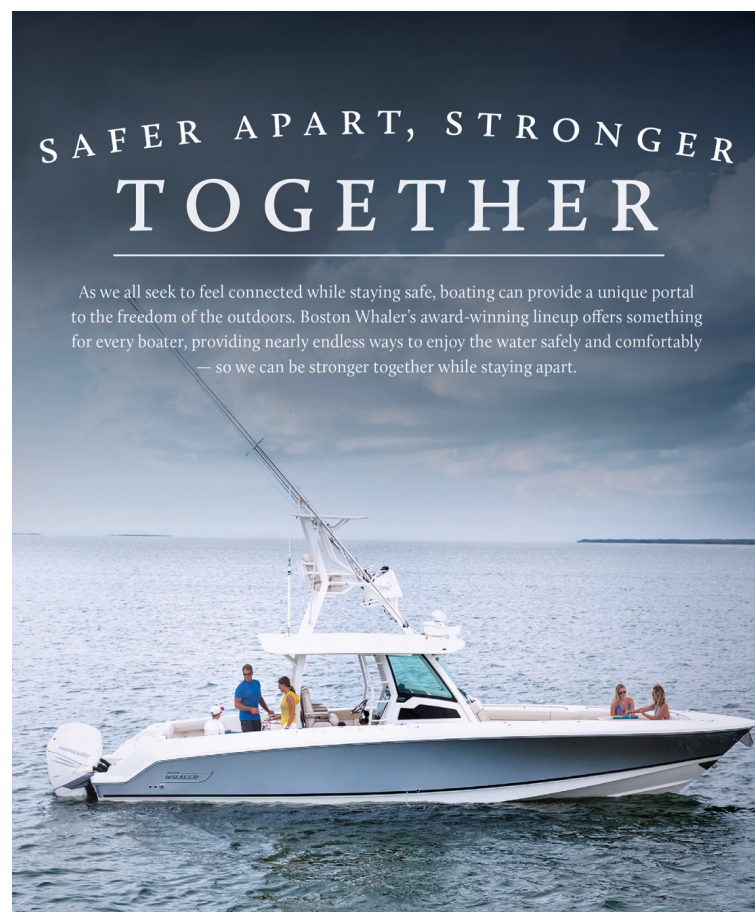
Thank You for lending him to us.

“Willie, Tell Charlie Come! Bring Lackhurst.

Ah Work Me Ah Work!”

His earthly work may be over, but his heavenly role has just begun.

Sir Rupert, Rest In Peace!



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Jamaica: Busted soldiers were working for drug kingpin, says cop

(Jamaica Gleaner) The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) have both commenced investigations into Tuesday night's incident in Gutters, St Elizabeth, in which two soldiers, who were reportedly trafficking a large quantity of ganja, were arrested by the police following a high-speed chase and gunfight.

According to reports, at about 9 p.m., acting on information, a police team, inclusive of members of the JCF's narcotics unit, intercepted a JDF mini-bus and ordered the driver, a soldier in uniform, to stop. Instead of complying, the driver and his colleague soldier passenger sped away.

During a chase, the police were reportedly fired at, and the fire was returned. The back glass of the JDF vehicle was shattered during the ex-



This Jamaica Defence Force service vehicle was damaged during the shootout. change of gunfire.

When the chase finally ended, the two soldiers reportedly alighted from the vehicle and more shots were fired. A stand-off ensued, with the soldiers refusing to surrender.

The police sought assistance from the JDF, and a unit with senior soldiers went to the location and ordered the two soldiers to surrender, which they did. Their weapons were confiscated

cont'd on pg 17

OECS permanent delegation challenges blacklisting at WTO

(OECS communications) At the General Council of the World Trade Organisation, the organization's highest decision-making body, the Permanent Delegation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), speaking on behalf of the CARICOM group, addressed several critical issues currently affecting Caribbean countries, including efforts by some WTO members to blacklist, CARICOM Member States.

In consideration of the economic and social havoc caused by the COVID-19

pandemic, Head of Mission, Mr. Stephen Fevrier stated that despite being responsible members of the international community, members of the CARICOM group possess a

"limited policy toolbox, and do not benefit from the support of strong central banks able to issue and monetize debt at unprecedented levels. To make matters worse, due to extended lockdowns and historic levels of unemployment in our source markets for vital financial remittances, members face an almost in-



surmountable challenge in the absence of external support."

The OECS Delegation further stated that, notwithstanding the tremendous difficulties confronting public finances in CARICOM Member States, the "threat

of, and continued unilateral, arbitrary, and nontransparent blacklisting strategy employed by some WTO Member States does not serve the cause of international solidarity, particularly at a time of unprecedented global uncertainty."

Bahamas digital currency: Sand Dollar to offer lower merchant fees and faster payment settlements

(EW News) Central Bank officials said yesterday that the Sand Dollar will offer faster payment settlements and lower merchant fees, noting that plans are also in the works to eventually make it interoperable with other global currencies.

Cleopatra Davis, Head of Department Banking noted that while the Sand Dollar – a digital version of the Bahamian dollar – was designed to allow for greater inclusion and accessibility in the local financial ecosystem, it will not eliminate fiat currency.

“In addition to accessibility and inclusion, Sand Dollar is intended to be another means of being able to access financial services. It is not meant to replace cash,” said Davis.

“Naturally we can anticipate that with the increased use of the Sand Dollar there



Bahamas Central Bank

will be less use of cash but we don't expect the cash to disappear.”

Davis noted that the Sand Dollar is backed by the Bahamas Central Bank and its foreign currency reserves. She also noted that Sand Dollar has offline operability.

Kimwood Mott, project manager, digital currency

implementation said: “One of the key benefits of the Sand Dollar is reduced cash handling.

“Also, the merchant fees associated with the Sand Dollar are far less than the merchant fees on other payment systems.

“It also offers faster settlement of payment than any wire transfer, debit or

credit card as well as the ability to transfer funds to local suppliers in seconds.”

Mott said that Omni Financial, Kanoo, SunCash, Cash N Go, Mobile Assist, and Money Maxx have all been approved by the Central Bank as authorized financial institutions for the Sand Dollar roll-out.

Bobby Chen, assistant manager of e-solutions said: “At the moment it is a currency that is only able to be used in a domestic setting but we are working on a solution that will make it interoperable with other global currencies.”

The Central Bank previously announced it will begin a gradual release of a digital version of the Bahamian dollar nationwide on October 20.

The Sand Dollar initiative has already been piloted in Exuma and Abaco.

cont'd from pg 16

and handed over to the police. A subsequent search of the vehicle turned up 1,500 pounds of compressed ganja.

The two soldiers, who are reportedly assigned to the Paradise Park Operating Base in Westmoreland, are believed to have been employed by smugglers to take the drug to an unidentified location in St Elizabeth, from which it was supposed to be shipped overseas.

A police officer, who asked not to be identified, told The Gleaner that information had surfaced that the two sol-

diers were operating in cahoots with a major drug dealer in the area and the operation was put into motion once the JDF vehicle was spotted.

“We had information that they were being paid to transport the drugs for a particular don in the parish, so the operation was put in place to catch them,” he said.

“We were surprised when they decided to engage us in the shoot-out, but we were prepared for them.”

In a statement yesterday, the JDF acknowledged playing a role in ap-

prehending the soldiers, who will also face disciplinary actions by the army.

The JDF said that the operation and arrest were demonstrative of its robust internal monitoring system as well as the strength of its continued partnership with the police.

A resident of Gutters told The Gleaner that the incident was surprising.

“We never know seh soldier do dem thing deh, too,” the resident said of the smuggling attempt, calling the gun battle between the cops and soldiers “a big joke”.

BVI: No mixed mingling in bars, clubs

(BVI News) As part of the new protocols for local bars, pubs and nightclubs, groups of persons patronising these establishments will be required to remain within their respective circles and will be prohibited from coming into contact with all other persons.

This is according to Chief Environmental Health Officer (CEHO), Lionel Michael who told BVI News the new protocols also include erecting barriers in nightclubs to restrict access to exotic dancers.

“People can’t sit there and have close contact with dancers as before. Some nightclubs have put in barriers around that area,” the CEHO stated.

“Social-distancing measures are forefront like where you can have people by the nightclub dancing area — the pole and so forth — all of that have been drastically reduced in the new measures.”

For other bar and club workers such as disk jockeys, Michael said “plexiglass has to be in front of them now”.

He explained that this is to ensure when they are singing or talking to customers, their “droplets would not come in contact with people”.

But for persons to be granted access into these establishments in the first place, Michael said they must be wearing protective



face coverings, which must only be removed when eating or drinking.

Upon entry, all persons must have their hands sanitised. Hand sanitisers will be provided by the bar, pub, or nightclub.

“When they get inside the bar now, we expect them to demonstrate a high degree of responsibility in terms of who they interact with.

“If they go with a group of four or five persons, they will stay with that group, and this is one of the new things.

“They have to stay at the designated area, either standing area or seating area. They cannot move unless they are going to the bathrooms,” he stated.

“So, if you go to the

bar and you know me and you see me standing with a group of five, you cannot come over and join us because you did not come with us. So a group of five, four, or three must stay together at a designated area where you do everything right there.

“You dance, you eat, you talk right there, you can’t move around and socialise at the bar and interact with other people who you haven’t visited the bar with,” he explained.

Michael further stressed on the need for barriers to be placed at bar counters; facilitating a safe environment for workers when interacting with customers.

“If you want to sit at the bar itself, stools and chairs

must be six feet apart and there must be plexiglass at the counter of the bar.

“Where bars are not ready in terms of putting in plexiglass at the countertops, they cannot have anyone sit at the table at the countertop or they will attract a fine of \$1,000,” he stated.

The introduction of these new protocols stems from recent data which showed that a percentage of the recent positive COVID-19 cases in the territory came from the aforementioned establishments.

To date, a total of 31 bars and five nightclubs have been inspected and approved for opening by the Environmental Health Department.

US tycoon charged over historic tax fraud scheme

(BBC) A US software tycoon has been charged over the biggest alleged tax evasion scheme in American history.

Robert Brockman, chief executive of Reynolds and Reynolds, is alleged to have hidden \$2bn (£1.5bn) in income from tax authorities over two decades, using a network of offshore companies.

He was also charged over an alleged fraud scheme involving debt securities.

Mr Brockman appeared by teleconference at a federal court in Houston, Texas, and pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Prosecutors said they were alerted to his alleged activities by fellow billionaire Robert Smith, who they say testified against him to avoid prosecution himself. Mr Smith shot to fame last year after giving a speech at Morehouse College's graduation ceremony, promising to

pay all student debt for 2019 graduates.

In a statement, the US Justice Department alleged that Mr Brockman, 79, carried out the fraud by using a family charitable trust and several offshore firms based in Bermuda and St. Kitts and Nevis. These were allegedly used to hide income from his investments in private equity funds, managed by a firm in San Francisco, California.

As part of the scheme, prosecutors said Mr Brockman used code names and encrypted emails to secretly manage the investments.

US Attorney David Anderson told reporters that Mr Brockman had also been charged for buying and selling debt securities in his own company, breaking a promise to investors. The debt was allegedly bought with the help of inside information he possessed.

The software tycoon faces 39 charges in all, including



Prosecutors allege that Mr Brockman hid \$2bn from US tax authorities

tax evasion, wire fraud and money laundering.

Meanwhile Robert Smith has admitted to his role in the tax evasion scheme as part of a non-prosecution agreement.

Prosecutors said Mr Smith admitted to using a nominee trustee and corporate manager to his involvement in four offshore firms.

As part of the agreement, he will pay more than \$139m in penalties and taxes. He will also abandon \$182m protective refund claims, which were filed partly for charitable contributions.

Mr Smith is a founder of Vista Equity Partners in San Francisco, and is the richest African-American investor in the US, according to Forbes.



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Hours after truce agreed, children became orphans in Azerbaijan

(Aljazeera) On Sunday, at about 2am, the people of Ganja, Azerbaijan's second city, were awakened by the sound of an explosion.

Neighbours in the northern part of the city cried out to each other for help, frightened by the unearthly sounds of crumbling buildings and shattering concrete.

"My parents were asleep and I was watching a movie when I heard the sound of a huge crash," 16-year-old Sevil Aliyeva told Al Jazeera. "The walls, large pieces of stone fell on me."

"There was no sound from my mother. My father began to call me. Then his voice stopped too."

Sevil and her brother, eight-year-old Huseyn, are now orphaned – their parents Anar and Nurchin were in their thirties.

Before being buried, the couple's friends and relatives prayed over their bodies. Their simple coffins were covered in the Azeri flag and a few roses.

Mourning residents with sorrowful eyes told this reporter three members of the same family, the Alasgarovs, were also killed.

They died in an instant when the shell of a missile hit the roof of their building. Ulvi, Tarana and Durra were 30, 55 and 57 respectively.

Azerbaijani authorities say Armenia fired a ballistic missile at Ganja city, a claim Ye-



Sevil Aliyeva, 16, carries the portraits of her parents Anar Aliyev and Nurchin Aliyeva who were killed in the Ganja attack as her brother Huseyn Aliyev, 8, cries on the shoulders of a relative during their funeral ceremony in the city of Shamkir, Azerbaijan

revan denies.

Home to half a million people, Ganja is about 97 kilometres (60 miles) from the front lines of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and 241km (150 miles) from the Armenian border.

The city, the industrial centre of western Azerbaijan, is steeped in history. The 12th-century Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi was born here and the Nizami Mausoleum is located at the entrance to the city from the southwest side.

The attack on Sunday came hours after the warring countries made their first diplomatic contact since

fighting over the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region began on September 27.

The Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers had met in Moscow, and after 11 hours of talks, agreed to a humanitarian ceasefire which should have taken effect on Saturday. Minutes into the truce, however, both countries claimed the other side was attempting to attack.

On Sunday afternoon, as doctors attended to the wounded, among them a three-year-old girl named Maryam with an injury to her head, a poster with the nine names of those who

were confirmed killed in the blast was brought to the wreckage.

But a few hours later, the death toll rose to 10.

Gunay Aliyeva, who was pregnant, had initially survived the blast but was badly wounded. She later died at hospital. She was 28.

Her husband, Adil, and mother-in-law, Afag, were also killed, and are survived by their two-year-old daughter, Nilay. Like Sevil and Huseyn, she has been orphaned by the conflict.

At least 40 people were also wounded.

Mushfig Jafarov, a mem-

cont'd on pg 21

Europe, US reel as virus infections surge at record pace

(Associated Press) Coronavirus cases around the world have climbed to all-time highs of more than 330,000 per day as the scourge comes storming back across Europe and spreads with renewed speed in the U.S., forcing many places to reimpose tough restrictions eased just months ago.

Well after Europe seemed to have largely tamed the virus that proved so lethal last spring, newly confirmed infections are reaching unprecedented levels in Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy and Poland. Most of the rest of the continent is seeing similar danger signs.

France announced a 9 p.m. curfew in Paris and other big cities. Londoners face new restrictions on meeting with people indoors. The Netherlands closed bars and restaurants this week. The Czech Republic and Northern Ireland shut schools. Poland limited restaurant hours and closed gyms and pools.

In the United States, new



Medical staff takes a swabs as she tests a boy for COVID-19 at a drive-through at the San Paolo hospital, in Milan, Italy, Thursday. Coronavirus infections are surging again in the region of northern Italy where the pandemic first took hold in Europe, renewing pressure on hospitals and health care workers.

cases per day are on the rise in 44 states, with many of the biggest surges in the Midwest and Great Plains, where resistance to masks and other precautions has been running high and the virus has often been seen as just a big-city problem. Deaths per day are climbing in 30 states.

"I see this as one of the toughest times in the epidemic," said Dr. Peter Hotiez, an infectious-disease specialist at the Baylor Col-

lege of Medicine in Texas. "The numbers are going up pretty rapidly. We're going to see a pretty large epidemic across the Northern Hemisphere."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert, said Americans should think hard about whether to hold Thanksgiving gatherings.

"Everyone has this traditional, emotional, warm feeling about the holidays and bringing a group of

people, friends and family, together in the house indoors," he said on ABC's "Good Morning America." "We really have to be careful this time that each individual family evaluates the risk-benefit of doing that."

Responses to the surge have varied in hard-hit states. In North Dakota, Republican Gov. Doug Burgum raised the coronavirus risk level in 16 counties this week but issued no mandated restrictions. In Wisconsin, a judge temporarily blocked an order from Democratic Gov. Tony Evers that would limit the number of people in bars and restaurants.

South Dakota on Wednesday broke its record for COVID-19 hospitalizations and new cases and has had more deaths from the disease less than halfway through October than in any other full month. Despite the grim figures, GOP Gov. Kristi Noem has resisted pressure to step up the state's response to the disease.

cont'd from pg 20

ber of Parliament for the Ganja region, told Al Jazeera Armenia is violating internationally-recognised provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

"The Armenian government is trying to start a total war by firing rockets at Azerbaijani cities. Azerbaijan has no intention to open fire on another country's territory," he said.

Hikmet Hajiyev, the foreign policy aide to the Azerbaijani president, said Armenia is violating the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire and has fired heavy artillery and rockets not only at Ganja, but also at Mingachevir, which has a population of 100,000 people and is home to a hydroelectric power station, and other civilian areas.

"This should be assessed as Arme-

nia's disrespect to the world community, including the Russian Federation. This act of vandalism and genocide was committed by Armenia against the Azerbaijani people, despite the idea of a ceasefire on humanitarian grounds with the direct mediation of the Russian Federation. The international community must give due consideration to these events," he told reporters.

Kyrgyzstan president quits; prime minister, newly sprung from jail, takes over

(Reuters) Kyrgyz President Sooronbai Jeenbekov resigned on Thursday, leaving power in the hands of a nationalist rival whose supporters freed him from jail last week.

The swift transition appears to put an end to more than a week of turmoil and unrest that followed a disputed election.

Sadyr Japarov, 51, who was named prime minister this week, told cheering supporters that he had taken on the powers of the presidency, following the resignation of Jeenbekov and of the parliament speaker, who would otherwise have been next in line.

"Today, (speaker Kanatbek) Isayev signed a resignation letter. All presidential powers have fully passed to me today," Japarov said.

Hours earlier, Jeenbekov became the third president of the small Central Asian nation since 2005 to be toppled in a popular uprising. In a statement, he said he was resigning to prevent violence, which he said would have been inevitable if protesters carried out a threat to march on his compound.

"I do not want to go down in Kyrgyzstan's history as a president who shed blood and shot at his own citizens."

Kyrgyzstan's constitution requires a new election for president within three months. The rules appear to bar Japarov, as interim president, from standing again.

Kyrgyzstan has been in turmoil since an Oct. 4 parliamentary vote, which the opposition rejected after Jeenbekov's allies were declared the winners.

Since the election, opposition supporters have taken to the streets and



Kyrgyzstan's President Sooronbai Jeenbekov speaks after a vote at a parliamentary elections in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan October 4, 2020.

seized government buildings, prompting the authorities to annul the vote.

Japarov who was serving a sentence for attempting to kidnap another politician during unrest in 2013, was sprung from prison by his supporters last week. A judge then threw out his conviction, and parliamentary factions picked him to be premier.

Jeenbekov announced last week that he planned to resign, but later said he would stay in office until a new election was held. Japarov rejected the delay and pressed him to resign immediately.

"The president couldn't hold out. He's very weak. No spirit," Dastan Bekeshev, a lawmaker who supports neither Jeenbekov nor Japarov, told Reuters. "It's not clear what happens next, nobody can tell what is going to happen."

Kyrgyzstan hosts both a Russian military base and a large Canadian-owned

gold mine. Moscow, which considers the former Soviet space its sphere of influence, had said it would be responsible for ensuring stability.

Russia said Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had spoken by phone to his Kyrgyz counterpart, Ruslan Kazakbayev, and promised to assist "legitimate authorities" to stabilise the situation.

Lavrov's call could be seen as recognition of the legitimacy of Japarov, who named Kazakbayev to the post this week.

Felix Kulov, a former prime minister who met with Jeenbekov before his resignation, said on Facebook the president had said nothing about planning to quit.

"One thing is clear: some forces - I am sure sooner or later we will find out which ones - decided to seize power by force and made the president choose between resignation or an all-out war," Kulov said.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTE X PRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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.

DAY 10/16

NIGHT 10/16

32° Hi



Cloudy spells with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm

25° Lo



Patchy clouds with a couple of showers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:00 AM

Sunset AST
5:44 PM



Duration
11:44 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
5:42 PM

Moonset AST
5:56 AM



Duration
12: 14 hr

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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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 Sagacor 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.

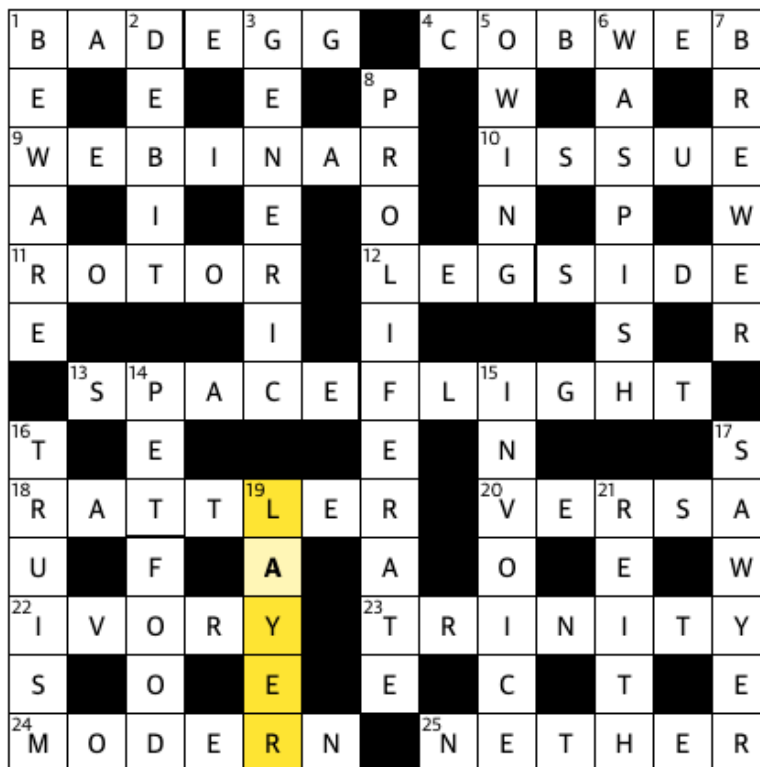
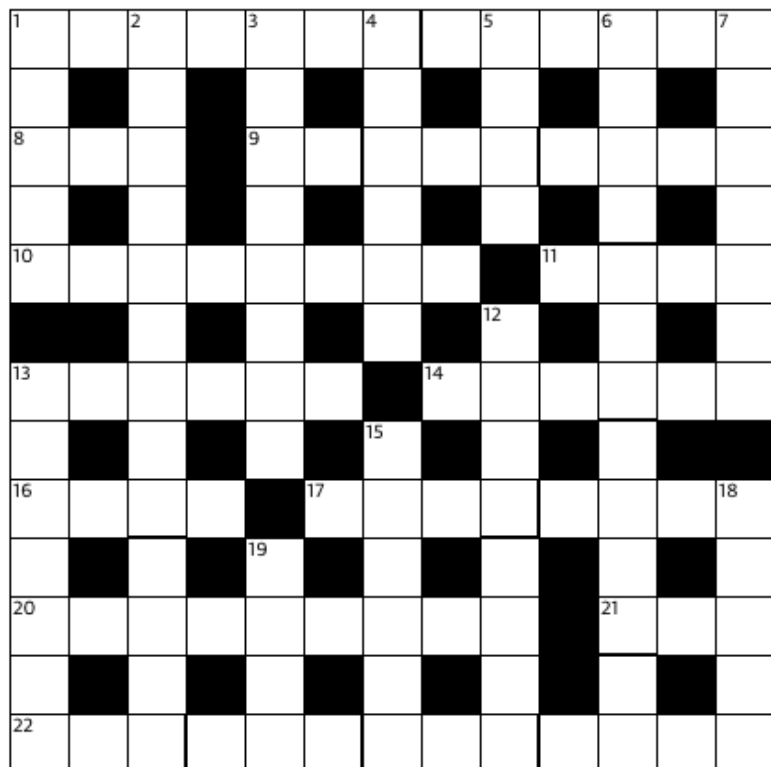
SJA INDEPENDENCE LUNCH

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

LEISURE

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Drink made from West African beans (7,6)
 8 Meadow (3)
 9 Regardless of the price to pay (2,3,4)
 10 Gob (informal) (8)
 11 Roofed colonnade (4)
 13 Blooming? (6)
 14 Very nice — coy elm (anag) (6)
 16 Fizzy drink (4)
 17 The 'x' in x3 (4,4)
 20 Winter sporting device (9)
 21 Pair (3)
 22 Seek the impossible (3,3,3,4)

Down

- 1 Antiquity (5)
 2 Striped stick from Lancashire (9,4)
 3 Baldie (informal) (8)
 4 Land for growing crops (6)
 5 Kind of agate (4)
 6 Immediately at the beginning (4,3,4,2)
 7 River mouth (7)
 12 Extremely inactive (4,4)
 13 Pendulous-flowered shrub (7)
 15 Gulf kingdom (6)
 18 Prickle (5)
 19 Longest river in Spain (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Garfield





ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You may be surprised. Discussions that go beyond polite banter may yield startling revelations, but don't believe everything you hear. No matter what you choose to do today, you'll probably fare better if you bring a friend.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Stay on point. Alluring distractions may try to divert your attention from the important tasks that should be done today. Don't be surprised if a new admirer makes his or her presence known.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Air out your grievances. You'll feel a whole lot better about it if you discuss what's bothering you rather than keeping it bottled up. You'll probably say the right thing if you speak from the heart.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at both sides of the situation. Your optimism over a project may cause you to see only the positives and ignore the negatives. You may need an objective third party on your side to find the right path.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Fantasy may be better than reality. Your illusions could be dashed to pieces when you finally meet someone you've admired from afar. Doing what's best for the common good can be difficult but is certainly achievable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When you talk, people will usually listen. You'll not be at a loss for words when it comes to getting your way, and others may be pleased to accommodate you. Your wisdom and charm earn respect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Have it your way. Be a star of the business world or the spark that kindles a blazing romance, as you probably can exert your will on anything today. Your performance may suffer if you do too many things at once.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): All's fair in love and war. You may be able to take advantage of a romantic situation by being in the right place at the right time. Make sure your financial picture isn't in need of tweaking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Strut your stuff. Don't blend into the background; you're far more appealing than you think. Exude confidence and charm, and you should be able to conquer any situation that comes your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There's more to it than meets the eye. Don't take a cold reception personally, as there is likely something else going on behind the scenes. Take what is offered but don't pry into private matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Honey works better than vinegar. You may get to the bottom of someone's problem if you show tact and compassion. Try to encourage someone to improve rather than being overly critical.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Read between the lines. You'll need to be perceptive to tell the difference between what someone says and what they actually mean. Your trust should be earned rather than given lightly.

Sports News

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
POINTE PRESS
LOCAL NEWS AND OPINION

Former Parham FC defender remembers Coach 'Debu' Williams

Former Parham FC defender, Kimarley "Skitta" McDonald is having a hard time coming to grips with the loss of his former coach and friend Rolston "Debu" Williams.

Williams, 55, was the National Technical Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association and Technical Director of Parham FC passed away this week at the Mount St. John's Medical Centre after

a brief illness.

McDonald, a Jamaican national who is regarded as one of the best imports to play in the ABFA Premier League, described Williams as a very good coach who was passionate and had the ability to motivate and get the best out of players who were average.

"If any player [who] was exposed to Debu did not learn anything and become a better player, it meant they

were stubborn and did not want to learn," McDonald said.

Skitta, who won several championships under the guidance of Debu, said his former coach was the driving force behind football in Parham and added that his absence leaves a hole that will be hard to fill.

McDonald played professionally in Jamaica before being recruited by Parham FC where he displayed his



Kimarley "Skitta" McDonald skills leading the defense.

"When I started playing music and was out late at nights before games, Debu would leave his home and appear at the location encouraging me to get my rest," Skitta said with a smile, "but later on coach realised it was part of my living and showed more understanding."

In addition to being a national footballer himself, Debu became coach of the Antigua and Barbuda National Football team in 2004. He also worked with Antigua and Barbuda Women's National Football team and the U20 and U17 teams.

In November 2012 he again became of the head coach of the Antigua and Barbuda team.

Naming of Windies squad for NZ delayed

The announcement of the West Indies T20 squad for the New Zealand tour has been delayed due to fitness concerns.

The situation, which was confirmed by the convenor of selectors, has caused a headache as authorities are now attempting to resolve the issue before the squad is named.

West Indies are expected to depart at month the end for the tour of New Zealand which runs from November 27 to December 15 and comprises three T20 Internationals and two Tests.

The selectors might have to eliminate mystery spinner, Sunil Narine, from selection after he was reported in the Indian Premier League for suspect bowling action and has not represented his team Kolkata Knight Riders since.

The upcoming tour of New Zealand will see the Test squad accompanied by members of the T20 unit plus reserves first, with any players currently competing in the Indian Premier League expected to follow after fulfilling their franchise commitments.



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T&T PM calls United TTFA success in court 'pyrrhic victory'

Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister, Dr. Keith Rowley, has reacted to the high court decision on Tuesday in favour of the United Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) concerning its lawsuit against FIFA on his Facebook page.

Delivering her judgment in the case on Tuesday, High Court Judge, Carol Gobin, ruled that FIFA's move to have the duly elected TTFA executive, led by President William Wallace, removed and replaced by a Normalization Committee was illegal null and void and of no effect.

Judge Gobin said the FIFA's decision on 3rd March 2020 to appoint a Normalization Committee was

made in bad faith and for improper and illegal motive.

Prime Minister Rowley, who appeared to be displeased with the decision, shared a quote on his page: "Another such victory and we shall be utterly ruined." - Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, 2000 years ago."

Rowley continued:

"Thank God I was taught some Greek history and Latin at Bishop High School, otherwise I would have never been able to understand that adventure. Pyrrhus King of Epirus refers to a success that is gained at such a high price that the victory proved too costly to be worthwhile.

"Now United TTFA has won and FIFA has lost. The matter is settled in local court. We are now free of the colonial FIFA. We, boys and girls, men and women, are free to play by ourselves and against ourselves because nobody will be allowed to play with or against us."

Misbah-ul-Haq steps down

Misbah-ul-Haq has stood down as Pakistan's chief selector but will continue as head coach.

The former captain has combined both roles for the past twelve months, including on the tour of England in the summer. Misbah said he thoroughly enjoyed both roles but would focus on coaching in an attempt to manage his workload.

The 46-year-old will still select the squads for the upcoming series against Zimbabwe and New Zealand before a new selector



takes over on December 1.

Pakistan will host South Africa for two Tests with another three scheduled for January.

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received the message of his passing which brought tears to my eyes and has left me in a state of shock," said Samuels.

Former national captain and manager of the Antigua and Barbuda national team, Fernando 'Nando' Abraham,

who worked closely with Debu over the years, described Debu as a hard worker who was very passionate about his work and did not like to lose.

"We have lost a legend and great soldier. Williams was employed as a senior coach within the Ministry of Sports for many years and was re-

spected and appreciated by his fellow coaches." As Antigua and Barbuda mourns the loss of a sports legend, Debu is also being remembered for his many years of service to basketball as a coach. He was also a softball player and a big fan of Leeward Islands and West Indies cricket.



KAISO SESSIONS

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MONDAYS | 2pm-3pm

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COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Football fraternity mourns loss of a legend

Antigua and Barbuda Football fraternity was plunged into mourning and deep shock over the news of the passing of legendary coach, Rolston 'Debu' Williams.

Williams, 55, died on Wednesday at the Mount St. John's Medical Centre after being admitted on Monday after complaining of feeling unwell.

Over his long and illustrious career, Debu established a reputation for himself as one of the nation's leading football experts. He was also the first Antiguan and Barbudan coach to be appointed to the position of Technical Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Foot-

ball Association in 2016.

Williams, the Technical Director of Parham FC who was fondly referred to as 'the heartbeat of sports in Parham', will be greatly missed by that community as he led them to four of their six championships.

Sports Minister, Darryl Matthew, described Williams as passionate, dedicated and unafraid of expressing his thoughts and ideas. Matthews told **PointeXpress** that Williams' loss has left a major void in the ministry that will be difficult to fill.

Chestley Browne, Physical Education instructor at the Antigua Grammar School, worked closely with

Debu, who was the school's head coach, for many years. Browne, the head coach of Premier League team, Old Road FC, said he enjoyed working with Williams as he instilled discipline in his players, was very detailed in his approach to coaching and commanded the respect of everyone around him.

"Just a week ago he was with me conducting classroom sessions utilising technology. His loss has hit me hard leaving me rattled and sad," said Browne.

Williams' friend and colleague at the Ministry of Sports, coach Vincent 'Nabu' Samuels, said he was assisting Debu with his work on a national docu-



Rolston 'Debu' Williams.

ment aimed at developing the sport on the island.

"I spoke to him the night before he passed and I was preparing myself to visit him at the hospital when I

cont'd on pg 27

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