



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

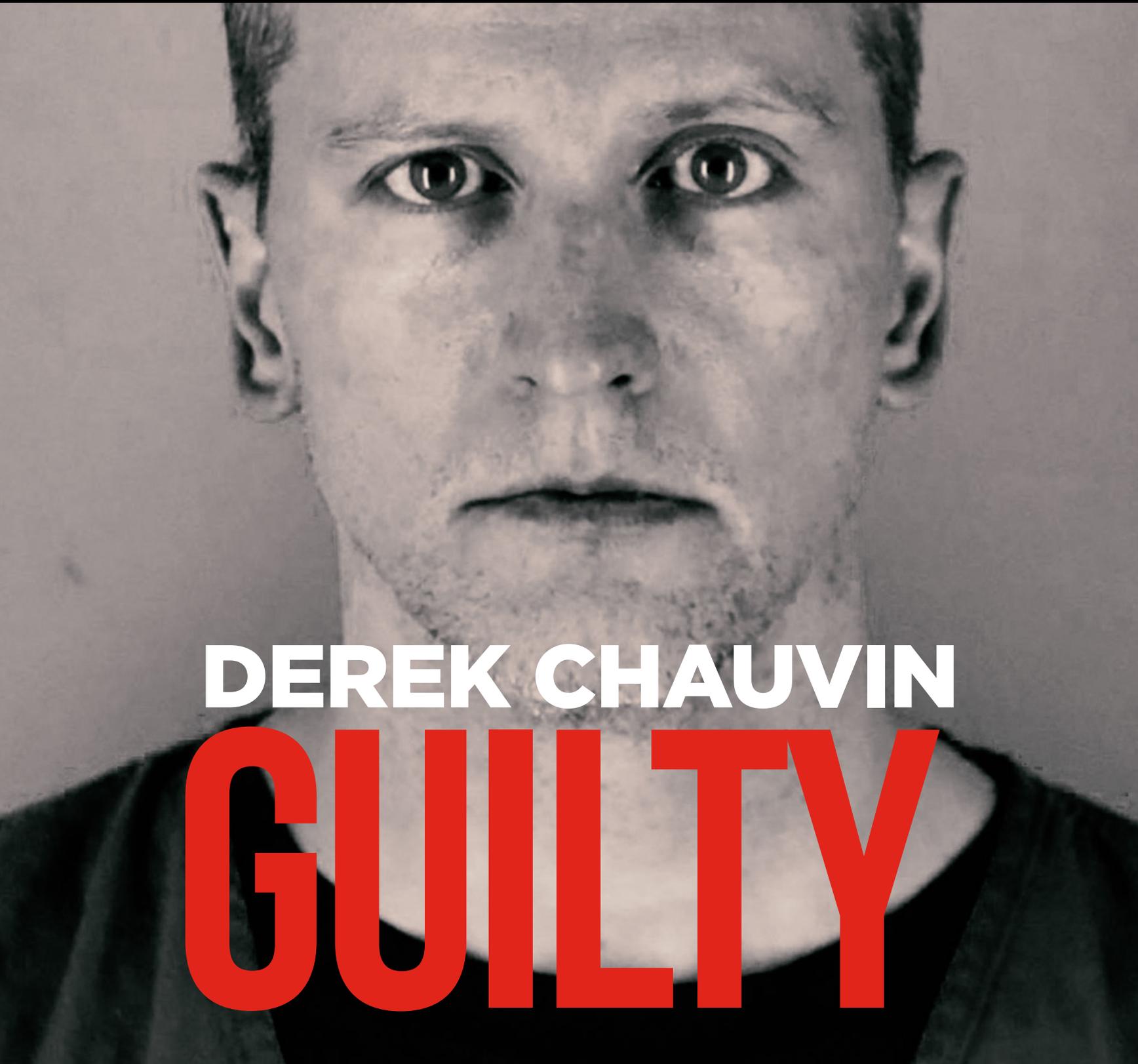
POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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DEREK CHAUVIN GUILTY

WIOC EXTENDS SHARE OFFERINGS

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A SEMINAL MOMENT IN US SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE HISTORY

There are moments in human development when a single event has had the effect of changing the course of human history, many times for bad but quite often the change is good.

Tuesday 20th April 2021 was one such moment, a moment when the world breathed a gigantic sigh of relief when the jury in the Derek Chauvin murder case returned guilty verdicts on all charges against the former Minnesota policeman. Whether you are a history buff or not, there are moments in time that you remember for the rest of your life. The seniors among us talk of 1950/51 industrial unrest that changed the course of the trade union movement in Antigua and Barbuda;

the events of 1967 that led to the formation of the Antigua Workers Union (AWU) and then the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM); the attainment of political independence in 1981; the death and burial of Father of the Nation, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr.; Tim Hector's funeral and the speech by his now fallen comrade, George Odium.

These are all local events that shaped our lives here in Antigua and Barbuda. But our nation is not an island unto itself. It is part of the world that values democracy and where justice ought to be dispensed fairly and equitably, irrespective of one's station in life or ethnicity.

Unfortunately, that has not always been the

case in the United States where it is a nation whose wealth was built on the backs of people forcibly removed from Africa and who were enslaved and forced to live in conditions less than human. The police officers in the U.S. justice system have always operated with a sense of impunity. The police have been the enforcers of the ruling class in the U.S. who are white and who are males.

Thousands of mainly black men have been murdered by police officers over the last century alone. There are the hangings (lynchings) for offences real and imagined to the extent that such events were staged for entertainment purposes. Attempts over these many years to

bring police officers to justice, have always ended in a predictable outcome: not guilty! Despite mountains of evidence, the white police officers are always freed on one pretext or the other.

Over the past year, several young black men have lost their lives senselessly at the hands of police officers. Quite often, no charges are laid and where they are, the outcome is always an acquittal.

The case of George Floyd was different. Even at the onset it differed from other police killings. Floyd was murdered by Chauvin who placed his knee on Floyd's neck for nine and a half minutes. Floyd at the time was laying on the ground

with both hands shackled behind his back. Chauvin had his hands casually placed in his pockets while pressing on the neck of a man screaming for help and relief. Nonchalantly, he ignored cries and offers of assistance.

Floyd cried out, "I can't breathe, I can't breathe!" Yet there was no letting

up from Chauvin who was seemingly intent on committing a murder in plain view of a pleas for relief.

George Floyd died in May last year during the height of the lock-down forced by COVID and at a time when the world observed the protocols. The entire interaction between Chauvin and

Floyd was captured on phone cameras and other equipment from multiple angles. It was shown repeatedly on all major newscasts and it went viral on social media. America was at home! America noticed and there was a national outcry. This led to protests not only in the United States

but in many countries around the world. The fact that a jury of twelve people returned guilty verdicts against Chauvin should change the US police's view that they are above the law. Hopefully too, it will usher in meaningful changes that will make the US a better place for all its peoples.

WIOC

EXTENDS SHARE OFFERINGS



The opportunity to purchase shares in the majority-state-owned West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) is being extended for an additional month.

WIOC Financial Controller, Carlton Bramble, said the decision to extend the share

offering came from a recommendation from the brokers, Bank of St Lucia.

"The brokers felt that there was not enough time for the institutional investors such as credit unions, banks et cetera or corporate entities to par-

ticipate in the share offering. That is because many of their decisions to undertake such investments are informed by advice from their investment committees. Many on these committees are only now having an opportunity

to meet and to make recommendations to their various boards," Bramble explained. The financial controller said the shares that have been purchased so far have been brought by individual investors. "We have been seeing an aver-

age of twenty-five persons per day showing up to purchase shares and over the twelve-day period that the shares have been on sale nearly five hundred individuals have participated," he noted.

According to Bramble, this has been one of the main goals of the divestment strategy: to broaden as widely as possible the ownership of the company. On Wednesday 24th March 2021, the An-

tigua and Barbuda government implemented one of its key promises to the people of Antigua and Barbuda when shares in the majority-owned West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) went on sale that day.

When the government purchased the shares of WIOC from the previous owners – National Petroleum Ltd. owned by the late Bruce Rappaport Estate, Prime Minister Gaston Browne made

a commitment that one day he would open up the company so that ordinary men and women in the country can purchase shares.

Effective 24th March shares of the company went on sale at a price of sixty Eastern Caribbean dollars per share. However, shares will in blocks of no less than fifty. In a statement, the company said fifty per cent of the shares have been reserved for public sector workers.

In its original press statement, WIOC said the offer runs until 21st April 2021. In the event that the shares are oversubscribed, one hundred and forty-two thousand and eighty (142,080) additional shares will be made available.

This means those companies and individuals who were not able to complete arrangements to purchase shares have another month to participate in the process.

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NEW ECCAA HEAD TO PRIORTISE CATEGORY ONE RESTORATION



Anthony Whittier - Director General ECCAA

A new director general is now on the job at the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) headquartered in St John's. Trinidad and Tobago national, Anthony Whittier, was appointed by the ECCAA Board of Directors and his appointment took effect from 1st April. Just days on the job, Whittier is already reaching out to key stakeholders in the industry to give them the assurance that the restoration of Category One designation for ECCAA is a top priority for all concerned at the regulatory authority. OECS Heads of Government have emphasised the importance of Category One designation for

JOB VACANCY

IT SUPPORT

APPLICATION DEADLINE
30TH APRIL, 2021

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

We are seeking to fill the above named position. The successful applicant will join the team in the IT Department.

<p>REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Typing and Data Entry Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 WPM and above • Data Entry Experience • Attention to Detail • Communication Skills • Customer Service • Clerical and Administrative Skills • Written Communication • Completion of Network Administration Tasks such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Configure and maintain the organization's computer network including both software and hardware such as routers and switches. • Setting up user accounts, assigning privileges and passwords for the organization's employees. • Monitor the usage of network by the organization's employees • Examine the network for any performing issues, such as a system crash, and then troubleshoot and document the identified issues. • Coordinate with employees in other departments and teams. • Planning future IT solutions. • Checking and ensuring that all equipment follows the industry standards. 	<p>REQUIREMENTS (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Security • Knowledge of IP addressing, subnet and some common networking protocols like IPv4 and IPv6. • Knowledge of the common operating systems such as Windows. • Knowledge of ISP/Communication Providers and Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). • Microsoft Office Suite • Proficiency in the following - Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher and Word; others a plus. • Desktop Management of Microsoft Windows 10 • Microsoft Server 2012 and/or 2016 • MySQL and/or SQL Database Creation and Querying • Other related duties that may be assigned.
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Email your detailed resume with cover letter to:
Human Resources Manager
State Insurance Company Limited
Redcliffe Street, St. John's, Antigua

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Application Deadline
30th April, 2021

We are seeking to fill the above named position. The successful applicant will join the team in the General Insurance Department.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review applications for compliance and adherence
- Provide comprehensive quotations and recommendations for cover to corporate and other prospective clients
- Issuance of policies
- Negotiate terms of insurance policies with policyholders and or brokers
- Develop and maintain a profitable portfolio
- Review existing products and identify new products to drive new and renewal business
- Manage client renewal lists
- Train and mentor team members in Underwriting and other techniques
- Any other duties as assigned by the Executive Manager

REQUIREMENTS

- Decision making skills and attention to details
- Team player with excellent interpersonal skills and communication skills
- Negotiation skills and problem-solving ability
- Time and priority management skills
- Excellent computer skills
- Leadership skills

EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of 5 years industry underwriting experience

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Recognized insurance diploma or certification
- Bachelors in administration, finance or related field will be an asset
- Knowledge of insurance laws and practices

JOB VACANCY
SENIOR UNDERWRITER
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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the sub-region as it forms a vital part in the aviation sector. The ECCAA was downgraded last year by the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) over matters related to oversight and the independence of the authority.

“It is expected that among the priority tasks of the new Director General will be the restoration of the United States Federal Aviation Administration (US FAA) Category One status to the

ECCAA and working with the UN International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in advancing aviation safety and security in the ECCAA sub-region,” the ECCAA board said in a media release announcing Whittier’s appointment.

The release said his qualifications include an MSc in Project Management, BSc Management Studies (First Class) and a past student of the Chartered Institute

of Management Accountants. He is a qualified aircraft engineer with extensive training in Aircraft and Safety Systems and is pursuing a PhD in Aviation Safety.

“Whittier joins the ECCAA with twenty years of Civil Aviation Authority experience, including with the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority where he was responsible for Compliance Monitoring of the Air Safety Department, and as the Manager Flight

Standards at the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority. He has over eleven years of airline experience at British West Indies Airways (BWIA) and National Helicopters in Trinidad and Tobago,” according to the release.

He has assumed the helm of the ECCAA, following the retirement of J. Donald McPhail who served as Director General from 2010 until December 2020.

Parents summoned after school’s fighting viral video

A report on a fight between a male and a female student of the Golden Grove Primary school is being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, has asked for the report after a meeting was convened between the students with their parents and senior education officials on Tuesday.

Browne said the Education Officer for Zone One, Rolston Nickeo, convened the meeting to find out from the stu-

dents the reason for the fight. The report will provide context for the fight as well as details of the disciplinary steps the school intends to take in the matter.

It appears that the fight between the two students, on the first day of the expansion of the school opening, was over a pen, allegedly belonging to the young woman in the video.

“It can be confirmed that the incident took place at Golden Grove Primary School on Monday and contrary to re-

ports that it was a case of bullying, education officials have determined the fight between the male and female student was over a pen,” the Ministry of Education said in a media release.

Browne said it is important that a formal report of the incident should form a permanent record in the ministry and that steps are put in place to prevent a re-occurrence of such incidents, not only at Golden Grove, but throughout the education system.



LIAT RESUMES FLIGHTS TO SOUTHERN ROUTES

The Antigua-based regional carrier, LIAT, is resuming flights to its southern corridor tomorrow after a two-week suspension forced by the eruption of the La Soufrière in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“The extended suspension, which affects all flights south of Dominica, is being caused by the explosive eruptions of the La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent. These eruptions continue to spew large ash clouds into the atmosphere, forcing the closure of airports and airspace in the vicinity,” the air-

line said in a statement Tuesday. The release said that due to the reduction in seismic activity at the La Soufrière volcano, LIAT 1974 Ltd. will resume services follows:

- Barbados, as of 23rd April 2021
- St. Lucia, as of 22nd April 2021
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada suspended until further notice.

LIAT is urging passengers to note that based on the volatility of the situation, they should monitor their e-mails and LI-

AT’s website for updates. Passengers wishing to reschedule are asked to contact the reservations call centre for assistance. The airline will be working with authorities to assist in relief and evacuation efforts in St. Vincent as soon as possible. LIAT will issue further updates and advisories via its website (www.liat.com) and social media platforms. The management and staff of LIAT wish to extend prayers and sincere wishes to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines at this challenging time.

MSJMC AND UNION LOCKED IN NEGOTIATIONS



Senior management of the Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) and representatives of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association (ABPSA) are to continue their dialogue today to resolve outstanding issues that led to industrial action at the country's main medical facility on Monday.

The MSJMC's Communications Manager Salma Crump said the staff at the institution downed tools on Monday to register their dissatisfaction over the settlement of outstanding issues, mainly outstanding risk payments. Crump reported that the industrial action included staff from key areas of the hospi-

tal: pharmacy, radiology and laboratory. She noted that while the industrial action was widespread, the institution was able to take steps to ensure that there was no noticeable reduction in customer care or the services it offers. She revealed that discussions between the union and the hospital senior team started on Monday, continued on Tuesday and will continue until all outstanding matters are resolved. With the commencement of talks between the parties the industrial action was called off. According to Crump, there was no industrial action since Monday when disgruntled staff returned to their stations.

"While we continue to do everything that we can to meet these obligations, MSJMC has had to face challenges not unfamil-

iar to many organisations across the globe – and, like other hospitals, have had to make very tough decisions regarding



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escalating healthcare costs and all of the other pressures associated with operating a healthcare facility, especially during this time,” the MSJMC said in a statement.

It noted that the scale of the challenge is quite substantial as a total of \$3.7 million is currently owed to workers. “We are taking every possible action to meet these tri-

als. However, our commitment to meet the monthly expenditure of risk allowances is dependent on funds received from central government, which remains obligated to meet the outstanding payments in as much as available resources allow. To date, our hospital has paid a total of \$1,958,895.29 with the most recent payment

being made on 15th March 2020. The ability to settle payments has undoubtedly been constrained over recent months,” the statement continued. The MSJMC added that it respects the rights of its employees to be members of their respective unions, to voice all opinions, and encourage a healthy discourse about the

differences of opinion they have on how to work through the challenges they face. The MSJMC said it is earnestly seeking the financial resources in the shortest possible time to resolve the matter in order to avert further disruptions and trust that the coming days will reveal an acceptable timetable to all concerned.



One COVID-19 positive case in three days

The government’s efforts to bring the rate of new COVID-19 infections down appear to be bearing fruit as the country only recorded one new positive case over a three-day period.

From Friday to Sunday, only one case was recorded according to the latest information from the Ministry of health. No new case was re-

ported for Friday and for Sunday with Saturday recording the lone new case.

“Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda remains at one thousand two hundred and seventeen, which is inclusive of one hundred and ninety-one active cases. Of these active

cases, four are hospitalised with one being considered as moderate and three mild,” the ministry said in the latest media release.

Meanwhile, two hundred and eighty-one individuals were vaccinated since the last publication increasing the total to twenty nine thousand one hundred and sixty-four.

Training of Immigration officers critical to country's security

Immigration officers in Antigua and Barbuda are undergoing continuous training because of the vital tasks they perform in ensuring the overall security of the nation's borders and its people. This was emphasised in brief remarks made by the Minister responsible for Immigration, E.P. Chet Greene to some twenty-five immigration officers attending this week's training session at the Trade Winds hotel.

"Training continues to be the hallmark of the work we do in the department as even in this pandemic period it is very important that we keep our staff updated and certainly conversant with modern developments and trend," he remarked. He noted that performing a task several times assists staff members in improving their skills. "Through repetition, we perfect it; we learn



new things about it and in the context of immigration and border control, the tasks that we are asked to undertake on a daily basis on behalf of the nation of Antigua and Barbuda, I am sure you have come to understand and appreciate the nature of training," he added.

The minister also urged the participants to 'stay the course,' telling them to grasp as much as they can from the training. Noting that immigration officers must now operate in a 'different time' of new norms, adopting training to one's new circumstances may mean



JOB VACANCY UNDERWRITER

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To evaluate applicants for insurance, and determine whether or not a prospective customer should be insured and, if so, recommend an appropriate premium to take on that level of risk.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Analyze information provided on application
- Assist Senior Underwriter in servicing and operational management of accounts
- Negotiate terms of insurance policies with policyholders and or brokers
- Underwrite new and renewal business under supervision by the Senior Underwriter
- Prepare policy documentation
- Issue non-binding/indicative terms
- Review applications for compliance and adherence
- Any other duties as assigned

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of two (2) years Industry Underwriting experience
- Recognized insurance diploma or certification
- Associates degree in Business Administration, Finance or related

Bachelors in administration, finance or related field an asset

SKILLS AND ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

- Effective verbal and written communication skills
- Detail Oriented
- Critical thinking skills
- Excellent customer service skills
- Ability to work independently and as a team member
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Proficiency with MS Office



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some level of variation to what existed before. He made references to the new realities at the main port of entry, the airport, where health protocols have been put into place due to the pandemic. This, he explained, is part of a world where change is the only constant.

“I now call on you to be that change; the change that is adaptable to the new realities and one which calls for creative thinking, an ability to assess a situation and to adopt,” he remarked. Greene made the point that while the training offers some key points

and pointers, it is up to the officer to bring this new learning into their everyday activities on the job. The training is being conducted by Chief Consultant at Nibbs and Associates, Shirlene Nibbs, who has performed similar training for the immi-

gration department in the past. The workshop runs for two weeks as the idea is to train the entire department over that period. Due to COVID-19 protocols only twenty-five staff members at a time may attend the training.

PRIME MINISTER GASTON BROWNE CALLS FOR GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AT UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FORUM

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, was a featured speaker at the United Nations Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development as Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

The Economic and Social Council opened its annual financing for development forum on held last week amid warnings that, with more than three million lives lost to COVID-19 and infections still on the rise, governments must urgently heed the lessons learned thus far if they are to avoid a lengthy global recession.

Opening the session was the UN Secretary General António Guterres, who made

a case for choosing an equitable path towards recovery after COVID-19. “Solidarity will save lives and prevent communities and economies from falling into catastrophic debt and dysfunction,” the Secretary General said.

The Secretary General went on to state that just ten countries account for seventy-five per cent of global vaccinations, while many others have yet to inoculate their health-care workers and most vulnerable citizens. “Many developing countries face insurmountable debt that will put the Sustainable Development Goals out of reach.”

Some estimates place the global cost of unequal access and vaccine hoarding at more

than nine trillion dollars. He called for urgent action — first and foremost to make vaccines available to all countries.

PM Browne, while speaking on behalf of

the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that small island developing States face the greatest pressure from COVID-19 as the pandemic — coupled with existing

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

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne

global challenges like climate change and growing inequality — represents “the biggest stress test that we have ever faced.”

These States face unprecedented challenges in access to essential medicine and ensuring the widespread global availability of COVID-19 vaccines is critical not only for controlling the pandemic but also for the recovery of these vulnerable States. He noted, however, that significant disparities remain in vaccine access despite efforts to address this issue.

Browne went on to state, “The Paris Club and IFI’s, donor governments, as well as other creditors, should consider a waiver of this year’s debt repayment for SIDS as a short-term measure, and the implementa-

tion of debt forgiveness as part of a long-term solution. Further actions should include the design of new and enhanced financial instruments to provide debt relief including debt cancellation, debt suspension, debt rescheduling, debt restructuring, debt swaps, as well as other support measures. Also, IDA funding terms should be expanded to include vulnerable SIDS, whose economies were decimated by COVID-19 and are now faced with unsustainably high debt service ratios and debt overhang.”

In closing Prime Minister Browne reiterated the need for the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures.

“The per capita income criterion should be permanently shelved. The establishment and implementation of a multi-dimensional vulnerability index for SIDS is imperative and should no longer be delayed. Given the importance of climate finance to SIDS and in relation to the UNFCCC funding; we wish to make a call to developed countries to meet their existing collective mobilization goal through 2025.

“We also look forward to constructive discussions under the UNFCCC to setting a new collective quantified goal, beyond the floor of USD 100 billion per year, in order to increase climate finance to vulnerable SIDS. To defeat COVID requires global solidari-

ty therefore, we firmly reject the imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries, which will enlarge poverty and undermine their achievement of the sustainable development goals.”

The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social, and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SARAH-ANN JOSEPH!



The nation of Antigua and Barbuda will join the family in celebrating the one hundred and second birthday of Sarah-Ann Evangeline Joseph of Liberta today.

The Community Development Division in the Ministry of Social Transformation is coordinating a virtual celebration that will also include Governor General Sir Rodney Williams.

Ms. Joseph was born to parents Walter Joseph and Amelia Richards. Ms. Joseph mothered seven children, five boys and two girls, four of whom reside in Antigua and three live abroad. She has thirty-six grandchildren, twenty-one

great-grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren. Ms. Joseph has worked as a domestic worker and as a cook at both the Deets Hotel and the Lord Nelson Hotel in British Virgin Island. She was also a supervisor at the Public Works Department in Antigua, which was her longest job experience.

She attends the Grace Hill Moravian Church in Liberta, and her favourite hymn is "Through All the Changing Scenes of Life."

Ms. Joseph lists her favourite foods as fungee, fish, shad and ground provision and brebrich/lemonade.



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- Knowledge of International cuisines.

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- Graduate of internationally recognized culinary institution or equivalent technical training school

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Please enter the name of the position in the email subject field for consideration (for example) "Senior Sous Chef". We thank all applicants for their interest but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

WOMAN CHARGED WITH FORGING COVID-19 TEST RESULTS



BAHAMAS – A woman accused of forging scores of COVID-19 test results was on Monday remanded to prison. Laderia Russell, 35, of Grantanna Subdivision, off Cowpen Road, appeared before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt after police charged her with 80 counts of forgery and 80 counts of possession

of a forged document in relation to the matter.

However, due to the court's busy calendar, Ferguson-Pratt was only able to arraign Russell on 40 counts of possession of a forged document.

According to those counts, between November 25, 2020 and March 20, 2021, Russell

had Doctors Hospital health systems negative COVID-19 RT-PCR tests in the names of other people.

She pleaded not guilty. Russell, who is represented by Ian Cargill and Wendawn Miller-Frazer, returns to court today at 11 a.m. for the continuation of her arraignment, which is expected to

last several days.

Police said Russell's arrest comes following the proliferation of fake negative RT-PCR test results. A recent negative test result is required for travel. Since March 2021, police have intercepted multiple fraudulent tests at Lynden Pindling International Airport.

MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL TO BE THE NEW PRESIDENT OF CUBA



Miguel Díaz-Canel

Miguel Díaz-Canel has been elected the first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC), the most powerful role. He will be the first person without mentioning the name Castro to run Cuba since the 1959 revolution.

The move, published Monday, was widely expected. It means the tall, silver-haired 60-year-old now has

a hold on Cuba's two most powerful positions, head of the party and president of the state, and involves stories that he was a place-man, subject to more important forces.

"I never believed that kind of rumour," says former Cuban diplomat Carlos Alzugaray. "He was in command, probably in close discussion with Raúl Castro. But I think the sign

is that he's in charge of almost everything now. He stands way over everybody else."

An electrical engineer by education, Díaz-Canel has been a party functionary for much of his life, albeit a fast-rising one. He was born almost a year after the revolution, in Villa Clara, the area where Che Guevara broke Fulgencio Batista's troops' will, bring-

ing about the process. As a young man, people who knew him assumed he was a witty and charming party secretary in Villa Clara and then Holguin in eastern Cuba. He was also hailed as a thorough and committed minister of higher learning. But since rising to national fame, he has appeared to strike a distant and difficult-to-read figure.

Raúl Castro first named him vice chairman (of the council of ministers) in 2012, shortly after he had taken over from his brother Fidel as the party's first secretary. It was the first real sign that Díaz-Canel was being prepared for power.

The design of the new Politburo that will guide Cuba through the next years was also announced Monday. Its features face huge difficulties as the state struggles with the coronavirus, United States penalties, crumbling infrastructure and set bureaucracy.

MELISSA SKERRIT STARTS “DRY FOOD DRIVE” TO HELP ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



Melissa Poponne Skerrit- MP and wife of the PM Roosevelt Skerrit

DOMINICA – Parliamentary representative from Roseau Central, Mrs. Melissa Poponne Skerrit, has launched a drive to help St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Melissa Skerrit, who is also the wife of Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, stated on Monday that everyone needs to come together to help St Vincent and the Grenadines. She said people can drop off the donations at the Labour House in Roseau. “Join us in helping our

brothers and sisters in St. Vincent and the Grenadines who are still suffering at the hands of Mother Nature. Kindly drop off your donations at the Labour House,” added Mrs. Skerrit on her Facebook account.

The initiative has been named “Dry Food Drive- Yes, we need your help.” Under the initiative, people can donate unexpired, non-perishable food items. The aid can be dropped off at the La-

bour House situated at King George V Street, Roseau. Melissa Skerrit stated that the initiative is a joint effort of the Labour Youth Organization (LYO) and Labour Women’s Organization (LWO).

Besides this, the government of Dominica has also declared support worth \$1 million to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced on Sunday that Dominica is making all efforts to assist the sister island.

Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, also thanked the Dominican PM for supporting the country.

“Thank you, my comrade brother, Roosevelt Skerrit, and our brothers and sisters from the beautiful Commonwealth of Dominica for your generosity. We are deeply moved by your kindness and are eternally grateful,” tweeted SVG PM Ralph Gonsalves on Monday. Dominica has also extended support to St. Vincent by agreeing to accommodate 300 evacuees from the volcano-affected country. The evacuees would be housed for free for five months in Dominica. However, the Vincenians would be subjected to mandatory government quarantine on arrival in Dominica. St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been going through tough times for the past two weeks since the La Soufriere volcano erupted on April 9, 2021.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago – The government of Trinidad and Tobago has undergone a reshuffle of ministers as of Monday 19 April 2021 when Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley advised President Paul-Mae Weekes to reassign the ministers with immediate effect.

Mr. Stuart Young has been appointed Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and his duties as Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Fitzgerald Hinds has been appointed as the Minister of National Security, while Foster Cummings is Minister of Youth Development and National Service.

Young’s appointment comes three days after the death of former Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs Franklin Khan.

The reshuffle has been announced in accordance with Sections 3(9), 76(3) and 79(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Prime Minister Rowley declared that the reassignments are effective immediately.

The reshuffle of the cabinet is also said to be connected with the rising coronavirus cases in the country. Prime Minister Rowley, who is himself coronavirus positive, stated on Sunday evening that Trinidad and Tobago is experiencing a rise in hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

The government has also tightened its restrictions as the opposition continues to oppose the imposition of stricter measures.



PM KEITH ROWLEY ANNOUNCES MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE

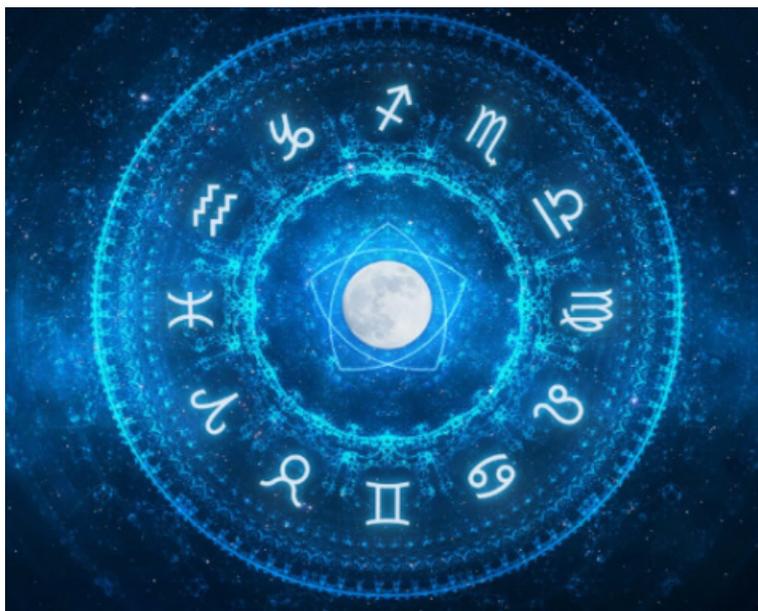


Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley

QUICK CROSSWORD

		8				2		
		3			5		8	
	4	2			6	7		
3	8					1	7	
	6	9	4	3				
2				1				
				2		5	8	1
8				5	4	3		
	3		6		1			

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.

♎ 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.

♉ 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.

♏ 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.

♊ 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.

♐ 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.

♋ 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.

♑ 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.

♌ 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.

♒ 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.

♍ 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.

♓ 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.



The Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Cooperation

The Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Cooperation invites the public to register for the Virtual Spanish Classes for the new academic term April 26th to July 30th 2021.

Registration will be administered online.
<https://forms.gle/u9FWmN8xGj8brVnd7>

For more information please contact us by email:
 ivccantiguaandbarbuda2021@gmail.com
 or by phone: +1 (268) 462-1574

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Tue 20 | Night
24°
 Partly cloudy. Low 24°C. Winds ENE at 15 to 30 km/h.
 23% Humidity, ENE 22 km/h, UV Index 0 of 10, Moonrise 12:17, Waxing Gibbous.

Wed 21 | 29°/24° Partly Cloudy
 21% Humidity, E 28 km/h

Wed 21 | Day
29°
 Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 25 to 40 km/h.
 68% Humidity, UV Index Extreme, Sunrise 05:47, Sunset 18:24.

Wed 21 | Night
24°
 Generally clear. Low 24°C. Winds E at 15 to 25 km/h.
 77% Humidity, UV Index 0 of 10, Moonrise 13:14, Moonset 01:42, Waxing Gibbous.

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 Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag

COMICS

Dilbert April 20, 2021



Garfield April 20, 2021



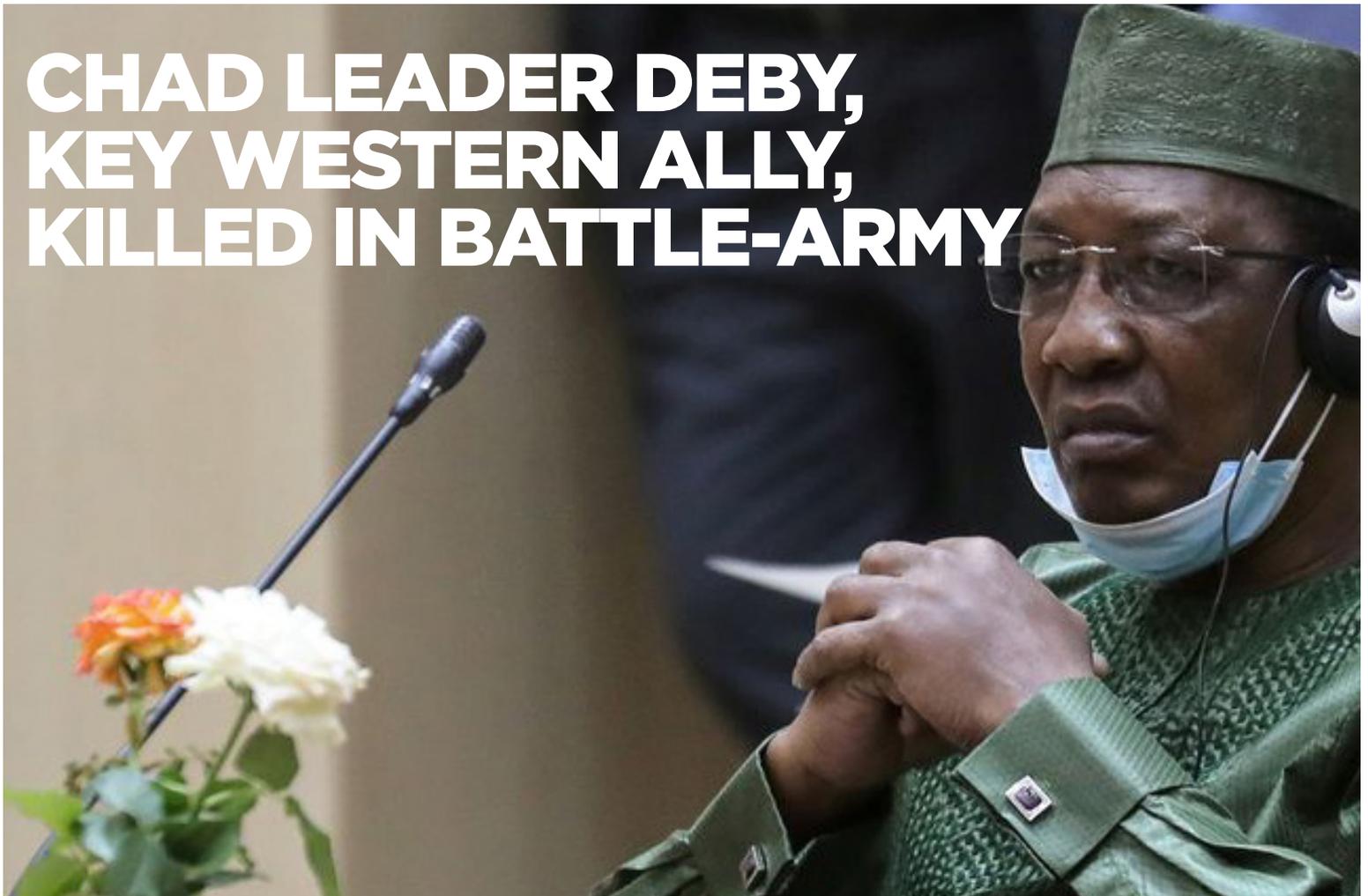
Luann April 20, 2021



GOT NEWS?

Send your news stories to news@pointville.ag

CHAD LEADER DEBY, KEY WESTERN ALLY, KILLED IN BATTLE-ARMY



President of Chad, Idriss Deby

Chad's president, Idriss Deby, who ruled his country for more than 30 years and was an important Western ally in the fight against Islamist militants in Africa, was killed on Monday in a battle against rebels in the north, authorities said.

His son, Mahamat Idriss Deby, was named interim president by a transitional council of military officers, army spokesman Azem Bermendoa Agouna said on state television on Tuesday.

Deby, 68, took power in a rebellion in 1990 and was one of Africa's longest-ruling leaders, sur-

living numerous coup attempts and rebellions. His death, the exact cause of which was unclear, could deepen Chad's problems, as well as those of its allies.

On the domestic front, the military is divided and the opposition bridle against years of repressive rule. Internationally, France and the United States will be hoping their counterterrorism efforts are not now pushed off course.

France said it had lost a "brave friend" and Chad "a great soldier". The White House offered "sincere condolences" to the people of Chad and sup-

ported "a peaceful transition of power in accordance with the Chadian constitution."

Deby's death was announced a day after he was declared winner of a presidential election that would have given him a sixth term in office. Most of the opposition boycotted the vote. Deby, who often joined soldiers on the battlefield in his military fatigues, visited troops on the front line after rebels based across the northern frontier in Libya advanced hundreds of kilometres (miles) south toward the capital, N'Djamena.

"Marshal Idriss Deby

Itno, as he did each time that the institutions of the republic were gravely threatened, took control of operations during the heroic combat led against the terrorists from Libya. He was wounded during the fighting and died once repatriated to N'Djamena," Bermendoa said.

He did not comment on when Deby died, but funeral arrangements issued by the government said it was on Monday.

The government and National Assembly have been dissolved and a nationwide curfew imposed from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Minneapolis jury convicts ex-policeman Derek Chauvin of murdering George Floyd



Former Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin was convicted of murder on Tuesday in the arrest of George Floyd, a milestone in the fraught racial history of the United States and a rebuke of law enforcement's treatment of Black Americans.

The 12-member jury found Chauvin, 45, guilty of all charges including second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter after considering three weeks of testimony from 45 witnesses, including bystanders, police officials and medical experts. Deliberations began on Monday and lasted just over 10 hours.

In a confrontation captured on video, Chauvin, who is white, pushed his knee into the neck of Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man in handcuffs, for more than nine minutes on May 25, 2020, as he and three fellow officers arrested Floyd, who was accused of using a fake \$20 bill to buy cigarettes at a grocery store.

Chauvin, wearing a gray suit with a blue tie and white shirt as well as a light-blue pandemic-related face mask, nodded and stood quickly when the judge ruled that his bail was revoked after the verdict was read.

He was taken out of the courtroom in handcuffs and placed in the custody of the Hennepin County Sheriff. Outside the courthouse, a crowd of several hundred people erupted in cheers when the verdict was announced. Cars honked and chants of "George Floyd" and "All three counts" broke out. At George Floyd square in Minneapolis, the intersection where Floyd was killed and is now named after him, people screamed, applauded and some threw dollar bills in the air in celebration. The site has since become a rallying point for racial justice protests.

Chauvin had pleaded not guilty to the charges of second-degree unintentional murder involving "intentional infliction of bodily harm," third-degree unintentional "depraved mind" murder involving an "act eminently dangerous to others," and second-degree manslaughter involving a death caused by "culpable negligence."

Under Minnesota sentencing guidelines, Chauvin faces 12-1/2 years in prison for his murder conviction as a first-time criminal offender. Prosecutors could, however, seek a longer sentence up to the maximum of 40 years if Hennepin County District Judge Peter Cahill, who presided over the trial, determines that there were "aggravating factors."

Earlier on Tuesday, U.S. President Joe Biden said he had spoken by phone with members of Floyd's family.

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Earlier on Tuesday, U.S. President Joe Biden said he had spoken by phone with members of Floyd's family.

UN to provide food to Venezuela children amid crisis

The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) has reached a deal with the government of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela to provide food to the country's school-children. Child malnutrition has been on the rise as Venezuela's once-prosperous economy has gone into freefall and health services have collapsed.

More than 5.3m Venezuelans have fled their home country amid the crisis.

The WFP aims to reach 185,000 school children by the end of this year. A study by the World Food Programme published in 2020 suggested that one in three Venezuelans was not able to put enough food on the table to meet minimum nutrition requirements and was "in need of assistance". The study says that Venezuelans' lack of dietary diversity was "of major concern" with many families not getting enough meat, fish, eggs, vegetables and fruits. Doctors are also reporting that se-

vere malnutrition is causing rates of infant mortality to rise. The Venezuelan government has not released any figures on infant mortality in the past four years, but the health ministry's re-

time, Antonieta Caporale, was sacked shortly after her department made the figures public. The World Food Programme will set up a presence in Venezuela and aims to provide daily meals to 1.5m

and special education schools. It says that schools are the best way to reach communities "in an independent manner". WFP Executive Director David Beasley thanked President Maduro "for



Many Venezuelan parents are struggling to feed their children and have been resorting to soup kitchens

port for 2017 showed that child deaths had risen by 30% from the previous year. The health minister at the

students by the end of 2023. The WFP will focus first on the most vulnerable children, those in pre-primary

allowing us to be independent and to not let any of our work to be politicized by anybody".

Argentina produces Russia's Sputnik V vaccine in regional first



Doses of the Sputnik V (Gam-COVID-Vac) vaccine against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are pictured at the Tecnopolis Park, in Buenos Aires, Argentina April 15, 2021. REUTERS/Agustin Marcarian

An Argentine firm has produced test batches of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, the first in Latin America, with aims to scale up manufacturing of the drug by mid-year as the wider region grapples with a new surge in infections. Russian sovereign wealth fund RDIF and Laboratorios Richmond (RICH. BA) said on Tuesday that the Argentina pharmaceutical company had carried out

the test production and that the batches would be sent to Russia's Gamaleya Institute for quality inspection. "We estimate that, if the process is positive, scale production would begin in June 2021," Richmond said in a statement, adding it aimed to have the vaccine ready "in the shortest possible time for the country and the region." Argentina's inoculation program has relied heavily on

Sputnik V. The South American country was one of the first globally to use the vaccine on scale to inoculate its population and has faced delays getting other vaccines.

The country has seen cases of the novel coronavirus hit daily records highs over the last week, forcing the government to tighten restrictions in and around capital city Buenos Aires and pledge to speed up its vaccination program.

Russian scientist Denis Logunov, a lead developer of the Sputnik V vaccine, said on Friday that the vaccine had proven itself 97.6% effective against COVID-19 in a real-world assessment, based on data from 3.8 million people. That was higher than the 91.6% rate outlined in results from a large-scale trial of Sputnik V published in The Lancet medical journal earlier this year.

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE: ALL SIX PREMIER LEAGUE TEAMS WITHDRAW FROM COMPETITION



All six Premier League teams involved in the European Super League have formally withdrawn from the competition.

Manchester City were the first club to pull out after Chelsea had signalled their intent to do so by preparing documentation to withdraw.

The other four sides - Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham - have all now followed suit

The twelve-team Super

League was announced on Sunday to widespread condemnation.

Manchester City confirmed they have "formally enacted the procedures to withdraw" from the Super League.

Liverpool said their involvement in the proposed breakaway league "has been discontinued."

Manchester United said they had "listened carefully to the reaction from our fans, the UK government and oth-

er key stakeholders" in making their decision to not take part.

Arsenal apologised in an open letter to their fans and said they had "made a mistake," adding they were withdrawing after listening to them and the "wider football community."

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said the club regretted the "anxiety and upset" caused by the proposal.

Chelsea confirmed

they have "begun the formal procedures for withdrawal from the group" that they only joined "late last week."

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin welcomed the reversal, adding: "They are back in the fold now and I know they have a lot to offer not just to our competitions but to the whole of the European game. The important thing now is that we move on, rebuild the unity that the game enjoyed

before this and move forward together.”

English football’s ‘big six’ were part of a group, also containing Spain’s Atletico Madrid, Barcelona and Real Madrid and Italy’s AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus, that announced plans to form the breakaway league, which they hoped to establish as a new midweek competition.

It was condemned by fans, football authorities and government ministers in the UK and across Europe by UEFA and league associations.

Around one thousand fans gathered outside Chelsea’s Stamford Bridge ground before their game against Brighton on Tuesday to protest at their club’s involvement. Manchester United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, who was involved in the Super League discussions, has announced he will step down from his role at the end of 2021.

Leading players at some of the six clubs signalled their disapproval of the planned breakaway league.

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson said on social media his side’s “collective position” is they do not want the Super League to take place.



FATE OF CARIFTA 2021 TO BE ANNOUNCED IN MAY

A final decision on the fate of the 2021 Carifta Games will be announced in May.

On Saturday, the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Association (NACAC) hosted a special information session for the Carifta family. The Zoom meeting was attended by member federations as well as chairs of NACAC commissions and working groups.

This year’s edition of the Carifta Games is scheduled for August 13-15 in Bermuda. The regional junior meet was not held in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Bermuda transferred its hosting responsibilities to 2021.

The global pandemic eliminated the possibility of staging the Games on Easter weekend. NACAC had chosen July 2, 3 and 4 as the new dates, but was forced to postpone again because of the scheduling of Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) external exams.

The August dates, however, are now under threat. Bermuda is currently experiencing a spike in Covid-19 cases. At Saturday’s meeting, Carifta 2021 Local

Organising Committee (LOC) member Mia Bean spoke about a non-negotiable requirement that any unvaccinated visitor to Bermuda must be quarantined for 14 days.

Since the vaccination requirement would impact all under-17 athletes as well as some of the under-20s, it is a major stumbling block. Other potential challenges were put on the table, including the impact of positive Covid-19 tests during the Games, available hotel rooms, and timelines for booking charters and making payments.

Following extensive discussions, the Carifta 2021 LOC was given until April 30 to report to the NACAC Council on the latest situation with all the issues raised at the information session. The LOC is expected to meet with Bermuda Government officials before the month-end deadline.

Following receipt of the Bermuda LOC report, the NACAC Council will make a decision and communicate it to member federations.

CWI RESTORES FULL SALARIES

President of Cricket West Indies (CWI) Ricky Skerritt has revealed that players and staff are now receiving full salaries again, after agreeing to a 50 percent pay-cut last year.

CWI enforced pay-cuts in July 2020 at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic which left the organization facing major loss of income with very few cricketing activities.

Skerritt said all salaries are

back to normal, even if only temporarily.

Skerritt, who was just re-elected to another two-year term with his vice-president, Dr. Kishore Shallow, indicated there were much better relations with stakeholders, players and staff over the last two years.

The Kittitian said they want to focus on cricket with no major distractions to the players.



DEWS



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