



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY 2022

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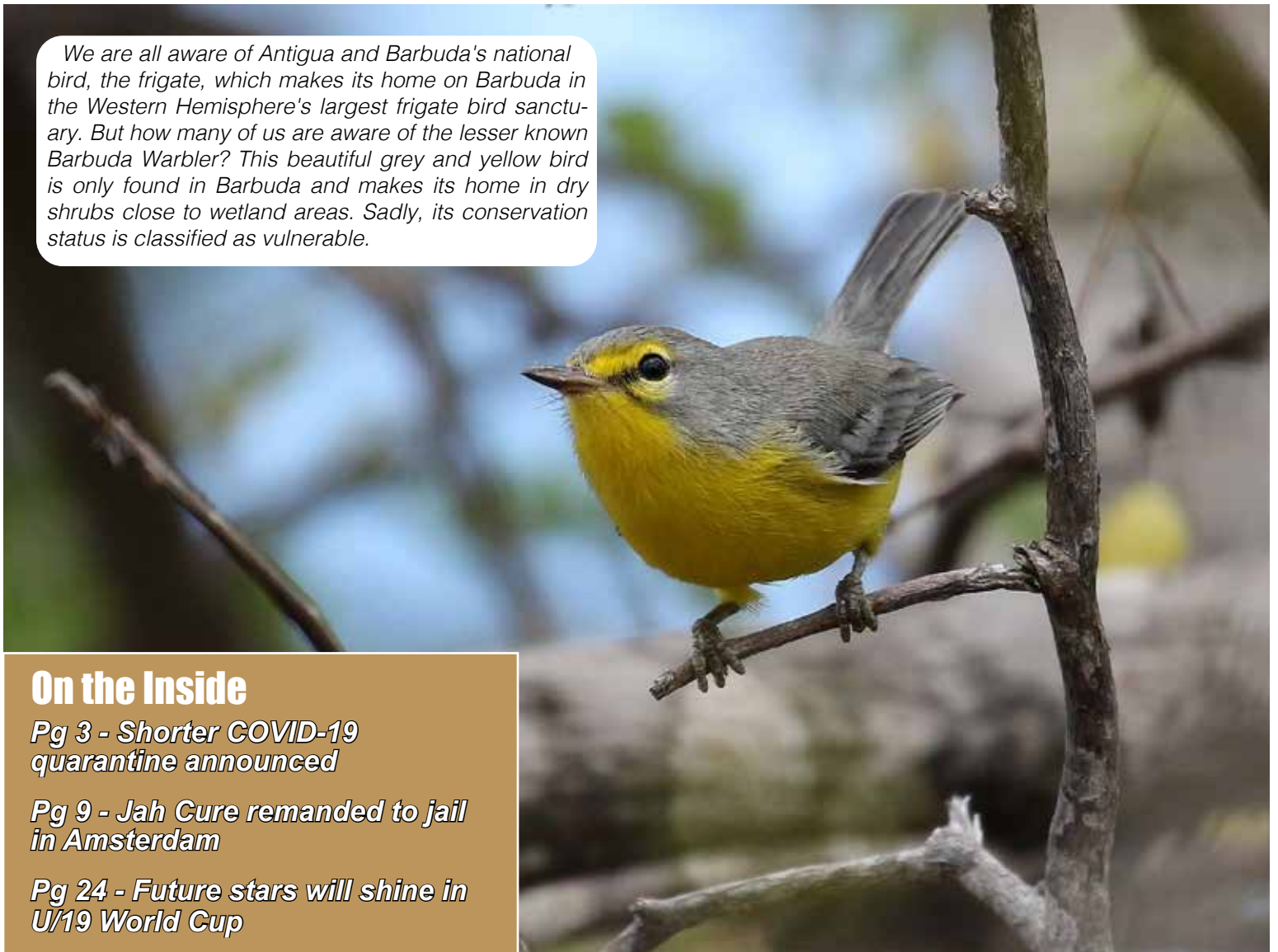
WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# GASTON BROWNE WINS APPEAL

*in Isaac Newton defamation suit*

Story on Page 2

We are all aware of Antigua and Barbuda's national bird, the frigate, which makes its home on Barbuda in the Western Hemisphere's largest frigate bird sanctuary. But how many of us are aware of the lesser known Barbuda Warbler? This beautiful grey and yellow bird is only found in Barbuda and makes its home in dry shrubs close to wetland areas. Sadly, its conservation status is classified as vulnerable.



## On the Inside

*Pg 3 - Shorter COVID-19 quarantine announced*

*Pg 9 - Jah Cure remanded to jail in Amsterdam*

*Pg 24 - Future stars will shine in U/19 World Cup*

## Gaston Browne wins appeal in Isaac Newton defamation lawsuit

On Thursday judgement was handed down in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Court of Appeal in favour of Gaston Browne ending a long standing defamation lawsuit brought against him by Dr. Isaac Newton.

The dispute between Prime Minister Browne and Atlanta based former Antigua and Barbuda ambassador Dr. Newton began over comments made by Browne in March 2017 when he questioned Dr. Newton's work as a United Progressive Party appointed ambassador.

When the alleged defamatory remarks were made, Browne was responding to criticism that had been levelled against him by Newton who was in disagree-

ment with the prime minister's position on the 2017 US State Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report annual study.

Dr. Newton won the defamation suit when a High Court judgement was handed down in June 2020.

Today however, the Court of Appeal set aside the decision of the judge who presided over the matter in the High Court.

The court further ruled that the claim in relation to the first publication is remitted to the High Court to be retried before a different judge.

Browne was awarded costs in the lower court and two thirds of the costs on appeal.

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court  
In the Court of Appeal  
Antigua and Barbuda  
ANUHCVAP2020/0028

Between:

Gaston Browne  
Appellant

and

Isaac Newton  
Respondent


Certificate of Result of Appeal


This appeal was heard on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 before Her Ladyship, The Hon. Ms. Louise Esther Berman, Justice of Appeal, His Lordship, The Hon. Mr. Gerard Farara, Justice of Appeal [Ag.] and His Lordship, The Hon. Mr. Trevor Ward, Justice of Appeal [Ag.] in the presence of Mr. Anthony Asaphan, SC with Ms. Erika Bird for the appellant and Mr. Lawrence Daniels for the respondent.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022 the Court made an Order as follows:

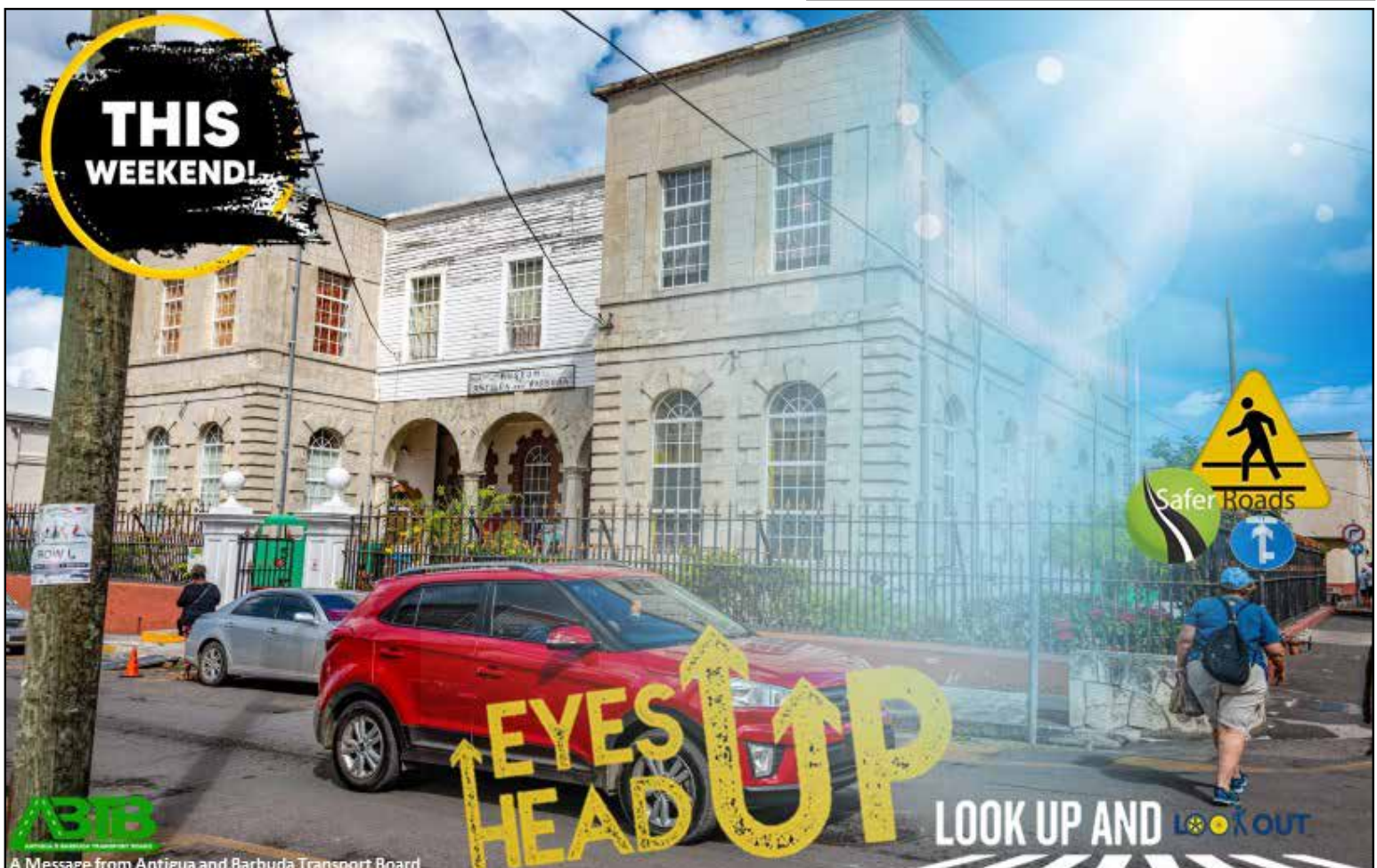
1. The appeal is allowed in its entirety and the decision of the learned judge is set aside.
2. The claim in relation to the first publication is remitted to the High Court to be retried by a different judge.
3. The appellant is awarded prescribed costs in the court below and two thirds of those costs on appeal, in accordance with rules 65.5 and 65.13 of the Civil Procedure Rules 2000.

Dated the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

  
 SEAL

  
 Chief Registrar

ANUHCVAP2020/0028  
Certificate of Result of Appeal dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Page 1 of 1





## Quarantine – If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19

- If you are **unvaccinated or partially vaccinated** stay home for **14 days**
- If you are **fully vaccinated persons but not yet boosted** stay home for **10 days**
- If you have **received your booster shot** stay home for **7 days**

*If you develop symptoms, stay home and get a test*

## Home Isolation - If you have COVID-19

*Everyone, regardless of vaccination status*

- Stay home for 7 days
- If no symptoms for 3 consecutive days (days 5, 6 & 7), get tested on day 7. If negative, you can leave home. If positive, stay home for 3 more days (days 8, 9 & 10) and then you can leave home on day 10 if no symptoms

If you have a fever at day 7, stay home until fever subsides, get a test 3 days after fever goes and once negative you can leave home

# Isolation period reduced for vaccinated COVID-19 sufferers

On Thursday, the welcome news of shorter COVID-19 isolation guidelines was announced.

The reduced isolation times, however, will only apply to those persons who are fully vaccinated.

On Thursday, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas revealed that fully vaccinated persons who have not received a booster will be required to quarantine for 10 days.

Those who have received a booster, which can be taken a minimum of six months after the last dose of vaccine received, will only be required to quarantine for 7 days after exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

For the unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, the quarantine period remains the same, 14 days.

The guidelines for release from isolation apply only to people who do not display symptoms of the illness for 5 - 7 days and return negative test results.

If, however, symptoms persist beyond 7 days, the affected patient will be required to remain in isolation until they

are medically cleared.

For those who have contracted the disease and are in isolation at home, the new requirement is that persons remain at home for 7 days. If for 3 consecutive days no symptoms are exhibited, then they are clear to be tested on day 7.

If the patient returns positive results, they will be required to remain in isolation for an additional 7 days.

If the patient has a fever at day 7, they are to remain at home until the fever subsides. Three days after the fever breaks, they can be tested and, once a negative test is returned, be free to resume life as normal. A person is only considered fully vaccinated after two weeks have elapsed after their

last dose of vaccine.

Some of the ambiguity surrounding the precise definition of contact of a suspected case was also clarified.

A COVID-19 contact is defined as: a person who had face-to-face contact - within 3 feet - with someone confirmed or suspected to be infected

with the disease for more than 15 minutes; a person who had direct contact physical contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case or someone who is responsible for the direct care of an individual who is a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 case without using appropriate protective equipment.

## Who is a contact of a COVID-19 Case?

A COVID-19 contact is a person who has experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19:

- face-to-face contact with someone who has a confirmed or probable SARS-CoV-2 infection within 1 metre (3 ft) and for more than 15 minutes;
- direct physical contact with someone with a confirmed or probable SARS-CoV-2 infection
- direct care for an individual with a confirmed or probable SARS-CoV-2 infection without using appropriate personal protective equipment.


Fri 14 | Day


**82°**  13%  
SSE 9 mph

Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 82F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

 Humidity  
**69%**

 UV Index  
**8 of 10**

 Sunrise  
**6:40 am**


 Sunset  
**5:53 pm**

Fri 14 | Night

**73°**  14%  
SSE 4 mph

Partly cloudy. Low 73F. Winds light and variable.

 Humidity  
**80%**

 UV Index  
**0 of 10**

 Moonrise  
**3:13 pm**

 Moonset  
**3:53 am**

 Waxing Gibbous

## Commonwealth Caribbean countries – all Republics by 2030?

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

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

By 2030, it is more than likely that the eight independent Commonwealth states, with Queen Elizabeth II as their Sovereign, will become Republics.

In doing so, the eight countries will join the other four Commonwealth Caribbean countries that have already separated from the Queen, approving one of their citizens as President.

The eight remaining monarchies are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Countries that are already Republics are: Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Of the latter four, only Guyana has an Executive President who is directly elected by the electorate. In the other three countries, the President, carries out largely ceremonial duties.

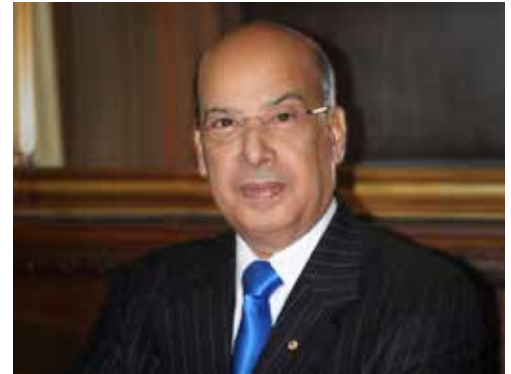
In those countries that have converted to Republican status with non-executive Presidents, the role of the President is no different in substance to the duties performed by a Governor-General. The simple but fundamental difference is that the Head of State is not a person, living in a distant land and who is not participating in the daily concerns of the society. The further important difference is that the Head of State is not also the hereditary Sovereign of Britain, the country that exercised colonial control for centuries.

The anachronism of the Sovereign of Britain also being the Sovereign of Caribbean states has long been recognized in the region. The reluctance to undertake the change to a Republic, with a President drawn from the citizenry of the country, is the consequence of concern about the political advantage that could be sought by political parties during national debate, leading to a referendum to decide the matter.

When a referendum was held in St Vincent and the Grenadines in 2009, it became politically contentious with speculation about the motivation of the Government of Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves. Suggestions were also made that the country would lose investment from foreigners who would be concerned about perceived protections that would be lost by separation from the Queen. The referendum in St Vincent and the Grenadines failed.

The Government of Barbados was able to sidestep a referendum on the change from Monarchy to Republic because the country's constitution did not require a referendum. This was also the case in Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Parliamentary majorities by the governing parties ensured change without contentious public party-political debate that would most certainly have fomented national division.

Guyana is the only one of the four Republics that has an executive Presidency directly elected by the electorate. In 1970, four years after its independence from Britain, its parliament voted for the country to become a Republic with a ceremonial President as is now the case in the other three Commonwealth Caribbean Republics. However, a new constitution was promulgated in 1980, abolishing the



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

ceremonial Presidency and replacing it with an Executive President who is elected in Presidential elections every five years.

The problem that the eight remaining monarchies face is that their constitutions require them to hold referenda to effect a change to Republican status. And, unless consensus is secured by all political parties in each country to endorse Republican status and publicly declare that position in writing, any referendum would become an opportunity for political dispute.

Undoubtedly, this was why Jamaica's elder statesman, PJ Patterson, wrote a to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in December 2021, calling on them to agree to a non-partisan referendum, saying: "It would be a spectacular contribution to building our parliamentary democracy; permitting both Parties to share a single platform in a Campaign to secure National approval and allow one of our own image to become Head of State".

The course open to the present Prime Ministers of the eight monarchical states is to start discussions with the leaders of all political parties in each of their states to agree on the transition to Republican status and on the type of Presidency they want - ceremonial or executive. They would

*cont'd on pg 7*





## Three more ministers test positive for COVID-19

Another three members of Cabinet have tested positive for COVID-19.

This brings the total number of affected ministers to five.

The affected ministers, all of whom are asymptomatic, were found to be infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus during routine testing carried out among the group due to their close interactions with the public in the course of their work.

The ministers, whose identities have not been released, must now undergo quarantine until they have

been medically cleared.

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin was the first to contract the disease when he was exposed during a family gathering in December 2021. Minister Benjamin also reported that he suffered none of the severe effects of the disease.

Word of the AG's COVID-19 infection was followed days later by the news from Ambassador Lionel Hurst, that the Cabinet Secretary and another member of the Gaston Browne Cabinet were confirmed to have contracted the coronavirus.

All members of Cabinet are fully vaccinated and several have received a booster shot.

Last weekend, Prime Minister Browne revealed that his office had been affected as well after seven members of his staff returned positive COVID-19 results. No other members of staff were discovered to have been affected when office wide testing was conducted.

PM Browne indicated that none of the individuals from his office who were affected contracted the virus on the job.

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **HECTOR A. CARBELLEA RICARDO** of **Brownes avenue St Johns Antigua** is applying to the Ministry for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



Lucy Braithwaite will celebrate her 92nd birthday on the 14th January 2022



# Happy 92nd Birthday

Lucy Braithwaite aka Aunt Lucy from Villa.  
Greetings are coming from your daughter Verlyn Wright and her children to include Officer Jamaul Wright,  
Your nieces and nephew to include but not limited to Richie Francis, Big Bird, Karen Smith and Dionne Gordon.

The members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Antigua and Barbuda.

Aunt Lucy still prunes her trees and engages in other things to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

We cannot forget to mention that she loves the Lord.

## Major move to improve water production and distribution

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has given its word that the country's water woes will be improved by the end of the year.

An improved system for water distribution across the island was high on the agenda when Cabinet convened virtually on Wednesday for its first meeting for 2022.

Prevailing drought conditions have resulted in major disruptions in access to the precious commodity as Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) struggles to meet the demands of consumers.

Acknowledging it is not a quick fix, Cabinet Spokesman Melford Nicholas said steps are being taken to bring relief to thousands of households that are severely affected and have been made to endure days on end without pipe borne water.

Addressing reporters at yesterday's Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, the information minister revealed that plans for the immediate, medium and long term to deal with water scarcity are being examined.

He said the commissioning of new reverse osmosis plants will see the production of an additional three million gallons of water daily and will allow for water production to exceed ten million gallons per month.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is being blamed for



*Potworks Dam at sunset. A mile long and half a mile wide when full, the dam covers about 320 acres and holds 1 billion gallons of water. Potworks Dam remains the largest, natural freshwater reserve in Antigua and Barbuda. Due to ongoing drought conditions, however, the dam now lies dry.*

the delay in getting the plants working.

"We would want to remind the public that we had re-commissioned a plant in the Fryes area. We are hoping to start the construction and the installation of a new plant at the Fort James area and another plant in the Bethesda area," Nicholas stated.

In total, five plants are expected to come into operation to meet the demands of the country.

Focus will also be placed on the installation of new pipelines (High Density Polyethylene) to replace the iron and PVC pipes that were buried decades ago

and have developed leaks that account for hundreds of thousands of gallons of water being wasted.

As plans unfold, APUA has been charged with sticking to its water distribution schedule and to adequately inform the general public of changes.

In the interim, two initiatives have been activated to bring relief to some residents.

"Several of the representatives have over the past week indicated there has been significant outages in a number of areas and the government has taken a position that there are a number of water trucks

that are available to the fire department, Public Works and APUA themselves and these three agencies are going to combine their efforts to bring some short-term immediate relief to persons who are in those areas where the discontinuation of the water systems are such to bring immediate relief," Nicholas announced.

The Cabinet notes outlined CHAPA will be provided with resources to import rubber tanks, which will be made available for sale, in an effort to assist households that may not have water catchment facilities and are fully reliant on pipe water.



## Observer Newspaper misleading public about PM Browne's remarks

The Director of Information in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant, rejects a misleading story carried in the Observer newspaper, concerning remarks made by Prime Minister Gaston Browne about salary increases for parliamentarians and public servants.

In its January 11 edition, The Daily Observer carried a story, that Prime Minister Browne is contemplating a pay increase for parliamentarians, including ministers of the government.

Mr Merchant points out that the Prime Minister said the exact opposite of the inference in the Daily Observer story.

The Director of Information emphasised that, indeed, "the Prime Minister's exact words were as follows: "Many of my ministers since last term would have said to me that at some point we have to review parliamentary pay". The Prime Minister was clear when he continued by saying: "I don't know when that will be. Clearly, we cannot do it now because of the COVID situation and so on".

Mr Merchant said, "The words



*Director of Information in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant*

spoken by the Prime Minister can be heard on the website of Antigua Newsroom where it was posted by that Internet new portal'.

"It is most unfortunate and misleading reporting by the Observer newspaper to omit from its story, the pellucid statement by the Prime Minister that no consideration can be given to an increase in pay for parliamentarians at this time or at any time in the

foreseeable future", Mr Merchant declared.

In the interest of fair reporting and acceptable standards of journalism, the Observer Newspaper he said should consider correcting its misleading article, by highlighting the Prime Minister's words, rejecting an increase in pay for parliamentarians given the adverse impact of COVID-19 on government finances.

### *cont'd from pg 4*

also have to reach broad agreement on consequential changes that would have to be made to their existing constitutions and on checks and balances on the exercise of power.

All of this could be inscribed in a Memorandum of Understanding.

If the political parties could reach such consensus, their Memorandum of Understanding could then be given to a team of legal experts to draft a new Consti-

tution for their review and agreement. Once this further agreement is reached, the political parties could then hold town hall meetings, virtual meetings and utilize both traditional and social media platforms to inform their citizens about the new constitution and their status as Republics.

It should not be beyond leaders of political parties who acknowledge the anachronism of remaining monarchies to advance this national aspiration. It would

be the most non disruptive approach to completing the process of independence in each of these countries.

And, while they are taking action to become Republics, they could simultaneously include in their countries' referenda the decision to end the relationship with the British Privy Council in favour of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

None of this would be an insult to the Queen who is universally respected in the Commonwealth Carib-

bean and whose efforts to serve the people of these countries, even from the distance of Britain, has been deeply appreciated.

The time has simply come to manifestly end the Caribbean's long history of association with Britain as a colonial power, transforming the relationship to a partnership of cooperation with a Commonwealth sister-nation.

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

# Former LIAT workers accept compassionate payment amidst stalemate

A number of former employees of Antigua based airline LIAT, have accepted the government's compassionate payment offered late last year.

While the number of individuals is unknown at this time, Minister of State within the Ministry of Finance, Lennox Weston, reported to Cabinet that direct payments have been made to the bank accounts of those who agreed to the offer. Those persons would have received payments following a cash transfer of \$2

million from the government to LIAT's Court appointed Administrator Cleveland Seaforth.

Sending a message to those who are yet to accept the ongoing offer, the government has reiterated that it is under no legal obligation to

pay severance to the former employees.

The compassionate payment to LIAT's former Antigua based employees has been slammed by the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union which criticised the offer as being "grossly exaggerated and can be readily perceived that the government is seeking to bribe employees into accepting whatever has been placed on the table ...with respect to the employees' entitlements."

"Notwithstanding the protestations of the union, our position has not changed," declared Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas. "We cannot afford to pay anymore. We still have to deal with the whole question of the chattel assets of the failed airline. How are we going to get that back into service? How are we going to continue to have a rekindled LIAT provide services?" he said.

The information minister posited where LIAT is concerned, the unions continue to operate as though they are in negotiations, when the reality is that there will be no further discussions.

"We maintain it is not a negotiation. From the standpoint of the Companies Act, LIAT 1974 Ltd. is effectively bankrupt. What the government did do last year prior to disposing the assets of the bankrupt airline was to put it under an administrator to make a determination as to whether or not its operation

can be saved and what can be done before a final dispersion of the assets," Nicholas, the Cabinet's spokesman, explained.

He stated that unions have failed to recognise that LIAT's shares have no value, therefore neither the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, nor any other shareholding government, can be saddled with its liabilities.

"They [unions] are acting as if the governments are in fact obligated legally in the normal employer/employee relation to make good on those ends."

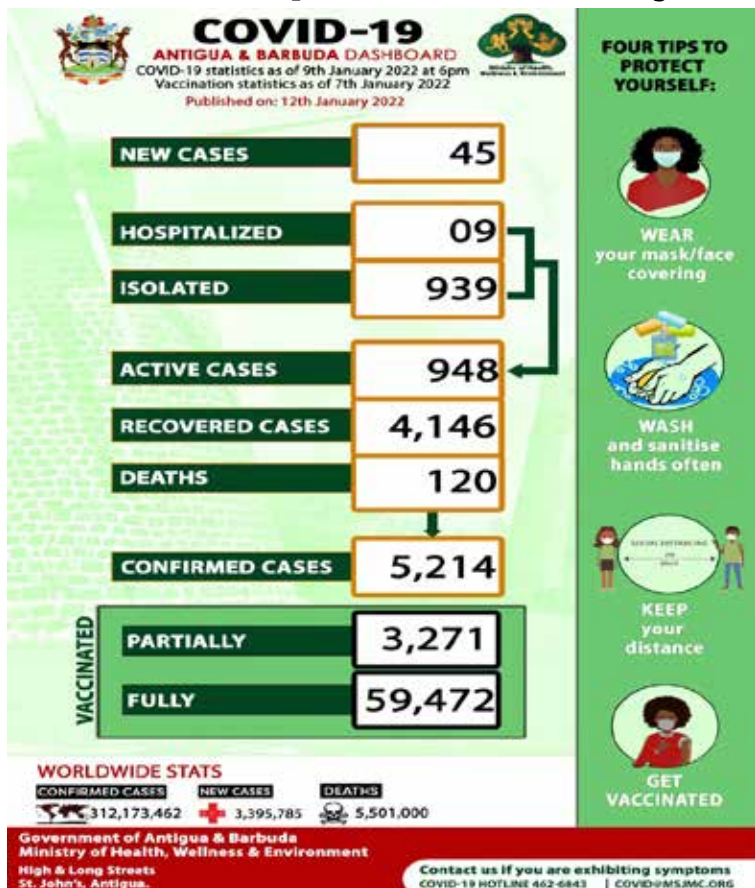
According to Melford Nicholas, in the prevailing circumstances, the plight of the former workers in the midst of tough economic times was considered and an agreement arrived at to make a compassionate offer.

While some of the airline's former staff have landed new jobs and have moved on, many others continue to experience tough times.

The 50 percent severance offer comes in the form of cash, bonds and land. The children of the former employees have also been offered scholarships to access higher education at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

While the government's stance is clear, it appears there are major disagreements between the unions and those they represent on whether to accept or reject the offer on the table.

## Dashboard Update for January 12



The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed forty-five (45) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 8th January, 2022 at 6pm.

Five hundred and eighty-one (581) samples were processed for January 8th. No samples were processed for January 9th.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is five thousand two hundred and fourteen (5,214); which is inclusive of nine hundred and forty-eight (948) active cases. There are nine (9) hospitalised cases; five (5) moderate and four (4) mild.



## Jah Cure remanded until March 8

Jamaica Observer - After a two hour hearing today, reggae singer Jah Cure was remanded once again until March 8 when the trial, the substantive hearing into his attempted murder case in Amsterdam, will take place.

The Prison Walls singer, with his attorney at law Jan-Hein Kuijpers, appeared in court to face a battery of charges that includes attempted murder and aggravated assault. The public prosecutor told the court that the investigation is heading into its final phase.

Franklin Wattimena, press officer with The Netherlands Public Prosecution Service in Amsterdam, explained that Jah Cure will remain in custody until his trial.

"The suspect and his lawyer were present in the Amsterdam court. The trial, the substantive hearing, will take place on March 8 at 14.00 hours. The court has decided that the suspect will continue to remain in custody until March 8. The investigation into the stabbing by the suspect is in the final phase," Wattimena told Observer Online.

"The Prosecutor is only waiting for the results of the digital investigation into the suspect's phone," he continued.

The public prosecutor is reportedly also awaiting pertinent information

from Jamaican authorities regarding Cure's prior convictions.

In an earlier interview with the Jamaica Observer, Kuijpers noted that he has thoroughly interviewed the singer, and is prepared to argue his case.



Jah Cure was arrested in Amsterdam over his role in an alleged stabbing incident

## Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

### ACROSS

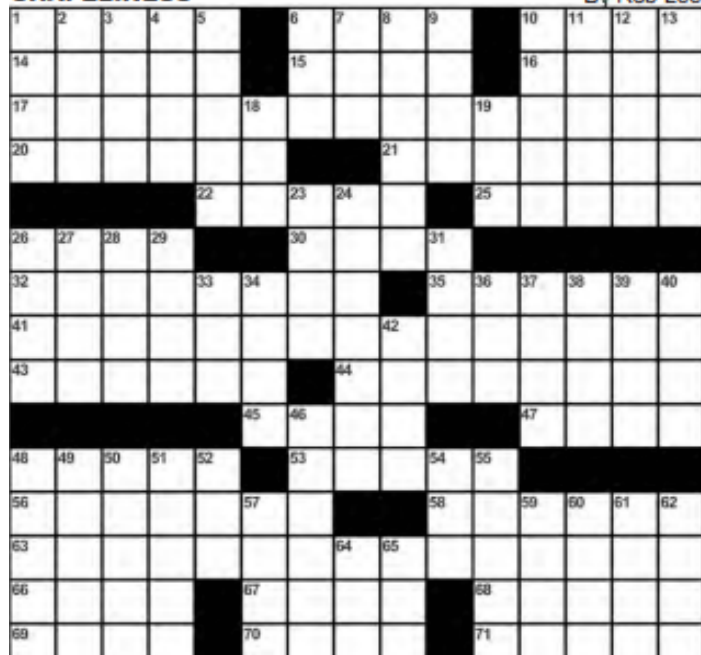
- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1) Modeling wood                   | 43) Barbecue offerings                      |
| 6) Not quite decided               | 44) "Fathers and Sons" author               |
| 10) Cooking meas.                  | 45) Trade requirement?                      |
| 14) From the Far East              | 47) Talk laryngitically                     |
| 15) Imaginary narrative            | 48) Midshipman's counterpart                |
| 16) Cold coating                   | 53) Sloppy-landing sound                    |
| 17) Begin anew (with "Go")         | 56) Language in "The Passion of the Christ" |
| 20) Maintenance cost               | 58) End a computer session                  |
| 21) Seeking relief from a pitcher? | 63) Mysterious Atlantic Ocean locale        |
| 22) Mall occupant                  | 66) Frank in a diary                        |
| 25) They're not final releases     | 67) Lead-in for "go brag"                   |
| 26) One voice singing              | 68) Retail markdowns                        |
| 30) Do some snacking               | 69) Third out of three                      |
| 32) Valentine figure               | 70) Traversing the deep                     |
| 35) Napoleon relative?             | 71) Sound from the birdcage                 |
| 41) Close social group             |   |

### DOWN

- 1) Hindu "sir"
- 2) "Quickly!"
- 3) Salt deposit
- 4) "For goodness' \_\_\_!"
- 5) Poker-pot starters
- 6) "\_\_\_ a Small World"
- 7) Online help page
- 8) Piccolo cousins
- 9) Opposite of nah
- 10) When repeated, a calming expression
- 11) Push from beneath
- 12) Saint Nick
- 13) Hunts (with "on")
- 18) \_\_\_ out (withdraw)
- 19) Genesis bone
- 23) Catch \_\_\_ (start to get)
- 24) Yuletide landing site
- 26) Cul-de-\_\_\_ (dead-end roads)
- 27) Skip over
- 28) Traditional teaching
- 29) Whale type
- 31) Frau's partner
- 33) Source of a bugle call
- 34) Student's trial
- 36) One of 20 in a pack, for short
- 37) Look from a creep
- 38) Noted tutor
- 39) 13th of April, e.g.
- 40) Party thrower's request
- 42) House of cards?
- 46) Academy Awards
- 48) Group of plotters
- 49) Boxing site
- 50) Mends, as socks
- 51) Pismire
- 52) Letter-shaped cross
- 54) "I am the greatest" boxer
- 55) Melba or French
- 57) It's better than a mere thought
- 59) Chew, beaver-style
- 60) See 37-Down
- 61) Run away
- 62) "Gab" or "slug" follower
- 64) No-win situation?
- 65) Molecular biologist's study

### SHAPELINESS

By Rob Lee



Solutions to our crossword puzzles will be printed in the Monday edition of the paper.

# The unsung hero of Antigua and Barbuda's cuisine: Bread!

By Eboni Brandon

I moved away from home almost a decade ago. Since then, one of the things that I've come to appreciate is how important the food of Antigua and Barbuda is to me.

I suppose when a thing is readily available to you, it is human nature to take it for granted or to fail to fully appreciate its significance in your life.

In Antigua and Barbuda, apart from the fungee, boiled dumplings or ducuna (which I intend to fix for my dinner today!) with saltfish and chop up, or pepperpot (put pork in mine please!), there is another delicacy unique to our shores which is often overlooked: our uniquely flavoured bread.

My first plane ride was to Montserrat in 1987. I was so excited and admittedly a bit scared! I still have photos from that adventure which I shared with my Aunt Vermaly and Keria, who, to this day, is more like family than a friend. I really don't remember who else was on that trip, but those two remain at the centre of that pleasant memory.

I recall a plump lady on the plane joking with me about wanting a bite of a red apple I was munching on. To this day, I laugh at this memory because it is my first of being truly petty because as I handed over my apple - as it was the polite thing to share - and still too young to appreciate then that she was only joking, I thought to myself, "Chups. Why does she want my apple? She's so big already!"

Since then, I have been fortunate to travel the world a fair bit and everywhere I go, two things are an absolute must for me: trying the local cuisine and sampling the local beer or ale.

I was never much of a cook until

well into my 30s but these adventures with food have become a passion of mine now and they help to expand the flavour profile and complexity of the dishes I'm willing to experiment with in my own kitchen and at my restaurant.

I shared this to make this point; no matter how wonderful other people's foods may be, no matter how fancy our palate may have become, when it boils down to it and we are looking for a hot plate or bowl of comfort, we all retreat to the dishes we associate with the safety and security of home.

So necessity forced me to learn to replicate the flavours of Antigua and Barbuda in my new home, because there was no more running to Aunt Cas' house in Piccadilly after work for home cooked food and treats or to Ms. Cosbert for my pepperpot fix!

And I managed! I still need to follow a recipe to make fried dumplings because I can't eyeball flour measurements after all these years to save my life for a consistent end product, but I am pretty darned proud of the cook that I've become.

People seem to think so too because until the start of this pesky annoyance of a pandemic, my catering business was fully booked and meals at my restaurant - all based on my own recipes or interpretations of the ones I've been taught, all inspired by my Antiguan and Barbudan roots - thankfully did well.

The one thing I can still never get right is our bread. After all these years, I still can't get used to other cultures' take on bread! It's always too sweet, or too heavy or too...well too not Antiguan!

I don't care what your social status is in our country, bread is a non-nego-



*My very first attempt at baking bread in 2020. I still am horrible with shaping loaves so this is my shape of choice! You can't go wrong with round! (Photo: E. Brandon)*

tiably dietary staple. We argue about who has the best bread just as seriously as we do our politics.

Things have changed considerably now, but I remember that after a night out when you just wanted something to fill you up until morning, bread shop was the move!

I can't begin to tell you how many nights I'd wake up wanting hot bread, butter cheese and chicken sausage (that combination is my jam!) and head out at 2 or 3am just for that.

Or on the way to work, armed with my pear when they are in season, stop at Brownie to get a bread and cheese fixed for breakfast.

In high school, bread and cheese was an acceptable and well enjoyed part of the menu and you would have to be early to get it before it sold out!

Enter the first lockdown of 2020. Lines to everything except heaven  
*cont'd on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

were long. You absolutely needed to stock up because you were going to be a prisoner in your own home for 10 straight days followed by two days out to replenish your supplies.

Let me tell you now, I do not do lines. I hate lining up, especially for food. It's vulgar. Patience is not something I was blessed with either, therefore the only alternative to standing in queue for an hour or more was to buy yeast and flour, say a prayer to the bread gods in the hope that it would all work out when I tried my hand.

Now I told you earlier, I am no good with dough but with bread I wasn't that bad! I didn't achieve a signature Antiguan bread, but my first tries weren't cloyingly sweet and I'd gotten the distinct savoury flavour and fluffy, not dense, texture I associate with home.

There are no lockdowns now. The long shopping queues are gone. And thank goodness toilet paper is no longer scarce!

But one thing I have maintained is my bread baking which is still not perfect, still not quite like home, but

definitely hits the spot when I want a hot loaf to enjoy with some tinned butter and cheese.

Had it not been for the pandemic, I can almost guarantee you that I would never have tried to make bread.

So for those of you far away from home like I am, I'm going to share with you the recipe I found, which I've since tweaked a bit as I've become more practised with bread baking, that put me my on my way. It's a really solid recipe on its own authored by Freda Gore. Next time you're missing a good loaf of delicious "baker shop bread" give this a try. You'll love it!

## *Antiguan Sunday Bread*

### *Ingredients*

*4 Tbsp. active dry yeast or 2 x 1/4oz packages*

*3 Tbsp. sugar*

*3 cups lukewarm water*

*6 cups all-purpose flour plus 1 cup for dusting and kneading*

*3/4 cup vegetable shortening*

*2 Tbsp. lard or butter*

*2 tsp. salt*

*1/4 cup tap water*

## **Preparation**

In a medium bowl add the yeast, sugar and water; cover and let sit for 10 to 15 minutes until the mixture is frothy and bubbly.

In a large bowl, sift the 6 cups of flour, form a well in the centre and add the shortening, lard (or butter if using) and salt.

Pour the yeast mixture in and mix into a smooth dough. Dough should not be sticky (use some of the extra cup of flour for dusting and kneading). Cover and let rise in a warm place until dough doubles its size about 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Place dough on a floured surface and knead for 5 more minutes; dust lightly with flour and cover. Let rise for another 45 minutes to 1 hour or until dough doubles in size.

Grease 2 large cookie sheets and set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Cut risen dough into 4 large pieces, roll into balls and rest for 15 minutes to relax dough. Cut a small piece from each ball to decorate the top of the loaves.

Form dough into 4 large long loaves. Beginning from the middle, fold dough into half-circle and roll on a lightly floured surface with palm of hand until a nice loaf is formed.

Place on greased cookie sheet, being careful that the seam is at the bottom of the pan. Using the small pieces cut from each loaf, roll each piece into a long strip and cut the strips into 3 pieces; join together at one end and plait into a long braid.

Brush the top of each bread lightly with water and place braid on top of each loaf. Secure each end by pressing securely on top of loaves. Cover loaves and let rise for 10 to 15 minutes or until they have doubled in size. Bake until golden, or sounds hollow when tapped on the bottom.



*Freda Gore's recipe is the foundation of the one I still use today.*

# Sidney Poitier: The actor who broke down Hollywood's racial barriers

Sidney Poitier, who has died aged 94, once turned down the role of Othello because he did not want to be typecast as a black actor.

It underlined the dilemma faced by a man who broke down many of Hollywood's racial barriers.

As the first black winner of the Academy Awards' best actor statuette, he was always aware of being the standard-bearer for greater racial integration.

But often he felt he had become something of a racial token, and this denied him the opportunity of taking on more varied roles.

He died last Friday, aged 94, the Bahamian foreign minister announced.

Sidney Poitier was born on 20 February 1927 in Miami, Florida.

His parents were Bahamian farmers who had travelled to the US to sell tomatoes. His premature birth meant he gained US citizenship as well as Bahamian.

Relatives believed his father's family originated in Haiti and that his ancestors were runaway slaves.

He was brought up on Cat Island in the Bahamas before the family moved to the capital, Nassau.

Aged 15 he went to live with his brother in Miami before moving to New York, where he worked as a dishwasher.

It was in the US that he experienced racism for the first time.

"I lived in a country where I couldn't get a job, except those put aside for my colour or my caste."

After a spell in the US Army he joined the American Negro Theatre, which had been set up as a community project in Harlem in 1940.

Film breakthrough

Unfortunately Poitier was tone-deaf and was unable to sing, something audiences felt was a prerequisite of black actors at that time.

Instead he decided his future lay as a serious stage actor and he was offered a leading role in a production of Aristophanes' comedy *Lysistrata* in 1946.

It was a sign of the times that the production featured only black actors.

In 1949 he took the difficult decision to move away from stage productions and into films.

It was a sound decision. His performance in the 1950 film *No Way Out*, in which he played a newly-qualified doctor confronted by a racist patient, brought him to the attention of the studios.

His breakthrough came in *The Blackboard Jungle* in 1955, in the role of a disruptive pupil in an inner-city school. The film was immensely popular, not least because it was one of the first to have a soundtrack featuring rock 'n' roll, including Bill Haley's classic *Rock Around the Clock*.

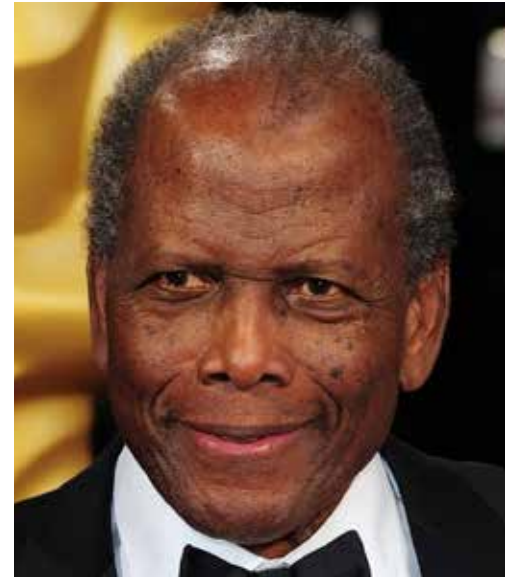
## 'I believed in brotherhood'

*The Defiant Ones*, in 1958, saw Poitier nominated for best actor at the Academy Awards, and he won a Bafta for the same film.

Five years later he was awarded an Oscar for *Lilies of the Field*, the first black winner of the Best Actor trophy.

With the growing civil rights movement in the US, it was inevitable Poitier would find himself lauded as an example of black achievement. It was a role he gladly accepted.

"I was a pretty good actor and I believed in brotherhood. I hated



*Sidney Poitier, 94, passed away on 7th January, 2022*

racism and segregation. And I was a symbol against those things."

However, he was concerned that his Oscar may have been indicative of Hollywood's need for a token black actor, rather than something he achieved on merit.

Then 1967 saw him at his commercial peak with three films, making him Hollywood's most bankable star that year. He played a newly-qualified teacher in a tough London school in *To Sir, With Love*, based on the autobiographical novel by E R Braithwaite.

## 'An exercise in being real'

His character's experience of being an immigrant in London mirrored that of many West Indians who came to Britain during the 1950s and '60s.

"Acting isn't a game of 'pretend'," he once said. "It's an exercise in being real."

Poitier was nominated for Bafta and Golden Globe awards for Norman Jewison's film *In the Heat of the Night*.

He played a Philadelphia detec-

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*

tive who found himself stranded in a red-necked Mississippi town on the night a businessman is murdered.

His developing relationship with the bigoted local sheriff, played by Rod Steiger, gave Poitier his strongest role and the film won five Oscars, including best picture.

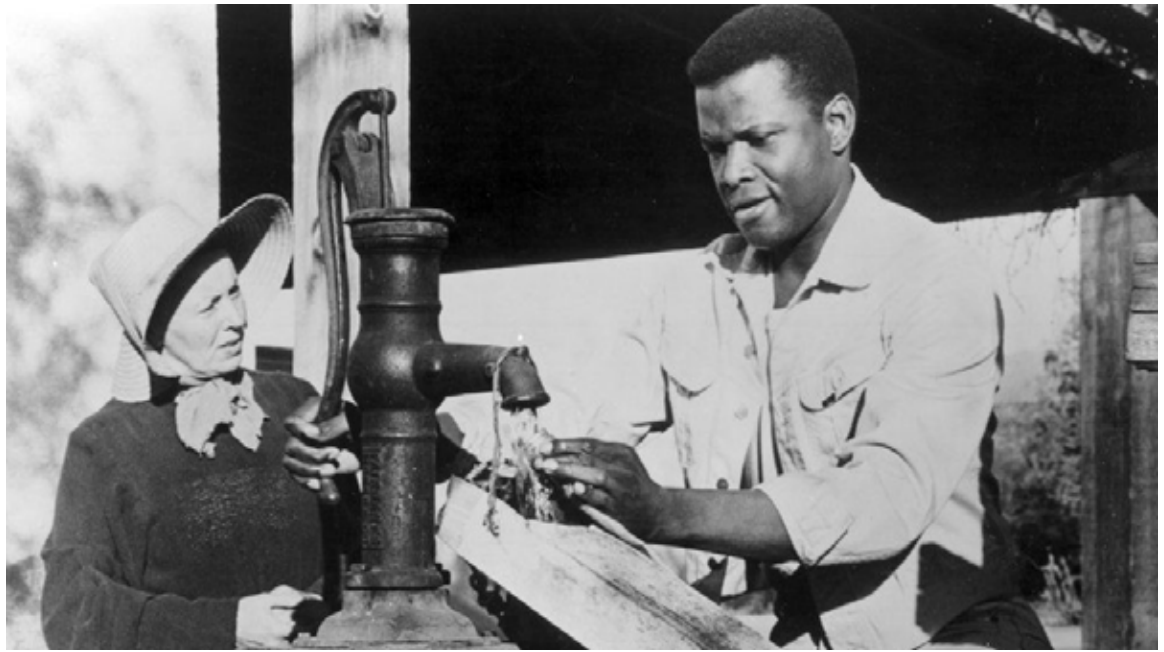
Poitier's response to Steiger's question "What do they call you, boy?" produced one of cinema's most famous lines: "They call me Mr Tibbs."

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner featured Poitier as the boyfriend of a white, middle-class girl who takes him to meet her parents.

Directing and diplomacy

Played by Spencer Tracey and Katherine Hepburn, her parents were torn between their liberal values and their reaction to a prospective black son-in-law.

At the time filming began, interracial marriage



*Lilies of the Field gave him the first Best Actor Oscar awarded to a black actor (Photo: Ronald Grant)*

was still illegal in 17 US states.

These laws were only revoked by the Supreme Court months before the film was released. But Poitier faced criticism from some black civil-rights activists who complained his characters were just too good to be true.

It helped to persuade him to move away from acting roles. He involved himself in the campaign for Bahamian indepen-

dence, achieved in 1973, and began a new career as a director.

By the end of the 1970s, Poitier had formed his own production company with other stars, including Paul Newman and Barbra Streisand.

Successes behind the camera included *Stir Crazy*, with Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder, and the thrillers *Shoot to Kill* and *Little Nikita*.

Poitier became the first black actor to receive a life achievement award from the American Film Institute in 1992.

Five years later, he was appointed the Bahamas' ambassador to Japan.

Poitier received a knighthood in 1974. As a Bahamian citizen he was eligible for a substantive knighthood but given he was a US resident and Bahamian by descent the Bahamian authorities preferred it to be an honorary

award.

Poitier married Juanita Hardy in 1950, but the union ended in 1965. In 1976 he married the Canadian actress Joanna Shimkus. He had six daughters from his two marriages, with one, Sydney Tamiia Poitier, also an actress.

In 2016 he was awarded a Fellowship by Bafta, a recognition of his outstanding contribution to cinema. Poor health prevented him travelling to London to receive the award so he appeared via a video link.

Poitier's noted ability to play intelligent leading roles helped to break down racial taboos in American cinema and wider society, although he played down his importance as a role model.

"If I'm remembered for having done a few good things," he once said, "and if my presence here has sparked some good energies, that's plenty." (BBC)



*To Sir, With Love reflected the experience of west Indian migrants to Britain (Photo: Kobal)*

# Top 10 books for 2021 by Caribbean authors

**By Shanique Sinclair**

The year 2021 was a tough year for many. However, in the world of books, 2021 was a year that several Caribbean authors took a leap to use prose as a means of keeping people grounded and engaged, breaking geographical barriers and allowing persons to experience some amount of normalcy and solace in those moments. Whether these bodies of work were consumed therapeutically, leisurely, or scholastically, these authors did not disappoint. I present to you, in no specific order, ten of the top Caribbean reads released in 2021.

## ***How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps her House* – Cherie Jones**

How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps her House is a deep-rooted story, set in 1984 Barbados at a fictional beach resort called Baxter Bay, and is presented through multiple points of views. It is a beautifully written story about beautiful people with cuts and bruises and heavy bags that they carry on their figuratively breaking backs. A solid début from Cherie Jones, it captures physically and emotionally broken people trying to live holistic lives but failing at every turn. Look out for themes such as those of generational curses, incest, rape, and abuse. How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps her House is a heavy but captivating read that will sit with you even after you have set this book down.

## ***Pleasantview* – Celeste Mohammed**

Literature coming out of Trinidad has proven strong and compelling over the years, and Celeste Mohammed did not drop the ball. "Pleasantview liked nothing better than a good bacchanal," reads a line from the book, foretelling

what is to come. A definite page-turner, a good bacchanal is what you will get from Pleasantview. This plot-driven début novel presents a storyline of each character's life being interlocked by cause and effect – from the young lower-class girl involved with her wealthy upper-class boss to everyone in between. Ironically, the view is not pleasant as we are faced with carefully structured characters in a fictional town in Trinidad where life is drenched in dirty secrets and muddled with classism, social disparity, human trafficking, politics, female marginalisation, and all the not so beautiful aspects of Caribbean life.

## ***Hurricane Summer* – Asha Bromfield**

Let's face it. Watching a character grow into their own, face their fears and the odds set against them and understand their space and themselves is an interactive experience. This highly anticipated book looks at the fragile and complex relationship between Tilla and her father and its development with the incorporation of her extended family once she is forced to take a trip to Jamaica to spend time with him. This one is guaranteed to tug at your emotions as it addresses classism, parent-child relationships, colourism, and young love. The geographical representation of the hurricane is symbolic of the tensions that run throughout the novel. Nonetheless, Tilla shines as a strong protagonist along with well-fleshed-out characters and beautiful storytelling.

If magical realism is your jam or you grew up loving Enid Blyton, then this one just might resonate with you. This One Sky Day is a character-driven



'Island Queen' by Vanessa Riley tells the true-life story of Dorothy Kirwan Thomas, a free woman of colour who rises from the shackles of slavery to ultimately become one of the most powerful landowners in the colonial West Indies.

novel that encompasses a day on the fictional island of Popisho that is seemingly endless and is centred around the lives of some of the most fascinating and unique characters you will ever encounter. Positive displays of femininity and myriad activities in the lives of each character with social commentary thrown into the mix propels the novel and makes this one a very interesting and enjoyable read.

## ***Black Buck* – Mateo Askaripour**

This is another striking début that will appeal to fiction and non-fiction lovers alike. Laced with satire, readers are in for corporate racism, family dynamics, issues of self-belief, bureau-

**cont'd on pg 15**



## *cont'd from pg 14*

crazy, and sensationalism when Darren is afforded a grand opportunity to shine as the lone black salesman at a successful start-up. He soon realises that this cliquish organisation's 'reality' is the furthest thing from the truth. With a play on the name Black Buck and the fast pace of Darren's journey, Mateo Askaripour gives us a self-help manual with a plot twist that will have you taking lines and lessons from the book with you in your daily life.

## ***What Storm What Thunder – Miriam Chancy***

What Storm What Thunder is riveting and painstaking. A strong historical fiction, it is centred around the 2010 earthquake that demolished much more than infrastructure in Haiti. Told from different points of view, these characters are raw, tender, and vulnerable as they give an account of their lives in that moment and how it has affected their ability to progress. We are given a window into the devastation these ten characters had to face and how they have had to survive. Miriam Chancy takes great care in presenting this catastrophic event with delicacy, making it palatable for all readers.

## ***Island Queen – Vanessa Riley***

With a protagonist who defies the odds, this historical novel is based on the true-life story of Dorothy Kirwan Thomas, a free woman of colour who rises from the shackles of slavery to ultimately become one of the most powerful landowners in the colonial West Indies. A story of injustice and marginalisation, *Island Queen* gives hope and highlights the strength and power of a determined woman who is a force to be reckoned with. Her resilience and imperfections make her a character in whom you can become invested.

## ***The Vanishing Girls – Callie Browning***



*The geographical representation of the hurricane is symbolic of the tensions that run throughout the novel, 'Hurricane Summer' by Asha Bromfield.*

Calling all mystery lovers. This is your book! Romance lovers, this one is for you, too! A serial killer is on the loose in 1980 Barbados. Eileen, our no-nonsense strong-willed female lead character, and her boss, Holden, owner of the funeral home to which Eileen is employed, begin to uncover the case as more and more women begin appearing dead in cane fields around the island. Over time, as the mystery begins to take shape and so does the romance between Eileen and Holden. You will read and feel as if you are right there in Barbados solving the mystery as Callie Browning pulls us in and keeps us there with a laugh or two or even three from the supporting characters and keeps us second-guessing who the culprit is. This novel also takes you on a trip to Barbados as the book highlights aspects of its rich culture, history, and language. It is an easy one to get into even if you are not an avid reader.

## ***Things I have Withheld – Kei Miller***

In this moving and lyrical collection of essays, Kei Miller explores the silence in which so many important things are kept. In several essays, with a magnifying glass placed on classism

and colourism in Jamaica, Miller, who is well known for his beautiful writing ability and poetic excellence, gives a breathtaking performance through each word that comes across as a conversation with his readers. A superb collection of essays with Miller's flair makes it absolutely impossible to put down.

## ***Of Women and Salt – Gabriela Garcia***

Jeanette is battling addiction and gaps in her past. The daughter of Carmen, a Cuban immigrant, she is determined to learn more about her family's history from an unwilling mother who is dealing with the trauma of having resettled in the United States and having not mended her broken relationship with her mother back home in Cuba. This, coupled with the difficulty faced raising Jeanette, makes for a bumpy ride that only makes headway when a visit to Cuba puts Jeanette face to face with her grandmother and her family's past in the northern Caribbean republic. *Of Women and Salt* takes us from the halls of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to the shores of beautiful Cuba and everywhere in between.

# Jamaican cops depressed

Jamaica Observer - CHAIRMAN of the Jamaica Police Federation Corporal Rohan James has blasted the Government for shorting the Chaplaincy Branch of the constabulary much-needed funds to tend to the psychological welfare of police officers, a number of whom he says, "are going through serious depression" and teetered on the brink of instability in 2021 but for the interventions of that unit.

"From where I sit, the federation has observed that a number of our members are going through serious depression and oftentimes what has happened is that the limited resources have not given the Chaplaincy Branch the capacity to respond in a real time way," James told the Jamaica Observer yesterday.

"It is the lowest in terms



Corporal Rohan James

of the morale that the membership have felt in the history of the constabulary; 2021 was a low place. The Band-Aid approach to the constabulary is not what is required at this time. Treat the infrastructure and the aesthetics and the resources," James said.

"If we are given the resources and the Chaplaincy

Branch is operating at an efficient level and the force is able to operate at optimal level, then investigative capacity, among other things, will be improved and citizens will get the service that will mitigate them having to seek revenge," said James.

According to the police federation chair, what is often hidden from public at-

tention is the fact that, while allocations are made in the budget, the resources are afterwards shifted to the army or some other area.

"The constabulary often times has to be operating below par, and members have to be subsidising national security. The time has come for the Government to see to the needs of the people. You cannot continue to tie the hands of the membership and expect national security to be as it should be," he charged.

The federation head was elaborating on statements he made earlier Wednesday morning during a prayer breakfast hosted by the Non-Geographic Formation No 2 Chaplaincy Services Branch at the AC Marriott Hotel in the Corporate Area, under the theme "H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Lifestyle Problems) Us, Oh Lord".

# Guyana sets another record for new COVID-19 infections

Loop - Guyana has once again broken its record for new coronavirus (COVID-19) infections recorded in a 24 hour period.

At Thursday's COVID-19 Update, Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony revealed that 1,186 cases were discovered from samples taken across the country.

The previous record was 1,019 positive cases and it was set on Wednesday. There are now 8,680 active infections in Guyana.

Region Four has the largest

cluster with 5,378 persons in isolation. Health officials believe the Omicron variant is behind the surge.

No case of omicron has been confirmed since Guyana has not sent samples to the Caribbean Public Health Agency lab in Trinidad for genomic sequencing.

Anthony said arrangements are being made for 50 samples to be shipped to Port of Spain and it will take two weeks for confirmation to be received.



Guyana's Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony (Photo: APRO)



## Sandals apologises for security guard's assault on Barbadian icon, Mighty Gabby

Barbados Today - Management of Sandals Barbados Resort has apologised to Cultural Ambassador The Most Honourable Anthony "Gabby" Carter for a dispute in which the distinguished singer-songwriter was allegedly assaulted by a security guard.

The incident occurred on Saturday when Carter was with human rights lawyer Lalu Hanuman and two other social activists examining various sections of the Dover Beach area, where public beach access has been reportedly restricted.

During the tour, the team stumbled on five signs erected by the luxury resort prohibiting non-guests from venturing within metres of the beach in front of the south coast property.

It was then that Gabby, carrying a sign which read 'This beach is mine', was instructed to move from the spot which, according to him, is a public beach. He refused, noting that two years prior, he was informed by management that the 'illegal' signs would be removed.

"So, I began to speak with the tourists. I said 'good morning' to them, 'my name is Anthony Car-



*Barbadian Cultural Ambassador, Mighty Gabby*

ter. My title is Dr The Most Honorable Anthony Carter, Cultural Ambassador of Barbados. I am a premier artiste in Barbados.' They listened to me quite clearly, they knew why I was there on the beach and that I had the right to stand where I was," Carter told Barbados TODAY.

"[The guard] got annoyed and decided that I needed to go back behind the sign. I said 'I told you already I had a meeting

with management and they agreed to move the sign. The sign has not been removed and there are five signs that are too close to the water'.

"The man let me know that that is not his business, he is a guard, and it is his duty to make sure that I am behind the sign. I told him this was wrong and he said, 'well, if you don't move, I will move you'.

"I said 'well, I am not moving' and it was at that

point that he came and shoved me," Carter disclosed.

His account was corroborated by Hanuman who described it as "a criminal act".

"We were physically shoved. They put their arms out and pushed us, physically. They were very burly guys, they had a lot of weight behind them. So it was clearly an assault which is a criminal offence," the attorney told this newspaper.

Neither has expressed any serious intention to pursue the matter with the police.

However, Gabby revealed that through Minister of Tourism and International Transport Senator Lisa Cummins, contact was made with Chairman and CEO of Sandals Resorts International, Adam Stewart who offered an apology.

The cultural icon revealed that the management of Amalgamated Security Services Limited, which provides security on behalf of the resort, promised to review security footage and interview the guard.

They will then determine whether a public apology is warranted.

## Prince Andrew stripped of military titles and charities amid sex abuse lawsuit

CNN - Britain's Prince Andrew has been stripped of his military titles and charities, Buckingham Palace announced on Thursday, a day after a judge ruled a sexual abuse civil lawsuit against the Queen's son could proceed.

Andrew will also no longer use the style "His Royal Highness" in any official capacity, a royal source told CNN on Thursday. The source said the decision was "widely discussed" among the royal family.

"With The Queen's approval and agreement, the Duke of York's military affiliations and Royal patronages have been returned to The Queen. The Duke of York will continue not to undertake any public duties and is defending this case as a private citizen," the palace said in a statement.

The royal source also told CNN that "all of the Duke's roles have been handed back to the Queen with



*Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday stripped her son, Prince Andrew of his military titles*

immediate effect for redistribution to other members of the Royal Family. For clarity, they will not return to The Duke of York."

On Wednesday, a New York judge ruled against a motion by Andrew's legal team to dismiss a civil lawsuit brought against him by Virginia Giuffre, who alleges that she was trafficked by disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein and forced to perform sex acts with the prince at the age of

17. Andrew has vigorously denied those claims.

The allegations against Andrew -- along with his relationship with the late convicted sex offender Epstein -- had already tarnished the prince's reputation. But the prospect of a public trial that would attract global attention could put Andrew -- the third child (and reportedly the favourite son) of Queen Elizabeth II -- in an unprecedented situation for a senior British royal.

Andrew had, in 2019, stepped away from his public duties as a result of allegations and the backlash over his initial response.

Aside from the days following the death of his father, Prince Philip, in early 2021, he has rarely appeared in public since. He was even absent from publicly released photographs of his elder daughter Beatrice's wedding in 2020.

## US Supreme Court blocks Biden's workplace vaccine mandate

BBC - The US Supreme Court has blocked President Joe Biden's rule requiring workers at large companies to be vaccinated or masked and tested weekly.

The justices at the nation's highest court said the mandate exceeded the Biden administration's authority.

Separately they ruled that a more limited vaccine mandate could stand for staff at government-funded healthcare facilities.

The administration said the mandates would help

fight the pandemic.

It introduced the workplace safety rules in November.

The wider mandate would have applied to workplaces with more than 100 employees and affected some 84 million workers. It was designed to be enforced by employers.

Opponents said the administration was overstepping its power with the requirements.

In a 6-3 decision, the justices agreed with that argument.



*Americans have become intensely divided over Covid-19 vaccine mandates (Photo: Getty Images)*

"This is no 'everyday exercise of federal power,'" they wrote. "It is instead a

significant encroachment on the lives - and health - of a vast number of employees."



# 2021 was sixth-hottest year since records began

AlJazeera - US government scientists have said 2021 was the sixth-warmest year on record, and they are putting the blame squarely on climate change.

On average, 2021 was 1.51 degrees Fahrenheit (0.84 degrees Celsius) hotter than the baseline between 1901 and 2000, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said in a report issued on Thursday.

NASA, the North American Space Agency, came to similar conclusions in a report released in conjunction with data from NOAA. In its assessment, NASA said 2021 was tied for the sixth hottest year.

The last eight years were the eight hottest and the last decade was the warmest since record-keeping began in 1880, officials from the two agencies said.

Global warming is "very real. It's now, and it's impacting real people," Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, told the Reuters news agency.

From intense heat in western Canada and the US, to more frequent hurricanes in the Atlantic, and heat-waves in southern Europe, NOAA said 2021 had "no shortage of extremes".

La Nina, a climate phenomenon centred in the

eastern Pacific, slightly cooled global temperatures compared with what they would have been without it, scientists said.

Still, they said 2021 was the hottest La Nina year on record and that the year did not represent a cooling off of human-caused climate change but provided more of the same heat.

"So it's not quite as headline-dominating as being the warmest on record, but give it another few years and we'll see another one of those" records, said climate scientist Zeke Hausfather of the Berkeley Earth monitoring group that also ranked 2021 the sixth hottest. "It's the long-term trend, and it's

an indomitable march upward."

In the Arctic, often seen as a harbinger of broader environmental changes, maximum sea ice levels were their seventh-smallest on record, NOAA said.

Arctic sea-ice coverage has dropped by roughly 30 percent since 1980, NASA reported, and the polar region is heating about three times faster than the rest of the planet.

A key indicator of climate change, the heat content of the world's oceans, reached a record level in 2021, the agencies said. Oceans absorb more than 90 percent of the excess heat trapped in the earth's atmo-

sphere by greenhouse gases, and those warmer waters influence weather patterns and changes in currents.

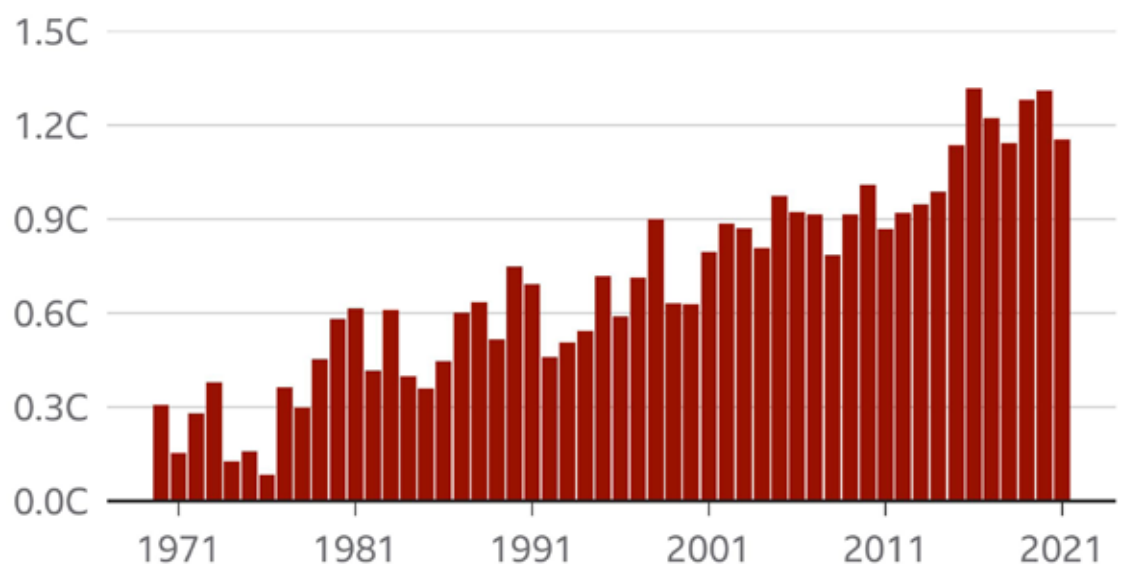
"What's scientifically interesting about that is it tells us why the planet is warming," Schmidt said. "It's warming because of our impacts on greenhouse gas concentrations."

For their 2022 outlook, scientists said they expect another year of rising heat.

"There is a 10 percent chance 2022 will rank first (for heat)," Russ Vose, chief analyst for NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information told reporters on Thursday. "And a 99 percent chance it will rank in the top 10 hottest."

## 2021 was the fifth warmest year on record

Annual global-average temperature increase (degrees C) above pre-industrial level



Source: ERA5, Copernicus Climate Change Service



# CHEERS 2022



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# Fiorentina urge Vlahovic to make his plans clear

ITALY (AP) Fiorentina general manager Joe Barone has told Dusan Vlahovic to publicly state whether he wants to leave the club and revealed no bids have been made for the prolific striker.

Vlahovic has been linked with a host of top European clubs after scoring 16 goals in 20 Serie A appearances this season.

Arsenal have been strongly linked with a move for the 21-year-old Serbia international, who is the leading scorer in the Italian top flight.

Fiorentina are reportedly holding out for a fee of €75million for their prized asset.



Fiorentina striker Dusan Vlahovic. (Getty Images)

Barone has urged Vlahovic to make his intentions clear amid constant speculation over his future, which began even before the transfer window opened this month.

He told Mediaset: "Du-

san is talked about every day, but I would like to talk about the group. We expect an answer from him on the future, obviously we have our plans and we want to take action.

"Two days ago I had a

conversation with Dusan, saying if you want to stay, please state it publicly and sign. A city cannot wait, but from what I have heard he does not seem willing to speak and therefore we as a club have to make decisions."

Barone said Fiorentina are willing to consider bids for Vlahovic, whose contract runs until the end of next season, but stressed they have not received any.

"All offers will be evaluated. But nothing has arrived at the moment," he added.

Vlahovic was named in the starting line-up for his side's Coppa Italia clash at Napoli yesterday.



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## James advocates the importance of creating student athletes

Experienced sports coordinator, Colin “Tin Tin” James, has said he is now focused on promoting the importance of developing academically sound student athletes.

James, who recently completed the first stage of a sports development camp at Mack Pond in All Saints, continued that he is on a mission to sensitise parents to the importance of encouraging their children to play sports.

Appointed Commissioner of Sports in 2019, James went on that there is a need for the country’s education system to advocate for athletes to also be academically well grounded.

The former Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) senator said parents need to be made aware that their children can use sports as a vehicle toward obtaining higher education.

“What we want the parents to understand is that sports and education is a marriage and that is what we have to advocate in our education system in Antigua and Barbuda. Sports and education go hand in hand,” James said.

“If a child is going to access a 50,000 -US dollar a year scholarship or a college opportunity, their parents, like my parents and other parents will not be able to pay that 50,000 US dollar per year.

“But if they can run, jump, catch, bowl and do something athletic, they can get 50 to 75 percent of that 50,000 waived because they are taking part in a sporting programme and we have to get the parents to understand this.

“The government coffers cannot support every student that wants to go to college. The private sector cannot do it, and unless the parents are going to take out a second mortgage, they are going to find it very difficult to do it

as well.

“So we have to educate and encourage, even to the point of coercing, our parents to understand this.

“Let your child play a sport. He or she do not have to be a world beater but let him or her play because at the end of the day, that student, your child, will be able to use his or her athletic ability to obtain a scholarship so that they can go the best schools, not only in North America, but anywhere in the world, and become the best mind and probably a top sportsman or woman,” said the veteran sport journalist.

James made the comments in an appearance on Pointe FM’s Sports Overflow, which is hosted by long time sports administrator, coach and broadcaster, Vernon Springer.

Springer believes the message should be preached by government technicians, sports administrators and other professionals who themselves have benefitted from academic sports scholarships.

“The people who get paid to think and the technocrats have a responsibility to carry out that message that you just spoke about. That is where you have the entire breakdown because you have people who think sports are only for dummies so that should be left behind,” Springer said.

“That is why we are having these challenges in the Caribbean. That is why we are having the big division between physical education and sports. That is why we are having obesity on the rise in the Caribbean. It is because of the same singular thing that you just spoke about.

“Look at the many success stories that we have had in the Caribbean region, including Antigua and Barbuda, where folks who would have gained



*Commissioner of Sports, coordinator and organizer Colin ‘Tin Tin’ James. (Photo courtesy World Culture Exchange Federation)*

a scholarship from some form or the other, have come back and just go into their field of profession.

“Look around, we have a long list in Antigua, so it is not like we don’t have success stories, but the people who get paid to think, seem not able to identify those PR (public relations) persons and put them out there so your young grandchildren can emulate them by going out there and playing a sport. I think that is where we are having a big problem,” he continued.

Agreeing with Springer, James said more people must begin to advocate for sports as an essential element in the development of young minds.

“You are so right, but as advocates for the playing of sports, we have to advocate to our parents and to our educators that sports is quintessential in the development of young minds.

“Sports and education is a marriage. There is no separation, there is no divorce. It’s a marriage that will last long and will produce successful young men and women for Antigua and Barbuda,” James concurred.



## Tiger Tyson unable to secure sponsorship

By Elwin Francis

National kiteboarder, Tiger Tyson, has said it has been a major challenge for him to secure sponsorship to help offset expenses to facilitate his participation in several international competitions.

Tyson, who represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 2018 Youth Olympics in Argentina, is hoping to compete in approximately 20 competitions this year. He said it will require approximately EC\$50,000 to cover just travel expenses and equipment.

Tyson, who graduated from Island Academy in June 2021, said although he has been able to get some discounts on equipment, he has been unable to secure sponsorship to cover the other expenses required to compete.

“So I am on an equipment team. I get equipment sponsorships, like I get good deals, I don’t get equipment for free. I’ve tried really hard to get sponsorship. I have my own website, which you can see online. It is called tigerkitting.com. I have made it in particular for sponsors to see what I am doing and to see how they can help me.

“But I have found it really difficult to find sponsors and I am still trying really hard to find a solid base for sponsorship, because, like I have said before, the sport isn’t cheap.

“I need to be able to travel around and to train and to compete so all of this really adds up. Unfortunately, I haven’t been really able to find any good sponsors, but I am definitely looking and still trying my best to advertise myself,” said



Antigua and Barbuda kiteboarder Tiger Tyson. (Photo courtesy Tiger Tyson)

Tyson.

Tyson said he has also created his own brand of merchandise, utilising logos from his association with the 2018 youth Olympics and the National Kiteboarding Association, to raise funds to assist with his training and competition costs.

“For the youth Olympic campaign we actually made a little logo just to back the movement and just to show that we were creating something. It was also for people to buy something for themselves just to support me,” Tyson said.

“I have T-shirts, caps, sun shirts and just a small variety of products that you can get with my logo and the Antigua and Barbuda Kiteboarding Association logo on. I have a lot of stock available in Antigua so if anyone is interested they can just message me on any social media platform such as Facebook and Ins-

tagram and I can sort you guys out with some of the merchandise,” he added.

The Antiguan kiteboarder says his participation in this year’s competitions is necessary to improve his current rankings which plummeted after an injury he suffered in Italy last October forced him to miss a number of competitions in the final months of 2021.

Tyson’s first competition this year takes place at the end of January.

In two weeks he will leave for the United States of America where he will undergo a week of training before participating in two season-opening competitions in Florida.

He will then journey to Mexico and the Dominican Republic where he will also compete. Tyson will then move on to Europe where he will continue training and participate in several competitions during the summer.

*cont’d from pg 24*

nolly will lead the side, and he will have fond memories of taking on the host nation. In 2020 he hammered 64 off 53 balls against the West Indies in a play-off match that was eventually abandoned due to rain.

He is the only player

who returns from the 2020 squad, but will not lack for support, notably from ambidextrous spinner Nivethan Radhakrishnan.

Bangladesh created history in 2020 and will be aiming for an encore.

Prior to 2020, their previous best performance came in

2016 when a team captained by Mehidy Hasan Miraz finished third overall on home soil.

Captaining the side this time around is left-arm spinner Rakibul Hasan, who is part of the winning squad in South Africa. Bangladesh lost heavily to India in the Asia

Cup semifinals last month.

Only India have reached the tournament final more often than Pakistan, who have done so on five occasions in total. In the West Indies, all-rounder Qasim Akram will captain the Pakistani side that is coached by former Pakistan batter Ijaz Ahmed.

## Future stars get to shine in U/19 World Cup

Future stars will get their big stage to shine when the International Cricket Council (ICC) Under-19 World Cup begins in the West Indies today with record four-time champions India being firm favourites to clinch another title.

Hosts West Indies take on Australia at the Guyana National Stadium while Scotland face Sri Lanka at the Everest Cricket Club in Guyana in the tournament openers today.

Former champions India will begin their campaign against South Africa at the Guyana National Stadium and Ireland will take on Uganda at the Everest Cricket Club in Guyana tomorrow.

The tournament, facing the constant threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, will feature 16 teams divided across four groups and is being held in the Caribbean for the first time.

India are in Group B while the second most successful team in the competition, Australia, is in Group D.

Bangladesh, who had upset the mighty India to win their maiden U-19 World Cup trophy in South Africa

two years ago, are placed in Group A.

Two-time winners Pakistan are in Group C alongside Afghanistan, who arrived late in the Caribbean due to visa issues and will go into their opening game without a warm-up match. Top two teams from each group will enter the quarterfinals.

The Final will be hosted by the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Grounds in Antigua on February 5th. Antigua and Barbuda will also host the two semi-finals on the 1st and 2nd February.

Preliminary round matches will also be hosted by St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. Matches in the Super League stage of the tournament will be hosted in Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago.

The tournament's bio-bubble has not been breached yet but the Zimbabwe and Pakistan squads have already been hit by COVID-19.

Scotland replaced New Zealand in the competition after the 1998 runners-up decided to withdraw due to quarantine restrictions for minors back home.



Bangladesh are the defending champions. The 2020 title was their first World Cup win. (ICC via Getty Images)

Record four-time champions India have to be among the title favourites despite the current squad not inspiring confidence seen in the previous batches.

Having arrived here straight from Dubai after winning the Asia Cup, India's preparation has been good.

After a hard quarantine of five days, the Yash Dhull-led squad got back to the grind and beat Australia in their warm-up game.

Expectations will be high from opener Harnoor Singh, Delhi batter and skipper Yash, Shaik Rasheed and pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar who all showed promise in the Asia Cup.

India have the biggest talent pool and that is the primary reason why a player only

gets one opportunity to play in the U-19 World Cup, unlike most teams.

Only India have won the tournament more times than Australia's three titles. The team is also second in terms of matches won and win percentage.

In fact, in 12 previous appearances, Australia have made it through to at least the semi-finals on eight occasions, and they are remarkably consistent. The last win came back in 2010 by a team featuring Mitchell Marsh, Adam Zampa and Josh Hazlewood, who 11 years later would play key roles as Australia claimed the men's T20 World Cup 2021.

This time around, all-rounder Cooper Con-

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