



Bishop of the South Caribbean District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, Superintendent of the Circuit, Rev. Derick A. Richards, is urging Christians to stay focused on the salvation of the world.

Embrace the work of the Holy Spirit

ONE senior religious leader is urging Christians to embrace the work of the Holy Spirit. If this is not done, the enemy will defeat the Church from outside and from within.

Bishop of the South Caribbean District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, Superintendent of the Circuit, Rev. Derick A. Richards, gave this message at the James Street Methodist Church yesterday. The Methodist Bishop warned of the harm to come.

“The enemy will speak to raise up all kinds of demonic attacks on the Church from outside and then the Church will start warring from inside and then we start fighting each other. And the world is constantly and slowly going to Hell, while the Church is distracted from the

Ministry to which God has called the Church!” preached Reverend Richards.

He noted that when the Church has the power of the Holy Spirit and it can recognise the trickery of its enemy, then it can stay the course.

Stay focused

Reverend Richards encouraged the congregation to stay focused. He explained that the focus is the salvation of the world, to bring every person to the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ and to a place where they are saved.

The religious leader posited that despite the pandemic, the James Street Methodist Church is an active participant in the Ministry of God, working on the mission of God in the world and united in purpose.

TOUGH TIMES FOR VENDORS

By Krystal Penny Bowen

AS Barbados tries to restart its commercial activity, the vendors in Bridgetown continue to struggle with slow sales.

Recently, *The Barbados Advocate* visited Cheapside Market and the area

near Tudor Street and Milk Market Road to chat with vegetable and fruit vendors.

Around 11 a.m. in Cheapside, while vendors’ trays were filled with cucumbers, hot peppers, sweet peppers, carrots, root crops like sweet potatoes and yam, there were few customers



Popular local fruit vendor, ‘Master’, has an array of fresh fruit on sale including cashew, wax apple, and pawee mango.

buying goods.

Most vendors tried to keep busy as they arranged their fruits and vegetables while others talked to their neighbours. At the Old City Hall, other vendors tried to sell breadfruit and mangoes, which are in abundance.

Produce vendor and store owner on Tudor Street, Keith Walcott, said that it has been challenging, but he is doing the best he can under the current circumstances. He sells an array of cassava, sweet potatoes, and yam as well as watermelon, lettuce, and cucumbers. He also had some mangoes and plantains, which were imported from St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG).

Last month, the Agriculture Minister in SVG, Saboto Caesar, had indicated that the island, although impacted by the La Soufrière eruption, was still able to ship key crops to their neighbouring islands.

Local cashew and wax apple available

One interesting find in the City was the sale of local cashew fruit and wax apple. In Bridgetown, everyone knows that if they want local fruit, there is only one place to go.

Fruit vendor, “Master”, located at the corner of Milk Market Road, had these unusual fruits on sale along with pawee mangoes for a dollar. The cashew fruit is an excellent source of Vitamin C and has several minerals, including copper, calcium, magnesium, iron, phosphorus, potassium, and zinc. It is great for curries, fermented vinegar and can be made into an alcoholic drink.

In India and Brazil, it is used in preserves, chutneys, and jams. The strange wax apple is said to have a similar taste to an Asian pear. It can be used in salads and pairs well with onions, garlic, chilies, mint, lemon, fennel, sharp cheeses, and greens, spinach, and romaine lettuce.



Vendor, Keith Walcott (not in photo), had plantains and mangoes from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Deadline for filing Personal Income Tax returns is today

MEMBERS of the public have until the end of today, May 31, to file their 2020 Personal Income Tax returns and make any payments.

This as today is the final day of the extended deadline for filing. The deadline was originally April 30, however, it was extended by a month until May 31, 2021.

To assist persons with overcoming any difficulties faced while filing, each day from May 25 the Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA) has conducted free in-person Tax Clinics at the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) headquarters.

Speaking to *The Barbados Advocate* yesterday, Communications Officer with BRA, Erica Lazare, said the response to these clinics from Tuesday through to Saturday was positive.

“The first day, Tuesday, was good, but we found that the numbers started to increase from Wednesday. We had a lot of people on Thursday and Friday was a busy day and yesterday (Saturday) ... it was steady. The majority of people who came, came to get their passwords reset because a lot of people don’t remember the e-mail address

that they used or sometimes they don’t remember their user’s name.”

Lazare also indicated that “a lot of people” have been making needed payments to BRA via the online route. In the current COVID-19 environment, this has helped to reduce the number of individuals visiting the BRA’s offices at any one time.

Lazare reminded that though today is the deadline for filing Personal Income Tax and making payments, “it is not the deadline for the Reverse Tax Credit”.

She additionally encouraged individuals who have not filed

their Income Tax returns as yet, to do so by the deadline. Meanwhile, anyone needing assistance can attend the final Tax Clinic today, May 31.

“Come down to the NUPW. We are there from nine in the morning until five in the evening or they can come to one of our Customer Service locations,” she added.

Persons attending the clinic should walk with their identification card and their TAMIS information, including the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and the registration e-mail address. (MG)

BRA: Submit relevant vehicle registration documents

AS the Barbados Revenue Authority prepares to further automate the vehicle registration service, they report that over 400 applicants have not submitted all of the required documentation to enable processing.

The Authority has issued notifications directly to those applicants with missing information. Those persons are directed to visit the second floor at the Authority’s Warrens Towers II location with all relevant documentation to complete their transactions over-the-counter.

As part of the transition programme, the e-mail submission process for vehicle registrations is suspended with effect Friday, May 28, 2021. All vehicle registration transactions will be facilitated over-the-counter until the Authority releases the automated vehicle registration service for use in the very near future.

The Authority reminds persons to produce all relevant documentation for the vehicle registration process, as incomplete applications will not be processed.

Reminder: BSS household listing begins today

THE public is reminded that the Barbados Statistical Service (BSS) will be conducting its household listing exercise, beginning today, May 31, in preparation for the upcoming Population and Housing Census.

The objective of the exercise

is to ensure the census is accurately completed, through the collection of basic data on the location of households, and all buildings on the island, residential or otherwise. All information recorded will be kept in the strictest confidence and only used for statistical

purposes.

Field officers will have their BSS-issued photo identification prominently displayed on their person.

While the exercise requires that personnel visit residences, the officers will NOT be entering the homes of re-

spondents. Neither will they seek to solicit sensitive or personal information from householders.

There will be strict adherence to the COVID-19 protocols. Householders are encouraged to co-operate with the officers.



PAHO

World No Tobacco Day 2021: Commit to Quit

According to the Pan American Health Organization, tobacco causes 8 million deaths every year. Tobacco use is one risk factor common to the four main groups of NCDs including heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease and diabetes. World No Tobacco (WNTD), which is celebrated on May 31st each year, was brought about by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1987 to bring global awareness to the preventable death and disease caused by tobacco.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has led to millions of smokers expressing their desire to quit as evidence released has shown that smokers are more likely to become severely ill if they get COVID-19.

In celebration of WNTD 2021, the WHO recently launched its yearlong “Commit to Quit” campaign which aims to support 100 million people worldwide in their attempt to give up tobacco through various initiatives and digital solutions. One such initiative is a free, self-learning online training course on brief tobacco interventions offered by the PAHO Virtual Campus for Public Health (VCPH). The course, which targets all primary care providers, other health professionals and medical students can be found on the VCPH website.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness encourages all tobacco users to Commit to Quit today.

Quitters ARE WINNERS

#CommitToQuit



PAHO

Long overdue

Artists cry out about National Art Gallery's lack of progress

By Krystal Penny Bowen

“CECI n'est pas un NAG” or “This is not a NAG (National Art Gallery).”

These words, written in French on a colourful banner, represent the frustration of local artists. Recently, the creative sector called for more dialogue and action on the creation of a home for the island's art collection.

Prominent local artist, Heather Dawn Scott, came to the site, Block A, The Garrison, to highlight the current situation. Scott, who created the protest art banner, spoke to *The Barbados Advocate* via WhatsApp after she displayed her work.

The artist explained that the event occurred due to a recently held public forum hosted by the National Art Gallery Board. During this session, she noted that the conversation focused on various ideas like satellite art galleries in each parish. But Scott noted that these types of projects are expensive as this will need storage, curators and other technical infrastructure.

She hoped the forum would have shared more substantial developments on the National Art Gallery project. Over the

years, several committees and boards of the Barbados National Art Gallery have been working with the Government to conceptualise a national exhibit for artists.

A need for funding

The veteran artist noted the major challenge for the National Art Gallery is that there is no funding. Scott noted that before the pandemic, it was estimated to cost 10 million Barbados dollars to create the gallery. It was suggested by the artists that efforts could be made to raise the money through donors and art patrons on the island and overseas. To date, the artists do not have a clear understanding of when the project will start or if efforts are being made to acquire funding.

Scott suggested that as Barbados focuses on re-branding their tourism product, the creative industry and artists can contribute, especially if there is a national art gallery. Noting that Barbados always had high-level art, Scott said that the collection, which would fill the National Art Gallery, is vast and it is made of a few historical pieces.

“We do not have an art gallery, but we have tonnes of fantastic artists and a terrific art collection which is in a dark place,”



Recently, a handful of local artists came out to express their frustration about the stagnant state of the Barbados National Art Gallery, situated in Block A, The Garrison, St. Michael. (PHOTO COURTESY: CORRIE SCOTT)

said Scott.

Art inspires Art

The renowned artist explained that the banner was inspired by Belgian surrealist painter, René Magritte. The artist is known for his famous

work, 1929 Treachery of Images or “This Is Not A Pipe” art piece.

Scott's piece, which featured the French phrase “Ceci n'est pas un NAG” (This is not a NAG), illustrated a horse draped in African fabric and saying,

“Nay”. With this context, Scott wanted to underline the stagnant state of the National Art Gallery initiative.

In a video uploaded to social media, she stated that it had been 64 years since Sir Hugh Springer

said that there will be a National Art Gallery. In July 2020, the Minister with responsibility for Culture, John King, announced that Block A, The Garrison will be the new home for Barbadian artists' collections.

Investing in education imperative

By Cara L. Jean-Baptiste

INVESTING more in education is important if we are going to green the transport sector.

Speaking during a recent webinar, hosted by the Centre for Biosecurity Studies (CBS) of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Cave Hill Campus, Professor Winston Moore, Deputy Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, highlighted that the Green Economy Scoping Study focused on a number of key sectors and one of these sectors was transportation.

He stated that if the country was going to make a step towards greening the transport sector, then investment in

human resources was important.

“Because if you're going to get these more advanced vehicles coming in, electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, we're going to need to invest more in education. So that we have people to repair those vehicles as well,” he said.

After speaking with key stakeholders across the transport sector and looking at strengths and weaknesses and the investment gaps, Moore noted that having a green transport sector could stimulate growth and development within the sector over the next few years.

However, before they could reach this goal, Moore believed that more effort needed to be put

into public awareness initiatives to educate the public on electric vehicles.

The professor explained that when surveys were done for the Green Economy Scoping study, the public asked a number of questions which showed their lack of knowledge regarding these types of vehicles.

“So the public was asking us, you know, can we get parts for electric vehicles? How long will the electric vehicle last? These very basic, first order questions, which means that there's a significant investment gap in public information that we need to address over the next couple of years if you're going to green these Caribbean economies,” he said.

“One of the things we



Professor Winston Moore, Deputy Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus.

don't do too well is to look at the impact of waste coming out of the tailpipes of our vehicles.

We just know that we have a significant amount of vehicles on the road, but we don't know the

impact that it is having on pollution, and therefore, air quality in our countries.”

Youth at HOPE Church give thanks

IN honour of Members Appreciation Month, the youth of HOPE Church expressed how they felt about members of the assembly and others who had stepped up and been not just an inspiration, but also provided guidance and support.

According to Kayla Renwick, national swimmer and triathlete, the youth segment 'Ethic Unplugged: For the Youth by the Youth', gives the youth of the church the opportunity to discuss and reflect on those who have had an impact on their lives greatly. This time it was in the form of a panel discussion consisting of Renwick; agriculture student and entrepreneur, Jerome Ruck; student and aspiring pilot, Yohan Haynes; student, dancer and future pastry chef, Jemma Patrick; and also national badminton player and volleyballer, Dominic Scantlebury.

Scantlebury explained that when he first heard the question of which specific individual or group would he thank if he had the opportunity, he said like most people he thought of his

family and impactful people that he would see on a regular basis. However, he highlighted a peer, who was speaking with him while volunteering at a kayaking session and had given a testimony of the many challenges he faced in life, even though he was only 19 years old. Scantlebury commended him for his courage to speak out about his relationship with God and said the next time he saw him, he would thank him, but in the meantime would aspire to be the best person he could be.

"You know as young people, talking about the Bible, it can be a little intimidating sometimes and sometimes we are not sure we are where we need to be to lead people. We do not want to be the blind leading the blind, so for him to do that pushed me more to bond with the Lord and strengthen my relationship," said Scantlebury.

Yohan Haynes, while acknowledging his parents and thanking them, felt it was important to thank the parents of his close friends as well as his teachers and those adults who influenced him at church. One instance that



Jemma Patrick (left) reflects on the teacher who made a significant impact on her life at primary school. Looking on is Kayla Renwick, the moderator for the youth segment, 'Ethic Unplugged: For the Youth by the Youth'.

stuck with him was the parent of his close friend giving him a stern talking to about his low grades, and Haynes said he was seriously impacted and decided to make more of an effort at school. The young man also thanked the Leader of the church, Pastor John Yarde, along with Auntie Sherry, who called to check on him often and he also knew he could call on for assistance.

Speaking about a primary school teacher who had influenced her life, Jemma Patrick felt the need to say thank you. She noted that though she was

always seen as helpful in the lower school, KG3, the teacher was always encouraging her. One of the results was that Patrick made history and became the first female house captain.

"She was always the one pushing me to be better, a better person, a better me. She saw things in me that no one else saw, even me. Now that I am older, things that she told me before are really coming into play now," said the young lady.

Unfortunately, Patrick, on reflection, said that she first understood the impact the teacher had

on her life while she was attending her funeral, saying that she never got to say goodbye and thank you.

"You do not know when people are going to go, no one knows. So I just want to say that if you have someone, make sure you tell them how much they mean to you, even just to say thank you, though you are not sure exactly why you are saying thank you. It may brighten up their day, they may have something on their mind and cracking a joke may help – it goes a long way. You never know what's going on in someone's life," she said. (AS)

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY Week of Activities - June 2021

⇒ **1ST: TUESDAY - Launch on Mornin' Barbados, CBC TV 8**

7:15AM: Reimagine, Recreate and Restore with Dr David Bynoe, National Coordinator, GEF SGP UNDP

⇒ **2ND: WEDNESDAY - Panel Discussion**

9:00-11:00AM: Reimagine, Recreate and Restore Land and Sea: Let's Talk About It. Tune into CBC Radio Q100.7FM

- Hon. Kirk Humphrey - Minister of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy
- Nigel Jones - Dendrologist & Director, National Botanical Gardens
- Susan Mahon - President, Coral Reef Restoration Alliance (CORALL)
- Ian McNeel - Director & Founder, Walkers Institute for Regenerative Research Education and Design

Moderator - Dr David Bynoe, National Coordinator, GEF SGP UNDP

⇒ **3RD: THURSDAY - Virtual Grant Clinic**

11:00-12:00: Learn more about the GEF SGP application process & grant writing tips

- Dr David Bynoe - National Coordinator, GEF SGP UNDP
- Dr Sylvia Dohnert - Executive Director, Compete Caribbean (IDB)

Webinar ID: 891 6652 0712

Register via https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u0_mSg5wRau0cik2A6l69w

⇒ **4TH: FRIDAY - CORALL: Corals in Living Colour in collaboration with Coral Reef Restoration Alliance**

10:00AM: Launch and premiere of a coral reef restoration video documentary

Webinar ID: 824 4555 6532

Register via https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RN8EzEzTTyKkZrEkZHfRSw

⇒ **5TH: SATURDAY - WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

2:00PM: Land regeneration using permaculture - Virtual Tour at Walkers Reserve

Webinar ID: 838 4630 9200

Register via https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3R35TIEITBCADVPHk9fwBA

DEO chairman calls for persons to be prepared

WITH the Atlantic Hurricane Season set to officially start on Tuesday, June 1, Chairman of the St. John District Emergency Organisation (DEO), John Haynes, is urging persons in that parish and wider Barbados to get prepared for the season, which is predicted to be above-normal this year.

As such, he is encouraging persons to not only stock up on water as well as canned and dry goods, but to check around their premises regularly to ensure that, for example, their roof gutters are free of debris. His comments came in an interview with *The Barbados Advocate*, ahead of the DEO going into the parish on Saturday to distribute 50 cases of bottled water.

“We need them to check their premises. Get someone to go on the roof and make sure that all the nails or screws, depending on what they have up there, are all tightened down. They also need to clear their gutters, as

those can get clogged with leaves and things of that nature. And generally around your area where you know water may possibly settle if there is heavy rain, make sure that you clean it and all in front of your house. You don’t have to wait until MTW comes to clean in front of you, you can nicely clean it and dispose of any debris that may be around, as these can become missiles during storm force winds,” he said.

His comments came as he said that despite the predictions for above-normal activity this hurricane season, he is hoping that this season will not cause us any major damage in this country, if any at all. Haynes made the point as he said that the DEO is itself doing its part to ensure that the community is ready should a storm or hurricane come, noting that they have identified some areas where trees need to be trimmed.

“Right now we are looking at mitigating circumstances, so that if anything happens we are prepared. There are some trees

which we would love to have trimmed, but there is always the challenge of getting trees trimmed at this time. The major ones we are looking at are around the Villa Nova area and there are some when you leave the junction to go down to Church View, a lot of mile trees there. We need to get the front section trimmed or cut away. One is actually lapped into another one and the weight from one can cause the other to collapse,” he stated.

Meanwhile, speaking on the distribution of the bottled water, he said the initiative was made possible by the Barbados Bottling Company (BBC) Limited, which donated the 50 cases of water. Haynes indicated that the water was being distributed to those who are considered most vulnerable in the community.

“We went into our database which would give us information on persons who are over the age of 70 and who would be considered vulnerable persons in the parish. These are people who we would have to respond to during any impact. We looked at the ones who live alone or who have to get persons to come in and care for them. We have



St. John resident, Bellfield Hurdle, was appreciative of the water he received. Here, he engages in conversation with Chairman of the DEO, John Haynes and Richard Harris (partially hidden), co-ordinator of the St. John DEO’s Vulnerable Persons Committee.

two persons on the list who are blind and we have two persons who have to use wheelchairs. We are doing this at this time, so that persons would understand the necessity to stock up on things like water in preparation for the hurricane season,” he stated.

Among the communities visited on Saturday were St. Margaret’s Village, Pothouse, Sargeant Street, Kendal, Wilson Hill, Venture, Edge Cliff, New Castle, Gall Hill, Martin’s Bay and Glenburnie. (JRT)



Marve Yearwood (right) received the case of water on behalf of her 87-year-old mother who is bedridden, from Richard Harris, co-ordinator of the St. John DEO’s Vulnerable Persons Committee.

Fogging schedule for May 31 to June 4

THE Ministry of Health and Wellness will be conducting its fogging programme in the parishes of St. John and St. Philip this week.

On Monday, May 31, the fogging team will visit the following communities in St. John: Cherry Grove, Henley, Bowmanston, Ashford, The Glen, Ashbury, Lemon Arbor, Natty Browne Hill, Four Roads, Spooners, Pool Land, Roebuck Street, Cheshire, Moores Land, Small Hope, Carter’s, Gall Hill, Gall Hill Development and environs.

The team will then move on to several St. Philip communities. Beginning Tuesday, June 1, they will visit Blades Hill #1, #2, & #3, Three Houses, Thicketts, Mount Pleasant, Pollard Land, Moncrieffe Tenantry, and surrounding areas.

Church Village Development, Padmore Gardens, Halton Terrace, Breezy Hill, Chapel Land 1-7, Cox Hill, Cottage Vale, Cliff Meadows, Featherbed Lane and

nearby communities will be sprayed on Wednesday, June 2.

On Thursday, June 3, the exercise will be carried out at Vineyard, Parish Land, Nightingale Land, Gaskin Land, Bushy Park, Harrow Land and Park, Lucas Street, Kenrick Hutson Drive, Park Drive, Grassfield, Duncan’s, Windward Gardens and neighbouring districts.

Bayleys, Mapps Development, Millwall Close, Jezreel, Eastbourne, The Palm, Shrewsbury Park, Levere Crescent and environs will be sprayed on Friday, June 4.

Fogging will be conducted between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. each day, and householders are encouraged to open their windows and doors to allow the spray to enter.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness reminds the public that the completion of scheduled fogging activities may be affected by events beyond its control. In such circumstances, the Unit will return to affected communities in the soonest possible time.



Members of the St. John DEO, who were out on Saturday distributing cases of bottled water to residents in the parish.

COVID-19 update: 5 new cases, 41 in isolation

THE Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory recorded five new cases of COVID-19, two males and three females, on Saturday, May 29. They were identified from the 513 tests con-

ducted. There are currently 41 people in isolation.

Barbados has recorded 4,017 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (1,942 females and 2,075 males) since the start of the

pandemic. Forty-seven people have succumbed to the virus.

A total of 170,146 tests have been carried out by the public health laboratory.

Under the National

Vaccination Programme, 77,946 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19. These include 60,443 persons – 24,847 males and 35,596 females – who have received both doses.



NOTICE OF CONSULTANCIES

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment invites suitably qualified persons to express interest in the following Consultancies being offered within the Ministry and the Youth Empowerment Directorate. The Youth Empowerment Directorate is a research-based unit in the Ministry of Youth Sports and Community Empowerment. The unit will conduct in-depth qualitative and quantitative research which will be used to inform relevant and impactful programmes, to meet the needs and challenges of young people in Barbados.

Special Advisor on the Empowerment of Youth (Head of the Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A postgraduate qualification in a social science discipline and not less than seven years' relevant experience; **or** a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline and not less than ten years' relevant experience. In either case, management experience would be an asset.

Jobs and Opportunities Lead (Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A postgraduate qualification in a social science discipline and not less than five years' relevant experience; **or** a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline and not less than six years' relevant experience.

Social Impact Lead (Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A postgraduate qualification in a social science discipline and not less than five years' relevant experience; **or** a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline and not less than six years' relevant experience.

Well-Being and Enrichment Lead (Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A postgraduate qualification in a social science discipline and not less than five years' relevant experience; **or** a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline and not less than six years' relevant experience.

Research Analytics Lead (Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A postgraduate qualification in a social science discipline and not less than five years' relevant experience; **or** a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline and not less than six years' relevant experience.

Senior Research Coordinator (Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A postgraduate qualification in a social science discipline and not less than two years' relevant experience; **or** a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline and not less than four years' relevant experience.

Research Coordinator (Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A postgraduate qualification in a social science discipline and not less than one-year relevant experience; **or** a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline and not less than three years' relevant experience.

Research Assistant (Youth Empowerment Directorate)

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A bachelor's degree in a social science discipline. Knowledge of the Microsoft Suite of Applications and Knowledge of SPSS Statistics and other data analysis tools.

Youth Employability Coordinator

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, youth development, sociology, management **or** a related discipline and not less than three years' relevant experience.

Public Relations Assistant

Persons expressing interest should possess:

At least an associate degree in Mass Communication, Public Relations, Social Media Management, Marketing **or** a related discipline and not less than one-year relevant experience. Knowledge of the Microsoft Suite of Applications.

Social Media Coordinator

Persons expressing interest should possess:

A bachelor's degree in Marketing **or** related discipline; **or** Diploma, City and Guilds **or** other suitable certification in Social Media Management. Experience in design, building and managing online content and experience in increasing presence and engagement on social media pages are required.

Administration Assistant

Persons expressing interest should possess:

At least five subjects at CSEC General Proficiency level, including English Language, knowledge of the Microsoft Suite of Applications and Information Technology.

Persons are invited to submit their expression of interest and curriculum vitae to the Office of the Permanent Secretary at ps.mysce@barbados.gov.bb subject lined Consultancy – title of service. Deadline Friday 11th June, 2021.

Phone talks bode well for China-US trade ties

THE LATEST phone conversation between Chinese and US economic representatives is a positive signal for business and trade ties between the world's two largest economies and will be beneficial to the global economic recovery, according to officials and analysts.

Trade between China and the United States, although already quite high in volume, still has great growth potential, and dialogue based on equality and mutual respect is a must to solve disputes and strengthen trade and business ties, they said.

Their comments came after Liu He, vice-premier, a

member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chief of the Chinese side of the China-US comprehensive economic dialogue, had a phone conversation with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai on Thursday morning.

Agreeing that developing bilateral trade is very important, they exchanged views on issues of mutual concern, and also agreed to maintain communications, according to an online statement from China's Ministry of Commerce.

"As tested by time, dialogue based on equality and mutual respect is the only way for the two countries to solve disputes

and promote economic and trade cooperation, which will benefit not only themselves, but also the world economic recovery," said Ruan Zongze, executive vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies.

China and the US need each other economically, which is decided by market forces and underpinned by the course of globalization, and cannot be tampered with or reversed, he added.

Zhang Yansheng, chief researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said it is essential for the two countries to resume the high-level trade talks and clarify their trade policies

and stances, including their attitudes toward the implementation of the phase one agreement, which was signed on Jan 15 last year.

US goods exported to China jumped from \$105 billion in 2019 to \$123 billion last year, a surge of nearly 18 percent, the second-highest total in a decade, according to the 2021 State Export Report released by the US-China Business Council, a trade association representing more than 200 US companies doing business in China. In comparison, US trade with the rest of the world contracted by 15 percent, according to the USCBC.

Xi on China's peacekeeping endeavors, commitment to peaceful development

BEIJING – The world marked on Saturday the International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, which was designated by the UN General Assembly to pay tribute to people serving in peacekeeping operations and honor those who have lost their lives in the cause.

On various occasions, Chinese President Xi Jinping has expounded on China's contribution to international peacekeeping operations, and commitment to the path of peaceful development.

May 6, 2021

During a phone conversation with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Xi said that China has decided to offer vaccines to UN peacekeeping operations and the International Olympic Committee, and will continue to actively support COVAX and make continuous efforts to eliminate the "vaccine divide."

April 20, 2021

Xi delivered a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021.

"China will stay committed to peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, develop friendship and cooperation with other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and promote a new type of international relations," Xi said.

"However strong it may grow, China will never seek hegemony, expansion, or a sphere of influence. Nor will China ever engage in an arms race," he added.

Nov 12, 2020

Xi delivered a speech via video at the third Paris Peace Forum, stressing that peace and development are the theme of the times, as well as the unstoppable trend of history.

"We need to uphold multilateralism, oppose unilateralism, hegemony and power politics, and reject all forms of terrorism and acts of extreme violence," Xi said.

China follows an independent foreign policy of peace and is committed to the path of peaceful development, Xi noted.

Xi called on all countries to uphold international law and the basic norms governing international relations, determine their position on the merits of each matter, and rise above ideological bias and confrontation.

China is willing to step up communication and coordination with France and other countries and play a positive part in efforts to secure political settlement of international and regional issues and uphold world peace and stability, he said.

Sept 3, 2018

In a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Xi said that China decided to set up a China-Africa peace and security fund to boost their cooperation on peace, security, peacekeeping, and law and order.

Fifty security assistance programs would be launched to advance China-Africa cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and in areas of law and order, UN peacekeeping missions, fighting piracy and combating terrorism, he said.

Sept 28, 2015

Addressing a peacekeeping summit in New York, which gathered leaders and representatives of over 70 countries and international organizations, Xi said the international community should increase support for Africa, augment the continent's ability to maintain peace and stability, and help it resolve its own problems in its own way.

China, Xi added, maintains that the basic principles of UN peacekeeping should be followed, Security Council resolutions be carried out in full, and no country act beyond its given authority.



Visitors check their phones behind the screen advertising facial recognition software during Global Mobile Internet Conference at the National Convention in Beijing, on April 27, 2018.

Growth continues for China's software industry

BEIJING – China's software and information technology sector continued robust recovery in the first four months of the year. Revenue and profits expanded, and software exports were back to the 2019 level, official data showed.

The sector raked in 288.5 billion yuan (about \$45.2 billion) of profits in the period. It is up by 20.5 percent from one year earlier, with a compound annual growth rate of 8.5 percent in the past two

years, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said.

The combined software revenue of companies reached 2.57 trillion yuan in the period, up by 25 percent year on year and growing at a compound annual growth rate of 11.7 percent in the past two years.

Software exports stood at \$14.9 billion in the first four months, generally rebounding to the level of the same period in 2019, MIIT data showed.

Bolstered by favorable policies in intelligent manufacturing and the demand for digital and intelligent transformation of industries, industrial software-product revenue rose by 22.3 percent year on year, up by 1.4 percentage points from the first quarter of the year.

The application of new information technologies such as cloud computing and big data accelerated growth in the period, with

the combined revenue up by 26.8 percent year on year. It comes as online education, telemedicine, and other applications, continued expansion.

Total revenue of providers of information security products and services also climbed by 28.4 percent year on year as people's awareness of information security significantly improved. The pace accelerated by 3.6 percentage points from the first quarter, said the MIIT.

'For the cause that lacks assistance, 'Gainst the wrongs that need resistance, For the future in the distance, And the good that I can do'

Editorial

Why Barbados requires investments

IN recent weeks this country has witnessed a flurry of discussions dealing with investments, the stock exchange and in general the performance of the capital markets. They all seemed to have one common goal in mind, that being to channel funds into productive activities like financing business developments and venturing into new products and services, which in the long term means adding value to the overall economy.

At the same time, given what we are seeing with interest rates in the financial sector and in particular as it relates to savings, the initiatives being offered are aimed at getting individuals to save more and to invest in their future once retirement kicks in.

It must be noted that the entire body of investments spread across many areas as they entail foreign direct investment, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and so on and so on.

Barbados requires investments. Economists have promoted the idea we should be focusing a lot on foreign direct investments which bring finance, skills, knowledge, and technology to local firms or subsidiary of foreign-owned entities.

Associated with these initiatives were programmes to make Barbadians more literate in understanding investments and being able to come to grips with a lot of the accounting terminologies once they decide to create their own businesses.

From our perspective, these are laudable goals which can only redound to the benefits of the individual, the company, the institutions and, again, the economy.

Embrace all opportunities

All of them therefore should be fully embraced once they are above board.

It is now common knowledge that for the Barbados economy to escape the problems which are holding up economic growth there must be investments, both domestic and foreign.

What has also emerged and for a long time are mergers and acquisitions or direct buy out of domestic entities by foreign players looking to expand in a new market.

In another aspect, countries including Barbados, have gone the route to borrow on the international capital markets and to secure foreign funding for domestic such as what were undertaken with friendly countries like the USA, Canada and more recently China. We have also seen local firms entering into joint ventures with foreign players.

But there is still a role for local individuals or even those in the diaspora, to chip in and give a boost to domestic investments.

One of the answers therefore reside in people's decision to make investments where they are possible and to buy into some of the stocks and shares when they are available, and even in instruments like Government bonds.

It will be recalled that a couple months ago it was told to this newspaper that whereas international stock markets have shown recovery during the first three months of this year from COVID 19, the same cannot be said about the markets which operate in the Caribbean.

Subsequent to that this newspaper had looked at what took place in the 1990s when opportunities surfaced for persons to acquire stocks and shares, and to buy into some government entities whose shares were being divested.

We think that investments on the whole make sense, whether it be portfolio investment such as acquiring stocks and shares, or FDI.

There are couple of agencies whose business in Barbados is to look for investments, and priority must be given here.

South Africa returns to stricter lockdown, virus 'surging'

CAPE TOWN, South Africa – South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Sunday that his country will return to stricter lockdown measures in the face of a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases that indicate the virus is "surging again" in Africa's worst-affected nation.

Positive cases in South Africa in the past seven days were 31% higher than the week before, and 66% higher than the week before that, Ramaphosa said in a live TV address. He said some parts of the country, including the commercial hub Johannesburg and the capital city Pretoria, were now in "a third wave."

"We do not yet know how severe this wave will be or for how long it will last," Ramaphosa said.

In response, Ramaphosa said that from Monday the nighttime curfew would be extended by an hour to start at 11 p.m. until 4 a.m. A maximum of 100 people would be allowed at indoor social gatherings and no more than 250 at an outdoors gathering. The number of people attending funerals will be limited to 100 people and after-funeral gatherings were banned completely, Ramaphosa said. Nonessential businesses must close by 10 p.m.

"We have tended to become complacent," Ramaphosa said, warning virus infections were "surging again" at a time when the country moves into its winter months and people were more likely to gather together indoors, likely further increasing infections.

South Africa's decision to go back to a stricter lockdown reinforces — as the crisis in India has already done so starkly — how the global pandemic is far from over.

"We have seen in other countries the tragic consequences of leaving the virus to spread unchecked," he said. "We cannot let our guard down."

South Africa has more than 1.6 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 56,000 deaths, more than 30% of the cases and 40% of the deaths recorded by all of Africa's 54 countries, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. South Africa recorded 4,515 new cases over the past 24 hours and Ramaphosa said the "positivity rate" among tests conducted was now "a

cause for concern."

South Africa had been under lockdown level one, the lowest of its five levels, but was now reverting to an "adjusted level two," Ramaphosa announced. Authorities did stop short of reimposing the strict measures like limits on people's movements during the day and a ban on the sales of alcohol and tobacco products that were in place at times last year.

South Africa has seen two previous surges in infections, the first in the middle of last year and a second, much worse wave in December and January, when the emergence of a variant pushed infections and deaths to higher levels than the first surge. The virus was currently following "the same trajectory" as those waves, Ramaphosa said.

Netanyahu could lose PM job as rivals attempt to join forces

JERUSALEM – A former ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said he would seek to form a coalition government with the Israeli leader's opponents, taking a major step toward ending the rule of the longtime premier.

The dramatic announcement by Naftali Bennett, leader of the small hard-line Yamina party, set the stage for a series of steps that could push Netanyahu and his dominant Likud party into the opposition in the coming week.

While Bennett and his new partners, headed by opposition leader Yair Lapid, still face some obstacles, the sides appeared to be serious about reaching a deal and ending the deadlock that has plunged the country into four elections in the past two years.

"It's my intention to do my utmost in order to form a national unity government along with my friend Yair Lapid, so that, God willing, together we can save the country from a tailspin and return Israel to its course," Bennett said.

The pair have until

Wednesday to complete a deal in which each is expected to serve two years as prime minister in a rotation deal, with Bennett holding the job first. Lapid's Yesh Atid party said negotiating teams were to meet later Sunday.

Bennett, a former top aide to Netanyahu who has held senior Cabinet posts, shares the prime minister's hard-line ideology. He is a former leader of the West Bank settlement movement and heads a small party whose base includes religious and nationalist Jews. Yet he has had a strained and complicated relationship with his one-time mentor due to personal differences.

Bennett said there was no feasible way after the deadlocked March 23 election to form a right-wing government favored by Netanyahu. He said another election would yield the same results and said it was time to end the cycle.

"A government like this will succeed only if we work together as a group," he said. He said everyone "will need to postpone ful-

filling part of their dreams. We will focus on what can be done, instead of fighting all day on what's impossible."

If Bennett and Lapid and their other partners can wrap up a deal, it would end, at least for the time being, the record-setting tenure of Netanyahu, the most dominant figure in Israeli politics over the past three decades. Netanyahu has served as prime minister for the past 12 years and also held an earlier term in the late 1990s.

In his own televised statement, Netanyahu accused Bennett of betraying the Israeli right wing and urged nationalist politicians not to join what he called a "leftist government."

"A government like this is a danger to the security of Israel, and is also a danger to the future of the state," he said.

Despite his electoral dominance, Netanyahu has become a polarizing figure since he was indicted on charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in late 2019. Each of the past four elec-

tions was seen as a referendum on Netanyahu's fitness to rule, and each ended in deadlock.

Netanyahu is desperate to stay in power while he is on trial. He has used his office as a stage to rally his base and lash out against police, prosecutors and the media.

In order to form a government, a party leader must secure the support of a 61-seat majority in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament. Because no single party controls a majority on its own, coalitions are usually built with smaller partners. Thirteen parties of various sizes are in the current parliament.

As leader of the largest party, Netanyahu was given the first opportunity by the country's figurehead president to form a coalition. But he was unable to secure a majority with his traditional religious and nationalist allies.

Netanyahu even attempted to court a small Islamist Arab party but was thwarted by a small ultranationalist party with a racist anti-Arab agenda.

Mass Transit Authority push

GOVERNMENT is moving ahead with the establishment of a Barbados Mass Transit Authority.

And this new initiative, which is set to improve the transportation sector, will be a reality within the next year, Minister of Transport, Works and Water Resources, Ian Gooding-Edghill, announced recently.

He was at the time addressing the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) inaugural 'Stan Home' political mass rally.

"The Barbados Mass Transit Authority will along with employees of the Transport Board, and former employees, and persons who are interested – ordinary Barbadians, who are interested in ownership in the Mass Transit Sector, to have a role in the sector... The Government will retreat, but will become the regulator," he stated.

"Name another country in the Caribbean, indeed the world, that has taken such a bold move to the enfranchisement of work-

ers in the transport sector, and the most free cash-flowing business in the world."

Reporting on the achievements since the BLP took up office three years ago, Gooding-Edghill boasted of Government's ability to not only put much-needed buses back on the roads, but to start shifting the bus fleet to zero emission by procuring electric buses. He said that Barbados has 35 electric buses so far, the largest fleet in the Caribbean, and more are coming.

"We told you we were going to modernize our infrastructure. We told you we were going to use less fossil fuel units. We told you we were to introduce green technology and green fuels. And what did we do? We delivered 35 new electric buses to Barbados. Not only that, but they are retrofitted with air-conditioning, WiFi... But you know, the DEMS (Democratic Labour Party) would want to tell you that we increase bus fare, but look

at what you got – electric buses that every time you pass up and down, you see them in the communities," he indicated.

"But we aren't finished yet, I have come to tell you that come July, you are going to have another 14 buses rolling out of the Port into communities, bringing the total of electric buses to 49, and I believe we're going to get some more – it's just a hint, but I feel so."

Minister Gooding-Edghill also reported that the Barbados Labour Party slashed losses at the Transport Board from \$21.2 million in 2019 to \$11.5 million at March 2021. He said this was achieved despite having a reduction of \$9 million in the subsidy from the Government. "And we were on track to lower the losses to \$5.5 million, but COVID came along."

The Transport Minister also reported, "We said that we were going to give the private sector operators a seat on the Transport Authority, that is written in our manifesto, and we can stand

before you and tell you we did it.

"Minister Duguid launched the Transport Augmentation Programme to integrate private sector operators that will help us as a country to provide a reliable public transport system... We opened up the terminals to all the operators in the transport sector and gave them an opportunity as small businesspeople to access loans through Fund Access and we gave them duty-free buses.

"Look at what the Barbados Labour Party has done in public transport, and I say to you that when we are finished with public transport, the sector will never be the same again. Because we are removing financial strain on the taxpayers; we are modernizing the fleet with clean energy buses; and incentives for the ordinary man and woman in Barbados to buy electric buses as part of the expansion of the enfranchisement program to ensure that we go forth," he said. (TL)



Leader of the Opposition, Bishop Joseph Atherley.

Land policy concerns

LEADER of the Opposition, Bishop Joseph Atherley, says that the role of the state-owned National Housing Corporation has to be "revolutionised" and more robust attempts are needed to facilitate Barbadians becoming owners of land and by extension housing.

His comments came in the House of Assembly recently as he spoke about the need for a strong land policy in this country.

"We're not sufficiently seriously appreciating the value of land, and the importance of bringing people into ownership as quickly as possible... So I believe any serious land policy has to be driven by an appreciation and understanding of the value of the land and the primacy of ownership, and especially ownership with reference to land," he said.

Noting that land has been used historically to monetize labour, he contended that as a serious government, if they want to empower and enrich the people and the country, they must change the nature of the relationship between labour and land.

"Right now, in the majority instance, labour in Barbados is disenfranchised and dispossessed with respect to land. And, I would think that a principal obligation to any government, and especially a government awarded 30 seats in a general election, would be to try to change the nature of the relationship between labour and land in Barbados. The equation as it has been historically, remains pretty much the same, and the majority of those who constitute the working class in Barbados, the majority of those who constitute

labour in Barbados are still dispossessed and not empowered when it comes to the business of ownership of land. So, we have to see it as an important component of our mandate and response to the needs of the country," he stated.

The Opposition Leader made the point as he said that land has been used in this country to "embellish capital", and to establish a "platform of prosperity" for those who become the beneficiary of ownership. He went on to lament that successive administrations have continued to help construct a platform of prosperity for those who are already in the land-owning class.

"So we have built for them bigger platforms, stronger platforms. We have increased their means and embellished capital, while to a large extent still, labour flounders. And it is in embellishing capital, we have helped to further what some people refer to as persistent poverty among the working class," he stated.

Atherley added, "We have land use in this country which facilitates the entrenchment, the furtherance of a commercial and retail sector. A large component of the Barbadian economy is retail and commercial activity, and land in Barbados has been used historically... and is still being used to keep people tied to a plantation economy system."

In that vein, Atherley maintained that the Government must understand that if we were to change the profile of our economy, greater attention must be paid to how land is used, particularly with respect to the vast majority of Barbados.

ANSA Motors happy to partner with Safety Supply

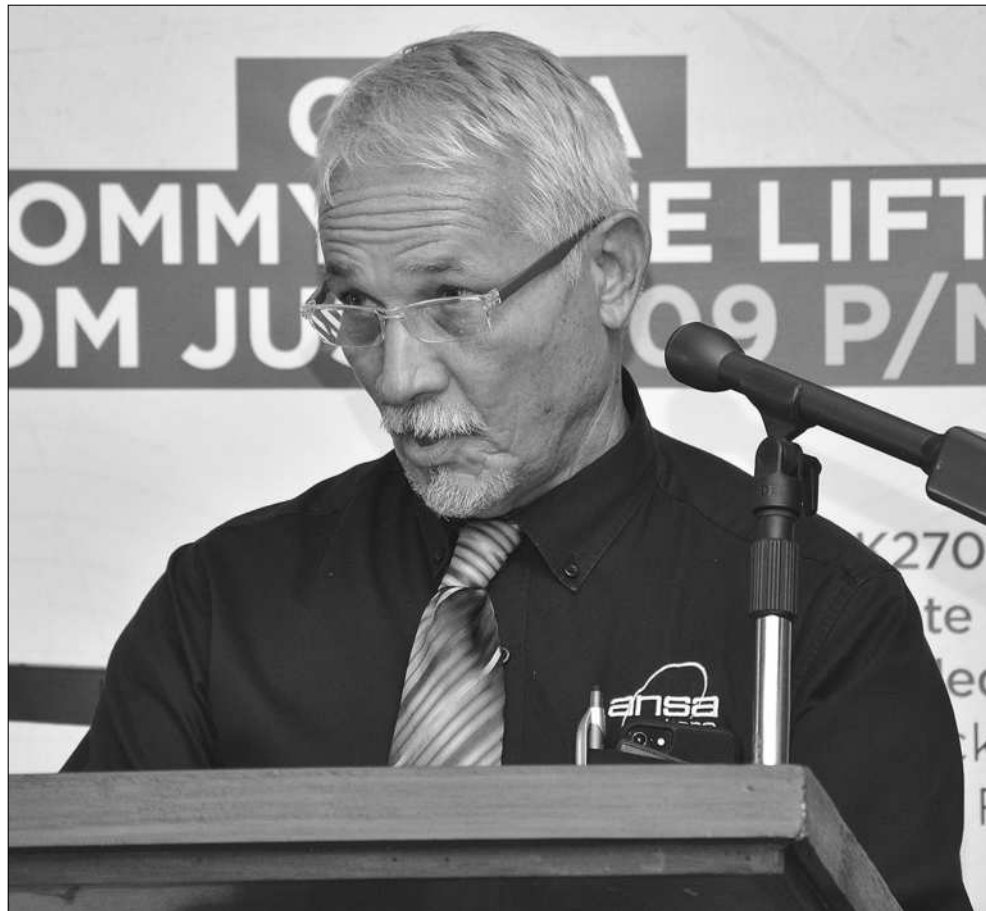
TOMMY GATE from Back Page

just by the flick of a switch and the lift gate would revolutionize how trucks were purchased in the heavy lifting and freight industry.

"This is testament to the proven standard of excellence and service one can expect from a Tommy Gate. It also improves the resale value of a vehicle and gives value if years down the line you need to upgrade to the next Kia vehicle. Installing a Tommy Gate with your Kia K2700 truck or any compatible truck will undoubtedly aid in improving productivity by reducing the time spent loading or unloading. That in turn will lead to the increase of efficiency and lowering of costs for any business," said Perry-Willet.

Sales Manager at ANSA Motors, Gordon Spencer, remarked that the company was happy to partner with Safety Supply and the Tommy Gate lift, as it would help many Barbadians.

"To be able to make this essential lifting



Gordon Spencer, Sales Manager, ANSA Motors.

equipment readily available to small business entrepreneurs in Barbados, who are looking at this time to create jobs and gain work, is a very exciting opportunity which ANSA

Motors is delighted to be a part of," said Spencer.

He outlined details of the partnership, saying that customers could have the diesel Kia K2700 truck with air-conditioning, power

steering, power windows and reverse sensors along with the Tommy Gate for one affordable payment over eight years from sister company, Consolidated Finance.

(AS)

Social protection policy training timely

ONE senior government official noted that the facilitation of the recently concluded training on social protection policy and quantitative techniques is timely.

Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, Cynthia Forde, shared this view during the virtual closing ceremony for the ITCILO “E-training Programme on Social Protection Policy and Quantitative Techniques” recently. She explained this is true as Barbados is providing a social safety net focusing on reactive social care and

social assistance intervention to a comprehensive and robust social protection system. She added that this system recognises and encourages proactive approaches.

The Minister noted as a former teacher, she understands the importance of education and the power in which it infuses the learner.

“To know that our participants have been blessed with this opportunity to be brought up-to-date over the last eight months with best practices methods and techniques that they can and I know will apply to their

work, makes me even more excited to witness first-hand the improvement of their service to Barbados that will result,” said Forde.

She complimented the work of project organisers and people who participated in the rigorous training during the COVID-19 pandemic and the upheavals it has caused. She also stated that the review of social protection in Barbados will give the island the necessary thrust to achieve a recording of our social protection system.

Minister Forde said the

coding is a tool used by countries to map their social protection system including the objectives, strategies, policies, and programmes. There is the view it will identify policy interventions and attract progress against a standardised set of criteria over time.

Reformation of Social Services Department coming

The Minister revealed she is happy for this development because they are reforming the Social Services Department. The focus is to see how these services can be merged

and worked towards enhancing and embracing the needs of all and allowing the services to “trickle-down” to people in need.

The eight-month training was custom designed for the Government of Barbados, in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO), to support efforts towards achieving a universal and shock-responsive social protection system that lowers the risk of poverty in times of crisis.

A total of 36 policymak-

ers and other public sector stakeholders registered for the programme to strengthen their skills and understanding to advance national social protection reform.

Other guests who attended the closing ceremony included Didier Trebucq, Resident Co-ordinator, United Nations Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean; Dennis Zulu, Director, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean; Costanza De Toma, Programme Officer Social Protection, ITCILO, course instructors and participants.



Social Workers and supporters of the Faith Marshall-Harris (FMH) Sandy Lane Charitable Trust Children's Helpline during the recognition ceremony, held at Warrens Office Complex.

‘Children must be heard’

FAIR SHOT from Back Page

“But the pandemic made that inequity even more severe, in that the very children who need the mobility, who need to develop by education, and being in school, are not going to be there. But they’re going to be forced to take a life-changing examination in a one-day shot, which is going to determine their future in the long-term, and I’m worried about that.”

Furthermore, Mrs. Marshall-Harris believes that the same holds true for those individuals slated to take CSEC and CAPE.

She asserted, “If in 2020, our lockdown was in March, which meant that a large part of the syllabus

had already been covered, and there was some idea by CXC that there had to be changes, which of course were not necessarily good... How come in 2021 when there was even less teaching; where even less of a syllabus was taught – that we are going to proceed merrily?”

“And I have difficulty in accepting what is happening to our children. I think they must be heard... When they speak to us, we must listen, and we must understand what they are going through. I am hearing far too much suicidal ideation among teenagers in Barbados at the moment. And therefore, everything that we can do, needs to be done.”

The UNCRC Vice-Chair



Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and Attorney-at-Law, Faith Marshall-Harris.

is therefore reminding education officials that the world has been battling this same issue of student assessment during this difficult period. She hinted that they looked at

“creative solutions”.

“They have looked at what can happen; they’ve listened to their children, and they’ve tried to deal with it, but we alas have not.” (TL)

The UWI joins dialogue with Clinton Global Initiative to discuss partnership for Climate Resilience in the Caribbean

THE UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica. W.I. – In a global conversation about partnership for development, hosted by the Clinton Global Initiative during its sixth Action Network on Post-Disaster Recovery, The University of the West Indies was commended as an institution that had earned trust and partner confidence. The UWI’s reputation for delivery as a premier research engine in areas such as public health and climate action was also lauded.

Representing The UWI in the virtual roundtable “Leading the Way: Climate Resilience in the Caribbean,” on May 26 was Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Director of University Office of Global Partnerships and Sustainable Futures, who engaged with representatives from leading international foundations, funding agencies and private sector corporations. The private, invitation-only session was organised to highlight opportunities for philanthropies and institutional donors to advance innovative community resilience and climate change mitigation approaches through investments in Caribbean organisations and projects.

Speaking on the importance of global partner-

ships to strengthen resilience in the Caribbean, Dr. Richards-Kennedy shared that The UWI, as the Caribbean’s leading higher education institution, has developed a distinctive global partnership strategy.

“In addition to teaching, research and the production of knowledge, UWI has gone a step further to prioritise knowledge brokerage by establishing an office that connects knowledge to opportunities for multi-stakeholder development solutions that will impact lives.

“As an activist university, The UWI is committed not only to building partnerships, but partnerships that are driven by passion and purpose,” she said.

“We consider ourselves an SDG-engaged university and global partnerships allow us to expand the opportunities available to our faculty and to our students, by joining forces with collaborators who are committed to Caribbean development.”

In his closing remarks, Greg Milne, Chief Executive Officer of the Clinton Foundation, emphasized the need to continue the dialogue to move the needle collectively, particularly in the critical areas of climate action and economic diversification in the Caribbean region.

Suriname for COVID total lockdown from today to June 18

PARAMARIBO – The Government of Suriname on Saturday announced a total lockdown of the country for just over two weeks in an effort to stem the spread of COVID-19.

The announcement was made by President Chandrikapersad Santokhi who said that his administration has promulgated Code Purple, the worst risk level for the pandemic, for the entire country and Code Black for the situation in hospitals.

The total lockdown will start run from today until June 18th.

The head of state, who painted a grim picture of the situation, said that there's a shortage of oxygen, hospital beds and there is a shortage of medical staff and

health workers.

As of March last year, when Covid-19 first emerged in Suriname, 282 people have died of this disease and this month has been the deadliest month since the pandemic broke out – with 78 deaths.

On Monday, with the exception of essential services, all government offices will be closed and citizens are only allowed to leave home for emergencies, such as for medical reasons.

Santokhi noted that the enforcement of the measures will be tightened and those who violate the measures risk stiff fines and additional penalties.

The names of stores and shops that do not adhere to the COVID-19 regulations and measures will

be made public, fined and closed for an extended period of time.

During the total lockdown, only supermarkets, bakeries, butchers, pharmacies and hardware stores are allowed to open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. In addition, only people eighteen or older will be allowed in the store, with no more than ten people at a time.

Meanwhile, according to Health Minister Amar Ramadhin, data shows that a mutated variant of the coronavirus from neighbouring Brazil is now also causing many young people to become infected and die.

On Saturday, for the third consecutive day, Suriname registered seven deaths and more

than 200 new infections with the virus that is currently holding the world in a deadly grip.

Santokhi also noted that the records show that all people who have recently died of Covid-19 had not been vaccinated, he, therefore, urged citizens to be vaccinated.

Currently, just over 13,000 of the roughly 600,000 inhabitants are fully vaccinated.

Concerning doses of vaccinations, the Netherlands has promised more than 500,000 doses of Astra Zeneca, with the first batch of which is expected in Paramaribo next week.

China has also donated 100,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine to Suriname and logistical preparations are



President Chandrikapersad Santokhi

currently underway to transport them to Suriname.

Surinamese authorities are in talks with Russian and Cuban counterparts to also obtain vaccines developed in Russia and Cuba.

Bahamas: UN team in 'constructive' walkabout at detention centre

BAHAMAS – After a tour of the Carmichael Road Detention Centre on Friday, a team from the United Nations called the walkabout “constructive” and recognised efforts being made to treat the temporary residents with dignity.

Although members of the press were not allowed to take the tour with the UN's team, which consisted of about five people, the representatives answered limited questions afterwards outside the compound's gate.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also onsite for the tour with the UN team, but opted not to speak with the press afterwards.

Although it is unclear what prompted the UN team to make the tour, it is believed that the organisation found it necessary after certain shanty towns were demolished recently and some of its occupants were transferred to the Detention Centre.

Gary Conille, UN resident coordinator for Jamaica, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos and the Cayman Islands, told the press that this visit was not a one-time thing, but instead part of ongoing discussions.

“I just want to make the case that our visit here is much more than this visit here,” he said. “Although this visit is certainly an important part of what we want to discuss, it's really looking, overall, how to work closely with the stakeholders on the ground and the government to make sure that the goals and the vision of the Bahamian people are able to be reached.

“Now the tour today, I think was extremely constructive. It

allowed us to see the amount of effort that has been done to ensure that people are treated well, with dignity. It also allowed us to discuss with the government possible areas where we can help improve because as you understand this is an ongoing process and certainly will be a part of continued discussions.

“We are going to have ongoing discussions around this issue. The idea really being looking at ways we can provide technical assistance, we can work with the government to improve the circumstances under which populations that find themselves under this type of stress continue to be handled with significant amounts of dignity.”

Mr Conille said the purpose of the mission is to broadly discuss with the government the cooperation and the partnership with regards to development and recovery from COVID-19.

“We've had excellent meetings with different stakeholders from the private sector, from civil society and actually from the government as well,” he explained. “Part of our goal is to make sure that we're leaving no one behind and that we are addressing the more vulnerable populations and the populations at-risk.

“Of course, in the discussions with the government we agreed that we would come and visit here today because we know that this is an important issue. We visit this facility and really discuss with government ways we can work together to continue to ensure that this particularly vulnerable population is always treated with dignity, has access to



Gary Conille (centre), UN resident coordinator for Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos and the Cayman Islands, and other UN delegates after touring the Carmichael Road Detention Centre.

due process and is, of course, handled in a context with commitments to human rights.”

Mr Conille was careful not to preempt any report his organisation might have in the making.

“Like I said it's going to be more of an ongoing process of discussions,” he said. “This is an initial visit and an initial assessment and we are always going to look at ways because this is a particularly vulnerable population. These are people that are already under tremendous strain and it's always going to be about how we make sure that they have due process and are treated with dignity, and as quickly as possible rebuild their homes under appropriate circumstances.

“I won't get into more specifics than that today, but again I am very, very happy with the process that was followed, with the level

of transparency that we were given and the level of ongoing discussions that we are going to have.”

Pressed specifically on the UN's thoughts on the ongoing shanty town demolitions, Mr Conille was again cautious with his response, staying away from specifics.

“Tomorrow (Saturday) we are going to be visiting Abaco,” he said. “We are going to be there, of course, with the partners from the government. Again, obviously it's still the same thing. The government has to make very difficult decisions and we want to be there in support and, of course, to make sure that at all times human rights is at the front of these decisions that are being made.

“What's important for us, is that people all over, in any circumstances are treated with dignity and due process and their human rights are respected.

That's the fundamental (thing) we are here to preserve. The issue for us is working with the government in making sure that these steps are observed.

“Part of the reform process, the UN is increasing its footprint in The Bahamas. We just appointed a head of office (who) is a native of the country to help us really discuss how we move forward in rebuilding better post COVID, how we make sure that we are targeting the most vulnerable populations in receiving access to education, health, protection when needed.”

A report is expected to be prepared after the visit, which will be shared with the government.

The visit comes weeks after UN human rights experts urged the government to halt plans to demolish hundreds of homes in the Farm shanty town in Abaco.

Thousands march in Colombia's Bogota to demand end to protests, roadblocks

BOGOTA – Waving flags and dressed in white, thousands marched in Colombia's capital Bogota yesterday to demand an end to protests and roadblocks, as well as to express support for security forces, following a month of demonstrations.

"They (the roadblocks) are taking the cities hostage. They are stopping the economy," Patricia Gonzalez, 45, said.

The roadblocks have caused shortages of food and supplies in some parts of the country.

Though acknowledging the use of excessive force by some police, Gonzalez said not all police were corrupt and that the protests had gone on long enough.

Talks between the government and national protest leaders were to restart late yesterday, after stalling last week.

Widespread protests began at the end of April in opposition to a now-withdrawn tax reform but have since expanded to call for a basic income, opportunities for young people and to end police violence.

The month of protests have been beset with violence. The national government has so-far linked 17 civilian deaths and the deaths of two police officers to the protests, while rights groups



People march against road blockades in Bogota.

say security forces have killed dozens of civilians.

In Colombia's third-largest city, Cali, 13 people were killed during a day of protests on Friday, Mayor Jorge Ivan Ospina said on Saturday, stressing it was not certain how many of these

were linked to demonstrations.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, yesterday called for those responsible for the violence in Cali to be held accountable.

"I call for an end to all forms of

violence," she said in a statement, calling for an investigation into the deaths and injuries.

While a "pre-agreement" to further negotiations was reached on Monday, strike organizers have since accused the

government of deliberately stalling talks by not signing the deal.

The government says protest leaders must condemn roadblocks as part of the pre-agreement, calling the point non-negotiable.

T&T: Patient experiences rare side effect to AstraZeneca jab

CHIEF Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Roshan Parasram on Saturday confirmed the first case of Vaccine-induced Thrombocytopenia in Trinidad and Tobago.

He revealed that the patient was administered the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Thrombocytopenia is listed as a rare side effect of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Dr Parasram made the disclosure at a media conference.

He said: "We have detected one case of this syndrome in a post-vaccinated person which meets the clinical criteria. It's between five and 28 days. The person did have Thrombocytopenia, which is a low level of platelets, and is doing very well. (The patient) is under the care of Dr Kenneth Charles, who is a hematologist as well as their private physician."

Dr Parasram said the case will be reported to the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

Meanwhile, the CMO also provided an update on the



Chief Medical Officer Dr Roshan Parasram

Variants of Concern.

He said to date, the country has detected 100 cases of the Brazilian variant and nine cases of the UK variant.

Trinidad: No food service at all, hardware stores to close for one week

TRINIDADIAN Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley Saturday afternoon announced a total closure of all restaurants and bars, along with hardware stores for one week.

This means that food outlets offering pre-packaged food for sale was immediately ceased.

The food being sold at supermarkets and bakeries have not been affected.

Speaking at a media conference at the Diplomatic Centre in Port-of-Spain, Rowley said these businesses were undermining the purpose of the restrictions implement by government to stem the spread of Covid-19.

He said, "We have closed restaurants and bars because they were places designed to bring about congregations. Some people are of the view that they have not understood what the purpose of the closure of these places are and seems to always find a way around it to keep business going but it has the result of undermining the purpose."

Rowley said although restaurant owners have responded to the call for closure, some continue to prepare food for sale elsewhere.

This, he said, means that workers are still required to go to work and customers will continue to move around to the purchase the food.

He called for a total closure of all external food for selling.

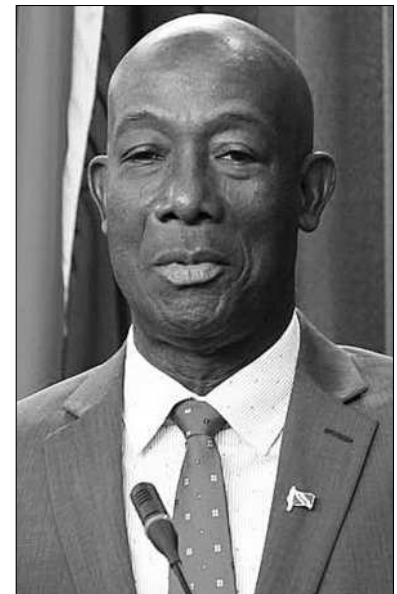
Essential catering, however, will be allowed to continue operations.

Rowley said hardware stores will be immediately closed for one week. He will consider reopened on a rotation.

This will prevent citizens from congregating.

Responding to the business community on increased curfew hours, Rowley said it was the more sensible arrangement to remain with the 9pm to 5am curfew hours.

He said there was no consensus in the proposal among the business community and a 6pm curfew will create new problems.



Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley

"The last problem we want to create is one that will precipitate the kinds of acceleration of gatherings that we know will happen if we have the curfew for persons to go home by 6pm," he said.

However, on the coming public holidays, Monday and Thursday, Rowley said the Attorney General will be asked to make adjustments to implement further daytime restrictions.

"In a State of Emergency, it is not a freeco in the daytime and curfew in the night," he said.

IT'S OUR BUSINESS TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS DO BUSINESS

BANKS' RATES LOW

Interest rates at historically low levels, says Central Bank Governor

BARBADIANS continue to earn little or nothing on deposits lodged with commercial banks on the island.

This comes as interest rates continue to trend downwards.

In what the Central Bank of Barbados described earlier this year as interest rates remaining at historically low levels, it appears that depositing funds at the banks are not attracting rates which savers traditionally have come to expect.

Data show that the deposit rate which was 0.1 per cent at March 2020, has slipped to 0.0 per cent – that is you are getting nothing on your money in the banks. At the same time the loan rate has been lowered from the 6.2 per cent a year ago to 5.6 per cent by March this year, as reported by the Central Bank of Barbados. It is believed that credit unions are offering better deposit rates than what is being offered by the commercial banks.

During the review of the economy for the first quarter of 2021 the Bank's Governor, Cleviston Haynes said that with high liquidity in the system, "interest rates have remained at historically low levels".

A depositor, who said that all her savings are now in a credit union and a mutual fund, wants either regulator or the Government do something about this situation. "We are a sovereign country and should not be at the mercy of foreign-owned commercial banks," she told *Business Monday*.

According to Haynes, the financial system faces elevated risks arising from the impact of COVID 19, although it continues to be marked by high excess liquidity and well capitalized institutions. He had told the media that the further build up of liquidity during the quarter – January to March 2021 – was largely on the strength of the stimulus provided by



Barbados Central Bank Governor, Cleviston Haynes.

the weaker fiscal stance and was reflected in modest deposit growth and a further reduction in credit to the private sector.

He said that deposit growth was slower than in 2020, as foreign-currency deposits which generally account for about six per cent of total deposits, declined.

In some of the indicators related to the financial sector, the excess cash ratio at March this year was 25.6 per cent, approximately six percentage points above the amount for last year, whereas the treasury bill rate was 0.5 per cent.



The Central Bank of Barbados.



CROSQ discusses investment in the energy sector

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Tewari: Guardian Holdings open to stock split

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We have a right know what is in our food

Suzanne Soares-Wynter, PhD

Clinical Nutritionist at the Caribbean Institute for Health Research, The University of the West Indies
Send feedback to suzanne.soareswynter@uwimona.edu.jm



Obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are very serious problems in Barbados. The most recent statistics suggest one in every three children is overweight or obese. There are accompanying risks of Type 2 diabetes, cancer, and heart disease, all of which are impacting the population medically, socially and financially. The current global pandemic has further highlighted an increased vulnerability to COVID-19. **The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) states that persons with these underlying health conditions have a higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease and are more likely to die from COVID-19.**

As we grapple with obesity and high risks of NCDs, Barbadians have a right to know what is in their foods. **While the drivers of the obesity epidemic are complex, unhealthy diet is a known risk factor and one that we must hasten to address.** In Barbados, like the rest of the world, our diets are now dominated by a wide array of local and imported, processed and ultra-processed pre-packaged foods. **Recent evidence shows the vast share of products in our retail space contains excess amounts of critical nutrients, especially sugars, sodium and unhealthy fats. Should we as consumers continue to eat blindly, with no regard for our health? And at this critical period during a pandemic? Now more than ever, consumers are desperately in need of guidance to identify and select healthier foods and beverages.**

Front-of-package label (FOPL) warnings are a proven strategy for informing consumers of the hidden dangers in foods and beverages. Food labels are generally complicated, and misleading labelling and health claims only serve to confuse consumers further. However, **FOPL warnings provide interpretive label information on the front of packages, in an easy-to-understand and easy-to-identify display. Barbadian consumers need this level of transparency when facing the overwhelming variety of processed, packaged foods.**

MAJOR OVERHAUL

Barbados and other CARICOM countries are conducting a major overhaul of the region's food labelling system. **The proposed FOPL 'stop sign/octagon' warning symbol is a model supported by a strong evidence base.** The collaboration involves various stakeholders, including government, policymakers, food industry, trade, advocacy, consumer and health groups, and

academia. Currently, nutritional labelling is neither mandatory nor standardised across the region. The existing label system is archaic, as it does not afford the public a correct presentation of the quality of a food or beverage product. The update process is therefore long overdue and will most certainly play a crucial role in bridging the information and regulatory gaps in our food landscape.

The beneficial impact of FOPL warnings on consumer purchasing intentions and awareness is well documented in the scientific literature. **The 'High in...', 'Excessive...' and other warning terms on labels are gaining popularity globally, and especially in countries where the need for action to reduce or prevent obesity has been recognised.** (They are already in place in Chile, Israel, Canada, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and are under consideration in Brazil.) **Barbadians deserve the same protection.** There cannot be a free-for-all approach when it comes to our health, nor a prioritisation of profits or red-tape inefficiencies over people's well-being. **Strong policies and public health education are needed strategies. Those currently being proposed are guided by science, with proven effectiveness in protecting health and welfare.**

HEALTHY THRESHOLD LEVELS

The PAHO Nutrient Profile Model (NPM) helps countries to establish healthy threshold levels for critical nutrients linked with poor health outcomes. Evidence from countries that have adopted similar thresholds (e.g., Chile and Peru) showed that the food industry adapted/reformulated their products to reduce these nutrients to avoid warning labels. This has served to:

- (1) Improve the product offerings available to the public,
- (2) Encourage manufacturers (international and domestic) to be more innovative in their product offerings,
- (3) Encourage entrepreneurship, and
- (4) Reduce the share of products carrying a warning label. Taking these early steps to adapt have surely placed the leaders ahead of their competitors.



<https://bit.ly/3eGGYfy>

The regional food label standards update is well underway. Some local manufacturers and distributors are already reformulating and providing improved quality food and beverage offerings. For those who do not respond, then a large share of their products are likely to attract warning labels. This would be an indication of the overwhelmingly unhealthy food and beverages being provided to Barbadians. Efforts must be made to avoid this, particularly when poor nutrition and health have been documented to be clearly linked with NCDs.

For clarity, the FOPL warning label is an addition to, and not in place of current standards elsewhere. Warning stickers or tags put on to applicable products should be allowed to accommodate imported products. This should not pose any additional costs for export vs domestic sale. Several other food regulations have been readily implemented for imported products in the past (including labels with translations to English, manufacturing details, etc), and FOPL should be no different.

IMPROVE PRODUCT OFFERING

As a CARICOM regional standard, we anticipate FOPL warnings would also apply to regionally produced products. Also, Barbados and the Caribbean region are major target markets. Applying FOPL warnings will encourage more manufacturers to improve their product offering and place them at a comparative advantage, ahead of their competition.

It is promising to see discussions about FOPL finally making headway in the public setting. **The World Health Organization has long recommended FOPL, as well as reduced sweetened beverage consumption, as key policy action items for reducing the burden of obesity and non-communicable diseases in our region.** Those of us concerned about nutrition and health welcome both initiatives.

Front-of-package labelling is positioned as a win-win deal for everyone concerned about Barbados and Barbadians. We most certainly have the right to know what is in our food.

Public's input being sought on proposed standards of service for the BWA

AS water woes continue to grip several communities across this country, Barbadians now have an opportunity to determine whether new standards of service should be in place for the Barbados Water Authority or the existing ones remain in place.

In a decision dated May 20, 2021, the Fair Trading Commission said it is seeking public input on its proposed 2018-2020 standards of service for the BWA to determine the applicability of current standards and ascertain whether new ones should be introduced.

Those responding have until June 17, 2021 to make their submissions.

Barbadians in some northern and north eastern districts have been complaining bitterly about having to go without water for a considerable length of time. It has become an almost daily routine to hear the complaints.

Government said it is fixing the issues.

The standard of service framework sets out the minimum level of service that should be received by BWA's customers. In the event of breaches customers must be compensated by the utility.

The Commission said that it has outlined a number of proposed changes to the standards in a Consultation paper and that members of the public are encouraged to

submit their comments on a number of themes.

The themes include: the continuance if the standard of service framework; modification of the target for installation of service standard; the introduction of automatic compensation for all BWA guaranteed standards; a requirement for the BWA to publish on its social media channels, and in two forms of news media, both the standard of service and process for in a clear reporting breaches in a prominent manner; and a requirement for the BWA to provide complainants with information on compensation processes.

The FTC has said that the BWA's monopoly within the water and sew-

erage sector has fostered an environment where the utility lacks market-driven incentives to improve its service quality.

The Commission therefore believes that the standards of service remain necessary in the absence of competition, with amendments proposed in some instances to further address BWA's service quality.

In order to receive compensation from the BWA customers must submit a manual claim within three months after the breach of the standard has occurred.

However, according to the Commission, the BWA has indicated that no manual claims were submitted in 2018 and 2019.

Members of local credit unions to get card services

MOVES are on to bring card services to members of the local credit union sector.

Anderson Henry, President of the Board of the Light and Power Employee Cooperative Credit Union Limited, said so during the recent annual general meeting of the organisation.

He said that the Barbados Cooperative Credit Union Limited, umbrella body for the local movement, is currently spearheading the efforts to launch the card services.

"This process is ongoing and is expected to be rolled out in the latter part of 2021," said Mr. Henry.

This is one of the projects credit unionists can look forward to in the coming months.

Henry pointed out that they in the Light and Power Credit Union are anticipating that 2021

will be better than last year.

"However, we must be conscious of the challenges that lay ahead," the official cautioned.

Arguing that this will not be just for credit unions but for the country as a whole, Mr. Henry said that this year will test the credit union's resolve in being able to provide financial support to members.

He noted that the government's revenues have been severely strained over the period and that they were bolstered by external borrowings.

"That is a situation that would eventually reach a point of exhaustion," he stated.

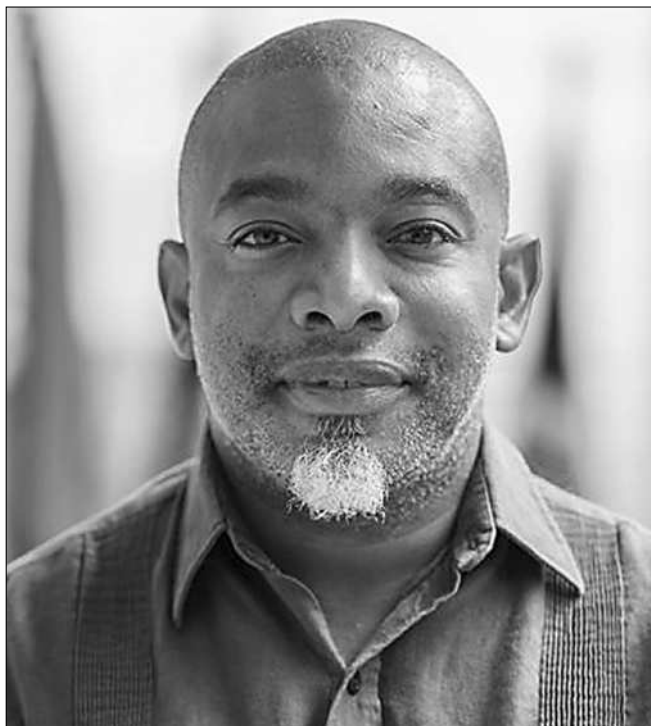
However, Henry has added that the credit union will be prudent in its expenditure and will continue to seek out ways to improve our operational efficiencies for effective delivery of service."

CROSQ discusses investment issues in the energy sector

THE CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) recently held a webinar entitled "Looking to Invest? Let's Talk Energy and Quality", which sought to explore the issues concerning investments in sustainable energy in the region.

The webinar featured presentations from organizations such as the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF), GetInvest and the Caribbean Development Bank.

CROSQ has been conducting a series of ten webinars, to train, sensitise and educate on the importance of quality infrastructure in the Energy Sector, under the Regional Quality Component of the Technical Assistance for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (TAPSEC). TAPSEC is an initiative funded by the European Union and the International Cooperation Department of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Dr. Devon Gardner of the CARICOM Energy Unit moderated webinar, recently held by CROSQ.

which was moderated by Dr. Devon Gardner of the CARICOM Energy Unit, CROSQ Council Director and head of the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards, Mrs. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues examined the state of investments in energy in the region, whilst Ms. Charlin Bodley, Gender and Project

Development Expert with the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), brought the statistics and gave hope for the region's interest in pursuing both renewable energy and energy efficiency alternatives to fossil fuels.

Mr. Jerry Okoko,

Finance Catalyst Investor with GetInvest suggested that capacity building in the region can provide opportunities for investing in energy projects. Mr. Gerald Lindo, Sustainable Energy Expert with CCREEE who was also on the panel of "Looking to Invest? Let's Talk Energy and Quality", stated his belief that people can be encouraged to transition to energy alternatives to fuel with the right incentives and less red tape. He also noted that the monitoring of energy projects will be a very crucial part of building trust for investors and clients.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean Development Bank's Operations Officer for Energy, Mr. Lano Fonua explained how the bank uses standards in its procurement process for energy projects, whilst Mr. Eugene Williams, Resource Mobilization Officer with the CARICOM Development Fund pointed out that some progress has been made to date, in reducing the region's dependence on fossil fuels, but there is still some ways to go. (RSM)

BANK RATES

Commercial bank rates to the public at the close of business yesterday by the Central Bank of Barbados.

Valid for May 31, 2021

Notes:	Buying	Selling
Currency		
Belizean Dollar	1.00000	1.00000
Canadian Dollar	1.63412	1.68245
East Caribbean \$	0.73704	0.74445
Euro	2.38900	2.48960
Pound Sterling	2.77977	2.89683
United States Dollar	1.98000	2.02857
Demand/Sight:		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Belizean Dollar	0.99688	1.00313
Canadian Dollar	1.64342	1.68097
East Caribbean Dollar	0.73843	0.74306
Euro	2.42405	2.47415
Guyana Dollar	0.00942	0.00948
Pound Sterling	2.82056	2.87885
United States Dollar	1.99000	2.02768
Telegraphic Transfer		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Belizean Dollar	0.99688	1.00313
Canadian Dollar	1.64653	1.68097
East Caribbean Dollar	0.73843	0.74306
Euro	2.42862	2.47415
Guyana Dollar	0.00942	0.00948
Pound Sterling	2.82587	2.87885
United States Dollar	1.99375	2.02768

INDICATIVE RATES FOR SOME REGIONAL CURRENCIES AS ADVISED BY THE RESPECTIVE CENTRAL BANKS.

N.B. These rates are not meant to be used for trading.

	BDS\$
Guyana Dollar	0.00945
Jamaica Dollar	0.01344
T & T Dollar	0.29573

Editor's Notebook

High hopes for CDB's upcoming meeting

THE 51st annual general meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) won't be held until June 17 to July 1, but it gives all stakeholders a chance to anticipate what can come out of those deliberations.

The theme for the meeting will be Innovation, Transformation and Sustainable Development, out of which a blueprint can be forged to assist in rescuing Caribbean economies.

While these economies have felt the fury of the COVID-19 pandemic, we in this part of the world should not think that the pandemic is the culprit. The simple truth is that with a few exceptions, our economies have been performing poorly and long before COVID. This is something that must be acknowledged.

The CDB has a gigantic role to play in the sustainable growth of Caribbean countries and that role goes beyond financing. So from the deliberations that will take place at the forthcoming 51st meeting, participants and the decision makers have to be creative and to come up with new measures that will bring these countries out of their economic distress.

The days have long passed when our countries continue to proceed with one-legged economies, and we have to go beyond that.

Leadership and strategic opportunities

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." - James 2:26

NO sooner than the leadership of each country brings the COVID-19 pandemic under control with successful vaccination programs, the same leadership will have to brainstorm and seek counsel for urgent action steps to restore the health of their respective economies.

Groups of nations, such as CARICOM, with similar post COVID-19 issues, may be well advised to strengthen their partnership in the interest of increasing efficiencies.

Whatever the new approach for a given country, it will be driven by the anticipation of future strategic opportunities where the leadership can leverage strengths and minimize weaknesses within the purview of the risks involved. Astute plans and aggressive implementation action will be the order of the day to

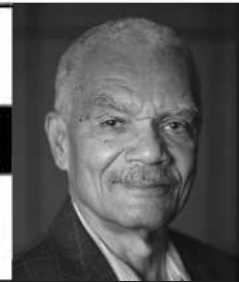
achieve SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) objectives.

The key factors to be addressed as we pursue strategic opportunities are (1) the new dispensation – disruption, innovation and discipline; (2) social partnership – the roles of the public and private sectors and the trade unions; (3) policy – legislation, enabling an environment; (4) business – entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship; and (5) labor – matching workforce supply and demand.

Three important statements when discussing the topic of leadership and management follow: (1) "Leadership is about putting the ladder against the right wall, management is about climbing the ladder efficiently." (Austrian Peter F. Drucker); (2) "A good manager is not necessarily one who can float at the top of a successful organization but one who can turn around a company when fortune is

SERIOUS BUSINESS

by
Dr. Basil Springer



against it." (Sydney Knox, retired Trinidadian businessman); and (3) "Anyone within an organization has the potential to become a leader, but managers must be leaders ... A manager who cannot lead is not able to build trust and create engagement within an organization to get to where they need to go." (Jacob Morgan, contributor to Forbes magazine).

These concepts are useful in guiding us through the maze of the new dispensation.

Leaders must embrace all stakeholders of a country at the earliest possible opportunity to form a social partnership. These stakeholders are primarily the public and private sectors and the trade unions.

In this social partnership, the role of government is to provide regula-

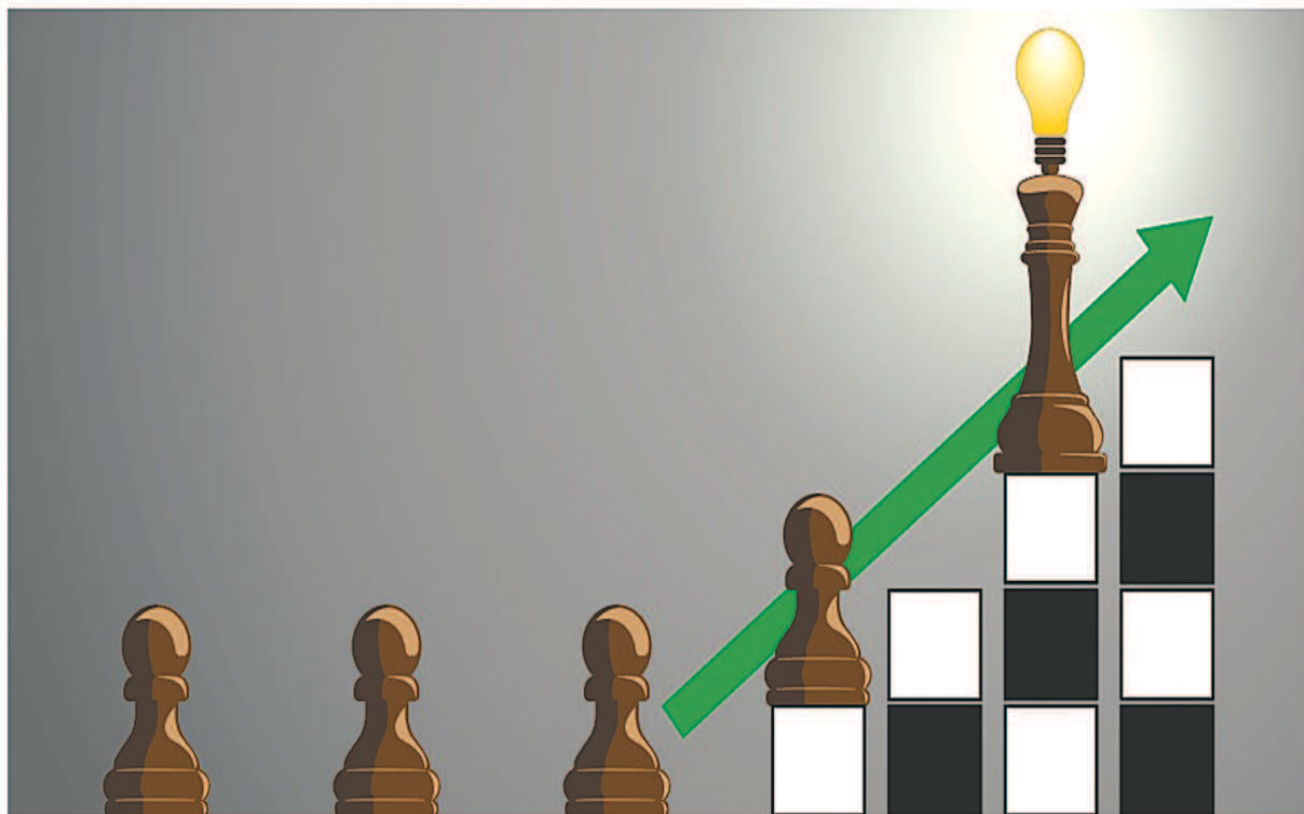
tory and service functions towards a user-friendly enabling environment.

The role of the private sector is to "do business" in an efficient and competitive manner through entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship (entrepreneurship within a corporate structure) towards the end of collectively achieving sustainable net national foreign exchange gains.

The role of the trade union is to induce employer-employee harmony in the interest of high productivity for fair compensation, while matching workforce supply and demand in the interest of securing a sustainable jobs market.

It is important that leadership focuses on these imperatives, as we manage our way out of the ravages of this pandemic.

LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES



Business Monday



- A technical assistance programme being funded by the Caribbean Development Bank and executed by Caribbean Export is being launched this morning.

- The latest Caribbean Economic Forum will be held on June 3.

- The annual general meeting of the Barbados Public Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited is scheduled for July 24th at the Gymnasium starting at 10 a.m.



- New Dispensation – Disruption, innovation, discipline
- Social partnership – Public, private, union roles
- Policy – Legislation, services, enabling environment
- Business – Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship
- Labour – Matching workforce supply and demand

Guardian Holdings open to stock split

GUARDIAN Holdings Limited, which recently cross-listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE), could execute a stock split sometime in the future.

Speaking on Taking Stock with Kalilah Reynolds, CEO of Guardian Holdings Ravi Tewari said a stock split was discussed prior to relisting. He added that it remains on the cards.

“Business is quite fluid so we will make the appropriate decision at the appropriate time. What we do can change from time to time [but] with some of the changes to the rules in terms of the number of shares that can be owned and traded, we don't see it [the stock split] as a particular issue at the moment,” said Tewari.

“It is always something on the table,” he added, when pressed.

A stock split increases the number of shares in a company without changing the company's overall value. Shareholders can be offered two, three, four or any number of shares for each of their existing shares, but the overall value of their shareholding remains the same.

For example, if a person owns 100 shares in a company at \$50 each, the total value of all their shares is \$5,000. If the company does a five for one stock split, that person will then have 500 shares worth \$10 each, which still equates to \$5,000. Companies often do this to encourage more trading in their stock, especially when it is perceived as too expensive.

GHL is the second-most expensive stock on the JSE, behind Palace Amusement. It started trading on May 5 at over \$500 a share, close to its trading price on the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange (TTSE) the day before cross-listing. It then rose to over \$900 in just a few days, and is now down to about \$760. NCB Global Holdings, which is the majority shareholder in GHL, has listed two million of its shares for sale on the open market at \$795. That offer opens Monday, May 31.

In a poll conducted by Kalilah Reynolds Media on YouTube, 61 per cent of respondents said the company should consider a stock split to make the price more affordable.

Tewari said the company decided to relist on the JSE because it believes the market's dynamism will benefit the value of the company's share price over time.

He said it was also important for the Caribbean's largest insurance company to be listed in all the major markets.

At the same time, industry experts have said a stock split will not have much of an impact on GHL shareholder wealth as the metrics, including dividend payments and the price relative to earnings (P/E), would remain the same.

“It becomes a bit more affordable from an absolute price perspective for investors so it would be more people being able to buy then at its lower dollar amount,” explained financial coach, founder and CEO of Profit Jumpstarter Keisha Bailey.

CEO of NCB Capital Markets, Steven Gooden agreed that only a “subtle difference” would come from a stock split.



CEO of Guardian Holdings Ravi Tewari.

However, he believes the company's performance will lead to more investors accepting the stock at its high price. He added that GHL's listing will help the Jamaican market to have a better appreciation for high-valued stocks.

“There are stocks overseas [such as] Amazon that's trading over US\$3,200 thereabout; that's a little bit over \$500,000, and Tesla that's trading at the equivalent of around \$90,000 – and these stocks are tracked by Jamaican investors. So, we just need to move from a mindset where a stock is cheap because of the nominal value. At the end of day it boils down to valuation,” reasoned Gooden.

Wealth advisor at Ideal Portfolio Services, Dwayne Taylor said while the GHL stock price looks intimidating, the stock is a good buy and represents an introduction to value investing rather than trading for just short-term gains.

Meanwhile, Gooden said investors should be more focused on GHL's P/E (price to earnings) ratio as that shows the company being one of the cheapest stocks on the JSE currently.

According to Gooden, the average financial sector stock in Jamaica trades in the high teens relative to their earnings. However, based on the prospectus for the invitation to purchase two million GHL shares from NCB Global Holdings, GHL shares are being offered at 8.4 x earnings.

“So although Guardian shares are being offered at \$795, if you compare Guardian's stock price to its peers, they are one of the cheapest, if not the cheapest stock at the exchange currently, based on P/E,” he said.

NCB Capital Markets is acting as lead arranger for the invitation. The NCB Financial Group owns about 62 per cent of GHL, which means the offer will free up less than one per cent of their controlling stake in the company.

Gooden said the offer is phase two of GHL's relisting process, with the aim being to put shares in the hands of as many Jamaican investors as possible to stimulate trade. Jamaican investors have been having a hard time getting their hands on the shares since the relisting three weeks ago.

(Excerpt from Jamaica Observer)

Eastmond: Take advantage of TVET

THE Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council of Barbados is urging persons to make the most of their services.

This from Executive Director of the Council Henderson Eastmond. He was speaking recently during a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between his organisation and the Barbados Medical Cannabis Licensing Authority for the delivery of a National Vocational Qualification for Cannabis Cultivation.

Noting that the Council's purpose was to establish standards and qualifications for the island's TVET system, Eastmond said that although TVET has always been treated differently to academic qualifications, there was a worldwide framework in place to compare and standardise qualifications. “We had a technical and vocational framework going from Level 1 to Level 5. It has been revised and since then, countries have developed their own national frameworks and they have developed a CARICOM framework so that when you get a qualification now, you can go to the national or regional body and see what that level is. Our Level 4 used to be pegged to a Bachelor's level programme. I think it is not Level 5. We have not changed our framework but we know where to map it on the regional framework.”

Going on to state that there are some

schools which offer CVQs, he noted that those were at Level 1. With the scale set up such that Level 2 is for a worker that will operate with minimum supervision and Level 5 equivalent to a post-graduate certification, Eastmond revealed that there was quite a bit going on and urged persons to take their training seriously. “Now these qualifications are competency-based. You have to have the industry experience either through job attachments, apprenticeship or simulation so that when you go to work you are as close as possible to the workplace. And it is important that you have that because the training institutions don't have the modern equipment. You will find the modern equipment in the business houses, and that is why we want the private sector to come onboard to partner with us in training.” he said.

Going on to say that the TVET Council manages government's Employment Training Fund which was allotted \$3 million over the last year, Eastmond said that there were various ways for members of the public to ensure that the funds are efficiently used such as applying to train persons or partnering with a trainer. “We give grants every month. We are now focusing on higher level [training], but this is a new industry. We encourage you to try to use the funds to train people and get them up to standard,” he said. (MP)

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We wish to thank all applicants for their interest in these opportunities, however we wish to advise that only those candidates selected for an interview will be acknowledged.



'Real compromise' on US infrastructure bill possible

NEGOTIATIONS with U.S. President Joe Biden over a potentially massive infrastructure investment package are inching forward even though disagreements remain over the size and scope of such legislation, Republican Senator Shelley Moore Capito said on Sunday.

"I think we can get to real compromise, absolutely, because we're both still in the game," Capito said in an interview with "Fox News Sunday."

Capito leads a group of six Senate Republicans who have been in regular contact with Biden and White House aides over a bill the administration wants to move through Congress promptly.

The Republican senators have proposed \$928 billion to improve roads, bridges and other traditional infrastructure proj-

ects. Much of the funding would come from money already enacted into law for other purposes that they argue is unused.

The Biden administration's latest offer in negotiations is for \$1.7 trillion and would include federal spending on projects that go beyond traditional infrastructure, such as home care for the elderly. read more

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, speaking on ABC's "This Week," said of the latest Republican counteroffer: "There's movement in the right direction, but a lot of concern."

Buttigieg added, "We need to make investments over and above what would have happened anyway." He also highlighted the need for using the infrastructure bill to address climate change and signaled opposition to shifting COVID-19 relief money to infrastructure

accounts.

Capito said that following a White House meeting, which Republicans viewed as productive, Biden aides stepped away from some of the ideas Republicans pushed.

"We have had some back and forth with the staff that sort of pulled back a little bit but I think we're smoothing out those edges," said the West Virginia senator whose state stands to benefit significantly from new infrastructure investments.

Nonetheless, Republicans continued to balk at raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations to help finance the projects.

"I'm not going to vote to overturn those," Capito said when asked about rolling back some of the Republican tax cuts enacted during the Trump administration.

She also held the line against including new

funding for projects that go beyond physical infrastructure, saying those could be considered in other measures percolating in Congress.

The talks were expected to continue this week even though Congress is on a break, with the Senate returning on June 7.

When lawmakers return to Washington, Biden will be under pressure from many of his fellow Democrats in Congress to sidestep Republicans and cut off negotiations if they do not show signs of significant progress.

Buttigieg told CNN there needs to be a clear direction on the infrastructure bill. "The president keeps saying, 'inaction is not an option' and time is not unlimited here."

Meanwhile, Democratic Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, also interviewed on CNN, said, "I think waiting any longer for Republicans to do the



U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) listens during a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., February 3, 2021.

right thing is a misstep." She added, "I would go forward."

Congress could use a special "reconciliation" process that requires only a simple majority of the 100-member Senate to advance legislation, instead of the 60-vote threshold

usually required. The Senate is currently evenly split, 50-50, with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris having the power to break deadlocks.

It is not clear, however, whether all Democrats would go along with such a process.

Carmakers in 'India's Detroit' allowed to operate as workers protest COVID risk

CARMAKERS in the Indian automobile hub of Chennai will be allowed to keep operating, the state government said on Saturday, amid protests by workers who fear catching COVID-19 in one of the country's hardest-hit states.

Tamil Nadu's government on Friday extended a near-total lockdown as coronavirus infections and deaths rise in the southern state, where average cases are running at more than 30,000 a day, official figures show.

But a government order issued on Saturday said so-called continuous process industries, which include auto factories, would be allowed to function in accordance with measures such as social distancing to stem the virus's spread.

It also urged vehicle manufacturers to initiate immediate action to vaccinate all their employees within a month.

Tamil Nadu authorities have ramped up vaccination in recent days, and companies including car-

makers have organized vaccination drives.

Hundreds of workers in and around Chennai - often dubbed India's Detroit - have fallen ill with COVID-19 and dozens have died, labour unions say.

Manufacturing plants run by Ford Motor Co (F.N) and Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) near Chennai were shut this week after workers protested over unsafe working conditions.

Renault-Nissan shut its manufacturing unit after workers threatened to boycott work, saying social distancing norms were being flouted, while Eicher Motors-owned (EICH.NS) Royal Enfield shut its three units over safety concerns.

Union sources at Hyundai, Ford and Renault-Nissan said they were continuing to talk with the companies.

"We're scared about working. The company is citing government orders and asking us to report for work. The government needs to think about the welfare of workers," a



Cap:Workers assemble Ford cars at a plant of Ford India in Chengalpattu on the outskirts of Chennai, India March 5, 2012.

senior union leader at Hyundai said.

Tamil Nadu's government also gave permission for units near Chennai with export orders, such as construction

and mining equipment maker Caterpillar Inc (CAT.N) and Taiwan electronics manufacturer Foxconn (2354.TW), to operate their plants with 50% worker capacity.

Global carmakers operating in Chennai have said they will prioritize worker safety and adherence to social-distancing protocols.

"Health and safety of

our societies, partners and employees is our top-most priority," Biju Balendran, managing director at Renault-Nissan India, said in a statement earlier this week.

BARBADOS STOCK REPORT

May 28, 2021

There was no activity on the Regular Market.

Week in Review

This week, the Regular Market traded a total volume of 132,907 shares. The two companies traded were Epley Caribbean Property Fund SCC – Value Fund with 89,939 and Goddard Enterprises Limited with 42,968.

BARBADOS STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE SUMMARY INFORMATION Friday May 28, 2021

	LAST TRADE DATE	VOLUME	HIGH	LOW	LAST CLOSE	CURRENT PRICE CLOSE	CHANGE	BID PRICE	ASK PRICE	BID SIZE	ASK SIZE
ABV Investments Incorporated	15-Oct-20	-	-	-	\$0.05	\$0.05	-	\$0.10	\$0.30	1	10,498
BICO Limited	07-May-21	-	-	-	\$3.11	\$3.11	-	\$3.10	-	70	-
Banks Holdings Limited -+	09-Dec-19	-	-	-	\$4.85	\$4.85	-	-	-	-	-
Barbados Dairy Industries Limited -+	04-Oct-19	-	-	-	\$3.00	\$3.00	-	-	-	-	-
Barbados Farms Limited	18-Mar-21	-	-	-	\$0.68	\$0.68	-	\$0.30	\$0.40	7,574	6,561
Cave Shepherd and Company Limited	19-May-21	-	-	-	\$4.05	\$4.05	-	\$4.00	\$4.05	4,572	3,100
FirstCaribbean International Bank	21-May-21	-	-	-	\$1.80	\$1.80	-	-	\$1.80	-	11,060
Epley Caribbean Property Fund SCC - Dev Fund	12-Apr-21	-	-	-	\$0.16	\$0.16	-	\$0.16	-	-	34,597
Epley Caribbean Property Fund SCC -Value Fund	26-May-21	-	-	-	\$0.57	\$0.57	-	\$0.57	-	160,061	-
Goddard Enterprises Limited	27-May-21	-	-	-	\$2.10	\$2.10	-	\$2.09	\$2.30	100	10,806
Insurance Corporation of B'dos Limited	29-Apr-21	-	-	-	\$2.00	\$2.00	-	\$1.78	\$2.00	56,180	25,712
One Caribbean Media Limited	30-Mar-21	-	-	-	\$2.20	\$2.20	-	-	\$2.20	-	1,601
Sagicor Financial Corporation Pref 6.5%	23-Jun-16	-	-	-	\$2.26	\$2.26	-	-	-	-	-
Sagicor Financial Corporation Limited -+	29-Nov-19	-	-	-	\$2.80	\$2.80	-	-	-	-	-
West India Biscuit Company Limited	19-May-21	-	-	-	\$31.27	\$31.27	-	\$31.25	-	2,231	-
Emera Deposit Receipt	14-Aug-20	-	-	-	\$23.15	\$22.94	-\$0.21	\$20.75	-	10	-
TOTAL SHARES BOUGHT & SOLD		-									

* = Security is Trading X-Div

+ = Security is Suspended

** = Rights Issued

NOTICES

DIVIDEND NOTICES

Epley Caribbean Property Fund Limited SCC – Value Fund – Directors have declared a dividend of one point eight (\$0.008) cents per share to be paid on July 9th, 2021 to Shareholders on record at close of business on May 28th, 2021.

BSE NOTICES

COVID-19 PROCEDURAL UPDATE

Effective April 19th, 2021, the offices of the Barbados Stock Exchange Inc. (BSE) and the Barbados Central Securities Depository Inc. (BCSDI) have reopened. Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kindly note that mandatory digital temperature checks and hand sanitizing for all persons entering the building will be enforced. These checks will be conducted on both staff and clients alike by trained personnel. While we acknowledge that every person with fever may not be COVID-19 positive and that some individuals may present without symptoms, please note that any person with a temperature reading of 100° F (37.8° C) or over will be denied entry to conduct business within our offices.

We wish to thank you in advance for your understanding, however, we must emphasize that this is a necessary step for the protection of staff and clients alike.

TRADING SUSPENSION

The Barbados Stock Exchange Inc. (BSE) wishes to advise that due to non-compliance with Section 4.01.3 and subject to Section 3.01.5.(1)(b) of the Rules of the Barbados Stock Exchange Inc. trading in the Common Shares of Banks Holdings Limited were suspended effective December 10th, 2019.

The Barbados Stock Exchange Inc. (BSE) wishes to advise that due to non-compliance with Section 4.01.3 and subject to Section 3.01.5.(1)(b) of the Rules of the Barbados Stock Exchange Inc. trading in the Common Shares of Barbados Dairy Industries Limited were suspended effective December 10th, 2019.

The Barbados Stock Exchange Inc. (BSE) wishes to advise that to facilitate the closing of the Scheme of Arrangement effected by way of Section 99 of the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda involving the transfer of all the issued and outstanding shares in Sagicor Financial Corporation Limited to Alignvest Acquisition II, it has suspended trading in the security Sagicor Financial Corporation Limited.

Regular Market

Security	Volume	High	Low	Market Price	Advance/Decline

Fixed Income Market

Security	Volume
GOB SERIES B	40,293.59
GOB SERIES F	70,000.00

Deposit Receipts

Security	Previous Close	Current Close	Advance/Decline
EMERA DEPOSIT RECEIPT	\$23.15	\$22.94	-\$0.21

INDICES

	TODAY'S TRADING May 28, 2021	LAST TRADING May 27, 2021	CHANGES
Local	2,444.17	2,444.40	(0.23)
Cross-list	1,140.86	1,140.86	-
Composite	598.70	598.75	(0.05)

MARKET CAPITALISATION (in millions)

	TODAY'S TRADING May 28, 2021	LAST TRADING May 27, 2021	CHANGES
Local	4,912.97	4,913.43	(0.46)
Cross-list	145.67	145.67	-
Composite	5,058.65	5,059.11	(0.46)

MUTUAL FUND

ENDED	NAME OF FUND	NAV	OFFER	BID	NAV CHANGE
21-May-21	REPUBLIC CAPITAL GROWTH FUND	w 1.2971			0.0134
21-May-21	REPUBLIC INCOME FUND	w 1.2664			0.0001
21-May-21	REPUBLIC PROPERTY FUND	w 0.6759			-0.0002
21-May-21	FORTRESS CARIBBEAN GROWTH FUND	w 6.9482	6.9482	6.9482	0.0905
21-May-21	FORTRESS HIGH INTEREST FUND - ACC.	w 2.1089			0.0040
21-May-21	FORTRESS HIGH INTEREST FUND - DIST.	w 1.0068			0.0019
30-Apr-21	ROYAL FIDELITY SELECT BALANCED FUND	m 5.7710	5.7710	5.6556	0.1299
30-Apr-21	ROYAL FIDELITY STRATEGIC GROWTH FUND	m 1.0833	1.0833	1.0617	0.0317
30-Apr-21	ROYAL FIDELITY PREMIUM INCOME FUND	m 1.6720	1.6720	1.6386	0.0277
21-May-21	SAGICOR GLOBAL BALANCED FUND	w 2.83			0.03
21-May-21	SAGICOR SELECT GROWTH FUND	w 1.75			0.03
21-May-21	SAGICOR PREFERRED INCOME FUND	w 0.98			-0.01

* Indicates the Fund is currently ex-div

NOTES: QUOTATIONS AND NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE ARE SUPPLIED BY THE FUND MANAGEMENT. THE OFFERING PRICE INCLUDES NET ASSET VALUE PLUS ENTRY COSTS.
m = monthly valuation, q = quarterly valuation, w = weekly

Fixed Income

	Last Trade Date	Last Close	Current Close	Bid Price	Ask Price	Bid Size	Ask Size
GOB Series B	28-May-21	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$80.00	250,000	89,358
GOB Series D	12-Nov-19	\$50.00	\$50.00	-	\$50.00	-	4,062
GOB Series F	28-May-21	\$89.00	\$89.00	-	\$89.00	-	6,190
GOB Series I	24-Mar-20	\$65.00	\$65.00	-	\$70.00	-	19,617

NEWS

Bitcoin falls 5.2% to \$33,849, Ether down 6.3%

BITCOIN dipped 5.16% to \$33,849.47 at 18:00 GMT on Saturday, losing \$1,842.99 from its previous close.

Ether, the coin linked to the ethereum blockchain network, dropped 6.26% to \$2,262.06 on Saturday, losing \$151.11 from its previous close.

Bitcoin, the world's biggest and best-

known cryptocurrency, is down 47.8% from the year's high of \$64,895.22 on April 14.

It has been less volatile in the past week but losses this month have been heavy at 38%, driven by growing regulatory pressures on the sector. It is trading at levels last seen in January and at roughly half its peak value.

ANSA Merchant Bank Group records profitable performance

THE Trinidad and Tobago ANSA Merchant Bank Group, which includes Consolidated Finance Company in Barbados, has turned in a profitable performance for the first three months of this year.

News of this has come from Chairman Norman Sabga who reported that the results marked a turnaround from the loss incurred in the same period a year ago.

Last year the Group

recorded a \$48.3 million loss due to non cash mark to market-losses on its local investment, the Trinidad Guardian quoted Mr. Sabga as saying.

However, for the three months this year, there was a consolidated pre-tax profit of \$61.4 million.

The Group comprised ANSA Merchant Bank, Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Limited (Tatil), Tatil Life Insurance, Consolidated Finance

Company, and ANSA Bank.

Sabga told the Guardian newspaper that the first quarter of the year again demonstrated "that our well capitalised and diversified financial services business model of banking and insurance is robust and can achieve strong results despite challenging headwinds."

He said too that the ANSA Merchant Bank "produced solid earnings.

growing market share and reaping benefits of our investments in products, people and technology which allow us to be competitive despite the impact of the pandemic."

Consolidated Finance Company also grew its book business in Barbados despite the impact of the pandemic in Barbados, Sabga added.

Just recently Tatil acquired Trident Insurance in Barbados.



Dr. Gene Leon

New CDB president to speak at upcoming 51st annual meeting

NEWLY appointed President of the Caribbean Development Bank, Dr. Gene Leon will be one of the featured presenters at the Bank's 51st annual meeting scheduled for between June 15 and July 1.

The meeting, which will be a virtual event, will have as its theme "Innovation, Transformation and Sustainable Development". Dr. Leon will also be featured in a special conversation with immediate past President, Dr. William Warren Smith.

"This discussion, which is slated for Tuesday June 22, will draw on the perspectives of the former and current Bank presidents to outline the challenges facing the region and lessons learned that could guide the bank's future direction," according to a release from the Barbados-based CDB.

The meeting will come at a time when Caribbean economies are looking to rebound from the economic decline recorded last year against the back-

ground of a significant impact from COVID 19.

Said Dr. Leon, "the agenda of the annual meeting emphasises three elements - innovation, transformation, and sustainable development - for reshaping regional economies grappling with recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic and contending with numerous obstacles to sustainable growth and economic development."

He has promised that their focus will be on practical solutions to move the needle beyond discussion to concrete action.

Other highlights of the meeting will be the annual William G. Demas Lecture; a Youth Seminar; and Climate Action in a post COVID 1-Environment.

Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley who is also Chairman of the Board of Governors, will address the opening ceremony.

More than 400 delegates are expected to participate in the events and activities.

LIFTING REGIONAL ECONOMIES

Call for faster integration of regional transport to boost movement of labour

IT is being suggested that Barbados and other Caribbean countries create avenues for itinerant work opportunities.

The suggestion has come from Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

She is a member of CARICOM's Commission on the Economy, which has made sweeping recommendations for lifting regional economies out of their economic and social crisis made worse by COVID-19.

According to excerpts of comments made by the WTO official, and published by the Central Bank of Barbados, she is encouraging decision makers in CARICOM to press ahead with faster integration of regional transport. This,

she maintained, allows for easier movement of people, goods and services and more unrestrained movement of labour.

Such a system, Okonjo-Iweala argued, will enable young people to explore job opportunities within the region, thereby filling gaps in those countries where they may be missing skills.

The Director General is also of the view that this approach will facilitate entrepreneurship.

She went on, "millennials are known globally to value creativity, flexibility and social impact in their jobs, in essence, many of them value entrepreneurship."

"A freer CARICOM lends itself to openings for entrepreneurial talent," she added.

Her comments come ahead of a Caribbean



Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organization.

Economic Forum discussion titled, "Putting people at the centre of develop-

ment in the Caribbean." That is scheduled for Thursday at 8 p.m.

Gunmen abduct students from school in north-central Nigeria

BAUCHI/KADUNA, Nigeria – An armed gang abducted students from an Islamic school in the north-central Nigerian state of Niger yesterday, police and state government officials said.

Armed groups carrying out kidnapping for ransom are blamed for a series of raids on schools and universities in northern Nigeria in recent months, abducting more than 700 students for ransom since

December.

A spokesman for Niger's state police said in a statement that gunmen on motorcycles attacked the town of Tegina, in the Rafi local government area of the state, at around 3 p.m. (1400 GMT) yesterday.

He said the attackers were "shooting indiscriminately and abducted a yet to be ascertained number of children at Salihu Tanko Islamic school".

The school's owner, Abubakar Tegina, told Reuters in a phone interview that he witnessed the attack.

"I personally saw between 20 and 25 motorcycles with heavily armed people. They entered the school and went away with about 150 or more of the students," said Tegina, who lives around 150 metres from the school.

"We can't be exact because most of them have not reported

to the school as at that time," he said, when asked for further details of the number taken.

Tegina said there are around 300 pupils aged between 7 and 15. He said pupils live at home and only attend classes at the site.

Most students kidnapped in recent months have been taken from boarding schools.

One person was shot dead during the attack and a second person was seriously injured,

the state governor's spokeswoman said.

She said 11 of the children taken were released by the gunmen because they were "too small and couldn't walk". A group of bus passengers were also abducted, she said.

Yesterday's attack in Niger took place the day after the release of the remaining 14 students of a group abducted last month from a university in neighbouring Kaduna state.

West Africa leaders suspend Mali from region bloc over coup

ACCRA, Ghana - West African leaders suspended Mali from their regional bloc yesterday over what they said amounted to a coup last week, Ghana's foreign minister said after an emergency meeting to address the political crisis in Mali.

The bloc, the Economic Community of West African States, "is worried about the security implications for West Africa because of the continued insecurity brought about by the political upheavals in that country," Foreign Minister Shirley Attorkor Botchwey said.

At the end of their summit, the heads of state of the ECOWAS member nations demanded that Malian authorities immediately release former transitional President Bah N'Daw and Prime Minister Moctar Ouane, who are being kept under house arrest.

In their statement, the leaders condemned the arrests by Mali's military, which they said violated mediation steps agreed to last September, a month after a coup d'etat led by the same man who has now again taken power in Mali, Col. Assimi Goita.

ECOWAS also called for a new civilian prime minister to be nominated immediately, a new inclusive government to be formed and the 18-month transition of power leading to

February 2022 elections to be carried out, saying a monitoring mechanism will be put in place to assure this.

In addition, the statement said, the head of the transition government, the vice president and the prime minister should not under any circumstances be candidates in the planned Feb. 27 presidential election.

ECOWAS urged all international partners, including the African Union, the United Nations, and the European Union, to continue to support the successful implementation of the transition in Mali.

The heads of state expressed "strong and deep concerns over the present crisis in Mali, which is coming halfway to the end of the agreed transition period, in the context of the security challenges related to incessant terrorist attacks and the Covid-19 Pandemic with its dire socio-economic impacts," the statement said.

Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo opened the summit in Accra yesterday, saying ECOWAS must "remain resolute in supporting the people of Mali to find a peaceful solution, and restore democracy and stability in the country."

Mali's constitutional court on Friday named Goita as the West African nation's government leader days after he seized power



FILE- In this Friday, Sept. 25, 2020 file photo, retired Col. Maj. Bah N'Daw, right, is sworn into the office of transitional president, and Col. Assimi Goita, left, head of the junta that staged the Aug. 18 2020 coup, is sworn into the office of transitional vice president, at a ceremony in the capital Bamako, Mali. Mali's military has released the transitional president and prime minister Moctar Ouane from detention Thursday May 27, 2021, after they resigned from their respective posts.

by deposing the president and prime minister and forced their resignations. Their arrests last Monday by the military took place hours after a new Cabinet was named that left out two major military leaders. The court said Friday that Goita would take the responsibilities of the interim president "to lead the transition process to its conclusion."

The deposed interim president and prime minister had been appointed following the August 2020 coup led by Goita. The military coup against then President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita led to mediations by

ECOWAS that were also led by Nigeria's former leader, Goodluck Jonathan. The transitional government was set up with Goita as transitional vice president. Elections were to be held in February and March 2022.

After taking power, Goita assured that the elections would still be held, though it wasn't clear what part the military would play in the government.

The international community, including the African Union, has condemned the power grab. The U.N. Security Council has said the resignations of N'Daw and Ouane were coerced. The U.S. has

already pulled its security force support and other bodies, including the EU and France, are threatening sanctions.

Goita has justified his actions by saying there was discord within the transitional government and that he wasn't consulted, per the transitional charter, when the new Cabinet was chosen.

Akufo-Addo said yesterday that ECOWAS was committed "to the peaceful transition in Mali, with the basic goal of restoring democratic government, and working for the stability of Mali and of our region."



Today's Weather

FORECAST

Mix of sunshine and clouds with a few brief isolated light showers.

International Temperature

London	11 Clear
Boston	11 Overcast/ Light Rain
Montreal	15 Overcast/ Light Rain
Toronto	18 Fair
New York	11 Overcast/ Light Rain
Miami	29 Fair

Tides

High Tide (First)	07:09
High tide (Second)	20:51
Low Tide (First)	01:08
Low tide (Second)	14:06

Rainfall

Yesterday:	0.0 mm
For the month:	21.8 mm
For the year:	278.5 mm

Yesterday's Temperatures

Max:	31.2 °C
Min:	26.5 °C

SUNRISE - 5:31 a.m.

SUNSET - 6:21 p.m.

UK PM Boris Johnson marries fiancée in private ceremony

LONDON – British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has married his fiancée, Carrie Symonds, in a small private ceremony that came at the end of a tumultuous week during which a former top aide said he was unfit for office.

The couple wed Saturday at the Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral in front of a small group of friends and family, Johnson's office said yesterday, confirming newspaper reports that were published overnight. Photos taken after the ceremony in the garden of the prime minister's residence showed Symonds in a long white dress and floral headband. Johnson wore a dark suit.

"The Prime Minister and Ms. Symonds were married yesterday afternoon in a small ceremony at Westminster Cathedral," Downing Street said. "The couple will celebrate their wedding with family and friends next summer."

The couple have reportedly sent save-the-date cards to

family and friends for a celebration on July 30, 2022. Under current coronavirus restrictions in England, no more than 30 people can attend a wedding.

Johnson, 56, and Symonds, a 33-year-old Conservative Party insider and environmental advocate, announced their engagement in February 2020. Their son, Wilfred, was born in April last year.

The marriage is Johnson's third. He has at least five other children from previous relationships.

Johnson's previous marriages would not have stopped him from having a Catholic wedding because they didn't take place in the Catholic church, Matt Chinery, an ecclesiastical and canon lawyer, told Times Radio.

"In the eyes of the Catholic church, Boris Johnson woke up last week as somebody who wasn't married and had never been married and so was free to marry in the cathedral this weekend," he said.

Johnson was baptized as a

Catholic but he was confirmed as a member of the Church of England as a teenager.

The last British prime minister to marry in office was Lord Liverpool in 1822.

The wedding followed a difficult political week for Johnson.

His former top aide, Dominic Cummings, on Wednesday told lawmakers that Johnson had bungled the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic and said he was "unfit for the job."

Britain has Europe's highest coronavirus death toll, at over 128,000 people, but it has also produced one of the world's most successful vaccination programs, inoculating 74% of its adults. Daily deaths have plummeted to single digits of late, compared to over 1,800 one day in January.

The opposition Labour Party was not giving Johnson any space for a honeymoon, with one Labour lawmaker, Jon Trickett, suggesting that the weekend wedding was "a good way to bury this week's bad news."



In this image released yesterday, by Downing Street, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Carrie Johnson pose together for a photo in the garden of 10 Downing Street after their wedding on Saturday.

Hundreds evacuated in New Zealand's Canterbury region floods

WELLINGTON – Hundreds of people were evacuated overnight and many more face the risk of abandoning their homes in New Zealand's Canterbury region as heavy rains raised water levels and caused widespread flooding.

At least 300 homes in Canterbury were evacuated

overnight as water levels rose in rivers across the region in a "one-in-100-year deluge", local media reports said yesterday.

Several highways, schools and offices were closed and New Zealand's Defence Forces deployed helicopters to rescue some people stranded in floods in the Ashburton area.

Ashburton's Mayor Neil Brown said "half of Ashburton" would need to be evacuated if the river's levees broke but there was "still quite a bit of capacity" in the river.

"We need it to stop raining to let those rivers drop," said Brown, according to the New Zealand Herald.

New Zealand's MetService had issued a red warning on Sunday for heavy rain for Canterbury and multiple warnings elsewhere.

The government announced NZ\$100,000 (\$72,500) towards a Mayoral Relief Fund to support Canterbury communities impacted by the flooding, Kris

Faafoi, the acting minister for emergency management said in a statement.

"While it is still very early to know the full cost of the damage, we expect it to be significant and this initial contribution will help those communities to start to get back on their feet," said Faafoi.

Oldest American, fastest woman on Everest return safely

KATHMANDU, Nepal – A retired attorney from Chicago who became the oldest American to scale Mount Everest, and a Hong Kong teacher who is now the fastest female climber of the world's highest peak, yesterday returned safely from the mountain where climbing teams have struggled with bad weather and a coronavirus outbreak.

Arthur Muir, 75, scaled the peak earlier this month, beating the record set by another American, Bill Burke, at age 67.

Tsang Yin-hung, 45, of Hong Kong scaled the summit from the base camp in 25 hours and 50 minutes, and became the fastest female climber. The record of 10 hours and 56 minutes is held by a Sherpa guide, Lakpa Gelu.

A climbing accident on Everest in 2019, when Muir hurt his ankle falling off a ladder, did not deter him from attempting to scale the peak again. He began mountaineering late in life, and said he was scared and anxious during his latest adventure.

"You realize how big a mountain it is, how dangerous it is, how many things that could go wrong. Yeah, it makes you nervous, it makes you know some anxiety there and maybe little bit of scared," Muir told reporters in Kathmandu.

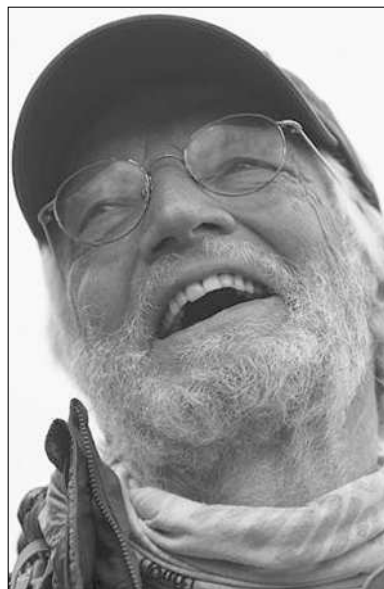
"I was just surprised when I actually got to there (the summit) but I was too tired to stand up, and in my summit pictures I am sitting down," he said.

Muir began mountaineering at age 68 with trips to South America and Alaska before attempting Everest in 2019, when he fell off the ladder.

Climbing was closed last year due to the pandemic.

Married and a father of three, Muir has six grandchildren. The last one – a boy – was born while he was still in the mountains during his current expedition.

Tsang made only two stops between the base camp, located at 5,300 meters (17,390 feet), to the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) summit to change, and covered



American climber Arthur Muir, 75, as he arrives in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

the near vertical distance in 25 hours and 50 minutes.

She was lucky because there were barely any climbers on the way to the highest camp at South Col. After that, on her way



Tsang Yin-hung, 45, of Hong Kong who scaled Mount Everest from the base camp in 25 hours and 50 minutes.

to the summit, she met only climbers making their descent, which did not slow her speed climb.

There are only a few days of good weather left on the

mountain this year, when hundreds of climbers line up to the summit, many having to wait for a long time in the traffic jam on the highest trail.

"I just feel kind of relief and happy because I am not looking for breaking a record," she said. "I feel relieved because I can prove my work to my friends, to my students."

She made a previous attempt on May 11, but bad weather forced her to turn back from a point very close to the summit. She then returned last Sunday.

"For the summit, it is not just not your ability, team work, I think luck is very important," she said.

An outbreak of the coronavirus among climbers and their guides at the Everest base camp has forced at least three teams to cancel their expeditions. But hundreds of others have pushed through attempting to scale the summit, at a time Nepal is in lockdown battling its worst surge in COVID-19.

Ethiopians protest United States sanctions over brutal Tigray war

KAMPALA, Uganda – Thousands of Ethiopians gathered in the nation's capital yesterday to protest outside pressure on the government over its brutal war in Tigray.

Protesters at the rally in Addis Ababa carried banners that criticized the United States and others in the international community who are voicing concern over atrocities in Tigray, where Ethiopian forces are hunting down the region's ousted and now-fugitive leaders. Troops from neighboring Eritrea are fighting in Tigray on the side of Ethiopian government forces, in defiance of international calls for their withdrawal.

But the protesters in Addis Ababa carried placards that said "Ethiopian young people denounce the western

intervention." Others said Ethiopia's sovereignty was at stake.

The U.S. said last week it has started restricting visas for government and military officials of Ethiopia and Eritrea, who are seen as undermining efforts to resolve the fighting in Tigray, home to an estimated 6 million of Ethiopia's 110 million people. Besides the visa restrictions, Washington is imposing wide-ranging restrictions on economic and security assistance to Ethiopia.

Atrocities including brutal gang-rapes, extrajudicial killings and forced evictions have been part of the violence in Tigray, according to victims, witnesses, local authorities and aid groups. Thousands of people are estimated to have died.

The Ethiopian government called the U.S. action "misguided" and "regrettable."

"The Ethiopian government will not be deterred by this unfortunate decision of the U.S. administration," said the statement tweeted by the ministry of foreign affairs.

The crisis began in November after Ethiopia accused former leaders of the Tigray People's Liberation Front, or TPLF, of ordering an attack on an Ethiopian army base in the region.

Troops sent by Ethiopia's leader, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, quickly ousted the TPLF from major cities and towns, but guerrilla fighting is still reported across Tigray.

More than 2 million people have been displaced by the war.

In South Florida, shootings usher in bloody holiday weekend

MIAMI – Violence ushered in the Memorial Day weekend in South Florida, when gunmen indiscriminately sprayed bullets into crowds at two Miami venues. Two people died and at least 20 others were injured early yesterday morning during a shooting outside a banquet hall, about a day after a drive-by shooting killed one person and injured six.

Authorities called on the public to help identify the shooters.

"This type of gun violence has to stop. Every weekend it's the same thing," said the police director of Miami-Dade County, Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III, whose officers were hunting down three suspects believed to have been involved in yesterday's violence.

"These are cold blooded murderers that shot indiscriminately into a crowd and we will seek justice," Ramirez said in a tweet.

Two people died at the scene, police said. As many as 25 people went to various hospitals for treatment.

Clayton Dillard and his family waited outside the El Mula Banquet Hall in northwest Miami-Dade County, where Sunday's shooting took place shortly after midnight, hoping for news about a loved one they feared was among the two fatalities.

"I know he's there," Dillard said, "but they won't let me come claim him."

As of Sunday afternoon, police had not released the names of the victims, whose bodies were awaiting to be removed from the scene – more than 16 hours after the shots rang out outside the banquet

hall, which had been rented out for a concert.

Police said the gunfire began when three people got out of an SUV shortly after midnight and shot into a crowd with assault rifles and handguns. The shooting was targeted, Ramirez said, but did not elaborate.

More than two dozen people crowded behind yellow police tape and a line of squad cars as police continued their investigation into Sunday evening.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis joined in mourning, saying on Twitter he was "praying for the recovery" of the victims and pledged help from state authorities.

"We are working with local authorities to bring justice to the perpetrators. Justice needs to be swift & severe!" DeSantis tweeted.

Businessman and TV personality Marcus Lemonis, star of "The Profit," took to Twitter to offer a \$100,000 reward to help authorities capture the suspects.

Sunday's shooting came a little over a day after a drive-by shooting claimed the life of one person outside another venue about 13 miles away in the Wynwood area. Six others were injured. Some witnesses likened the scene to a "war zone" after a barrage of dozens of bullets sent people scurrying in the night.

Democratic state Sen. Shevrin Jones said he wants DeSantis to do more than just pray. He's calling on the governor to sit down with Democrats to discuss meaningful ways of addressing gun violence.

"Thoughts and prayers have been going on for years and thoughts and prayers haven't done a damn thing inside the Black community — or any community when it comes to gun violence," Jones said.

But he acknowledged Republicans are resistant to discuss the issue.

"Republicans don't want to talk about guns. They think we're trying to take their guns away from them. If their talking point is that guns are for protection, or that guns are for hunting, just know that that terminology is different in certain communities," Jones said. "Some of these individuals are using guns to murder. Some of these individuals are using guns to hunt people."



Ethiopians protest against international pressure on the government over the conflict in Tigray, at a demonstration organised by the city mayor's office held at a stadium in the capital Addis Ababa, Ethiopia yesterday.

US security agency spied on Merkel, other top European officials through Danish cables: broadcaster DR

COPENHAGEN – The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has used a partnership with Denmark's foreign intelligence unit to spy on senior officials of neighbouring countries, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, according to Danish state broadcaster DR.

The findings are the result of an internal investigation in the Danish Defence Intelligence Service from 2015 into NSA's role

in the partnership, DR said, citing nine unnamed sources with access to the investigation.

According to the investigation which covered 2012 and 2014, the NSA used Danish information cables to spy on senior officials in Sweden, Norway, France and Germany, including former German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and former German opposition leader Peer Steinbrück.

Asked for comment on the DR report, a spokesperson for the German chancellery said it only became aware of the allegations when asked about them by journalists, and declined to comment further.

Denmark, a close ally of the United States, hosts several key landing stations for subsea internet cables to and from Sweden, Norway, Germany, Holland and the UK. The internal

investigation in the Danish Defence Intelligence Service was launched in 2014 following concerns about Edward Snowden's leaks the previous year revealing how the NSA works, according to DR.

In Washington, the NSA did not immediately reply to a request for comment and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) declined to comment.



This image made from video footage by China's CCTV shows Tianhe core module's camera footage showing Tianzhou 2 cargo spacecraft approaching yesterday. An automated spacecraft docked with China's new space station yesterday carrying fuel and supplies for its future crew, the Chinese space agency announced.

Official: Chinese astronauts go to space station next month

BEIJING – A three-member crew of male astronauts will blast off next month for a three-month mission on China's new space station, according to a space official who was the country's first astronaut in orbit.

The comments by Yang Liwei, the manned space program's deputy chief designer, to state television came as an automated spacecraft was launched with fuel and supplies for the Tianhe station.

The Tianhe, or Heavenly

Cargo craft successfully docks with space station module

Harmony, is the third and largest space station launched by China's increasingly ambitious space program. Its core module was launched into orbit April 29.

The Shenzhou 12 capsule carrying the crew will be launched from the Jiuquan base in China's northwest next

month, Yang said in comments broadcast Saturday by China Central Television.

Yang, who orbited Earth in 2003, gave no details of the astronauts' identities or a flight date but confirmed the crew will include no women. He said the crew will come from the program's two earliest groups of

astronauts.

Asked whether women would be in the crew, Yang said, "on Shenzhou 12 we don't have them, but missions after that all will have them."

The Tianzhou-2 spacecraft that docked with Tianhe yesterday carried 6.8 tons of cargo including space suits, food and equipment for the astronauts and fuel for the station, according to the space program.

The space agency plans a total of 11 launches through the end of next year to deliver two more modules for the 70-ton station, supplies and the crew.

Beijing doesn't participate in the International Space Station, largely due to U.S. objections. Washington is wary of the Chinese program's secrecy and its military connections.

China has sent 11 astronauts, including two women, into space beginning with Yang's flight in October 2003. The first female astronaut was Liu Yang in 2012.

All of China's astronauts to date have been pilots from the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army.

Astronauts on the Tianhe will practice making spacewalks with two people outside the hull at one time, according to Yang. China's first spacewalk was made in 2008 by Zhai Zhigang outside the Shenzhou 7 capsule.

Also this month, the Chinese space program landed a probe, the Tianwen-1, on Mars carrying a rover, the Zhurong.

Company tests new Bluetooth tech for cattle on Wyoming ranch

JACKSON, Wyo. – In Melissa Brandao's vision, every cow in Wyoming will soon sport a new high-tech earring, transferring real-time data via Bluetooth on the animal's location and biometrics.

Brandao is the founder and chief revenue officer of HerdDogg, a technology company that creates specialized ear tags and tracking software to give ranchers information on their herd and in turn increase the value of each animal. The venture-backed ag tech startup launched in Ashland, Oregon, and recently moved its headquarters to Laramie, which has attracted a suite of tech companies over the past decade due to its low costs and the opportunity for partnerships with the University of Wyoming.

This month HerdDogg also partnered with Jackson's Lockhart Cattle Company to pilot its latest Bluetooth platform.

"Sometimes I pinch myself. I'm standing in one of the most beautiful places on the planet talking about just an incredibly innovative solution for the meat industry," Brandao said Monday, looking out over a sea of Hereford heifers.

That solution is both the hardware – tags that remotely monitor ambient temperature, location and acceleration – and the software to aggregate data points, track each cow through its lifespan, and provide a user-friendly readout via the HerdDogg app, the Jackson Hole News & Guide reports.

There are two main sides to the HerdDogg operation, starting with the connection between cattle and rancher. At a smaller operation like Lockhart Cattle that relationship is now maintained by the cowboy riding around the pastures, checking Sharpied numbers on neon ear tags and making mental notes about the health of each animal.

"Most of this information for any rancher is usually in their head," said Chase Lockhart, who has helped steer the family ranch for nearly a decade.

That information is then recorded on pen and paper and transferred to a computer, a relatively dated and laborious process by modern standards. HerdDogg's tech would allow most of that data to be uploaded automatically to the cloud, which a cowboy like Chase would then be able to access from his smartphone.



The Long March-7 Y3 rocket, carrying the Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, blasts off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province, May 29, 2021.

CRFM Member States urged to prioritize Blue Economy

New Chair of Ministerial Council says the benefits of the blue economy must be harnessed to drive rebound from the downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

BELIZE CITY (CRFM) – The newly elected chair of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Hon. Saboto S. Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry and Fisheries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, has urged fellow ministers responsible for Fisheries across the Caribbean to prioritize the Blue Economy, to strengthen the region's COVID-19 recovery efforts. The 'Blue Economy' is an emerging concept which encourages better use and conservation of the ocean or 'blue' resources to boost economic growth and to tackle unemployment, food security and poverty.

The Ministerial Council has been forced to meet virtually since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but that has not stopped them from making monumental progress in steering the fisheries and aquaculture sector forward, with carefully designed policies and plans, despite very challenging times.

Minister Caesar, who was elected as chair of the CRFM Ministerial Council on Friday, 21 May 2021 to succeed Minister Ezechiel Joseph of Saint Lucia, has assumed leadership with a resolute commitment, even as his home country is striving to overcome double tragedy, with the recent eruption of La Soufrière volcano amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the pandemic and the

To strengthen the region's COVID-19 recovery agenda

volcano, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stood out among the countries that were registering improvements in trade of its fisheries commodities. Although some CRFM Member States have been seeing declining exports coupled with a growing import bill to meet domestic demand for fish and fishery products, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continued to register growth in trade for 2019 and 2020.

During the recent CRFM Ministerial Council meeting, the Ministers received the latest updates on status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture, as documented in the "CRFM Statistics and Information Report 2019/2020," which the Ministers have endorsed for publication. The evidence provided in the report demonstrated that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on activities in the fisheries sector, including production, as well as exports and imports of fish and fishery products.

These impacts were documented in even more detail through regional assessments which the CRFM Secretariat conducted during 2020 and 2021, aimed at providing insights to support the reorientation of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Member States will convene follow-up meetings to advance post-COVID-19 response and recovery, in line with the CARICOM COVID-19 Agri-Food Action Plan and Risk Management Framework.

The CRFM is involved in several initiatives to help

Member States address the myriad challenges that confront them, and these initiatives have integrated elements to address and mitigate COVID-19 impacts, as well as a prior mandate of the Ministerial Council to address gender, youth, and decent work in all CRFM policies, protocols, programmes, and plans. At their meeting last week, the Ministers also approved the Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries for the CRFM countries, which the CRFM developed through a recently concluded project funded by Global Affairs Canada in collaboration with a UNDP/GEF supported Flyingfish Sub-project of the CLME+ Project. The Ministers also welcomed and expressed their support for the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry and the Blue Justice Initiative established with Norwegian support to help countries (particularly developing countries) to work together and build their capacity to prevent, deter and eradicate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Other initiatives considered by the CRFM Ministerial Council include the 'Sargassum Products for Climate Resilience in the Caribbean' 3-year initiative, funded by New Zealand, which will explore the potential opportunities for countries to generate revenue from high-end products to be made from Sargassum seaweed;

the proposed GEF/Development Bank of Latin American/FAO 'Caribbean Blue Economy Project' entitled, Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (BE-CLME+ Project); the Japan-funded COASTFISH project, which will advance co-management of coastal fisheries; as well as the recently launched EU-funded sanitary and phytosanitary systems project aimed at addressing quality control and safety of fish exports and imports, and which is expected to help drive an important engine for economic growth through increased international trade opportunities.

The Ministers also agreed on approaches to ensure that CARICOM States are prepared to meet the requirements of the USA Marine Mammals Act which will take effect in 2022 and avoid interruption in flow of fish and fishery products to the US market. Finally, the meeting discussed and provided guidance on the ongoing World Trade Organization initiative to conclude a legally binding agreement to prohibit harmful subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and overfishing, as well as the Intergovernmental Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to elaborate the text of a legally binding international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.



Chair of the CRFM, Hon. Saboto S. Caesar

The Executive Director of the CRFM, Mr. Milton Haughton, said: "the 15th Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM was a very productive and successful meeting, with extremely useful and informed contributions from policymakers and senior officials from across the region. The level of engagement and enthusiasm of policymakers confirmed that there is a bright future for fisheries and aquaculture in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery and food security of the Caribbean region."

The Region's Fisheries Ministers are due to meet again in October 2021 for their 11th Special Meeting, when they are expected to, among other things, consider a Resource Mobilization Strategy, a Remote Work Policy and the Third CRFM Strategic Plan, to chart the way forward for the next 8 years (2022-2030). The CRFM has committed to involving stakeholders from all 17 Member States and international development partners in crafting a plan that will give life to the collective vision and aspiration of the people across the region.

River herring, once eyed for endangered list, grow in counts

PORTLAND, Maine – A small fish that has been the subject of conservation efforts for years appears to be growing in number in the rivers of the East Coast.

River herring are critically important to coastal ecosystems because they serve as food for birds and larger fish. Regulators have described the fishes' population as nearing historic lows because of dams, pollution, warming waters and other factors.

But years of effort to save them appear to be paying off. Preliminary counts of the fish from Maine to South Carolina in 2019 showed 2.7 million more fish than in 2015, according to

documents provided by the regulatory Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The 2019 counts found more than 6.5 million fish.

The river herrings include two species of schooling fish, alewives and blueback herring, that have been fished in East Coast rivers for millennia. Harvesters of the fish said conservative management of the fishery in recent years, coupled with conservation efforts such as dam removal, have helped the fish spawn and grow in number.

"You've got to get the parents in the bedroom so the kids can go to school," said Jeff Pierce, a longtime alewife fisherman and

the president of Alewife Harvesters of Maine.

Herring have been used as a source of protein since long before British colonists first arrived on American shores, and the fish have still been harvested commercially in a handful of states in recent years. They're used as bait and sometimes as food. Herring are often used as bait in big-money commercial fisheries such as the lobster industry.

Commercial catch of the fish has increased as the population has slowly recovered. Fishermen brought about 2.4 million pounds of the fish to docks in 2018 and increased that total to more than 3.2 million pounds in

2019, according to preliminary data from the Atlantic States commission.

They remain a species of concern in many states, including in New Hampshire, which prohibited the harvest of the species in April. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department said it triggered the closure because of the decline of spawning runs over the past two years.

But Maine, which is home to the largest commercial fishery for river herring, has seen positive trends in the fishes' population, said Michael Brown, a scientist with the Maine Department of Marine Resources. He said the recovery

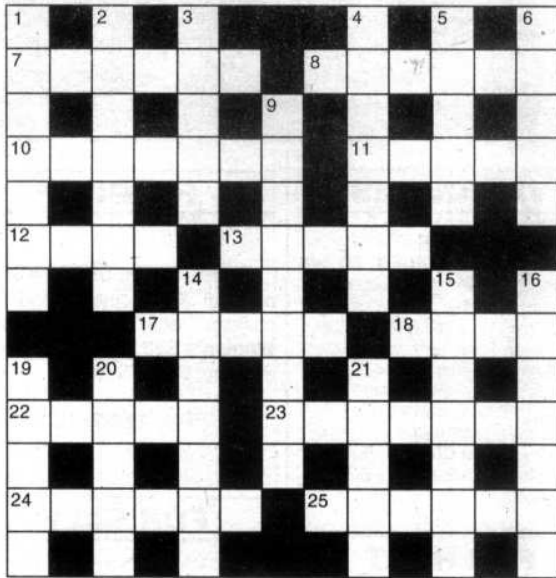
of river herring stems back to the removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999. That was the first large-scale restoration project, he said.

"Since that time, restoration projects on the Penobscot River and many smaller rivers now allow river herring to access traditional spawning habitat," Brown said. "A result of the restoration activities is the expanding river herring resources we are seeing in Maine today."

Some environmental activists called for the fish to be listed under the Endangered Species Act as populations dwindled, but the federal government decided not to list the species in 2019.

Quick Crossword

No 15,177



ACROSS

- 7. Merited (6)
- 8. Empty (6)
- 10. Wrap up (7)
- 11. Irate (5)
- 12. Chances (4)
- 13. Disdain (5)
- 17. Perspire (5)
- 18. Inflamed eyelid (4)
- 22. Permit (5)
- 23. Remark (7)
- 24. Abandon (6)
- 25. Staggered (6)

DOWN

- 1. Evolve (7)
- 2. Supply (7)
- 3. Kingdom (5)
- 4. Gruesome (7)
- 5. Scope (5)
- 6. Remains (5)
- 9. Watcher (9)
- 14. Clumsy (7)
- 15. Surprise (7)
- 16. Protects (7)
- 19. Robust (5)
- 20. Near (5)
- 21. Awry (5)

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE No 15,176

Across: 1 Jewel; 4 Purport; 8 Regular; 9 Cream; 10 Spry; 11 Converse; 13 Nail; 14 Grin; 16 Downcast; 17 Agree; 20 Niece; 21 Exploit; 22 Ejected; 23 Royal.
Down: 1 Jurisprudence; 2 Wager; 3 Lull; 4 Pardon; 5 Recovery; 6 Overrun; 7 Temperamental; 12 Discreet; 13 Nowhere; 15 Ascend; 18 Glory; 19 Spar.

Bridge

Famous Hand

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ A 6 3
- ♥ 10 5 3
- ♦ A J
- ♣ A K Q J 5

WEST EAST

- ♠ K Q J 10 8 2
- ♥ K 6 2
- ♦ 5
- ♣ 10 4 2
- ♠ 9 4
- ♥ J 9 7 4
- ♦ 10 9 8 4
- ♣ 9 8 6

SOUTH

- ♠ 7 5
- ♥ A Q 8
- ♦ K Q 7 6 3 2
- ♣ 7 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	1♣	3♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♣			

Opening lead — king of spades.

One real test of a partnership is its ability to reach slams that should be bid, and to avoid slams that should not be bid. There are many tools available for slam bidding, but how and when to use them depends mostly on the knowledge and good judgment of the players.

Consider this deal played in Bangkok in a match between a Thai team and an American team in 1971.

North for the U.S. was Dorothy Hayden, and South was Alan Truscott, both well-known international players.

Hayden jump-shifted to three clubs over one diamond to alert her partner to a potential slam. She next cuebid spades and then used Blackwood to ask for aces. Truscott responded with five diamonds, showing one ace, and Hayden now made the key bid of five hearts.

Ordinarily, this bid — the cheapest call possible over an unsatisfactory Blackwood response — is used to warn partner that two aces are missing and commands partner to bid five notrump. So Truscott bid five notrump, expecting the bidding to die there.

But when Hayden next bid six diamonds, Truscott correctly inferred that his partner was not concerned about aces, but was instead implementing an unusual application of the grand slam force convention, asking him to bid seven diamonds if he had two of the three top honors in the suit. So Truscott, displaying full faith and confidence in his partner, bid seven diamonds, which proved to be a virtual laydown.

This delicate exchange by the then relatively new partnership turned out to be so strikingly successful that later that year, Hayden changed her name to Mrs. Dorothy Hayden Truscott!

Fueling box-office rebound, 'Quiet Place' opens with \$58.5M

John Krasinski's thriller sequel "A Quiet Place Part II" opened over the Memorial Day weekend to a pandemic-best US\$48.4 million, according to studio estimates yesterday. Including the holiday today in the United States, the studio forecasts the film will gross US\$58.5 million in North America.

The film's performance cheered a movie industry that has been punished and transformed by the pandemic. Paramount Pictures' "A Quiet Place Part II," which was on the cusp of opening in March 2021 before theaters shut, was the first big film this year — and one of the only larger budget COVID-era releases beside Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" — to open exclusively in theaters.

Chris Aronson, distribution chief for Paramount, called the opening "an unqualified success."

"It's a huge sigh of a relief and a sense of optimism for sure," Aronson said. "Movies, moviegoing, movie theaters aren't dead. Yes,



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows, from left, Noah Jupe, Millicent Simmonds and Emily Blunt in a scene from "A Quiet Place Part II."

they've been threatened but they're proving once again that they're resilient and that people do want to have that communal experience."

Many films have trotted out hybrid release plans during the pandemic, debuting films simultaneously in the home. The Walt Disney Co. did that this weekend with its live-action PG-13

Cruella De Vil prequel, "Cruella," making it available to Disney+ subscribers for \$30. In theaters, it grossed \$21.3 million, Disney said, and an estimated \$26.4 million over the four-day weekend. "Cruella" also added \$16.1 million in 29 international territories. Disney didn't say how much the film made on the company's streaming

platform. "A Quiet Place II" will also turn to streaming after 45 days in theaters when it becomes available on Paramount+. One clear result of the pandemic is that the theatrical window has shrunk, probably permanently. Three months was once the customary length of a movie's run in theaters.

SUDOKU

NO. 5601

RATING: MEDIUM

			1			8	4	
4	5			7	3		2	
						6	7	
9					2			
1				9	4	3		8
			3	2	1			7
5	2					9	1	
7				6		5		

Yesterday's Solution

4	8	6	5	3	2	9	7	1
5	2	1	7	8	9	6	3	4
7	3	9	1	6	4	5	2	8
9	7	8	2	1	6	3	4	5
1	4	5	9	7	3	2	8	6
3	6	2	8	4	5	7	1	9
8	9	4	3	5	7	1	6	2
6	5	3	4	2	1	8	9	7
2	1	7	6	9	8	4	5	3

Fill the grid so that every column, every row, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9

There's no maths involved- you solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic

Solution tomorrow

Tips at www.sudoku.com

Comments or queries?

Direct them to sudoku@barbadosadvocate.com

SPORTS

Akela Jones sets new Barbados long jump record

BARBADOS' Akela Jones continues to rewrite the pages of history, this time setting a new National Record in the women's long jump with a distance of 6.80m.

Jones was competing at the 2021 Chula Vista Field Festival on

May 29, 2021 and finished 6th with her effort in an impressive field of athletes.

Her new record came on her fourth attempt, however she had already surpassed the previous National Record on her third attempt, which measured

6.79m. But a wind of +2.6 m/s meant it would not have been legal, so her very next attempt she showed she was ready to rewrite the record books.

Jones held the previous record of 6.75m set in 2016.

She narrowly missed out on the

Olympic qualifying mark for the long jump for women, which currently stands at 6.82m.

The winner of the long jump was Ese Brume from Nigeria, who set a new National Record and world leading distance of 7.17m. (CG)

Kuron Griffith continues to impress

By Corey Greaves

QUANTUM LEAPS' Kuron Griffith has done it.

Running in the final Heat of the men's 200m at the Athletics Association of Barbados May Classic track and field meet, Griffith dipped below the qualifying mark for the NACAC Under-23, when he stopped the clock at 20.99 secs.

Running out of Lane 2 at the Usain Bolt Sports Complex at The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, Griffith was one of the few that had the wind in their favour as it was a tailwind of 1.5 instead of the normal headwind that the athletes had encountered throughout the last few weeks.

Despite the tighter turn for the tall sprinter, Griffith had made up the stagger on most of the athletes by midway of the bend. When he turned for the straight, it was him against the clock.

Knowing the time he had to beat, he pushed and dipped at the line as winning was not his only goal. The qualifying time for the NACAC Under-23 is 21.00 secs.

Second in the race was Raheem Taitt-Best (21.88 secs), but overall he was third as Shaquan Boyce, who won his heat, was second overall with a time of 21.72 secs.

Griffith completed the sprint double yesterday as he won the 100m earlier in the day. However, he once again missed out on qualifying in the 100m as he ran 10.58 secs into a headwind of -1.9 m/s.

Griffith was in Lane 3 of the final of six heats in the 100m men's race and was seen practising his reaction while he waited on the race before and listened to the starter's instruction and the gun.

When it was his turn, he settled into his blocks, rocked from side to side and then steadied himself. Despite his earlier rehearsal, Griffith did not get the best start but was soon leading the race.

Knowing he was racing the clock more than he was racing the other athletes in the field, he dipped at the line and the flash time of 10.60 secs showed up to be corrected to 10.58 secs. It means he is still in search of a 100m time of 10.46 secs or faster to qualify in this event for the NACAC Under-23.

Layla Haynes showed her performance in the Women's 1500m was no fluke, once again winning and also dipping below the Under-18 NACAC qualifying time of 4:55.00. Haynes won in a time of 4:43.12, which was just outside the Under-20 Pan Am Juniors qualifying time of 4:42.00.

In the women, Ayanna Morgan was the winner in 12.43 secs, avenging her lost the last time out when she finished fourth.

Kierre Beckles was second in 12.56 secs, while Tionce Walrond was third in 12.68



Kuron Griffith qualified for the NACAC U23 with a time of 20.99 secs in the 200m. He also won the 100m clocked at 10.58 secs.

secs. Amani Kimon, who won the 100m last time out in 12.48 secs, was fourth on Saturday in 12.76 secs.

Asia Foster completed the double, winning the women's 400m in 57.25 secs ahead of Shadae Worrell (57.43 secs). Foster also won the 200m, clocked at 25.82 secs ahead of Amani Kimon (26.25 secs) and Worrell (26.39 secs).

In the boys' Under-17 100m, the battle was between Aragorn Straker and Jaquan Pilgrim. At the Back on Track meet, it was Pilgrim who won in 11.53 secs from Straker who clocked 11.64 secs. However, on Saturday at the May Classic, the tables were turned with Straker winning in 11.56 secs, while Pilgrim had to settle for second in 11.85 secs.

In the 200m, it was Josiah Parris (22.32 secs) who won ahead of Straker (22.66 secs), while Nathan Brathwaite was third in the 200m (23.57 secs) and 100m (11.88secs). Pilgrim was fourth in the 200m (23.65 secs).

Parris also won the 400m in 50.26 secs to complete the double.

Kishwana Niles was the winner in the girls' Under-17 400m in 62.97 secs ahead of Tianna Applewhaite (64.46 secs) and Jahzara Holford (64.98 secs).



Kierre Beckles will be looking for improved times in the 100m hurdles over the next few weeks. Here, she was clocked 14.12 secs.



Asia Foster won the girls' 200m in 25.82 secs.

Niles also won the 200m (26.02 secs) ahead of Chrisaria Ballantyne (27.27 secs) and Danae Niles (27.30 secs).

E Pierre-Greene once again completed the sprint double, winning the 200m (24.49 secs) and the 100m (12.16 secs) ahead of Ethan Hart (200m – 24.67 secs, 100m – 12.38 secs).

There were no double winners in the sprints in the Under-15 girls. Ariel Archer won the 200m (26.20 secs) from Tia Applewhite (27.23 secs) and Tania Applewhite (27.31 secs).

Kadia Rock was the 400m winner in 58.43 secs ahead of Archer (58.64 secs).

Azara Husbands, who was fourth in the 200m (27.32 secs), was the winner of the 100m (13.40 secs) ahead of Tania Applewhite (13.60 secs) and Tia Applewhite (13.62 secs).

Expectedly Kierre Beckles won the women's hurdles in 14.12 secs, but has



Aaron Brathwaite leaping to victory in the high jump with a clearance of 1.85m.

her work ahead of her if she is to reach the Olympic qualifying mark, which stands below 13 secs.

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Barbados surf team off to a good start

With five qualifying spots available to the men and seven in the women for the Olympics, Barbados' Josh Burke, Bruce Mackie and Chelsea Roett advanced to Round 2 of the International Surfing Association's round with second place finishes in their first round heats.

Competing at the ISA World Surfing Games in La Bocana and El Sunzal in Surf City El Salvador Burke was the first in the water for Barbados and in

the men's heats.

It was around 8 a.m. that the first wave riders took to the water and Burke caught a wave early in the heat which he tried to push to get everything out of it but in the end it earned him 3.50.

He caught two more waves during the heat to score 4.53 and 5.77 which earned him 10.30 and placed him second in the heat behind Ramzi Boukhiam who from the five waves he caught had a combined score from his best two waves of 10.46.

After the Heat Burke said he had a lot of nerves and knows he has to surf better than what he did in that heat to continue to advance through the rounds.

For Mackie who also finished second when he took to the water in Heat 5, he caught four waves and his best two waves gave him a combined score of 8.10. The winner of the Heat was Ryan Huckabee from the USA who finished with a total of 10.07.

Mackie said that his heat was really slow and he managed to get a couple of waves and get through in second place and it is on to the next round.

Chelsea Roett who returned a negative PCR test in time to return to the competition was second in her women's heat with a 8.97, finishing second in Heat 5 to Alyssa Spencer who finished with 16.0.

Chelsea Tuach who was not competing on the first day gave an update on social media about the Barbados surf team and said that all of them got back their test results and they were all negative including Chelsea Roett.

Roett was also tested a second time and was awaiting her second negative so that she would be able to compete. She got back her second Negative around 7:30 a.m.

Finishing third in her heat and will now compete in the repechage was Gabriella Gittens who said it was pretty rough for her but she was looking for to the repechage and the opportunity to make it back the main draw.

Tuach and Che Allan are slated to compete early today.

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Young blood strengthening Tridents' ranks

By Michael Phillips

ANDRE APPLEWHAITE, Tajio James and Devonte Richards will be joining fellow Under-20 star Thierry Gale and a few other names in the big leagues for the first time as the trio got their first call-up for senior national duty.

With the youngsters named in the 24-man squad which left Barbados yesterday for their second round of games in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in the Dominican Republic, the Tridents have matches against the hosts and Dominica in Concacaf Group D action.

All but one of the eight

Under-20 players who were in training made the cut, and the debutantes will be in the company of Nashton Browne, Jamol Williams, Niall Reid-Stephen and Gale, as Roshon Gittens was ruled out due to injury. The team is set to take on the home team on June 4th and Dominica on June 8th in games at the Felix Sanchez Stadium, and the three promising players will be relishing an opportunity to show what they can do at the senior level.

Renaldo Gilkes, who headed the National Under-17 group when most of them were in that team said that he was very pleased and excited about their selection. Revealing that he worked

closely with James and Richards during the senior team's first round to the Dominican Republic, he said that he knew just how much the call-up meant to the boys.

"They spoke with great enthusiasm and optimism with regards to making the team. They wanted to be a part of the team and they just put in the hard work. Having worked with them since they were 12, 13-years-old and seeing them develop and grow to where they are now and being members of the senior national team, it really warms my heart and I think it serves as an inspiration to some of their other young teammates who would have graduated with them through-

out the national programme, that they could achieve similar feats," he said.

Going on to use words such as 'joy', 'elation' and 'absolute excitement' to describe his feelings when he received the news, Gilkes said that only more good things could possibly come from the development. "When I saw their names as part of the squad, I smiled with tears in my eyes because I know the sacrifices they have made and I know what this means for them, but more importantly, what it means for Barbados football. I just want to credit Coach Latapy for investing in the youth and giving them a chance and for seeing what I have for so

long. Congratulations to the boys and all the others who are expected to be a part of the team in the very near future," he said.

During a recent media conference, Head Coach Russell Latapy explained that the influx of young players was a predicament that he was happy to find himself in and that it came about because of the organisation of the national programme. "What has happened over the last year and a half is that we have the Assistant Coach of the Senior Team, who is actually the principal coach of the Under-20 team. So a lot of the information and things we were doing at the senior team level were being passed down to a lot of these players in the Under-20. I'm happy and delighted to say that a lot of these boys have gotten stronger and have a better understanding of the game. And they are actually getting to the point now that they are working themselves into contention for places on the Senior team," he said.

Overseas-based players Gale and Hallam Hope, who were notably absent in the first round of games

against Panama and Anguilla, are in the fold this time around, while Omani Leacock and Krystian Pearce have signed up for service again. Also making their returns to the team are Ricardio Morris and Antone Greaves.

Squad: Nashton Browne, Andre Applewhaite, Hadan Holligan, Romario Drakes, Krystian Pearce, Antone Greaves, Devonte Richards, Emile Saimovici, Jamol Williams, Mario Williams, Ricardio Morris, Carl Hinkson, Tajio James, Niall Reid-Stephen, Keon Atkins, Hallam Hope, Jomo Harris, Omani Leacock, Rashad Smith, Ackeel Applewhaite, Kishmar Primus, Akeem Hill, Liam Brathwaite, Thierry Gale



Former Under-17 national coach Renaldo Gilkes looks on as senior team debutante Devonte Richards readies himself to join a game.



A small section of the squad in training this past week at the Wildey Turf ahead of yesterday's departure.

NOTICES

BARBADOS

IN THE ESTATE OF LLOYD CADOGAN also known as **LLOYD B CADOGAN**, deceased

NOTICE is hereby given that we **ROSALIND KIM SMITH MILLAR Q.C.** of No. 10 Embassy Gardens, Two Mile Hill in the parish of Saint Michael in Barbados and **LAVERNE OCHENNA OCHOA-CLARKE** of No. 14 Linton Close, Windward Gardens in the parish of Saint Philip in Barbados the duly constituted Attorneys of **LLOYD B. CADOGAN** of 121 Crestview Drive Syracuse N.Y. 13207 in the United States of America but formerly of 158-12 115th Road Jamaica N.Y. 11434 in the United States of America the duly appointed Administrator of the estate of **LLOYD CADOGAN** also known as **LLOYD B CADOGAN**, deceased late of 158-12 115th Road Jamaica N.Y. 11434 in the United States of America intend to make an application to the Supreme Court of Barbados for the resealing of the Certificate of Appointment of Administrator of the Estate of the said **LLOYD CADOGAN** also known as **LLOYD B CADOGAN**, deceased which was granted by virtue of Certificate of Appointment of Administrator by the Surrogate's Court of the State of New York, Queens County in the United States of America on the 20th of August 2019 under the Probates and Letters of Administration (Re-Sealing) Act, Cap 247 of the Laws of Barbados.

Any person who is desirous of opposing the resealing of the Certificate of Appointment of Administrator shall lodge a caveat with the Registrar of the High Court on or before the 23rd day of June, 2021.

Dated this the 31st day of May, 2021

ROSALIND KIM SMITH MILLAR Q.C.
and **LAVERNE OCHENNA OCHOA-CLARKE**
Attorneys-at-law

NOTICES

BARBADOS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE of ALBERT GEORGE WILLIAMS, Deceased

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 31 of the Trustee Act, Chapter 250 to all persons having any claim upon or affecting the estate of **Albert George Williams**, deceased, late of "Green Trees", Kent in the parish of Christ Church who died in Barbados on the 1st day of November 2013 to send particulars of their claims duly attested to the undersigned qualified Executor **Robert Neville Williams** of the said estate in care of **Carrington & Sealy, Attorneys-at-Law** of Belmont House, Belmont Road, St. Michael on or before the 31st day of July 2021 after which date the Executor will convey and distribute the assets of the estate having regard only to valid claims then notified.

AND all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to settle their indebtedness without further delay.

Dated this 29th day of May 2021.

Carrington & Sealy,
Attorneys-at-Law for
Robert Neville Williams, Executor

Zane Maloney second in overall standings

BARBADOS' Zane Maloney continued his march up the overall standings of the Formula Regional European Championships by Alpine and now sits second in the overall standings after this weekend's Round of Racing.

Maloney collected 15 points in the first race of Round 4 when the winner was eventually disqualified and another finisher ahead of him did not qualify for points.

Yesterday he qualified 10th, but quickly moved up four places thanks to some good fortune on race day.

With most of the drivers ahead of him in the overall standings except the championships leader behind him in the race, Maloney kept a steady pace looking for every op-

portunity to move into fifth place in the race on the high speed track.

With 3rd-6th place still up for grabs throughout the entire race, there was no time to ease up and Maloney kept the pressure on all the way in the line of cars.

A safety car brought the drivers back together for the 30-minute plus one lap race and when the safety car pulled off there was only the final lap to go as time had expired.

A sprint to the end saw Maloney trying to find a way around the fifth place driver ahead of him. Maloney looked left and looked right, trying to either find a way around or force a mistake but he also had to be cautious not to lose too much momentum as his sixth position was not secure with the pack so close together.

There was no way

around and he had to settle for sixth position.

Once again a driver ahead of him was no eligible for championship points and thus Maloney picked up points for fifth place which took his overall total to 87 and puts him in second place be-

hind the leader in the overall driver's standings Gregoire Saucy who has 110 points.

This behind Maloney is his teammate Isack Hadjar with 85 points.

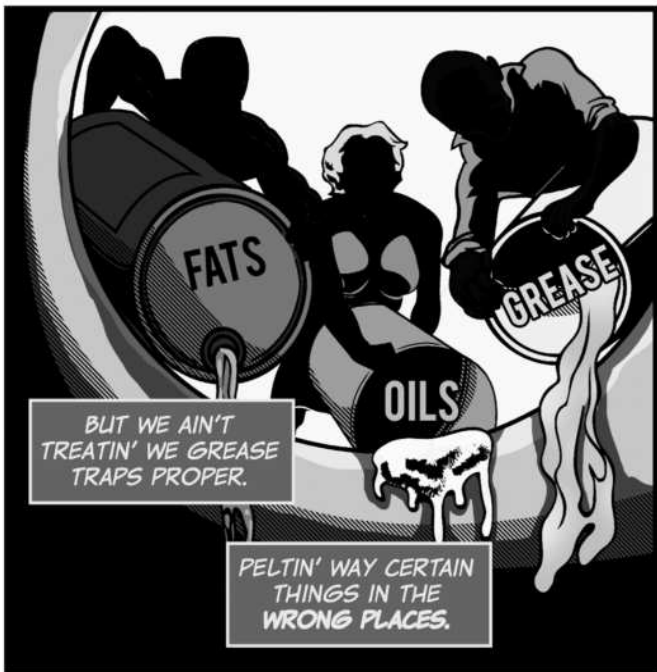
Round 5 of the championships will be June 20th in the Netherlands. (CG)



Zane Maloney composing himself before the start of yesterday's race at Paul Ricard in France .



Zane Maloney is now second in the overall standings after ROUNd 4 of 10 Rounds was completed.



HOROSCOPES



Aries - Watching the way someone interacts with others will give you a good idea of their personality. Keep personal information under wraps for the time being until you know you can trust the people you are working with. You might find it interesting to observe from the background until you decide on what you want to do next.



Taurus - Worry over what other people need, feel and want from you is starting to affect your health. Confusion will cause you to pay more attention to your relationships than usual. You are worrying you may have done something to upset someone and this unsettling feeling is preventing you from taking proper care of yourself.



Gemini - You're having a hard time getting motivated. Joining up with a talented friend who always looks on the bright side could help inspire you as their energy will be infectious. An accomplished teacher or mentor could change the way you look at your life if you are open to their guidance.



Cancer - With the support of your friends and loved ones you have been able to reach heights you never dreamed of. Be sure to show your appreciation. You might think about arranging a surprise for someone or to send them a gift for no reason other than you are grateful for all they have done for you.



Leo - Instead of congratulating you on your success, a friend or workmate will accuse you of just being lucky. You might respond by telling them there is plenty of luck to go around for everyone. The main difference between you and those who haven't been as fortunate is that you were faster than them to go after new opportunities. Maybe they should follow your example.



Virgo - You're ready to roll up your sleeves and get to grips with a major clear out. One of the reasons you have felt unsettled of late is because your home or workplace is in a shamble. You can't abide anything to be untidy or disorganised but you don't have to do everything on your own. Others will help out when you tell them what you intend to do.



Libra - You're so busy trying to please other people you may fail to realise an incredible opportunity when it is staring you in the face. Think of yourself for a change. Someone close is relying on others too much for help when they should be standing on their own two feet. A few kind words from you could jolt them into changing their ways.



Scorpio - An older relative may be worried about their health but they don't really want to admit it as this makes them feel they are being a burden to you. You won't be mistaken in thinking that their strange behaviour is a cry for help. You can't and won't turn a blind eye to those who need some support.



Sagittarius - You're tempted to put some chores aside in favour of more exciting pastimes. Falling behind in your work could have unpleasant consequences. If you don't want to get on the wrong side of your boss, be sure to let them see you are able to stay on top of things.



Capricorn - Instead of looking outside yourself for the happiness you've always wanted, start looking within. True contentment will come from enjoying the blessings that currently grace your life and many of these will be found within your home and family. A spiritually rewarding practice will also bring joy to your life.



Aquarius - Business prospects aren't looking as good as you had expected. You had thought more progress would have been made by now. You are looking to change your approach to a difficult job to hopefully speed up the process. Know the difference between being productive and wasting time in deliberation.

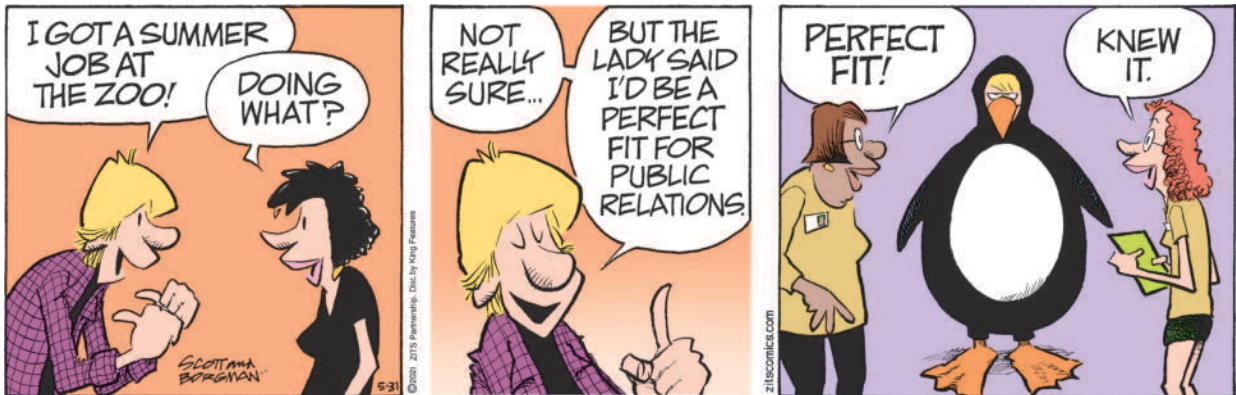


Pisces - Someone will make you a potentially profitable offer but take care as there will be strings attached. Be careful about how much you reveal to someone who has just joined your social circle. Their motives may not be entirely sincere. Something they learn from you could give them a hidden advantage.

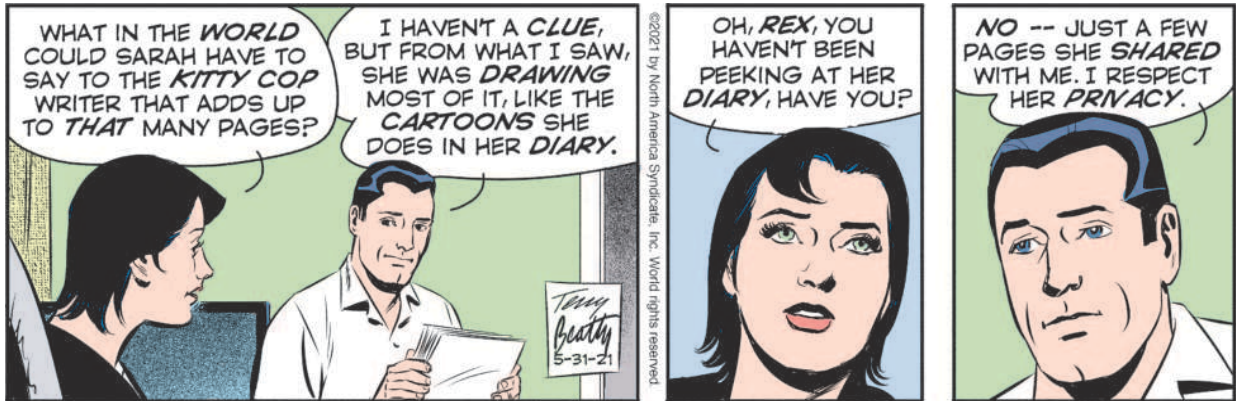
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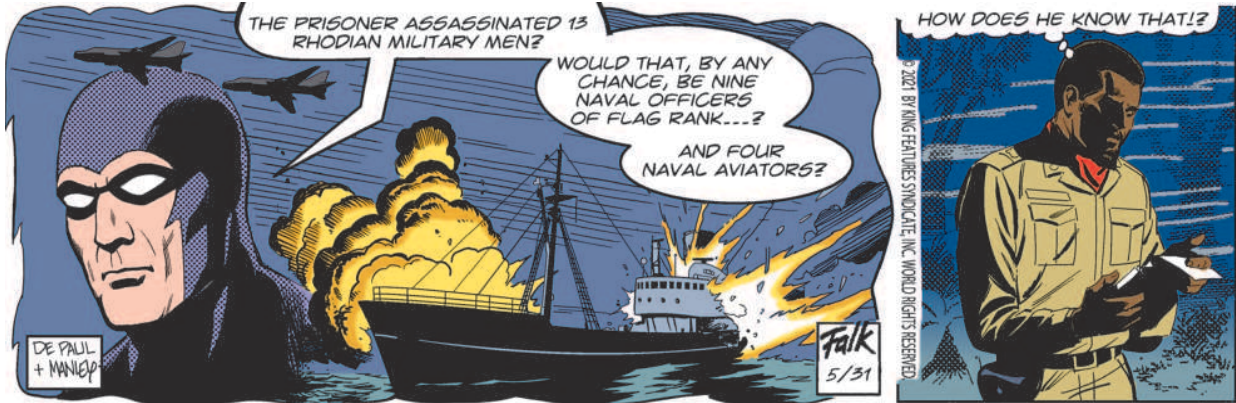
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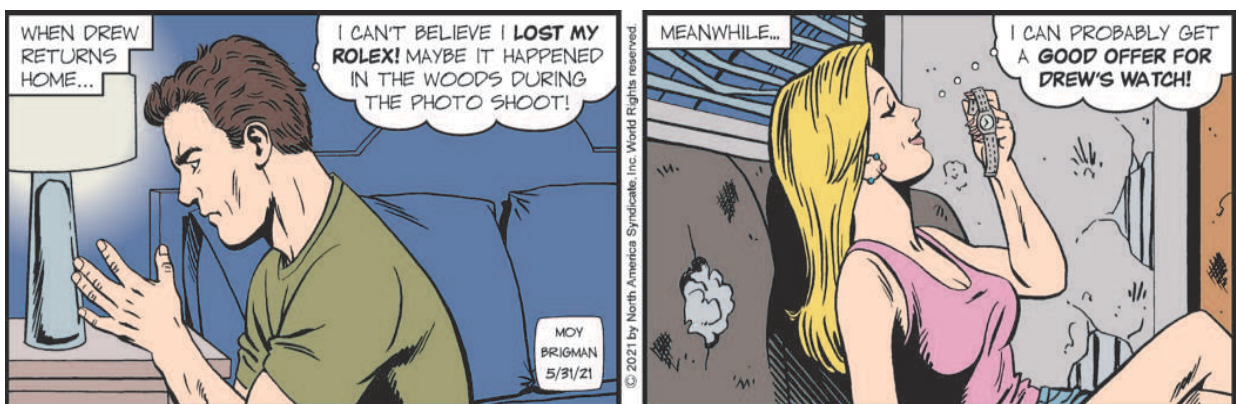
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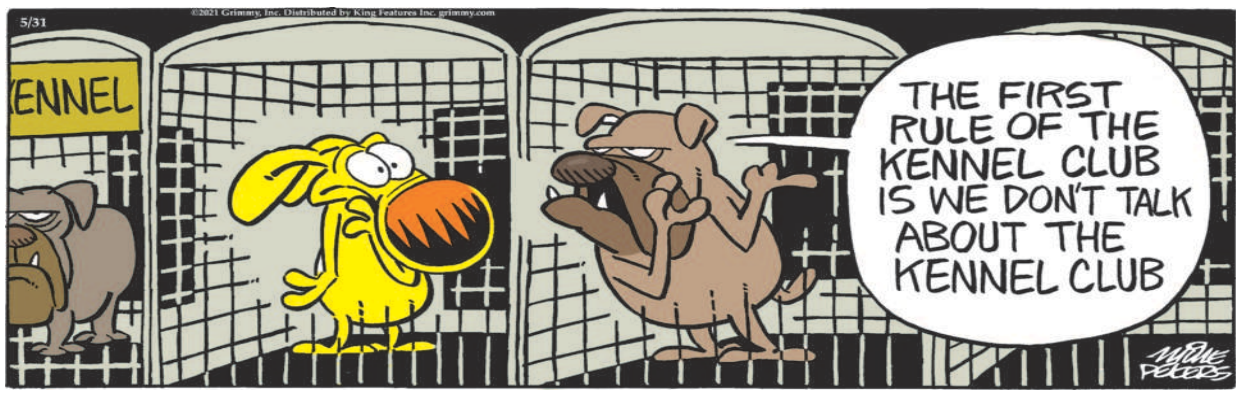
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MARY WORTH



MOTHER GOOSE



Monday May 31, 2021

SAFETY ELEVATED

ANSA Motors' Kia K2700 truck gets a Tommy Gate

AS a supplier of quality and reliable safety supplies since 1966, Safety Supply Co. Inc. has partnered with ANSA Motors and Consolidated Finance to provide yet again another safety tool, the Tommy Gate, which will bring an ease to many as it redefines lifting.

In observance of 55 years of providing excellent products, the company aims at being instrumental in forging a future that will change how people think regarding health and safety, not as a tiresome expense, but a standard modus operandi. The partnership features the sturdy Tommy Gate hydraulic lift, provided by Safety Supply Co., installed on

the ANSA Motors' Kia K2700 flatbed truck and financed by Consolidated Finance in one easy payment.

Digital Media Specialist, Safety Supply Co. Inc., Zuwena Perry-Willet, during the launch of the partnership this past weekend at the ANSA Motors Kia Showroom, explained that the Tommy Gate was of such a high standard, that coupled with the service provided by Safety Supply, had outlasted many vehicles. Expressing it as a privilege to be partnering with ANSA Motors and Consolidated Finance, she highlighted that safety concerns due to lifting were alleviated by the Tommy Gate,

TOMMY GATE on Page 9



Digital Media Specialist, Safety Supply Co. Inc., Zuwena Perry-Willet.

Give students the same fair shot

CHILD Rights Advocate, Faith Marshall-Harris, wants every student sitting this year's 11-Plus Exam, and CXC's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) to be given a fair shot.

However, she is worried that this might not be the case, since the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly revealed that social and digital inequalities persist.

The Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) told the FMH Sandy Lane Charitable Trust Children's Helpline recognition ceremony on Saturday, "I am worried that the situation becomes inequitable... One of the things we learned on the Helpline, which was a great surprise to some of us, was that if you talk about online learning, you create an immediate divide in this country.

"In our work in 2020, we tried giving out devices. But we often found that we gave out the devices, but quite often, they had no connectivity. So, sometimes they were going next door, standing outside, and hoping to log on. And worst of all, whereas electricity is all over Barbados, a number of persons could not pay the electric bill – it's as simple as that. So, the online learning is really for those who could afford it. And that is why I'm saying that if you're talking about an examination, based largely on online learning, there will be inequities."

Mrs. Marshall-Harris went on to point out that the 11-Plus, while well intended at the beginning, has led to a certain amount of elitism, explaining: "That is, those who could afford it did better.

FAIR SHOT on Page 10



Safety Supply Co. Inc. has partnered with ANSA Motors and Consolidated Finance to provide yet again another safety tool, the Tommy Gate, which will redefine lifting. Key Account Manager, Safety Supply Co. Inc., Deshon Sargeant and Gordon Spencer, Sales Manager, ANSA Motors, explain the process of operating the Tommy Gate lift.