



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

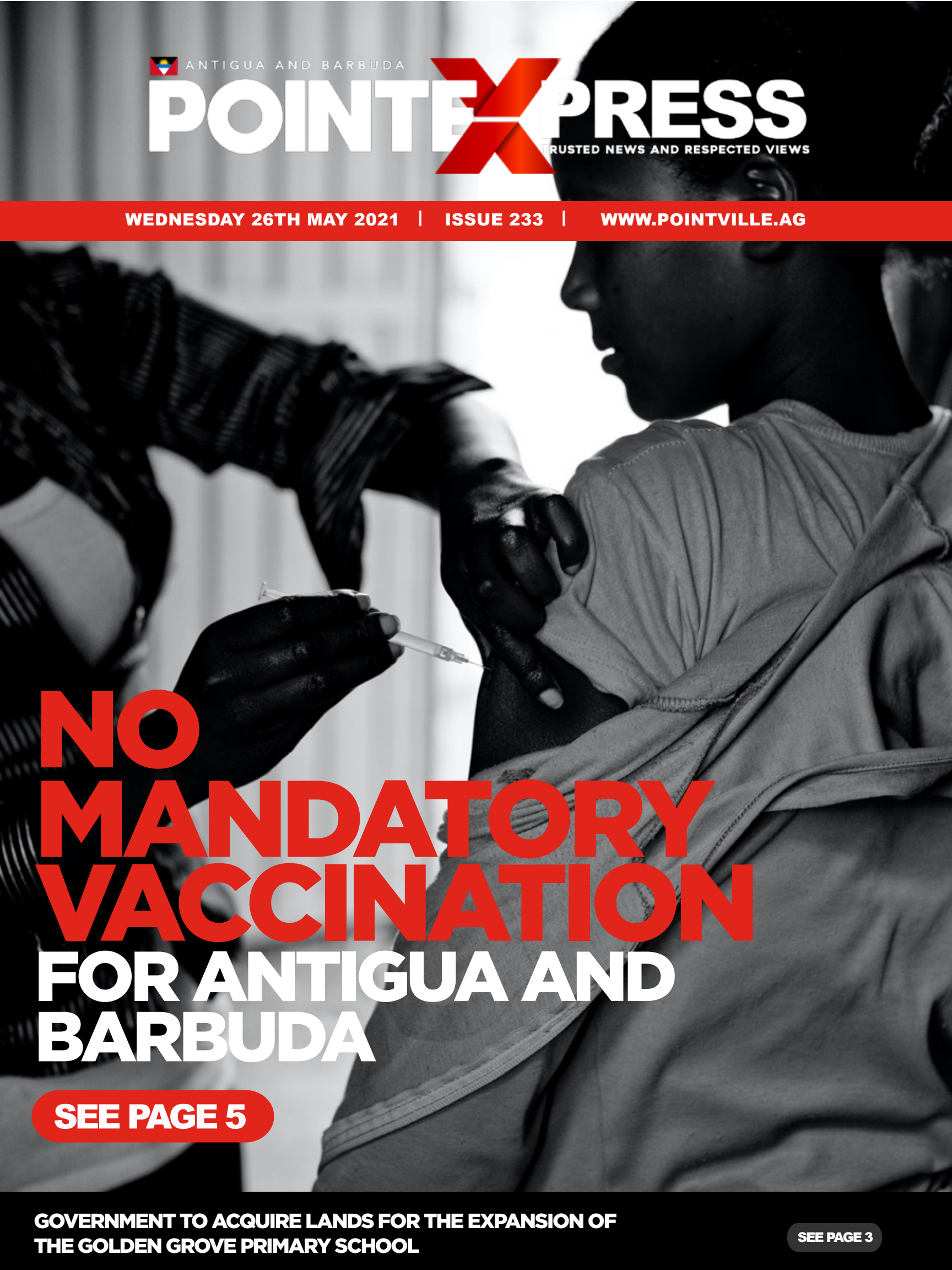
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GUEST EDITORIAL

COVID-19 VACCINE A MARVEL OF MODERN MEDICINE... AND THE WORLD BREATHES AGAIN

One could sense the global sigh of relief and then the utter joy last week after the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance that fully vaccinated people could stop wearing masks in outdoor crowds and in most indoor settings.

It marked a major step towards returning to some semblance of life as we knew it before the novel coronavirus pandemic, and hope for an end to the long night of suffering and death that shook the world to its core and changed our lives forever.

The guidance still calls for wearing masks in crowded indoor settings like buses, planes, hospitals, prisons, and homeless shelters. But it will help pave the way for reopening workplaces, schools, and other venues, even removing the need for social distancing for those fully vaccinated — people

who are two weeks past their last required dose.

The guidance represents excellent news for Jamaica, particularly the tourism sector upon which our country depends so much for a huge chunk of our employment and the main foreign exchange earner, as its linkages run throughout the economy.

Americans will feel freer to travel without some of the restrictions, notably the need to self-quarantine, which can reduce the quality and length of vacation or business trips. Fully vaccinated Jamaicans, with proof, will not have to quarantine in the States — though a negative COVID-19 test is still required.

All this is thanks to the COVID-19 vaccine which will no doubt take its place among the modern marvels of 21st century medicine and open a new chapter on how to deal with epidemics, pandem-

ics and the vaccines which we use to fight them.

One of the key elements in the emergence of the COVID-19 vaccine is the speed of development — Operation Warp Speed, as the US Administration named it — such that anti-vaxxers were able to use that to scare off millions of people worldwide.

But it is that very speed which is now making it possible to begin the journey back, in what could be regarded as a relatively short time, after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. The COVID-19 vaccine benefited from all the scientific work done over decades and got the tremendous funding needed to do the all-important human trials.

In the US, which bore the brunt of the impact, an aggressive vaccination campaign has resulted in pushing virus cases to their lowest rate since September, deaths to their

lowest point since last year April, and the test positivity rate to its lowest since the pandemic began.

With the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines the world now has a choice between waiting for herd immunity in the population through exposure to the disease and through vaccination. The World Health Organization, thankfully, supports achieving herd immunity through vaccination.

Vaccine skeptics would want the world to seek immunity by allowing a disease to spread through the population, with no concern about the resulting suffering from unnecessary cases and deaths.

What is the use of the explosion of knowledge to which we have access if it is not to be used against an enemy like a pandemic?

Reprinted from the Jamaica Observer, May 19, 2021



GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE LANDS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The House of Representatives has approved a motion authorizing the government to acquire a parcel of land, to make way for the expansion of the Golden Grove Primary School.

Agriculture Minister Samantha Marshall, who moved the motion, said the Cabinet made the decision to acquire the land at its meeting on May 12, 2021, but noted that the nation's law acquisition

act calls for such decisions to be ratified by the parliament to make it legal. Marshall explained that the land will be used 'for a public purpose' which is to enable the ministry of education to expand the

Golden Grove Primary School. “Mr. Speaker, this relates to the expansion of one of our most populated primary schools – the Golden Grove Primary – the school is strategically located serving the Grays Farm, Golden Grove, Cashew Hill and even in some cases the Jennings community,” she noted.

Because it serves such a wide cross

section of communities, Marshall stated that there is need to expand the school to enable it to better accommodate the student body.

She noted that the planned expansion of the school comes at a time when the institution is getting ready to celebrate its 60th anniversary in September this year. “This, I believe, is a most apt time for us to look at how we

expand the school and expansion of the education plant has always been a concern for ABLP Administrations, so this is keeping in line with that philosophy,” she remarked. Marshall also commended parliamentary representative for the area, Education Minister, Daryl Matthew, who she said worked tirelessly to explore options to expand the school. For his part,

Matthew gave a historical background of the origin of the institution which started off as a secondary school in September 1961. However, three years later (1964), the students were all transferred to the Princess Margaret School as the Golden Grove School was transformed into a primary school and has so remained, to this day.



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NO MANDATORY VACCINATION FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says there are no plans by his government to pass legislation in parliament to make vaccinating against the Covid-19 virus by residents of the country, mandatory.

PM Browne was responding in the House of Representatives on Tuesday to questions posed under the heading Questions to the Prime Minister which forms part of the House's Order

Paper. In responding to a question posed by Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle on whether or not the government planned to make [the Covid-19] vaccination mandatory through a legislation

in parliament, the prime minister indicated that at no time did he suggest that this was part of the government's plans. He, however, explained that the government intends to follow international

practices in reducing certain privileges to persons who are not vaccinated. These include making it mandatory for these individuals to undergo full quarantine, at their own expense, whenever they returned from travel abroad. "The idea of governments withdrawing certain privileges is nothing new. In fact, on the law books of the country all children entering into the public school system must first be vaccinated. There has been a special carve out for Rastafarian children, but that is an arrangement with that community and not part of the law," he explained. PM Browne suggested that the opposition should refrain from encouraging people not to be vaccinated as this was not in the best interest of the country. "COVID remains a serious existential threat to Antigua and Barbuda. It continues to be a health threat and it has caused significant economic wounds to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. All of us have a vested interest in the economic well-being of the country; all of us have a vested interest in the health of our people, which is the most important aspect. It is not appropriate during a crisis for individuals, irrespective of their political views, to be undermining the vaccination process," he declared. The prime minister remarked that during a crisis, such as this, what is important is leadership and he urged the opposition leadership not to encourage vaccination hesitancy directly or indirectly.

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Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador Chairs OAS for the Second Time

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Sir Ronald Sanders, has assumed the Presidency of the Permanent Council of the Organization for a second time.

Sanders last served as the President of the Permanent Council in 2016 when the OAS was faced with a financial crisis as well as political issues related to Haiti and Venezuela,

Current political issues with which the 34-nation organization is now faced are public concern over the security situation in Haiti, including rampant kidnappings and surging levels of criminality, fueled by anti-Government protests. The Permanent Council will make a decision this week on a good offices mission to facilitate dialogue between all stakeholders that would lead to free and fair elections. Po-

litical issues in Nicaragua and El Salvador are also expected to occupy the attention of the Organization.

Sir Ronald said that he will also be keeping a watchful eye on the situation with respect to distribution of vaccines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this connection, he will consult regularly with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) for any action to be taken.

Sanders had been serving as Vice-Chair of the OAS Permanent Council and assumed the Presidency after the untimely passing of the Ambassador of Paraguay Eliza Ruiz Diaz. Ambassador Sanders said "the best tribute that could be paid to the late President of the Permanent Council is to oversee successfully the challenging agenda before the Permanent Council".



Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Sir Ronald Sanders

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Specialised Training for Beach Safety and Security Unit

The Beach Safety and Security Unit within the Ministry of Tourism is providing specialised training for its officers with the anticipated uptake in the number of tourists visiting the country.

In a media release the ministry said twelve officers from the BS&S Unit are currently undergoing the six-week specialized training being held at the Sir Wright George Police Academy at Langfords. "The training programme's

main objective is to equip the BSSU with key skills that would propel and enhance the Ministry of Tourism & Investment's goal of improved beach security in the Nation of Antigua and Barbuda," the release stated.

Permanent Secretary, Walter Christopher said the programme is one element of the Ministry's preparation for the revival of the tourism industry post COVID-19.

"Our intention is to restructure and strengthen

our Beach Safety and Security Unit and we expect that after the programme is completed our beach officers will function effectively and efficiently in the new and improved unit," PS Christopher said.

The course was designed to assist members of the BSSU with the developing of their communication and technical skills in the execution their duties, in an ethical manner and will be able to make a positive impact beyond

their work on the beach and into the wider community.

PS Christopher said preparations for the training began last October and the officers selected to participate showed much enthusiasm about the special opportunity.

The Training Program is a collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism & Investment and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

International Bulletin Issued for Choksi



Mehul Choksi

An international alert has been issued for Jolly Harbour resident, Mehul Choksi, who has been on the run from Indian law enforcement, and who has been reported missing since Sunday afternoon.

A release from the police communications unit, STRATCOM said Choksi, originally from India, but who now holds Antigua and Barbuda citizenship through the CIP programme, was last seen at about 5:15 P.M on Sunday before leaving home in a motorcar which

has since been recovered. Based on additional information received, the police have conducted numerous searches but to no avail.

According to STRATCOM the Police have increased search efforts to find the missing Choksi; including interviewing several of his close relatives and associates, to gather as much information as possible as to his sudden disappearance.

"As an added component to the ongoing investigations, the Police Administration has reached out to both lo-

cal and regional law enforcement counterparts for assistance on this matter. Additionally, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) has filed a missing person's notice with The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for a Yellow Notice to be circulated. A Yellow Notice is a global Police alert for a missing person," the release noted.

In questions to the Prime Minister's segment of Tuesday's meeting of the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Gaston Browne confirmed that international and regional law enforcement agencies have been alerted about

his disappearance.

PM Browne said the government has no information as to whether or not he had left the island. He suggested that if he had in fact absconded from the island, as some have been suggesting, then it could only be via boat as no aircraft has left the island with Choksi listed as a passenger, nor have there been any illegal aircraft landings reported.

He however, dismissed reports that Choksi is now in Cuba, noting that if he had in fact left the island via a boat, then at the time he was reported to have been in Cuba it would not have been possible, based on the time he was report-

ed missing.

PM Browne also reported that his government has been cooperating with the government of India on the Choksi matter noting that the fugitive has two cases ongoing before the courts in St John's. One has to do with his extradition to India and the government's move to revoke his Antigua and Barbuda citizenship.

The prime minister revealed that Choksi recently retained the services of a noted British attorney to represent him in the legal matters before the courts and therefore 'Choksi had very strong interest to be in Antigua and Barbuda to fight these cases.'

He added that no one would have anticipated that Choksi would have fled the country, although he reiterated that the government has no information to support this claim. Choksi is described as being of Indian descent, brown in complexion, five feet six inches (5' 6") in height, heavily built with a balding hairline.

The police are seeking the assistance of the public in knowing the whereabouts of Mr. Choksi. Anyone with information is asked to call the John-sons Point Police Station at 562-8942/43 or the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) at 460-3913/14.

High Commission - UK Office to Host Antigua and Barbuda & Estonia Business Forum

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in the UK is extending an invitation to all Antiguan and Barbudans to participate in the Antigua and Barbuda & Estonia Business Forum.

The forum is intended to bring together policymakers and business leaders to share and discuss trade and investment opportunities between Antigua and Barbuda and Estonia.

The one-day session will include various development projects and opportunities in ICTs, logistics, renewable energy, tourism, among other key sectors. The Hon. Eva-Ma-

ria Limets, Foreign Minister of Estonia and Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, Antigua and Barbuda will host the forum slated for 31 May 2021 from 9:00AM. The event is supported by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission, Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce, Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.

In February 2020, Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency

Karen-Mae Hill presented her Letter of Credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Antigua and Barbuda to Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia at the Kadriorg Palace during a two-day official visit.

According to the UK office, "During the bilateral engagement, Ambassador Hill noted that one foreign policy objective of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is to establish relations with strategic partners who understand the particular challenges faced by small developing states."

' OCEAN LOVE NO PLASTIC NO WASTE '

Upcycled Plastic initiative

As the world celebrated Biodiversity day on Tuesday 25th May, the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation, based in Antigua has increased their 'Upcycled' plastic production initiative.

According to the foundation, Plastic Upcycling is the creative reuse of transforming plastic waste materials into new materials of better quality and environmental value.

The foundation explained that through the initiative, dubbed "Ocean Love NO Plastic NO Waste project in partnership with Mario Bento from Antigua and Barbuda Waste Recycling Corporation (ABWREC)" they are able to produce Upcycled plastic flowerpots, bowls, and key hangers among other items from waste Oasis plastic bottle caps in Antigua.

In a post made on their social media page, the youth focused sailing foundation stated that "with the support of the SGP GEF Small Grants Programme, we were able

to buy the plastic upcycling machines. Our big inspiration is Sören Lex from Plasticpreneur who developed and produced the plastic upcycling machines and has lots of experience in small scale projects. We bought a Plastic Preneur shredder, injection molding machine, an extruder, and



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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



to learn about plastic and turning plastic waste into valuable products.”

The West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation indicated that revenues from the sales go back into the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation to help young women and men in Antigua and Barbuda pursue Marine Education and Careers.

“We are promoting a circular economy on our beautiful island of Antigua and Barbuda. This means taking plastic, what most of us consider to have no further purpose and turning it into something new!

Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for the new products that they have created so far @caribwishfoundation.”

The foundation is also looking to launch an upcoming Summer Programme in collaboration with @initiatives_contoursanu where your child will get to experience the magic of creating something brand new from collected plastic, that would have otherwise been discarded.

the product molds. We will soon start, education- al workshop classes for the children of Antigua

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
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To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
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Dear Sir/Madame,

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I, Angela Marcellin of Hodges Bay, with registered business situate at Sir George Walter Highway St. John Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY 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, Antigua 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 "Like A Latte" Situated at Sir George Walter Highway in the parish of St. John, Antigua and Barbuda

Dated the 21st day of May, 2021

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Seabourn Odyssey to make 'Technical Call' today

The ultra-luxurious Seabourn Odyssey is arriving in the St. John's Harbour today for technical and refueling purposes. No passengers are sailing aboard the vessel and the crew will remain on the ship during the visit. This majestic eleven-deck cruise liner, which entered service in 2009 and was refurbished in 2019, will remain in port for one day on a voyage to Philipsburg, St. Maarten.

"Antigua & Barbuda has a very strong brand presence in the luxury travel sector, so we welcome vessels like the Seabourn Odyssey at any time," said Dona Regis-Prosper, General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port. "Technical calls like these help us to practice and reinforce our training protocols, particularly from a health and safety perspective, as we plan for the return of the same vessel on July

20." Seabourn Odyssey will make history on July 20, 2021, as the first ship to bring passengers to Antigua & Barbuda since the voluntary suspension of the cruise industry in March 2020. This visit will be followed by the launch of the homeporting partnership between Antigua Cruise Ports and Crystal Cruise Lines when Crystal Symphony sails from Antigua & Barbuda on August 5.

Regis-Prosper confirmed that "...the Antigua Cruise Port team has been working with local agent Bryson's shipping in arranging the recent technical calls and warm lay ups at the port through solid relationships with our cruise partners. We work closely with several cruise brands by offering destination-focused technical sales and marketing advice and support, along with the Ministry of Tourism and other local partners,

to ensure that their visits to our shores are as mutually beneficial as possible." She also noted that the Seabourn team has satisfied all health and safety requirements of the Government of Antigua & Barbuda in relation to tomorrow's stop at the port.

"This visit and the first few passenger sailings will be trial events that will give us an opportunity to test our COVID-19 passenger management plans. They will also give passengers an oppor-

tunity to reacquaint themselves with cruising and to get comfortable visiting other countries again. While the movement of passengers may be more measured than it was in the pre-COVID era, I believe that we will bounce back to the previous levels of bustling traffic flowing through the port area in short order, by implementing a measured phase-approach to the business."

UNICEF wants CXC to postpone CSEC and CAPE exams

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (CMC) — The United Nations Children's agency (UNICEF) is urging the Barbados-based Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) not to proceed with this year's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations in their current form given the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In a statement, UNICEF said that it is "concerned over the decision" by CXC to maintain the upcoming CSEC and CAPE for

students as currently designed.

"UNICEF is calling on CXC and the Ministers of Education to make adjustments to the content and administration of these exams, in line with recommendations provided by the Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT) to ensure that the region's school students are not further disadvantaged."

Earlier, CXC said that it has engaged regional governments and other stakeholders on the conception and planning of the 2021 regional examinations.

In a statement, the CXC said

that it is "enriched" by the dialogues with Ministers of Education and other government officials, teachers and students and is proceeding in this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to provide quality examinations to our students.

It said governance committees, which are comprised of regional government representatives, are reviewing recommendations on CXC's 2021 regional examination strategy that emanated from these consultations and the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) Council of Human



and Social Development (COHSOD) 28th Special session on May 12 this year.

CXC said that its School Examinations Committee (SEC) met last Friday to consider and advise on the strategy for 2021 regional examinations and on Tuesday, the CXC governing Council will meet to discuss and approve final examinations and procedures for 2021.

“By latest Wednesday, 26 May 2021, a press release will be disseminated, and a press conference will be held, to update the public on

these decisions,” the CXC said.

In its statement, UNICEF said that it recognises the efforts already made by the CXC in reducing certain requirements for these examinations and making concessions such as providing the topics for the long answer paper (Paper 2) five weeks prior to the commencement of the exams; reducing requirements for the SBAs and extending submission dates for some subjects as well as facilitating deferments to 2022 if students meet specific

criteria.

In addition, UNICEF said it has also noted that there has been discussion on the further postponement of the examination date.

“However, there are still a number of issues which require more substantial changes and flexibility. For example, no change has been made on the multiple-choice paper (Paper 1), which will still cover the entire syllabus, and no clear structure was shared as to how those students who meet deferral requirements and choose

to defer will be supported to sit the exams at a later date in 2022.

“As we are aware, the current pandemic context has further exacerbated the gaps in preparedness amongst the most disadvantaged students. This year, there is a higher risk of those students in vulnerable conditions never sitting the exams.”

UNICEF said that this could seriously affect not only the students’ further education at higher secondary or tertiary levels, but also their future.



NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT HAVING GONE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

In our last article we explored preparing for a hearing at the Labour Department. Today we take the discussion further by broaching probably the most disconcerting part of the dispute resolution process – being at the Labour Department. Hopefully, you are prepared for the discussions with an aim to settle the matter as positively as possible. To achieve this, we need to negotiate, which is a process that may require some compromises to be made.

Negotiation is voluntary and according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), it is the most flexible and preeminent mode of dispute resolution and it allows parties to agree to an outcome which is mutually satisfactory; and that should always be the objective.

There are two principal methods of negotiating, Competitive/Positional-Based Negotiating and Cooperative/Interest-based Negoti-

ating. With the former, the parties try to maximize their returns at the expense of another. Each party will view the interests of the opposing party as being irrelevant to advance their own cause. The latter method, also called problem-solving negotiation, starts from the premise that the process need not be seen as zero-sum. It acknowledges that the gains of one party in the negotiation are not necessarily reached at the expense of the other party. It focuses on common interests and values as it uses an objective approach.

When one considers the work environment, cooperative/interest-based negotiating presents the most benefits. Focusing on mutual needs and interests and the use of mechanisms such as objective standards increase the chance of reaching an agreement that meets the needs of both parties. For example, a suspension without pay is being fought but the employee is

not disputing the insubordination which resulted in the suspension, but instead claimed justification through disrespect on the part of the supervisor. The incident surrounds orders which were disregarded by the employee and the supervisor verbally reprimanding the employee in public. The disregarded orders lost the company several thousands of dollars and so the matter warranted serious action. However, the employee claimed that the way they were approached was demeaning and they responded in kind. The issue here, is a matter of respect and it is likely that a formal apology to the employee could bring the matter to a close. It would be important to provide clarity in terms of the loss to the company both finances and reputational image so that the rationale for the disciplinary measure is clear.

This is the win-win approach that serves to preserve and even en-

hance the relationship between the parties allowing for greater harmony in the workplace. Once there is 'good faith' negotiating, the parties will have an opportunity to design an agreement which reflects their interests. Moreover, in terms of finances and time, negotiation is the most efficient and effective option for both parties. Therefore, negotiation is to be approached in the most objective and cooperative way possible. But first we should seek to PREP.

- **Plan:** assess your interests and needs as well as those of the other party. Assessing one's Best Alternative To a Negotiated Agreement (BATNA) is indispensable and should be done carefully and well in advance of any negotiation session to avoid surprises. Attempting to estimate the BATNA of your opponents will also be worthwhile when planning a strategy.

- **Respect:** respect opposing views and accept that the goal is to repair whatever damage has been done and come to a position that has positives for all sides. Consequently, it is necessary to be

open to compromise and possibly shifting one's position.

- **Engage:** participate in a meaningful way: Listen and make an honest effort to understand the other party's position while sharing your interests and needs. Do not only hear the opponent's issues but see the opponent as well.

- **Power:** the power rests with each party in the negotiation to ensure a smooth process. As HR practitioners and representatives of the organization in these negotiations, the balance of power normally rests with us. It is our responsibility to use that power wisely and not to exercise unfair advantage over the other party or the process.

Negotiators who understand the importance of collaborating with one another to create value, engage in fair, good-faith negotiations which often see positive results. We can find the same set of value-creation opportunities in employment disputes by capitalizing on shared interests, or non-competitive similarities. Reaching an agreement on seem-

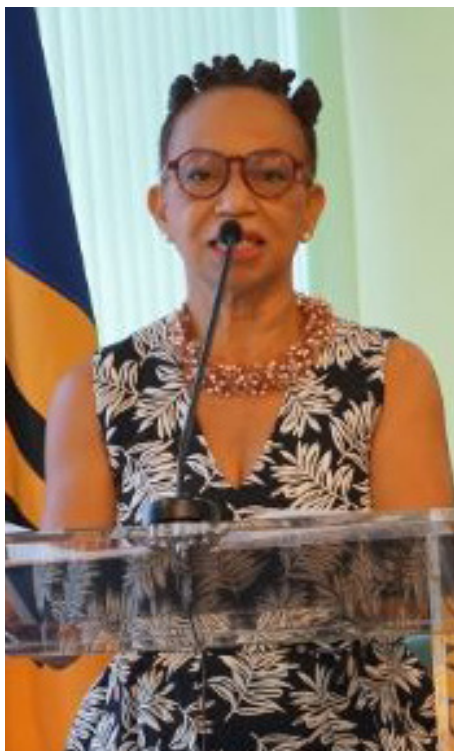
ingly marginal issues can help parties build a foundation of trust and optimism that enables them to collaborate to resolve the main sources of their conflict. It is this type of negotiating that will help us to build healthier employment relationships, create effective solutions, and encourage productive employee engagement.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HR-Pro268.

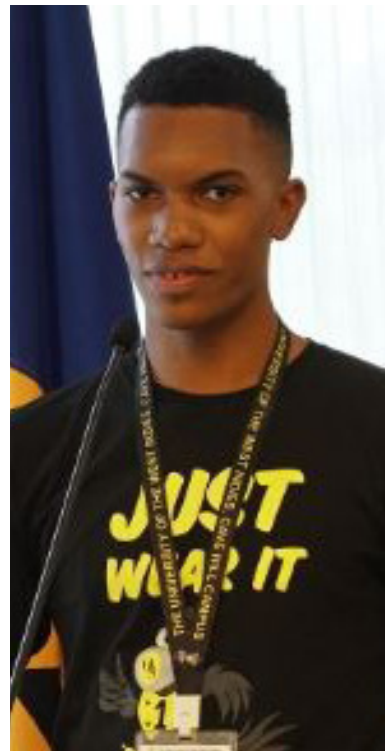




Sachia Reid-Thomas
- Student volunteer



Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau –
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Cave Hill



William Gordon - Student volunteer



Some of the students in the field
during Operation Seek and Save

UWI STUDENTS SALUTED FOR BRAVERY IN HELPING TO COMBAT COVID-19

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Tuesday, May 25, 2021. Over 400 regional students at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus have been hailed as heroes for their courageous fieldwork at the height of a COVID-19 resurgence in Barbados earlier this year. In February, the students signed up for the Community Evaluation and Testing Project, popularly known as Operation Seek and Save; a data gathering exercise organised by the Government of Barbados and Cave Hill Campus to help stem a deadly second wave of the pandemic, and also contain the growing spread of dengue fever.

In addition to conducting in-person interviews island-wide, to help determine the island's prevalence of the coronavirus, and to report

on susceptible breeding grounds for the infectious aedes-aegypti mosquito, the students also contributed to the rollout of the island's COVID-19 vaccination programme by scheduling appointments and assisting with data entry at vaccination sites.

On May 17, the students were saluted in a special virtual appreciation ceremony during which Cave Hill Campus Principal Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau commended their courage, character and commitment and noted these qualities were exhibited by some of the youngest members of the Campus community.

"The public health intervention project in which they played a vital role may well be a global precedent. It saw hundreds of young men and young women confront

danger daily to help ... the region fight a worldwide health threat, the likes of which we may not see again in our lifetime," Professor Barriteau said, adding that it was nothing short of sheer bravery.

"As a second and deadlier wave of COVID-19 gained momentum, you faced down the virus to participate in an essential field study that would yield critical life-saving data. And you did it without flinching, even as the majority of the Barbadian population hunkered down at home under national lockdown or too hesitant to leave the relative safety of their households. To you [we] owe an enormous debt of gratitude," she told the students many of whom comprised the virtual audience.

All student volunteers received a stipend for their participation

while the Barbadian contingent received an additional benefit of hours credited under a national 'Give Back' programme that requires them to undertake an arranged period of community service in exchange for state-sponsored tuition. Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Mia Mottley, praised the students' participation as "a valuable lesson in civics, bravery and compassion" and added: "What you have given to our country by manning the data entry process of the national vaccination effort, even after the Operation Seek and Save initiative...has surpassed what would otherwise have been envisaged as the student's repayment of his or her debt. You have set for all others at this University and for those who will follow you at UWI, a new benchmark for what ... Give Back will mean for future students."

Co-coordinator of the national vaccination programme, Major David Clarke, thanked the volunteers for their service, saying it was an exercise that required them to be meticulous in dealing with the public.

"Certainly the Call Centre [volunteers] have had

that experience, especially [when] calling older people. Because what we thought may have been a five-minute telephone call really turned out to be a half an hour telephone call, as a lot of the elderly population were quite keen to have somebody to engage them in conversation."

Retired Senior Health Officer, Dr Elizabeth Ferdinand, the programme's joint co-coordinator also had high praise for the students' spirit of volunteerism, and said she was happy with the quality of their work.

"I first met them when they came to have their vaccination and to be orientated to what they were going to do, and they were such an enthusiastic bunch. I remember they were a bit nervous about having the vaccine. I had it the same day as they did, and that was just the first day of the beginning of the campaign. They were a little nervous but they settled in quickly. They were so enthusiastic that they all went out and took a picture of them with their blue cards in the air and put it on social media," Dr Ferdinand noted.

Volunteer, William Gordon, who is pursuing a BSc in Social Sciences,

told the audience he was proud of his fellow students, as to serve one's country is perhaps one of the proudest achievements of any citizen.

"I don't think any of us really understood what we signed up for. We knew the name of the programme but in terms of being out in the field and the task that was required of us, I don't think we really understood exactly what we were going to have to do," Gordon said. "I'm so proud of all of us, I'm proud of every single student who took the time to fight for their country in the three weeks that we were on the road."

When the campus put out a call for volunteers, BSc Biochemistry student Sachia Reid-Thomas did not hesitate to step forward. "I love volunteering. Not only am I an active member of the Duke of Edinburgh Award [Scheme], but I have been an active member of the Girl Guides Association of Barbados for 15 years so volunteering comes naturally to me," she said.

She also encouraged members of the public to be of service to others. "I would like to encourage young people to volunteer because it gives us

experiences that we may need and can be quite useful further down in life... to give of their time and not to feel obligated or forced to do it. Let it come from you," she said. Head of the Department of Management Studies at Cave Hill, Dr Dion Greenidge, who led Command Centre into which data was fed, reported that the exercise surveyed 86,567 households in Barbados' 30 constituencies.

"During that process your hard work resulted in us being able to identify positive results from 281 rapid antigen tests and 242 PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) tests," he stated.

Lieutenant Colonel Junior Browne, who led the logistical component in which members of the Barbados Defence Force accompanied students into the field, lauded the work of the volunteers.

"It was no [easy] task to touch over 85,000 households in order to find out the state of COVID-19 and dengue within our communities. So bravo and well done to you," he said, while also congratulating the soldiers who provided map reading and route services.



Teen assaulted is child of stepdaughter he impregnated

Jamaican incest convict sentence cut

Jamaica Observer - The Clarendon man who was in 2015 sentenced to life at hard labour for incest with his teen daughter, who ironically was the child of his stepdaughter whom he had impregnated years before, on Friday had his sentence reduced by the Court of Appeal to 15 years' imprisonment at hard labour in a new turn of events. According to the details unveiled before the court, the child had been left with her grandmother, the man's mother, because her mother had gone overseas. He, however, took her to live with him "so as to have access to her". The child, in her testimony, told the court that her father at first rubbed himself on her but did not go further. In a later incident he, however, called her to his sleeping area, told her to un-

dress, and had intercourse with her after which he "threatened to kill her if she told anyone". She reported the matter to a guidance counsellor at her school which led to his arrest and charge for indecent assault and incest. Shockingly, during the trial for the offences against his child, her mother testified that he "had been her own stepfather and had sexually and physically abused her when she was a child". His method of operation with her was the same as that with her daughter, the court was told. That sexual abuse resulted in a pregnancy and the birth of the same daughter he was convicted of molesting. The woman's story was confirmed by DNA testing, which was carried out as part of the investigation into the teenag-

er's complaint. Both mother and child testified that he would beat them when they were under his control.

Despite the fact that the events with the mother had taken place before, he was convicted of two counts of carnal abuse in respect of those events and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He was serving those sentences when he was being tried for the offences against his daughter.

Following that trial, the father, who had changed his initial 'not guilty' plea to 'guilty', was sentenced to imprisonment for life at hard labour, and ordered to serve 15 years before becoming eligible for parole. He was also sentenced to five years' imprisonment at hard labour for the indecent assault charge.

NATIONAL STUDENTS' COUNCIL SPEAKS ON 'VERY FRIGHTENING' GUN INCIDENT

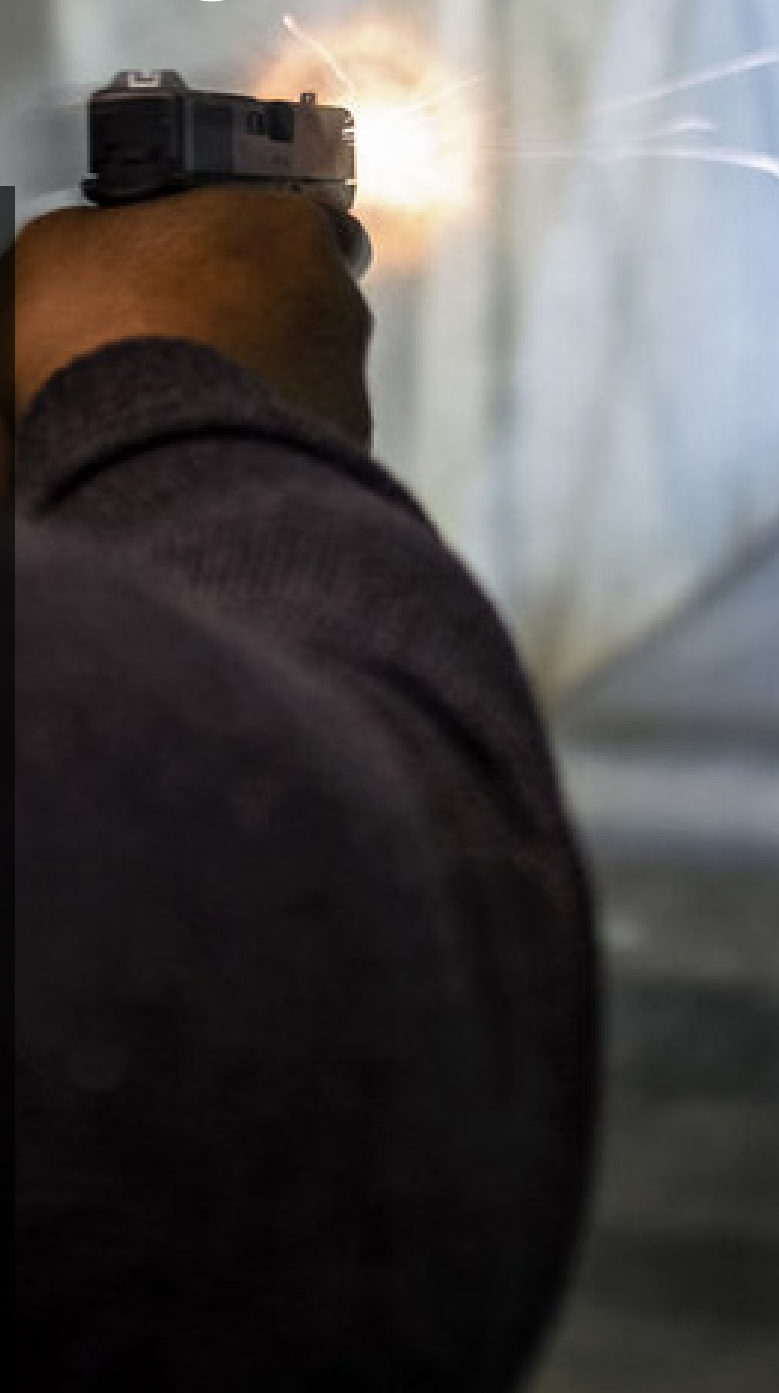
LOOP News Stl - The Public Relations Officer for the Saint Lucia National Students' Council has reacted to a disturbing incident where a student carried a gun to school last week, calling it very frightening.

The incident is one of multiple concerning occurrences at or around schools in St Lucia recently.

According to the Council's Public Relations Officer, Jean-Luc Constantine, "As of now the Council is unaware of the details of the incident involving the student but we think it pertinent to reiterate our point that we do not encourage violence among our students and within our schools."

He continued saying, "Right now we continue to push for our students to encourage one another. Our parents need to encourage their children to learn some peaceful means of conflict resolution."

"We hope that in the coming days we are able to gain some further insight as to what occurred. We are hoping that the authorities take the appropriate measures to not only provide some guidance to this young person but to many others who may stray down the same path as him or to many others who can be affected by the actions that lead him to being where he is now," said Constantine.



T&T RECORDS 4TH DEADLIEST DAY OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Trinidad Guardian – Trinidad & Tobago recorded 15 more COVID-19 deaths in a 24-hour reporting period, pushing the country's death toll closer to 400. As of Monday afternoon, the Ministry of Health statistics showed 390 people had succumbed to the disease, with 221 of these deaths recorded during May 2021. May remains the deadliest month for the pandemic, eclipsing the total COVID-19 deaths recorded for the entirety of 2020, at 127.

During May 2021, T&T has reported at least nine days with double-digit 24-hour death tolls, with yesterday afternoon's total coming in as the country's fourth-highest number of deaths in one reporting period. According to the Ministry of Health, all 15 people who died had comorbidities, including two elderly females, two middle-aged females, eight elderly males and three middle-aged males.

The country reported 250 new COVID-19 cases in the 24-hour reporting period, resulting from samples taken from May 19 through May 23. While this is still a significant jump

in cases, it marked the lowest daily reported jump in cases since May 10.

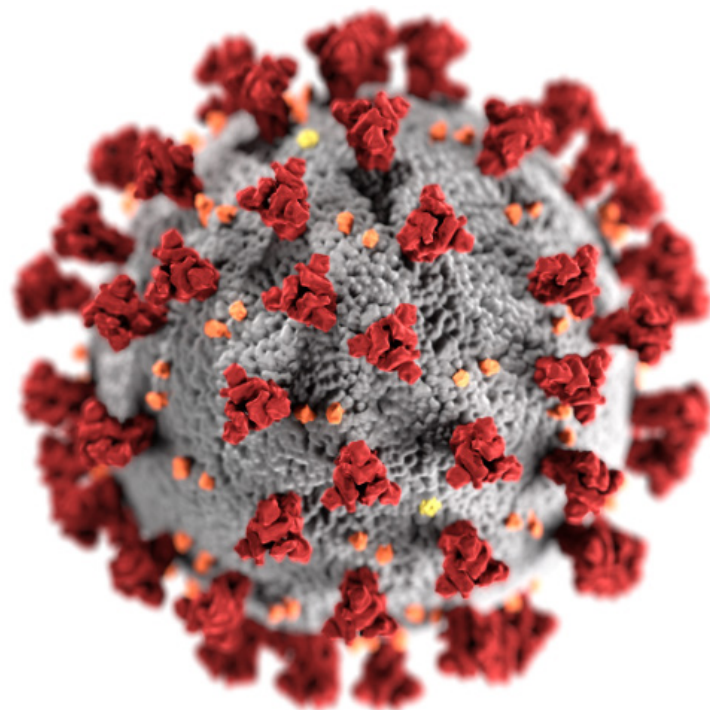
However, this number should not be interpreted as there being a significant drop in spread. During the weekend, there was reduced testing and reduced staff at testing sites and laboratories. Historically, Mondays report lower than usual cases compared to the remainder of the week.

T&T's total COVID-19 cases soared above 20,000 cases over the weekend, now standing at 20,267, with active cases at 8,150.

From the first confirmed COVID-19 case on March 12, 2020, it took 402 days to cross 10,000 total cases. It only took 26 days to cross 20,000 cases.

Deaths, record high recoveries, reduced hospitalizations.

In the 24-hour reporting period, 58 people were discharged from public health facilities, with 189 people considered recovered community cases. This marked the total recovered during the previous 24-hour reporting period at 247, marking the third-highest jump in recovered cases. Combined with



15 additional deaths, T&T's active cases dipped by 12 and hospitalizations reduced to 455, the country's second highest number of patients in hospital.

There are 148 patients in the Couva Hospital and Multi-Training Facility, with 17 in ICU and five in HDU, marking occupancy levels at 69 per cent, 94 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. All other COVID-19-positive patient hospitals in Trinidad, including the Caura Hospital, Augustus Long Hospital, Arima Hospital, St Ann's Hospital and the new

Point Fortin Hospital, reported occupancy levels yesterday afternoon of between 75 per cent and 100 per cent.

Across Trinidad's step-down and transitional facilities, the UWI Debe campus is reporting a 72 per cent occupancy, with UTT Valsayn reporting a 65 per cent occupancy. At the Point Fortin Hospital, there is a 91 per cent occupancy. T&T's military field hospitals at the Jean Pierre Complex and Couva Hospital report occupancy levels at 100 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.



TACKLING CRIME IN BARBADOS

Policing strategies put in place, but plans will not be shared

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Dale Marshall

Barbados Advocate - Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Dale Marshall, is giving Barbadians the assurance that there are strategies in place to address crime in this country, but he has made it clear that the details of those plans will not be revealed as they are matters of national security. But, he promised he will be speaking to the country "very shortly in greater detail" on the matter of crime. Marshall was speaking from the Lester Vaughan School on Sunday night, as the Barbados Labour Party held a virtual political meeting to mark their third anniversary in office. "You know, everybody's been saying, 'Who are our political opponents?' 'What is

the plan?' And you start out by being a little foolish, because what boxer ever goes into a boxing ring and tells his opponent where the next punch is coming from? Our policing strategies are matters of national security, and the last Administration chose not to share any with us, and I reserve the right to share with Barbadians those things that we feel able to share. But for those of you who are cowardly and callously asking for a plan, you will not hear that kind of plan from me or from the Prime Minister or from any member of the National Security Council, because policing is a specialized art and we need to allow our police officers to do their work," he

maintained. Marshall's comments came as he stated that Government has sought to put systems in place to aid the police in the execution of their mandate. He said in addition to addressing the backlog of criminal cases, which numbered 1,000 when the Government came to office, through the appointment of new judges; they have also installed a new scanner at the Bridgetown Port to stop illegal firearms from coming in.

"We are keeping the guns out of Barbados. And yes, they are on the streets, but they did not come in after May of 2018, they have been coming in for years and years and years... We have invested in our judicial system, so that tri-

als can go through faster. We have increased the number of judges hearing criminal cases from two to five. We've increased the membership of the judiciary from 13 to 20. We've equipped the Royal Barbados Police Force by spending vast millions of dollars to make sure that they're the best equipped small force anywhere in the world," he stated. Speaking less than 24 hours after off-duty police officer, Acting Station Sergeant Newton Lewis, was shot and killed in his neighbourhood, as he tried to thwart a robbery, the AG maintained that illegal guns and crime are a problem in this country, and insisted that Barbadians have a role to play in fixing the problem.



Belarus flights redirected after Roman Protasevich's arrest

*The Athens-Vilnius flight was diverted because of a bomb threat
Belarusian officials said*

BBC World News - Several European airlines have said that they will not fly over Belarus, days after a dissident journalist was arrested on a flight diverted to Minsk.

Ukraine and Poland are stopping all flights to and from the country, while the UK is preventing Belarusian airlines from entering its airspace. Western countries accuse Belarus of hijacking the Ryanair plane carrying journalist Roman Protasevich on Sunday. The Greece-Lithuania flight was rerouted over a supposed bomb threat.

Belarus authorities on Monday released video of Mr. Protasevich that appears to have been re-

corded under duress.

He faces charges related to his reporting of last August's disputed election and subsequent crackdown on mass opposition protests, and has said he fears the death penalty after being placed on a terrorism list.

Belarus is the only European country that still executes prisoners.

At a meeting in Brussels on Monday, the leaders of the 27 European Union member states called for the overflight ban, and promised further economic sanctions. On Tuesday, the Belarusian transport ministry released a transcript of a conversation said to be between

an air traffic controller in Minsk and a pilot on Sunday's Ryanair flight.

According to the transcript, which has not been independently verified, Belarus suggested several times that the plane should land in Minsk on "our recommendation".

This appeared to contradict earlier statements from the Belarusian authorities that said the decision to land was made independently by the pilot.

At the Brussels summit, EU leaders told the bloc's airlines not to fly over Belarus.

They have also asked member states to suspend operating permits for its national carrier

Belavia. Air France said it had "suspended overflights of Belarusian airspace until further notice". Finnish airline Finnair also announced a ban. Air France's Dutch subsidiary KLM, along with German carrier Lufthansa, Scandinavia's SAS and others, announced similar suspensions on Monday.

Singapore Airlines also said it was rerouting flights to avoid Belarus.

Meanwhile Polish national airline LOT said it had suspended both overflights and flights to and from Minsk, and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Ukrainian carriers were banned from flying over or into Belarus.

FACE TO FACE: JUNE SUMMIT FOR BIDEN, PUTIN AS TENSIONS RISE

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and Russia's Vladimir Putin agreed Tuesday to meet next month in Geneva, a face-to-face encounter the White House hopes will help bring some predictability to a fraught relationship that's only worsened in the first months of the Democratic administration. The June 16 summit is being tacked on to the end of Biden's first international trip as president: He'll also visit Britain for a meeting of Group of Seven world leaders and attend a NATO summit in Brussels. The agenda is expected to include discussion of Russian action in neighboring Ukraine, this week's forced diversion of a Lithuania-bound flight by Russian-ally Belarus, efforts by both nations to stem the coronavirus pandemic and more. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said no preconditions were set for the meeting.

The White House is setting low expectations for the meeting. It isn't expected to lead to any

major breakthroughs — let alone the sort of reset of U.S.-Russian relations pursued by Biden's old boss, Barack Obama, or the curious bonhomie of the Donald Trump-Putin relationship.

Instead, officials say Biden — who as a candidate and early in his presidency has warned that he expects the relationship to remain complicated — is looking to find some common ground with his adversary on the path forward. The Kremlin, for its part, said the presidents will discuss "the current state and prospects of Russian-U.S. relations, strategic stability issues and the acute problems on the international agenda, including interaction in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and settlement of regional conflicts."

Biden first proposed the summit in a call with Putin in April as his administration prepared to levy a second round of sanctions against Russian officials during his young presidency. And the U.S. lev-



Then Vice President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in Moscow

ied more sanctions last week on Russian companies and ships for their work on a European natural gas pipeline called Nord Stream 2. U.S. officials say the pipeline threatens European energy security, heightens Russia's influence and poses risks to Ukraine and Poland in bypassing both countries.

The White House has repeatedly said it is seeking a "stable and predictable" relationship with the Russians. At the same time, it has called out Putin on allegations that the Russians interfered in last year's U.S. presidential

election and that the Kremlin was behind the SolarWinds hacking campaign in which Russian hackers infected widely used software with malicious code, enabling them to access the networks of at least nine U.S. agencies.

The Biden administration has also criticized Russia for the arrest and jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and publicly acknowledged that it has low to moderate confidence that Russian agents were offering bounties to the Taliban to attack U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Covid: Hong Kong could end up throwing away unused jabs



Protect yourself and others
Get Vaccinated

Less than 20 percent of people have had a jab in Hong Kong

BBC World News - Hong Kong has warned it could have to throw away vast stores of coronavirus vaccines because of people's reluctance to have a jab.

The territory currently has around two million Pfizer shots that will be out of date in three months.

Less than 20% of people have had a jab, even though Hong Kong has more than enough doses for the whole population. The low take-up rate has been blamed on a relatively low number of infections and distrust of the government.

An official from the government's vaccine task force warned that Hong Kongers "only have a three-month window" before the first batch of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines goes out of date.

"They cannot be used after the expiry date and the community vaccination centres for BioNTech will, according to present plans, cease operating after September," Thomas Tsang, a former controller of the Centre for Health Protection, told RTHK radio. He said it was "just not right" that Hong Kong had a

huge stockpile of doses while the rest of the world was "scrambling for vaccines". New doses were not likely to be delivered before the end of the year, he added. Hong Kong - population 7.5 million - bought 7.5 million doses each of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and China's Sinovac. Despite this, just 14% of Hong Kongers have received two doses.

Even the territory's medical sector has been slow to take up vaccines, with its Hospital Authority revealing earlier this month that only a third of its staff had been vac-

cinated. Some local politicians have suggested Hong Kong could export unused vaccines to countries in need if take-up does not improve. It comes as public trust in the Hong Kong government has dropped considerably since a crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 2019.

Last year, China introduced a controversial national security law in the territory, criminalizing secession, subversion and collusion with foreign forces, with a maximum sentence of life in prison.



US TO REOPEN JERUSALEM CONSULATE, UPGRADING PALESTINIAN TIES

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold joint press conference in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — Secretary of State Anthony Blinken announced Tuesday that the U.S. would reopen its consulate in Jerusalem — a move that restores ties with Palestinians that had been downgraded by the Trump administration.

The consulate long served as an autonomous office in charge of diplomatic relations with the Palestinians. But former U.S. President Donald Trump downgraded its operations and placed them under the authority of his ambassador to Israel when he moved the embassy to Jerusalem.

Trump's move infuriated the Palestinians, who view east Jerusalem as occupied territory and the capital of their future

state.

Blinken did not give a precise date for reopening the consulate. He announced the step after a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank.

"As I told the president, I'm here to underscore the commitment of the United States to rebuilding the relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people, a relationship built on mutual respect and also a shared conviction that Palestinians and Israelis alike deserve equal measures of security, freedom opportunity and dignity," he said.

Blinken is in the region to help shore up the cease-fire adopted last week that ended a devastating 11-day war

between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers. The fighting killed more than 250 people, mostly Palestinians, and caused widespread destruction in the impoverished coastal territory.

He promised to "rally international support" to help Gaza in the wake of the war. He later announced nearly \$40 million in aid to the Palestinians, including \$5.5 million in emergency assistance for Gaza. That brings total U.S. assistance to the Palestinians under the Biden administration to over \$360 million after the Trump administration had cut off nearly all assistance to them.

Blinken has promised that any assistance will be kept out of the hands of Hamas, which does

not recognize Israel's right to exist and which Israel and the U.S. consider a terrorist organization.

The U.S. is trying to bolster Abbas, who was sidelined by recent events, in his rivalry with Hamas and on the international stage. Abbas heads the internationally backed Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank but whose forces were driven from Gaza when Hamas seized power there in 2007.

Abbas is seen by many Palestinians as having lost all legitimacy. But he is still seen internationally as the representative of the Palestinian people and a key partner in the long-defunct peace process.



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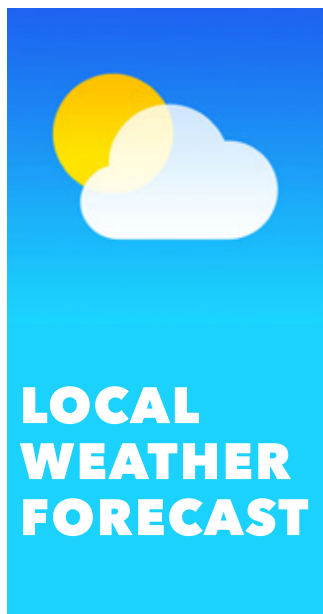
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\$200

MONTHLY
\$500

3 MONTHS
1200

ABST 15% IS NOT INCLUDED

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



Mon 24 | Day
29°
Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h.

Humidity 69%
U.V. Index Extreme
Sunrise 05:33
Sunset 18:34

Mon 24 | Night
25°
Partly cloudy. Low 25°C. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 km/h.

Humidity 78%
U.V. Index 0 of 10
Moonrise 16:51
Moonset 03:54
Waxing Gibbous

Tue 25 | Day
29°
Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h.

Humidity 67%
U.V. Index Extreme
Sunrise 05:33
Sunset 18:35

Tue 25 | Night
25°
Partly cloudy. Low 25°C. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 km/h.

Humidity 76%
U.V. Index 0 of 10
Moonrise 17:56
Moonset 04:41
Full



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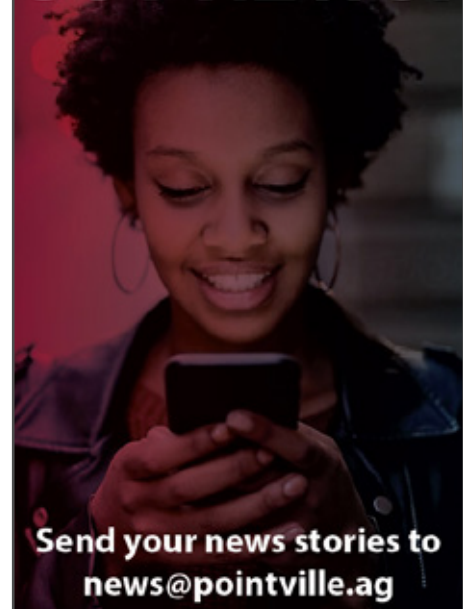
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BCCI'S HURDLES IN DELIVERING REMAINDER OF IPL 2021 IN UAE

Men's T20 World Cup

ESPN Cricinfo - The 16-team global tournament has been scheduled to take place in India between mid-October and November 14. However with India being one of the worst-affected countries during the Covid-19 pandemic, the tournament is likely to move to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). If that were to happen, player movement between the IPL and World Cup bubble would be one of BCCI's biggest advantage.

However, in the event the UAE is the venue for both tournaments, the most significant challenge for the ICC would be the fitness of the venues - Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. The ICC would ideally look at having a breathing space between the IPL and the World Cup to ensure pitch preparation and sprucing up of venues for the marquee tournament.

While there's little doubt about the quality of training venues, the ICC would be more mindful of the pitches (at the three big venues) slowing down due to the sheer amount of cricket being played on them. The three venues will end up hosting a total of 76 matches in case both the IPL and the World Cup were to happen

in the UAE. Of these, IPL would account for 31 games while 45 would be part of the World Cup quota, including the qualifiers at the start. Comparing that to the 2020 IPL, where all the 60 matches were conducted in the UAE. It would mean a total of 16 extra matches. It is learned that the ICC might consider including Oman as a potential venue for the first round of matches subject to permission from the UAE government for teams to cross borders without quarantining.

The other concern for the ICC would be the support period, where teams arrive and train. Usually this period starts a week before an ICC event begins. However, during the pandemic, the ICC will also need to factor in the quarantine norms set by the UAE government for different overseas countries, which could mean teams would need to land by end of September.

Another issue to address would be questions around the FTP. As things stand, India are scheduled to host South Africa for three T20Is and as many ODIs. India are also slotted to host New Zealand before the T20 World Cup.

LAKERS DISPLAY TITLE-WINNING QUALITIES IN BOUNCE-BACK GAME 2 WIN






Sports Illustrated - After a rocky start to the postseason, Los Angeles edged out a victory over the Suns to tie the series and rebuild hope of a championship repeat. The Lakers' problems aren't exactly resolved after Tuesday's 109-102 Game 2 win over the Suns. But now heading back to Los Angeles tied at one game apiece, it's become a lot easier to envision LeBron James and Co. finding their groove in a run to the 2021 Finals. Even if this isn't the juggernaut many expected entering the year, it's hard to identify any true favorite outside

of the purple and gold. There will be no round-one cakewalk. There won't be a Lakers funeral in a few days, either. The series's first two games in Phoenix did reveal some troubling signs for the Lakers. LeBron isn't yet at the peak of his powers, currently choosing to pick his spots and distribute his way through the early portion of this series. We've seen flashes of LeBron at his best, from an early alley-oop to his dagger three with 49 seconds to play. It's still unclear whether James can kick it into high gear for 40-plus minutes.

Betting against LeBron returning to form isn't exactly a smart gamble. Are there reasons for concern outside of The King? Perhaps. Marc Gasol is a step slower, and he doesn't want to shoot unless absolutely forced to. The Andre Drummond experiment can turn disastrous against the wrong opponent. Another secondary playmaker could be of use. After cruising through the 2020 playoffs, any run to the 2021 Finals will be more of a slog.

SCOREBOARD

TOP EVENTS

NBA VIEW ALL	 Boston Celtics (0-2)	 Brooklyn Nets (2-0) 108 130	 Los Angeles Lakers (1-1)	 Phoenix Suns (1-1) 109 102	 Dallas Mavericks (2-0)
	 Los Angeles Clippers (0-2) 127				

NETS' 130-108 GAME 2 ROUT OF THE CELTICS PUTS SERIES OUT OF REACH

Sports Illustrated - Brooklyn's offense looked too dominant and Durant's defense too stout as the Nets took a commanding 2-0 series lead heading to Boston.

Observations from a Celtics-Nets game that probably should have been called by slaughter rule at halftime ...

This Nets offense is good Brooklyn showed flashes of its explosiveness in Game 1, using an 18-4 run to open the third quarter to blow the game open. In Game 2, the Nets picked up right where they left off. Joe Harris—remember him?—turned a three-point first quarter lead into a 14-point advantage with 11 points in a

two-minute span. A double-digit first quarter lead grew to 24 by halftime and 27 at the end of the third, when Kyrie Irving and Marcus Smart started playing what amounted to a nationally televised game of one-on-one.

The Celtics did a solid job defensively in the first two quarters of Game 1. Over the next six—save for some of the garbage time moments in the fourth quarter on Tuesday—they have been shredded. All five starters for Brooklyn finished in double figures on Tuesday, with none cracking the 30-minute mark. The Nets shot 52.3% from the floor and 44.7% from three. This offense, arguably the NBA's best, is humming.



SOUTH AFRICA LOOK OUT! KEMAR ROACH IS COMING!

St JOHN'S, Antigua CWI - Our ace pacer Kemar Roach warmed up for the Test series against South Africa with a brilliant four-wicket for Surrey in the County Championship clash against Middlesex at the Oval in London. He ended with 4-61 from 15 brilliant overs to earn the hosts a 30-run lead in the first innings. Kemar Roach returned and took a superb five-wicket haul as Surrey earned a draw with Middlesex in an ex-

citing finish to their contest Sunday. Asked to chase 290 for victory on the final day at the Oval, Middlesex 250-6. They were in the driver's seat at 219-2, then Roach claimed 5-86 with a telling burst which all but ended Middlesex's victory bid. The performance left Roach with a nine-wicket match haul following his first innings 4-61, and with 22 wickets from four matches.



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