

# COMMONWEALTH MEETING CHAIRED BY PM BROWNE!

SEE PAGES 6-7



Breast Cancer Awareness is surely not lacking in Antigua and Barbuda, but still there is more that could (and needs to) be done – URGENTLY! Find out on PAGE 10 how a major financial institution is helping to drive the advocacy. Also, today at 7:00 a.m., Bishop Reverend Dr. Lyndon Mottley prays for those affected by breast cancer on **Pointe FM 99.1** to begin our morning program, **STARTING POINTE** with **Shelton Daniel & Troy Allen**.

- INSIDE:**
- APUA restores landline service after puzzling network crash
  - Only second shots of Pfizer vaccine available for now in A&B
  - SVG gives away more doses as public hesitancy holds firm

# Is COVID herd immunity still possible? Experts say endemic more likely

America came *this* close to herd immunity.

Last May, “we had enough vaccination and natural immunity to have basically almost achieved a population level of immunity,” Dr. Eric Topol said. “We were getting down to fewer than 10,000 cases a day. We were looking good.”

Then the Delta variant moved the goal posts.

With the original version of the virus that causes COVID-19, America’s current vaccination rate of about 65% would have been enough to stop the spread.

“If we were dealing with the original, we have sufficient vaccination such that the large-scale pandemic would be over in this country,” said Joshua Schiffer, a physician and mathematical modeling expert who studies infectious diseases at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

Unfortunately, the now-dominant Delta strain is more than twice as contagious and requires more people to be immune through vaccination or pre-

vious infection for the virus to stop spreading, experts say.

“Now we need 85 to 90% vaccinated against Delta,” said Topol, vice president for research at Scripps Research in La Jolla, California, and a national expert on the use of data in medical research. It’s not an impossible number. In Portugal, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, upward of 80% of the total population are vaccinated, and cases and deaths are falling.

That seems unlikely to happen in the USA, where 55% of the population is fully vaccinated, and 12% of Americans say are adamantly opposed to it. Herd immunity is effectively out of reach, said Stephen Kissler, an infectious disease fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “I don’t think it’s realistic,” he said.

## **What is herd immunity?**

The concept of herd immunity is simple: When disease sweeps through a herd of animals, the ones that survive become immune. Eventually, enough have

what’s known as natural immunity, and the disease has so few animals left to infect that it dies down or evens out.

The concept got a lot of media coverage early in the pandemic when politicians suggested that if young, healthy people got mild cases and recovered, there would be enough immunity that the virus wouldn’t circulate anymore and vulnerable people would be protected. This was before vaccines were available, and the United Kingdom, Sweden, Brazil and the United States under the Trump administration advocated the idea to varying degrees.

On one extreme was a group that called for the world to end lockdowns and other transmission prevention measures and embrace herd immunity for COVID-19 to protect the vulnerable while allowing economies to thrive. With a death rate at the time of 1%, COVID-19 would have had to kill 3.2 million Americans for enough people to be infected to reach herd immunity.



The arrival of COVID-19 vaccines changed the calculation. If two-thirds of Americans had gotten immunized in the spring, the virus would have had so few new people to infect that it could have been largely stopped.

Then the Delta variant hit.

Data began to show natural immunity wasn't as protective as vaccination, and the benefits of shots began to fade after about six months. More than

a third of COVID-19 infections result in zero protective antibodies, said Dr. Mark Rupp, an infectious disease expert at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Many of his patients are convinced that having recovered from COVID-19 is all the defense they need.

The good news is that for people who've recovered from COVID-19, a single dose of vaccine gives excellent immunity, Topol said. "You cannot

replicate that with any vaccine we have," he said. "It's pretty extraordinary."

### *When will the pandemic end?*

Now that 55% of Americans are fully vaccinated and at least 30% have recovered from COVID-19 at least once, how is it possible the pandemic can still be surging in so many places?

America is a big country, and even a small number is a lot of people. Though it's hard to pinpoint

the number of people not exposed to COVID-19 either through infection or vaccination, experts estimate it's 15% of the U.S. population. That's almost 50 million people – plenty to get sick, said Harvard's Kissler.

Reinfection and breakthrough cases are changing the landscape of susceptibility as immunity wanes. On Oct. 1, the seven-day daily COVID-19 deaths in the USA were at 1,479, according to the Centers for Dis-

**POPCORN CHICKEN**  
**\$9.99**

**4 STRIPS**  
**\$9.99**

**5 HOT WINGS**  
**\$9.99**



# SNACKABLES



Order Pickup + Delivery on



allmartplace.com

**FOR DELIVERY** 

**736-7845 / 562-9444**

or DOWNLOAD THE APP...

Apple Store / Google PlayStore



**#StaySafe**

 @kfcanu
  @kfcanu

#KFCANU #SOCIALDISTANCING #MADEFRESHEVERYDAY

ease Control and Prevention. “I find it humbling that the leftover percentage, 15%, is still enough to overwhelm our health care system,” Schiffer said.

### **Experts say endemic COVID-19 could make virus ‘manageable’**

The optimistic expectation, experts said, is that the pandemic will die down, and the virus will become one of the world’s many endemic viruses that continue to circulate but cause much less disease and death.

It’s predicted to become an infection that sweeps through the adult population in the winter, sickening some but generally delivering serious illness only to the very old, those with compromised immune systems, and pregnant women who are unvaccinated, said Dr. Gregory Poland, editor-in-chief of the journal *Vaccine*.

“Once we get to the point where everybody has been exposed or vaccinated and if – and it’s a big if – COVID does

what other respiratory illnesses do, it may be a disease that’s manageable,” said Jeffrey Shaman, an epidemiologist at Columbia University. Ideally, babies and toddlers would get it multiple times before making it to kindergarten, experts said. For the majority, COVID-19 would be mild as it is today for most young children. By the time they begin school, they would have pretty strong immune protection.

COVID-19 vaccines would become part of the routine immunizations of childhood, probably requiring several doses and possible boosters if variants appear, experts said.

Much like the flu, COVID-19 in the Northern Hemisphere is expected to be an illness that shows up in the colder months.

If infected, vaccinated adults would generally have mild or even asymptomatic cases. Unvaccinated adults would be at higher risk for severe disease. With age, the immune

system becomes less robust, so annual COVID-19 shots would be especially important for those over 65 and the immune-compromised. COVID-19 would probably continue to mutate. In some years, it would be very mild; in others, more severe.

### **COVID-19 is still evolving**

There are no guarantees with SARS-CoV-2, which can mutate quickly. The worst-case scenario is that it evolves

into something even more dangerous or more contagious than Delta. Learning to live with COVID-19 means accepting uncertainty and staying vigilant for what might come, said Rustom Antia, a professor of population biology at Emory University. “Barring a miracle,” Schiffer said, “COVID will be part of our lives for the rest of our lives.”

**(Reprinted from USA Today)**



**Life | Medical**

Davier Joseph

**State stays true to their policies!**

**‘Own the moment’**  
Live in a better STATE of mind

STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

268.481-7800  
info@sicantigua.com  
sicantigua.com

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram icons





Give us a call 481-2500 and Roll Like a PRO



# Prime Minister Gaston Browne chairs 2021 Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting



***Prime Minister Gaston Browne virtually chaired the 2021 Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting.***

On Tuesday, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Corporate Governance and Public-Private Partnerships, the Hon. Gaston Browne, chaired the 2021 Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting (CFMM).

The meeting of finance ministers is the longest es-

tablished annual ministerial meeting in the cycle of intergovernmental Commonwealth gatherings, and provides an opportunity for ministers to collectively consider approaches to emerging global issues and the economic development work program of the Com-

monwealth. This year, the CFMM was held virtually on the margins of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group.

As chairperson, PM Browne called for an urgent review of development finance architecture, and for examination of the ex-

clusion of some middle- to high-income small states from accessing affordable finance by virtue of their income statuses.

Browne also highlighted the adverse impact of COVID-19 globally and in the Commonwealth, particularly in small states.

While chairing the meeting of finance ministers, Prime Minister Browne urged the grouping to reconsider the current metrics and recognize the 'special case' of small states and the need for 'special treatment'. He also called for special recognition of vulnerabilities in the allocation of concessional finance.

In his address, PM Browne noted that the battle to contain the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, but the struggle continues for equitable access to vaccines.

According to Prime Minister Browne, "As we call for concerted efforts for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, let's not lose sight of the adverse economic effects of this pandemic, which have become severe stressors for the majority of Commonwealth economies. It is a well-known fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the debt problem and it is expected that average debt would

reach 71.3 percent in 2021 in the Commonwealth, with debt expected to hit 91.8 percent of GDP in 2021 in the Caribbean region. These debt levels are all well above the 60 percent international threshold. Commonwealth SIDS will require debt cancellation to bring their debt in alignment and to create fiscal space to accelerate their transition into alternate energy."

The country's leader went on to state, "We applaud the fiscal and policy support provided by the multilateral organizations, specifically the IFIs, in providing liquidity relief to many countries. The response is appropriate and timely. One of these initiatives is the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) which comes to an end in December 2021. The initiative benefited the 29 poorest and most vulnerable countries. Additionally, the IMF, the World Bank Group, and the multilateral development banks injected liquidity with the special drawing rights and enhanced lending facilities to help countries tackle the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Whereas these facilities have assisted with liquidity and budgetary support, they are not sufficient for vulnerable SIDS to achieve debt sustainability.

Further interventions are required to assist SIDS in achieving debt sustainability. I have to state categorically that while these initiatives are welcome, there is a need for inclusive measures which are not selective by virtue of the income status of a country. What should be central in determining support, should be the extent of the vulnerability, necessitating the development and use of the multi-dimensional vulnerability index."

In wrapping up the near four-hour-long meeting of finance ministers, the Antigua and Barbuda head of government and 2021 CFMM chairperson said, "Myself and other heads have made several pleas – at various international and national platforms – for an urgent need to reform the financial architecture. The reformed architecture should be inclusive and cognizant of the inherent vulnerabilities, particularly of small states. I'm making this clarion call, yet again."

The annual Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting was opened by the Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat; with open floor discussions by finance ministers from across the Commonwealth states.

# APUA restores service after landline network crash

The state-owned Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) yesterday managed to restore its landline telephone service which had gone down for almost 10 hours on Tuesday.

However, it appears the company is none-the-wiser as to what caused the network dysfunction that reportedly disrupted service to about 25,000 customers.

But news reports quoted the head of APUA's Telecommunications Business Unit, Vaughn Browne, as saying the crash is unlikely to occur again.

The landline network went down about 7:00 a.m. on October 12, and was not restored until late afternoon to early evening.

Browne suggested that some sort of overload on the system was responsible.

"There was an

excess amount of data – both signaling and voice traffic – that happened," he explained. "We first had to resolve that issue, and once that was done we were able to access the switch to make some further corrections."

Browne added that APUA was able to stabilize the situation about five hours later, after which it concentrated on "fixing the voice services", before getting everything back under control by 5:00 p.m.

The outage mostly affected landlines, but mobile services were also impacted – albeit to a much lesser extent.

S a f e g u a r d s against this sort of thing that APUA has built into its system, apparently failed to kick in on this occasion, and investigations are reportedly ongoing to find out why.



**SQUARE ONE LTD**  
"SOLID FROM THE GROUND UP"

**WE ARE  
LOOKING  
FOR**

**CARPENTERS**

**MASONS**

**SITE SUPERVISOR/  
FOREMANS**

**LABOURERS**

**DRIVERS**

**MUST HAVE:**

- Experience in the Industry
- Legally entitled to work
- Proof of full Vaccination
- References from past projects

Police Record must be submitted with application

Email Your  
**RESUME**  
office@squareone.ag

**JOIN  
OUR TEAM  
BUILD  
YOUR CAREER**



# Commissioner meets with executive of new Police Welfare Association

Police Commissioner Mr. Atlee Rodney and his senior administration on Tuesday met with the newly-elected executive members of the Police Welfare Association (PWA), following the PWA's recently-concluded general elections.

Commissioner Rodney congratulated the new PWA executive members and encouraged them to always strive to give their best to those they are called upon to serve.

He also reminded them of the PWA's role and the principles that govern the Association.

The Commissioner further pledged his commitment, and that of his senior administration, to work with the new executive in the best interest of the Association.

Newly elected chairman of the PWA, Corporal Marylyn Harris, gave the assurance that the new executive will work along with the Police administration and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to bring about positive and meaningful changes within the Police Force.

Apart from Corporal

Harris as chairman, the new PWA executive also includes Sergeant Bernita Lawrence, 1st vice-chairman with responsibilities to the Regular Police; Corporal Sylvester George, treasurer and 2nd vice-chairman with responsibilities to the Fire Department; Constable Julian DeCastro, assistant treasurer.

Constable Corinthea Nicholas was appointed as secretary and office administrator, while Constable Stefan Jacobs – who currently resides and is stationed on the sister isle of Barbuda – will be the representative for Barbuda affairs, in addition to being the Association's assistant secretary.

The Police Welfare Association's general elections were held on Wednesday 6th October 2021. Members cast their votes at the five polling stations set up at St. Johns, Parham, Johnson' Point, All Saints, and Barbuda police stations. This process takes place biennially, in accordance with the Police Act, Chapter 330, sections 62 and 63.

The Association was



*Police Commissioner Atlee Rodney (3rd from right) with new executive members of the Police Welfare Association.*

established within the police force for the purpose of enabling Inspectors, subordinate police officers and constables to consider and bring to the notice of the Commissioner

of Police and the Minister, matters affecting their general welfare and efficiency.

The outgoing chairman of the PWA is Sergeant Roosevelt Browne.

## Life | Medical

Ockeaia McFarlane

*It's reliable support  
for my family!*

**'Own the moment'**

Live in a better STATE of mind



STATE INSURANCE  
COMPANY LIMITED

268.481-7800  
info@sicantigua.com  
sicantigua.com



# Breast Cancer Week ends on inspirational note

CIBC FirstCaribbean's Go Pink Week of Activities in support of Breast Cancer ended with a bang last Friday with the airing of the programme *Music for the Cure* on ABS TV.

The weekend of 2-3 October should have seen the 10th Anniversary of the bank's *Walk-for-the-Cure* which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and protocols.

Natasha Charles of the Walk-for-the-Cure Committee explained that all plans were in place for a small Walk-and-a-Drive-for-the-Cure. However, in September, with COVID cases rising in Antigua, the committee realized that changes had to be made.

"So we cancelled those plans and instead decided to host a Week of Activities from the 1st to the 8th of October to raise awareness of cancer, to offer support to those with cancer, and to raise funds to support the work of the Breast Friends Organisation and the Oncology Department of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre."

Both branches of the bank were deco-

rated with balloons, streamers and ribbons – and individuals and businesses were encouraged to do the same.

There is an ongoing raffle, and *Walk-for-the-Cure* shirts are on sale.

Ms. Charles acknowledged the great role played by ABS TV in the production of the programme *Music-for-the-Cure* which was aired on Friday evening and repeated on Sunday afternoon.

ABS TV's General Manager, Mrs. Erna Mae Brathwaite, took a personal interest in the production of this programme which featured music by the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) and an interview with staff member and cancer survivor Mrs. Lornette Belle James-Knight.

"The interview, which was conducted by Mrs. Natalie Clarke-White, has so far garnered over 6,500 hits on the ABS TV Facebook page. It was deeply moving and very inspirational...", said Ms. Charles.

Meanwhile Mrs. Ladesa James-Williams, the bank's



*Staff in their pink Walk-for-the-Cure shirts.*

Country Head, added her thanks to all the corporate sponsors who, despite the effects of the pandemic, have teamed up with the bank to support this project.

"We are hoping to raise \$50,000 to donate to the Breast Friends Organisation and the Oncology Department at SLBMC. Our cancer patients need our support and

we continue to encourage everyone to become aware of cancers and have annual medical check-ups," she said.

CIBC FirstCaribbean's Walk-for-the-Cure is one of the Caribbean's largest fundraising and educational cancer programmes. It has raised millions of dollars over the past 10 years.

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **Ms. REBEKA BLANCHARD** of **SOUTHERLAND** village, **St. John's, Antigua** is applying to the Minister for Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



# British travel agency offers partnership to interested local residents



*Tourism Minister Charles Henry Fernandez.*

SN Travel of the UK – described as a “well-established travel agency” – has announced plans to expand into Antigua and the USA within the next 2 weeks.

As part of its expansion plans, the UK brand is offering to train residents of Antigua and Barbuda who are interested in starting their own travel agency businesses as

home workers.

Entrepreneurs eager to run their own business, without all the costs that come with starting a business, are being offered the added bonuses of full mentoring, training and support, as well as access to SN Travel’s extensive nett contract prices.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Minister of Tourism, The Hon-

ourable Charles Fernandez, has applauded the homeworking initiative. “This is a significant move by SN Travel and is one that will make a huge impact in the lives of residents of Antigua and Barbuda. SN Travel is a familiar Caribbean brand, particularly amongst our UK diaspora, and we are thrilled that the team has brought this global job creation opportunity to us. Being able to earn revenue from around the globe while working from home is extremely relevant at this time, and we are encouraging persons with an entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for travel to take up the offer and increase their earnings.” With access to these nett rates, the homeworkers can offer highly competitive holidays without having to start their business from scratch. Piggybacking off SN Travel’s ATOL and IATA licenses, booking systems and wealth of knowledge, these homeworkers will have the freedom

of choosing their own hours and working from anywhere in the world while they build their business.

Sandra Dyer, Director of SN Travel, stated: “We are really excited to offer this opportunity to Antiguan residents. We have strong ties with Antigua, so this is a personal feat for me. We plan further to introduce the training from this incentive into colleges so that many more people can also take advantage of starting their own travel agency business.”

This incentive will give the chosen individuals a head start with uncapped earning potential and mentoring from a travel agency that has been established and run successfully since 1973. The project kicks off with a webinar on 16th October where anyone can attend. To register, visit <https://www.sntravel.co.uk/register> SN Travel is a family-run London-based travel agency that pioneered chartered Caribbean flights.



# POINTVILLE COMMUNICATIONS INC.

## RADIO RATES

### ADVERTISEMENT

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

### SPONSORSHIP SPOTS

Prime Time	\$550.00
Non prime Time	\$240.00

### ADVERTISEMENT/MENTION

Voicing	\$75.00ec
Production Cost	\$75.00ec

### DEATH ANNOUCEMENT

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

**ABST 15% IS NOT INCLUDED**  
**SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY**



# Chinese Embassy responds to Reuters' article on Taiwan

**Dear Editor:** *Pointe Xpress* carried a news report by Reuters on October 11 titled “*Taiwan won’t be forced to bow to China, president says*”, which is misleading.

To set records straight, the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Antigua and Barbuda wishes to reiterate China’s position on the Taiwan question:

There is only one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China’s territory. Although the two sides have yet to be reunified, the sovereignty and territory of China has never been severed, and the fact that the mainland and Taiwan belong to one and same China has never changed.

Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen’s speech on October 10 advocated “Taiwan independence”, incited confrontations with the mainland and distorted facts. Under the guise of so-called consensus and unity, Tsai had attempted to kidnap public opinion in Taiwan and

collude with foreign forces for her purpose of seeking “independence”. On the basis of adhering to the one-China principle, there will be no obstacles in exchanges between political parties and groups in Taiwan and the mainland.

However, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which seeks “Taiwan independence” and denies the 1992 Consensus that embodies the one-China principle, has broken the foundation for cross-Straits dialogue.

Their words and deeds are not only “rash” and in no way represent “goodwill”. The DPP’s provocations to seek “Taiwan independence” remain the source of tension and turbulence in cross-Straits relations, the biggest threat to peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, and the greatest obstacle to our national reunification.

National reunification by peaceful means best serves the interests of the Chinese nation as a whole, including

our compatriots in Taiwan. The central government of China will adhere to the basic policies of peaceful reunification and One Country-Two Systems, uphold the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, and work for the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations.

Since the establishment of its diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China, the government of Antigua and Barbuda has been committed to the one-China principle, which China highly commends.

It is our hope that the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda continue to support the government and people of China in the just cause of safeguarding China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, opposing separatist activities, and achieving national reunification. *(Submitted by spokesperson of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Antigua and Barbuda)*

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
**7:00pm - 8:30pm**

**SPORTS OVERFLOW**  
 With  
**VERNON A. SPRINGER**  
**CO-HOST ELWIN FRANCIS**

Powered By: ANJO, AMERICAN, EYE MOBILE, 99.1 FM, and other sponsors.

# Doing your best with your time



The pandemic hasn't changed the need for us to do great work and inspire those around us to do the same. As HR practitioners we are often asked to lead special projects in addition to our already hectic list of daily responsibilities that we must maneuver successfully.

Lately, we have realized the need to become more conscious with, not just how we spend our time in the workplace, but also how we prepare for work and unwind at the end of each day.

For years we have been taught to recognize time management as

one of the most important leadership skills that allows us to take control of our time and stay on top of our to-do lists. According to MindTools.com, time management enables us to beat work overload, be more effective, and achieve more.

As busy professionals with more demands on our time - that we have no power to create more of - how do we do the best we can with what we have? There is a school of thought that time management is a myth and so our focus needs to be more on improving our 'priority management'.

John Michael Mor-

gan, best-selling author and leadership coach, says, "There are no time management problems. There are only priority management problems."

This is no more apparent than at the end of a day when we feel drained and exhausted, only to realize that some of our more important tasks are still incomplete or that we have just missed an important deadline.

Like most things, priority management is a process that would take some time to perfect. The first step is to establish your purpose, set priorities based on this

purpose, and then establish schedules based on these priorities.

Joan Underwood, in her book, *Manager's First-Aid Kit*, wrote: "So many managers spend the majority of their days putting out fires. They lurch from one thing to another at a frenetic pace, because everything has taken on the semblance of urgency. The thing is there's a difference between being urgent and being important. The two don't necessarily go together".

Underwood also advises that burning the candle at both ends is to be an exception and not



the norm, and that our work life is not meant to consume our entire life. All of us have more than one role in life and someone is counting on us in every one of these roles.

Another tip on how to achieve your best results with the time you have, is to condition yourself and your work environment to be your most productive. Prepare your mind to accomplish progress, if not completion, on at least three major tasks per day. This motivates you to plan your days and not just arrive at work as a blank slate. This would require focus on your part as well as an understanding from the rest of your team and even your superiors that you are not to be interrupted at

those times when you are deeply engaged. Nowadays, in a work-from-home era, this becomes even more necessary as it may mean turning off disruptive gadgets or asking your relatives or roommates to allow you time to focus on doing your best work.

Completing tasks and meeting deadlines often require a team effort. Understand that not every task has to be done by you personally. Carefully examine your list of tasks and determine which responsibilities can be successfully delegated. Also, learn to negotiate due dates and reschedule lower priorities that would not have a major ripple effect on someone else's work.

Finally, incorporate the use of tools such as planners, reminders and alarms to assist you with keeping deadlines ahead of you.

It is also necessary to carve out time towards the end of each day to reflect on your progress and evaluate just how true you were to your priorities on that day. This may mean reviewing your priority list and revise the next day's list to include any incomplete or renegotiated tasks. By doing this, you will be able to make the required adjustments to be better at confronting challenges and improving on your successes.

***The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB)***

***is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at [hrpro.ab@gmail.com](mailto:hrpro.ab@gmail.com) or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.***



**TELL US WHAT'S  
HAPPENING IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY.**

Submit community notices to  
**[news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)**

# COVID-19: Barbados government moving to establish safe zones

*St. Lucia Times* - With almost 60 percent of Barbados' population vaccinated against COVID-19, Government is moving towards the establishment of safe zones as it continues to battle the virus that has claimed 101 lives to date.

The creation of these zones will see healthcare workers being targeted in the first instance, followed by frontline workers, along with those in the tourism and education sectors.

Over time, persons in the restaurant and entertainment sectors and places of worship will be included in the creation of safe zones.

This plan of action was revealed on Monday by Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley during a virtual address to the nation, as she disclosed that a total of 142,543 Barbadians were now vaccinated against COVID-19.

Noting that Government was maintaining its position against mandating vaccines, the Prime Minister said Government still had a duty to create a "safe place and a safe zone" for those who were vaccinated and did not wish to be infected by the virus.

The Prime Minister explained that officials were satisfied that they needed to start the process of creating safe zones where



*Prime Minister Mia Mottley.*

persons were either vaccinated or frequently tested.

"At the end of the day, what matters is that you are safe and not in a position to put each other at risk," Ms. Mottley stated.

Such a process, the Prime Minister said, would see unvaccinated persons being tested weekly at Government's expense, while vaccinated persons would be tested, but less frequently.

"The truth is that persons who are vaccinated will have a less frequent regime ... Persons who are vaccinated are less likely to catch it [COVID-19], and if they catch it, they are less likely to be contagious because it is not going to stay with them..." Ms. Mottley said.

Ms. Mottley said the process of establishing

safe zones would be led by the Ministry of Health & Wellness and done "in a series of bite-sized chunks" as it continued to manage the overall situation in the country.

She added that, in the first instance, Government would be seeking to protect the most vulnerable in society such as the elderly, those in nursing homes, the Geriatric Hospital, [other] hospitals, and those dependent on caregivers.

Ms. Mottley said the guidance notes – which would be issued by the Ministry of Health & Wellness later this week – would insist on testing persons based on risk.

In healthcare institutions, high risk areas would include intensive care units – whether medical intensive care or sur-

gical intensive care; the Accident & Emergency (A&E) Department; the 24-hour urgent care at polyclinics; isolation facilities; swabbing centres; nursing homes; and outpatient clinics.

"The Ministry of Health [and Wellness] has indicated that those are the high risk areas, and ... it is anticipated that unvaccinated persons ... in these high risk areas will have to be tested at least once a week in order to ensure that we are taking care of those we have to take care of," she outlined.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister urged persons to continue the discussions and dialogue about vaccine hesitancy, especially since there continue to be people who are nervous about receiving the jab.



# CDB urges region to capitalize on IMF financing

**CMC** – President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Dr. Hyginus ‘Gene’ Leon, has proposed that the US\$2.5 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) available to Caribbean countries from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), be pooled to unlock even more financing in the capital markets.

The SDR is an interest-bearing international reserve asset created by the IMF. Members can use their SDR allocation to supplement or build their national reserves instead of accruing debt.

Speaking at the second edition of the CDB President’s Chat Forum on Friday, Leon advised that combining the recent SDR allocations assigned by the IMF could be the practical and powerful collaboration needed to improve the economic position of the region.

Leon, who worked with the IMF for more than two decades, said that rather than each country drawing down and using its individual allocation, a more effective solution would be a combined financial instrument for the region’s benefit.

“Alternatively, we have



*President of the Caribbean Development Bank, Dr. Hyginus ‘Gene’ Leon.*

an opportunity to say, ‘What if we pool all of that 1.7 billion SDRs – [about] US\$2.5 billion, and now invest it into an equivalent reserve asset type of instrument that could be issued by a CDB?’” he said, indicating how this financial instrument could then be used to invigorate the capital markets and access more and better financing for the Caribbean’s development needs.

“It will call for us recognising that individu-

ally if we used our SDR allocations or even if we left it there, we are much worse off than we could be if we were to pool and now utilise those SDRs through the mechanism of leverage in a way that helps build the very capital markets we say we don’t have. But it calls for collaboration, cooperation in a regional sense,” he added.

Dr. Leon has also sounded his intention to present a proposal to Caribbean Community

(Caricom) Heads on a financial mechanism to achieve this objective.

Barbados’ Prime Minister Mia Mottley who was also in attendance at the CDB President’s Chat Forum, also used the opportunity to urge the CDB to advance the proposal quickly.

Mottley pointed out that many countries across the region may have already made decisions on how they will use their SDR allocations.

# SVG gives away more vaccines as Vincentians refuse the jab



**by Melissa Wong - Loop Caribbean**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has given away more vaccines than it has used.

This is according to Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves who says that, only three days ago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines gave away 10,000 AstraZeneca doses to three Caribbean countries out of the 20,000 it received from Canada.

The vaccines from that batch will expire at the end of the month and had to be given away.

There are still vaccines remaining to administer second doses.

Gonsalves says St. Vin-

cent and the Grenadines continues to give away vaccines because people are not taking it.

He warns: "We might find ourselves, when we are ready to take it ... we don't have it."

The prime minister notes that SVG has a lot of Sputnik V and its only problem is that it's not accepted in several jurisdictions.

Gonsalves says he has received calls from two prime ministers in the Caribbean asking if St. Vincent and the Grenadines has any Pfizer vaccines to spare. It has an expiry date up to February 2022.

"The US government has contacted us. They want to

know how much we have been using. While other countries going to get their second tranche, we are not in a position to tell them to give us the second tranche yet. Will it be available when we want it?"

The Vincentian prime minister also spoke on the topic of curfews and COVID-19. Gonsalves says he does think anyone could say [seriously that] a curfew has worked anywhere ... and would need to be persuaded.

"When you lock down and open back up, we see a certain explosion taking place."

The prime minister was speaking during a radio programme on Sunday.

In its COVID-19 update for October 10, St. Vincent and the Grenadines recorded 113 new cases and five deaths.

The Ministry of Health says all the patients were unvaccinated. Their deaths bring the death toll from the virus to 38.

According to its latest vaccination update as of October 6, the total number of vaccines administered stands at 35,118 of which 21,336 people have received first doses while 13,782 have gotten both doses.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has 1,286 active COVID-19 cases.



# Caribbean tourism holds strong as region outperforms rest of the world

**Loop Caribbean** - Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic in the last year-and-a-half, the Caribbean tourism industry has outperformed the rest of the world.

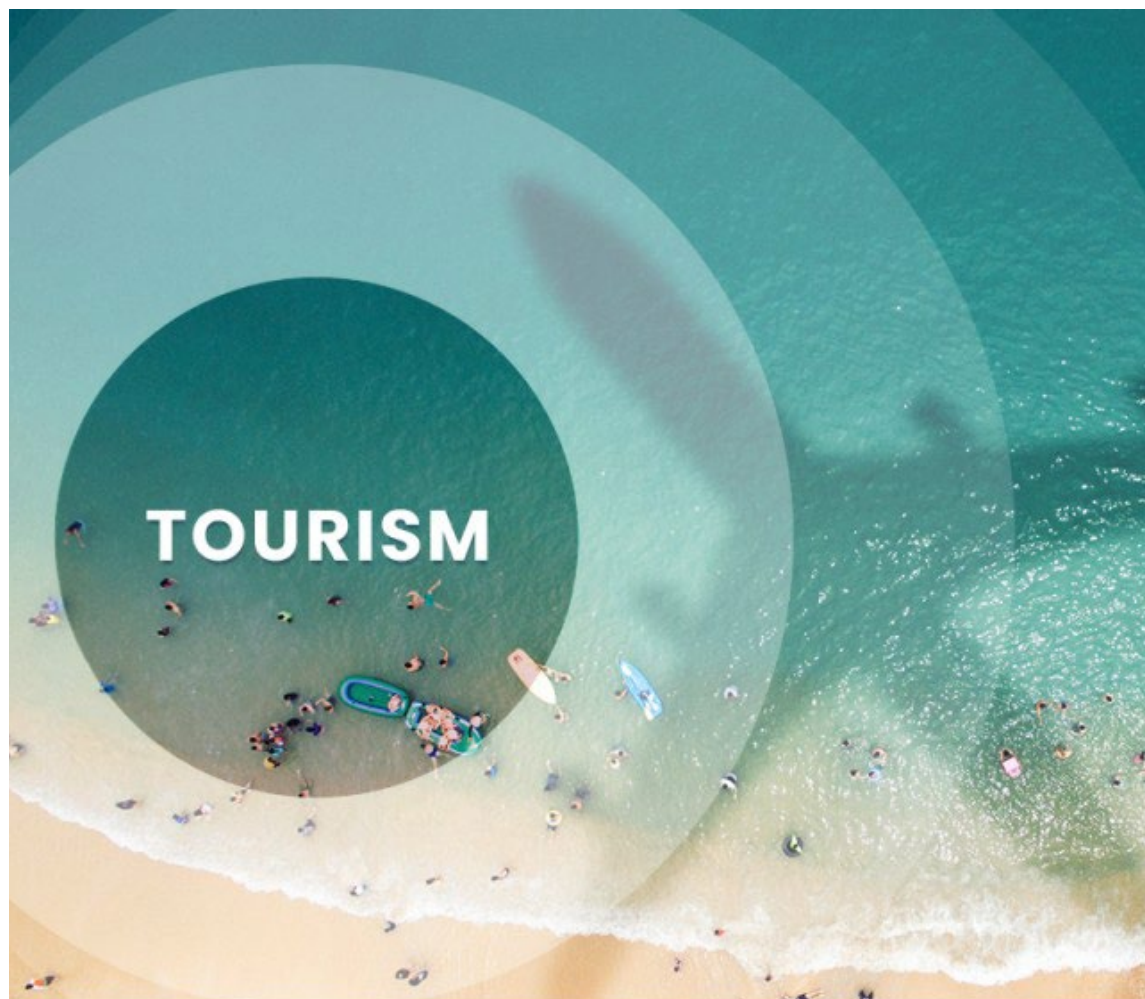
Preliminary data from member countries of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) reveal that the region outperformed the rest of the world in the first half of 2021.

The CTO said that, during this period, international tourist arrivals to the Caribbean reached 6.6 million, representing a 12 percent decline when compared with the same period last year.

By the end of May, arrivals were at 5.2 million, down 30.8 per cent for the corresponding period in 2020, considerably better than the global average of a 65.1 percent decline.

Of the main regions analysed, The Americas, which included the Caribbean, registered a 46.9 percent drop – otherwise no other region performed better than a 63 percent fall in arrivals.

The CTO said while the tourist arrivals continued to lag pre-pandemic numbers, the first half-year performance was boosted by a second-quarter spurt when overnight



tourist visits to the Caribbean jumped between 10 and 37 times greater than those in the corresponding months of 2020.

In absolute terms, there was a steady improvement as arrival numbers increased from one million in April to 1.2 million in May to 1.5 million in June, according to data compiled by the CTO's research department.

Among the reasons for the strong second quarter was a rise in outbound

travel from the region's primary market, the United States, from which tourist visits reached 4.3 million in the first half of the year, a 21.7 percent increase. Other contributing factors included the easing of some travel restrictions and an increase in airlift.

"These are encouraging signs that the hard work our member countries have put into adapting to the changing environment of the pandemic is beginning to pay dividends,"

said Neil Walters, the CTO's acting secretary-general.

"Even as we embrace a recovery mindset and the opportunities the pandemic has given us, we must continue to be mindful of the challenges we currently face and the potential challenges a dynamic situation like the pandemic can present. The Caribbean tourism sector is known to be one of the most resilient in the world."

# Kim vows to build 'invincible' military while slamming US

(AP) —North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reviewed powerful missiles developed to launch nuclear strikes on the US mainland as he vowed to build an “invincible” military to cope with what he called persistent US hostility, state media reported Tuesday.

In an apparent continued effort to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul, Kim also used his speech on Monday at a rare exhibition of weapons systems to stress that his military might isn't targeted at South Korea and that there shouldn't be another war pitting Korean people against each other.

“The US has frequently signaled it's not hostile to our state, but there is no action-based evidence to make us believe that they are not hostile,” Kim said Monday, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. “The U.S. is continuing to create tensions in the region with its wrong judgments and actions.”

Calling the United States a “source” of instability on the Korean Peninsula, Kim



*In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (center) speaks in front of what the North says is an intercontinental ballistic missile displayed at an exhibition of weapons systems in Pyongyang, North Korea, Monday, Oct. 11, 2021*

said his country's most important objective is possessing an “invincible military capability” that no one can dare challenge.

The exhibition, which KCNA says was meant to mark the 76th birthday of the ruling Workers' Party on Sunday, was the first of its kind since Kim took power in late 2011, according to Seoul officials.

North Korean photos showed Kim, clad in a dark suit, walking on a red carpet lined with big missiles mounted on trucks, passing by a multiple rocket launch system and watching jets fly-

ing in a formation. The exhibition featured an array of newly developed weapons, including intercontinental ballistic missiles North Korea has already test-launched or displayed during military parades in recent years, experts say.

YangWook, a military expert who teaches at South Korea's Hannam University, said the weapons in the photos include what appears to be a new ICBM that North Korea disclosed during a military parade last year but hasn't test-fired. That missile, mounted on an 11-axle launch vehicle during the parade, is consid-

ered to be the North's biggest-yet ICBM.

Other weapons on display were another ICBM that North Korea tested in 2017; ballistic missiles that can be fired from submarines or a train; solid-fueled, short-range missiles; and a developmental hypersonic missile that had its first test-flight last month, said Lee Choon Geun, a missile expert at South Korea's Science & Technology Policy Institute.

“Basically, North Korea wants to send this message: ‘We'll continue to develop new weapons and arm ourselves with nuclear force, so don't slap sanctions with these as we can't agree on the double standards,’” Yang said.

Seoul's Defense Ministry said South Korean and US intelligence authorities were analyzing the North Korean weapons displayed but didn't elaborate.

In recent weeks North Korea has sent mixed signals toward its rivals as it resumed its missile tests after a six-month hiatus but offered conditional talks with South Korea.



# IMF slashes US growth forecast and warns of rising risks to the global economy

**CNN** – The global economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is weakening and risks are rising, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF on Tuesday slashed its 2021 growth forecast for the United States by one full percentage point to 6%, the biggest reduction suffered by any G7 economy in its latest *World Economic Outlook*.

The cut reflects disruptions to supply chains and softening consumption in the third quarter, the IMF said.

The revision comes days after Goldman Sachs cut its growth forecasts for the US economy this year and next, citing weaker consumer spending and the winding down of the government's COVID-19 relief programs.

The IMF now expects the global economy to grow 5.9% in 2021, which is 0.1 percentage points lower than the July forecast.

The outlook for 2022 remained unchanged.

Despite the modest



revision, the organization said economic risks have increased.

“Rapid spread of Delta and the threat of new variants have increased uncertainty about how quickly the pandemic can be overcome,” it said. “Policy choices have become more difficult, confronting multidimensional challenges — subdued employment growth, rising inflation, food insecurity, the setback to human capital accumulation, and climate change — with limited room to maneuver.”

The organization also cut its 2021 growth forecasts for China, Japan and Germany, the world's next largest economies. It said shortages of materials were weighing on manufacturing output

in Germany; while, in Japan, emergency coronavirus measures implemented between July and September had dented the recovery.

China's economy is expected to grow 8% in 2021 — slightly less than the July forecast — due to a scaling back of public spending, the IMF added. It also flagged “large scale, disorderly corporate debt defaults”, including in China's property sector, as a risk to financial markets that could “reverberate widely”.

Overall, the balance of risks for the global economy is “tilted to the downside”, according to the IMF, which pointed to rising inflation fueled by higher commodity prices and mismatches between

supply and demand following the pandemic.

Supply chain bottlenecks have led to shortages of a range of goods and astronomical increases in shipping costs, which are pushing up consumer prices. Although the IMF expects inflation to return to its pre-pandemic range across most economies next year, it said a persistent supply-demand imbalance could keep prices elevated for longer, prompting central banks to hike interest rates sooner than expected.

Other risks to the growth outlook include a failure to lift the US debt ceiling, which could have “serious implications for financial markets”, it added.

# COVID: UK's early response worst public health failure ever, MPs say



**BBC** – The UK's failure to do more to stop COVID spreading early in the pandemic was one of the country's worst public health failures, a report by MPs says.

The government approach - backed by its scientists - was to try to manage the situation and in effect achieve herd immunity by infection, it said.

This led to a delay in introducing the first lockdown, costing thousands of lives, the MPs found.

But their report highlighted successes too, including the vaccination rollout. It described the approach to vaccination - from the research and development through to the rollout of the jabs - as "one of the most effective initiatives in UK history."

But campaigners criticised the report for failing to focus on those who had died, saying references to practical issues, including problems with laptops, was "laughable".

The 150-page document, Coronavirus: Lessons learned to date, is from the Health & Social Care

Committee and the Science & Technology Committee, and MPs from all parties. It predominantly focused on the response to the pandemic in England. The committees did not look at steps taken individually by Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The MPs called the pandemic - which has claimed more than 150,000 lives in the UK and nearly five million worldwide so far - the "biggest peacetime challenge" for a century.

Some early failings, the report suggested, resulted from apparent "group-think" among scientists and ministers.

It meant the UK was not as open to different approaches on earlier lockdowns, border controls, and test-and-trace, as it should have been.

A woman - whose twin sisters died within three days of one another after testing positive for COVID - says the report from MPs uses the success of the vaccine programme to deflect from earlier failures.

Zoe Davis' sisters - Katy and Emma, who were both nurses - died in April 2020.

She says: "Nobody is saying that the vaccine programme hasn't been phenomenal, but the frustrating thing is that's a deflection of what is actually being brought to attention and the overall message is that COVID failures have cost lives."

Lindsay Jackson from Derbyshire, whose mother died with COVID, said the report confirmed fears she had about care home visits in March 2020.

"I knew in my own mind the lockdown was too slow. I knew the social care sector wasn't being looked after. I knew people shouldn't have been released from hospital without tests, and this just confirms that."

Jackson is calling for the government to [have] a public inquiry to see if anyone is culpable.

Conservative MPs Jeremy Hunt and Greg Clark, who chair the committees, said the nature of the pandemic meant it was "impossible to get everything right."

"The UK has combined some big achievements with some big mistakes. It is vital to learn from both," they said.

Cabinet Office minister Stephen Barclay said scientific advice had been followed and the government had made "difficult judgements" to protect the NHS.

He said the government took responsibility for everything that happened - saying the government would not shy away from any lessons to be learned at the full statutory public inquiry, expected next year.



# US workers are quitting their jobs in record numbers



**Al Jazeera** - Workers in the United States are quitting their jobs at a record pace.

The latest Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) from the US Labor Department, showed that the number of Americans quitting their jobs jumped to 4.3 million in August. That is 2.9 percent of all employed workers in the US, marking the highest quits rate on record.

Meanwhile, the number of job openings in the US fell slightly to 10.4 million in August, but that follows on from July which saw a record 11.1 million jobs go begging.

A high quits rate normally signals how confident American workers feel about their job prospects. But a deeper dive into the data suggests that fear of contracting the Delta variant of COVID-19 could also be driving workers onto the sidelines.

Some 892,000 workers in the customer-facing accommodation and food services sectors quit their jobs amid an August surge in COVID cases. That is 157,000 more than the previous month.

The number of people walking off the job and the sheer number of job vacancies has become an increasing source of concern for

the nation's economic recovery.

Jobs are only officially minted when someone is hired, and the economy added only 194,000 them in September. That is the tiniest monthly gain this year.

The US labour market is still roughly five million jobs shy of recouping the 22 million jobs lost to the first wave of COVID lockdowns last year. But some 51 percent of small business owners said they had job openings they could not fill in September, according to a survey by the National Federation of Independent Business

To entice workers off the sidelines, businesses have been offering incentives like signing bonuses and wage rises. Some 42 percent of small business owners said they raised compensation last month. That is up one point from August and marked a 48-year record high.

Virus fears, a lack of child care options, and savings accounts full of US government stimulus dollars have all been cited as possible factors keeping workers on the sidelines.

But what is undoubtedly a workers' jobs market is facing some possible headwinds.

Federal unemployment benefits expired in early September – one week before the monthly jobs data was compiled by the US Labor Department, so the impact of that void in the social safety net has likely not yet shown up in the data.

And a measure of consumer confidence by the Conference Board – which gauges how people feel about the economy currently as well their future expectations – also fell in September, following a sharp decline in August.



# TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Submit community notices to

**news@pointville.ag**



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



# Nigeria's Ajagba suffers first professional loss

Nigerian heavy-weight boxer Efe Ajagba suffered his first professional fight to Cuba's Frank Sanchez on Sunday morning at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, United States.

Sanchez won via unanimous decision of 98-91, 98-91 and 97-92 to maintain his unbeaten streak with 20 professional wins, 13 coming by knock-out.

The Cuban retains his WBC Continental Americas heavy-weight title and the WBO NABO heavy-weight title.

The bout was an undercard for the Tyson Fury vs Deontay Wilder trilogy, tagged the 'Battle of the Undeclared'.

Ajagba could not land a clean right hand punch, which he is known for, while Sanchez ran riot with



steady stiff jabs.

The 27-year-old Nigerian heavyweight tried to get back in the fight in the seventh round by aiming for Sanchez's body, but the Cuban threw a right hand that grazed Ajagba who slipped to the mat late in the round.

While he had his knee down, Sanchez caught him with a

left. However, referee Mike Ortega called time to allow Ajagba time to recover but did not dock a point from Sanchez for the accidental foul.

Despite not landing any impactful jabs, Ajagba got through with a right hand late in the ninth round that bounced Sanchez into the ropes in the final seconds.



**KC SHIPPING LTD.**  
Agents For: 

**CALL & SIGN UP TODAY**  
(268) 562-9023/4  
Email: [antiguainfo@kingsocean.com](mailto:antiguainfo@kingsocean.com)

**OUR NEW SERVICE**

**SHOP IT AND SHIP IT**

ANTIGUA BROKERAGE AND PICK UP SERVICE



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

**You will:**

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

**We will:**

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

**Call us for more information.**

# West Indies coach Simmons not fazed by criticism over World Cup squad



**West Indies head coach Phil Simmons**

PHIL Simmons, coach of the West Indies cricket team, is not worried by the backlash that he and fellow team selectors (lead selector Roger Harper, Miles Bascombe and captain Kieron Pollard) have received over the 15-man squad picked for the ICC T20 World Cup, which will take place from October 17 to November 14 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.

There has been heated debate in the media (mainstream and social) among past cricketers, journalists and fans, about the WI team who will be defending their title, having emerged victorious in India in 2016.

During a zoom media conference on Monday, Simmons said, “Nothing surprises me these days. Everybody has their opinion. When the four of us sit to select our teams, we’ll try and select the best team that we think is possible to win the tournament that we’re going into or the series we’ll be playing. We expect that there would be people that don’t agree with the selections.”

However, Simmons – who was also coach of the 2016 title-winning squad – is encouraging the West Indies fans not to give up hope.

“The only thing I can say is to back us in the things

that we do,” said the former Trinidad and Tobago and WI all-rounder. “We need to be backed in the decisions that we have made. We need the good vibes from everybody because we’re going into a tournament in 10 days’ time.”

The inclusion of ex-WI captain and T20 star Chris Gayle in the 15-man squad has been contentious at best. The 42-year-old left-handed batsman, who was representing Punjab Kings, left the 14th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on September 30 – citing bio-bubble fatigue.

Simmons said, “We have

specific roles that we’ve put on Chris and we trust that he would be ready. Having had a short rest from the game, he’s going to come back fresh and ready to produce what we ask him to do.” Another seasoned campaigner, all-rounder Andre Russell, has been out of the IPL since September 26 with an injured hamstring which he sustained during a match between his team Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK). “We’ve been in constant contact between our medical and KKR’s medical (teams),” said Simmons. “He’s been batting in the nets, he’s been running at a certain level, so he’s close enough to (full) fitness. He’s been progressing really well.”

On Sunday, legendary WI batsman and captain Sir Vivian Richards added his voice to the exclusion of the experienced all-rounder Jason Holder from the 15-man squad. Holder was named among the four reserves (along with Sheldon Cottrell, Akeal Hosein and Darren Bravo).

“It has been a tough decision,” said Simmons. “I am a fan of his ability. It was difficult, but it was a decision that we got right in this case.”



# 2022 World Cup Qualifiers: Bayo does it again to lift Uganda past Rwanda



*The Cranes ensured they sealed the double over Amavubi after another 1-0 win, this time at St. Mary's Kitende Stadium.*

Uganda sealed the double over neighbours Rwanda to record their second straight win in the 2022 World Cup qualifying matches on Sunday.

The Cranes were coming up against Amavubi after they had beaten them 1-0 at Nyamirambo Stadium in Kigali three days ago and it was the same player – Fahad Bayo – who scored in the 22nd minute to hand them the win at St. Mary's Kitende Stadium in Kampala.

Uganda under coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic came into the game missing the services of midfielder Khalid Aucho, who was suspended after receiving two straight yellow cards against Kenya and Rwanda.

In Aucho's absence, coach Sredojevic handed the armband to Dennis Iguma with goalkeeper Charles Lukwago starting between the

sticks while Aziizi Kayondo, Enock Walusimbi, and Timothy Awanyu retained their positions from the first meeting.

It was the Cranes who started the game with a lot of intensity as Iguma attacked Rwanda from the left-wing in the seventh minute, cutting through his markers but the final effort from unmarked Steven Mukwala went inches wide despite goalkeeper Emery Mvuyekure coming off his line.

The Cranes continued to threaten their rivals and in the 12th minute, another good chance fell into the hands of Simba SC midfielder Taddeo Lwanga, but despite having enough space to calm down and finish off the move, he blasted the ball wide.

In the 18th minute, Moses Waiswa came close to putting Uganda ahead but after a good exchange between him and Bayo, he

blasted the ball wide.

But it did not take Uganda long to take the lead as Bayo, who scored in the first meeting between the two sides, slashed home a cross from Waiswa to make it 1-0 in the 22nd minute.

Despite taking the lead, Rwanda started to come into the game and it was former Gor Mahia striker Jacques Tuyisenge, who should have put them level after a cross from Meddie Kagere but his effort hit the side netting.

The win means Uganda will jump to second position in Group E with eight points, while Mali, who sealed the double over Kenya after a 1-0 win in Nairobi, are top with 10 points.

Kenya will drop to third after four rounds of matches with two points while Rwanda are last with a single point.



## LEYLAH FERNANDEZ TURNS ON THE STYLE

### WITH THRILLING COMEBACK WIN AT INDIAN WELLS

Leylah Fernandez came from behind to beat ninth-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the third round of the BNP Paribas Open.

Fernandez, who lost to Britain's Emma Raducanu in last month's US Open final, fought off back from dropping the first set and sealed her win with an emphatic ace.

Meanwhile, Aliaksan-

dra Sasnovich of Belarus has continued her giant-killing run at the BNP Paribas Open, upsetting 11th seed Simona Halep in straight sets to reach the fourth round in Indian Wells.

Fresh from knocking off US Open champion Emma Raducanu, the world number 100 beat the two-time Grand Slam winner 7-5 6-4.

The victory sets up a battle with compatriot

Victoria Azarenka for a place in the quarter-finals after Azarenka mirrored Sasnovich's score in disposing of seventh seed Petra Kvitova.

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina outlasted Romania's Sorana Cirstea in a marathon contest, coming back from a dropped first set to win 4-6 6-4 7-6 (3) in two-and-a-half hours.

Polish second seed Iga Swiatek needed less than half of that time to breeze

past Russia's Veronika Kudermetova 6-1 6-0.

Swiatek will face Jelena Ostapenko in the round of 16 after the Latvian overcome Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva 6-3 2-6 6-3.

Jessica Pegula, Shelby Rogers and Leylah Fernandez wrapped up Sunday's third-round winners.

**DEWS**