

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

*“You’ve got to accentuate the positive
Eliminate the negative
Latch on to the affirmative”*

Those are the opening lines of a song made popular by Johnny Mercer back in 1945 and which became embedded in the hearts and minds of many here in Antigua and Barbuda, from the popular children’s programme ‘Winnie the Pooh’, aired regularly on the Disney channel on local cable television.

The song’s theme, however, has real lessons for the ongoing campaign to get at least seventy percent of the adult population in the country inoculated against the dreaded coronavirus. Antigua and Barbuda should take credit for the speed with which it rolled out the vaccination programme in the second half of February this year.

The country was able to vaccinate up to twenty-six thousand people (26,000) in approximately three weeks, a feat no other Caribbean country was able to boast. In fact, it was

only after it had literally run out of vaccines that the vaccination programme ran out of steam and a combination of factors gave rise to a large number of people opting either not to vaccinate or to delay getting vaccinated.

Despite recent controversies regarding the vaccination, there is much to celebrate about the programme. So far, more than thirty-three thousand people have received at least one dose of the vaccine and another twelve thousand plus have received their second dose. In a population of one hundred thousand, that represents a third of the entire population and a higher percentage of the adult population. That is reason to celebrate!

Another overlooked fact is that many of the people who have not yet received their first dose are not doing so because they are philosophically opposed to vaccinations; no, many

are saying that they want to wait until the other vaccines, such as the Sputnik V, Moderna or Pfizer vaccines are available. There are already, at least 1000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine in storage here, just awaiting final word from the World Health Organization before the country starts the process of administering this vaccine locally. Additionally, the government has indicated that there are ongoing efforts to acquire the other vaccines with the caveat that ... ‘the wait could be a lengthy one.’ Perhaps, in spite of popular views that the vaccine hesitancy is related to the aggressive anti-vaxxers’ campaign, maybe the simple reason why there has been less enthusiasm for getting the vaccination could have more to do with the country’s success in fighting the virus than all the ‘noise’ on social media, or the attempts to make vac-

inating against the Covid-19 virus, a political issue.

The ‘rush’ to be vaccinated in February and March was at a time when the country was going through its worst period of the pandemic. Active cases at one time crept above four hundred and hospitalizations neared fifty. People were scared!

However, a robust fight against the spread of the virus on several fronts have brought active cases down to 10 at the last update, with no hospitalizations at this time. There is less fear about the virus today, than at the start of March.

In the process, our health personnel have acquired new skills in contact-tracing, as well as dealing with a highly contagious disease and ways to reduce the spread of future outbreaks of this or any other virus.

More reasons to celebrate! More reasons to accentuate the positive!



PM REMAINS RESOLUTE ON CHOKSI ISSUE

by Shelton Daniel

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is standing by his position that Indian fugitive Mehul Choksi should not be returned to Antigua but should be deported straight to India from Dominica.

Speaking on Saturday during his weekly radio program, The Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM 99.1,

Prime Minister Browne said those who were arguing that Choksi had relinquished his Indian citizenship, and therefore could not be deported to his native country, were misinformed.

Choksi's lawyers in Dominica and the local opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) have been seeking to make a case that Antigua and Barbuda is the only coun-

try where the Indian fugitive currently has citizenship, which he obtained in 2017 under the twin-island state's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP). Choksi took up residence in Antigua the following year, and it was only afterward that he was accused by Indian authorities of involvement in a multi-billion-dollar bank fraud. Authorities in Antigua and Bar-

buda moved to strip Choksi of his economic citizenship and to deport or extradite him to India, but his legal challenges to these efforts have resulted in them being held up in the court system.

Prime Minister Browne has minced no words, that direct deportation to India from Dominica on the basis that Choksi entered the neighbouring OECS island illegally, would save Antigua and Barbuda from having to wait out the legal and judicial delays occasioned by Choksi's constitutionally protected status as a citizen.

"We have been advised by the Indian government that

whereas Choksi wrote to them to ask for the revocation of his citizenship, they never actioned it; so, as a consequence, he is still very much a citizen of India and India expects to be in a position to have him deported to India from Dominica. Or, if perchance he comes back to Antigua, where he enjoys certain legal and constitutional protections, they expect us to continue to pursue him; and the Antiguan government is committed to doing so – to revoke his citizenship and then, ultimately, to have him extradited to India; or deported if his citizenship is revoked sooner than the extradition

case would have been determined," PM Browne stated. He added that Choksi knew the fate that awaited him here, "that Antigua and Barbuda is not a safe harbour for him."

Prime Minister Browne said his government would continue to respect and abide by any court processes involving Choksi, whether in Dominica or locally, and would not take any action to pre-empt or circumvent judicial determination of this matter.

The Prime Minister accused the UPP of being sympathetic to Choksi in order to secure from him a promise of funding for its next election campaign.

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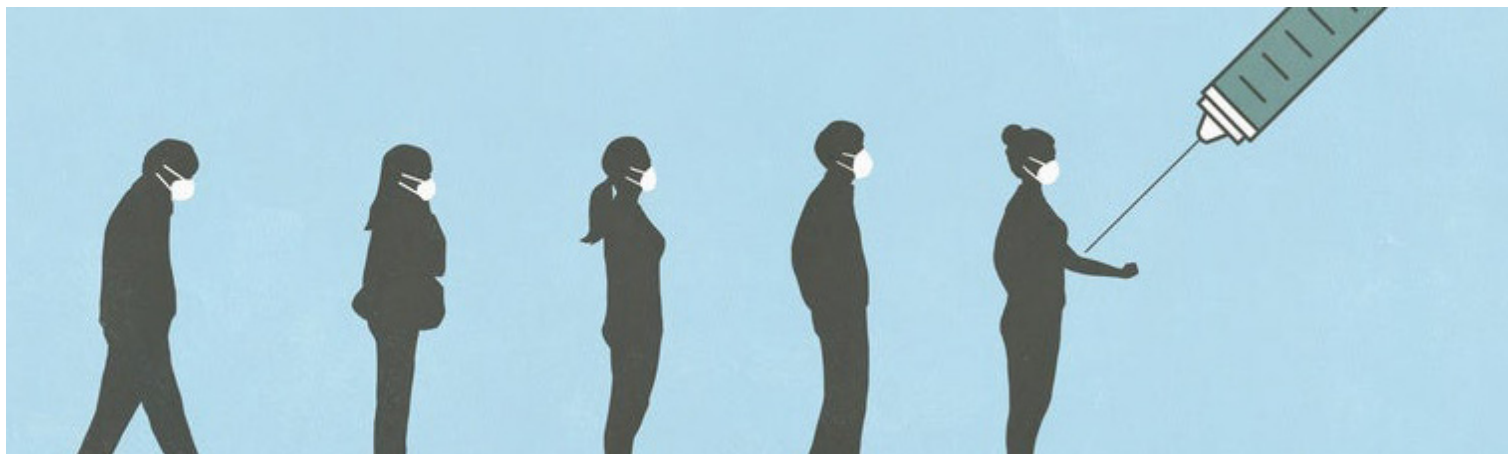
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ILLEGALS ASSURED THAT VACCINATION WILL NOT EXPOSE THEM TO DEPORTATION



by *Shelton Daniel*

Persons who are in Antigua and Barbuda illegally, because the length of stay granted to them by the Immigration Department has expired and not been renewed, need not be afraid of coming forward to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

This assurance came from the nation's head of government during his weekly radio program on Saturday. Prime Minister Gaston Browne noted that persons whose status in Antigua have not been regularized may fear that presenting themselves for vaccination could result in them being spotted as 'illegals' from

their official picture ID and other information that is collected for immunization records. But the Prime Minister gave his word that no illegal immigrant would be apprehended or pursued on the basis of data captured during the vaccination program. "Even the illegal immigrants who are here ... it doesn't really matter ... you should get vaccinated and I will give a guarantee here, that if there is any individual whose time is not up-to-date and they go to get vaccinated, there is no possibility of deporting that person on that basis. So, those who are resident here, whose time may not necessarily be up-to-date, that should not be seen as

an impediment not to get vaccinated." PM Browne noted that, "We are as vulnerable as the most vulnerable individual. So if the most vulnerable individual in our midst is an undocumented or illegal immigrant, then clearly we are all collectively vulnerable." He added that such vulnerability means, "We must allow some space for these individuals to get vaccinated without any fear of reprisals." Said the Prime Minister finally on this particular subject: "I'm giving that assurance that there will be no deportations based on individuals who are seeking to get vaccinated and individuals whose time may not be current."



APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Monday, 31st May 2021	Tuesday, 1st June 2021	Wednesday, 2nd June 2021	Thursday, 3rd June 2021
NORTH SOUND HOUSING PROJECT 8:00AM - 1:00PM	GLANVILLE, SEATONS, CARTY'S HILL, WILLIKIES, EMERALDS COVE & LONG BAY 8:30AM - 11:30AM	SECTION OF MCKINNON 8:30AM - 11:30AM	SECTION OF HERBERTS, ALL SAINTS ROAD AND LAW PASTURE 8:30AM - 12:00PM
SECTION OF FRIARS HILL ROAD 8:30AM - 11:30AM		SECTION OF DENFIELDS HOUSING PROJECT 1:30PM - 3:00PM	
SECTION OF PARES NEAR THE BAPTISTE RETREAT CENTER 8:30AM - 11:30AM			

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

BUMPER CRUISE SEASON AHEAD

Following possibly one of the worst years on record for cruise tourism, officials here are anticipating a strong resurgence of the industry as the people in the key source markets celebrate an 'end' to the pandemic.

Minister of Tourism, Charles Max Fernandez is among those who are very upbeat about the outlook for cruise tourism in the second half of the year, as cruise lines begin their resumption to the Caribbean. Fernandez has made several forecasts about the number of passengers who are likely to enter Antigua and Barbuda for leisure. One carrier, he reported, anticipates that their line will bring 200,000 cruise passengers between June and December 2021. According to official sources, Antigua and Barbuda will be required to establish a kind of bubble for disembarking

cruise passengers. To facilitate this, it is expected that the vendors, shop owners, bus and taxi operators, workers at historic sites will all be vaccinated. The same is anticipated of those who work at hotels—they will be required to be fully vaccinated in order to inter-

act with co-workers and guests. Meanwhile, British Airways is planning to return to Antigua in full blast with 4 flights each week, followed by 7 flights per week, and eventually increasing to 9 flights weekly. Virgin Atlantic will also increase its flights to the des-

tinuation this year. Government sources indicate that the literature is revealing that there is pent up demand for leisure travel, and the passengers will return in large numbers as soon as the source-markets achieve herd immunity.


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14 POLICE OFFICERS ARE IN SVG ASSISTING WITH SECURITY EFFORTS



A contingent of fourteen officers from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) has been deployed to St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to assist with security and humanitarian efforts.

A STRATCOM media

release said the contingent left for SVG on Saturday aboard a Regional Security System (RSS) aircraft.

At their departure, Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney used the opportunity to express his profound gratitude to the

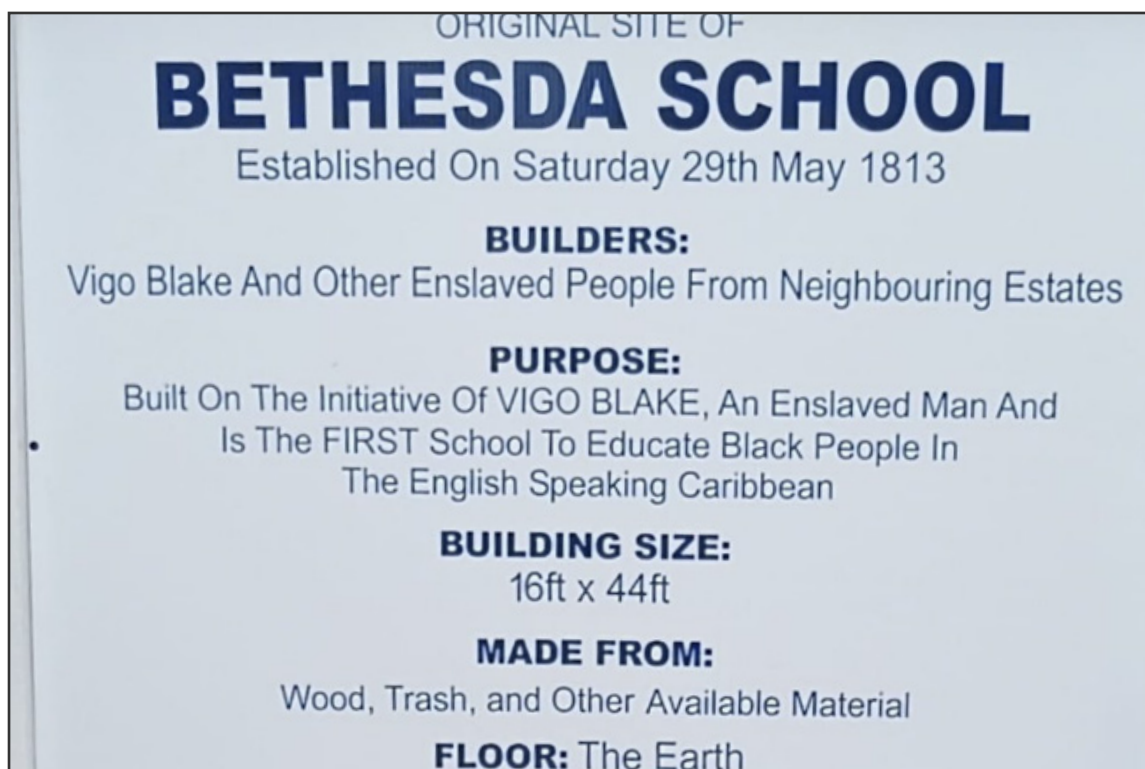
officers for undertaking this mission. He admonished them to continue to be ambassadors for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda in the performance of their duties.

Earlier, Assistant Commissioner of Police Desmond Dinard left

for SVG where he will serve as the RSS Contingent Commander. The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) will also be joining the RSS contingent in SVG. The contingent of officers will be on the ground for at least three weeks, in the first instance. These officers will be tasked with assisting their regional counterparts with the maintenance of law and order and humanitarian efforts, as volcanic activity continues in the Caribbean territory.

The deployment is in keeping with the mission of the Regional Security System (RSS) and its commitment to the region in matters of national security; especially during or following the occurrence of a natural disaster. Presently, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is in the midst of an ongoing volcanic crisis that has, at this time, left parts of the territory uninhabitable.

ORIGINAL SITE OF BETHESDA PRIMARY SCHOOL HONORED



In the early hours of Saturday morning, May 29th, the Bethesda School Heritage Foundation incorporated, a Not-for-Profit Group and gathered to unveil a billboard dubbed the 'Bethesda School story', on a day they have renamed as, the 'Vigo Blake day.'

The sign was planted at the site of the previous school in Bethesda. Lead organizer, Barbara A. Arrindell said that she remembers coming across the story of the school around 30 years ago. As a student of history and heritage, the story stood out to her

and prompted further research. She, with a handful of persons, including Ralph Bowen, history aficionados, community mem-

bers and supporters turned out for the unveiling. According to Barbara Arrindell "By the early 1800s some of the enslaved people of Antigua were being taught by missionaries (usually just one day a week). In addition, those enslaved people who had learned something, often tried to pass on their limited knowledge to others. Elizabeth Hart-Thwaites was a freeborn black woman whose black father Barry Hart was an es-

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 A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



tate owner and slave owner. She was one of the first black women in Antigua known to have married a white man. Her husband Charles Thwaites worked in the dockyard and was also a missionary. Together they established and taught at many Sunday schools, teaching not only religion but also reading and writing. Barbara went on to recite, "They got to know an enslaved man named Vigo Blake. Vigo was the head man/ head slave on his estate. Vigo and the Thwaites and others had a dream of being able to better educate more enslaved and free people, but they needed a location where this could be done. Vigo suggested that they speak with

the estate owner and ask him to allow them to build something on a bit of unused land on the hillside overlooking Willowby Bay. They asked and were granted permission. Vigo then organized to have enslaved and free people from all the estates nearby to come to the site before and after their workday to build the structure. It took them six weeks to do this. The building was approximately 44 ft x 16 ft with a thatched roof and an earth floor. They began offering classes on Saturday 29th May 1813. To our knowledge this was the first building in the English Speaking Caribbean BUILT FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATING ENSLAVED PEOPLE. The build-

ing was later called Bethesda and on any given day as many as 400 people, adults and children, morning, noon and night would assemble there to be

educated. The village sprang up around it as free people wanted to live as close as possible to the place where they and their children could receive an education." The historical recognition may not be the last for this group, as they explained the importance of history and knowledge on the landscape of Antigua and Barbuda.

The organizers also thanked Dews Hardware, LMR signs and many others for helping to make it all possible.



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UNITED TAXI COMPANY RE-ELECTS IAN JOSEPH FOR A THIRD TERM



The United Taxi Company (UTC) which operates at the VC Bird International airport has re-elected Ian Joseph as president for a third consecutive term. This time Joseph was re-elected unopposed by the one hundred-plus membership.

Joseph told PointeXpress newspaper that taxi drivers in Antigua

and Barbuda must reposition themselves to take advantage of the changes taking place within tourism in general and taxi operations, in particular.

"We need to position ourselves not just as taxi driver/operators but as tourism ambassadors for the country; both as individual taxi operators and collectively as a unit," he explained.

Joseph said that as he examines the tourism landscape, he is able to discern two types of demands for transportation services from visitors. For example, he said some visitors want to travel in exclusive or elite transportation while others want to travel in large groups. "We have to be able to adapt to the changes in the marketplace and the shift in demands from visitors," he further explained. Joseph is urging the taxi fraternity to be sensitive to the changing needs of the marketplace. "We have to plan for what the marketplace is telling us," he posited.

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The UTC official said he anticipates that after more than a year in lockdown, because of the pandemic, people in the source markets are yearning to travel and to travel away from home. He added that providing for the demands of the marketplace must go along with the need for health and security, noting that these must take place while the health protocols, as laid down by the ministry of health are observed.

Joseph said his priority item for the year is providing ongoing training for the UTC membership.

He emphasized that the taxi fraternity must stand ready for the anticipated heavy influx of visitors to the country.

The other members of the Executive are: Vice President - Elton Williams, Treasurer - Ian Richards, Secretary - Leon Joseph, Ordinary Board Members - Keithroy Benjamin and Andy Henry, Public Relations Officer - Neil 'Yellow' Evanston, Education Officer - Kitson Howe and Floor Member - Rodney Gregory

VACCINATION FOR ATHLETES NOW A REQUIREMENT



People involved in competitive team sports in Antigua and Barbuda will have to be vaccinated before going onto the field of play.

That's the latest development coming from the ministry of health as the country slowly moves back to a sense of normalcy as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic begins

to wane. "It was also agreed that those who wish to be involved in competitive sports, such as football, netball, basketball, and even cricket will be required to have taken the two doses of the available vaccine; those doses ought to be 8 weeks to 12 weeks apart for maximum efficacy," a government statement

announced. Since the lockdown went into effect at the end of March last year, there have been numerous inquiries about the resumption of sports in the country. Now the government has provided the definitive conditions under which these activities may commence.

LIST OF VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED in 2021 Vehicles at Police Headquarters

Vehicle Number	Vehicle Make & Model	Date	Accounted & Color	Owner Name
ABP 105	Toyota Hilux		Beige	Gov
No Plate	Toyota Corolla		Green & White	
A 40463	Toyota Kluger		Silver	Gov
ABP 73	Toyota Kluger		Silver	Gov
No Plate	Mitsubishi ASX		White	
ABP 109	Ford Escort		Blue	Gov
A 26610	Hyundai Tucson		Blue	Gov
No Plate	Toyota Corolla		Grey	
C 9801	Suzuki APV		White	Gov
No Plate	Kia Sportage		Grey	
No Plate	Toyota Vitz		Silver	
No Plate	Toyota Mark X		Silver	
No Plate	Nissan Cefiro		Gold	
No Plate	Mitsubishi Pajero		Grey	
A 11999	Toyota Corolla		White	Everton Francis-Bolans
ABP 57	Toyota Noah		White	Gov
C 8555	Ford Ranger		Blue	Gov
No Plate	Chevrolet Optra		Silver	
No Plate	Toyota Noah		Blue	
No Plate	Suzuki APV		Black	
No Plate	Toyota Noah		Brown	
No Plate	Suzuki APV		Grey	
No Plate	Toyota Kluger		Black	
No Plate	Toyota Kluger		Silver	
No Plate	Nissan Almera		Silver	

No Plate	Toyota Corolla		White	
A 43004	Honda Civic		Green	Andrew Antonio-Villa
A 54017	Nissan Pathfinder		Silver	Gov
No Plate	Suzuki APV		Black	
No Plate	Suzuki APV		White	
No Plate	Toyota Kluger		Silver	
No Plate	Toyota Kluger		Silver	
ABP 6	Nissan Patrol		Blue	Gov
No Plate	Ford Ranger		White	
No Plate	Nissan Patrol		Red	
ABP 8	Nissan Patrol		Blue	Gov
ABP 12	Nissan Patrol		Blue	Gov
No Plate	Suzuki APV		Grey	
G 711	Toyota Noah		White	Gov
A 35873	Toyota Kluger		Silver	Gov
A 29986	Toyota Rav4		Blue	Gov
No Plate	Toyota Prado		Black	
No Plate	Toyota Kluger		Black	
No Plate	Toyota Kluger		Black	
No Plate	Toyota Kluger		Silver	
ABP 106	Toyota Hilux		Beige	Gov
G 1821	Suzuki APV		White	ABTB
No Plate	Mazda Demio		White	
G 1476	Nissan Urvan		Beige	Gov
A 40516	Toyota Kluger		Silver	Gov
A 40518	Toyota Kluger		Silver	Gov
ABP 70	Chevy Colorado		White	
G 1255	Suzuki APV		Black	
ABP 46	Mitsubishi PSX		Black	
ABP 47	Mitsubishi ASX		Brown	
ABP 48	Mitsubishi ASX		Grey	

ABP 84	Ford F450 (Wrecker)		White	
ABP 85	International 4300 (Wrecker)		White	

LIST OF VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED in 2021 Vehicle at Government Motor Pool

Vehicles Number	Vehicle Make & Model	Date	Accounted and Color	Owner Names
2020				
A 20421	Honda Civic	23-01-2020		Midgie Francis- Upper Fort Rd
A 38539	Nissan Almera	11-01-2020		N/A
A 48542	Honda CRV	21-01-2020		N/A
A 10486	Nissan Sentra	06-01-2020		Marlon Davis-Golden Grove
A 48357	Mitsubishi Lancer	08-01-2020		Lidia Tejada-Cooks Hill
A 35331	Honda Civic	02-01-2020		n/a
A 54794	Subaru Impreza	10-02-2020		Jermaine Morris-Sweetes
A 47001	Chevrolet	04-02-2020		Albert Fleming-Fitches Creek
A 53194	Suzuki Ignis	28-02-2020		Huris Lee-Freemans Village
A 46091	Toyota Corolla	20-05-2020		Damian Bellot-All Saints Village

A 48856	Chevrolet Spark	06-03-2020	(Black Honda Accord)	Marissa Hughes-Jennings
A 43407	Toyota Levin	02-05-2020		Shendale Smith-Freemans Village
A 17028	Nissan Almera	23-05-2020		Kalvin Williams-Bendals
A 54332	Toyota Altea	17-05-2020		Danny Martin-Jennings
A 39648	Toyota Corolla	26-05-2020		Henrico Clarke-Sandals
A 5830	Nissan Sentra	15-05-2020		Donald Humphreys-Rose St. Ottos
A 7861	Nissan Sentra	11-05-2020		Catherine De Abreu-Bethesda
A 44677	Acura CL	11-07-2020		Janelle Matthews-Crosbies
A 46335	Daihatsu Terios	3-07-2020		Titanji Atta-Cedar Valley
A 12100	Nissan Almera	17-07-2020		Hughan Daley-St Johnston's Village
A 47937	Toyota Corolla	16-07-2020		Myles Joseph-Willies
A 16611	Toyota Corolla	28-06-2020		n/a
C 17216	Kia m/truck	19-06-2020		Ernest Benjamin-Marble Hill
A 36905	Toyota Altea	01-08-2020		Michael Polansky-Dutchmans Bay
A 48359	Nissan March	20-08-2020		Edmond Brann-Sea View Farm
TX 930	Nissan Cuvilian	14-08-2020		Dennis Friday-Jonas Rd
A(C) 10561	Toyota Noah	19-08-2020		Maria Barnes-All Saints Village
C 15756	Toyota Noah	28-08-2020		Alexander Hallpike-Pigotts Village

C 12908	Nissan Frontier	07-08-2020		Ronny Johnson-Union Rd
A49518	Toyota Yaris	17-08-2020		Denfield Ryan-Buckleys
A 58128	Toyota Ailin	10-08-2020		Petrice Valentine-Potters
N/A Selenio Gillion	Yamaha R6 m/ cycle	06-09-2020	Green & White	
A 4309	Toyota Vitz	04-09-2020	Silver	T&J Trucking-Lightfoot
A 25346	Toyota Corolla	11-09-2020	Beige	Delvin Berkeley-Desouza Rd
A 55386	Toyota Pocado	21-10-2020	Maroon	Carlos Dela Cruz-Potters
C 15968	Case Backhoe	05-10-2020	Yellow	Alpheus Jacobs-Paynters Paradise
A 51310	Suzuki Swift	18-11-2020	Metal	Oscey Barton-All Saints
A 58213	Daihatsu Terios	17-11-2020	White	Pandora Dance-Liberta
C 17487	Honda Stepwgn	16-11-2020	Black	Michael Barton-Villa
A 36278	Toyota Vista	06-11-2020	Silver	George Anthony-Old Road
A 25945	Honda Civic	07-11-2020	Blue	n/a
A 55170	Toyota Platz	23-10-2020	White	Gaiety Goulbourne-Herberts
A 51836	Toyota Corolla	16-03-2020	White	Jamaal Christopher-Newfield
A 20468	Toyota Rav4	08-09-2020	Silver and Black	Dorian Williams-Jennings

2019

N/A	Honda m/cycle	04-07-2019		
A 31473	Toyota Corolla	25-07-2019		Martin Foster-Fort Road
A 30899	Honda Criso	14-07-2019		Michael Binal-Blue Waters
C 14729	Toyota Noah	23-07-2019		Gilston Omarde-Beimont
A 4186	Nissan March	29-03-2019		Wendell Peets-Liberta
A 3708	Mitsubishi Towny	10-03-2019		Carlton Rhodes-Five Islands
A 29809	Yamaha M/ cycle	14-03-2019		Kevin Gomes- Potters
A 36595	M/cycle Flash	22-08-2019		Johnny Laville-Skerritts Pasture
C 17160	Shv Toyota Estima	29-08-2019		Floyd Richards-Mc Pond All Saints
N/A	Toyota Vitz	17-08-2019		
A 43407	Wht Toyota Levin	02-12-2019		Shendale Smith-Freemans Village
C 1747	Dodge Rain	13-12-2019	*Grey Dodge Dakota*	Charles Willock-Alfred Peters St Villa
A 14334	Gm Ford Taurus	05-12-2019		James Pelle-Prince Klass St
A 40921	Toyota Corona	18-12-2019	*White Toyota Corolla*	Laskley Christopher-Newfield
A 46155	Mitsubishi Lancer	07-12-2019		Medina Ciprian-Newgate St
A 52567	Toyota Corona	30-09-2019	*Beige Toyota Corolla*	Jahmauley Henry-Bolans
A 51229	Honda Filtz	11-10-2019		n/a
A 12340	Nissan Almera	08-10-2019		Abdallah Awad-Crosbies

N/A	Nissan Almera	12-10-2019		
A 60888	Hyundai Getz	21-01-2019	*White Toyota Tercel*	Philsbert George(police)-Newgate St
A 35507	Toyota Corona	27-01-2019	*Silver Jeep Liberty *	Charleworth Brown-Newfield
C 6660	Toyota Noah	04-01-2019		Tash Express

THE BUFFET CAN STAY: WHAT THE FUTURE OF THE CRUISE LINE INDUSTRY LOOKS LIKE

NPR - The first cruise set to sail from American ports in more than 15 months is headed to the Caribbean this summer.

Celebrity Cruises got approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to bring passengers aboard for the seven-night cruise on June 26, the company announced this week. "CDC and the cruise industry agree that the industry has what it needs to move forward and no additional roadblocks exist for resuming sailing by mid-summer," CDC spokesperson Caitlin Shockey confirmed in an email.

It's welcome news for an industry that ground to a halt during the pandemic. Now, emboldened by the CDC's green light and a pent-up demand, the industry has high hopes for a quick recovery. Companies will have

to strike the right balance of keeping their promises of a comfortable and relaxing experience, while sticking to the rules laid out by the CDC. But Stewart Chiron, an industry expert doing business as The Cruise Guy, says that a "groundswell of demand" suggests that antsy would-be passengers are willing to jump through a few hoops just to get back on board.

"If they were able to have sailed in May or June of last year, there's people that would have," he said. "There were loads of people that were so desperate to go, they didn't care where they went, or if they went anywhere. The itinerary was secondary to just getting away on a cruise and being out on the ocean, and doing something normal again was a primary factor."



JOB OPPORTUNITY.

The American University of Antigua College of Medicine, is seeking to employ an **Assistant Facilities Manager**.

Job Summary:

The Assistant Facilities Manager will be responsible for the maintenance and services of work facilities, to ensure that they meet the needs of the AUA Community. The Assistant will work along with the Facilities Manager in overseeing all of the services that helps the University reach its goals, and will be required to operate across different business functions, working on both a strategic and operational level. Key roles of the Assistant Facilities Manager is to ensure that the facility is operating as it should on a daily basis by completing daily inspections, conducting proactive and reactive maintenance, assisting with budget preparation and management, and utilizing technology to improve work output. The Assistant Manager will work along with the Facilities Manager to ensure efficient and smooth business operations.

Duties & Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Supervising multi-disciplinary teams of staff including maintenance and grounds.
- Ensuring that facilities meet government regulations and environmental, safety, health and security standards.
- Overseeing renovations or refurbishments.
- Drafting reports and making written recommendations.
- Ensuring that basic facilities are well-maintained and conducting proactive maintenance
- Monitor facility usage, operations and equipment maintenance.
- Maintain accurate records and service logs of all campus equipment.
- Develop schedule for regular evaluation of facilities.
- Coordinate and oversee work by external contractors.
- Participate in the development of policies and procedures for the department.
- Initiate interventions to solve problems in facilities.
- Develop and execute system for regular cleaning, repair and maintenance of facilities.

Qualifications:

- Degree in facilities management or similar discipline, and/or professional facilities management certification, or a related qualification in management, engineering or business studies.
- Relevant experience in technical skills and management is also essential.
- Outstanding organizational and leadership skills.
- Verbal and written communication skills.
- Technical competence: Microsoft Applications i.e. Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel and knowledge of facilities management software such as FMX would be an asset.

Interested persons should apply to:

hr@auamed.net

Deadline for receipt of application is June 4th, 2021.

But what will “normal” mean for passengers, exactly?

Vaccination will get you closer to a pre-pandemic cruise. For the most part, individual cruise experiences will depend on a vaccination status. The Celebrity cruise’s permission to sail is contingent on 95% of its crew and passengers being fully vaccinated before boarding the ship in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The CDC is also giving cruise companies an alternative to meeting that threshold. Companies can run trial cruises, at limited capacity, to test the effectiveness of their health measures. However, cruise ships that meet the vaccination threshold will have more relaxed mask and social distancing rules.

The embrace of immunization will likely sit well with most passengers. In an April survey of its readership, the website Cruise Critic said that 81% of respondents would board a cruise if vaccines were required.

“The buffet is not

dead!”

The CDC banned cruise ships from leaving U.S. ports on March 14, 2020, under a No Sail Order due to the risks of spreading COVID-19. Close quarters, shared meals and activities among international passengers led to some of the first known COVID-19 super-spreading events, such as the outbreaks aboard the Diamond Princess and Grand Princess ships, which sickened more than 800 passengers and crew members.

In March 2020, cases linked with cruise travelers accounted for some 17% of the reported cases in the U.S. That said, self-service buffets were looking like a thing of the past even before the coronavirus. Many cruise ships had long ago opted for staff to serve diners buffet offerings instead, to contain the spread of the common flu. But under the new CDC guidelines, fully vaccinated passengers are free to fill up their plates themselves.

“We were surprised



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
of ANTIGUA

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

JOB OPPORTUNITY.

The American University of Antigua College of Medicine, is seeking to employ a Security Operations Supervisor.

Job Summary:

The Security Operations Supervisor supervises and monitors all aspects of the University's safety and security initiatives. The Security Operations Supervisor is required to perform a variety of security and safety related functions while involved in the safeguarding of students, employees, faculty, visitors and property. This individual will serve in supervisory as well as advisory capacities, and serve as a mentor in security employee development. The Security Operations Supervisor will be required to assist in interviewing candidates and recruitment, responsible for training, overseeing, and evaluating security staff. The Security Operations Supervisor will work with various upper-level management with regard to security and staffing needs; plan, establish, and implement security and public safety and security measures for the company; analyze and assess the existing public safety and security protocols and procedures, and to suggest and implement improvements for the organization's safety and security infrastructure. It is also the responsibility of the Security Operations Supervisor to ensure that all safety and security policies and procedures are followed.

Qualifications:

- College diploma, or Associates degree in Business Administration or similar area of study, with at least 5 years' experience in safety and security; Further education in security administration or similar field will be an asset.
- Proven experience as security supervisor, safety & security law enforcement or similar position.
- Excellent knowledge of security protocols and procedures.
- Experience using relevant technology and equipment (e.g. CCTV).
- Outstanding organizational and leadership skills.
- Verbal and written communication skills.
- Technical competence: - Ability to operate a hand held, portable radio and Microsoft Applications i.e. Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel.

Interested persons should apply to:

hr@auamed.net

Deadline for receipt of application is June 4th, 2021.

by this because it seems that the cruise lines were moving more towards a served buffet and that kind of option,” said Chris Gray Faust, managing editor of the website Cruise Critic. “But the buffet is not dead.” While vaccinated guests can ditch social distancing for leisurely dinners, cruise lines are still required to encourage outdoor dining and room service. At ports, cruise lines are urged but not required to prohibit independent exploration by unvaccinated passengers. “It does seem that if you’re vaccinated and you’re on a ship where most of the people are vaccinated, your experience will look more similar than we would have thought to before the pandemic,” said Gray Faust. “All the things that people enjoyed — you know, socializing with other people, eating and drinking, going to the pool, going to shows — all of that is still going to be available and open.”

TWO ADDITIONAL VACCINATION CENTERS THIS WEEK

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment announces that two additional public vaccination centers will open on Monday through to Wednesday this week (Monday 31st May to Wednesday 2nd June) offering the 2nd dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. These vaccination centers are located at the St. Mary’s Hall commonly known as the Tyrells Roman Catholic Church Hall on the All-Saints Road and the Jennings Primary School Auditorium. The four (4) public vaccination centers located at the Glanvilles Polyclinic, the Villa Polyclinic, the Precision Center, and the Multipurpose Cultural; and Exhibition Center will remain open taking the number of operating vaccination centers to six (6). The operating hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Persons receiving their second dose are reminded to present their vaccine card on arrival at the centers.

Persons who received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the Jennings Primary School could return to the school’s auditorium and those who received theirs at the All-Saints Secondary School could go to the St. Mary’s Hall common-

ly known as the Tyrells Roman Catholic Church Hall or their preferred site. Persons desiring the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are welcome to also utilize the new centers or any vaccination site convenient to them.

This week, vaccination teams will also be visiting the Medical Benefits Scheme and the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority to inoculate their staff. The second dose inoculation of teachers and staff of the Ministry of Education will continue this upcoming weekend, June 5th and 6th.

To date, several target groups have received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to include uniformed bodies, teachers, Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, Antigua Public Utilities Authority, Social Security, Inland Revenue, and the Financial Services Regulatory Commission.

As of Sunday, 30th May a total, 33,229 persons have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 15,531 have received the second dose.

The Ministry of Health is encouraging persons to avail themselves of both the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL CADET CORPS RENDERS ASSISTANCE TO THE SAINT VINCENT CADET CORPS

ST. GEORGE, Antigua and Barbuda – 30th May, 2021.....The Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps (ABNCC), under the Command of Maj. A. Michael, answered the call for regional support for our fellow Corps of Saint Vincent & the Grenadines (SVGCF) who are currently assisting in Disaster Response, stemming from the recent volcanic eruptions and floods.

The teens, led by Sgt James T, represented the humanitarian/community outreach arm of the ABNCC, where the members demonstrated their civic responsibilities by donating dry goods and toiletries, with the aid of Officers and parents of an active PTA Group. The Cadets collected, packaged, and loaded the donations onto the RSS aircraft on Saturday 29th May, which was transporting ABDF soldiers to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

This team of Cadets has also been active during the COVID 19 pandemic by assisting national and church-based organizations to collect donations, package and deliver care packages to those in need.

The Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps expresses heartfelt appreciation to its patron, State Insurance Corporation for their invaluable contribution over the years.



1. Cadets loading the RSS aircraft with supplies for their counterparts in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



2. Cadets of the ABNCC loading donations solicited for their counterparts in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines onto the RSS aircraft at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Saturday 29th May.



25 UWI Scholarships available for Antiguan and Barbudans

By Christal Clashing

On June 30th, 2021 registration to the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands campus will close for the first semester of the 2021/2022 academic year. Upon successful admission into one of the two programmes offered under the newly formed School of Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence (SoSCAI), applicants who have

citizenship in Antigua and Barbuda may be eligible for one of the 25 scholarships available through the Board of Education. The undergraduate programmes currently offered are a BSc in Computer Science and a BSc in Information Technology. SoSCAI will open its doors on August 30th alongside the other three schools at the UWI Five Islands campus, the School of Humanities and Edu-

cation, the School of Health and Behavioural Science and the School of Business and Management. However, SoSCAI will function differently from other schools and faculties across the UWI regional campuses. Under this school, there will be a focus on interdisciplinary education that prepares graduates for professional roles in Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence.

Cont'd on pg 15

This is in contrast to the Department of Computing and Information Technology under the Faculty of Science & Technology at the UWI St. Augustine campus in Trinidad. Professor of Data Science at St. Augustine, Dr Patrick Hosein, has observed that students who come from specialised programs in Computer Science or Data Science become experts in their particular field but require a lot of 'catch-up' to meet the multidisciplinary nature of real-world problems. Antigua's UWI campus seeks to solve this problem by infusing interdisciplinary knowledge and applications into their SoSCAI degree offering.

Starting with two programmes in Computer Science and Information Technology, SoSCAI in Antigua plans to increase its programme offerings over the next four years. Further undergraduate programmes envisioned are BSc degrees in Software & Application Development and eSports & Gaming. Such courses of study will be targeted to those leaving secondary school, community college programmes, and those with sufficient technical proficiency whose work

experience may count for credit. Postgraduate programmes in Data Science & Business Intelligence and Supply Chain Management will also be added for those who already have foundational undergraduate degrees. Certificate programmes will be offered in due course for persons who may not be able to commit to a full degree programme but who still want to expand on and supplement their existing skills and knowledge. This may be a good option for teachers in primary and secondary schools who teach the STEAM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. One of the goals of SoSCAI is to prepare upcoming generations for the transformation of the job market. Increasingly, current jobs will be taken over by machines over the next 20 years; roles that haven't been invented yet will require creative thinking in concert with technological skills. Teachers across the range of primary and secondary education are key to preparing young people with such capacities.

The challenges of the region will be increasingly dire as issues such as: climate variability, nat-

ural disasters, feeding a growing population and ocean governance threaten the Eastern Caribbean way of life. SoSCAI at the UWI Five Islands campus aims to be the forerunner in responsive and agile education in response to the aforementioned challenges. Through multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary education and research, solutions based on data from our very own region will be used to target and develop new technology to address the grand challenges of the region.

Students who secure admittance into SoSCAI and want to apply for a scholarship under the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Education must be prepared to complete an application form that outlines their rationale for pursuing their chosen course of study. They will also have to explain the impact their studies will have on Antigua and Barbuda, along with a minimum of two letters of recommendation. It is expected that scholarship recipients will sign a bond that ties them to three years of service to Antigua and Barbuda, post-graduation.

STARTING POINT

ON AIR

with **Shelton Daniel**

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am

POINTE FM

99.1 FM



A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

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

BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

\$18.8m in income support for selected groups in SVG

Selected groupings in St Vincent and the Grenadines whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the volcanic eruption are slated to receive income support for the rest of 2021. According to Finance Minister Camillo Gonsalves as he presented an EC\$117.9 million supplementary budget including EC\$18.8 million in income support for over 14,000 Vincentians. Farmers in the Red and Orange zone will receive EC\$500 monthly from June to December 2021. Farmers south of the orange zone and fishers will receive a one-time EC\$500 payment. Workers from the Red and Orange zones with income support of \$400 per month for the first 3 months after they return to their homes.

Cuba closes airport exchanges as black market dollar booms

Persons leaving Cuba can no longer change their local bills back into US dollars, Euros or other hard currency at the official exchange rate under a new policy announced this week. The government closed the airport departure lounge exchange booths that

had allowed travellers to change up to US\$300 at the official rate of 24 Cuban pesos to the dollar — about double the black market rate inside the country. That gives outbound visitors little option but to spend the pesos they'd bought before leaving the country. The state's Cadeca exchange company said the measure was due to a drastic drop in tourism during the pandemic and the resulting lack of hard currency.

Property sales boom in Cayman for 2020 and 2021

2020 was a record year for property sales in the Cayman Islands, despite the global pandemic and the trend has continued into 2021. According to the Cayman Islands Real Estate Brokers Association (CIREBA), sales of US\$638.7m representing 327 properties were conveyed by 36 brokerages in 2020. In the luxury segment of properties priced at US\$1m and up, 69 condominiums and 57 residences were sold. That strong performance has not abated in the first half of 2021. Provenance Properties closed the sale of The Peninsula Estate in early May, representing the largest transaction for a condo or private residence on record in the Cayman Islands. In addition, the team has sold 17 condos at The Residences at Seafire. Cayman Islands property sales are not the only segment of the market booming with the Cayman Islands Government's Global Citizen Concierge Programme driving demand for luxury long-term rentals.

Jamaica grants licence for third telecoms provider

The Cabinet of the Government of Jamaica has given its approval for a third telecommunications service provider, Rock Mobile, to be granted a licence to operate locally. According to Technology Minister Daryl Vaz, the RFP for the new provider is in keeping with the Government's policy objectives to increase broadband access to unserved and underserved areas; promote competition, innovation and diversity in the telecoms industry; and ensure optimum return in the shortest possible time for the spectrum assigned. Vaz said that the 3rd mobile provider will be required to deploy its network in keeping with the coverage, quality of service, and implementation timing in the bid. This includes the provision of 95% population coverage at a specified minimum download data rate and 95% population coverage of communities classified as unserved or underserved at a specified minimum download data rate. The company, is expected to achieve full rollout of the service within 2 years, with the service launch date to be no more than 12 months after the granting of the licence.

Belize seeking to defer Superbond payment to September

Belize is seeking the consent of its bondholders to have the payment on its US\$550 million Superbond

deferred to September 19, 2021. According to a Government statement the amended grace period will expire on the same date as the grace period applicable to the next schedule coupon, payable on August 20, 2021. Belize said that it will pay each eligible holder that delivers a consent in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Consent Solicitation Statement "a consent fee in an amount equal to US\$0.50 cents for each US\$1,000 principal amount of Securities held by such eligible holder provided that Belize receives "the Requisite Consent and the proposed Amendment become effective. The government statement notes, that the "Consent Solicitation will expire at 5.00 pm New York City time on June 1, 2021, unless extended or earlier terminated by Belize."

Jamaica records negative inflation of 0.5% in April

Jamaica records negative inflation of 0.5% in April The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (Statin) for the month of April reported an inflation rate of -0.5%. The rate in the previous month was 1.1%. This, the entity said, stemmed from a 0.5% decrease in the consumer price index (CPI) which moved from 108.3 in March to 107. 7 in April. "The decline in the CPI was mainly due to a 4.0% fall in the index for the heavily weighted 'housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels' division," Statin stated in a recent bulletin, further noting that the decrease in the division was largely due to a fall in electricity rates, impacted by lower fuel rates and a fall in the billing exchange rate.



TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE



PRESS RELEASE

27 May 2021 | For Immediate Release

Statement on the Decisions of the Special Meeting of CXC's Council on the 2021 Regional Examinations Strategy

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – The **Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC®)** has engaged with regional governments and other key stakeholders from across the region on the conception and planning of the 2021 regional examinations and registers its appreciation for their enriching contributions.

A Special Meeting of Council was held on Tuesday, 25 May 2021 and members reviewed and accepted a report from CXC's School Examinations Committee (SEC), that made recommendations on the strategy for the 2021 regional examinations, which emanated from discussions at CARICOM's Council of Human and Social Development (COHSOD) 28th Special session on 12 May 2021.

After careful deliberation and consideration of all the pertinent issues, Council (made up of Governments from across the region), agreed that the revised strategy for the 2021 regional examinations shall be as follows:

1. To maintain the administration of all papers

CXC® will administer the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination® (CAPE®), Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate® (CSEC®) and Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence® (CCLSC®) Examinations in their original format; that is, for CAPE® and CSEC® Papers 01, 02 and 031 (School-Based Assessments [SBA]) or Paper 032 for private candidates, and for CCLSC®, Papers 01 and 02.

2. To delay sitting of the regional examinations by a further two weeks

This will provide candidates with extra time to prepare for the examinations. Therefore, examinations will commence on **Monday, 28 June 2021**.

a) Exam Duration – CAPE®/CSEC®- 28 June 2021–30 July 2021

b) Release of Results – Last week in September to the first week in October, as previously communicated.

3. Extension of Submission of School-Based Assessment (SBA)

The deadline for the submission of SBAs will be extended to **30 June 2021** for all CSEC® and CAPE® examinations.

The Special Council Meeting took note of the Concessions that CXC® has already put in place to date, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it is important to note that further consideration will be given during the grading process, to account for the likely psychosocial impact on students' performance, to further ensure that they are not disenfranchised.

On-site Moderation

CXC® has also introduced a new level of flexibility for the delayed conduct of on-site moderation, with an absolute deadline now set at **31 July 2021**.

Concessions

The Concessions which have already been put in place in light of the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- 1. School Based Assessments (SBAs)**

CXC® reduced the SBA requirements by as much as 50 per cent in some subjects.

- 2. Delayed Examinations**

Examinations have been delayed by 6 weeks. A further delay of two weeks to 28 June 2021.

- 3. Submission of SBAs**

The deadline for the submission of SBAs has been extended by 6 weeks.

- 4. Release of Broad Topics**

CXC® released the Broad Topics on Monday, 10 May 2021 and territories have submitted queries, to which CXC® has been responding. In this regard, a review is currently underway.

- 5. Option to Defer**

Candidates have the option to defer some or all of their Examinations to either January or June 2022. CXC® has further extended candidates' opportunity to indicate their intent for deferral to 31 May 2021.

- 6. Acceptance of SBAs in January/June 2022 from deferred candidates**

For the first time, CXC® will accept SBAs in January 2022 for candidates deferring to sit examinations for subjects offered in that period.

St Vincent & the Grenadines

Council also noted that CXC® continues to work with representatives from the Ministry of Education in St Vincent & the Grenadines to ensure that its candidates will not be disenfranchised as a result of the volcanic eruption.

Council believes that these decisions are made in the best interest of our stakeholders across the region at this time and will continue to engage and collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure that there is equity and fairness for all candidates, that the integrity of the regional examinations remain intact and that the health and well-being of our stakeholders remain paramount.

-End-

For further information, kindly contact us at +1 (246) 227-1700 or email cxcezo@cx.org (Barbados), or for queries in Jamaica at + 1 (876) 630-5200 or email: cxcwzo@cx.org



CSA General Secretary, Claude Paul

CSA CONCERNED ABOUT WORKPLACE SAFETY AMID RISE IN COVID-19 CASES

LOOP News, St. Lucia - The St. Lucia Civil Service Association (CSA) says it has been made aware that some managers in the Public Service have instructed their members of staff to end all of the alternative working arrangements including rotation and remote work and return to normal operations.

After attempting to engage with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Public Service, who has overall responsibility for such matters, CSA General Secretary Claude Paul says there appears to be no change to the sudden change of policy.

The CSA, he declared, is obviously very concerned that public sector managers would take

such an irresponsible position in the face of the extension of the State of Emergency (SOE), the recent trend of a rise in new COVID-19 cases and the latest pronouncements of the CMO concerning the possibility of a fourth wave of the pandemic. The CSA reminds its members and the relevant heads of departments of Section 263 of the Labour Act which makes provisions for employees to take action to protect their health and safety.

“According to the Section 263 of the Labour Act of Saint Lucia, an employee may refuse to work or do particular work where the employee has reason to believe that (a) any equipment, machine, device, substance or article the employee

is to use or operate presents an imminent and serious danger to the life or health of himself or herself or another worker; or (b) the physical condition of the workplace or the part in which the employee works or is to work presents an imminent and serious danger to his or her life, safety or health; until such time as the employee believes that measures have been undertaken by the employer to address the employees concerns,” Paul said.

In the absence of proper arrangements for physical distancing, and other protocols, the CSA says members face the risk of infection, particularly as there are new and more infectious variants within close proximity.



Accepting the call to duty, as the Oath of Office, of the Justice of Peace is taken, commissioning the candidates to service.

JAMAICA NAMES 31 NEW JPs COMMISSIONED LAST WEEK

KINGSTON, Jamaica (Jamaica Observer) — Thirty-one Justices of the Peace (JPs) were commissioned last week after they underwent a rigorous 21-week training in specific areas of civil law, mediation, and conflict resolution.

Noting that “integrity is the hallmark of Justices of the Peace”, custos rotolurum Steadman Fuller challenged the 31 JPs to execute their duties fairly and fearlessly.

“This is the time when more is required of us; when we execute our duties consistent with the oath of office that you have taken here today, you do so knowing that the work you do supports the law enforcement entities in Jamaica,” Custos Fuller said.

In recent times there have been several calls from the Minister of Justice, Delroy Chuck, high-

lighting the critical role that JPs play in administering justice and maintaining familial stability, and that more Justices of the Peace need to be commissioned.

“Your training does not end here,” Custos Fuller reminded the recently commissioned cadre of Justices of the Peace. “You will be required, and I stress required, to attend a prescribed number of man-hours of training in various areas to ensure that you are equipped to serve your communities and facilitate balance and harmony within families and between neighbours.”

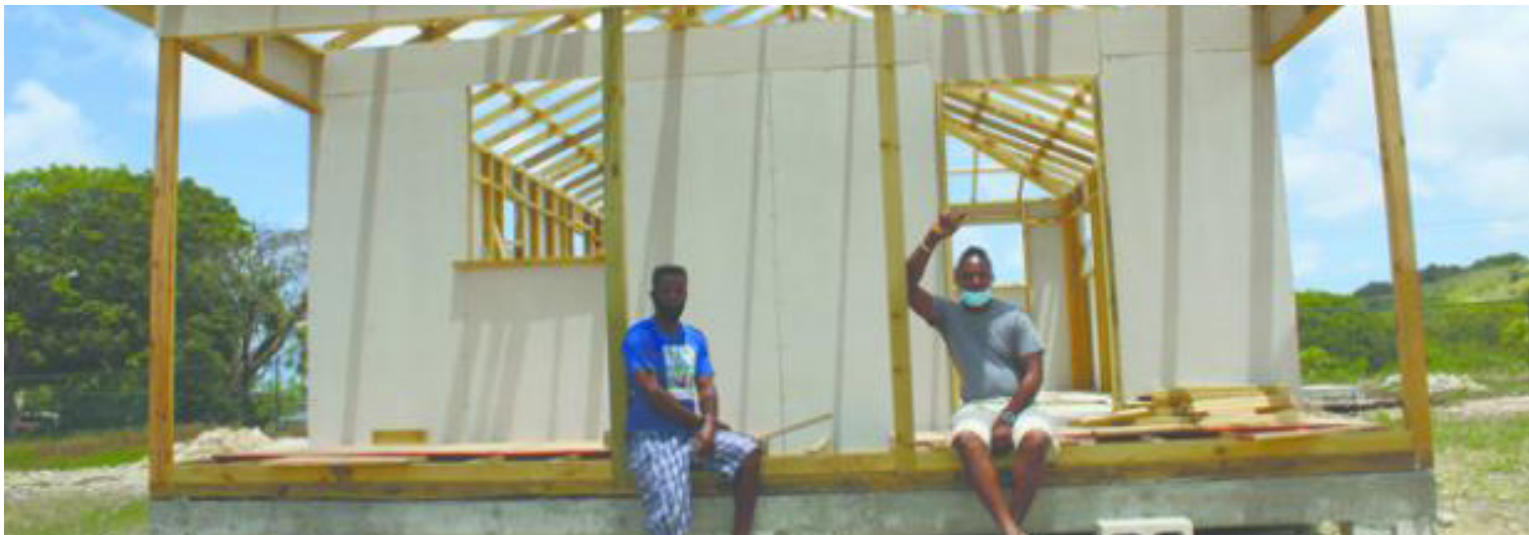
“This is non-negotiable, as at the crux of crime and violence within our societies is the inability of families and neighbours to resolve disputes,” Custos Fuller continued.

He added that one of the roles

of the Justice of the Peace is that of being a peacekeeper. As such, he was seized of the importance of training and committed to doing all that was possible to ensure that the requisite training programmes through the Justice Training Institute were scheduled.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Mark Gonzales, charged the 31 commissioned JPs that they are there to work diligently, conscientiously, willingly, dependably and honestly; not to wear the post nominally as a mark of elitism, but rather as an acceptance to work and serve the community.

The commissioning ceremony of the 31 Justices of the Peace represented the first under the ‘new’ Justices of the Peace of Jamaica, Kingston Association.



Two excited Rock Hall residents visit the site of the new homes currently under construction

ROCK HALL RESIDENTS CAN RENT-TO-OWN HOMES IN BARBADOS

Barbados Advocate - In keeping with the wishes of the majority of persons to be relocated from the Rock Hall, St. Philip community, they will be entering into a rent-to-own arrangement with government as part of the relocation process.

George Griffith, Field Officer from the National Housing Corporation (NHC), who is part of the relocation team overseeing the project, gave this update as he and Field Officer Antoine Williams met with members of the media Saturday at Carpenter's Glade, St. Philip, where the relocation process will officially get started next week when an occupant moves into a one bedroom house there. "We know that for many years the issue of persons living at Rock

Hall attracted the attention of Barbadians far and wide and it continued for many years, almost 30 years to be exact. However, during May 2019, a Cabinet Ministerial Committee was set up and that Committee toured Rock Hall. By September 2019, the Ministry of Housing and Lands set up an in-house team and they conducted a survey at Rock Hall," he said, in giving some background on the process, noting that the survey was completed by December 2019 with all residents being polled.

Griffith noted, "The majority of people wanted... to be relocated, but they wanted a rent-to-own arrangement, recognising that there was no money to buy land and all of this. So it was decided that

they would opt for a rent-to-own arrangement. When we recognised that 106 households fell below the poverty line, it was decided that we really would begin with the most vulnerable persons once they met the criteria that was set up."

He additionally stated, "The government has determined that there will be a house swap arrangement. In other words, once persons agree and sign the dotted line to accept a house provided by the government, the government will take possession of the unit that they are living in, and that will be dismantled and removed, to ensure that we can see that efforts are being made to clear Rock Hall. Eventually, all houses will be relocated.

"Now, it's not freeness as some persons might feel. Each resident will pay for the land that those houses are on through the rent-to-own arrangement and based on people's financial needs and their ability to pay. So that is on the cards," he said, noting that other locations have also been identified to facilitate the relocation process.

Explaining that at Carpenter's Glade the land will be sold at 15 dollars per square foot, he however stressed that the price will vary depending on the value of the land at other locations. Furthermore, a small number of persons with housing units which can be relocated will cover the cost of the relocation on their own.



Joint police and TTDF task force mounts road block in San Fernando

T&T HOLIDAY CURFEW STARTS AT 10 AM

Trinidad Guardian - The Ministry of the Attorney General has published the regulations governing the curfew hours for the public holidays - Monday (Indian Arrival Day) and Thursday (Corpus Christi). Under the regulations, the curfew hours will begin at 10 a.m. This follows Saturday's announcement by Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley that day-time curfew hours would be implemented

for the holidays to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Meanwhile in T&T Police officers were at a murder scene where a nurse was brutally stabbed by a close male relative and her body burnt on a mattress at her home in Malabar. Details were sketchy up to press time, but police received a report that just after 6 p.m. Amanda Leid was killed and her body set on fire on her mattress. The result-

ing fire also destroyed her home at Ajim Baksh Street. Leid was described by friends, who broke the news about her tragic end on social media, as a kind and loving person. In one of the postings, someone described Leid as his "baby sister" and wished that no one send him birthday greetings today (Saturday), as he will be mourning her brutal death.

Leid was one of the many women who supported campaigns to end violence against women, some of them said. Unconfirmed reports indicated that her attacker subsequently ingested a poisonous substance and was being attended to at a health facility. However, police were yet to confirm this up to press time.



Colombia protests: UN calls for investigation into Cali deaths

The military was sent into Cali following a spike in violence on Friday

BBC World News - The UN's human rights chief has called on Colombia to launch an independent inquiry into the deaths of anti-government protesters in the south-western city of Cali. The city has been the epicentre of protests against President Ivan Duque and 14 people are reported to have died in recent days.

Michelle Bachelet said those responsible should be held accountable. On Saturday, President Duque deployed troops in Cali to quell the unrest. Streets in the city were reported to be deserted after the military

intervention. However, demonstrators in the capital, Bogotá, vowed to hold rallies on Sunday to demand an end to police violence. Ms. Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, called for a swift investigation and for "all sides to continue talking to each other".

"It is essential that all those who are reportedly involved in causing injury or death, including state officials, are subject to prompt, effective, independent, impartial and transparent investigations and that those responsible are held accountable,"

she said in a statement. Her office cited reports that 14 people had been killed in Cali since Friday. It said a further 98 had been wounded, including 54 by firearms.

Protests erupted in Cali and other cities in April over a proposed reform that would have lowered the threshold at which salaries are taxed.

The government argued that the move was key to mitigating economic difficulties, but many Colombians feared they could slip into poverty as a result.

The tax plan was withdrawn, but anti-government sentiment saw the

protests grow to cover police violence, poverty and Colombia's health crisis. Two weeks of negotiations between the government and protesters have stalled.

Human Rights Watch, citing "credible reports", said at least 63 people had died in protests across Colombia over the past month. It described the situation in Cali as "very serious."

Cali, with a population of 2.2 million, is Colombia's third biggest city and sits at a strategic point connecting the urban centre to the Pacific Ocean and the key port of Buenaventura.

ISRAELI OPPOSITION INCH CLOSER TO DEAL TO OUST NETANYAHU

Israeli opposition parties have moved closer towards forming a government that would end the era of Benjamin Netanyahu, the country's longest serving prime minister.

Centrist party leader Yair Lapid is reportedly close to reaching a coalition agreement with the ultra-nationalist leader Naftali Bennett.

Leaders from Mr. Bennett's party spoke in favour of the deal on Sunday. Mr. Lapid, 57, has until Wednesday to form a new coalition government. Israeli media reports suggest both sides have inched closer towards a deal that would see Mr. Bennett, 49, serve as prime minister for two years before being replaced by Mr. Lapid for the second half of the term.

Mr. Bennett was due to deliver a statement on Sunday evening in which he was expected to formally declare his support for the agreement. His Yamina party hold a crucial six seats in the 120-member parliament that would give an opposition coalition



Benjamin Netanyahu has dominated Israeli politics for a generation

of right-wing, centrist and left-wing parties a clear majority.

Mr. Bennett met with Yamina leaders on Sunday and received their support for the coalition deal, a statement said. But no one should count out Mr. Netanyahu, whose political survival instincts remain second to none, says BBC Middle East analyst Sebastian Usher.

The opponents of Mr. Netanyahu, who is on trial for fraud, have little in common politically, but are united in their

desire to see his run in power come to an end.

The 71-year-old, who has been in power for 12 years and has dominated Israeli politics for a generation, fell short of a decisive majority at a general election in March. It was the fourth inconclusive vote in two years. That result opened the door for Mr. Lapid, a former finance minister who was given until 2 June to form a new coalition government after Mr Netanyahu failed to do so.

His Yesh Atid party came second to Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing Likud at the last election.

Mr. Lapid was initially given a 28-day mandate to form a government, but this was interrupted by the recent 11-day conflict in Gaza.

One of his potential coalition partners, the Arab Islamist Raam party, broke off talks because of the violence. There were also clashes in Israeli cities between mixed Arab and Jewish populations.



Police: 2 dead, over 20 injured in banquet hall shooting

Angela Green talks with the news media near the scene of a shooting outside a banquet hall near Hialeah, Florida

HIALEAH, Fla. (AP) — Two people died and an estimated 20 to 25 people were injured in a shooting outside a banquet hall in South Florida, police said.

The gunfire erupted early Sunday at the El Mula Banquet Hall in northwest Miami-Dade County, police told news outlets.

The banquet hall had been rented out for a concert. Three people got out of an SUV and opened fire into a crowd outside with assault rifles and handguns, police di-

rector Alfredo “Fred- dy” Ramirez III said. Authorities believe the shooting was targeted.

“These are cold blooded murderers that shot indiscriminately into a crowd and we will seek justice,” Ramirez said in a tweet.

Two people died at the scene, police said. As many as 25 people went to various hospitals for treatment.

No arrests were immediately announced.

“This is a despicable act of gun violence, a cowardly act,”

Ramirez told the Miami Herald.

“This type of gun violence has to stop. Every weekend it’s the same thing,” Ramirez said during an early morning news conference.

Gov. Ron DeSantis commented on the shooting on Twitter.

“We mourn the loss of the two victims and are praying for the recovery of the more than 20 people injured at El Mula Banquet Hall near Hialeah. We are working with local authorities to bring justice to the perpe-

trators. Justice needs to be swift & severe!” DeSantis tweeted.

Businessman and TV personality Marcus Lemonis, star of “The Profit,” took to Twitter to offer a \$100,000 reward to help authorities capture the suspects.

Gun violence ushered in the Memorial Day weekend in South Florida when dozens of shots were fired outside another gathering in Miami’s Wynwood area. The shooting late Friday killed one person and injured six others.



UK PM BORIS JOHNSON MARRIES FIANCEE IN PRIVATE CEREMONY

Newlyweds PM Boris Johnson and Carrie Johnson pose together in the garden at 10 Downing Street

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has married his fiancée, Carrie Symonds, in a small private ceremony that came at the end of a tumultuous week during which a former top aide said he was unfit for office.

The couple wed Saturday at the Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral in front of a small group of friends and family, Johnson's office said Sunday, confirming newspaper reports that were published overnight. Photos taken after the ceremony in the garden of the prime minister's residence showed Symonds in a long white dress and floral headband. Johnson wore a dark suit.

"The Prime Minister

and Ms. Symonds were married yesterday afternoon in a small ceremony at Westminster Cathedral, Downing Street said. "The couple will celebrate their wedding with family and friends next summer."

The couple have reportedly sent save-the-date cards to family and friends for a celebration on July 30, 2022. Under current coronavirus restrictions in England, no more than 30 people can attend a wedding.

Johnson, 56, and Symonds, a 33-year-old Conservative Party insider and environmental advocate, announced their engagement in February 2020. Their son, Wilfred, was born in April last year.

The marriage is John-

son's third. He has at least five other children from previous relationships. Johnson's previous marriages would not have stopped him from having a Catholic wedding because they didn't take place in the Catholic Church, Matt Chinery, an ecclesiastical and canon lawyer, told Times Radio.

"In the eyes of the Catholic church, Boris Johnson woke up last week as somebody who wasn't married and had never been married and so was free to marry in the cathedral this weekend," he said.

Johnson was baptized as a Catholic but he was confirmed as a member of the Church of England as a teenager.

The last British prime

minister to marry in office was Lord Liverpool in 1822.

The wedding followed a difficult political week for Johnson.

His former top aide, Dominic Cummings, on Wednesday told lawmakers that Johnson had bungled the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic and said he was "unfit for the job."

Britain has Europe's highest coronavirus death toll, at over 128,000 people, but it has also produced one of the world's most successful vaccination programs, inoculating 74% of its adults. Daily deaths have plummeted to single digits of late, compared to over 1,800 one day in January.

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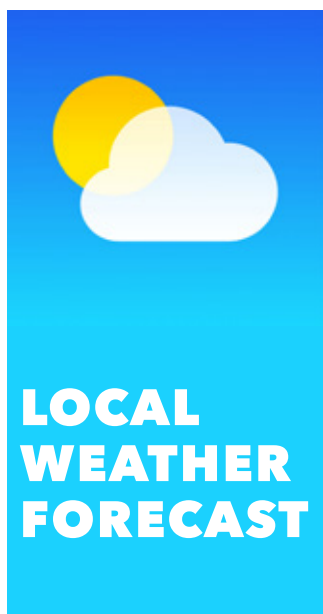
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Humidity 66%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 75%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 05:33	Sunset 18:37	Moonrise 23:55	Moonsset 10:39
		☾ Waning Gibbous	
Tue 01 Day 29° 19% Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h.		Tue 01 Night 25° 23% Partly cloudy. Low 25°C. Winds E at 15 to 25 km/h.	
Humidity 67%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 76%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 05:33	Sunset 18:37	Moonrise --	Moonsset 11:36
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Date: 28th May 2021

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission announces the following **VACANT POSITIONS** within the organization.

1. Technical Specialist- Data Monitoring & Evaluation - **Deadline: 4th June 2021**
2. Procurement Officer - **Deadline: 15th June 2021**

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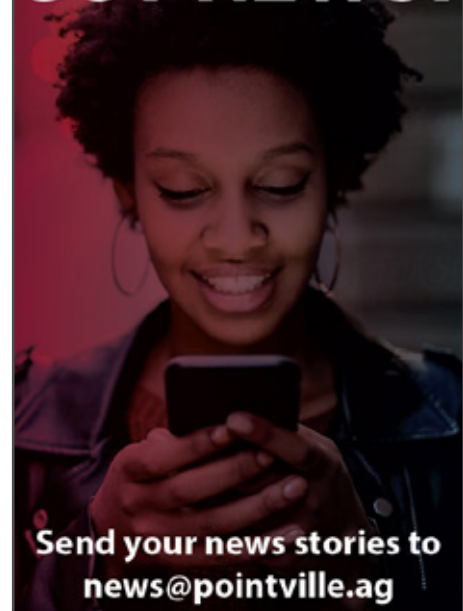
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Chelsea team members hold League Championship trophy high during celebrations

BBC Sports - Chelsea won the Champions League for the second time with a fully deserved victory over Manchester City in an all-Premier League confrontation in Porto. Thomas Tuchel got the better of his Manchester City counterpart Pep Guardiola for the third time, since succeeding sacked Frank Lampard in January, to bring European club football's biggest prize back to Stamford Bridge for the first time since 2012. Kai Havertz, blossoming after a slow start to his Chelsea career, got the winner three minutes before half-time when he collected a defence-splitting pass from Mason Mount to round City goalkeeper Ederson and score. It leaves City still searching for the Champions League, the trophy that has always eluded them, and Guardiola cannot escape scrutiny for his part in this defeat after taking a tactical gamble which

backfired. Guardiola surprisingly decided against utilising either Rodri or Fernandinho as a defensive midfielder, leaving City with a muddled game plan that reduced their effectiveness and rarely presented Chelsea with any problems. Chelsea had the better opportunities throughout; Timo Werner wasting two good chances before Havertz struck, and substitute Christian Pulisic squandering another in the second half. City, who lost Kevin De Bruyne to injury midway through the second half, threw on Sergio Aguero for his final appearance. But there was no fairytale ending for the club's greatest goalscorer as Chelsea closed out the win. And, for Tuchel, it was elation after the disappointment of losing last year's final as manager of Paris St-Germain. Tuchel made it three out of three against Guardiola by producing a fiercely disci-

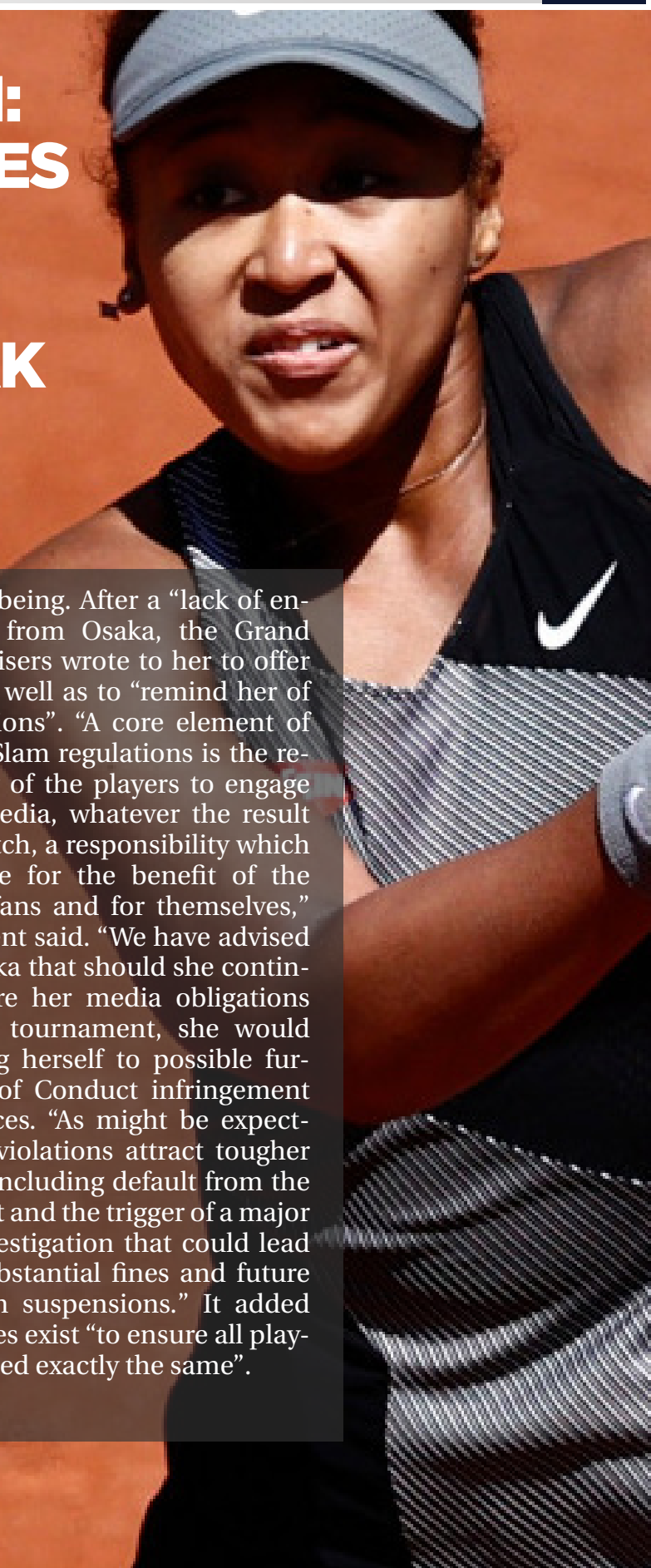
plined, positive Chelsea performance that has brought a season that was shrouded in uncertainty to the most glorious conclusion. The German has transformed Chelsea since his arrival in January, making significant changes by restoring the towering Antonio Rudiger in central defence and playing the magnificent man-of-the-match N'golo Kante in the position in which he is quite simply a world-class operator. Kante controlled everything from his position in midfield, the complete player giving a breathtaking performance. Chelsea needed to be defensively perfect, but this was no smash-and-grab result. It was a front-foot display to take the initiative away from City in the first half. They then held firm in the second with very few anxious moments.

FRENCH OPEN 2021: NAOMI OSAKA FACES DEFAULT FROM GRAND SLAM FOR REFUSING TO SPEAK TO MEDIA

BBC Sports - Naomi Osaka has won four of the eight Grand Slams she has played, having claimed two US Open titles (2018 and 2020) and two Australian Open titles (2019 and 2021). World number two Naomi Osaka faces expulsion from the French Open and future Grand Slams if she continues to refuse to speak to the media, organisers said.

Japan's Osaka said last week she will not give any news conferences during Roland Garros because she wants to protect her mental health. She was fined \$15,000 (£10,570) for not doing media after Sunday's first-round win over Romania's Patricia Maria Tig. The second seed won 6-4, 7-6 (7-4). A joint statement from the four Grand Slam organisers said Osaka also faces "more substantial fines and future Grand Slam suspensions". They added that following her announcement, Roland Garros teams asked the 23-year-old to reconsider her position and were unsuccessful in their attempts to check

on her wellbeing. After a "lack of engagement" from Osaka, the Grand Slam organisers wrote to her to offer support, as well as to "remind her of her obligations". "A core element of the Grand Slam regulations is the responsibility of the players to engage with the media, whatever the result of their match, a responsibility which players take for the benefit of the sport, the fans and for themselves," the statement said. "We have advised Naomi Osaka that should she continue to ignore her media obligations during the tournament, she would be exposing herself to possible further Code of Conduct infringement consequences. "As might be expected, repeat violations attract tougher sanctions, including default from the tournament and the trigger of a major offence investigation that could lead to more substantial fines and future Grand Slam suspensions." It added that the rules exist "to ensure all players are treated exactly the same".



Cont'd Form pg 34

The West Indies Men are gearing up to begin a busy summer schedule which includes visits from South Africa, Australia and Pakistan before the Caribbean Premier League

begins in late August. The players and staff were previously forced to train in small groups as a result of the positive COVID-19 test and isolation of fast bowler Marquino

Mindley on Friday, May 22. Mindley, who has already returned one negative PCR test on Thursday, remains asymptomatic and in isolation at the team hotel. The CWI medical

team continues to monitor his progress, as he requires one more negative PCR test before being allowed to re-join the squad.



WEST INDIES BACK TO FULL TRAINING

WEST INDIES BACK TO FULL TRAINING; SIMMONS PLEASED WITH BUILDUP TO FACE PROTEAS

GROS ISLET, Saint Lucia – The West Indies Men's squad has returned to full training in two groups at their preparation camp in St. Lucia, after all members of the squad returned negative PCR tests following the latest round of testing that was conducted on Thursday. They had team sessions on Friday as well as Saturday morning and afternoon. Head coach Phil Simmons is happy to be able to now fine tune his squad's preparation in the build-up to the two-match Test Series against South Africa. These matches will be played at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground for the Sir Vivian Richards Tro-

phy on June 10-14 and June 18-22, and are the final matches in the current cycle of the ICC World Test Championship. The Proteas are due to arrive on the island on Tuesday, June 1. The West Indies players will be involved in a "Best v Best" four-day match at the same venue beginning on Monday, May 31. The head coach sees this as a great opportunity for all involved. "I am happy that we are back to full training. We are happy with the preparations up to this point and everyone is fully aware of what is required," Simmons said. "Yes, we had four good Test matches (vs Bangladesh and

Sri Lanka) but, at the same time, people need to know that their position is not guaranteed unless they continue play well. Guys who are out need to show that they want to get back in by doing well in these games. So, it is a benefit to every one of us." Simmons also praised the facilities provided in St. Lucia throughout the camp at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, which is overseen by CWI head groundsman Kent Crafton.

Cont'd on pg 31

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