

# ZERO CASES, NO WASTED DOSES!

SEE PAGE 4



## Preserving World Heritage History

*Stabilizing work on the Copper and Lumber Store Historic Inn at Nelson's Dockyard, about to celebrate 5 years as Antigua and Barbuda's UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site. Master stonemasons replace eroded stone with fresh, hand-cut-and-set stone, using same traditional techniques as when building was first erected in order to retain authenticity. (story on page 12)*

**ANTI-CRIME SUMMIT TODAY ( page 9 )**

**CARNIVAL 2021: A DEFINITE NO-NO ( page 10 )**



# National blessedness & the substance of government

Twice during this month alone, Antigua and Barbuda has shown that bad times do not have to bring out the worst in people, as often happens when domestic populations feel the economic pressures of recessions and downturns.

This phenomenon is nothing new and has popped up in divers corners of the inhabited earth across the long span of time, that people turn against foreigners and become hostile and aggressive toward them, blaming them for things being hard in the country and wanting to run them out as the ones who make it difficult for the native people to earn a living and eat a bread.

Scarcity and hardship – or even just a perception of these – can cause these reactions toward immigrants who were formerly welcomed and with whom there had hitherto been peaceful coexistence and harmonious – even amorous – inter-mixing.

That can suddenly change when the pressure for jobs begins to really bite, when

money and the accustomed things it can pay for become impossibly strange to our pockets and skittish to our hands. A stifling postwar economic depression in Europe during the 1920s led to blame and resentment heaped against certain minorities and ethnicities. It fueled the racist and genocidal fervor of a frustrated ne'er-do-well Austrian ex-soldier. He was, in turn, able to convince and incite an entire group (axis) of nations into igniting what turned out to be the bloodiest, most brutal and most far-flung armed conflict the world has ever known. The resulting barbaric slaughter, carnage and destruction of the Second World War was on a scale as unimaginable as it was unprecedented – and remains, to this day, un-replicated.

The philosophy, sobriety, capacity and foresight of a national government is almost always the critical and determining difference between whether a nation descends into xenophobic paranoia with all its hysterical blaming and shrill demands for no-ques-

tions-asked expulsions; or whether that government – with divine-like creativity – prefers to focus on the half-full aspect of the national glass and see how it can innovatively co-opt foreigners into becoming solutions to the challenges, rather than reflexively lumping and hating them as scapegoats for the problems. This is where the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party – both the one led now by Hon. Gaston Browne and the previous ones led by Sir Vere Cornwall “Papa” Bird, and then by his successor son Sir Lester Bryant Bird – have so brilliantly outshone the clueless United Progressive Party (UPP) of its de facto leader and economic policy birdbrain Harold Lovell.

When the effects of the 2008 global financial crisis hit Antigua and Barbuda the following year, and following its dismal performance in the 2009 general elections, the UPP’s first knee-jerk impulse was to turn against the immigrant communities of Antigua and Barbuda who they blamed for causing them to “almost

lose” the elections of March 2009. It did not matter to the UPP that these same immigrant communities had voted heavily for them in March 2004, only to see the dusk of incompetence rapidly settle on the promised Government in the Sunshine as they mismanaged both their involvement with Allen Stanford and failed to leverage the benefits and opportunities that could and should have arisen from hosting the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup. Instead the UPP went after such as the Spanish-speaking, Guyanese and Jamaican communities to strip them of voting rights and citizenship eligibility; demeaning the dignity and upward mobility which the ALP had successfully imbued Antiguan and Barbudans by inciting native people to make noise with Dominicans and Jamaicans about low-paying jobs such as security work that the native people had long outgrown and no longer wanted, which is why the foreigners ended up filling such voids in the labour mar-

ket. But it was easier for the UPP to encourage and foster such conflicts as a convenient distraction to their own cluelessness about how to deal with the economic situation caused by the global financial downturn and the downfall of Allen Stanford. We do know that Harold Lovell’s only answer was his nationally disastrous walk on his knees, cap in hand, to the IMF. Gaston Browne not only rescued us from that, but demonstrated yet again why the substance of government in this country resides and abides in the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party. Because, faced with the debilitating economic mauling of the global coronavirus pandemic, the government he leads – rather than turning on foreigners or encouraging the people of this country to do so – has reached out even more hospitably and compassionately to people whose immigration status has moved into the red zone for manifold reasons. In order not to spook them from avoiding

vaccination for fear of being apprehended, the Gaston Browne administration has afford these illegals a virtual amnesty, an automatic extension of time, a payment plan and partial waiver for arrears, the promise of no arrests or detentions consequent on their coming forward for vaccination, and the almost no-questions-asked regularization of the status of their children born here during the time of their own un-regularized presence in the country in order not to deny their children the benefits of education, employment, healthcare, protection under the law, and eligible citizenship.

The UPP, not surprisingly, is the party of antagonism, harshness, mercilessness and vindictiveness. The ABLP proves time and time again that it is about regionalism, integration, understanding, sharing, helping – even as it never compromises on the security and welfare of this country and its people.

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COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
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# Still zero COVID cases, as vaccines being fully utilized

by Shelton Daniel

Active cases of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda remain where they have been for the past three weeks – at zero! – “good news” made even sweeter by the positive pickup in vaccination take-up by a previously reluctant public.

These developments were high-

lighted by Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Saturday during his weekly radio program, *The Browne and Browne Show* on **Pointe FM 99.1**. “We have had an increase in the amount of vaccinated persons. So we have about ... 28,000 people, just about, who would have taken their second dose [and] are fully vaccinated. So that represents about

29 percent, just under 30 percent, of the country’s population.”

While noting that, “We would want it to be significantly better,” Prime Minister Browne said the percentage of inoculation attained this far is “good in the circumstances”. He repeated that, “The whole idea is to get to herd immunity as

soon as possible.” Based on Antigua and Barbuda’s current population of 100,000, herd immunity would require the immunization of 70-80 percent of the population – a journey on which Antigua and Barbuda has barely travelled half-way at present.

Prime Minister Browne observed that, “We have had

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# ZERO COVID



over 36,000 individuals who would at least have had their first dose.” He then delivered the punchline worthy of punching the air: “I’m told that we only have about 600 of

the [vaccine doses] that were about to expire, so we’re not in a bad position at all; that’s pretty good, and hopefully most of them would have been used up today. I believe a few of

them actually expire on the 30th, so we still have maybe another day or two.” In light of these remaining dose numbers, the PM reckoned, “If there [are] any unused [vaccine doses]

they should not be a significant amount.”

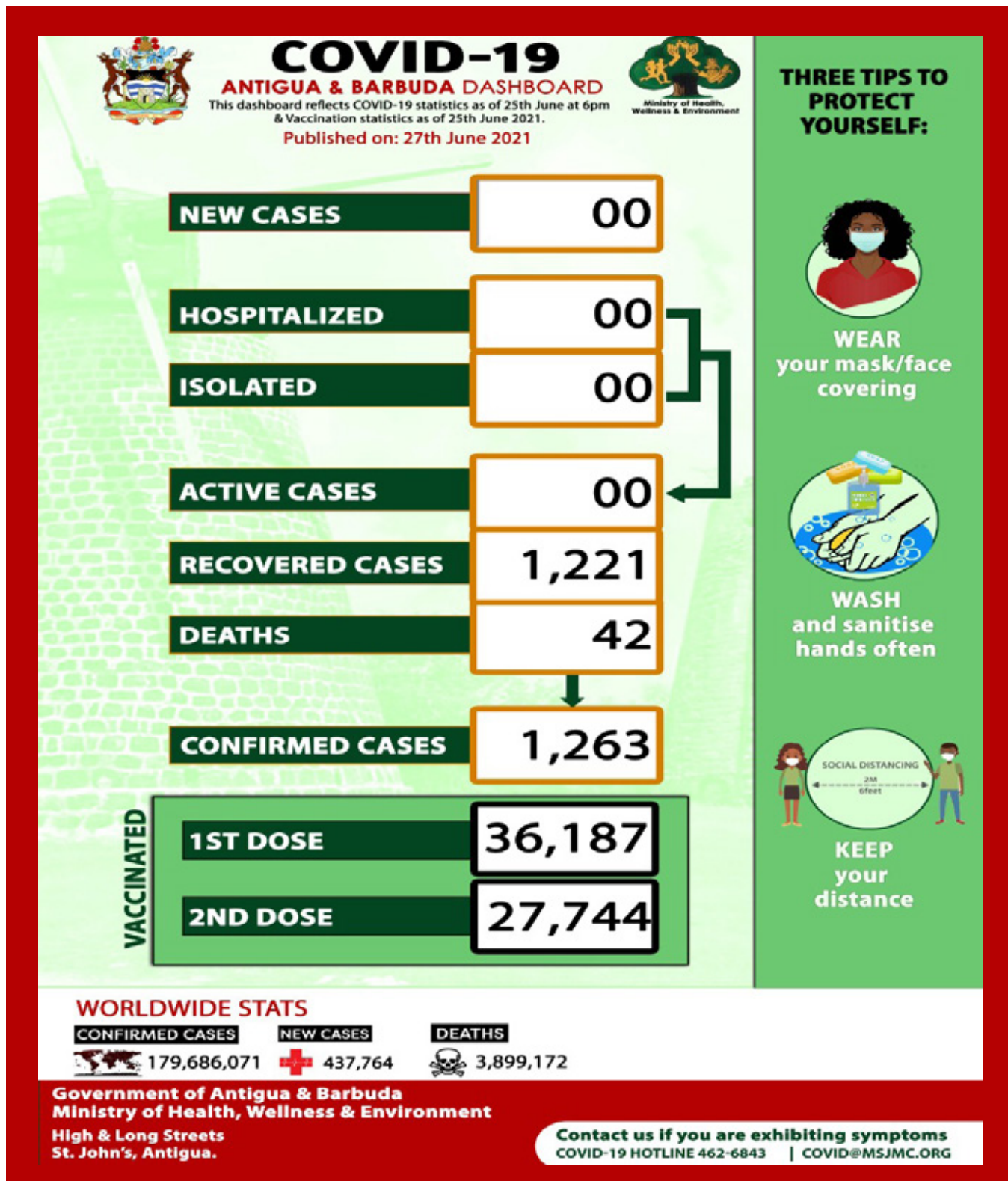
He declared it to be “quite good that we didn’t have to [discard] tens of thousands of vaccine [doses].”

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# COVID-19 Dashboard Update for June 27, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John Medical Centre has revealed no new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 25th June 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

One hundred and sixty-four (164) samples were processed at Sir Lester Bird MSJMC.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda remains at 1,263. There are no active cases.

Meanwhile, 36,187 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, while 27,744 second doses have been administered.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



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# Prime Minister vows that criminals will be outmatched

by *Shelton Daniel*

The National Security Council chaired by Prime Minister Gaston Brown met last week and, according to him, “Certain systems are being put in place” to deal with a recent upsurge in gun crimes, including armed holdups of community business establishments.

“Where we have human resource gaps, those are being addressed,” he said on Saturday during his weekly radio program, The Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM 99.1.

“We even went as far as making a \$25,000 reward [available] for information leading to those robberies. I believe, too, that you will be seeing more patrols. That’s one of the areas that we believe was lacking ... There’ll be greater police presence,” he added.

The Prime Minister hinted that there were other law enforcement initiatives that he could not go

into detail about, for security reasons. “Let’s say certain strategic ... clandestine operations ... will take place to try and target certain known criminals; because we are convinced that these activities are being perpetrated by known criminals who are using the opportunity of wearing a mask ... in order to pursue their criminal activities,” PM Browne revealed in guarded elaboration.

He said spurts in such criminal activity were common around this time of the year, and proffered reasons why this may be so.

“At this particular time of year – every year from time immemorial – these criminals, they surface, probably trying to get their stash so that during carnival, and so on, they can buy all their expensive clothes, go to all the fetes and all that,” Browne suggested.

He said “a significant amount of intelligence is being utilized ... but all I can say to the nation is

that we will be making a significant amount of resources available to address the increases in robberies and to bring those who have committed those robberies to justice.”

The Prime Minister sounded a warning to the criminals that they are facing zero tolerance from the society and putting themselves at risk when they decide to engage the police in gunfights.

“The last one that took place at Golden Grove, I understand they fired at the police and you saw what happened; one of them actually got shot,” he observed.

The Prime Minister disclosed further that electronic surveillance is being stepped up by making sure “all the cameras we have around St. John’s” are activated, “making sure that they work, that they are properly maintained, and that they are also monitored ... We are putting a comprehensive plan in place.”





**National Security Minister, Hon. Steadroy Benjamin**

# National Anti-crime Summit today!

National Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin is convening what can be described as an 'Anti-Crime Summit' today (Monday June 28) to come up with a set of strategies to tackle the recent upsurge in gun-related crimes.

Benjamin, the country's Attorney General, is convening a meeting with the Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, the two deputy commissioners, the head of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the head of the police Special Branch, as well as a representative of the Police Service Commission and the Permanent Secretary to discuss ways to bring crime under control.

Last week, there were several daring daylight armed robberies, during one of which a 60-year-old was shot in the abdomen. While this attack was a brazen home invasion, the others have been against businesses,

including a superette, a gas station, and a jewelry store. Benjamin said, as Minister responsible for the nation's security, he has heard the complaints of the general public asking that stern action be taken to stamp out these crimes immediately. "I am convening this meeting to try to arrest this disturbing trend in the country. The public has been asking for more police visibility within St. John's city and I wish to give them all assurances that this will be done with immediate effect as police visibility is seen as a deterrent to these criminal acts," he stated.

The National Security Minister announced that greater police presence will be seen during the critical hours of 7:00 am to 5:00 pm daily in the city. Additionally, the police will be introducing bicycle patrols to give officers quicker access to some of the trouble spots.

"This is crucial as we must improve our anti-crime efforts especially in light of the fact that Heritage Quay is re-opening in anticipation of the arrival of the first scheduled cruise ship call in July. The police will be there in their

numbers to prevent bag-snatching and other petty crimes," he related. According to Benjamin, the anti-crime focus will not only concentrate on the city and its environs, but the outlying districts as well. "We will ask the Commissioner to inform the district officers in charge of the out-stations to impress upon their officers to closely monitor developments in these districts as well. This is a

critical part of the overall crime fighting initiatives that we hope to implement," he disclosed.

The National Security Minister said it is important that the Executive and the police are on the same page regarding crime fighting. While the Government may announce a policy, he pointed out, it is up to the police to implement that policy.

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Antigua & Barbuda


**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE**

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on the 27th day of April, 2021 by Peyton J. V. Knight, Attorney-At-Law of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates of Upper Newgate Street, Saint John Parish, Antigua on behalf of VIOLET BROWNE Personal Representative for the Estate of Mr. Ephraim Jarvis aka. Mr. Ephraim Marassah Jarvis the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificate # RL-828/1985 dated the 12th day of March, 2019 issued to EPHRIAM JARVIS, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

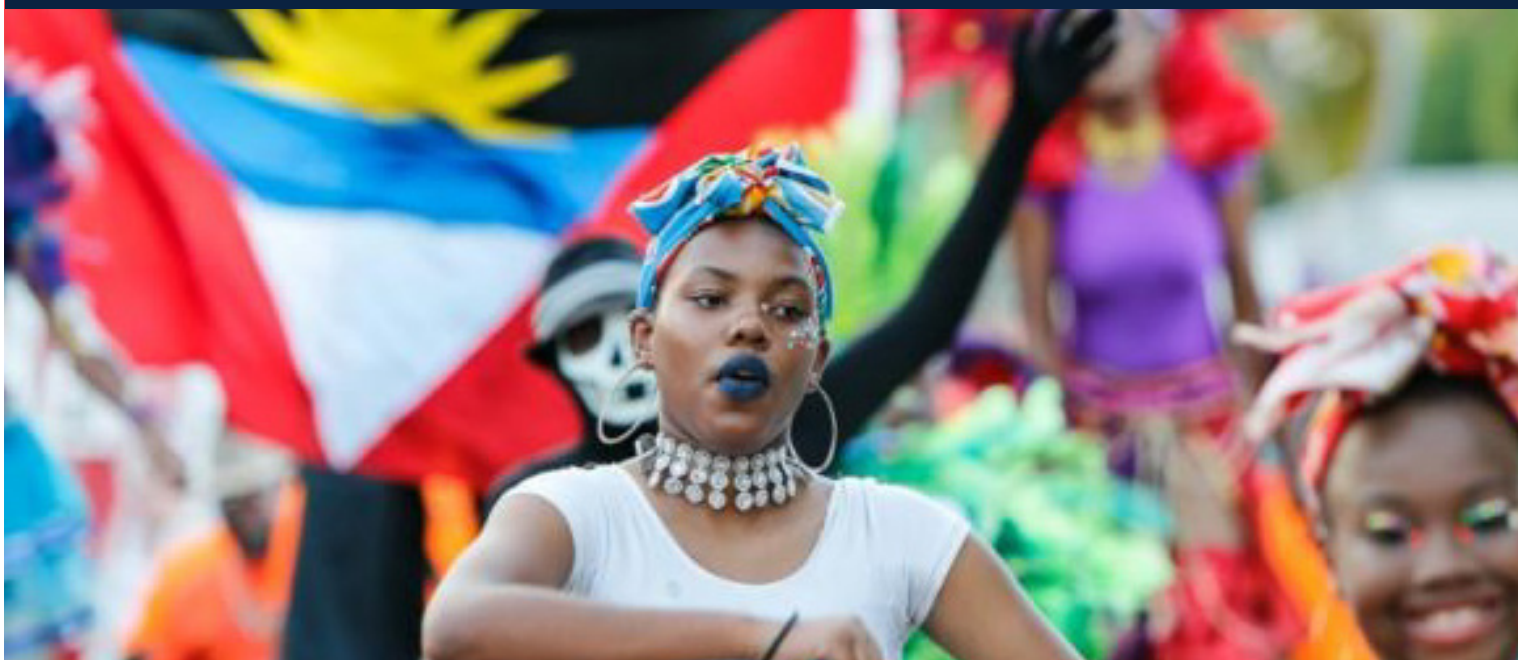
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

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 Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 12th day of May, 2021

  
Registrar of Lands

# No carnival for 2021



The decision that there will be no carnival in Antigua and Barbuda this year remains intact despite the recent gains made in the fight against the coronavirus.

The Minister responsible for national festivals, Hon. Daryl Matthew, told Pointe Xpress that Cabinet will not rescind the decision it made earlier this year to cancel the festival for a second consecutive season because of the coronavirus pandemic. "There will be no carnival or any activity that will involve large scale crowds in any one place," Matthew said in response to queries about the summer festival.

He said there are ongoing 'internal discussions' around the issue, but Government remains

resolute in the fight against COVID-19.

Minister Matthew noted that Government and the promoters have reached broad agreement on the conditions that must be in place for Carnival fetes to take place. These activities will be allowed under the guidelines established between the two entities. The government earlier announced that fetes will be allowed to take place after July 16, but that all patrons must be fully vaccinated and all staff at these events must also be fully vaccinated. Carnival as an event is a major fillip to the local economy, because it drives consumption and spending at a time when the economy most needs it; right into the heart of the summer, a slow period for tourism.

For most of this month, Antigua and Barbuda has recorded very few new COVID-19 cases.

In fact, currently, there are no officially recorded active cases.

## NOTICE

To: Her Worship,  
The Licensing Magistrate.  
District "A" Magistrate Court  
Grays Farm  
St John's Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St John's Antigua

I Lucia Nathaniel of Freetown the owner of L&L Mart whose registered business is situated on Freetown Main Road in the Parish of St Phillip in Antigua and Barbuda, do hereby give notice that it is my intension to apply at the next Session to be held at the Magistrate Court, St John's Antigua on the 5th day of July 2021, next ensuring, for a bottle license in respect of my premises known as L&L Mart situated at Freetown. This application is made pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Sign: .....Respectfully Yours Lucia Nathaniel.





# Insufficient hotel rooms hindering ‘southern’ opportunities

by Shelton Daniel

A shortage of hotel room stock is one the main impediments that stand in the way of Antigua and Barbuda capitalizing on opportunities to attract tourists from South American countries such as Colombia. This was, in essence, the explanation given by Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Saturday when the question was put to him during his weekly radio program, The Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM 99.1.

Host Colin O’Neal Browne, a Senator, asked the Prime Minister whether regional airline LIAT, if revitalized as planned, would be in a position to take advantage of promising passenger loads emanating from this so-called “southern corridor” once the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic have eased.

Senator O’Neal-Browne wanted to know if passenger traffic

from the southern points of the region could offset declining visitor numbers from Antigua and Barbuda’s traditional tourism source markets in the northern hemisphere – the US, UK and Canada.

Said PM Browne, in response: “One of the problems that we have in the OECS sub-region is that we don’t have the room stock to accommodate significant traffic coming out of South America, and we don’t have the air links either.”

He went to explain further, with practical illustrations: “If an airline like COPA, for example, were to do direct flights to Antigua and Barbuda, we would need to have more rooms, dedicated rooms, so their customers could be sure that we could accommodate them. We really need more rooms; and certain airlines, too, they look at the room count within a particular destination and make a decision as

to whether or not there is viability.” The Prime Minister said, “In the case of COPA, they said ... we need to get up to about 4,500 or 5,000 rooms before they touch us, and we’re not there as yet ... That is why COPA is not within the OECS region. I believe they travel to Barbados, be-

cause Barbados has the critical mass of rooms. We don’t.” PM Browne said while the development and maintenance of direct air links with South America is “desirable”, the prerequisite of available hotel rooms simply does not exist to obtain such participation.



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*The official UNESCO World Heritage Site Inscription at Nelson's Dockyard.*

# Celebrating 5 years of World Heritage status!

The National Parks Authority (NPA) will be observing a significant milestone in July. The NPA will be celebrating the 5th Anniversary of attaining the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site for the Antigua Naval Dockyard and related archaeological sites.

A week of activities has been organised to mark the occasion. The events will be used to recognise the contributors to this prestigious recognition for Antigua and Barbuda, and to reflect on the achievements since the official inscription five years ago, July 16th 2016. The activities will be celebrated under the theme From Dockyard to Shirley Heights – Celebrating Our Lives, Our People, which encapsulates the major factors that supported the campaign for the enviable UNESCO designation.

The week begins with one of the major highlights of the activities: An exhibition featuring the work of a group of art students from the Antigua State College will

be launched on Sunday 11th July at the Copper & Lumber Store Historic Inn in the Dockyard. The exhibit pays tribute to the lives and work of the African slaves credited for building the Dockyard and who have been immortalised in the ongoing *8th of March research project* undertaken by the NPA's Heritage Department. The art exhibit, aptly named 'Exhibit 8' was supported by the Naval Dockyard Society. An education campaign begins on Monday 12th July with the release of a series of video productions that showcase the National Park and some of the important aspects of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The first of three educational hikes begin the same day. Board members of the NPA, officials of the DCA and team members of the Environment Division along with other stakeholders will get the chance to see the park through the eyes of its experts and hear first-hand the challenges of park management. Tuesday 13th July is Media Day

where key members of the NPA team will spread across the local media to share their thoughts on what achieving World Heritage has meant for Antigua and Barbuda and how the public can play its role in the work of preserving our heritage and history for the future. Wednesday 14th July is Heritage Education Day, targeting children from schools in the community. The organisers have teamed up with the Cultural Development Division to host a night of storytelling, heritage and culture in the Dockyard on Friday 16th July. It will feature master storyteller Joy Lawrence and performing acts of song and dance from the Cultural Division. ABS Television will also be supporting the activities by featuring the park in its fun and popular You For A Day programme.

The NPA expressing appreciation to all who have contributed to the events so far and is looking forward to the public's support in ensuring their success.



# Disaster Risk Knowledge Management & Display



*Project participants pay close attention to the facilitator (r).*

In an effort to broaden awareness about disaster risks in Antigua and Barbuda, the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) has unveiled a permanent display at the National Public Library.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Management and Display project was done through funds provided by the European Union (EU) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Visitors to the library will be able to get disaster information on hazards that affect the country while navigating a kiosk and browsing through various educational materials. According to the projects officer at NODS, Delamine Andrew-Williams, the goal is to continue uploading more information to the kiosk.

Another section will be installed for children, so they can learn about

the importance of disaster management in Antigua and Barbuda. Andrew-Williams says the library was chosen because of its central location, which makes it easily accessible to children and adults. As part of the

initiative, some employees at the public library were engaged in a training session on Wednesday that introduced them to basic disaster management, mass casualty management, disaster telecommuni-

cations and hurricane chart tracking. Director at the Public Library, Ryllis Mannix said she was pleased that the facility was selected as a hub for disaster management information on behalf of NODS.

**Stop. Think. Live**

**MUST-KNOW DRIVING TIPS**

Traffic slows down quite a bit between 7:30-9:00 a.m., and again when it is time to leave work from around 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**THINK**

#drivesafeantigua **Road Safety**

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



# A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

Compiled and Edited by the Directorate of Trade and Economic Integration at the CARICOM Secretariat

## BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Barbados delivers benefits to 88% of its unemployed

Barbados leads the Region in protecting its citizens during the pandemic through unemployment payments, delivering benefits to 88% of unemployed workers, while The Bahamas captured about 26%. That's the information contained in the World Bank's report, titled "Employment in Crisis" which asserts that only about one-third of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) offer a national unemployment income support plan. The Bahamas and Barbados "offer unemployment insurance in the form of contributory risk-pooling plans."

### Digital payments increase in The Bahamas - 30% use cash

As the Bahamas strives to achieve a 50% reduction in the use of cash and an 80% reduction in the use of checks by 2025, a survey has revealed that more businesses are embracing digital payments. According to a business digital payments survey, commissioned by the Central Bank in the last quarter of 2020, fewer than 30% of Bahamian businesses still conduct important transactions using cash, with more opting to use checks

for payment. "Most predominantly however, was the reliance on electronic banking to complete more than half of salary payments and in the range of half of utility payments. Indications are that about 40-50% of payments for both local and international suppliers of goods and services were completed via electronic banking channels."

### Creditors trigger termination clause in Suriname debt talks

Suriname and its creditors have reached an impasse in their debt rescheduling negotiations. The Creditors' Committee, which represents the majority of Openheimer bondholders and negotiates with the Surinamese government about debt rescheduling, says it has triggered a "termination clause" on notes maturing in 2023 and 2026, scrapping a plan struck in April to defer payments on the securities with an outstanding balance of \$675 million. The dispute in part hinges on the handling of future oil revenue from recent crude discoveries. Suriname says it is too soon for those funds to appear on its books, while creditors insist they should be a factor in the debt talks. Suriname's finance ministry said it "regrets the non-constructive and confrontational attitude." It added that there was no alternative to creditors accept-



ing a loss. However, the creditors are insisting that the 70% haircut proposed by Suriname does not take into account its capacity to pay nor the country's own description of its "bright economic future."

## Jamaica's records 1.2% inflation amidst trade downturn

Jamaica recorded an inflation rate of 1.2% as measured by the All-Jamaica Consumer Price Index (CPI) in May 2021. According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), the movement in the inflation rate was impacted by a 3.4% increase in 'Housing Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', a 1.1% increase in 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' and a 0.7% increase in Transport. For the review period, the calendar year-to-date inflation rate was 1.7%, while the fiscal year-to-date (April 2021 – May 2021) inflation rate was 1.2% and the point-to-point (May 2020 – May 2021) was 5.0%. In the meantime for the January to February review period of 2021, STATIN reported that total imports declined by 12.6% to total US\$825 million relative to US\$944.8 last year. Earnings from total exports also declined by 3% amounting to US\$229 million down US\$7 million relative to the comparator period in 2020. Imports from CARICOM totaled US\$38.5 million while exports equaled US\$13.8 million.

## Cayman projected budget deficit jumps to \$192 million

The International Civil Aviation Organization (The Government of the Cayman Islands is projecting a larger budget deficit of \$192 million this year, because previous fore-

casts of a \$157 million funding gap failed to factor in tourism stipend payments to workers displaced by the pandemic for all of 2021. Currently, the monthly tourism stipend payments of \$1,500 to more than 3,000 workers cost government approximately \$5 million each month. According to Finance Minister Chris Saunders during the first 5 months of 2021, core government had an operating surplus of \$175 million, which is 18%, or \$11 million, higher than budgeted. Government's total operating revenue of \$525.5 million was 9% higher than budgeted but operating expenses of \$351 million were also 8% over budget. Cayman maintained close to \$571 million in cash reserves.

## Uber commences operations in Jamaica

Already present in over 10,000 cities worldwide, the Uber app has debuted in Jamaica's Kingston and St Catherine. The Uber app is available in Jamaica through a "vehicle-withdriver" lease agreement. The app serves as a contact portal between two parties: a lessor partner and a user, who will agree to sign a private lease contract every time they want to get around the city. Under this model, both the lessor partner and the user enter a private agreement that entails strict fulfillment of the rules. Also, a lessor partner checklist ensures compliance with health safety measures; lease verification using PIN code confirmation; and RideCheck, a mechanism that detects and reports abnormal or unexpected stops during the lease. Guardian Insurance, one of Jamaica's prominent insurance companies, covers all leases.

# Is cryptocurrency dead in the water?



## *by Christal Clashing*

“It hurts! It’s not easy to endure a 50% decrease in price over two nights,” says an Antiguan recreational investor in cryptocurrencies.

In the last fortnight, the value of Bitcoin – the world’s highest valued cryptocurrency – dropped from just over US\$63,000 to about US\$33,000. As a result, there has been a decline in value across almost all cryptocurrencies.

It may be surprising how many Antiguan and Barbudans, in various pockets of society, have

an interest in cryptocurrency. Before the tightening of pandemic-related restrictions, there were regular meets-ups for persons interested in cryptocurrencies, at various restaurants and cafes around the island.

The appeal of cryptocurrency lies in its potential to build wealth for persons around the world who don’t have access to strong stock exchanges like those in the USA. Additionally, persons that gravitate to cryptocurrencies tend to be frustrated with the tight banking regulations that exclude many persons due to the number of

hoops that have to be jumped.

Cryptocurrency chatter and investment have been on the rise particularly since 2020, as more reputable figures and governmental bodies around the world have bought into the potential of cryptocurrency’s blockchain technology.

According to the University of Cambridge’s Bitcoin Mining Map, 65% of Bitcoin’s generation was coming out of China. Elon Musk, the billionaire, invested in Bitcoin and, most recently, El Salvador agreed to accept Bitcoin as legal tender.

The big question amid the rise



of the crypto idea is, “How are governments and financial institutions going to respond and approach cryptocurrencies?”

Cryptocurrencies, by design, are not centralised and thus have no overarching regulatory body. This goes against the systems of most governments and financial institutions who like to maintain firm control of and profit from financial transactions.

This big question has begun to be answered by a government that has spoken loudly and firmly regarding the regulation of Bitcoin. China, in the last month, has ordered a halt to the generation of Bitcoin in that country.

Bitcoin is generated through a process called ‘mining’ across thousands of computers using computer programming skills. Since China has halted the mining and trading of Bitcoin, the value of Bitcoin has taken a massive hit. It doesn’t help that

Elon Musk withdrew his investment in Bitcoin due to concerns about the high energy requirements to ‘mine’ Bitcoin.

So, with the drastic falls in cryptocurrency value, it can be asked, “Is cryptocurrency dead?” The answer to that depends on how persons look at the future. If they see cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology as pathways into the future, they might ride out this downward trend in value. If persons have a more short-term interest in crypto, then they will likely pull out their funds and count their losses. There are also some who take a combined approach of pulling out right now while things are low and reinvest when the trends favour a steady increase in value.

But asking if crypto is dead in the water may not be the right question to ask. If the question shifts to “Is blockchain alive?”, then there is a different answer. From the larger to the smaller

players in the financial market, the interest and application of blockchain technology is promising. China has developed their own blockchain applications that can be regulated for their purposes. Specifically, CNBC reports that China has been developing their own digital currency, the digital Yuan.

For a more local context, the OECS through the ECCB has used blockchain to trial the digital currency, DCash. As governments and financial institutions seek to regulate financial transactions built on blockchain technology, the next few years of the blockchain and cryptocurrency space can be expected to see heavy action.

Even if cryptocurrencies, as we know them today, evolve into more regulated currencies or continue to be as revolutionary as they aspire to be, the blockchain technology underlying crypto and digital currencies appears to have a bright future.



# Early sexualisation & its impact on young girls

*by K.P. Joseph*

The early sexualisation of young girls is an unfortunate by-product of a modern society in which the gulf between the sexes is explicitly widening.

Sexualisation is when a person's value comes from their sexual appeal to the exclusion of other characteristics – meaning, characteristics that define the essence of the person.

According to a study conducted by the American Psychology Association, “Early sexualisation of young girls can undermine a person's confidence and comfort with her own body.” There are multiple examples of sexualisation of young girls. For example, the media, movies, video games, advertising and the

internet. Societal messages that contribute to the sexualisation of girls come not only from the media and merchandise, but also through girls' interpersonal relationships. “A lot of times, parents are so about being liked by their children that they forget that they are parents first,” said Heather Johnson, adjunct professor at Brigham Young University.

Mothers especially are active participants in the sexualisation of their young girl children. They tend to want to be friends with their girl children, so they give in to the requests for these provocative clothing. They post pictures of the young girl child on social media, captioning it as “sexy”. A label is attached to that young girl without realizing the

long term consequences.

Early sexualisation has negative effects in a variety of domains, including cognitive and emotional functioning, and physical and mental domain. The effects on these domains can be lifelong and life changing. Cognitively, early sexualisation has been repeatedly shown to distract from the ability to concentrate and focus attention. This leads to impaired performances on mental activities such as logical reasoning, for example.

There is some evidence that executive functioning difficulties can develop as a result of early sexualisation. Executive functioning is a coordinated set of cognitive skills that includes attending to tasks, planning,



organisation, cognition and skills of behaviour regulation (response inhibition, emotional regulation). Poor executive functioning skills equal poor performance in school.

On the emotional end, early sexualisation undermines the confidence and comfort in one's own body, leading to shame, anxiety and even self-disgust. The appearance of these were found in adolescent girls. Also, some young girls turn to promiscuity later on to assuage the discomfort they feel about their body. Research linked

early sexualisation with three of the most common mental health problems diagnosed in young girls and women: eating disorder, low self-esteem and depression. The development and maintenance of eating disorder is complex and nurtured by low self-esteem and depression. Young girls develop these mental health problems due to issues of objectification – the exposure of narrow representation of female beauty.

In addition to mental health consequences of early sexualisation, physical health may

also be negatively affected, albeit indirectly. Some girls turn to self-mutilation to feel good about themselves.

The early sexualisation of young girls is rampant and damaging. It is time that focus is placed on their developing minds and skills. Like adult women, young girls want to be loved, accepted and be given attention. Early sexualisation is problematic for young girls, as they may believe that being sexual objects is empowering and related to having sexual agency.

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*Attorney General Carl Bethel laments the need to bring in foreign attorneys because Bahamian lawyers are not coming forward*

## Bahamian prosecutors under stress, burnout and threats

*EwNews* - Attorney General Carl Bethel on Thursday lamented that the Public Prosecutions Department has lost 12 prosecutors over the past year, noting that some have become so stressed they have fallen ill, while others have been physically and verbally threatened both in and out of the courtroom. During his contribution to the 2021/2022 budget debate in the Senate, the attorney general acknowledged the public prosecutions office has suffered “enormous losses”, with some of its most senior and experienced prosecutors having recently taken up magisterial posts.

“I commend them all on their

preferment, but, in addition to that loss to the magistracy, some persons have become burned out; some persons have become terrorized, threatened physically and verbally in and out of the courts,” said Bethel.

“Stress has seriously affected a number of them. I have one very distinguished prosecutor that became so stressed out that she developed a very severe illness and had to have surgery. We have lost her service for more than a year.” Bethel said with Bahamian lawyers not coming forward to be prosecutors, the need to bring in foreign attorneys to serve as prosecutors is necessary.

“The criticism of the fact that the Director of Public Prosecutions having advertised these posts has to go to the Commonwealth to seek senior legal assistance is unfair,” said Bethel. “We may get two or three new lawyers every year. We lost 12 over the last year.

“We cannot reach the stage where the prosecutorial arm is failing because of a lack of interest on the part of Bahamian lawyers. I beg the Bahamian people to understand that we have to have a system that if Bahamian lawyers are not prepared to come forward to be prosecutors, we have to find them from somewhere.”



# Grenada's Prime Minister leads effort to remove roaming charges



**Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell**

*Caricom Today* - Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, is spearheading a CARICOM initiative to eliminate roaming charges for Caribbean nationals traveling within the region.

Dr. Mitchell, accompanied by his Barbadian counterpart, Prime Minister Mia Mottley, along with representatives from the CARICOM Secretariat and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, met recently with representatives of Digicel and Cable & Wireless to discuss the issue. The removal of roaming rates was identified as an action for CARICOM Heads of Government some years ago. However, progress on the initiative has been quite slow.

Dr. Mitchell, who has lead responsibility in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet for Science and Technology, including Information and Communications, is now reviving that effort and seeking quick agreement on the initiative.

He told those in attendance, "I want to indicate that there is a desire, given the history of discussions on this topic, to expedite ne-

gotiations and conclude within the shortest possible time, ideally in three months or less, with a view to implementing before the end of 2021. I believe if we can do this, all of us will benefit – the service providers will not lose and the region as a whole will feel better about what we are doing at this important level." The Prime Minister's proposal is to create a "roam-like-at-home" arrangement, similar to what the European Union has done, and eliminate roaming charges on voice, data and SMS messages. This arrangement is intended only for CARICOM citizens and will not include international visitors.

With CARICOM working towards the creation of a Single ICT Space, the removal of roaming charges is seen as key to reducing inefficiencies, lowering costs and increasing productivity as part of the digital transformative initiative.

Dr. Mitchell also noted that the removal of high roaming charges would help to unleash creativity among the region's youth, foster greater collaboration and create high quality employment opportunities.

The Prime Minister articulated that the initiative has the full backing of all CARICOM heads, citing what he called "strong political support across the entire region." He noted, too, that the removal of roaming charges will send a strong signal to Caribbean nationals that leaders are committed to ensuring cost-effective access to the internet, while at the same time fostering the process of regional integration.

Prime Minister Mottley, in supporting this push for removing

roaming charges, said: "It is one of the key pillars we see at this time to unleash growth." She referenced the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly reversed the growth of many countries and spoke of the need to leapfrog development. She said, "The only way to do that is through the opportunity for digital connectivity beyond the Caribbean region and integrating into the world economy."

The Barbadian leader, like her Grenadian counterpart, is confident that the "roam-like-at-home" arrangement will allow Caribbean nationals to realise the true desire of a single Caribbean space, since high costs serve to restrict communications and limit economic activity. She said the pandemic and the increased reliance on telecommunications clearly illustrate why this conversation is absolutely imperative at this time.

The representatives from both Cable and Wireless and Digicel have expressed a willingness to work with CARICOM in considering the removal of roaming charges and create a "win-win partnership". Although they noted that there are many other issues to discuss apart from roaming, there were assurances that these will not delay talks on the substantive issue.

Prime Minister Mitchell is keen to see negotiations begin within two weeks, now that there has been a high-level commitment from both companies and from CARICOM to pursue this initiative, and the companies have agreed to set a meeting date for the technical teams to begin discussions.

# Jamaica low Vax worry



**Jamaica Gleaner** - WITH 93.7 percent of the population yet to get a shot of the COVID-19 vaccine, Jamaica's rate of inoculation remains worryingly low.

New data released by the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) shows that, up to June 23, a total of 98,057 Jamaicans, or 3.6 percent of the population, have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 2.7 percent or 74,229 Jamaicans now fully vaccinated.

The new figures contradict an earlier report by the Director of Family Health services

in the Health Ministry, Dr. Melody Ennis, in which she suggested that more 220,000 Jamaicans had received at least one dose of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine.

Nonetheless, the new data, contained in a report titled COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Effect on COVID-19 Transmission, Jamaica 2021, suggests that of the total number of vaccinated persons, 12.6 percent of persons 80 years and over have been fully vaccinated, while 7.8 percent of this cohort have only received a first dose. Government has tried to coax

seniors to take the jab, with a \$10,000 grant announced recently for those who are fully vaccinated. The initiative takes effect on July 15. Of the current priority group (50-59) 4.6 percent have been fully vaccinated, with 5.9 percent only getting the first dose, according to MoHW data.

This compares to 2.3 percent in the 40-49 age group who have been fully vaccinated and 4.4 percent in the same category who have only received their first dose.

Just 1.1 percent of the age group 20-29 has been fully vaccinated, with 2.7 percent receiving their first dose, the Ministry said.

Jamaica remains one of the least vaccinated populations in the English-speaking Caribbean, behind countries such as Barbados (23 percent), St Kitts and Nevis (22 percent), Guyana (13 percent), St Lucia (12 percent), the Bahamas (six percent) and Trinidad and Tobago (four percent). Up to April this year, Jamaica was ranked 84th of 157 nations listed in the New York Times global tracker.

As a global shortage of COVID-19 vaccines worsens, the local vaccination programme has been hit with hiccups and logistical glitches, with some persons turning up to vaccination sites in the last week unable to secure their second doses.





# Prison security beefed up after discovery of guns, grenades

**LoopTT** - Security has been heightened at the Golden Grove Prison in Arouca following the discovery of a quantity of C4 explosives, guns and ammunition near the facility.

This was disclosed by Minister of National Security, Fitzgerald Hinds, who was asked for an update on the matter by Member of Parliament for Oropouche East, Dr. Roodal Moonilal.

Speaking in the House of Representatives, Hinds further noted that the Trinidad and Tobago

Prison Service is conducting an internal investigation in tandem with the ongoing inquiry launched by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS).

On Thursday, the TTPS disclosed that officers attached to the Special Operations Response Team (SORT) searched a number of areas near the prison – including a riverbank, a garden, and a bushy area – after receiving a tip off.

The items were subsequently found around 11:40pm. Among

them, one 9mm pistol loaded with a magazine containing 15 rounds of ammunition, one AR rifle loaded with a magazine containing 30 rounds of ammunition, one revolver and five rounds of ammunition, a quantity of C4 explosives, one length of detonator cord, four detonators, and two walkie-talkies.

At least two newspaper reports have quoted “sources” who allegedly said the items were to be used by well-known gang leaders in a jailbreak plot.

# Johnson & Johnson to pay \$230m to settle opioid claim



US drugs giant Johnson & Johnson is to pay \$230m (£165m) to settle claims it fuelled an opioid addiction crisis in New York State.

**BBC** - The firm did not admit liability or wrongdoing in settling with the State. The payments remove it from a trial due to begin on Tuesday in which several large opioid makers and distributors are defendants.

J&J said the settlements were consistent with a prior agreement to pay \$5bn to settle US opioid claims.

The settlement with New York State also calls for J&J to stop selling the painkillers nationwide.

“The opioid epidemic has wreaked havoc on countless communities across New York State and the rest of the nation, leaving millions still addicted to

dangerous and deadly opioids,” New York attorney general Letitia James said.

“Johnson & Johnson helped fuel this fire, but today they’re committing to leaving the opioid business - not only in New York, but across the entire country,” she added, saying her focus remained on “getting funds into communities devastated by opioids as quickly as possible”.

Opioids are a class of powerful drugs found in opium poppies that can be used to block pain signals between the brain and the body. They can be found as legal prescription medications, but they can also be found as ille-

gal street drugs such as heroin. Opioid addiction to both legal and illegal drugs has been a serious ongoing problem in countries such as the US, which had nearly half a million deaths from overdoses between 1999 and 2019, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Johnson & Johnson and the largest US drug distributors – Ameri-sourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson – have proposed paying a combined \$26bn to end thousands of opioid lawsuits.

J&J has also been appealing against an Oklahoma judge’s 2019 rul-

ing that it pay the State \$465m for deceptive marketing of opioids.

Tuesday’s opioids trial is one of several scheduled for this year, with others underway in California and West Virginia.

Drugmakers AbbVie and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and several distributors are among the defendants.

In October, Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin painkillers, reached an \$8.3bn settlement and agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges to resolve an investigation into its role in America’s opioid crisis.





## North Koreans worry over ‘emaciated’ Kim Jong Un, state media says

**Reuters** - Everyone in North Korea is heartbroken over leader Kim Jong Un’s apparent weight loss, said an unidentified resident of Pyongyang, quoted on the country’s tightly controlled state media, after watching recent video footage of Kim.

The rare public comment on Kim’s health come after foreign analysts noted in early June that the autocratic leader, who is believed to be 37, appeared to have lost a noticeable amount of weight.

“Seeing respected

general secretary (Kim Jong Un) looking emaciated breaks our people’s heart so much,” the man said in an interview aired by state broadcaster KRT on Friday. “Everyone is saying that their tears welled up,” he said.

In the clip, which Reuters could not independently verify, Pyongyang residents were seen watching a big screen on the street showing a concert attended by Kim and party officials after a plenary meeting of their Workers’ Party of Korea

(WPK). The broadcast did not provide any details on what had led to the weight loss.

When Kim reappeared in state media in June after not being seen in public for almost a month, analysts at NK News, a Seoul-based website that monitors North Korea, noted that his watch appeared to be fastened more tightly than before around an apparently slimmer wrist.

Given Kim’s tight grip on power in North Korea - and the uncer-

tainty over any plans for a successor - international media, spy agencies, and specialists closely watch his health.

Early last year, speculation about Kim’s health exploded after he missed the birth anniversary celebrations of State founder Kim Il Sung on April 15, only to reappear in public in early May.

In 2014, state media reported that Kim was suffering from “discomfort” after a prolonged period out of the public eye.

# Russia battles COVID surge as Asia-Pacific tightens restrictions



*Russia's capital, Moscow, sees a record number of daily COVID deaths as Indonesia records highest number of daily cases.*

**Al Jazeera** - The Russian capital, Moscow, has recorded its worst daily coronavirus death toll and Indonesia has seen the highest number of cases in a day, as countries across the Asia-Pacific region extended or re-imposed restrictions to tackle fresh waves of COVID-19 infections.

The pandemic has now killed close to four million people across the world. Vaccination drives have brought down infection numbers in many wealthy countries, but the Del-

ta variant of the virus remains a concern.

Delta is in 85 countries as of Sunday and is the most contagious of any COVID-19 strain so far identified, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Still, in much of Europe and the United States, curbs on daily life are easing as vaccination programmes bear fruit, although Russia is grappling with a deadly third wave.

Moscow on Sunday recorded 144 COVID-19 deaths in 24

hours, a day after Saint Petersburg set the previous highest figure.

Saint Petersburg has hosted six Euro 2020 matches and is due to host a quarter-final on Friday, with spectator numbers capped at half but still upwards of 26,000 people.

Russia, as a whole, has seen an explosion of new infections since mid-June driven by the Delta variant.

The surge comes as officials in Moscow are pushing vaccine-sceptic Russians to get inoculated after lifting most anti-virus restrictions late last year.

"To stop the pandemic, one thing is needed: rapid, large-scale vaccinations. Nobody has invented any other solution," Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said on Saturday.

The Delta variant is also increasing fresh outbreaks in Southeast Asia and Australia where authorities have brought back or extended restrictions.

More than five million Sydney residents endured their first

full day of a two-week lockdown on Sunday. Restaurants, bars and cafes were shuttered and stay-at-home orders were issued, leaving the city centre virtually deserted.

"Given how contagious this strain of the virus is, we do anticipate that in the next few days case numbers are likely to increase even beyond what we have seen today," New South Wales State Premier Gladys Berejiklian said.

More than 110 COVID-19 cases have been reported in Sydney since a driver for an international flight crew tested positive in mid-June for the Delta variant.

The surge has been a shock for a place that had returned to relative normality after months with few local cases.

"The Northern Territory is now facing its biggest threat since the COVID crisis began," Northern Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner said.



# Turkish police fire tear gas to disperse Pride march in Istanbul



*A protester is detained by police at the Pride event in Istanbul on Saturday.*

**CNN** - Turkish police fired tear gas to disperse a crowd that gathered for a Pride parade in central Istanbul on Saturday, detaining some of those seeking to take part in an event banned by local authorities.

Reuters TV video showed police in riot gear pushing and dragging people, some waving rainbow flags as they assembled for the event in a side street off the city's central Istiklal Avenue.

Some 20 people, including a photo journalist, were detained, according to media reports.

Turkish authorities have repeatedly banned Pride events in recent years. Before then, thousands of people used to take part in the parade on the Istanbul street.

Turkey has long been a candidate to join the European Union, but its accession process has been languishing for years amid tensions over a variety of issues including human rights.

On Thursday, a majority of European Union leaders vowed, in a joint letter, to continue combating discrimination against the LGBTI community, amid a standoff with Hungary whose parliament last week approved a bill that bans the distribution of material in schools deemed to promote homosexuality or gender change.



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- Persons in overlapping categories will have a greater chance of selection.

**HOW TO APPLY**

- Application forms are available from the One Stop Employment Center (OSEC) located on 3rd Floor, Aflack Building, Redcliffe Street, St. John's.
- Completed forms should be returned to OSEC with the passports or birth certificates of the applicant along with Medical Benefits and Social Security cards.
- Deadline for the submission of applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021.
- Please note that a limited number of persons may qualify for modest assistance towards attending training upon demonstration of need.

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# NOTICE

The Antigua and Barbuda Humane Society is pleased to advise that all staff and volunteers at its Animal Shelter and Donkey Sanctuary in Bethesda have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Temperature checks, hand sanitizing and wearing of masks are also in place..

Whether you come to adopt a dog or cat, sign up for one of our spay/neuter clinics, or come to visit the donkeys, the Humane Society has spared no effort make your visit safe.



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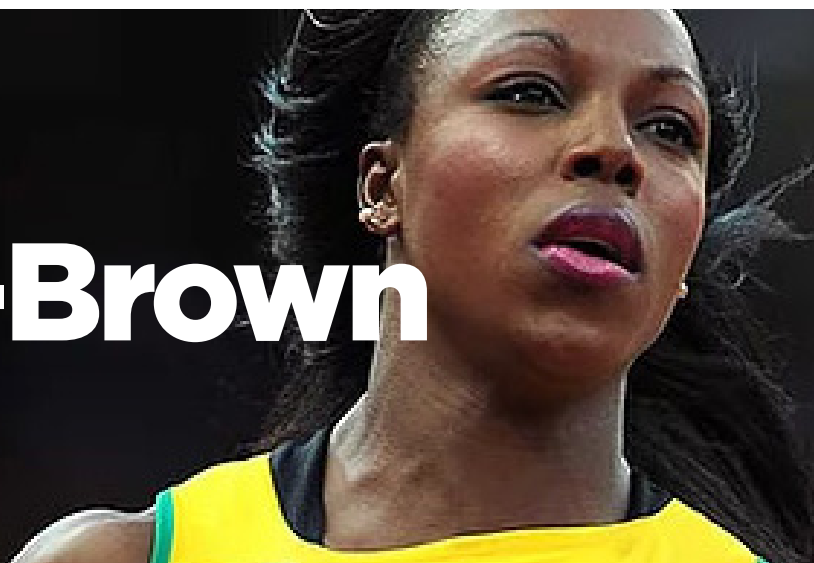


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# Veronica Campbell-Brown Retires



## Veronica Campbell-Brown

**KINGSTON, Jamaica** – She is one of Jamaica’s most decorated athletes. Veronica Campbell-Brown on Wednesday announced that she is hanging up her spikes after competing for over two decades at the international senior level.

Campbell-Brown, 39, who is one of the most decorated female sprinters of all time, announced her retirement from international track and field on her official Instagram account.

Regarded as one of the first stars in Jamaica’s golden era of athletics, spanning the early 2000s into the mid-2010s, Campbell-Brown closes her career having won 19 medals at the Olympic Games and World Championships, and 34 as a senior athlete for Jamaica, including back-to-back 200m Olympic gold. She also won World Championships gold in the 100m at the 2007 Osaka instalment and gold in the 200m at the 2011 event in Daegu.

“A life in sport dedicated to service to her country with self-[sacrificing] love which earned her indisputable credentials on the track,” said Christopher Samuda, President of the Jamaica Olympic Associ-

ation. “More than the gold she garnered at several international events was her commitment to pioneer for the good of successive generations. Her value transcends her admirable imprints on the track and resides in the lessons she has taught and will give to those have the courage to follow in her strides.”

Samuda underscored that Campbell-Brown’s achievements were second to none and her legacy will live on forever. “Her Olympic career, particularly her 200m achievements, is an example to aspiring athletes, and many will recall her victories in Athens and Beijing which captured our hearts and ignited national pride,” Samuda said.

### FRASER-PRYCE HAILS CAMPBELL-BROWN

Another Jamaican sprinting icon, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, also took to social media to hail Campbell-Brown.

“Thank you for leading the way @VCampbellBrown!! Carrying the torch and continuing the legacy for Jamaica,” Fraser-Pryce posted on her official Twitter account.

In announcing her retirement, Campbell-Brown stated

that she was thrilled with her achievements over the years and pointed out that she would continue to focus on her foundation, as well as her line of fitness products and motivational speaking engagements.

“What a journey it has been! Through the grace of God, I have [come from] a small town in Trelawny, Jamaica, up the ladder of success to become one of the most decorated women in the Olympic Games and World Championships history,” Campbell-Brown said.

“All glory to the Lord for my successes. He blessed me with the talent, the will to stay focused, and the requisite work ethics. He placed authentic people in my life who served as pillars of strength as I maneuvered the highs and lows which littered my athletic career,” she said. Campbell-Brown’s announcement came on International Olympic Day and one day before the start of Jamaica’s Olympic Trials.

“As I take off my spikes never to put them on again, this girl from Clarks Town walks away happy and contented with a race well run,” Campbell-Brown continued.

# West Indies Women to Host Pakistan Women

**MATCH SCHEDULE**

**WI WOMEN v PAK WOMEN**  
JUNE 30 - JULY 18

**T20I SERIES**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> T20I  
JUNE 30
- 2<sup>ND</sup> T20I  
JULY 02
- 3<sup>RD</sup> T20I  
JULY 04

**ODI SERIES**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> ODI  
JULY 07
- 2<sup>ND</sup> ODI  
JULY 09
- 3<sup>RD</sup> ODI  
JULY 12
- 4<sup>TH</sup> ODI  
JULY 15
- 5<sup>TH</sup> ODI  
JULY 18

ANTIGUA

## Itinerary for Pakistan Women's series

The West Indies will clash with Pakistan in an eight-match white ball series here starting later this month, marking the women's first home series since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The three-match T20 International series will run from 30th June to 4th July, followed by a five-match One Day International (ODI) series from 7-18 July 2021.

In a move aimed at developing the wider pool of players, the international series will be played alongside a six-match white ball series between West Indies Women's A and Pakistan Women's A, which is expected to result in double headers at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and the Coolidge Cricket Ground. "This is a very significant home tour for our women and we are delighted that our counterparts at Pakistan Cricket Board have worked with us to arrange these two series despite all the challenges we face with COVID-19," said Cricket West Indies' (CWI) Director of Cricket, Jimmy Adams.

"CWI continues to invest in our international women's program by hosting extended high performance camps

between tours, two of which have already been held this year. "In addition, the opportunity to host our first ever 'A' Team series is brilliant, as it means that our developing players will get the chance to compete against high quality international opponents and push for selection to the senior team." He continued: "The series is also an important part of our preparation for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup qualifiers in December.

"Our goal post this Pakistan series is to have our squad play against more international opposition and take part in our regional tournament before heading to the qualifiers in Sri Lanka at the end of the year."

West Indies women have seen precious little action since the pandemic forced the global cessation of cricket last year, with CWI forced to cancel several home series.

However, they helped herald the return of international women's cricket last September when they toured England for five Twenty20 International.

West Indies women, under new coach Courtney Walsh, have been heavily involved in preparation since the start of the year with two high performance camps already staged in Antigua.





# NBA Playoffs

## *Los Angeles Clippers versus Phoenix Suns*

The Phoenix Suns defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 84-80 during a slugfest on a night that neither team shot the ball well. It was the former Clipper, Chris Paul, who made some crucial free throws at the end to seal the win for the Suns.

Devin Booker scored 25 points for the Suns before fouling out in the final minute to give the Suns the victory and take a 3-1 series lead. The Suns can advance to the NBA finals for the first time since 1993 with a win tonight.

Paul George 23 points, 16 rebounds and six assists together with Reggie Jackson 20 points were not enough to stave off the Phoenix Suns. George fouled out with one second left in the game. There was hardly any other meaningful contributions from the starters or the bench. The Clippers struggled with poor shooting in all but the third quarter.

Booker led all scorers with 25 points and, interestingly, no assists. He was supported by Deandre Ayton who had 19 points and 22 rebounds.

Game 5 is tonight in Phoenix.

## *Milwaukee Bucks versus Atlanta Hawks*

Order has been restored in the Eastern Conference final series as the Milwaukee Bucks convincingly defeated the Atlanta Hawks 125-91. Milwaukee knew that the key to tying the series was making sure that Trae Young didn't take over the game again. They did just that and so much more on Friday night. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 25 points, Jrue Holiday added 22 points as the Bucks blew away the Atlanta Hawks in Game 2. The Bucks led by as much as 41 after a heart breaking defeat in Game 1. At the same time, they made some adjustments on the de-

fensive end which paid great dividends. The Bucks never trailed. Both teams rested their starters for the entire fourth quarter. Danilo Gallinari had 12 points and John Collins and Cam Reddish each added 11 for the Hawks.

Antetokounmpo's early exit due to the lopsided score resulted in the end of his franchise-record string of six straight games in which he had at least 30 points and 10 rebounds. The last player to collect at least 30 points and 10 rebounds in six straight playoff games was Shaquille O'Neal in 2002.

The series continues tomorrow in Atlanta with pivotal Game 4.



## CG Insurance T20 International Series

**ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada** – On Saturday, Evin Lewis smashed a 35-ball 71 to lead West Indies in response to South Africa's 160 for six during the 1st CG Insurance T20 International. Earlier, Fabian Allen and Dwayne Bravo picked up two wickets each to restrict the visitors to a below par total. West Indies went from being completely outplayed in the Test series to truly outplaying South Africa in the opening T20 International of the five-match series. Rassie van der Dussen was South Africa's top-scorer with 56 not out. He was supported by Quinton de Kock who had 37. There were no other scores of note during the South African innings. Chris Gayle 32 not out, Andre Fletcher 30, and Andre Russell 23 not out, were the other scores of note during the West Indies reply. West Indies made South Africa's total look

insufficient and forced Temba Bavuma, in his first match as T20I captain, to consider team balance and strategy. West Indies won by eight wickets with 30 balls to spare. Meanwhile, on Sunday, South Africa successfully defended their total to level the series. Batting first, South Africa made 166 for seven from their allotment of 20 overs. Captain Teva Bavuma led from the front with 46. He was supported at the top of the innings by Reeza Hendricks who got 42. Obed McCoy was the most successful West Indian bowler with 3 for 25, while Kevin Sinclair grabbed 2 for 23. West Indies lost wickets regularly in their pursuit of 167 for victory. The opening pair of Andre Fletcher and Evin Lewis got the West Indies off to a flyer. Fletcher top-scored with 35, while Fabian Allen 34, and Evin Lewis 21, were the main

contributors to the West Indies' reply. Kagiso Rabada was the chief wicket taker for South Africa with 3 for 37. He was supported by George Linde with 2 for 19. However, it was the South African spinners who restricted the West Indies during the middle overs. West Indies lost the match by 16 runs. The series is now tied at 1-1 and continues tomorrow for the 3rd CG Insurance T20 International.

### ***Remaining Schedule:***

3rd CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 29th June

4th CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 1st July

5th CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 3rd July

**DEWS**