WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY 2021

ISSUE 230

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MSJMC NOW OFFICIALLY

BEARS THE NAME OF SIR LESTER



THE CASE FOR THE SIR LESTER BIRD MSJMC

Leadership, more specifically good leadership, is one of those qualities that is difficult to quantify; an intangible that most people recognise almost instantaneously.

One of the qualities of a good leader is to have a clear vision of where he/she wants to take the organization, association, or country in the case of a politician, but more specifically, to take them to heights the ordinary members have not yet imagined. Then, a good leader must be able to articulate that vision in a manner that engenders buy-in from his/ her colleagues, as well as those who are most likely to benefit from that vision becoming a reality.

Such has been the case with the dream/vision of a modern healthcare facility to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda, the articulation of that dream and the processes involved in making that dream, that vision, become a reality.

For decades the people of Antigua and Barbuda were served by a decrepit health institution, the Holberton Hospital. It had been in operation since the early years of the 20th century and was no longer able to provide the health care required by a growing nation.

The construction of a modern hospital was part of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's (ABLP's) elections manifesto for the 1999 general elections and soon after the win at the polls for the ABLP, then Prime Minister Lester Bird, was like a man possessed; possessed with the vision to bring this state-of-the-art hospital to reality.

With the support of his Cabinet, coupled with the youthful energy of Dr. Joseph 'Joey' John the project soon took shape and after overcoming several hurdles and battling much resistance from opposition sources, the construction of the hospital began.

Unfortunately, neither Sir Lester nor any of the other visionaries were there when the hospital was completed. For, in the year 2004, the ABLP suffered its second electoral defeat, this time at the hands of the United Progressive Party, an amalgamation of the opposition forces in the country.

Work on the project was halted by the new administration, but when its leadership recognized the value of completing the project, as it was in the best interest of the country, finally work resumed and soon after the MSJMC was completed.

As it is the nature of politics in Antigua and

Barbuda, none of the people whose efforts were responsible for initiating the project were part of the official opening.

On Tuesday, the MSJMC was renamed in honour of the man, whose unwavering commitment to see the construction and equipping of a modern hospital to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Lester Bryant Bird. He has been acknowledged to be responsible for the erection of this modern edifice and the honour was regarded as due recognition for his vision and drive to see it become a reality.

Too often, as a society we have much difficulty in giving honour/credit where it is due. In the case of the renaming of the hospital, there should be no ambivalence in recognizing that this is an honour well-deserved. Three cheers, Sir Lester Bird!



MSJMC NOW OFFICIALLY

BEARS THE NAME OF SIR LESTER

By Shelton Daniel

It's now official: The Mount St. John's Medical Center is now the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Center.

The formal renaming ceremony took place last evening at the state-of-the-art modern hospital that was completed 12 years ago under an Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) administration headed by then Prime Minister Sir Lester Bryant Bird.

Speaker after speaker during yesterday's function highlighted the vision and determination of Sir Lester, a National Hero, in withstanding the mammoth financial and other challenges to procuring a medical complex to replace the old and broken down Holberton Hospital, whose operating and working conditions had become both odious and hazardous to staff, patients and visitors.

In addition to these fiscal and logistical hurdles, those paying tribute to the now 83-year-old



former leader, also recalled the intense political opposition he faced and endured with conviction; that what he had set his sights upon with regard to Mount St. John's was best for the country then and for the foreseeable future.

Current Minister of Health and Wellness Sir Molwyn Joseph recalled that during a parliamentary session, of very intense opposition pushback against government's proposal to build the new hospital, Sir Lester calmly maintained his statesmanlike posture.

"The Honorable Lester Bryant Bird, during that same session, I recall ... I was quite impressed that he raised the bar, because he did not spend much time responding to what the opposition was saying at the time, and I saw a statesman in Lester Bird," said Sir Molwyn.

He added: "There should never be any question of the legitimacy of naming this institution the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John Medical Center. It is time that we honor our own in this country ... And I think it is most appropriate for someone who has worked so hard to ensure that we have this modern facility here in Antigua and Barbuda."

The renaming ceremony was held on the same date that the ABLP marked its 75th anniversary. Sir Lester has occupied a special place of honor in the venerable institution which – almost a decade ago – named him its Lifetime Leader Emeritus.

Sir Lester's successor as ABLP political leader and current Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Honorable Gaston A. Browne, was one of the main speakers during Tuesday's renaming ceremony.

"Challenges are not new to this great institution ... I would have seen the pain that Sir Lester had to endure as the leader of this country. I recall seeing him on several occasions bemoaning the fact that despite all

of his contributions, despite his great efforts, despite his love and commitment for the advancement of the people of this country, that there were opposition elements who - on a weekly basis - were literally beating him in effigy. I saw his pain, and today I can empathize with him. It's just that I have his experience to learn from," stated PM Browne, who went on to describe Sir Lester as "one of the greatest Antiguans and Barbudans to grace our shores".

Sir Lester's daughter, Donyelle Bird, assured the appreciative audience that although her father was unable to physically attend the ceremony he was viewing the live broadcast of the proceedings from home.

Sir Lester has been recuperating from a recent lower limb amputation brought on by complications of long-standing diabetes. He is however said to in good spirits and recovering well.

She said MSJMC was

conceptualized in 1993 when her father, newly installed as leader of the ABLP, was preparing for his first general election in that capacity.

"The party manifesto promised a new general hospital and his first order of business was to ensure it was delivered. The Mount St. John's Medical Center was conceptualized during a trip that year, sitting in the Atrium of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan, New York, where the first substantive discussion about a modern hospital for Antigua and Barbuda was held with one of his closest friends, [the legendary local medical practitioner] Dr. Joseph "Joey" John."

Despite all the opposition that the hospital project faced, Donyelle Bird noted, her father and those with him, stuck doggedly to that goal of delivering on the promise and on their commitment, to provide modern and quality healthcare to people of this twin island nation.



There is a need for Antigua and Barbuda to construct a modern hospital to properly care for those in the society who suffer with mental health issues. That suggestion comes from Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, who made the case for a new mental health facility when he addressed Tuesday's ceremony to re-

name the country's main public health institution, the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC). "This is our challenge today; that as we all celebrate this achievement of the construction and renaming of this health institution, it is my humble view that we should elevate, providing state-

of-the-art, first class treatment for mentally ill patients in Antigua and Barbuda, in a new facility that is comparable to the Sir Lester Bird MS-JMC. If nothing else, we should mark this occasion by making that commitment," Sir Molwyn remarked. Sir Molwyn noted that he had made a similar call for a new fa-

cility for the mentally impaired during the parliamentary debate for the MSJMC more than twelve years ago. He said he now feels that the current government ought to take up this challenge as there is a dire need for such a facility to be part of the health care infrastructure of Antigua and Barbuda.

GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES OVER TWO HUNDRED OXYGEN TANKS



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph (right) was on hand for the opening of the container with the tanks of oxygen

The government is taking pro-active action to secure an adequate supply of oxygen, especially as Antigua and Barbuda like the rest of the world, is battling with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The Ministry of Health has announced that it has received 234 oxygen tanks to boost the country's supplies of the much-needed



resource in the ongoing battle against Covid-19. According to Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, the purchasing of the already filled tanks out of Miami was a Cabinet decision to ensure that the island does not run out of oxygen.

In addition to the tanks, the ment came with a price tag

country also received 30 portable oxygen generators which will be used to refill the purchased tanks. Moments after opening the container and inspecting the shipment, Sir Molwyn disclosed that the state of the art equipment came with a price tag

of over a half a million dollars (\$500,000.00 EC). During the recent spike in cases of COVID-19 in India, access to oxygen was a major concern as family members were forced to travel miles to purchase oxygen in an effort to help keep their relatives alive.





Better days are ahead for road users in Antigua and Barbuda as the Minister of Works is giving a commitment to redesign and improve the national road infrastructure to provide smoother roadways for better traffic flows.

Works Minister, Lennox Weston, made the commitment amidst the backdrop of the launch of the UN Global Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 and the new Global Plan, which sets a target of one hundred (100) percent seatbelt wearing by 2030.

The ministry revealed that a survey it conducted among the public found that there is very poor compliance with national seatbelt laws. "This is the challenge confronting local law enforcement," the ministry said in a media release.

According to the release only fifty (50) percent of the one thousand, four hundred and twenty-three (1,423) drivers observed, were wearing seatbelts. Female drivers are more likely to wear a seatbelt, with almost two-thirds wearing their seatbelt compared to just forty-five per cent of male drivers. Weston said he is particularly concerned by the findings of the study which also found that the seat belt wearing rate was even lower for drivers of government vehicles, taxis, and commercial vehicles with only forty (40) percent. The observation surveys found that a mere forty (40) percent of male and female front-seat passengers wear seatbelts. "We cannot allow Antiguans and Barbudans to continue to put their lives and the lives of others in their vehicles at risk, every time they travel on the national road network, especially since the government is investing



millions of dollars to improve roadways. These surveys were conducted on the six main roads under the Government of Antigua and Barbuda Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation project and the Second Road Rehabilitation Project, and it is believed that seatbelt use is even lower in rural areas," the Works Minister said. Global research shows that wearing a seatbelt in the front seat reduces the risk of death by forty-five per cent and the risk of serious injury by fifty per cent. Seatbelts protect the vital organs - the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and spleen and prevent ejection. People who are not wearing a seatbelt are thirty times more likely to be ejected from a vehicle during a crash.

The ministry's release further reported that an associated social survey of road users shows that while there is high awareness of the safety benefits of seatbelts, there is low expectation of any consequence for failing to comply with the law. Sixty per cent of males and fifty per cent of female respondents agree that 'there is not much risk of being caught by

police for speeding on main roads. The online survey was facilitated by the Project Implementation Management Unit for the Ministry of Works and conducted by FRED Engineering, an independent road safety-consulting firm based in Italy.

Given the success in addressing cellphone use, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is now considering a range of options, including increasing fines, implementing enforcement and media campaigns, and reviewing government policies to achieve a one hundred percent seat belt wear-

ing rate. Minister Weston concluded that "the cell-phone success is likely to be due in part to the 2019 fine increase to \$500," adding that he will be working with all Ministers of Government to ensure that employees in all government departments strictly comply with the national traffic law.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Clarence Pilgrim stated that drivers of public transport vehicles have the lives of innocent passengers in their hands. Pilgrim added that the Ministry of Works would be collaborating with transportation associations to include: the Bus Associations and the Taxi Driver's Associations to get seatbelt safety messages to their members and passengers.

Using road traffic crash data from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda for the period 2016-2019, the Ministry of Works estimates that the average annual economic cost of deaths and serious injuries from vehicular collisions is about USD \$33million. However, this does not consider the ongoing suffering of many accident victims and their families.



Govt. Senator calls for more women, youth to get involved in politics



Government Senator Shenella Govia

Shenella Govia wants to see more women and young people get involved in politics as

Government Senator it can provide them with a chair at the table when crucial decisions about the nation are being made.

Senator Govia herself, the youngest member of the Upper House of parliament, is urging both women and young people not to be deterred by comments from others who may be speaking out against making a career in politics.

"There is no more effective tool to be part of the decision-making, than to be actively involved in politics. There are many who stay on the sidelines and offer comments or suggestions which may or may not have merit, but, when one is part of a process, especially if the party he/she supports forms the government, that individual can more readily af-





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fect change," she told a radio programme Tuesday during the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) 75th anniversary celebrations. Senator Govia noted that currently, there are more women serving in the parliament than before with two in the House of

Representatives and eight in the Senate, to include: The President, Senator Alincia Williams-Grant. Six of the eleven appointed by the ABLP, are women. She commends Prime Minister Gaston Browne for his commitment to empower women in the gover-

nance of the country, a commitment he made on the campaign trail and one which he has fulfilled.

Senator Govia also noted that in her own case she knew that she wanted to get involved in politics at an early age...and she never wavered in that commitment and drive. In urging women and youth to get involved, Senator Govia said politics is a profession that offers participants, the opportunity to develop their skills in debating, research, management and negotiation among others.

Thirty-two thousand people have received first vaccine dose



The number of people who have received the first dose of the anti-COVID-19 vaccine has climbed to approximately thirty-two thousand (32,000).

That's the latest figure available up to Tuesday night coming from the vaccination centres being operated by the government. The rate of vaccination has considerably slowed since the second phase the programme started several weeks ago. There has been well-orchestrated campaign against the vaccination which has played on people's fears leading to a high degree of hesitancy towards the vaccination exercise. In addition to the number of people who

have received their first dose, there are over two thousand five hundred and eighty-one (2581) persons who have received the second dose as of last week.

In making a pitch for more buy-ins to the vaccination programme, Prime Minister Gaston Browne everyone urging who has received their first dose to each take someone else - a family member or a friend - to be vaccinated. He said this would take the country to over sixty-thousand which is close to achieving 'herd immunity', a status being sought by the government in order to get ahead of the virus.

Barbuda Council Agriculture Division Better Equipped to Serve

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Barbuda Affairs announced that the Barbuda Council Agriculture Division can now produce seedlings in a protective environment which will increase production for a variety of seedlings for the local community.

The Ministry indicated that activities under the crowdfunding project, 'Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 through the supply of fresh food to rural households', continued with a number of activities in Barbuda to support the local farmers and back-yard gardeners.

In two days, several activities were executed in Barbuda which would see the council better equipped in the field of agricultural production. These activities included the installation of an irrigation misting system for the newly constructed seedling nursery, the installation of a drip irrigation system for small farmers and NGOs, capacity building for small farmers and backyard gardeners, construction of the Multiplication Humidity Bin and monitoring and evaluation of activities executed on the previous visit.

Adding to the installation and building activities, the project also featured a capacity-building session for farmers and backyard gardeners. This was facilitated by Mr. Victor C. Harris, Technician from the Ministry of Agriculture, who primarily focused on seedling production management.

Mr. Bradbury Brown, a Technician from Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) also facilitated training on rapid multiplication of roots and tubers using the mini stem method.

According to the Agriculture Ministry, "over 15 persons participated in the training session. Approximately 40 local Farmers and Backyard Gardeners in Barbuda have benefited directly and indirectly from the Crowdfunding Project. This project is the first of its kind in the Caribbean region which is currently being implemented in Antigua and Barbuda and Haiti which is supported by other institutions such as the OAS Trust Fund."







Local start-up Poultry Production Company Gets Ministry's Spotlight



The Ministry of Agriculture, in recent times, increased its site visits to several agriculoperations ture-based throughout the island. Week after week, the Ministry has highlighted Argo-processing and plant production farmers in Antigua and Barbuda. Earlier this week, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, The Hon. Samantha Marshall, along with senior staff and technicians paid a visit to local chicken farm operator, Mr. Alan Osborne of FNY Foods Ltd. Mr. Osborne owns and operates a major, pioneering Broiler Farm Project branded as 'Fresh'N' Yummy', a local start-up poultry production company in Antigua and Barbuda. Visiting the broiler plant, Minister Marshall noted the effect the production had on the country's food security. The Agriculture Minister said that they were very impressed with this initiative which will have a significant impact on the importation of our most consumed meat product. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, "The

tour was very engaging for the team as they witnessed first-hand, eggs being hatched at a facility and two-day-old chicks being transported and placed on local farms to be raised between 32 - 42 days; after



which they will be taken to the slaughterhouse to be slaughtered."The Ministry indicated that the final stage of the chicken production for sale is set to begin next month. Agriculture officials and Mr. Osbourne

are appealing to the public to support this project which will not only guarantee fresh, locally produced poultry products but will also provide employment opportunities for citizens.



Accident Victim Receives Airlift Assistance from General Public and **Calvin Ayre Foundation**

A Colombian national learned of the urgent Although she is curliving in Antigua and Barbuda who sustained multiple fractures to her left leg and arm in a major vehicular accident, has been airlifted back to her homeland following assistance through her family's GoFund-Me efforts and donations from the Calvin Ayre Foundation. The accident victim, Leidy Paola Galvis Salazar, is counting her lucky stars and thanking some caring and benevolent people for supporting her family's GoFundMe efforts to airlift her to Columbia for urgent medical attention. One such organization is the Calvin Ayre (CAF), Foundation which came on board to cover the outstanding expense of over US\$12,000 in order to meet the targeted airlift cost of US\$23,000, which enabled Galvis to be airlifted to Columbia on Thursday, May 13. According to Ayre Group's and CAF's Media Relations Specialist, Jamilla Kirwan, when the Foundation

need for emergency the decision airlift. was quickly taken to assist the family, who had already raised a little over US\$10,000. The 25 year-old Columbian who was residing in Antigua, was the victim of a major car crash on May 3, which caused her to be trapped in the vehicle until an emergency team was able to extricate her from the wreck. Galvis spent 11 days of being hospitalized at the Mt. St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC), during which time her mother, Lucy Salazar who lives in Columbia, posted an impassioned social media plea for assistance and started a GoFundMe page. The family received an outpouring of financial support of over US\$10,000 from the general public, whom they referred to as "angels".

Leidy, who moved to Antigua a few years ago, came to the island to work as a Mixologist, which is her area of expertise.

rently unable to move her arms and legs, she holds on to hope that she will soon be able to return to realizing her dreams and once again, live fully.

"I want to thank everyone who supported me," Leidy said. "And especially the Calvin Ayre Foundation. I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for giving me this chance to get my surgery so I can walk again."

NOTICE

To: Your Worship St. Johns Magistrate Court Gray's Farm St. Johns Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police Police Headquarters American Road St. Johns Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madame. Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I. Jacqueline Ford of Marble Hill, with registered business situate at High Street St. John Antigua and Barbuda DO HERE-BY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antiqua on Thursday 1st July, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises Known as "Ninetys Restaurant & Bar" situated at High Street in the parish of St. John, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 17th day of May, 2021

AUCTION SALE

Instructed by the ANTIGUA AND BAR-BUDA 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 06 July 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property under the administration of Mr. Sawandi Merchant, Administrator of the Estate of the late Ms. Colleen Lovence, formerly of New Winthorpes, St. Georges's, Antigua.

The property is located at Lamberts in New Winthorpes, St. George's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 5,449 sq. ft./ 0.1 acre, with a single storey, two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom wooden dwelling thereon.

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: Cassada Gardens & New Winthorpes

BLOCK: 42 1995E

PARCEL: 256

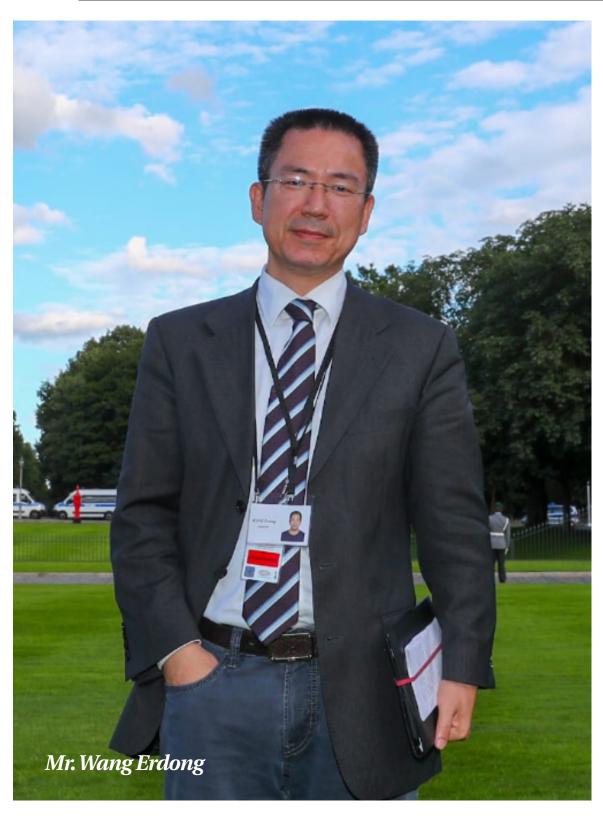
Parcel No. 256 of Block No. 42 1995E is bounded by the following:

-On the North by: Parcel 251; -On the South by: Public Road; -On the East by: Public Road; -On the West by: Parcel 255

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

Join Hands and Work Together for a Better Future

By: Mr. Wang Erdong, Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda is known as "the Gem of the Caribbean". Regrettably, I have not yet fully appreciated the beauty of it since I came here three months ago, due to the coronavirus pandemic. But, I do believe that the pandemic will eventually be overcome, and life will return to normalcy.

I have personally witnessed the tremendous efforts made by the government and its people in Antigua and Barbuda to prevent and control COVID-19. Hence, I would like to congratulate the nation on its great

achievements in that respect. I am also amazed that the members of the public have shown their solidarity by abiding by the COVID-19 protocols.

The national vaccine rollout is underway in both China and Antigua and Barbuda. As China has a population of more than 1.41 billion, vaccines are also in short supply at home. Nevertheless, China will honor its promise to donate 20,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine to the twin-island nation.

The reason behind this is, first of all, mankind is a community with a shared future and a common stake. In the face of this virus, everyone breathes the same air and "COVID-19 spares no one". Secondly, though there is some selfish major power hoarding vaccines, China remains a responsible player and

continues to reach out to help the world. Just as President Xi Jinping said, "China will make its vaccine a global public good".

The long geographical distance will never prevent the two countries from becoming close and reliable partners. "Good friends feel close even when they are thousands of miles apart;" this old Chinese saying can best describe the relationship between China and Antigua and Barbuda. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries on January 1, 1983, the bilateral cooperation has become closer and stronger with more and more tangible results achieved over the years. Tourism is the most significant economic driver for the twin-island nation. Affected by external environments, however, the country has suffered

economic downturn and financial shocks in recent years. China, will thus continue to provide assistance to, and expand economic and technical cooperation with Antigua and Barbuda, with full efforts made on infrastructure and projects concerning people's livelihood, in order to improve its economic growth and people's life, as well as the capacity to cope with the crisis by itself.

This hard time is only temporary, but the cooperation between the two countries is long-term and real. China represents opportunity and future. As the world's largest consumer market with the greatest potential, China is now accelerating its pace to foster a new development pattern and deepen reform and opening up. Antigua and Barbuda is already on the destination list for outbound



Chinese citizens. and hopefully, the specialty products from the twin islands such as: lobster and rum will be seen more on the dinner table in Chi-Though Antina. gua and Barbuda is a small country, "a small country can still be great with strong governance", as an old Chinese saying goes. The twin-island state an indepursues pendent foreign policy and explores development paths that suit its own characteristics: the "Father of the Nation" Sir Vere Cornwall Bird once said that he resisted any attempt to advance their philosophy in his nation. After

I came here, I also found out that the leaders of the nation displayed overwhelming charisma as leaders of great nations, when they always adhere to the "One China" principle. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade Hon. E. **P**. Chet Greene often criticize the practice of some neighboring powers neglecting the interests of small countries. China is a big country, but it never bullies the small or imposes its path or will on others. These practices never belong to China's political and cultural traditions.

In getting along with sincere and good friends like Antigua and Barbuda, China stresses integrity, friendship, and morality, which comprise an important cultural heritage of the Chinese nation: China also takes the lead in promoting equality, cooperation, and law-abiding citizens. The era of "power is justice" has gone, and the practice of "whoever has the big fist has the final say" is old-fashioned and should be dumped into the trash can of history years ago. Because of the special natural and geographical conditions, Antigua and Barbuda also faces

the threat of natu-

ral disasters such as hurricanes and suffers from the consequences of global warming and rising sea levels. I feel the same about that. China will continue to support and join hands with the nation to deal with upcoming challenges and difficulties.

I am very impressed by the national motto of the country, endeavour-"Each ing, all achieving". I believe with the joint efforts of the governments two and peoples, the bilateral cooperation will yield even more tangible results between China and Antigua and Barbuda.





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400 jobs to be created through \$20M block-making project

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN REGIONS 3, 4, 6 AND 10 BEING TARGETED

Guyana Chronicle - IN keeping with government's promise of job creation, the Ministry of Housing and Water, on Monday, launched its \$20 million pilot Community-based Employment Stimulation Project (CESP) in Tiger Bay.

The initiative, which is the brainchild of President Dr. Irfaan Ali, was conceptualised with the goal of creating block-making jobs in several vulnerable communities in four regions. Of the project sum, \$3.9 million has been set aside for the Tiger Bay community. In the coming months, the project will be expanded to include Albouystown, East Ruimveldt, West Ruimveldt, Sophia, Agricola, Mocha, Lusignan, and Buxton in Region Four, along with, Linden in Region 10, Canje in Region Six and a number of still-to-be determined communities in Region Three. Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, said the initiative is aimed at unemployment reduction and noted that block makers in the identified communities are strategically positioned to benefit from the CESP initiative, which is expected to create some 400 jobs.

He explained that with the construction sector taking off, this is a pivotal juncture for wealth expansion of persons in the construction chain, which includes block makers and suppliers.

"The construction sector as you know is taking off once again and the demands are many. Participation at this activity will allow those of you who are willing to make the commitment to become exposed to the world of work in a much more structured manner, become entrepreneurs for yourselves and better provide for your families. One such demand that I am alluding to is the

demand for blocks," Minister Croal said. He highlighted that currently there is a market of demand for 123,000 blocks that will be used for the construction of houses being built by the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA) in Cummings Lodge on the East Coast of Demerara and Prospect which is located on the East Bank corridor. Further, he noted that the ministry has secured the commitment of 10 contractors to purchase the blocks produced through the CESP initiative. The initiative, according to the ministry, comes not just as a job creation platform, but also a platform for the creation of new entrepreneurs in the block-making busi-

Minister Croal indicated that the ministry will work to provide startup support to those participating in the project.

ness.

New COVID-19 protocols for fully vaccinated travelers to Dominica



Individuals who are fully vaccinated will no longer be required to be tested on arrival at the airport.

Health Minister, Dr. Irving McInytre, made the disclosure while speaking as a guest on Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit's Annou Pale Sunday talk show this week.

He said this forms part of the new COVID-19 protocols which will come into effect on Wednesday 19th May, 2021.

"If you are fully vaccinated and you fit the criteria of someone who is fully vaccinated you will not be tested at the airport," the minister said. "But you will have to go to your hotel which has to be a certified Safe in Nation (SiN) property, or a

government quarantine facility." He stated that on day 2 of residence at these facilities, a PCR test will be done, and the individual will receive the results within 24 hours.

"So, what it means is a minimum of two days. So actually, if you are done on the second day, you might actually go home on that same second day or the next morning," he explained. "So the days of 5 and 6 and 7 days in quarantine are over for fully vaccinated travelers."

The minister further explained that there are certain typical cases where if one is symptomatic then a rapid antigen test will be conducted.

"But if you are fully vaccinated you don't go through this testing," he stated.

Dr. McIntyre added that individuals who are fully vaccinated and are not tested at the airport, are still being encouraged to wear their masks and practice physical distancing.

However, he said for those who are not fully vaccinated, the protocols remain the same.

"You get to your certified Safe in Nature property or you get to the government quarantine facility and then on the fifth (5th) day we have you tested with a PCR; that means you might just go home on the sixth (6th) or seventh (7th) day which makes a big difference compared to the 2 or 2 ½ days," he noted. Meanwhile, Dr. McIntyre explained that procedures are in place with regard to the high-risk alert.

"You may have vaccinated travelers and non-vaccinated travelers, but then you might also get a traveler who is a high risk alert; that means maybe the traveler had a fever or has been complaining of loss of taste or having headaches or he could have been working in a COVID hospital or related to a COVID-19 patient. So all this gives us a little red alert and in in that case, we should quickly do a rapid antigen test," he stated.



Loop News- The Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP) touts a successful and productive virtual meeting with Saint Lucian nationals residing in the United States.

The Sunday May 16 meeting saw addresses by Political Leader and MP for Castries East, Philip J Pierre, MP for Vieux Fort North, Moses "Musa" Jn Baptiste and the candidate for

Micoud North, Jeremiah Norbert. Pierre and his team reiterated the necessity for established and sustained dialogue with persons in the diaspora in order to foster partnerships and investment opportunities in Saint Lucia.

He underscored the importance of the diaspora in national development and in the exchange of ideas and technical ex-

pertise. He added that there was also the need to provide incentives and opportunities to Saint Lucians who wish to do business at home. The Opposition leader stated that a Labour Party under his leadership would not only provide for the duty-free importation of charitable goods but would also explore a VAT free option to assist the many persons who

contribute annually to organisations and communities in Saint Lucia.

The Virtual Diaspora Town Hall, United States Edition was the first in a series of scheduled diaspora meetings for the year. Virtual Diaspora Town Halls for the United Kingdom, Canada and the Caribbean Region are being planned and will be advertised in the coming weeks.

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iWitnessNews SVG - The loss and damage caused by last month's explosive eruption of La Soufriere could amount to 50% of the gross domestic product, Minister of Finance Camillo Gonsalves has told Parliament.

"Even preliminary, incomplete assessments of the damage and the loss that we face are sobering estimates," he said on Tuesday as he presented an EC\$117.9 million supplementary budget in response to the eruption.

"Even without going to the full extent of the Red Zone, the Orange Zone and up the mountains, we know that clean-up

costs will exceed \$30 million. "We know that there's damage to over 5,000 buildings exceeding \$35 million. We know that at least \$175 million of loss and damage has been inflicted on the agricultural sector, and some estimates are as high as US\$150 million. We know that in the red zone, 100% of crops, vegetable crops, have been destroyed; 65% of arrowroot crops, 90% of tree crops, and 80% of root crops have been destroyed."

The minister said that hundreds of livestock, including sheep, goats, pigs, cattle and thousands of chickens have been lost.

"We know that there's over \$50 million in damage to our forest. And the evaluators, quite naturally, couldn't get all the way up into the mountains to evaluate the full extent of the damage to our forestry. "We know that there's damage to our public utility infrastructure water, electricity generation and distribution capacity.

"And all of this preliminary data, sobering as it is, excludes large swaths in the Red and Orange zone that were inaccessible at the time of the assessment," he said,

adding that the assessments were done before the torrential rains that sent flooding and lahars down hillsides and cause even more damage to the infrastructure, lives and livelihoods.

"And while we hope that the volcano has completed the explosive phase of its eruptions, the scientists have not given us any such iron-clad assurance," Gonsalves said.

"And when the assessments are complete, it is entirely possible, indeed likely, that loss and damage could well approach 50% of the gross domestic product of St. Vincent and the Grenadines."



BBC World News - More than 90 people are missing after a barge off the coast of the Indian city of Mumbai sank amid a severe cyclone. The Indian navy said it had rescued 177 of the 270 people aboard and that efforts to find survivors were ongoing. Three other commercial barges carrying about 700 people are stranded at sea in the wake of cyclone Tauktae, which has battered India's western coast.

Tauktae weakened after it made landfall on Monday, but at least 19 people have already died in the storm. The stricken barge, owned by India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), was carrying personnel deployed for

offshore drilling. When the storm struck, barge's anchors gave way and it began drifting. The Indian navy has mounted a massive air and sea rescue mission for the missing oil workers, which is being hampered by huge waves: "There are waves of 20 to 25 feet (six to 7.6m), the winds are high and the visibility is low," navy spokesman Vivek Madhwal. "Ships and aircraft have been deployed for the search and rescue mission." A navy spokesman told the BBC it had dispatched three warships to save those aboard the three stranded commercial barges. Two of the barges are off the coast of Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra state,

while the third is off the coast of Gujarat. ONGC said it had also deployed boats to rescue its personnel. One of the troubled barges, reportedly carrying cargo, had anchored and was about 14km from Mumbai's coast when it went adrift on Monday. The navy said the barge had since run aground in a rocky patch of the sea. Everyone on board is reported to be safe.

The third barge, about 92km from the Gujarat coast, is attached to an oil rig. There are reportedly 196 people aboard and another 100 reportedly stuck on the rig. Initially classified as "extremely severe", the cyclone made landfall in Gujarat state late on Monday with wind

speeds of up to 160km/h (100mph). It narrowly missed Mumbai, but the barges adrift off the city's coast were unable to return to the harbour on time.

Winds have ravaged coastal areas in the western state of Gujarat, uprooting trees and electricity poles. In Saurashtra district, electricity supply has been cut as a precautionary measure.

About 200,000 people were evacuated across several states as the cyclone approached, bringing with it heavy rains and gusty winds. The storm has hit the region amid a devastating second wave of Covid-19 that has overwhelmed Indian hospitals.



ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP) — A North Carolina prosecutor said Tuesday that sheriff's deputies were justified in fatally shooting Andrew Brown Jr. because he ignored their commands and endangered at least two of them when he drove his car toward them.

District Attorney Andrew Womble said at a news conference that Brown used his car as a "deadly weapon," causing Pasquotank County deputies to believe it was necessary to use deadly force. Womble, who acknowledged Brown wasn't armed with guns or other weapons, said the deputies will face no criminal charges.

Attorneys for Brown's

family who watched body camera footage have previously said that he was trying to drive away from deputies and posed no threat. Family attorney Harry Daniels said that the family was preparing a response to announce-Womble's ment.

During his news conference, Womble said a deputy who tried to open Brown's car door wound up partly on the hood as Brown backed up, and the deputy found himself directly in the car's path moments later when Brown drove forward. Womble said the deputy had to push off the car with his hand to narrowly avoid being run over, and at least one of the

other deputies was also endangered as the group tried to take Brown into custody on drug-related warrants.

"I find that the facts of this case clearly illustrate the officers who used deadly force on Andrew Brown Jr. did so reasonably and only when a violent felon used a deadly weapon to put their lives in danger," Womble said, referring to Brown's car. He added that he found that "Brown's actions and conduct were indeed dangerous by the time of the shooting. ... Brown an immediate posed threat to the safety of the officers and others."

The sheriff has said his deputies weren't injured. The prosecutor said he would not release bodycam video of the confrontation between Brown and the law enforcement officers, but he played portions of the video during the news conference that multiple news outlets broadcast live.

The shooting on April 21 sparked protests over multiple weeks by demonstrators calling for the public release of the body camera video. While authorities have shown footage to Brown's family, a judge refused to release the video publicly pending a probe by the State Bureau of Investigation. Womble made his determination to not charge any of the officers after reviewing the bureau's report.



GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A rocket launched from Gaza killed two Thai workers in southern Israel on Tuesday, police said, hours after Israeli airstrikes toppled a six-story building in the Palestinian territory that housed bookstores and educational centers. With the war showing no sign of Palestinians abating, in the region staged a general strike in a rare collective action against Israel's policies.

Violence erupted at protests in the occupied West Bank, including in the city of Ramallah. Hundreds of Palestinians burned tires and hurled stones at an Israeli military checkpoint. Troops fired tear gas canisters at the crowd, and protesters picked up some of them and threw them back.

One protester was killed and more than 70 wounded — including 16 by live fire — in clashes with Israeli troops in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and other cities, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The Israeli army said two soldiers were wounded by gunshots to the leg.

The general strike was an uncommon show of unity among Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up 20% of its population, and those in the territories Israel seized in 1967 that the Palestinians have long sought for a future state. It threatened to further widen the conflict after a spasm of communal violence in Israel and protests across the West Bank last week.

Strike organizer Muhammad Barakeh said Palestinians are taking a position against Israeli "aggression" in Gaza and Jerusalem, as well as the "brutal repression" by police. Israel blames the war on Hamas and accuses it of inciting the violence.

Since the fighting began last week between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers, the Israeli military has launched hundreds of airstrikes it says are targeting Hamas' militant infrastructure, while Palestinian militants have fired more than 3,400 rockets from civilian areas in Gaza at civilian targets in Israel.

The latest attack from Gaza hit a packaging plant in a region bordering the territory. In addition to the two people killed, Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said it took another seven to the hospital. Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Tanee Sangrat said the wounded were also Thai.



UK returns \$5.8m stolen by ex-governor to Nigeria

Some \$5.8m (£4.2m) recovered by UK agencies, that was stolen by a Nigerian former governor and laundered in Britain have now been returned to Nigeria, the Nigerian authorities say.

Former Delta state Governor James Ibori was convicted of money laundering in the United Kingdom in 2012.

Prosecutors say he stole an estimated \$165m (£117m) from the oil-rich state.

A Bombardier Challenger jet is among the items listed in court documents for a confiscation order against Ibori.

The £4.2m has been recovered from Ibori's

wife, sister and fiduciary agent, who were also convicted of money laundering.

Observers expect more money to be retrieved from Ibori himself.

Nigeria's Attorney General Abubakar Malami hailed the return of the loot as a "demonstration of the recognition of reputation Nigeria earns for managing recovered money," according to a statement from his spokesperson.

James Ibori went from petty thief to Nigerian state governor to convicted money launderer.

He went to the UK in the 1980's and worked as a cashier at a DIY shop in London.

Ibori was convicted in 1991 for stealing from the store, but then returned to Nigeria and got involved in politics.

When he ran for Delta State governor, he lied about his date of birth to hide his UK conviction - which would have prevented him standing for office.

He became governor in 1999 and soon began taking money from state coffers. Delta state is the source of much of Nigeria's oil.

Once he was eventually released, he returned to Nigeria and sued the Home Office for unlawful detention.

Ibori won the case but was awarded just £1 compensation.

In 2020 prosecutors in a UK court asked a judge to make a confiscation order against Ibori of £117.7m.

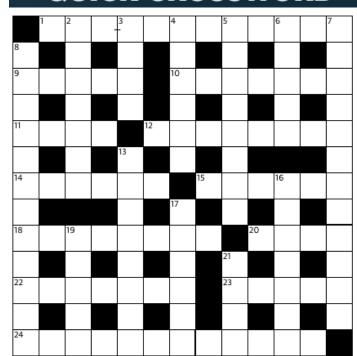
Court documents list several bank accounts owned by Ibori, as well as more than 10 properties around the world, ranging from flats on London's famous Abbey Road to a £5m mansion in Nigeria's capital Abuja.

The documents also list a Bentley car and a Bombardier Challenger jet valued at just under £17m.

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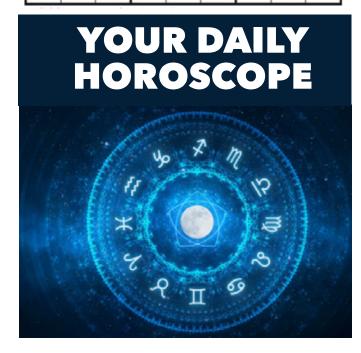
QUICK CROSSWORD

Speedy crossword No 1,336



Speedy crossword No 1,336

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Across D

Poorly thought out (3-9)

- 9 Wear down (5)
- 10 Rod used in making thread (7)
- 11 Fake (4)
- 12 Distinguished (8)
- 14 Buy back (6)
- **15** Breed (6)
- 18 Dodge (8)
- 20 Even-handed (4)
- **22** Exploitation to the point of diminishing returns (7)
- 23 Problems difficulties (informal) (5)

Down

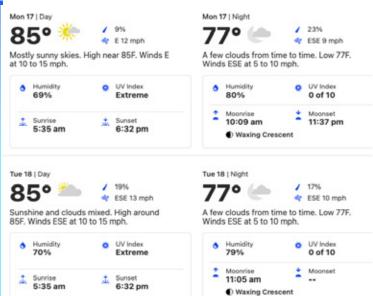
- 2 Do alter (anag) a sporty onepiece (7)
- Hints (4)
- 4 Cosy up (6)
- 5 Move abroad (8)
- 6 Technology for recording moving images (5)
- 7 Where an actor prepares (8,4)
- 8 Sponsored set (anag) it's used to eat pudding (12)
- 13 Hearten (8)
- 16 Mixture (7)
- 17 Cure (6)

COMMUNTY NOTICE





FORECAST





COMICS







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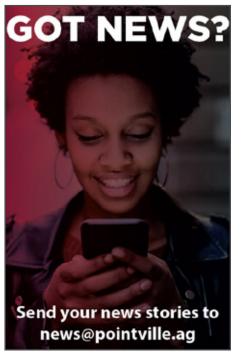


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KNIGHT AND MATTHEWS SMASH

HALF-CENTURIES IN FIRST PRACTICE MATCH

St John's Antigua - Kyshona Knight and Hayley Matthews registered half-centuries in the first practice match of the West Indies Women's high-performance camp in Antigua. Head Coach Courtney Walsh opened the camp with a 35-over match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, to ease the players back into the rigours of international cricket. Captains Hayley Matthews and Anisa Mohammed commandeered teams that saw the ideal combination of returning experienced players as well as the new players to camp.

The veterans put their hands up in this opening match, with Matthews and Knight taking the lead. Rashada Williams, the wicketkeeper/batter from Jamaica showed her patient batting, reminiscent of that of Stafanie Taylor. Williams supported her captain Matthews as the pair along with extras took their team to 100 before the loss of Williams' wicket in the 20th over. Aaliyah Alleyne was the next batter into double figures with 17 for Matthews XI.

Matthews XI posted 160/8 from their 35 overs. Matthews top-scored with 54 from 69 deliveries, which included six fours. Right-arm medium pacer, Shanika Bruce was the main destructor for Mohammed's bowling XI, finishing with figures of 4/34 from 5 overs and scalping a hattrick in the process, followed by Steffi Soogrim with 2/27 from 7 overs.

In their run-chase, Mohammed's XI got off to a steady start cour-

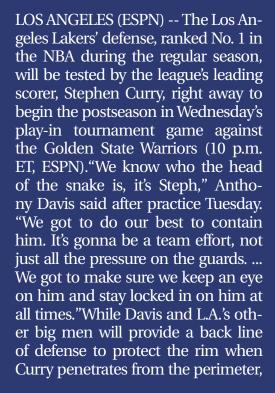
tesy Reniece Boyce and Kyshona Knight. Boyce posted 19 from 17 deliveries, which included two fours before she was bowled by Aaliyah Alleyne for 19. Knight then carried her bat in taking her team to victory. Anisa Mohammed added a valuable 35 from 49 with Knight to ensure that their team secured the first win of the camp, with 2.1 overs to spare.

Knight finished the innings not out on 61 from 91 deliveries which included four fours, while Mohammed posted 35 from 49 deliveries, also striking four fours. Mohammed's XI won by 4 wickets finishing on 163/7 from 32.5 overs. Bowling for Matthews XI, Alleyne, Cherry Ann Fraser and Karishma Ramharack all took 2 wickets a piece.



LOS ANGELES LAKERS DEFENSE BRACES FOR GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS'

'HEAD OF THE SNAKE' IN STEPHEN CURRY



the Lakers' starting backcourt of Dennis Schroder and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope will be primarily tasked with smothering the two-time MVP. "He's the best shooter who has ever played this game," Schroder said on a videoconference with reporters. "So, any shot, whatever comes from half court on, it's a good shot for him. At the end of the day, you got to make it as hard as possible and be into him and limit his 3s." Curry averaged 32 points per game to capture his second career scoring title and averaged 5.3 made 3-pointers per game -- the most of his 12-year career -- on 42.1% shooting from the outside. Golden State enters the play-in having won seven of its last eight games, with Curry averaging 36.8 points in the month



of May. "We anticipate they're going to throw the kitchen sink at Steph. Multiple defenders, different matchups, some blitzes, some kind of shadowing, that type of stuff," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said Tuesday. "We've kind of seen everything, Steph has seen everything. Draymond [Green] is probably the key in terms of when they do throw stuff at Steph, Draymond has an answer with all of his screening and dribble handoffs and that sort of thing, so they're fun to watch together."L.A. was able to keep Curry relatively in check in three regular-season showdowns. He averaged 23 points on 42.3% shooting (34.6% from 3), and the Lakers went 2-1.

T20I MATCH SCHEDULE:

West Indies vs South Africa

- June 26: 1st T201, Grenada National Cricket Stadium
- June 27: 2nd T20I, Grenada National Cricket Stadium
- June 29: 3rd T20I, Grenada National Cricket Stadium
 - July 1: 4th T20I, Grenada National Cricket Stadium
 - July 3: 5th T20I, Grenada National Cricket Stadium

West Indies vs Australia

- July 9: 1st T20I, Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, St. Lucia
- July 10: 2nd T20I, Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, St. Lucia
- July 12: 3rd T20I, Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, St. Lucia
- July 14: 4th T20I, Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, St. Lucia
- July 16: 5th T20I, Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, St. Lucia

West Indies vs Pakistan

- July 27: 1st T20I, Kensington Oval, Barbados
- July 28: 2nd T20I, Kensington Oval, Barbados
- July 31: 3rd T20I, Guyana National Stadium
 - August 1: 4th T20I, Guyana National Stadium
- August 3: 5th T20I, Guyana National Stadium

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WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY 2021 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG



ST JOHN'S, Antigua — The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Selection Panel announces a provisional 18-man squad ahead of the three back-to-back five-match T20 International (T20I) Series against South Africa, Australia and Pakistan. The expanded squad maintains the blend of experienced players with exciting young talent as the West Indies continue preparations in the build up to the defence of their ICC T20 World Cup title, to be held in India in October-November 2021. Sheldon Cottrell, Shimron Hetmyer, Andre Russell, Oshane Thomas and Hayden Walsh Jr. return alongside the majority of the squad who featured in the 2-1 T20I Series victory against Sri Lanka in March. The provisional squad will quarantine and train in St. Lucia ahead of the first T20I Series against South Africa starting on the June 26 at the Grenada National Cricket Stadium. The official squad will subsequently be selected and announced ahead of each Series. CWI's Lead Selector, Roger Harper, explained the thinking behind naming this squad: "The Provisional T20I Squad was put together with all T20I Home Series Matches against South Africa, Australia and Pakistan in mind. This gives us The Men in Maroon are the defending ICC T20 World Champions and also lifted the title in 2012. Cricket West Indies (CWI) has been working closely with regional Governments, their Ministries of Health and CAR-PHA to ensure the training camps and matches can proceed within a bio-secure environment. All players and support staff will undergo rigorous COVID-19 testing prior to and during each of these engagements.

The West Indies Head Coach, Phil Simmons, is confident going into the summer and looking forward to the World Cup and he commented: "These upcoming T20Is are crucial in terms of our preparation for the ICC T20 World Cup. We have assembled a very solid squad — with experienced world-class match-winners and some exciting young talented players, ready to explode onto the global stage and do great things for West Indies cricket.'

Cont'd on pg 29



