



MANDATORY VAX BEGINS MONDAY!

SEE PAGE 5

NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON! With bed capacity at the main Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) and the purpose-built Infectious Diseases Center (IDC) already strained to breaking point, repurposing of the National Technical Training Center (NTTC) to a new 75-bed additional healthcare facility could not wait another day to reinforce Antigua and Barbuda's determined fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Now named the Sir Cuthwyn Lake Medical Center, the ribbon cutting ceremony in this picture took place on Thursday at the formal opening. L-R: SLBMC Medical Director Dr. Albert Duncan, CMO Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas, Health & Wellness Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, and PM Gaston Browne. *(STORY ON PAGE 6-7)*

INSIDE: COVID cases keep going through the roof!
Working to preserve and resume the vital cruise tourism sector

Careful with the hypersensitivities about beach access!

Let us hope and pray that the tremendous courage and political will demonstrated by the Gaston Browne administration does not get bogged down in ambiguity, with resulting contentions, over the just-announced drastic curtailment in permitted daily hours of public access to the

nation's beaches.

There are already too many people sold on the belief that mandatory vaccination is tantamount to a declaration of war against their constitutional rights and God-given freedoms.

They surely do not need any further help in the form of free fuel

being provided for the fire of those bent on peddling the inciteful and inflammatory narrative about white hotel-dwelling stayover visitors who are granted every imaginable exemption of the stringent rules pertaining to human movement, interaction and enjoyment of our salubrious

domestic space – while locals are correspondingly restricted, prohibited and impounded at every turn and opportunity with punishments and threats of punishments constantly hanging over their heads.

It has never been easy – or perhaps even possible – to convince peo-



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ple of our history and experience that their government is in fact looking out for them, knowing the domestic economic limitations and paucity of options when we cannot respond to or deal with a challenge so monstrous as this COVID-19 pandemic.

The American, British or Canadian tourist – likely already covered by travel medical insurance – can so easily and quickly get medevac back to his or her home

country with top-of-the-line medical facilities, personnel and technology, paid for by the accumulated great wealth of those nations.

With us, however, it is almost always certain that our needs for medical care and insurance coverage will end up landing us – pathetically and mendicantly – on the doorstep of governments struggling to prevent the stitches popping from public purses that are already badly strained

and drained. Some of us may be familiar with instances in the now distant past when casinos were still a relatively unknown reality in our islands. Governments interested in exploring them as an economic diversification option often had to face the backlash of an entrenched cultural and religiously-driven conservatism that wanted to hear nothing about it. When the governments attempted a compromise by

offering to make the casinos off-limits to locals, we know the deafening howls of protests against such “blatant discrimination and apartheid”, etc.

We need the money that tourists bring – at no other time more badly and desperately as we do now. COVID is as bankrupting as it is enervating. The tourists will probably stop coming again, anyway, if things continue the way they are going – what with all the travel

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alerts and advisories from our source market countries; what with the specter of renewed lockdowns and border closures looming once more.

It may sound crass: But we cannot afford to chase them away before they stop coming of their own alarmed accord. If anything, the need is dire for us to earn as much as we can from them now while the flow of international travel and hospitality

continues to tick, even at a crawl.

To tell our stayover visitors – longing for a break from the pressure cooker strictures of heavily polluted industrialized mega-cities – that they are welcomed to Antigua and Barbuda as long as they comply with our Tropical Paradise version of prison camp (where access to our beaches is concerned) is a bit much to ask or expect.

And yet we have

asked and expect it of our people who will – as they always are – hypervigilant to so much as one instance of seeing visitors frolicking in our sea waters during the proscribed hours. The propagandists and inciters will quickly pounce and seize on it – replete with copious pictures and recordings – as proof undeniable of discrimination against and contempt for locals; of brown-nosing adulation for and

genuflecting to *'dem white people'*. The Government must make sure that this matter is quickly, comprehensively and satisfactorily clarified so that the always simmering – though frequently overplayed – disaffection about different strokes for differently endowed and differently colored folks from abroad will not mar or taint this potentially self-sacrificing act of immense political will.

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Official State Policy on the management of COVID-19 –

as determined by the Cabinet of Ministers on Wednesday 15 September 2021

With effect from Monday 20th September 2021 Cabinet agreed that ALL UNVACCINATED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES – TO INCLUDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE, STATUTORY CORPORATIONS AND COMPANIES IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OWNS MAJORITY SHARES – SHALL BE REQUIRED TO REMAIN AT HOME UNTIL PROOF OF VACCINATION IS PROVIDED.

WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST OCTOBER, 2021 THE FOLLOWING MEASURES SHALL TAKE EFFECT:

ALL UNVACCINATED PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES – INCLUSIVE OF STATUTORY CORPORATIONS AND COMPANIES OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOLDS MAJORITY SHARES – SHALL BE REQUIRED TO REMAIN AT HOME UNTIL PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION.

AS OF 1ST OCTOBER 2021, NO PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES – INCLUSIVE OF STATUTORY CORPORATIONS AND COMPANIES OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOLDS MAJORITY SHARES – SHALL BE PAID A SALARY OR WAGE FOR THE PERIOD OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE CURRENT POLICY;

ALL OFFICERS AND SUPPORT STAFF OF THE ROYAL POLICE FORCE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AND THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEFENCE FORCE ARE REQUIRED TO BE VACCINATED, EFFECTIVE 1ST OCTOBER 2021;

Trade unions and employee associations shall be permitted to conduct educational awareness sessions via virtual and face-to-face engagements. All COVID-19 protocols shall be strictly observed;

ALL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 TO RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES;

ALL PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED BEFORE RETURNING TO FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES;

ALL CAREGIVERS AND SUPPORT STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED TO PROVIDE SERVICES AT ELDERLY CARE FACILITIES;

ALL ARRIVING PASSENGERS – INCLUDING RETURNING NATIONALS AND RESIDENTS – ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST THE FIRST DOSE OF A VACCINE APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA;

INFORMAL/PUBLIC GATHERINGS TO BE RESTRICTED TO MEMBERS OF THE SAME HOUSEHOLD;

BEACHES TO BE CLOSED BETWEEN 12 NOON AND 5:00 A.M. DAILY COMMENCING 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021;

BUS DRIVERS, CONDUCTORS AND TAXI DRIVERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE VACCINATED EFFECTIVE 1ST OCTOBER 2021; FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE CURRENT POLICY WILL RESULT IN RESTRICTIONS TO OPERATE;

ALL PLEASURE CRAFT FETES, PARTIES AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS, AND EXCURSIONS AROUND THE COASTAL WATERS AND OFFSHORE ISLANDS ARE SUSPENDED WITH EFFECT FROM 18TH SEPTEMBER UNTIL 29TH SEPTEMBER 2021. THEREAFTER, ONLY AUTHORIZED EXCURSION WILL PERMITTED BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES;

ALL VENDORS, MERCHANTS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND STAFF OPERATING AT THE PORTS OF ENTRY ARE REQUIRED TO BE VACCINATED;

The Appropriate Authority may exempt the following: Persons submitting a medical certificate approved by the Chief Medical Officer or Medical Board, or a request approved on religious grounds;

Authorized Remote Workers (Public Sector, Statutory Corporations and companies with majority government ownership) between 20th September and 1st October 2021.

All persons exempted under this policy are required to produce a negative COVID-19 test twice monthly;

Minor children (below 18 years of age) arriving at a port of entry in Antigua and Barbuda;

Given the overwhelming epidemiological situation at this time, EMPLOYEES OF THE SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE AND COMMUNITY CLINICS ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS POLICY FOR THIS PERIOD;

Until Cabinet is advised by health officials that the COVID-19 situation is under control, these policies affecting unvaccinated public workers entering ... Government [places of employment] shall remain in effect. A precise date for the end of these announced policies is therefore not yet determined.

The withdrawal of the previously announced testing option is determined by both the number of testing kits available and the number of personnel available to undertake the tests of the several hundred unvaccinated government-paid workers. The vaccination centers, on the other hand, can provide the requisite number of jabs of the unvaccinated employees by September 30, 2021.

Nugent Avenue facility named in honour of Dr. Cuthwyn Lake



More than just a façade: The new Sir Cuthwyn Lake Medical Center has now been outfitted and ready to become operational.

A 70-bed respiratory treatment center was handed over to the Ministry of Health Wellness & the Environment on Thursday by the Ministry of Works, following extensive refurbishment of the building.

Located on Lady Nugent Avenue, the building once housed the National Technical Training Center (NTTC), but is now the Sir Cuthwyn Lake Medical Center, named in honour of the retired surgeon who also served as Medical Superintendent of Holberton Hospital.

At Thursday's ceremony, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph said the new facility is a boost for the healthcare system

that is now under strain with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As a result of today's opening, we will now have another 70 or so additional beds in addition to the 185 at the Sir Lester Bird MSJMC and, by weekend, the additional two floors will be equipped to handle even more patients. It is just for us to put certain things in place," Sir Molwyn disclosed.

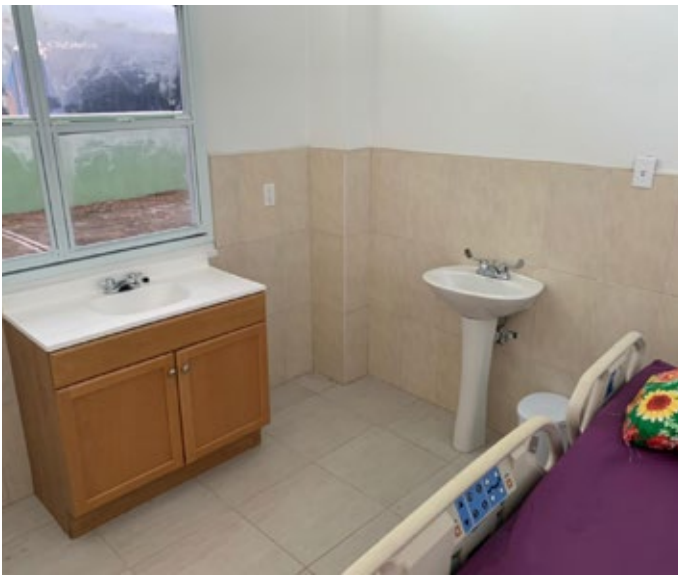
While the government is putting mechanisms in place to deal with the pandemic, there is an appeal from Sir Molwyn to those who are unvaccinated to inoculate as a form of protection from the virus. The health minister maintains that being

vaccinated makes a major difference and will aid in preventing a collapse of the system.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas told the handover ceremony that the prevalence of respiratory illness is reason enough for the establishment of such a facility.

Sir Cuthwyn served as chief surgeon at the former Holberton hospital for many years.

Pointe Xpress treats our readers to an extensive set of photographs of the new medical center that were conveyed to us on Thursday by the Minister of Works, Hon. Lennox Weston.



Returning nationals required to show proof of vaccination; some public health facility workers granted temporary vaccination waivers

by Shelton Daniel

In what some may see as a departure from Government's hitherto firm policy that returning nationals should in no way be prevented or restricted from re-entering their country, Cabinet's new policy for the management of COVID-19 now includes at least partial vaccination as a condition to get back home.

Unveiled following the latest weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 15 September 2021, it was announced, among many other things, that "all arriving passengers—including returning nationals and residents—are required to have received at least the first dose of a vaccine approved by the appropriate authorities in Antigua and Barbuda."

Government has been assured by regional law experts that this new policy stance is constitutionally sustainable and capable of withstanding being tested in courts of law.

Information Minister Melford Nicholas was asked about the practical implementation of this policy, including whether it meant that an unvaccinated returning national could be refused entry into his or her own country.

During the weekly post-Cabinet media briefing on Thursday morn-



ing, Nicholas said it would, in practice, never be allowed to reach that stage.

"We will notify all of our partners, and so it will be uploaded with our travel advisory through IATA [International Air Transportation Association] ... so that the airline will not allow them to board, except they can present proof of vaccination – at least the first dose ... We have to take these strong measures ... It goes for both tourists and for nationals and returning residents alike."

Nicholas also took time to elaborate on an item in the latest policy declaration which states that "employees of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and community clinics are exempt from this policy for this period."

He explained that it indeed refers to "the policy of asking persons who are unvaccinated to not repair for work on Monday.

"So the persons who are working in the healthcare facilities at [Sir Lester Bird Medical Center], there may be a number of persons – including the ancillary staff – who are still hesitant and who have not taken the vaccine; we have to have an all-hands-on-deck in that particular environment, and we felt it prudent not to impose those conditions, lest we end up with a situation where we have critical shortages of critical persons who are necessary to provide the adequate healthcare."

Nicholas hastened to add that this did not equate to the authorities "turning a blind eye to non-compliance; but because the numbers would be smaller to work with, we are prepared to have some individual engagements with those particular persons over the period of time to ensure that they too can move towards 100 percent compliance."



COVID Dashboard Update for September 16, 2021

The most recent reports received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) revealed 159 new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 13th September 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

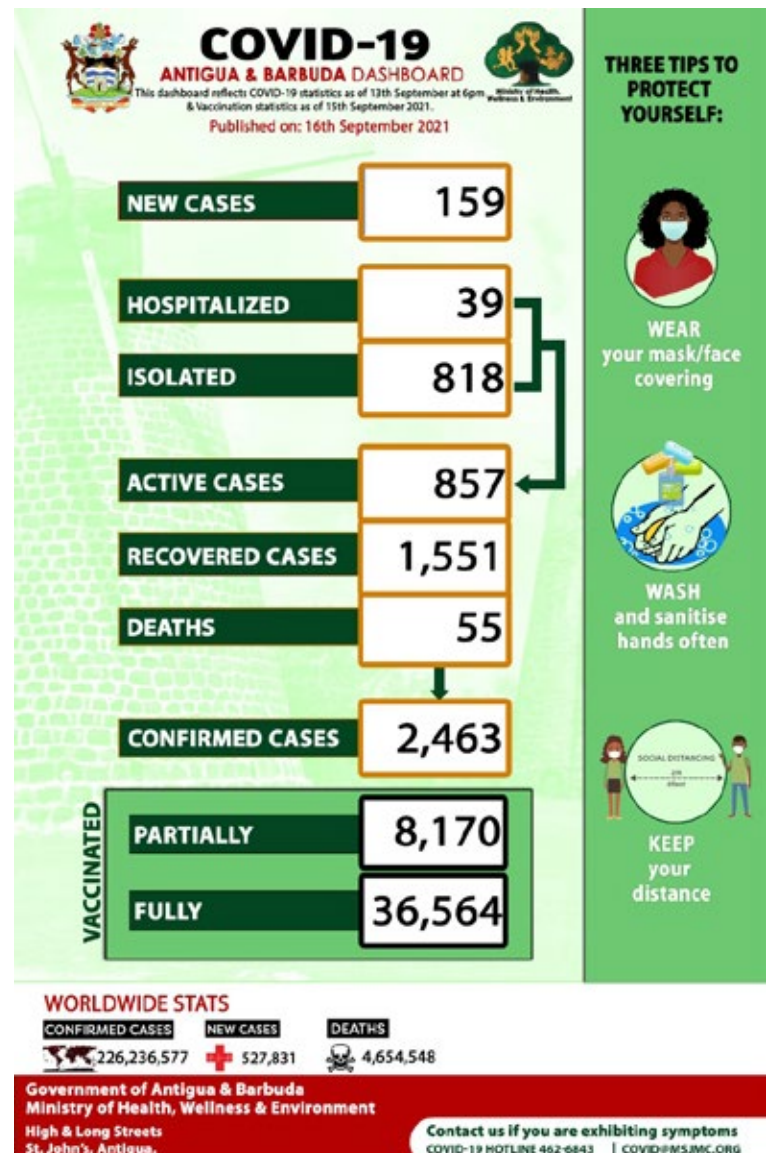
One hundred and one (101) samples were processed at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and 240 were processed by CARPHA.

Thirty-five (35) recovered cases were recorded, increasing the total to 1,551. Seven (7)

COVID-19 related deaths were recorded; four (4) on September 13th and three (3) on September 14th, increasing the total to 55. Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 2,463; which is inclusive of 857 active cases. There are 39 hospitalized cases; 18 mild, 15 moderate, and six (6) severe.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 36,564 individuals, while 8,170 have only received their first dose.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.





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Antigua and Barbuda withdraws from hosting CARIFESTA XV

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in consultation with the CARICOM Secretariat, wishes to advise that a difficult decision has been taken to officially withdraw from hosting CARIFESTA XV, originally scheduled for August 2022.

This decision comes in light of the continued challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its prolonged devastating impact, not only on the economy of Antigua and Barbuda, but also on the entire Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The Minister responsible for Education, Sports & the Creative Industries, Honourable Daryll

Matthew made the announcement: “After a careful examination of the current epidemiological and economic circumstances which now exist, this difficult decision was taken by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. We are tremendously saddened by this development and reiterate our commitment to this very important regional festival.”

The Minister Matthew was supported by Dr. Carla N. Barnett, CARICOM’s Secretary-General, who conveyed her support in response to the decision of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in withdrawing from hosting the 15th edition of CARIFESTA.

She further stated that CARICOM is grateful to Prime Minister Gaston Browne – and, by extension, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda – for the enthusiasm, commitment to regional integration through culture and, most importantly, the preparatory work over the last year-and-a-half.

Dr. Barnett closed by expressing that – while the decision may not have been easy – CARICOM is still anticipating that another opportunity will present itself in the future for Antigua and Barbuda to host this renowned Caribbean festival.



Enhanced safety measures to ensure that cruise tourism sector remains open

by Shelton Daniel

Five officials from Global Port Holding (GPH) and the Ministry of Tourism were invited to Cabinet to address the challenges associated with re-commencing the cruise tourism sector that has essentially been closed for 18 months.

This is according to the weekly post-Cabinet communications issued on Thursday morning via official briefing notes from the

Prime Minister's chief-of-staff, and the subsequent live press conference hosted by Information Minister Melford Nicholas.

"There is a schedule of 85 ship-calls between September and December 2021, including the OASIS Class ships utilizing the new berth on the northernmost border of the harbour," the notes state.

"We had two presentations from the mining company Blue Oceans Marine and, of

course, GPH regarding the remaining work that is to be done at the port and ... the readiness for an opening and receiving of the OASIS Class ships in December," Nicholas disclosed.

He said both presentations went well, "and clearly we have a further engagement with GPH with regard to the next level for the return of the cruise industry. We were advised that there were several calls that are on slate for the remaining portion of this

Cont'd on pg 10

month, but we will certainly be looking forward to as many as 183 calls by the end of this year, including the maiden voyage of an OASIS Class ship to Antigua – subject to the completion of the channel that is now being dredged by Blue Oceans Marine.”

Describing this an “important development”, Nicholas said it should be appreciated “in the context of what now befalls us in relation to a most consequential set of decisions that we had to take yesterday [during the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 15 September 2021] ... with respect to COVID, the challenge that it continues to impose on us,

and what we must ... do between now and the end of the year to ensure that we can get beyond the current discontinuities caused by COVID and get into next year with new hope, a new focus, a new energy, to be able to restore the economy, to get persons back to work, and to ensure that we can continue to protect and secure our livelihoods.”

According to the pre-circulated notes, “20,000 people in Antigua and Barbuda depend upon the cruise industry, directly and indirectly ...”

It said the GPH official explained that safety onboard the vessels has been increased, with the application of three

measures: [passenger carrying] capacity reduced by 40 percent; onboard air quality improved by adjustment of “certain configurations”; and significant improvement in hand hygiene.

Further, the Cab-

inet was assured, two doctors and four nurses are available on every cruise vessel; exceptional protocols are enforced onboard; and what has been described as “very useful meetings with taxi drivers” have been held.

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DR. MASERATI **SENATOR COLIN BROWNE**

Top primary school achievers receive Android tablets from charity organisation



Shala Williams and Emari John receive their Android tablets from Mr. Colin James.

Four students who successfully completed their primary education have been awarded Android tablets to assist them with their secondary schooling.

The quartet have been recognised by Colin James, president and founder of the Helping Hand Foundation, a community-based organisation which

provides assistance in education, sports, culture and health.

Athaliah Teague, an alumnus of the Charlesworth T. Samuel School in John Hughes; Emari John and Blessings Joseph who went to Buckleys Primary; and Shala Williams, who attended J.T. Ambrose Primary, were the recipients of the devices which will as-

sist with their remote learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another top student, Wayneika Challenger, had already received hers during the Buckleys school graduation in June.

Mr. James, who conceptualized and formed the HHF since 2015 as part of his efforts to give-back to the commu-

nities, said he was honoured and delighted to make the presentation of the tablets.

He said he sourced the devices through donations from businesses and individuals who have been assisting the HHF since its inception, and expressed heartfelt gratitude for their investment in the future minds of Antigua & Barbuda.

Mr. James said he hopes the tablets will inspire and motivate the students to strive for more educational success during their five-year secondary stint.

Three of the recipients – Athaliah, Shyla and Blessings – will be attending the Antigua Girls High School, while Emari goes to the Antigua Grammar School.

The presentation ceremony took place on Sunday 12 September 2021 at the Tyrells Roman Catholic Church Hall, attended by parents, a principal and a teacher.

A similar presentation will be made shortly to students who graduated from the Old Road Primary school.



Another Deep Water Harbour drug bust

Cannabis valued at EC\$77,600.00 was seized by Police and Customs during an anti-narcotics operation at Deep Water Harbour on Wednesday 15th September.

The contraband weighed a total of 9.5 pounds and was discovered inside two barrels of food items.

The substance was taken to Police Headquarters as further investigations continue.



On the heels of COVID, climate change swings a wrecking ball



By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)

(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)

The public health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has rightly focused the attention and resources of governments

around the world on suppressing and containing it.

The cause has been made more costly and more prolonged by those who resist inoculating themselves against a disease that has officially infected 227 million people world-

wide, killing 4.7 million of them. Estimates of under-reporting in many regions put the death rate, more realistically, at seven million.

While governments – particularly those in small countries with scarce human and financial resources – have been concentrating on getting out of the trap of the COVID-19 pandemic, the persistent and pervasive threat of climate change has been growing alarmingly.

The entire world is now faced with the troubling prospects of long periods of extreme heat; prolonged periods of drought followed by devastating floods and overflowing rivers; severely reduced agricultural production, leading to food shortages; increases in vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever; grave water shortages; and

hugely increased costs of energy.

All this will impact businesses of all kinds, causing closures, unemployment, poverty expansion, and greater hordes of refugees and migration than we have seen so far.

A new study, conducted by the prestigious Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) in London, paints a grim picture of the prospects for the next 30 years, unless greenhouse gas (CO₂) emissions are significantly reduced by the world's biggest polluters. These include the United States, China, India, the European Union (EU), and Canada.

The figures, produced by authoritative research, reveal that global efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions are dangerously off track.

One of the troubling observations is that while, in

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2019, a potential 300 billion working hours were lost due to temperature increases globally – 52 percent more than in 2000 – COVID-19 resulted in around 580 billion lost working hours in 2020. Therefore, “Temperature increases are already resulting in the equivalent of over 50 percent of COVID-19-induced lost working hours.”

Worryingly, the report concludes that if emissions follow the trajectory set by the reduction commitments made by countries, there is a less than one percent chance of reaching the 1.5°C Paris Agreement target.

Caribbean islands and continental countries, such as Belize and Guyana, with low-lying coasts would feel the full brunt of this pending disaster. Here are some of the findings in the report.

Death by heat waves

Globally, heat-related mortality has increased by nearly 54 percent in persons over-65 in the past two decades, reaching 296,000 deaths in 2018. If emissions do not come down drastically before 2030, then, by 2040, 3.9 billion people are likely to experience major heatwaves.

Insecurity by food depletion

In recent years, region-

al drought and heatwaves have caused 20 to 50 percent crop harvest losses. The global food crisis of 2007-2008 led to a doubling of global food prices, export bans, food insecurity for importers, social unrest, and mass protests in many countries.

Death and destruction by floods

By 2040, almost 700 million people each year will likely be exposed to prolonged severe droughts of at least six months’ duration. One billion people now occupy land less than 10 metres above current high tide lines. In 2020 there were 23 percent more floods than the annual average of 163 events in 2000–2019, and 18 percent more flood deaths than the annual average of 5,233 deaths.

Vector diseases increase

Experts are concerned that climate change is likely to increase the prevalence of emerging infectious diseases and vector-borne diseases.

They argue that climate change disrupts ecosystems and increases the risk of diseases jumping to new hosts. Scientists have been warning for many years of the probability of pandemics increasing as a result of climate change.

In 2008, a study published in the journal *Nature* found that, over the previous decade, nearly one-third of emerging infectious diseases were vector-borne, with the jumps to humans corresponding to changes in the climate. For instance, insects such as infection-bearing mosquitoes follow changing geographic temperature patterns. Nine of the 10 most suitable years for the transmission of dengue fever have occurred since 2000.

Interconnected crises

According to the RIIA report, interconnections between shifting weather patterns resulting in changes to ecosystems and the rise of pests and diseases, combined with heatwaves and drought, will likely drive unprecedented crop failure, food insecurity and migration of people.

All this, the report argues, could result in the potential breakdown of governance and political systems as societies become increasingly unstable due to lack of income as well as competition over limited food supplies.

The report says that experts are concerned that such situations could lead to a rise of extremist groups, paramilitary intervention, organized vi-

olence, and conflict between people and states.

Vulnerable states must stand united

Caribbean governments have to remain focused on the clear and present danger of the COVID-19 pandemic that is strangling their countries; but no resident of the region should take their eye off the pendulum that is swinging the dangerous climate change wrecking ball.

At the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow at the end of October, representatives of vulnerable countries—in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean – must make it clear to the governments of highly emitting countries that their profligacy must not continue. If – and only if – these vulnerable countries have the courage to stand together, using their collective leverage, do they have a chance of causing the urgent change necessary to the policies and practices of the big polluters.

The alarm bell has been rung in the RIIA’s expert report, and it sounds a death knell for small states. It should be heeded.

Responses and previous commentaries:
www.sirronaldsanders.com

Belize reporting more cases of virulent Newcastle Disease

Loop Caribbean - Belize said that it has notified the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of two outbreaks of Virulent Newcastle Disease in backyard poultry in at least two districts here.

In a joint statement issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise (MAFSE) and the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), they said disease investigations were conducted after farmers reported high mortality in their backyard poultry.

BAHA's Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory detected the virulent Newcastle Disease virus in samples submitted. These findings were confirmed by an OIE reference laboratory in Ames, Iowa, in the United States, the statement noted.

It said that following confirmation and notification, an Emergency Task Force has been activated to develop and implement control measures. The task force includes representatives from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Belize

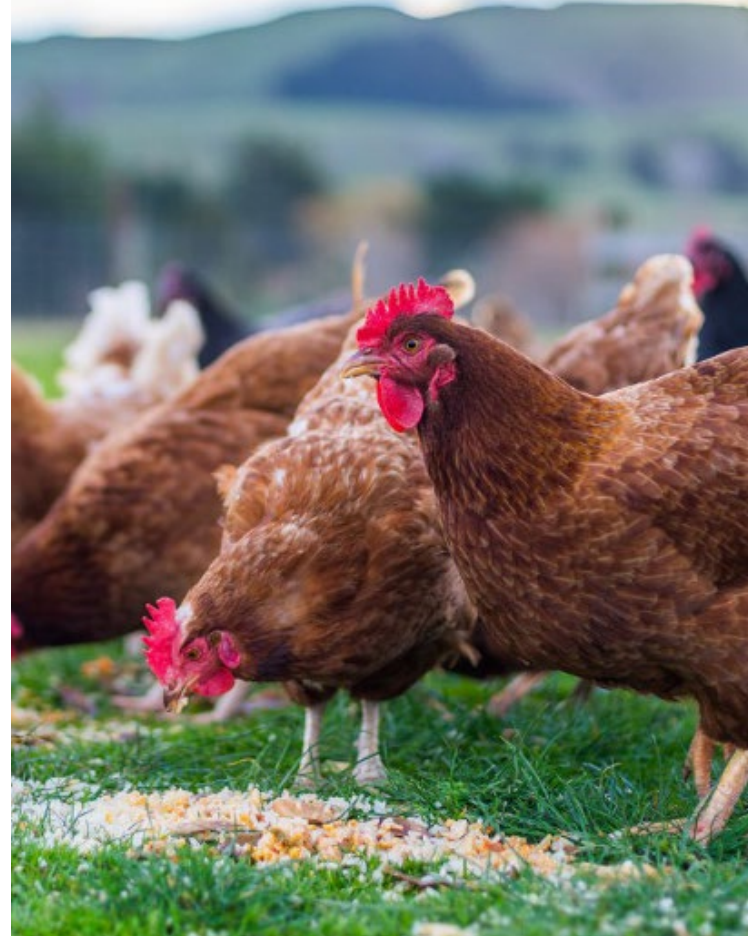
Poultry Association (BPA).

"Virulent Newcastle Disease is not a food safety concern. No human cases of Newcastle Disease have ever occurred from eating poultry products. Properly cooked poultry products are safe to eat. In very rare instances, people working directly with sick birds can become infected.

"The most common sign of infection in humans is a transient, non-life-threatening, non-debilitating conjunctivitis which usually develops within a day after eye exposure," the joint statement noted.

It said the Toledo District and Belize City have been declared as infected areas and movement of poultry and poultry products from these infected areas is prohibited.

"In-transit movement of poultry, poultry products and by-products through Belize City requires a Movement Permit from BAHA. A vaccination and communication campaign [has] been launched," the statement said, adding that farmers are requested to report any



high mortality in poultry to the relevant authorities.

It said poultry infected with Newcastle Disease virus may show – along with high mortality – swollen head, especially around the eyes; tearing, and green diarrhoea.

"It is essential that all poultry owners follow good biosecurity practices to help protect their birds from infectious diseases. These include simple measures such as washing hands and scrubbing boots before and after enter-

ing a fowl coop or barn; cleaning and disinfecting tires and equipment before moving them off the property, separating sick birds, and vaccination."

The statement said vaccination as an emergency control measure will be implemented in infected and control areas, and that vaccines for backyard poultry in the rest of the country will subsequently be made available through commercial outlets.

No quick fix for regional economies, says IDB



Economists Henry Mooney and David Rosenblatt.

Barbados Today - As Barbados intensifies its COVID-19 vaccination programme, two economists from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) strongly suggest that the region's economic recovery will depend heavily on countries' ability to test their populations and providing access to vaccines, particularly for frontline workers.

In the IDB's latest Quarterly Bulletin, economists Henry Mooney and David Rosenblatt examine the topic: How Rapidly Can Caribbean Economies Recover?

Noting the importance of access to vaccines for workers in tourism and tourism-related activities, they cautioned that availability of timely COVID-19 testing was also key to returning the countries to some level of normalcy.

"Given these and many other complex factors affecting the recovery, considerable uncertainty remains," they added. According to Mooney and Rosenblatt, per capita income recovery was a good measure of return to positive economic place.

"While other measures are important, few indicators are better able to capture the impact of the shock on citizens.

"Based on the latest available data and projections, only Guyana saw positive real per capita GDP growth in 2020 relative to 2019, owing to the start of production at its considerable oil discoveries."

All other countries, including Barbados, for which data was available, registered declines in per capita income. The IDB officials were especially concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic's implications for public debt, as countries' debt-to-GDP ratios climbed dramatically.

In the case of Barbados, the multilateral financial institution pointed out: "The increase in the debt ratio is mainly driven by the contraction in GDP, which was responsible for 78 percent of the increase in the pre-COVID debt ratio.

The pandemic conditions have resulted in the government meeting rising financing needs with a combination of external borrowing (from international financial institutions) and the issuance of a 2021 domestic bond known as the Barbados Optional Savings Scheme (BOSS) scheme."

Barbados was among those countries registering double digit increases in their debt positions.

Looking forward, the IDB noted that a key question which remained was whether the pandemic will have a lasting impact on public balance sheets.

And on this score, the institution said, "uncertainty remains". Barbados is among those countries expected to register an improvement in the debt situation, but for many other regional neighbours, the debt positions are expected to worsen.

On the question of the Caribbean vital financial sector the IDB pointed out: "The shock to most sectors of Caribbean economies has been considerable, which has translated into stresses affecting financial systems and markets."

On the flip side, the institution stressed that, for the most part, financial systems in Caribbean nations were well capitalized entering the crisis, but non-performing loans had increased to double digit shares of the total loans in several countries.

Return on assets and return on equity in the financial sector fell. And, in response, regional central banks have lowered reserve requirements for deposit taking institutions, among other measures.

Jamaica cops face disciplinary action over 'gunman shift' social media posts

Jamaica Observer —

Several cops are now facing disciplinary action for their alleged involvement in a new social media craze which involves uniformed personnel lip-syncing and dancing to dancehall artiste Skeng's popular breakout hit, 'Gunman Shift', the number one streamed song in Jamaica for the past two weeks.

Head of the Jamaica Constabulary Force's Corporate Communications Unit (CCU), Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Stephanie Lindsay, confirmed that the cops were being penalised for their performance videos on TikTok, the video-sharing social media platform.

"A couple of videos with officers on TikTok were sent to IPROB and the officers are facing disciplinary action," she told OBSERVER ONLINE.

Lindsay declined to say how many cops were involved in the disciplinary probe at the Inspectorate and Professional Standards Oversight Bureau (IPROB), formerly the Inspectorate of Constabulary.

The new craze involves videos of police officers posted on TikTok – dressed in full uniform with their badge numbers visible and armed with assault rifles – lip-syncing the popular song. One video showed



two females lip-syncing to a violence-glorifying song while brandishing government-issued rifles, and another male cop dancing sans gun in what appeared to be his living room under a TikTok account @christophergordon666.

The lyrics are: *Intellectual murda people edition/Cock and fyah full a gun like Remington/Fully charge up eager fi kill a man/Ratty gang fimi gang p**sy run up if yuh bad/Kryptonite caah mi nuh duh di muscle fight/Inna di miggie a di night wi mek di*

place get noisy.

Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson, disclosed in a virtual press conference that he was concerned about the new development.

"When you listen to the lyrics of the songs being played in the background of the video, it wasn't consistent with what we would expect or anyone would expect from our police officers. We also saw that in the videos the police officers had weapons on them, and that's certainly

not the image we would expect of our officers," he stated.

The top cop disclosed that people who appeared in videos will have to undergo remedial training if they are going to remain in the organisation, so that they are better 'aligned' with the best values of the JCF.

He revealed that the Police High Command has published guidelines in the Force Orders setting out how the issue will be dealt with going forward.

Cuba publishes family code that opens door for gay marriage

Reuters – Cuba published a long-awaited draft of a new family code on Wednesday that would open the door to gay marriage if approved, in a move that LGBT rights activists applauded cautiously as they remained wary of whether it would actually be implemented.

The new code defines marriage as the “voluntary union of two people” without specifying gender, as opposed to the current definition as the “union of a man and woman.”

The draft still needs to go to a grassroots debate, however, and will then be amended to take into account citizens’ opinions before going to a referendum. Activists fear the commission charged with it could relent under pushback from religious groups and those who prefer traditional machismo culture.

They say the government should not have stipulated a referendum on what are fundamental human rights. The government says it wants to build rather than force acceptance of change.

In 2018 the government decided to withdraw an amendment to Cuba’s new constitution that would have opened the door to same-sex unions after campaigning by evangelical churches.

“The blueprint for the family code is everything one could have hoped for,” said Maykel Gonzalez Vivero, director of Tremenda Nota, a digital magazine that focuses on women, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender



(LGBT) community and the Black community.

“It took a long time and there was no transparency in its interminable process of nearly 15 years. But it’s there.”

Cuba, which sent gays to correctional labor camps in the early years after its 1959 leftist revolution, made considerable

advances in LGBT rights in the 2000s and 2010s, despite the widespread persistence of machismo.

The island nation introduced the right to free sex reassignment surgery, banned workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and started holding annual marches against ho-

mophobia – Cuba’s equivalent of gay pride.

Many members of the LGBT community say, however, they have been frustrated by a slowdown in the pace of change in recent years while a handful of other Latin American countries have moved forward with approving gay marriage.

China denounces US-UK-Australia pact as irresponsible

BBC - China has criticised an historic security pact between the US, UK and Australia, describing it as “extremely irresponsible” and “narrow-minded”.

The deal will see the US and UK give Australia the technology to build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

It is being widely viewed as an effort to counter China's influence in the contested South China Sea.

The region has been a flashpoint for years and tensions there remain high.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the alliance risked “severely damaging regional peace... and intensifying the arms race”.

He criticised what he called “the obsolete Cold War... mentality” and warned the three countries were “hurting their own interests”.

Chinese state media carried similar editorials denouncing the pact, and one in the *Global Times* newspaper said Australia had now “turned itself into an adversary of China”.

The US is sharing its submarine technology

for the first time in 50 years, having previously only shared it with the UK.

It means Australia will now be able to build nuclear-powered submarines that are faster and harder to detect than conventionally powered fleets. They can stay submerged for months and shoot missiles longer distances – although Australia says it has no intention of putting nuclear weapons on them.

The new partnership, under the name Aukus, was announced in a joint virtual press conference between US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and their Australian counterpart Scott Morrison on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

While China was not mentioned directly, the three leaders referred repeatedly to regional security concerns which they said had “grown significantly”.

“This is an historic opportunity for the three nations, with like-minded allies and partners, to protect shared values and promote security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region,” a joint statement read.



Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies

BBC

The Aukus alliance is probably the most significant security arrangement between the three nations since World War Two, analysts say.

It means Australia will become just the seventh nation in the world to operate nuclear-powered submarines.

While they are the big-ticket item in the deal, cyber capabilities and other undersea technologies will also be shared.

“This really shows that all three nations are drawing a line in the sand to start and counter [China's] aggressive moves,” said Guy Boekenstein from the Asia Society Australia.

Boris Johnson later said the pact would “preserve security and stability around the world” and generate “hundreds of high-skilled jobs”.

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace told the BBC

that China was “embarking on one of the biggest military spends in history... Our partners in those regions want to be able to stand their own ground.”

In recent years, Beijing has been accused of raising tensions in disputed territories such as the South China Sea.

It has been increasingly assertive over what it says are centuries-old rights to the contested region, and has been rapidly building up its military presence to back up those claims.

The US has bolstered its military presence too, and has been investing heavily in other partnerships in the region such as with Japan and South Korea.

Having the submarines stationed in Australia is critical to US influence in the region, analysts say.

Italian government makes Covid-19 health pass mandatory for all workers



REUTERS - The Italian government on Thursday approved some of the strictest anti-COVID measures in the world, making it obligatory for all workers either to show proof of vaccination, a negative test, or recent recovery from infection.

The new rules will come into force on Oct. 15 in the latest effort by Prime Minister Mario Draghi's broad coalition to persuade people to get inoculated and blunt contagion in one of the countries worst-hit by the virus.

Any worker who fails to present a valid health certificate will be suspended on no pay, but cannot be sacked, according to a draft of the decree seen by Reuters. The full details are due to be published later.

People who ignore the decree and go to work, regardless, will face a fine of between 600 to 1,500 euros (\$705 to \$1,175).

While some European Union (EU) states have ordered their health workers to get vaccines,

none have made the Green Pass mandatory for all employees, making Italy a test case for the continent.

The pass was originally conceived to ease travel around Europe, but Italy was among a group of countries that swiftly also made it a requirement for those wanting to access venues such as museums, gyms and indoor dining in restaurants.

There have been sporadic protests in Italy in recent weeks against the growing pressure to get a job, but most political parties as well as the main employers' federation have backed the move, hoping it will prevent further economic lockdowns.

Union leaders have been more lukewarm, saying tests should be given freely to workers who refuse to be vaccinated, enabling them to remain on the job.

Officials say that would encourage people to continue shunning vaccines. However, a government source said the cabi-

net would keep a firm lid on prices for tests, imposing a maximum fee of 15 euros for adults.

Italy has the second-highest COVID-19 death toll in Europe after Britain, with more than 130,000 people dying of the disease since the pandemic surfaced in early 2020.

Around 74% of its 60-million-strong population have had at least one COVID-19 shot and 68% are fully vaccinated, figures broadly in line with most other EU countries.

Underscoring the importance of jabs, Italy's health foundation Gimbe said in a report on Thursday that almost all COVID-19 sufferers currently in hospital are unvaccinated.

The report said vaccines had helped reduce deaths in Italy by 96.3%, hospitalisations by 93.4%, and intensive care admissions by 95.7%.

Italy in March ordered health workers to get vaccinated or face suspension. As of today, 728 doctors have been suspended, the doctors' federation said on Thursday. It was not immediately clear how many nurses or carers had refused to comply.

A similar measure in France came into force on Wednesday. Health Minister Olivier Veran said on Thursday that around 3,000 health workers had been suspended for their failure to get vaccinated.

NYC's Rikers Island jail spirals into chaos amid pandemic

(AP) — A spate of inmate deaths. Cellblocks unguarded. Staggering staffing shortages caused by AWOL guards. Detainees deprived of food and medical care.

New York City's notorious Rikers Island jail complex, troubled by years of neglect, has spiraled into turmoil during the coronavirus pandemic. It's not just inmates and advocates saying that. City officials, including the mayor, admit there are serious problems.

One jail watchdog called it "a complete breakdown in the operation of the jails".

"In our office's 50 years of monitoring the city jails, this is one of the most dangerous times we've seen," said Mary Lynne Werlwas, a lawyer and the director of the Prisoners' Rights Project at the Legal Aid Society.

At one point during the summer, more than one-third of the city's jail guards — about 3,050 of 8,500 — were on sick leave or medically unfit to work with inmates, according to the agency that runs the city's jails, the De-



partment of Correction. Some guards have been missing shifts without any explanation.

The growing crisis, brought to light in recent weeks by advocates, news reports and a federal monitor who wrote of "grave concerns" with the city's jails, has sent officials scrambling for remedies amid plans to close Rikers by 2026.

Mayor Bill de Blasio this week unveiled reforms that include requiring absent guards to get a doctor's note if they're out for more than a day, speeding inmate intake procedures and fixing infrastructure problems like broken cell doors.

On Wednesday, the city started suspending jail guards for 30 days without pay if they refused to come to work.

Last week, the city said the staffing situation was so dire it was enlisting a telemarketing company to entice recently retired correctional officers to return to work.

Advocates, lawmakers and even the union for jail guards say the measures aren't enough to fix a system where 10 inmates have died this year, at least five in suspected suicides.

Advocates want inmates released immediately. Some say Rikers should be closed right away.

Lawmakers who toured Rikers complex this week said it's filthy and inhumane, with overflowing toilets and floors covered in dead cockroaches, feces, and rotting food. State Assemblywoman Jessica González-Rojas said

inmates told her they felt like they were being treated like slaves and animals.

The union, meanwhile, has said that hiring more guards is the answer and that suspensions will leave remaining officers working "triple and quadruple shifts with no meals and no rest".

"The mayor cannot discipline his way out of this staffing crisis that he caused by refusing to hire a single correction officer for nearly three years, even as the inmate population doubled," said Benny Boscio Jr., the president of the Correction Officers Benevolent Association.

In actuality, the city's jail population has risen by about 58%, topping 6,000 inmates at the end of last week after falling below 3,900 inmates as bail reforms took effect, arrests slowed and some inmates were sent home early in the pandemic. In addition, city jail commissioner Vincent Schiraldi said Monday that the city has authorized the hiring of at least 200 correctional officers.

Ozone hole over South Pole now bigger than Antarctica

(CNN) - The hole in the ozone that forms every year over the South Pole is now larger than Antarctica, scientists from the European Union's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service said Thursday.

The ozone depletes and forms a hole over the Antarctic in the Southern Hemisphere's spring, which is from August to October. It typically reaches its largest size between mid-September and mid-October, according to Copernicus.

After growing "considerably" in the past week, the hole is now larger than 75% of previous years' ozone holes at the same stage of the season since 1979 and is now bigger than the continent it looms over.

"This year, the ozone hole developed as expected at the start of the season," Vincent-Henri Peuch, Copernicus director, said in a statement.

"Now our forecasts show that this year's hole has evolved into a rather larger-than-usual one."

Last year's hole also began un-exceptionally in September, but then turned into "one

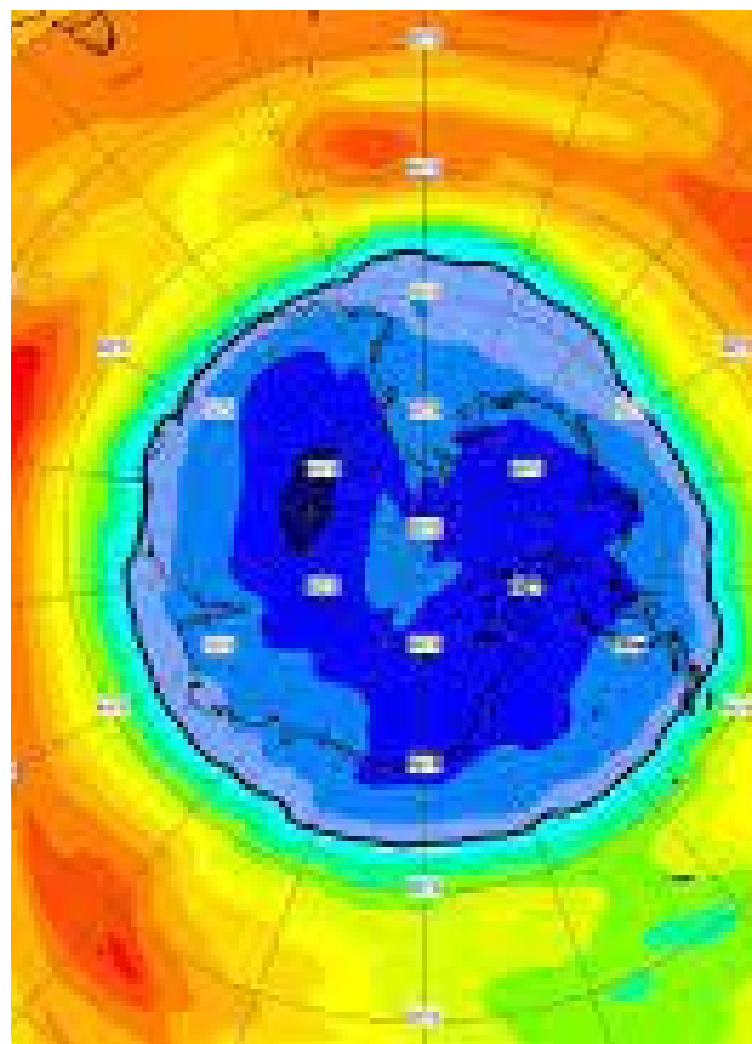
of the longest-lasting ozone holes in our data record", according to Copernicus.

The ozone layer, which sits between 9 and 22 miles above the Earth, protects the planet from ultraviolet radiation.

The hole in the Southern Hemisphere is typically caused by chemicals, such as chlorine and bromine migrating into the stratosphere, creating catalytic reactions during Antarctic winter.

The ozone hole is related to the Antarctic polar vortex, a band of swirling cold air that moves around the Earth. When temperatures high up in the stratosphere start to rise in the late spring, ozone depletion slows, the polar vortex weakens and finally breaks down and, by December, ozone levels usually return to normal.

This ends the isolation of air created by the polar vortex that forms during Antarctic winter, enabling chemicals such as chlorine and bromine to deplete the ozone layer, according to Copernicus and NASA. Ozone levels are usually restored



to normal levels by December.

Copernicus monitors the ozone layer using computer modeling and satellite observations. Although the ozone layer is showing signs of recovery, Copernicus says it would not completely recover until the 2060s or 2070s.

This is because it will take time to see the effects of the phasing out of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which deplete the ozone layer.

The chemicals were first regulated by the

Montreal Protocol -- first signed in 1987. They are expected to be phased out by 2030, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

A study published in the Nature journal last month said the world would be on course for an additional 2.5 degree Celsius rise in global temperatures and a collapse of the ozone layer if CFCs had not been banned by the protocol.

AVAILABLE VACANCIES AT OSEC

(effective September 7, 2021 – valid until September 23, 2021)

We at the Labour Department's ONE STOP EMPLOYMENT CENTRE (OSEC) ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO ASSIST JOBSEEKERS FIND EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING DURING THIS PANDEMIC AND CLOSURES OF MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA.

ONE STOP EMPLOYMENT CENTRE IS A PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CENTRE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT THAT OFFERS COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES) INCLUDING SERVICES TO BOTH JOBSEEKERS AND EMPLOYER.

SOME OF THESE SERVICES INCLUDE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) FREE MONTHLY WORKSHOPS, COMPUTER & QUICKBOOKS CLASSES, CAREER COUNSELING, RESUME & COVER-LETTER ASSISTANCE, IN ADDITION TO RECRUITMENT AND SCREENING SERVICES TO EMPLOYERS.

OUR CENTRE IS A PART OF THE MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, PUBLIC SAFETY & LABOUR. OVERALL, OSEC OFFERS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES TO JOBSEEKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS – AT NO COST TO BOTH JOBSEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

ASSISTANT COOK (RESTAURANT)

Minimum 5 years' experience

Must have extensive knowledge of Indian Cuisine to include Marinades, Sauces & Appetizers etc.

Must be a team-player

ASSISTANT PHARMACIST

Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role

Must be a Licensed Pharmacist in Antigua & Barbuda

Must pay strict attention to detail

Must be able to analyze information received whether written or verbal

AUDIT ASSOCIATE

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting required

Great communication & analytical skills

Excellent written & verbal communication skills

Strong computer skills; Able to work in a team environment

AUDIT SENIOR/SUPERVISOR

Minimum 3-4 years' experience of progressive public accounting experience

In-charge auditing experience desirable

Bachelors' Degree in Accounting required

CPA or ACCA or similar license required

Excellent analytical, organizational and engagement management skills

Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Strong computer skills including proficiency in Microsoft Office and audit preparation software

BAKER

Minimum 5 years' experience

Secondary School Completion

BOAT CAPTAIN

Licensed Boat Operator with 10 or more years' experience as a captain

Boat Safety Training Certification

Firm knowledge of marine craft communication, signaling and navigation systems

Basic Knowledge of weather as its changes and affect the operation of sea going vessels

Maintenance and engineering experience or understanding

Strong Customer Services Skills

Ability to react quickly in emergencies

Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions

Skill in making necessary minor and emergency repairs to marine equipment and docks

Excellent leadership, etiquette and communication skills

CASHIER

Minimum 2 years' working experience as a Cashier

Secondary School Certificate

Must be able to speak English & Spanish

CASHIER CLERK/STORE CLERK

Minimum 1 year experience

High School or College Completion

Must be Computer Literate

Must be efficient with strong attention to detail

Must be a fast learner and customer service-oriented

CLEANER

Minimum 3 years' experience

COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER PILOT

Must have a minimum of 1000 Commercial Flying Hours

ECCAA Commercial Helicopter License required

Must have a good personality

Must be a team-player and able to work

COMPOUND SUPERVISOR

At least 20 years' experience within the Boatyard & Marina Industry

Must be fluent in English, French & Italian

Great Customer Relation skills

Knowledge of Antigua & Barbuda Health, Safety & Trespassing regulations

Must be physically strong; Strong attention to detail is necessary

COOK (ROTI MAKER)

Minimum 3-4 years' experience

Secondary School Completion; Must have a valid Food Handler's License

Must have experience in preparing Indian dishes

Must have a valid Driver's License

DECKHAND/SNORKEL GUIDE

Basic Boating experience required; Must not be prone to motion sickness

High School Completion | Must be a competent swimmer

Boatmaster 3 license desirable but not required

DENTIST

Must be a Registered General Dentist with a minimum of 10 years' experience
Diploma or Certificate of Course or Training of Root Canal & Children Dentistry

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT OPERATIONS

Minimum 10 years' experience
Excellent Strategic thinking along with good leadership and analytical skills
Strong Decision making skills required

DRIVER/OPERATOR

Minimum 3 years' experience
High School Completion along with Trade School Diploma
Must be able to drive and operate Heavy Machinery & Equipment including
Grader, U-Box/18 speed transmission equipment
Must pay attention to detail | Must be punctual, honest, empathetic and trustworthy
Must possess an F6 Driver's license
Must be flexible to work on weekends and public holidays | Must be an effective team player

EXECUTIVE CHEF

Minimum ten years' culinary experience in an upscale environment with a
minimum of five years'
experience in a culinary leadership with a luxury/ultra-luxury resort.
Bachelor's Degree in Culinary Arts, Hotel Management or other relevant fields
Exceptional internal/external guest relations skills
Demonstrated project management experience in organizing,
planning and executing large-scale projects from conception through implementation
Demonstrated experience in leading and developing staff
Strong verbal and written communication skills
Demonstrated knowledge of hospitality systems/software
Solid business acumen with Professional presentation
Must be able to speak, read and write English; Fluency in other languages preferred

FARM MANAGER

Minimum 5 years' experience | Farming experience preferred
Secondary School Completion; Must be Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
Must be knowledgeable in the maintenance & repairs of small engines
Must have a valid Driver's License

FINANCE MANAGER

At least five years of financial, auditing and accounting experience within an
international organization or multinational company
Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance with CPA/ACCA designation
Strong Knowledge of QuickBooks and SAP
Highly Proficient in NetSuite
Advanced PC skills, particularly knowledge of MS Word and MS Excel software
Strong analytical skills with ability to set priorities, complete work with minimal supervision,
and meet deadlines Ability to work in a dynamic organization
Excellent communication skills | Result oriented with strong organizational skills

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR

2+ Years relevant food and beverage experience in a luxury hotel environment

Strong leadership, problem solving, customer service, communication and organization skills

Proficiency in Microsoft Office

FRONT OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

At least three years' working experience in office administration or similar position

Knowledge of administrative or clerical procedures

Knowledge of basic bookkeeping | Excellent knowledge of MS Office (especially Excel & Word)

Proficient in the use of QuickBooks

Knowledge of customer service principles and practices | Good organizational and multi-tasking abilities

HOTEL MANAGER

Minimum 10 years of experience in the Hospitality industry with applicable International and Caribbean experience

Extensive managerial experience is required, with at least 2 years' experience at the Executive level and a track record in leading Hotel Company with good business and standards

Respectful, passionate, and leads by example with an engaged and positive approach

Articulate, creative, and curious underscored by strong analytical skills; Knowledge of Opera PMS and Micros Symphony

Internationally versed and stays abreast of market trends in the luxury hospitality

Thorough knowledge of luxury guest experience expectations and is culturally astute

Exceptional communication and persuasion skills underscored by a high level of emotional intelligence

An eye for detail, with exceptional ability to prioritize, organize, follow-up and effective problem resolutions skills

Extensive knowledge of forecasting and budgeting, statutory legislation, and industrial relations

KITCHEN ASSISTANT

No experience required | Secondary School Completion

LEAD TOUR SPECIALIST

Minimum 1 year experience of working in a customer service environment

Previous sales and supervisory experience is an asset

Good command of written and spoken English

Minimum of High or Secondary School Diploma

Must be computer literate with knowledge of Microsoft Office Software: Access, Excel, Outlook etc.

LEGAL CLERK

Minimum 1-2 years' experience as a Legal Clerk

Must be Computer Literate | Must be proficient in the use of QuickBooks

LIVE-IN MAID/NANNY

Minimum 4 years' experience in a similar role

High School Completion | Good communication skills

Must have a valid Driver's license | Must be able to cook

Must have knowledge of the basic lifesaving support (CPR-certified) | Must be a good swimmer

MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED

MESSENGER/CLEANER

Minimum 1 year experience

MULTILINGUAL REAL ESTATE SALES AGENT

8 plus years of proven experience as a Real Estate Agent or Real Estate Salesperson within a global market.

Proven track record of leading the real estate functions in a fast-paced, growing company. Real Estate License is a plus.

Ability to understand and present contracts.

Ability to maintain secrecy and confidentiality on multiple new projects impacting the current workforce and maintain trustworthiness of the Chairman and members of executive management.

Ability and flexibility to travel both locally, regionally and internationally throughout the year.

Strong negotiating and selling capabilities.

Excellent communication skills and presentation skills with the ability to network.

Multilingual (both written and verbal)

Working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications

PADI OPEN WATER SCUBA INSTRUCTOR

Minimum 1 year working experience as a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor

Must have issued at least 50 certifications & logged at least 1000 dives

Boatmaster 3 License required

Higher Level Boating & TEC Diving Qualifications is an asset

PLUMBER

Previous plumbing experience, ideally gained within a hotel or commercial building environment

Minimum High School Completion with CXC passes in English and Maths

Qualification in General Plumbing & Maintenance required; Pumps; Pools; Sewage

Plants and related equipment

SECURITY OFFICER

Minimum 3 years' experience as a Security Officer | Excellent communication skills

SENIOR MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Minimum 5-6 years' experience in a similar role

High School Diploma

Must have formal technical training or diploma

In-depth knowledge of HVAC, electrical, plumbing and hydraulic systems

Must be able to speak Italian | Must work well under pressure and meet tight deadlines

Effective problem-solving and accounting abilities

Good Communication skills; Good Organization & Execution skills

Strong analytical and solutions creations skills

SPA MANAGER (Hotel

3+ Years of managerial experience in a 5-star luxury hotel or resort spa

Degree/Diploma in Spa Management/Business Management/Hospitality Management or similar

SOUS CHEF (Hotel)

3+ Years experience required

Strong leadership, problem solving, customer service, communication and organization skills

Proficiency in Microsoft Office

Basic Food Hygiene Certificate

VIP HOST (CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT)

Minimum 1-2 years' experience

High School & College Completion necessary | Excellent communication skills (verbal & written)

Ability to work well under pressure; Ability to work effectively as part of a team or alone

Must be self-motivated; A quick learner and a creative/critical thinker

WAREHOUSE/SALES CLERK

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role | Secondary School Completion

**DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS is
Thursday 23rd September 2021**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ORDER TO REGISTER
YOU MUST BRING WITH YOU THE FOLLOWING:
VALID PASSPORT | SOCIAL SECURITY &
MEDICAL BENEFITS CARDS
RESUME | CERTIFICATES/DIPLOMAS
OSEC IS LOCATED ON REDCLIFFE STREET**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 562-8533/34**

COMMUNITY NOTICES



AGHS Student Attendance

Students of the Antigua Girls' High School will return to school in person by respective levels per day for the first week of school only. Students are to be attired in their white dress uniform for this week, and will be present from 7:55am until 12:30pm.

Mon. 13th Sept - 1st Form only

Tues. 14th Sept - 2nd Form only

Wed. 15th Sept - 3rd Form only

Thurs. 16th Sept - 4th Form only

Fri. 17th Sept. - 5th Form only

For further information parents may email info@aghs.edu.ag or call 462-0404.

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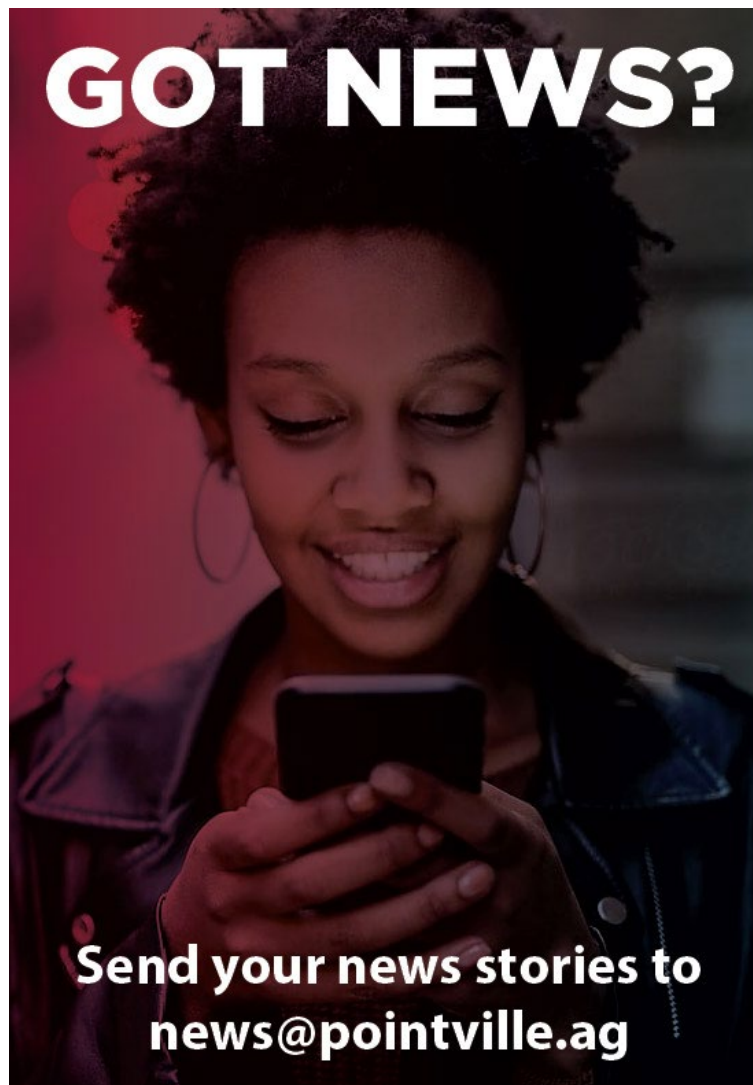
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TEL: 779-8971 / 778-2792

TAKE ME HOME



This happy, healthy pup named Sugar is available for adoption at the Humane Society's Animal Shelter in Bethesda. She has been treated for internal and external parasites and vaccinated and will be spayed when she is old enough all of which is included in the \$100 adoption fee. We are open Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. For further details call 461-4957.

GOT NEWS?



Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag

Florida commission gives Evander Holyfield 30-day suspension after first-round loss to Vitor Belfort



Evander Holyfield, 58, has been medically suspended by the Florida State Boxing Commission for 30 days following a first-round TKO loss to Vitor Belfort in the headliner of Triller Fight Club's latest pay-per-view event.

Referee Sam Burgos waved off the fight after a badly outclassed

Holyfield took several unanswered punches, awarding Belfort the technical knockout in a fight with the former heavyweight boxing champ. Holyfield immediately protested the decision.

The bout was contested as an exhibition by the FSBC, which agreed to sanction the bout as either a professional or exhibition despite advertisement by Triller that indicated it was the former.

Holyfield's movement and speech were noticeably impaired in pre-fight media appearances. The FSBC said he had passed all of the required medicals for fighters over the age of 40. Holyfield hadn't competed in 10 years when he stepped into the ring with Belfort and had once been barred from boxing in New York for his diminishing skills before being cleared

to fight. The knockout loss this past Saturday was followed by an outpouring of criticism for Triller and the FSBC for putting on the fight and calls for Holyfield's retirement.

Belfort – who used his post-fight speed to call out former Triller headliner and YouTube star Jake Paul – did not receive a medical suspension.

In the other notable medical suspension from the event, UFC Hall of Famer Tito Ortiz was suspended for 60 days after suffering a first-round knockout against former UFC middleweight champ Anderson Silva in the co-headliner. The bout was also contested as an exhibition.

The FSBC did not report any additional suspensions.

Sport's list of billionaires – PART II (continued from previous edition)

The life of an elite athlete is enough to guarantee a life of wealth and luxury, very few reach the financial pinnacle of becoming a billionaire.

While the average Premier League footballer earns a staggering £60,000 per week, only two footballers in sporting history have become billionaires according to various reports.

In fact, there have been very few

athletes in the whole of sport who have reached such illustrious levels of wealth.

Prize money and contracts tends to be the primary revenue streams generated by athletes, however, it is the lucrative sponsorship deals and so-called 'add-ons' which can tip an athlete into the astronomical pay scales.

Mirror Sport has taken a look at Sport's list of billionaires.

While the likes of Gillette and American Express all pulled out of their deals soon after the crash, he has since turned it around winning the Masters in 2020 after career saving spinal fusion surgery.

His net worth is worth approximately £630m, with sponsors such as Nike, Monster Energy, and Bridgestone also contributing to his efforts.

A large, high-contrast photograph of Michael Jordan in mid-air, performing a dunk. He is wearing his iconic red Chicago Bulls jersey with the number 23 and his name 'JORDAN' on the back. He is also wearing white socks and red and white Air Jordan sneakers. The background shows a large, crowded arena with spectators. The title 'Michael Jordan' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font on the right side of the image.

Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan's 'Air Jordan' shoes bring in £2.5bn per year for Nike

In 2020 it is said Jordan made the equivalent of £27,780 per hour, despite the fact he has not played basketball since 2003.

His 'Air Jordan' brand is said to

bring in around £2.5bn a year to Nike, helping him build a staggering personal fortune worth around £1.7b.

The personal financial cut he gains from the Air Jordan sales is worth an estimated £120m, four times more than the current Nike

sponsorship deal of Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James.

Coca Cola, McDonald's, and Chevrolet also wrote some gargantuan cheques to the 58-year-old in exchange for some promotion on his part.

His net worth is reportedly

Michael Schumacher

Schumacher is still recovering from the awful 2013 ski accident.

When Schumacher was in his prime, the German became the second highest paid athlete on the planet, according to Forbes in 2004.

It is believed that during his dominant years – when he was winning Formula One titles left, right and centre – he was making around £50m per year from his contract with Ferrari.

He also gained an additional £5m across three years just by wearing a cap bearing the logo of Deutsche Vermögensberatung.

Sadly, the German is still recovering from a horrific skiing accident in 2013 which saw him placed into a medically induced coma.

There has been very little information on the recovery of the seven-time F1 champion.



Jack Nicklaus

Jack Nicklaus' extra revenues came from sponsorship, as well as golf course designs and video games

With six Masters titles and over 117 tournament victories to his name, Nicklaus is regarded as one

of the greatest-ever golf players in the world. His prize money was not his only source of income, as he also had some other lucrative sponsorship deals and revenue streams. As well as his agreements with MacGregor Golf, he also re-

leased many books, designed golf courses, and was even involved in many golf video games during his career.

It is believed he generated a sensational £1.15bn during his incredible career.



HASHIM AMLA WON'T BE RETURNING TO SOUTH AFRICAN AND WP CRICKET



South Africa's Hashim Amla bats during the second day of their test cricket match against Sri Lanka.

CAPE TOWN - Western Province's preparations for the new Cricket SA first-class structure continue to be hampered with Proteas legend Hashim Amla's proposed move to Newlands falling through.

Amla, 38, is the latest loss WP have suffered after former coach Ashwell Prince permanently joined the Bangladesh coaching staff last month as a batting consultant, while Vernon Philander also accepted an offer to be the Pakistan bowling coach for the T20 World Cup on Monday.

Philander was due to captain the WP first-class team for the forthcoming season, although discussions are still ongoing relating to the former Proteas' seamer's playing future.

Amla, meanwhile, was originally named in the WP squad for the 2021/22 season, but he will now no longer be turning out in the blue and white.

"I have made this decision based on where I am currently in my career and with a view to my future endeavors. I want to wish the squad all the best for the coming season," Amla said.

Amla's agent Ismail Kajee also told IOL Sport that, "Western

Province have been great and we hope that Hashim will be able to contribute to the team in some way in the future."

The holder of South Africa's highest Test score has remained active since retiring from international cricket after the 2019 World Cup, having just enjoyed a successful season with Surrey CC in the English County Championship.

Despite his advanced age, the veteran showed he still possessed those famed powers of concentration with a marathon 37 not out off 278 balls, which formed part of batting out the entire final day to save a match for Surrey against Hampshire.

Overall in 12 matches thus far, Amla has amassed 771 runs which included an undefeated 215 at an average of 51.40.

Amla's non-arrival is a major loss for Six Gun Grill Western Province not only due his possible run-scoring contributions, but also to the role he would have played in the development of young batters such as Tony de Zorzi and Jonno Bird.