



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2021

| ISSUE 217 |

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ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO FOR TODAY'S EXPANSION OF SCHOOLS' REOPENING

SEE PAGE 4



The two Celebrity Cruise vessels provide a beautiful scenery lit up at night at the Heritage Quay dock in the St John's Harbour
(Photo By-Shahein Fitzpatrick)

VACCINATION AT THE MARKET DEEMED A SUCCESS

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BACK TO THE FUTURE

Economically, it may not mean much: the arrival last weekend of two large cruise vessels from Celebrity Cruises. The vessels arrived in the St John's Harbour to 'lay-up' for up to a period of up to ten days in the case of one of the vessels. While here, there are to be no interactions with the local population.

Antigua Cruise Ports officials say that the minimal economic spinoffs will come from port fees, re-provisioning, fuel and water. Additionally, some staff may take taxis to and from the airport, while others may stay at local hotels. In the context of the overall cruise sector for Antigua and Barbuda, the economic benefits represent 'a drop in the

bucket' but the long-term benefits are likely to be substantial.


The immediate benefits of the cruise ships in the harbour, however, go far beyond whatever short-term gains there may be to a few taxi drivers or hotels. Coming as they did a full year after the cruise industry was brought to a screeching halt by the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the arrival of the vessels was a welcomed sight to many residents, especially those whose livelihood are linked directly or indirectly to the cruise sector.

Even a casual walk among the ladies in the Vendors' Mall on Saturday could discern a more buoyant mood; an expectation that the long wait for the sector

to reopen is much closer at hand.

The closure of the cruise sector has been painful for the men and women who rely on this sector. It upended their lives,

particularly as it did without warning that would have given them a chance to prepare or plan. It has been a long wait for these residents be they in St John's, En-

 APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE		
These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.		
DATE	AFFECTED AREAS	TIME
Monday, 19th April 2021	Section of Langfords east of the police station	8:30AM - 10:00AM
	Urlings, Johnson's Point & Crabb Hill	8:30AM-1:00PM
	Section of Freemans Village; Uncle Sammy Drive	8:45AM - 12:00PM
Tuesday, 20th April 2021	Section of Shell Beach near Runway-10	8:30AM - 12:00PM
	Section of Shoul's Housing Project	8:45AM - 11:00AM
	Tyrells, Liberta, Falmouth & Cobbs Cross	9:00AM - 3:00PM
Wednesday, 21st April 2021	Jolly Beach, Jolly Harbour, Sugar Ridge & Valley Church	8:30AM - 12:00PM
	Buckleys & Buckley's Extension	8:45AM - 11:00AM
Thursday, 22nd April 2021	Section of Carlisle near the Coolidge Police Station	8:00AM - 11:00AM
Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311		

glish Harbour or along beaches such as Fort James where hair-plaiting brings brisk business for many women. All year long, these thousands of individuals in the cruise sector have been told to wait; to wait with no certainty of when the wait will be over. Certainly, government officials and others in the trade have been seeking answers from the cruise lines, but with the US CDC withholding approvals for the resumption of cruises, there was very

little information that they could share with any confidence.

There is a popular phrase, 'a picture is worth a thousand words' and no words from any official could be more powerful than seeing the vessels in the harbor. It is a signal of things to come! That the revival, the resuscitation, of the cruise sector will be a reality; that there is light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Antigua and Barbuda is the most tourism dependent country in the

OECS and with a significant sector such as the cruise sector idle it has had a negative ripple effect on the entire country, from unemployment for taxi drivers and vendors to poor sales in many of the shops and businesses that cater to the cruise visitors. This sector can now breathe a collective sigh of relief recognising that the wait is soon over. The first vessel returns in June and homeporting starts in August. The full industry is expected to back before the end

of the year. The cruise ships have been reporting strong bookings for their cruises with many planning what is being termed 'revenge trips;' revenge against the pandemic. Whatever the reasons for taking a cruise, Antigua and Barbuda is ready to welcome all.

The only caveat: people in the cruise sector should not hesitate to get vaccinated as this may determine the country's inclusion in many of the itineraries that are being planned.

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ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO FOR TODAY'S EXPANSION OF SCHOOLS' REOPENING

The expansion of the reopening of schools across Antigua and Barbuda for face-to-face learning today is expected to go quite smoothly, according to Director of Education, Clare Browne. All private and public secondary and primary schools as well as preschools and daycare centres are opening for classes for all levels, following receipt of the green light to do so by the Cabinet last Wednesday.

Browne said he is confident that the principals, teachers and all those involved in the education system are "fully prepared" to accept students for the third and final term of the 2020-2021 academic year.

"Many principals and senior teachers have spent much time working out instructional plans for school that would have been tested during the first term of teaching in September to December last year. These principals and



Director of Education, Clare Browne.

teachers would have tested and adjustments made to make them better. The second term was aborted because of an epidemiological crisis beyond their control," he remarked.

Browne revealed that since the announcement was made two weeks ago to reopen schools in a phased manner allowing only fifth and sixth grades of primary schools and fourth and fifth forms in secondary schools to attend in-person teaching, the entire education system had been preparing for a full roll-out of all students since

then. These included meetings with the principals of all public schools as well as meetings with representatives of the Private Educational Institutions of Antigua and Barbuda (PEIAB), which is a new organisation grouping these institutions.

"I am persuaded that the principals of private and public schools are ready to revert to the instructional plans implemented in the first term which have been strengthened and tweaked to suit the individual schools in which they are being implemented," he observed.

The Director of Education was also very complimentary towards the principals and teachers who he said have responded well to the crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. "I am very proud of our principals and teachers in the manner in which they have weathered the crisis; no university could have prepared you for what was to come with this pandemic," he noted.

Over the next few weeks, Browne said the focus will be on helping students to successfully navigate the CSEC examinations for those writing those exams and for those Grade Six students to be successful at the National Assessment exams. He added that for Grade Six students these exams are not for 'pass' purposes but for placement in the secondary school system come September.

For all other students, the focus will be on

completing the curriculum. “The focus here will be on filling those gaps in the teaching of the curriculum to our students. We want to ensure that all students are taught the completed curriculum for his/her level,” he remarked. Browne took time to single out the relationship the ministry enjoys with the Antigua and Barbuda Union of

Teachers (ABUT) and other stakeholders in education. He said there may be times when there are public spats between the ministry and the union but that they do not take away from the good relations the two entities. Similarly, he spoke to the importance of private schools to the educational system. He stated that the government

schools cannot accommodate all the students in the country and this is where private schools assist by providing education to students opting for school within the private school system. He however had a stern warning to parents who failed to live up to their obligations to these institutions. “Some parents are failing to pay their school fees as re-

quired and this is not good. When private schools fail, this puts additional burdens on the public school system and helps no one,” he declared. Browne is issuing an appeal to all involved in the education system to be vaccinated as this is the only sure way to defeat the virus and for the country to return to normality.

SCHOOLS’ INSPECTION ALMOST COMPLETE

The inspection of school plants across Antigua and Barbuda to ensure that they adhere to the health protocols established by

schools in the country have been inspected by her department. The remaining schools – mainly preschools and daycare facilities

not open until this week so we will use the opportunity to check them. Our inspectors are looking to ensure that handwashing stations are functional, that hand sanitiser dispensers are mounted and contain the solution as well as pay spot visits to schools to ensure that students and teachers are not only wearing face masks, but wearing them properly,” she stated.

The health inspectors will also examine the schools to see that they are kept in good hygienic conditions; that is, schools must not have dust particles visible to the eye, the floors and walls must be clean and waste must be stored in receptacles. The health inspectors will ask teachers to separate left over food from other waste and to dispose of the unwanted food separately.



both the Ministries of Health and Education will conclude this week. That is the word from the Chief Health Inspector, Sharon Martin, who is reporting that some eighty-five per cent of all

will be completed during this week. The inspection exercise covers private and public secondary, primary and preschools operating in the country. “A few of the daycare centres will

VACCINATION AT THE MARKET DEEMED A SUCCESS



“Vaccine vaccine, come and get your vaccine. First dose of your COVID-19 vaccine to help protect you and your family!”

This was the chant heard along the roadside during the bustling hours of Saturday morning market shopping, as the roll-out of the public vaccination programme shifted gears to the market. The free public vaccination was conducted in the

parking lot of the Central Marketing Corporation from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and witnessed scores of residents pausing their usual Saturday morning routine to get their first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. According to one vendor, “Me and a the same virus causing so much money problem, health problem, death problem, all kind of problem. So if this vaccine

can help that problem go away, me go tek um,” he said before he rolled his trolley away. Market vendors, shoppers, bus drivers, and passersby all used the opportunity to quickly get vaccinated in the absence of no long lines and multiple vaccine stations within the blood bank bus. The process was also said to be “quick and incident-free” with no apparent wait lines or spacing issues, main-

taining all COVID-19 protocols. From 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., some two hundred and forty-five people received their first jab, with several people still lining up after the mobile vaccine crew was packing up. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Rhonda Sealy Thomas, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, The Superintendent of Public

Cont'd on pg 7



Health Nursing (SPHN), Nurse Almarie Coates, Pathologist Dr. Lester Simon, along with six nurses and two other doctors turned out to aid in the vaccination process. Joining the health team were also five data clerks, five customer service representatives and two police officers who all volunteered their services for the exercise. The Ministry of Health posted “A

big thank you to Police Officers, CPL Jacobs and Constable Malone for their continued support and commitment to the public vaccination programme. Both officers are based at the Villa Polyclinic Monday to Friday to maintain order during the vaccination process. However, they volunteered their services for the public vaccination at the market, in front of Central

Marketing Corporation (CMC). Both Officers aided in registering persons and guided them to the vaccine stations. Thank you, officers, for your time, effort and commitment.” According to site managers who assisted in organising the day’s event, “Shifting the public vaccination programme in the heart of busy Market Street was done to allow everyone to get their

first dose if they were unable to do so before. We know everyone lives a hectic work life and may not have the ability to visit the vaccine centers during the week. So we have brought the vaccine centers to them, for their convenience.” As residents walked by the exercise, they also got the opportunity for further education on the subject matter of vaccination. One nurse commented that the exercise gave residents who were sceptical or had concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine the chance to speak directly with nurses and doctors who could provide accurate information. People who received their vaccine on Saturday also received packs of masks, refreshments, and a snack as they waited out their screening and observation time. The mobile vaccination in the market is said to be one of several initiatives the ministry is anticipating to roll-out to quicken the uptake of public vaccination.

BAR OWNERS MUST 'WALK STRAIGHT -AND-NARROW' TO REOPEN

By *Shelton Daniel*

Bar owners must be prepared to accept and apply very strict protocols if they are to be granted permission to reopen, according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne. He was speaking Saturday during his weekly radio programme, The Browne and Browne Show, on PointeFM 99.1. Bars, nightclubs and

gymnasia – and, until recently, schools – have been kept shut for several weeks since the start of the year following a post-holiday season surge in COVID-19 cases. Bars are considered especially risky due to the clustering of patrons that tends to occur, partly because of the relatively tight spaces at such establishments. Also, people whose judgment has been impaired

by consumption of alcohol are known to throw caution to the wind when it comes to protective measures such as social distancing, wearing of masks, cough-and-sneeze etiquette, and hand sanitisation.

“Next Wednesday, we hope to receive proposals for the reopening of churches, gyms – and possibly bars – if we can get them to come up with a pos-

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sible solution that will not allow for any spread,” the Prime Minister told programme host Senator Colin O’Neal Browne, adding, “That is perhaps the most difficult proposition, to reopen bars. But we’re also mindful that they too need to live and that there are many bar owners and bar operators and employees of bars who need to get back to work.” But he noted that while everyone is keen to “have a return to normalcy as

soon as possible, bars will need to have very strict protocols if we allow them to reopen, and I hope the operators will co-operate.” PM Browne then zeroed on a poignant example of a ‘wrong-and-strong’ bar owner who, after practising a most despicable type of irresponsibility, still had the audacity to publicly denounce local authorities for their efforts to keep the country safe. “I saw one of them recently online criticising the

government. The irony about it, prior to the spread that we saw in January, he would have been easily one of the most irresponsible bar operators. Even his girlfriend had gotten COVID and instead of having her isolated at home, he put her in the bar to serve others. So, when I see people like them criticising us on social media, I just have to shake my head because they are so irresponsible,” the Prime Minister stated.





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Shelton Daniel

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8:30am-10:30am

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POINTE FM 99.1

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99.1 FM

VISIT OF CRUISE SHIP IS KEY TO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE



General manager of Antigua Cruise Ports Dona Regis

One of the two Celebrity Cruises ships that sailed into the St. John's Harbour over the weekend is leaving today, but it will be replaced by another vessel on Wednesday.

That vessel, Celebrity Reflection, according to General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port (ACP), Dona Regis, will spend a total of ten days in the harbour undergoing minor maintenance.

The crew on board the vessels are not allowed to 'mingle' with the local population because of the strict health protocols that have been put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic. However, Regis said the visit by the three vessels will have some economic benefits to the country.

"The vessels pay port charges while docked at the St John's Harbour

and there's every likelihood that they will need water, fuel and to re-provision here in Antigua. There will be some crew change-over so some taxis will be employed to make the airport trans-

fers. Additionally, the maintenance crew for the Reflection will fly into Antigua and stay at a local hotel during the time they are here," she reported.

However, the ACP gener-

al manager is looking beyond the short-term benefits of the vessels' visit to Antigua and Barbuda this time around. "We are looking at these arrangements as an opportunity to help the cruise lines at

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ATB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

a time when they needed assistance. These vessels were docked in Barbados but were forced to move because of the ash fall-out from the La Soufriere Volcano in St Vincent and the Grenadines. By offering our port as they sought a safe haven from the ash, we are proving that we are partners and reliable ones at that," she emphasised.

According to Regis, in a time of a dual crisis, the coronavirus pandemic and the volcanic eruptions from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda is extending a helpful hand to the cruise lines which she believes could be reciprocated with commitments for further strengthening of these ties in the future. Meanwhile, the restart of the cruise tourism season is slated for June or July this year when the Seaborne makes the first cruise call for the year. Additionally, arrangements have been finalised for at least one vessel to home-port in the St John's Harbour from August to December this year.



Photo By-Shahein Fitzpatrick



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TWO MORE CONTAINERS TO LEAVE FOR SVG TODAY

Two more containers packed with supplies donated by individuals, corporations and government departments are leaving for St Vincent and the Grenadines today. That is the word from the Director of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), Philmore Mullin. One container will ferry water to the volcano-stricken country, while the other is packed with emergency supplies. "I am expecting an updated list of the emergency needs from authorities in SVG sometime today and I will then circulate it to members of the society," Mullin told PointeXpress newspaper. On the issue of Vincentians evacuating and being resettled in Antigua and Barbuda, Mullin said this is something that may not happen. "It's not off the table, but it looks slimmer and slimmer. Firstly, there was a general reluctance by Vincentians to leave their country; in fact, many have problems even leaving the designated red or danger zone. Then the eruptions are not happening as often as previously thought and based on this, it appears that many others are decid-



ing to 'wait it out,'" he reported. So far, only forty Vincentians have registered to travel to Antigua and Barbuda, and according to Mullin, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has given the green light to accommodate them should they decided to come.

Mullin is also reporting that with the eruptions further and further apart, things in SVG are getting better. He disclosed that the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), working in collaboration with engineers from Trinidad and Tobago, have been able to locate a number of abandoned wells and that one such has since been brought back on stream, thus improving the water situation on the island.

The authorities in Kingstown now have another issue on hand to deal with: the unannounced arrival of vessels ferrying

goods into the country. The NODS official said the authorities have issued a circular, asking vessel operators to first get clearance before showing up in SVG waters. "There was a vessel that sunk last week

and while everyone was rescued, it showed the dangers of people just showing up in vessels unannounced. The authorities are very concerned about their health protocols and that's why they are asking for prior clearance for any vessel going to SVG," Mullin stated. The NODS director said as far as he is aware there are not Antigua and Barbuda vessels that have left for SVG. He said one individual did call to make inquiries but there have been no follow-ups.

THE PANDEMIC IS NOT GOING ANYWHERE IF THE VACCINE IS NOT EVERYWHERE. GET THE VACCINE AND PROTECT LIVES.

"The Covid-19 pandemic is a serious matter and all of us must play our part in eradicating this disease. We got vaccinated. You too must play your part and get the vaccine"

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CUSTOMER CARE TRAINING FOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

The Immigration Department is launching a two-week training workshop today in customer care for all its staff under the theme “Managing the Customer Experience.”

“In an effort to continue the department’s commitment to all employees for continuous training and development, there will be a series of interactive customer service sessions over the next two weeks. These sessions will be hosted by Ms. Shirlene Nibbs of Nibbs and Associates and are geared towards ensuring all employees are equipped with the necessary tools for improving the quality of the customer service experience within the

Department of Immigration,” Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood said.

The training sessions will be held from 19th April to 4th May 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day in the

conference room of the Tradewinds Hotel, Hadeed Street, Dickenson Bay. The staff at the department will be rotated over the period of the workshop to ensure that each one gets an opportunity

to attend the training. Based on the current restrictions, the department is advising its staff that COVID-19 protocols will be in full effect for the duration of the workshop.



CIO Katrina Yearwood (c) and Immigration Minister E.P Chet Greene (on her left) are surrounded by immigration officers and others at last November’s formal opening of the new Immigration headquarters on the Sir George Walter Highway

REAL TALK

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POINTE FM



BACK TO BACK CENTENARIANS CELEBRATIONS

Presently, there are twenty-four Antiguan and Barbudan centenarians living in Antigua and abroad, and the Community Development Division has spared no effort in continuing to celebrate them.

On Friday, the division held a virtual birthday celebration for centenarian, Mrs. Margaret Myrtle Peters of Whenner Road as she celebrated her one hundred and third birthday. The Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division, in collaboration with His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, conducted the first ever virtual Centenarian Birthday Celebration of Mrs. Margaret Myrtle Peters.

This first ever virtual celebration was ably chaired by Peterson Griffith, Community Development and Citizen Engagement District Officer for St.

Mary's North.

The programme consisted of invocation, national anthem, poem, special rendition, scripture reading from family and loved ones, as well as brief remarks from Dale O'Brien Director (Ag.) of the Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division, Sharon Stevens, Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, Hon. Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, as well as brief remarks and presentation by His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams. Mrs. Celestine Derrick of Liberta, who now resides in St. Thomas, also celebrated her one hundred and first birthday over the weekend.

According to the Community Development Division, "It is with joy that the Director (Ag.)



103 Mrs. Margaret Myrtle Peters of Whenner Road



101 Mrs. Celestine Derrick of Liberta

of the Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division and staff join in celebrating the one hundred and first birthday of one of our beloved centenarians, Mrs. Celestine Derrick of Liberta, who now resides in St. Thomas. At the age of one hundred, Mrs.

Derrick was still doing her vending at the market in St. Thomas. However, due to COVID-19, she doesn't vend anymore. Mrs. Derrick is still very collective. Cheers to many many more birthdays. God's richest blessings!"



A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

**COMPILED AND EDITED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF TRADE
AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AT THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT**

BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

Union proposes corporate tax to fund UWI

The West Indies Group of University Teachers (WIGUT) Jamaica, a trade union representing more than 1,000 staff members at UWI Mona is proposing that the private sector pay an increased tax of 0.5% to help fund the University. The proposals were included in a response to the July 2020 UWI Chancellor's Commission on Governance Report, which recommended, among other things, that students pay 40% of tuition costs, up from 20%, while government's share of tuition costs be lowered from 80% to 60%. WIGUT also suggested recruiting 1,000 students from non-contributing territories, which it says, could add \$1.5 billion annually. WIGUT represents the academic, senior administrative and professional staff of UWI in Jamaica and all other contributing territories except Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago.

Passenger arrivals in Grenada plunged by 72% in 2020

Air passenger arrivals in Grenada have declined by 72% in 2020 relative to 2019. According to data from the Grenada Airport Authority, only 126,336 persons

arrived in 2020 relative to 447,522 persons in 2019. In 2018, there were more than 500,000 passengers arriving in Grenada. Similarly, aircraft movement at the Maurice International Airport, declined by more than 50% between 2019 and 2020. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, that figure stood at 12,970 compared to 6,015 in 2020.

Remittances to Jamaica jump by 32.7% in January

Remittances to Jamaica increased by US\$62.9 million or 32.7% in January compared to the same period in 2020. Remittances during the month amounted to US\$224.4 million. The Central Bank says this resulted from an increase in gross remittance inflows along with a decline in outflows. In the meantime, the IMF, has reduced Jamaica's expected growth forecast for 2021 to 1.5% from 3.6% reflecting a longer recovery timeline. The reduction is attributed to a slower than expected recovery in tourism in the region due to the longer than expected length of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jamaica suffered economic contraction of about 10-12% in 2020. The island is projected to grow by 6% in 2022. After 2022, the country is projected to grow at a pace between 2-3% annually.

Belize: Revenues plummet by 28% for fiscal year 2020/21

Belize is projecting that total recurrent revenues and grants for the recently ended fiscal year on March 31, will have declined by 28% exactly double the economic contraction of 14% recorded for calendar year 2020. Tax revenue declined by 25.9% in 2020/21 relative to 2019/20, with GST declining by 32%. That's the word from Prime Minister John Briceno, in presenting the 2021/22 Budget. According to the PM, total expenditure fell by 15%. However, capital spending exceeded budgeted levels by 5%, rising to \$294.8 million. The primary deficit and overall budget deficit are expected to be -8.51% and -10.21% of GDP, respectively. Total debt stands at 4.184 Billion [\$872 million is owed to bilateral lenders; \$794 million is owed to multilateral lenders; 1.168 Billion to external commercial creditors; and \$1.35 Billion is owed to domestic creditors]. The average interest rate on external debt is 4.2% and 2.7% on domestic debt. According to the PM, Belize has now set goals and the requisite policy framework to allow for the reduction of the debt to GDP ratio to 85% by 2025 and to below 70% by 2030

Barbados to relax quarantine requirements effective May 8

Effective May 8, vaccinated persons entering Barbados will only be made to quarantine pending the results of one locally administered COVID-19 PCR test. This could result in a quarantine period as little as 24 hours. According to Prime Minister Mia Mottley, a vaccinated person is defined as someone who in a two-dose regime had received both doses plus 14 days, or a one-dose regime plus 14 days. Currently, all visitors to the island, as well as returning Barbadians, are required to quarantine for 7 days on arrival to Barbados. Vaccinated travellers to Barbados will still require a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours prior to travel. PM Mottley in providing the rationale for the new protocols, noted that Barbados could no longer afford to keep the tourism sector partially closed as it accounted for 45% of all economic activity

IMF joins the push for a global minimum tax

The IMF has thrown its weight behind US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's call for the adoption of a global minimum corporate tax citing "tax avoidance." Last year the 137 member countries of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS failed to agree on new global rules for corporate taxation. However, members agreed on the basis for future tax reform around two pillars. While Pillar 1 seeks to establish new rules on where tax should be paid and a new way of sharing taxing rights between countries, Pillar 2 aims to establish a minimum level of tax that multinationals must pay globally. Whereas the negotiations stalled regarding Pillar 1 there was agreement to establish minimum corporate tax rates. The OECD/G20 group has said it aims to develop model draft legislation for global tax reform, guidelines, and international rules and processes by mid-2021



TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
MINISTRY OF WORKS
NATURAL DISTASTER MANAGEMENT - REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION
LOAN (HURRICANE IRMA) PROJECT CONSTRUCTION OF ROYAL GARDENS ROAD
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to USD 28,540,000.00 towards the cost of the Natural Disaster Management - Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (Hurricane Irma) Loan (the Project) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of (GOAB) and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than (GOAB) shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Works, through its Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU). The Ministry of Works has contracted Consultants who will assist the PIMU with delivering the Project. The Consultants have prepared designs and contract documentation and will assist in tender administration and evaluation and supervise Project activities.

The Ministry of Works now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction of the Royal Gardens Road, which is approximately 3.32km long). The works include, but are not limited to the following:

Drainage Works: Construction of reinforced concrete drains and earthen drains and circular pipe culverts.

Roadworks: Excavation for pavement foundation; Compacted Subbase Layers; Compacted base layers; Asphalt Concrete Surfacing; Road Signage and markings; and Ancillary Works

Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms, which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

- (a) more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an eligible country, or by a body corporate or bodies corporate meeting these requirements; or
- (b) owned or controlled by the Government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operated under the commercial law of an eligible country and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the CDB Guidelines for Procurement (2006).

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted. Tender and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required, or do not demonstrate the prospective contractor's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

- (a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the best three of the last five (5) years of at least Four million, Two hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 4,200,000.00 minimum) or Eleven million, four hundred thousand Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD 11,400,000.00 minimum);
- (b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Seven hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars (USD 750,000.00) or Two million Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD 2,000,000.00); and
- (c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity between 1st January, 2015 and submission deadline (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Electronic Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the second address below via the Link provided. Alternatively, a hard copy may be obtained from the first address below for a non-refundable cash payment of XCD \$150.00. Requests may be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Request for Bidding Documents for the Royal Gardens Road"**, along with the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which Bidding Documents are being requested.

Applicants who request that documents be forwarded to them must submit an account number from a local courier agent that accepts freight collect charges. Documents will be promptly dispatched, but under no circumstance will Ministry of Works or their authorised agent be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so transmitted. Submissions of bid may be made electronically via the link (or email) in the second address. Alternatively, sealed envelopes clearly marked **"Bid for the Construction of Royal Gardens Road"**, must be received at the second address below not later than **12:00 noon on 19th May, 2021**. Bid opening will take place immediately after the deadline for submission at the second address below in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend. Qualification information only must be simultaneously submitted to the third address below.

All bids must be accompanied by a completed Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for Government of Antigua and Barbuda's action. Government of Antigua and Barbuda will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

Address for Correspondence

Project Coordinator
Ministry of Works
St. John's Street
St. John's
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Tel: +268 562 1867
Fax: +268 462 4622
Email: projectcoordinator.works@ab.gov.ag

Address for Bid Submission and Bid Opening

Chairman, Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance
Government Office Complex Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Tel: (268) 562-5825 / 5826 Fax: (268) 562-1717
Email: tenders.board@ab.gov.ag
Visit www.tendersboard.gov.ag under caption News/Notice.
For registration and instructions to bidders who wish to submit bids electronically.

**Address for Completed
Qualification Information Only**

Procurement Officer
Procurement Policy Unit
Caribbean Development Bank
P O Box 408, Wilkey
St. Michael
BARBADOS, W. I.
Tel: +246-539-1600 Fax: +246-426-7269
Email: procurement@caribank.org

**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
MINISTRY OF WORKS
NATURAL DISASTER MANGEMENT - REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION
LOAN (HURRICAN IRMA) PROJECT CONSTRUCTION OF HERBERTS ROAD
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to USD 28,540,000.00 towards the cost of the Natural Disaster Management - Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan (Hurricane Irma) (the Project) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of (GOAB) and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than (GOAB) shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

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Roadworks: Excavation for pavement foundation; Compacted Subbase Layers; Compacted base layers; Asphalt Concrete Surfacing; Road Signage and markings; and Ancillary Works

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BARBADOS, W. I.
Tel: +246-539-1600 Fax: +246-426-7269
Email: procurement@caribank.org

BARBADOS TO CONDUCT DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TODAY



Home Affairs Minister, Wilfred Abrahams.

Barbados Advocate - Speaking during a recent press conference, Minister of Home Affairs Wilfred Abrahams says an intensive damage assessment and needs analysis will be conducted locally on Monday. He said this will be led by the Ministry of Economic Affairs along with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Speaking during a recent press conference, Abrahams also provided an update on the clean-up activity that has been occurring locally following the ashfall from the La Soufriere volcano. "This will provide both a qualitative and financial costing of the impact of the

hazard, identifying the detail or resource needs and allow us to be very specific in our request for assistance to deal with our post event recovery. "This is an intensive rapid assessment for which we have already started gathering critical information. It covers agriculture, infra-

structure, technology, utilities and every sector that we expect to be affected by the ash-fall." Abrahams said the taskforce conducting the assessment draws on both public and private sector experts, noting that the UN system is "providing technical expertise so the team can hit the ground running on Monday". The Home Affairs Minister also spoke about an exemption which has been granted for today. He stated that notwithstanding Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Curfew) (No.8) Directive, 2021 which runs from April 12 to April 26, "The Attorney General has granted an exemption for all businesses, all enterprises and all persons to perform clean-up activities on Sunday, April 18, 2021 whether residential or otherwise."

CARIBBEAN OFFICIALS IN NY HOLD EMERGENCY MEETING TO RAISE \$\$ FOR ST. VINCENT



Trinidad Guardian - Caribbean consulates in New York convened an emergency meeting this week to discuss a coordinated approach to relief efforts in the aftermath of effusive eruptions of the La Soufrière volcano that blanketed the island of St. Vincent with ash and displaced thousands.

New York-based Consul General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Howie Prince has issued a plea for monetary donations. His call comes after the United Nations indicated that it was set to launch a funding appeal to help the island.

In an interview with the Sunday Guardian, Mr. Prince said his regional counterparts agreed to join his consulate's weekend relief drive and to set up a CARICOM GoFundMe account, a US-based crowdfunding platform, to raise money for St. Vincent. A 'mediathon' fundraiser is also being planned, but a date has not yet been determined. T&T's Consul General in NY Andre Laveau, in a brief telephone interview, confirmed that he was present for part of the meeting.

The Caribbean officials made the agreement as more New Yorkers

are becoming increasingly keen on donating funds as opposed to physical items. Justin Miller, native Vincentian and co-founder of the Vincy Strong Committee in NYC, confirmed that he has been bombarded with requests to receive monetary donations instead of supplies.

"I'm sceptical about a lot of the GoFundMe campaigns that popped up. However, a lot of people have asked us about ways to donate money so we started accepting," he said. "It's easier for some folks to donate cash because they may be out of the country or

may not have the necessary transportation to drop supplies off. We prefer the supplies because it cuts out the step for us to go out and buy goods. However, the cash helps us offset some of the costs we personally incur."

Al Johnson, the co-founder of the full-service Caribbean experience company Island Fanatics 3D, agreed: "Food and supplies collected in the diaspora at this time may not reach SVG for another few weeks. Therefore, monetary donations are great to cover the costs of the immediate needs of the people of SVG. We need

to remember that supplies cost money and so do packaging and shipping. Monetary donations collected by the various drives can go towards purchasing items that were either not collected or were collected but in short supply. Money can also be used to cover packaging and shipping costs.”

Using US-based crowdfunding platforms such as GoFundMe, however, requires the online organiser to have a US social security number. Khadine Sealy, T&T director of Real Helping Hands – a Caribbean-focused crowdfunding platform – argues that the Caribbean needs more autonomy when it

comes to the region’s charity and public service infrastructure.

“All of these crowdfunding efforts are admirable, but we can’t rely on these US platforms. We need Caribbean autonomy. Caribbean organisations like Real Helping Hands [are] different from US-based platforms because we are

specifically focused on the Caribbean people. Setting up these campaigns from US platforms means it has to be done from the US. Real Helping Hands provides a way for Caribbean citizens to engage in online fundraising without imposing such restrictions on our people,” Sealy said in a telephone interview.

SVG'S AIA TO REOPEN ON MONDAY



Argyle International Airport, which has been forced to close because of ash generated from the April 9 eruption of La Soufriere, will reopen on Monday. Corsel Robertson, the airport’s chief executive officer, said on Friday that due to significant ash deposits caused by the eruption of the La Soufriere volcano, all operations at the

Argyle International Airport have been suspended until 4 p.m. on Monday.

“The facility is undergoing rigorous cleanup of runways and apron to accommodate humanitarian flights as a priority,” Robertson said.

The James Mitchell Airport, on Bequia, will remain closed until April 19.

The Canouan, Union Island and Mustique airports will remain operational from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., only to accommodate special flights with prior permission.

Robertson said that a further update on the operational status of all airports will be given by midday on Monday.

GUYANA'S HEALTH MINISTER URGES DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SUPPLY C'BEAN WITH COVID-19 VACCINES

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (CMC) — Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony has called upon developed countries to make an interim supply of vaccines available to the Caribbean region.

Anthony made the plea while speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) at a special meeting convened by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council.

Dr. Anthony lamented that “Caricom remains deeply concerned about the inequitable access and unbalanced distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally.”

The health minister said access to vaccines is particularly important for small developing states since these countries continue to experience the devastating health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that lockdown measures, supply chain disruptions, sharp declines in remittances, and a general decrease in travel, trade and other economic activities that the region depends on, have all been disrupted by the pandemic.

According to recent reports from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), there will be uneven growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) across the Latin America and the Ca-

ribbean (LAC) region. The Real GDP measures a country's total economic output, adjusted for price changes. Importantly, the IMF noted that the tourism-dependent countries have been adversely affected due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Against this backdrop of

the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on Caribbean states, the minister reiterated the Caribbean's call for global and equitable access to vaccines, stating that this will lessen the impact of the pandemic, protect citizens, and bolster the economy.

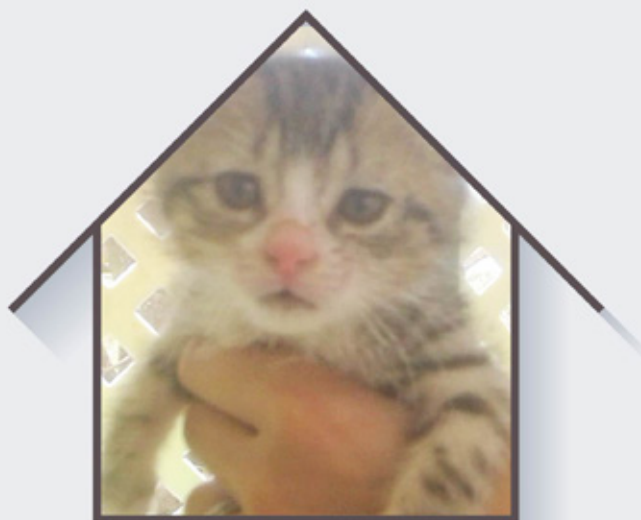


Guyanese Health Minister, Dr. Frank Anthony

QUICK CROSSWORD

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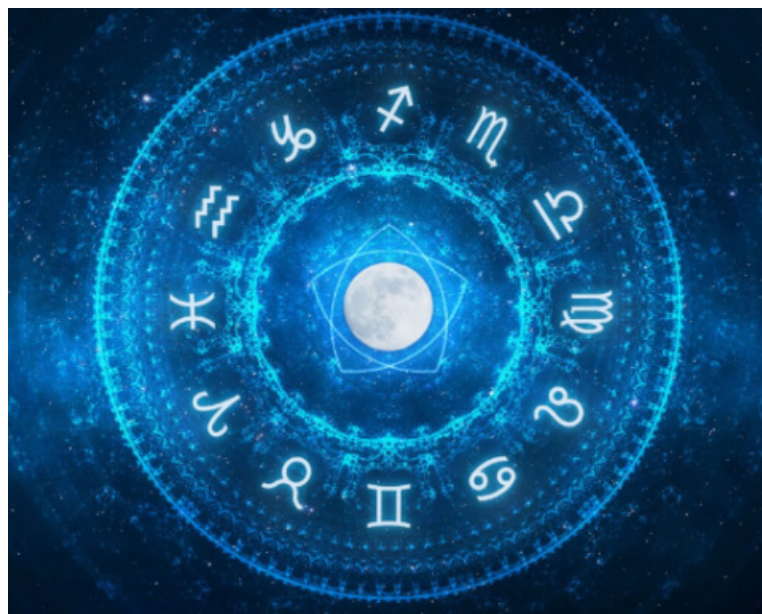
TAKE ME HOME



This sweet little girl is available for adoption at the Humane Society in Bethesda. She has been wormed, treated for fleas and is litter box trained. When old enough, the Humane Society will spay her so there will be no unwanted litters

PLEASE CALL US AT 461-4957
FOR MORE INFORMATION.
WE ARE OPEN TUESDAY TO
SATURDAY FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Use your head and you can make the grade in the upcoming week. Guard against becoming too argumentative today, because if you wait patiently, someone might change his or her mind by tomorrow.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Your efforts to be friendly and outgoing might meet with a small measure of mysterious disapproval. Despite this, you're willing to be forgiving and can avoid taking things personally in the week ahead.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

You are sharp enough to look for the catch in any offer or deal. Take the time you need to make a careful decision and to mind your possessions. Focus on accuracy this week.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

Your patience may be tested by people who seem to be at cross purposes with you as this week unfolds. Focus on making worthwhile improvements by visualizing the desired results.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

In the week ahead, you might be able to put the knowledge that you gather to good use. Even handling your most dreaded task can give you a sense of accomplishment and contentment.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

The way you look or act can make a statement or a whisper. As the week flies by, you can talk your way out of any jam by being welcoming to all and remaining a neutral party if feuds occur.

♎ LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Pay your most important bills early so you won't be caught napping at the end of the week. Tackle projects that require logical sequencing, unflagging concentration and a degree of pattern recognition.

♏ SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Passing quarrels are just temporary. Stay centered so you won't lose your composure over minor disagreements in the week to come. Focus on enjoying beautiful things and agreeable people.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There is no benefit in being worldly and insightful if you don't put these attributes to good use. There may be plenty of fine print to absorb in any deal you review or sign in the week to come.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you want to indulge in the best that life can offer, go ahead. Steer clear of a dispute with a loved one or family member. Hold off on making major financial decisions at the end of the week.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Demonstrate a generosity of spirit and a willingness to cooperate in order to win some new friends and admirers in the upcoming week. Put major purchases on the back burner.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Follow the lead of a partner who understands how to navigate group social events. In the week ahead, go within to explore and understand your vague misgivings about a career choice.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Mon 19 29°/25° Partly Cloudy 5% E 25 km/h	
Mon 19 Day 29° Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h. Humidity 65% UV Index Extreme Sunrise 05:49 Sunset 18:24	Mon 19 Night 25° Partly cloudy. Low 25°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h. Humidity 75% UV Index 0 of 10 Moonrise 11:22 Moonset 24:03 First Quarter
Tue 20 29°/24° Partly Cloudy 13% E 28 km/h	
Tue 20 Day 29° Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h. Humidity 66% UV Index Extreme Sunrise 05:48 Sunset 18:24	Tue 20 Night 24° Partly cloudy. Low 24°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h. Humidity 76% UV Index 0 of 10 Moonrise 12:17 Moonset 24:53 Waxing Gibbous

COMICS

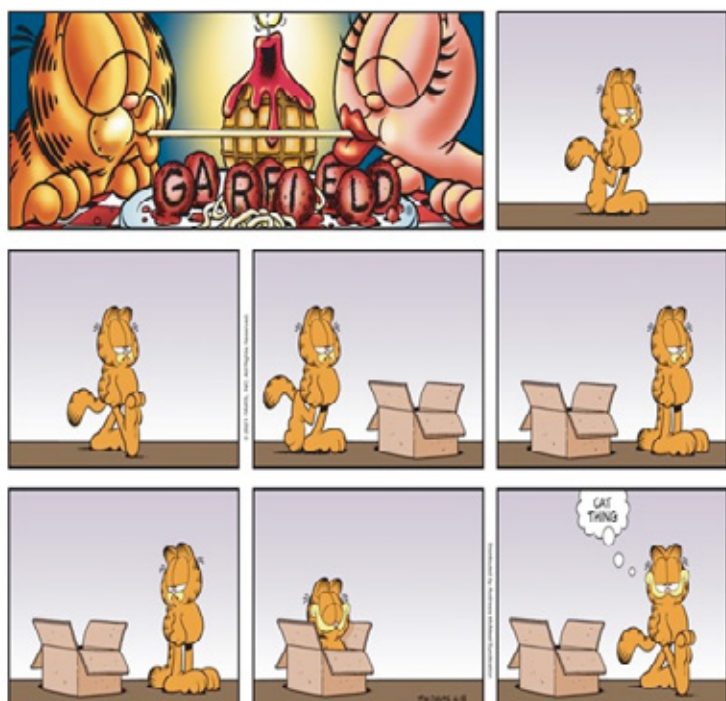
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



Garfield

April 18, 2021



TELL US WHAT'S
HAPPENING
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY.

Submit community notices to

news@pointville.ag

GOT NEWS?

Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag

A large crowd of people is gathered around a derailed train carriage. Many people are standing on top of the carriage, while others are on the ground. The scene is chaotic, with people looking in various directions. The train carriage is white and appears to be a passenger car. The background shows a hazy sky and some distant structures.

Eleven dead, 98 injured after train derails in Egypt

People gather at the site where train carriages derailed north of Cairo, Egypt

Reuters - Eleven people were killed and 98 injured on Sunday in a train accident in Egypt's Qalioubia province north of Cairo, the health ministry said in a statement.

The train was heading from Cairo to the Nile Delta city of Mansoura when four carriages derailed at 1:54 p.m. (11:54

GMT), about 40 km (25 miles) north of Cairo, Egyptian National Railways said in a short statement.

The cause of the accident is being investigated, it added. More than 50 ambulances took the injured to three hospitals in the province, the health ministry said. The

derailing is the latest of several recent railway crashes in Egypt. At least 20 people were killed and nearly 200 were injured in March when two trains collided near Tahta, about 440 km (275 miles) south of Cairo. Fifteen people were injured this month when two train carriages derailed

near Minya al-Qamh city, about 70 km north of Cairo. Egypt's transportation minister Kamel El-Wazir, a former army general, has faced calls to resign from some Egyptians on social media. He has rejected these and vowed to keep working on developing the ageing rail network.

Police: FedEx shooter legally bought guns used in shooting



Survivors of the shooting at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The former employee who shot and killed eight people at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis legally bought the two rifles used in the attack despite red flag laws designed to prevent such purchases, police said.

A trace of the two guns found by investigators at the scene revealed that suspect Brandon Scott Hole, 19, of Indianapolis, legally bought the rifles last July and September, officials with the Indianapolis police said Saturday.

The police did not say where Hole bought the weapons, citing the ongoing investiga-

tion, but said he was seen using both rifles during the assault. Authorities said Hole shot and killed eight people, four of them from the city's Sikh community, at the FedEx facility late Thursday before killing himself. The FBI said agents had questioned Hole last year after his mother called police to say her son might commit "suicide by cop". Officers seized a pump-action shotgun from Hole's home after responding to the call, according to a police report. Police said the gun was never returned to him. Republican Sen. Todd Young called Sun-

day for more mental health services across all level of governments.

"We know that we have a Hoosier family who cried out for help, knowing they had a child who required mental health treatment. We know we have members of our law enforcement community who, for a period of time, responded to that call for help. And we know that, in the end, that wasn't enough," he told The Associated Press before addressing a gathering at the Gurdwara Sikh Satsang, a Sikh house of worship on the east side of Indianapolis. Young ques-

tioned whether Indiana's red flag laws "were actually enforced" to prevent the shooting.

Indiana has had a "red flag law" allowing police or courts to seize guns from people who show warning signs of violence since 2005. It became one of the first states to enact such a law after an Indianapolis police officer was killed by a man whose weapons had yet to be returned despite hospitalization months earlier for an emergency mental health evaluation. The law is intended to prevent people from purchasing or possessing a firearm if they are found by a judge to present "an imminent risk" to themselves or others. Authorities have two weeks after seizing someone's weapon to argue in court that the person should not be allowed to possess a gun. Officials have not said whether Hole's case was brought before a judge. Michael Leffler, a spokesperson for the Marion County prosecutor, said Sunday that the office is "looking into this matter."

Russia will face 'consequences' if Navalny dies - US

The US has warned Russia there will be "consequences" if the opposition activist Alexei Navalny dies in jail.

The UK, France, Germany and the European Union have also expressed their concern over his treatment. Navalny's doctors say he "will die within the next few days" if not given urgent medical attention for acute back pain and leg numbness.

Russia's ambassador to the UK has said that Navalny is attention seeking and "will not be allowed to die in prison".

A prominent critic of President Vladimir Putin, Navalny, 44, was jailed in February for old embezzlement charges which he claims are politically motivated. He started a hunger strike on 31 March in protest at not being able to see his own medical team, and his doctors say recent blood test results indicate he could suf-

fer kidney failure and go into cardiac arrest at any moment.

On Sunday, a number of countries joined the international protest against Navalny's treatment inside the Russian jail in the town of Pokrov, about 100 km (62 miles) east of Moscow. US national security adviser Jake Sullivan told CNN there would be "conse-

quences if Mr. Navalny dies" and Russia would be "held accountable by the international community", while President Joe Biden said his medical treatment was "totally unfair and totally inappropriate".

The US is already embroiled in a diplomatic row with Russia over the near-fatal poisoning of Navalny last year,

with the chemical warfare agent Novichok.

The Kremlin denies Navalny's claims that President Vladimir Putin ordered the attack. But US intelligence officials concluded that the Moscow government was behind the poisoning, prompting the Biden administration to impose sanctions on senior Russian officials.



Russian opposition leader, Alexei Navalny

Syria to hold election in May after years of war



The vote is expected to give President Assad another term

Syria is to hold a presidential election next month, the country's parliament says - a move likely to maintain President Bashar al-Assad's grip on power. Mr. Assad is not expected to face serious opposition despite continuing conflict and a growing economic crisis.

After 10 years of war, the Syrian govern-

ment controls most of the big population centres in the country.

About 400,000 people have been killed and over half of Syrians displaced.

The election for a president, who will serve a seven-year-term, will take place on 26 May, Speaker Hamouda Sabbagh said. Prospective can-

didates for the election would be able to register from Monday while Syrians abroad would be able to vote at embassies on 20 May. It is the second presidential election to take place during the civil war. The previous vote in 2014 - dismissed as undemocratic and illegitimate by opponents within Syria

and by the US and EU - saw Mr. Assad win 92% of the vote. The 2014 vote was also the first time in decades that someone other than a member of the Assad family had been allowed to stand for president in Syria. But the other two candidates were not widely known and received little publicity.

GREENWOOD GOALS BOOST MAN UNITED'S FAINT PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE HOPES



MANCHESTER, England (ESPN) – After beating Burnley 3-1 at Old Trafford, Manchester United are within eight points of Premier League leaders Manchester City with six games to play. It is the same situation that faced City when chasing United in 2012 ... and we all know how that finished. Lightning is unlikely to strike twice, but if nothing else, United backed up Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's claim that they would do everything in the final weeks of the season to put pressure on Pep Guardiola's team. It would take a monumental collapse, but that will not stop plenty of United fans keeping an eye on City's trip to Aston Villa on Wednesday.

For a while on Sunday, it

looked as if that would be unnecessary after James Tarkowski headed an equaliser to cancel out Mason Greenwood's opener.

But goals from Greenwood and Edinson Cavani in the final six minutes handed United a first home win over Burnley since 2015 and added some extra intrigue around the game at Villa Park. The scorer of a stoppage time winner in a Champions League final, Solskjaer knows all about the value of refusing to throw in the towel. "I am really proud that we never give up and we have proven so many times this season our fitness and resilience," he said. "We came back last week [against Tottenham] and we scored three goals.

We scored three goals

in the second half again [against Burnley].

"The title is probably unrealistic but stranger things have happened in football," United's manager added. "We just have to do our job."

Solskjaer knows United do not celebrate achievements unless they come in the form of silverware, but with the title all but out of reach, his team are nevertheless closing on a notable first during the post-Sir Alex Ferguson era.

United have matched their points total, 66, for each of the last two seasons and, with a 12-point lead over fifth-place Chelsea, are set to guarantee Champions League qualification, which will also mark consecutive top-four finishes for the first time since

Ferguson retired in 2013. Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho – winners of 15 domestic titles around Europe and three Champions Leagues between them – are two of the three men to have failed where Solskjaer, whose credentials as United manager are regularly questioned, looks set to succeed.

It is not a milestone that will have champagne corks popping in the Norwegian's office, but it is noteworthy nonetheless.

At the very least, it suggests United are more consistent. The next step is to challenge for the title regularly and, ultimately, win it.

Although that is easier said than done, Solskjaer appears to have built a platform.

KUDOS FOR HOLDER ON SELECTION AS WISDEN CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

Jason Holder is among the Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year. The honour was announced last week when the historic almanac unveiled its 2021 edition. Wisden is the game's most prestigious and recognizable publication and this outstanding recognition is presented to players who

excelled in the game.

Holder has emerged as the leading all-rounder in Test cricket and is among just a handful of players in history to score over 2,000 runs and take over 100 wickets in less than 50 Test appearances.

He was at the forefront when the West Indies team

played against England in the summer of 2020, becoming the first team tour during the COVID-19 pandemic, when they played three Test matches in a bio-secure bubble. He also spoke publicly and profoundly on the Black Lives Matter, following the death of George Floyd in

the United States, and the fight for equality and justice around the world.

In its essay, Wisden described Holder as:

"... soft voice, old-world manners and a physique that wouldn't shame a superhero, he had something of the Golden Age Hollywood star. Now, he gradu-

ated into a statesman”.

The publication added: “Holder and his squad were determined to show solidarity. After discussions with the England management, both teams wore a Black Lives Matter logo on their shirts, while the squads, plus backroom staff and officials, would take a knee before the first ball in each game. It was a rare example of cricket uniting in a humanitarian gesture – and a defining

image of the summer”.

Holder expressed great delight at being named among the elite list.

This award means so much to me. I’m delighted that my efforts to play well and make a contribution have been bearing fruit and I just want to continue and reach higher heights,” he said. “To be named one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year is something truly special as, over the years, I have seen a list

of great players who have etched their names in history. The last recipient from West Indies was Shai Hope in 2017 and after seeing his performances it inspired me to be one of the Wisden Cricketers of the future.” Ricky Skerritt, president of CWI said:

“Congratulations to Jason whose all-round cricket excellence is making all West Indians proud. For such a relatively young and intelligent athlete, he

should get even better.”

Jimmy Adams, CWI’s director of cricket said:

“On behalf of all of us at Cricket West Indies, I want to congratulate Jason on his being selected as one of Wisden’s Five Cricketers of the Year. In a period that has thrown up many challenges, he has performed consistently with distinction and dignity both on and off the field and we wish him all the success possible going forward.”

OLD ROAD FC TRIO TRIALS IN MEXICO



SportsWorld Magazine - A trio from Old Road Football Club – two-time champions of Antigua & Barbuda – is heading to Mexico for a three-month trial with the possibility of obtaining professional contracts with a second division team. National team defender Jajuan Williams – who turns 20 next month, making his debut in the Qatar 2022 World Cup qualifiers in March – and 17-year-old midfielders Calique Simon and Blaivon James will tryout with Mineros FC Zimapan, a club based in a town and one of the 84 municipalities of Hidalgo in central-eastern Mexico. Simon and James are due to leave on Monday, while Williams – subject to obtaining his Mexican visa – will travel soonest.

Old Road’s coach Chesley Browne said the opportunity for the players materialised through contacts made with the round-south club by a Mineros player, Antonio Christian, who wanted to ply his trade in Antigua three years ago. Browne, who is also the physical education teacher at the Antigua Grammar School, said he asked Christian to provide opportunities for Antiguan players. He said the trio has a golden chance to excel and to project Old Road forward. “I’ve always believed that for our club to go forward, we have to (look after) our youths and the development of our players,” Browne told SportsWorld.

“I think this is a great opportunity for our players to showcase their talent abroad

and it’s the way forward for Old Road to definitely get our players out, not only to Mexico, but also to colleges and universities. “If we have a strong youth development and the players get to a good education it can only mean well for Old Road Football Club (and the community as a whole). “To be honest, I was contacted by someone (Antonio Christian) in Mexico who always wanted to come to Antigua to play for Old Road FC. That didn’t materialize but we kept in touch. “It has been about three years we have been in touch and he said he coaches in Mexico and I told him I am looking opportunities as well for my players.” Brown said Williams “has been the most consistent defender we have (seen) in Antigua for the last two or three seasons in the Premier League. “He’s still pretty young but he has marked his position in the Old Road team since age 17. He’s (now) part of the national senior team. He had his first game against the USVI in the World Cup qualifier recently.”

Browne had the privilege of working with Simon and

James who recently graduated from the AGS and represented their alma mater in the schools’ league as well as the Old Road senior team. Simon plays with Young Lions, the sister club, in Antigua’s third tier domestic competition, but trains with the Old Road team. “This is an opportunity for them basically. They are going to be part of a Second Division set-up, a Second Division team in Mexico. When I spoke to (Antonio), there will be opportunities for scouts to look at them. If they do well, they could probably get into the team as well. “So, this could be an opportunity for these to get a professional contract in Mexico.” Browne said other Antigua and Barbuda players can benefit from this arrangement.

“It’s not only for players from Old Road. Any young player who’s available and thinks that he’s good enough (would be welcomed). “I think these (three) will have to set the bar, set the standard, and I think it will be the stepping stone, not only for Old Road but for Antigua ... in terms of our players’ (abilities).

JOSEPH SHOWS ALL-ROUND PROWESS

SportsWorld Magazine - It was not all smooth sailing for West Indies emerging all-rounder Alzarri Joseph on his English County Championship debut, but he still managed to take four wickets and got a useful score with the bat as the match ended in a draw on Sunday. Antiguan Joseph finished with figures of 2/86 in the first innings after taking the wickets of Fynn Hudson-Prentice (6) and Michael Cohen (0) off consecutive balls of the 99th over of the first day's play against Derbyshire on Thursday at Derby.

Derbyshire had ended on 360/8 with Matt Critchley scoring 109 and Leus du Plooy 98 in a trying day for the Worcestershire bowlers. They were eventually bowled out for 390 on Friday's second day. Joseph ended with figures of 18-3-86-2 on his first day of play for the Division 1 County Championship team.

He returned with the bat to make a valuable 46 off 55 balls in 85 minutes with eight fours and a six.

The attacking right-hander shared a vital seventh-wicket stand of 51 with Ed Barnard (23) which took the score

from a shaky 231 for eight to 282 before Barnard was dismissed. Worcestershire's 309 was 81 runs less than Derbyshire's first innings.

He took one for 18 in the second innings as Derbyshire were 268 for five in their second innings on Saturday, leaving 353 runs at the end of Saturday's third day.

Joseph scored only four in Worcestershire's second innings score of 193 for eight as the match ended in a draw.

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