

# BARBUDA HIT WITH FIRST COVID DEATH!

**SEE PAGE 14**



**THE BRAINS INSIDE THE BEAUTY:** Find out who is this academic ace with all the looks of a top flight model – Antigua and Barbuda newest Commonwealth Scholar (story on page 6)

## INSIDE:

*Worsening pandemic forces hospital to suspend non-essential services*

*Reported new cases stay below 10 for third successive dashboard update*

# What's Behind the Giant Blooms of Brown Seaweed on Caribbean Beaches?

**PUBLISHED AUG 5, 2021 12:05 AM BY THE CONVERSATION**

**[By Stephen P. Leath-erman]**

Here's a handy geography question for your next trivia match: What is the world's only sea that doesn't have a land border?

The answer is the Sar-

gasso Sea – a 2-million-square-nautical-mile haven of biodiversity that lies east of Bermuda in the Atlantic Ocean. Rather than beaches, it's bounded by rotating ocean currents that form the North Atlan-

tic Subtropical Gyre.

The Sargasso is named for sargassum, a free-floating brown seaweed that grows in its calm, clear waters. In the open ocean this seaweed serves as nursery grounds and a haven for sea life.

But over the past decade, a new "Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt" has inundated Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Florida coastlines, wreaking environmental and economic havoc. It's driving away tourists, devastating local fishing industries and requires costly clean-up.

In my work as a coastal scientist, I've watched these invasions become the new normal, choking beaches and turning clear blue waters golden brown. Along with

other researchers, I'm trying to understand why sargassum has proliferated into this new sprawling bloom, how to deal with such massive amounts of it, and how affected countries can predict the severity of the next influx.

***A mysterious 'golden floating rainforest'***

But these sargassum islands also create a rich ecosystem that ocean explorer Sylvia Earle calls "a golden floating rainforest." Suspended by round "berries" filled with gas, the seaweed offers food, sanctuary and breeding grounds for crabs, shrimp, whales, migratory birds and some 120 species of fish. Mats of it form the sole spawning grounds for European and American eels and habitat for some 43

## 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

other threatened or endangered species.

Sargassum also shelters sea turtle hatchlings and juvenile fish during their early life in the open ocean. Ten endemic species live nowhere else on Earth. The Sargasso is a valuable commercial fishery worth about US\$100 million per year.

### Noxious blooms

Enormous amounts of sargassum first engulfed Caribbean coastlines in 2011. I was there at the time, conducting research in the British Virgin Islands, and I saw huge “rafts” of this brown macroalgae extending 500 feet offshore.

Swimmers couldn’t get into the water. Some boats couldn’t leave port. Beaches were piled with massive mounds, some nearly as tall as I was. Nesting sea turtles couldn’t lay their eggs. The seaweed isn’t toxic, but as it decomposed it reeked of rotten eggs and swarmed with insects.

Beaches covered in sargassum have become the new normal in Florida and the Ca-

ribbean.

Small quantities of sargassum have always turned up as “beach wrack” – stuff that washes ashore. It stabilizes shorelines by helping to build sand dunes and nourishes dune plants. For these reasons, it’s left to naturally decompose in wild areas, such as Cape Florida State Park.

But the scale of recent coastal influxes is unprecedented. And since the 2011 event, they have occurred every year except for 2013.

Gluts of coastal seaweed have a damaging influence on the coastal environment. In large quantities, the seaweed strips oxygen from the water, killing fish and seagrasses that offer key habitat for many species. It may reduce sunlight needed by ocean plants and smother shallow coral reefs, like those in the Florida Keys.

In 2018 NASA satellites revealed the largest marine algae bloom in the world. A belt of sargassum that contained over 22 mil-

lion tons of seaweed stretched some 5,500 miles across the Atlantic to West Africa. Satellite images are showing abnormally high amounts again in 2021.

### Warmer, overnutriented waters

Data gathered over the past decade has revealed the likely causes of these seaweed invasions: Saharan dust clouds, warming temperatures and the growing human nitrogen footprint.

Just as nutrients feed red tide blooms, they feed sargassum, which

thrives in warmer water. Climate change also increases upwelling of nutrients from deep ocean waters at the other end of the sargassum belt in West Africa.

The influxes of the past decade seem to have originated along Brazil’s Atlantic coast, not in the Sargasso Sea. Large amounts of fertilizer flow into the Amazon River and then to the ocean from industrial-scale agriculture and ranches. Nutrients also pour into the Gulf of Mexico from the Missis-

## 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

#### FIRST 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

issippi River. Climate change-driven downpours increase runoff.

Saharan dust clouds that extend for thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean have also contributed to this explosion of sargassum seaweed. The dust contains iron, nitrogen and phosphorus that fertilizes plankton and seaweed blooms. These thick atmospheric dust plumes corresponded with a sargassum spike in 2015 and the worst incursion of sar-

gassum in 2018.

Researchers are also exploring changing in ocean currents, which may be another contributing factor.

### ***Economic and ecological harm***

Sargassum threatens tourism, a major economic engine for the Caribbean and Florida. Mexico has deployed Navy ships for cleanup operations in Cancun. Some Caribbean destinations have installed floating barriers, like those used in oil spills, to keep seaweed off-

shore. In 2019 Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados likened the scale of the economic fallout to that of a hurricane.

There is currently no good way to dispose of such great volumes of seaweed. It's labor-intensive and expensive. Removing sargassum from 15 miles of Miami-Dade beaches cost \$45 million in 2019. Some communities plow seaweed under the sand. Others, like Fort Lauderdale, collect it, wash off the salt and convert

it to natural fertilizer or mulch. In Mexico some entrepreneurs are compressing it into bricks and using it, like adobe, for building construction. In the long term, lasting solutions will come only through addressing climate change and nitrogen emissions from human activities.

*Stephen P. Leatherman is a professor of coastal science at Florida International University.*

*This article appears courtesy of The Conversation.*

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## Caribbean Union Bank

### PRESS RELEASE

### **CARIBBEAN UNION BANK MAINTAINS A FULL SUITE OF SERVICES**

**ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

Caribbean Union Bank wishes to express its sincerest gratitude to our valued customers for their understanding and patience as we have sought to navigate some measure of disruption, these past few weeks. We have built our reputation on the basis that “CUB CARES”, but recognize that recent events may have inconvenienced some customers. However, our Management and Staff take this opportunity to reiterate our unswerving commitment to providing you with outstanding customer service.

We invite you to continue utilizing our modern and comfortable banking facilities at our Starlings Branch location on Sir Sydney Walling Highway for all of your banking needs. Additionally, we are pleased to advise that effective, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, our easily accessible drive-thru teller operations will be available at our Friars Hill Road Branch.

In keeping with our commitment to bringing you the best in convenience and safety, we have ensured that our electronic banking services including our online payment solutions, bilingual ATMs and our chip and contactless debit and credit cards are readily available to you. We appreciate that lifestyles are changing, and so are we to better meet your banking needs.

Our loans team remains eager to serve you and can be contacted at [creditservices@cub.ag](mailto:creditservices@cub.ag) or 481-8285. For additional information, visit our website at [caribbeanunionbank.com](http://caribbeanunionbank.com) or email us at [customerservice@cub.ag](mailto:customerservice@cub.ag) for any queries.

Rest assured that together with our team members, we continue to implement measures to bring you unrivalled service delivery while adhering to due process.

**#BankOnUs**

**- END -**

# Antigua and Barbuda's newest Commonwealth scholar

Christ the King High School and Antigua State College graduate Kelsey Harris joins Antigua and Barbuda's small community of Commonwealth scholars, having been recently selected as an awardee for the 2021/2022 academic year.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Harris was forced to return home where she completed her first degree online. In May 2021, she graduated Summa Cum Laude from New Jersey's Seton Hall University with a BS in Diplomacy and International Relations. Harris will now continue to the London School of Economics (LSE) to pursue a Masters in Development Studies.

Development Studies examines economical, ecological, social, political, and other issues that face countries in the global south, usually due to reasons attributed to colonialism.

Harris says her plan is "to learn more about how the Caribbean can advance and create more systems for us to become independent with our industries and



*Kelsey Harris*

become less reliant on a single economic driver."

She is excited, she says, about living in London and chose LSE because of its strong Development Studies program and large international student population. "Seventy percent of their students are international, and I think it will be a great cultural experience."

Post-graduation, Harris envisions a career path that will allow her to work on development issues in the Caribbean and, specifically, Antigua and Barbuda through organisations such as UNESCO, the World Bank, and UNDP.

Harris joins other past Antiguan and Barbudan Commonwealth

Scholarship recipients including: Senior Research Officer at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Patricia George; Attorney-at-Law Rily Adams; Attorney-at-Law Kathleen Bennett; Deputy Director of News & Current Affairs at ABS TV, Ercil Charles; and Research, Law & Policy Consultant J'Moul Francis.

The Commonwealth Scholarship forms part of the United Kingdom's (UK) commitment to the Commonwealth. Each year over 800 students are afforded the opportunity to undertake postgraduate studies at UK universities. The program supports future innovators and leaders.

**TALKING POINT**

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

# Sir Lester Bird Medical Center announces restrictions on non-essential services

In an effort to keep our patients, staff and communities safe, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLB-MC) is taking further measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be suspending elective and non-essential services at the hospital, including surgeries and outpatient clinics.

This change will go into effect as of Monday September 6, until further notice.

“Patients affected by this change are being contacted by our care team. We are thankful for everyone’s understanding and appreciate the impact this is having on our communities. If patients are uncertain if their appointment is canceled, we ask that you contact the hospital,” said Dr. Albert Duncan, SLBMC Medical Director.

“The measures we are announcing ... are in keeping with the mitigation guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health to curb the spread of COVID-19 due to the fueling of cases by the Delta variant, and are intended to protect our team, our patients and the public, and most importantly, to manage what we expect may be tremendous demand on the system from spread of the virus,” said Dr. Duncan.

Patients will still have access to essential treatments such as cancer care, antenatal (high-risk) care, and kidney dialysis. Also, planned



*The Sir Lester Bird Medical Center*

imaging procedures such as ultrasound, CTs and MRIs, will NOT be cancelled at this time, and the hospital will also continue to accept urgent physician referrals.

The Medical Director said, “If you already have an appointment at our Radiology Department, please show up for it. However, we

are appealing to referring physicians to be mindful of the current situation and refer only urgent cases for imaging studies.”

In addition to the clinics listed above, here are the exceptions:

Lab – we will still provide outpatient services for the following patients who are:

a) immuno-compromised

b) pregnant

c) receiving cancer care

Ophthalmology (Eye) Clinic

If a community member suspects they may have been exposed to COVID-19, they are asked to phone the COVID Hotline: 46-COVID (462-6843) for further instruction.

You should only come to the hospital if your symptoms are severe, or a health professional has advised you to do so.

SLBMC will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and adapt as necessary to provide a safe environment for our patients, staff and community. In an effort to keep our patients, staff and communities safe, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) is taking further measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be suspending elective and non-essential services at the hospital, including surgeries and outpatient clinics.

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Patients will still have access to essential treatments such as cancer care, antenatal (high-risk) care, and kidney dialysis. Also, planned imaging procedures such as ultrasound, CTs and MRIs, will NOT be cancelled at this time, and the hospital will also continue to accept urgent physician referrals.

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## PROBATE

FORM P7

(Rule 15)

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
ANUHPB 2021/0176

In the Estate of IVON DENFIELD ALEXANDER BENJAMIN, a.k.a. IVAN DENFIELD ALEXANDER BENJAMIN, a.k.a. IVON BENJAMIN, a.k.a. IVAN BENJAMIN, late of Falmouth Village, St. Paul's, Antigua, Deceased.

### ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

#### SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by JACQUELINE ANDREA ELIZABETH SWIFT, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vernon's Estate, in the Parish of St. George's, Antigua and Barbuda, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.

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

# WIOC Oilers makes cash donation to Social Protection Fund

The West Indies Company Limited (WIOC) has once again demonstrated good corporate citizenship by donating EC\$5,000.

The donation was made to the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development & the Blue Economy's Social Protection Fund.

WIOC CEO Gregory Georges – along with WIOC Oilers president Kamal Jeffers and vice president Shemrick Rodney – made the presentation on behalf of the company.

Georges noted that, “A part of WIOC’s corporate social responsibility program is to give back to communities that support us so much.”

The donation was made through WIOC’s social development charity arm, the WIOC Oilers, which was founded with the vision to promote social development and culture within the environment and communities of Antigua and Barbuda.

The mandate was created out of the passion of WIOC’s human resources manager, Marlene Bailey, to build camaraderie among employees and to

develop outreach initiatives that would uplift our communities.

Accepting the donation on behalf of the Ministry was Hon. Dean Jonas and chairperson Mrs. Mary Baltimore.

Minister Jonas applauded WIOC for being a partner with his ministry. He went on to state that, “The Ministry is very pleased to partner with West Indies Oil Company Limited on this very important initiative to help the underprivileged in our society.”

The funds are expected to assist with the Ministry’s food voucher program to aid the most vulnerable in our society.

President of WIOC Oilers Kamal Jeffers conveyed praise to the Minister and his team for the good work they have been doing.

The ceremony came to an end with chairperson for the Social Protection Board, Mrs. Mary Baltimore, thanking West Indies Oil Company for this timely donation. She is also urging other corporate entities to follow this act of good corporate citizenship.



(L-R) Hon. Dean Jonas, Minister for Social Protection, Human Resource Development & the Blue Economy; Mrs. Mary Baltimore, chairperson of the Social Protection Board; Mr. Kamal Jeffers, president of the WIOC Oilers; and Mr. Gregory Georges, CEO of West Indies Oil Company Limited.

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# Police and Customs heighten drug-fighting measures



*Police and Customs intercepted this latest attempt to smuggle Cannabis into the country through Antigua and Barbuda's main commercial seaport, the Deep Water Harbour.*

The Police and Customs anti-narcotics units continue to stem the flow of illegal drugs entering the country, according to a statement from the Police Strategic Communication Unit (STRATCOM)

It says, "On Tuesday 31st August, both law enforcement agencies carried a drug interdiction operation at Deep Water Harbour and discovered [nine] pounds of cannabis inside a barrel of food items.

"The controlled drug, which has an estimated street value of EC\$54,000 was seized and taken to Police Headquarters."

The statement notes that, "Just over a week ago, a total of 22 pounds of

cannabis – with an estimated value of EC\$330,000 – were seized at the said port of entry."

It says that, so far, no arrests have been made but investigations are continuing.

# Works Ministry declares first National Road Safety Council meeting ‘A Resounding Success!’

The Ministry of Works’ Permanent Secretary Mr. Clarence Pilgrim is calling the first National Road Safety Council meeting a resounding success.

Council members met on Wednesday in a mobilizing effort that will focus on the roll-out of the Socially Inclusive Road Safety Aware-

ness Communications Strategy.

“This is truly [an] historic moment for road safety in Antigua and Barbuda, and the Honorable Minister of Works, Lennox Weston, must be applauded because this was his brain-child. The Cabinet has appointed a cross section of

senior government personnel who represent critical infrastructure and essential services, so that they can lend their expertise and implement road safety public education and marketing campaigns that are evidence-based and informed by consultations with civil society,” said the Perma-



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*Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Mr. Clarence Pilgrim.*

nent Secretary of Gender Affair; the Works.

Representatives from the ministries of Legal Affairs, Health, Education, Youth, Emergency Medi-

cal Services (EMS); and the Ministry of Works comprise this diverse Council that [is expected to] change the face of national road infrastructure.

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Wednesday's meeting featured presentations about the role of the Council and the road safety situation in Antigua and Barbuda. The flagship campaign will pair legal reform with seatbelt use and speeding compliance toward the goal of achieving the United Nations' 2030 target of 100% seatbelt wearing.

The Council will be chaired by the Permanent Secretary of Works, Clarence Pilgrim. The operational structure also includes a vice-chair and a secretary. Members will participate voluntarily and no remuneration will be

granted for their services.

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# Ministry of Works issues update on Little Creek Bridge



The Ministry of Works (MOW) acknowledges that the construction of the Little Creek culvert has not progressed at the rate that was initially expected.

The concerns of road users and residents in the area are being taken very seriously and, according to the Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU), it is anticipated that the Contractor, CO Williams Ltd., will be able

to proceed with the pouring of the concrete by tomorrow if weather permits.

Members of the public are being asked to remain patient while all parties involved continue to work feverishly to address this urgent matter that has caused disruption to the road network. Every precaution is being taken to protect the works, and public safety is of utmost importance.

The existing diversion at the Little Creek culvert will continue to be in effect, and drivers are advised to proceed with extreme caution when traversing the construction site.

The completion of the construction is largely dependent on weather conditions, and the Ministry of Works will continue to provide periodic updates to the general public.

# Barbuda records first COVID-related death



The Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment regrettably announces that the sister island of Barbuda has recorded its first COVID-19 related death.

A 64-year-old male – who tested positive for COVID-19 on August 26, 2021 – was being monitored under

the supervision of the medical doctor, Dr. Jeremy Deazel, in Barbuda. However, he passed away on September 2, 2021 at 4.25 p.m. while en route to the port in Barbuda where he was to be transported to Antigua for further medical care.

This death brings the total num-

ber of COVID-related fatalities recorded in Antigua and Barbuda to 46.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment extends its deepest condolences to the family at this most difficult time.

# COVID Dashboard Update for September 2, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre has revealed eight (8) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Sixty (60) samples were processed at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 1,750; which is inclusive of 357 active cases. There are 26 hospitalized cases; 19 mild, three (3) moderate and four (4) severe. Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 34,008 individuals while 7,053 have only received their first dose.

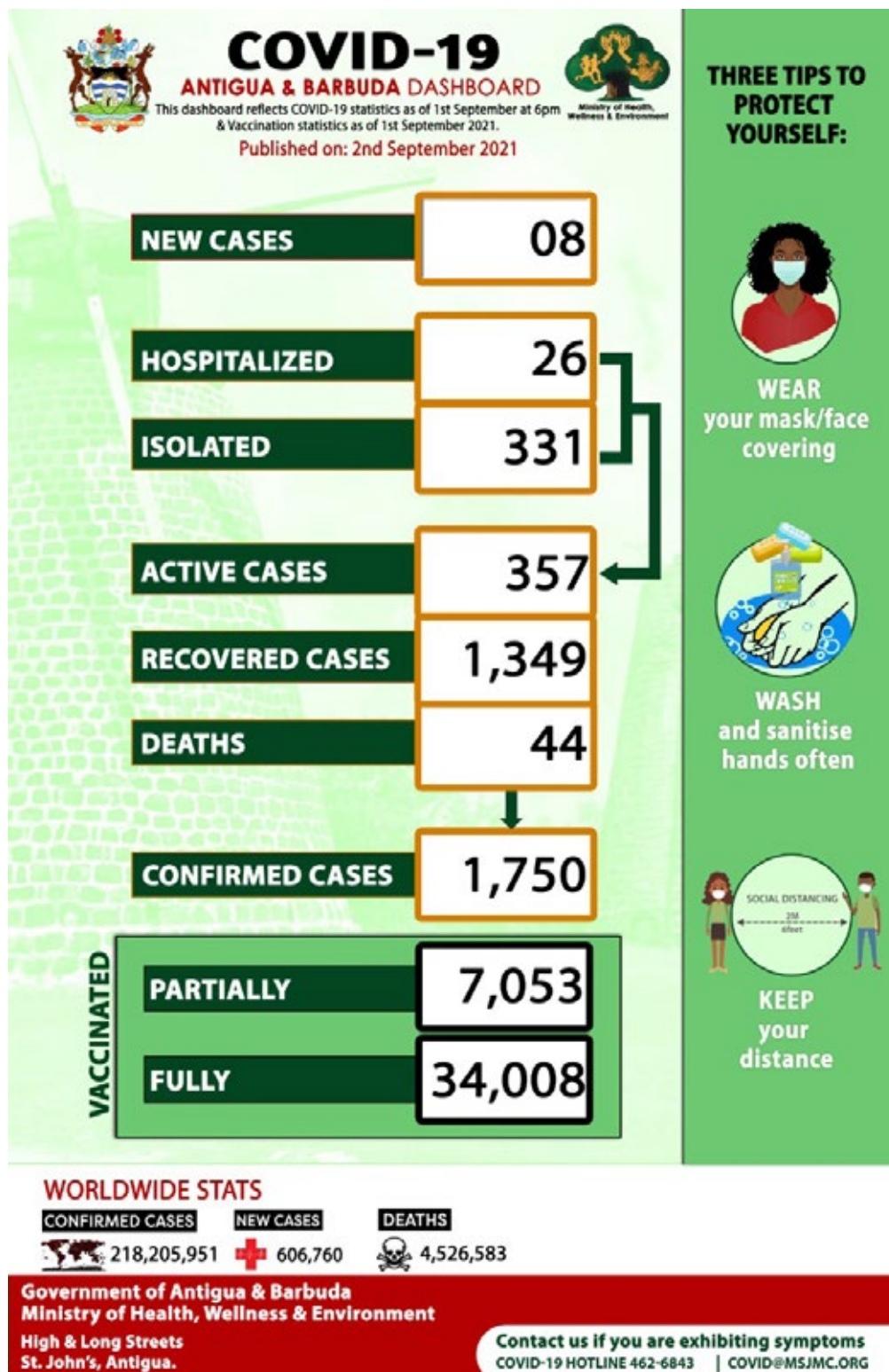
The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.

\*Please note that two additional deaths were recorded today; one at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and one in Barbuda. \*The Ministry of

Health, Wellness and the Environment apologizes for the late publication of the COVID-19 situation report which

will provide a detailed breakdown of the imported and non-imported cases as well as other statistical data.

Due to the inadvertent developments, the revised date for the publication will be September 3, 2021.



# Kenya's president wants 'steadfast leadership' by Commonwealth Secretariat



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

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

It is good to see that the President of

Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, has nominated his Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Monica Juma, for the post of Commonwealth Secretary-General.

The Kenyan nomination suggests that African nations

still believe that the Commonwealth remains potentially relevant to its 54 member states and to the international community, despite the fact that it has lost the radical voice for which it became known and respected in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

In those decades, with Sir Shridath 'Sonny' Ramphal as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth was a leader in combating racism, including the ugly apartheid regime in South Africa; initiating global engagement on climate change and its harmful impacts; documenting international economic inequities and setting out a programme for reform; and putting the multi-dimensional security concerns of small states on the global agenda. Sir Shridath's successor, his former Deputy, Emeka Anyaoku, continued that leadership role.

In the following years, up to now, the Commonwealth and its main engine, the Commonwealth Secretariat, departed from the role as thought-leader and innovator of creative solutions for issues within the Commonwealth and in the wider world. This prompted the Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS) at London University, Philip Murphy, to write in his 2018 book, "The Empire's New Clothes: The Myth of the Commonwealth", that the Commonwealth "doesn't do very much, but then it doesn't cost very much".

This was an extraordinary statement from the Director of ICwS, which was born in the same year as the modern Commonwealth in 1949. While it caused great alarm – and even anger – among Commonwealth devotees, it emboldened those who regarded

the Commonwealth, in its radical years, as a nuisance and an obstacle to maintaining the old order that suited them.

The last two decades of paralysis by the official inter-governmental Commonwealth, captured in Murphy's throwaway phrase that it "doesn't do very much", also encouraged those who could see no particular benefit in the Commonwealth and, therefore, no value in an institute dedicated to Commonwealth studies, such as the ICwS.

Consequently, in October 2020, London University announced that it was closing ICwS. Much to the amazement of those who thought that the Commonwealth was sufficiently on life-support that no one would object to ICwS' burial, more than 90 Commonwealth non-governmental organisations (NGOs) registered vociferous objection. This persuaded the University's vice-chancellor to establish a committee to inquire into Commonwealth Studies, under the chairmanship of former British Foreign & Defence Secretary, Sir Malcolm Rifkind. I was invited to serve on the committee and drafted the report that was finalised by its other distinguished members from government and academia.

In our report, delivered on July 21, 2021, the Committee concluded that not only should ICwS continue to operate but it

should be strengthened to serve a contemporary purpose as set out in the first declaration of the 2013 "Commonwealth Charter" which states:

*"Recognising that in an era of changing economic circumstances and uncertainty, new trade and economic patterns, unprecedented threats to peace and security, and a surge in popular demands for democracy, human rights and broadened economic opportunities, the potential of and need for the Commonwealth – as a compelling force for good and as an effective network for co-operation and for promoting development – has never been greater."*

The Committee's report has been accepted by the University and, hopefully, the strength and passion displayed by the Commonwealth's NGOs together with the cogent arguments in the report, will lead to implementation of its recommendations.

But the issue of whether or not the Commonwealth matters and should be pulled back from a drift to irrelevance, demands more than the passion of NGOs. More especially, it urgently requires belief by governments that it has a role to play in addressing their concerns in their own countries and globally.

At the heart of generating such belief among governments is the Secretariat and the Secretary-General. In nominating Monica Juma for the post of

Commonwealth Secretary-General, President Kenyatta reflected his own dissatisfaction with the Commonwealth Secretariat's recent performance by saying:

*"The success of our organization lies in its ability to effectively address the needs of the member states, shape the collective agenda and implement its decisions for the realization of our common aspirations. All these require steadfast leadership at the Secretariat to deliver a dynamic and influential Commonwealth."*

In 2011, I was a member and rapporteur of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) which submitted a report to Commonwealth Heads of Government, at their request, proposing urgent reform of the Commonwealth.

In that report, which recommended, among other things, the creation of the "Commonwealth Charter", the EPG remarked:

*"Reinvigoration and refocus do not happen through complacency or inertia. It is complacency and inertia in vital aspects of the Commonwealth's values that currently pose the most serious threats to the continued relevance and vitality of the Commonwealth itself."*

Unfortunately, in the almost 10 years since the EPG submitted its report, several of its main findings and priority recommendations remain unattended.

Neither the Secretariat nor the inter-governmen-

tal leadership of the Commonwealth has clothed itself with the purpose of Ramphal and Anyaoku, or with the vision of Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago who, in 1964, proposed and argued fiercely for a Commonwealth Secretariat that had meaning; that would generate ideas and propose new directions. That battle was not easily won. Britain and Australia particularly wanted a Secretariat with no authority and with no capacity that would "cut across" the authority of governments.

Were the latter position followed by Arnold Smith, the first Secretary-General, and by Ramphal and Anyaoku, the battles for de-clutching Southern Rhodesia from white minority rule to create Zimbabwe, and for ending apartheid in South Africa and freeing Nelson Mandela, might have been deferred for many more oppressive years.

There is no doubt of the Commonwealth's past worth and its future potential. Therefore, it is good that President Uhuru Kenyatta has proclaimed Kenya's interest in "steadfast leadership at the Secretariat to deliver a dynamic and influential Commonwealth" which he clearly recognises is sorely needed.

**Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)**



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# INTERPOL opens liaison office in the Caribbean

(CMC) —The International Police Organization (INTERPOL) on Wednesday opened a liaison office for the Caribbean in Barbados, promising to bring an international network that would help Caribbean countries in their crime fighting efforts.

“The reality is that in my time of policing the world has changed ... and now digital footprints, data, are the ways that we will understand whether it is drug dealers, whether it is organised criminals, where those money launderers and child abusers are sitting,” said the INTERPOL Executive Director of Police Services, Stephen Kavanagh.

“We have the data to connect Barbados to Korea, from Korea to South Africa, and that’s a unique opportunity and it’s an exciting one for the Royal Barbados Police Force, and we want to help them be the very best and link into the Caribbean,” he added.

“We have data sets around firearms, we support around huge drug importation and movement of money as well, and that data is all there to support investigations in Barbados and the wider partner-



ship,” Kavanagh said.

“The reality is that whether you are the United States, UK, Barbados or China, you can’t have relationships with every country across the world, you can’t afford to. The great thing that INTERPOL can bring is that network...

“It allows us to stop trying to duplicate the training that takes place. So, whether it’s the emerging cybercrimes that are taking place, countries don’t need to replicate and develop their own training now. What they can do is use the global academy at INTERPOL,” Kavanagh said.

Barbados Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade Minister, Dr. Jerome Walcott, who signed the agreement with Kavanagh, said the liaison office for the Caribbean re-

gion represents a commitment made by INTERPOL in 2013 to develop collaborative efforts with the Caricom Implementation Agency for Crime & Security (IMPACS).

Walcott said the liaison office will support the 15-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states as well as the five Caricom associate members of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands. The office will also service Aruba, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, and Dutch St Maarten. It will also complement INTERPOL’s liaison offices in Thailand and Austria.

Walcott lauded the fact that Interpol’s technical support would be made

available to the Royal Barbados Police Force, pointing to areas such as cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, which he said were at an “embryonic stage” in Barbados.

“Traditionally in Barbados and throughout the region crime was just investigated; murder, burglaries, fraud, etc. But crime has now reached a new level, not only using technology in terms of communication, but criminals can sit in Barbados and operate a network utilising technology on the other side of the world. So this certainly helps the police in terms of building their strength, the capacity, the resources, to utilise the technology that is available in the databases,” Walcott said.

# Barbados: Travel bubble bursts as COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the Caribbean

## *Barbados Today*

- The travel bubble, which exempted persons from select countries from further quarantine or testing upon arrival in Barbados, has been discontinued.

Countries with low COVID-19 positivity rates and low cases per 100,000 population, "every fortnight", were allowed to be in the bubble which went into effect on July 17 this year.

It ceased to be effective on August 21.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Kenneth George said the decision to discontinue the bubble was due to increased positivity rates and cases "in many of our sister Caribbean countries". "The bubble was implemented to provide more seamless travel for countries which

were deemed to be low risk. However, over the two-week period prior to the bubble being discontinued, there were rising COVID levels and infection rates. Therefore, the Ministry of Health and the Cabinet Subcommittee deliberated and decided the travel bubble would be discontinued until further notice," Dr. George explained. He pointed out that with the travel bubble no longer in effect, all protocols would now apply. For vaccinated travellers, quarantine will be for 24 to 48 hours; while for unvaccinated travellers, five days with a re-test on day six.

Additionally, the Chief Medical Officer stated that persons from countries of special interest would be required to quarantine for



*Chief Medical Officer of Barbados, Dr. Kenneth George*

seven days with a re-test on day eight, "irrespective of their

vaccination status".

He also urged the travelling public to always consult with

the protocols for accurate travel information.

# Boy discovers remains of parents in suspected murder/suicide

*Guyana Chronicle* - A 12-year-old boy discovered his mother lying on her bed in a pool of blood and her husband dead a short distance away in their Recht Door-Zee, Parfaite Harmonie, West Bank Demerara home on Wednesday morning.

According to Police Headquarters, the couple in the suspected murder/suicide – Camile Robertson Rodrigues, 36; and Rolin Rodrigues, 42 – were caretakers of the property where the incident occurred.

The police disclosed that early reports suggest the wife went against her husband's wishes to visit the interior for a friend's party and, upon her return home on Tuesday, she met her husband consuming alcohol. On Wednesday morning, her 12-year-old son went to the premises and called out for her but received no answer. He decided to peep through a window and saw his mother lying on the bed in blood and Rolin not far from her, also dead.

The child immediately alerted his uncle who came and confirmed the boy's report. An examination revealed what appears

to be three stab wounds to various parts of her body. The suspected murder weapon was found a short distance away on a chest of

drawers. Both bodies were then escorted to the West Demerara Regional Hospital where they were pronounced dead-on-arrival

by a doctor on duty.

The bodies are at the Ezekiel Funeral Parlour awaiting a post-mortem.



***Dead: Camile Robertson Rodrigues***



***Dead: Rolin Rodrigues***

# PAHO: 75% of Latin American and Caribbean populations not fully vaccinated

**SKN News** - Director of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) Dr. Carissa F. Etienne warned that 75% of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean has yet to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and reported that PAHO is accelerating its drive to expand vaccine access throughout the region.

"Three-fourths of people in Latin America and the Caribbean have not been fully immunized," Dr. Etienne said during her weekly media briefing. "More than a third of countries in our region have yet to vaccinate 20% of their populations; and in some places, coverage is much lower.

"Vaccination rates remain in the teens in the several Caribbean and South American countries, and coverage is still in the single digits in Central American nations like Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua," she continued.

In Haiti and Venezuela, fragile health systems and political challenges have further delayed immunizations. "Unfortunately, countries with high coverage are the exception in our region," she emphasized.

Dr. Etienne said that, in total, 540 million COVID-19 vaccine doses must be delivered to ensure that all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean can cover at least 60% of their populations. "So, we must expand vaccine access in our region, especially in the places that are lagging," she said.

In response to the shortage, PAHO has launched a fresh drive for donations. "We are working to draw the attention of developed countries to the urgent need to donate vaccines to Latin America and the Caribbean," Dr. Etienne said.



***Hon. Mark Brantley, Premier of Nevis and Senior Minister of Health in the Nevis Island Administration, took his first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at the Charlestown Health Centre, Nevis, on February 24.***

In addition, PAHO is using its Revolving Fund to procure vaccines for member states. Already PAHO has received requests from 24 countries for COVID-19 vaccines which will be available in the final quarter of this year and 2022.

"We are also thinking ahead and making plans to significantly improve regional vaccine manufacturing capacity," Dr. Etienne said. "Just last week, we launched a new platform that convenes partners around a shared vision of boosting state-of-the-art vaccine production in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The first initiative under the platform is to facilitate the transfer to

the region of the mRNA vaccine technology used in highly effective COVID-19 vaccines. PAHO has received 32 proposals from private and public companies that want to participate in the endeavour.

Finally, Dr. Etienne urged countries to prioritize the most vulnerable for vaccination, such as the elderly, health workers and those living with pre-existing conditions.

Countries should make sure that logistics systems can absorb vaccine doses and cold chains can keep them cool, and that health systems are ready to deliver doses fast once they arrive.

# Apple must face Siri voice assistant privacy lawsuit – US judge

**(Reuters)** – A federal judge on Thursday said Apple Inc. must face nearly all of a proposed class action lawsuit claiming that its voice-activated Siri assistant violates users' privacy.

US District Judge Jeffrey White said the plaintiffs could try to prove Siri routinely recorded their private conversations because of "accidental activations," and that Apple disclosed these conversations to third parties, such as advertisers.

Voice assistants typically react when mobile device owners use "hot words" such as "Hey, Siri."

One Siri user said his private discussions with his doctor about a "brand name surgical treatment" caused him to receive targeted ads for that treatment, while two others said their discussions about Air Jordan sneakers, Pit Viper sunglasses and "Olive Garden" caused them to receive ads for those products.

"Apple faults plaintiffs for not alleging the contents of their com-



munications, but the private setting alone is enough to show a reasonable expectation of privacy," White wrote.

The Oakland, California-based judge said the plaintiffs may pursue claims that Apple violated the federal Wiretap Act and California privacy law, and committed breach of contract. He dismissed an unfair competition

claim.

Apple, based in Cupertino, California, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Lawyers for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to similar requests.

On July 1, another federal judge in California said users of Google's Voice Assistant, represented by the same law firms

as in the Apple case, could pursue a similar lawsuit against Google and its parent Alphabet Inc.

**Amazon.com Inc has faced similar litigation over its Alexa voice assistant.**

**The case is *Lopez et al v. Apple Inc.*, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, No. 19-04577.**

# Ivory Coast TV presenter convicted of glorifying rape



*This picture – taken on December 13, 2019 – shows the logo of the Nouvelle Chaîne Ivoirienne (New Ivorian channel) in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.*

**CNN** - A television presenter in Ivory Coast was convicted on Wednesday of glorifying rape and given a one-year suspended prison sentence for asking a convicted rapist he invited onto his prime-time show to simulate a sexual assault using a mannequin.

The court also fined the presenter, Yves de Mbella, 2 million CFA francs (\$3,619.91) and banned him from leaving Abidjan, the country's commercial capital, for one year, a spokesperson for Ivory Coast's justice

system told Reuters.

The man who appeared on the show was sentenced to two years in prison, the spokesperson said. De Mbella has apologised for the segment in which he asked his guest to demonstrate how he raped women, helped him adjust the female mannequin, and asked whether the victims "enjoyed it".

De Mbella said on Tuesday he had been trying to "raise awareness" in the segment which aired on the Nouvelle Chaîne Ivoirienne (NCI) private tele-

vision station on Monday, but said he had "made an error".

NCI also apologised and cancelled the final episode of de Mbella's show, which had been scheduled for Friday. An online petition calling for de Mbella's show to be cancelled has received nearly 50,000 signatures.

Ivory Coast's independent communications council on Tuesday ordered de Mbella suspended for 30 days, saying the segment had condoned rape and attacked the dignity of women.

# Storm Ida: Death toll climbs to 41 across four US northeast states

**BBC** - US President Joe Biden says "historic investment" is needed to deal with the climate crisis as the north-east reels from flash flooding and tornadoes that have killed at least 41 people.

The US is facing climate-related destruction across the country and tackling it is "a matter of life and death", the president said.

New York City and New Jersey saw unprecedented levels of rainfall. Some residents became trapped in flooded basements and cars.

Four states suffered loss of life: New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy said at least 23 people had died in his state - most of them stuck in their vehicles as the waters rose. At least 14 people lost their lives in New York City, including a two-year-old boy. Eleven of them drowned while trapped in their flooded basements, officials said. Three people died near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while one person was killed in Connecticut.

The impact of climate change on the frequency of storms is still unclear, but it is known that increased sea surface temperatures warm the air above and make more energy available to drive



*Residents of Elizabeth, New Jersey, are recovering from the storm.*

hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons. As a result, they are likely to be more intense with more extreme rainfall.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio criticised weather experts, saying their forecasts were being "made a mockery of in a matter of minutes". He said he had been warned to expect between three and six inches (7.5 and 15cm) of rain over the course of the day. However, a record 3.15 inches fell in Central Park in just one hour.

"We need to start communicating to people that things will be much worse in literally every situation," he said.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said: "We

did not know that between 8:50 and 9:50 p.m. last night that the heavens would literally open up and bring Niagara Falls level of water to the streets of New York."

Residents have been assessing the damage to property.

One man in Flushing, New York, said his residence was prone to flooding "but what I saw last night is unimaginable. I have never seen water coming in all directions," Tedla Asfaw, 60, told the BBC. "There's huge damage here. It's a big hit for us."

In New Jersey, a tornado flattened the state's largest dairy farm, ripping roofs of buildings and toppling several large silos. Many cows

were trapped under fallen sheds and some died, the owners of Wellacrest Farm wrote on their Facebook page. "Along with the devastating loss of homes in our neighbourhoods, we, as a community, suffered a great loss with the destruction of our farm."

Many of New York City's subway lines remain closed after social media pictures showed water gushing into the underground stations. Other footage showed cars floating down flooded roads with cries of "help" being heard from inside. Passengers on trains, planes and buses found themselves stuck for hours without moving as the flooding made travelling impossible.

# WhatsApp fined \$266M by EU privacy watchdog over data breach

*Al Jazeera* - Facebook Inc.'s WhatsApp was ordered to pay a 225 million-euro (\$266 million) penalty for failing to be transparent about how it handled personal information, its first fine under beefed-up European Union data protection law.

The Irish Data Protection Commission — Silicon Valley's main privacy watchdog in Europe — said it found violations in the way WhatsApp explained how it processed users' and non-users' data, as well as how data was shared between WhatsApp and other Facebook companies.

The fine comes weeks after Amazon.com Inc. was hit with a record 746 million-euro penalty in Luxembourg, where it has its European base, for processing personal data in violation of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation.

Under the three-year-old GDPR law, authorities have powers to fine companies as much as 4% of their annual sales. The rules put watchdogs based in a company's chosen EU hub in charge of supervising them. But the Irish regulator, which has at least 28 privacy probes open targeting tech giants such as Apple Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google, has faced mounting criticism for

taking too long to wrap up its cases.

"We disagree with the decision today regarding the transparency we provided to people in 2018 and the penalties are entirely disproportionate," a WhatsApp spokesperson said. "We will appeal this decision."

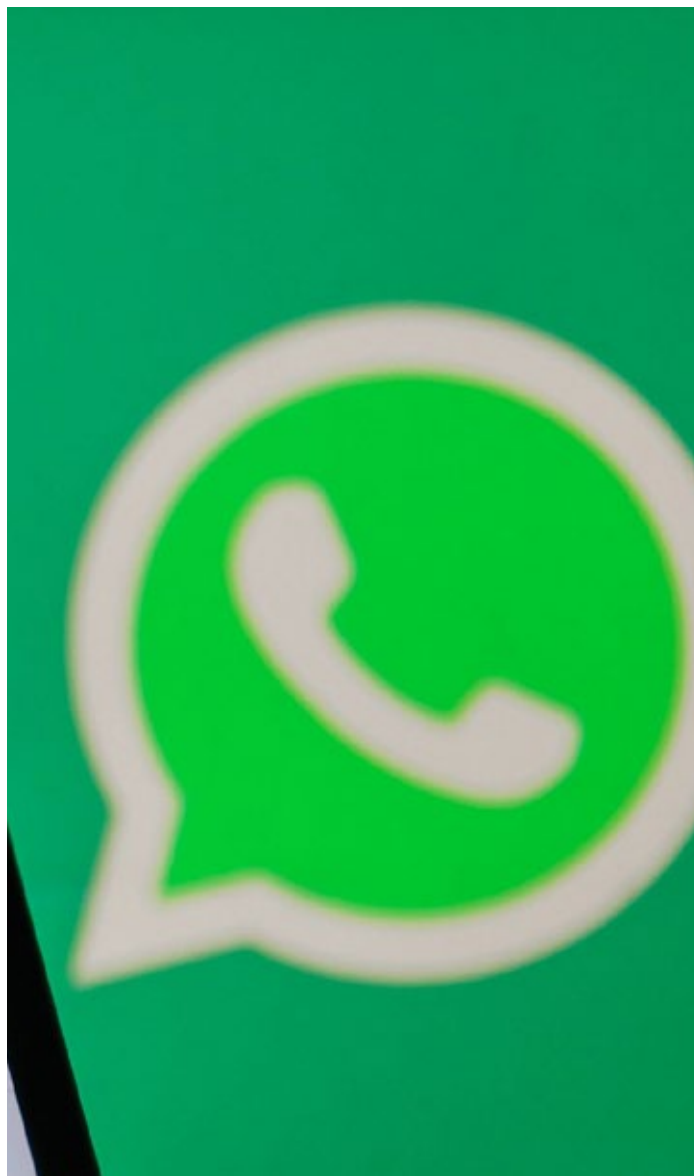
The Irish authority said that it would also order the messaging service to take remedial action to bring its data processing communication into compliance. This includes making it clearer how users can lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.

WhatsApp announced in an Irish regulatory filing in November it set aside 77.5 million euros to pay potential fines from at least two probes by Ireland's data-protection watchdog.

The European Data Protection Board, a panel of EU data authorities, said in a statement Thursday that it pushed for a higher privacy fine for WhatsApp leading to the penalty imposed by Ireland.

An initial draft of the fining decision by the Irish watchdog stumbled amid several objections by EU counterparts, including "the appropriateness of the envisaged corrective measures."

Thursday's fine also



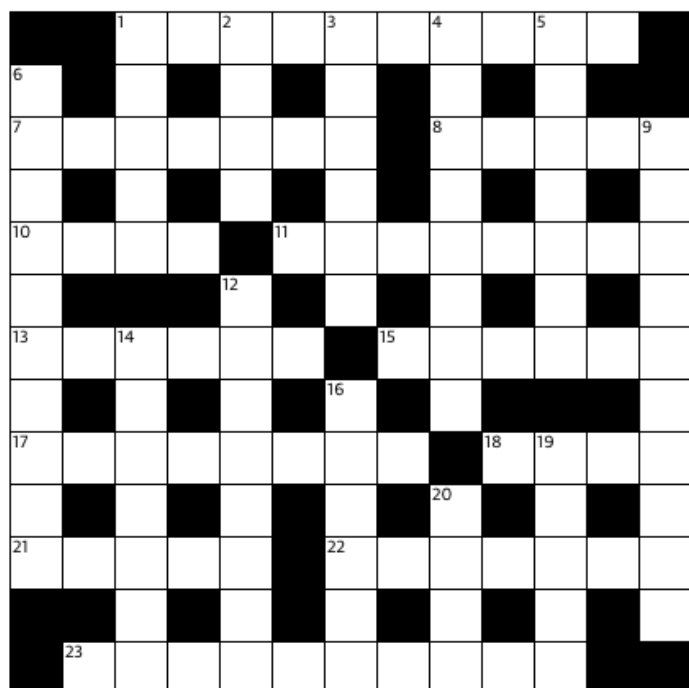
comes amid added pressure on WhatsApp over policy changes it announced in January. It was forced to delay the overhaul until May after a backlash from users and regulators over what data the messaging service collects and how it shares that information with its parent Facebook.

The European Data Protection Board, a panel of EU authori-

ties, said in July that Facebook's practices linked to WhatsApp data should be examined "as a matter of priority" by the Irish privacy watchdog. The Irish authority in turn said it would consider any regulatory follow-up where needed, but that its most advanced WhatsApp probe had already included "an in-depth inquiry into WhatsApp's privacy policy."

# QUICK CROSSWORD

Speedy crossword No 1,336



## Across

- 1 Literary assistant (10)
- 7 Miser (7)
- 8 Blade on car windscreen (5)
- 10 Temporary respite (4)
- 11 Scottish broadsword (8)
- 13 Free from an obligation (6)
- 15 Up to now (6)
- 17 Contradicted (8)
- 18 East Asian desert (4)
- 21 Spanish wine (5)
- 22 Staying power (7)
- 23 Patron, supporter (10)

## Down

- 1 Be of use (5)
- 2 Right-hand man (4)
- 3 Disorderly, uncontrollable (6)
- 4 Bride or groom (8)
- 5 Collapse inwards (7)
- 6 Contender (10)
- 9 Oratorical (10)
- 12 Renouncer of a belief (8)
- 14 Perfect example (7)
- 16 Post-prandial rest (6)
- 19 Willow used in basketwork (5)
- 20 Agreement, treaty (4)

**JCI**  
Antigua

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**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.

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

# Bethell to captain England U-19s against WI U-19s



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

**London** – Barbados-born left-handed spin bowling all-rounder Jacob Bethell was named co-captain of the England Under-19s for a six-match Youth One-day International series against West Indies Under-19s starting on Saturday.

Bethell, son of former Barbados Under-19 and Pickwick batsman Graham Bethell, was a member of the Barbados Under-15 team that won back-to-back West Indies junior championship titles in 2017 and 2018,

but his family has since migrated to the United Kingdom where he has continued to pursue the sport.

He is also the grandson of Arthur Bethell who played 16 matches for the senior Barbados side between 1963 and 1970.

Jacob Bethell went to England three years ago on a scholarship and is currently on the books at Warwickshire.

“Jacob Bethell and Tom Prest will share the captaincy throughout the series, which is a good

opportunity for them to develop their leadership skills,” England & Wales Cricket Board elite pathway coach Richard Dawson confirmed in a media release.

It is the first time the England Under-19s will be in action since the ICC Youth Cricket World Cup last year in South Africa.

Both England and West Indies will be using the series to prepare for the same tournament to be staged from January 4 to February 3 next year in the Caribbean. **(AR)**



# HAALAND 'BROKE VAN DIJK'S FINGER'

DURING NORWAY VS NETHERLANDS WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

*Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland tangled with Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk on a regular basis while on international duty in Oslo*

Erling Haaland revealed he “broke Virgil van Dijk’s finger” during the World Cup qualifying clash between Norway and the Netherlands on Wednesday.

The Borussia Dortmund striker tangled with the Liverpool defender on a regular basis as a 1-1 draw was played out in Oslo.

Haaland opened the

scoring before Norway were pegged back, and claims to have been responsible for a rival being forced to take a painful break early in the second half.

#### *What has been said?*

Haaland told TV2: “I think I broke Van Dijk’s finger. He came up to me and said, ‘Damn, I think you broke my finger.’ He’s good, so to speak. I

have no idea how it happened.”

#### *What happened to Van Dijk?*

Van Dijk was forced to the touchline shortly after the interval, clearly in some discomfort. He was checked over by the Dutch medical team who appeared to snap the little finger on his left hand back into place before taping the digits together.

The physio team announced afterwards that Van Dijk had broken no bones, and it is now reported that he suffered a dislocation.

Either way, no lasting damage has been suffered and the 30-year-old defender will be raring to go in the Netherlands’ upcoming home dates against Montenegro and Turkey.

# Sha'Carri Richardson returns to the track this weekend in Brussels

*Richardson will look for redemption at Brussels Diamond League after finishing last at the Pre Classic*

It has been confirmed that **Sha'Carri Richardson** will return to the Diamond League, racing the 200m today in Brussels, after all the drama that unfolded at her race in Eugene, in addition to missing the Olympic Games due to a suspension from USATF.

Richardson will go up against 200m specialist and 2019 world champion **Dina Asher-Smith** and the Namibian sprint duo of

**Beatrice Masilingi** and Tokyo silver medallist **Christine Mboma**.

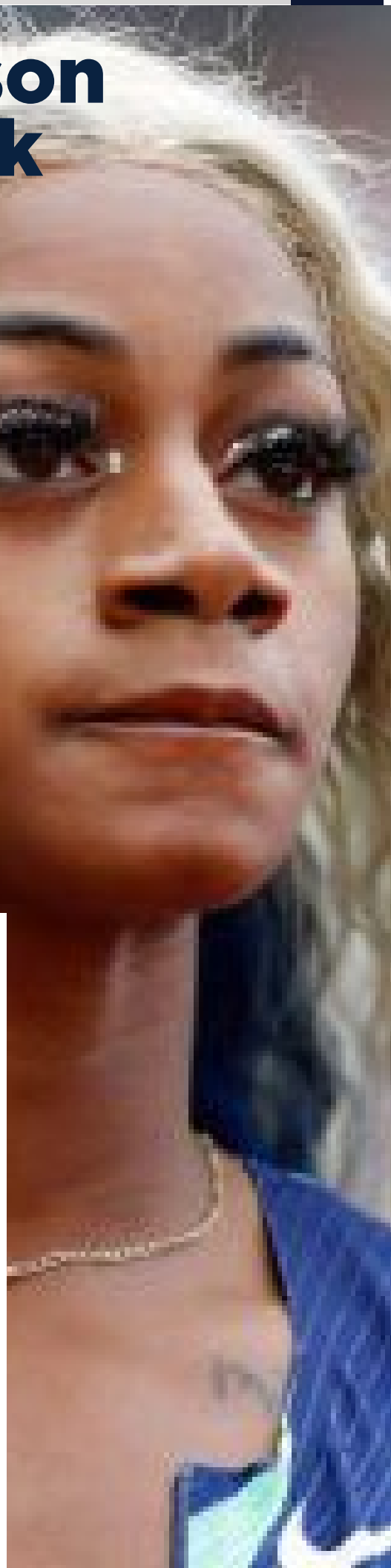
Jamaica's **Shericka Jackson** will also be in the race. Jackson won bronze in Tokyo in the 100m and

beat Richardson over the 100m distance in Eugene. Richardson dropped out of Eugene's 200m race before it began, as she was disappointed to fall short of expectations in the 100m.

This race will mark her third 200m race of the season. She last ran the event at Golden Spike Classic in Austria this past May (22.35s).

Brussels is the last stop on the Diamond League circuit before the two-day finals in Zurich next week.

Action from Brussels kicks off today at 10:00 a.m. local (Atlantic Standard) time.



# IS SHELLY-ANN FRASER PRYCE

## CONSIDERING COMPETING AT THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS?



In three years' time, the Paris 2024 Olympics will be taking place when Jamaican sprinter and the second-fastest woman alive, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, will be 37-years-old.

While there was been much speculation that the Tokyo Olympics would have been Fraser's Pryce's last one, it turns out she may not be ruling out Paris 2024 completely.

After blazing to a personal

best of 10.60 seconds to win the Athletissima meeting on August 26 in Switzerland, fans of the athlete have been trying to dissuade her from any plans she might have of putting up her spikes.

And it looks like it's working. On Tuesday, the Twitter account of Fraser-Pryce teased fans with a mischievous tweet.

"Paris 2024?" it read.

Immediately, her followers

threw their support behind her.

"Of course! Do for you. Do it for Zyon. Do it for Merlene. Do it for JamDown, but if you don't, the love and respect will always be there. #GuhHaadAndDone | See you in Paris," one replied.

"Yesss!! You are already a legend, but if you feel like you can, then we have the flags ready to support you 110%," another said.

**DEWS**