

NEW HOPE FOR COVID-SAFE CRUISING

SEE PAGE 4



Cruise ships confined to port in Miami, Florida, following outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

Increased airlift brings more tourism jobs (page 10)

New vaccination policy for public servants to be made official soon (pages 5&20)

Johnson & Johnson product recall (page 12)

When the guilty become judges and pronounce condemnation ...

NOW by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him ... Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ... Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son."

The above are excerpts from the second chapter of the New Testament book of First John. How does anyone, from that definition or description of an antichrist, arrive at the conclusion that it pertains to the current Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda? Where or how or when has Gaston Browne ever "denied the Father and the Son", is a question that Dotsie Isaac might want to help us with, given her recent metamorphosis from poetess to prophetess or perhaps even priestess – but priestess and prophetess of what? Of who?

The Bible is a book that so many love to quote, but mostly when the quoters find it handy or convenient to quote it AT oth-

ers, like stones or bottles hurled at opponents during fights, for a purposes no more noble than "throwing words for" opponents, a metaphysically patented sling by which moral superiority may be pretended or presumed.

And the quoters are usually excellent crammers at memorizing and regurgitating those passages that communicate or convey, not the life-giving and healing power of the word of God, but disjointed snippets whose only use is as unloving weaponry of denigration and incisive putdowns that bear no connection to the manifest examples of their own lives or the contents of their hearts that Jesus said would determine what came out of their mouths.

Barely had she admonished her audience that "politics is not church", Isaac would go on to provide her own politicized exegesis of Biblical passages that violated all known principles, rules and standards of hermeneutics to suit her own self-embodied hypocrisy and demonic twisting of scripture for self-serving so-called artistic posturing.

Her attempt to mask seething hate with seemingly witty use of elementary rhymes and deceitful mishmash of overdone en-

tendres would chill to the bone anyone alert enough and interested enough to spot the violent-if-not-murderous intent of her attempted incitements.

Dotsie Isaac just did not want to be quoted directly saying the things that she clearly intended to communicate; among them that the recently assassinated Haitian president Jovenel Moise got what he deserved and Gaston Browne of Antigua deserves a dose of the same.

But her true serpentine tongue of unbelief and mocking of Biblical faith was exposed when she ridiculed those who pray and wait on God let His will be done in respect of the outcome of elections and the rise and fall of governments.

"I'm sure you all prayed before the last elections, and see what happened," taunted the Luciferian would-be subverter of the Biblical message that God is the one who causes governments to rise and fall, and that believers are to pray always and not faint even when it seems their prayers are not being answered – they are to trustingly, humbly and patiently "wait on the Lord."

As far as Dotsie is concerned, God is incapable of relating to our

problems and struggles because, “He doesn’t have any problems. He is in His heaven, comfortable, drinking hibiscus tea in His garden of Eden.” To reproduce all the blasphemous stuff that Dotsie Isaac uttered just for purpose of tearing into Gaston Browne with her poeticized but equally vile denunciation, would be the divinity version of repeating a libel or slander for the purpose of describing it. The shiver that this supposedly cultured packaging and delivery of seething hate caused, has reminded those touched by the enduring truth of Hebrews 2 that, “We must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we

drift away” into the same pattern of disobedience.

Why are we linking Dotsie’s display to disobedience? Because Romans chapters 1 and 2 tell us in no uncertain terms that one of the main reasons why people fall into and become enslaved by sexual depravity is because “they choose not to have God in their knowledge ... therefore “God gives them up to vile passions to do” some pretty weird things – “even the women exchanging the natural use for what is against nature”.

“Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself;

for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?”

This applies not just to Gaston Browne, but to anyone: that we should be careful about judging, labelling and condemning them as antichrists – especially those of us would-be judges who so openly, brazenly and shamelessly do things which do not qualify us to be judges or teachers – certainly not when we purport to base our authority on the Bible.



The New 2021
SWIFT
LIMITLESS THRILL
STUNNING LOOKS

The New 2021 Swift
designed to push all limits of
style and performance

Buckle up and get ready to command
every adventure with endless power
style and technology in the
New 2021 Swift

- Foldable Mirrors
- Reverse Camera
- LED Rear/Front Headlamp
- Touchscreen
- SmartPlay Studio
- Bluetooth
- Sporty Grill

ANTIGUA'S #1 AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM ON OLD PARHAM ROAD | 481-2500

HADEED MOTORS LTD.

US appeals court blocks ruling that would have suspended CDC cruise ship rules



WASHINGTON, July 18 (Reuters) - A US appeals court late Saturday in a 2-1 ruling put on hold a lower-court decision that said the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) could not enforce its coronavirus cruise ship rules in the state.

Last month, US District Judge Steven Merryday, in siding with Republican-led Florida, found the state was “highly likely” to show the CDC exceeded its authority in adopting rules governing the resumption of cruise ship sailing.

The brief order from the 11th Circuit panel came about 10 minutes before Merryday’s ruling was to take effect on Sunday, which would have made the CDC rules a non-binding recommendation rather than mandatory.

The CDC in May began approving some cruise operations after lengthy talks with the industry about health and safety protocols.

Its conditional sail order said cruise lines that ensured at least 95% of passengers and nearly all crew were vaccinated could bypass simulated voyages and move more quickly to resuming commercial trips. The Justice Department said last week in a filing with the appeals court that “there is no basis to lift the COVID-19 health and safety protocols that were developed by (CDC) in collaboration with the cruise ship industry.”

The CDC declined to comment Sunday.

The offices of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and state Attorney General Ashley

Moody did not immediately comment on Sunday. DeSantis had argued the CDC rules disregarded “the freedom of Floridians to make decisions for their families”.

Florida, a major hub for cruise operators, said in April its ports had suffered a decline in operating revenue of almost \$300 million since the pandemic started.

On Tuesday, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings sued the state of Florida, saying a state law was preventing it “from safely and soundly resuming passenger cruise operations” from Miami starting August 15. A judge has set an Aug. 6 preliminary injunction hearing.

Florida state law expressly prohibits cruise lines from requiring documentation of COVID-19 vaccines.

Public servants face option of vaccination or fortnightly testing



by *Shelton Daniel*

Public servants who chose not get vaccinated against COVID-19 could be required to present a negative PCR test every fortnight.

So says Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who added that the public servants who decide to refuse vaccination – which is free – would have to bear the cost of the mandatory testing out of their own pockets.

“In fact, we are on the verge of making that decision,” he said Saturday during his weekly radio program, *The Browne and Browne Show*, on *Pointe FM 99.1*.

“In fact, if the vaccination contin-

ues to be slow, we will take that decision; and this is not about trying to create any hardships for people. This is about managing an increased risk of possible hospitalizations and deaths as a result of a COVID strain that is debilitating and deadly, that Delta strain.” The Prime Minister said Government has to make hard decisions and adopt firm positions when it comes to managing the pandemic. He said this sometimes means offending people – even ardent supporters of the ruling party – but COVID is far too dangerous and destructive for it to be handled for the sake of popularity.

PM Browne said it is the duty of

Government to take the lead in ensuring that the nation does not fall prey to what he termed “a false sense of security” that could take hold as a result of the current low-single-digit incidence of active COVID cases.

“The government now has to step up, and we are starting with those on the front lines ... who come in contact with the tourists – our Customs officers, our Immigration officers, nurses, merchants, store clerks, those at the airport, those at Heritage Quay and Redcliffe Quay, all of our vendors, taxi operators, tour operators, and all others who provide services to tourists – they have to get vaccinated or, alternatively, take a COVID test twice-monthly, evidencing that they are COVID-free ... That is the policy of my administration.”

Prime Minister Browne said Government has a higher responsibility to protect the citizenry and would not vacillate or hold off from taking firm decisions. “In fact, I wish that back in December, the decision that we took to send everybody to Jolly Beach; I wish that we had effected that. We kind of ... relented, based on the pushback. Even when we said that we were limiting socializations to 10 persons, we got a lot of abuse. Luckily we didn’t relax it [and] that in itself probably ... helped to reduce some of the socializations and reduced some of the spread.”

READY TO CONQUER THE WILD



Jimny

Pack your bags! It's time to conquer "the wild"

\$76,400



ANITGUA'S #1 AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP
VISIT US ON OLD PARHAM ROAD TEL: 481-2500

Russian Sputnik vaccine now officially among the mix of choices



by Shelton Daniel

After holding out for several weeks, the National Technical Advisory Committee has granted its nod of agreement for the Sputnik-5 vaccine to be used for mass public inoculations here in Antigua and Barbuda.

The double dose vaccine manufactured by the Gamaleya Institute

of Moscow, Russia, has not yet been approved by the World Health Organization, as has been the case with the two other brands currently being used in Antigua and Barbuda; namely, the British-Swedish Oxford-AstraZeneca and the Chinese SinoPharm.

However, Sputnik-5 is highly regarded internationally and has en-

joyed positive reviews in prestigious medical journals such The Lancet of the UK. Its lack of formal WHO endorsement has not prevented Sputnik-5 from being approved for use in 68 countries around the world. These include Guyana and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines – among CARICOM Member States – and now Antigua and Barbuda.



APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Monday, 19th July 2021	Tuesday, 20th July 2021	Wednesday, 21st July 2021	Thursday, 22nd July 2021	Friday, 23rd July 2021
Section of Martin's Village 1:55 PM - 03:00 PM	Section of Briggins near the pond 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Gray's Farm near the basketball court 8:20 AM - 13:30 AM	Section of Old Parham Road near M&M gas station 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Golden Grove near the gas station 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM
	Section of Whenner Road 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Fort James 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Golden Grove near Brother's Farrell's church 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Swetes 8:20 AM - 11:30 AM

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

The national authorizing body for the importation and use of vaccines and other medicines is the Antigua and Barbuda Pharmaceutical Council which had already given the green light.

However, the National Technical Advisory Committee – chaired by pathologist Dr. Lester Simon, head of laboratory services at the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John Medical Center – had urged a pause on public rollout of the Sputnik-5 until WHO approval was granted.

One thousand doses of the vaccine out of a donation of 2,000 from the Russian government was already on island awaiting approval for the public rollout, and authorities are expecting the second half of

that consignment to be here by this week. “That will mean up to 1,000 persons can receive their two doses of the Sputnik-5 vaccines,” Information Minister Melford Nicholas pointed out during last Thursday’s post-Cabinet press briefing.

Chinese workers employed with their country’s embassy and other Chinese-sponsored projects in Antigua and Barbuda were due to be inoculated with the SinoPharm jabs late last week.

Public rollout of both the Chinese and Russian vaccines are expected to get underway this week.

Sputnik V has also been approved in Russia, Belarus, Argentina, Bolivia, Serbia, Algeria, Palestine, Venezuela, Paraguay, Turkmenistan, Hun-

gary, UAE, Iran, Republic of Guinea, Tunisia, Armenia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Republika Srpska (entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina), Lebanon, Myanmar, Pakistan, Mongolia, Bahrain, Montenegro, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Gabon, San-Marino, Ghana, Syria, Kyrgyzstan, Guyana, Egypt, Honduras, Guatemala, Moldova, Slovakia, Angola, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Sri Lanka, Laos, Iraq, North Macedonia, Kenya, Morocco, Jordan, Namibia, Azerbaijan, Philippines, Cameroon, Seychelles, Mauritius, Vietnam, Antigua and Barbuda, Mali, Panama, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Turkey, Albania, Maldives, Ecuador and Brazil.

**6 FOR \$20
WEEKEND WINGS!!**
(Fri, Sat, Sun)

KFC

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

**spicy & original
whole wings**

#StaySafe @kfcanu @kfcanu
#KFCANU #SOCIALDISTANCING #MADEFRESHEVERYDAY

Vaccine expiration no cause for worry right now – Information Minister

by *Shelton Daniel*

Up until the end of last month (June 2021) only a marginal number of unused vaccine doses had to be discarded due to expiration, according to Information Minister Melford Nicholas.

Speaking on Thurs-

day morning during the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing, Minister Nicholas said the amount was “negligible; maybe upwards of a 100 or so”.

He hastened to add that, “The current stock of vaccines that we have, still have shelf life up until the end of

August, insofar as the AstraZeneca is concerned, and for the Sputnik it would be into September.”

He pointed out that the Chinese “Sino-Pharm would be available for use until early next year.”

Nicholas stressed that, “We do not have

any immediate expiration threat at this point in time; but if we are not careful to have an uptake of the AstraZeneca, they will approach expiration during the month of August. So, we have another 6 weeks of the AstraZeneca before that becomes an issue.”

UTILITIES ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

APUA would like to remind both residential and commercial customers to stay connected by Managing Your Account. Customers are reminded to settle Electricity, Water and Telecommunications (inet Mobile, Home and Business) accounts that are overdue by 30 days or in arrears. Disconnections will be carried out during the period **July 19th to July 30th, 2021.**

Please be advised that reconnections are carried out within 1-2 business days after payment.



Apua Apua Apua
Visit us at www.apua.ag

MARINE INSURANCE



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

(268) 481-7800/04
info@sicantigua.com
www.sicantigua.com
Instagram Facebook Twitter

Increased airlift resulting in more tourism sector jobs



The hotel sector is reporting higher rates of employment as Antigua and Barbuda benefits from increased airline flights into the country.

Both Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez are lauding the decision by at least one airline – British Airways – to increase its flights into Antigua and Barbuda.

BA has announced that it will soon increase daily flights into the country to nine, the highest ever. Two flight will originate from Heathrow Airport and the other seven from Gatwick airport, the two main gateways serving London, the UK capital.

PM Browne and Minister Fernandez say the additional flights are signs of the strong demand for the destination in a key tourism source market, the UK.

“There are several reasons for this positive news. Firstly, Antigua and Barbuda has benefited from being placed on the UK’s so-called ‘green-list’, a categorization that makes it a safe place to visit, as well as on-going

marketing efforts by both the Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Tourism,” Fernandez explained.

The tourism minister added that there is much ‘pent-up’ demand for travel among the UK population and Antigua and Barbuda, because it is seen as being safe, has been a beneficiary.

Fernandez is buoyant about the future prospects for the overall tourism sector with cruise tourism about to return in a big way as of next month.

“I expect us to return to normality when both the overnight and cruise sectors are going full steam,” he declared.

Last week, executive chairman of the Hotels and Tourist Association, Vernon Jeffers revealed that more than 3,500 of the estimated 5,000 to 6,000 hotel workers who were furloughed last year because of the pandemic, have so far been recalled by the country’s hotels. He also credited Antigua and Barbuda’s graduation to the UK’s ‘green-list’ as being a significant factor in this development.

“Ever since the United Kingdom graduated Antigua and Barbuda from amber to green in its traffic light system that measures COVID-19 risks, we have seen a doubling of occupancy over what was forecast for the month. So far occupancy is hovering between 70 to 80 percent while the forecast for the month was for occupancy of between 35 to 38 percent,” he revealed.

Jeffers indicated that within a few days the forecast for both August and September will be available and he expects those will show similar trends. “We are forecasting for good summer,” he predicts.

Jeffers also indicated that workers in the industry are bucking the national trend of hesitancy by taking the vaccines. “We are nearing 65 percent in terms of vaccination which is a very good statement from hotel workers,” he declared.

Currently, approximately 38,000 persons have been vaccinated in Antigua and Barbuda which has a population of roughly 100,000.

Gov't foregoes millions \$\$\$ to continue helping residents with COVID-19 barrel programme

More than four million dollars in taxes that ordinarily would have been collected by the Customs & Excise Division have been forgiven by Government as part of a social initiative to help residents during the coronavirus pandemic.

Comptroller of Customs Raju Boddu said while the country did not apply the taxes to the imported barrels, the programme has benefitted thousands of families at a critical time when they have been experiencing economic challenges.

Introduced every Christmas as one of the government's social programmes, citizens and residents are allowed to import a standard-sized barrel with mainly food items that does not attract duties and taxes. The programme was initiated during the pandemic last year with repeated extensions. It was due to wrap up at the end of this month but has since been extended to the end of this year, according to an announcement made last Thursday following the weekly Cabinet meeting.

Boddu said while the 4-million dollars would have been welcomed revenue for the government's coffers, there are no regrets.

"I have no regrets; it's a very good programme and a unique one at that. When I was discussing the programme at a conference with ... world customs officials, they were asking about details of the pro-



Comptroller of Customs & Excise, Mr. Raju Boddu.

gramme. Even though we are a poor country and running short on resources, we never relented in understanding the hardships of the people," the Customs boss stated.

He revealed that, so far, more than 19,000 barrels have been processed under the scheme introduced in April of last year. Just over \$700,000 dollars were collected for the RRC from the scheme as well as an undisclosed amount in processing fees.

Boddu declared that some merchants may have been unhappy with the re-introduction of the programme during the pandemic, but he believes the government's overall social responsibility to its people is of greater importance.

"People argue that, because of the programme, the retailers were not able to sell those products. To some extent, that is so. However, the government has a social responsibility

to take care of the people during this critical and difficult time. I am happy that the Customs Division has been able to play its part in assisting the government [to] implement a good social policy programme," he added.

Last weekend, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the programme was ending at the end of July, partly because some people were exploiting the initiative by adding items that were not permitted at the bottom of the barrels, thereby circumventing the payment of taxes. This was confirmed by the head of the Customs & Excise Division who stated his highly skilled officers have been making discoveries.

"We have found drugs, firearms and ammunition among the items being imported under the scheme," Boddhu further revealed. These discoveries are what led to the decision to end the programme on July 31, 2021.

However, during the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing last Thursday, Information Minister Melford Nicholas announced that – subject to strict controls – the barrel program has been extended until the end of 2021.

This position was reaffirmed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Saturday during his weekly radio program, The Browne and Browne Show, on the radio station **Pointe FM 99.1**.

Johnson & Johnson recalls NEUTROGENA® and AVEENO® Sunscreen products



The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division is alerting the public that Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. (JJCI) is voluntarily recalling five NEUTROGENA® and AVEENO® aerosol sunscreen product lines to the consumer level. Internal testing identified low levels of benzene – a chemical linked to blood cancers such as leukemia – in some samples of the products.

The recall involves four Neutrogena sunscreen versions:

- Beach Defense aerosol sunscreen
- Cool Dry Sport aerosol sunscreen
- Invisible Daily Defense aerosol

sunscreen

- Ultra Sheer aerosol sunscreen
- Aveeno Protect + Refresh aerosol sunscreen.

The recalled sunscreen products are packaged in aerosol cans, and consumers should stop using these specific products immediately. JJCI said in a statement that though using the products “would not be expected to cause adverse health consequences,” it voluntarily decided on the recall “out of an abundance of caution.”

Benzene, a component of gasoline and a frequently used solvent for rubber and waxes, is highly flammable. According to the US Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention (CDC), long-term and repeated exposure to the chemical at high enough levels can cause leukemia or other cancers. The carcinogen’s effects vary depending on whether it is ingested, inhaled, or gets on a person’s skin. Symptoms include irregular heartbeat and dizziness, but the highest levels of exposure can also lead to death. Consumers should contact their physician if they have any questions, concerns or have experienced any problems related to using these aerosol sunscreen products.

For refunds, consumers should contact the place of purchase



POINTVILLE COMMUNICATIONS INC.

RADIO RATES

ADVERTISEMENT

30sec	\$35.00ec
45sec	\$45.00ec
60sec	\$50.00ec

SPONSORSHIP SPOTS

Prime Time	\$550.00
Non prime Time	\$240.00

ADVERTISEMENT/MENTION

Voicing	\$75.00ec
Production Cost	\$75.00ec

DEATH ANNOUCEMENT

2 Mins	\$23.00ec
3 Mins	\$46.00ec
4 Mins	\$69.00ec
5 Mins	\$92.00ec

ABST 15% IS NOT INCLUDED
SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Rotary Club launches car raffle



Rotary Club president Joanna Spencer (right) with Antigua Motors general manager Paul Ryan at Thursday's launch ceremony.

The Rotary Club of Antigua has kicked off its first major fundraising activity for the service year 2021-2022, which will see one lucky resident driving home with a brand-new car as the grand prize!

The prize car will be complete with insurance and registration.

President of the Rotary Club

Ms. Joanna Spencer has called the launch, "The beginning of an exciting year of service and corporate partnership that will pave the way to the ushering in of an unforgettable 50th Rotary Anniversary in Antigua and Barbuda."

Ms. Spencer also said that, "The success of this project will assist the club in a number of new and

recurring projects that will affect thousands in our communities. Like our corporate sponsors, we urge the public to support – not only for the win – but also for the cause and the spirit of service."

The grand prize of a Honda Fit motor car has been made possible by Antigua Motors Limited, while the insurance coverage has

been provided by Anjo Insurances.

Participants will also have the opportunity to win at least three other consolation prizes: a refrigerator, compliments Town House Mega Store; a one-night stay for two at Xcape in NonSuch Bay; and a mystery prize that will be announced on the date of the draw.

These mark the main prizes, but the club has gone further by offering a series of extras that include hotel stays and dinners, spa treatments, jewelry, gift baskets, and more. All of this is up for grabs for the unit ticket cost of EC\$5 only. Members of the public can also purchase tickets in bulk, with books of 12 tickets available for only EC\$50. This means two complementary tickets with each book purchased.

Drawings will take place at intervals to be announced, with the grand prize drawing scheduled for November 20, 2021 at Antigua Motors on Old Parham Road.

General Manager of Antigua Motors Paul Ryan said his company "is extremely pleased to be partnering with the Rotary Club of Antigua.

"We know the challenges that organizations like themselves as well as businesses across Antigua have suffered

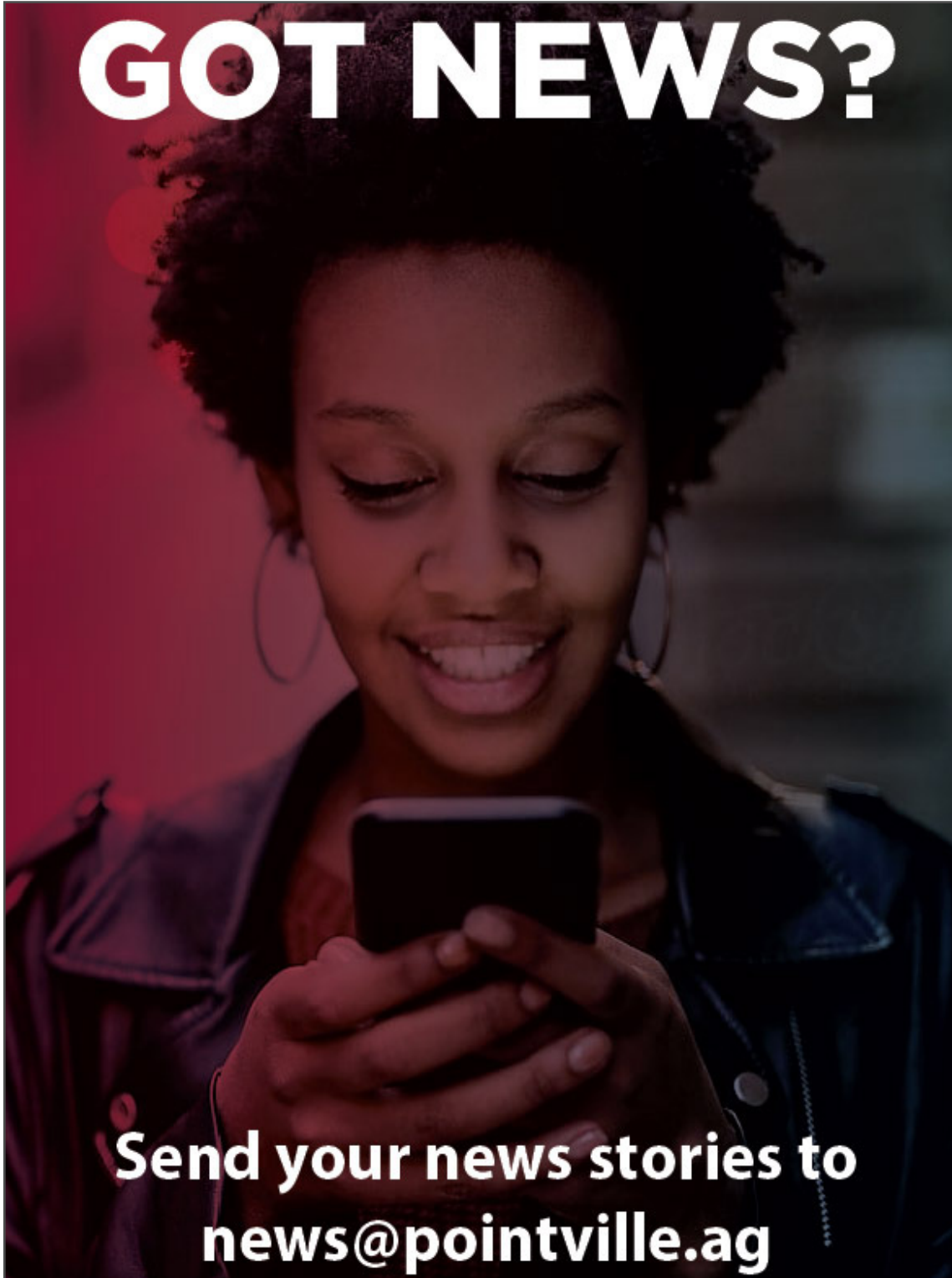
over the last year-and-a-half. We know the struggles many individuals are facing personally, supporting themselves and their families, and we know that Rotary has reached out to help many of them during this time."

Ryan added: "Antigua Motors, along with Honda Motor Company, has come forward to of-

fer a brand-new Honda Fit. It comes with three years warranty and fully backed by after-sales service, insurance and registration for the winner." The Rotary Club of Antigua has served the communities of Antigua and Barbuda with projects such a *Meals on Wheels*, which provides basic food items to families with limited means;

Computers for the World, which supplies educational institutions and schools across the island; health-and-wellness-related projects; promotion of education and the safety of the island's youth.

Proceeds from this project will aid in the continuation of other initiatives to be announced.



GOT NEWS?

Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag

PATRIOTISM

by Risa V

Patriotism means “love of one’s country”; showing special affection for your country and having a sense of personal identification with it; showing special concern for the well-being of the country and willingness to sacrifice to promote the country’s good.

Now let’s talk about being patriotic in Antigua and Barbuda.

While the people of Antigua and Barbuda are very political, this has in no way brought about patriotism. But there is a greater responsibility to which we should hold ourselves. We cannot remember that we are Antiguan and Barbudans only when we feel threatened. It is time we put aside that mindset of entitlement and political pride for the betterment of our country. Just as the government has its re-

sponsibilities, so do the citizens.

It is easy to turn and blame the government for everything. However, a lot of what we are incapable of doing, has to do with our lack of understanding of the areas and avenues in which our individual

and collective roles are significant. As citizens, these shortcomings make us poor representations of our country. Learn the laws that govern this country, how the constitution works, and the labor code.

Antiguan and Bar-

budans often express dissatisfaction with the job the government is doing, while the government has a hard time depending on us – the people – to play our part.

The current global pandemic provides a perfect example in

-NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM-
FREE
SCHOOL BUS PASS
SEPTEMBER 2021

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
STUDENT
School Bus Pass

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
STUDENT School Bus Pass
Name: Antigua State College
DOB: 15/01/2004
ISSUED: 19/07/2021
EXPIRES: 19/07/2022

Ways to Apply for School Bus Pass

Online
Have you registered for your Child's FREE "Photo" School Bus Pass Yet?

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

@National School Bus System
@Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

268.736.2472

which government relied on the people to abide by safety measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 and thus avoid putting undue strain on the health system. Yet, even after so much public education on the subject, the government has had to babysit and spoon feed us, holding our hands and coddling us throughout COVID-19. Always a part of the problem and never the solution, we have – throughout the pandemic – made things so difficult for ourselves, our households, neighborhoods and communities, and for the entire country.

To this day, we still have difficulty observing and respecting that it is the law for us to observe all protocols and regulations that form part of our (still ongoing) State of Emergency; that it is an offense punishable by fines and other sanctions to flout the rules pertaining to social distancing, wearing of masks, limits on the size of public gatherings, and adherence to the curfew hours.

We whine and complain, bellyache and protest about minor (in the scheme of things) sacrifices that we are called upon to make for own safety and well-

being, and for the safety and wellbeing of the broader society of which we are a part.

On top of that, we are being offered further icing on the cake of governmental care in the form of high-value incentives to take the vaccine – when the prospects of severe illness, hospitalization and death should have been more than enough to persuade us.

How can we refer to ourselves as proud Antiguan and Barbudans when we will not get vaccinated for the sake of our country, for the sake of our loved ones, for the sake of our country – but we will drop all objections and hurry to get vaccinated if that is a requirement for obtaining visas for travel to countries such as the US, Canada and the UK?

Every decision the government has made, people have reacted negatively and aggressively. But what did you do to assist in helping your brothers and sisters? International and regional aid has been presented; donations from the private sector and NGOs, etc.; but where did you fit in? Is it not your responsibility also?

When given the opportuni-

ty to rise to the occasion and make some kind of impact, we are never present. Voting, for instance; too many times I've heard individuals express the view that voting makes no sense – Imagine: such an important privilege and responsibility that comes with being a citizen is being downplayed like that!

But, thankfully, we have always managed to pull through with a relatively high voter turnout in general elections. However, the 2018 referendum to decide on the country's final court of appeal had only 17,743 voters – a mere 33.4% of all registered voters. Whether you were for the Caribbean Court of Justice or the London Privy Council, it would only matter if you voted.

Then we wonder why others living among us have no respect for us or our country. It is because that is what they see. We have no respect for ourselves or our country. SUN TZU speaks of "The Morale Law" in the book The Art of War, identifying the importance of a people in complete accord with their ruler.

STARTING POINTE

ON AIR

with Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am

POINTE FM

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



A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

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

BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

Tax Amnesty for Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidadian Finance Minister Colm Imbert has announced a tax amnesty which will allow taxpayers to file their returns for "all types of outstanding taxes." According to Minister Imbert, "from July 5 to September 17, 2021, it is proposed that there be a tax amnesty in T&T, so that taxpayers can file outstanding tax returns and pay any taxes due and owing up to May 31, 2021, without having to pay any penalties or interest. This applies to all types of outstanding taxes." This is T&T's fourth tax amnesty

No vaccination: no tourist interface - Antigua & Barbuda

In the absence of a common protocol for cruise vessels within CARICOM, Antigua and Barbuda has instituted a system whereby all workers and officials who are likely to have contact with the disembarking passengers who come ashore are required to be fully vaccinated. The first cruise vessel scheduled to bring more than 100 passengers to Antigua's Heritage Quay Port will arrive in the morning of Tuesday, July 20, 2021. The crew on board

will be 100% vaccinated, and 90% of the passengers will be fully vaccinated. Further, 55% of taxi drivers are vaccinated fully; 72% of vendors are fully vaccinated; 72% of the merchants and their staff are fully vaccinated; and 60% of Tour Operators and staff are fully vaccinated. Rapid testing will be available to the unvaccinated at their expense

Bahamas rolls out Annual Borrowing Plan

The government of the Bahamas will seek to source \$892.4 million of this fiscal year's borrowing from local markets and \$959.2 million in foreign currency, the Ministry of Finance has revealed. This was contained in the first Annual Borrowing Plan (ABP), which outlined the government's intention to use an estimated \$899.7 million of its borrowings to refinance maturing debt securities and loans in the form of issuances, buybacks, switches and redemption of bonds and treasury bills. A financing resolution was passed last month for \$1.85 billion in 2021/22 to retire old debt and cover the shortfall between revenue and expenditures, which are estimated at \$2.24 billion and \$3.19 billion respectively this year. Of the \$959.2 million proposed in foreign currency borrowings, \$700 million or 73% is to be derived from the international capital markets, representing the

bulk of the overall financing at 37.8%,” the ABP states. “Loan funding, at \$372.4 million, will constitute 20.1% of the aggregate financing requirement, with nearly 64.5% to be sourced from potential international financial institution (IFI) financing, inclusive of budgeted loan drawings.

St. Kitts and Nevis launches \$15M income support programme

St. Kitts and Nevis is implementing another round of income support for residents who became redundant in March 2020 and remain unemployed because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Dr Timothy Harris announced the \$15 million, 2021 Income Support Programme on July 08. Under the programme qualified applicants will receive “a monthly stipend of \$1,000” which will be paid for the next 3 months. Other measures announced include a 3-month deferral on residential electricity bills, a 6-month stipend to assist households with differently abled children, increased support for victims of domestic abuse, and waiving commercial rent for 6 months for small businesses that lease space through the Ministry of Tourism and Transport. Additionally, the VAT rate will be reduced to 5% for 3 months on commercial rent for small businesses and a reduction of the travel tax for 6 months to boost visitor arrivals.

Sugar earnings jump 41% as Belize's exports climb 15.5%

In May 2021, Belize imported goods valued at \$161.5 million representing a 58.2% increase over May 2020. Merchandise im-

ports for January to May 2021, amounted to \$760.2 million, representing a 10.2% increase for the same period in 2020. Total domestic exports for May 2021 amounted to \$45.7 million, up by 23.8% relative to May 2020. Merchandise exports for January to May 2021 totaled \$172.2 million, up 15.5% from the same period last year. Of all exported commodities, sugar and animal feed recorded the most significant increases in revenues during the period. Earnings from sugar grew substantially by one-third or more than \$15 million, from \$46.2 million in 2020 to \$61.9 million in 2021, reflecting a 41% increase in exported quantities of sugar. Revenues from animal feed more than doubled, rising from \$4.6 million in 2020 to \$11.5 million in 2021.

Bahamas: Investment fund assets grow to \$131.5 billion

The value of assets under administration by investment fund administrators in The Bahamas grew to \$131.5 billion in 2020, the Securities Commission of The Bahamas (SCB) stated in its recently released annual report for 2020. This growth occurred even though last year 105 investment funds entered into liquidation or indicated the intention to surrender their licenses. Only 67 of those funds completed the process, which resulted in 712 licensed investment funds at the end of 2020. As for securities, the year ended with 163 registered firms after nine new firms were approved. Five firms upgraded their license to conduct registrable securities business and 10 firms surrendered their license, the SCB noted.

SVG PM: Taxpayers funding unvaccinated people's repeat C-19 tests 'unfair'



IWN SVG - Public sector workers who choose to not take a COVID-19 vaccine and are required to test regularly to prove their status will now have to pay for the test.

"You have to pay for it because what happens is this: some employers — and they must speak the truth about it ... are saying you either get vaccinated or come with a COVID test every Monday morning," Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves said on NBC Radio on Wednesday.

"Well, why should the state — you don't want to take the vaccine — why should we pay for your test every Monday morning? Why don't you just take the vaccine?" Gonsalves said. The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has said that unvaccinated public sector workers who have not been vaccinated must take a COVID-19 test up to once every two weeks.

The first test is provided

free of cost and, after this, the workers must stand the cost of the test, about EC\$26.

"You get the first one free. I think they even give you the second one free. But you decide you are not taking the vaccine, for whatever reason, and I take the vaccine. I'm a taxpayer. I have to pay for it (your test). It cost nearly US\$10 to do the antigen test, for each one." The prime minister said he knows of a hotel construction site with 170 employees that closed for a week after two workers tested positive for COVID-19.

"... and they didn't know whether there was going to be an outbreak and they said, 'Listen, you come vaccinated, you don't have to go and do the test. But if you decide not to take the vaccine, you have to do the test.' And the employers said you have to do the test at your expense." The prime minister said that 20% of people

in the country have taken the vaccine. "They are taxpayers. Why they must pay every single week for your test when you choose not to take the vaccine? I raise the question of fairness in that regard." He said there are about 50,000 workers in the country. Presuming that 10,000 of them have been vaccinated, Gonsalves said, the other 40,000 will have to be tested regularly. "So every Monday morning we have to pay for 40,000 or close to that. That's US\$400,000 every Monday morning. That is a million [Eastern Caribbean] dollars..." "Now, that can't be fair. And people want money so that they can keep body and soul together. You can have your choice not to take the vaccine. But if the employer says you have to take the vaccine or you have to take the test, otherwise you can't work at my place because I have an obligation

as an employer for a safe and healthy work environment; that's under the law. And we are currently dealing with the procedures and so forth for certain categories of state employees, both in the government service and also in statutory bodies."

He said that, for example, people who work on the cruise ship pier, airport employees, medical personnel and Customs workers should be vaccinated.

"So, if you don't want to take the vaccine but you are going to take the test, you can't ask the employer to give you a test every Monday morning or every two weeks to pay approximately US\$10 for each of these antigen tests. "They cost money. We don't get them for nothing. Remember I tried to talk the home truths to the population and some people are not listening. I'm begging you, please, take the vaccine."

PM says “no need” for state of emergency, once enough Bahamians vaccinated



Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis speaks with Eyewitness News on Friday, July 16, 2021, during a tour on Eleuthera.

EW News - Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis yesterday assured that once vaccination numbers “reach a certain level”, the state of emergency could be allowed to end. Asked whether the government intends to move forward with ending the COVID-19 emergency orders when the current state of emergency ends on August 13, the prime minister said he does not see the “need” for it once enough Bahamians are vaccinated.

Speaking to reporters on the matter during a Family Island tour on Eleuthera on Friday, Minnis pointed to global trends that show peo-

ple dying with COVID being non-vaccinated.

“We are aggressively pursuing obtaining vaccines so that we can vaccinate our nation,” he said.

“What we are finding worldwide, those individuals who are becoming ill are the non-vaccinated individuals, those who are being hospitalized are the non-vaccinated and those who are dying are the non-vaccinated.

“Therefore, we know the solution moving forward is to vaccinate our population and that’s why we are presently pursuing four fronts to obtain as many vaccines as

possible.” The prime minister’s comments came as health officials confirmed 10 additional COVID-19 deaths over the past few days and reclassified eight COVID-19 deaths previously listed as “under investigations”. All of the reclassified deaths, except for one, were deemed COVID-related. The newly reported deaths include a 35-year-old man from Bimini who died on July 3; a 34-year-old woman from Eleuthera who died on July 6; a 79-year-old woman from New Providence who died on July 14; three 53-year-old men from New Providence who died on July 7, July 10

and July 13; a 31-year-old woman from New Providence who died on July 11; an 87-year-old woman from New Providence who died on July 12; and two men from New Providence, aged 51 and 61, who died on July 13. The COVID-related deaths previously under investigation were all registered on Grand Bahama and included a 103-year-old woman; an 88-year-old woman; a 65-year-old man; an 82-year-old woman; a 72-year-old woman; a 50-year-old man; and a 44-year-old man. Last week, officials confirmed that a 5-month-old baby girl died on June 26. The total number of COVID-19 deaths stands at 273, with another 22 under investigation.

Up to Thursday, The Bahamas had 13,404 confirmed cases, with 980 active. Minnis said yesterday that he is certain the Bahamian populace will present themselves to take the vaccine once available. “Once we receive our vaccines, you can be assured that Bahamians will be reporting in droves to receive the jabs, and once we reach a certain level, I don’t see the need (for emergency orders),” he said.

“In addition to the vaccine, once individuals remain disciplined and follow the protocols. I think seeing what’s happening around the world, we will be extremely disciplined.”

Grenada creates history: Caribbean's largest automated greenhouse



Hon. Peter David, HE Wei Hongtian, and Hon. Oliver Joseph, cut the ribbon at the new greenhouse facility.

Now Grenada - Grenada is now better poised to increase agricultural production and offer better quality and variety of crops through the use of a fully automated greenhouse at the Chinese demonstration site at La Sagesse, St. David.

The greenhouse, which is the first of its kind in Grenada and the largest in the Caribbean, was commissioned on Thursday in the presence of Minister for Agriculture Lands and Forestry, Hon. Peter David; Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Grenada, His Excellency Wei Hongtian; and Parliamentary Representative for St. David, Hon. Oliver Joseph.

This smart facility realises the real-time monitoring, early warning and regulation of the environ-

ment; creates suitable environmental conditions for crop growth and development; optimises the agricultural cultivation measures; and relieves the intensity of field labour, while improving productivity.

The Agriculture Minister underscored the importance of the greenhouse in ensuring food and nutrition security, particularly as the country manages the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I truly believe that this is the type of technology we need to invest in and promote, if we are to entice our youth to seriously pursue agriculture and make the sector more sustainable. This facility will be a model that can be adapted to fit the purpose and conditions of many

producers to ensure that more of them use protected agriculture to produce many of our vegetables, ornamentals and horticultural crops," Minister David remarked.

The Chinese Ambassador regards the existence of the greenhouse as a milestone for agricultural development and modernisation in Grenada. He said, "I think it will not only serve as a facility for agricultural services, experimentation, technological innovation, demonstration, training, research and promotion, but also as a new base for sightseeing and other activities to enhance people's interest in agriculture." The Parliamentary Representative for St. David noted that Grenada's food import bill in 2019 was \$350 million. He is grateful for the

facility at La Sagesse, as he believes it will help in significantly decreasing that figure.

"We must feed ourselves in order to cut back on this huge food import bill, and a greenhouse is one such technique," Minister Joseph said. "This will help us to increase our production and ensure that we can produce what we eat, right here in Grenada." - Farmers' representative in the Senate, Roderick St Clair, foresees the transformation of the agricultural sector through use of this technology, especially with the effects of climate change. "We can have a model to show farmers that we can produce year-round under a controlled environment," he said. The commissioning of the greenhouse marked the end of the seventh phase of technical assistance and cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Grenada, which was contracted to Hubei Dadi International Company for Economic Technical Cooperation (Group).

A plaque of appreciation was handed over to head of the Chinese Mission, Shen Zhiwan, for its contribution to the development of agriculture throughout the seventh phase of the technical cooperation agreement.

PM Rowley: If T&T gets Pfizer vaccines, students will be vaccinated



T&T Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley

LoopTT - If the country receives Pfizer vaccines from the United States in August, they will be used to vaccinate secondary school students. Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley made the comment while speaking at a media conference at the Diplomatic Centre, St Ann's, on Saturday afternoon.

The Pfizer vaccine, he noted, is the only vaccine approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) for use in children age 12 and over. He said: "If we get our hands on a supply from the United States, the first call on those vaccines would be our high school age population and that will put us in good stead to present them at school in September." Dr. Rowley added: "If there are any of you out there waiting for the Pfizer (vaccine), as long as you are not in the secondary population, you will be waiting." Mean-

while, the prime minister reiterated that COVID-19 vaccination remains voluntary.

Dr. Rowley added the matter of mandatory vaccination is not currently before Cabinet.

He said: "With respect to vaccination, it is in that context that the vaccination programme in Trinidad and Tobago is voluntary. That should not surprise anybody because we expect that everybody in Trinidad and Tobago wants to live, to survive the virus, and therefore we leave it for your action to give you the best chance to that outcome, given the response to the virus is largely personal responsibility."

However, Dr. Rowley said if a particular COVID-19 variant becomes more virulent, the government will do what is necessary to protect the population.



Agents For: KING OCEAN SERVICES

CALL & SIGN UP TODAY

(268) 562-9023/4

Email - antigua.info@kingocean.com

OUR NEW SERVICE

SHOP IT AND SHIP IT

ANTIGUA BROKERAGE AND PICK UP SERVICE



**YOU SHOP & SHIP
WE WILL
TAKE CARE
OF THE REST**

You will:

- Sign up for program
- Submit invoices by email
- Pick up your package(s) at our office

We will:

- Clear your package(s) at customs
- Bring it to our offices for collection
- Create one bill for your duties, BL cost, Brokerage and Handling fees

Call us for more information.

Merkel describes German flood devastation as 'terrifying'



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

Al Jazeera - German Chancellor Angela Merkel has described the flooding that ravaged parts of her country as "surreal" and "terrifying", as the death toll from floods in Western Europe climbed above 180 with dozens still missing. Merkel promised on Sunday swift financial aid after visiting one of the areas worst affected by the record rainfall and floods that have killed at least 157 people in Germany alone in recent days, in the country's worst natural disaster in almost six decades. "It is terrifying," she told residents of the small town of Adenau in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, one of the two hardest-hit regions in western Germany. "The German language can barely de-

scribe the devastation that's taken place." "Germany is a strong country," Merkel said. "We will stand up to this force of nature in the short term, but also in the medium and long term."

Merkel toured Schuld, a village on a tight curve of the Ahr River in western Germany where many buildings were damaged or destroyed by rapidly rising floodwaters on Wednesday night. Authorities said some people are still missing and they fear the toll may still rise. She also called for a redoubling of political focus on curbing climate change. "We have to hurry up, we have to speed up the fight against climate change," Merkel said. Focus has now shifted to southern Germany and neighbouring

Austria, which remain on alert amid heavy rains.

Roads were turned into rivers, some vehicles were swept away and swaths of land were buried under thick mud in Berchtesgaden Land in southern Germany. Hundreds of rescue workers were searching for survivors in the district which borders Austria. In the Austrian region of Salzburg, powerful floodwaters tore through the town centre on Saturday evening as the Kothbach river burst its banks, but no injuries were reported.

Parts of Switzerland remained on flood alert, though the threat posed by some of the most at-risk bodies of water like Lake Lucerne and Bern's Aare river has eased.

The European floods, which began on Wednesday, have mainly hit the German states of Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, as well as parts of Belgium. Entire communities have been cut off, without power or communications.

In the North Rhine-Westphalia state, Germany's most populous, 46 people were killed, including four firefighters. Belgium confirmed 27 deaths.

The German government will be readying more than 300 million euros (\$354m) in immediate relief and billions of euros to fix collapsed houses, streets and bridges, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz told the weekly newspaper Bild am Sonntag.

Haiti faces uncertain future as mourning first lady returns

Associated Press - Haiti's political future on Sunday grew murkier after the surprise return of first lady Martine Moïse, who was released from a hospital in Miami where she was treated for injuries following an attack in which the president was assassinated.

Martine Moïse did not make any public statements after she descended a private jet wearing a black dress, a black bulletproof vest, a black face mask and her right arm in a black sling as she mourned for President Jovenel Moïse who was killed July 7 at their private home.

Some experts — like many in this country of more than 11 million people — were surprised at how quickly she reappeared in Haiti and questioned whether she plans to become involved in the country's politics.

"The fact that she returned could suggest she intends to play some role," said Laurent Dubois, a Haiti expert and Duke University professor. "She may intervene in one way or another."

Martine Moïse arrived just hours after a prominent group of international diplomats issued a statement that appeared to shun interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph,

the man currently running the country with the backing of police and the military.

Joseph's name was never mentioned in the statement made by the Core Group, composed of ambassadors from Germany, Brazil, Canada, Spain, the US, France, the European Union and representatives from the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The group called for the creation of "a consensual and inclusive government," adding, "To this end, it strongly encourages the designated Prime Minister Ariel Henry to continue the mission entrusted to him to form such a government."

Henry was designated prime minister a day before Jovenel Moïse was killed. He did not respond to requests for comment.

The UN, OAS and US State Department did not offer further explanation when contacted.

Given the current state of Haitian politics, Dubois said he believes the arrival of Martine Moïse could have an impact.

"She's obviously in a position to play a role ... given how wide open things are," he said, adding that the Core Group's statement is striking be-

cause it makes no reference to Joseph. "One has to wonder whether the developments in the investigation have anything to do with this. They're all these puzzle pieces that are just changing moment to moment. Right now it seems very hard to figure out how to put these together."

Authorities in Haiti and Colombia say at least 18

suspects directly linked to the killing have been arrested, the majority of them former Colombian soldiers. At least three suspects were killed and police say they are looking for numerous others. Colombian officials have said that the majority of former soldiers were duped and did not know of the assassination plot.



In this handout photo released by Haiti's Secretary of State for Communication, Haiti's first lady Martine Moïse, wearing a bullet proof vest and her right arm in a sling, arrives at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday, July 17, 2021.

South Africa looting: Clean-up to mark Nelson Mandela Day

BBC - As South Africans mark Nelson Mandela Day, the president has urged people to honour the legacy of the anti-apartheid hero by helping to rebuild the country after days of riots that left 212 dead. "The one positive thing I can say is that this incident has united us as never before," Cyril Ramaphosa said. People have been posting photos of themselves distributing food to areas most affected by the unrest.

The violence was sparked by the jailing of ex-President Jacob Zuma. He handed himself in to police on 7 July to serve a 15-month sentence for contempt of court. The 79-year-old was found guilty for failing to appear before an inquiry to answer questions about corruption during his presidency. On Monday, Mr. Zuma is due to attend - via video link - another corruption trial in relation to a \$5bn (£3bn) arms deal from the 1990s. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges and his lawyers are now calling for a postponement because of the violence. Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected president, died at the age of 95 in 2013 when Zuma was president. Each year on what would be Mandela's birthday - 18 July - people are urged to spend



Volunteers have been organising clean-up operations in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces.

67 minutes helping others to mark his 67 years of public service.

Mr. Ramaphosa has spent the day in Gauteng province touring Soweto, South Africa's largest township and once home to Mr. Mandela. He has been taking part in the clean-up after mayhem which saw thousands of people ransacking malls.

Small businesses, warehouses, factories, clinics and schools in the two provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng

were also targeted - a level of violence unprecedented in post-apartheid South Africa. Debris was strewn all over the streets and some communities have had to travel long distances to buy basics.

In Durban, the main city of KwaZulu-Natal, the authorities are also investigating a chemical spill possibly linked to a warehouse fire, after dead fish were spotting washing ashore.

The unrest has now largely subsided and the

deployment of 25,000 soldiers is expected to be completed by the end of the weekend.

Mr. Ramaphosa, who says the violence was orchestrated, has faced criticism for acting too late. Amid the chaos, people armed themselves and formed defence units to protect their property. But during his tour of Soweto, the president said he was impressed by South Africans' resilience - reflecting Mr. Mandela's spirit.

US surgeon general defends CDC mask change; blames tech companies for COVID deaths

(Reuters) – US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy stood by federal guidance that those fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no longer needed to wear masks, while blaming social media companies for fueling vaccine misinformation. Murthy told CNN's "State of the Union" that allowing vaccinated individuals to forgo masks also gives communities the flexibility to revert to mask mandates based on new infections and vaccination rates, as Los Angeles has done.

Nationwide, new U.S. COVID-19 cases surged 70% this week compared with the prior seven days to an average of 30,000 new infections a day, fueled by the Delta variant. Deaths rose 26% week-over-week to an average of 250 lives lost a day, mostly in unvaccinated patients. Murthy said that social media companies have fueled false narratives about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, echoing President Joe Biden's comments that social media companies were "killing people." "There have been positive steps taken by these technology companies," Murthy said. "But what

I've also said to them publicly and privately is that it's not enough."

Facebook (FB.O) defended itself against Biden's assertion in a post on Saturday, saying that it promoted authoritative information about vaccines and acted aggressively against health misinformation on its platforms.

Democratic Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar told CNN's "State of the Union" that she was looking into ways to hold social companies legally responsible for vaccine misinformation and suggested some might even need to be broken up.

"I am a fan of using anti-trust so we can get true competition against the dominant platforms," Klobuchar said.

Ken McClure, the mayor of Springfield, Missouri, blamed misinformation as part of the driving force behind poor vaccination rates in his community which has experienced a huge spike in COVID-19 cases.

"I think we're seeing a lot spread through social media," McClure told CBS's "Face the Nation." "I think we as a society and certainly in our community are being hurt by it."



Critical care workers insert an endotracheal tube into a COVID-19 patient in the intensive care unit (ICU) at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, Florida, February 11, 2021.

AVAILABLE VACANCIES AT OSEC (Effective July 14, 2021)

BARTENDER

Minimum 3 years' experience as a Bartender
Knowledge of mixology for traditional and creative cocktails
Understanding of unique and complementary flavor pairings
Impeccable customer service and social perceptiveness
Ability to evaluate customer satisfaction and responsiveness
Ability to enforce company policies regarding the consumption of alcohol
Physical ability to stand and walk for long periods of time

BASE MANAGER (CHARTER INDUSTRY)

Minimum 10 years in the Bareboat charter industry with 5 years managerial experience
Management degree would be an asset | Strong communication and interpersonal skills
Strong organizational skills | Must be fluent in French (verbal and written)

CASHIER

Minimum 2 years' experience as Cashier | Secondary School Completion

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Minimum 3-5 years in a comparable role
Knowledge of hospitality and executive level administrative standards and protocol
Demonstrated ability to interact and support a diverse group including management, homeowners and staff
Must be proficient in relevant computer applications including Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, PDF, Excel and Word)
Secondary School Degree required
Technical training certificates in secretarial, communications, administrative or related fields beneficial

COOK

Minimum 2-3 years' experience as a Cook
A proven track of food preparation and preservation knowledge is essential
Attention to cleanliness and safety | Must be responsible and trustworthy
Ability to communicate well in English

DOMESTIC

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Domestic DRIVER
Minimum 3 years' experience as a Driver
Fluent in Italian & Spanish | Must have a valid Drivers' License
Good Communication skills | Must be Flexible | Must be able to lift heavy weights

ELDERLY CAREGIVER

Minimum 2 years' experience
Must be a Certified Elderly Provider
MUST have experience in looking after the Elderly
Must be honest, kind and caring
FARM HAND/VENDOR
No experience required
Must be able to lift | Must be a team-player

FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVER

Minimum 2-3 years' experience
Must have a valid Food Handler's Certificate
Knowledge of basic restaurant hospitality with a fully engaged, service-oriented attitude
Must have a very dynamic personality with a strong passion for the hospitality industry
Must be able to stand for up to long hours and lift a minimum of 30 lbs.
A team player who is alert to Guest and Team Member needs

FOOD SERVER

No experience required
Must have good communication skills | Must be customer-service oriented
Food Handlers' Certificate required

FULL-TIME INSTRUCTOR (BIOLOGY)

Master's Degree in Biology with teaching experience

GROUP FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Minimum 12 years' experience
A Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance
CPA (Canadian), ACCA, or ACA Certification
Strong financial, accounting and managerial skills

International experience/ experience working in foreign markets
Strong ability to implement and monitor internal controls
Knowledgeable in QuickBooks, Pastel and other ERP accounting tools and systems
Must be proficient in MS Office Suite

HAIRDRESSER

Minimum 2-3 years' experience as a Hairdresser
HAIR STYLIST
Minimum 2-3 years' experience as a Hair Stylist
Must be customer-service oriented
Basic knowledge of hair care services; Must be able to style, braid, weave, relax and color hair

HANDYMAN/WELDER

Minimum 2 years' experience with appropriate electrical tools and welding equipment
Must be trained in Welding
Strong general repairing skills with a strong attention to detail
Must be fit and customer service-oriented
HEAD BUTLER
At least 3-5 years in a similar position
Bartending Skills
High School Diploma | Certification in Butler Service is beneficial
MUST have a Valid Driver's License & a Valid Food Handlers Badge

HEAD GARDENER/HANDYMAN

At least 5-8 years in a similar position
Knowledge of Caribbean and Antiguan horticulture and plant species
Knowledge of small Caribbean and Antiguan wildlife, insects and ecosystems
Knowledge of the use, benefits and risks of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides
Ability to recognize common plant disease, plant insects and unusual or poor plant growth
Must have a valid Driver's License
HEAD MECHANIC (CHARTER INDUSTRY)
Minimum 10 years in the bareboat charter industry
Excellent knowledge of mechanical & electrical systems, water makers, air-conditioning & refrigeration
RYA/MCA Yacht Master offshore license with sailing endorsement
Valid STCW certificates or a Capitaine 200 French license
Mandatory proficiency with Carl Source CMMS/TAM software
Thorough knowledge of marine engineering
Strong organizational skills | Fluent in French (verbal and written)
HELPER (FAST FOOD)
Minimum 2 years' experience

HOUSEKEEPER

Minimum 5 years' experience
Good Communication & Organization Skills | Must be flexible
Must be fluent in Italian & Spanish

HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT

Minimum 3 years' experience within the hotel industry; previous hotel experience will be an asset
Must possess excellent people skills and ability to comfortably interact with guests & team

INDIAN COOK

Minimum 5 years' experience | Must know how to cook Indian cuisines

INTERIOR DESIGNER/ARCHITECT

Minimum 2 plus years' work experience | Qualifications for Interior Design or Architect is a must
Experience with AutoCAD, 3D modelling software and Photoshop is mandatory
Must be self-motivated with a positive attitude
Must maintain a high level of accuracy and attention to detail
Good time management skills and communication skills, written and verbal
Must be proficient in Microsoft Office | Must be fluent in English

KITCHEN ASSISTANT/ASSISTANT COOK

Minimum 4 years' experience

KITCHEN STEWARD

Minimum 2-3 years' experience as a Kitchen Steward

LINE CHEF

Minimum 1 year 'a la carte' experience
Have experience in all aspects of kitchen prep and on the hot line
Have high standards in food presentation
Are imaginative and flexible

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Minimum three years' experience in a similar position
Solid knowledge and specialized experience in electrics; air conditioning and refrigeration
Demonstrated knowledge in plumbing; laundry equipment; carpentry and other maintenance related skills
Possess a friendly and approachable personality
Previous experience in hotel operations will be an asset

NAIL TECHNICIAN

Minimum 2-3 years' experience as a Nail Technician
Knowledge of Nail Care Services (Manicures, Pedicures, Eyelashes, Acrylic & Gel Nails)
Must be customer-service oriented

OFFICE ATTENDANT

At least 1 year experience
Minimum 3 CXCs including English
Good Oral & Written Communication Skills

PASTRY CHEF

Minimum 1 year 'a la carte' experience
Have experience in all aspects of cake & pastry making; baking etc.
Have high standards in food presentation | Must be flexible

PRODUCE CLERK

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Produce Clerk
Secondary School Completion
Must have experience using a bandsaw

REVENUE MANAGER

Minimum five years' experience working at an International 5 Star Luxury Hotel
Bachelors or Master's Degree in Hotel Management, Accounting, Tourism or Economic Studies preferred, or long-term track record of success in role within industry
Qualifications in Hotel Management/Accounting
University Degree preferred; Second Language would be an asset
Must have strong communication and interpersonal skills and commitment to a high level of guest satisfaction | A strong command of both written and spoken English required
Well-developed interpersonal influence and leadership skills
Highly computer literate with a high-level command of Excel
Sound ability and knowledge to develop standards of operations and strategic processes
Good analytical and numeric skills; Self-directed and motivated

ROTI MAKER

Cooking experience is a plus with knowledge of Roti Preparation
Good verbal and written skills | Must be able to work shifts
Must have a valid Food Handlers' Certificate | Must be willing and able to learn

SUPERINTENDENT (CONSTRUCTION)

Minimum 12 years' previous experience as Assistant Superintendent on a construction site
Extensive experience/knowledge of construction, design and project management required
Must have successfully delivered similar complex projects in remote or challenging locations as an Assistant Superintendent
Previous residential construction and development experience required
SUSHI CHEF
Minimum 3 years' experience
High School Diploma | Must be highly skilled in Sushi Making

TEACHER/INSTRUCTOR (MARITIME)

Minimum 10 years' experience in a similar role
RYA Yachtmaster Instructor qualifications required | Previous RYA Instruction experience

WAITRESS

Minimum 3 years' experience
High School Diploma
Ability to communicate well | Must be flexible
Attention to cleanliness and safety | Patience and customer-oriented approach
Excellent people skills with a friendly attitude Responsible and trustworthy

WATER TREATMENT/INSTALLATION ASSISTANT

Minimum 5 years' experience | Must know how to swim
Must have knowledge dealing with pool electrical and plumbing installations

WATER PROJECT ENGINEER

Minimum five years' experience in a similar role
B.S. degree in Engineering (industrial engineering / mechanical / chemical processing) preferably with specialization/experience in Water Treatment (desalination, irrigation, reverse osmosis, wastewater treatment, pumps, chemicals).
Solid engineering, planning, priority setting, and project management skills with experience managing multiple projects and resources concurrently
Must be a team player able to work across teams and uplifting junior technicians
Must possess accurateness and an eye for detail both in project delivery and administration
Ability to communicate effectively in English; other languages are a plus.
Must have a valid Driver's License

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
THE ONE STOP EMPLOYMENT CENTRE
AT 562-8533/4**

DEADLINE IS THURSDAY 22ND JULY, 2021



Spinners help England level T20 series

England's spinners squeezed Pakistan to claim an emphatic 45-run victory in the second Twenty20 and level the series at 1-1.

Although Jos Buttler, Moeen Ali and Liam Livingstone - who twice hit sixes out of Headingley - all sparkled with the bat, England failed to post a total that would have put Pakistan out of the game.

From 137-3 in the 14th over and 164-5 in the 16th, England lost

their last five wickets for 36 runs to be bowled out for 200.

However, England's trio of spinners, led by Adil Rashid, superbly exploited a pitch that rapidly deteriorated. Rashid claimed 2-30, fellow leg-spinner Matt Parkinson 1-25 and off-spinner Moeen 2-32 as Pakistan lurched to 155-9.

The series decider is at Old Trafford on Tuesday at 18:30 BST.

No decision on Rashford operation - Solskjaer

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says Marcus Rashford has gone away to "reflect" on whether to have surgery at the end of the month. Forward Rashford saw a specialist last week and feels an operation is the only way of dealing with a shoulder problem that has troubled him for seven months.

However, it appears Solskjaer and his staff are not as convinced.

Speaking after United's 2-1 pre-season win at Derby yesterday, Solskjaer said a final decision is still to be taken.

"Marcus went away to reflect on it a little bit," said the United boss. "We have to take the best course of action for him and the club.

We still need to address it with the experts."



Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford.

U15 Girls Football training to begin this week

Under-15 Girls Football training will begin this Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Training will be held every Tuesday and Thursday for six weeks at the ABFA Technical Centre (TURF).

A bus will be organized to pick up athletes at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) at 10:30 a.m. and drop them off near their homes after training.



Two athletes in Tokyo Olympic Village test positive for coronavirus



Two athletes in Tokyo's Olympic Village have tested positive for coronavirus ahead of the Games, organizers confirmed on Sunday.

The pair (listed as non-residents of Japan) will now isolate in a hotel room for 14 days. It takes the total number of known cases in the athletes' village to three after an official had also tested positive.

There has already been a total of 55 cases linked to the Olympics this month, 10 of which were added to the list on Sunday, with

another athlete from outside the village also contracting the virus. Infection rates in Tokyo have topped 1,000 for four days running, raising further concerns about the global event going ahead. The 2020 Games, delayed by a year due to the global health pandemic, officially begins on Friday and will be held mostly without spectators due to a state of emergency being declared in Tokyo.

Around 11,000 athletes from 205 national Olympic committees are

expected to stay at the village over the next three weeks.

International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach reiterated on Saturday that the first positive case posed no risk to the Japanese population.

"We are well aware of the skepticism a number of people have here in Japan," he added at a news conference. "My appeal to the Japanese people is to welcome the athletes for their competitions."

LOCAL GOLF: ANTIGUA JUNIOR MASTER TOURNAMENT



Sports Minister Daryl Matthew (center) with Lexi Hunt (right) and Marquise George.

In emphatic fashion, rising sensations Marquise George and Lexi Hunt swung their way to title honors in the inaugural Antigua Junior Masters Golf Championship at Cedar Valley on Sunday. George easily secured the boys division with an 18-hole score of 88 as he finished ahead of runner up Carlos Khoury and third place finisher Siyolo Joseph.

For his successful efforts, the champion was awarded a gold medal, the championship trophy --and the Red Jacket. As for Hunt, the 14 year old hot shot secured the girls category with a score of 86 and, like George, she took home the Red Jacket, a trophy and a gold medal. Hunt finished ahead of Catherine Woodhouse and Ashley Francis who were 2nd and

3rd respectively. Sponsorship for the exercise came from Patricia Matthew and Glentist Martin. Meanwhile, former Member of Parliament for All Saints West, Hilroy Humphreys beat all and sundry to win the Sabiena Winston Charity Golf Challenge on Saturday. Humphreys won via the count-back format over Welshman Andy Hall, with Kuma Rod-

ney taking third place ahead of National Hero Sir Vivian Richards. Over EC\$40,000 was raised from the event which was organized as a fundraiser for Winston who will be flying out in August to pursue studies at Geneva University in Pennsylvania, USA.

DEWS