

CHURCH, FUNERAL

ATTENDANCE LIMITS LIFTED!

SEE PAGE 3



Members of the **CARIFESTA XV** Secretariat with His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams on Thursday morning at Government House after launching a volunteer program to support the grand regional spectacular (15th Caribbean Festival of Arts) when it is held in August 2022.

OECS 40th Anniversary today (pages 6-7)

The longest day of 2021 is this weekend (see page 18)

EDITORIAL

2021: Year of the shared Ruby – Happy Birthday, OECS!

Fantasies and speculation about the inherent power of numbers (numerology) are not among the things we are fond of here at *Pointe Xpress*. But, Biblically influenced as most of us tend to be in Antigua and Barbuda, the significance or legend attached to the number 40 is unlikely to escape our notice; those 40 days and 40 nights of the Great Flood; those 40 years in the Great Wilderness on the way to the Promised Land, that were preceded by two notable 40-year periods in the life of Moses; the 40-year reigns, successively, of kings Saul, David and Solomon; Jesus's grueling 40-day fast in the desert that culminated with his temptations by the audacious Devil; and His ascension to Heaven 40 days after His resurrection from the dead. We will not ascribe any Biblically-proportioned messianic or prophetic significance to the fact that Antigua and Barbuda, as a sovereign and politically independent nation, was born in the same year as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The twin-island nation and this most successful of regional integration projects both turn 40 in 2021, their birthdates only a few months apart – the OECS marking this collective milestone today, June 18th; Antigua and Barbuda chomping at the

bit to blast its celestial mosaic of fireworks on November 1st. The joint quadri-decennium of this remarkable nation is all the more elating because of the pivotal role that Antigua and Barbuda played both in envisioning and founding the OECS, and holding it together through turbulent times, especially at the start; nursing and massaging the fledgling organization through the teething stages of immaturity and inexperience against a plethora of unsettling diplomatic, political – and even military – challenges that were flung at it in those delicate nascent years.

But the OECS survived, consolidated and strengthened, thanks to the commitment and perseverance of its intelligent technocrats and political leaders, most of whom are no longer with us, save Sir Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Sir Lester Bird who, as Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Minister, signed on behalf of his father and then Prime Minister Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr.

Although he did not ascend to the position of Prime Minister until 13 years later when he succeeded his father, the OECS is one of the reasons why we should always recognize, respect, honour – and thank – Lester Bryant Bird for the cohesive foresight that he brought to the OECS and the ad-

hesive problem-solving passion by which he contributed to keeping it together. His commitment to parlaying the national sovereignty of Antigua and Barbuda into a larger collective self-determination expressed through Caricom and the OECS are well known, and cemented the pragmatic foundation for sensible foreign policy and rewarding diplomatic relations beyond the strictures of traditional colonial boundaries.

Antigua and Barbuda obtained political independence from the UK just when a new sub-regional cradle of interdependence (that it had helped to form and forge) was ready to be weaned from its newborn uncertainty. They have grown together and progressed together – because of each other – into an Economic Union of the OECS which has made possible and realizable the ambition of an Economic Powerhouse that is Antigua and Barbuda.

Happy Ruby Anniversary, OECS. In 2021 we share the symbolism of a gemstone whose richness of value is reckoned in direct proportion to the depth and extent of its redness. But we will go no further lest, having spurned numerological temptations at the start, we should instead venture into some discourse on colorific significance.

Some restrictions relaxed as COVID situation improves

by *Shelton Daniel*

The weekly live post-Cabinet media briefing is due to take place this morning (Friday) having been rescheduled from its usual Thursday morning placement because the Wednesday Cabinet meeting was postponed to the following day, due to the OECS Assembly being held (virtually) that day.

Antigua and Barbuda is said to be the only independent state in this hemisphere with zero new cases for almost an entire week, zero hospitalizations for COVID, and zero active COVID cases.

Among those being congratulated by the nation's highest executive decision-making body are the people of Antigua and Barbuda who obeyed the protocols, and those who are fully vaccinated.

While Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph is of the view that the primary reason for this outstanding performance lies in the number of vaccinated people, he is still

careful to make the point of repeatedly warning against us becoming complacent. An additional 20,000 residents of the twin-island State need to be vaccinated in order to achieve the desired collective "herd immunity".

The Cabinet has also decided that in the event it appears that Antigua and Barbuda's current stocks of vaccines which are on course to expire in a few weeks – if they are not likely to be consumed by local residents within that time – they will be donated to another Caribbean country that is in need of vaccines.

Further, the incentives to encourage vaccination will continue. All resident adults who have received one or both shots of the vaccine will be issued one ticket. The stubs of these tickets will be placed in a large drum for a \$5,000 prize drawing at the end of each week over a period of four weeks.

Additionally, an 8,000 square-foot parcel of land in Judges Hill will be raffled at the end of this month.

Another decision of Cabinet emanating out of Thursday's meeting is that the number of people allowed to attend funeral services and weddings in churches during this COVID pandemic, will now be determined by the physical capacity of the church building. The previously mandated limit of 25 persons has been lifted.

Further, at the burial ground, the six-foot physical distancing will still apply but NOT the 25-person limit that was until now in force under the ongoing State of Emergency regulations.

Approved events will have an extended curfew of until 2:30 a.m., but patrons are to get home by 3:00 a.m. If accosted by police during these predawn hours, they may present their arm bands and ticket stubs as evidence that they were attending an approved event.

Otherwise, the regular nighttime curfew hours remain 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

Things to know about Sickle Cell Anaemia



Dr. Edda Hadeed, president of the Antigua and Barbuda Sickle Cell Association

Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment – Antigua and Barbuda will join the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) along with the rest of the region in observance of World Sickle Cell Day tomorrow Saturday 19th June 2021.

Sickle-cell disease (SCD) is a blood disorder which alters the shape of the red blood cells. Instead of being round and flexible, they appear half-moon-shaped, and are brittle and sticky. The disease makes the cells shred rapidly, causing severe anaemia and blockage of small blood ves-

sels. When blood vessels are blocked, this prevents the flow of blood, oxygen and nutrients to the tissue, causing unbearable pain and organ damage. This also predisposes sickle-cell patients to serious infections.

Some persons have inherited only the sickle-cell trait, so they are referred to as trait carriers. A person is diagnosed with SCD after inheriting two abnormal genes, but those with the trait obtained one normal and one abnormal gene.

If both parents have the sickle-cell trait, there is a 25% chance that children born to them can have SCD and

a 25% chance these children can be normal. If one parent has the trait and the other has SCD, there is a 50% chance the children will have the disease and/or a 50% chance of them being carriers.

A normal person with a partner who is a trait carrier has a 50% chance of producing carriers and a 50% chance of producing normal children. Carriers of the sickle trait may display symptoms of SCD while most are asymptomatic.

Symptoms of sickle-cell disease include anaemia in which patients can become dizzy, easily exhausted or experience headaches. Patients sometimes become pale with yellowish eyes. The most prominent symptom of SCD is pain crises as a result of blockage of the tiny blood vessels. These crises require emergency medical attention and hospitalisation.

Pain intensity differs for those in a sickle-cell crisis with a duration of a few hours to a few weeks. Some SCD patients have only a few pain crisis annually, while others find themselves having more than a dozen each year.

SCD manifests itself in infancy usually between the ages of 5-6 months. In a normal body, the life span of red blood cells is around 120 days. But in those with sickled cells, the cells die within 10-20 days. As a result, the body is left with a shortage of red blood cells, causing anaemia.

People with sickle cell anaemia have frequent infections due to impairment of their spleens. Children and infants with sickle cell are generally vaccinated against specific pathogens and given antibiotics upon infection.

Toddlers with SCD may experience painful, swollen fingers or toes with severe anaemia. An exceptionally low blood count will put patients at risk for devastating complications.

Regular eye examinations are a necessity in SCD as sickling can cause damage to the retina and ultimately lead to blindness. Additionally, leg ulcers may occur due to poor blood flow. Severe, long-term complications of sickling causes damage to the hip joints which eventually re-

quires hip replacement surgery.

Splenic sequestration or blood pools in the spleen is a life-threatening condition associated with SCD. It is commonly found in children and causes the child's spleen to expand as it reduces the amount of oxygen-carrying red blood cells in the body.

Presently, a blood and bone marrow transplant is the only cure for sickle-cell disease. However, there are treatments that are effective in reducing symptoms and extending patients' lives. Some treatment options for SCD are: daily folic acid to produce red blood cells; penicillin prophylaxis for children; non-routine vaccines (particularly Prevenar-13) for children and adults; along with hydroxyurea, an oral medication to

reduce the number of pain crises and complications.

For those with SCD, their lifestyles are contributing factors. Therefore, they need to avoid alcohol use, smoking and exertion. Getting enough rest, plenty of fluids and regular check-ups are compulsory as well.

A sickle-cell diagnosis increases one's risk of becoming extremely sick with COVID-19. Knowing your sickle-cell status is important – get tested.

For those seeking additional information or help, contact your community clinics or the Antigua and Barbuda Sickle-cell Association.

Special thanks to Dr. Edda Hadeed for her wealth of information and willingness to share.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

HAPPY

Father's
DAY

"Fatherly love is the act of giving your life for the sake of someone else's needs." – Nate Dallas

(268) 481 7800/4 | www.sicantigua.com |



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

**Statement
by**

**His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KSt.J, DSc, PhD, MBBS
Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda
to commemorate the
40th Anniversary of the Creation of the OECS
on OECS Day
June 18, 2021**

Today, 18th June 2021, marks forty (40) years since the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) came into effect through the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre by Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Today, the OECS boasts eleven (11) members, all facing challenges as one community, one people.

The theme of this year's celebration is rightly, 'Onward with Integration for Progress and Sustainability'. The members of the OECS continue to make significant strides in the areas of health, education, sustainable tourism and the free movement of people and goods. In these challenging times, the integration of our region must be further intensified to ensure the continued well-being and sustainability of all of our peoples.

As we commemorate this significant milestone and reflect on the many achievements of this regional organization, it fills us with pride as nationals of the twin-island state of Antigua and Barbuda, not only to be one of its founding members, but also because of the sterling contribution of the OECS to our own Nation building and economic and social development.

We salute the OECS on this special occasion.

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KSt.J, DSc, PhD, MBBS
Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda celebrates OECS 40th anniversary today



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Foreign Affairs Minister Chet Greene.

Today, Friday June 18, 2021, is the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre that brought into being the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

To mark the occasion, a special flag-raising ceremony is taking place at the Office of the Prime Minister where both the National Flag of Antigua and Barbuda and the OECS flag will be raised. In addition, singing of Antigua and Barbuda's National Anthem and the OECS song will take place.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will deliver address this ceremony that will be attended by Government officials, including Foreign Affairs Minister E.P

Chet Greene and the twin-island nation's OECS Commissioner, Ambassador Colin Murdoch.

As part of the observance of OECS Day, Minister Greene will appear on State television's morning show to talk about the benefits of the Integration Movement among the States of the Eastern Caribbean.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States came into being on 18th June 1981 when seven Eastern Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Montserrat) signed a treaty agreeing to cooperate and promote unity

and solidarity among the Members. The agreement became known as the Treaty of Basseterre, named after the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis, where it was signed.

The 1981 Treaty was replaced in 2010 with a Revised Treaty of Basseterre, establishing an economic union in which barriers to trade between the member countries are reduced or removed in favor of a single market with a Customs union.

This Revised Treaty was signed on 18th June 2010 in Saint Lucia during the 51st Meeting of the Authority. The Revised Treaty established a single financial and economic space where goods, people and capital move freely. It also allows the harmonisation of monetary and governmental policies relating to taxes and revenue. The countries of this economic union continue to adopt a common approach to trade, health, education and the environment, as well as the development of critical sectors such as agriculture, tourism and energy.

Antigua and Barbuda hosts one of the key organs of the OECS, the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA).

Antigua and Barbuda rolls out volunteer program for 15th CARIFESTA



First volunteers for CARIFESTAXV, Regis Burton (left) and Lauvin Phillip.



The CARIFESTA XV Secretariat yesterday announced that plans are underway to roll out the volunteer program ahead of **CARIFESTA XV** which will be held August 2022 in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Caribbean Festival of Arts, **CARIFESTA**, is the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) multi-disciplinary moving art and culture festival. In 2022, Antigua and Barbuda will host this event, which will attract over 2,500 delegates from CARICOM and non-CARICOM territories of the Caribbean, Latin America and the diaspora. Under the

theme, "**One Caribbean. One Environment. Diverse Cultures**", this is the first time our twin island state will host this prestigious cultural showcase and we eagerly look forward to it being a great success.

The success of the event, however, is heavily dependent on a highly efficient and professional volunteer corps. As such, a call is being made to all citizens and residents 16 years and over to sign up and become a volunteer for the Caribbean's largest multicultural festival. The CARIFESTA XV Secretariat is seeking individuals who con-

sider themselves to be dynamic, helpful, polite and personable.

The specific volunteer areas include, but are not limited to, VIP/Protocol, Hospitality, Media, Administrative, Delegation Liaison, Technical, and Meet and Greet.

Applications officially open on Monday 21st June, and the process is quite simple. Application forms are avail-

able at the **CARIFESTA XV Secretariat on Old Parham Road (upstairs KFC/INET)**; email **volunteer@carifesta.ag** requesting an application form; or simply visit the CARIFESTA website **www.carifesta.net** to complete the application online.

Visit the CARIFESTA Secretariat, or call 562-9605/06, for more information.

Form RLNC 6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34 of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
CENTRAL	14 2288A	122
CENTRAL	14 2288 A	133
CENTRAL	14 2288 A	229
SUTHERLANDS	64 1892 D	260
FIVE ISLANDS	54 1489 A	615
FIVE ISLANDS	54 1498 A	648

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST OR DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 29th day of April, 2021 by **EVERTON F. GONSALVES**, Attorney At Law Longford's in the Parish of Saint John in Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of **MONROE SPENCER & SONS ENTERPRISES LIMITED** the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificates 4867/96 issued on the 14th day of October, 1996, 4868/96 issued on the 14th day of October, 1996, RL-201602910 issued on the 26th day of July, 2016, 876/89 issued on the 22nd day of February, 1989, 2838/95 issued on the 27th day of June, 1995 and 1692/1996 issued on the 16th day of April, 1996 respectively issued to **MONROE SPENCER & SONS ENTERPRISES LIMITED** being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been mislaid, lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of new Land Certificates or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificates must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificates and issue new Land Certificates in its place without further notice

Dated the 12th day of May, 2021

Registrar of Lands

More details of the CARIFESTA Volunteer Program launch



Members of the CARIFESTA XV Secretariat with His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams

In front of a small crowd yesterday, Thursday 17th June 2021, the **CARIFESTA XV** Secretariat officially launched the Volunteer Programme, ahead of CARIFESTA XV, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in August 2022.

In attendance were:

- His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua & Barbuda
- Her Excellency Lady Williams, The Governor General's Goodwill Emissary
- Senator the Honourable Shenella Govia, Deputy Chairperson of CARIFESTA XV
- Mrs. Paula Frederick-Hunte, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Governor General
- Ms. Sarah Stuart, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sports and the Creative Industries

- Ms. Annette Aflak, Director of CARIFESTA XV

- Mr. Michael Freeland, Deputy Director of CARIFESTA XV

- Mr. Khan Cordice, Director of the Department of Culture

- Ms. Petley Okeiffe, Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission

- Mrs. Heather Samuel-Daley, Director of Sports

- Members of the CARIFESTA Secretariat

- o Mr. Cleofoster, Harris

- o Ms. Jennell Willette

- o Ms. Anika Kentish (Chairperson, Volunteer Programme Subcommittee)

- o Ms. Claudette Peters

- Mr. Regis Burton (1st Male Volunteer) - Mr. Burton is the co-founder of Nolan Hue, an organization created to focus on the professional development

of youths across the communities in Antigua and Barbuda. He is also recognized nationally and internationally for being a positive role model, his outstanding community work, and he was even the recipient of the Queen's Young Leaders Award in 2016.

- Ms. Lauvin Phillip (1st Female Volunteer) - Miss Phillip is a young entrepreneur, youth advocate and social media influencer, who has become nationally recognized for her ability to share her philanthropic views and contributions through her digital space of over 7,000 persons. She is also well-known for mentoring women under the age of 21 and advocating for personal and professional development among young persons.

Female Customs officers benefit from regional drug investigation training



Mr. George Browne, A&B Customs department

Customs Officers in Antigua and Barbuda recently joined their counterparts from throughout the region for two weeks of training in drug investigations.

Two officers from the Antigua and Barbuda Customs & Excise Division participated in the May 31st to June 11th training exercise organised jointly by the Regional Security System (RSS) and the Organisation of American States (OAS).

The drug investigations course specifically targeted female officers who serve as part of the security forces across the region.

While the Customs department was represented by two of its officers, three officers joined

the virtual session on behalf of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

The aim of the course was to train a cadre of female investigating officers with the knowledge, skills and investigative techniques to handle drug-related offences.

"This was a very timely and critical training course," explained Mr. George Brown, Director of Research and Development at the Antigua and Barbuda Customs and Excise Department.

"The Organization continues to see the need to build capacity in these areas as we continue the fight in combating the illegal narcotics trade while increasing

our capacity to prosecute these crimes efficiently," Browne noted.

The course provided the five female officers from Antigua and Barbuda with legal training that will help them better understand the court system and the need for thorough investigations.

The two-week training program has made it possible for officers to become more familiar with the issues involved in narcotics enforcement and improved their understanding of their roles and responsibilities when carrying out their duties.

**Ministry of Education, Sports & Creative Industries
Government Complex, Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's, Antigua**

Tel: 462-0192/462-0193/

462-0198/462-0199

Overseas: 268-462-4959/1051

Fax: 268-462-4970

COMMUNITY NOTICE

The general public is advised that updated timetables are available for the 2021 CSEC and CAPE examinations, administered by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).

Antigua private candidates are asked to contact the centres where they registered for collection, while candidates who signed up with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries are asked to visit the Examinations Unit (Parliament Building) from Friday 18th June, 2021.

Cuba again demands end to economic blockade



Cuba was supported by 187 UN members states with just 3 opposed (included the US and Israel) when the previous resolution was voted upon in at UN General Assembly in November 2019.

On June 23rd 2021 (next week, Wednesday) Cuba will present a

resolution to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) calling for an end to the more than 60-year-old blockade that the United States of America has maintained against the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island nation.

Antigua and Barbuda is one of an overwhelming majority of countries that have over the years consistently supported Cuba in calling for an end to the blockade.

St. John's and Havana have maintained and grown their very strong diplomatic, educational, medical, cultural and other ties.

Cuba's present Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Maria Esther Fiffe, told Pointe Xpress in an interview that her country "appreciates the support that the government of Antigua and Barbuda offers to our call upon all states to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law."

Our interview with Excellency Fiffe is also carried in this edition of Pointe Xpress. But first, we invite our readers to peruse the actual resolution that will be

New Nissan 2022 Frontiers Top Models

Nissan Frontier 2022
Fully Loaded



Nissan Frontier 2022
PRO-4X



New Models, New Features, Upgrades and New Bold Look.....Give us a call at 481-2500





Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Maria Esther Fiffe.

presented to the UNGA in the next five days.

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The General Assembly, Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recalling the statements of the Heads of State or Government of

Latin America and the Caribbean at the Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States regarding the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba,

Concerned about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as "the Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovern-

mental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of measures of the kind referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996, 52/10 of 5 November 1997, 53/4 of 14 October 1998, 54/21 of 9 November 1999, 55/20 of 9 November 2000, 56/9 of 27 November 2001, 57/11 of 12 November 2002, 58/7 of 4 November 2003, 59/11 of 28 October 2004, 60/12 of 8 November 2005, 61/11 of 8 November 2006, 62/3 of 30 Octo-

ber 2007, 63/7 of 29 October 2008, 64/6 of 28 October 2009, 65/6 of 26 October 2010, 66/6 of 25 October 2011, 67/4 of 13 November 2012, 68/8 of 29 October 2013, 69/5 of 28 October 2014, 70/5 of 27 October 2015, 71/5 of 26 October 2016, 72/4 of 1 November 2017, 73/8 of 1 November 2018 and 74/7 of 7 November 2019,

Recalling also the measures adopted by the Executive of the United States of America in 2015 and 2016 to modify several aspects of the application of the embargo, which contrast with the measures applied since 2017 to reinforce its implementation,

Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6, 67/4, 68/8, 69/5, 70/5, 71/5, 72/4, 73/8 and 74/7, the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is still in place, and concerned also about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

Interview with Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda

On June 23rd 2021 (Wednesday next week) Cuba again will present to the United Nations, the Draft Resolution: "Need to the end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

Cuba's resident Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Excellency Maria Esther Fiffe, spoke with Pointe Xpress ahead of that approaching date and its important occasion.

QUESTION: Ambassador, on this occasion, the Cuban Draft Resolution will be presented in a particularly adverse context, marked by the complexities imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its direct impact on work at the UN headquarters. Can you walk us through the main points of the Resolution that Cuba intends to put before the UN General Assembly, calling for an end to the US blockade against your country?

ANSWER: The Draft Resolution to be presented this year maintains the same essence of the text adopted at the 74th session of the UNGA, with rigorous technical updates. Importantly, it takes

note of the report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of Resolution 74/7 of November 7th 2019 in which UN member states voted overwhelmingly for an end to the United States' embargo on Cuba. That was the 28th consecutive year that the Member States had done so and 187 countries reaffirmed that stance in their unambiguous support for the resolution.

Q: But despite this overwhelming international opposition to the blockade at the level of the UN, it has not been lifted and continues to have the same appalling effect.

A: In the last four years, there has been a progressive and systematic increase in the aggressiveness of US policy against our people and against all sovereign States that maintain or attempt to establish economic, commercial and financial relations with Cuba. The more than 240 measures applied during the government of Donald Trump, with more than 50 adopted in 2020 alone, illustrate the particular cruelty of this policy against the Cuban people and government. Since the activation of *Title III* of the

Helms Burton Act in May 2019 until January 2021, 28 lawsuits have been established in US courts. This extraterritorial measure has affected US and third-country companies who have done or do business with Cuba. It has also caused notable damage to the economy of our country, due to its intimidating effect on the international business community.

Between 2020 and early 2021, the US State Department expanded the "List of Restricted Cuban Entities" on several occasions.

This has had considerable effects on Cuba's business system and commercial operations, as it has deterred some foreign counterparts from engaging or continuing to operate with Cuban entities included in unilateral lists.

Added to the above was the creation of the List of Prohibited Accommodations in Cuba, which included 422 hotels and rental houses. These measures, along with others such as the suspension of charter flights to the entire country except Hava-

NOTICE

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

**To: Commissioner of police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
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 (II) (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 1268 7227792.

Dated the 3rd day of June, 2021



Excellency Maria Esther Fiffe, Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda

na, which severely restrict American travel, contradict the support of broad sectors of the US people to end the blockade, and they attack the emerging Cuban private sector.

The prohibition of sending remittances to Cuba from third countries through Western Union, the constant persecution of Cuban financial operations abroad, the impossibility of processing remittances through Fincimex and American International Services (AIS), as well such as intimidation of companies that transport fuel supplies to our country, are also examples of the intensification of the blockade during this period.

Added to the regime of coercive measures derived from the blockade regulations, are the dissuasive and intimidating effects associated with the recent inclusion of Cuba

in the List of States Sponsoring Terrorism. This unilateral action, lacking moral and legal justification, has a negative impact on every sphere of Cuban society, since it increases the country's difficulties to enter international trade and carry out financial operations.

Q: Many people in Antigua and Barbuda, and elsewhere in the region, are expressing preference for a Cuban vaccine. This is because of the great trust that our people have in Cuba as a source of goodwill toward humanity. But tell me just how difficult it has been for Cuba to cope with the pandemic, given the overall challenges that the country faces as a result of the US blockade.

A: The inhumane nature of the blockade is exacerbated and even more cruel amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The US government has used this

policy, and in particular its extraterritorial component, to deliberately deprive the Cuban people of mechanical lung ventilators, masks, diagnostic kits, protective glasses, suits, gloves, reagents and other supplies necessary for the management of this disease.

Q: But after all these decades of having to be inventive, and not just being self-sufficient, but positioning yourselves to be of assistance to other members of the human family, it is typical of Cuba that you are producing your own vaccines and working in other countries to help in their fight against Covid-19.

A: In this context, the slanderous campaign against Cuban medical cooperation, aimed at depriving other peoples of that indispensable contribution to their health system, which is immoral in

any circumstance, is particularly offensive to Cuba and the world. Despite its efforts, the US has not been able to prevent thousands of Cuban collaborators from contributing to the fight against the pandemic in more than 30 countries and territories. These efforts have been joined by the more than 28,000 health professionals who have already provided their services in 59 nations before COVID-19.

Q: So, apart from voting in favour of the resolutions at the UN, how else has the international community expressed its solidarity with Cuba? What else can these other countries do?

A: The maintenance and intensification of this policy constitutes an affront to the international community which, for 28 consecutive years, has consistently condemned the blockade within the

framework of the United Nations General Assembly. Likewise, it is heedless of the successive resolutions and declarations of the African Union, the Community of Caribbean States (CARICOM), the Group of 77, plus China and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, among other international forums, where their lifting has been demanded.

That is why the resolution for June 23rd 2021 reiterates the call upon all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation. Cuba once again urges States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures, as stipulated by the USA, to take the steps necessary to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regimes.

The blockade constitutes a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of Cuban men and women. It qualifies as an act of genocide under the 1948 Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and as

an act of economic warfare according to the London Naval Conference of 1909. In addition, it is a violation of the UN Charter and international law.

The blockade constitutes the most unjust, severe and prolonged system of unilateral coercive measures that has been applied against any country. It continues to represent a brake on the development of all the potentialities of the Cuban economy, for the implementation of the National Economic Development Plan and Social Security of Cuba, as well as for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Q: Considering the very

friendly and beneficial relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba, what can this country do in support of the effort to end the blockade.

A: In our effort to lift the blockade, Cuba and its people have historically had the support of Antigua and Barbuda. In this particularly complex context, we reiterate our appreciation and hope to once again have your country's vote in favor of our Draft Resolution. Prime Minister Gaston Browne, in the Caricom-Cuba Summit held in Antigua on Friday 8th December 2017, stated as follows:

"Cuba has helped to make our individual societies more resilient

through its provision of access to world-class health services, training and quality education, as well as assistance for disaster management, agriculture and sports. For our part, we the CARICOM countries have not hesitated to stand-up and be counted in the effort to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade which the United States government has imposed on Cuba for over five decades." Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda established diplomatic relations in 1994, based on cooperation and fruitful exchange for both parties. They maintain an excellent state of bilateral relations.



#drivesafeantigua

Road Safety

ATB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Vaccine inequity in danger of derailing COP26 in Glasgow



The road to COP 26 remains nebulous.” – Diann Black-Layne during UN Climate Change Talks

Small Island States find themselves in a “Catch 22” situation around the November COP26 Glasgow climate talks: While it’s crucial to wrap up Paris Agreement rule negotiations so implementation can progress, whether the show will go on remains in doubt amid stark divisions in vaccine access globally and the rise of new coronavirus variant strains.

“The road to COP 26 remains nebulous. COVID-19 remains a serious concern for many of us, and travel restrictions continue for many countries. Access to vaccines and testing facilities is still a challenge in island States, and the safety of our delegates is priority,” Ambassador Diann Black-Layne of Antigua and Barbuda, lead negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), told the virtual closing ceremony of the June UN Climate Change talks.

“We have already lost too much time ... After COP 26, the primary focus of the UNFCCC should be delivery on the ground. This means not only reducing emissions much

faster, but also drastically increasing concrete actions to build resilience through adaptation,” she noted.

The UK recently announced it will work toward providing vaccines to all government delegations in attendance in Glasgow, who need it. However, Ambassador Black-Layne argues that this will not go far enough.

“A significant portion of our membership face onerous travel restrictions regardless of their personal vaccination status. Some islands in the Pacific have just two flights per month, with one month of quarantine, while other islands still have closed borders. This will not change unless their entire populations have vaccine access.”

In spite of these challenges, she said AOSIS was prepared to do whatever it takes and work with organisers to ensure the staging of a successful and inclusive COP this year, including the possibility of another virtual session before Glasgow. For Glasgow itself, this could mean “extra time

allocated” or some sort of “hybrid” option. But the upcoming hurricane season,” Ambassador Black-Layne noted, is a scary reminder of what’s at stake for the world’s most vulnerable countries. “We do not yet know the magnitude of destruction that will take place, but we definitely do know we do not yet have the capacity to respond on our own. The Paris Agreement must not be allowed to waver at its infancy”.

She said AOSIS was still waiting for major progress on finance. “Parallel to these negotiations, we have taken note of the G7’s restated intention to deliver on the 100 billion goal, originally promised for 2020. COP26 fast approaches, where we must in good faith look toward the determination of a new, scaled up finance goal in Glasgow that is truly accessible to the climate vulnerable like us who need it. Some sage advice: when it comes to the delicate art of building trust, actions will always speak louder than words.

“Following the socio-economic devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are in even more dire need for this critical support, especially public and grant-based resources for adaptation.”

She noted the large emissions gap remains unacceptable and threatens the integrity of the COP itself. “Why gather in Glasgow at all, if not to show the world we are treating with this emergency seriously. We reiterate our request for a suitable platform to be provided at COP 26 to address this formally.”

Antigua and Barbuda set to celebrate longest day in Northern Hemisphere

by Lee Williams

The longest day in the Northern Hemisphere, the Summer Solstice, will occur this weekend and the two-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda is uniquely blessed to have the natural elements to observe it.

This is according to local eco-tour operator, Rastafari Experience Antigua, who sat with *Platinum FM* last week to discuss activities the company has planned to coincide with this

naturally recurring phenomenon. According to Priest Isaac, while the company does express the culture of Rastafari in general, its activities are centred on preserving the country's natural monuments that play a huge part in the observation of this year's Summer Solstice.

"Rastafari Experience Antigua basically is centred around the preservation of Green Castle Hill," he explained. "Green Castle Hill is a natural monument right here in Antigua specifically and it

is definitely being demolished. It is a site [where] you have countless ... megalithic rocks. Megalithic rocks are gigantic rocks...

"What makes it stand out more than any other site – any other regular tour site or hike site – is that it is an archeo-astronomy site; meaning that the natural megaliths or volcanic rocks align with the movement of the stars, align with the movement of the sun and the heavens. So, this is why we're having a Summer Solstice experience."



Father's DAY WEEKEND 18TH - 20TH

DADDY Big Box

- Deluxe Chicken Sandwich (pickles optional)
- 2 PCs (leg and thigh)
- Fries
- Biscuit
- Cookie
- FREE Pepsi

\$29⁹⁹

KFC

#StaySafe

FOR DELIVERY  **736-7845 / 562-9444**
or **DOWNLOAD THE APP...**
Apple Store / Google PlayStore

@kfcanu **#KFCANU #SOCIALDISTANCING #MADEFRESHEVERYDAY**



Priest Isaac (in bright green clothing) with family and friends at the Green Castle Hill megalith.

On Sunday, June 20, the northern pole will experience its maximum tilt towards the sun, marking the onset of summer when the sun reaches its maximum declination.

This is known as the summer solstice, the estival solstice or mid-summer, and Priest Isaac says persons from abroad usually visit to observe events such as these in Antigua, as the site at Green Castle Hill is unique among the global community.

“There are many sites around the world similar to Green Castle Hill, yet not similar. Meaning ... there are many megalithic sites where people visit, especially on ... key days like the solstices and the equinoxes,” he stated.

“But the thing that makes Antigua’s Green Castle Hill stand out is that it is an all-natural site, meaning it wasn’t built; it wasn’t put together. No one laid the stones in array and there are countless of them up there at Green Castle Hill.”

The activities to make this year’s Summer Solstice kicked off on Tuesday (June 15) with the webinar ‘Green Castle Hill: The Spirit of Antigua’, a free virtual event hosted by Priest Isaac.

It was followed by a cannabis tour lecture, Rastafari Chalice Talk,

yesterday (June 17) with a double hike slated for June 18 and 20 to the Green Castle Hill, featuring Antiguan historian Paddy ‘The Griot’ Simon.

Persons in Antigua and Barbuda are therefore invited to experience the unique

event which will also be broadcast via Facebook for persons living abroad and for those wishing to join in on the activities from the comfort of their homes.

For live interviews, tune in to Platinum FM 97.9 Mon-Fri, 9am-10am

PLATINUM FM GET NOTICED, & STAND OUT!
We Entertain You 97.9



WE PROVIDE:

- RADIO AD SPOTS
- RADIO AD PRODUCTION
- RADIO MENTIONS
- HALF HOUR RADIO PROMOTIONS

ADVERTISE WITH US

Sales Rep: 268-775-4488
Studio Number: 268-562-9790/9
Whatsapp: 268-780-9790

Twitch.tv/platinumfm979 Platinum FM 97.9

CONTACT US FOR RATES!

THIS AD WAS DESIGNED BY: SISTAH SOULJAHS HUB • 268-722-2931

DEMOCRACY TOO PRECIOUS IN CARICOM NOT TO DEFEND IT ABROAD



By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)

More commonality was shown by CARICOM countries in a vote on Tuesday June 15 at the Organization of American States (OAS) than has been seen in

recent times. Eleven CARICOM countries joined 15 other member states of the OAS in adopting a resolution “expressing alarm at the recent deterioration of the political climate and human rights situation in Nicaragua” and condemning “the arrest, harassment and arbitrary restrictions placed on presidential candidates, political parties and independent media”. The resolution also urged the government of President Daniel Ortega to promote “transparent, free and fair elections

in November”, including observation by international bodies.

In full transparency, I disclose that I chaired the June 15 meeting in my capacity as Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador and, presently, President of the Permanent Council of the OAS.

In joining this resolution, the 11 CARICOM countries were consistent in their position that there should be no interference in the internal affairs of States. However, no country can be a member of any organization which proclaims adherence to the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and free and fair elections, and remain silent when these principles are discarded.

It should be noted that in 13 of the 14 independent CARICOM countries, these principles are fully respected, and when they were under severe threat in Guyana last year, CARICOM countries played a vital role in ensuring, particularly, that presidential and regional elections

were not stolen.

Democracy, free and fair elections, a free press and the right of dissent are all vigorously upheld in the majority of CARICOM countries. Upholding and respecting these principles might be hard for parties in power to accept, especially if false charges and accusations are made against them. Nonetheless, opposition politicians are not locked-up and the media is not silenced.

As an example of this, a Facebook posting (at: <https://fb.watch/635WS4LY-wv/>) shows a live scene in Antigua of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and leader of one of the opposition parties, Harold Lovell, with supporters meeting in a street in a constituency while the Prime Minister was on a “walk about”. There were verbal exchanges between them, but there was not one armed soldier present, no building was burned, no citizen threatened, and no person charged

or detained. Dissent is defended in 13 of the 14 independent CARICOM countries because it is a fundamental right for which these societies fought through slavery, indentured labour and worker exploitation. Democracy and free and fair elections are safeguarded because they are valued by people as a peaceful means of changing governments with which the majority are dissatisfied.

Because the people of these countries respect – and expect – these values in their homelands, their representatives cannot be silent spectators when they are violated elsewhere.

There is still one Member State of CARICOM where democracy and the rule of law are being ignored, and in which transparent, free and fair presidential and legislative elections are in serious peril. Silence, so far, by CARICOM collectively on the destruction of democratic institutions in this member country, disregards the Charter of Civil Society which was invoked in the Guyana situation last year.

Fascism, authoritarianism and the sheer lust to retain power despite the majority will, lurk dangerously everywhere – even in the United States which lays claim to being a bastion of democracy and the rule of law. That democracy was weakened by naked political ambition backed by vested interests and manifested by an organized assault on the US Congress and a bogus claim of stolen elections. Fortunately, for the people of the US, other institutions of democracy such as the Courts, the media, and the armed forces, remained faithful to their national obligations. But, the US is today wounded and weakened by these events.

Ponder, therefore, how smaller nations could suffer prolonged agony in trying to regain democracy when it is seized from their grasp.

That is why 11 CARICOM delegations at the OAS, on June 15, opted to send a clear signal to President Ortega that they want him to act democratically, to release persons who have

been arbitrarily arrested, and to stop onslaughts on the media.

The 11 CARICOM countries did not come to their common position without giving President Ortega's government every chance to remedy conditions in Nicaragua. For example, Antigua and Barbuda and a few other CARICOM countries voted against previous resolutions aimed at Nicaragua. They did so to give President Ortega time to address grave charges raised by the Inter-American and UN Commissions on Human Rights. These Commissions reported that the "human rights crisis has resulted in at least 328 deaths and some 2,000 injuries as a result of action by State agents or armed civilians acting with their acquiescence and tolerance".

The recent spate of arbitrary arrests of persons, of beatings while in prison, of denials of access to legal representation and needed medicines, with no effort to change these conditions, including no attempt to implement

much-needed electoral reform, left the 11 CARICOM countries with no choice. As the Ambassador of Barbados, Noel Lynch, said at the June 15 meeting: "The evolving circumstances in Nicaragua are sufficiently worrying to warrant a strong call from the OAS membership for adequate steps to be taken to ensure transparent, free and fair elections in Nicaragua."

Sadly, when – as President of the OAS Permanent Council – I convened a meeting on Monday 14 June to allow the representatives of Nicaragua an opportunity to state their view on the resolution, they opted not to show up.

Nicaragua may seem distant from the CARICOM area, but CARICOM must speak out to uphold democracy and the rule of law everywhere, or risk endangering these vital safeguards of freedom at home.

Responses and previous commentaries:
www.sirronaldsanders.com



CDB calls for strong, inclusive growth after COVID-19

Jamaica Observer - Director of Economics at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Ian Durant, says increasing competitiveness has to be the top priority for inducing strong and inclusive growth and overcome the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking at the seminar, “Reimagining Caribbean Economies in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic” – held virtually on Thursday morning as part of CDB’s 51st Annual Meeting – Durant explained that the region’s economies are small, with no reserve currencies, and are heavily reliant on imports to maintain standards of living.

“This means that increasing gross domestic product – increasing incomes and improving standards of living in a sustainable way – requires export growth. But this export growth must be diverse to ensure that there are no

major setbacks when one export industry is affected by a shock. In turn, diversification requires enhanced competitiveness,” Durant stated.

Highlighting the way forward for increasing competitiveness, he said: “First, at the centre of our strategies must be digitalisation and physical resilience. We need to create digital citizens with access to the internet and services online.”

Noting the geographical location of Caribbean countries, Durant said it is equally important to improve physical resilience to natural hazards, and to upgrade infrastructure that makes it easy and quick to transit the country. He said improving governance to hold senior officials accountable, and keep them focused on national development objectives, is also key.

In his presentation, Durant shared the deep impact which

COVID-19 has had on Caribbean countries, noting that 13 of CDB’s 19 borrowing member countries (BMCs) recorded double-digit declines in gross domestic product (GDP), with an average downturn of 7.2 percent in 2020. Regional exports also fell by 26 percent, while imports decreased by 27 percent in 2020 and BMCs that had debt-to-GDP ratios above 60 percent increased to 13 in 2020, compared with nine in 2019, the bank reported.

The CDB projected a moderate average growth of 3.4 percent in BMCs in 2021, and a slow return to debt sustainability in the region, with only countries exporting services reaching an average of 60 percent in 2026/27, while the debt-to-GDP ratio of commodities-exporting countries will stay at about 80 percent throughout this decade.

St. Vincent PM says gov't, firms can demand C-19 jabs

I-Witness News, SVG - The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines says mandatory COVID-19 vaccination can be ordered for private and public sector workers.

Further, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, who is Minister of Legal Affairs, said the law allows for a person to be legally fired if they refuse to take the COVID-19 jab.

"My answer to you in relation to the current laws, both in relation to the private sector and the public sector, that you can impose the condition that if you don't take the vaccine you may be terminated," Gonsalves, a lawyer, told a press conference on Tuesday.

"In the case of both public and private sectors, the employer has a right to have a safe place of work, including a healthy place for you to work, an environment for you to work," he said.

Gonsalves said this is recognised in the common law, adding, "Various statute laws will bolster it, but the common law is there. And there is the obligation on the part of the employee to cooperate with the employer in having a safe and healthy place for work."

The Government has ordered that all unvac-

cinated public sector workers, as of last month, present to their supervisor a negative COVID-19 test.

Further, unvaccinated public workers have been told that they must be prepared for regular

made mandatory, Gonsalves said:

"You see, this thing works both ways. If an employee who is vaccinated says 'though I am vaccinated I can still get COVID, though reduced chances, but I don't feel

form a worker that they may be terminated if they do not take the vaccine, "But they have to be reasonable in terms of the notice," Gonsalves said.

"For instance, the State as an employer, the Central Government, and the



testing, up to once every two weeks.

The Public Service Union has dismissed the Government's policy as another attempt to force people to take the COVID-19 jab.

The Government is lagging far behind its target of vaccinating 50,000 residents of SVG by this time. Figures released by the Ministry of Health on June 1 indicate that 20,324 vaccines had been administered—13,902 being first doses and 6,432 second doses.

On the issue of whether vaccination could be

safe among persons who are not vaccinated' in a close work environment because the science says and the protocols say that if you are all vaccinated you can stay within a particular area, a certain number of you, without wearing a mask because you manage the risk there, it is highly unlikely that you would get transmission from one to the next persons. So, that somebody who is vaccinated can raise the issue in a workplace where the persons are not vaccinated."

An employer can in-

advice which we have received and I read the law too, is that you will give a reasonable notice period, say, 'listen we are planning to have persons at this or that, this work environment vaccinated and that we make the vaccine accessible to you', whether it is a two-week period you get or four-week period in which this is going to be done and if you refuse to take it, it would be considered that this is an act of misconduct."

Acts of misconduct may lead to dismissal, Gonsalves said.

British boarding school to set up in Barbados

Barbados Today – The UK-based Malvern College is set to open a campus in Barbados in 2023, the learning institution has announced.

The international boarding and day school for students aged 13 to 18 said in a notice that it was delighted to announce a proposed opening of its eighth campus, the Malvern College Barbados, in September 2023.

Officials have not yet disclosed where the institution will be located or the cost of the proposed investment. The co-education institution also has campuses in China, Switzerland, Egypt and Hong Kong.

“Malvern College is one of England’s great independent schools and our new school in Barbados will embody our over-arching transformative approach to learning and education. With a firm focus on academic excellence and an enrichment programme that stimulates intellectual curiosity, our commitment across all our schools is to developing outstanding young people with the skills, resilience and initiative to flourish in a rapidly-changing global landscape,” the school said.

“The advantages and quality of life afforded by the Caribbean climate can only enhance the opportunities available through both the formal curricular and the diverse super curricular and co-curricular programmes. The formal curriculum will be based on the British curriculum with



pupils studying for IGCSEs and international “A” Level examinations,” it explained.

In addition, the school will deliver a particular emphasis on the outdoors and sustainability, with a purpose-built Environmental Studies Centre offering subjects including Marine Biology and Sustainable Development.

However, Allan Walker, Director of Malvern College International, said the campus in Barbados will be the first of its kind in the Caribbean. “We are delighted to be developing this very exciting project in Barbados, which we believe will be the first British boarding school in the Caribbean. We have a fantastic opportunity to provide unique and transformational educational opportunities at Malvern College Barbados, which maximise the benefits of the Caribbean climate and natural assets,” said Walker.

Eamonn Mullally, Director of Education, said: “Malvern College Barbados will be committed

to developing a programme of education for sustainable development and enhancing clean, green technologies which minimise our carbon footprint whilst working with our exquisite natural environment to deliver a bespoke educational experience which, it is hoped, will foster a life-long commitment to caring for the world around us.”

Additionally, programmes of study and co-curricular activities will provide ample opportunity to study land-based ecosystems in an island environment, utilising trips and expeditions to compare these with the wider world.

Officials said Malvern College Barbados was currently seeking expressions of interest from prospective parents as it continues to work towards finalising plans for a 2023 opening.

The statement said, “The campus will be developed in sympathy with the local area, with an emphasis on sustainability and an aspiration to achieve a carbon neutral footprint.”

COVID scare forces cruise cancellation — BVI Premier



BVI News Online – A cruise call that was expected to jumpstart the BVI's cruise tourism industry this week was abruptly announced as cancelled.

According to Premier Andrew Fahie, the highly anticipated cruise liner, the Celebrity Millennium, reportedly experienced a COVID-19 scare en route to the territory, forcing it to make the cancellation.

Royal Caribbean is the parent company of Celebrity Cruises.

"The first cruise ship was due to call on the BVI this week. However, due to increased COVID-19 cases at a 'destination stop' prior to ours, the cruise liner took the decision to cancel the rest of the cruise," Premier Fahie said.

A CNN news report said two guests aboard the cruise tested positive for the virus late last week. The persons were reportedly asymptomatic and the vessel had about 500 passengers at the time.

Stakeholders urged to prepare themselves

Meanwhile, the Premier, who is also the Minister of Tourism, assured that the BVI was "still on target to receive cruise ships in the very near future."

Once again, he encouraged stakeholders within the industry to prepare themselves and get their businesses ready to welcome the return of the cruise ships. Premier Fahie said more information on the cruise sector would be made available to the public in short order.

The Celebrity Edge is the next cruise liner expected to grace the BVI's ports and is slated to dock on July 6. This is according to the cruise schedule on the BVI Ports Authority's official website.

The cruise call is expected to bring more than 3,000 guests to the BVI's shores, and will likely offer a much-needed in-

jection to the territory's badly hit economy. This is expected to be followed two days later by the Norwegian Breakaway which will be bringing over 4,000 guests to the BVI.

Reopening efforts experiencing setbacks

The BVI has experienced some challenges in recent months in its efforts to get the tourism industry—one of its two main economic pillars—back in full gear after being inactive for more than a year.

The territory's seaports were first expected to reopen in December last year, but this was subsequently pushed back until January, then March, before it was again rescheduled for mid-April.

On June 15, Premier Fahie also announced that three additional seaports are now expected to receive international travellers once they are fully vaccinated.

These are the Soper's Hole Dock at West End; Dog Hole Dock at Jost Van Dyke; and the St. Thomas Bay Dock at Virgin Gorda. Throughout all of its setbacks, the BVI has admirably managed its share of COVID-19 cases, keeping community spread to a bare minimum and experiencing only one COVID-related death since the start of the global pandemic.



Biden signs Juneteenth bill, creating holiday to mark end of slavery in US

Reuters - U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris signed a Bill into law on Thursday afternoon to make June 19 a Federal holiday commemorating the end of the legal enslavement of Black Americans.

The Bill, which was passed overwhelmingly by the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday after a unanimous vote in the Senate, marks the day in 1865 when a Union general informed a group of enslaved people in Texas that they had been made free two years earlier by President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.

"Juneteenth marks both a long hard night of slavery subjugation and a promise of a brighter morning to come," Biden said. He added that the day is a reminder of the "terrible toll that slavery took on the country and continues to take".

Biden said, "Great nations don't ignore their most painful moments ... they embrace

them." He spoke in a room filled with about 80 members of Congress, local elected officials, community leaders and activists such as Opal Lee, who campaigned to make Juneteenth a holiday. Biden and his fellow Democrats are under pressure to respond to a slew of Republican-backed State bills that civil rights activists say aim to suppress voting by minorities, and to meaningfully address the disproportionate killing of Black men by police.

"It's important to commemorate emancipation and to encourage everyday Americans to reckon with the history of slavery ... but there is always a danger with these sort of things so they can be performative," said Matthew Delmont, a professor of history at Dartmouth College, who specializes in African-American history and civil rights.

Designating Juneteenth a Federal holiday will be a "failure" if it just acknowledges the date without spurring action

on issues such as police brutality, voting rights, and the racial wealth gap, Delmont said.

The law comes a year after the United States was rocked by protests against racism and policing following the murder of George Floyd, an African-American man, by a Minneapolis police officer.

Juneteenth will be the eleventh federally recognized holiday, joining a list that includes Christmas, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Independence Day, as well as days honoring presidents and slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Inauguration day, when the U.S. president is sworn in, is also a Federal holiday every four years.

Federal employees will start taking the holiday off this year, observing it on Friday since Juneteenth falls on Saturday, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management said on Twitter.



Israel strikes Gaza after Hamas fires incendiary balloons

Associated Press – Israel launched air-strikes on the Gaza Strip late Thursday for a second time since a shaky cease-fire ended last month's 11-day war. The strikes came after activists mobilized by Gaza's militant Hamas rulers launched incendiary balloons into Israel for a third straight day.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the strikes, which could be heard from Gaza City. Israel also carried out airstrikes early Wednesday, targeting what it is said were Hamas facilities, without killing or wounding anyone.

The military said fighter jets struck Hamas "military compounds and a rocket launch site" late Thursday in response to the balloons. It said

its forces were preparing for a "variety of scenarios including a resumption of hostilities."

Rocket sirens went off in Israeli communities near Gaza shortly after the airstrikes. The military later said they were triggered by "incoming fire, not rockets."

Surveillance camera footage obtained by The Associated Press showed what appeared to be heavy machine-gun fire into the air from Gaza, a possible attempt by Palestinian militants to shoot down aircraft. Other footage showed projectiles being fired from Gaza, but it was unclear what kind or where they landed.

Tensions have remained high since a cease-fire halted the war on May 21, even as Egyptian mediators

have met with Israeli and Hamas officials to try and shore up the informal truce.

Israel and Hamas have fought four wars and countless smaller skirmishes since the Islamic militant group seized power from rival Palestinians forces in 2007. Israel and Egypt have imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza, which is home to more than 2 million Palestinians, since Hamas took over.

Earlier, Israeli police used stun grenades and a water cannon spraying skunk water to disperse Palestinian protesters from Damascus Gate in east Jerusalem, the epicenter of weeks of protests and clashes in the run-up to the Gaza war.

After the crowds were dispersed, Palestinians could be seen throwing rocks and wa-

ter bottles at ultra-Orthodox Jews walking in the area.

Calls had circulated for protesters to gather at Damascus Gate in response to a rally held there by Jewish ultra-nationalists on Tuesday in which dozens of Israelis had chanted "Death to Arabs" and "May your village burn." The police had forcibly cleared the square and provided security for that rally, part of a parade to celebrate Israel's conquest of east Jerusalem.

In a separate incident, a Palestinian teenager died Thursday after being shot by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank during a protest against a settlement outpost, the fourth demonstrator to be killed since the outpost was established last month.

Kim Jong Un admits North Korea is facing 'tense food situation'

(CNN) – North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has admitted his country is facing food shortages that he blamed on last year's typhoon and floods, just months after he warned North Koreans about a looming potential crisis.

Kim told the plenary meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea that the nation was experiencing a "tense food situation," Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Wednesday.

The secretive country has cut itself off from the rest of the world even more during the pandemic.

Speaking on Tuesday, Kim said the conditions and environment that North Korea was facing "have become worse upon entering this year," even though its economy has, on the whole, shown improvement.

He said the meeting of the ruling party should take the measure of the problem, according to KCNA.

Kim did not disclose the scale of the shortages, but they appear to be serious. In April,

KCNA reported Kim urged people to undertake another "arduous march", while addressing a top-level political meeting. The term "arduous march" refers to a period of devastating famine in the early 1990s when North Korea's economy spiraled downward following the collapse of the Soviet Union, which ended the flow of aid into the country.

Hundreds of thousands of people, or as many as 10% of the country's population, were estimated to have starved to death.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has estimated that North Korea is short of about 860,000 tons of food, enough for just over two months of supplies.

In a report released on Monday, the FAO said North Korea officially plans to import only about one-fifth of the food it needs to cover the gaps in domestic shortages. It said that while North Korea increased agricultural planting in 2020, the growth "mostly off-



In a photo taken on December 1, 2020, a worker sorts cabbages on a factory production line in Pyongyang.

set yield losses due to floods and storms" that the Korean Peninsula experienced from early August until early September 2020.

The FAO has warned that if the gap in supplies is not covered through imports or aid, North Koreans could experience "a harsh lean period between August and October 2021." KCNA said the

plenary meeting would focus on directing all efforts to farming this year and coping with the epidemic situation.

Other topics listed in the report included the current international situation and the ruling party's corresponding direction, improving living standards and childcare, and discussing organizational issues.

US Supreme Court backs Nestle, Cargill in child slave labour suit



The case is Nestle USA v. Doe I, 19-416, and Cargill Inc. v. Doe I, 19-453.

Aljazeera – The United States Supreme Court on Thursday sided with food giants Nestle and Cargill in a lawsuit that claimed they knowingly bought cocoa beans from farms in Africa that used child slave labour.

The justices ruled 8-1 in favour of the food companies and against a group of six adult citizens of Mali who claimed they were taken from their country as children and forced to work on cocoa farms in neighbouring Ivory Coast.

The justices said an appeals court was wrong to let the group's lawsuit go forward.

"Although respondents' injuries occurred entirely overseas, the Ninth Circuit

held that respondents could sue in Federal Court because the defendant corporations allegedly made 'major operational decisions' in the United States. The Ninth Circuit erred by allowing this suit to proceed," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in a majority opinion for the court.

The case had been twice dismissed at an early stage before being revived by the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. When the case was argued in December, then-President Donald Trump's administration backed Nestle and Cargill.


The argument of the group from Mali is that Minneapolis-based Cargill and the US arm of Switzerland-based

Nestle "aided and abetted" their slavery as children by, among other things, buying cocoa beans from farms that used child labour. The group sued, seeking to bring a class-action lawsuit on behalf of themselves and who they say are thousands of other former child slaves.

Nestle and Cargill have said they have taken steps to combat child slavery and have denied any wrongdoing.


The case involves a law enacted by the very first Congress in 1789, the Alien Tort Statute, which permits foreign citizens to sue in US courts for human rights abuses. The question for the justices was whether it permits lawsuits against US companies.

The High Court in recent years has limited the use of the Alien Tort Statute. In 2018, the court ruled that foreign businesses cannot be sued under the law. In that case, the court rejected an attempt by Israeli victims of attacks in the West Bank and Gaza to use US courts to sue Jordan-based Arab Bank which they said helped finance the attacks.



Persons who are scheduled to receive their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in July, are to do so in June at any of the four (4) vaccinations sites.

For appointments due July 1-17, get second dose June 14-20
For appointments due July 18-31, get second dose June 21-30



Vaccination card and Government issued picture ID required

Mondays to Fridays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Vaccination sites:

- Villa Polyclinic
- Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Center
- Glanvilles Polyclinic
- Precision Center in Paynters, behind GiGi Furniture Gallery. (for persons who went to Sir Novell Richards Academy)

EACH VACCINATED, ALL PROTECTED. #GETTHEFACTS #GETTHEVAX

TAKE ME HOME




This handsome young male pup named Noah would love to join your family. Noah is available for adoption at the Humane Society's animal shelter in Bethesda. The adoption fee of \$100 covers worming, treating for ticks and fleas, vaccinations, and will also cover neutering when Noah is old enough. If you would like to adopt Noah or any of our other dogs or pups,

PLEASE CALL US AT 461-4957 FOR MORE INFORMATION. WE ARE OPEN TUESDAY TO SATURDAY FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

SATURDAY 19 JUNE 2021

ABDA ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DIABETES ASSOCIATION in partnership with **"We Care" Medical Benefits Scheme** THE MEDICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

PUBLIC HEALTH SCREENING



Dr. Dwight Matthias, MD, FACP
Consultant Endocrinologist
Specialist in Diabetes Management

Educational and counselling sessions will be available.

✓ Blood Glucose	✓ Cholesterol	✓ Blood Pressure	✓ Body Mass Index (BMI)
--------------------	------------------	---------------------	----------------------------

COVID-19 vaccinations will also be available.

Time: 7AM - 11AM
Venue: Nurses Association Building
Queen Elizabeth Highway

COVID-19 protocols will be fully observed.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & ENVIRONMENT

COVID-19 VACCINATION MOBILE SERVICE SCHEDULE

FIRST & SECOND DOSE ASTRAZENECA VACCINE WHO: 18 YEARS AND OLDER

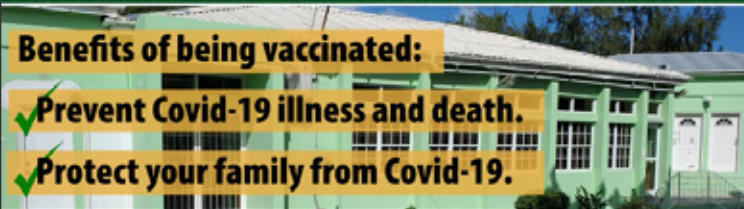
DATE: 19TH JUNE 2021
TIME: 7:00AM - 1:00PM
WHERE: NURSES HEADQUARTERS, QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHWAY

Vaccination card and Government issued picture ID required

ALSO AVAILABLE
PUBLIC SCREENING
OFFERED BY
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA DIABETES ASSOCIATION and MEDICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

Benefits of being vaccinated:

- ✓ Prevent Covid-19 illness and death.
- ✓ Protect your family from Covid-19.



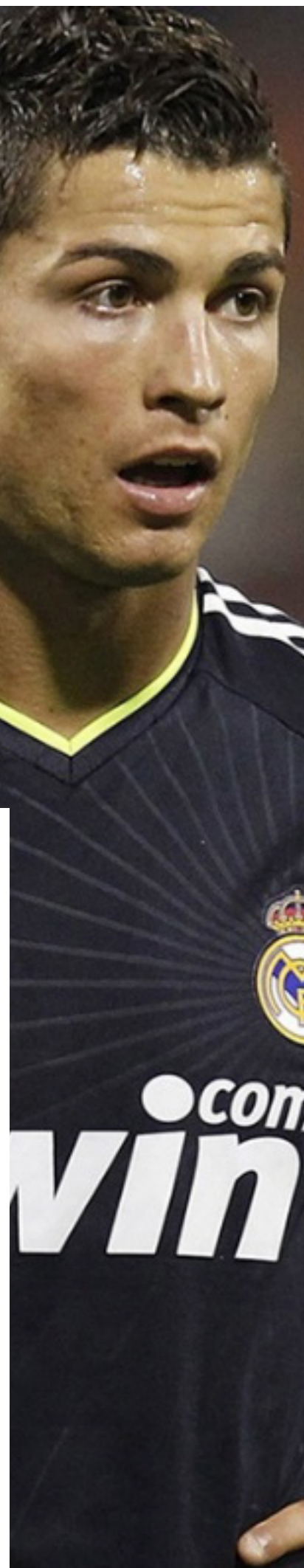
EACH VACCINATED, ALL PROTECTED. #GETTHEFACTS #GETTHEVAX

Coca Cola shares drop following Ronaldo snub

Cristiano Ronaldo

(REUTERS) – France midfielder **Paul Pogba** removed a Heineken bottle in front of him at a Euro 2020 news conference, a day after Portugal captain **Cristiano Ronaldo** removed two Coca-Cola bottles, sparking a furore among football fans. Pogba, a practising Muslim, moved away the beer bottle when he sat down to speak to the media on Tuesday after he was named man of the match in France's 1-0 Group F win over Germany. Heineken, one of the official sponsors of Euro2020, was not immediately available for comment. Ronaldo, known for his peak levels of fitness, moved the cola bottles aside as he sat down to speak to

the media ahead of Tuesday's Group F opener against Hungary. The 36-year old then held up a bottle of water and said "Água" in Portuguese, making headlines. The beverage giant's shares dropped 1.6% on Monday, wiping off about \$4 billion from the company's market capitalization, following Ronaldo's snub. In a response, Europe's soccer governing body, UEFA, said: "Coca-Cola offers a range of drinks to suit different tastes and needs, which are available to players throughout the tournament. This includes water, isotonic sports drinks and juices, coffee and tea, as well as Coca-Cola."





NBA Playoffs Round Up

Kevin Durant

Brooklyn Nets storm back against Milwaukee Bucks

Playing in a must-win game at home versus the Milwaukee Bucks, with James Harden questionable, and Kyrie Irving ruled out for the rest of the season, Kevin Durant put on a show for the ages. He single-handedly led the Nets to an emotional 114-108 victory, playing all 48 minutes of the contest. The numbers defy belief: 49 points, 17 rebounds, 10 assists, three blocked shots and two steals. Jeff Greene, coming off the bench, scored 27 points to fill the void left by both James Harden and Kyrie Irving (ankle injury). Twitter was abuzz after the game. LeBron James wrote: "Greatness! Appreciate it while you can people!" While Magic Johnson wrote: "Kevin Durant gave us a Mount Rushmore performance tonight!!" The Brooklyn Nets needed every single bit of his epic production to hold off the Milwaukee Bucks for the win which gave them a 3-2 series lead. Giannis Antetokounmpo 34 points, 12 re-

bounds and Khris Middleton, 25 points, were the main scorers for the Bucks, who kept the game close. The Bucks led by 16 points at half-time and were outscored 71-49 in the second half.

Atlanta Hawks win against Philadelphia 76ers

The 76ers started Game 5 with a shooting blitz and scored nearly as many points in the first quarter as the Hawks did in the entire first half. However, the Hawks rallied from as much as 26 points down to take the lead with 1:26 left in the fourth quarter for a remarkable win. In a most amazing turn of events, the Hawks defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 109-106. Once again, Trae Young had 39 points to lead all scorers. Joel Embiid was huge for the 76ers, scoring 37 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. He was supported by Seth Curry who had 36 points in a losing cause. The Hawks now lead 3-2 and could wrap up the series at home tonight in Game 6.

Los Angeles Clippers take lead against the Utah Jazz

Paul George delivered exactly what was needed to move the Los Angeles Clippers one step closer to their first conference final berth.

With Kawhi Leonard sidelined by a knee injury, George responded with one of the best performances of his NBA career – 37 points, 16 rebounds, five assists – to lead the Clippers to a 119-111 victory over the Utah Jazz in Game 5 of their Western Conference semifinal series on Wednesday night.

Bojan Bogdanovic made nine 3-pointers and scored 32 points to lead Utah. Donovan Mitchell added 21 points. Rudy Gobert chipped in with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Six players scored in double figures for the Jazz.

Game 6 is tonight at the STAPLES Center, Los Angeles. The Clippers now lead the series 3-2. The winner of this series will play the Phoenix Suns in the Western Conference final.

British Athletes to quarantine in Tokyo

TOKYO, Japan—A Tokyo 2020 spokesman confirmed that athletes are not exempt from Japanese Government restrictions that were imposed last week due to fears about rising cases of **COVID Delta Variant** in the UK. Under current rules, all Olympic-accredited arrivals from the UK must immediately self-quarantine in their official **Olympic Games hotel rooms** for six days.

Masa Takaya, a spokesperson for **Tokyo 2020** said: “Quarantine for six days is required for some countries where the same treatment will be imposed [on] athletes and media.”

Failure to comply with the rules risks disciplinary consequences, including disqualification or even deportation, under stringent guidelines published by the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday. Officials of the Brit-

ish Olympic Association indicated they remain hopeful that existing restrictions will be eased when they are scheduled for revision by the Japanese Government on 1st July. “We continue to have positive dialogue with the IOC and the Tokyo Organizing Committee, following our letter to the president of Tokyo 2020,” said a BOA spokesperson. “Our approach to additional testing measures and vaccinations for the delegation, prior to departure and upon arrival, demonstrate we are doing everything possible to minimize any risk to the people of Japan.”

The IOC has consistently maintained that disruptions for athletes will be kept to a minimum, and is also engaged in continuing dialogue with Japanese Government officials over the implications of the official decrees. IOC executive director Christopher Dubi said: “Those countries that are

affected by the variants have also made a pledge ... whereby they will take measures on their side. If there is a problem, of course we will follow the rule as established by the authorities, but we can do more, and this is what these delegations have pledged to do.”

Athletes already face a rigid schedule of daily testing in Tokyo, and will be both accompanied by supervisors and GPS-tracked when they travel from their accommodation to Games venues.

At the moment, there is a six-day quarantine in place for people arriving from red-list countries. Tokyo 2020 is working closely with the national government to address the current situation and mitigate any impact on participants, while ensuring safe and secure Games.

DEWS

TOUCH LINE
with
VERON 'EPLIUS' EDWARDS JR.
VERNON A. SPRINGER

MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:00am - 8:30am

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
99.1 FM



Windies vs Proteas: 2nd Test preview

GROS ISLET, St. Lucia – Already trailing 1-0, the West Indies will be looking to square the **Betway** Test series against South Africa starting today at the Daren Sammy National Stadium. In an interesting development, the head groundsman at the Daren Sammy National Stadium, speaking on a radio program earlier this week, said he was “surprised” at the West Indies’ decision to bat first after winning the toss. Said Ken Crafton: “Certainly I was happy with what I saw.

I loved the bounce and pace (but was) very disappointed with the West Indies team.” He continued: “Absolutely, I was shocked! I could not believe that was the case (batting first). From being the head groundsman at the Daren Sammy Cricket ground, (I know) there is always a chance for the team bowling first to put their hands out and start from in-front.”

Crafton is predicting another good pitch with “some bounce and pace” for the second Betway

Test which starts today. West Indies will need to put in a much-improved batting performance if they are to save the series. The home team has made two changes: Shannon Gabriel and Darren Bravo are recalled, while Alzarri Joseph has been dropped.

As per the concussion protocol, Nkrumah Bonner is unavailable for selection.

The teams are playing for the Sir Vivian Richards Trophy.