

# YOUNG WOMAN BECOMES

## ROAD FATALITY #7 FOR 2021!

SEE PAGE 9

- INSIDE:**
- Disturbing revelations about first pregnant mother-and-child COVID death
  - APUA Internet upgrades will be major boost to UWI-Five Islands curriculum
  - Local and regional private sector also embracing mandatory vaccination!

# What happens when teens want the COVID-19 vaccine and parents say no?

*Teens are starting to organize education campaigns, but laws tend to favor parents in health decisions*

by Lois M. Collins

Parents generally hold the cards when it comes to medical decisions for minors. So teenagers who want to receive a COVID-19 vaccine against their parents' wishes are finding that education

and persuasion may be their strongest tools.

That doesn't mean the kids aren't fighting back.

A rise of teen-created organizations to advocate that young people be given more say in whether a vaccine is administered is gaining

notice alongside news about the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19 and the return to often-crowded classrooms.

Meanwhile, state lawmakers are busy making rules on how schools operate in the pandemic and

how much clout parents or kids have in deciding everything COVID-19-related, from whether to wear masks to if children should be vaccinated.

The American Academy of Pediatrics used CDC data to show that 38% of 16-



Caribbean Union Bank

## CUB FAMILY EXTENDS CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF A TEAM MEMBER

The Board of Directors, Management and staff of Caribbean Union Bank Limited extend sincere condolences to the family and close friends of our team member and colleague Miss Amaya Yearwood. We lost our beloved colleague to an unfortunate tragedy and we understand too well that situations like these are never easy to accept or overcome. Amaya's delightful personality and infectious smile will always be remembered by the CUB Family. To allow for a moment of silence in remembrance of our dear colleague as well as to provide support to our team, all CUB branches will open at 9:30AM on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Our prayers and support are with her family and loved ones at this time.

Mrs. Karen Richardson  
General Manager

and 17-year-olds have had their COVID-19 shots, as have one-fourth of adolescents ages 12-15, who have access to the Pfizer vaccine right now ... But the pediatrician group says data show vaccination for COVID-19 among teens has been slowing, not gaining momentum.

A Kaiser Family Foundation survey in April found nearly 1 in 5 parents said they won't have their child vaccinated against COVID-19 unless schools require it. And 1 in 4 said no vaccine

for COVID-19 no matter what. Meanwhile, the foundation said just 3 in 10 parents were anxious to get their teens vaccinated as soon as possible.

### *Mature minor rules*

If education doesn't work, teens may be able to show that they're mature enough and informed enough to have some say in whether they can be vaccinated. Some states allow mature, informed teens to access certain medical services without parental consent.

Child and family law expert Robin Fretwell Wilson said many states have long recognized that youths and parents may not always agree when it comes to medical decisions — or may even have competing interests, such as when a parent might deny some kind of treatment to hide the fact a child has been abused or molested.

In the vast majority of cases, the reason isn't that nefarious.

The concept that's applied is called a "mature minor" doctrine

that can be used in many settings, from custody hearing where judges ask older children which parent they'd like to live with to the health care arena where older teens may be able to get treatment for sexually transmitted diseases or obtain an abortion without parental consent, said Wilson, director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois system.

The concept has most often been used around sexual conduct, she told the De-

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seret News, or in cases where parents “might go nuclear on the kid or where there’s violence in the family.”

Wilson said constitutional law cases typically “stand for the proposition that parents have the right to the control and the care of their children while minors, absent a showing of unfitness or abuse and neglect.” What that means, she added, is parents can decide what a kid does or doesn’t do “up to the point of harm.” The challenge is who has standing to stick up for the kid if there is harm. Often, the answer is no one unless a case goes before a judge.

With vaccines, mandates are more often used in the school context and the vast majority of

states have those but also offer exemptions parents can use — whether religious or medical or philosophical or a combination. Wilson said those exemptions weren’t created with COVID-19 in mind, but rather diseases like measles, which are very different from COVID-19 in many aspects, including herd immunity.

Her reading of the recent *Fulton vs. Philadelphia* Supreme Court decision suggests that if an exemption is allowed for any reason, including a medical reason, exemptions have to be made for religious reasons, too — or the state has to show a compelling reason for not doing so.

Some states also apply a ma-

ture minor doctrine to life-saving medical care. The question is whether a COVID-19 vaccine for a teen would generally fall into that category since most young people who get COVID-19 do not become terribly ill.

### *States form a quilt*

State rules regarding vaccination without parental consent are a patchwork, but strongly lean toward requiring parental consent for minors to be vaccinated. Utah is among those states. Nebraska requires consent through age 18. Meanwhile, some states give teens more say under their versions of a mature minor doctrine, including Alabama at age 14

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and South Carolina at age 16. Arizona and Idaho have mature minor doctrines. States may let a health care provider decide if a teen is mature enough to make the decision, according to Time. But legislatures have been reacting to the challenges of COVID-19 and states have changed the rules regarding masks, vaccines and other pandemic-related issues. Some are mandating consent for vaccines, while others may loosen the rules. Information is easily outdated. New Jersey and New York are considering allowing teens to get vaccines without consent. South Carolina is considering a bill that would specifically prevent teens from getting vaccinated against COVID-19 without pa-

rental consent. North Carolina passed a bill that would mandate parental consent to get any vaccine authorized only for emergency use, so that would apply to kids ages 12-15. With full approval of a vaccine, teens can choose to get vaccinated without that parental approval — again under a “mature minor” concept. There are different rules in some states if teens are emancipated or homeless, the New York Times reported. Washington, D.C., allows adolescents the most latitude in making that decision, with a mandate that says children 11 and older can be vaccinated without parental consent if they are mature enough to understand what they’re doing. But two federal lawsuits are now

challenging that. And there are questions about how one decides just how mature a youth is. Some health care providers face a quandary when caught between teens who want the vaccine and parents who object, as the New York Times reported.

Wilson said the simplified answer to whether a teen can get vaccinated without parental consent in most communities is no. “In the District of Columbia, the youth has a very good bet. In the other 50 states, not so much. This is because of the constitutional right of parents to the control and custody and care of their children.”

*(Reprinted and Abridged from Deseret News, 09 Sep 2021)*



# APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

DATE	AFFECTED AREAS	TIME
Monday, 4th October 2021	Section of Jennings near the old Library and west of the Hardware Store	8:25AM - 11:30AM
	Section of Bolans south of the Supermarket opposite the School	8:25AM - 11:30AM
	Section of New Winthropes; Date Hill	1:30PM - 3:00PM
Tuesday, 5th October 2021	Glanvilles, Seatons, Willikies and Long Bay	8:25AM - 11:30AM
	Bendals	1:25PM - 3:00PM
	Section of Buckley Line	8:25AM - 11:30AM
Wednesday, 6th October 2021	Section of Nut Grove south of Santana's Building	1:30PM - 3:00PM
Thursday, 7th October 2021	Section of Fitches Creek; Ocean Lane	8:25AM - 11:30AM
	Section of Old Road east of South Coast Horizon	8:25AM - 11:30AM
Friday, 8th October 2021	Coco's Hotel and the surrounding area	8:25AM - 1:00PM

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311

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# CNN *Quest Means Business* interviewed Prime Minister Gaston Browne on new travel protocols – 30th September 2021



**Richard QUEST:** More people than ever are jetting off to some parts of the Caribbean. The Prime Minister [has spoken] about the new COVID restrictions designed to keep the island safe ... And starting [October 1st] these islands will require visitors to be partially vaccinated. Travelers must also take a PCR test within four days of flying to the Caribbean. It follows a blockbuster summer travel season ... The number of visitors are rising. The Prime Minister is with me. Thank you. It is good

to catch up with you. I am wondering why only now a vaccination requirement for visitors. Many places now require PCR before vaccination; even a test when you arrive.

**Gaston BROWNE:** You would be aware we have been following the vaccination numbers in the United States, Canada and the UK. Those are our principal source markets. We wanted to ensure that there was a large category of vaccine to present before we introduce

policy, to ensure that there would be no reduction in the visitor arrivals. So it was a matter of timing.

QUEST: So you benefited, didn't you? You kept things – you did more than keep the lights on; you kept the economy moving, which I think is fair enough. Tourism is your lifeblood.

**BROWNE:** Absolutely. So balancing lives and livelihoods was perhaps the most significant issue for us. We are putting the health of our people as a priority. Equally,

we have to make sure we kept the economies in the Caribbean afloat. And we depend heavily on tourism. So we had to make sure we keep borders open.

**QUEST:** I noticed that this mandate now, it's a fairly wide mandate across vast swathes of the economy to be vaccinated. It is understandable. I'm guessing, did you have to think twice before doing this?

**BROWNE:** Well, no, because ultimately we want to make sure that we keep the hospitalizations and have a safe environment, not only for the locals but visitors too. It's a difficult choice. Ultimately the only way to restore normalcy is to achieve immunity. Hesitancy seems to be more acute here than in other places in the world, so then we had to definitely have these mandates.

**QUEST:** What do you need now? What's the next thing that islands like yours need by way of support to recover – you didn't have the great surpluses that other countries had. You weren't able to have the same headroom to use in terms of debt.

**BROWNE:** With our limited resources, all of the countries practically ran large deficits and had to borrow extensively, exacerbating their debt burdens. So the issue of cancellation that we spoke about a few months ago, that's still a significant requirement for countries in the Caribbean. We all have unsustainable level of debts. We need assistance to reduce our debts through debtor cancellations. And also countries in the Caribbean still require official development assistance. And we had gotten some support from IMF but that represent-

ed less than 10 per cent of the amounts required in order to achieve a decent and fair level of recovery.

**QUEST:** To be clear, you're talking about debt cancellation, not debt restructuring?

**BROWNE:** Cancellation. Our debt overhang is just unsustainable, so we really need some debt relief and also increased assistance to help us with the

recovery; even in terms of dealing with COVID and strengthening our health infrastructure in order to ensure that we can continue deal with the new variants that will arise from time to time.

**QUEST:** Prime Minister, I'm grateful. Thank you. We regret that the connection was not the best. But thank you for taking some time to talk to us tonight.

## NOTICE

To: Her Worship,  
The Licensing Magistrate  
District "A" Magistrate court  
Grays farm  
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To: Commissioner of Police  
Police headquarters  
American road  
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Dear Sir/ Madame,

I, Alphonso Ashe residing in Golden Grove New Extension, in the Parish of St. John's do hereby give you notice that it is my intention to apply at the next special sitting, to be held at the Magistrate Court,

St. John's in October 2021, next ensuing for a Tavern License in respect of "Superv Organic Market & Café located on premises Alhwash Building, Friars Hill Road, St. John's, Antigua.

**Dated this 20th September 2021**

**Signed: Alphonso Ashe**

# Local private telecoms enterprise may soon beg to be bought!

*by Shelton Daniel*

The government of Antigua and Barbuda intends to “spend another US\$60 million to build out the physical plant” of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

That’s according to the nation’s Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Corporate Governance & Public-Private Partnerships, Hon. Gaston Browne.

He made that announcement on Saturday 2nd October 2021 during his weekly radio program, The Browne & Browne Show, on Pointe FM 99.1. “Already, we are in the process of acquiring about 50 acres of additional land and we will be building out facilities,” he disclosed.

PM Browne, a former banker, said he was in receipt of a plan from campus



principal Professor Densil Williams “for us to raise some funds, both in terms of tax revenues that we will allocate, as well as, maybe, we’ll have some philanthropists who will contribute toward building out the campus for us.”

He recalled that, “Earlier this year we got US\$1.5 million, approximately, from one such benefactor, and we’re hoping we

will get a few more – even some friendly governments who will help us with grants to build out that campus.”

The Prime Minister pointed out that the recently established School of Artificial Intelligence & Computer Science at the Five Island Campus would itself benefit immensely from major technology and infrastructure upgrades

being undertaken by the Antigua Public Utilities Authority to enhance its role as an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

“We also have to make sure that we have the physical infrastructure in place and that is why we are spending all this money in APUA to build out its broadband service and the fiber-to-home. That is going really strong and APUA is clearly the number one telecoms company in Antigua and Barbuda today. It had moved from the bottom of the table seven years ago, right to the top of the food chain; and we expect to continue to, let’s say, put dust in the face of the other competitors – to the extent that I’m sure at least one of them is soon going to come to us and ask us to buy. And certainly APUA will buy them.”

# ROAD FATALITY!

A Potters family is mourning the loss of a young woman who died Saturday night, October 2nd, following a road accident on Friar's Hill Road. No other vehicle was involved in the crash that took the life of 22-year-old Amaya Yearwood.

She was the driver and lone occupant of the Toyota Mark X which ran off the road and flipped over near the Sir Wright George Police Academy.

Head of the Police Traffic Department, Assistant Superintendent Rodney Ellis, said the accident happened close to 8:00 p.m. when the nightly curfew begins.

Yearwood is believed to have lost control of the motor vehicle while traveling from south to north, heading to Cedar Grove where she lived.

She was subsequently taken to hospital where she died.

Amaya Yearwood is the grand-daughter of former senator and government

minister Guy Yearwood. Her mother, Lisa Yearwood, is an employee of the Antigua Trades & Labour Union (AT&LU).

Her death brings to seven the number of road fatalities so far this year.

**Pointe Xpress** joins in extending condolences to her family.

Below is the official and un-edited police press release on the accident:

## Fatal Collision

*The Police have confirmed that 22yrs old Amaya M. Yearwood of Cedar Grove was pronounced dead at Sir Lester Bird Medical Center around 8:40 pm on Saturday 2nd October, following a traffic collision on Friars Hill Road.*

*It was reported that Yearwood was traveling from south to north along Friars Hill Rd, driving a Toyota Mark X motor car A60504, when she apparent-*



*ly lost control of the vehicle in the vicinity of the police academy.*

*The vehicle veered off to the Eastern side of the road and flipped, and finally ended up on a banking facing East. The wreckage was removed from the scene and taken to Police Headquarters. Investigations are continuing.*

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# Pregnant woman, critically ill with COVID, refused lifesaving treatment

by Shelton Daniel

Further details have been provided about Antigua and Barbuda's first known case of a pregnant woman and her unborn child dying after the mother contracted COVID.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne spoke about this on Saturday during his weekend radio program on *Pointe FM*.

He said he had refrained from divulging details of the tragedy that had come to his knowledge, because he did not wish to be insensitive in such an instance of compounded bereavement.

"This lady apparently was on oxygen. Her oxygen saturation was 40 percent ... She was told by



the doctors that she cannot survive with a 40 percent oxygen saturation; the only fighting chance she has of surviving is to be intubated, and she refused. Her husband also refused. The doctors then decided to offer the option of taking the child [which was at] 26 weeks ... and she refused.

"And next thing it seems they were going to intubate her [but] the husband went and took her out [of the hospital];

took her home, and it is evident that her oxygen saturation would have fallen even lower than the 40 percent, so the fetus was aborted spontaneously. And that's when the husband took her back to the hospital. They tried to intubate her [but] it was too late."

PM Browne said it was time people understood that they could not respond to COVID on the basis of mere emotions which were very often grounded in ig-

norance and misinformation. He said much of the opposition to vaccines and other medical intervention were based on almost total disregard of science and medicine.

"And then, when you make your bad decision, you fatal decision, you blame the system. I heard at least two voicemails that were circulated by the husband and he actually tried to lay blame at health officials ..."

# ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE



From 7am Monday, October 4, 2021 until 8pm Wednesday, October 6, 2021

The General Public is being notified that C.O. Williams Construction Ltd. will be carrying out works on Sir Sydney Walling Highway (SSWH) to improve the Eastern side of the North-Sound Roundabout, which will result in a **2-day closure** of that side of the Roundabout to ALL traffic.

Vehicular Traffic approaching the Roundabout from the West (Sugar Facto-

ry side) will be diverted to the left of the Roundabout and will rejoin the SSWH via the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (see accompany diversion pictorial).

Vehicular Traffic approaching the Roundabout from the East will proceed around the Roundabout as usual.

Please note that Heavy Vehicles and Emergency Vehicles will be diverted through the Stadium Road on the shoulder of a portion of the closed section of the Roundabout. All

motorists and road users are asked to proceed with extreme caution when traversing the construction site. The General Public is also being notified that C.O. Williams Construction Ltd. will begin undertaking works on Valley Road North (VRN) between the Whenner Road junction and the entrance of Ffryes Beach. The initial works will involve the installation of APUA Telecommunications ducts/Water Main crossings. These crossings will be done at night and

this will result in the closure of sections of Valley Road North during curfew hours (**8pm-5am**).

These works are expected to begin on **Monday, October 4, 2021** and will continue for a period of **2-3 weeks**. Whenever diversions are not possible, the Contractor will make provisions for the single lane passage of light vehicular traffic and emergency vehicles. More details about the crossings and general road works will be provided on a weekly basis.

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# Drumbeats mount for extending mandatory vaccination to private sector

by Shelton Daniel

About 1,000 additional persons are reported to have presented themselves for inoculation against COVID-19 on Saturday during the weekend vaccination drives that have drawn unprecedented public responses over the past two weeks.

This was reported by Prime Minister Gaston Browne during his weekly radio program in which he announced that about 43,000 people have so far been fully vaccinated and about 55% of the country's 100,000 population has now received at least a first dose.

There has recently been what appears to be a considerable softening of the widespread vaccine hesitancy that had brought the national inoculation program to a crawl for several weeks. That dramatically changed with government's announcement of mandatory vaccination for public sector workers effective October 1st, failing which those not inoculated by that date would be required to stay home unpaid until they could present proof of vaccination.

Further, should the period



of unpaid absenteeism extend beyond what is legally permissible, the unvaccinated workers run the risk of losing their jobs altogether on the grounds of having deserted their posts.

"At this current rate, if we can get an average of between 800 and 1,000 per day, by the middle of November we should be able to achieve herd immunity," said the Prime Minister on Saturday during *Pointe FM's Browne & Browne Show*.

PM Browne however hinted that additional mandates may be on the way that will encompass the private sector as well.

"After we would have exhausted those in the public sector, we also have to target the private sector because there are some people who ob-

viously continue to resist and hold out because there are no mandates within the private sector."

That notwithstanding, the Prime Minister commended "private sector firms that have been mandating vaccination for their employees and, in some cases, even their customers ... They obviously would have taken their cue from the government and they're doing the right thing in order to ensure that they have a safe working environment, and also a safe environment to include their customers."

After mentioning and commending some of the business owners by name, PM Browne said he hoped "others would follow their lead".

# CDB president concerned over region's sustainable welfare path

**CMC** – President of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Dr. Gene Leon, is urging regional countries to take “bold and innovative steps” to overcome the significant development challenges that have been amplified by the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and to shift to a new development trajectory.

“Our development challenge is not merely to recover lost ground and close the distance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), but to fundamentally alter the development path so that our societies can be placed on a higher and more sustainable welfare path in the future,” Leon said, as he addressed the virtual 22nd annual Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) conference.

“This is the legacy that we need to leave for future generations,” said CDB president to the conference that ends on Thursday.

The St. Lucian-born economist, who called for strengthening social resilience to place the Caribbean on a sustainable welfare path, said that the education system is the starting point to build social resilience.

He said academic institutions should bridge the gap between technology and activity that allows the private sector and the international development partners to provide the financing and technicalities to take products to market.

However, such an emerging system, which will reward ideas, encourage risk, and promote diversification needs to be supported by an enabling environment, Leon noted.

“We are all aware that education is the bedrock of any innovative society. The region needs to refocus its education system away from pure certification to one that embraces and rewards enquiry-based innovative thinking, discovery, and problem-solving.”

He told the conference that as the region's knowledge and information management processes are still quite fragmented, which has so far limited the ability to initiate and sustain important policy reforms, there was need for a regional knowledge hub.

He said communities of practice and the knowledge hub should be developed through co-operative arrangements with regional actors, including the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organisa-



*President of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Dr. Gene Leon*

tion of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, central banks and other multilateral partners.

Leon said that the knowledge hub would include a tracker for the region's progress and serve as a platform for policy options and design based on the SDG. Moreover, the knowledge hub would become a database with comparable social and environmental statistics while providing a fertile ground for cultivating an innovation lab.

He told the conference that the CDB, the region's premier financial institution, already has cooper-

ative agreements with key regional institutions and is looking to strengthen these arrangements while establishing new strategic partnerships to facilitate the establishment of the regional knowledge hub.

He highlighted the importance of leveraging digital transformation in the region as it has the potential to revolutionise economic and social life.

Leon encouraged the adoption of a digital transformation agenda through a deliberate and joint-responsibility action plan, at both national and regional levels and across private and public sectors to tear down the digital divide by 2035.

# UN asks countries to halt rapid mass repatriations of Haitian migrants



*Undocumented Haitian migrants aboard the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) HMBS Lawrence Major after being apprehended on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.*

**EW News** - Four United Nations agencies released a joint statement calling on the member states to halt rapid deportations of Haitian migrants without proper assessment of their individual protection needs.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) urged states to "uphold the fundamental human rights of Haitians on the move, and to offer protection mechanisms or other legal stay arrangements for more effective access to regular migra-

tion pathways".

More than 900 Haitian migrants have been apprehended in the southern Bahamas since last week, with over 500 in holding on Inagua.

Eyewitness News is on the ground with officials in Matthew Town, Inagua today where hundreds of undocumented Haitian migrants are expected to be repatriated.

In the joint statement, the four agencies also encouraged countries in the Americas to engage in a comprehensive regional approach to ensure the protection of Haitian men, women and children moving throughout the region.

"The UN and its part-

ners are providing basic assistance to Haitians at various points en route and in Haiti," it read.

"However, more needs to be done to address their profound vulnerabilities.

"The complex social, economic, humanitarian and political situation, and the various catastrophes affecting Haiti, some of which are linked to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, have led to different population movements from the Caribbean country in the past decade.

The statement continued: "Haitians on the move in the Americas comprise people with different protection needs, profiles and motivations, including unaccompanied and separated children, victims of trafficking, and survivors of gender-based violence. Some may have well-founded grounds to request international refugee protection. Others may have other protection needs.

"International law prohibits collective expulsions and requires that each case be examined individually to identify protection needs under international human rights and refugee law. "Discriminatory public discourse portraying

human mobility as a problem risks contributing to racism and xenophobia and should be avoided and condemned," it added.

The joint statement further acknowledged the escalation in violence and insecurity in Haiti, with at least 19,000 people internally displaced in the capital Port-au-Prince in the summer of 2021 alone.

"Well over 20 percent of girls and boys have been victims of sexual violence," the statement read.

"In addition, nearly 24 percent of the population, including 12.9 percent who are children, live below the extreme poverty line of US\$ 1.23 per day. Some 4.4 million people, or nearly 46 percent of the population, face acute food insecurity, including 1.2 million people who are in emergency levels and 3.2 million people at crisis levels. An estimated 217,000 children suffer from moderate-to-severe acute malnutrition.

"This situation is bound to worsen as a result of the 14 August earthquake straining any capacity to receive returning Haitians. Conditions in Haiti continue to be dire, and not conducive to forced returns."

# Barbados rum shops blame Delta wave for falloff in customers

**Barbados Today** - In the face of a curfew intended to limit socialising that could drive coronavirus infections, rum shop and bar operators blame a dropoff in sales on a wave of cases and deaths.

Several proprietors have told Barbados Today that fewer patrons have been visiting their establishments. They also reported that while concerns have been raised about persons around rum shops and bars not following the protocols, customers have been coming, buying what they need and vacating the premises as soon as possible.

The operators insisted that not only have they been taking customer temperatures and ensuring that they sanitize before they are allowed to enter wearing masks but they have also been restricting the number of patrons allowed on the inside of their facilities at the same time.

One shop owner, who only gave his name as De Captain, said because the majority of his customers live in the neighbourhood, he has no issues getting customers to follow COVID-19 protocols.

He said: "And recently, they have been doing it. We don't have to tell any person anything twice. They are just following



the protocols. Recently, all sales were down, there ain't no big lot of traffic within the last two or three weeks.

"So, as you can see, from the time you have been here, you only see one customer coming into the shop. So, it's really a dead time too. So, with the spike in cases, we believe that people saving their money now and only buying essentials. But, business is not as usual at all."

De Captain further explained that as the Government's 9 p.m. curfew approaches, customers stopped coming to the shop and that within the past two to three weeks, people have stopped mingling outside the shop.

"I end up closing early on afternoons. By 6 o'clock I close up and

leave," De Captain said.

The operator of Wilma's Bar, Rihanna Drive, Westbury Road, said she too has been ensuring that customers follow the protocols, even though there are a few who do not wear their masks or have their temperatures taken.

Those who refuse to follow the safety protocols are not allowed to enter the establishment, she said.

"They have to step out," she told Barbados TODAY. "I don't sell anything to them. I don't have any gatherings, I don't have any customers, I have not been working or selling anything for a very long time. I cut back a lot."

"I have been going in at 5:30, 6 o'clock. I have not been selling any pudding and souse. On

Saturdays I usually sell six or seven souse or so, now I only sell like four soups and about three or four souse. I have not been getting any sales lately."

Another owner said absolutely no gathering is allowed inside or outside of his bar, and noted that he believes that if all operators insist that customers follow the protocols, they would be playing their role in helping to curb the spread.

A customer at a bar said while he was concerned about the climbing COVID-19 cases, he believes that authorities need to do much more to curb the spread of the virus.

The surge of infections has been linked to the highly contagious Delta variant.

# Jamaica: Digicel issues vaccination mandate to staff

**Jamaica Observer** - On the heels of Prime Minister Andrew Holness' prediction that mandatory vaccination will become inevitable, one of Jamaica's largest employers has indicated that come October 15, 2021, all employees will need to present proof of partial or full vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test every 14 days, in order to continue attending work at the company.

In a letter to staff dated Wednesday September 29, 2021, the telecommunications giant Digicel informed that in a bid to "safeguard the health of our organization, people and customers", employees should submit their vaccination cards to its human resources department by close of business on October 15.

The document went on to state that employees who are not vaccinated by October 15 will be required to submit a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test every two weeks before being permitted to work. The tests will be conducted at the employee's expense and antigen tests will not be accepted, the letter informed.

Checks by OBSERVER ONLINE revealed that a PCR test costs upwards of \$20,000.

The document goes on to explain that "any employee who is unable to



produce a current PCR test result, and who cannot attend work for that reason, will be required to take the days on which they are absent as unpaid leave." It also outlined that where applicable, employees can choose to have the days subtracted from their vacation allowance.

The company made it clear in the letter that employees will not be allowed to work remotely as a means to avoid taking the vaccine or

PCR test. Exemptions to the new policy will only be granted for medical reasons and the employee must first present a doctor's report outlining why they are unable to be vaccinated, the company said.

The company also expressed that it is aware of the legal position in some markets and will deal with issues on a "case by case basis".

"Furthermore, we are keenly aware that several governments have

already mandated similar measures under more rigorous timelines, which have already been fully adhered to by our respective CEOs," Digicel said.

Digicel becomes the latest private sector company in Jamaica to issue a vaccination mandate for workers following similar mandates implemented by Carimed Group Limited and CVM among others.

# Boko Haram reportedly moves into north-central Nigeria in apparent expansion

(Reuters) - Boko Haram insurgents have taken over multiple communities in Nigeria's north-central Niger state, offering villagers money and incorporating them in their ranks to fight the government, a local government official and the state's information commission told Reuters.

The Islamist group is typically concentrated in the northeast of Africa's most populous nation, and its presence in Niger, a state that borders the federal capital territory, could indicate a concerning spread at a time the military says its counter-insurgency efforts are working.

Suleiman Chukuba, chairman of Shiroro local government area in Niger state, which borders Abuja, said Boko Haram fighters were now present in at least eight wards out of a total 25.

"Shiroro local government has an uncountable number of Boko Haram fighters," Chukuba said.

Boko Haram, whose name roughly translates as "Western education is forbidden", has waged an insurgency since 2009, joined more recently by its offshoot, Islamic State West Africa Province. The fighting has killed almost 350,000 and displaced millions, according to a United Nations estimate.



Shiroro has a population of 331,000 people and spans 4,700 square kilometres, according to Niger state's official website.

Niger state information commissioner Muhammad Sani Idris confirmed that Boko Haram fighters, who were initially thought to be armed

bandits, had made inroads in the state. But Idris said the state government and security agencies have been able to curtail the spread.

"We are doing whatever it takes as a state," he said. "And we will combine the methods of our security personnel and our local vigilantes."

The army said last month that close to 6,000 fighters from Boko Haram had recently surrendered, attributing the development to the military's counter-insurgency efforts.

Chukuba called on the federal government for more troops to the area to fight the insurgents.

# Inquiry says 'Thousands of paedophiles in French Church!'



**BBC** - Thousands of paedophiles have operated within the French Catholic Church since 1950, the head of a panel investigating abuses by church members says.

Jean-Marc Sauvé told French media that the commission had found evidence of 2,900 to 3,200 abusers - out of a total of 115,000 priests and other clerics.

"That is a minimal estimate," he added.

The commission is to release a lengthy report

on Tuesday. It is based on church, court and police archives, as well as interviews with victims. The independent inquiry was commissioned by the French Catholic Church in 2018, following a number of scandals in other countries.

Mr. Sauvé, a senior civil servant, told France's *Le Monde* newspaper that the panel had handed over evidence to prosecutors in 22 cases where criminal action could

still be launched.

He added that bishops and other senior church officials had been told of other allegations against people who were still alive.

Commission members included doctors, historians, sociologists and theologians. More than 6,500 victims and witnesses were contacted over two-and-a-half years. The final report is 2,500 pages long.

Christopher Lamb, of the Roman Catholic publication *The Tablet*,

told the BBC that abuse scandals had plunged the Church into "its greatest crisis in... 500 years". Earlier this year, Pope Francis changed the Catholic Church's laws to explicitly criminalise sexual abuse, in its biggest overhaul of the criminal code for decades.

The new rules make sex abuse, grooming minors, possessing child pornography and covering up abuse an offence under Canon Law.

# INTERPOL report highlights human trafficking for organ removal



A new report from INTERPOL assesses the problem of trafficking in human beings for organ removal (THBOR), which is driven largely by the global shortage in organs for ethical transplant.

While organ trafficking exists in all regions of the world, it is of particular concern in North and West Africa where impoverished communities and displaced populations are at greater risk of exploitation.

The strategic assessment report, produced as part of Project ENACT, provides insight and analysis into the issues, to enable law enforcement agencies in North and West Africa to devise the appropriate responses.

## ***Transplant tourism***

Organized crime groups are known to be behind trafficking in human beings for organ removal, drawn by the substantial profits that can be made.

Information suggests a wide spectrum of actors are involved in organ trafficking in North and West Africa with connections to the medical sector in countries

from Africa and beyond, notably in Asia and the Middle East.

Trafficking in human organs can be done only in the framework of complex networks, due to the required skills (medical specialists, surgeons, nurses), logistics (matching compatible patients and donors), and healthcare facilities (analytical laboratories, clinics, operating rooms). The report shows probable links between transplant tourism – where a patient travels abroad to buy an organ for illegal transplant – and THBOR in North and West Africa. Either in the context of transplants performed in North Africa with organs illegally sourced in the region, or transplants done elsewhere with illegally sourced organs from nationals from North and West Africa.

## ***Vulnerable communities***

Organized criminal groups profit from the desperation of the unemployed, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to coerce them into selling an organ. Victims of human trafficking for

sexual and labour purposes also find themselves at additional risk.

The techniques used for the recruitment and control of the victims are the same as those used for other types of human trafficking, such as promises of job opportunities abroad, as well as the use of threats and violence.

Most often, victim-donors receive a smaller amount of the money than had been agreed with the recruiter or broker, and in some cases they may not get any of the promised payment. Many victim-donors have suffered post-operative complications and health issues.

The socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to fuel THBOR as it will likely be easier for brokers to coerce vulnerable individuals to sell an organ to improve their economic conditions. This is exacerbated by the fact that legal organ donations, and therefore transplants, have suffered major decreases since the outbreak of COVID-19.

# Oil spill off California coast destroys wildlife habitat; dead fish and birds wash up on Huntington Beach

(CNN) - A swath of the Southern California coast is covered with oil after 3,000 barrels worth gushed into the Pacific Ocean – devastating some of the local wildlife, officials said.

A pipeline breach occurred about 5 miles off the coast of Huntington Beach, Orange County supervisor Katrina Foley said Sunday. “We’ve started to find dead birds and fish washing up on the shore,” Foley said.

“The oil has infiltrated the entirety of the (Talbert) Wetlands. There’s significant impacts to wildlife there,” she said.

“These are wetlands that we’ve been working with the Army Corps of Engineers, with the Land Trust, with all the community wildlife partners to make sure to create this beautiful, natural habitat for decades. And now in just a day, it’s completely destroyed.” The pipeline is owned by the Houston-based oil and gas company Amplify Energy, its president and CEO Martyn Willsher said at a news conference Sunday afternoon.

“We are fully committed to being out here until this incident is fully concluded,” Willsher said, adding the company is working with numerous local, state and federal agencies on recovery efforts.

“Our employees live and work in these communities, and we’re all deeply impacted and concerned about the impact on not just the environment, but the fish and wildlife as well,” Willsher said. “We will do everything in



our power to ensure that this is recovered as quickly as possible, and we won’t be done until this is concluded.”

An oil sheen was first reported to the US Coast Guard shortly after 9 a.m. Saturday morning, the Coast Guard said in a press release. “It’s probably been leaking longer than we know,” Foley told CNN Sunday. Willsher said his company notified the Coast Guard Saturday morning when employees were conducting a line inspection and they noticed a sheen in the water.

The spill -- equal to about 126,000 gallons of post-production crude -- is a “potential ecological disaster,” Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr said Saturday.

As of Sunday morning, “the leak has not been completely stopped,” the city of Huntington Beach said in a press release. It said preliminary patching has been completed to repair the oil spill site, and additional repair efforts will be attempted.

“Currently, the oil slick plume measures an estimated 5.8 nautical miles long, and runs from the Huntington Beach Pier down into Newport Beach,” the press

release said.

Willsher told reporters Sunday the facilities operating the pipeline were built in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Amplify has owned the pipeline for about nine years. There are about 17.5 miles between the pipeline and shore, Willsher said.

“It is about 4 ½ miles off shore where the potential source of the leak occurred. It is heavy crude oil that is pumped through that pipeline,” he said.

The Coast Guard has classified the situation as a major oil spill, Huntington Beach Marine Safety Chief Eric McCoy said.

Huntington Beach officials canceled the final day of the Pacific Airshow and are encouraging people to stay away from the Santa Ana River Trail, Talbert Park and Talbert Marsh areas and the beaches in the impacted areas to prevent contact with potentially toxic oiled areas.

Foley urged residents to avoid the area.

“Please don’t go down and try to help. We’re not taking volunteers yet,” she said. “If you do see oiled wildlife call 1-877-823-6926. That’s the best way to help.”

# AVAILABLE VACANCIES at OSEC (effective October 1, 2021)

*We at the Labour Department's One Stop Employment Centre are working diligently to assist job-seekers find employment and/or training during this pandemic and closures of many local businesses in Antigua!*

*One Stop Employment Centre is a public employment services centre of the Labour Department that offers complimentary service to the community of Antigua and Barbuda (FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES) including services to both jobseekers and employer. Some of these services include (but not limited to) free monthly workshops, computer & QuickBooks classes, career counseling, resume & cover-letter assistance, in addition to recruitment and screening services to employers. Our Centre is a part of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Public Safety & Labour. Overall, OSEC offers employment and training services to jobseekers, employers, and other stakeholders – at no cost to both Jobseekers and Employers.*

## **ASSISTANT COOK (RESTAURANT)**

Minimum 5 years' experience

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

Must be a team-player

## **BABYSITTER/NANNY**

Minimum 1 year experience in a similar role

Early Childhood Certification required | Must have experience working with babies

High School Diploma | Must have a valid Driver's license

Must be FULLY VACCINATED

## **BARTENDERS**

Minimum 2-5 years' experience in a similar role

On the job training preferred or High School Completion

Hotel Training School Completion preferred

## **BAKER**

Minimum 5 years' experience

Secondary School Completion

CAR PARK ATTENDANT

No experience required

Must have a valid Driver's license

### **CLEANER**

Minimum 3 years' experience

### **CLEANER/HANDYMAN**

Minimum 1-2 years' experience working in a Car Wash and/or Cleaning homes/property

### **COMPOUND SUPERVISOR**

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

Must be fluent in English, French & Italian

Great Customer Relation skills

Knowledge of Antigua & Barbuda Health, Safety & Trespassing regulations

Must be physically strong; Strong attention to detail is necessary

### **CHEF/COOK**

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role

On the job training preferred or High School Completion

Hotel Training School Completion preferred

### **DECKHAND/SNORKEL GUIDE**

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

High School Completion | Must be a competent swimmer

Boatmaster 3 license desirable but not required

### **DIGITAL SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR**

Minimum 10-15 years' experience as a Digital Integrator

Must be the holder of an Electrician certificate with a license from a Government accredited program

Must have training in SAV courses with vast Lutron control systems experience

At least five years' experience leading a crew of apprentices for a major contractor

Ability to work multiple tasks at the same time

Proven leadership skills with the ability to delegate tasks

### **DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT OPERATIONS**

Minimum 10 years' experience

Excellent Strategic thinking along with good leadership and analytical skills

Strong Decision making skills required

### **DISHWASHER**

Minimum 3 years' experience

**DOMESTIC**

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Domestic

**DRIVER/OPERATOR**

Minimum 3 years' experience

High School Completion along with Trade School Diploma

Must be able to drive and operate Heavy Machinery & Equipment including Grader, U-Box/18 speed transmission equipment

Must pay attention to detail | Must be punctual, honest, empathetic and trustworthy

Must possess an F6 Driver's license

Must be flexible to work on weekends and public holidays | Must be an effective team player

**EXECUTIVE CHEF**

Minimum ten years' culinary experience in an upscale environment with a minimum of five years' experience in a culinary leadership with a luxury/ultra-luxury resort.

Bachelor's Degree in Culinary Arts, Hotel Management or other relevant fields

Exceptional internal/external guest relations skills

Demonstrated project management experience in organizing, planning and executing large-scale projects from conception through implementation

Demonstrated experience in leading and developing staff

Strong verbal and written communication skills

Demonstrated knowledge of hospitality systems/software

Solid business acumen with Professional presentation

Must be able to speak, read and write English; Fluency in other languages preferred

**FARMER**

Minimum 1 year experience as a Farmer | High School Completion

**FARM ASSISTANT**

Minimum 3 years' experience

Must be able to tend the plants i.e. weeding, spraying, planting & harvesting etc.

Good oral & written communication skills

Must be able to handle small equipment, sharp tools & toxic chemicals safely

**FARM HAND**

Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar role

**FINANCE MANAGER**

At least five years of financial, auditing and accounting experience within an international organization or multinational company

Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance with CPA/ACCA designation

Strong Knowledge of QuickBooks and SAP

Highly Proficient in NetSuite

Advanced PC skills, particularly knowledge of MS Word and MS Excel software

Strong analytical skills with ability to set priorities, complete work with minimal supervision, and meet deadlines Ability to work in a dynamic organization

Excellent communication skills | Result oriented with strong organizational skills

### **GARDENER/GROUNDSKEEPER**

Minimum 1 year experience in a similar role

Must be able to use professional gardening equipment

Strong manual skills | Strong work ethic and physical fitness

Must be a team-player | Must be flexible

### **GENERAL MANAGER**

Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role

Project Management experience required | Experience working in a 5 Star Hotel

High level of competency in Food & Beverage Management

Knowledge of and focus on the digitalization of the Hospitality Industry

Proven team leadership skills

### **HOSPITALITY CONSULTANT**

Minimum 10 years' experience in a similar role |

Masters' Degree in Hospitality Administration/Management required

International experience in operating as a General Manager of Luxury Resorts

### **HOSPITALITY SALES & MARKETING CONSULTANT**

Minimum 10 years' experience in a similar role

Must be knowledgeable in Yield & Revenue Management

Bachelors' Degree in Hospitality Management | Must be proficient in Opera PMS, LHW & GDS systems

### **INDIAN COOK**

Minimum 10 years' experience

### **KITCHEN ASSISTANT**

No experience required | Secondary School Completion

### **LEAD TOUR SPECIALIST**

Minimum 1 year experience of working in a customer service environment

Previous sales and supervisory experience is an asset

Good command of written and spoken English | Minimum of High or Secondary School Diploma

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

**LEGAL CLERK**

Minimum 1-2 years' experience as a Legal Clerk | Must be Computer Literate

Must be proficient in the use of QuickBooks

**LEGAL SECRETARY**

Minimum 3-5 years' experience as a Legal Secretary

Secondary School Completion with CXC passes in English & Maths; Additional Education would be an asset

Sound Knowledge of Outlook and MS Office | Good oral and written communication skills

Good customer service and organization skills

**LIVE-IN MAID/NANNY**

Minimum 4 years' experience in a similar role

High School Completion | Good communication skills

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

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

MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED

**MESSENGER/CLEANER**

Minimum 1 year experience

**PADI OPEN WATER SCUBA INSTRUCTOR**

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

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

Boatmaster 3 License required

Higher Level Boating & TEC Diving Qualifications is an asset

**PLUMBER**

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

Minimum High School Completion with CXC passes in English and Maths

Qualification in General Plumbing & Maintenance required; Pumps; Pools; Sewage Plants and related equipment

PORTER/STEEL FABRICATOR/RIGGER

Minimum 8 CXC's including English & Mathematics

Must have a valid Driver's License | Must be customer-service oriented | Strong oral communication skills

Must be a team-player

**RESTAURANT HOST/HOSTESS**

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role or as a Team Leader

Minimum 5 CXC's including English & Mathematics | Hospitality Management Diploma or equivalent

**SECURITY OFFICER**

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Security Officer

High School Diploma

Must be able to walk and stand for extended periods | Excellent communication skills

**SERVER/PIZZA MAKER**

Minimum 3 years' experience

Must be able to multi-task | Able to work in a fast-paced environment

Must be punctual, trustworthy and honest

**SMOOTHIE BAR OPERATOR/MANAGER**

Minimum 6 years in a similar role

Must be certified & trained in Food & Beverage Management

Must be able to mix smoothies, make wraps and cook vegan food

**TALLY CLERK (SALES REPRESENTATIVE)**

Minimum 1 year experience

**TRAINEE WELDER/FABRICATOR**

No experience required

Minimum High School Completion | Training will be required

**VIP HOST (CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT)**

Minimum 1-2 years' experience | High School & College Completion necessary

Excellent communication skills (verbal & written)

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

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

**WAITER/WAITRESS (CATERING SERVICE)**

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role

On the job training preferred or High School Completion

Hotel Training School Completion preferred

**WAITER/WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)**

Minimum 5 years' experience

**WAREHOUSE/SALES CLERK**

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

**WELDER/FABRICATOR**

Minimum 10 years' working experience as a Welder

Basic Welding & Fabrication skills with knowledge of welding processes

Ability to measure in Imperial & Metric, and understand Basic Drawings

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

# West Indies Legends win World Cup

**Nagamootoo, Bhim George outstanding**

(Trinidad Guardian) - An inspired spell of slow bowling from Prem Singh who took a hat trick saw the West Indies to victory over India as they copped the inaugural Legends World Cup T20 title in Fort Lauderdale, USA Thursday.

**SCORES:** West Indies 137/6 (20) vs India 84 all out (18) - West Indies won by 53 runs.

Chasing 138 to win on a slow track at the Central Broward Regional Park was always going to be a difficult task, and Singh spun webs around the unsuspecting Indian batsmen, taking five wickets including a hat-trick to end with figures of

5/12, as the Indians were routed for 84.

The spinner ripped out the middle order as India who was depending on skipper Ketan Patel and Fazal Alam folded.

Patel, who was very consistent in the tournament, scored 35 runs off 41 balls with one six and two fours while Alam made 16.

-arm orthodox spinner Guyanese Bhim George bowled brilliantly taking 2/12 off his four overs. The two spinners bowled a combined eight overs, conceding just 24 runs and taking seven wickets between them. Earlier, West Indies got off to another great start



*The West Indies were well led by skipper Zamin Amin (third from left) and former Test player Mahendra Nagamootoo, fourth from left. In photo with the West Indies team is chairman of CCUSA Mahammad Qureshi, in black, who hosted the tournament. (Photo courtesy Trinidad Guardian)*

by openers Peter Singh and Joseph Buffong.

Buffong, the attractive right-hander, scored 36 off 23 balls as he helped Singh post 42 runs in 4.4 overs for the first wicket. Buffong stroked six elegant fours while

George stroked a composed 29 and skipper Zamin Amin a quickfire 22 not out to give the West Indies a fighting score.

The Indians, missing frontline batsman and regular skipper Ritesh Patel, found the going tough against a well-oiled West Indies side, coached by Joe Siewasawak. Bowling for India Raju Jasani took 2/24.

The West Indies team played unbeaten over four matches to claim the title and had a lot to thank former West Indies Test player Mahendra Nagamootoo for as he copped two Man-of-the-Match awards.

**SCORES:** West Indies Legends 137/6 (20) (Joseph Buffong 36, Bhim George 29, Zamin Amin 22 n.o, Raju Jasani 2/24) vs India Legends 84 all out (18) (Ketan Patel 35, Fazal Alam 16, Prem Singh 5/12, Bhim George 2/12) - West Indies Legends won by 53 runs. Player of the match - Prem Singh.



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# MAN CITY FIGHT BACK TWICE TO DRAW THRILLER AT LIVERPOOL

*Kevin de Bruyne's deflected late equaliser gave Manchester City a fully deserved point after a moment of genius by Mohamed Salah looked to have earned Liverpool victory in an Anfield thriller.*

Reigning champions City and Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool were each hoping to take over from Chelsea at the top of the table, but this result means Thomas Tuchel's side stay clear at the Premier League summit. City dominated the first half but wasted a host of chances and were punished when Sadio Mane was the beneficiary of more Salah brilliance to apply a clinical finish to put Liverpool ahead after 59 minutes.

Liverpool's lead lasted just 10 minutes until Phil Foden, who tormented the struggling James Milner throughout, took a pass from Gabriel Jesus and fired a low, angled finish across Alisson at the Kop end.

City manager Pep Guardiola was nursing an understandable sense of injustice after Milner somehow escaped a second yellow card for blatantly upending Bernardo Silva, before Anfield exploded in joy after 76 minutes when Salah slalomed his way beyond a succession of City defenders to power home a stunning finish.

City's performance merited at least a point and they secured it when De Bruyne's shot took a deflection off Joel Matip to beat Alisson with nine minutes left.

The Reds should have won it with five minutes remaining but Fabinho's goal-bound shot was kept out by



## *Mohamed Salah scored his sixth Premier League goal of the season*

Rodri's sensational block.

### *Peerless Salah lifts Liverpool*

Liverpool have bullied City at Anfield in the past but the tables were turned here in the first half, the champions dominating possession and pinning the hosts back in a manner rarely seen under Klopp in recent seasons. Klopp's side needed a spark to return to at least something like their normal selves and it was tal-

isman Salah who provided it with a virtuoso second-half performance.

The Egyptian first of all showed his class to set up Mane for a goal that was against the overall run of play but was the result of Liverpool increasing the pace at the start of the second half. Salah's run and pass was sheer perfection and his attacking partner gratefully accepted the invitation to finish in style.

And after the excellent Foden drew City level, Salah scored a goal that will live long in the memory as he twisted and turned in between a host of City defenders before lashing an unstoppable finish past Ederson.

It was a goal worthy of winning any match, but in reality Liverpool could not complain at only getting a point as they struggled to exe

# Golden Set winner Yaroslava Shvedova announces retirement from tennis

Former World No. 25 Yaroslava Shvedova has announced her retirement from professional tennis.

In a short ceremony at the inaugural WTA Astana Open on Friday, the 34-year-old bid farewell to her home crowd, bringing the curtain down to a career spanning nearly two decades.

Shvedova's only title in singles came at the Bangalore Open in 2007. It was a significant breakthrough in her career, as she would go on to break the Top 100 for the first time. Shvedova also reached the quarterfinals of the French Open twice and Wimbledon respectively.

But her success in doubles outpaced her singles career by a mile. She won 14 titles in total including the 2010 Wimbledon and US Open. She also peaked at a career-high ranking of World No. 3 in doubles.

Prior to her retirement, Shvedova sat at No. 426 in singles and was balancing motherhood with life on tour. In 2017 she underwent ankle surgery, putting her career on hold. She missed over 24 months of tennis recuperating and taking time for maternity.

After giving birth to a set of twins and recovering from her previous injury, she returned to action in 2020. Her comeback began at the Dubai Cham-

pionships where she was unranked. She entered the event with a protected ranking, benefitting from the revised WTA rules that allowed returning mothers to use their original ranking before maternity leave in at least 12 tournaments. Unfortunately for Shvedova, her comeback was cut short as tennis came to a standstill due to the pandemic-induced hiatus.

The Moscow-born Shvedova made her third coming in 2021, playing 15 matches. She played her last tournament at the 2021 **US Open**, losing to Jasmine Paolini in the first round. She would join forces with Fabrice Martin in Mixed Doubles, and the pair would reach the quarterfinals in what turned out to be her last bout on the court.

Shvedova boasts one of the most remarkable feats in tennis history. At the 2012 Wimbledon Championships, the Kazakh became the first and thus far only player to win a "**Golden Set**" (a set which is won without losing a single point) in a Grand Slam tournament when she won all 24 points in a 15-minute first set against Sara Errani.

Having hung her racket, Shvedova does not plan to stay away from the game. She will remain as Kazakhstan's Team captain at the Billie Jean King Cup.





*Manny Pacquiao is the only boxer to hold world championships across four different decades.*

## MANNY PACQUIAO RETIRES FROM BOXING TO FOCUS ON POLITICAL CAREER

Boxing legend Manny Pacquiao has announced his retirement from the sport to focus on his political career.

The multi-division world champion, who is a senator in his native Philippines, has already announced his intention to run for president in the country's 2022 elections.

The 42-year-old's final fight was a defeat by Cuba's Yordenis Ugas in Las Vegas last month.

"I just heard the final bell. Boxing is over," said Pacquiao.

In a video posted on social media, Pacquiao described retiring as the "hardest decision" of his life, adding boxing had given him "the chance to fight

my way out of poverty" and "the courage to change more lives".

He also thanked his fans, friends and all those who supported him throughout his career, most notably long-time trainer Freddie Roach, who he described as "my family, a brother and a friend".

"I will never forget what I have done and accomplished in my life," he said.

After growing up in poverty in the south of the Philippines, Pacquiao moved to the capital Manila as a teenager to start a boxing career that would make him one of the world's most highly paid athletes.

He won his first major title in 1998 at the age of 19, defeating Thailand's

Chatchai Sasakul for the WBC flyweight title.

Within three years he was fighting in Las Vegas, beating South Africa's Lehlohonolo Ledwaba for the IBF super bantamweight title at the MGM Grand, the venue for most of his fights in the following two decades.

He is now regarded as one of the greatest professional boxers of all time, winning 12 different titles across eight weight divisions and is the only boxer to hold world championships across four decades.

In July 2019, Pacquiao became the oldest welterweight world champion in history at the age of 40 when he defeated Keith Thurman to win the WBA (Super) welterweight title,

though he was stripped of the title in January 2021 because of inactivity.

Speaking after his defeat to Ugas in August, Pacquiao said he was "60-40" in favour of quitting.

He retires with a record of 62 wins, eight defeats and two draws.

Pacquiao entered politics in 2010 when he won a seat in the lower house of the Philippines congress, before being elected for a six-year term in the upper chamber in 2016.

He confirmed earlier this month his intention to run for president after he was nominated as a candidate by a faction of the ruling party, PDP-Laban.

**IDEWS**