



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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4 MONTHS EXTENSION FOR ILLEGALS

SEE PAGE 3



CALVINAIR CONTINUES TO PROVIDE MEDEVAC SERVICES ([STORY ON PAGE 4](#))

INDIAN MEDIA DISPLAYS PURPORTED PASSPORT PAGE OF CHOKSI MYSTERY WOMAN ([STORY ON PAGE 10](#))

The power of logic VS the lust of opportunism

The power of logic vs the lust of opportunism Antigua and Barbuda will not condone or accept the abduction of anyone, regardless of their status within or in relation to this country. This is the position of Prime Minister Gaston Browne; a non-partisan articulation so fully reflective of our national values, that we at Pointe


Xpress have no hesitation in making it the subject of this Editorial.

The only thing currently eliciting more conspiracy theories in Antigua and Barbuda than COVID-19 has bestirred on a broader global scale, is the bizarre escape or abduction (depending on who you believe) of Mehul Choksi to Dom-

inica. Not surprisingly, the usual suspects of opportunistic opposition in both islands have been positioning themselves in accordance with how they think the wind is blowing and making appropriate noises to see if, fortuitously, they might score a scatter-shot political hit.

With the force of logic and commonsense

on his side, Prime Minister Gaston Browne was on Saturday entitled – even inadvertently – to permit himself the space of what may well have been a toying rhetorical question; intended, more than anything else, to expose the vacuousness of those who are so easily and repeatedly lured into ‘playing smart but not



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MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Monday, 7th June 2021	Tuesday, 8th June 2021	Wednesday, 9th June 2021	Thursday, 10th June 2021
<div>SECTION OF HERBERTS, ALL SAINTS ROAD AND LAW PASTURE</div> <div>8:30 AM - 12:00 PM</div>	<div>SECTION OF GREEN BAY NEAR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL</div> <div>8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</div>	<div>SECTION OF ENGLISH HARBOUR, HOSPITAL HILL, PIGEON POINT & DOCKYARD</div> <div>8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</div>	<div>SECTION OF SWETES NEAR ST. ANNS ROAD</div> <div>8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</div>
			<div>SECTION OF WEATHERILLS TOWARD MICHEAL'S BUFF</div> <div>8:30 AM - 11:30 AM</div>

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.

being clever’.

“What is the possibility of the Antiguan government having an agreement with the Dominican government to abduct Choksi from Antigua to take him to Dominica, to have him abducted a second time? Because, clearly, they (Dominica) will have to remove him and place him on some kind of vessel to take him back to India. It just wouldn’t make any sense.”

He went on to point

out that, “Antigua and Barbuda has far more assets and better infrastructure than Dominica when it comes to airport infrastructure ... that can accommodate larger jets and so on. So, if any such consideration was given ... then the neatest thing would have been to have a private jet come here, abduct him and put on that private jet and take him back to India ... There would have been no need to in-

volve any other country.”

But Prime Minister Browne stressed that no such consideration was ever entertained, as the Government of Antigua which he heads is not and has never been involved in any abduction – and most certainly not of its own citizens and residents!

However the reflexive knee-jerk oppositionism that has characterized and typified the current crop of

political opponents is unlikely to be amenable to this elimination of their own concocted speculations through simple reasoning. They will doubtless continue to latch on to notions – however hare-brained, far-fetched and fanciful – once it is coated (honey-trapped?) with the self-ensnaring syrup of any treacherous opportunity to revile and malign their own country.

Illegals offered 4-month extension in exchange for getting vaccinated

By Shelton Daniel

Non-nationals who are have overstayed their time in Antigua and Barbuda, or are otherwise in the country illegally, will be granted an automatic 4-month extension if they pres-

ent themselves for COVID-19 vaccination.

This announcement by Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Saturday was in addition to his declaration the previous weekend, assuring such illegals that they would not be appre-

hended or pursued as a result of being identified in the course of getting vaccinated.

“The Cabinet recently decided that there will be an automatic extension of four months for illegal immigrants who are unvaccinated.

We want them to come above ground. We don’t want individuals to stay below the radar because they may not have any time in the country and do not get vaccinated,” he told program host Senator Colin O’Neal Browne.

Elaborating further why he was eager for persons not to be driven underground because of their immigration status, the Prime Minister repeated a point he made earlier that in the battle against COVID, a community or country could be undone by its most vulnerable.

“Obviously the most vulnerable in our society could well be some of those undocumented immigrants, especially those in poorer communities. You have population pressures, living in close proximity to each other and so on. We want to make sure that we get them above ground and sort them out, get them vaccinated, and we would have given an assurance before that there would be no removal from the State,” he explained.

The Prime Minister was however careful to clarify that this waiver or deferral in removing those who are here illegally is conditional on them not having been involved in or convicted of any crimes more serious than merely overstaying, otherwise the leniency offered for the purpose of vaccination could not be reasonably extended.

Barbuda teen airlifted by CalvinAir helicopter to MSJMC



A Barbudan teenager is now doing much better after experiencing a medical emergency on the sister isle on Thursday, June 3, 2021.

Fourteen year-old Patrice Jeffrey and her mom, Ionie Jeffrey, spent a tiring 24-hours at the Hanna Thomas Hospital where the teen's condition was considered serious enough for head resident doctor, Dr. Jeremy Deazel, to recommend that she be medevac'd to the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Centre.

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Relations Specialist, Jamilla Kirwan, said she received the urgent call on Thursday morning from the girl's frantic aunt, Makeda Philip, whose own toddler, Miracle Charles, had also been airlifted to MSJMC in April after experiencing febrile seizures. "When I saw Makeda's number, I immediately thought perhaps Miracle was in distress again," Kirwan said. "So I answered the call quickly." However, Kirwan learned that this time it was Makeda's niece Patrice who had, ironically, been present during the in-

fant's ordeal in April.

After listening to Makeda's distress call regarding her niece's medical challenge, which she said included a fever and severe chest pains, Kirwan promptly alerted the company's helicopter pilots.

"This case needed to be transported to MSJMC," said head of Hanna Thomas' medical team, Dr. Jeremy Deazel, who coordinated the teen's arrival with his colleagues in Antigua. "Our usual travel arrangements had some difficulties and CalvinAir stepped

in and offered their service. The patient was successfully transported directly to the hospital to seek further treatment." A further update on Friday by Philip confirmed that, among other tests, a chest x-ray revealed infection in her niece's lungs. "She is receiving medication now and is feeling much better. My family is very thankful again for your help," a grateful Philip concluded. According to Dr. Deazel, it has always been challenging to medevac patients from Barbuda to Antigua, especially in certain conditions and particularly at night. "I would like to take this opportunity

to thank CalvinAir Helicopters for their support and hope this kind service will be provided continuously in the future. We appreciate it."

"This is the fourth medical emergency CalvinAir has provided since commencing operation in November of 2020," Kirwan confirmed. "In addition to this case, a few days ago CalvinAir medevac'd a 57 year-old heart attack victim on Friday, May 28." According to Kirwan, the company has pledged its support to medical emergency airlift and search and rescue, which will be paid for by the Calvin Ayre Foundation.

A&B now in a much better place – PM Browne



By Shelton Daniel

There has been a significant reduction in the number of active COVID cases, and this puts the country “in a very good place” with a rate of less than one new case per week.

The above was a summary by Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston Browne during his weekly radio program on the weekend.

He’s hopeful that the unfavorable international listings that Antigua and Barbuda suffered due to an explosion of new cases at the start of 2021 “will be reviewed, based on the fact that COVID

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has been brought under control as a result of all the health protocols – and, at the same time, the vaccinations which clearly are working. “Currently, there are just over 34,000 people who have had their first dose, and – to be precise – 21,500 individuals are fully vaccinated. That is pretty impressive and we expect that within the next, probably, two weeks we should get up to about 27,000 easily,” he stated Satur-

day via his Browne and Browne Show on **Pointe FM 99.1**. His reference to 27,000 pertains to the number of people who were vaccinated during the first round of inoculations that took place before a pause to await the arrival of adequate supplies for second round jabs and for the required 3-month spacing between shots. “The whole idea is to get from 27,000 to 40,000 by the end of this month,” he added, referring

to the total extent of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine stocks that have been available in the country to date, and the fact that their expiry date equates to the end of June 2021. PM Browne is hopeful that the target of having 40,000 people fully inoculated by then will achieve the desired thorough utilization of all 80,000 doses of the vaccine which the country has gone through great pains to procure.

Promoters report strong demand for restart of fete season

There is a strong demand for the fete season in Antigua and Barbuda to restart following the closure of this segment of the entertainment industry for the past 15 months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Spokesman for the Antigua and Barbuda Promoters Association, Chalita Rose of the Marketing Machine, said the Association has received numerous requests from would-be patrons about when the fete season will reopen.

The association sat down with the Cabinet two weeks ago to iron out a set of conditions that will pave the way for the fetes to begin. “We have been receiving these requests about the protocols that are to go in place and how soon will their favourite fetes return. So they are asking about the ‘blue jeans’, ‘red eye’ etc., and all we are doing for now

is to provide all the information,” he stated.

As an association, Rose said their focus at the moment is not just the insistence of the protocols that have been agreed with the government, but to ensure that there are effective ways to police the enforcement of these rules.

The promoter is also reporting that the Association has seen very little ‘pushback’ from patrons over the stipulation that all attendees must be fully vaccinated as a condition for entry to the event. “So far we have seen a willingness on their part to comply with the conditions for attending these events,” he stated.

Rose is of the view that patrons for the several fetes that take place at this time each year as a build up to the annual carnival festivities are ‘hungry’ for such

events after over a year of being in lockdown because of COVID-19. “People just want to go out to a fete to have fun. I guess it’s part of human psychology where they feel this strong urge to socialize in groups and to party,” he declared.

He explained that while he, Cabinet and the promoters agree that the fete season can restart as of July 16, there is no confirmed date as to when the first such event will be staged. According to Rose, that event will be a joint undertaking of all the promoters acting as a united body to stage. “We have not yet set a date for that event,” he declared.

He disclosed that there are still some details that are being ironed out and he expects the association to be in a position to make an announcement later this week.

Authorization holdup has Sputnik vaccines sitting idle, undelivered



By Shelton Daniel

Antigua and Barbuda is currently sitting on 1,000 doses of the Sputnik-5 vaccine that it cannot use, because the legally empowered local body is still refusing to grant authorization for domestic use of the Russian-manufactured pharmaceutical defense against COVID-19.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne during his weekly radio program on **Pointe FM 99.1**, The Browne and Browne Show.

He explained that, “Health officials here have said they are awaiting WHO (World Health Organization) approvals.”

Despite rave reviews in top flight medical journals such as The Lancet, the Sputnik-5 – developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology

and Microbiology in Moscow – is yet to receive WHO approval for use. The coveted imprimatur has already been bestowed on both of China’s vaccine brands, the SinoVac and SinoPharm – in addition to several others currently in use, such as the Oxford-AstraZeneca which so far monopolizes the public vaccination programs of Antigua and Barbuda as well as in many other countries within the Caribbean and beyond.

Prime Minister Browne suggested that this was something his government would take up with the Pharmacy Council of Antigua and Barbuda, which most recently gave the green-light for SinoPharm to be used in the twin-island state. “I think we need to have a discussion with them next [this] week to see if we can come to a compromise,” PM Browne stated, referring to the

Pharmaceutical Council.

He noted that “for the western vaccines we did not await WHO approvals. I imagine that, because we are accustomed to western vaccines, our health officials are a little more cautious. But we cannot have one of the best vaccines in the world – 1,000 of them – sitting there and not being able to use them.”

PM Browne recalled that, “The Russian government had offered us 2,000 vaccines as a gift. We got the first 1,000 but have not been able to collect the other 1,000 because of this impasse.”

In addition to that, the Prime Minister disclosed, “The Russian government had agreed to sell us some more Sputniks, but until such time as we resolve this issue to [authorize] use of the vaccines, we cannot pursue that order.”



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Tourism Minister voices optimism over the future of this key industry



Tourism Minister Charles Henry Fernandez

Tourism Minister Charles Henry Fernandez remains optimistic that the critical tourism industry will see a strong rebound later this year as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic subsides in key source markets.

Speaking on the US television network CNBC on Friday, Fernandez said despite seeing significant declines in 2020 and earlier this year because of the pandemic, already there are signs that the industry will record strong growth in the second half of the year.

“We remain optimistic and hopeful that we will see an uptick in arrivals this year,” he told the hosts of the morning programme.

On the issue of Antigua

and Barbuda remaining part of the UK’s ‘amber list’ of countries where certain measures remain, Fernandez said

it was disappointing not to make it onto the ‘green list’ as the Antigua and Barbuda has done a good job to keep the rate of infection of COVID-19 quite low.

“We also believe that most of the islands of the Caribbean are relatively safe and we continue to do our part in keeping those numbers down,” he added.

Fernandez noted that the government has had to engage in what he termed ‘a delicate balancing act’ in its policy of protecting lives and livelihoods during this pandemic.

“Our paramount concern is the protection of lives and to keep people safe. As a result, the ministry of tourism works very closely with the ministry of health on this issue. We believe that the risk to anyone has been greatly reduced and we have seen more and more travelers come in now who are fully vaccinated and we are doing everything we can to ensure that all our frontline workers are fully vaccinated. We are also ensuring that our people are safe and that all visitors are safe as well,” he remarked.

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Mehul Choksi Entered Dominica With A Hungarian, Indian & A Britisher; Passports Accessed

REPUBLIC WORLD, India -- In a sensational development, Republic Media Network (www.republicworld.com) has exclusively accessed copies of the passports of the 'mystery trio' who are speculated to have entered Dominica along with fugitive ex-diamondaire Mehul Choksi.

In an explosive revelation even as Choksi fights deportation, passport copies of three individuals who allegedly entered Dominica with him – identified as

Gurmit Singh, Gurjit Singh and Barbara Jarabica – have been accessed by Republic TV.

As per the passport copies accessed by Republic, Gurmit Singh is an Indian national while Gurjit Singh is a British citizen. The 'mystery woman' who was later identified as Barbara Jarabica is a Hungarian national. Here are the copies of the passports of the 'mystery trio' accessed by Republic:

Gurjit Singh, British Citizen:

Barbara Jarabica, Hungarian

national: Gurmit Singh, Indian national:

Dominica magistrate court denies bail to Mehul Choksi

On Thursday, a Magistrate court in Dominica rejected Choksi's bail plea saying that it was not convinced that the diamondaire will stay in Dominica during the trial, considering the "severity" of the matter. Choksi's lawyers have alleged that he was kidnapped, beaten and unwillingly brought



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Alongside a photo of Mehul Choksi, this article in the Indian online publication REPUBLICWORLD.COM purports to show the passport bio pages of a trio who allegedly kidnapped from Antigua and accompanied him to Dominica where he was arrested. The reputedly “mystery woman”, said to be a Hungarian or Bulgarian named Barbara Jarabica, has been linked to the so-called “honey trap” abduction plot. Choksi’s wife has claimed that the woman in question departed Antigua by air the day after his disappearance. Media in India continues to have a field day with the Choksi saga. Now this piece from Republic World:

to Dominica and that he would not be able to leave the country due to ill-health and extradition proceedings in Antigua & Barbuda. Choksi is currently housed in Dominica-China Friendship Hospital under police guard.

On Friday, Mehul Choksi had filed a plea seeking bail in the Dominican High Court. This will be heard on June 8. Meanwhile, the next hearing on his bail plea in the Magistrate’s court is scheduled for June 14.

Mehul Choksi arrested

Mehul Choksi purportedly went “missing” after going out for dinner in Antigua island on

May 23 and could not be traced even though his vehicle was traced in the Jolly Harbour later. Following a yellow notice alert, Dominican authorities arrested Choksi for allegedly illegally entering the country via Toucari Beach. While Choksi is seeking to be repatriated to Antigua where he enjoys citizenship, Antigua PM Gaston Browne has now refused to grant him entry in Antigua and asked the Dominican government to directly deport him to India. An eight-member team of the CBI, the ED, and the Ministry of External Affairs had flown to Dominica to pursue the case for Choksi’s deportation, but has now returned to India.

Mehul Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi have been accused of allegedly siphoning off Rs 13,500 crore of public money from the Punjab National Bank (PNB), using letters of undertaking. Owner of the Gitanjali group, a retail jewellery company, Choksi secured the citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda in November 2017 under the aegis of the Citizenship by Investment Programme and fled to the island nation in the first week of January 2018 and India formally sought Choksi’s extradition in August 2018. While the UK has ordered Modi’s deportation, Choksi is yet to face such heat.



Chinese man still missing since XPZ fire

Police say they are continuing investigations into a Missing Person Report concerning 29-year-old Chinese national Tianzhao Feng, also known as “Alex”, of Sir Sidney Walling Highway. Alex was reported missing on Tuesday 1st June 2021 to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID). Police

say he was last seen about 11:00 p.m. on Monday 31st May 2021 at his residence on the same property as the XPZ Supermarket on Sir Sidney Walling Highway. Based on information received, Police say, they have made several attempts to contact Alex and have conducted numerous searches to no avail.

Alex is described as fair in complexion, 5’ 5” tall, and slimly built. Police are therefore seeking assistance from the public to determine the whereabouts of Mr. “Alex” Feng. Anyone with information is asked to call the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) at 462-3913/14.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF EMERGENCY SHELTERS FOR 2021



The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) has published a preliminary list of buildings to be utilized as public shelters during this year's Atlantic Hurricane Season which officially begins on June 1st and ends on November 30th.

The 42 shelters are spread throughout the country's 17 disaster

districts. The structures were inspected by the Ministry of Works, determined to be fit for purpose, and recommended for use.

NODS says it will ensure that all the facilities are provided with adequate supplies for hand-washing, sanitizing and cleaning, in line with COVID-19 guidelines.

In a press release it explains that, "All the shelters are managed by a team that works closely with the District Disaster Coordinator who volunteers on behalf of NODS.

"NODS continues to advise that sheltering with family and friends should be the first option and ... public shelters should be the

last resort." However persons going to shelter should take along their own emergency supplies. The **PRELIMINARY 2021 LIST OF EMERGENCY SHELTERS** issued by NODS is herein published for public benefit.

NOTICE

Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
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To: Commissioner of police
Police Headquarters
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Antigua

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice- Application for Liquor Licence

I, Touni Karam of Marble Hill, with registered business situate at Jolly Harbour in St. Mary's Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our 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 day of 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 "**Wet Deck Pool & Bar**" situated at Jolly Harbour in the parish of St. Mary's, Antigua and Barbuda.

My telephone number is 1 268 722 7792.

Dated the 3rd day of June, 2021

NATIONAL OFFICE OF DISASTER SERVICES (NODS)
NAMES OF THE DISTRICT DISASTER COORDINATORS, THEIR DEPUTIES AND THE 2021 HURRICANE SHELTERS

NO.	NAMES	DISTRICTS	TELEPHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	NAMES OF SHELTERS	LOCATIONS
1	Adelta Burton <i>Desmond Thomas</i>	All Saints East and St. Lukes	774-1970 728-8071 460-1970 782-1153	cavel-burton@hotmail.com	1. J.T. Ambrose Primary School 2. Sawcolts Methodist Church 3. Old Road Primary School 4. Old Road Anglican Church	All Saints Village Sawcolts Village Old Road Village Old Road Village
2	Roland Joseph <i>Philmore Athill</i>	All Saints West	460-1756 (H) 773-5157 776-6400 732-7200	bacusbikes@hotmail.com	1. Sea View Farm Primary School 2. J.T. Ambrose Primary School	Sea View Farm Village All Saints Village
3	Tessa Webber <i>Daphne Desouza</i>	Barbuda	785-1162 562-8728(W) 460-0497 (H) 721-2850 562-3339	tessawebber6@gmail.com daffiedesouza@hotmail.com	1. Barbuda Day Care 2. Barbuda Sports Complex 3. Sir McChesney George Secondary School	Codrington, Barbuda Codrington, Barbuda Codrington, Barbuda
NO.	NAMES	DISTRICTS	TELEPHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	NAMES OF SHELTERS	LOCATIONS
4.	Erold Marshall	St. John's City East	772-4806		1. Villa Seventh Day Adventist Church 2. Princess Margaret Secondary School 3. St. John's Pentecostal Church, House of Restoration	Fort Road Lower Gambles Lauchland Benjamin Drive
5	Marcus Scott <i>Dayton Morris</i>	St. John's City South	723-2222 773-1370 560-4618 (H) 720-8733 562-5547	jomeishal@hotmail.com daytonmorris@gmail.com	1. Ottos Comprehensive School 2. Mary E. Pigott Primary School	Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos
6	Blondell Gunthrope-Hopkins <i>Jean-marie Jean Baptiste</i>	St. John's City West	780-0261 484-2122 771-0805	blondiefresh@gmail.com jbaptiste182@gmail.com	1. St Andrews Anglican Church	Fort Road
7	John Dunnah <i>Bobby Emanuel</i>	St. John's Rural East	780-3167 562-3860 560-7281 785-9773	dunnahjohn1957@gmail.com bemanuel@isisports.com	1. Clare Hall Secondary School 2. Clare Hall Seventh Day Adventist Church 3. Bethel Gospel Hall 4. Mount of Blessing New Testament Church of God 5. Living Hope Christian Union Church	Clare Hall Clare Hall St. Johnston's Village Main Road Clare Hall Wireless Road
NO.	NAMES	DISTRICTS	TELEPHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	NAMES OF SHELTERS	LOCATION
8	Josina France <i>Craig Ryan</i>	St. John's Rural North	786-0652 481-6361 (W) 463-9763 (H) 481-6330 (Fax) 788-7680	josinaquin@hotmail.com jfrance@mbs.gov.ag craigryan0070@gmail.com	1. Cedar Grove Primary School 2. St. James Anglican Church School Room 3. Cedar Grove Government Creche 4. Yorks Community Centre	Cedar Grove Village Cedar Grove Village Cedar Grove Village Yorks Village
9.	Algen Isaac <i>Semone Ambrose</i>	St. John's Rural South	464-5095 460-6034(W) 723-4418	algenisaac063@gmail.com semonea15@gmail.com	1. Mary E. Pigott Primary School 2. Ottos Comprehensive School 3. St. John's Church of Christ	Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos Golden Grove Main Road
10.	Janice Benjamin-Edwards <i>Eisen Baptiste</i> <i>Gail Daniel</i>	St. John's Rural West	773-8886 481-7557 (W) 463-8886 (H) 729-8894 481-7542 (W) 788-9864 775-8643	janicebenjamin45@gmail.com naldo_nicola@hotmail.com	1. Green Bay Primary School 2. Shiloh Gospel Hall 3. Five Islands Campus gymnasium	Federation Rd., Green Bay Five Islands Village Five Islands Village
NO.	NAMES	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	NAME OF SHELTER	LOCATIONS
11.	Samantha Burnette <i>Keiva Davis</i>	St George	786-7422 736-2456 770-2456	samanburnette12@gmail.com daviskeiva@yahoo.com	1. Bethany Gospel Hall 2. New Winthropes Primary School 3. Pigotts Primary School 4. Sir Novelle Richards Academy of Science & Technology	New Winthropes Village Barnes Hill Village Pigotts Village Potters Village
12.	Jennifer Murray <i>Calvin Carr</i> <i>Cassandra Murray-Watkins</i>	St. Mary's North	464-0277 461-0091 (H) 786-7527 727-7390 480-7390	delosj@hotmail.com calvincarr5@gmail.com cassmurraywatkins@gmail.com	1. St. John's Church of Christ 2. Bendals Zion Church of God 3. Cedar Hall Moravian Church Community Centre	Golden Grove Main Rd. Bendals Village Jennings Village

13.	Lebert Francis <i>Alvin Erskine</i>	St. Mary's South	770-8997 721-4385	lebertchair@gmail.com	1. Bolans Seventh-Day Adventist Church 2. Urlings Seventh-Day Adventist Church 3. Urlings Primary School	Bolans Village Urlings Village Urlings Village
14.	Eloise Harris <i>Fernley Latchman</i>	St. Paul	788-2787 460-3213 (H) 460-1009 (W) 770-9916	eloiseh268@gmail.com	1. Cobbs Cross Primary School	Cobbs Cross

NO.	NAMES	DISTRICT	TELEPHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SHELTERS	LOCATION
15.	Garfield Smith <i>Joel Andrew</i>	St. Peter	481-1500 (W) 462-1265 (W) 463-2157 (H) 729-5697 560-7789 (H) 480-7017 (W)	antprint@candw.ag andrewjoel43@gmail.com	1. Pares Seventh-Day Adventist Church 2. Parham Primary School 3. Parham Pentecostal Church	Pares Village Parham Town Parham Town

16.	Lydia Philip <i>Avor Otto</i>	St. Phillips North	788-9992 786-5400 727-1010 480-7276 (W)	lydiaphilip857@gmail.com sexykegan9324@gmail.com	1. Seaglans Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church 2. Glanvilles Secondary School	Glanvilles Village Glanvilles Village
17.	Chelo Francis <i>Kennedy Tonge</i>	St. Phillips South	789-2420 774-3112 562-4430 (W) 776-7400 462-0192 (W)	chichif@live.com marshatonge@hotmail.com	1. Bethesda Pentecostal Church, House of Prayer	Bethesda Village

Last updated 1st June 2021

Please note:

1. The District Disaster Coordinators are shown in bold while their deputies are italicized.
2. Some districts share emergency shelters so they might be listed in more than one district.

New! **Kentucky CHICKEN SANDWICH**

\$12⁹⁹

BUTTERY Brioche Bun

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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 13999	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	

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		Midcie Franics- 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-Swetes
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

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 39873	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	Toyota Hilux		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	
ABP47	Mitsubishi ASX		Brown	
ABP 48	Mitsubishi ASX		Grey	

A 48656	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 Alteeza	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		Janeille 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-Willikies
A 16611	Toyota Corolla	28-06-2020		n/a
C 17216	Kia m/truck	19-06-2020		Ernest Benjamin-Marble Hill
A 36905	Toyota Alteeza	01-08-2020		Michael Polansky-Dutchmans Bay
A 48359	Nissan March	20-08-2020		Edmond Brann-Sea View Farm
TX 930	Nissan Civilian	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

LIST OF VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED in 2021

Vehicles at Police Headquarters

C 12908	Nissan Frontier	07-08-2020		Roroy Johnson-Union Rd	N/A	Honda m/cycle	04-07-2019		
A49518	Toyota Yaris	17-08-2020		Denfield Ryan-Buckleys	A 31473	Toyota Corolla	25-07-2019		Martin Foster-Fort Road
A 58128	Toyota Allion	10-08-2020		Petrice Valentine-Potters	A 30899	Honda Crisso	14-07-2019		Michael Binai-Blue Waters
N/A Salanio Gillion	Yamaha R6 m/cycle	06-09-2020	Green & White		C 14729	Toyota Noah	23-07-2019		Glinton Omarde-Belmont
A 4309	Toyota Vitz	04-09-2020	Silver	T&J Trucking-Lightfoot	A 4186	Nissan March	29-03-2019		Wendell Peets-Liberta
A 25346	Toyota Corolla	11-09-2020	Beige	Delvin Berkeley-Desouza Rd	A 3708	Mitsubishi Towner	10-03-2019		Carlton Rhodes-Five Islands
A 55386	Toyota Pocado	21-10-2020	Maroon	Carlos Dela Cruz-Potters	A 29890	Yamaha M/cycle	14-03-2019		Kevin Gomes- Potters
C 15968	Case Backhoe	05-10-2020	Yellow	Alpheus Jacobs-Paynters Paradise	A 36395	M/cycle Flash	22-08-2019		Johnny Laville-Skerritts Pasture
A 51310	Suzuki Swift	18-11-2020	Metal	Oscey Barton-All Saints	C 17160	Slv Toyota Estima	29-08-2019		Floyd Richards-Mc Pond All Saints
A 58213	Daihatsu Terios	17-11-2020	White	Pandora Dance-Liberta	N/A	Toyota Vitz	17-08-2019		
C 17487	Honda Stepwgn	16-11-2020	Black	Michael Barton-Villa	A 43407	Wht Toyota Levin	02-12-2019		Shendale Smith-Freemans Village
A 36278	Toyota Vista	06-11-2020	Silver	George Anthony-Old Road	C 1747	Dodge Rain	13-12-2019	*Grey Dodge Dakota*	Charles Willock-Alfred Peters St Villa
A 25945	Honda Civic	07-11-2020	Blue	n/a	A 14334	Grn Ford Taurus	05-12-2019		James Pelle-Prince Klass St
A 55170	Toyota Platz	23-10-2020	White	Gairey Goulbourne-Herberts	A 40921	Toyota Corona	18-12-2019	*White Toyota Corolla*	Laskley Christopher-Newfield
A 51836	Toyota Corolla	16-03-2020	White	Jamaul Christopher-Newfield	A 46155	Mitsubishi Lancer	07-12-2019		Medina Ciprian-Newgate St
A 20468	Toyota Rav4	08-09-2020	Silver and Black	Dorian Williams-Jennings	A 52567	Toyota Corona	30-09-2019	*Beige Toyota Corolla*	Jahmauley Henry-Bolans
2019					A 51229	Honda Fitz	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



What does Data Science mean for the Caribbean?

By Christal Clashing

Lockdown. It meant different things for different people but for many, it meant a halt to life as we know it. Some jobs immediately ceased to exist, while others struggled to keep their heads above water. With an abrupt suspension to the typical human activity of the 21st century, it was as if everyone, everywhere, for a few weeks at least, stood still as nations across the globe attempted to flatten the curve of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

In the middle of this, some people slunk into depression while others grappling for something to do took to the internet in search of productive alternatives. Podcasts increased, as did live streams and there was a surge of online learning that occurred. None the least

was the education site, EdX which provides free and paid certificate programmes in a range of courses from reputable universities across the United States to include Ivy League schools.

A cursory glance at sites like these will tell you which courses have been most popular as persons realised the need to pivot to a sudden requirement for remote, internet and cloud-based working environments. One topic that seems to keep popping up on these sites is Data Science and the various variations of it like Machine Learning, Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence. Yet, the words “data science” mean little to nothing to most of us in the Caribbean and possibly further afield. However, data, the uses, collec-

tion and application of it, does affect our lives. From securing an insurance policy to more accurately predicting cancer trends, data science has a role to play in the way our hard-earned incomes are spent. Simply put, Data Science is the reading of large volumes of information (called data) for the sake of finding trends in the information so that predictions can be made. This information is usually given numerical values so that mathematical algorithms can make sense of the data faster than a human can.

For data science and its related technologies to work to make accurate predictions, it usually needs a large amount of data so that it can make sense of patterns and apply that to new, incoming in-

formation. Things like your Netflix recommendations and the voice recognition on Siri, Alexa and Google Assistant are all based on some level of data science, some more advanced than others.

In the Caribbean, the bodies that employ the use of data science tend to fall in bigger institutions like banks, insurance companies and government agencies. There, they use historical data to make predictions about their customers' needs and habits and adjust their service offers to suit those trends. However, the challenge is that since many of such institutions are governed by larger international bodies, they end up using data that isn't always specific to the Caribbean context.

That means the solutions being sold to us are not necessarily in our best interest as they are

based on trends on populations in other regions outside of the Caribbean. This is what partnerships with educational institutions like UWI St. Augustine in Trinidad and UWI Five Islands in Antigua, aim to address. By collecting data of our own people, by our people, for our people, we can better serve our Caribbean populations.

Some of the challenges in the past have been that we haven't had the plethora of data needed to pull from, for data science applications to properly work. However, new opportunities exist with almost everyone carrying a smartphone and many persons using additional smart devices. Lifestyle data from these devices are collected by the apps that bring life to these devices. When the Caribbean begins to develop more applications and electronic sources of data collection, the

data about our populations will be more actionable and products and services will better fit our needs.

As with any form of tool that exists, the collection of more Caribbean specific data means that there will be opportunities for it to be used unethically. So as new technologies emerge, don't bury your head in the sand. Think about how you might feel about the implications of such technologies. Ask yourself and those imparting the technology about how your right to privacy is handled. For companies forged in the Caribbean, support them but also keep them accountable. Inquire about how transparent they are in the use of the data they collect. Sometimes, you may not have a great amount of choice on how your data may be used but it is better to be an aware consumer than a blind one.



The advertisement features a dark grey Nissan Frontier PRO 4x4 pickup truck parked on a rocky, mountainous terrain at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the top left corner is the Nissan logo. To the right of the logo, the text reads "New Nissan Frontier PRO - 4X" and "Power up **your PRO side**". In the bottom left corner is the "NISSAN INTELLIGENT MOBILITY" logo. At the bottom center, a banner reads "Visit Hadeed Motors Limited today for the launch of the New Nissan Frontier 12:00noon to 4:00pm".



A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

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BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

Trinidad Guardian Holding Limited relisting bolsters market capitalization to \$1.9 trillion

Guardian Holding Limited, GHL, has now relisted on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) after an 8-year hiatus. However the stock did not trade on May 5, its first day on the market, because the price surpassed the circuit breaker which prevents rapid spikes in prices. Nonetheless, the stock is already trending 33% higher than the price on the Trinidad & Tobago exchange, with the opening price in Jamaica largely reflecting the price in T&T at TT\$26. At the listing ceremony for the 232 million units of GHL stock, JSE managing director Marlene Street Forrest said the cross listing would add \$135 billion in market capitalization, pushing the value of the combined market to around \$1.9 trillion.

Barbados and IMF reach staff level agreement

The IMF and Barbados have reached a staff-level agreement on the completion of the fifth review under the EFF arrangement, which was conducted virtually between May 3-7, 2021. According to the IMF, the economy remains severely depressed by the ongoing global pandemic with tourism operating at a

fraction of normal levels. Economic growth for 2021 is premised on a modest recovery of tourism in the second half of 2021. The Fund, however, hailed the new central bank law adopted in December 2020, which it deems a critical safeguard for continued prudent macroeconomic policy. International reserves now stand at US\$1.3 billion and all quantitative targets for end-March under the EFF were met, except for the performance criterion on central government transfers and grants to public institutions. The Government of Barbados is targeting a primary balance of 0% of GDP for FY2021/22 (compared to a deficit of 1% of GDP in FY2020/21). The long-term debt target of 60% of GDP will be extended by two years (from FY2033/34 to FY 2035/36) to reflect the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

Electronic payments soar by 55.7% in The Bahamas

The Central Bank of The Bahamas 2020 payments survey shows that there were 3,317 cases of cheque, debit and credit card fraud cases processed by commercial banks, valued at some \$5 million. 68.6% of the fraud involving debit card transactions totalled about \$900,000. This rise in payment fraud comes as the volume of electronic payments through the Bahamas Interbank Settlement System Real Time Gross Settlement System increased by 55.7%, with 213,025 transactions last year valued at \$45.5B. Debit card transactions declined by 17.1% to 12.4 million transactions, with values also declining by 7.7% to \$1.8B.

Cayman records public sector surplus of \$202.6 million

Public sector finances in the first quarter of 2021 in the Cayman Islands have exceeded budgetary expectation with a surplus of \$196.2 million. According to finance minister Chris Saunders, revenues benefitted from financial services fees that are predominantly due at the beginning of the year. Statutory authorities and government companies added a net surplus of \$6.4 million, providing an overall public sector surplus in the first quarter of \$202.6 million. In the meantime, the size of total government debt of \$243.8 million at the end of March represents about 5.1% of GDP. Government's cash balance and reserves reached \$611.2 million at the end of March. Of these funds, \$172.1 million are restricted, as part of government's General Reserve and the Environmental Protection Fund. Restricted reserves can only be spent with the approval of Parliament.

Barbados' revenues for FY 2020/21 decline 8%

For the fiscal period ending March 31, 2021, the Barbados Revenue Authority collected just over \$2.24 billion, down \$208 million relative to fiscal year 2019/20. According to Revenue Commissioner Louisa Lewis-Ward, "This decline of 8% is primarily attributed to a decline of \$192 million in VAT; a de-

cline of \$117 million in income tax; and an excise tax decline of \$81 million." Secondary impacts were felt with declines in property tax, withholding tax, fuel tax and room rate levy of \$24 million, \$17 million, \$15 million, & \$14 million, respectively. Alternatively, corporate taxes performed well, buffering some of the negative impact, without which "the decline would have averaged 20%."

Bahamas Investment currency outflows nearly 50% due to COVID-19

The restrictions placed on foreign exchange outflows by the Central Bank of The Bahamas (CBOB) in May 2020 resulted in resident investments through the Investment Currency Market (ICM) declining by 42.6%. The bank had suspended residents' access to foreign exchange for portfolio purchases in the ICM and the Bahamas Depository Receipts Programme. Approvals for commercial banks' remittance of dividend payments abroad were suspended. According to the CBOB, these measures saved up to an estimated \$400M in claims on the reserves. "While the moratorium on dividend remittances was lifted in March 2021, the suspension on portfolio outflows was not scheduled for reassessment until the second half of 2021. As to portfolio investment outflows, during 2020 there was no activity by broker dealers, while resident investments via the ICM totaled \$28.4 M compared to \$49.5 M in 2019," the annual report states.

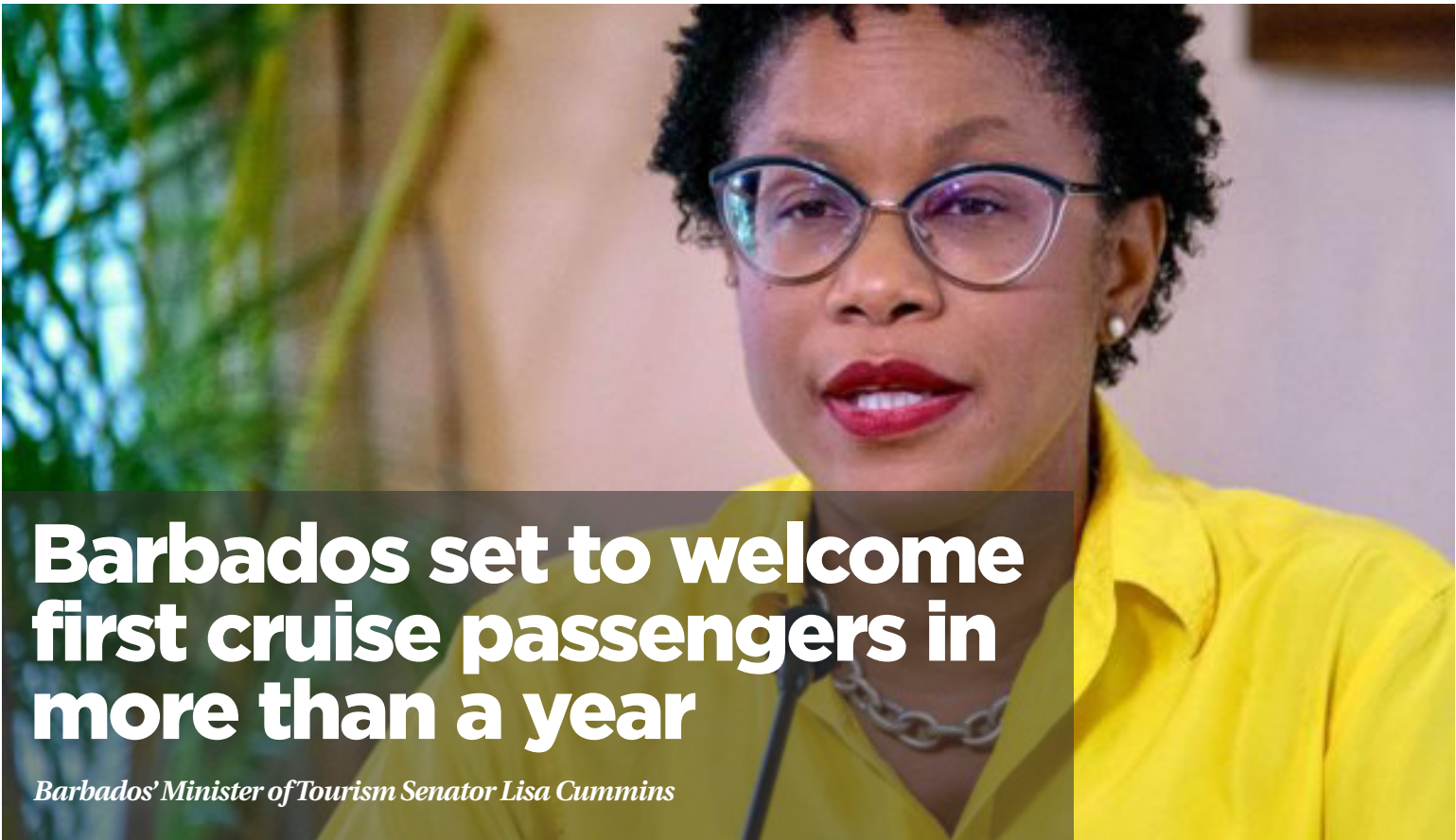


TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

A portrait of Senator Lisa Cummins, Minister of Tourism for Barbados. She is a Black woman with short, curly dark hair, wearing glasses and a bright yellow blazer. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is softly blurred, showing some greenery.

Barbados set to welcome first cruise passengers in more than a year

Barbados' Minister of Tourism Senator Lisa Cummins

Barbados Today - Barbados is preparing to welcome the first cruise in more than a year when the Celebrity Millennium ship arrives at the Bridgetown Port on Monday June 7. All passengers and crew are fully vaccinated.

Minister of Tourism, Senator Lisa Cummins made the announcement during a COVID-19 update press conference on Saturday and repeated that visitors coming to the island via the air and sea ports must have a negative PCR test three days prior to arrival. "There is testing that is going to be taking place on board the ships that will make sure that people are continually kept safe ... Then when they [visitors] land in Barbados via the airport, they are going to be taken via a sterile corridor to the port where they then have to be subjected to further screening in order to embark on the ship, which is homeported here in Barbados. But what's most important is that so far, what we have begun is vaccinated-only cruises. So 100 per cent of the persons on these ships

will be vaccinated," she said.

Furthermore, Minister Cummins said, Government has also taken the decision to restrict what types of activities visitors coming to the island on cruise ships can participate in at this stage.

She explained that tourism and health officials have been meeting with taxi and tour operators to make sure that they are aware of arrangements being put in place, and that protocols will be followed at every step of the way.

Bubble tours will be one of the concepts Barbados will be adopting as cruise ships return to the island, Cummins said.

"Bubble tours are actually a concept that originated in the cruise lines. Those bubble tours have evolved over time. So now, for example, you have a combination of chartered tours and every tour has to be pre-booked. And yes, the taxi operators will have an opportunity to get a percentage of the business," she explained.

The Minister said the Celebrity Millennium will be leaving St.

Maarten where it is homeporting and the first stop will be Barbados. "On the particular vessel arriving on Monday, there will be 630 persons on board that vessel. Typically, when we have cruise visitors we are used to very higher numbers, so we would normally have a vessel which comes in with 1,500; 3,000; sometimes up to 6,000 could be on a single ship. "So ships are sailing at 50 per cent of capacity so they are not sailing with all the cabins filled as they would have done. And so they are now at 630 persons on this particular ship but we could go as high, later on, as much as 1,500 persons because the ship has the capacity to accommodate 3,000," she said.

The Minister also highlighted that, during the summer, there will not be a lot of traffic out of the United Kingdom, while Canada will resume flights to Caribbean territories coming on to the end of this month. She also indicated that the United States appears to be Barbados' strongest source market for the summer.



Oil companies must ensure Guyanese get jobs or “it will not go down well”- Pres.Ali

Guyana's President, Dr. Irfaan Ali

Kaieteur News – When it comes to local content commitments from oil companies, Guyana's President Irfaan Ali has zero interest in flowery words. The Head of State put all oil companies on notice yesterday that he is looking for action, categorically stating that oil companies must ensure Guyanese businesses have equal access to contracts in the sector “or it will not go down well.”

The President made this declaration, among others, during his impassioned presentation at the opening of Saipem Guyana's Offshore Construction Facility at Water Street, Georgetown. The opening of the facility represented a major milestone for Saipem America Inc., which is one of ExxonMobil's prime contractors. The oilfield contractor has been the main provider of subsea cables and associated structures for ExxonMobil's offshore Guyana projects, namely, the Liza Phase One, Liza Phase Two and Payara Projects. During his feature address,

the President spoke extensively about his Government's position on local content and ensuring the interest of Guyanese are well protected. In this regard, he recalled that an investor who recently examined Guyana's draft Local Content Policy deemed it to be tough. The President said he immediately reminded the investor that other oil producing States do not offer the openness companies can enjoy here. The President alluded to the fact that in Trinidad and Tobago, for example, companies cannot even buy land. But this is possible in Guyana.

Ali said, “...We have an open position – there is no discrimination but we will have to ensure that, in this openness, Guyanese own the facilities to be rented and Guyanese own the opportunities to invest in those facilities. I made it very clear and I am very transparent in what I am saying and you don't have to second-guess me. Logistics, it is not scientific work – it should easily go to Guyanese.”

The President continued, “Don't tell me I need a foreign logistics firm to tell me how to do brokerage services or how to clear something at the airport or how to hire taxis and do rentals in the industry and then the very logistics companies will come here and do the work themselves.”

He added, “It will not go down well. Don't second-guess me, I am telling you openly, whether you are a subcontractor or not, it will not go down well. You will push us to change our policy.”

The President said when it comes to local content, the very essence of what is required by the phrase is very clear—if Guyanese have the capabilities and are competitive, they have to be given the opportunities. He said too that investors should find it not only essential but also part of their own internal value to collaborate with the local private sector so as to build local capacity and create opportunities for Guyanese.

Enhancing the Digital Economy in the OECS Region



OECS Pressroom - Digital technology and communication infrastructure are growing in importance. Increasingly, they are transforming how we interact, conduct business, and participate in the global economy.

However, several challenges impede the digital transformation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This has resulted in a growing digital divide limiting the ability of many OECS Member States to fully tap into the benefits of the digital economy in the same way as many advanced economies. With this in mind, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission is partnering with the Commonwealth Secretariat to convene a

virtual stakeholder workshop on digital trade and electronic commerce (eCommerce) readiness and associate capacity building on 8th June 2021.

The workshop forms part of a broader OECS project which is being funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat to assess Digital Trade and eCommerce readiness in six Member States of the OECS. The project is assessing six pillars of e-commerce readiness, namely citizens' readiness; business readiness; information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and accessibility; logistics and delivery; policy and regulations; and the financial and banking eco-system to support

e-commerce. The workshop will bring together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to further assess the identified six pillars of e-commerce readiness. Stakeholder input is expected to enhance insights into the existing e-commerce infrastructure and help identify legal and regulatory gaps that may impede the growth of OECS digital trade and access to external markets.

The strategic objective that the Commission aims to achieve through this intervention is to support digital transformation and spur OECS entrepreneurs to take advantage of opportunities to scale through access to eCommerce. A more intermediate outcome for the Commis-

sion is to identify the key limiting factors to the expansion of digital trade in the OECS. According to the OECS Permanent Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, given that Ecommerce is also being discussed at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international fora, there is an urgent need for all OECS Member States to be sensitized to the evolving regulatory environment that is likely to emerge from these talks. This is even more important against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic which has revealed both the necessity for digital transformation, as well as the extent of the prevailing digital divide between and among countries.

T&T in line to receive 800,000 Johnson and Johnson vaccines



T&T PM Dr. Keith Rowley

Loop TT - Trinidad and Tobago has successfully ordered 800,000 single dose Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines from the African Medical Supply Platform. Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley made the announcement at a media conference at the Diplomatic Centre, St. Ann's on Saturday. Dr. Rowley said the first batch of these vaccines is expected in August. The prime minister said the country is also expected to receive an additional shipment of vaccines from China next Thursday. Additionally, the government is expecting a third shipment of vaccines via the COVAX facility. Dr. Rowley said the government intends to vaccinate at least 500,000 people. He said: "We can now confidently say that we have a vaccination programme that by the next 12 weeks, depending on the shipping arrangements,

we would be able to vaccinate a substantial amount of people. Our first target is half a million people." With plans to ramp up the vaccination process, Dr. Rowley said it is hoped that schools can reopen by September.

He said: "We are now setting a new target to get vaccinated and bring our school children out in September." The prime minister also signaled the government's intention to reopen the country's borders in the coming weeks. Dr. Rowley said the government is seeking to do away with the border closure arrangement and travel exemption system in the next four to six weeks with controls.

He said he met with Caribbean Airlines and various stakeholders on Friday. Dr. Rowley said another meeting will be held on Tuesday to advance this position and details of this

arrangement are expected by the end of the week.

He said: "In the coming days, the health team and other relevant personnel would meet with Caribbean Airlines. It is the government's position that within the next four to six weeks, we would do away with the border closure arrangement system."

Furthermore, the prime minister announced plans for the return of various groups to work, including those in the construction and manufacturing sectors and food and beverage industry. He said: "It is our intention to vaccinate and operate. Going forward, from next week you will be encouraged to vaccinate and operate; and, in order to do that, the Ministry of Health will have specific programmes interfacing with the private sector. This is where the private sector can play a major role.

You can play a major role in getting your staff vaccinated. What we are going to do is put this by categories." Elaborating on the vaccination programme, Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh indicated mass vaccination sites would be set up. He said: "We want people to come back out, but under the condition that you are vaccinated."

Deyalsingh also indicated that the appointment system would be discontinued. He said: "We are doing away with the appointment system. It's going to be walk-in, first-come-first-serve for persons over 60 with or without non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and persons under 60 with NCDs." Also speaking at the conference, epidemiologist Dr. Avery Hinds noted that Trinidad and Tobago has seen a decline in the number of daily cases. He said this is an encouraging sign that the current public health measures to curb the spread of the virus are bearing some fruit. In an attempt to further reduce the number of COVID-19 cases, the prime minister announced a weekend curfew. The curfew hours are from 7pm to 5am and will take effect from tomorrow. On Saturday, the Ministry of Health announced eight deaths and 391 cases.



Israel's Netanyahu denies 'incitement', alleges election fraud

Mired in a court battle on corruption charges, Netanyahu faces being toppled by a motley coalition of legislators.

Al Jazeera - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected accusations of incitement and said the newly formed Israeli coalition that is poised to unseat him was the result of "the greatest election fraud" in the history of democracy. In power for 12 consecutive years, Netanyahu faces being toppled by a motley coalition of eight parties united only by their shared hostility towards him. "We are witnessing the greatest election fraud in the history of the country, in my

opinion in the history of any democracy," Netanyahu said in comments to legislators from his right-wing Likud party. Mired in a court battle on corruption charges that could see him face prison time, Netanyahu has mobilised his supporters to peel off defectors ahead of a confirmation vote.

On Saturday, the head of Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency Nadav Argaman issued a rare public statement warning of a "severe escalation in violent and inciting discourse" on

social media. "This discourse could be understood by certain groups or individuals as enabling illegal violence that could even cost a life," Argaman said, calling on public officials to "issue a clear call to stop this discourse".

A spokesperson for the Shin Bet would not tell AFP news agency whether Argaman was referring to a certain group or person being threatened, merely saying: "This is a general atmosphere that must stop." Politicians opposing Netanyahu and some

local media outlets, however, have interpreted Argaman's statement as a warning to the premier. There is a very thin line between political criticism and inciting violence," Netanyahu said Sunday. "We can't say that when criticism comes from the right, it's incitement to violence, and when it comes from the left, that it's a justified use of freedom of expression," he told a meeting of Likud party members.

"I condemn all incitement to violence," he added.

ISWAP militant group says Nigeria's Boko Haram leader is dead



Reuters - The Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) militant group said in an audio recording heard by Reuters on Sunday that Abubakar Shekau, leader of rival Nigerian militant Islamist group Boko Haram, was dead.

Shekau died around May 18 after detonating an explosive device when ISWAP fighters following a battle pursued him, a person purporting

to be ISWAP leader Abu Musab al-Barnawi said on the audio recording. "Abubakar Shekau, God has judged him by sending him to heaven," he can be heard saying. Two people familiar with al-Barnawi told Reuters the voice on the recording was that of the ISWAP leader.

A Nigerian intelligence report shared by a government official and Boko Haram researchers have also

said Shekau is dead.

Last month, Nigeria's military said it was investigating Shekau's alleged death, also reported in Nigerian and foreign news outlets. The audio statement, first obtained by local media, is ISWAP's first confirmation that its arch rival in the Lake Chad region has been killed. Islamic State "are consolidating the whole area, the Lake Chad region and (Shekau's

stronghold)," said Bulama Bukarti, an analyst specialising in Boko Haram at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.

"ISWAP had framed Shekau as the problem and he was the only person they wanted to remove," Bukarti said of Islamic State's attempt to lure Boko Haram commanders and fighters to their side. Shekau's death could lead to the end of a violent rivalry between the two groups, enabling Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) to absorb Boko Haram fighters and consolidate its hold on territory in northeastern Nigeria, political analysts said. That would allow ISWAP to focus its attention on the government and military, whose war efforts are languishing. Boko Haram's leader was reported to have been killed on several occasions over the last 12 years, including in announcements by the military, only to later appear in a video post.

Putin signs law banning 'extremists' from running in elections, on Navalny's birthday



CNN - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday signed a new law banning individuals designated as "extremists" from running for public offices, a move condemned by the opposition as an effort to further limit political competition.

The new legislation was signed and posted on a government website on Friday, the day which also marks the birthday of jailed Krem-

lin critic Alexey Navalny. The law prevents members of "extremist" or "terrorist" organizations from standing in elections for a period of three to five years, depending on the person's position. Founders and leaders of designated groups will not be able to run for elected office for five years after a court's decision to ban the group.

Employees or financial supporters of court-ruled extremist and ter-

rorist organizations will be banned from running for office for three years.

Navalny was imprisoned earlier this year by a Moscow court for allegedly violating the probation terms of a 2014 case in which he received a suspended sentence of three and a half years. Navalny's chief of staff Leonid Volkov tweeted on Friday he didn't believe Putin "accidentally" signed the law today. The new legislation comes ahead of a court decision on whether to designate both Navalny's political and anti-corruption organizations as extremist groups, following a lawsuit filed in April by the Moscow Prosecutor's Office. If approved, the move by prosecutors could have serious consequences for Navalny's team, already under serious pressure from police raids and arrests. Russia already has sweeping anti-extremism laws on the books that critics say effectively curtail freedom of speech and rights to public assembly. Tatiana Stanovaya, political analyst of Carnegie Moscow and founder of R.Politik told CNN the law threat-

ens not only opposition politicians but also ordinary Russian citizens.

"The law is part of a larger campaign against anti-regime behavior in Russia," she said. "The battlefield has become much larger, now even a Russian citizen who participates in protests, retweets an opposition post or donates to opposition groups, face the risk of prosecution." The new legislation signed by Putin means Navalny supporters face the possibility of being barred from running in Russia's upcoming parliamentary elections in September.

Navalny was already barred from running in Russia's last presidential election in 2018 because of his conviction. Russia's next presidential election is scheduled for 2024.

While Putin was originally set to step down at that time because of term limits, last year's constitutional reform has effectively reset the clock for him, allowing him to seek two more six-year terms when his presidency ends. He has already hinted he is planning to run again.

Rich nations 'millimetre away' from tech tax deal

BBC - A global agreement to end the "race to the bottom" on corporate taxation is within sight, according to the French and German finance ministers. France's Bruno Le Maire told the BBC the G7 club of rich nations was "just one millimetre away from an historic agreement" on a global minimum rate. He urged low tax states like Ireland to back a deal which would target tech giants such as Amazon and Microsoft.

The German finance minister said a 15% rate would help pay back Covid debt

Tax on big tech and multi-nationals has been a source of friction between the US and fellow G7 countries such as the UK.

German finance minister Olaf Scholz said it was important to stop the world's biggest companies from dodging tax.

He said it was "absolutely necessary" to reach a deal in order to "get out of this race to the bottom we see with taxes today ... especially after the Covid crisis and all the money we spent to defend the health of the people, and to defend the economy."

Mr. Le Maire also urged Ireland, which has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the European Union, at 12.5%, to get "on board".

He added: "European countries that in the past opposed this new international tax system,



must understand that they have to [agree] to this major breakthrough".

Both ministers said agreement on a minimum rate remained a sticking point. Mr. Le Maire said he saw the 15% rate as a "starting point".

He said: "If it can be higher, it is better to have a higher rate than 15%." However, Mr. Scholz suggested that 15% would be an effective starting point that would mark a "turning point" after years of going in the other direction.

It came after UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak said he was "confident" of reaching a global agreement on digital taxation ahead

of a meeting of world finance leaders.

Finance ministers will also discuss climate change at the two-day meeting which starts in London on Friday.

Ahead of the G7 talks, Mr. Le Maire and Mr. Scholz, along with their counterparts in Italy and Spain, co-signed a letter urging an agreement on an international tax system "fit for the 21st Century".

In a letter to The Guardian, they wrote: "Introducing this fairer and more efficient international tax system was already a priority before the current economic crisis, and it will be all the more necessary coming out of it."

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Probability of Precipitation	69%	Hours of Rain	3
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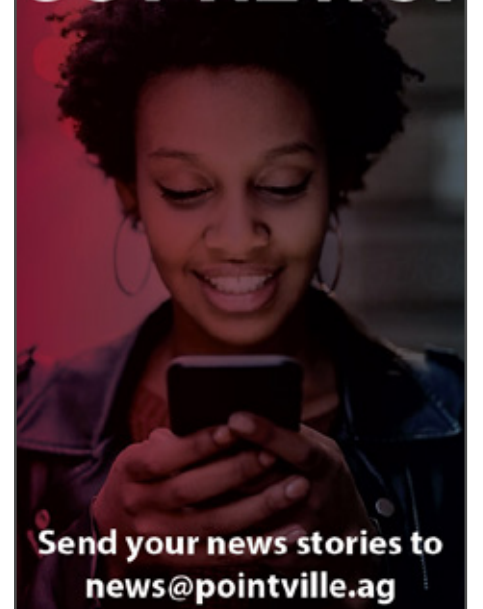


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NBA Playoffs Round Up



Clippers eliminate Mavericks

The Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday eliminated the Dallas Mavericks 126-111 when they met in the crucial Game 7 at the STAPLES Center. The Clippers, after earlier maintaining the streak in which the road team had won, ensured that they did not disappoint their fans. Dallas' **Luka Doncic** led all scorers with 46 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds. But the Clippers had balanced scoring from Kawhi Leonard 28 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists; Marcus Morrison Sr. 23 points, and Paul George 22 points and 10 assists. They will now meet the Utah Jazz in what will be the Western Conference finals.

Nets go ahead against Bucks

The Brooklyn Nets went ahead in Game 1 of their series against the Milwaukee Bucks after winning 115-107. The Nets were without their superstar guard, James Harden, who left less than a minute into the game with a hamstring injury. So, it was left up to both Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving to carry the Nets. Durant ended with 29 points and 10 rebounds, while Irving had 25 points and eight assists. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks. He was supported by Brook Lopez, 19 points; and Jrue Holliday, 17 points and six assists. That series continues tonight.

Atlanta Hawks lead the Philadelphia 76ers The Atlanta Hawks won the first game of the

Eastern Conference semifinals against the Philadelphia 76ers. Trae Young continued to have a hot hand, ending the game with 35 points, and 10 assists. John Collins and Bogdan Bogdanovic gave good support with 21 points each. However, it was the 76ers' big man, **Joel Embiid**, who led all scorers with 39 points and nine rebounds. In a hostile arena, Young scored 25 of his 35 points in the first half, giving the Hawks a good cushion to finish off the 76ers. Embiid tried to carry the 76ers singlehandedly, but the 20-point lead the Hawks enjoyed going into the second half was too much to overcome. The series continues tomorrow night.

Athletics: Fraser-Pryce surprises herself



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

BBC – Jamaica's two-time Olympic champion, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, has become the second fastest woman in history after running 10.63 seconds in Kingston on Saturday. The 34-year old, who also won world gold at Doha 2019, streaked clear to win a national trials warm-up event. Only American legend Florence Griffith-Joyner has run faster. Griffith-Joyner scorched to a world record 10.49 seconds in 1998 before retiring less than a year later. Fraser-Pryce's time eclipses

the 10.72 seconds run by American Sha'Carri Richardson as the fastest time in the world this year. It is an improvement of 0.07 seconds on her previous best of 10.70 seconds set in 2012. Fraser-Pryce, who took more than a year out of the sport around the birth of her son in 2017, admitted she surprised herself with her time. "Honestly, no, I wasn't coming out here to run fast," she said. "Thank God that I finish healthy. There was no pressure – I just wanted to get one more race in

before the national trials." The result will increase the anticipation for the event at the Olympics in Tokyo this summer. In addition to Fraser-Pryce and 21-year old newcomer Richardson, Elaine Thompson-Herah and Britain's world silver medal Dinah Asher-Smith have also put in impressive performances this season. Fraser-Pryce will run at the Jamaican Championships later in June before setting her sights on the Tokyo 100m final on 31st July.

Tennis: Serena Williams eliminated

ROLAND GARROS – Serena Williams, the world number seven seed and favorite to win the 2021 French Open, was eliminated on Sunday by the number 21 seed Elena Rybakina.

The Kazakhstani player prevailed in their quarter finals draw when she defeated the American 6-3, 7-5. Williams was the favorite to win after the exit of higher-ranked players, including Naomi Osaka who has defeated Williams in all of their previous encounters.

The 23-time grand slam winner was hoping to eclipse Margaret Court. She will now have to await another major. But at 39 years old, that feat is becoming more difficult.



FOOTBALL: BENNA BOYS DEFEAT SPICE RIVALS

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys, playing at home on Friday against the Grenada Spice Boys, earned three valuable points when they defeated Grenada 1-0 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The Benna Boys are now second in Group A after El Salvador handily defeated the US Virgin Islands 7-0. Both teams now are on seven points after three rounds of matches, with El Salvador having a better

goal difference. Playing in front of a sparse but appreciative and sports-starved home crowd, **Rhys Browne** scored in the 20th minute in what proved to be the game winner. Grenada fought valiantly to try pulling

one back, but the Benna Boys' defense rose to the task. The Benna Boys play their final group match tomorrow against El Salvador at the *Estadio Cuscatlan* in San Salvador.

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