

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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GYMS REOPEN TODAY... BARS MAY BE SOON

SEE PAGE 4

A SHARPE TURN ON THE COVID-19 JOURNEY

By Orville Taylor

Minutes to seven in the morning, it is week five of the battle with COVID-19. Virus free for 17 days but pneumonia taking its own time to leave. One check with the oximeter; numbers good; a small prayer giving thanks for life; I suck in a deep breath of sweet air and rejoice that my colleague Dionne Jackson Miller was back on air. My time soon; but patience, Man in Black. A check of the cell phone, Michael Sharpe is dead! Tears! ...There, but for the Grace of God, go I. Nightmare! It is not one of those COVID-19 hallucinations; this is real. Then Milton Walker, our friend and colleague, reads the 7:00 a.m. news on Ra-

dio Jamaica 94FM. He is struggling through it, hear the emotions crackling his voice. Milton has been our centre-half as the Radio Jamaica triad battled for the three points, checking up on us daily, giving us each updates on the other. Devastated! There is an imbecile on social media, passing on conspiracy theories, misinformation, and saving his brain for use later on in life. There is no conspiracy – at least not one I am part of. There is a battle; part of a war that we are fighting. A team of three fighting a present but invisible enemy. One soldier down, one out of the field of fire, and the third must keep firing. Sharpie's death hits hard and close. For

those of us who shared Studio 94FM, this is an awful throwback.

BEST DUO ON JAMAICAN TV

Two years ago, in the same month and same period, we were praying for the life of Dorraine Samuels, the other half of the best pair of news anchors in Jamaican television history. You might not have noticed, but it was on the very anniversary of her death that the insidious rumour of Sharpie's premature demise broke while we two are fighting to get back. He died days after her funeral date.

Sharpie is dead, and it was not the nurse who killed him. Reactive threats dishonour his persona, legacy, and his love affair with law and order. Propheti-

cally, he was the one who distributed the COVID-19 data daily and warned us of the danger. The lesson is that even with the best of precautions, some of us will get it. However, with no or little safeguards, the death toll will be astronomical.

At the time of submitting this column for publication, 750 Jamaicans had died from COVID-19, with more than 44,600 confirmed. Thousands more are walking around with mild symptoms or none. Countless who have 'bad sinus', a fresh cold, a little flu or 'bad feelings' but do not develop more severe symptoms, such as 'blowing short,' dismiss it.

Most individuals

who test positive for COVID-19 will survive and only about three per cent will likely die. However, that does not factor in the amount of pressure on the health system. Overworked nurses and doctors in short supply, coupled with beds in both hospitals and field hospital being fully occupied, any sustained surge will see the system reaching breaking point. More infections mean more fatalities. Whatever the percentage, post-COVID-19 symptoms may last a lifetime.

REDUCING RISKS

Debate about the efficacy of the vaccines if we wish, but the evidence is that they do help in reducing the likelihood of getting ill from the virus or dying. Only God is perfect. Moreover, the overwhelming scientific consensus based on the myriad data, is that, without it, more people are going to get severely ill and a larger percentage will die. Simple! In any event, we cannot vaccinate ourselves out of this pandemic.

If we continue to have this rate of infection, every family in this country will have a relative who has either died or had a close brush with death. And it might very well be you.

We still have too many ‘bulletproof’ nonchalant and dismissive people. Too often in public places, someone comes close and ‘grounds you out.’ On telling him to put on his mask or keep his distance, this ignoramus says, “Nuh scorn me cause me no have no Covitz!” Crowds will kill many!

Of course, even with the best of efforts, some extremely careful persons will still get it. I did. Duh! Doctors and nurses have died. However, large numbers of carefree people will create a disaster.

COVID-19 means that we need radical cultural and behavioural change; physical distancing, small gatherings, respecting the curfew and other restrictive measures. Basic hygiene must improve. How can one person, who is not

the lover of the other, share a drink? That is a kiss! And how does a ganja man, who ‘bun out’ intimate relations among men, share a chalice with other men? Smoking a spliff built by another, outside of COVID-19 is just nasty.

No handshakes, especially those weird, thumb-rubbing bro-mance gestures between two Gs. No need to be talking up into another person’s face so closely that they can smell the mammalian flesh you had for your dinner last evening.

The danger is real, and Michael would appreciate my saying that our behaviour must take a Sharpe turn to the right.

- Dr Orville Taylor is head of the Department of Sociology at The University of the West Indies, a radio talk-show host, and author of ‘Broken Promises, Hearts and Pockets’

Email feedback to columns@gleanerjm.com and tayloron-blackline@hotmail.com.

Reprinted from the Jamaica Gleaner

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30TH APRIL, 2021

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<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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GYMS RE-OPENING SET FOR TODAY

As the government moves to loosen restrictions imposed on the country to contain the spread of the coronavirus, gym operators have the green light to reopen their businesses effective today, Monday 26th April. Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst, said the opening of the gyms, however, comes with sev-

eral guidelines. These include the following: a) all patrons and operators are to make appointments to utilise the gym; b) all patrons and operators are required to wear face masks throughout the time spent within the gyms; b) no patron may remain in the gym for more than one hour; c) frequent sanitising of the machines and

the places customers touch is required. Hurst reported that the matter related to the opening of bars remains a concern for the government. He said the matter will come up for review at this week's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. "There's no guarantee that the Cabinet will decide to reopen the bars on Wednesday." However, he

added that it demonstrates a commitment to have these businesses open thus providing a living for their owners/operators. Hurst emphasised that at all times the Cabinet relies on the advice of the Chief Health Inspector and the Chief Medical Officer when determining the rate at which it reopens or relaxes restrictions.

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SPUTNIK APPROVED, NOT YET ADMINISTERED



The second vaccine to join the government’s arsenal against the coronavirus – Sputnik V – has been approved by the pharmacy council, but the vaccine is still some time away from being administered to residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

According to a senior government official, the Cabinet has agreed to order fifty thousand Sputnik V vaccines, which will be placed into storage until approval for use of the vaccine is received from World Health Organisation (WHO).

The government is

moving to purchase the Sputnik V vaccines prior to its approval from the WHO. “Our experience has been that the granting of approval for vaccines by the WHO results in an immediate sharp increase in the price. For example, the Sputnik V vaccine costs approximately nine US dollars per dose. However, we expect that when the vaccine receives WHO approval that cost will rise exponentially to about thirty US dollars per dose,” he explained.

Therefore, he continued, all the Sputnik V vaccines will be purchased and stored

until final approval comes from the world body. This means that to date, only the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is currently being administered in the country.

The official said residents and citizens may then have a choice between the Oxford AstraZeneca and the Sputnik V vaccines in due course. The official is urging everyone age eighteen years and older to be vaccinated. The Russian vaccine is a two-dose vaccine that is in great demand and being gobbled up by many European countries, the official explained.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet agreed that a second register will be developed for those who have been fully vaccinated abroad and have returned to Antigua and Barbuda where they reside. Those who have been fully vaccinated abroad will have to present the evidence, and their names will be entered into the registry. Those vaccinated in Antigua and Barbuda are already entered into a database which is a permanent record of the dates, the type of vaccine, and other pertinent data which health professionals require.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA RECORDS ANOTHER COVID-19- RELATED DEATH

The Mount St John's Medical Centre (MS-JMC) is reporting that there has been another COVID-19 related death. Confirmation of this came in a statement overnight from the hospital's Medical Director, Dr Albert Duncan, who reported, "We can confirm that sadly, a female patient, age seventy-three, who had underlying health conditions, has passed away at Mount St. John's Medical Centre on 25th April at 6:17 a.m. She had tested positive for COVID-19."

Her death brings to thirty-two the number of people in Antigua and Barbuda who have succumbed to COVID-19 related illnesses.

"Our thoughts and condolences remain with the patient's family and loved ones at this difficult time," the statement concluded.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health is reporting that there are five new COVID-19 positive cases recorded in the country up to Thursday 22nd April.

These new cases were as a result of seventy-two samples processed by MSJMC and forty-eight processed by CARPHA. Seven recovered cases have been recorded, bringing the total to one thousand and two.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one thousand two hundred and twenty-seven, which is inclusive of one hundred and ninety-four active cases. Of these active cases, seven are hospitalised, with three being considered as moderate and four mild.



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- To assist CE in the preparation of departmental work plan, and development and monitoring of annual budget;
- To assist CE to negotiate service and project contracts where applicable, with outside contractors/firms, etc. Supervises and inspects all work carried out by contractors and their agent;
- Provide skill training on the job and organize formal training for staff as necessary;
- Assist CE to maintain control of all spares and materials in stores, purchases on a timely basis, ensuring availability of all materials for employees' use, in a cost effective manner;
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NUMBER OF ACTIVE COVID CASES EXPECTED TO PLUNGE SHARPLY THIS WEEK ... AND HERE IS WHY

By Shelton Daniel

One of two people hospitalised at the Mount Saint John's Medical Center (MS-JMC) for COVID-19 is in very serious condition, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has disclosed.

He was speaking Saturday during his weekly radio programme, The Browne and Browne Show, on PointeFM 99.1.

"That person is intubated, and the other person is mild," PM Browne stated. "I'm told too that there are six others at the IDC (Infectious Diseases Center) but most of them are awaiting their second, or their negative test ... in order to return home."

He said "the emergency room has had no COVID traffic for the past couple of days."

The Prime Minister also shared some rather interesting and encouraging information that he said had been brought to his attention, and which would represent a significant reduction in the number of active COVID cases in the country. "I'm told that quite a number of those active cases should have been taken off, perhaps weeks ago, but the problem is the contact tracing team had actually fallen behind. The Ministry [of Health] has since expanded the team, and they have recently completed an audit. So, we have been told that a significant number of the cases will be taken off, perhaps on Monday when they next publish the dashboard. So, we should probably see significantly

less than one hundred cases. Because these are people who have been on there for over a month, and we know by then they would have recovered anyway." According to the Prime Minister, it was because of "this improvement in the epidemiological position" that his government had decided to permit gyms to reopen and for churches to resume services.

He noted that government was "continually receiving proposals from individuals about bars, but that is a very difficult one to contend with. I'm expecting that next week we'll have a discussion about how we can accommodate bars."

Prime Minister Browne wondered aloud "if maybe vaccination could be the answer; if the patrons

of bars, if they are vaccinated, if that would work."

But he noted that further consultations would be required, as government "would not want to give the impression that there is any mandatory requirement for individuals to get vaccinated." The Prime Minister said the difficulty arises because "bars represent such a high risk. If we could have had, let's say, bar bubbles with vaccinated people, then that would certainly give us some level of confidence. But that in itself would come with some additional complications. So we need to consult further and see how we can accommodate the bar owners [so] they can reopen as soon as possible in order to restore their livelihoods."

UPP candidate gets verbal thrashing

By Shelton Daniel

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has lambasted the opposition United Progressive Party's (UPP) candidate for Saint John's Rural North regarding her recent criticism of the government's decision to keep beaches closed over the next two public holidays.

Government last week announced that beaches would remain closed over the upcoming holidays of Labour Day on 3rd May and Whit Monday on 24th May in order to prevent clustering that could facilitate further transmission of COVID-19.

But speaking late last week on the UPP-aligned Observer Radio, Pearl Quinn-Williams castigated the government for the beach closures, to which she said she was totally opposed, likening them to a "continued punishment of the people by their government."

Quinn-Williams – sister of former UIPP government minister Dr. Jacqui Quinn and Observer Radio talk show host

Paul Quinn – suggested instead that government could leave the beaches open but have them patrolled by police and defence force personnel to ensure things did not get out of hand.

She further told Observer AM host Daren Matthew Ward that the beaches were "a source of therapy for many persons ... especially in these times when persons are so stressed ... this to me is a punitive decision ..."

Responding to Quinn-Williams on Saturday during his weekly radio programme, The Browne and Browne Show on PointeFM 99.1, Prime Minister Browne dismissed the former bank employee as someone who is "posing as though she has some special knowledge or skill which she does not have."

PM Browne, who is the elected Member of Parliament for Saint John's City West, described Quinn-Williams as "an untrained mind who is not a very good thinker."

He said she had only

come to the fore during public discussions ahead of the 2018 national referendum to decide whether the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) should replace the London-based Privy Council as Antigua and Barbuda's final court of appeal in civil and criminal matters.

Quinn-Williams – then representing a UPP satellite body calling itself 'The Movement' – was among those opposing

the apex court switch, which in the end failed to garner the required sixty-seven per cent of votes cast.

"For some reason, she came on a high during the [referendum] and ... she has convinced herself into thinking it is her singular effort that caused the people of Antigua and Barbuda to vote against the transition to the CCJ. She actually said so to me, and that is what prompted

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my statement when I referred to her as a person with a big ego and an empty head. Because I can't believe that she happens to believe that she just came on the scene and she is so all-powerful that the majority of the people of this country would have followed her in her persona. She didn't say the group of them; she said she is the one who achieved that."

Browne said he had also learned that Quinn-Wil-

liams has been telling persons from the constituency she hopes to represent "that she has come in to represent the UPP and she is going to take over as the leader. Now, really? This lady has no skill, her experience is extremely limited ... She is promoting herself as having skills she does not have."

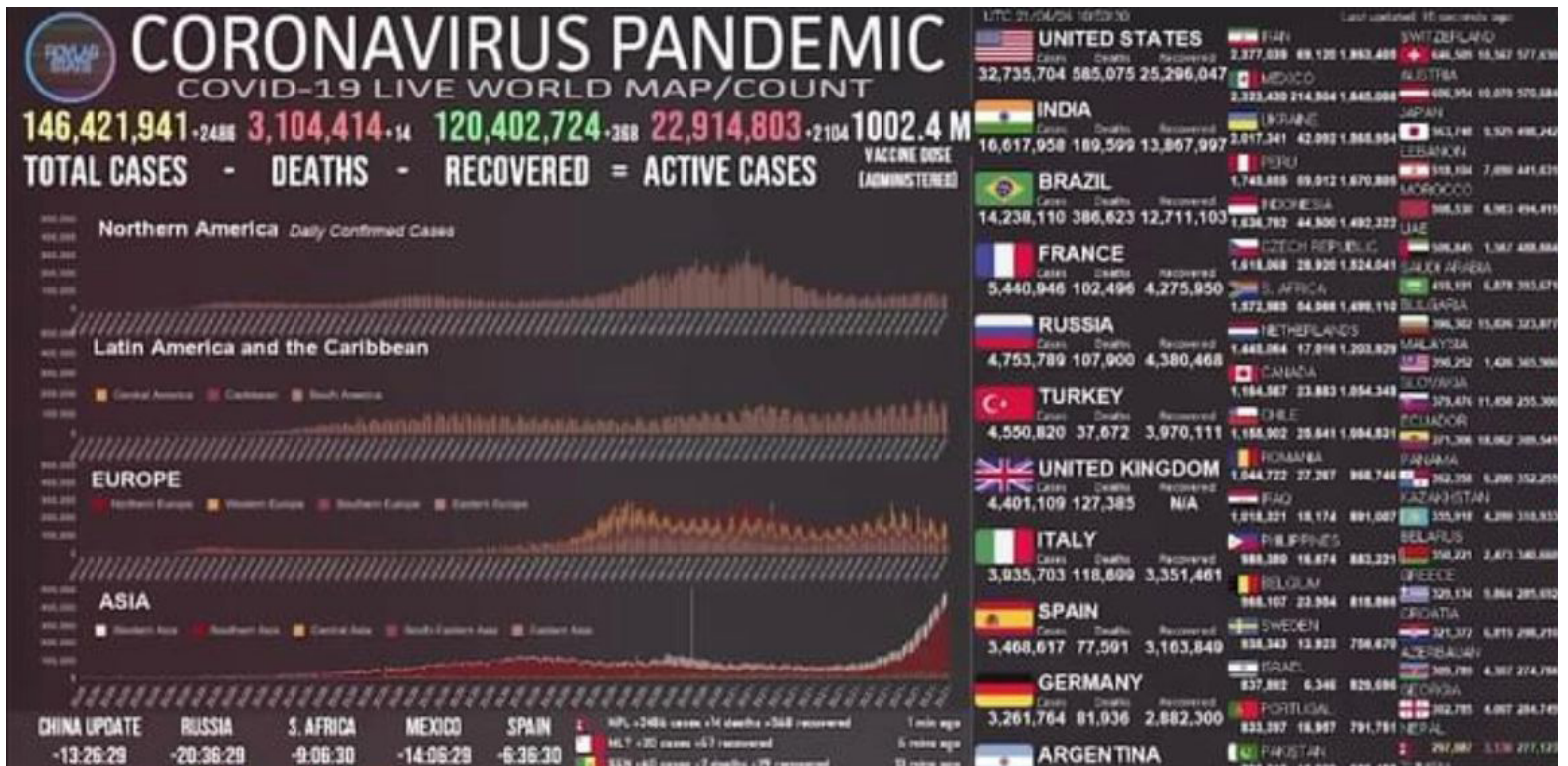
The Prime Minister, himself a former career banker, said another recent statement by Quinn-Williams further

demonstrated her severely limited grasp of issues and concepts that supposedly formed part of her career knowledge base.

"Even when she went out there and said banks should not be charging any interest during this time of COVID, can you understand the kind of problems she would have created for the banks in this country if they had to pay interest but at the same time do not charge any interest

on their loans? "So, she's not a good thinker. I'm not surprised she's making a statement to the effect that what we are doing is that we are punishing the people, when indeed what we are doing is we are protecting them. It is what you call proactive leadership to protect the population in order to contain the spread of COVID," Prime Minister Browne stated.

VIRTUAL COVID-19 PROMOTION 'PARTY' DUBBED A SUCCESS

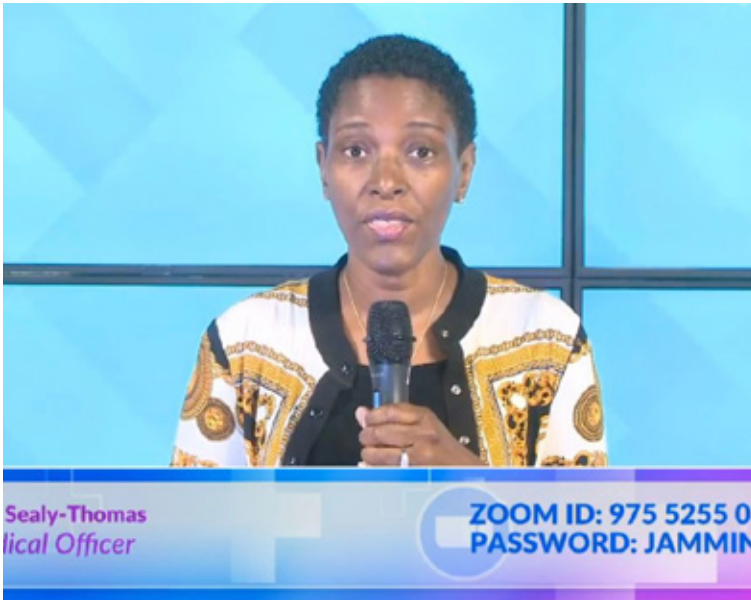


A virtual event held to stimulate interest in the ongoing vaccination programme has been dubbed a suc-

cess by the organisers of the event staged on Saturday night. The event - The Virtual COVID-19 Vac-

cine Promotion Party - was carried live on ABS Television as well as streamed on Facebook Live. According

to the organisers, there were nearly ten thousand people following on Facebook Live and just over one hundred



following on ZOOM. It featured several international artists such as Wyclef Jean and Romain Virgo, as well as a host of local artists and Deejays. Some local artist's were Menace, Colour Colour, Lyricks. The Deejay's were Dj Jime, Dj Elementz, Dj Quest, Tj the DJ, and DJ Keith, who was one of the first coronavirus patients in Antigua and Barbuda. He gave a testimony of his struggle with the disease, being warded at



Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) for nine weeks, part of which was spent on a ventilator, and his continuing battle with the after-effects of COVID such as not being able to walk properly. DJ Keith, whose full name is Keith Dover, is currently doing therapy to help him with his post-COVID issues. Several prizes were also offered to people following the event during the live broadcast. The virtual party was part of several new efforts being deployed by the vaccination roll-out out committee to generate interest in the programme. Since the

launch of the second phase two weeks ago, there has been a noticeable decline in the number of people presenting themselves to be vaccinated. Other activities included staging mobile vaccination clinics at the public market on Saturday, thus making it easier for members of the public to get vaccinated. Meanwhile, the vaccination programme continues today at the four centres – the polyclinics at Villa and Glanvilles, the Multi-purpose Cultural Centre and the Precision Centre at Gunthrops.



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REQUIREMENTS

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

Bachelors in administration, finance or related field an asset

SKILLS AND ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

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TWO MEMBERS OF SECURITY APPARATUS DIE HOURS APART

The fire officer who sustained serious injuries in a traffic accident involving a fire tender on Easter Monday has succumbed to his injuries.

The officer, Constable David Roberts, forty-two, was pronounced dead approximately 4:30 p.m. on Friday 23rd April 2021 at Mount St. Johns Medical Center.

Roberts has been described as a well-disciplined, quiet and humble firefighter; one who exemplified a very high level of commitment and devotion to duty. Both Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney and Fire Chief Elvis Weaver, have lauded the firefighter's valuable contributions towards many disciplines within the regular force and the fire department, especially his professionalism as part of the Police Protocol Team.

"Constable Roberts was involved in an unfortunate incident on Easter Monday 5th April, when he allegedly lost control of the fire truck he was driving and it crashed. He spent three weeks at the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital nursing serious injuries he sustained from the accident. He became a member of the Fire Department in May of 2009 and served for eleven unbroken years. He worked at several of the fire stations, including Coolidge Fire Station at V.C. Bird International, where he was

last attached," an official STRATCOM statement said.

It said Commissioner Rodney continues to dialogue and offer support to Roberts' family and work colleagues, by providing professional counselling to them. He further encourages the officers as they mourn, to remember the families of Corporal Andre Francois, Sergeant Hughon David, and Corporal Clifton Common, all who passed weeks apart from each other this year. Top government officials, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin, and Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Public Safety and Labour, Stacy Gregg-Paige, also joined in expressing sympathies to Robert's family on his passing. This death is being considered as a road fatality and it brings to three the number of people who have died as a result of traffic accidents this year.

Meanwhile, later Friday evening, Prison Officer Ryves Merchant, who reportedly fell ill while on duty earlier in the day, subsequently passed away at Mount St. John Medical Center. The Prison Administration extends condolences to Officer Merchant's wife and family at this difficult time.

The cause of death was not immediately available.



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

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BARBUDA BENEFITS FROM IICA'S CROWDFUNDING PROJECT



'Mitigating the Impacts of COVID -19 through the supply of fresh food to rural Households' was the title given to an Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) project which has hit the shores of sister island, Barbuda.

The Council and all those who are benefitting from it as it is seen as a renewed effort to strengthen food production and security welcomed the agricultural-based initiative.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, "The Barbuda component of the project includes the construction of a seedling nursery, a rapid multiplication humidity bin to grow roots and tubers, the installation of drip irrigation systems and the distribution of five different types of seeds to small scale farmers and backyard gardeners in Barbuda, compliments CARDI. The project is being done in collaboration with CARDI, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Barbuda Council Agriculture Division and

the Ministry of Education, through the Sir McChesney George Secondary School. The educational institution is also a beneficiary of the project."

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Senator Knacyntar Nedd is said to have welcomed the initiative and looks forward to continued

collaboration with IICA on even bigger projects.

IICA's National Specialist, Mr. Craig Thomas said that the organization is committed to the growth and development of the agriculture sector and will continue to provide technical support as the need arises.

The Agriculture Ministry indicated that the Antigua leg of the project was imple-

mented back in February when several small-scale farmers received irrigation supplies from which they are already seeing the benefits following installation.

According to Senator Knacyntar Nedd "I hope to see continued collaboration between the Central Government and Barbuda Council on projects such as these and more so, those of a larg-

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er scale. In addition, a drip irrigation system will be installed as well as distribution of seeds to 15 backyard and small scale farmers compliments CARDI.” The Barbudan Senator continued by congratulating the stakeholders involved, for making the initiative possible. “Kudos to the donors, and to the Agriculture workers of both the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & BARBUDA AFFAIRS, and the Barbuda Council that are going over and beyond to ensure that this project executed flawlessly.” Antigua and Barbuda and Haiti were the two pilot countries selected for this project to the tune of 27 thousand US Dollars.

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

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- 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

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Specific Requirements/Duties of the Position Include:

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- Developing and implementing energy-efficient strategies for utility consumption.
- Troubleshooting all mechanical, electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems in a timely manner.
- Possessing strong leadership qualities, with the ability to organise and delegate tasks to a team.
- The ability to read and understand blueprints and schematics.
- Organising, directing, planning and controlling all engineering activities.

Qualification and Experience:

- A minimum of a first degree in Electrical/Mechanical/Civil Engineering from a recognised college or university.
- Working knowledge of ASHRAE, JS21, NFPA & NEC life safety codes and standards.
- CEM/CFM certification preferred.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in the hospitality industry or related field
- Experience with Chill Water Systems
- Experience with waste water treatment and reverse osmosis water plants necessary

If successful a clean police record will be required. Interested persons should submit their applications by May 7, 2021 with curriculum vitae via email to:

The Recruitment and Compliance Specialist
Sandals Resorts International
Email: recruitsat@grp.sandals.com

NB: Please enter "Chief Engineer" in the subject field in the email for consideration. We thank all applicants for their interest but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Antigua and Barbuda marks the 2021 International Girls in ICT Day



By Cristal Clashing

A selection of Antigua's 3rd formers attended the 2021 celebration of the International Girls in ICT Day held at the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) on the 22nd April 2021, which was supported by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries.

This is the tenth year that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has run this worldwide event. Every fourth Thursday in April, nations across the globe make a special effort to highlight the need for girls and young women to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. This year the event was sponsored

by major sponsor, Flow, alongside other tech organisations such as Avada Digital, Project Jaguar and UNOPS Global Innovation Centre, who each supported the breakout sessions in Graphic Design, Robotics, Leadership and Teamwork.

To kick off the event, a cadre of female speakers spoke to the girls not only in the ABIIT auditorium

but to those tuned in via Facebook as well. Chaneil Imhoff, of Avada Digital, emphasised that for girls and young women, the parenting environment plays a strong role in the support and encouragement of young women to work within and make contributions to the now male-dominated field of technology. Senator Aziza Lake re-

mindful participants that in the early years of computing, the field was seen as fit for women. So much so that it is through women that contributions like travel to the moon and WiFi are even possible. Shavani Stewart, as the lone female leader of the nation's robotics club, Redonda Robotics, made it known that stepping out of one's comfort zone has great rewards. Technology and digitisation are pathways to today's wealth creation. Key-note speaker, Marjorie Francis, recalled that as a high school graduate in the late 1980s she sought the financial opportunities available in engineering. She became the first female student at the Antigua State College engineering department. Today, she is an IP and

Data Telecoms Technician at Cable and Wireless's telecommunications company, Flow. Wealth creation through the technological fields is not limited to personal financial gain. Research from the non-profit group, Catalyst, has shown that tech companies with female leadership experience thirty-five per cent more return on equity than all-male leadership. Yet, Aveda IT identifies that only twenty-five per cent of jobs in the tech industry are held by women and they experience as much as a nineteen per cent pay gap. This global gender wealth gap could increase even further if more girls and women do not enter the technological workforce. For young people, and particularly girls, now is the time

to get technological-ly skilled. UN Women identified that sixty-five per cent of children entering primary school today will have jobs that do not yet exist. These jobs will come in the creation and application of information and communication technologies. The ITU identifies that within the next five years, there will be a shortfall of two million jobs in the ICT sectors. Will Antigua and Barbuda be ready to take advantage of such opportunities? The pandemic has shown us we still have a long way to go in providing reliable internet connection and suitable devices to households with young people for educational purposes. Yet the message from the nation's women in ICT is clear, seek the opportuni-

ties offered by education and career in the STEM industries. As encouragement for girls and young women to showcase their technological skills, passions and interests, Cable and Wireless will host a video essay competition for female students between the ages of twelve to fifteen, across the region. Participants will be asked to submit a two- to three-minute video on the topic, "Why is it important for girls/women to pursue a career in ICT?" The competition will go live on 26th April with more details to be found on Flow's website and social media platforms. The winners will be announced at the company's Girls in ICT Forum on 8th June 2021.



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.

Monday, 26th April 2021	Tuesday, 27th April 2021	Wednesday, 28th April 2021	Thursday, 29th April 2021	Friday, 30th April 2021
CABLE & WIRELESS, WIRELESS ROAD AND CLARE HALL 8:30AM-1:00PM	SECTION OF VIVIAN RICHARDS STREET EAST OF THE MONUMENT 8:45AM-11:00AM	JOLLY HARBOR, HERMITAGE HOTEL AND GABRIEL DEVELOPMENT 8:30AM-1:00PM	SECTION OF CAMACHO AVENUE WEST OF ROBINSON GAS STATION 8:45AM-11:00AM	SECTION OF CADES BAY NEAR BOGGY PEAK 8:45AM-11:00AM
SECTION OF FREETOWN SOUTH OF THE POND 8:45AM-11:30AM	SECTION OF CLARE HALL NEAR CHRISTO'S 1:45PM-3:30PM	FREETOWN, BROWNE'S BAY, HALF MOON BAY AND MILL REEF 8:45AM-12:00PM	SECTION OF SEA VIEW FARM SOUTHEAST OF THE FOOTBALL FIELD 8:45AM-11:30AM	

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.



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

The Bahamas gears up for \$1B tourism revenue increase

Royal Caribbean International (RCI) expects its Royal Beach Club project on the western end of Paradise Island to bring into the Bahamas about one hundred million dollars per year over ten years and employ two hundred and fifty Bahamians for construction and operations, according to a fact sheet on the project seen by Guardian Business. RCI hopes to open the beach club – which the company says will be able to accommodate three thousand, five hundred visitors – by 2023. RCI said the one billion dollars that will be directed into the country over ten years will be as a result of guest spend, government taxes and other expenditures. The fact sheet also reveals that Bahamians will be welcomed to visit the beach club, but only when RCI's ships are not in port

Caribbean Export to boost competitiveness of Services

Caribbean Export Development Agency has announced a partnership with Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago to host a series of training programmes geared towards the boosting of the international competitiveness of ser-

vices. Under the umbrella “Services Go Global,” the initiative is designed to enhance the export readiness of the services of small and medium-sized enterprises in an effort to move the region into a position of COVID-19 export readiness at the earliest possible time. The programme will be launched later in April and will be conducted over a three-month period.

“No new taxes” in St Lucia’s 2021/22 \$1.6B fiscal budget

St Lucian Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has presented a EC\$1.12 B revenue estimate for fiscal year 2021/22. The fiscal package, which contains “no new taxes,” represents a 21.3% increase over the revised estimate for the last fiscal year. However, this is lower than pre-pandemic years of 2018-19 and 2019-20 in which revenue was recorded at EC\$1.20 billion and EC\$1.19 billion respectively. According to Chastanet, the estimates of expenditure are set at EC\$1.639 billion, representing an increase of 6.8% over the projected outturn for fiscal year, 2020-21. Recurrent expenditure is estimated at EC\$1.360 billion or eighty-three per cent of total expenditure. Capital expenditure is estimated at EC\$278.6 million or seventeen per cent of total expenditure. The budget is set to be financed by recurrent revenue of EC\$1.001 billion comprising tax revenue of EC\$909.02 million or 90.7% of total recurrent revenue. Non-tax revenue will amount to EC\$92.69 million with grants set at EC\$121.26 million. The remainder will be financed by a combination of loans and the proceeds of asset sales.

Jamaica's NIR closes FY 2020/21 at US\$3.31billion

Jamaica's Net International Reserves (NIR) is currently running at US\$3.31 Billion US\$0.17 million below the targeted amount of US\$3.49 billion, as per the new agreement with the IMF for FY2020/21, which ended on 31st March 2021. The country came in above the IMF benchmark of US\$3.16 billion in March 2020, closing the fiscal year at US\$3.24 billion, which was US\$0.09 million above targeted amount. The US\$303.15 million increase in the NIR last month resulted from a US\$273.06 million increase in the Bank of Jamaica's foreign assets, which total US\$4.24 billion compared to the US\$3.97 billion reported for February 2021. Liabilities to the IMF accounted for one hundred per cent of total foreign liabilities, amounting to US\$924.20 million. At its current value of US\$3.31 billion, the NIR is able to support approximately 53.65 weeks of imports and 38.71 weeks of goods and services imports

Barbados airport and seaport resuming operations

The Grantley Adams International Airport resumed operations at 6:00 p.m. on Friday 16th April, while the Port of Bridgetown restarted on Monday 19th April. Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Af-

fairs, Wilfred Abrahams, said these were priority areas for Government as it sought to clean its major installations, following the ash fall from the 9th April eruption of the La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. According to Minister Abrahams, "having our airports and seaports closed effectively cuts Barbados off from the rest of the world. We cannot receive any supplies or anything; we can't get vaccines in; we can't get tests in; we can't get basic supplies in with the airport and the seaport closed."

Jamaica's unemployment rate stood at 8.9 % in January

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) is reporting that the total number of employed persons in January 2021 was 1,194,800. The number is 74,300 or 5.9% lower than the 1,269,100 persons employed for the corresponding month last year, said the entity's Director General, Carol Coy. Ms. Coy said that the unemployment rate for January 2021 was 8.9%, which is some 1.6 percentage points higher than the figure for January 2020. She noted that the number of employed males decreased by 34,100 or 4.9% to 656,200, while the figure for females fell by 40,200 or 6.9% to 538,600, relative to January 2020. The Director General noted that the number of unemployed persons rose by 15,700 or 15.6% in January. In addition, Ms. Coy said the unemployment rate for youth, fourteen to twenty-four years, was 22.8%, some 3.8 percentage points higher than in January 2020.

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

DR. MASERATI SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

International Commission of Legal Experts Releases Report on Racist Police Violence *in the US, Finds US Guilty of Crimes Against Humanity and Other Violations of International Law*

On Tuesday, April 27th the International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence in the United States will release a report of its investigations. The report is the culmination of weeks of live hearings in the cases of 45 people of African descent killed by police and one who was left paralyzed, as well as months of review of relevant documents.

It contains findings of fact and recommendations addressed to national and international policy makers. On Tuesday, April 27 at 12 pm Eastern time, the Commission of Inquiry will hold a virtual press conference via Zoom to launch the report. The Executive Summary of the report will be provided to the media in advance of the press conference. Journalists and blog-

gers should register to attend here: <http://bit.ly/reptrelease>

Event: Press conference for launch of report on racist police violence
When: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 12 pm Eastern time

Where: Via Zoom

Several people involved with the work of the Commission of Inquiry will be in at-

tendance at the press conference, including international legal experts who served as Commissioners, the Rapporteurs who wrote the final report; and members of the Steering Committee that organized the project. More information about the Commission of Inquiry can be found at <https://inquirycommission.org>.



High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet
Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

Attn: Sara Hamood, Maria Luisa Buscar

Dear High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet:

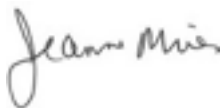
In a courtroom in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the police officer caught on video with his knee on George Floyd's neck is currently on trial. It is in this context that the Commissioners of the International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence Against People of African Descent in the United States present their report to you. This International Com-

mission of Inquiry was empaneled in response to the voices of families throughout the United States who came together in the wake of the killing of George Floyd to ask the Human Rights Council to focus on this important issue. That request resulted in your mandate to undertake a global investigation of systemic racist police violence. We believe our report provides needed information and analysis about the United States to assist in your investigation. This report is based primarily on three weeks of hearings into 44 cases and the testimony of several ex-

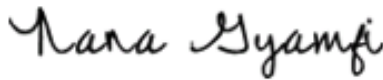
perts. After the Executive Summary and Introduction, the report includes a section on history which places these cases in the context of systemic racism in the United States. The report then provides Findings of Fact from the cases and expert testimony along with an analysis of how U.S. law and practice does not comply with International Law and Standards on the use of police force against people of African descent. The report concludes with a comprehensive set of recommendations. What is unique about this report, including the voices of families

of victims of police violence, is a legal analysis of and a finding that the widespread killings of people of African descent by police amount to Crimes against Humanity. We are providing this report by the deadline your staff provided to us. We also informed your staff that the report will be finalized over the next few weeks with design and layout and we will provide you a copy at that time. We hope you find the information useful in the preparation of your final report mandated by the Human Rights Council Resolution 43/1.

Very truly yours,



Jeanne Mirer
President, IADL



Nana Gyamfi
President, NCBL



Pooja Gehi
Executive Director, NLG

- Cc: Commissioners
 Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Barbados
 Ms. Niloufer Bhagwat, India
 Mr. Xolani Maxwell Boqwana, South Africa
 Mireille Fanon-Mendès France, France
 Dr. Arturo Fournier Facio, Costa Rica
 Judge Peter Herbert, UK
 Ms. Hina Jilani, Pakistan
 Professor Rashida Manjoo, South Africa
 Professor Osamu Niikura, Japan
 Sir Clare Roberts, Antigua and Barbuda
 Mr. Bert Samuels, Jamaica
 Mr. Hannibal Uwaifo, Nigeria

Evacuee collapses at shelter, dies



The deceased Agatha Jordan

iWitness News - A close relative of an evacuee who collapsed at the Fair Hall Government School on Friday night and later died in hospital says she is anxiously awaiting the result of an autopsy scheduled for Monday. The relative, who asked not to be named in this article, identified the dead woman as Agatha Jordan, also known as “Cena,” “Mama” and “Calf”, 71, of Fancy. Jordan sought refuge at the government-operated shelter in Fair Hall after the 9th April explosive eruption of La Soufrière

forced the evacuation of her red zone community. On Saturday, iWitness News spoke to a source at the shelter who was present when Jordan collapsed. The source, who also asked not to be named because of the sensitive nature of the matter, told iWitness News that Jordan was dancing with the organiser of a karaoke for shelterees when she collapsed around 8:00 p.m. She was rushed to the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, where she later died. The relative told iWitness

News that at the hospital, doctors administered a COVID-19 rapid test, which indicated that Jordan was positive for the viral illness. However, another test, presumably a PCR test, the results of which took two hours to obtain, indicated that she was negative. The relatives said that Jordan had high blood pressure and a heart condition and died shortly before 9:00 p.m. — less than an hour after she collapsed. Jordan was taken to hospital by a police officer

who was stationed at the shelter in response to an earlier incident there, the details of which the source did not disclose. iWitness News was, however, reliably informed that two teachers, who had attempted to help Jordan after she collapsed, found that her pulse had been getting increasingly weaker as they awaited the arrival of an ambulance. The source said that a nurse should be stationed at each emergency shelter, especially at night, in light of the fact that a significant number of shelterees have high blood pressure, diabetes, or both. Meanwhile, the relative of the deceased told iWitness News that Jordan had already taken one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The relative said that the woman had not had any complaint after taking the vaccine and was scheduled to take the second dose next month. Jordan was staying at the shelter with two of her grandsons, said to be about six and eleven years old.

PM says man convicted of child cruelty deserves jail time; government to review child laws

Dominica News Online - Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit is of the view that a Wesley man who was recently charged for child cruelty, should have received a jail sentence and says his government is not opposed to passing more stringent laws for these crimes.

Recently, there has been a public outcry for stiffer penalties for child abuse matters following what many have described as a slap-on-the-wrist fine of \$800.00 which was imposed on twenty-six-year-old Jarmel Lenny Tavernier who was earlier this month found guilty of child cruelty after putting his three-year-old stepson in a washing machine as a means of punishment. In handing down her sentence, presiding Magistrate Candia Carrette-George lamented that the law is too lenient for this type of crime as the maximum penalty for child cruelty in Dominica is a fine of \$1,000.00 or one year in prison. In an interview with members of the media on his



weekly Anou Pale show, the prime minister was asked about the government's position on the prevalence of child abuse cases in Dominica and concerns from the public that the relevant law was too lenient.

"I am not going to criticise the decision of the Magistrate but I believe the prosecution could have looked at other charges on this matter," Skerrit said. According to him, had the police proffered other charges against Tavernier, this would have subjected him to a stiffer penalty and possibly, a custodial sentence, "...so it's not only one charge of child

abuse but there are a number of other charges I believe that one could have considered in this matter. This is totally unacceptable and in my view this kind of action warrants jail time."

The prime minister noted that his government is currently reviewing the law as it relates to child abuse matters and did not rule out the possibility of imposing tougher penalties. "It is a point that we have noted and we are looking at the specific section of the law to see what needs to be done to address this issue, if there is an issue," Skerrit said, adding, "so we are certainly taking

note of this issue where the penalties are concerned and if there's a need to strengthen them, then we'll do so."

He encouraged the public to speak out against child abuse as he says the onus is on every citizen, not law enforcement, to curb this growing threat.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property owned by Ms. Laura Nicholas of Cedar Grove, St. John's, Antigua.

The property is located at Mount Pleasant, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a vacant parcel of land of an area of approximately 11,835.22 sq. ft. / 0.27 Acre.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

REGISTRATION SECTION:
Hodges Bay & Thibous

BLOCK:
43 1896A

PARCEL:
643

Parcel No. 643 of Block No. 43 1896A is bounded by the following:
On the North by: Parcel 560 ;
On the South by: Public Road;
On the East by: Parcel 644 ;
On the West by: Parcel 642

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos
Licensed Auctioneer
Office: (268) 562-7653
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653
Email: info@go-going-gone.com
Instagram: tts_auction_antigua
Facebook: Auction Antigua

St Lucian-born poet wins OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature



Canisia Lubrin

St. Lucia-born poet Canisia Lubrin is the 2021 winner of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.

Lubrin's book-length poem *The Dyzgraphxst* earned her the US\$10,000 prize, courtesy One Caribbean Media.

It is the second consecutive year that a poet has won the most prestigious international annual award for Caribbean writing, and the fourth work of poetry to win in the eleven-year history of the prize. Lubrin is the third St. Lucia-born writer to win the overall

prize, all for poetry.

Vahni Capildeo, also an outstanding poet from Trinidad and Tobago, winner of the Forward Poetry Prize, and chief judge of this year's OCM Bocas Prize, made the announcement online via the Bocas Lit Fest website, Facebook, and YouTube in a virtual presentation on Saturday.

Joining her on the final judging panel for the prize were Jamaican poet and academic Opal Palmer Adisa, Trinidadian-American writer and scholar Rosamond S. King, and Mal-

achi McIntosh, editor of the UK-based literary journal *Wasafiri*. The *Dyzgraphxst*, published by Penguin Random House Canada, was chosen by the judges from a shortlist of the three books previously selected as category winners, which included Jamaica-born Maisey Card's debut novel *These Ghosts Are Family* — the best book of fiction by a Caribbean writer in 2020 — and Trinidadian Andre Bago's wide-ranging collection of essays *The Undiscovered Country* — the best non-fiction book of 2020 by a Caribbean author. Card and Bago will receive awards of US\$3,000 each. In her judge's remarks, Vahni Capildeo said *The Dyzgraphxst* "is exciting, experimental, and maintains integrity from beginning to end.... Aware of and alive with the impulses and innovations of Aimé Césaire, Dionne Brand, and so many more revolutionary thinkers with whom we have been blessed."

"These poems take apart our individual personal pronoun, the 'I,'" said

Capildeo, "questioning and finding new ways to feel and think and know what we suppose to be our 'self'. Some books use language to keep running smoothly. This book shifts what language can be and do. It is thrilling to read it and to relish giving up the illusion of mastery of meaning; to revel in not fully understanding, like swimming beyond the breakers in a sea full of flotsam and jetsam."

Lubrin is a writer, editor, teacher and critic.

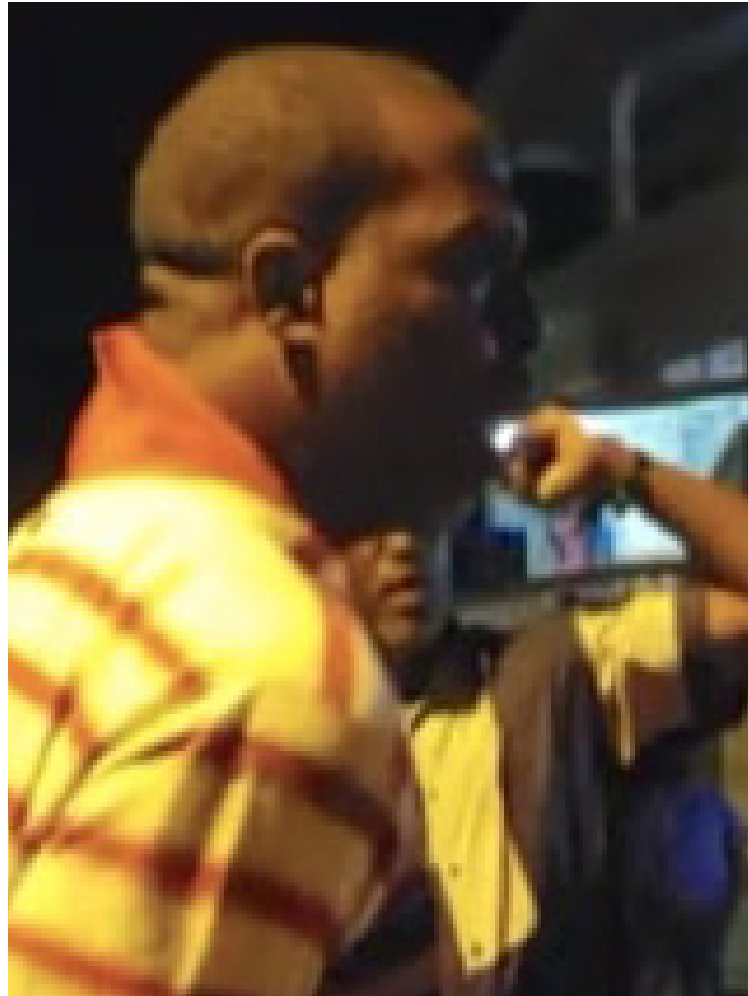
Frequently anthologised, her work has been translated into Spanish and Italian. She is the author of the awards-nominated poetry collection *Voodoo Hypothesis*, and *The Dyzgraphxst* is her latest book. In addition to winning the OCM Bocas Prize, the book was recently shortlisted for Canada's Griffin Poetry Prize, and in March 2021 Lubrin was also named a winner of a 2021 Windham Campbell Prize.

She teaches at the University of Toronto and is soon to become an editor at Penguin Random House.

GUT leader Jude Bartholomew: “I will not be intimidated”

“I think that the government has made a big mistake.”

The New Today - Those were the words used by newly elected President of the Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT), Jude Bartholomew, minutes after he walked out of the St. David’s Police Station Saturday night after he was interrogated in what is believed to be a criminal investigation being carried out against him by the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF). Bartholomew was called in for questioning by members of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the police force in connection with an alleged breach of COVID-19 protocols during the 7th April protest in St. George’s by teachers over the four per cent salary and wage increase issue. Flanked by the leaders of three other unions – Senator Andre Lewis of the Technical & Allied Workers Union (TAWU), George Mason of the Commercial & Industrial Workers Union (CIWU) and Brian Grimes of the Public Workers Union



Jude-bartholomew_belle-vue

(PWU) – the new teachers’ boss and an estimated sixty supporters walked from the station to the entrance of the nearby Belle Vue playing field as a show of defiance in what they see as an attempt by the Keith Mitchell-led administration to intimidate the unions in the ongoing four per cent battle. Several teachers made their way to the St. Da-

vid’s Police Station when word surfaced on social media that their leader was inside the police precinct for interrogation. Bartholomew was kept at the station for approximately three hours as he was questioned mainly by Inspector Terrence Mason and Sergeant Tyson Greenidge of the CID main office in the city.

When he was released around 8:00 p.m. to a crowd of waiting supporters, whom he led on the march to Belle Vue junction, he then briefed them on what had transpired earlier in the day and said he wanted to send a clear message that he will “not be intimidated.” “This is the most proud moment in my life,” the GUT boss said to the cheering crowd of supporters, adding that it is in times like these “that we have to stay firm” in the fight for the four per cent. “That would never shake me,” he declared. In an exclusive interview with The New Today after addressing the gathering, Bartholomew indicated that it was just after 3:00 p.m. when three senior police officers clad in plain clothes showed up at his home in Pomme Rose, St. David, requesting that he accompany them to Police Headquarters at Fort George, St. George’s for questioning.

QUICK CROSSWORD

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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The New Moon in your sign may subtly shift your attention to your inner fantasies and wishful thinking. Your romantic nature may be stirred and imaginative ideas kindled as the week unfolds.

♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

A loved one may be popular and in demand, and you could be glad for it, but you may still suffer a few pangs of jealousy. As the week unfolds, you can find ways to make peace with this.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Being part of the bigger picture, perhaps by interacting with people on social media, may be your cup of tea. As the week begins, you may be challenged to avoid jealousy and unfair generalizations.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Be glad that you can see the large patterns that count and aren't distracted by nonessential details. Take notes and gather facts but wait to make the purchase you dream of later in the week.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

You may accept people at face value in the week to come. Challenge yourself to look deeper and you'll make new discoveries. People appreciate your sensitivity to their feelings.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Use the internet or a library to expand your horizons and enjoy mysteries from afar this week. They could be a little disappointing viewed from a closer perspective right now.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

You will likely find your way out of an impasse with someone after a struggle. In the upcoming week, your interest in building your reputation and receiving more recognition may grow stronger.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your home can be a place where dreams come true. The pressure to achieve something spectacular could build up this week until you are ready to take drastic action.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

In the week ahead, a small fragment of knowledge may lead you to speculate about how to achieve a richer life. It's not just wishful thinking if it inspires you toward greater joy and authenticity.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

As the week progresses, you might look forward to a competition or become more enthusiastic about your job. Your friends may become involved in your family life or influence your key decisions.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

As a member of a group, you can emphasize your best points as the coming week unfolds. This can lead other people to notice the benefits of being your ally or companion.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Destiny is constantly being configured, as all choices are factored in. Instead of holding ungrounded fears and apprehensions, use your free will to create the life you dream of.



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

<p>Fri 23 Day</p> <p>29° ☀️</p> <p>8% ESE 23 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. High 29°C. Winds ESE at 15 to 30 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 64% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 05:46 Sunset 18:24</p>	<p>Fri 23 Night</p> <p>24° 🌙</p> <p>16% E 15 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. Low 24°C. Winds E at 10 to 15 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 74% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 15:09 Moonset 03:11</p> <p>☾ Waxing Gibbous</p>
<p>Sat 24 Day</p> <p>29° ☀️</p> <p>7% E 20 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 63% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 05:45 Sunset 18:25</p>	<p>Sat 24 Night</p> <p>24° 🌙</p> <p>24% E 18 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. Low 24°C. Winds E at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 73% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 16:07 Moonset 03:54</p> <p>☾ Waxing Gibbous</p>

COMICS

DILBERT BY SCOTT ADAMS

Panel 1: Dilbert: "I'll schedule a Zoom call with the whole team tomorrow to give the update."
Panel 2: Dilbert: "Or you could tell me tomorrow, and I'll tell the rest of the team on our noon Zoom call."
Panel 3: Dilbert: "Um, okay, I'll send you a Zoom link tomorrow."
Panel 4: Dilbert: "Does our call need to be a video call? Can we do a voice call?"
Panel 5: Dilbert: "Well, yes, I guess we could just do a voice call."
Panel 6: Dilbert: "Do we need to talk, or can you just send me an email?"
Panel 7: Dilbert: "I suppose I could just send you an email."
Panel 8: Dilbert: "Okay, we're making progress. Now, have you heard of 'texting'?"

Garfield April 11, 2021

Panel 1: Title card "Garfield" with Garfield's face.
Panel 2: A girl looking at her phone.
Panel 3: A girl looking at her phone.
Panel 4: A girl looking at her phone.
Panel 5: A girl looking at her phone.
Panel 6: Girl: "What?" Garfield: "April's such a tease."

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Death toll in fire at Iraqi COVID-19 hospital surpasses eighty

Mourners pray near the coffins of coronavirus patients who were killed in a hospital fire

BAGHDAD (AP) — The death toll from a massive fire at a Baghdad hospital for coronavirus patients rose to at least eighty-two Sunday as anxious families searched for missing relatives and the government suspended key health officials for alleged negligence. The flames, described by one witness as “volcanoes of fire,” swept through the intensive care unit of the Ibn al-Khatib Hospital, which tends exclusively to COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms. Officials said the blaze, which also injured one hundred and ten people, was set off by an exploding oxygen cylinder.

Nurse Maher Ahmed was called to the scene late Saturday to help evacuate patients.

“I could not have imagined it would be a massive

blaze like that,” he said. The flames overwhelmed the hospital’s second floor isolation hall within three to four minutes of the oxygen cylinder exploding, he said. “Volcanoes of fire.”

Most of those killed suffered severe burns, he said. Others were overcome by smoke, unwilling to leave behind relatives hooked up to ventilators. Ahmed said the patients could not be moved. “They would have minutes to live without oxygen.” He said he and others watched helplessly as one patient struggled to breathe amid the smoke.

Widespread negligence on the part of health officials is to blame for the fire, Iraq’s prime minister, Mustafa al-Kadhimi, said Sunday. Following a special cabinet meeting to discuss the blaze, the government suspended

key officials, including the health minister and the governor of Baghdad province. Other officials, including the hospital director, were dismissed from their posts.

It took firefighters and civil defence teams until early Sunday to put out the flames.

Among the dead were at least twenty-eight patients on ventilators, tweeted Ali al-Bayati, a spokesman of the country’s independent Human Rights Commission, a semi-official body.

Paramedics carried the bodies, many burned beyond recognition, to al-Zafaraniya Hospital, where Ahmed said forensics teams will attempt to identify them by matching DNA samples to relatives.

By midday Sunday, relatives were still searching

anxiously for loved ones.

“Please, two of my relatives are missing. ... I am going to die (without news about them),” posted a young woman on social media after a fruitless search for her family members. “I hope someone can help us find Sadi Abdul Kareem and Samir Abdul Kareem, they were in the ICU.”

Rokya Kareem, thirty, was looking frantically for her friend Riyam Rahman, a pharmacist, who was visiting her mother at the hospital. Rahman’s mother, Basima, was admitted to the hospital forty-five days ago with complications from COVID-19.

“All we know is they were in the room next to where the fire started,” she said. “Her phone is switched off, and her family has gone to every hospital trying to find them.”

Indonesian navy submarine found split into three on sea bed

BBC World News - An Indonesian navy submarine that sank off the coast of Bali on Wednesday has been found split into three pieces on the sea bed, officials say.

All the vessel's fifty-three crew have been confirmed dead.

Navy officials said they had received signals from the sub's location more than eight hundred metres (2,600ft) deep early on Sunday. An underwater rescue vehicle loaned by Singapore was sent down to get visual confirmation of the wreckage.

The KRI Nanggala disappeared after requesting permission to dive during a torpedo drill. The reason for its sinking is not yet clear. Sunday's statement came a day after the Indonesian military confirmed that debris from the sub, including prayer mats, had been found in the area where it went missing.

Navy Chief of Staff Yudo Margono said more items from the submarine had been recovered including an anchor and crew



Escape suits are among items recovered from the sunken vessel

safety suits. "The KRI Nanggala is divided into three parts, the hull of the ship, the stern of the ship, and the main parts are all separated, with the main part found cracked," he told reporters on Sunday. The head of Indonesia's military, Hadi Tjahjanto, confirmed that there was no chance of finding any of the crew alive.

"With deep sadness

I can say that all fifty-three personnel on board have died," he told reporters.

Experts had said earlier that the depth at which the submarine was found was well beyond its survivable limit and it was only carrying enough oxygen for three days.

President Joko Widodo described the crew as Indonesia's "best patriots," adding: "All Indonesians convey

their deep sadness over this incident, especially to the families of the submarine crew."

The KRI Nanggala's disappearance led to an international search operation with US, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and India providing help.

The German-built vessel was more than forty years old but underwent a refit in 2012.

New players pose additional threats to Jerusalem tensions

JERUSALEM (AP) — The holy city of Jerusalem, a tinderbox of competing religious and political claims, has repeatedly triggered bouts of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

This time around, there have been some additional sparks, including Jewish extremists who, emboldened by their political patrons' recent election to parliament, staged a provocative march to Jerusalem's walled Old City chanting "death to the Arabs."

Over the course of a few days, nightly Jerusalem street brawls between Israeli police and disaffected Palestinian residents of the city escalated to cross-border fighting between Israel and Gaza's Islamic militant Hamas. Gaza militants fired an intense barrage of rockets into southern Israel and Israel launched several airstrikes at Gaza.

Political posturing by Israeli and Palestinian leaders has added to the tense atmosphere.

Here is a closer look at what's been driving the violence:

HEART OF THE CONFLICT:

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with

the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians claim all three areas for a future independent state, with east Jerusalem as their capital.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem, home to the

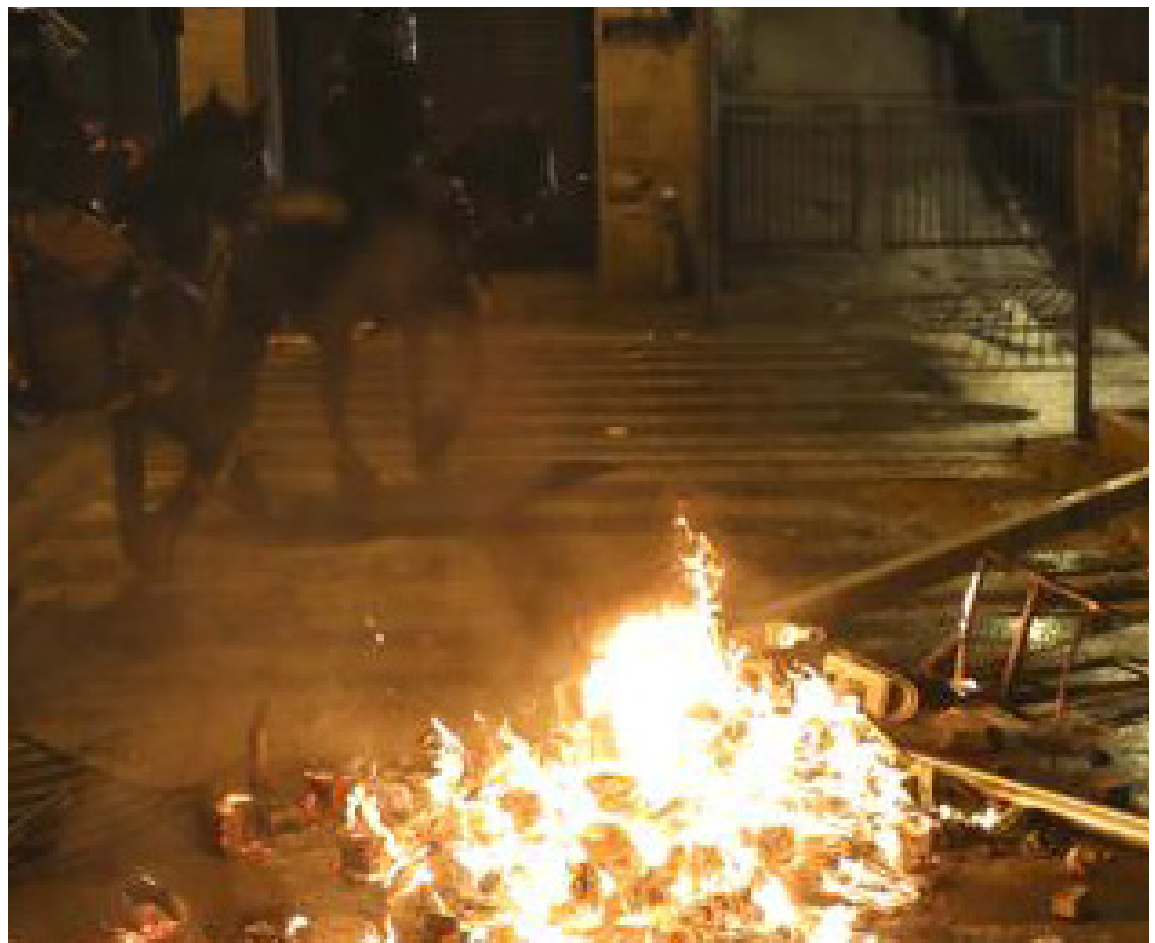
and the city has seen many waves of violence over the years.

WHY NOW?

The immediate spark for the current round of unrest was Israel's decision to barricade a plaza outside of Jerusalem's Old City during

Palestinians traditionally gather at the spot each evening after prayers and a daylong fast.

Angry that their popular gathering spot was taken away, hundreds of young Palestinian men have taken to the



Israeli mounted police ride past a fire during a clash with Palestinians just outside Jerusalem's Old City

city's most sensitive Jewish, Muslim and Christian holy sites, after the war and views the entire city as its unified capital.

The fate of Jerusalem and its holy sites is one of the most explosive issues in the conflict,

the holy month of Ramadan.

That decision appeared to have been reversed late Sunday, when the barricades were suddenly removed, setting off joyous celebrations outside Damascus Gate.

streets each evening. Crowds have hurled stones, firebombs and other objects at police, while officers have used stun grenades and water cannons to disperse them. Dozens of people have been hurt.

PM Modi says India shaken by coronavirus 'storm,' U.S. readies help



Women mourn the death of a family member, who died from the coronavirus disease

Reuters - Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged all citizens to be vaccinated and exercise caution, saying on Sunday the “storm” of infections had shaken India, as the country set a new global record of the most number of COVID-19 infections in a day. The United States said it will immediately provide raw materials for one of the COVID-19 vaccines, medical equipment and protective gear to help India respond. France, Britain and

Germany also promised rapid support. The number of cases in India surged by 349,691 in the past twenty-four hours, the fourth straight day of record peaks. Hospitals in Delhi and across the country are turning away patients after running out of medical oxygen and beds. “We were confident, our spirits were up after successfully tackling the first wave, but this storm has shaken the nation,” Modi said in a radio address.

His government has faced criticism that it let its guard down earlier this year, allowed big religious and political gatherings to take place when India’s cases fell to below ten thousand a day and did not plan for boosted healthcare systems. Hospitals and doctors have put out urgent notices saying they are unable to cope with the rush of patients. Outside a Sikh temple in Ghaziabad city on the outskirts of Del-

hi, the street resembled an emergency ward of a hospital, but crammed with cars carrying COVID-19 patients gasping for breath as they were hooked up to hand held oxygen tanks. Elsewhere, people were arranging stretchers and oxygen cylinders outside hospitals as they desperately pleaded for authorities to take patients in, Reuters photographers said. “Every day, it the same situation, we are left with two hours of oxygen, we only get assurances from the authorities,” one doctor said on television. Delhi’s Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal extended a lockdown in the capital that had been due to end on Monday for a week. COVID-19 is killing one person every four minutes in the city. India, a country of 1.3 billion people, has recorded a total of 16.96 million infections and 192,311 coronavirus deaths, after two thousand, seven hundred and sixty-seven more died overnight, health ministry data showed.



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP: IMPRESSIVE RUN-CHASES AND DOGGED DRAWS

Expect the unexpected is probably the best way to sum up this County Championship season after three rounds.

The latest set of fixtures concluded with a couple of spectacular fourth-innings efforts to chase down victory targets plus a couple of determined efforts to secure what could be vital draws come the second phase.

But there were also a couple more teams racking up another win to put themselves among the early pace-setters in the three-group format.

Group One

Rob Yates' fine 120 not out guided Warwickshire to a seven-wicket win against Essex.

The county champions tasted defeat for the first time in 22 first-class matches as the Bears chased 256 with seven balls to spare thanks to Yates' second ton at this level. He and India batsman Hanuma Vihari (52) had earlier added 115 for the second wicket while Sam Hain (60) put in an assured display in a third-wicket partnership of 118. Warwickshire top

the group after two impressive chases in their past two matches while Essex are third with one win, one draw and one defeat. Meanwhile, it was a case of two more draws in the group.

Durham were unable to find a way past Derbyshire on the last day at Chester-le-Street as the visitors reached 280-5.

Skipper Wayne Madsen (74) and Matt Critchley (69) shared their third 100-run partnership of the season so far to leave both sides still searching for their first wins.

At New Road, the struggle for wickets continued as Nottinghamshire batted the whole day without losing one in their follow-on against Worcestershire.

Haseeb Hameed registered his second ton of the match with an unbeaten 114 while fellow opener Ben Slater made the same score in Notts' second-innings score of 236-0. Only 20 wickets fell for a combined 948 runs over four days.

Group Two
Hampshire and Gloucestershire's win-

ning starts to the season came to end as they drew at the Ageas Bowl.

But Hampshire had looked on course to make it three wins from three until Gloucestershire last pair Josh Shaw

and Dom Goodman saw out the final 17 overs of the day. Gloucestershire were following-on and had edged into a slender lead before three wickets in six balls reduced them to 161-9 with more than

an hour still to play.

Hampshire could not find another breakthrough though as Shaw and Goodman battled through to 197-9.

Hampshire stay top by three points ahead

of Gloucestershire in second. The two other matches in the group finished on Saturday as Middlesex beat Surrey by 10 wickets and Somerset beat Leicestershire by nine wickets.

ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK GOES VIRTUAL



Antigua, overlooking tranquil turquoise waters and swathed by lush rain forest, Carlisle Bay offers a haven of seclusion and relaxation.

The vacation sweepstakes was officially launched during Sailing Week Sunday, a virtual 2 hour show held on April 25 with live entertainment, interviews and stories hosted by Antigua Sailing Week. Travel enthusiasts keen to win one of the two free vacations to Antigua, will be treated to a personalized viewing of the Carlisle Bay Resort on April 28, during the virtual Antigua Sailing Week Lay Day hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority on Facebook.

Viewers watching on social media should be ready for an exciting day in Antigua, as the action-packed Lay Day will include beach competitions, Rum in the Ruins, model boat sailing, cultural entertainment by the Cultural Development Division and the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, and a tour of the Carlisle Bay Resort.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority hosted Antigua Sailing Week Lay Day goes live to the public on April 28 at 11 a.m. AST on the Antigua and Barbuda Facebook page www.facebook.com/antiguabarbuda.

Antigua Sailing Week 2021: The Virtual Edition is now in progress and runs until April 30 in Antigua, and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the luxurious Carlisle Bay Resort are celebrating the event, by providing vacationers with the chance to win - incredible vacations to Antigua staying at the five star Carlisle Bay Resort. From April 25 to May 23, residents of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, The Caribbean, and Canada can go to visitantiguabarbuda.com, to enter The Escape You Deserve: Antigua Sailing Week Sweepstakes. Two lucky winners will each receive free airfare for two and a four (4) night stay for two, at the Carlisle Bay Resort in an Ocean Suite, inclusive of breakfast, and afternoon tea. Only one entry is allowed, and the winners will be chosen randomly. "Antigua and Barbuda is open and we're welcoming travellers to safely experience the destination, said

Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez. "We're proud of our high vaccination rate within the country, and as more persons get vaccinated globally, we expect to see the safe return of competitive sailing in Antigua and Barbuda!" The 'Sailing Capital of the Caribbean' there is nowhere better to get out on the water than in Antigua and Barbuda, known for its steady trade winds and safe, indented harbours. CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C. James said "The Escape You Deserve: Antigua Sailing Week Sweepstakes is targeting the leisure traveller, and travellers keen for a unique yachting and sailing adventure. After a year of postponed travel, we are providing them with opportunities to win free vacations to Antigua, where they can enjoy our open spaces on water and land."

Located on a stunning horseshoe bay on the south-western shore of



TROPHY WINNERS AT GOLF TOURNEY

In sensational fashion, Marlon George swung his way to title honours in the inaugural National Golf Championships at Cedar Valley Country Club held over the weekend. At the same meet, Kimesha Anthony fought back valiantly to claim the female crown. George, the 1998 Antigua Open winner, took the lead after Saturday's opening round of one under par, 69, and never looked back, going the distance to

win the 36-hole event. His two-day tally of 142 earned him both the national honour as well as the men's championship flight. Omory James was second, while Deon Massiah finished third. As for Anthony, she had to erase a deficit of three shots to beat first round leader Sabiena Winston. Anthony ended the tournament with a tally of 170 to Winston's 173.

The men's A flight victor was the smoking hot Marcus

Franker, while the eye-care specialist Byron Andrew was seeing things clearly as he prevailed in the B section. The seniors Championship trophy went to former West Indies all-rounder, Eldine Baptist, who emerged victor of his flight via a playoff against eventual runner up Wesley Dyer. Rick Solberg, who is originally from California, snatched the super seniors top prize away from his good buddy Paul Sodul-

ki. Solberg did so by winning the first playoff hole.

Young sensation, Marquise George of Barnes Hill, was the hottest youngster on show as he outlasted his rivals to claim the junior division with Ethan Henry finishing as the runner up. The Net winners were Navin Singh, Michael Gordon, Sasha Hunt, Sir Richie Richardson, Paul Sodulski, Andreina Delacruz and Carlos Khoury.

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