WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2020

**ISSUE 172** 

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# **GIVE THANKS**

The season of Christmas is a time for celebrating the birth of our risen and ascended Lord, Jesus Christ. While there are those who may argue that the date is misplaced, there are few who would doubt the importance of the vuletide season in Western thought. More than just a season of celebration, it also presents an opportunity for reflection and planning. It is also a season to give thanks!

Readers of Pointhave eXpress would read, ad nauseum, articles that speak about the extraordinary year 2020 has turned out to be, for all of the wrong Within reasons. dreary shadows of the dark clouds of this year, there were many success stories that can be highlighted. Comforting has been the number of nationals and residents who have used the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to awaken their latent entrepreneurial spirit. It reminds of the age old adage that one should never allow a good crisis to go to waste. If necessity is the mother of invention, then it must be true that entrepreneurship is born from that inherent spirit of not wanting to lose, but to conquer. And conquer we did, as a nation!

We have heard the off repeated calls for the government to an-

nounce an economic stimulus injection, similar to what some governments in the OECS and the wider CAR-ICOM region have implemented in their countries. The question has to be asked, though, to what does one refer when one speaks about economic stimulus? Is it simply offering cash persons who may be in need? The Gaston Browne-led administration has succinctly made the argument that such a move could have had a deleterious effect on the kind of entrepreneurial spirit that came out during the course of the pandemic. Moreover, one has to remember that aovernment resources are not infinite and such a move cannot be sustained ad infinitum.

Nevertheless, there are some things that has government done that we believe ought to be highlighted, not the least of which is to ensure that all pubservants received their full salary, and on time, during the months of the total lockdown. We do not believe that most persons in Antiqua and Barbuda understand the enormity of that feat. To put it in perspective, this is what happened: when government revenues were down by as much as 80%, the government paid all public servants their full salaries on time, even while they were at home not working. That singular move ensured that the economy remained even at reduced levels. For that, we ought to give thanks!

Additionally, we tend to forget that there are other social safety nets in place that ensured shock from the was pandemic much less severe. For examsubsidized utility ple, bills and food vouchers for the elderly, discounts for paying utility bills early for the general population, school uniform arants, school meals, the pandemic barrel, duty free concessions on the purchase of toiletries and disinfectants, additional payments to medical professionals at the forefront of the pandemic response. For all these things, we ought to give thanks!

We should also give thanks to the people of Antiqua and Barbuda who despite the inconveniences and difficulties have largely adhered to the health protocols that have been enforced since the end of March this year in light of the pandemic. It has been a remarkable achievement and a show of immense discipline by our people. Because of this, Antigua and Barbuda has done a relatively good job in keeping the number of active cases in single digits most of the time.

We should also give thanks that a stable of the Antiqua and Barbuda and indeed the regional skies - LIAT has returned to its inter-island connectivity role albeit with a limited commercial schedule. The airline was saved from certain death by government and people of Antigua and Barbuda and now the island is re-establishing itself as truly, the Caribbean Airline.

There were some hiccups along the way when two countries imposed artificial barriers to the airline's return to their territories, but even those have been surmounted. LIAT is indeed rising like a phoenix from the ashes of despair and under-capitalisation and mismanagement.

The people of Anand Barbuda should give themselves a collective 'pat on the back' for the understanding displayed with the cancelation of Carnival, limited use of the beaches and no LIVE shows and how through all of this have come creativity and ingenuity that deserve notice and commendation. Well done!

But much more than being proud, we at PointeXpress implore you that when you sit at the dinner table this Christmas to cut into that delicious meal, that mouth-watering ham or turkey, to give thanks for the gift of life, for mercies large and small. GIVE THANKS!

# **COP Christmas Message 2020**

Greetings my esteemed members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

In Luke's Gospel, the angel said unto the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

As we meditate on this Bible passage and celebrate the season of Christ's birth, it is an opportunity to reflect on 2020 and focus our attention on 2021.

I recall around this time last year, that I addressed you in person at our annual end of year event. My message to you was entitled, "The Next Chapter". Prophetic one may say, but the truth is COVID-19 has written a new chapter in the history of our lives. This year, my theme is "Adapting to Change".

It has been said, "Any change, even a change for the better is always accompanied by discomfort."

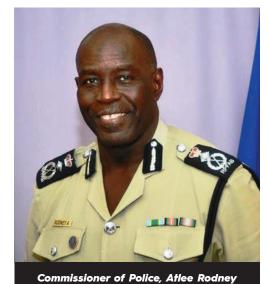
As we continue to adjust to a new way of living and working I urge you to adapt to the new processes, bearing in mind that change brings opportunities and must be readily accepted, especially as it affects our daily lives and livelihood.

As Albert Einstein stated, "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."

Over the past nine months, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many disruptions in our way of life both our private and professional lives. The government of Antiqua and Barbuda declared a State of Emergency which caused us to adjust to new measures and adapt different approaches.

Not only are we expected to ensure the safety and security of this nation, but are now called upon to enforce the health regulations and protocols. We have all recognised that we cannot change the present situation but we can change our attitudes towards it.

It is challenging and demands



longer hours. It also exposes us to risks of contracting this deadly virus. Unfortunately, we were not spared its impacts, as two members became infected, while several others were guarantined as a precautionary measure. I am thankful that they have all fully recovered and are providing great service to our nation.

As I review the force's successes for 2020, there is much to be thankful for. Although the pandemic affected us, we kept true to our mandate. In many instances we were asked to go above and beyond to provide a safe environment for our health care workers and by extension the residents and citizens of Antiqua and Barbuda.

In spite of the additional burdens placed on our limited human resources and our present poor working conditions, you the men and women of this noble organization stood up bravely and proudly and served well. I applaud you for your commitment and loyalty.

This pandemic has forced us to be creative and it has given us the opportunity as an organization to capitalise on training and development of our officers. We entered 2020 with several goals and objectives to significantly improve the general skills-set and capabilities of officers within the police force. I am happy to report that several leadership and development training courses were concluded and over three hundred (300) participants benefited from the training at the Sir Wright F George Police Training Academy.

Additionally, we participated in several training courses and webinars through CARICOM IMPACS CBSI system and other online platforms. The contributions of these training programmes have improved our performance and efficiency.

In the midst of the disruptions of 2020, the police force has remained committed to our mandate and each member has made their contribution in a different way. Our efforts have reduced the crime level and we have maintained a stable and peaceful society.

We were called upon to investigate a number of major crimes, and our investigators along with local, regional and international partners have done tremendous work and have brought closure to many of the cases. We remain optimistic as they forge ahead with the other ongoing investigations. The investigators must be commended and we express thanks to the public for their understanding and support.

As we approach 2021 in this era of change and adjustments, I urge each of us to remain focused on our role and responsibilities to this nation. Let us be positive examples to our community as we confront and battle this pandemic. Let us continue to perform our regular functions with integrity and professionalism.

In 2021, we are looking forward to greater efforts and contributions from the Government and the private sector in our quest for improved working conditions.

We will continue to value our relationships with the general public and seek ways to mend any gaps that may exist.

Let us be active listeners, quick responders and courteous because together with our community we



# No UK ban imminen

Antiqua and Barbuda is not likely to impose a travel ban on visitors arriving from the United Kingdom despite the decision of several Caribbean territories to do so over fears concerning a mutated strain of the COVID-19 virus that was discovered in the United Kingdom in September.

The Ministry of Health is holding a press conference later today in which the country's official position on the matter will be made known. Although health officials remain tight-lipped on the issue ahead of the press conference however, reliable sources informed PointeXpress that Antigua and Barbuda will not close its borders to visitors from the United Kingdom.

One source said the country will focus its energy on 'managing the risk' associated with the virus as it has been doing since the start of the pandemic and the reopening of its borders on June 1.

A second source noted that after several European countries announced they would close their borders to the UK, the European Commission issued a directive for these borders to reopen.

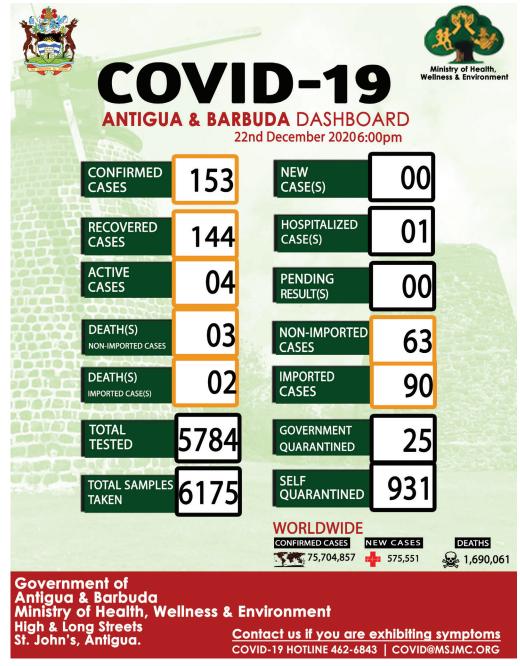
The source said Antigua and Barbuda will take a more guarded approach and will monitor the situation in the UK closely for a while

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that a new variant of the COVID-19 virus was found in the UK that is over seventy percent more infectious than the strain of the virus that started the pandemic.

Johnson announced tighter restrictions in the UK, especially in the south of the country.

Grenada and Jamaica were the first English speaking Caribbean territories to announce restrictions against UK travelers.

There are fears that the new strain of the virus could move bevond the UK which has seen a



spike in infections in recent months.

Scientists believe that the approved vaccines will be equally effective against the new strain of the virus as it is against the original virus. While the mutated virus is said to spread faster, nothing presently suggests that it is more deadly.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has received no new COVID-19 positive reports from the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC) or the Caribbean Public Health Agencv (CARPHA) as of Monday 21st

December 2020.

One new recovered case has been recorded bringing that total to one hundred and forty-four.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antiqua and Barbuda remains at one hundred and fifty-three (153) which is inclusive of four (4) active cases.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect the changes to the government's quarantine and self-auarantine columns of dashboard.



can prevent and reduce crimes, traffic collisions and various social ills.

I offer my sincerest gratitude to all who have contributed to the achievements of the Police Force during 2020. These include the Government; the private sector; our local, regional and international partners; and the general public.

To my senior management team, the administrative staff, the executive of the Police Welfare Association, and every member of the police force, I say thank you for your continued support and contributions.

There is much more to do in 2021 but with the help of God let us move forward with courage, determination, loyalty and unity as we pledge to provide quality Policina service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

I am confident that better days lie ahead and will join with C S Lewis when he said "There are far better things ahead, than any we leave behind."

On behalf of my fami-

ly and my administrative staff I extend a Christ filled Christmas to you and your family, and wish a New Year of prosperity in every aspect of your lives.

May God bless us as we prepare to adapt to the changes of 2021 and to serve with fidelity and devotion?

Thank you!

# Four police officers honoured for relief work in the Bahamas



Four Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda officers who participated in relief efforts in the Bahamas after the passage of Hurricane Dorian in 2019 have been honoured by His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Kelvin Thomp-Corporal Shawn Walsh, Corporal Jess Bristol and Acting Corporal of Police Troy Willock were awarded with the Regional Security System (RSS) Meritorious Medal during a brief ceremony at Government House on Tuesday.

In a statement the police force's communication division, STRATCOM, said the officers departed Antigua on September 20, 2019 to assist Bahamian authorities with security and humanitarian relief efforts following the devastation caused by the category 5 hurricane Dorian on September 1, 2019.

"The mission was in keeping with the commitment of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDE-MA), and the Regional Security System (RSS) to regional safety, in the aftermath of natural disasters. The initial operation was slated to last for three weeks in the first instance: however, the officers were requested to continue for another three weeks," the statement noted.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney was present at the ceremony and used the opportunity to thank the officers for their commitment and dedication to duty.

The Director of the National Office of Disaster Services, Philmore Mullin. and other senior police officers and the families of the awardees were also in attendance.



# No bonus for port workers

New systems to measure the productivity of individual workers at the Antigua Port Authority (APA) will be implemented soon and future bonus payments will no longer be standard but based on performance.

Those were among the outcomes of a meeting on Monday convened by Prime Minister Gaston with representatives of APA and the Antiqua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU)

which represents the work-

The union has been demanding that the port pay its employees 3.5 percent of their annual wages as a bonus this year. The authority responded that due to the significant reduction in the volume of business conducted by the port, it would be unable to make bonus payments this year.

When both sides could not reach an agreement and with the threat of industrial action in the air, the government issued an order through the attorney general that banned the workers from taking industrial action based on the importance of the port to the nation's economy.

PM Browne explained the situation at the port and its ripple effect on the broader economy to the union.

"It would be challenging for the port to consider a

cont'd on pg 7

Form RLC6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT CAP 374

Section 135 Of the

REGISTRATION SECTION

BLOCK 11 2092B

WEST CENTRAL

Irene Browne Warde and Samuel Warde

Address: Pigotts, St. George's Antigua

### NOTICE TO REGISTERED PROPRIETOR OF APPLICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE TITLE

V. Knight, Attorney-At-Law of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates of Upper Newgate Street, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of Calvin Ward the Applicant herein for a Prescriptive Title for the above-mentioned parcel of land by virtue of his open, peaceable and uninterrupted possession of the said parcel of land more particularly described in the Schedule hereto for a period of at least twenty (20) years.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you object to the granting of the application you must within three (3) months of the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper lodge an objection in the form prescribed setting out the grounds of your objection.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to make any objection to the said application the Registrar of Lands may proceed to grant the application for Prescriptive Title without further

The said Application may be inspected by you or your Solicitor at the Land Registry from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.30a.m - 12.00 pm.

On the North by: 11 2092B 32 - Central Housing & Planning Authority

On the South by: 11 2092B 40 - Neville George & 11 2092B 41 - Rosalind Jeremy On the East: 11 2092B 34 - Central Housing & Planning Authority

On the West:

11 2092B 30 - Emelda James & 11 2092B 31 - Changa Netfa

Form RLC 7

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT CAP 374

Section 135

REGISTRATION SECTION

WEST CENTRAL

BLOCK 11 2092B



### $\frac{\text{NOTICE TO ADJACENT OCCUPIERS OF APPLICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE}}{\text{TITLE}}$

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### THE SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situate at PECCOTTS in the Parish of 57- GEDRGES ... in Antigua and butted and bounded as follows:

On the North by: 11 2092B 32 - Central Housing & Planning Authority

11 2092B 40 - Neville George & 11 2092B 41 - Rosalind Jeremy

On the East:

11 2092B 34 - Central Housing & Planning Authority 11 2092B 30 - Emelda James & 11 2092B 31 - Changa Netfa

### cont'd from pg 6

Reports are minister's explanation and agreed to the non-payment of bonuses in 2020.

ister made a number of and could result in some recommendations to both workers getting a highthe union and the port authority that could eliminate 'this almost annual fight' over bonuses.

According to the port manager the prime minister suggested the establishment of a system of evalu-

that the be evaluated based on inunion accepted the prime dividual performance and output.

"Under this system the annual bonus will be paid Port Manage Darwin Tele- based on a worker's permaque said the prime min- formance over the period incentive programme but er percentage bonus than 31, 2021, to arrive at outothers. It will set parameters for grading as well as measure each person's productivity. It will no longer be an across the board matter," he explained.

Both the port and the union have been advised were not successful.

bonus this year," he stated. ation where each staff will to work together on establishing the system in a spirit of transparency and openness.

> Telemaque further explained that the system was always meant to be an with the new direction both parties have until January lines of the programme.

"We will work closely with the union to get this done!" he affirmed.

Attempts to reach the ABWU's Assistant General Secretary Chester Hughes

### St. Paul's Christmas Calendar

Season's Greetings to all the residents of the St. Paul's constituency. This year we are forced to celebrate differently but we will celebrate, always, the birth of our Christ.

Below is our revised calendar of activities designed with, for and by the people and intended to maintain the traditions of the season, albeit with the new norms of today's reality.

Sunday 19- Tuesday 21 December: Distribution of Hams and Turkeys

Tuesday 21-Wednesday 22 December: Christmas caroling (hi-fi 6:00-9:00pm)

Tuesday 21 December: Distribution of Food Hampers

Wednesday 22-Thur 23 December: Distribution of Christmas packages and visitation to the elderly

Friday 25 December: 12:00-2:00pm Christmas Day Lunch (grab and go)

- 1. Tyrells (below Catholic Church)
- 2. Evergreen Tree Road
- 3. YA-SoSo Corner
- 4. Table Hill Gordon
- 5. Buckshorn 6. Patterson's
- 7. Cobbs Cross

The above locations we're carefully selected to avoid crowding. Parents are invited to take your children from 0-12 years old to the location nearest to your homes to collect their Christmas toys.

Kindly ensure that all COVID-19 protocols are observed. Merry Christmas and wishes for a healthy, productive and prosperous 2021

Love always, Hon. E. P. Chet Greene MP St. Paul

### **NOTICE**

The Hood Convenient Shop Jennings Village St. Mary's Parish Email: thehoodconveinientshop@ gmail.com Tel: 728-6003 / 723-5460

Her Worship The Licensing Magistrate District"A" Magistrate'sCourt Perry Bay St. John's Antigua

### December 7th, 2020

We, Catherine Francis & Jefferson Reid, of Jennings Village, **DO** HERE BY GIVE NOTICE, that it is our intention to apply at the next ordinary session to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St John's Antigua on January 7th, 2021, ensuring for a Retail License in respect of my premises known as The Hood Convenient Stop, located in Jennings Village, pursuant of section 11 of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, cap 249 of the Laws of Antiqua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Catherine Francis - Tel: 728-6003 Jefferson Reid - Tel: 723-5460

### POINTE PRESS WEDNESDAY, 23 DECEMBER, 2020

# Taking sharing to another level







The spirit of giving that forms part of the Christmas season took a new turn when the management and staff of CIBC FirstCaribbean introduced a Caribbean version of Santa and his sleigh with their 'Christmas Caravan'.

The Caravan bearing members of staff, personal care items, dried goods and cash made stops at the Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital, Her Majesty's Prison, Fiennes Institute, Salvation Army's Sunshine Home for Girls and the Ministry of Social Transformation on behalf of the Boy's Training School. Twelve families in communities including Villa, John Hughes, All Saints, Parham and Freetown also received donations.

"We honestly believe that without giving there is no true Christmas. This year with the hosting of our traditional staff party being impossible due protocols, Covid-19 we decided to use that money instead to support those in need. Our staff also got involved and made personal donations of food stuff, cloth- of Christmas cheer.

ing and toys. It was a wonderful and rewarding experience for all of us who rode the Christmas Caravan," said Ladesa James-Williams, the bank's Country Head.

Earlier this month the bank donated \$10,000 to the Salvation Army, Lions Club and the Red Cross to assist in the spreading



# **FLOW donates** from its farm

produce grown in its garden to the residents of three institutions.

"In this season of caring sharing and FLOW presented the first fruits of its organic staff garden to several charities on island. The Care Project, the St. John's Hospice, Clarevue Hospital, Fiennes Institute and the Sunshine Home for Girls were all recipients of some beautiful lettuce bouquets," said FLOW's Marketing and Communications Manager, Shand Merchant.

explained that this year employees at

FLOW has donated FLOW (Antigua) decided to align their charity efforts with the observance of World Diabetes Day (WDD) which is celebrated globally on November 14.

> The first initiative involves planting an oraanic fruit and veaetable garden at FLOW's Clare Hall compound. Harvested produce is being distributed to local charities to promote a healthier lifestyle by encouraging the incorporation of more fruits vegetables into and people's diets.

The farm has been in operation for just over a month.

# Senator Nedd treats disabled **Barbudans to lunch**

Twenty-three Barbudans who suffer physical or mental disabilities were treated to lunch on Tuesday by Senator Knacyntar Nedd.

Senator Nedd said the invitees to the Christmas luncheon at Uncle Roddie's restaurant in Codrington included children and adults.

The attendees were also presented with gifts that included beds, wheel chairs, clothing,

gift vouchers, gift baskets and tablets.

Senator Nedd said she received the assistance of Barbuda resident, Marvbeth Bedley, who raised financing and other donations through her international contacts. Bedlev is a part of the team working on the proposed project at K-Club involving American movie icon, Robert De Nero.

It was Senator Nedd's second presentation this week. On Monday, she presented 20 56-gallon garbage bins to businesses, government offices and schools on the

She noted that in response to complaints of insufficient garbage, she hoped her donation would help offer a solution to a long-standing problem.

Nedd said she intends to continue her charitable work into the new year.







# Local bank among winner's circle in ECCB awards

The Antigua and Barbuda branch of CIBC First Caribbean International Bank was among the winners' circle at the annual Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Bank of the Year awards presentation.

The ECCB said in a statement it has recognised commercial banks three operating within the East-Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) for demonstrating outstanding banking service and social responsibility.

The second Annual ECCU Bank of the Year Awards were held virtually on 17 December with live streaming on the ECCB Facebook page and YouTube channel. Of the 12 banks that participated, three banks were presented with awards for their commitment and service excellence to the people they serve through their business practices and policies in four categories:

ECCU Bank of the Year Award for Customer Service: The CIBC/First Caribbean International Bank (Barbados) Ltd (Antiqua and Barbuda);

ECCU Bank of the Year Award for Financial Education and Empowerment: The Bank of Saint Lucia Limited;

ECCU Bank of the Year Award for Pandemic and Banking: National The Commercial Bank of Anquilla Ltd; and

ECCU Bank of the Year Award for Technological Innovation: The Bank of Saint Lucia.

In his remarks at the awards ceremony, Governor of the ECCB, Timothy N.J. Antoine said, 'we could have easily said let us cancel the Awards until 2021, but we didn't and I am pleased that we are able to have these awards notwithstanding the constraints posed by COVID'.

The 2020 ECCU Bank of the Year Awards can be viewed on the ECCB Connects YouTube channel.





# Six vulnerable AGS students receive assistance

Six Antiqua Grammar School students who were identified by the school as being vulnerable, received gift packages from alumni of the school.

The group of 'old boys' who are now business professionals, decided to assist the school and its students in any way possible.

Spokesman for the group, Anthony Smith Jr., said the former students have a strong

sense of obligation to the institution "as it molded us into what we are today".

"This is just the start of what we want to do for the school as among our plans is to establish a mentorship programme to work along with the current set of students to help them in choosing their path in life," he stated.

During the presentation held at the school on Tuesday, the six bovs received two food packages each and \$400.00 in cash.

"After realising the sianificant disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this group of AGS alumni collaborated to raise funds for six students at the Antiqua Grammar School who were identified as being vulnerable," Smith disclosed.

The group partnered with Happy Kids which

provided vouchers that the students may redeem for school uniforms. GEO's restaurant and a supermarket assisted with the food packages.

Principal of the school, Sam Roberts, accepted the gifts on behalf of the boys who were identified as being most deserving of assistance by the school's counsellor, Susette Anthony-Charles.



Photo caption: L-R Dwayne Simon, AGS Principal Sam Roberts , Anthony Smith Jr., Mackenzie Broodie, Ron Murrain, Lynford Inverary, Reco Colbourne, Jameil Benjamin, Regis Burton

# **CAF** makes large donation to charities

The Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) has continued its charity by funding the work of organisations that offer assistance to society's most vulnerable.

CAF spokesperson, Jamilla Kirwan, said for the past three years the CAF has been partnering with The Friends Foundation, privately managed, non-profit outreach organisation, which has been integral in providing assistance free of charge, to the residents of the government-run Care Project and the local community.

"The funding by The CAF facilitates free services in the areas of physiotherapy, speech therapy, sensory stimulation activities, staff-assisted feeding, educa-

tion, and also assists with employing the Friends Foundation's 16-member staff," she remarked.

According to CAF's Executive Director, Corinna Delowsky, due to unexpected expenses caused by COVID-19, The CAF took the decision to increase the annual donation to the Friends Foundation by over 20 percent, for 2021.

President of the Friends Foundation, Annette Carev was also grateful that throughout the pandemic, The CAF's funding enabled her organization to provide new services such as virtual homeschooling.

"For the past three years, Ambassador Calvin Ayre has kept his faith in us. Without his Foundation's support, I doubt the charity would have survived," she said.

At separate Christmas events, the students and residents of both the Friends' Foundation and the Care Project, were treated to sensory-appropriate gifts and a meet-and-greet with the CAF's very own Santa Claus, who took great pleasure in handing out presents. The events brought much joy and laughter.

The CAF also recently established a complementary food assistance initiative for residents of the Care Project, fittingly called, Supplemental Nutrition at the Care (SNA-C). On hand to receive the donation on December 17, were Matron Ashline Francis and Senior Office Administrator, Sandy Daniel, both of the Care Project, as well as Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Health, Ena Henry.

The EC\$128,000 financial commitment will go toward providing free meals that will be tailored to the dietary needs and restrictions of the special needs residents for one vear.

Matron Ashline Francis said that during the hardship brought on by COVID-19 and the economic downturn, the Care Project had been experiencina limited charitable donations but the CAF has chosen to take a different response.

"They are coming bigger and better," she said.



# So, what did we Learn?

This year has been one of tests and lessons for everyone and the Human Resource (HR) community was also given cause to pause and evaluate. We were made to review our processes and policies especially those related to how we manage employee engagement and evaluate their performance.

In late March when we were forced into a national lockdown resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, most sectors were made to shift operations from our respective office spaces to employees' homes. The work from home (WFH) scenarios proved to be quite the challenge, from the preparatory stages of acquiring additional equipment to assisting staff with internet connectivity issues. Activities also included the sourcing face masks, disinfectants, and sanitizers. And then came the task of ensuring that workers were kept productive while at home struggling to cope with their own anxiety and concerns over the virus.

While navigating these processes several things became obvious. Some of us realized that our disaster preparedness plans were ineffective when treating health emergencies brought on by this pandemic. This caused us to either revamp our plans or create an entirely different plan for pandemics and national health crises.

Our standard operating procedures did not consider staff having to remain engaged while keeping business operations going from their residences. Before having to deal with the effects of COVID-19. many of us never had to roll our business continuity strategies or paid much attention to the importance of our organizations being "agile" enough to create and implement people centered protocols instead of strict and rigid



policies that seemed to exacerbate an already trying situation.

Many HR departments were called upon to lead the unenviable task of communicating news of reduced hours of work, layoffs and even severance in many cases. We have had cause to support and sympathize with colleagues as they communicated with workers and their representatives to make the process as painless as possible. We had to empathize with our colleagues locally and regionally as they too found themselves on the breadline because of the negative impact of this pandemic on business revenues. Our emotional intelligence was engaged as well when we were called upon to assist team members with the "work/life blur" and all the "pandemic fatigue" that has been going around. We function as coaches, motivating employees to be positive in their outlook even as this year ends and we look forward to the uncertainties of a new year. We are now leading with more warmth and comfort as we encourage our teams to keep fighting while managing with our own stresses and mandating self-care regimes.

As the pandemic rages on into what is now being called its "second wave", we have had to become more creative in how we do business and cater to our customers' needs. Online payments, virtual meetings and webinars have now become commonplace so that even the most technologically averse among us had to adapt. We have adjusted not only with how we use technology and the available virtual spaces but have had to implement new workplace practices so that our organizations, from our schools to our supermarkets and hotels, are doing all they can to keep workers, customers and visitors safe. Many organizations have had scares where employees contracted the COVID-19 virus necessitating quarantine of coworkers who were potentially exposed

So, nine months after, we have indeed become more adept at meeting the challenges of the pandemic and making use of the opportunities as presented. However, based on the most recent dashboard updates, we still need to be vigilant and compliant with the protocols for our safety and the safety of those around us, as the worst has not yet passed.

We at HRPAB wish you a peaceful holiday season and a healthy and productive new year. We thank you for your support and look forward to offering our readers more content as we share, learn, and grow together, advancing HR for national development.

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

# **GUN WITH THE WIND**

Dedicated to Professor Kenneth Ramchand who shared the Steinback idea with me



### **By Tony Deyal**

In 1952, the author John Steinbeck, who seven years later won the Nobel Prize for his writing, sent a letter to his friend, Adlai Stevenson the Second, a Democrat, who in trying to become President of the USA twice suffered massive landslide losses to Dwight Eisenhower. By that time, Stevenson, whose father Adlai Stevenson the First had quipped, "It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts", was the US Ambassador to the United Nations (UN), one of John F. Kennedy's early appointments as President. Steinbeck wrote, "Adlai, do you remember two kinds of Christmases? There is one kind in a house where there is little and a present represents not only love but sacrifice. The one single package is opened with a kind of slow wonder, almost reverence...Then there is the other kind of Christmas with presents piled

high, the gifts of guilty parents as bribes because they have nothing else to give..."

My parents had one child and up to, including, and beyond his seventh birthday in 1952, he got only one gift every Christmas and settled for whatever it was, even though he might have given broad hints about what he wished, prayed and hoped for, but never really expected. One year it was a fire-engine which whirred and had a spinning red light. Another year, he got a little boat that very quickly went down the ravine behind the house and never returned. Without ever knowing anything about Steinbeck until many, many years later, the package I opened slowly and with great wonder, almost reverence, turned out to be exactly what as a reader of Western Comics featuring Roy Rogers, the Lone Ranger, Gene Autry, Tex Ritter and even the Earp Brothers, I dearly wished and pleaded for. I had made many, many promises that I am sure, looking back, the dear Lord had surely taken with a pinch of salt but my parents didn't.

It was what we called, "A gunand-sack." Even more amazing, it turned out to be two guns and holsters (a.k.a. "sacks") with enough caps to blast to Tombstone Territory any cowpokes who dared to face me on Main Street. "Boot Hill for you," I would proclaim, making sure that the trigger I pulled was not Roy Rogers' horse. I liked Phantom and his Skull Cave, his dog Devil and his horse Hero, but was too young to really appreciate Diana although the similarly named dinner-mints were not bad. However, neither Phantom nor my other hero, Mandrake, used guns,

and although Dick Tracy was a cop, he did not have the flair that you would expect from a man with a two-way, wrist-radio that was way before its time. I have always wondered what prompted my mother to decide I would get the Christmas aift I always wanted. I did not know at the time that she was only fifteen years older than me and that the childhood she missed with a first marriage at the age of twelve, would be relived in me. She never had dolls when she was growing up and always gave them to her nieces, nephews and grand-children. She tried that once with me, but once was enough. I spelt "doll" with a "u".

While she was a self-taught reader of both English and Hindi, and went through all my comics and novels, even devouring a Jack Reacher novel on her Kindle the night before she died, my mother used to get upset with me and the make-believe games of Cowboys vs Indians with my cousin Joe, each of us with a ruler, grasping the other's wrist and fighting to the death; shooting cane arrows with bows made of twine and bamboo at the cowboys; or using the multi-purpose rulers to be the Three Musketeers fighting Cardinal Richelieu's dreaded guards and shouting "For King and Country" loudly enough that the teacher thought I was using an obscenity and not only beat me, but worse, told my parents. Fortunately, my mother never saw that the paper she used to wrap my gift of guns read, "Peace On Earth." It is very much like the time, much later in life, when I bought the wrong gift-wrapping paper. Instead of "Merry Christmas" it said, "Hap-

### cont'd from pg 14

py Birthday." I was very tempted to write in the word, "Jesus" after each "Merry Christmas" but knew that it was doomed to fail the eaale eyes of my family.

In the early days even though we envied the rich kids who got real bicycles, watches and cars with pedals for Christmas, I believe we were happier for two reasons. All of us got guns, some a bit better than the others, but they ensured that we would have much more than a blast or two or three being Western heroes or villains. The other was that we never learned, used or complained in the language of some petulant kids, uttered with a pout under a paper-strewn Christmas tree, "That is all you give me?" One thing I was never sure of until I was older

was what Boxing Day was about. I didn't know if it was the box my fire engine came in or the guns, or if it was the blows with which I was threatened for being so noisy when my father, friends and family were celebrating in a big way with rum, music, singing and staggering from house to house.

Fortunately for me, none of my four children was ever like that. They all helped with the lighting and knew that at midnight on Christmas Eve we would each open at least one gift and then go to bed to wake up a bit late on Christmas Day and have a really good breakfast together. This was always followed by the opening of any other gifts and trying things on. Of course, I always guipped that they were not only trying, but very trying, and got the same response of mock disgust and cries of "Again?" For many years now, my kids have given me "Brut" every Christmas and from the time I see the bottle it is my turn to complain noisily, "Again?"

Of course, I am aware that the winds of change are constantly blowing and, as King Solomon said about the impermanence of life and all that we cling to or hold dear, "This too shall pass away." What I hope will happen is that my children would have learnt by now that the wind of change blows most freely through an open mind and if you can't change the direction of the winds, you must adjust your sails.

\*Tony Deyal was last seen saying, "Sometimes the best Christmas present is remembering what you've already got.





# SHAKE MORE SHARE MORE GRAND PRIZE REVEAL

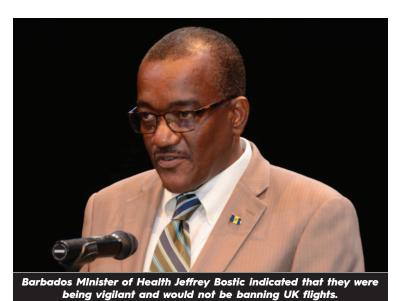
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Plus
In-store treats, Lucky Dip, Spin the Wheel
and lots of Giveaways!

# Barbados won't ban flights from UK



(Barbados Nation): Flights from the United Kingdom (UK) will not be banned at this time.

But Minister of Health Jef-

frey Bostic indicated they were being vigilant about the new COVID-19 strain, which has caused some countries to impose restrictions on travel to and from the UK.

"The advice from WHO/ PAHO is that we should not restrict flights coming from the UK at this time because what is known of the variant does not suggest we should do that. To be honest, this thing has been around I believe from September and it is not only in the UK, it's also in Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy and other countries.

"So at this point in time and with the restrictions imposed in the United Kingdom, we do not think we are going to restrict flights from the UK," Bostic said.

He made these comments on Tuesday

the Glebe Polyclinic in St George where representatives from the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) donated thermometers, printers, scanners and other equipment to some polyclinics.

Bostic was responding to questions from a reporter who asked if Barbados would go in the direction of other countries that imposed restrictions on UK travel, including Jamaica and Grenada.

Although Barbados is not, Bostic said surveillance at the Grantley Adams International Airport would remain intact, in fact he said surveillance measures had increased.

# 900 expected to arrive from the UK amid travel ban

(Jamaica Observer): THE local public health system has again been thrown into high alert as hundreds of individuals, mostly Jamaicans, arrive in the island from Britain where a new strain of the novel coronavirus - described as "out of control" by officials there - has forced London and other areas into strict lockdown.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness yesterday issued a two-week travel ban on flights coming to Jamaica from England, but said three flights, one of which was already en route, would be allowed to land, and passengers placed in State quarantine for two days and tested for COVID-19. The ban, which took immediate effect, ends on January 4.

Health and Wellness Minister Dr. Christopher Tufton told the Jamaica Observer shortly after the ban was announced that the island has the capacity to house the roughly 300 passengers who were expected to arrive here on the first flight vesterday.

The remaining two flights, expected to arrive today, could bring up to 600 additional passengers,

"For the numbers for today [yesterday], we think we do [have capacity]. We are going to have to look at the numbers for tomorrow [today]. We are still working on that," Tufton said.

Dr Tufton explained that the coronavirus strain that has sent British authorities "scrambling requires polymerase chain reaction testing.

The nature of this virus does not allow antigen testing. The idea is to test all persons and then hold [them] for 48 hours, and then when they get their results, to send them home, but still track them. We expect most of them to be Jamaicans," the health minister said.

Jamaica joins a number of other countries, from Europe to Asia, that have blocked flights originating from the UK. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson chaired a Cabinet Office Briefing Room emergencies committee yesterday to discuss the crisis.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness says passengers arriving in Jamaica from the UK who test negative will be fitted with armbands for monitoring and then released to complete their 14-day guarantine at home, while those who are positive will be isolated in State facilities until they've recovered.

# White House COVID-19 Task Force member quits



Dr. Debora Birx top public health official on the White House coronavirus task force

A top public health official on the White House coronavirus task force has said she will retire after it emerged she hosted a holiday gathering.

Dr. Deborah Birx, who is 64, cited the criticism she has faced for a family get-together over Thanksaiving in Delaware in her decision to step aside.

"This experience

been a bit overwhelming," she said. "It's been very difficult on my family."

Dr. Birx had reportedly been seeking a job from US President-elect Joe Biden.

A world-renowned Aids researcher, she has worked in the US government since the Reagan administration.

In an interview with US news network Newsy aired

on Tuesday, a masked Dr. Birx did not specify when she would stand down, but said she would help the incoming Biden administration and "and then I will retire".

She had urged Americans in the days before Thanksgiving to restrict gatherings to "your immediate household".

But it emerged on Sun-

day she had travelled from Washington to one of her other properties, on Fenwick Island in Delaware, where she was joined by three generations of her family from two households.

While in Delaware, she did an interview with CBS in which she noted that some Americans had "made mistakes" over Thanksgiving by travelling and they "should assume they were infected".

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whose director has often joined Dr. Birx on the podium during briefings, has warned Americans not to travel over the holidays.

As the US coronavirus caseload surges, the agency has also cautioned against indoor gatherings with people from different households.

Dr. Birx had insisted she went to the property in Delaware to prepare it for a potential sale, though she acknowledged sharing a meal with her family during the visit.





# **Trump urges Congress to amend** 'wasteful' coronavirus aid bill

(BBC): US President Trump has urged Congress to amend a bumper coronavirus stimulus bill to increase stimulus payments to \$2,000 (£1,500) per American.

In a video message posted on Twitter, he asked lawmakers to "remove wasteful and unnecessary items", adding that the package "really is a disgrace".

"It's called the Covid relief bill, but it has almost nothing to do with Covid," he said.

The \$900bn bill inone-off \$600 cludes payments to most Americans.

The US Congress has passed a long-awaited the bill late on Mon-



\$900bn (£660bn) package of coronavirus pandemic aid after months of political wrangling.

Senators

day, hours after it was passed by the House of Representatives.

The aid includes diapproved rect payments for many Americans support for businesses and unemployment grammes.

The money is to accompany а bigger, \$1.4tn spending bill to fund government operations over the next nine months.

President Donald Trump was expected to sign the package into law quickly.

But news breaking overnight indicated that Mr Trump has other ideas.

President-elect loe Biden welcomed the relief package but said Congress needed to get to work to support his Covid-19 relief plan in the New Year.

## Germany extends UK travel ban to 6 January despite EU urging countries to lift restrictions

Germany has extended its ban on travellers arriving from the UK to 6 January, despite the EU telling countries to lift restrictions to allow essential journeys and minimise trade disruption.

"The German government has extended its ban on air passenger arriving fliahts from the UK to Germany to a ban on all forms of transport until Wednesday 6 January 2021," the Foreign Office travel advice for the country states.

"During this period, transport operators are

banned from offering plane, bus, ferry and train journeys from the UK to Germany.

"From 1 January 2021, operators transport can apply to the German authorities for an exemption to transport individuals who resident in Germany. Contact your transport operator for more information."

Dozens of countries have blocked people arriving from over fears about the new coronavirus variant that is said to be much more transmittable.

further by stopping lorry drivers in the UK taking their freight across the Channel, creating chaos on the approach to Dover.

But after talks between London and Paris, France announced that French and EU nationals and British residents in France will be allowed into the country from midnight - provided they can show a negative PCR test from the last three days.

However, Sky News understands the was pushing for rapid turnaround lateral flow France went a step tests being conducted

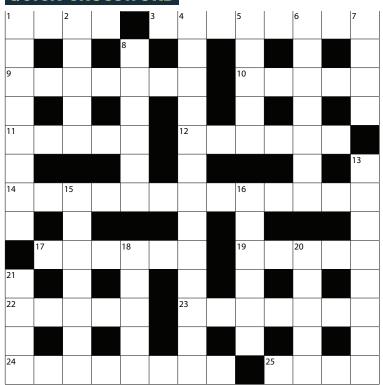
on lorry drivers with the help of the military to be utilised.

These return results within 15 to 30 minutes. but PCR tests can take 24 hours to come back.

The French PM's office said it will announce specific measures to resume trade and haulage from the UK to France "in the coming hours".

Following talks earlier on Tuesday, the EU Commission said in a statement it was "important to take swift temporary precautionary action" to limit the spread of COVID-19.

### **QUICK CROSSWORD**



### **Across**

- 1 Destiny (4)
- 3 Defensive tower above a drawbridge (8)
- 9 Compartment suspended from an airship (7)
- 10 Flavoured milk drink (5)
- 11 Commerce (5)
- 12 Part of a BLT (6)
- 14 Piece of gymnastic apparatus (8,5)
- 17 Items of interest to a philatelist (6)
- 19 Wash with clean water (5)
- 22 Being that's apt to err? (5)
- 23 Unlawful (7)
- 24 Deride (8)
- 25 River crossing (4

### **Down**

- 1 One on the run (8)
- 2 Ringworm (5)
- 4 Stopped (2,1,10)
- 5 A close affectionate and protective acceptance (5)
- 6 Prattle (7)
- 7 Want (4)
- 8 Gnawing mammal (6)
- 13 Beaten (8)
- 15 Not yet broken in (7)
- 16 Last Anglo-Saxon king of England (6)
- 18 Frenzied (5)
- 20 Small piece of tortilla with a topping (5)
- 21 Scorch (4)

### **DAILY COMICS**

### **Dilbert**







### Garfield







### Cathy







### **SUDOKU**

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### How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

### **LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST**





### YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

### ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

When it comes to a sign as fiery, outgoing, and personable as yours, it's easy to see how staying at home might not be your favorite activity, at least, not on a regular basis, certainly not alone, and absolutely, positively not now.

### (8) **TAURUS** | Apr. 20-May 20

There's nothing like the company of family, as you've always known and believed. You'll be reminded of that now, via an insatiable urge to connect with like-minded others who just so happen to share your bloodline.

### GEMINI | May 21-June 20

The universe has sent along exactly what you need to change your work situation, complete with a brand-new friend or acquaintance who can inspire and guide you to get the job done

### CANCER | June 21-July 22

You know that well-deserved reputation you've acquired for being considerate, cooperative, and extremely easy to get along with? Let's just say it might temporarily be in danger, not because you've lost that loving feeling.

### (d) **LEO** I July 23-Aug. 22

For some reason, individuals of a certain type seem to be gravitating toward you. You've just about had it with listening to sad stories, pleas for redemption, and promises to do better next time. It's not just you either.

### (T) VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

After yet another day of teasing you with lingering glances that last just a tad too long to go unnoticed or be written off as something else, a certain person will finally be ready to say exactly what's on their mind.

### LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Your sign has been amply endowed with charm, the ability to persuade, and an absolutely illegal amount of allure. Not surprisingly, others find those qualities irresistibly attractive. But you need to be careful where you point that charm.

### SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Your feelings are as deep-seated as they come, and you don't usually share them, not unless you have to or someone you know needs to hear them to feel better or you know that it's impossible to keep them hidden any longer.

### SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

When you reach the end of your rope and you're done trying to bring your usual brand of humor to a tricky situation, you tend to spout off a bit more candidly than usual. That may be what happens over the next day or so.

### (%) CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your financial situation feels a bit shaky at the moment, or are you just distracted by important professional matters? Regardless of how or why it's happened, return your attention to your career just for a bit.

### AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You don't relish the thought of it happening, but every now and then your verbally rebellious streak gets out of control and tough to handle, much less to explain to the rest of the world. They need to be told, you need to tell them, and it's time.

### H) PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Sometime soon, you'll need to make a decision whether or not to let a secret see the light of day. That's not an easy thing for you because you can usually see both sides of the issue. Clearing the air is always the best tactic.

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom is inviting nominations from Antigua and Barbuda for Commonwealth Master's Scholarships tenable from 2021.

Closing date for nominations is 1st March, 2021.

Deadline for submission of applications to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is 19th February, 2021.

Full details of the scholarships are included in the 2021 terms and conditions, available at: cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships

### CHSS DARE TO D.E.A.R. BOOK DRIVE 2020

Clare Hall Secondary School is inviting past Clarehalites, entertainers, radio personalities and the general public to participate in its DARE to D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) Book Drive 2020. Send us a video recording about your favourite book and donate a copy or multiple copies of that book to our school library. Give us a call at 462-3487 or mail us at admin@chss.edu.ag. The book drive culminates in December 2020. We DARE you to D.E.A.R with us and help us promote literacy amongst our students.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT**

The Quality Assurance Unit, Ministry of Tourism will be suspending operations from December 15, 2020 to January 15, 2021. All property owners are asked to take note as no inspections and covid-19 certifications will be executed during this period. For more information contact the department t 468-4061/4003.

### **EARLT CLOSURE**

The general public is advised that the headquarters of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Government Office Complex, will close at 11am on Wednesday, 23rd December, 2020. This is to facilitate a staff function. Normal office hours will resume on Thursday 24th December, 2020. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.



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# Lewis Hamilton's addresses his battle with COVID-19

Lewis Hamilton revealed he has lost almost 14 pounds lbs in weight after contracting coronavirus at the end of November.

The seven time Formula One world champion tested positive for the virus on November 30 before selfisolating for a 10 day period, but he admitted he is still battling the after effects of the viru more than three weeks on from his initial diaanosis.

Hamilton wrote on his Instagram, "I have lost some

weight and I've lost so much muscle. Starting from a low point in strength now, not fun but I'm determined to get my strength back and to be 100 percent again, no pain, no gain."

Hamilton has since been crowned BBC's **Sports** Personality of the Year for the second time.

The driver now has three months to prepare for the new F1 Season and is set to sign a new contract for \$40 million a year with Mercedes.



14 pounds after contracting coronavirus at the end of November

# Sri Lanka worried about new **COVID-19 strain**



Sri Lanka cricket's personnel are concerned about a new strain of COVID-19 that is believed to have emerged in England, but those concerns are unlikely to put England's two-Test tour of Sri Lanka starting January 14 in jeopardy.

There may, however, be additional medical protocols for the England team, either before they leave England or after they arrive in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's team medical staff held discussions with their counterparts at the ECB Tuesday.

The focus of the discussions was the new COVID-19 strain and what precautions being taken to prevent it from being introduced to Sri Lanka via the touring group.

present, England players and support staff are scheduled to fly to Sri Lanka on a chartered flight on January 2.

Upon landing, the tourist

will be required to undergo a three-day isolated quarantine and if negative PCR tests are returned after three days, they will be allowed to begin training after six davs.

The Sri Lankan government has imposed a temporary ban on commercial flights from the UK starting today.

# SOOFTS POINTE PRINTED NEWS AND BARBUDA PRINTED



PAGE 24

WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2020 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# TTFA coaches, players, administration staff paid for Christmas

paid, Robert Hadad, later date. chairman of the Wayne FIFA confirmed.

paid 100 while coaches were paid up to August to and staff up to November.

were expecting 100 pay based on the percent

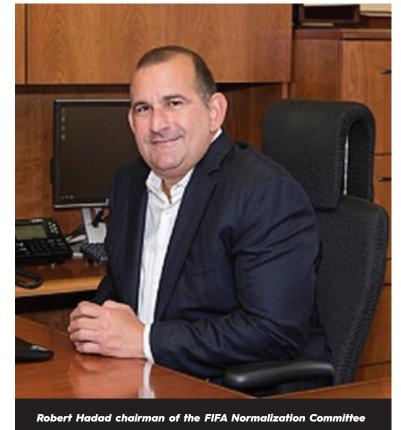
Players, coaches and were only paid 50 staff members of the percent of what was Trinidad and Tobago owed to them with Football Association the promise that the (TTFA) have been rest will be paid at a

Sheppard, Normalization one of the coaches, Committee has said they are not happy since there was Hadad told Guardian an understanding that Sports players were they would receive percent full payment.

> "We never agreed anything else," administration Sheppard noted.

Robert Hadad The coaches, who said they can only payment, resources available

Normalization Committee.



# DEWS

PointeXpress wishes to thank our loyal readers and advertisers for their support in 2020. We look forward to bringing you the latest news in 2021. We will publish our last issue for the year on Wednesday, December 23rd, 2020. We will close for the holiday season and reopen on January 4th, 2021.