



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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## TODAY WE CELEBRATE OUR NATIONAL HEROES

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## WE PLEDGE TO BE GOOD CITIZENS WITH ONE PURPOSE, ONE NATION, ONE VISION

Patriotic feelings and independence anniversary celebrations generally go hand in hand. From 1981 to present there has always been an explosion in the display of national symbols, a surge in the singing of patriotic songs and, more than any other time, a collective remembrance that 'ah yah me barn'. From the youngest to the oldest we are imbued with that sense of unity and belief in us, our food, our culture, our style, our Antiguan and Barbudan spirit.

We become inspired by the lyrics of the scores of songs which form part of the spirit of the celebrations. Some of the most powerful song lyrics 'we thy sons and daughters stand strong and firm in peace or danger to safeguard our native land' from the National Anthem and 'we pledge to be good citizens, our country then will be not just a

society, but a just society' from King Short Shirt's Pledge provide examples of the lyrical fervour that inspires us as citizens and residents.

Unfortunately, for many of us the patriotic spirit ebbs soon after the season concludes almost as if patriotism too is seasonal; to be dusted off for special occasions and then retired until another occasion calls for its use.

Safeguarding our nation in peace or danger is not a part time job. Working to create not just a society is not an occasional endeavour.

Our 39th anniversary theme is 'One Purpose, One Nation, One Vision'. Some may question the practicality of the theme in our highly polarised socio-political environment. Is there

room in Antigua and Barbuda today for such a clarion call? With the many challenges before us, and the very strong discord in many facets of our daily activities to our long term development planning, is there room for uniting in a single purpose?

Love for country, regardless of other affiliations must be the primary driver of pursuits. We are fortunate to have a melting pot of ethnicities, income



disparity, religious persuasions all existing in relative harmony cross our nation. Our crime levels and other hallmarks normally associated with a failed state or nations in crisis are in check. In fact, had it not been for the COVID-19 pandemic, it is fair to conclude that our nation would have been in the final quarter of one of its best years since political independence.

Love for country, either as citizen or resident, must prompt us to wear our good citizen banner 365 days a year. Love for country must inspire the one vision, even if there may be disagreements on the path to fulfilling that vision. Love for country will drive the purpose to ensure that we build, and leave behind, a better Antigua and

Barbuda for future generations. Love of country will ensure that no political leader's desire to win comes at the cost of the nation's demise.

This, our 39th year of political independence puts us on the cusp of real nation adulating. The saying life begins at 40 years seems applicable here. This is our final year to set aside things that are not in the national interest. As citizens and residents we must appreciate that this level of maturity makes past mistakes intolerable. Our maturity demands that we take the lessons of the years past and seek to lay the path best suited to our national economic development. On that foundation we can then forge stronger communities tasked with supporting our youth and taking care of the elderly; our two most vulnerable population segments.

Even in the face of a politicised environment, there is still room for one nation where the people appreciate and understand the value of teamwork.

To borrow from Calypso Joe, 'a house divided against itself must fall' and falling is not an option for Antigua and Barbuda.

We will therefore 'Gird our loins and join the battle' to keep the patriotic fire burning all year round. It will temper many of the larger polarised battles that could keep us from fulfilling our 39th independence anniversary theme.

True patriots will have no challenge answering the pledge to be good citizens with one purpose, one nation, one vision.

## LIAT SEVERANCE PAYMENTS BEING PROCESSED



*Dominica commits to being a part of the new LIAT set to launch on 1st November, 2020.*

### **By Shelton Daniel**

LIAT is not being revived to become the "national" airline of Antigua and Barbuda and that is not the intended message of its scheduled relaunch on November 1st, Independence Day.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne provided this clarification on Saturday on his weekly radio programme. According to Browne, the resumption of LIAT flights on Independence Day is not a statement that the airline is to become an exclusive national asset.

He further discloses that Dominica, who will

share LIAT's relaunch route, has indicated a desire to renew its status as a shareholder in the Antigua-headquartered airline.

"That's not the intent here. LIAT is still poised to remain as the regional air carrier, and we continue to have discussions with other governments to participate in the new LIAT. We have a firm commitment from Dominica to participate and a few other governments have shown an interest. I may not necessarily want to name them at this point, but as far as Dominica is concerned, I had

a call from Prime Minister Skerrit up to a few days ago. On his own volition he picked up the phone and he called me and he said, 'Now that LIAT is going to resume flights, I just want you to know that Dominica is definitely, firmly interested in taking an equity stake in LIAT', and we have assured him that we will facilitate them," Prime Minister Browne stated.

Following LIAT's relaunch on November 1st, the airline will begin to expand its services.

The prime minister said this will include, "...several other OECS islands and

Barbados and eventually the schedule will be expanded to include all the countries in the CARICOM bubble as they reopen their borders."

He further disclosed that, after six months of border closures across the region due to the pandemic, all LIAT staff who had been laid off were severed in mid-October.

"They were sent their severance letters, and the administrator will be rehiring a number of former employees based on need to make sure that this time around LIAT is right-sized."

# Amendments coming to the Medical Benefits Act



*Minister of Health, Hon. Molwyn Joseph*

Several amendments are to be made to the Medical Benefits Act. This is part of an announcement from the Ministry of Health which further indicated that there is a looming two pronged approach to delivering improved health care

for Antiguans and Barbudans.

Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph said he will present the proposed amendments to Parliament 'within thirty days or less'. In part, the coming amendments to the MBS Act will allow members of the scheme to access an annual medical checkup.

According to Joseph this additional benefit to the scheme's beneficiaries is part of the government's renewed focus on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the implementation of measures to protect the nation from the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Ministry of Health has also revealed how it intends to finance the new MBS service.

"The new legislation will also look into the taxing of unhealthy foods in Antigua and Barbuda, primarily foods with high sugar or salt content as well as starch. It is clear that these amendments must take place quickly as we now have the task of expanding the Dialysis Unit at Mount St. John's Medical Centre. The ministry will expand

the unit to include ten additional machines within the next ninety days," Joseph noted.

The minister added that the high demand for the use of the hospital's dialysis machines means that there is a waiting period for persons who need to use them.

"We are developing the amendment to the MBS Act not just for the treatment of diseases, but more importantly, for the prevention of diseases. This is the aspect of wellness that we have to integrate into the legislation now. This for us is a matter of urgency," Joseph declared.

He said the intent is to encourage annual medical check-ups so that early interventions can take place if there is an issue. This benefit to nationals was part of the original plan for the national health insurance plan that is being developed.

Joseph said, however, that plans for national insurance were delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic therefore a decision was made to proceed with the amendments at this time.

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**WV**

## First ever virtual dance competition set for tonight

Eleven talented young dancers will participate in a special competition that will be aired tonight.

Organised by the Department of Culture (DOC), the 'Virtual National Dance Solo Competition', will be staged under the theme 'Dancing Together, Distances Apart.'

DOC Public Relations Officer, Cecilia Thwaites said the National Competition is part of the official 2020 Independence celebrations. It will be aired live on The Cultural Development Di-

vision - Antigua and Barbuda's social media pages, JumpFM, Antigua and Barbuda Festival Commission, ABS Radio and TV's Facebook pages and on ABS TV.

"The participants whose talents will be on display are Aaliyah Taylor, Shunnyé Christopher, Ajanaé Bleau, Christine Powell, Adiedre' L. D. Robinson, Ke' Niqua Aaliyah Howell, Myrisha Richards, Regina Pelle, Gabrielle Nia Hamlet, Shannon Lawes, and Avril Carbon. Additionally, the Department of Cul-

ture dance instructors will be executing an extraordinary feature performance of Many Rains Ago. This was initially choreographed in 1981 by Winston Christian and Gilbert Laudat," she disclosed.

The event was created by the DOC's Special Events Coordinator, Gilbert Laudat, who noted that the competition will showcase the country's elite dance soloists.

Ahead of the event, Director of Culture, Khan Cordice, said he was excited that

it will be held and expressed thanks to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Citizenship by Investment Unit, Antigua and Barbuda Festival's Commission, Jump FM, ABS and Total Import Supplies for their support of the event.

The winner of the competition will represent Antigua and Barbuda at a regional dance competition. The details of that competition have not yet been released.

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**Jahfari Joseph-Hazelwood**

Antigua and Barbuda is abuzz with excitement and a national outpouring of support for Jahfari Joseph-Hazelwood who is among eleven finalists in the Commonwealth Composition Challenge (CCC).

In a competition which attracted participation from hundreds of applicants, there are three awards at stake: the 2020 Commonwealth Composition Challenge, which will be decided by the panel of adjudicators; the Young Adjudicators Award; and the CICA Audience Award which will go to the piece receiving the greatest number of online audience votes.

The CCC is organized annually by Commonwealth Resounds and serves to connect musical cultures and promote musical initiatives and partnerships in Commonwealth countries. It also aims to support and participate in cultural projects.

Jahfari Joseph-Hazelwood said he is extremely excited to be the only finalist from the Caribbean in the 2020 Commonwealth Resounds.

When Pointe Entertainment caught up with him, Jahfari said, "To be the only one from the Caribbean is definitely something I am very proud of. [I'm] still trying to wrap my head around it."

Jahfari has participated in previous

# A&B musician in Commonwealth competition finals

Commonwealth Resound competitions. In 2019 he participated in the Antigua Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra's (ABYSO) summer composition workshop with the Commonwealth Resound and was recognised for his piece entitled 'Mori'.

Music became a part of Jahfari's life very early on. He began formal music training at four years old.

"The earliest memory I can recall of being involved in music is enjoying myself at steelband practice at La Chateau Dor Academy during the days when I first started there about thirteen or fourteen years ago," he reflected.

He is now preparing for the Grade 5 Classical Guitar Practical and the Grade 6 Music Theory Examinations with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools Music (ABRSM).

Jahfari is a member of the Golden Sticks Steel Pan Ensemble, the Holy Family Cathedral Steel Orchestra, the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra and the ABYSO Junior Trumpet Programme. He is a former member of the St. Joseph's Academy Rhythm Masters Steel Orchestra and was awarded the overall winner of the school's Fine Arts Competition in 2018. He was also a member of a team that represented Antigua and Barbuda in Japan in a steel pan cultural exchange programme.

He is currently pursuing a CAPE Associate Degree in Science at the St. Anthony's Advanced Level Department.

Pointe Entertainment encourages the public to lend active support to Jahfari's bid to win the CICA Audience Award. Voting continues until Monday 26th October 6pm GMT (2 pm Eastern Caribbean Time) via the link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL->

[SeABUg15FEHJ7Xm2pOzm6\\_es9fim-d9kxCSZp7h6AjjXXgMUA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL-SeABUg15FEHJ7Xm2pOzm6_es9fim-d9kxCSZp7h6AjjXXgMUA/viewform).

His entered composition can be heard at: [https://youtu.be/EbFggd\\_Lm40](https://youtu.be/EbFggd_Lm40)

About the Commonwealth Challenge  
The Commonwealth Challenge was launched in April to encourage young people to compose music that is relevant to the coronavirus pandemic in some way. Open to young people aged 11-18 throughout the Commonwealth, the competition received hundreds of entries.





## Jolly Beach sale in sight

**By Shelton Daniel**

Government does not own the shut-down Jolly Beach Resort and is not legally liable to settle severance or any other terminal payments due to the hundreds of staff rendered jobless by the hotel's closure.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne stressed these points on Saturday during his weekly radio programme, the Browne and Browne Show.

About 500 staff of Jolly Beach have been laid off since the end of March when the resort – like all other hotels – following the discovery of the first coronavirus cases in Antigua and Barbuda.

Due to uncertainty concerning ownership and severe financial problems that predated COVID-19, it became clear that Jolly Beach would not be among hotels that could entertain the option of re-opening this month in time for the winter tourist season.

"We have been shopping to get a buyer for Jolly Beach," Browne stated. "We had Ambassador

resort, but when we looked at what he was doing. He was only offering about 65 rooms and that was not in keeping with our interests or our desire to see a large hotel with the volumes of individuals in which it would be able to support maybe 600 workers.

"So we had to decline that sale on the basis that, even though we are trying to transition to the high-end sector, we also need some hotels that would have the volume that will fill the back of the plane and provide significant amounts of employment opportunities. Ambassador Ayre did say to us that his project would have generated more profits. We understood that, but we had to look at the overall impact of the investment and the possibility of displacement that would have taken place."

Browne explained that Ayre's plan would have resulted in the total demolition of the existing Jolly Beach hotel property which would have led to two-years of displacement for staff and other stake-

holders such as commercial suppliers, nearby vendors and taxi operators.

"As I said, we have been shopping and we have gotten in contact with The Wind Group, and they have now decided to purchase Jolly Beach. I'm aware that they have signed a contract and it is now for the [Receiver] to go through that contract and to sign. So we expect the contract to be expedited by, maybe, Monday or Tuesday of next week."

Browne said his government has extended concessions to the buyer in order to sweeten the purchase deal.

"We asked them to expand and repair the hotel in a modular way so that parts of the property can continue to be utilized, or they can continue to trade in the interim so we can put some of the workers back to work as soon as possible – and they agreed."

The prime minister said he expects the deal to be "consummated within 60 days" and, on that basis, he anticipates money will become available to make the severance payments and settle other outstanding debts, including mammoth sums owed to the central government and various statutory agencies such as Social Security.

"I know there are some who believe that Jolly Beach

is owned by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. It is not. Government is a preferred creditor and we have the option of converting our debt into equity but we have held off on that conversion, because converting a debt into equity is dangerous in the sense that unsecured creditors will rank ahead of the government. The government could end up with shares that are worthless since Jolly Beach has more liabilities than assets," said the prime minister.

He stated that certain unnamed persons were seeking to mobilise the laid off workers into taking protest action to demand that the government pay them what they are owed.

"That would be in vain, because there is no such legal connection," PM Browne cautioned.

He also reported being "aware that the owners on record have the resources to pay severance".

During his programme, Browne also dropped a bombshell concerning Jolly Beach: "I'm told too that the thrift fund that Jolly Beach had, that the previous operators may have misappropriated the funds. Those are not issues of which the government has any responsibility or any liability. I just want to share this information."

# Festivals Commission launches social media campaign

In celebration of the Nation's 39th Anniversary of Independence, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has announced the Friday 30th October launch of its Independence social media campaign, #MyAntiguaBarbuda.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in a scaled down Independence anniversary calendar, the ABFC made the decision to keep the independence spirit alive by using social media. The use of social media not only facilitates online engagement amongst residents, citizens and the diaspora, but also allows the world to experience the uniqueness and true meaning of Antigua and Barbuda's

Independence.

The campaign, which is geared towards fostering national pride, seeks to showcase the strength and resilience of Antiguan and Barbudans during the pandemic. It further aims to merge Antiguan and Barbuda traditions and norms with a modern-day digital experience.

On October 30th, National Dress Day, the ABFC is encouraging persons to participate in its social media takeover by using the hashtag #MyAntiguaBarbuda in all posts. This includes all social media posts relating to National Dress Day, local cuisine, music, historical sites, beaches, the National Flag, and other national symbols or facts commemorat-

ing independence.

In addition to the typical National Dress Day activities, the ABFC will feature businesses, groups, organisations and individuals online via the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission Facebook page and its Instagram page @antiguafestivals. To be featured, images must be submitted via email to,

[abfestivals@ab.gov.ag](mailto:abfestivals@ab.gov.ag).

This year, to continue the efforts of reaching wider audiences online, the ABFC has placed strong emphasis on broadcasting independence events live on television, radio and on social media. These include the Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Virtual National Solo Dance Competi-

tion on Monday 26th October, the inaugural Independence Virtual Calypso Monarch featuring ten calypso finalists on Saturday 31st October, the Independence Ceremonial Parade, with its new time of 5:30pm on Sunday 1st November and the Barbuda Independence Parade on Monday 2nd November at 8:30 a.m.

The ABFC expressed the hope that the nation's 39th Independence Anniversary, being celebrated under the theme, "One Purpose, One Vision, One Nation", will be can be showcased to a wider cross section of residents and citizens, locally and abroad, through the #MyAntiguaBarbuda campaign.



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## ERC Report: A roadmap for future growth

The report of the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC) has been released and it has been hailed as a roadmap for future growth of Antigua and Barbuda.

Coordinator of the ERC, Cabinet Secretary Konata Lee, said the broad scope of the report has been crystallized into the title: Repositioning Antigua and Barbuda for Dynamic, Sustainable and Resilient Growth.

"The report is an embodiment of the work done by the committee over several months and the contributions made by stakeholders from a wide cross-section of the society. It not only focuses on the efforts to recover and stabilize the economy in the short term, but it sets the stage for future development. It therefore can be seen as a development plan for the nation; a long term plan for the economy," he emphasized.

He stated that the 177 pages long report is divided into six sections. First, it deals with the need to stabilise the economy at the onset of the pandemic.

"There were certain structural issues that needed to be addressed and the government took decisive action early to bring these under control. These include putting structures and systems in place to deal with a major outbreak of the virus should it happen," Lee explained.

These measures include the construction of the Infectious Disease Centre at the Holberton Hospital and the medical facility at Nugent Avenue. Additionally, the two polyclinics at Glansvilles and Villa Area also form part of the health infrastructure. Lee said the goal is to improve the health

care system and the skills of local health professionals so that Antigua and Barbuda may export healthcare services.

The other areas of focus in the report were the improvement of the country's housing stock through developments now being undertaken by two government agencies, the National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company (NHD&URC) and the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA).

According to Lee the government will also seek to incentivize private capital in this space by offering land to nationals at concessionary rates to encourage private housing projects.

One of the more welcomed aspects of the report involves provisions for the installation of a central sewage system in St John's. This has been a goal of many administrations in the past, but the present government has secured a US\$30 million loan to undertake the sewage system project.

"This has been discussed by governments for as long as I can remember, but now we have the financing in place to install this central sewage system for the city and it will be a major fillip for the aesthetics and the environment of the capital," Lee stated.

The plan highlights the government's goal of a move to renewable energy sources in order to wean the country off of fossil fuel energy sources. It speaks to the construction of solar farms to harness energy from the sun. As part of this plan, the report restates the goal of making Barbuda almost totally reliant on renewable energy.

The ERC report incorporates the recent announcement that APUA will invest over \$100 million in upgrading its services, including making broadband internet available throughout the country.

Turning to the developments at St. John's Harbor and the multi-million dollar expansion and upgrade of the port, Lee noted that additional land has been created from dredged material. This he said will allow for the development of an area in which locals will be encouraged to set up small businesses. The plan also calls for the development of a marina in Dredge Bay.

The expansion and diversification plans for West Indies Oil Company (WIOC), in which the government owns majority shares, are also featured in the report. Among other things, it presents architectural concepts of a business centre which WIOC will soon undertake. The company has expanded its storage capacity and now ranks third in the English speaking Caribbean.

One area where the government has indicated a desire to encourage investment is medicinal marijuana. According to Lee there are investors 'lining up' to get involved in this business.

The ERC report also provides additional information on the planned development for Willoughby Bay. Government has stated that it wants more local involvement in the hospitality sector and that it is willing to sell land in the area at concessionary rates. The money raised will go towards infrastructural development in the area.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

**ONE** Purpose  
Vision  
Nation

## Promoting Commitment to Our Country

**By the Honourable Sir Lester Bryant Bird, KNH**

*The Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda today salute our two Living Heroes; Sir Lester Bryant Bird, KNH and Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, KNH, OBE, as we celebrate National Heroes Day. In honour of their work, we reproduce two pieces highlighting their contributions to Antigua and Barbuda. We reproduce today, one of 50 weekly radio broadcasts by the Hon. Lester Bird delivered to the people of Antigua and Barbuda in the first year of his stewardship as Prime Minister. The subjects were wide and varied; many of them reflected the concerns of the time. One of the broadcasts, which we reproduce today, had a more enduring quality than the others. It was made on 15th December 1995 and dealt with commitment to the country*

RECENTLY there has been some discussion in one of the publications here about whether or not, as a people, we have commitment to our country.

It is argues that all of us are a transplanted people, because our ancestors came, or were brought, here from other lands. Indeed, some of our present citizens are first generation Antiguan and Barbudans and so, the argument continues, because of this experience of transplantation, we are prone to take advantage of what we can here and then move on.

In other words, the individual benefits, but the nation loses.

This is a very cynical view, but it raises ancillary questions which are important and which, as a nation, we need to confront in our interest.

One of these questions is: What is the role of the state in promoting a sense of deep commitment to the country amongst its people?

In the course of this broadcast, I want to try to address this question as I see it. I hope that this will stimulate further discussion in homes, schools and other organisations such as the business sector, churches, trade unions, youth groups and political organisations, but first let me say that there is no doubt in my mind that

*cont'd on pg 11*



## *cont'd from pg 10*

the majority of people who are born here, and those who have chosen to establish their citizenship here, do have a sense of commitment to this country.

The fact that there is migration to other countries by Antiguan and Barbudans who are born here is not, in my view, an indication of a lack of commitment to the country. It is simply an expression of their desire to seek opportunities for self-satisfaction that cannot be fulfilled here.

In the case of those who have chosen cit-

izenship here, that act itself, in a general sense, is a demonstration of their wish for strong association with the country, however, some foreigners who have opted for Antiguan and Barbudan citizenship need to go beyond the mere acquisition of citizenship to display clearly that they are committed to the country. To do so, they need to show a readiness to integrate with the rest of the population, to participation, and support, the activities which asset the culture of the country, and to be prepared to help

promote our people and not berate them.

If it is not done, then the foreigner who has opted for citizenship will have alienated himself or herself from the community and that commitment to country which should flow from citizenship will never be achieved. Indeed, the reverse will occur – the foreigner, even though armed with citizenship, will remain foreign and will encourage the resentment of the local community.

By the same token, the local community has to welcome the foreigner who has chosen to become a part of our nation. If despite his or her best efforts, the local community refuses to accept the legitimacy of the foreigner who has become a citizen, then the process of alienation will occur anyway and that necessary commitment to country will not be achieved.

Incidentally, I have noticed recently an attempt in some quarters of the local community to characterize differences of opinion in racial terms. I urge all Antiguan and Barbudans to spurn this development. Our people, regardless of what mix of blood runs through their veins, are all our people, and each person should be treated as equal, with the same

rights, obligations, privileges and responsibilities as any other.

We will not inculcate national commitment to our country without first accepting, without equivocation, the equality of all our people.

But I return now to the question which I raised at the beginning of this discussion: what is the role of the State in promoting a sense of deep commitment to the country amongst its people?

Obviously, the State has such a role and ought to play it vigorously. Successive Labour Party Governments have tried to imbue that sense of commitment in several ways.

First, we fought for the people of this country to have the right to vote and to elect their own government. Second, we struggled for the people of this country to have no employment opportunity denied them on the basis of their race or colour. Third, we instituted processes by which our people could own their own businesses and become property owners. Fourth, through investment in education, we created a professional group of lawyers, engineers, doctors, dentists, and accountants who today make a good living in our community. Fifth, we have begun

*cont'd on pg 12*

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the process of empowering our women, representatives of whom now occupy important positions throughout our public sector. Sixth, we began the operation of honouring the achievements of our own by naming streets after them and by bestowing national honours upon them.

All this was part of the effort to inculcate in our people a sense of belonging and a spirit of commitment to the country.

The State, then, has played a role and it is continuing to do so, however, there is a need, within our limited resources, to do more.

As we look around our country, the monuments which exist testify to a period of our history when we formed part of the wider British Empire. They are essentially British – Nelson's Dockyard, Shirley Heights, our several Forts. They all remind us of the several centuries of British rule. There is nothing wrong with this, British rule is a historical fact, and the monuments to the British presence here are an integral part of our heritage.

The British had over three centuries in which to establish those

monuments; we have had far less time.

What the State has to ensure is that over the coming years, monuments to national achievement also become part of our heritage, so that Antiguan and Barbudans can see their own contribution reflected throughout the country. It is in such a context that the sense of commitment to our country will be inculcated and will flourish. For this will end any sense of alienation which the citizen may feel in his own land; it will proclaim his sense of belonging not in a negative and unhealthy sense but in a positive and beneficial one.

In reflecting on how the State can play a further role in imbuing our community with a sense of commitment to country, it was obvious that, as a nation, we do not pay sufficient attention to the promotion of excellence in the arts. Yet nations are known by their writers and artists, their dancers and musicians, their actors and actresses.

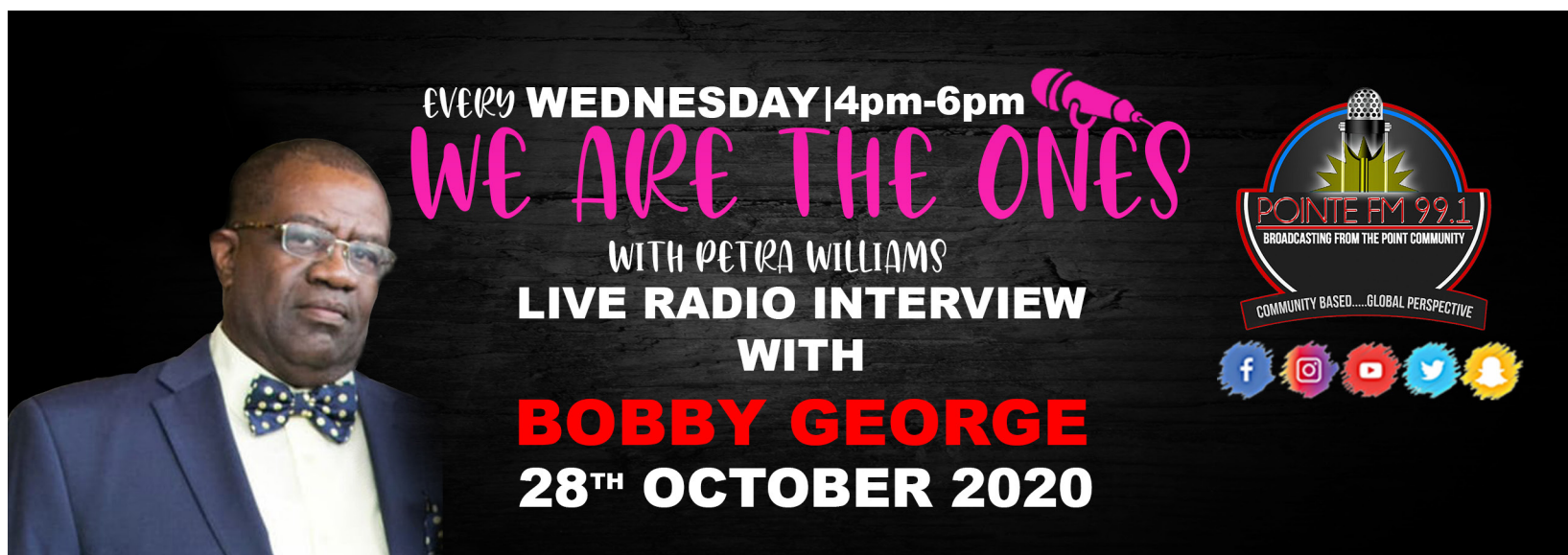
We, for instance, have grown up on the work of Shakespeare and Shelley, of Milton and Kipling

– work that has survived centuries and generations. In the meantime, our own writers, for the most part, have gone unrecognized and unrecorded.

But we must begin to encourage our people to write – and to write well – to contribute to the body of world literature that might produce from among us a Nobel Laureate like St. Lucia's Derek Walcott or an award-winning novelist like Trinidad's V. S. Naipaul.

We must recall that nations are nothing more than a collection of people drawn together within a particular geographical boundary. Like people, nations are infants before they are adults. Our nation is still very much in its infancy. The foundations we lay today will serve us well as we mature as a people but we must lay them.

Under my watch as Head of Government, I intend that the State should play a meaningful role in creating citizens committed to this country, I ask you all to help me achieve this worthwhile goal in the interest of all.



EVERY **WEDNESDAY** | 4pm-6pm

**WE ARE THE ONES**

WITH PETRA WILLIAMS

**LIVE RADIO INTERVIEW**

WITH

**BOBBY GEORGE**

**28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

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f i y t s



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

**ONE** Purpose  
Vision  
Nation

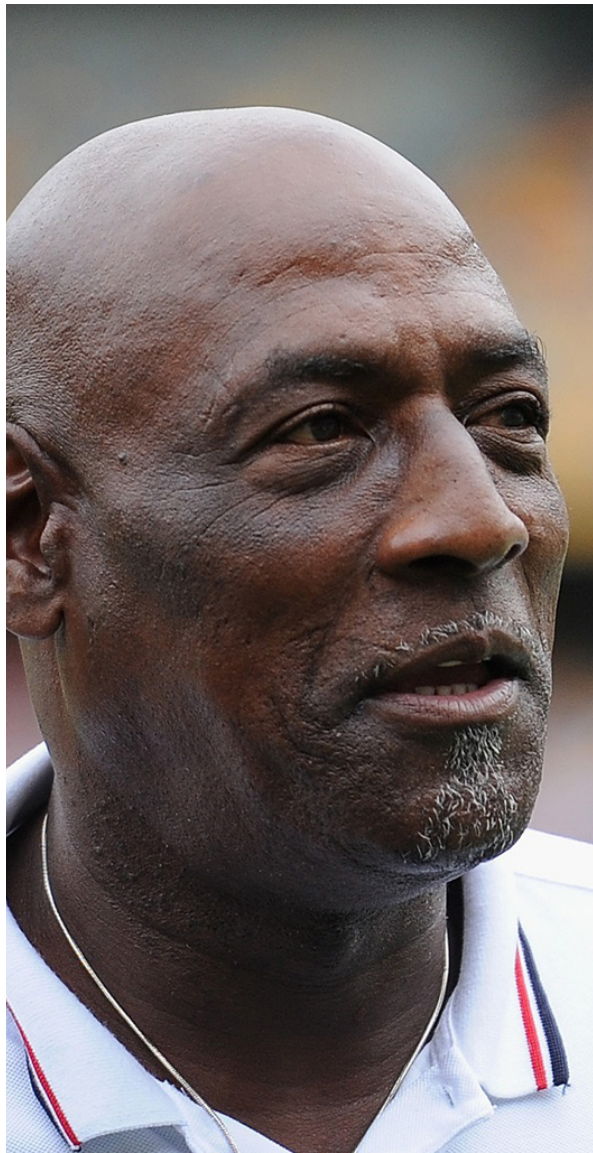
## Pan Africanism, West Indies Cricket & Viv Richards

May 5, 1995

**By Leonard Tim Hector**

The story of Viv Richards, Pan-Africanism and West Indies cricket is intimately connected in Antigua and Leewards cricket.

It goes back a long way. In 1964 a group of us including Robert Hill, a Jamaican, now a distinguished professor, Dr. Hugh O'Neal, a brilliant economist from Grenada, who was to die in his prime, Alfie Roberts of St. Vincent, who played for the West Indies in New Zealand in 1955-56 and a fine Pan-African scholar, Rosie Douglas, of Dominica, Franklyn Harvey of Grenada, Henderson Simon of Antigua and myself had formed the Caribbean Conference Committee in Canada. We had tremendous support from some excellent women who did a great deal. We brought speakers and activists from Africa, the U.S.A., Cuba and from across the Caribbean. The great Caribbean figure, George Lamming,



was the First guest speaker, at the First conference in 1964, CLR James at the Second in 1965, Orlando Patterson at the Third, and Walter Rodney at the Fourth - the now famous Black Writers Conference in 1968.

However, it is not the Conference of 1968, but of 1966 which is of immediate concern here. We made a departure. We not only invited intellectuals, but that year we also invited Gary Sobers and David Holford. Naturally, in the course of discussions, the issue of the exclusion of the Leewards and Windwards from Test Cricket and until 1960 from inter-colonial cricket came up. It transpired that all - save Alfie Roberts and I, were of the view that we small islanders did not have what it took to make it in Test Cricket. Whatever the "it" was we just didn't have it. I bristled. Smallness it seemed was the bug-bear. That I would not abide.

I resolved to do something about it. As chance would have it, on my return to Antigua, a row broke out in the Antigua Cricket

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Association as to whether or not cricket should be played on Sunday. All the old stalwarts, including the great Sydney Walling, one of the finest batsmen produced in the West Indies, arguably the fourth W - Worrel, Weekes, Walcott, Walling - and a most distinguished and principled Antiguan, resigned his position in the Cricket Association. The late Sammy Henry, who himself had led Nevis into the Leeward Islands Tournament in 1954, was then Secretary of the Antigua Cricket Association. He too resigned. As did others.

As the leader of the Young Turks, so to speak, I was elected Secretary. The Sunday issue was important not only as theology but as cricket. This imitation of M.C.C. not playing cricket on Sunday was to me "not cricket" but neo-colonialism. More than that, I had in mind that if cricket was to advance, local cup cricket in Antigua had to move from being played on Thursdays to Saturdays and Sundays. Actually I had in mind three day matches, played over Thursday, (a half day in Antigua then) Saturday & Sunday. I was out-voted on that. And it became Saturday and Sunday games. That was the first reform.

Another very fine Antiguan, Leo Gore, perhaps the best captain the Leewards ever produced, a great slip-fielder - I have not seen a better - and a batsman of Test class, in his day, and even then in 1969, holder of the Leeward islands batting record for the highest individual score (200 not out made in 1957 with the present Prime Minister Lester Bird as his last batting partner), became President of the Antigua Cricket Association.

Leo Gore and I determined that to produce a Test batsman we would have to change the entire Leeward Islands Tournament. Two

day games were out. Then there were two two-day games, and the winners would play in a Final of three days. Then too, the L.I. Tournament was played in a single island with all the teams assembling there.

The change was that all matches would be of four days duration and each territory would play all the others, providing players in Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, with three, four-day games. We were proposing to change an institution L.I. Tournament which was then 56 years old. Certainly the oldest inter-island tournament in the region.

Leo Gore as President and I strategised and he sent me off to the Leewards Cricket Association meeting in Montserrat, in 1969, to secure this reform of the L.I. Tournament. Mr. Gore's parting words to me were if you do not come back with this reform of the L.I. Tournament, stay in Montserrat. Your mother is from there, said he, so they have to accept you. It may sound or read like a joke, but it was not. Leo Gore, was deadly serious. A war veteran of the Second World War, he is a strategist of a high order. As a cricket captain, he was both tough and astute. He had, unbeknownst to me, telephoned every member of the Leeward Islands Association and secured their agreement. Of course, Mr. Gore had forgotten that his tremendous prestige in L.I. cricket, and his stature as a man, would make no one in L.I. cricket openly disagree with him on a long distance call. In a meeting it was an entirely different matter.

Secondly cricket is a conservative institution, invariably run by conservatives. This would take a series of lectures to develop. But accept it as gospel for now. Even though the planters had moved out of cricket

administration in the Leewards, the black administration felt that they had to be as good as their planter predecessors, and, therefore, were no less conservative.

Then there was an even more serious complication. I had returned to Antigua in 1967 and immediately plunged into politics. Immediately after my involvement in the new opposition Trade Union, AWU, as an Executive member, the tempo in politics in Antigua intensified. I edited and wrote the opposition paper - The Trumpet - and events culminated in a General Strike. State of Emergency, resignation of the government on the same day as Sobers' famous declaration at Queen's Park Oval on March 19, 1968 and which declaration I supported then as now.

Dr. Eric Williams writing in his biggest historical tome, From Columbus to Castro, dubbed the uprising in 1968 in Antigua as the "first of the Black Power revolts in the region". British and American intelligence agencies dubbed me as "the prime mover behind the scenes" in these events, and circumscribed me as "a dangerous Pan Africanist and communist, a devout follower of Padmore and CLR James with Garvey thrown in to complete the picture. The point was, that Tim Hector, was known as a fervid enemy of the Soviet Union, seeing it after 1924 as counter-revolution. Besides, describing me as a "Communist" and a devout follower of Padmore - who had made a celebrated and historic break with Soviet communism, as well as CLR James, whose World Revolution, of 1938, was a systematic attack on Soviet Communism and its counter-revolutionary assault on Marxism, was an obvious contradiction in terms. Nevertheless fiction is stranger than truth more often than not, and this

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fiction of Tim Hector the flaming red communist, no doubt given to violence and mayhem, stuck. Perception, I am told, is more real than reality, until reality overtakes it.

I have encapsulated a lot in a little there, to make a long story, short. The point is the members of the L.I. Cricket Association felt they had to resist me. I was on my best behaviour. I made the case of the change in L.I. tournament. I recalled the greats of L.I. Tournament from Dr. Ross, Austin Eddy of St. Kitts, through Mc Mahon, and Kingsley Rock of Montserrat down to Len Harris, Hubert Anthonyson, Winston Soanes, Gilbert, Coury, Gonsalves and Matthews, etc. etc. Showing knowledge of the history of Leewards cricket and its players. I even reminded that in 1955 the Trinidad Guardian headlined "Earl Michael Candidate for New Zealand". Nothing came of it. I was careful not to be insular leaving out the contentious. The point was it was the nature of the two-day, sometime one match a year cricket we played which was the biggest impediment to our players in the Leewards, especially batsmen, not getting into Test Cricket. We were, so to speak, our own worst enemies. No siree, said they. Not I think with reason, but simply resisting change and above all resisting this flaming communist - Black Power - Pan Africanist - Radical.

Fortunately, my training had given me some diplomatic skills. Recognising I could not win I retreated to second base. I secured an agreement that the proposal would be considered at the next meeting, after study by the individual territories. I retreated too, from the cricket argument, making a new case that it would be good for the economics of L.I. Cricket. With a match in each territory, and in the second

year two matches, every territory in the Leewards would be financially viable. I suspect, but cannot prove, that my recognition of the value of money, showed a sufficient respect for capitalism. Besides, I did not like Khrushchev at the U.N. pound the table with my shoe when I could not win the argument. The perception was different to the reality of their experience of me.

Anyway, I did not apply for Montserrat residence, and had to return to Antigua to face Mr. Gore. Luckily too, I had got the support of Mr. Eugene Walwyn, then the Attorney-General of St. Kitts and also the representative of Nevis on the L.I. Board. In the break, he had agreed that it was not my personality - which he said was in striking contrast to the propaganda about me - but the propaganda which was responsible for the resistance to reform. He said and I agreed that an emergency meeting should be called to discuss the reform (or is it revolution?) in L.I. Cricket. Astutely Eugene Walwyn piloted this resolution ever so successfully. At least I had got half a loaf to return to Mr. Gore, who though furious about the delay thought, to my relief, that I had "achieved the impossible." He even flattered me that I had displayed "the patience of Job" which he would not have done. Mr. Gore, gracious as ever, took the lead in congratulating me for my efforts at the next ACA Executive Meeting. In a month, the emergency L.I. Meeting, one of the few in its history was called. The Meeting lasted about half-an-hour. If so long. The apparent conservatives, the President, the late Mr. Wade of Wade's Inn in Montserrat, and Mr. Heyliger a former St. Kitts player and established jeweller, spoke in support of what they called the "Hector Reforms" and

Leewards cricket was never to be the same.

Four day games replaced two-day games, with each island playing three matches each year, the quick runs mentality would be laid to rest. There would be better pitches. And, not least, more money for the development of cricket in each island.

Thus Vivi Richards began his career in L.I. Cricket, in a new format, allowing for development of an innings, different bowling strategies, and field placings - in a phrase, in modern cricket.

Simultaneously and internally in Antigua cricket was to go through a thorough going-change. Leo Gore did it and not me as legend has it. Gore determined that all the old players who represented Antigua had to be dropped. Not that they were not good players, but they were set in the old mould. Antigua fielded a brand new team. All in blazers as official garb. Mr. Leo Gore has never admitted it. He said the Blazers were a contribution from a rich Mill Reefer. In my own mind, I am certain that the 'rich Mill Reefer' was none other than Leo Gore himself.

On top of that Mr. Ephraim John had organized the Parish League bringing in players from the rural areas, hitherto excluded, except for the incidental. Leo Gore himself looked more at the Parish League games than at Cup games in Division 1 cricket. So too did the Selector Carlton Roberts, a former Antigua and L.I. player, an architect by profession and a devout Pan-Africanist by conviction. They discovered Andy Roberts in the Parish League.

By the first L.I. tournament in the new format, Leo Gore was certain that Andy Roberts, Elquemedo Willet, Veron Edwards and Vivi

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Richards and Gene Gould would all play Test Cricket. He resigned the Presidency of the ACA. To this day I am certain it was because he could not endure the tension of the wait. He expected it in 1972, but it came in 1973 with Willet, then Andy Roberts, then came Vivian Richards. I quit in 1975. Mission accomplished.

Lester Bird, the current Prime Minister of Antigua, would regard me as a revisionist if I did not include him in the reform or revolution (take your pick) in Leewards cricket.

During the Rowan Henry, Leo Gore Presidencies of the Cricket Association in Antigua, I had, with a view of producing Test cricketers, the new young Antiguan players, playing against Trinidad and Barbados teams. Lester Bird as President and I went further, we began to invite English teams. Mike Brearley came as did Underwood with the Mendip Acorns, with Len Creed of Somerset as Manager. Lester Bird, the late Danny Livingstone and I persuaded Len Creed to take Vivi to Somerset, Creed had preferred Vivi's younger brother, Mervyn, who outclassed him that game.

Both Leo Gore, and Lester Bird have together and separately reproached me for allowing the baseless myth to be noised about even printed in books, that it was Richards and Roberts going to Alf Gover in England which made them. When Tony Cozier, meaning well, gave the myth wide credence, wrote that Gore retorted that if Alf Gover could produce Test cricketers, "England would be the greatest team on earth." Lester Bird felt that once again, the West Indian, was ascribing to England [Alf Gover] what we ourselves had accomplished in our own cricket revolution. "We were always denying ourselves", said Lester Bird.

Later and in 1978, Lester and I would part company over both Pan-Africanism and Cricket. I was then Chairman of the Sports Council. There Guy Yearwood, as Vice Chairman, of the Sports Council, had organised a Combined School team, which produced Richie Richardson and Eldine Baptiste. I had hoped to organise tours through Barbados, Trinidad and Guyana, starring Enoch Lewis, Richie Richardson, Eldine Baptiste etc. hoping that success would lure Enoch Lewis, the best Leewards batsman never to have played Test Cricket, from Banking to Test cricket. This was not to be. Lester Bird and I, close, close friends till then never spoke to each other from 1977 to 1989 - He had negated his own role in the cricket revolution. My plans for youth cricket died on the vine, as with youth football where as Chairman of the Sports Council I had had coaches trained in Mexico. "All in compassion ends / So differently from what the heart arranged." wrote Derek Walcott.

But I would be greatly remiss too, if on my subject I did not say what part the old L.I. tournament played in the new players. When the Hesketh Bell Shield was established in 1913, the L.I. Tournament became one of the most passionate arenas of cricket anywhere. The mono-crop sugar, did not provide an identity for the people of the Leeward Islands. Bananas for sure, being a small farmer crop did so in part of the Windwards. Cricket was the source of identify for the Leewards. A final between St. Kitts and Antigua had everyone, however wise or ignorant, bursting with enthusiasm. If either St. Kitts or Antigua had armies and air-forces, the reports of bad umpiring, not could, but would, have led to war. Montserrat felt exalted if it got the

better of St. Kitts or Antigua. And in time Nevis began to win. All the islanders got a sense of identity and belonging from cricket and the L.I. Tournament in particular.

A Leeward islands tournament brought out the islands in all its social variation. Arabs, from Lebanon or Syria, who knew nothing of cricket by culture, learnt it and became patrons of the game. Nothing else, save business, were they involved in. Cricket in the Leewards included them. The Leeward Islands Tournament, and not Carnival, was for more than 50 years the centerpiece of social and cultural life in the Leewards. It contained both our Being and our Identity. The best ontologists would quickly agree.

Something of the passion and intensity with which Viv Richards played cricket was entirely a Leewards phenomenon. It was the same with Andy Roberts, only that Andy Roberts, like Richie Richardson, was more shaped by the Puritan tradition, which masks passionate intensity, behind what the French would call sang froid, and what my last son, calls, the Ice Man. Richards was not an ice-man. But under his passionate intensity lies an ice-man, who could single-mindedly pursue a strategy - never to lose a Test Series, because the Afro/Indian people of the English-speaking Caribbean needed these triumphs to negate their marginalisation in global history, trade and politics. To Viv Richards moreso, cricket and apartheid were inseparable. West Indies winning against all comers, particularly England and Australia was, to him, an extension of the struggle against apartheid. It was a consciously held view by Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards. And it was consciously executed. Therein lies his immortality. Not the first man of Pan-African views to lead

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proach." In 1960, it was nearly as true as it was in 1860, in spite of Garvey, Aimé Césaire and George Lamming.

So much so that another Pan African, all-time great figure, Frantz Fanon writing of West Indians in the imperial armies of the Second World War, made this all important observation.

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the West Indian should suddenly be taken for an African!" However black, he despised his African roots. Vivi, like Bob Marley was part of that generation who came to accept their African roots, as essential to their very being, and to being Afro-Caribbean. His oldest brother Donald 'Donnymitch' Richards, was a founder of the Afro Caribbean Liberation Movement in Antigua.

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Like Marley, Vivian Richards, batting, bowling or fielding was a "Buffalo Soldier in the heart of America, I and I come to break down depression, rule with equality, wipe away transgression and set the captive free." It was Pan Africanism in song and cricket. Vivi himself, along with Andy Roberts, had

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**TALKING POINT**

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

**DR. MASERATI** **SENATOR COLIN BROWNE**

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

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## ECCB Monetary Council Meeting Report



The Ninety-Seventh Meeting of the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) was held on 23 October 2020, under the Chairmanship of Dr. the Honourable Timothy Harris, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Monetary Council received the Governor's Report on **Monetary and Credit Conditions** in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) for the period January to September 2020. The Council was apprised of the following:

1. According to the World Economic Outlook recently published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is now expected to shrink by 4 per cent before rebounding by 5.2 per cent in 2021. Although the outlook appears to be favourable, the principal downside risk is uncertainty regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. The IMF predicts a gradual, long and uneven recovery for the global economy.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an extremely damaging impact on the ECCB member countries through disruptions in the Travel and Tourism sector and Foreign Direct Investment.
  3. In September, the ECCB revised its growth projection for the ECCU to a decline of 16.2 per cent in 2020. A rebound of 5.1 per cent is estimated for the ECCU in 2021.
  4. The recovery of the ECCU economies is largely contingent on the continued resilience of health systems; the effectiveness of reopening protocols for virus containment; the availability of and access to a vaccine for COVID-19; and fiscal and financial support for the economies.
  5. Monetary and credit conditions in the ECCU have deteriorated during the period January to September 2020, on account of the sharp downturn in economic activity due to the pandemic.
- Having received the Governor's Report and recommendations, the

Council decided to:

1. Maintain the Discount Rate at 2.0 per cent (was reduced from 6.5 per cent in April 2020); and
2. Maintain the Minimum Savings Rate at 2.0 per cent.

The Council reiterated the key demands of ECCU and CARICOM Governments presented during the recently concluded IMF/World Bank 2020 Annual Meetings. These demands are:

1. Adoption of Vulnerability Index (first developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in 1989);
2. Debt Relief and Liquidity Support;
3. Ring-fencing and Refinancing of COVID-19 Debt;
4. Adjustment of Fiscal Anchor (Debt to GDP Ratio target was 60.0 per cent pre-COVID);
5. Resilience Fund (for financing resilience including: digital infrastructure, renewable energy and food security); and
6. Support for private sector recovery (to minimise job losses and financial instability).

*cont'd on pg 22*

## cont'd from pg 21

The Monetary Council also received the Financial Stability Report for the ECCU for the period January to September 2020. The key highlights of the Report were:

1. The ECCU's financial system remained stable during the first nine months of 2020. However, vulnerabilities exist including an elevated level of non-performing loans, which is likely to increase following the expiration of the COVID-19 Loan Repayment Deferral Programme (loan moratorium).
2. As at 31 August 2020, Licensed Financial Institutions (LFIs) reported moratoria on 26,194 loans with a total outstanding balance of \$5.2 billion, which represents 39.3 per cent of total loans. Antigua and Barbuda accounted for the largest number with 34.71 per cent of loans granted moratorium.

**Regulatory Guidance During the Pandemic** - The Monetary Council was apprised that the ECCB continues to provide regulatory guidance to licensees and is cooperating with national regulators on appropriate guidance for the entire financial system. Additionally, national regulators

in the ECCB member countries are continuing their work with the insurance and credit union sectors to mitigate emerging risks.

**Fiscal and Debt Sustainability** - The Council was informed that estimates show elevated levels of current expenditure and lower revenues resulting in rising deficits. Consequently, the Debt to GDP ratio will remain well above the 60.0 per cent target during 2020-2022.

**Growth and Competitiveness** - The Council was advised that the sharp contraction in economic activity for the ECCU is projected to be uneven across member countries, ranging from 5.5 per cent to 30.0 per cent for 2020. Countries that rely heavily on tourism and have limited fiscal space are likely to have slower recoveries.

**EC Digital Currency Pilot Project** - DCash The Council was apprised of the progress of the DCash project as the Bank prepares for its launch. The pilot will start in four of the ECCB member countries and extend to the other four countries during the pilot phase.

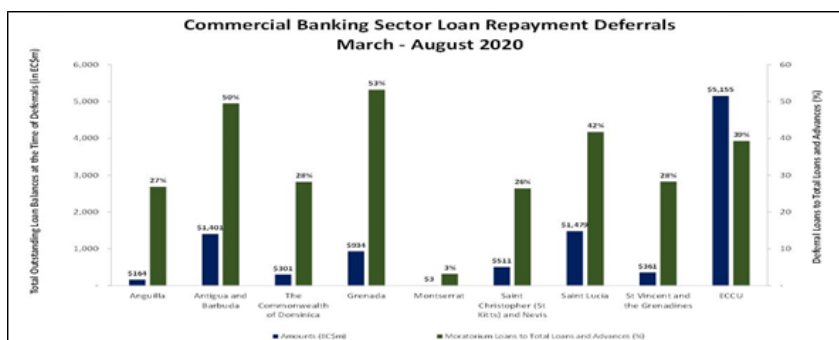
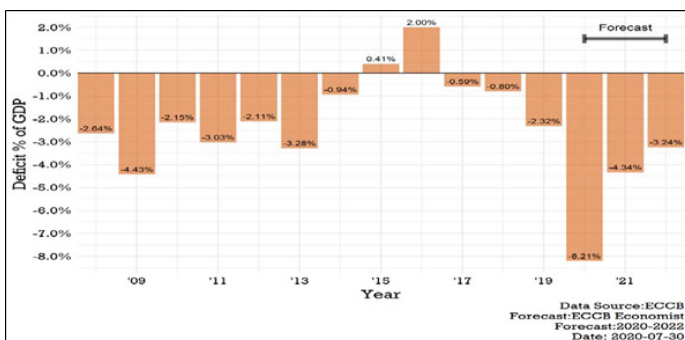
The Council approved the **Programme of Action for Recovery, Resilience and Transformation of the ECCU Economies** subject to a

further discussion on the fiscal anchor, that is the Debt to GDP Ratio target of 60.0 per cent, which would need to be adjusted in light of the current circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposed Programme of Action for Recovery, Resilience and Transformation seeks to focus on actions that are fundamental for the recovery, resilience and transformation of the ECCU and is guided by the key principles of regional integration and solidarity; sustainable and innovative financing; inclusivity; and innovation and competitiveness. The Programme is constructed on four pillars:

1. Financial Stability;
2. Fiscal and Debt Sustainability;
3. Resilient and Inclusive Growth; and
4. Payments Modernisation and Digital Transformation.

The Council agreed that collective action among member governments, citizens and residents, regional institutions and development partners, is crucial for the successful execution of the Programme of Action for Recovery, Resilience and Transformation.



# Is the Consumer Price Index Relevant Today?

According to data from the Statistics Division, Antigua and Barbuda as of July 2020, the inflation rate in the economy was 0.1%. In essence inflation was negligible. There was an immediate outcry in many circles challenging the veracity and relevance of the information without attention to the actual data analysis presented. In fact, there came from some quarters questions over the relevance of the data presented.

the computation link back, if at all, to our daily lives. As a part of this process we address some key questions – What is the Consumer Price Index (CPI)? How does it link to our regular spending? How does it translate to inflation? Why does it seem that the CPI is not in sync with our reality?

According to the Statistics Division, 'The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a statistical indicator of changes in the general level of prices of con-

sumer price index measures the inflation rate.'

Let us look at our shopping patterns. What did you purchase at the supermarket last month? How did it differ from your purchases the month before and the month before that? Now compare to your neighbours and colleagues. In fact, think about the folks you encounter regularly in the supermarket? Expand that to the rest of your consumption: clothing, education, entertainment, housing, furnishings, health. How often has your consumption patterns changed over the years?

In Antigua and Barbuda, as happens across economies around the world, the CPI is used to capture data on private consumption to determine price movement over time. The basket is fixed simply because to be consistent and reliable the items must have a "sameness in quality and size". The basket must also be time sensitive. Over time, consumption patterns change, therefore if the base period for comparison is dated then the information is less relevant and is not reflective of the actual situation.

The current CPI basket for Antigua and Barbuda is based on 2019 and an excellent timeline for any discussion on relevance to current consumption conditions. It means that the 466 items which comprise the basket would be typical of the purchases of most of us and not outdated. To quote the Antigua and Barbuda Statistics Division 'The base period (base year) is the time period that is used as a reference point for measuring the price change of goods and services. The base period for the Antigua and Barbuda CPI is January 2019.

*cont'd on pg 24*

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20
ALL ITEMS	2.0	2.2	1.3	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.1
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	2.6	3.5	3.9	2.1	1.4	0.6	0.6
FOOD	2.7	3.6	3.9	1.8	1.2	0.1	0.5
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS	5.8	5.8	1.9	4.6	2.4	3.1	2.3
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	9.3	9.3	9.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	-7.0
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE	4.1	4.0	3.8	1.7	1.6	1.4	3.7
HEALTH	-10.1	-10.1	-10.1	-9.6	-9.6	-9.6	-4.4
TRANSPORT	5.6	6.4	0.2	-0.8	4.5	4.5	0.2
COMMUNICATION	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RECREATION AND CULTURE	-5.8	-5.8	-5.8	-5.9	-5.9	-5.8	-9.8
EDUCATION	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.3	4.1
ALL ITEMS LESS FOOD & ENERGY	2.0	2.1	0.8	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.0

*Source of Data - Antigua & Barbuda Statistics Division*

Across the length and breadth of the country, we often hear the cry that the cost of living in Antigua and Barbuda is high. Many at the forefront of the public discourse on the topic often repeat that inflation is high and rising. How often has there been any discussion on the data which should drive such a discussion? Is the data available timely and relevant?

A key component to appreciating how prices impact the lives of the average consumer is understanding how the Consumer Price Index and

sumer goods and services purchased by private households. The CPI measures price movements of a fixed quality and quantity of goods and services. The mix of these consumer goods and services comprising the CPI are referred to as a "shopping basket." In keeping with international standards, 'The consumer price index (CPI) shows the cost of a basket of goods and services relative to the cost of the same basket in the base year. The index is used to measure the overall level of prices in the economy. The percentage change in the

## cont'd from pg 23

The base period index is represented as 100.0. (Usually presented as 2001 = 100). So, for instance, if the April 2010 CPI for chicken legs is 167.1, then it means that the price for chicken legs has gone up by 67.1% since 2001. Similarly, if the January 2010 CPI for bread is 93.1, then the price of bread has dropped by 6.9% compared to its price in 2001.'

In summary therefore, as of July 2020 based on the base price for commodities in 2019, using the CPI data Inflation in the economy is negligible at 0.1%. Inflation is the measuring of the sustained rise in prices. This does not mean that prices have not risen. Rather, on amalgamation of all the data collected, considering consumer expenditure patterns, that overall, the rate of inflation has just nudged along for the comparative period of July 2020 compared to July 2019.

Are there any factors which could

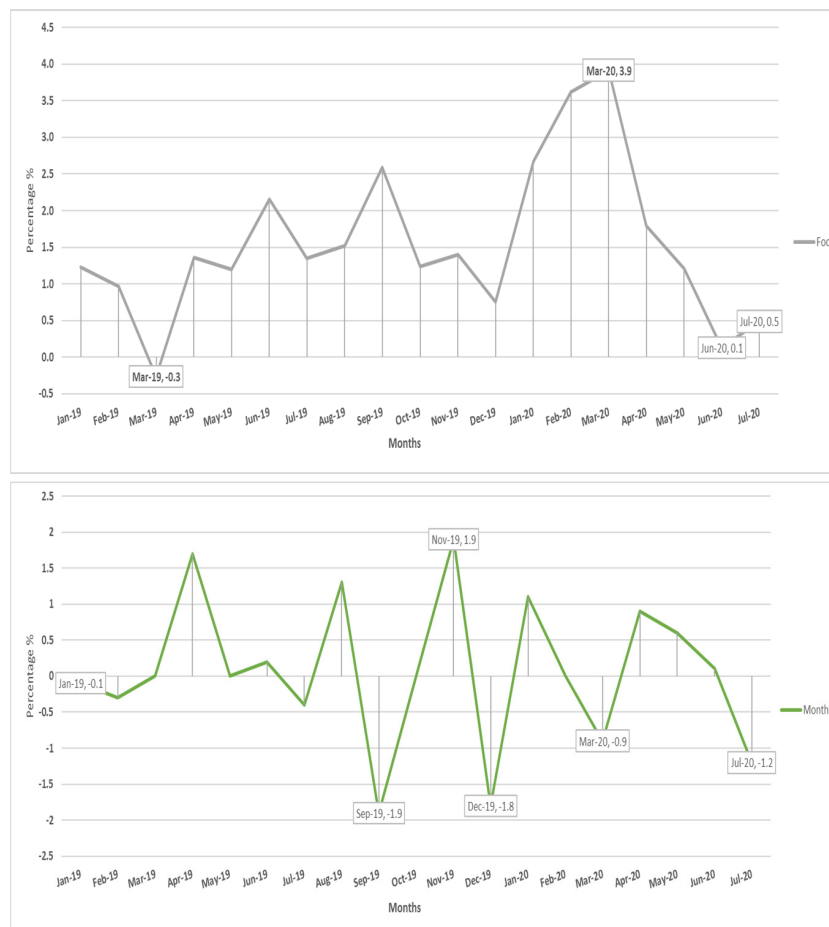
lead to the conclusion that the CPI is not in touch with reality? The CPI allows for a discussion on price movements. It allows for the computation of the inflation rate and allows for regional and international comparisons. It is an important tool for wage negotiations and is used by international agencies to assist in their assessment of national economies and to advise on monetary policy measures, however, the CPI does not take into account a very important element – the cost of living. There is no inclusion of a measure to determine the purchasing power of the items in the fixed basket.

And therein lies perhaps the most important challenge when discussions arise relating to the Consumer Price Index. The data presented is not assessed in the context of the main purpose it is compiled, which is to provide an indication of the general movement of prices. Rather it is

moved immediately to facilitate another equally important discussion, but not which is the primary purpose of this specific process.

Two important factors of a cost of living discussion are outside the context of the CPI. The CPI does not take wage rates into consideration and the CPI basket of goods is not restricted to the basic basket of goods which would be compared to wage rates to facilitate such an assessment and draw the necessary conclusions.

Is there a need for a Cost of Living discussion for Antigua and Barbuda? Most definitely. Does the CPI provide the opportunity to assess and discuss where the prices in the economy are heading? Certainly! However, it is vital that we do not confuse the concepts or the application in order to ensure that we can effectively understand and use the data provided effectively.



## AmEx profits plunge as travel spending comes to a standstill



*American Express' fourth-quarter profits dropped by 39%, the credit card giant said Friday, Oct. 23, 2020, as the pandemic's deep impacts on travel, entertainment and dining dramatically impacted the company's results*

American Express' fourth-quarter profits dropped by 39%, the credit card giant said Friday, as the pandemic's deep impacts on travel, entertainment and dining dramatically impacted the company's results.

The New York-based company earned \$1.07 billion, or \$1.30 a share, down from \$1.76 billion, or \$2.08 per share, in the same period a year earlier. The results missed analysts' forecasts, who were looking for AmEx to earn \$1.39 a share, according to Zacks Investment Research.

While AmEx has not been as negatively impacted by defaults and delinquencies like

other credit card companies, the company's bottom line has been hit hard by its business model tied into the well-to-do traveling and dining out. Restaurants have been shuttered in many countries, and hotel and airfare usage has fallen to the point that many airlines have sought government help and hotels are facing bankruptcy.

"We recognize that the road ahead continues to be uncertain," said AmEx CEO Stephen Squeri, in a prepared statement.

AmEx's discount revenue, or the money it makes off of each swipe or tap of an American Express card, was rough-

ly \$4.99 billion in the quarter. That's down from \$6.83 billion in the same period a year earlier. AmEx earns a small percentage from each transaction on its network, so the less activity on its network, the less revenue the company generates.

The company is also facing consumers and small businesses, hit hard by the pandemic or preparing for more tough times, cutting back spending and cutting up cards. The average spending on an AmEx card fell to \$4,486 from \$5,630 a year earlier. The average numbers of cards was 90.8 million in the quarter, down from 93 million a year earlier.

# Government helps couple to realise dream



From our farm to your hands



Marlon and Tavia Hunte

A couple, who turned a family pastime into what could become a thriving business, is getting much needed assistance from the government to expand their operation.

Marlon and Tavia Hunte of Hunte's Chicken Farm began raising hormone free chicken for their family, however, when the coronavirus pandemic affected their income, they decided to expand the operation into a full fledged business.

Their initiative attracted the attention of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who gave a public commitment to assist them with land, and other resources, to expand their farm into a thriving business.

PM Browne has revealed that he met with the couple last week and has mobilised the resources of the government to help them with their venture.

"We put them on to Garfield Joseph of the Entrepreneur Investment Fund and asked them to help them scale up their business. We also put them in touch with the Extension Division and asked

them to allocate two acres of land so that they can expand the farm. In fact, this week they are to meet with Senior Extension Officer, Owolabi Elabanjo, who will offer the assistance of the department for their venture," Prime Minister Browne explained.

Tavia Hunte said she and her husband are pleased with the personal interest shown by the prime minister and described their interactions with Browne as 'very accommodating'. She continued that they are happy at the level of assistance they have received as they expand the farm.





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# STATIN Jamaica Reports on Status of Earnings and Employment

A COVID-19 study conducted by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Statin, has found that 57 per cent of Jamaican households saw a reduction in income between the onset of the coronavirus in March and September.

The data affirms the results of a more informal online survey done by the Inter-American Development Bank in Jamaica and the region to get a snapshot of the pandemic's impact.

In the Statin study, the decline was most prevalent in 'other urban centres' – inclusive of areas generally populated by tourists – where 63.3 percent of households indicated that they had a reduction in income, followed by rural communities which experienced a 60 per cent decline.

The greater Kingston metropolitan area was the least affected by income losses, with 49 per cent of households indicating that they had experienced some reduction in their income. More than half of households surveyed

generally earn income through wage employment. The next most popular source of income, according to Statin, was non-farm family businesses, followed by fishing, farming and livestock, and remittances received from abroad.

Some 11,000 households in Jamaica were forced to sell their possessions as a means of coping with the income reduction, while others took a loan from the bank or credit fund.

Official data on COVID-19's impact on Jamaican households was attached to labour market statistics survey recently released by the institute, which showed that Jamaica lost 54,600 jobs for the month of July, with males accounting for more than half of the individuals without jobs for that month.

The job losses in the July third-quarter survey, combined with some additional 80,600 persons moving outside Jamaica's labour force, resulted in a steep 4.8 percentage point rise in un-

employment to 12.6 percent – reflecting 135,800 job losses, relative to the July 2019 period when the unemployment rate was estimated at 7.8 per cent.

Males accounted for more than 73,000, or 53.8 per cent, of the jobs lost in the current survey, but still dominated the employed labour force at 620,100, compared to 498,200 jobs held by females. Women lost nearly 63,000 jobs.

Jamaica now has a total of 1,118,300 employed persons who would have worked for at least one hour during the sample period- June 21-27 – used by Statin for the survey.

The July labour force data is the first to provide some insight on Jamaica's job market performance since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Jamaica, given Statin's decision to cancel the collection of data in April to minimise the risks of its staff, and households with which they interact, being infected with COVID-19.

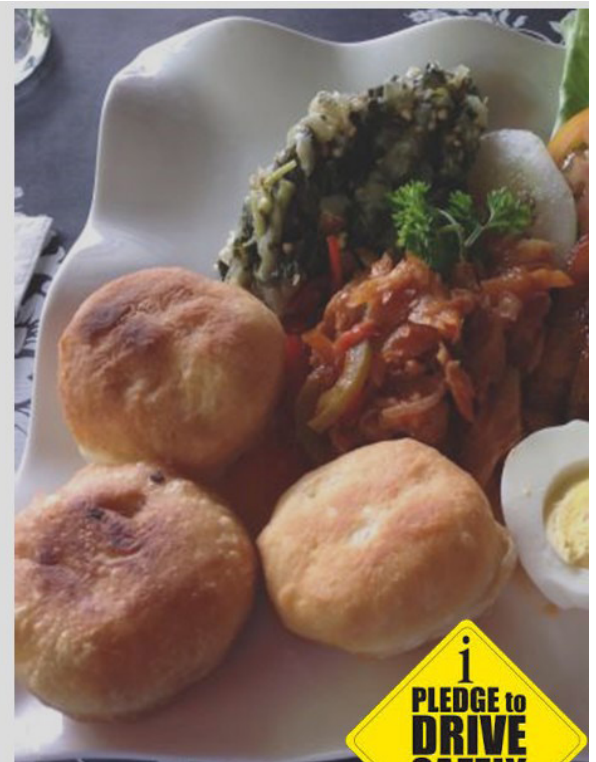
## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE

A celebration of our islands heritage

## Fried Dumplings

The famous fried dumplings from the country. These fried dumplings known as johny cakes is derived from the word Journey cakes, which are made and packed for lunch and snack of plantation workers, for a long lasting journey. These dumplings are often served as breakfast

Slaves would not have had access to wheat crops. Instead, Cassava, which was cultivated by several plantations for its similarities to wheat and potatoes, would make the first adaptations of dumplings in the West Indies.



# The truth about dental fillings



**Dr. Jammula & Associates**  
*Antigua Dentistry*

First of all, the day we were born, as a newborn baby, there were no harmful bacteria inside of your mouth. As you grew older and became a toddler, bacteria found its way into your mouth.

These bacteria have now set up a permanent

thing, but it is!

They produce a very strong acid that eats away at your teeth. If you don't remove this sticky layer of bacteria, commonly known as plaque, by brushing and flossing, the bacteria will keep destroying a tiny amount of

to heal the bone by creating new cells that glue the bone back together. Unfortunately, this isn't true when it comes to our teeth. Although we do get two sets of teeth in our life, once a hole forms in a tooth, the body cannot repair it. Hundreds of years ago, before fillings existed, cavities eventually caused people so much pain that they would have the tooth removed. Amazingly, modern dentistry has found a way to let you

that look just like your natural teeth. They are known as composite fillings and are made of a tooth coloured plastic and glass mix that gives a natural looking smile. Composite resin can also be used for cosmetic enhancements of the smile because it is used to alter the color of the teeth or reshaping disfigured teeth.

It's not as scary as you think!

Many people put off getting dental work done



residence inside of your mouth and you will have to deal with them for the rest of your life.

These bacteria live on your teeth. Every time you eat something, such as candy, you provide food for them. Feeding these little creatures doesn't sound like such a bad

your tooth structure every day until you get a hole in your tooth. These holes are known as tooth decay, cavities and dental caries.

Our bodies have the amazing ability to repair injured structures. For example, when we break a bone, our body is able

keep your decayed teeth. All that needs to be done is to have the bacteria professionally removed and then to replace the hole in the tooth with a hard, tooth-like material known as a dental filling.

Fillings can match your tooth color!

You can get white fillings

since they're scared of the dentist, even as adults.

You'll be done in no time and have a healthier smile too!

If you have any questions about fillings, contact your dentist and they would be happy to answer any of your questions!

# Guyana and Suriname reaffirm commitment to cooperate



*Delegation from Suriname visits Guyana to reaffirm their governments' commitment to strengthen the bond of friendship between Guyana and Suriname*

Joint Press Statement – The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, His Excellency Albert Ramdin, paid a working visit to Guyana and met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Honourable Hugh Todd, on 15th, October 2020. The Ministers were accompanied in the meeting by the Honourable Juan Edghill, Minister of Public Works, the Honourable Frank Anthony, Minister of Health of Guyana and H. E. Riad Nurmohamed, Minister of Public Works and H.E. Amar Ramadhin, Minister of Public Health of Suriname.

The Ministers reaffirmed their governments' commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship between Guyana and Suriname and deepening and expanding cooperation between their two countries.

The ministers took special note of the efforts at enhancing transportation infrastructure cooperation and integration links between Guyana and Suriname and noted that these are pivotal to the deepening of investment, trade, tourism and cultural relations between the two countries. Both

sides expressed great satisfaction at the progress that has been made towards the in-depth consideration of the prerequisite activities for the studies, designing, financing and procurement of services for the construction of the Corentyne River Bridge.

They agreed on the principles, strategies and modes by which the foundations for greater and mutually beneficial cooperation could be realised in the fields of agriculture, health, sustainable development, the promotion of binational tourism, joint marketing of goods and agricultural produce and sports and culture. They also discussed ways and means by which there could be capacity building exchanges in the areas of oil and gas.

With regard to the overall co-operation in health, the Ministers applauded the good working relationship between the health sectors of the two countries and pledged to pursue several initiatives that would enhance their collaboration and mutual assistance in the sector.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed on a set of proposals to be submitted to Their Excellencies the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

and the President of the Republic of Suriname for the optimal use of the Strategic Dialogue and Cooperation Platform (SDCP) that will be established in November 2020.

In that context, they agreed that the thematic working groups under the SDCP will be directed to pursue realistic action programmes as well as find ways and means of removing several identified impediments to smooth and efficient legal cross border trade; the movement of the vehicle transporting persons to and from each country, and seek ways and means of arresting transborder illegal activities.

While both sides of the Guyana and Suriname border remain closed in light of the COVID19 pandemic, the Ministers agreed that the issues affecting the resumption of the MV Canawaima Ferry Service need to be urgently and jointly addressed in anticipation of the resumption of the movement of goods and people between South Drain and Moleson Creek.

They took special note of the similarities of the positions of the two countries on matters such as climate change mitigation and compensation for the sustainable use and conservation of their large forests; environmental protection; and the classification of States as Middle-Income Countries (MIC) on the basis of limited criteria and its implications for accessing grants and concessional funding to meet developmental needs.

The two sides discussed the impending visit by H.E. President Ali to Suriname to join the celebrations for the 45 anniversary of Suriname's Independence. H.E. President Ali will be a special guest of H.E. President Santokhi on that occasion and several agreements will be signed during that visit.

## Trinidad and Tobago Energy Minister: Venezuelan vessel is 'upright', crude transfer poses risks



**Franklin Khan, Min. of Energy**

In recent weeks, an idle Venezuelan floating oil facility in the Paria Gulf had been under surveillance by concerned governments and environmentalists. Images of the vessel leaning to its side have raised such concern.

After careful investigation, the energy minister of neighboring Trinidad and Tobago has told Reuters that the Nabarima, a 264-metre (866-foot) floating storage and offloading facility (FSO), proves to be erect and to have no sign of sinking. However, plans to offload the crude from the vessel pose some potential risks.

The oil facility was inspected by a team of experts from Trinidad and Tobago earlier this week and found there was "absolutely no tilt" and that the ship was "totally horizontal," Energy Minister Franklyn Khan told reporters.

"There is no imminent risk of tilting or sinking," Khan stated.

He added that the team had spent more than three hours surveying the vessel and had asked Venezuelan authorities to visit it again in one month.

Nabarima is loaded with 1.3 million barrels of Coroco crude. It belongs to the Petrosucre joint venture between Venezuela's state-run oil company Petroleos de Venezuela [PDVSA.UL] and Italy's Eni SpA ENI.MI.

The vessel has been idle since the United States sanctioned PDVSA in early 2019, as part of a ruse to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro.

According to a company document obtained by Reuters, PDVSA plans to offload some of the crude to its Icaro Aframax tanker, which

is scheduled to transport 550,000 barrels of Coroco to western Venezuela's Amuay port.

A close source to the matter says that the oil company plans to do this by transferring Nabarima's 10,000 barrels of crude per day to Icaro, via the Inmaculada barge.

Energy Minister Khan estimated the process would take 30 to 35 days.

"The Venezuelans are doing the proper thing by attempting to offload the vessel," Khan said. "The extended period for the offload in itself poses a slight risk, although the operation is deemed to be safe."

PDVSA did not reply to a request for comment.

## Changes coming to the way Jamaica's work permits are granted



**Labour and Social Security Minister, Karl Samuda and University of Technology's President, Professor Colin Gyles**

KINGSTON, Jamaica—Minister of Labour and Social Security, Karl Samuda, says that changes will be coming to the way work permits are granted by his ministry.

Samuda made the announcement while speaking

during the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the ministry through its Labour Market Information System and the University of Technology. The minister said that his aim will be "safeguarding the

jobs available in the Jamaican labour force for Jamaicans."

"We should not be importing labour to do things here when we have the skills available in Jamaica. Instead, we should be exporting labour, we should be providing skills appropriate to meet the international world," he said.

Samuda said that the issuing of work permits by the ministry will not be "business as usual" and changes have already been made to intensify the process by which work permits are being assessed prior to him granting

approval.

"The business of handing out work permits will not be an automatic system. It will be carefully examined to determine if the job that is being requested can be filled here in Jamaica," he said.

"We are being flooded with applications for work permits for jobs that I am certain that the University of Technology is training Jamaicans to do. What we need to do is accelerate the pace at which we train young people to fill vacancies that exist in Jamaica," he added.

## Libyan factions sign countrywide UN-brokered cease-fire



*a sniper from Misrata fires towards Islamic State militant positions in Sirte, Libya*

The rival sides in Libya's conflict signed a permanent cease-fire Friday, a deal the United Nations billed as historic after years of fighting that has split the North African country in two. But skepticism over whether the agreement would hold began emerging almost immediately.

The breakthrough, which among other things orders foreign mercenaries out of the country, sets the stage for political talks in November to find a lasting solution to the chaos unleashed after a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Previous diplomatic initiatives to end the conflict have repeatedly collapsed — but the U.N.-brokered deal aims to cement a monthslong lull in fighting and gives a boost to the political process.

"I am honored to be among you today to witness a moment that will go down in history," Stephanie Turco Williams, the top U.N. envoy for Libya who led mediation talks this week, said at the signing in Geneva. She did, however, ex-

press some caution, noting that a "long and difficult" road remains ahead.

It's not clear how the cease-fire will be enforced — given the patchwork of militias in Libya — but Williams said armed groups and military units

had agreed to return "to their camps" and that the deal would take effect immediately.

Foreign mercenaries will depart "from all Libyan territories land, air and sea" within three months, she added, referring to the thousands of Syrian fighters deployed by Turkey and Russia on opposite sides of the war. The agreement also involves the formation of a joint military force and a way to monitor violations, Williams said. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hailed the cease-fire as a "critical step," but said at a press conference at U.N. headquarters in New York that "there is much hard work ahead."

He urged regional actors to respect the cease-fire provisions and the international community to support Libyans in implementing them, including by upholding the widely flouted U.N. arms embargo.

The U.S. State Department welcomed the agreement, calling it "positive news."

"We understand that this agree-

ment was reached by Libyans alone, on both sides of the conflict, who are taking decisive steps to reassert their sovereignty over Libya," the statement said. "As reported, the agreement demands that all foreign mercenaries and militaries must withdraw from Libya."

Shortly after the announcement of the deal, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said it did not appear to be credible — even as he expressed hope that all parties would stick to it. "Time will show how long it will last," he added, questioning the list of delegates and whether it would be "correct" for mercenaries to leave so quickly.

Ali Abushahma, a field commander for the administration in Tripoli and the head of its delegation, said: "We have had enough suffering, enough bloodshed."

"I appeal to all Libya: Be one hand," he added, warning of polarization by factions.

The U.S. Embassy in Libya called it "a major step forward toward realizing the shared interests of all Libyans."

The meetings this week mark the fourth round of talks involving the Joint Military Commission under Williams' watch. tially imposed to protest alleged corruption in the oil sector and unfair distribution of revenues to the east.

Then last month, the two sides reached preliminary agreements to exchange prisoners and open up air and land transit across the country's divided territory.

## Trump, Biden fight over the raging virus, climate and race



*Donald Trump and Joe Biden face off in second debate*

President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden fought over how to tame the raging coronavirus during the campaign's closing debate, largely shelving the rancor that overshadowed their previous face-off in favor of a more substantive exchange that highlighted their vastly different approaches to the major domestic and foreign challenges facing the nation.

The president declared the virus, which killed more than 1,000 Americans on Thursday alone, will "go away." Biden countered that the nation was heading toward "a dark winter."

"Anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as president of the United States of America," Biden said.

With less than two weeks until the election, Trump portrayed himself as the same outsider he first pitched to voters four years ago, repeatedly

saying he wasn't a politician. Biden, meanwhile, argued that Trump was an incompetent leader of a country facing multiple crises and tried to connect what he saw as the president's failures to the everyday lives of Americans, especially when it comes to the pandemic.

The president, who promised a vaccine within weeks, said the worst problems are in states with Democratic governors, a contention at odds with rising cases in states that voted for Trump in 2016. Biden, meanwhile, vowed that his administration would defer to scientists on battling the pandemic and said that Trump's divisive approach on suffering states hindered the nation's response.

After a first debate defined by angry interruptions, the Thursday event featured a mostly milder tone and in a campaign defined by ugly personal attacks, the night featured

a surprising amount of substantive policy debate as the two broke sharply on the environment, foreign policy, immigration and racial justice.

When Trump repeatedly asked Biden if he would "close down the oil industry," the Democratic standard bearer said he "would transition from the oil industry, yes," and that he would replace it by renewable energy "over time." Trump, making a direct appeal to voters in energy producing states like Texas and the vital battleground of Pennsylvania, seized upon the remark as "a big statement."

Perhaps sensing that the comment could soon appear in Trump campaign ads, Biden did a little clean-up boarding his plane after the debate, declaring "We're not going to ban fossil fuels. We'll get rid of the subsidies of fossil fuels but not going to get rid of fossil fuels for a long time."

As the debate swept to climate change, Trump explained his decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord negotiated in 2015, declaring it was an unfair pact that would have cost the country trillions of dollars and hurt businesses.

On race, Biden called out Trump's previous refusals to condemn white supremacists and his attacks

on the Black Lives Matter movement, declaring that the president "pours fuel on every single racist fire."

Trump countered by pointing out his efforts on criminal justice reform and blasting Biden's support of a 1990s Crime Bill that many feel disproportionately incarcerated Black men. Staring into the crowd, he declared himself "the least racist person in this room."

Turning to foreign policy, Biden accused Trump of dealing with a "thug" while holding summits with the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un. And closer to home, the former vice president laced into the Trump administration's policy of separating children from their parents trying to illegally cross the southern border.

Biden said that America has learned from a New York Times report that Trump only paid \$750 a year in federal taxes while holding "a secret bank account" in China. The former vice president then noted he's released all of his tax returns going back 22 years and challenged the president to release his returns, saying, "What are you hiding?"

Trump said he closed his former account in China and claimed his accountants told him he "prepaid tens of millions of dollars" in taxes.

## Europe faces more curfews, restrictions as virus cases swell



*A man wearing a face mask carries his dog across the medieval Charles Bridge in Prague, Czech Republic*

Curfews were largely expanded Thursday across France, which registered some 41,600 new confirmed virus cases to approach a total of 1 million, while similar overnight restrictions were slapped on Italy's three biggest cities — Rome, Naples and Milan — as rapidly rising caseloads across Europe prompted tighter limits on everyday ways of life.

In Greece, people in the Athens area and other parts of the country with high infection rates were also ordered to stay off the streets from 12:30 a.m. to 5 a.m.

"The aim is to reduce general movement and evening gatherings, which favor the transmission of the virus," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said in a televised address. "With a little less fun, for a short period

of time, we will have better health for a long time."

Greece on Thursday reported a record 882 new confirmed cases, and 15 deaths. It also became one of a growing number of places in Europe to require mask-wearing outdoors in public.

Shortly after France's prime minister, Jean Castex, announced that roughly two-thirds of the country would have to endure curfews, public health authorities reported that more than 41,600 new virus cases had been registered, a daily high since the country began widespread testing. The nation of 67 million jumped closer to the 1 million infections mark, with 999,043 confirmed cases by Thursday evening.

Said Castex: "no one is spared."

A midnight-to-5 a.m. curfew in Italy's Lazio region, which includes Rome, begins on Friday and lasts for 30 days, under orders from regional governor Nicola Zingaretti. He was seriously sickened with COVID-19 when Italy became the first European country to be overwhelmed by an outbreak early in the pandemic.

The governor of Campania, the southern region which includes densely-populated Naples, on Thursday ordered residents to stay at home from 11 p.m. to shortly before dawn starting the next day. A similar curfew in Lombardy, where infections are particularly surging in its main city, Milan, will go into effect Thursday night.

Disco operators staged a protest in Rome on Thursday to highlight the economic woes the late night curfews will deal them.

Italy was Europe's first country to be put under a national lockdown in March. But so far Premier Giuseppe Conte, wary of crippling the country's long-lame economy, hasn't repeated the drastic move — even as daily new confirmed infections hit a record of more than 16,000 on Thursday. Instead, for now, Conte has urged Italians to avoid "unnecessary" movements.

But the Czech Republic's government on Thurs-

day re-imposed exactly the same heavy restrictions it slapped on citizens in the spring — and which Prime Minister Andrej Babis had repeatedly said would not be repeated — amid a record rise in infections.

An apologetic Babis said that without the restrictions the nation's health system would collapse in early November. The measures include limits on free movement and the closure of many stores, shopping malls and hotels, until at least Nov 3.

Poland broke another record in confirmed new infections Thursday with more than 12,100, and registered nearly 170 new deaths.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki suggested that, starting Saturday, Poland might be placed under tighter restrictions such as mandatory use of masks in all open public spaces, limits on the number of customers in shops and on public transport, and closing gyms and swimming pools.

Germany also reported a new daily record of more than 10,000 infections Thursday, shattering the previous high of 7,830 set five days earlier. Health Minister Jens Spahn, who tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, was quarantined at home.



## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RELOCATION

The general public is advised that the administrative offices of the Central Cotton Station and the Plant Protection Unit have been moved to a temporary location at the Longford Jeremy Building on Upper Corn Alley. The telephone numbers remain the same.

### PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL TAKE AWAY LUNCH

The Parham Primary School will host its 50th Anniversary take away lunch on Thursday 29th October from 12 noon to 3pm. There will be delicious BBQ chicken and tasty fish meals for you to choose from. Tickets are only \$15 and are available at the school. Proceeds are in aid of school development. Please do support this event.

DAY 10/26

NIGHT 10/26

30° Hi



Intervals of clouds and  
sunshine with a thunderstorm

25° Lo



Mostly cloudy with a passing  
shower or two

### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
6:03 AM

Sunset AST  
5:38 PM



Duration  
11:35 hr

### MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
2:58 PM

Moonset AST  
2:50 AM



Duration  
11:52 hr



## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### PANACHE PAN ACADEMY

Panache Steel Orchestra is pleased to bring back the Panache Pan Academy where you can learn to play the steel pan and the fundamentals of music! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes will be separated accordingly with a maximum of ten (10) students per class. At Panache, we have strict protocols and guidelines in place for our safety and yours.

Registration is \$30.00 for the 2020/2021 academic year. Registration takes place on Saturday 24th October, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Classes are free and pan sticks will be on sale. For more information, please contact Robin Margetson: 764-5043, Maurisha Potter: 773-5494, Malik Smith: 789-0030.

### CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The Halo Foundation Inc is again hosting its annual Christmas card competition which is open to youngsters aged seven (7) to eighteen (18). All entries should be 'Caribbean Christmas' themed. Deadline for submission is December 11, 2020. Call 562-5193 for more details. Prizes to be won.

### FREE MATHS 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 registrations are encouraged to facilitate scheduling. All COVID-19 health protocols will be strictly enforced.

### RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS

The Labour Department wishes to inform the 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 the work permit application. Please be guided accordingly.

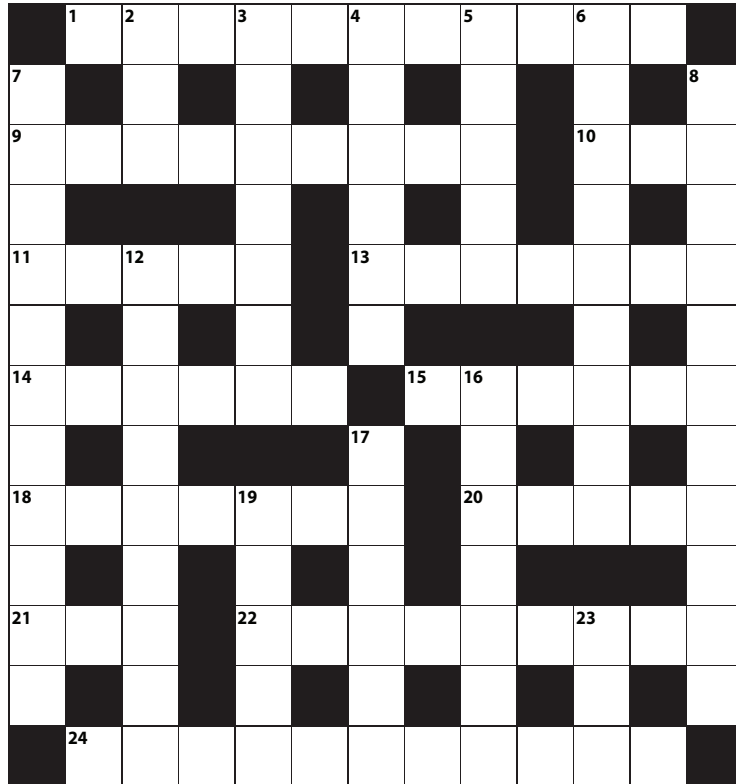
### CADET CORPS REGISTRATION

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 ExServicemen 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.

Submit community notices to [news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

# QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword no 15,652



## Across

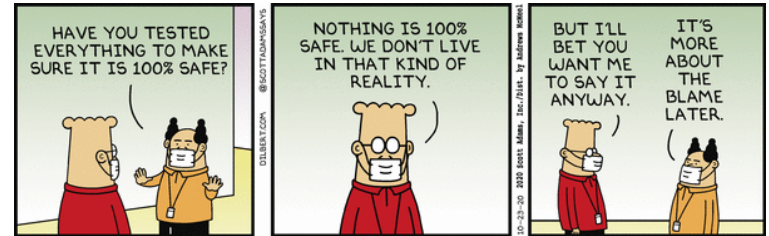
- 1 Extravaganza (11)
- 9 He starved (anag) — gathered food (9)
- 10 Bond (3)
- 11 Appearances (5)
- 13 Satirical drawing (7)
- 14 Make allowances for (6)
- 15 Weaken — sieve (6)
- 18 Much (7)
- 20 Before a given time (5)
- 21 Catch — after all deductions (3)
- 22 Innkeepers (9)
- 24 Reckoning (11)

## Down

- 2 The norm (3)
- 3 Dairy products, can be hard or soft (7)
- 4 Hit out (6)
- 5 Below (5)
- 6 Armstrong or Sharman, say (9)
- 7 Calling into question (11)
- 8 Men's angle is (anag) — nonsensical (11)
- 12 Ensemble of players (9)
- 16 Sightseer (7)
- 17 Logo (6)
- 19 Theme (5)
- 23 In the past (3)

# CARTOON CORNER

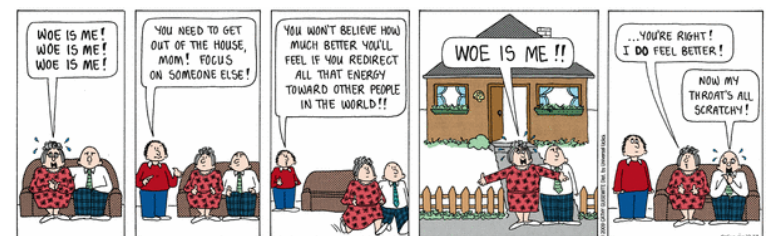
## Dilbert



## Garfield



## Cathy



## In the Bleachers





## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** Your e-mail correspondence has been getting very interesting lately. Could there be a new career or business opportunity on the horizon? Picture your success and you'll get one step closer to it.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** Exposure to new cultures and new types of people invigorates your mind and gets you thinking about new ideas and new places to explore. This is a wonderful time to explore even if it has to be virtually for now.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** When a mistake happens today, you need to be the voice of authority. Help people focus on what needs to be fixed rather than trying to figure out who to blame.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** There will have to be a certain amount of give and take in your world today. And despite your usual generous disposition, it's going to be you who has to do most of the taking. Your selfish impulses are not inherently bad, though.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** The connection you're developing with someone doesn't have to be just about romance. It could be about personal growth, too. Try not to sell this thing short! You have nothing to lose and so much to gain.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You simply won't be able to do it all today, so go easy on yourself and don't set goals that are impossible to achieve. If you want to keep harmony in your life, you need to adjust the expectations you have for yourself. Requiring a little bit less enables you to succeed a little bit more.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Working in a partnership can be difficult when the personality you're matched with is too similar to yours. Luckily, you're going to get the chance to work with someone who balances out your strengths and helps make up for your few weaknesses.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Your enthusiasm is a great force in your life right now. It's keeping you focused, and it's attracting powerful people to your side. As long as you know your limits and stick to them, you should be fine.

### **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):**

All it takes to meet new people is a little bit of confidence! Whether you're trying to find a new romantic partner or trying to make a few new friends, creating a connection with another human being isn't as difficult as you're making it out to be.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Fight the growing urge to speed up your life. What you think you want in life may already be happening right now, but you're not able to notice it because you're so concerned with what's coming next.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Your plans don't need to be kept secret in order to succeed, so feel free to spread the word! Show your excitement and other people will catch on, too.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** Take time today to get to know the main authority figure in your life. A short casual conversation can lay the foundation for your future and help them understand more about what makes you tick, which is valuable.



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## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY,  
25TH OCTOBER  
4:30 P.M.**

**Independence Thanksgiving Service**  
St. John's Pentecostal Church

**MONDAY,  
26TH OCTOBER  
10:00 A.M.**

**National Heroes' Day Ceremony**  
Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway

**Virtual Solo Dance Competition**  
Presented by the Department of Culture

**TUESDAY,  
27TH OCTOBER**

**Golden Age Celebrations**  
Various communities  
in Antigua and Barbuda

**FRIDAY,  
30TH OCTOBER**

**National Dress Day**

**National Youth Day**  
Presented by the  
Department of Youth Affairs

**Virtual Film Festival**  
Presented by the Motion Picture  
Association of Antigua and Barbuda

**SATURDAY,  
31ST OCTOBER  
8:00 P.M.**

**Independence Virtual  
Calypso Monarch**

**Virtual Film Festival**  
Presented by the Motion Picture  
Association of Antigua and Barbuda

**SUNDAY,  
1ST NOVEMBER  
5:30 P.M.**

**Independence Ceremonial  
Parade & National Awards**  
Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium

**Virtual Film Festival**  
Presented by the Motion Picture  
Association of Antigua and Barbuda

**MONDAY,  
2ND NOVEMBER**

**Barbuda Day Activities**

## Boris Becker in hot water with the law



*Ex-tennis champion, Boris Becker*

Ex-tennis champion, Boris Becker, has appeared in court accused of failing to hand over trophies from his playing days so they can be sold to pay debts.

The three-time Wimbledon winner was declared bankrupt in 2017 over money owed to a bank. He is accused of not complying with obligations to disclose information. Becker denied the 28 charges against him in a Southwark Crown Court hearing in London last week.

The 28 count indictment includes mention of his 1995 All England Club trophy, the 1989 silverware from

the same tournament and his Australian Open trophies from 1991 and 1996.

The 52-year-old German national is also accused of concealing more than one million pounds in various bank accounts in addition to property in the UK and other countries.

Becker is also accused of hiding hundreds of thousands of pounds in the accounts of his former wife Barbara Becker and his estranged wife, Sharlely "Lilly" Becker.

The German was released on bail ahead of his trial next September, which is set to last up to four weeks.

## The Rt. Hon. Basil Morgan honored



*Right Honorable Basil Morgan*

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) honored the Rt. Hon. Basil Morgan of Montserrat on celebrating 60 years of unbroken service to the sport of cricket.

The 73-year-old has served cricket, locally, regionally and internationally in various roles including scorer, player, administrator, selector, manager, statistician and international umpire.

The man from the Emerald Isle started his career as a scorer at the tender age of 13 and over time integrated into the other facets of the sport. Morgan made his debut as a player in 1965 for Montserrat as an off-spinner facing some of the great cricketers in the region like Sir, Vivian Richards, Sir Andy Roberts, Veron Edwards Sr., Enoch Lewis to name a few.

The former statistician received an award earlier this year from the World Statistician Body for his outstanding achievement of over 50 years as a Statistician. He is also the recipient of the Order of Excellence from the government of Montserrat in 2015.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) President Ricky Skerritt said Basil Morgan is one of the regional umpires who pioneered a pathway upward to international level for other West Indian umpires to follow.

President of the Leeward Island Cricket Board (LICB) Enoch Lewis said Basil Morgan extensive contribution to Montserrat, Leeward Islands and West Indies Cricket over the past sixty years represents absolute commitment, dedication and loyalty for the sport of cricket.





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## Jamaican born Raheem Sterling plans new charitable foundation



**Manchester City forward, Raheem Sterling**

Manchester City forward, Raheem Sterling, is planning to create a foundation that will help to improve the social mobility of disadvantaged young people.

Sterling, who is still working on the details of the project, is likely to donate more than one million pounds to the

venture. The fund could top ten million with support from City and Sterling's main sponsors.

The Jamaica born athlete, who left his country of birth at the age of 6, says he wants to lend a helping hand to disadvantaged people who want to attend university, need football equip-

ment or have other specific needs.

Sterling continues to use his high profile to advocate for social change and fight against racism. He has also worked on projects to help young people in Brent, the area in North London where he grew up.

## TTFA President: "We shall not stand in your way"



**TTFA president, William Wallace**

"We shall not stand in your way."

This was the word from Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) president, William Wallace, after he and the asso-

ciation's vice presidents skipped a TTFA Extraordinary Meeting on Sunday.

Wallace and the former executive, who were removed by football's world governing body, FIFA, have

not, however, formally resigned.

Wallace and his executive, who were elected president of the TTFA in November 2019, were removed by FIFA and replaced with a Normalization Committee in March 2020. Despite sanctions from FIFA, Wallace and his executive maintain the position that they have the right to fight their case and have their voices be heard as this constitutes a basic human right.

Wallace has nonetheless acknowledged the right of the membership of the TTFA to decide on the future of the organisation and declared "we shall not stand in their way". He continued that he remains unable to comprehend how anyone could find FIFA's actions toward the TTFA in March 2020 acceptable.

"Maybe it was desirable that those who elected us should be consulted. FIFA coming in after just four

months into our tenure and instituting a Normalization Committee has brought our names into disrepute," Wallace said.

Wallace praised the TTFA members who did repose confidence in his group last November and have not backed away from their initial position.

"We salute them, as well those who did, but later changed their minds. We do not begrudge them their right to do so."

Meanwhile, over the last six months, FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, has said that his organisation will not recognise the authority of the Trinidad and Tobago courts to decide on football matters. FIFA's position changed on Friday however, when the Court of Appeal declared that the TTFA should not have brought its grievances against the FIFA appointed Normalization Committee before the local courts.

## Children should never be involved in politics

Coolidge police responded to a call placed from the New Winthorpes playing field last week in connection with a cricket match which was being played in which the attendees were not complying with COVID-19 protocols.

Two males officers and a female officer who responded to the call observed children following social distancing requirements along with a small gathering of adults who were also

observing the necessary protocols. The bowlers present were bowling to one stump, which does not constitute game play.

After a short conversation with the coaches in charge of the session with the children, reports indicated that all present left the grounds dismayed that someone would have called the police out of what could only be interpreted as mischief and dishonesty.

A parent of one of the children present called into Pointe FM to express concern over the fact that someone called the police on children who were training, knowing well that there was no mass gathering or match being played.

Another parent who did not wish to be named suggested the malicious call may have been politically motivated as a recent photograph that was widely circulated on Facebook showed a politician and a former West Indies player on a backhoe at the New Winthorpes. The caption of the pic-

ture indicating that both persons were working together to install nets at the facility.

It's also a well known fact that factions in the community are displeased that the Skepple family has been making improvements to the pitch at the New Winthorpes field.

The disgruntled parents made it clear that politics has no place in sports or activities which affect children. They added that it was a disgrace that someone would call the police on children who were only trying to improve their game especially as the government has given permission for athletes to train under the condition that they observe COVID-19 protocols.

# DEWS



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