



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TACKLING MALE UNDERACHIEVEMENT

This past week, Prime Minister Gaston Browne voiced concerns over what he described as 'male under-achievement,' a problem highlighted across the Caribbean where the rate of university graduation among males lags far behind that of females.

We raised the issue with a senior official of the Ministry of Education who said that the problem has been under their 'radar' for some time and in fact, there have been several initiatives that have been put in place to tackle the problem.

Among these was the decision to discard the Common Entrance Examinations (CEE) that was used to advance students from the primary school system to secondary schools. Ministry officials grew concerned when it came to light that the CEE was excluding a portion of the student population, largely the males.

In what it termed a school transformation, efforts were

made to reach boys at an earlier age and to develop an aptitude for learning. Efforts are also being made to teach males in a manner that they find interesting.

There are some professions which are unattractive to males and will continue to attract a disproportionate number of females than males largely because of the salaries they attract. Teaching is one such profession. Fewer males seem keen on taking up positions of teaching because they take the view that it would be difficult to take care of their families on what is generally accepted a low-paying profession.

Any effort to attract males to teaching must be a societal one as adjustments in the salaries paid to teachers must be part of the solution.

Even the Prime Minister acknowledged that salaries for teachers are less than ideal and he too spoke of the attraction of construc-

tion and other jobs for males.

However, the education ministry official said encouraging lifelong learning is now a critical factor, especially in light of the ever-changing work environment brought on by such developments as automation. "Because of the advances in motor vehicle manufacturing and design, today's mechanic must understand computer technologies as much as he/she understands the internal combustion engine which itself is now being replaced by the electric car," the official noted.

Tackling male under-achievement must not be the concern of the solely Prime Minister or Ministry of Education. It must be the concern of the entire society and region.

Institutions such as the University of the West Indies, which has long identified this phenomenon, must partner with other civil society groups in designing programmes/course

offerings that males in Antigua and Barbuda and throughout the region will find interest and would wish to pursue.

Some have argued that framing the issue of male under-achievement simply in terms of males not choosing certain profession is reductionist as there are many professions where male achievement (graduation rates) matches that of females or is even better. Interestingly, these professions attract higher salaries. It would therefore appear that the issue of salary is one of the main concerns that must form part of any reform.

The needs of growing males are unique. Recognising this and devising plans to keep males engaged throughout their lives is as important to the individual males as it is for the society as large. Therefore, the old approach of one-size-fits-all has to change for there to be improvement is male achievement.

UK introduces new requirements for passengers arriving from Antigua and Barbuda

Passengers arriving in the United Kingdom from Antigua and Barbuda must now present a negative COVID-19 test for entry into the UK starting from Thursday 21st January.

A release from the British High Commission in St John's has confirmed that mandatory pre-departure testing for all inbound passengers to England from most countries in the world will begin from 4 a.m. Friday 15th January to safeguard public health. For arrivals from Antigua and Barbuda, this will come in to force for all passengers arriving from 4 a.m. UK time on Thursday 21st January.

All arrivals must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from a test taken no more than three (3) days prior to departure.

Detailed guidance for passengers published today on gov.uk

Operators have the right to refuse boarding for passengers without a negative result and completed passenger locator form in the coming weeks – and those found travelling without the

right documents risk being fined £500

Antigua and Barbuda remains on the UK's 'Travel Corridors' list so arrivals from the country will not need to self-isolate on arrival. However, all travellers must follow the UK's national lockdown rules

The move will bolster existing measures already in place to guard against a concerning increase in new variants of COVID-19 circulating internationally.

Detailed guidance published on gov.uk today sets out how passengers should follow the new rules – including the details of documents needed for travel and the types of test accepted.

Before travelling, passengers will need to find a provider that meets the standards set out on gov.uk – the majority of which will be Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests. If passengers do not use a PCR test they should request that their test provider includes the sensitivity and specificity of the test on their test result certificate.

Prior to departure, passengers will be required to

present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result to transport operators, as well as their passenger locator form. Carriers may deny boarding to those who do not have a negative test result. The UK Border Force will conduct spot checks on arrival into England, with passengers who arrive at the border without proof of a negative result subject to an immediate £500 fine.

A limited number of exemptions will be in place, including but not exclusive to children under the age of 11, hauliers – to allow the free flow of freight – and air, international rail and maritime crew. Passengers who fail to complete a test, without a reasonable excuse, will commit a criminal offence and face a £500 fine.

There will also be exceptions for passengers travelling from countries without the infrastructure to deliver an adequate test, including St Helena, Ascension Island and the Falklands. Short-term temporary exceptions will apply to four additional destinations so that Britons are able to return home.

The current advice for

those across the UK remains that you must stay at home and not travel abroad unless it is for a permitted exempt reason. For people arriving from countries not on the Travel Corridor list, they will still be required to complete a mandatory self-isolation period, and the Travel Corridors list is regularly reviewed to manage the risk of imported cases of COVID-19 from high-risk countries.

Passengers still have the option to reduce their self-isolation period as part of the Test to Release scheme launched last month, unless they have been in South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Zambia or Zimbabwe in the ten days prior to their arrival in England.

All travellers will still be required to complete a Passenger Locator Form before arrival into England. On arrival into England, Border Force will check passengers' test certificates and Passenger Locator Forms through the current spot check regime.

Viral video raises eyebrows

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) is distancing itself from a video produced by one of the CIU agents.

The CIU notes with great concern the circulation of a video which has regrettably been determined/ concluded to be authorized promotion of the national investment programme.

The CIU advises that the video and its contents are currently being investigated by the Unit. In the interim, the Unit is assuring the public, and all its stakeholders, that the tone and nature of the video are not representative of the programme's operations nor of any approved promotional material.

A further statement on the matter

will be issued in due course. The management and staff of the Citizenship by Investment Unit continue to conduct the business of this important investment agency with the highest degree of care for the integrity of our national travel document as well as with the greatest regard for the security of the borders of all countries.

COVID-19 Recommendation: More regional information sharing

Now that most Caribbean countries are facing mounting challenges regarding the spread of the COVID-19, there is a call for more information-sharing among the leadership regarding the issue.

Making the call is Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who noted that the problem has reached major proportions in several Caribbean states. "I am making this call for a meeting of the heads as we have witnessed the escalation of the spread of the vi-

rus across the region. We ought to be discussing increasing our levels of coordination, the sharing of information and best practices along with technical assistance from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)," he explained.

The prime minister recalled that when the country reopened its borders in June there were many inquiries from other CARICOM states who wanted information on the measures Antigua and

Barbuda had to in place to contain the spread of the virus.

"That level of dialogue among regional heads is very important," he emphasized.

PM Browne noted that scientists have been warning that the winter months would bring more potent variants of the virus with heavier viral loads.

He added that Antigua and Barbuda has had some success in managing the virus, but he is issuing a word of caution to

the nation that this is not a time to become complacent.

"We have to redouble our efforts to protect ourselves, our families and the nation. Despite our successes, we still need to be vigilant as this could also affect the economic recovery we anticipate," he stated.

The Antigua and Barbuda government is forecasting economic recovery for 2021 at an estimated five per cent of GDP.

Antigua and Barbuda attends virtual CARICOM meeting

CARICOM Heads of Government Tuesday reconvened their 13th Special Meeting of Conference through virtual means, with only a few items on their agenda. Prime Minister Gaston Browne led Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the meeting.

Sources close to the meeting noted that in a previous meeting Heads had accepted a framework presented by Barbados Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, for a CARICOM Economic Recovery and Transformation (CERT) initiative. The initiative was designed to secure liquidity that would buttress a process of economic revitalization, to achieve debt re-financing and to provide

support for the balance of payments of member states. A working committee was established and this committee presented its report at Tuesday's meeting.

The report looked at financing gaps and examined ways in which international financial institutions, especially the International Monetary Fund (IMF), could be helpful.

The meeting looked at the efficacy of a regional approach to mobilizing IMF resources, including coordinating presentations to the IMF Executive Board.

While Heads agreed that a coordinated dialogue should continue with the IMF, it was more difficult to find consensus

on detailed policy issues, largely because each of the CARICOM member states was in a different position financially and each country's debt profile differs also.

According to the source, Antigua and Barbuda was strong on the issue that the CARICOM coordinated approach should press the IMF to design bespoke financial instruments particularly tailored to the unique circumstances of CARICOM member states.

In this context, the question of the financing for emerging COVID-19 vaccines was also discussed by Heads and several options were examined.

Heads were also briefed by President Ir-

faan Ali of Guyana on the latest developments regarding the ongoing border controversy between his country and Venezuela. The meeting issued a separate statement on this issue.

Heads also discussed the recent statement by the US State Department that it was placing Cuba on its list of state sponsors of terrorism, and a separate statement was issued condemning the unilateral US move.

PM Browne was accompanied to the meeting by Ambassador Colin Murdoch, senior advisor in Office of the Prime Minister, and desk officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Janelle Matthew and Kyrach Carbone.

Tourism Authority partners to develop 'Explore Antigua' mobile app and tourist map

Hashtag Communications, with the endorsement of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, has announced the release of a new and interactive tourist map through technology.

Packaged in a mobile application dubbed 'Explore Antigua', the undertaking is yet another indication of the island's commitment to safe travel and tourist experience.

With social distanc-

ing and reduced physical contact being the new normal the world over, the Explore Antigua App has sought to marry technology with adventure and ease of discovery.

It features hotels, restaurants and bars and popular tourist attractions around the island and is complete with a Google-integrated map for GPS navigation.

The app, which is available free for down-

load in the Google Play and Apple iOS stores, will be a feature at all ports of entry, leading hotels, restaurants and bars, car rental companies and other locations island wide. Visitors and residents alike will all have the opportunity to access the technology through a simple QR Code scan or by visiting the relevant stores for direct download.

Although the physical copy of the tourist map will be made available in limited supply, emphasis will be placed on using the app in keeping with protocols.

Since the reopening of its borders in June 2020, Antigua and Barbuda has seen a steady climb in visitor arrival and the return of some semblance of normalcy to the tourism business community.

It is hoped that the application will bring further comfort and freedom of movement throughout the island.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James, said, "The COVID-19 pandemic called for our tourism sector stakeholders to quickly adapt their business, and make the most of digital technology in order to safely communicate their messages to travellers. We

congratulate Hashtag Communications on the development of this app, which will impact the way travellers navigate the country now and post pandemic."

His sentiments were echoed by Managing Director of Hashtag Communications, Alex Holder, who added, "Technology has allowed us to break barriers and with the global climate being what it is today, we are now forced to think outside of the box and create what was previously unthought of. We expect a lot of usage from our millennial and budget travellers who rely on technology to get around."

Hashtag Communications is a public relations, advertising, marketing and design company in Antigua.

"It is also our hope that visitors, residents and businesses take full advantage of the platform. The more the tracking system is used the more accurate our geolocation system becomes, which then makes it easier to find what you want, where you want, when you want," Holder said.

Together Antigua and Barbuda will again cement its presence on the global tourism stage.



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Sir Ronald Sanders named to London University Committee on the Future of Commonwealth Studies

Veteran Caribbean diplomat, Sir Ronald Sanders, has been named to a ten-person committee to conduct an inquiry into the future of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London.

The announcement of the Committee members was made Monday by the University's Vice Chancellor Professor Wendy Thompson. The Committee will be chaired by Sir Malcolm Rifkind, a former Defense and Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of the British Government.

Sir Ronald, who is Antigua and Barbuda's Am-

bassador to the United States and the Organisation of American States (OAS), has been involved in Commonwealth matters in various capacities since 1982. His scholarly work on the Commonwealth has been widely published and he was the Rapporteur of the Eminent Persons Group, created by Head of Government to make recommendations on reform of the Commonwealth in 2011.

Ambassador Sanders said Monday: "I am delighted to serve on this important Committee. The Commonwealth has been a significant actor in world

politics - for instance in ending Apartheid in South Africa. Because of its diverse membership, it has the capacity to help the world negotiate solutions to global problems. Therefore, Commonwealth studies are important to University teaching and research."

Other members of the Committee are drawn from the academic community and include Professor Asha Kanwar, President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning and Dr Joanna Newman, Chief Executive and Secretary General of The Association

of Commonwealth Universities.

From the practical world of Commonwealth relations, other Committee members are Mr. Stephen Twigg, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Mr. Michael Kirby, former Justice of the High Court of Australia.

The Committee will hold its first meeting on 21st January under Sir Malcolm's leadership. It is expected to take evidence from across the Commonwealth and submit its report and recommendations by June 2021.

Vernon Jeffers steps down from ABHTA chairmanship



Vernon A. Jeffers Snr.

Vernon A. Jeffers Snr., who served as Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) from

May 2019 to January 2021, has stepped down as from the post.

"This past year has been one of challenges, resilience and change. However, for me, it has been one of reflection and growth. Twenty-twenty was the most challenging period for our Tourism Industry and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the membership of the ABHTA and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda as we managed our way through the pandemic," Jeffers stated in a letter to the membership.

According to Jeffers, he is taking up a new role and must step away from the position of ABHTA Chairman. "It has been an extreme honour to have served in this capacity to support such a vibrant sector. Our industry will

again reach to record breaking levels; however, we must now navigate very carefully through these difficult times. I would like to offer my appreciation to all members of the ABHTA and our various industry partners for their support and collaboration during my tenure," he concluded.

The ABHTA said its first vice chairman, Alex de Brito has assumed the role as interim Chairman to the Board of Directors. De Brito remarked that "The Association has benefited greatly from the Chairmanship of Jeffers. The pandemic presented a significant challenge to the membership of the Association. However, Jeffers' leadership was invaluable and helped to chart the course during a very uncertain time.

Antigua and Barbuda included in St Lucia travel bubble

The St Lucia government announced a travel bubble overnight that lists Antigua and Barbuda as part of this travel arrangement.

"Due to the continued transmission of COVID-19 in many countries globally and within the Caribbean Region, the Government of Saint Lucia has updated its original policy of September 22, 2020, based on the OECS Recommendations on the Reopening of Borders, and implements the following," the government release said.

Under the new protocols, all incoming

passengers (including persons from the Caribbean bubble) should present with a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than seven days prior to travel.

All non-national arriving passengers from destinations outside the 'bubble' will be allocated at a COVID-19 approved accommodation site.

All arriving passengers from destinations within the 'bubble' will be exempt from the fourteen days of quarantine if presenting a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than seven days prior

to travel. In addition, all arriving passengers from within the 'bubble' must have travelled directly (been in-transit for less than twenty-four hours) from a country within the bubble and have been in that country for at least twenty-one days. All arriving passengers from within the 'bubble' who have been in-transit in a country outside of the 'bubble' will be subjected to fourteen days of quarantine.

All returning nationals from destinations outside the "bubble" will be subject to fourteen days of quarantine.

As of 12th January, 2021, the following countries/territories form a part of the Caribbean Bubble: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Effective 12th January, 2021, all persons from outside of this updated 'Caribbean Bubble' will be required to present with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result taken no more than days prior to travel and complete a mandatory fourteen days of quarantine.

Dates set for Barbuda Council elections

The date for Local Government elections in Barbuda has been set.

A statement issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) said the Barbuda Local Government Elections are set to take place on Monday, 29th March, 2021.

"In light of this, the deadline for new registrants to register, to be eligible to vote in the March 2021 Barbuda Council Elections, is January 31st 2021," the statement said.

Supervisor of Elections Lorna Simon said the Barbuda Local Government Act (Cap 44) outlines the provisions for the conduct of Barbuda Council Elections. The elections are constitutionally due to take place every two years.

The Supervisor of Elections is in charge of the conduct of the Elections. This will then be followed by the appointment of a Returning Officer, Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks for the purpose of the elections.

The name of eligible voters will appear on the Register of Electors and only those persons will be entitled to cast their ballot. Voters will be required to use their Electoral Identification Card in the election.

Simon explained that there are eleven seats on the Barbuda Council; however, this year only five seats will be contested.

Council secretary, Paul Nedd, identified the council members whose term of office now come

to an end. They are the Barbuda People's Movement's Kendra Beazer, Wade Burton and Nadine George; and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's, Senator Knacyntha Nedd and McKeisha Desousa.

He said the BPM will hold primary elections during the first week in February to select its slate of candidates for the election.

There will be a formal announcement on the ABLP's decision regarding the elections.

HRPAB a retrospective look

It has been said that “Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come”.

The field of Human Resources Management is a demanding one. HR Practitioners are expected to walk the tightrope of balancing company interests and priorities, with employee needs. It requires juggling the demands of CEOs and GMs while navigating the demands of employees and their representatives. All this in an everchanging environment often with limited financial resources. How can HR Managers meet this challenge, develop the profession, and have a voice in national development? How can HR Practitioners meet these varying sometimes conflicting interests while being mindful of their own wellness and supporting each other? It was based on these questions that the idea of an association of persons working in Human Resources was born back in the mid-2000s.

In those early years, there were informal ad hoc meetings for lunch or after work where we bounced ideas, got advice, and discussed ways to develop and advance the profession locally. The driving force of J Arlene Martin an Industrial Relations Specialist at the Employers Federation and Desiree Edwards an HR Consultant picked up pace to formalize the organization. Meetings were first held at the Antigua and Barbuda Employers’ Federation’s (ABEF) office then located on High Street which was a central location as most persons represented companies which were Federation members. The ABEF was supportive as it saw the benefit of the formation of an HR Association to advance HR best practices for their members and the wider business community. HRPAB’s goals are to promote best practices, develop professionalism and advocate for human resources as our country’s most valuable developmental asset. We aim to



achieve these goals through professional development of members, adoption of best practices in our daily functions, networking with colleagues regionally and internationally, conducting research in our field and taking opportunities to bring our perspective to discussions on national development.

After ten years we are proud of our existence and accomplishments in achieving most of these goals. Our membership currently stands at fifty-five and represents private and public sector organizations drawn from various industries such as financial services, tourism, hospitality, distributive trades, and general business. Among our ranks are a few independent consultants who have regional and international experience at the executive management level. Our members participate in national development through our representation on the National Labor Board and on the Economic Recovery Commission and publication of regular articles for print media, as well as appearances on Labor Matters.

We are proud to have partnered with the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority to develop and facilitate the “HR Management for Small Business” course in their “Mind Your Business” training series. We are also very proud that HRPAB submitted a White Paper of Recommendations for the Update of the Antigua and Barbuda Labor Code (ABLC). We would love to see a modern, easy to read progressive document, relevant long into the future. While

this has not yet been adopted, we remain optimistic that, it will be a reality soon.

We have expanded our regional reach and are affiliated with and active in the Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals (CSHRP) as well as the CaribHR Forum. Our President Mr. Laurie Louard is Antigua and Barbuda’s representative on the Executive Board of CSHRP. We have members who now hold international certifications via the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) in the USA and the Council for Industrial and Personnel Development (CIPD) in the UK. We continue to advocate for certification of our members.

What does the future hold for HRPAB? Our time has come and we intend to continue to grow as we promote resilience and professionalism while we apply modern best practices in our workplaces and contribute to harmonious industrial relations as we advance HR in Antigua and Barbuda for national development.

We welcome HR Practitioners to be a part of our community. More information can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages @HRPro268 or by emailing us at: hr-pro.ab@gmail.com

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

Dominican Entertainer charged with murder



Crestwell Nehemie Leblanc aka Ruler

(Dominicanewsonline): Crestwell Nehemie Leblanc, known in entertainment circles as Ruler, has been charged for the murder of a Portsmouth man, Martin Merrifield.

Leblanc appeared before the Portsmouth Magistrate court Monday where the charge was read to him. Since the matter is indictable he was not required to enter a plea.

He was previously charged with attempted murder and grievous bodily harm (GBH) but the prosecution made an application to the court to have these two previous charges withdrawn and upgraded to murder as Merrifield has since suc-

cumbed to injuries sustained on December 10, 2020 after Leblanc allegedly attacked him with a brick.

Leblanc was returned to the state prison at Stockfarm where he is serving a six-year sentence for summary conviction offences which were committed in the Portsmouth District.

The Preliminary Inquiry (PI) for the murder charge is expected to commence on April 6, 2021, to determine if there is enough evidence for the matter to be tried at the High Court before a Judge and jury.

Leblanc is represented by Attorney-at-Law Peter Alleyne of the Legal Aid Clinic.

BVI - UK to take back funds given to RDA

(BVI News): The United Kingdom will be pulling its contributions from the Recovery Development Agency (RDA) – the body which was set up after the 2017 disasters to manage fund for the rebuilding process.

Premier Andrew Fahie said the UK government will be pulling its contributions by the end of the first quarter of 2021 because they don't agree with his government's revised version of the previous NDP administration's Recovery & Development Plan.

Among other things, the revised plan makes more contracts available to locals and allows for the BVI to

renegotiate the terms and conditions of loans offered by lending institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

But Premier Fahie said the UK has signalled that the revised plan is not what they initially agreed to.

"During the budget [preparations], we learned that they not only disagreed with the revised Recovery & Development Plan, but they're pulling out their funding from the RDA come March or April," Premier Fahie explained.

"The reason they are pulling out their funding is that the Recovery & Development Plan was done from them (the

UK) to the RDA. But the revised Recovery & Development Plan was not what they agreed to initially, so the funding from the RDA, they're pulling out ... How can you claim freedom from BREXIT but we can't claim freedom from certain documents with you?" Premier Fahie questioned.

The local government is the biggest contributor to the RDA having contributed some \$10 million as of October 2020.

"External grants and philanthropic funders" account for \$2.8 million.

Last October, the UK government handed over some \$250,000 to assist the BVI in re-

building two important public buildings in the BVI.

Of the total amount, \$187,000 was allocated to assist with constructing a new Magistrate's Court while \$70,000 was earmarked for rebuilding Road Town Police Station.

At that time, Governor Jaspert said after the 2017 hurricanes, the BVI received two UK government grants of \$17 million and \$14 million.

He also said some public buildings including the Virgin Gorda Police Barracks, the Jost Van Dyke Admin Complex and the temporary courts, were built with funds from the UK.

CARICOM Statement on Venezuela/Guyana land dispute

(Caricom): The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is deeply disappointed and concerned at the decree and subsequent statements by Venezuela with respect to that country's border controversy with Guyana,

including intimations of the creation of a strategic area of national development called "Territory for the Development of the Atlantic Façade".

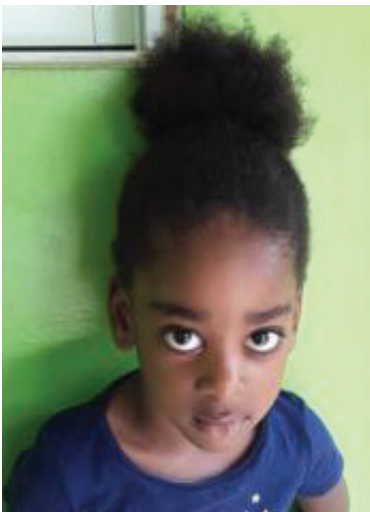
The Caribbean Community is in full support of the judicial process underway

at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which is intended to bring a peaceful and definitive end to the long-standing controversy between the two countries.

CARICOM reiterates in the strongest possible

terms its firm and unswerving support for the maintenance and preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana. CARICOM firmly repudiates any acts of aggression by Venezuela against Guyana.

Deadly Family Feud 4-year old Killed In Her Sleep



Four-year-old Chloe Brown was shot in her sleep inside her Freeman's Hall home in Trelawny on Monday morning. She later succumbed to her injuries.

common-law wife and four-year-old daughter Chloe, along with two other female relatives, shortly after 1 a.m. when he was alerted to an intruder.

He discovered a masked gunman standing in the vicinity of his bed and bravely tried to overpower the invader. During the ensuing struggle, the gunman opened fire and hit Brown in the leg, causing him to fall to the ground. He fired another round, which struck the sleeping Chloe in her abdomen, before fleeing the scene.

Brown and his daughter were taken to the Mandeville Regional Hospital in the neighbouring parish of Manchester, where the child was pronounced dead and Brown admitted in serious but stable condition.

When The Gleaner visited Freeman's Hall yes-

terday, scores of residents of the community, which is some three miles out from Albert Town, had gathered at the scene of the crime to offer words of comfort to Chloe's grieving mother, who was too distraught to speak.

Superintendent Kirk Ricketts, the commander for the Trelawny Police Division, told The Gleaner that preliminary investigations are suggesting that the shooting was sparked by a family dispute.

"We have two persons in custody, a brother of the victim, Mr Dalton Brown, and another individual, who, based on information, would have been the shooter. We are pretty pleased with the results of the investigations and believe that there is a strong possibility that charges could be laid soon," said Ricketts.

The suspected trig-

german is reportedly from Kingston, but has been living in Freeman's Hall for quite some time.

Norman Brown, one of the injured man's brothers, confirmed that there was an ongoing feud between his brothers after ground provisions were removed from Brown's farm last week.

The two brothers then reportedly had an altercation at a birthday celebration on Sunday.

Yesterday, Lisa Hill, the Child Protection and Family Services Agency officer for Trelawny, also turned up to offer prayers and comfort the family, along with the Reverend Owen Watson and Sergeant Wayne Wallace, the sub-officer in charge of Trelawny Community Safety and Security Branch.

Investigations continue.

(Jamaica-gleaner): When strange sounds inside their Freeman's Hall, Trelawny, home awakened members of a family early yesterday morning, they discovered a masked gunman who was about to unleash unspeakable terror into their lives.

According to the police, Dalton Brown was at home with his

Disneyland to become mass US Covid vaccination site

(BBC): California's Disneyland theme park is set to become a massive Covid-19 vaccination site this week, county officials announced on Monday.

The "happiest place on earth" is one of several large distribution sites opening up in the state as cases soar and hospitals near capacity.

The most populous US state has lagged behind in its vaccination rate, doling out around a third of its doses so far.

The state reported just under 40,000 new cases on Monday and 264 deaths.

California ranks 42nd out of 50 states in its vaccination rate per 100,000 residents, according to Centers for Disease Control data.

The Disneyland resort in Orange County will become the region's first "super" distribution site, Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do said on Monday. It will have the capacity to vaccinate thousands of people daily.

The park has been closed to visitors since mid-March - unlike its sister resort, Walt Disney World in Florida, which has been open to re-



duced numbers of guests since July.

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced similar vaccination sites would be opening up as early as this week at Los Angeles' Dodger Stadium, Cal Expo in Sacramento and Petco Park in San Diego.

"We recognise that the current strategy is not going to get us to where we need to go as quickly as we all need to go," Mr Newsom said.

"That's why we're speeding up the administration not just for priority groups but opening up large sites

to do so."

The state's current vaccination campaign is focusing on high priority individuals, like health care workers and long-term care facility residents.

The Golden State has the third highest death rate in the country.

More than 22,600 people have been admitted to hospital due to the virus, and state data shows that as of Monday, just over 1,200 intensive care beds were still available statewide.

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In rare joint message, top U.S. military leaders condemn Capitol riot



U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley

(Reuters): The U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, the uniformed leaders of the different military branches, on Tuesday put out a rare joint message to service members saying the violent riots last week were an assault America's Constitutional process and against the law.

The message breaks nearly a week of silence by the military leaders after the assault on the Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump sent lawmakers into hiding and left five people dead.

While a number of Trump's cabinet members, including acting Defense Secretary Chris Miller, had condemned the violent

storming, the top U.S. general, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley, had been silent until now.

"The violent riot in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021 was a direct assault on the U.S. Congress, the Capitol building, and our Constitutional process," the seven generals and one admiral said in an internal memo to troops, adding that the military remained committed to protecting and defending the Constitution.

"The rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection," the memo, obtained by Reu-

ters, said.

"Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only against our traditions, values, and oath; it is against the law."

U.S. officials said Milley had not commented on last week's events because he wanted to stay out of politics.

The silence was in sharp contrast to June, when Milley made a controversial walk to a church with Trump after law enforcement officers backed by National Guard troops used tear-inducing chemicals and rubber bullets to clear the area of peaceful protesters.

Some service members have privately expressed

concern that they had not been getting any direction from senior leaders in the aftermath of the harrowing attack on American democracy on Wednesday.

There has also been a renewed focus at extremism within the U.S. military after the Capitol storming, with a large proportion of service members being white and male.

The Army told Reuters on Tuesday that it was working with the FBI to see if any attackers were current service members and with the Secret Service to see if any of the nearly 10,000 National Guard troops securing President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration would need additional screening.

Large number of deaths reported in mother-children homes across Ireland

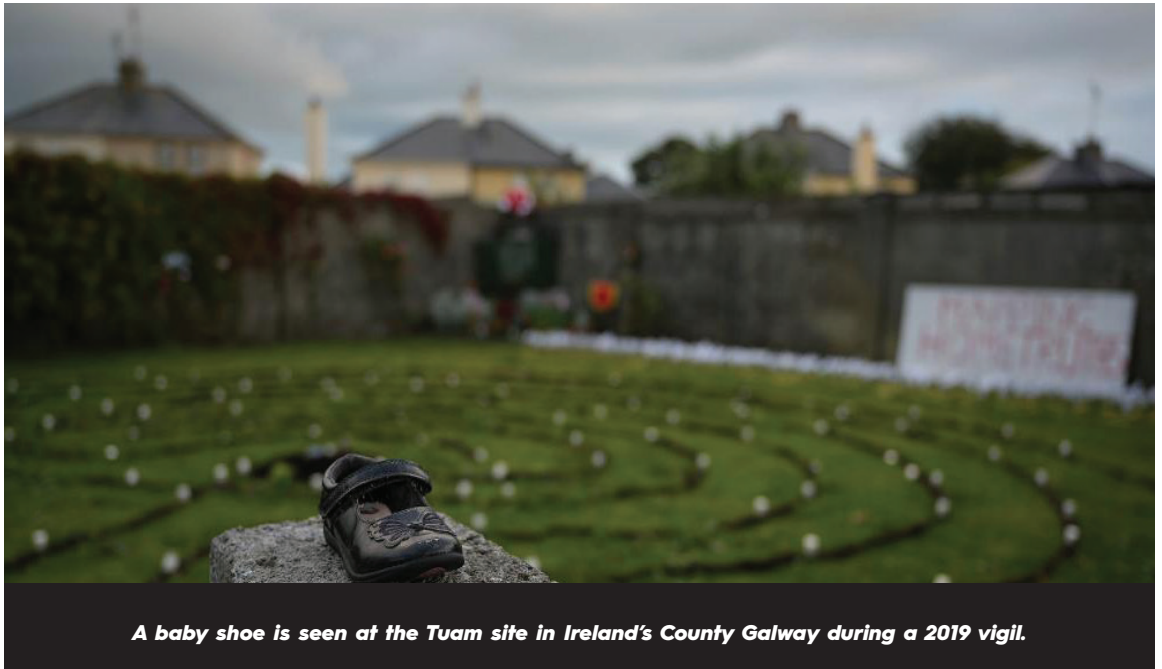
(CNN): Thousands of babies and children died in 18 of Ireland's mother and baby homes -- church-run institutions where unmarried women were sent to deliver their babies in secret, often against their will -- over eight decades, according to a landmark report.

On Tuesday, the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes and Certain Related Matters -- which was set up to investigate what happened in 14 mother and baby homes and four county homes from 1922 to 1998 -- announced the 9,000 deaths as part of the final findings of its near six-year inquiry.

Around 56,000 people -- from girls as young as 12, to women in their 40s -- were sent to the 18 institutions investigated, where some 57,000 children were born, according to the report.

One in seven of those children (15%) didn't survive long enough to leave the homes, yet no alarm was raised by the State over the high mortality rates, even though it was "known to local and national authorities" and was "recorded in official publications," the report found.

Prior to 1960, mother and baby homes "did not save the lives of 'illegitimate' children; in fact, they appear to have significantly reduced their prospects of survival," it



A baby shoe is seen at the Tuam site in Ireland's County Galway during a 2019 vigil.

said.

The report called the infant mortality rates the most "disquieting feature of these institutions."

Speaking on Tuesday, Taoiseach Micheál Martin said that the report "opens a window onto a deeply misogynistic culture in Ireland over several decades," and that the report "reveals significant failures of the state and of society."

The report, which runs to more than 2,800 pages, was released just days after its key findings were leaked to a national newspaper -- compounding the pain and anguish of survivors who have waited years for the final report -- and who had been promised a first view of it by the Minister of Children.

Susan Lohan, co-founder of the Adoption Rights Alliance and a member of a dedicated survivors

group appointed to advise the government, told CNN on Tuesday that the leaked extracts of the report, seen on Sunday, show that the Irish government may seek to "trivialize" the human rights abuses that took place on a "massive scale" inside of these homes.

Survivor Philomena Lee, who spent years searching for the son she was forced to give up for adoption said in a statement on Sunday that she had "waited decades for this moment -- the moment when Ireland reveals how tens of thousands of unmarried mothers, such as I, and the tens of thousands of our beloved children, such as my dear son Anthony, were torn asunder, simply because we were unwed at the moment our children were born."

During her time at the

Sean Ross Abbey mother and baby home, Lee said that she was "deprived" of her liberty, independence and autonomy, and was "subject to the tyranny of the nuns," who told mothers daily that they were to atone for their sins by "working for our keep and surrendering our children to the nuns for forced adoption."

Lee, whose story was told in an Oscar-nominated movie starring Judi Dench, added that she was "taunted" by the nuns during a difficult labor, who she says told her that the "pain was a punishment for my promiscuity."

The commission's final report reported that this practice was not unusual.

For many survivors and advocate groups, there is concern that the report fails to vindicate their experience.

Bobi Wine, the pop star seeking to unseat Uganda's longtime ruler



Music star-turned-opposition leader is seen as posing the strongest challenge to longtime President Yoweri Museveni's bid to win a sixth term

(Aljazeera): Bobi Wine, Uganda's most prominent opposition figure, cut a lonely figure as he addressed journalists in central Kampala on Tuesday, two days before a tense presidential election.

Most of the team of the music star-turned-politician who is taking on the country's president of 35 years have been imprisoned during a campaign season marred by deadly violence.

Scores of his supporters were killed in November and others badly wounded as police violently broke down opposition rallies, often firing tear gas and rub-

ber bullets.

Bobi Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, has been repeatedly arrested himself and in recent weeks campaigned in a flak jacket and ballistic helmet.

"We, the leaders, are servants; you are the true masters, take your destiny in your hands," he urged Ugandans on Tuesday. "It is going to be a revolutionary election, let this be a protest vote."

Bobi Wine, 38, is half the age of Uganda's long-serving President Yoweri Museveni, a 76-year-old former rebel leader who seized

power in 1986 – and has held onto it since.

Before his entry into politics, Bobi Wine was a self-styled "ghetto president". He grew up in Kamwokya, a slum in the centre of Kampala, with dozens of siblings and half-siblings.

It was there where he began making music, producing a number of reggae, pop and hip hop hits. But his music became increasingly political over time. In songs such as Rise Up and Freedom, he complained about corruption and called for change. And in 2017, Bobi Wine was elected as an independent MP for

Kyadondo East, winning by a landslide.

He rose to international attention in August 2018 when he was arrested in in Arua, northwestern Uganda, and his driver was shot dead. In prison, Bobi Wine says he was tortured.

When he was released on bail, he travelled to the United States, gathering support and getting medical treatment.

Since last July, Bobi Wine has been the leader of the National Unity Platform. Before that, his movement was known as "People Power," with its members distinguishable by their red berets, until the government banned the wearing of them in 2019.

In his spacious home in Magere, northern Kampala, he has readily welcomed journalists – both local and foreign – over the past few years.

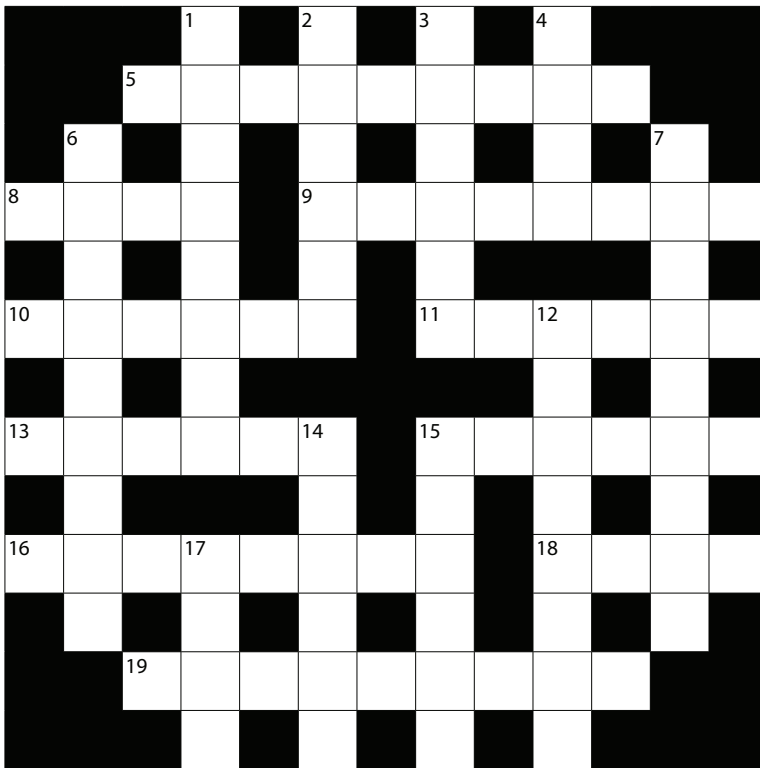
In contrast, Museveni rarely grants interviews, preferring instead to talk at length in televised speeches.

Bobi Wine has also recognised and sought to harness the power of social media.

He is followed around by supportive live-streamers, who broadcast his activities on a series of social media pages. In Thursday's election, he is encouraging voters to film any wrongdoing they witness at polling stations, as a way to gather evidence.

"Use your phones, use your cameras," he instructed them. "Your phone is a very powerful weapon".

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Fiftieth anniversary (6,7)
- 8 Cowboy's hat (7)
- 9 Elaine Stritch's Ladies Who ____ (5)
- 10 Supplied with footwear (4)
- 11 Old Spanish gold coin (8)
- 13 Andean vulture (6)
- 14 Major Chinese technology company (6)
- 17 French farewell (2,6)
- 19 Backhander (informal) (4)
- 21 On a target, the ring next to the bullseye (5)
- 22 Constructor (7)
- 24 Operetta by Franz Lehár (3,5,5)

Down

- 1 Fuel for US automobiles? (3)
- 2 Short rest (3-4)
- 3 Alleviate (4)
- 4 Younger (6)
- 5 Attack physically or verbally (8)
- 6 Language (informal) (5)
- 7 Making more attractive (9)
- 10 Left-winger (9)
- 12 Opposite (8)
- 15 Injured (7)
- 16 Feller's warning cry (6)
- 18 Line of mountains (5)
- 20 Opinion (4)
- 23 Uncooked (3)

DAILY COMICS

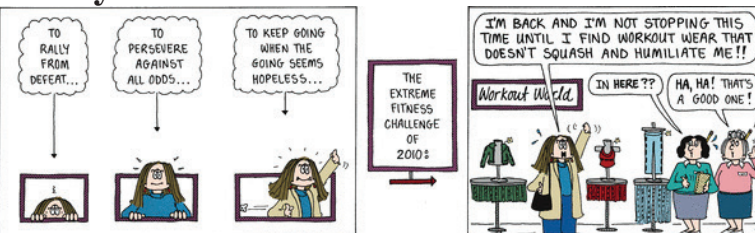
Dilbert



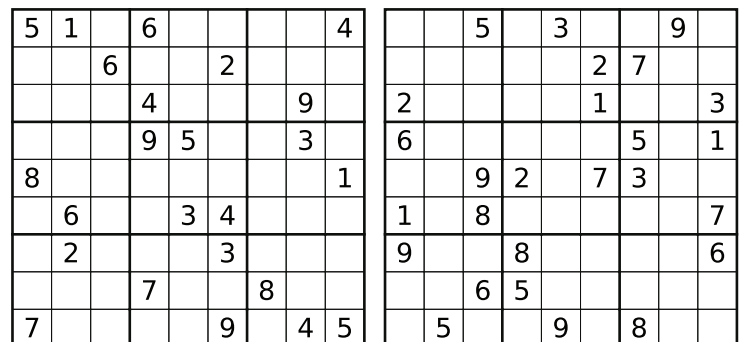
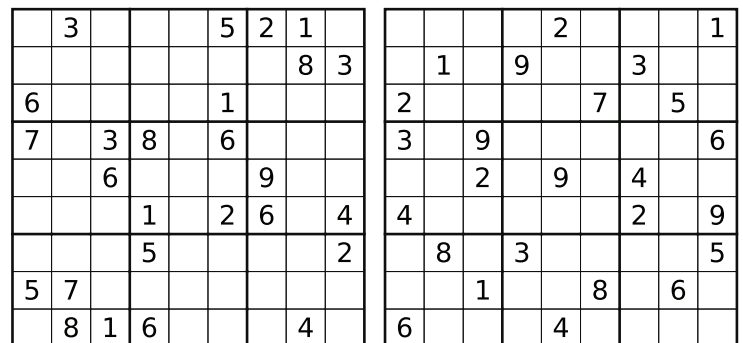
Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU




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

WED
01/13



81° Hi
DAY
Partial sunshine with a shower; breezy

74° Lo
NIGHT
Partly cloudy

Sunrise 6:40 AM Sunset 5:52 PM Moonrise 7:04 AM Moonset 6:28 PM

THU
01/14



82° Hi
DAY
Sunshine and patchy clouds with a shower in places

74° Lo
NIGHT
Patchy clouds

Sunrise 6:40 AM Sunset 5:53 PM Moonrise 7:57 AM Moonset 7:28 PM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Getting into a blue mood is nothing that you need to worry about. It's something you should respect. A downward mood swing isn't the end of the world. It's just your mind telling you that you need to slow down a bit.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

You are starting a contemplative phase of life right now, but you don't have to worry that it will negatively affect your social life. Luckily, one or two of your closest friends are also feeling moody and homebound.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Your deep feelings about a controversial issue might not be well received by the company you keep today, so try to avoid bringing it up. It's a privacy matter. Protecting yourself from criticism is the right thing to do right now.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

If you're feeling indecisive about your feelings for someone right now, you should give yourself more time to figure it all out. You can't move forward in any type of relationship unless you feel comfortable that you know who you're dealing with.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

An issue might pop up at home today, and you should drop everything to address to it. It's time to nurture your family life more anyway. With so much going on, it can be easy to overlook the needs of the people who just love you for you, but this is a mistake.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Listen to others when they suggest you do something you're not totally comfortable doing. Their objectivity enables them to see this as a growing opportunity for you, and it's one you could really benefit from.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

The problems of other people don't interest you too much right now, and even juicy gossip doesn't thrill you the way it used to. Right now you're much more self-involved, which is quite a switch for you.

SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Does it feel like while you've been taking things at a leisurely pace and enjoying the view everyone else has zoomed ahead of you? Don't compare yourself too closely to other people right now. Focus on your own strengths and goals.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your imagination is an unpredictable thing. Sometimes it creates an idea for your future that is possible and positive. And sometimes it comes up with darker, worst-case scenarios. Obviously, that thinking gets you nowhere.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You're feeling open and generous today, which makes you an excellent working partner. You won't be expected to give up much of what you have, but the act of giving will make you feel good inside.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Emotionally speaking, this day will be partly cloudy, so prepare yourself for being less than terrifically cheerful all the way through it. But don't get too hung up on this chance of showers. Get ready to call a close friend if you need them.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Someone's exciting personal life is going to stop being so entertaining and start becoming pretty darned annoying. Their emotional upheaval is getting to be too much to handle. The good news is that you have no responsibility whatsoever for handling it.

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.

EARLY 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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Four Windies players drafted for PSL

Four West Indies players were drafted to participate in the Pakistan Super League, following the 2021 draft held in Lahore on Sunday.

They are the legendary Chris Gayle, Chadwick Walton, Sherfane Rutherford and Carlos Brathwaite. Each team

was required to select 16 players in the draft: three from the platinum, diamond and gold categories, five silver, and two each from the emergency and supplementary categories.

Gayle, arguably the best T20 batsman of all time, was a platinum se-

lection for the Quetta Gladiators, while Rutherford was a diamond selection for Peshawar Zalmi.

Chadwick Walton was selected from the gold category by the Karachi Kings, and Multan Sultans selected Brathwaite as a supplementary

player. Evin Lewis and Dwayne Bravo are two players who had reportedly registered for the draft but went undrafted.

Ninety players from the Caribbean registered for the draft, the most from any country or territory.

Portland Thorns target Trinity Rodman, daughter of Dennis Rodman in the NWSL draft



Trinity Rodman, daughter of former NBA star Dennis Rodman

Professional sports are about to welcome another Rodman into the world.

The National Women's Soccer League on Tuesday announced its list of players in Wednesday's NWSL draft, and Trinity Rodman is on the list. The freshman forward at Washington State, daughter of NBA Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman, is expected to be a first-round pick.

The 5-foot-10 forward from Newport Beach, California, was the No. 1 recruit in the nation in 2020 but will leave Washington State without ever playing a collegiate game, as the 2020 season was postponed to spring 2021 because of COVID-19.

Trinity Rodman has played in the U.S. national team system for years, and helped the United States win the CONCACAF under-20 women's championship

last March, scoring two goals in the final in a 4-1 victory over Mexico.

The Portland Thorns have one pick in the first round (No. 7 overall), one in the second (No. 12), one in the third (No. 22) and two in the fourth (Nos. 32 and 37). The draft will stream live on Twitch starting at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Last year the Thorns selected Sophia Smith and Morgan Weaver with the top two overall picks. Weaver, like Trinity Rodman, came out of Washington State.

Dennis Rodman won five NBA championships with the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls and was named to the NBA Hall of Fame in 2011.

He re-entered the news in 2020 during the 10-part "Last Dance" series on ESPN built around Michael Jordan's final season with the Bulls in 1997-98.

Tuesday / Wednesday

Mid-Week EASE

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- 1 MEDIUM DRINK

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Club over country

West Indies, who are presently in Bangladesh, will start with a warm-up game on January 18, followed by the ODIs on 20th, 22nd, and 25th January.

It has been previously disclosed that the official ODI team captain Kieron Pollard opted not to tour, choosing instead to stay at home because of concerns regarding COVID-19 in Bangladesh.

Some analysts posit that Pollard's reason has more to do with burn-out

and not cricket, having to deal with the constant isolation bubble he has been subjected to recently. Also, not in Bangladesh is Test captain Jason Holder who has also withdrawn his availability from the series which starts 3rd to 15th February.

Cricket West Indies stated that any player who opted not to tour because of fears over health and safety will not be penalized. The concern some analysts is that some West Indies players such as

Shimron Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran and even captain Jason Holder are presently in Australia participating in the Big Bash League, yet are unavailable to visit Bangladesh with the West Indies team. It therefore seems that they have selected club over country.

Australia is also battling the deadly virus. Moreover, players are subjected to lockdown in Australia, yet they decided they are not going to Bangladesh. It seems that players are able to dictate to CWI

which trips they want to take and which to refuse.

This is not right in the eyes of many West Indies supporters since CWI is paying these players a monthly stipend. Nonetheless, these players turn their back on the West Indies and decide to play in countries that have the same COVID-19 concerns.

We can only wish our players presently in Bangladesh all the best and safe health. These players selected country over clubs.

'Kuma' seriously thinking about going back into coaching



Leon 'Kuma' Rodney president of ABCA

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA), Leon Kuma Rodney, is seriously considering whether to seek re-election to manage the sport locally.

Rodney, speaking to PointeXpress, said that the position of president of the ABCA cannot continue to be based on voluntarism. "If the constitution is not restructured to allow the position to at least receive a stipend I am not sure if I will continue," the former national coach said.

"I am a hard worker who is dedicated to the advancement of the sport and I spend long hours at the office, making sure the

best interest of cricket is looked after," Rodney stated. 'Kuma,' as he is called in the cricket fraternity, said he is looking at taking back up coaching as a profession.

Rodney explained that the ABCA has dropped the registration fee for clubs to assist them during the tough times of COVID-19.

The Super 40 League is expected to bowl off this weekend and Rodney said that most Leeward Hurricanes players who are presently on island will feature with a number of teams, in an effort to keep them sharp for Cricket West Indies Super 50 to be hosted here in Antigua starting next month.

Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves is seeking re-election

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves will seek re-election and is not worried about one of his executive members, Barbara Coates, declaring her intention to contest the election constitutionally due by December 2021.

The former national striker said there are some members who, if they are not fast tracked or able to leapfrog senior members, tend to take up their bat and ball and leave.

"I was responsible for bringing Coates into the ABFA executive as part of our drive to recruit more females at the top," said Gonsalves who was a guest on the PointeFM Touchline program on Tuesday.

Rated as one of the greatest strikers in the history



ABFA president Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves

of football in Antigua and Barbuda, Gonsalves noted that the feedback he has been receiving from the membership has been positive and he is confident he will be victorious when election comes around.

Consultations with the clubs will start today as the ABFA moves forward with the initiative to educate its members about bringing their constitutions in

line with that of FIFA where individuals are allowed to contest election only as part of a slate.

FIFA want its 211 members to bring their constitutions up to date to facilitate only slates. The ABFA will meet with first division clubs today, followed by meetings with second division and premier league clubs over the next two weeks.

Gonsalves noted that if re-elected he will focus on

assisting local clubs with upgrading their facilities, while intensifying his attention on the continued development of youth and Women's football on island.

All of the clubs have received their FIFA COVID-19 relief funds and the second disbursement is expected in the next eight weeks, Gonsalves explained.

'Batow,' as he is affectionately called in football circles, said he cannot give a definitive date on when football is expected to start playing competitively again and his executive is watching the situation day to day.

"We have the Super 50 cricket tournament coming up and the closest start point, if possible, would be summer," Gonsalves said. There is over US\$100,000.00 worth of equipment ready to assist the clubs when football restarts, the former Aston Villa striker said.

DEWS



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