

# COVID NEW CASES SLOWDOWN TO SINGLE DIGITS!

**SEE PAGE 10**

## INSIDE:

APUA repeats that its pipe-borne water is safe for drinking – once clear!  
(*STORY ON PAGES 4-5*)

# Yet another COVID variant arises: The most mutated strain to date has been detected in nine countries!

Another variant of COVID-19 detected in nine countries is causing concern among scientists because it is more transmissible and resistant to vaccines than other variants of the virus.

A pre-print study that emerged last week said the C.1.2

variant, which was first detected in South Africa in May, has since been found in Botswana, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Kingdom, Mauritius, New Zealand, Portugal and Switzerland.

There are four other variants of concern

of COVID-19 among scientists—Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta—and another four variants of interest—Eta, Iota, Kappa and Lambda—in global circulation. Alpha, Beta and Delta have had the most impact globally in terms of transmission and immune

evasion.

But the newly-discovered variant seems to have an unusually high mutation rate and more mutations of other variants of concern (VOCs), the study, led by a team of South African scientists, noted. It also noted that it is more likely to

## VACANCY

### CHIEF RISK OFFICER

#### SUMMARY:

This is an Executive position that monitors the implementation of and compliance to effective risk management policies and procedures; plan proactively to manage the risks within the financial institution's operating environment; perform risk mitigation; perform corporate and internal investigations; address data privacy and data protection matters; develop risk analytics and mitigation strategies with the Board of Directors and Senior Management, and reports directly to the Board of Directors (Risk Management Committee) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

#### QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS:

- A minimum of five years with a medium to large financial institution and five years of relevant insurance or financial services industry experience with a heavy emphasis on insurance risk management or risk management implementation and execution.
- Previous experience in building, leading, and managing the enterprise risk management function of a medium to large financial institution is required.
- Self-managed, self-motivated, and used to operating in a demanding, profit-driven environment and be driven to deliver quality results on time, with a high degree of integrity, ethically, and professionalism.
- Possess the capability and desire to evaluate Senior Management's effectiveness in the allocation and management of resources relating to risk and risk management and comply with established corporate policies and procedures, including corporate governance, code of conduct standards, and the business ethics and conduct policy.
- Able to liaise professionally, proactively, and proficiently with the regulator on an ongoing and ad hoc bases.
- The candidate must be an effective, highly professional finance professional that inspires confidence in colleagues and within the broader financial institution
- Excellent leadership, analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills and a strong ability to deliver risk management frameworks, strategies, and processes across the wider business areas and to the Board of Directors and Senior Management
- Sound knowledge and experience in corporate strategy, business planning, and enterprise risk management oversight are desirable.

#### EDUCATION:

- Bachelors degree in Risk Management, Insurance, Actuarial Science, Banking, Finance, Economics, Law, or related field is desirable. A Master's degree would be an asset.
- Professional Certification in Insurance Risk Management, Risk Management, or Enterprise Risk Management is preferable.
- Financial Institution working knowledge of COSO ERM Framework and/or ISO 31000 ERM Framework as the two widely accepted, international, standards for risk management.

Send applications to include resume & cover letter to: nibbsandassociates268@gmail.com

Deadline for receipt: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## PROBATE

FORM P7

(Rule 15)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
ANUHPB 2021/0174

In the Estate of "RUBEN ERSKINE" a.k.a. "REUBEN MANASSEH ERSKINE" a.k.a. "REUBEN ERSKINE" a.k.a. "MANASSEH NEHEMIAH ERSKINE", late of Bolans Village, St. Mary's, Antigua, Deceased.

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

#### SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by DAISYLYN LEWIS of Bolans Village, St. Mary's, Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful Attorney of two of the children of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1993.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021

TALIA N. DACOSTA  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
STAPLETON CHAMBERS



cause severe COVID-19 than other variants.

C.1.2. contains multiple variations with the coronavirus' spike protein, some of which have been seen in other variants associated with increased transmissibility and more resistance to vaccines.

The new variant was discovered in South Africa's third wave of COVID-19 infections in May. It was found to contain many mutations that were found in all VOCs and three VOIs, as well as additional changes within the NTD (C136F), RBD (Y449H), and adjacent to the furin cleavage site (N679K).

"Like several other VOCs,

C.1.2 has accumulated a number of substitutions beyond what would be expected from the background SARS-CoV-2 evolutionary rate," the study said. "This suggests the likelihood that these mutations arose during a period of accelerated evolution in a single individual with prolonged viral infection through virus-host co-evolution<sup>19-21</sup>."

As of August 20, when the paper was submitted, there were 80 cases of C.1.2 found.

The scientists behind the paper said that more work was going on to fully understand the impact of the mutations and to see if they give the virus a competitive advantage

over the Delta variant.

Newsweek has contacted some epidemiologists for comment on the new variant.

The news comes as a doctor in Turkey has claimed to have found a previously unidentified variant of COVID-19 in Izmir, the country's third-largest province, the Daily Sabah reported.

Dr. Lütfi Çamlı, the head of Izmir Medical Association, warned on August 26 the new variant was also identified in other provinces and its rates among COVID-19 patients in Izmir recently rose to 40 percent. **(REPRINTED FROM Newsweek)**

Cont'd on pg 4

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# APUA reiterates that its pipe-borne water is safe for drinking – provided it is clear!

*by Shelton Daniel*

The Antigua Public Utilities is currently able to supply about six million gallons of potable water daily to consumers, but that still falls well short of the overall demand for 7.5 million gallons.

This was disclosed to Pointe Xpress by the Head of APUA's Water Business Unit, Mr. Ian Lewis, during an interview on Tuesday morning.

He explained the situation that has led to this shortfall, and what the company is doing to address it while helping consumers to cope.

“Normally, the Antigua Public Utilities’ Water Business Unit utilizes water from three sources to make potable water: from surface water or reservoirs – dams, as we call them locally; we also use ground water or wells; and the third portion that we use is water from desalination via the process of reverse osmosis ...

“Once we transition from having surface water available to not having surface water available, those situations are going to be challenging for APUA. On a normal basis,



*Head of APUA's Water Business Unit, Mr. Ian Lewis*





*The Potworks Dam is presently without water due to prolonged drought*

with surface water, we produce about seven million gallons per day, and that would equate to just about 200 million gallons per month. Without surface water available, that projection drops to about six million gallons per day.”

Lewis added that the desalination plants occasionally break down or require maintenance that keeps them “offline from time to time, so it’s a challenge for us to maintain that six million gallons per day. Once we get to that six million gallons per day, it’s also compounded by the fact that nor-

mally we see ... most people will start complaining that their cisterns have run dry, or whatever storage mechanism they are using at home. That also gets very low and, therefore, the demand would increase [beyond] what we can supply ... We are probably supplying about six million gallons per day, and the demand has now risen to probably 7.5 million gallons a day. So there’s a deficit of about a million-and-a-half gallons.”

The Water Business Unit Manager said this was the reason for “the conservation

schedule, commonly termed the rationing schedule”, so that water can be distributed “on an equitable basis” by alternating the supply to some areas at certain times, while suppressing the supply to others according to published schedules.

Lewis said APUA is in the process of eliminating revenue losses due to meters that don’t read water consumption correctly. “APUA is embarking on a smart-metering system where, in 2021, we are supposed to be rolling out the first 8,000 smart meters ...



What we notice with smart-metering is that just by changing the mechanical meters that we presently use to smart meters, we see an increase of about 25% in revenue or, in layman terms, we see a 25% reduction in the non-revenue water.”

Concerning whether APUA's pipe-borne water is safe for drinking, Lewis said: “All of the water leaving our production facilities meet and exceed the WHO (World Health Organization) standards in terms of appearance, taste and the chemical parameters that are present. But we know in Antigua we have old metal pipes and these ... contribute to water that sometimes is unsightly in terms of color ... And of course, once the water is of a certain color, it is no longer suitable for consumption.”

Lewis said this meant that anyone with access to clear pipe-borne water from APUA, “that water is safe for drinking.”





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# CAMPUS COUNSELLOR

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development. In 2019, The UWI placed 32nd among the 150 best-ranked universities across Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Latin America University Rankings. After 71 years, The UWI remains the number 1 ranked university, out of more than 200 registered universities in the Caribbean. The UWI is currently within the top 2% of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a complement of over 2,000 registered universities.

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Campus Counsellor**. The incumbent will be responsible for the support provided to students to assist them to maximise their university experience with The UWI. The counselling service supports the campus community in addressing issues or concerns through a range of activities including, one-on-one and group counselling, workshops, and advocacy. Through a comprehensive, student-centered counselling approach, the Campus Counsellor provides educational assistance and structured programming to facilitate for positive growth and development.

### The successful candidate will be required to:

- Provide developmental, educational and disability support to students, or other clients of the campus and establish procedures to support these for the campus community.
- Design and implement effective outreach programmes to help students meet their developmental and educational needs.
- Maintain professional and effective relationships with students, faculty, administration and staff to assist students with the various aspects of testing towards career development.
- Cultivate and maintain collaborative working relationships with on-campus departments, professionals, student groups and organisations that promote and provide complementary developmental educational programmes and services for students.
- Develop counselling support programmes such as the maintenance of test files and the development and maintenance of career resource material.
- Provide leadership and vision for the Counselling Services; including the ongoing development of strategic plans, annual goals, and the assessment of clinical operations and all services.
- Communicate to the Five Islands Campus community the scope of clinical and educational practice, procedures for referral, and consultation services.
- Develop plans, processes, and procedures specific to student support and development within the framework of The UWI's policies and procedures.
- Develop programming to sensitise the campus on diversity and inclusion through professional development and training.
- Perform any other related duty as directed by the Assistant Registrar: Student Support and Success Services.

### QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Master's Degree in Counselling, Psychology, Social Work or a related discipline required.
- Minimum of five years' experience in counselling or a related discipline.
- Professional counselling experience required, in a college setting preferred.
- Licensure in Mental Health Counselling preferred.

### REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Knowledge and experience with academic and physical disability processes, placement testing, career, personal and educational assessments.
- Knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of counselling as applied to student problems and developmental needs and the ability to apply such principles, practices and techniques.
- Knowledge of individual emotional and behaviour patterns as well as social and economic factors that contribute to student concerns.
- Knowledge of psycho-social disorders and diagnostic skills.

Applicants are required to submit a completed employment application form, a curriculum vitae (CV) giving particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current organization) and copies of academic qualifications. These are to be sent by electronic mail to [hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu](mailto:hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu) addressed to the **Director of Administration, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies**. A full CV and an application form must be submitted. Application forms can be obtained by sending a request to [hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu](mailto:hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu). The final date for receipt of applications is September 3, 2021. To expedite the appointment procedures, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above address without waiting to be contacted.



# Small talent pool and economic means limit national athletics' achievements – Sports Minister

by *Shelton Daniel*

EVERY time I have one of these discussions with persons, I have to chuckle a little bit," was how Sports Minister Darryl Matthew began his response to a question about whether enough was being done to develop Antigua and Barbuda's athletes to world-class competitiveness, such as Jamaica has managed to accomplish over the years.

Minister Matthew was at the time a guest on *Pointe FM's* weekend program, *The Browne & Browne Show*, when the question was posed to him by co-producer Lamin Newton.

"We look at countries and what countries are producing, and you mention Jamaica, but there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes that leads to the creation of an exceptional, world-beating athlete," the Minister noted.

He continued: "It has to do with ... programs, strong national associations; but it also has a lot to do with two things, one of which we have very little control over."

Minister Matthew went on to explain what those two important things are: "It has to do with the talent pool that you have; the size of your population ... If you have



*Minister responsible for the Sports,  
Hon. Darryll Matthew.*

a small population, it stands to reason that your ability to uncover these diamonds-in-the-rough is just significantly smaller. We have a population of 100,000. Jamaica has a population of about 2.5 million, so it stands to reason that [they] will have more persons

from which to choose."

According to the Sports Minister, "The other thing – the one that is more within our control that we speak a lot but do nothing about – is the financing of our athletes and our programs and our National Association. And it cannot be the

Cont'd on pg 9



exclusive responsibility of Government to finance these things. Governments are just not able to do so. It requires the corporate community to come on board and support with dollars and cents. Can they afford to do so? Maybe not. We have a small economy. We have very few businesses that can afford."

He therefore concluded that there are "a myriad of issues" standing in the way of higher national sporting achievements.

"Can we do better?" the Minister asked. "Of course I believe we can do better. Our school program needs some revisiting. Our National Association needs some work and some capacity-building within the associations themselves. But you don't just get an athlete and become the best in the world. A lot of pieces have to come into play. It takes time, it takes resources, it takes a talent pool, and it takes commitment."

Matthew summed-up this aspect by saying that "there is a bunch of things that have to take place simultaneously;

but the one we have no control over is the size of our talent pool; and the second one, which we have limited control over, is the ability to generate adequate funding to financially support these kinds of programs."

Asked whether the corporate sector could not be coaxed into lending financial support to athletics through incentives such as tax write-offs, the Sports Minister said while this was certainly a possibility, it could come with a major downside.

"The answer to that is yes and no. Yes it can be done, but tax write-offs mean you're not getting taxes to do something else. It means you're not getting taxes to buy medicine for your hospital; you're not getting taxes to build public infrastructure; you're not getting taxes to support your schools. So, a tax write-off, yes it can be done; I'll never say it's impossible to do. But it just means that you are moving money from one part of Government that you need to somewhere else," the St. John's Rural South MP stated.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Time to get tough with those who continue to pussy-foot

**Dear Editor:** I am so totally fed-up of the ignorance in this country that I have reached the decision that my empathy is dead. So who dead from COVID, dead. Just bury them.

As a black man, I am even more angry that our people are so gullible and so easily led. Black people will always be followers.

All – I say all – of the initial fake news on the COVID vaccine came out of the Trump rednecks. Their campaign was so sustained that the ignorant just picked it up and pressed forward on their WhatsApp and Facebook accounts.

Truly amazing that we are being influenced by rednecks who hate black people.

We are so lazy that we could not be bothered to Google the facts.

A Guyanese, who was the Principal Research Scientist at Pfizer, and who helped to develop their vaccine, said the COVID vaccines were not developed overnight. Speaking at the University of Guyana last week, Dr. Vidia Roopchand said research in tackling SARS in the early 2000s and MERS in 2012 formed the basis for developing vaccines for COVID-19. SARS and MERS, like COVID-19, are all corona viruses.

I am sick of the argument that we do not know what is in the vaccine. In the words of the great Chris Rock, when he has a headache he takes Tylenol. He has no idea what is in it. When he is hungry, he eats a Big Mac. He also does not know what is in it, and then he drinks a Coke. Again, he has no idea what is in it.

I dare any of the persons who spout this crap to tell me definitively that they know what is in the stuff they eat and drink every day.

It is time for the government to get serious and stop backing down. Do what you have to do for the good of the majority. Let the Unions take you to court and let it go all the way to the Privy Council. By then they will all be dead and buried.

Regards,  
Reds

# COVID Dashboard Update for August 31, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre has revealed four new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 30th August 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Forty-eight samples were processed at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

One (1) recovered case was recorded increasing the total to one thousand three hundred and forty-nine (1349).

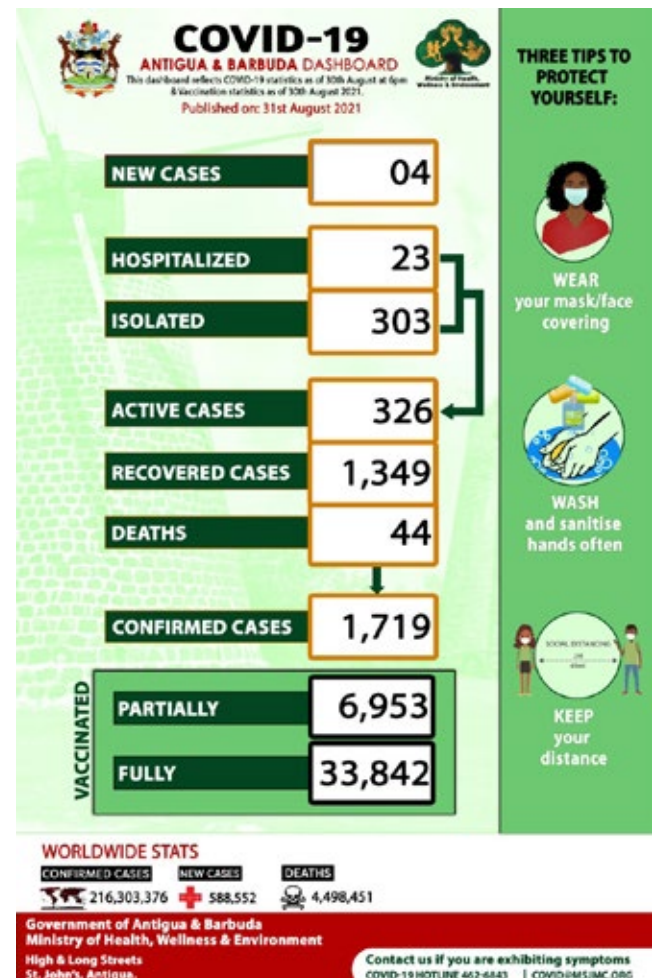
Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed

COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 1,719; which is inclusive of 326 active cases. There are 23 hospitalized cases; 16 mild, three moderate, and four severe.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 33,842 individuals, while 6,953 have only received their first dose.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.

*The Epidemiology Unit will provide a comprehensive update every Wednesday as it relates to the imported vs non-imported cases for the previous week.*



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# Overcoming Fear

by *Risa V*

Fear has been deemed necessary for self-preservation and has served its purpose throughout the Stone Age. However, as time passes and the world changes, we too must adapt.

Generated in our brain, fear is activated by threat, whether real or non-existent. The brain in our head acts as the protector, only listening to logic. This is important while going through a global pandemic. Our minds are capable of digesting the many pools of information surrounding COVID-19, immunization and herd immunity. This did not silence the people's fears, nonetheless. Why? Persons can actually become consumed by their fears to the point where not even logical thinking can help them. Instead, all their brain does is produce only or mostly negative thoughts.

This is why we must learn to kill ANT (automatic negative

thoughts). Our brain, at this point, is working against us with its over-protective tendencies and loose use of the word threat. Now we are working with drama queens who are very sensitive. All it takes to start the frenzy is uncharted territory and the alarm goes off, warning against the unknown. Then, what should have only been a caution turns into complete avoidance.

Which brings us to the question of where has our courage gone?

Humanity has always struggled with change. As a result, we have become obsessed with control, finding comfort in science; which, at best, attempts to logically explain the why's and how's of every living thing. So much so that we have failed to realize that we are already a part of the system of change. Think of it, things of the present were considered unthinkable in the past and most likely feared as well. Change is definitely inevitable and fighting it is a dead end road that will only lead to ex-

haustion. If not this one it will be the next. What we need is to find the courage to embrace change.

While fear is a natural emotion, living in fear should never be the norm. It is neither freeing nor fulfilling.

But no worries: we can always depend on science to bring some newfound discovery to the table, presenting the cheat sheet.

Do some research into the manual override to the mind and body. Study the information on the 'three brains' of the body: the 'head brain', the 'heart brain', and the 'gut brain'. This will change your life.

Learn to turn negative thoughts into positive thoughts and change the way you think. Create a new mindset that refuses to be misled by long-embedded directions sent with overwhelming force.

It is incredibly difficult but, in the end, your mind will be what's in charge of your brain. The more you practice, the easier and more natural it becomes.



# FLOW Bag ah money winners



*Torri Michael*



*N'Kenge "Beef" Drew*

An excited Torri Michael and N'Kenge "Beef" Drew are the latest Flow customers to join the lineup of earlier "Bag Ah Money" winners.

Torri and N'kenge, the latest two \$1,000 winners, were both excited as they collected their share of \$30,000 in Flow's Bag Ah Money Promotion.

N'Kenge and Torri confessed that when they recently activated their Always on Prepaid Plans they never thought that they would win. However, now that they have won, they have their eyes set on the second \$10,000 grand prize for a repeat performance.

"The great news is that Torri, N'Kenge and all the other previous winners – as well as any-

one who signs up for a Flex Postpaid Plan, activates a 7- or 30-day Always on Prepaid Plan, or pays a Mobile, Internet or TV bill in full – can win the final \$10,000 prize which will be drawn on Friday 3rd September" said Shand Merchant, Flow's Marketing & Communications Manager.

Flow's unique "Bag Ah Money" summer promotion has been making waves and creating excitement in the local mobile market with its weekly lineup of lucky winners.

"Some 10 winners so far have all literally walked away with a much needed "Bag Ah Money" that, for all our winners, came in just in time" added Merchant



# Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project Closures and Diversions

Kindly note the following with regards to the facilitation of APUA Water Main Crossings on Sir Sydney Walling Highway (SSWH) under the Second Road Infrastructure Road Rehabilitation Project (SRIRP):

## DAY WORKS

There will be a ROAD CLOSURE at the North Sound Roundabout on Wednesday,

September 1st, 2021 from 7am-6pm. Those travelling from SSWH going West will divert through the stadium towards North Sound Roundabout and follow the diversion signs. Those travelling East approaching the North Sound Roundabout will follow the diversion signs at the stadium to get back on to the SSWH. (Please note the accompanying diversion MAP)

## NIGHT WORKS

The Attention of the General Public is drawn to the fact that Traffic on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway will be affected at NIGHT during Curfew Hours which are 8pm-5am.

On Tuesday, August 31st, 2021 and Wednesday, September 1st, 2021 between 8pm and 5am, single lane traffic will be in effect in Pares



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## HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS.

On Thursday, September 2, 2021, just West of the Lightfoot/Seaview Farm Junction, Single Lane Traffic will be in effect for ALL vehicles with the exception of Heavy Trucks. Road users are asked to proceed with caution as

they traverse the construction site.

## GENERAL WORKS

The Contractor, CO Williams, will continue with road works along SSWH and single lane traffic will be in effect with flag persons providing guidance to road users. Certain sections will remain under mobile traf-

fic light control and road users are asked to comply with traffic management measures. Questions or concerns can be addressed to Anne Harewood-George, Community Liaison Officer of the Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project at 268-464-4344 ,or email [communityliaisonofficer@ab.gov.ag](mailto:communityliaisonofficer@ab.gov.ag)

SRIRP – SIR SYDNEY WALLING HIGHWAY (PROPOSED EAST BOUND TRAFFIC DIVERSION ROUTE)





# Community Notice from the St. John's Catholic Primary School

The St. John's Catholic Primary School would like to inform its parents and guardians that books are to be collected from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on these specific days, in their children's respective classrooms.

September 7th – Grades K and 4

September 8th – Grades 1 and 2

September 9th – Grades 3 and 5

September 10th – Grade 6

The St. John's Catholic Primary School would like to take this opportunity to thank the BWA Yachting and its manager Trichelle Edwards, for their timely donation of four all-in-one units through the efforts of Andre Reynolds of Techshop.

The donation will definitely add to the quality of our lesson delivery to our students.



# Barbados economy 'remains severely depressed' -- IMF

**CMC** - A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday ended a visit to Barbados, indicating that the country's economy "remains severely depressed" as a result of the ongoing global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The IMF delegation, headed by Bert van Selm, had conducted a staff visit via videoconferencing from August 24-27 at the invitation of the government of Prime Minister Mia Motley.

According to a statement issued, while tourism is expected to recover gradually in the second half of 2021 and the first half of 2022, risks to the outlook remain.

But the IMF official said that despite this very challenging environment, Barbados continues to make good progress in implementing its ambitious and comprehensive economic reform program, while expanding critical investments in social protection.

It said indicative targets under the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF)-supported program for end-June 2021 were met, and since then international



*IMF delegation head Bert van Selm*



reserves have been further boosted by the recent global special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.

The head of the IMF delegation said the tourism activity has picked up in recent months but remains at a fraction of normal levels.

"The economy is estimated to have grown 5.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2021, relative to the second quarter of 2020," he said, noting that Hurricane Elsa, a Category One storm, struck Barbados in July and caused significant damage to the island's housing.

"Economic growth for the second half of 2021 and the first half of 2022 is premised on a gradual recovery of tourism," the IMF official added.

He said in this very challenging environment, Barbados continues to

make good progress in implementing its ambitious and comprehensive economic reform program, while expanding critical investments in social protection.

"Indicative targets for end-June under the EFF were met. The global SDR allocation that became effective on August 23, 2021, including an allocation of about US\$129 million to Barbados, has further boosted international reserves to more than US\$1.4 billion.

"Structural reforms are ongoing and structural benchmarks under the EFF were met. The government developed plans to recapitalize the Central Bank of Barbados and address medium and long-term challenges for the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), stemming from the

debt restructuring and the COVID pandemic, and recapitalization of the NIS has started."

He said a medium-term fiscal framework was tabled in Parliament to enhance transparency and accountability in fiscal policy, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to the pandemic and other economic shocks.

The IMF official said the delegation is looking forward to conducting discussions for the sixth review under the EFF in November.

Barbados entered into a four-year US\$290 million EFF arrangement with the IMF in October 2018 and, following a virtual mission between May 3-7, the Washington-based financial institution said then that the island would receive US\$24 million.



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# 935 Jamaicans killed since the start of the year



***The gun continues to be the weapon of choice in murders committed thus far this year with a firearm being used to claim 796 lives***

**Jamaica Gleaner** - Jamaica's murder tally for 2021 has risen to 935 as at Saturday, August 28.

This is 83 more homicides or a 9.7 percent increase when compared with the corresponding

period in 2020.

Murders so far this month have outpaced all of August 2020.

Between August 1 and August 28, 2021, the country recorded 103 murders.

For the entire month last year, 88 homicides were recorded. The gun continues to be the weapon of choice in murders committed thus far this year, with a firearm being used to claim 796 lives.

The police have seized 457 firearms and 6,366 rounds of ammunition during the period under review.

Eight children are among those who have been murdered since the start of the year. Trelawny has overtaken Portland as the least murderous parish.

Trelawny has recorded nine murders so far, down from 14, whereas Portland recorded 12 homicides, up from eight.

St. Andrew South continues to lead in murders with 116 cases followed by St. James with 106 and Kingston Western with 84.

Meanwhile, declines have been recorded in cases of rapes, aggravated assaults, robberies and break-ins.

Some 278 rapes have been recorded up to August 28 this year, down from the 396 seen in the corresponding period last year.

Aggravated assaults are down to 225 from 275; some 512 robberies have been recorded, compared with 720; and break-ins are at 593, down from 711.



# St. Vincent: Warden jailed at prison from which he helped murder - accused escape

**IWN SVG** - For 12 years, Louie Cupid, 46, was a prison officer at Her Majesty's Prisons, responsible for, among other things, preventing inmates from escaping.

However, on Tuesday, he went to the prison, not as a guard, but as an inmate.

And, Her Majesty's Prisons is expected to be his home for the next one year and 11 months – his punishment for helping an accused murderer escape from the same prison in September 2019.

On Tuesday, Chief Magistrate Recahnne Browne found Cupid guilty of two charges in connection with Veron Primus' first escape from prison.

In handing down her verdict at the Serious Offences Court, Browne said that having heard the evidence, "it was clear that the management at Her Majesty's Prisons left much to be desired.

"That poor management affected all areas. The defendant was part of that management team," Browne commented.

She found Cupid guilty of charges *that between Sept. 29 and Oct. 2, 2019, at Her Majesty's Prisons in Kingstown, being employed in the Public Service as a police officer, he abused the authority of his office by doing an arbitrary act prejudice to the rights of the Superintendent of Prisons, to wit, conspire to aid the escape of Veron Primus from lawful custody; and that between Sept. 24 and Oct. 2, 2019 at Her Majesty's Prisons in Kingstown, he agreed with Veron Primus that a course of conduct shall be pursued, which, if the agreement was carried out in accordance with his intention, would amount to the commission of the offence of escaping lawful custody by the parties to the agreement.*



***Louie Cupid in police custody outside the Serious Offences Court on Tuesday***

Cupid was jailed for one year and 11 months on one count and one year and six months on the other. The sentences will run concurrently, meaning that he would only have to serve the longer sentence.

The prosecution's case was that Cupid abused his authority and conspired to aid Primus' escape from lawful custody.

The defence argued that Cupid in no way abused his authority, acted arbitrarily, or conspired to aid in Primus' escape.

The trial heard oral evidence, with the prosecution calling 10 witnesses, including then-prisons chief Brenton Charles (who retired after Primus escaped again in December 2020); prison officers; the investigating officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police Oswin E. Richards; and detective Sergeant Biorn Duncan – both of the Major Crime Unit.

The defence summoned two witnesses, namely Commissioner of Police Colin John and former Prison Officer Edwards.

Cupid chose not to give evidence.

There was also electronic evidence, including a DVD of an electronic interview, in which Cupid largely exercised his right to remain silent.

The court also saw video footage recorded at the prison, namely, a file showing prison officers checking in at the prisons, one of Primus leaving his cell, a third showing Primus in the prison yard, and the fourth showing him climbing over the prison wall.

There was also evidence in writing in the form of a note taken by Duncan on Cupid's behalf.

The note was the subject of a voir dire or "a trial within a trial" and was ruled to be admissible in evidence, as it was not obtained under duress or oppressive means.

# Brazilian viper venom may become tool in fight against COVID, study shows

**(Reuters)** – Brazilian researchers have found that a molecule in the venom of a type of snake, inhibited coronavirus reproduction in monkey cells, a possible first step toward a drug to combat the virus causing COVID-19.

A study published in the scientific journal *Molecules* this month found that the molecule produced by the jararacussu pit viper inhibited the virus's ability to multiply in monkey cells by 75%.

"We were able to show this component of snake venom was able to inhibit a very important protein from the virus," said Rafael Guido, a University of Sao Paulo professor and an author of the study.

The molecule is a peptide, or chain of amino acids, that can connect to an enzyme of the coronavirus called PLPro, which is vital to reproduction of the virus, without hurting other cells.

Already known for its antibacterial qualities, the peptide can be synthesized in the lab-



*A jararacussu snake, whose venom is used in a study against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), is seen at Butantan Institute in Sao Paulo, Brazil August 27, 2021. Picture taken August 27, 2021. REUTERS/Carla Carniel*

oratory, Guido said in an interview, making the capture or raising of the snakes unnecessary.

"We're wary about people going out to hunt the jararacussu around Brazil, thinking they're going to save the world ... That's not it!" said Giuseppe Puerto, a herpetologist running the Butantan Institute's biological

collection in Sao Paulo. "It's not the venom itself that will cure the coronavirus."

Researchers will next evaluate the efficiency of different doses of the molecule and whether it is able to prevent the virus from entering cells in the first place, according to a statement from the State University of Sao Paulo (Unesp), which was

also involved in the research.

They hope to test the substance in human cells but gave no timeline. The jararacussu is one of the largest snakes in Brazil, measuring up to 6 feet (2 meters) long. It lives in the coastal Atlantic Forest and is also found in Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina.



# Syrian oil spill spreads across the Mediterranean and could reach Cyprus on Wednesday



*In this satellite image from Planet Labs Inc., an oil spill is seen stretching off the coast near Baniyas, Syria, on August 24, 2021.*

(CNN) - An oil spill that originated from Syria's largest refinery is growing and spreading across the Mediterranean Sea, and could reach the island of Cyprus by Wednesday, Cypriot authorities have said.

Syrian officials said last week that a tank filled with 15,000 tons of fuel had been leaking since August 23 at a thermal power plant on the Syrian coastal city of Baniyas. They said they had been able to bring it under control.

Satellite imagery analysis by Orbital EOS now indicates that the oil spill was larger than originally thought, covering around 800 square kilometres (309 square miles) -- an area around the same size as New York City. The company told CNN Tuesday evening that the oil slick was

around 7 kilometres (4 miles) from the Cypriot coast.

The Cypriot Department of Fisheries and Marine research said that, based on a simulation of the oil spill's movements and meteorological data, the slick could reach the Apostlos Andreas Cape "in the next 24 hours." The department posted the statement at around 11am local time (4 a.m. ET) on Tuesday.

It also said it would be willing to assist in tackling the spill.

Apostlos Andreas Cape is in the Turkish-controlled north of the divided island and sits just over 130 kilometres (over 80 miles) west of Syria's Baniyas.

Photos circulating on social media for more than a week have shown the oil slick along the coastal areas of Syria's Bani-

yas and Jableh, and locals have warned of a potential threat to marine life.

A resident in Baniyas, who spoke to CNN under condition of anonymity, much of the coast had been polluted.

"People did not need this, it is already hard to make a living here and this certainly affected the lives of many families and made them lose their income" the resident said.

"The government only sent teams with sponges and water hoses; they do not have the capacity to deal with this... you cannot clean the sea with sponges," the resident added.

Turkey, which shares a border and coastline with Syria, has also been drawn in to contain the spill.

"We are taking the necessary measures by mobilizing our resources to stop any chances of the spill turning into an environmental disaster," Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay told the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Baniyas refinery is the main source of Syrian fuel products and is essential to keeping the war-torn country powered.

This is the second major oil spill in the eastern Mediterranean this year. In February, an oil spill off the coast of Israel devastated the country's beaches and left tar deposits across the Lebanese coast.

# USA: Oxygen supplies grow precarious amid COVID surge

(AP)—The COVID-19 surge is stretching oxygen supplies and sending hospitals scrambling for more ventilators, even as there are signs of hope that the spread of the virus is slowing down in pockets of the U.S.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a hospital recently called 911 after coming within just a few hours of running out of oxygen because they needed an emergency transfer for a patient on high-flow oxygen. The hospital got a shipment later that day, but the experience was a warning to other hospitals, said Dr. Jeffrey Goodloe, the chief medical officer for the EMS system that serves Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

"If it can happen to one hospital, it can happen to any hospital," Goodloe said. "There is no, 'that is happening over there.' There is here in a heartbeat."

The oxygen shortages are yet another sign of the toll that the summer COVID-19 resurgence has taken on the nation's hospital system. A handful of states including Florida, Oregon, Hawaii, Mississippi and Louisiana have set pandemic records for the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations, and many hos-



*Aug. 18, 2021 file photo, Lauren Debroeck, who is on oxygen as she recovers from COVID-19, cries as she talks about her family, at the bedside of her husband, Michael, who also contracted COVID-19 and is being kept alive with the help of an oxygenation machine, at the Willis-Knighton Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.*



pitals are dangerously short of staff and intensive care unit beds.

There is some good news, however.

The country is averaging 155,000 new infections a day, but the caseload trajectory has slowed down dramatically from earlier in August.

Florida, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi had slight declines in cases over last two weeks. Florida has seen a dip in COVID-19 admissions in recent days, as have hospitals in Springfield, Missouri, an early epicenter of the delta variant-driven surge.

Vaccination numbers are also up, and White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients credited vaccine mandates that have been implemented across the country, including restaurants, workplaces, sports stadiums and schools.

"Importantly, we've accelerated the pace of first shots. In August, we got over 14 million. That's almost 4 million more first shots in August compared to the prior month in July," Zients said Tuesday.

But the numbers haven't budged much in the one week since the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave full approval to Pfizer for its vaccine after reviewing six months of safety data. The seven-day average for vaccine doses administered across the U.S. rose to 898,000 on Monday, up from 853,000 one week ear-

lier. Deaths are also on the rise, averaging more than 1,300 a day, in what health officials have predicted would happen as result of the massive rise in cases and hospitalizations over the last month.

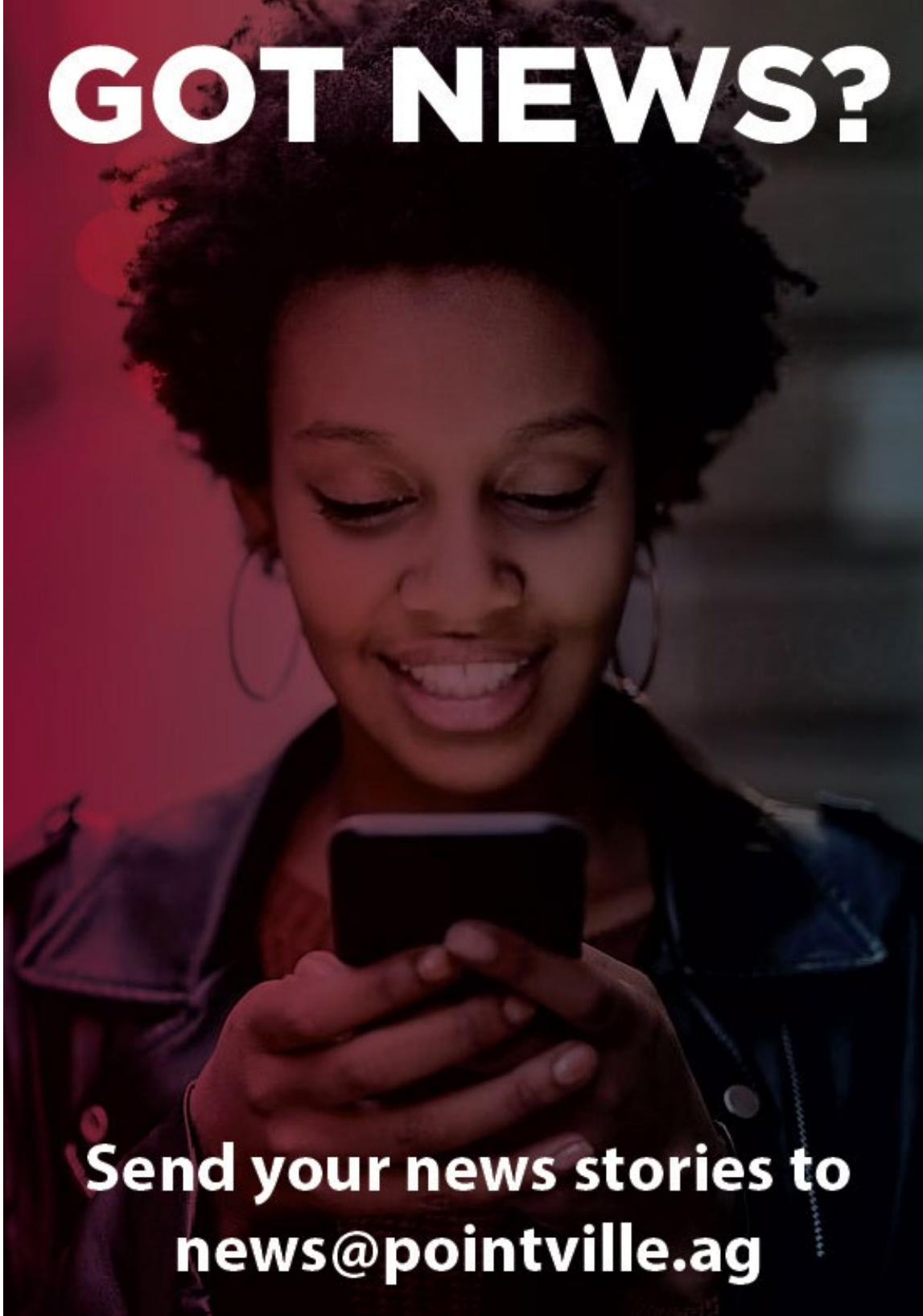
Georgia and Oklahoma have emerged as new spots where hospital and state leaders are

sounding alarm about the lack of capacity and supplies.

COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations are on the cusp of surpassing January peaks in Georgia as hospitals fretted Monday that the delta variant of the respiratory illness threatens to suck some Georgia hospitals dry of medical

oxygen, a key treatment for people struggling to breathe.

Gov. Brian Kemp signed an executive order calling up as many as another 1,500 National Guard soldiers to help short-staffed hospitals with nonmedical jobs, on top of the 1,000 previously authorized.



**GOT NEWS?**

**Send your news stories to**  
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**The Ministry of Health,  
Wellness and the  
Environment**

**Pfizer Pre-Registration  
Contact**

**788-8299 or 780-8461 or 736-8299**

**Mondays through Thursdays  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Fridays from 9:00am to 3:30pm**


**Who? Anyone 12 years and older.**



*Tuesday is*

**PRICES DAY**

**Crackers make  
tasty snacks**



**PREPARING FOR A FLOOD  
BEFORE**

SECURE AND PROTECT ALL DOCUMENTS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER.

ELEVATE YOUR APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE SO THAT IN THE EVENT OF A FLOOD THEY ARE NOT DAMAGED.

KEEP YOUR DRAIN AND WATER WAY CLEAR OF LITTER.

ENSURE THAT YOUR YARD DOES NOT HAVE DEBRIS.

**DURING**

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS IN DEEP WATER, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING UNDERGROUND WHERE THE SOIL COULD ERODE.

AVOID UNNECESSARY EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS.

**AFTER**

ENSURE THAT YOUR DRINKING WATER IS NOT CONTAMINATED IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE WATER, BOIL IT.

AVOID HANDLING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN WET AREAS.

DO NOT USE FOOD THAT HAS COME INTO CONTACT WITH FLOOD WATERS.

FLOOD WATERS LEFT STAGNANT CAN CAUSE DIARRHEA AND SKIN RASHES AVOID IT.

Crackers with toppings are great snacks. They can be attractive, tasty, and quick to make. They can also be a healthy food, depending on the ingredients in the crackers and their toppings.

Making cracker snacks is a creative process. It's fun to try new topping ingredients and to mix old and familiar ones in new combinations. Foods such as vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, and meats work well in toppings. Herbs, spices, sauces, dips, and spreads like salsa are also useful.

Cracker is a price controlled good and retails as follows:

Items	Size	Price
Eclipse Wheat Crackers	3.99oz	\$1.55
Soda Bix Crackers	4oz	\$1.45
Excelsior Water Crackers	5.2oz	\$2.25
Jacob Choice Grain Crackers	7oz	\$5.90
Jacob Cream Crackers	7oz	\$5.44
Jacob High Fibre Crackers	7oz	\$6.36
Crix Bran & Oats Crackers	10oz	\$5.30
Crix Crackers Original	10oz	\$4.66
Excelsior Water Crackers	10.5oz	\$4.88
Excelsior Water Crackers	10.5oz	\$4.88

For more information on prices contact  
**Prices and Consumer Affairs Division**  
 462-0834 | Hotline/Whatsaap 464-4238  
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# Shericka Jackson vs Sha'Carri Richardson over 200m at Brussels Diamond League this Friday



*Jamaica's Shericka Jackson shows off her bronze medal won in the women's 4x400m relay.*

**BRUSSELS,** Belgium— Jamaica's Tokyo Olympics 100-metre bronze medallist, Shericka Jackson, will match strides over 200 metres against the United States' Sha'Carri Richardson at the Brussels Diamond League meeting this Friday, September 3.

The 200-metre champion from Tokyo, Elaine Thompson-Herah, was also down to compete but has reportedly withdrawn due to fatigue.

Also down to face the starter, in what should still be an exciting half-lap race, are the two Namibian teenage sensations, Beatrice Masilingi and Christine Mboma, who finished second to Thompson-Herah in Tokyo, as well as Britain's Dina Ash-

er-Smith. Friday's Brussels Diamond League is the last meet before the Zurich final weekend and possibly the last chance for the 'braggadocious' Richardson to redeem herself.

Having been disqualified from running at the Tokyo Olympics after she tested positive for marijuana, a banned substance, after placing first at the US trials, Richardson returned to the track in her usual boastful fashion at the Eugene leg of the Diamond League on August 21.

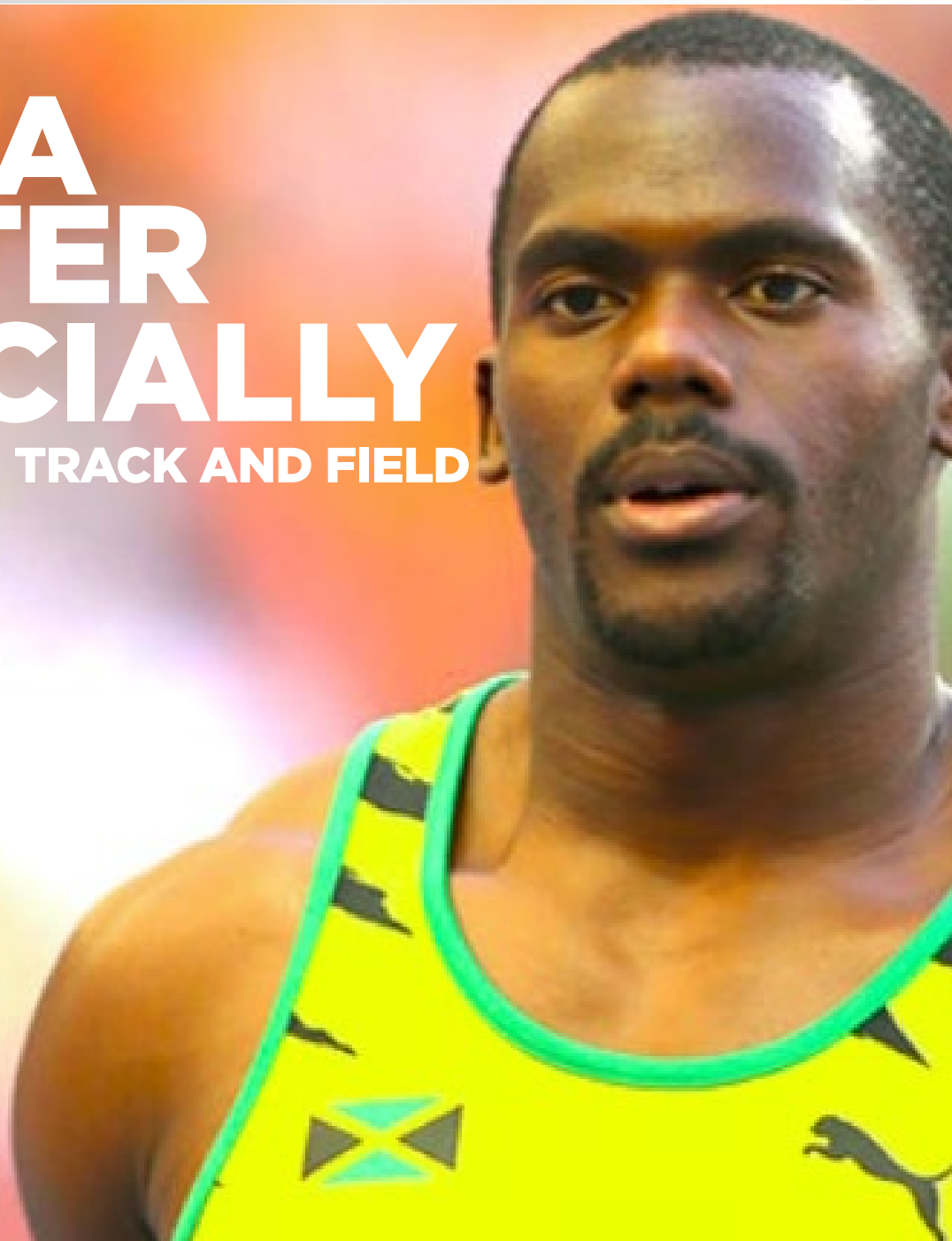
Backed by her sponsor, Nike, including in a pre-race advertisement, she was expected to prove that she was the real deal. However, she was blown away by the three Jamaicans who swept the podium spots

at the Olympics in the 100 metres – Thompson-Herah, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Jackson in that order.

Thompson-Herah won in Eugene in a time of 10.54 seconds, the second fastest time in history behind only the US's Florence Griffith Joyner. Richardson finished dead last of the nine competitors, yet went on a foul-mouthed rant during a post-race interview with US media in which she also said she was not done and not going anywhere.

Whether Richardson is the real deal will be decided in just about 22 seconds on Friday. What is certain is that Jackson, the Namibians and Asher-Smith will be fighting to determine the podium spots.

# NESTA CARTER OFFICIALLY RETIRES FROM TRACK AND FIELD



***Jamaican athlete Nesta Carter has retired.***

Jamaican Olympic gold medalist and the eighth fastest man in history, Nesta Carter has officially retired from track and field.

In a statement, 35-year-old Carter said he is no longer able to give of his best.

"From my humble beginnings as an 18-year-old running the 100m in 10.56 at track meets in Jamaica to the pinnacle of athletic performance

in 2012 where I ran the first leg on the Jamaican 4 X 100 relay team at the London Olympics, winning Gold and setting the still-standing world record of 36.84, I have always given my best," the statement read.

"I am no longer able to give of my best, as an athlete, to the sport that I know and love. As a result, and for other reasons, I am announcing my retirement from track

and field as an athlete."

Carter also revealed that his decision was influenced by an unnamed medical condition which he said has prevented him from training and competing since March of this year.

He also shared that medication prescribed by his doctor to treat his condition breaches anti-doping rules.

Faced with the choice to choose between his

health and career, he choose his health.

Carter, who hails from Banana Ground – the birthplace of the fastest woman alive, Elaine Thompson – expressed his gratitude to all those who have played a part in developing his talent.

"I end my career with a personal best of 9.78 seconds over 100m, which places me among the best to have competed."





# Leeward Islands selectees for CWI Under-19 tour of England

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) would like to send congratulations to the seven Leeward Islands Under-19 cricketers that were involved with the 56-member training squad preparing for the 2022 ICC Under-19 World Cup to be held in the region.

Further congratulations go out to the four players who were selected as part of the 18 man squad that departed for England on Saturday 28th August. They will feature in six Youth One-Day Internationals at The County Ground, Beckenham and The Polo Farm, Canterbury from Saturday, September 4 to Friday, September 17.

The West Indies Rising Stars

U19s tour to the UK is a key part of CWI's investment in developing and preparing the players for the ICC U19 World Cup to be played in the West Indies early next year.

The selected Leeward Islands players are Onaje Amory, a 17-year-old right-hand batsman and right-arm off spinner from Nevis; Anderson Amurdan, an 18-year-old right-hand batsman from Nevis; Carlon Bowen-Tuckett, a 17-year-old right-hand batsman and wicket keeper from Nevis; and Nathan Edward, a 16-year-old left-hand batsman and left-arm fast medium bowler from Sint Maarten.

LICB president Enoch Lewis

encouraged each of the selected players to keep believing in themselves and to keep reaching for excellence. He also wished them all the best and success on the tour. He further encouraged them to continue to maintain the positive attitude that has brought them this far, and committed the full and unwavering support of the Board to their continuing development.

To the other three players who were part of the camp – Kelvin Pittman, Jaden Carmichael and Akadiano Willet – president Lewis encouraged them to continue to train so that they can maximize their full cricket potential.



## TAYLOR OUT OF WINDIES WOMEN squad and into isolation

The West Indies Women will have to square off against South Africa in their three-match Twenty20 International (T20I) series without their captain Stafanie Taylor, who is in isolation in Antigua after being identified as a primary contact of someone with COVID-19 in Jamaica.

The Windies Women are scheduled to take on South Africa in the first of three T20Is starting Tuesday, with the game set to bowl off at 1:00 p.m. Jamaica time.

In her absence, Trini-

dadian Anisa Mohammed will lead the team with Deandra Dottin acting as her deputy.

Also, included in the 13-member squad is Jamaicans Chinelle Henry and Chedean Nation.

### SQUAD

Anisa Mohammed (Captain); Deandra Dottin (Vice-Captain); Aaliyah Alleyne; Shamilia Connell; Britney Cooper; Shabika Gajnabi; Chinelle Henry; Qiana Joseph; Kycia Knight; Kyshona Knight; Hayley Matthews; Chedean Nation; Shakera Selman.

 **DEWS**