

# DASHBOARDS PILE-UP, VACCINATIONS RISE!

SEE PAGES 11-13

*The Blue Economy encompasses all maritime trade and commerce – seaside and landside components. It's not something visionary or futuristic; we're already heavily immersed in it; the most obvious and sizeable chunks being our cruise tourism ports and facilities, our commercial deep water harbour, our yachting industry, catamaran and whale-watching tours, our fisher-folk (including artisanal fishers and sport fishing operators), scuba diving businesses, the international ship registry operated by our Department of Marine Services (ADOMS) – sure you get the idea! The picturesque, multi-faceted Port of St. John's is living proof of an already thriving blue economy. The post-COVID world will make it even more imperative for us to innovate and adapt, to diversify and expand alternative pathways for development. The observance of World Maritime Day is a good point for reflection and contemplation. [PAGES 4-7]*

**INSIDE:** Training for standby teachers starts today  
BVI backs up claims of vaccine virility!  
US hospitals and airlines begin firing unvaccinated staff!



# Could COVID turn our region into a hospitality wasteland?

*A researcher believes we need to stop thinking of the Caribbean as a tourist 'paradise'*

*Renée Landell, a researcher in post-colonial eco-criticism at Royal Holloway University of London, posits that the myth of paradise has turned the region into a space open to invasion by the highest bidder.*

Descriptions of the Caribbean have long re-

duced the region to the luring trinity of sun, sea and sand in order to market it as the ideal holiday destination. The splendour of its rainforests and the aquatic hues of its coral reefs are undeniably beautiful.

But Caribbean islands are also home to people, animals and other non-human species

whose complex histories have been shaped by exploitative tourism.

In the west, the idea of a "paradise lost", as popularised by Milton's famous epic poem telling the story of Adam and Eve, gave rise to a hunt for "undiscovered" Edens still present on Earth.

When Christopher Columbus arrived in the

NewWorld, the appeal of an earthly paradise was at its zenith in Europe. Setting out with the intention of reaching East Asia to establish more effective intercontinental trade routes – as well as to spread Catholicism – Columbus seemed to be taking his cue from the Bible, whose Book of Genesis describes the

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garden of paradise as being planted “eastward in Eden”.

But when Columbus first set foot on what was in fact a Caribbean beach, the natural landscape presented another, secular prize: the promise of infinite riches from the natural world.

Sure enough, the increasing hype in the west around the search for paradise became less about pleasing God and more about greed for travellers like Columbus, as evidenced by colonisers’ exploitation of indigenous people and extraction of wealth from natural and biological resources.

### ***The Neocolonial Paradise***

The seductive modern image of paradise, with its golden sands and crystal waters, evolved as part of a neo-colonial project of tourism, as the flow of foreign power was being reimagined in the wake of the collapse of European empires.

From travel brochures to television advertisements, the tourism industry presents the unethical idea that paradise can be bought just like any other commodity.

The myth of paradise has turned the Caribbean region into a space open to invasion by the highest bidder. Westerners are encouraged to

escape from the monotony of everyday life to be serviced at the hands of labourers – a dangerous echo of life on the plantation for enslaved African people.

### ***Poetry as Protest and Resistance***

Many contemporary Caribbean writers discuss some of the Caribbean’s most urgent environmental and social concerns, including exploitative tourism, dwindling local land rights and underpaid citizen labour.

Jamaica Kincaid, Michele Cliff and others have likened tourism to a renewed version of colonialism. For me, the most striking writing on the Caribbean environment comes from the St. Lucian poet Derek Walcott.

Walcott, in his poem “Midsummer XXVII”, describes how nature in Trinidad has been “replaced or modified” by the “grey, metal light” of technology. Under the joint influences of colonialism and extractive capitalism affecting the islands, the Caribbean sea starts to seem like “sheets of zinc” and the sun like “steady acetylene”.

The dominance of tourist-oriented, rather than local-oriented, businesses is also suggested in Walcott’s poem “The Star Apple Kingdom”, which

describes the “ulcers” of “hotels”, “casinos”, “brothels”, and the “empires of tobacco, sugar and bananas”.

In his Nobel prize lecture, Walcott condemns tourist brochures for reducing the enormous diversity of the Caribbean environment to blandly appealing beach vistas out of “the shame of necessity”, mourning the islands’ “future of polluted marinas”.

My research into environmental racism and the damaging myth of Caribbean paradise has also been inspired by the work of the Bahamian-born poet Marion Bethel. She writes about how colonial violence led to the brutal demise of the Caribbean environment through forest clearance, soil erosion and reef destruction.

In her poem “On a Coral Cay”, Bethel protests how in the Bahamas “the whale done dead ... we no longer whale or wreck”. She also considers how the effects of the colonial past have catalysed new forms of environmental degradation in the present day. “Tourism”, she writes, “is king / divine and banking, a silver prince”, and this “tourist plantation” and “banking estate” has made the natives “waiters” who “service the world”.

### ***Be an Ethical Tourist***

Listening to Caribbean voices should prompt us to practice more ethical travel as tourists. Visiting the Caribbean for a holiday is not in itself immoral, but Bethel, Walcott and other Caribbean writers have condemned unethical tourism practices.

Despite the economic importance of tourism in the Caribbean, the local environment and particularly marine life continues to suffer as a consequence of unsustainable activities catering to demanding tourists.

Income from tourists is rarely distributed evenly: so support native businesses by shopping locally instead of at popular, often foreign-owned chains. Be respectful of native customs and traditions. Do more than dwell in the luxury of your hotel or on the beach: immerse yourself in Caribbean culture by visiting museums and historical sites. Opt for eco-friendly transportation. Don’t litter. Take photos of the land and the animals with caution and respect, and make sure the local people give their permission before they end up on your Instagram feed. (*This article is republished from **The Conversation***)



## “Seafarers at the core of shipping’s future”

Antigua and Barbuda offers a very reputable international ship registration destination. On the whitelist of most port State control regimes, Antigua and Barbuda is a respected quality flag preferred by shipowners worldwide.

In size, Antigua is within the top 20 largest flag state. There are over 20,000 seafarers serving the 700 ships in the Antigua registry. The pandemic has shown that seafarers are not only at the core of shipping’s future but also at the core of survival of humanity. It is no wonder, that ADOMS as the national maritime administration ensure that the welfare of the seafarers on its registry is kept at the top of their priority list. ADOMS ensures that seafarers are relieved in good time

during this pandemic by imposing strict requirements on the Managers for timely repatriation and they work with the seafarers, the trade unions, and companies to resolve wage dispute in a timely manner. ADOMS carries out port State control on visiting ships to ensure that the standards of Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) are maintained on them. In line with this commitment to seafarers’ well-being, the Antigua and Barbuda Port Welfare Committee (ABPWC) was established on 17 November 2015, as part of a world-wide initiative of the International Seafarers’ Welfare Assistance Network (ISWAN) funded by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) Seafarers’ Trust. This is also in

compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 requirement for providing seafarers access to shore-based welfare facilities.

The Committee provides a forum, where representatives from organizations which deal with the welfare of seafarers, can meet to discuss and co-ordinate their actions to improve the welfare services and support made available to seafarers. The Committee meets regularly (at least 3 times per year) to discuss and resolve seafarers’ welfare issues with representatives from organizations such as the Port Authority, Labour Department, Trade Unions, Maritime Administration, ship owners, shipping agents and voluntary organizations.

**The ABPWC can be contacted as below:**



*abpwc2015@gmail.com*

*Facebook page: Antigua and Barbuda Port Welfare Committee*



# World Maritime Day Theme 2021

## “Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future”

### *Message by Antigua Cruise Port (ACP)*

Antigua Cruise Port (ACP), a part of the Global Ports Holding network, operates the main cruise port of Antigua & Barbuda.

Since the launch of operations in 2019, ACP has undertaken extensive works to transform the island nation into a major cruise destination despite the trials and risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we celebrate World Maritime Day under the theme “*Seafarers: At the Core of Shipping’s Future*”, we join the rest of the international maritime community to honor the role that seafarers play in this vital industry.

As the Cruise Port Operator in Antigua, we are direct beneficiaries of the work of thousands of crew members on board cruise vessels. Not only do they serve the cruise industry through their on-board services to cruise passengers and cruise vessel operations, but they also have a direct impact on the economy of Antigua and Barbuda. According to the

FCCA 2018 Economic Impact Study, crew members contributed over five million US dollars to the local economy between 2017 and 2018.

For many of us in this industry, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our lives, livelihoods, and simple social pleasures that we have come to enjoy. Seafarers, too, have been similarly affected. Many have had to sacrifice and put their lives at risk so that we can continue to experience a certain level of normalcy – whether it is having a constant supply of imported goods on the supermarket shelves, or essential medical and other lifesaving commodities. These brave men and women also ensured that cargo and cruise ships continued to be serviced and remained ready to resume business.

Between July and September 2021, Antigua Cruise Port welcomed 2,858 passengers from 13 calls. This would not be possible without the work of many seafarers. Indeed, they are at the core of the shipping industry’s future and, as we prepare for increased business in the

coming months, we acknowledge the essential role that seafarers will play in the safe resumption and continued growth.

ACP has completed the 30-million-dollar 5th berth project, increasing the port’s maximum daily capacity from 10,000 to 16,000 passengers with a total of 5 berths. With this addition, the port can accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world. We now move our attention to the upland development and master plan for the Antigua Cruise Port, which includes the potential for development of products and services catering specifically to seafarers.

We note the difficulties ahead as we continue to adjust to the new realities of working through a pandemic. However, we remain focused on the opportunities presented and are excited about the future of cruising and the entire maritime industry.

Happy World Maritime Day!



## A&B joins in observing World Maritime Day theme: “Seafarers at the Core of Shipping’s Future”

In his message, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Secretary-General Kitack Lim has stated “This year’s World Maritime Day theme – *‘Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future’* – is dedicated to the seafarers who have shown tremendous fortitude and determination in continuing to deliver global trade throughout this global crisis.”

The United Nations is conscious of this and has stated, “The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the professional-

ism and sacrifice of the two million seafarers who serve on the world’s merchant fleet. Shipping has continued to transport more than 80% of world trade, including vital medical supplies, food and other basic goods that are critical for the COVID-19 response and recovery.”

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services & Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) agrees with this statement. Antigua and Barbuda is dependent on sea trade and commerce to a very large extent to sustain life

on the islands. ADOMS also has approximately 700 ships on its register and over 20,000 active seafarers who serve on board these vessels.

With so much to do, the merchant navy offers a very attractive career path for the adventurous and those who do not want to tread the beaten path. The initial training and experience are, in most cases, provided free of cost by the ship owning companies. Not only does one spend time in practical and technical training but also in

learning essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and commitment. As an officer, the great responsibility of the safety of ship and cargoes, as well as the lives of the shipmates and protection of the environment, tend to rest on very young shoulders.

A job on board ships, trading internationally, provides an opportunity to visit distant and unusual lands at no cost. The wages earned are normally higher than similar professions ashore. Often the wages are tax-free and there are no associated costs for food, lodging and utility bills, all of which are paid for by the ship owners. Therefore, the potential to save money is very high.

Seafarers enjoy generous holidays as they remain away from

home for extended periods.

Shipping is a dynamic and thriving industry and, as such, there is a very high demand for skilled and experienced seafarers. The potential for further training and growth is very high. The specialist skills learnt at sea are highly transferable in the maritime industry. After a satisfactory career at sea, gaining unforgettable and invaluable experiences and memories, it is very possible to settle into a job ashore in maritime administration, ports, coastguard, ship repair, ship building, survey, etc.

A career at sea does involve being away from family and friends for long periods. This can be hard to get used to. A person must be ready to face the fury of nature in the form of

hurricanes and storms – as well as fires, explosions, piracy and sinking. Therefore, a career at sea is not for everyone and one must always weigh all the pros and cons before deciding on it.

ADOMS is staffed with very experienced maritime professionals who may be able to provide guidance to young persons wanting to take up a career at sea. ADOMS can be contacted at:

Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS), PO Box 1394, Corner of Popehead and Dickenson Bay streets, St. John's, Antigua; Tel: + 1 268 462 1272; Email: [administration@abregistry.ag](mailto:administration@abregistry.ag); Website [www.abregistry.ag](http://www.abregistry.ag)

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## D BANK, LTD. AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019  
(Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>INTEREST INCOME:</b>		
Securities	96,828	322,741
Loans	486,725	267,409
Due from banks	3,530	9,446
Gain on participation	36,510	38,635
Total interest income	603,593	638,231
<b>INTEREST EXPENSES:</b>		
Deposits	(88,455)	(21,989)
Total interest expenses	(88,455)	(21,989)
Impairment of securities available for sale	73,910	-
Total of provisions	73,910	-
Net financial (expense) income after provisions	589,048	616,242
<b>OTHER INCOME:</b>		
Net realized gain on sale of securities and options	47,545	(216,534)
Foreign currency exchange gain	285,884	(42,265)
Fees and commissions (Note 15)	634,029	1,997,217
Other	45,835	157,947
Total other income	1,013,273	1,896,365
<b>GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (Note 16):</b>		
Professional services	(1,285,813)	(1,309,202)
Salaries and other personnel expenses	(51,103)	(52,420)
Depreciation	(3,393)	(6,862)
License	(65,000)	(81,800)
Rent	(28,308)	(18,769)
Insurance	(21,486)	(7,931)
Other	(452,451)	(617,450)
Total general and administrative expenses:	(1,910,807)	(2,094,964)
Net income (loss)	(308,546)	417,543
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME:</b>		
Items that are or may be reclassified to the separate statement of loss		
Fair value reserve	963,718	375,147
Transfer to profit or loss for sale of securities	-	146,119
Impairment of securities available for sale transferred to profit or loss	1,289,576	-
Total other comprehensive income	2,253,294	521,266
Total comprehensive income	1,944,748	938,909

Jose Manuel Berrubilla  
Director / Chairman

Ricardo Calafio  
Director

Jessie Benjamin  
Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

8

## D BANK, LTD. AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019  
(Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Due from banks (Note 2, 3)	20,137,458	10,851,193
Securities available for sale (Note 4)	7,804,836	11,172,626
Securities held to maturity (Note 5)	500,000	500,000
Loans and advances to customers (Note 6 and 17)	6,979,572	6,729,425
Financial asset at fair value through profit or loss (Note 7)	121,885	97,411
Accrued interest receivable (Note 15)	298,067	271,325
Furniture and equipment, net (Note 9)	33,162	5,555
Other assets (Note 8 and 17)	4,537,605	1,618,849
Total assets	40,412,563	31,246,384
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Due to depositors (Note 10 and 17)	36,770,268	31,713,255
Accrued interest payable	8,514	(9,459)
Other liabilities (Note 11 and 17)	545,408	123,818
Total Liabilities	37,324,190	31,827,614
<b>EQUITY (Note 13):</b>		
Share Capital	8,566,297	8,566,297
Treasury shares	-	(1,289,576)
Fair value reserve	(1,250,776)	(2,214,494)
Accumulated deficit	(4,227,226)	(5,043,455)
Total Equity	3,088,293	(581,228)
Total Equity and Liabilities	40,412,563	31,246,384

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## D BANK, LTD.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019  
(Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Due from banks (Note 2, 3, 13)	20,115,168	10,619,754
Securities available for sale (Note 4, 17)	7,804,836	11,172,626
Loans and advances to customers (Note 5, 17)	3,042,143	3,120,097
Financial asset at fair value through profit or loss (Note 9)	121,885	97,411
Investment in subsidiary (Note 2, 6, 16)	9,685,188	9,685,188
Accrued interest receivable (Note 16)	234,832	234,041
Furniture and equipment, net (Note 7)	33,162	5,555
Other assets (Note 8, 16)	1,787,604	1,578,848
Total assets	42,825,818	36,513,520
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Due to depositors (Note 10, 16)	39,046,778	32,323,090
Accrued interest payable	8,514	(9,459)
Other liabilities (Note 11, 16)	503,568	1,523,488
Total Liabilities	39,558,960	33,837,119
<b>EQUITY (Note 12):</b>		
Share Capital	8,566,297	8,566,297
Fair value reserve	(1,250,776)	(2,214,494)
Accumulated deficit	(4,048,963)	(3,675,402)
Total Equity	3,266,558	2,676,401
Total Equity and Liabilities	42,825,818	36,513,520

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## D BANK, LTD.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019  
(Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>INTEREST INCOME:</b>		
Securities	96,828	311,998
Loans	169,856	138,270
Due from banks	3,432	8,316
Total interest income	270,116	458,584
<b>INTEREST EXPENSES:</b>		
Deposits	(88,700)	(22,523)
Total interest expenses	(88,700)	(22,523)
Impairment of securities available for sale	73,910	-
Total of provisions	73,910	-
Net financial (expense) income after provisions	255,326	437,061
<b>OTHER INCOME:</b>		
Net realized gain on sale of securities and options	47,545	(104,634)
Foreign currency exchange gain	285,884	(42,265)
Fees and commissions (Note 14)	634,029	1,997,217
Other	45,835	131,388
Total other income	1,013,273	1,981,704
<b>GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (Note 15):</b>		
Professional services	(1,284,459)	(1,306,178)
Salaries and other personnel expenses	(51,103)	(52,420)
Depreciation	(3,393)	(6,862)
License	(65,000)	(81,800)
Rent	(28,308)	(18,769)
Insurance	(21,486)	(7,931)
Other	(452,451)	(617,450)
Total general and administrative expenses:	(1,905,210)	(2,081,410)
Net (loss) income	(637,611)	327,355
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		
Items that are or may be reclassified to the separate statement of loss		
Fair value reserve	963,718	363,354
Transfer to profit or loss for sale of securities	-	146,119
Total other comprehensive income	963,718	509,503
Total comprehensive income	326,107	896,858

Jose Manuel Berrubilla  
Director / Chairman

Ricardo Calafio  
Director

Jessie Benjamin  
Director

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6



**Unicorp Bank Overseas, Ltd.**
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**June 30, 2021**  
*(Amounts in US Dollars)*

	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>		
Deposits with banks (Notes 3, 5 and 10)		
Due from banks	1,795,362	3,797,998
Interest bearing deposits with banks	<u>6,110,400</u>	<u>6,150,291</u>
Total deposits with banks	<u>7,905,762</u>	<u>9,948,289</u>
Loans (Notes 3, 6 and 10)	<u>69,084,627</u>	<u>79,668,117</u>
Investment securities, net (Notes 3, 7 and 10)	<u>41,828,397</u>	<u>39,324,835</u>
Investment in associates (Notes 3, 8 and 10)	<u>43,670,220</u>	<u>38,215,354</u>
Computer equipment, net	<u>2,666</u>	<u>4,380</u>
Right-of-use assets (Note 16)	<u>10,183</u>	<u>19,039</u>
Other assets (Notes 3 and 10)		
Other accounts receivable	1,575,517	1,568,158
Prepaid expenses	<u>46,233</u>	<u>59,057</u>
Total other assets	<u>1,621,750</u>	<u>1,627,215</u>
Total assets	<u>164,123,605</u>	<u>168,807,229</u>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Deposits (Notes 3 and 10)		
Demand	31,131,520	26,258,850
Time	<u>86,878,718</u>	<u>100,190,598</u>
Total deposits	<u>118,010,238</u>	<u>126,449,448</u>
Other liabilities (Note 10)	770,800	607,494
Lease liabilities (Note 17)	<u>10,603</u>	<u>19,499</u>
Total liabilities	<u>118,791,641</u>	<u>127,076,441</u>
<b>Equity (Notes 3 and 10)</b>		
Common stock (Note 9)	5,000,000	5,000,000
Retained earnings	39,365,553	36,000,037
Revaluation reserve for investments	<u>966,411</u>	<u>730,751</u>
Total equity	<u>45,331,964</u>	<u>41,730,788</u>
Total liabilities and equity	<u>164,123,605</u>	<u>168,807,229</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Unicorp Bank Overseas, Ltd.**
**Statement of Profit or Loss**  
**For the year ended June 30, 2021**  
*(Amounts in US Dollars)*

	2021	2020
<b>Interest Income (Note 10)</b>		
Interest on loans	455,887	1,797,027
Interest on deposits	256,938	632,160
Interest on investments	<u>1,258,362</u>	<u>1,271,371</u>
Total interest income	<u>1,971,187</u>	<u>3,700,558</u>
Interest expense (Note 10)	<u>3,498,588</u>	<u>4,798,977</u>
Net interest expense before provision	(1,527,401)	(1,098,419)
Reversal of provision for deposits	55	56
Reversal of provision for possible loans losses	131	214
Reversal (provision) for impairment of investments	<u>4,048</u>	<u>(8,317)</u>
Net interest expense after provision	<u>(1,523,167)</u>	<u>(1,106,466)</u>
<b>Other Income (Expense), Net</b>		
Commission income (Note 15)	2,305,145	1,915,022
Commission expense	(27,541)	(24,004)
Gain (loss) on investment at fair value through profit or loss	152,114	(62,734)
Other income	<u>1,820</u>	<u>1,820</u>
Other income, net	<u>2,431,538</u>	<u>1,830,104</u>
General and administrative expenses (Notes 10, 11 and 14)	<u>555,684</u>	<u>539,283</u>
Income before share in profit of associates	352,687	184,355
Share in profit of associates (Notes 8 and 10)	<u>6,381,176</u>	<u>3,964,389</u>
Income before income tax	6,733,863	4,148,744
Income tax (Note 12)	<u>(168,347)</u>	<u>(103,719)</u>
Net income	<u>6,565,516</u>	<u>4,045,025</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Unicorp Bank Overseas, Ltd.**
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
**For the year ended June 30, 2021**  
*Amounts in US Dollars*

	2021	2020
Net income	<u>6,565,516</u>	<u>4,045,025</u>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)</b>		
Items that may be subsequently reclassified to statement of income:		
Net gain transferred to income (Note 7)	(10,283)	(16,759)
Net change in fair value of securities through other comprehensive income (Note 7)	101,161	99,822
Other comprehensive income - associates (Note 8)	<u>144,782</u>	<u>(285,909)</u>
Other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>235,660</u>	<u>(202,846)</u>
Total comprehensive income of the year	<u>6,801,176</u>	<u>3,842,179</u>

# Rotaract Club makes donation to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre



On Tuesday 28th September, the Rotaract Club of Antigua made its first donation to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre under the club's *'Mommy & Me'* Initiative.

The project, which was spearheaded by Dr. Namadi Belle, Director of Community Service, was launched in late August to assist in supplying newborns and mothers with essential items during their hospital stay.

Director Belle noted that the club raised funds through its recent fundraiser, as well as donations made by the public. She further noted that new moms will also receive a gift certificate, compliments Zuri Eudoxie. In closing, she expressed appreciation for all the support, and anticipates the club's next donation to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in the near future.

Accepting on behalf of the Sir

Lester Bird Medical Centre were Ms. Sequoyah Survia, Clinical Social Worker; and Ms. Deon Grannum, Social Services Coordinator, who both expressed gratitude for the timely donation.

Also in attendance were AG Evangeline Allen; Ashlee Christian, president of the Rotaract Club; and other members of the Club.





# COVID Dashboard Update #1 for September 28, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) revealed 106 new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Eighty-three (83) samples were processed at SLBMC and 165 at CARPHA.

Ninety-four (94) recovered cases were recorded, increasing the total to 1,976.

Twelve (12) COVID-19 related deaths were recorded

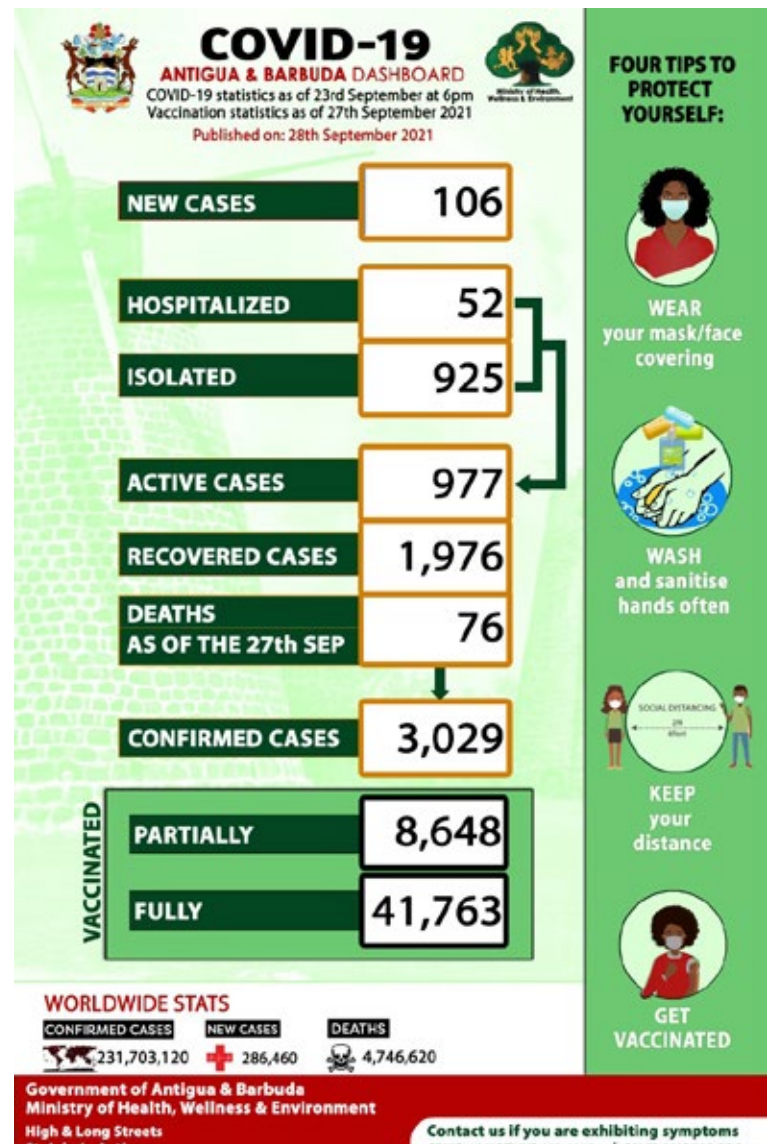
between September 23rd and 27th, increasing the total to 76.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 3,029; which is inclusive of 986 active cases.

There are 52 hospitalized cases; 24 mild, 18 moderate and 10 severe.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 41,763 individuals, while 8,648 have only received their first dose.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.





# COVID Dashboard Update #2 for September 28, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) revealed 106 new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Eighty-three (83)

samples were processed at SLBMC and 165 at CARPHA.

Ninety-four (94) recovered cases were recorded, increasing the total to 1,976.

Twelve (12) COVID-19 related deaths were recorded between September 23rd and 27th, increasing the total to 76.

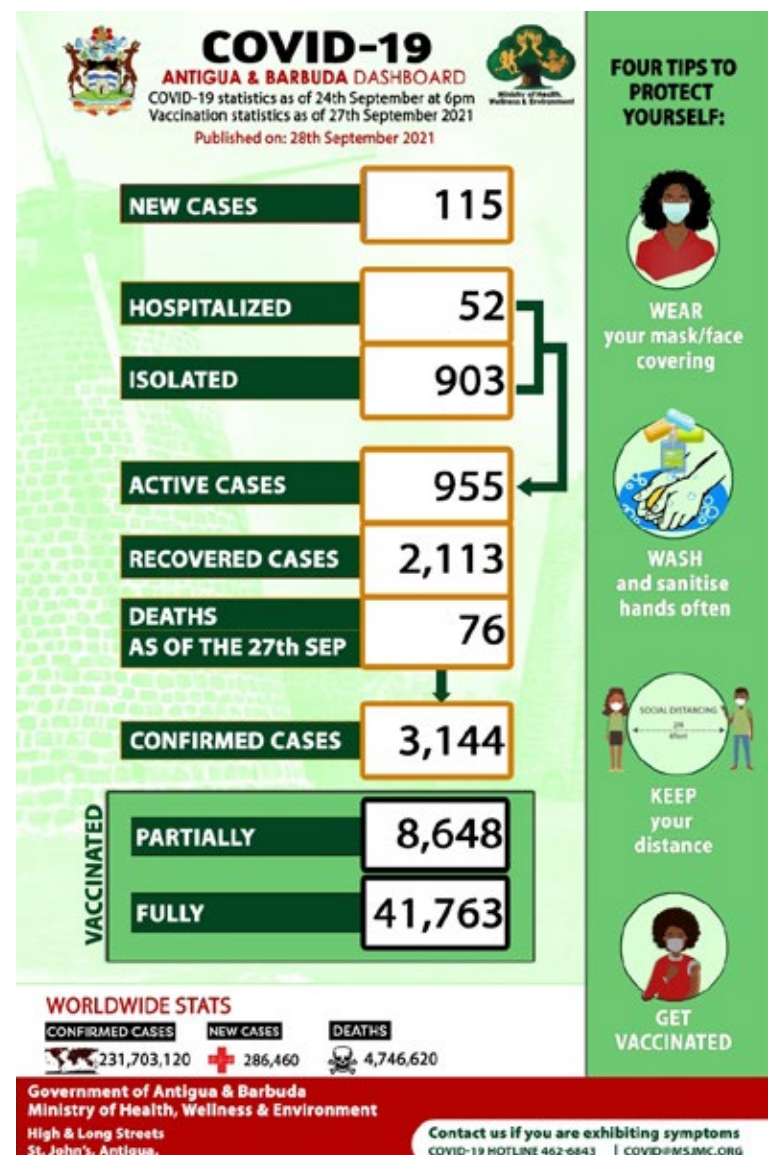
Consequently, the

total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 3,029; which is inclusive of 986 active cases.

There are 52 hospitalized cases; 24 mild, 18 moderate and 10 severe.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 41,763 individuals, while 8,648 have only received their first dose.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



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# COVID Dashboard Update #3 for September 28, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) revealed 16 new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 25th September 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Seventy-nine (79) samples were processed at SLBMC.

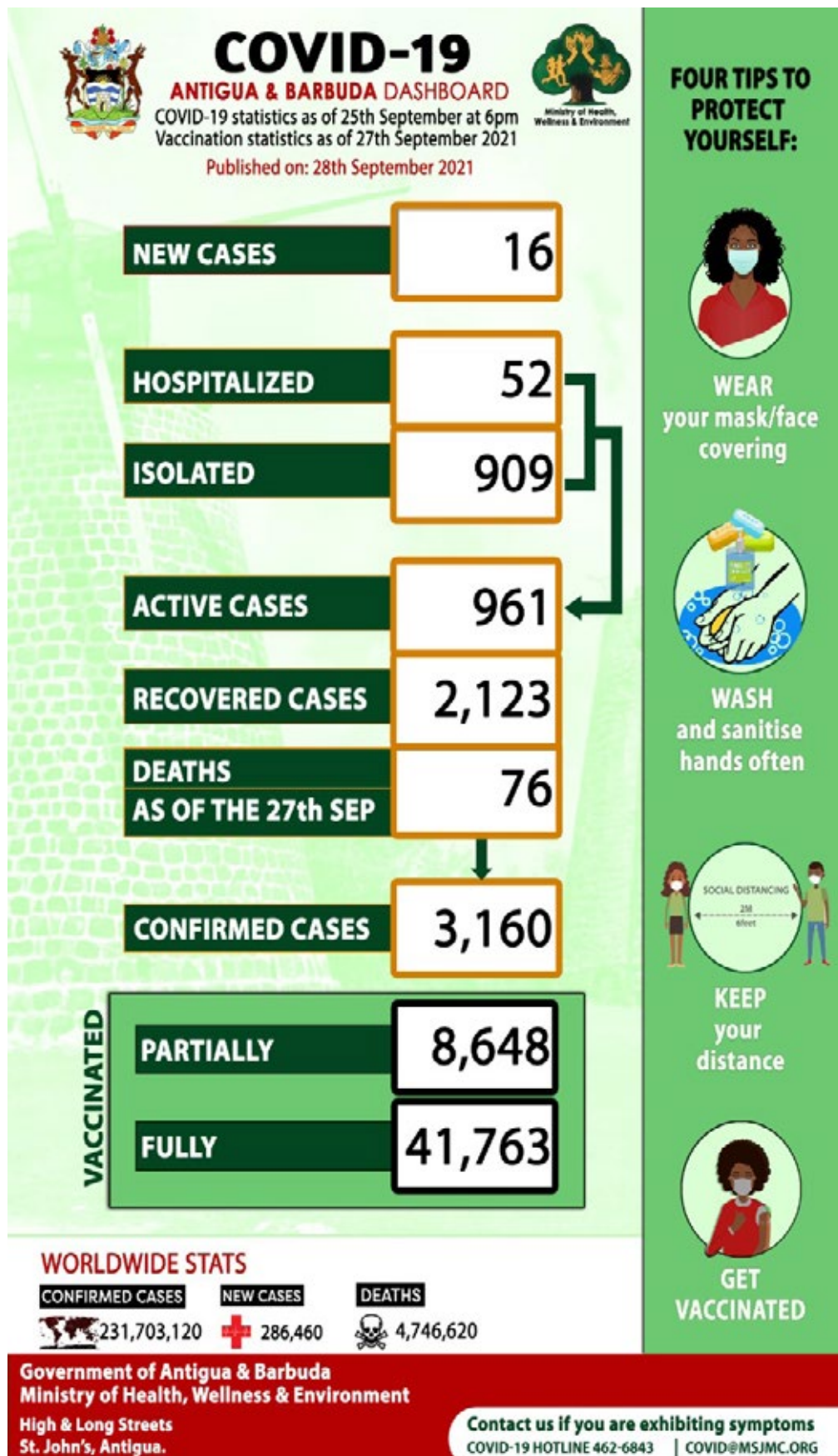
Ten (10) recovered cases were recorded, increasing the total to 2,123.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 3,160; which is inclusive of 961 active cases.

There are 52 hospitalized cases; 24 mild, 18 moderate and 10 severe.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 41,763 individuals, while 8,648 have only received their first dose.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



# Training of substitute teachers begins today!



*Director of Education, Mr. Clare Browne.*

The Ministry of Education is launching a three-day training programme for teachers it wants to have on standby, should the need arise for additional teachers when the face-to-face teaching in classroom settings resumes. Chief Education Officer Clare Browne said the training programme for approximately 50 pre-service teachers starts today and runs until Friday. “We at the Ministry of Education are very

watchful of two important figures: the number of active COVID cases in the country as well as the number of teachers who are in isolation or quarantine and those who remain unvaccinated. The government has given the various ministries the greenlight to hire staff even on a temporary basis and the Ministry of Education will not be caught flatfooted,” he declared. With the Government’s mandate that all public sector

employees must be vaccinated by October 1st, Browne said the ministry will be monitoring the situation up until Friday to see how many teachers decide to get vaccinated over the next several days. According to the education official, the ministry wants to ensure that it does not short-change the nation’s student population, noting that there are currently two crises: the ongoing pandemic and a crisis in education.

“We can’t lose a generation because of the pandemic and its impact. We have a responsibility to prepare them for the world in which they have to exist in the future. We therefore encourage our teachers, staff at the school plants, and eligible students, to get vaccinated as soon as possible,” Browne emphasized. Based on the current situation in the country, the education ministry said it is guided by recommendations from the Ministry of Health about whether face-to-face learning returns on Monday or if it has to be further postponed.

Browne suggested that the most important consideration would be the recommendations from the Ministry of Health.





# ABFC presents 40th Independence logo and theme

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries on Tuesday released the logo and theme for this year's 40th Anniversary of Independence.

Earlier this year, the ABFC launched the 40th Anniversary of Independence Logo and Theme Competition, which received an overwhelming measure of support from Antiguans and Bar-

budans locally and abroad.

Entrants in the competition were allowed to make their submissions in any of the three following formats: Logo and Theme; Logo Only; or Theme Only.

From a pool of over 50 entrants, the winning theme, **"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"**, was submitted by **Mr. Gamal Goodwin**.

The winning Logo was designed by **Ms. Alfonsina Olmos**.

Minister of Educa-

tion, Sports and the Creative Industries, Honourable Daryll Matthew expressed the following sentiments:

*"The submissions received for this competition is a clear depiction that our local artists are immensely talented and, at the same time, embodied with a sense of national pride. This year is a milestone celebration and, through the National Festivals Office and the Department of Culture, these artists and others with the same caliber of cre-*

*ativity will be featured as part of the annual Visual Arts Exhibition and, at the same time, a clarion call is made to Antiguans and Barbudans to support these naturally artistic individuals."*

In a subsequent announcement, the ABFC will present an overview of the plans for this year's 40th Independence Anniversary, on November 1st, which will highlight and celebrate our nation's **"Ruby Jubilee"**.

# Standing up for what's right – regardless!

**Dear Editor:** Among the most important lessons we will learn in life is that, whether we choose not to, we will leave a legacy for those who come after us and we are the true authors of the history of our time.

Our every action or inaction is etched on the sands of time. Not every soldier will be remembered in the same way, even if they were a part of the same battle. But, at the end of the day, the victory or the defeat will be for one and all. Some voices will ring loud, while others will resonate across generations, time, and space.

The question for us all is, how will history record us?

For almost two years now, the entire world has been transformed into a science fiction-like novel filled with twists and turns that draw you in at every line. Just when you think you can anticipate what's coming next, something totally different and unexpected jumps out from the shadows.

This unpredictability has been the rollercoaster experience of living with the COVID-19 virus. No one truly knows how devastating it will be if we all fail to take decisive actions now. Its effects have been disastrous for many

economies around the world as governments struggle to find imaginative ways to exist and to thrive in this new environment. The pressures on small states, in particular, have been significant; as governments have been forced to redirect more and more scarce resources to keep their populations safe, as well as preserve livelihoods.

There is little doubt at this point that we may have to brace ourselves for a life with COVID-19, at least for the foreseeable future. But how do we prepare for this life and what will it look like?

There are no easy answers

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but, unavoidably, tough decisions have to be made in order to save lives. We do not have the luxury of working from a pandemic management handbook or from blueprints that were left for us. Remember, we are the authors of our history and the decisions to save lives are not the ones that you should have made, but the ones you must make now.

The easiest thing for some, at this point, is to talk a lot and do little; say nothing and do nothing; say something that leads to nothing; or do something which leads to something worse.

All of these can describe the recent actions of the leadership of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) and some of its members. Again, we are the authors of the history of our time. Rather than provide leadership in a time of crisis in the health sector, and now the education sector, they are now positioning to rewrite history for our nation's greatest assets – the children – in pursuit of their own selfish agendas, while we have become numb to what appears to be Innate Contrarianist Syndrome (ICS), sickness that is triggered by every idea other than their own or anything that makes sense.

This condition is very prevalent among known elements within the ABUT. It is unacceptable for educators to lack the attributes that should best define them – and promote these ideas so publicly at that. The role of the ABUT should be that of a more effective social partner in promoting awareness and education among its members at this time.

It may be a surprise to some

union leaders and worker representatives to learn that conflictive, combative or disruptive behaviours are not synonyms for good representation nor should they be mistaken for effective leadership. Such traits are counterproductive and will, inevitably, achieve very little in defending the rights of workers. Good leadership is characterized by honesty, openness, reasonableness, empathy and forthrightness, and knowing when to stand up for what is right.

Very recently, a small representative grouping of teachers numbering less than 500, based on their own data, convened a meeting of the general membership of the ABUT. During an extraordinary meeting, a resolution was passed opposing the government's mandatory vaccination policy for public sector employees. They quickly prepared and issued formal communication to the government, indicating that teachers were demanding that this policy position be reviewed and withdrawn or further actions would follow.

The most bizarre and inexplicable display of deceptive, misleading and dishonest leadership unfolded during the ABUT meetings. Men and women who are fully vaccinated led a charge to defend the right of their colleague teachers not to be vaccinated. If this does not constitute reckless and treasonous behaviour in a profession, I don't know what else does. If the majority of teachers have been vaccinated and understand that the vaccines can save lives and reduce the risk of hospitalization and serious illness, then who is

the fight being led for? What is the motive and what is the end game?

By no means would I not acknowledge the right of any individual to choose not to be vaccinated. But, at the same time, I recognize the obligation of an employer to ensure that the workplace is safe and free from harm for every employee.

However, the question must be asked, what is the value of a life lost to reckless behaviour because a few teachers – including those who were vaccinated very early – want to stand on a so-called position of principle?

Is the default on your mortgage worth it? Is the loss of your pension and employment benefits worth it? Whatever the choice you make, it will be you who writes your verse in the long poem of history. Your children and mine will have to live with the consequences of your choice. Your threats of withholding your service to the children of the nation are lamentable, especially as some students who are preparing for regional exams have not had the experience and benefit of a full year of classes because of the pandemic.

Those who put themselves on the frontline in educating our youth are to be celebrated. It has been tremendously difficult for them and their families, and the nation owes them a debt of gratitude. Their commitment to education and safety for themselves and our children cannot be measured or repaid.

But, above all, their courage to stand up for what's right and correcting the wrong will cement their places in history.

Tracee L.

# Bahamas: 900-plus Haitian migrants captured on land, sea

*St. Kitts News* - Since Wednesday, more than 900 Haitian migrants were apprehended in Bahamian waters as Haiti continues to grapple with heightened political, economic and social unrest. According to the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF), “400-plus” migrants were detained yesterday after their vessel sank in the Ragged Island chain.

On Saturday, 195 Haitian migrants were apprehended in two separate incidents.

On Saturday morning, a sloop carrying 50 Haitians was intercepted off Inagua.

Later in the day, a sloop was spotted in the Ragged Island chain. Marines aboard an RBDF ship discovered 145 migrants on board. The RBDF said that on Thursday evening, while en route to Inagua with a group of 70 migrants who were apprehended earlier in the day, marines aboard the HMBS Bahamas spotted another sloop just five miles west of Inagua with 151 Haitians on board.

On Wednesday, authorities apprehended 86 Haitian migrants off Inagua. The more than

900 Haitian migrants detained in a five-day period represented a clear uptick in such incidents. Bahamian officials indicated weeks ago that such an influx of migration from Haiti was expected.

In July, President of Haiti Jovenel Moïse was assassinated inside his home on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, sending shockwaves across the globe and raising regional concern over the level of instability in the impoverished Caribbean nation. The Bahamas’ then-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Darren Henfield, said the civil unrest in Haiti would undoubtedly have an impact in The Bahamas where tens of thousands of Haitian migrants have settled in recent decades. RBDF Commodore Dr. Raymond King also said at the time that additional vessels were being sent to the southeast Bahamas in anticipation of a possible mass exodus of migrants from Haiti.

Compounding the concerns, weeks later, Haiti, still reeling from Moïse’s slaying and the power vacuum it created, was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake



*Haitian migrants aboard Bahamas rescue ship.*

which killed more than 2,000 people and left entire communities in shambles. The issue of irregular migration from Haiti has long been a contentious one, with the seemingly ceaseless flow of impoverished migrants breeding contempt and resentment among many Bahamians.

As the defense force rounded up more and more Haitian migrants over the weekend, Acting Prime Minister Chester Cooper traveled to Inagua on Saturday to address them. “We are here to help you,” said Cooper with the assistance of a translator. “We need your cooperation. We have enough food and enough water, so we ask you to be patient.

“It is important that you follow the instructions of the officers. We

want you to know that you have landed in The Bahamas illegally and therefore we will help you and process you to return ... to your home.”

Minister of Foreign Affairs Fred Mitchell said yesterday [that] the government is reviewing whether it is necessary for migrants to be processed by the court before being deported.

Mitchell said the process is too time-consuming, and added that a humanitarian crisis could be brewing on Inagua if nothing changes.

An RBDF spokesman said last night that the group of migrants apprehended yesterday was being held on Flamingo Cay in the Ragged Island chain.

The remaining migrants were being detained on Inagua.



# BVI: Erections reported among vaccine side-effects locally



*BVI national epidemiologist Harmonie Brewley-Massiah.*

**BVI News** - Some male residents who have been given the COVID-19 jab have registered what may be seen as moderate but unusual side effects, including uncontrolled penile erections and extra energy.

This is according to national epidemiologist Harmonie Massiah who shared those reports during a live COVID-19 update on Facebook [on] September 27.

At the time, she discussing some of the adverse reactions or side effects disclosed by persons who had received COVID-19 vaccinations.

Massiah said more than 570 persons had so far responded to a portal hosted by the Public Health Unit about their side effects.

She said the most prevalent side effects reported are fever, headache, muscle ache, chills, pain, and tenderness at the injection site.

“So we have a fairly good idea of what is happening at the local level,” Massiah said.

“Some of the more moderate side effects that we have seen — which occurred in less than one percent of the population — are things like dizzy spells, all-body itching (that has occurred in only two persons); and we have seen, actually some persons reported, erections and extra energy ...” she added. The national epidemiologist said the erection side effect was derived specifically from the Astra-Zeneca jab.

She was hopeful that persons who had not taken the vaccine so far would be inclined to do so now, after hearing about the moderate side effects that were experienced.

Massiah said the Public Health Unit has always strived to be very

transparent in its processes, as well as its data reporting and recording, because it believes in having a high-quality of information to make appropriate decisions.

“The entire objective of the Unit is population health, so we would not want to lure the public into a false sense of security, and we would not want to push or nudge them in a direction that we think would have a harmful impact on their lives,” Massiah added.

Meanwhile, according to chief medical Officer Dr. Ronald Georges, an estimated 17,400 persons have received a first dose of the vaccine so far while a further 14,959 persons have had two doses of the vaccine.

These vaccination numbers represent roughly 50 percent of the territory’s population.

# PM tells Grenadian doctors and nurses abroad ‘your country needs you’

**Loop Caribbean** - Prime Minister of Grenada Dr. Keith Mitchell has made an appeal for Grenadian health professionals abroad to return home for a bit to help their country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a brief statement to the nation during today's post-Cabinet media conference, Dr. Mitchell said Grenada has trained hundreds of doctors and the country needs them.

He said: "I have called on family members where there are nurses to come and give two weeks. We need you. Your country needs you."

The prime minister noted that the island's nursing staff is overstretched and cannot man every facility.

Mitchell said the continuing deaths of people due to COVID-19 is touching and he empathizes with every family who has lost someone.

He added: "We are doing all we can to slow and stop the deaths that are occurring in the country at this time. We are seeing a drop in the infection rate, which is a good sign, but that by itself does not mean we could drop our guard."

The prime minister said Grenada has passed through many storms before and is confident it will get through the pandemic.

Noting that there are debates on the issue of vaccination, Mitchell said that, for him, there is no debate



**Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. Keith Mitchell.**

and the issue is ... clear.

The prime minister, who had been watching Premier League Football on television, noted that the thousands in attendance would have had to show their vaccination cards, and no major problems have been [reported].

"It means if we do what we have to do, we will be back again on the football field and cricket field and the jab jab session will come whenever that time comes."

According to the Grenada COVID-19 dashboard, 10 new deaths were re-

corded on September 27, increasing the death toll to 130.

Grenada now has 1,795 active cases and has recorded 3,080 recoveries.

To date, Grenada has recorded 5,005 confirmed cases of COVID-19.



# Guyana: Imran Khan succumbs to COVID-19

(CMC) - The Director of Communications in the Opposition Leader's Office, Imran Khan, died Tuesday as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) health officials here have confirmed.

Khan, earlier this week, had been using Facebook to post progress on his health. He was not vaccinated against the virus that has killed 772 and infected 31,236 others since March last year.

"Thank you for all your love, prayers, messages of encouragement and support. I am overwhelmed beyond explanation and I am in excellent spirits. Difficult to respond individually to everyone but in time I will," he wrote on his Facebook page two days ago.

Opposition Leader Joseph Harmon told the Guyana-based online publication, Demerarawaves.com, that he was "shocked" at the death.

Shadow Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senior Counsel Roysdale Forde said, "I am devastated. Imran was my friend. He was an extremely talented and brilliant man."

Before returning to Guyana to get into active politics with the Alliance For Change (AFC), Khan had headed corporate communications at the West Indies Cricket Board [in Antigua].

He also served as Director of Information in the coalition administration of then President David Granger that was defeated in the controversial March 2 regional and general elections last year.

He is survived by his wife, Tammy Khan, who has been discharged from the COVID hospital and has been receiving home care.



*Imran Khan*

# Nearly 600 United Airlines employees face termination for failing to comply with vaccine mandate

**NBC** - United Airlines said Tuesday that 593 of its employees are facing termination for failing to comply with its COVID-19 vaccination policy, one of the strictest mandates for inoculation from a US company.

More than 96% of United's 67,000-person US workforce complied with the vaccine requirement. The deadline to upload proof of inoculation, or the first shot if receiving a two-dose vaccine, was late Monday.

Roughly 2,000 United employees sought exemptions from the mandate, which the airline announced this summer, for religious or medical reasons. The Chicago-based airline had said staff to whom it grants such exemptions will be placed on temporary unpaid leave.

"And we know for some, that decision was a reluctant one. But there's no doubt in our minds that some of you will have avoided a future hospital stay — or even death — because you got vaccinated," United's CEO Scott Kirby and the company's president Brett Hart told employees in a note on Tuesday.

Unvaccinated employees without exemptions face termination, though that process could take weeks.

"This was an incredibly difficult decision, but keeping our team safe has always been our first priority," United's Kirby and Hart said.

Staff that didn't upload a proof of vaccine spanned various work groups, such as pilots, flight attendants and mechanics, a spokesman said, declining to provide more detail.

However, a United spokesman said the company is willing to work with some unvaccinated employees during the termination process if they change their mind about getting inoculated. The carrier isn't expecting operational problems because of terminations, the spokesman added.

Employees fired for not getting vaccinated would be terminated on the grounds of violating a company safety policy, which could make them ineligible for unemployment benefits.

Dozens of employees had shared their vaccine cards with the company in the final days before the deadline, CNBC reported earlier Tuesday.

The number of flight attendants who hadn't sent in their vaccination cards and hadn't received an exemption fell by about half from the weekend to Monday and fell further to fewer than



100 on Tuesday, according to the Association of Flight Attendants which represents the carrier's roughly 23,000 cabin crew members.

More than 500 United employees represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, by Monday afternoon, had not uploaded proof of vaccination. But that dropped to fewer than 400 on Tuesday, according to District 141 president Mike Klemm. The union represents more than 25,000 United employees. Another 700 had received exemptions, he said. The group includes fleet and passenger service workers.

Klemm said the union is planning to file wrongful termination grievances if the workers who refused to be vaccinated are fired.

Six United Airlines employees sued the carrier in federal court in the Northern District of Texas, alleging the company didn't provide them with "reasonable accommodations" for religious or medical reasons. United said it will "continue to vigorously defend our policy".

US companies have increasingly issued vaccine mandates for some or all of their employees — from Tyson Foods to Walmart and McDonald's — since COVID cases spiked over the summer.

President Joe Biden earlier this month said his administration plans to mandate that large companies require their employees be vaccinated or have them test regularly for COVID. Airline executives say they are awaiting the specifics.



# Internet goes dark for millions in Indian state's bid to stop exam cheats

**CNN** - More than 25 million people across the Indian state of Rajasthan faced government-mandated internet shutdowns and restrictions on Sunday in an effort to prevent cheating in a mass exam. Hundreds of thousands of candidates sat the Rajasthan Teacher Eligibility Test (REET), an exam that paves the way to employment as a primary or secondary school teacher at government-run schools.

It's a coveted position that comes with generous benefits — and the exam hasn't been held in Rajasthan since 2018, which could be one reason there were so many candidates on Sunday.

Thousands of test centers were set up across the state, with people traveling from their hometowns on free buses arranged by the government. But, wary of potential cheating on the written exam — which has been rampant in the past — authorities ordered districts to issue internet restrictions to prevent any leaks of information.

At least 10 districts shut down their mobile internet, though several kept broadband internet going to minimize



***Security personnel frisk a test candidate about to take the Rajasthan Eligibility Exam for Teachers (REET) at an examination center in Jaipur, India, on September 26.***

disruption to businesses and daily life.

In Jaipur district, the state's most populous with more than 6.6 million residents, the internet was shut down from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to Dinesh Kumar Yadav, the Jaipur divisional commissioner.

"There were so many candidates ... we just wanted to make sure [there wasn't cheating]," Yadav said. "People tried to cheat but we caught a lot of them. But because of the internet shutdown, the [test] paper was not leaked out."

He added that candidates sometimes use "different types" of

instruments to try to cheat, and that other students "would get angry if they did not get a fair chance."

Several other major districts, including Alwar, Nagaur, Sikar and Ajmer, also imposed temporary internet shutdowns — adding up to a total of more than 25.2 million people affected, according to the most recent population estimates from the 2011 census. According to the same survey, Rajasthan is home to more than 68 million people.

Other anti-cheating measures included CCTV cameras at all testing centers, according to a document

tweeted by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Candidates were not allowed to bring in their own face masks from the outside; after arriving, they had to discard the masks they brought, then use masks provided at the testing center.

The whole process of the exam — from the printing of the test papers, to their transportation then distribution to students at the testing center, was closely surveilled and videotaped, said the document. Any exam workers or proctors involved in leaking the test papers would be immediately fired, and face potential legal action.



# More NY health workers get vaccinated; others lose jobs or pay as Hochul deadline hits

**NBC New York** - Thousands of healthcare workers in New York, who faced getting vaccinated against COVID-19 or losing their jobs, received at least one dose as Gov. Kathy Hochul's statewide mandate neared, according to newly released figures.

Workers at hospitals and nursing homes had until Monday to get their first vaccine dose under the new requirement, sparking fears among administrators that holdouts would create dramatic staff shortages.

The terminations associated with Hochul's order have already begun. New York-Presbyterian said its vaccination deadline took effect at 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 22. More than 99% of the system's 48,000 team members got vaccinated in time.

Fewer than 250 chose not to

comply and no longer work at New York-Presbyterian, hospital officials said Tuesday. Another hospital system, Northwell Health, said a day ago it had fired about two dozen who refused to get vaccinated.

"Northwell regrets losing any employee under such circumstances, but as healthcare professionals and members of the largest healthcare provider in the state, we understand our unique responsibility to protect the health of our patients and each other," a Northwell spokesperson said Tuesday. "We owe it to our staff, our patients and the communities we serve to be 100% vaccinated against COVID-19."

NYC Health + Hospitals, which runs 11 public hospitals across the five boroughs, is taking a bit

of a different approach, at least to start. Employees who haven't yet been vaccinated have been put on unpaid leave rather than lose their jobs and will be able to return to work once they're in compliance with the mandate, officials said.

To date, more than 91% of NYC Health + Hospital workers are in compliance with the state vaccine mandate, according to President and CEO Dr. Mitchell Katz.

"We are thankful to our workforce for their commitment to supporting a safe health care environment in our facilities by getting their COVID-19 vaccine and complying with the state's mandate," a spokesperson said Tuesday. "We are committed to offering high-quality, comprehensive health care to the more than 1.4



million New Yorkers who rely on our services. All of our hospitals and community health clinics are open for care without interruption." Shot rates are expected to keep seeing a boost. Hochul released figures late Monday showing vaccination rates rising among the state's 450,000 hospital workers and for other healthcare workers. The figures were released as she signed an executive order providing her with expanded powers to alleviate staff shortages. By Monday evening, 92% of nursing home

staff received at least one vaccine dose. And preliminary data showed 92% of hospital staff receiving at least one dose of vaccine, the governor said. As of the latest update, state figures show at least 84% of hospital workers are fully vaccinated. The executive order allows out-of-state doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to practice in New York, makes it easier for retirees to return to the workforce and allows physician visits in nursing homes to be done by telemedicine. Also, New York

state-licensed providers without current registrations will be able to practice without penalty. And the order broadens the roles of emergency medical technicians, such as allowing basic EMTs to vaccinate and test for COVID-19.

Meanwhile, New York City's vaccination mandate for Department of Education employees that had been set to begin Monday has been allowed to proceed effective Oct. 4 after federal judges dissolved a temporary block late Monday.

# Pfizer vaccine for kids may not be available until November

(AP) - Pfizer has submitted research to the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on the effectiveness of its COVID-19 vaccine in children, but the shots may not be available until November.

The company said on Tuesday that it provided health regulators with data from a recent study of its vaccine in children 5 to 11 years old. Pfizer officials had said previously that they would file an application with the FDA to authorize use in the coming weeks.

Once the company files its application, US regulators and public health officials will review the evidence and consult with their advisory committees in public meetings to determine if the shots are safe and effective enough to recommend use.

That process may mean the

shots may not be available until closer to Thanksgiving, according to a person familiar with the process but not authorized to discuss it publicly. But it is possible that, depending on how quickly the FDA acts, the shots could become available earlier in November, the person said.

The drugmaker and its partner, Germany's BioNTech, say they expect to request emergency use authorization of their vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 "in the coming weeks". The companies also plan to submit data to the European Medicines Agency and other regulators.

The two-shot Pfizer vaccine is currently available for those 12 and older. An estimated 100 million people in the US have been fully vaccinated with it, according to the Centers for Disease

Control & Prevention (CDC).

Pfizer tested a lower dose of the shots in children. The drugmaker said last week that researchers found the vaccine developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels in children that were just as strong as those found in teenagers and young adults getting regular-strength doses.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data, "hopefully in a matter of weeks", to decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.

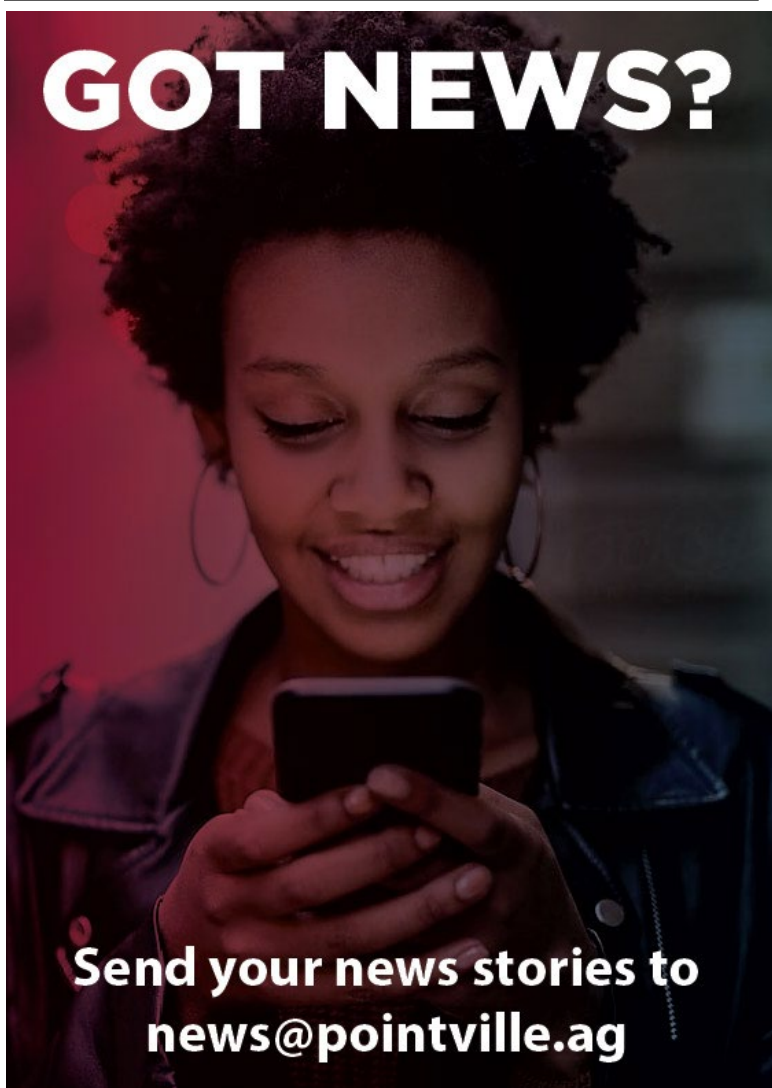
Another US vaccine maker, Moderna, also is studying its shots in elementary school-aged children. Results are expected later in the year.



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Cream of Wheat	397g	\$9.08
Avelina Oats	400g	\$2.95
Superfast Oats	500g	\$4.38
Pronto Cornmeal Porridge	600g	\$3.09
Cream of Wheat	794g	\$15.29
Avelina Oats	800g	\$4.54
Superfast Oats	1kg (1000g)	\$8.57
Superfast Oats	2kg (2000g)	\$16.20

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# Usyk defeats Anthony Joshua to become world boxing heavyweight champion

Anthony Joshua's reign as world boxing heavyweight champion ended on Saturday, with the proposed "Battle of Britain" against Tyson Fury now in tatters.

This was after Oleksandr Usyk of Ukraine claimed a stunning unanimous decision win at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. Usyk was giving up three inches in height and four in reach, as well as nearly 20 pounds in weight, for this fight. But the former undisputed world cruiserweight champion's technical acumen came to the fore in an electric atmosphere.

Joshua finished the bout slumped against the ropes as his smaller foe looked for a dramatic finish.

And, as it was not forthcoming, Usyk claimed the WBA, IBF and WBO titles after he was given the nod by all three judges.

Scores of 117-112, 116-112

and 115-113 were just reward after a near-masterclass from the unbeaten Usyk. He became only the third fighter after Evander Holyfield and David Haye to win world titles at cruiserweight and heavyweight. Joshua was obligated to face WBO mandatory challenger Usyk after a bout against Fury fell through earlier this year. He appeared philosophical in accepting the result when the scores came as he suffered just the second defeat of his career.

Joshua said on twitter afterwards: "Keep positive even if the world's crumbling in front of you! London I love you and thank you each and every time!"

As well as giving up several physical advantages to Joshua, Usyk had to contend with the hostile atmosphere that greeted his entrance to the ring from the 66,267 fans who attended this bout.



*Joshua (left) was obligated to face WBO mandatory challenger Usyk after a bout against Fury fell through earlier this year.*

But he retained an intense focus throughout and his combination of speed and almost non-stop movement from an awkward southpaw stance befuddled Joshua. Joshua's right eye became increasingly swollen as the fight wore on after a succession of rapid left hands found their mark. He was hurt on several occasions, most notably in the final seconds of the fight as a flurry of punches sent him reeling back to the ropes. Joshua was just about hanging on from the onslaught before being put out of his misery by the judges. Usyk, who revealed earlier in the week his new-look shaven head and moustache was a nod to his Cossack ancestry, later said via a translator: "The fight went exactly as I expected it to go. "There were a couple of moments when Anthony pushed me hard but nothing special. I had no objective to knock him out because my corner pushed me not to do that. "At the start, I hit him and tried to knock him out but my trainer said 'just stop and do your job'." The 34-year-old Ukrainian, who won Olympic heavyweight gold at London 2012 the day before Joshua memorably topped the podium in the super-heavyweight category, was slippery. He threw in plenty of feints as his opponent tried without much success to establish his

jab. This was just Usyk's third fight at heavyweight, having moved up to boxing's blue ribbon division two years ago. But he established an early pattern of success as Joshua was unable to get going. Usyk had his head jolted back in the third round by a picture-perfect left-cross before the outgoing champion fired back a warning shot. But it was a fantastic start from the challenger, whose only concern early on was a small cut underneath his right eye. Joshua did get his right hand working in the fifth and sixth rounds, undoubtedly his best in the fight. But Usyk reasserted his authority at the start of the second half of the fight, another left hook sending Joshua staggering backwards before regaining his footing. Even at this point, it seemed Joshua's grasp on his titles was slipping. Another savage left in the ninth drew a nod of appreciation from Joshua, who had developed a welt under one of his eyes. Both combatants seemed to slow down in the championship rounds, but Usyk was still noticeably quicker than his foe.

Joshua entered the last round needing at least one or two knockdowns to have an impact on the scorecards.

But he could not fashion anything and it was Usyk who closed the show as the bell came to his opponent's rescue.

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# 'WE NEED HELP, WE'RE STRUGGLING'

The Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) is quickly sliding toward a negative financial threshold unless it can get additional cash injection to help run its programmes, says General Secretary Dalton Wint.

The JFF, currently overseeing the Reggae Boyz World Cup 2022 campaign with the senior Reggae Girlz and other age-group competitions on the horizon, is grappling to make ends meet, effectively running on fumes.

Corporate support has been lacking, with the situation exacerbated amid the global financial squeeze caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

An expensive start to the Boyz CONCACAF qualifiers have seen the federation spend a shade over \$100 million combined over three games.

"We need help, we definitely need help; we're struggling. If you continue to take from something and you're not adding then one day you'll reduce it to zero. That's where we're heading if we are not able to replenish the supply," Wint told the Jamaica Observer.

The Reggae Boyz are

disappointingly last in the eight-team final stage of qualifying with one point after a 1-2 loss away to Mexico, a 0-3 home defeat to Panama, and a 1-1 result in Costa Rica.

They have 11 games remaining, including a home fixture versus Canada, sandwiched by away trips to the United States and Honduras, all to be played between October 7 and 13.

"After October we'll start getting to [the point] when we would struggle," Wint stated ominously.

"We are using some innovative ways of pulling through, by deferred financing ... but it can't continue indefinitely. One day those things will catch up with you. Some of the things we have been doing are to reallocate funds that were budgeted for other areas, and I referred to deferred payments," he continued.

Despite the global appeal of the Reggae Boyz brand, and the acclaim garnered from the country's successful qualification for the France 1998 World Cup finals, the federation, which is currently without a marketing manager, has so far failed to attract additional partners for the

2022 bid.

Notably, there has been support from the State-run Sports Development Foundation (SDF) and the Caribbean

funding from the Government to help offset expenses.

"We have had discussions with our counterparts and all of them



***Jamaica Football Federation general secretary Dalton Wint is crying out for financial help after spending over \$100 million for three World Cup qualifiers.***

Football Union (CFU).

Through a government subvention, the SDF gives the federation \$3.5 million each month. CFU, which runs football in the Caribbean, will support Jamaica's run in the octagonal CONCACAF qualifying stage by providing a US\$75,000 payment to the federation to assist with its hosting of games.

However, Wint, who estimates this World Cup qualifying campaign will cost at least US\$4 million, confirmed that the local football body has requested additional

have got significant support in this campaign from their governments, so we hope our Government will give us some support too," he told the Observer.

"We do appreciate the money we are getting from CFU, but it's a drop in the bucket because there is still the need to bridge that huge gap that is there .... We have spent quite a bit already and there's still a lot more to spend if we are to have a successful campaign," Wint added.



# Roger Federer backs Naomi Osaka and calls for press conference reforms



Roger Federer

Naomi Osaka sparked a debate about the future relationship between tennis players and the media when she refused to do press conferences at the French Open and subsequently pulled out of the event in May, and now Roger Federer has also called for change.

Twenty-time Grand Slam champion Federer has always enjoyed a positive relationship with the media, and his eagerness to speak in different languages and address all questions that come his way has added to his image as one of the most polished athletes in world sport over

the last two decades.

Yet he believes the format of doing press conferences needs to be modernised, as he offered these comments to GQ Magazine.

“I think players, the tournaments, journalists, we need to sit down together in a room and go, ‘OK, what would work for you and what works for us ... We need a revolution. Or at least an evolution of where we are today,” said Federer.

“Even when I am feeling down I know I need to act a certain way in front of the world’s press. We need to remember that tennis

players are athletes and professionals, but we are also human too.”

It is a debate that divides opinion, with respected New York Times reporter Christopher Clarye telling Tennis365 that press conferences still play a big role in allowing players to reach out to their fan base without the visible filters applied by their own management teams.

This is a debate that is now in full swing and while both sides will inevitably have contrasting views, it seems a change in the way tennis players deal with the media may now be inevitable.

## INZAMAM UL HAQ'S CONDITION STABLE AFTER SUFFERING HEART ATTACK



Inzamam's situation has improved greatly and he has been released from the hospital.

Former Pakistan captain and an all-time great batsman, Inzamam ul Haq, suffered a heart attack and successfully underwent angioplasty on Monday evening.

It is reported that Inzamam had been in a state of discomfort for the previous three days, where the right-hand batter complained about chest pain. The initial test reports

cleared him but, upon further inspection, it was revealed that the 51-year-old had suffered a heart attack. Following this, he was rushed to the hospital for surgery.

Previously, his agent confirmed that Inzamam is doing better. The latest update confirms that Inzamam has now been released from the hospital.

Inzamam remains

one of the most successful captains in Pakistan cricket history alongside being one of the most decorated batsmen the country has ever produced. He shot to global prominence in the 1992 World Cup and is also Pakistan's leading run-scorer in the ODIs with 11,701 runs from 375 matches. He is also the third highest run-getter in the longest format of

the game for the Men in Green.

After retiring, Inzamam remained connected to Pakistan cricket in different capacities. He has served as a batting consultant and chief selector. In addition to that, Inzamam has also worked as head coach of the Afghanistan national team.

**DEWS**