

LERROY KING PLEADS GUILTY

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GPH KICKS OFF WITH MAJOR COMMITMENT TO UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS!



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, along with Minister of Tourism, The Hon. Charles Fernandez held a substantive meeting with the Chairman for Global Ports Holding (GPH) Mr. Mehmet Kutman and GPH Executives.

Kutman, who is here on a site visit in Antigua used the opportunity to sit with PM Browne and Minister Fernandez to provide an update with the Cruise Port rehabilitation plans.

Global Ports Holding Plc ("GPH"), the world's largest independent cruise port operator commenced their work here in Antigua and Barbuda and continues the strong dialogue with stakeholders within St. John's. The company's chief recommitted to financing the completion of the new pier that will be capable of berthing the largest, 5,000+ passenger vessels in the cruise industry. This will allow Antigua to handle the world's largest cruise ships.

Mr. Kutman noted that since the agreement between Antigua and GPH went public, a number of other islands are engaged in talks with the company. **cont'd on page 5**

WEATHER FORECAST

DAY 1/31	°F	NIGHT 1/31	°F
 84° Hi RealFeel® 92° RealFeel Shade™ 86°		 71° Lo RealFeel® 77°	
Partly sunny and pleasant		Mainly clear	
Max UV Index: 6 High Wind: E at 5 mph Wind Gusts: 10 mph Probability of Precipitation: 2% Probability of Thunderstorms: 0% Precipitation: 0.00 in Rain: 0.00 in Snow: 0.0 in Ice: 0.00 in		Wind: ENE at 6 mph Wind Gusts: 10 mph Probability of Precipitation: 2% Probability of Thunderstorms: 0% Precipitation: 0.00 in Rain: 0.00 in Snow: 0.0 in Ice: 0.00 in	

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST

6:39 AM

Sunset AST

6:02 PM

Duration

11:23 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST

11:01 AM

Moonset AST

11:37 PM

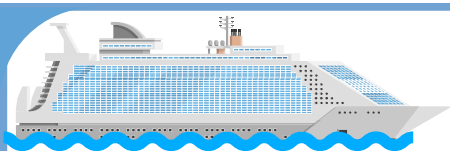
Duration

12:36 hr

POINTE FM RADIO










Broadcasting from the Point Community

Highlights

5AM - 6AM - TRUTH AND PRAISE GOSPEL**7AM - 9AM - TIME OUT****10AM - 1PM - TALKING POINT****1PM - 4PM - DRIVE POINT****4PM - 6PM - PULL UP SHOW****6:30PM - NIGHTLY NEWS****8PM - 10PM - REAL TALK**

Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2019

Date Cruise Ship Arrive-Depart

31 January, 2020 Friday	 MSC Preziosa	08:00	18:00
1 February, 2020 Saturday	 Anthem of the Seas	08:00	17:00
2 February, 2020 Sunday	 Marella Celebration	08:00	18:00
2 February, 2020 Sunday	 Norwegian Epic	10:00	18:00
3 February, 2020 Monday	 Azura	07:00	17:00
3 February, 2020 Monday	 Celebrity Reflection	08:00	16:00
4 February, 2020 Tuesday	 Costa Magica	07:00	17:00
4 February, 2020 Tuesday	 Serenade Of The Seas	08:00	17:00
4 February, 2020 Tuesday	 AIDAperla	08:00	18:00

The Living Word

Strengthening Weak Knees

Read: Isaiah 35:1-4 (NIV) | Bible in a Year: Exodus 23-24; Matthew 20:1-16

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way. Isaiah 35:3

When I was a kid, I thought the song title "He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need," written by Dottie Rambo in 1967, was "He Looked Beyond My Faults and Saw My Knees." Employing the logic of a child, I wondered why God would look at knees. Was it because they were weak? I knew that weak-kneed meant "afraid." I later discovered that Dottie had written the song about God's unconditional love in response to her brother Eddie's belief that he was unlovable because of the wrong things he'd done. Dottie assured him that God saw his weakness but loved him anyway.

God's unconditional love is apparent throughout the many weak-kneed moments of the people of Israel and Judah. He sent prophets like Isaiah with messages for His wayward people. In Isaiah 35, the prophet shares the hope of God's restoration. The encouragement that would come as a result of embracing hope would "strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way" (v. 3). Through the encouragement they received, God's people would in turn be able to encourage others. This is why Isaiah instructs in verse 4, "Say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear.'"

Feeling weak-kneed? Talk to your heavenly Father. He strengthens weak knees through the truth of the Scriptures and the power of His presence. You'll then be able to encourage others.

Leroy King pleads guilty



Leroy King

The former chief of the Financial Services Regulatory Commission, Leroy King has admitted his role in the Stanford International Bank Ponzi scheme.

74 year old King of Dickenson Bay, pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice in US Federal Court on Thursday.

King, who was extradited to the United States last November, admits he conspired with R. Allen Stanford and others to obstruct the Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC investigation into Stanford

International Bank.

Beginning in approximately 2002, King served as administrator and CEO of the FSRC.

From at least 2003 through February 2009, Stanford made regular secret corrupt payments of thousands of dollars in cash and gifts to King in order to obtain his assistance in hiding the truth about the companies from the SEC and other regulatory agencies.

Over the course of the conspiracy, Stanford's cash payments to King totaled more than half-a-million US dollars.

Customs broker blacklisted

The customs broker who has been at the centre of a major conspiracy that defrauded the Customs Division of millions of dollars...has been blacklisted from doing further business with the department.

Making the announcement is Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, who said he is unable to disclose the identity of the affected individual because a case against him is being heard in the High Court in camera.

The broker is believed to have master-minded a scheme that robbed customs of approximately \$3.2 million over a period of several years.

According to Boddu, the matter came to light last February when he received a phone call from one of the broker's client who claimed that items where being cleared in his company's name, with concessions, without his permission or knowledge.

"We (the Customs Division) started digging and this led to more stories coming out against 'a couple of brokers', one a big firm and the others being smaller operators," he revealed. Stating that he is unable to provide names as the investigation is ongoing, Boddu explained that the broker found a way to work around the system to commit the fraud. Luckily, he said, the law allows the customs division to go back as far as seven years to review documentation supplied by brokers and others clearing goods.

He added that thanks to the



Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu (Far left) and senior officers hold press conference

ASYCUDA programme the scheme was unearthed and the department devised a strategy to bring the culprit to face the law.

Boddu further disclosed that the broker has been sued by a client and that it was the judge was decided to hear the matter behind closed doors. The judge has also frozen some six of the man's bank accounts pending the outcome of the case.

"Because that particular case is sub judice we cannot issue an injunction or block him from doing business with us, however, we have solid evidence of other wrong doings that gives us the right to bar this broker from doing further business with customs," the Comptroller declared.

He said the affected businesses are cooperating fully with his department as they have provided documentary evidence to support that assertion that

they too were duped by the broker.

He promised that at the resolution of the case the identify of the broker will be made public.

In explaining the scheme, Boddu said it was not a case where monies were paid into customs and then someone stole it. Rather it was a situation where if an item was assessed and the total due to customs was \$1000.00, only \$600.00 of that was actually paid in with the remaining \$400.00 ending up in someone's pockets.

The customs boss also issued a warning 'to all stakeholders' who do business with the department. "Don't think that we are sleeping. Our Risk management and post clearance teams are working overtime to identify fraud and we will get you! You may think that you have duped us, but those days are over!" he emphasized.

Coronavirus, security discussed by ECCAA ministers



Aviation Minister, SIR Robin Yearwood, chairs ECCAA meeting in St. John's

The global concerns over the coronavirus and its possible impact on the sub-region were among matters discussed by Ministers of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) at a meeting in St John's on Thursday.

In attendance were ministers from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St Kitts-Nevis, Grenada and St Lucia along with representatives from the ECCAA Secretariat in St John's and the local ministry of aviation.

The ministers discussed the strengthening of protocols at their various airports to prevent the importation of the virus into their

respective countries. There was also a recommendation that similar safety measures should be put in place for cruise ship passengers visiting the sub-region.

Director of ECCAA, Donald McPhail, said the meeting look at what he called a 'one-stop' security procedure that would allow passengers traveling by air throughout the OECS and Barbados to do one security check and forego further checks on their travels.

He explained that the idea is to have the measure introduced in the OECS countries and over time, expand to the wider CARICOM region. This measure

would however require legislation as well as bilateral or multilateral agreements.

The ECCAA is also reviewing several of its relationships with other sectors, including the one with Trinidad and Tobago which is responsible for the airspace in the Caribbean 24500 feet and above.

The ministers spent time discussing the road ahead for ECCAA, its challenges and how these may be overcome particularly with the use of new technologies.

The Antigua and Barbuda team was led by Aviation Minister, Hon. Robin Yearwood.

A&B students returning from China could face quarantine

Coronavirus – the current trigger of much international panic and scores of deaths – was the subject of discussion during the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 28 January.

Ministers were briefed by the Chief Medical Officer about the country's readiness to minimize harm to citizens and residents, should the deadly pathogen spread to Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas told the government's policy-making nucleus about the multi-stakeholder approach that has been taken, as evidenced by

the establishment of a task force.

That body includes representatives of the ministries of health, foreign affairs, tourism, immigration; the Customs and Excise Department; the Port Authority; the Airport Authority; and the Police.

Anyone entering Antigua and Barbuda who is suspected of carrying the virus is to be quarantined or asked to stay indoors for two-weeks, thereby limiting contact with all others. Special protective gear is to be provided to healthcare workers, since they are considered among those most at risk.

During Thursday's post-Cabinet press briefing, Information Minister Melford Nicholas disclosed that authorities were closely monitoring advance passenger information to track the places persons have been or visited before coming to Antigua and Barbuda, in order to evaluate the risk that they may have been exposed to the virus.

He said the relevant government agencies were in touch with the roughly 102 Antiguan and Barbudan students known to be on scholarship in the People's Republic of China where the current coronavirus outbreak began.

Cont'd on page 5

Boddu rejects 'Cover-Up' claims

Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, is rejecting claims of 'cover-up' in the case where a Customs and Excise Division officer was shot in what is believed to have been an attempt on his life.

Boddu, who was speaking at a press conference this week, chided sections of the media for fermenting and encouraging members of the public to make statements about the customs division that were untrue.

He said the officer, Cornel Benjamin, is recovering well from his wounds in a Jamaican hospital. Benjamin was rushed to Jamaica for medical care after he was shot at his home on October 13 last year. It is largely suspected that he was targeted because he was part of the investigative team inquiring into the fraud that robbed the government of millions of dollars.

The officer was removed from

the ICU this week and placed on the regular ward. His recovery is coming along well, but according to Boddu, he will need physical therapy.

The Comptroller, who has naturalized to be an Antigua and Barbuda citizen, said he was born in the world's largest democracy, India, and he holds strong beliefs in democracy, including freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

However, he totally rejects suggestions made in the media that there have been attempts to 'sweep under the carpet' the circumstances surrounding the investigation into the fraud and the shooting.

"Many times, I have had to restrain myself from responding when I hear people on the radio talking nothing but lies. I have always been encouraged with the term 'let there be light', however, lately the light has dimmed



Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu,

and people are just groping in the dark," he remarked.

Boddu said he is open to questions about anything having to do with the operations of the division and he much rather to be asked the question rather than have people speculate on the media with 'irresponsible statements'.

from page 1, GPH kicks off with major commitment to UWI Five Islands Campus!

In commenting on the partnership between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and GPH, Prime Minister Browne said: "let us strive to ensure that this partnership is a shining example for all within the region."

During the briefing, GPH recommitted their support to the holistic development of Antigua and Barbuda with their interest in the further development of The UWI Five Islands Campus.

Mr. Kutman pledged an initial injection of 1 million to the

University Fund, beginning with the construction of The UWI Five Islands Campus dorms for local and regional students.

PM Browne noted that this investment will be at the tune of some 8 million EC dollars with construction commencing within 30 days.

"We have a number of students from the OECS set to begin studies at Five Islands in September. The availability of dorms will be essential," PM Browne commented. Mr. Kutman also recommitted to

the kick start of the Small Business Fund which they will make available through the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank.

"This fund will be accessible for small businesses within the tourism industry," Mr. Kutman announced.

The executives highlighted that GPH will continue to use its global expertise and operating model to manage the cruise port operations in Antigua and Barbuda while investing in improving and adding to the port's retail facilities.

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Nicholas added that meetings have been held with parents of some of those students. "There are some parents who are of the view that their child or children would be safer at home here in Antigua ... To the extent that they are able to facilitate a return of those students to Antigua, then obviously the necessary protocols will obtain; and it may involve, in some instances, certain types of quarantine."

The Information Minister however stressed that, to date, there have no

known incidents, cases or reports of any persons arriving in Antigua and Barbuda who have been exposed to or affected by coronavirus. "We are watching it with keen eyes and, should an event happen, we think we're in a good position already to respond, to contain and certainly to manage any outbreak. We still remain hopeful that within the coming weeks an effective antidote to this infection would be found."

Due to previous alerts for other

deadly international viral epidemics – such as SARS, Swine Flu, H1N1 and Ebola – Antigua and Barbuda and several other countries, though never directly affected by these outbreaks, had already put in place preparedness and response mechanisms that can now be activated and mobilized to defend against threats of a similar form and nature – as coronavirus is, in many respects, considered to be.

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QUARTER PAGE & 3 MENTIONS	300.00	420.00
CENTER SPREAD & 3 RADIO ADS OR 6 MENTIONS	1,780.00	2,900.00

PROMOTION RUNS FROM FEB 03-21, 2020

Timetable Set For Medical Insurance

A timetable has been set when the proposed National Health Insurance scheme will likely come into being.

This follows a meeting of the Steering Committee that was held today at the office of the Medical Benefits Scheme. The committee, in collaboration with Health and Wellness Minister, Hon. Molwyn Joseph looked at several aspects concerning the NHI and it has set the third quarter of 2020 as the period it is hoping to see the venture roll out.

Prior to this, the committee plans to hold a series of public consultations on the policy to gather input from the general populace on this critical policy initiative by the government. It is expected that the first consultation will take place in April.

The steering committee is made up of individuals from several statutory bodies and private businesses, including the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS), the Mount St John Medical Center (MSJMC), the Health Ministry, trade unions, the pharmaceutical industry, and the Nurses Association,



among others.

The steering committee is headed by the CEO at MBS, Kevin Silston.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Rhonda Sealy Thomas will serve as his deputy.

APUA shoulders millions more in debt to avoid US hostility against Huawei

Antigua and Barbuda values its relationship with the United States of America just as it does its ties with the People's Republic of China and does not want to get caught up in the trade and other tensions that have sprung up between these two global economic giants.

That in essence was the position enunciated by Prime Minister Gaston Brown on his radio program, the Browne and Browne Show, when he disclosed that the Antigua and Barbuda Public Utilities Authority had decided to forego significant financial advantages that a deal with the Chinese telecommunications multinational giant Huawei would have brought.

The reason, according to Browne, was to avoid rankling the US, which has placed heavy economic sanctions and trade restrictions on Huawei over allegations that its technology is being used for anti-western spying and espionage.

"The People's Republic of China have never approached us to take any action against the United States, or to utilize Antigua and Barbuda to undermine the security interests of the United States or any other country ... They can't even say, for example, that we have engaged Huawei and Huawei can utilize spyware and so on to get into their internet system and to spy on US technology and so on; because they don't have any such infrastructure here. And, truth be told, [Huawei] tried to negotiate with us but, out of an abundance of caution, we have chosen not to go with [them]."

PM Browne said this was proof, if any were needed, that Antigua and Barbuda has been "taking the interests of the United States into consideration.

"They made a claim that Huawei has been spying on them and stealing their technology and so on. We don't know that to be true. We don't want to get into that type of geopolitical

exchange. We have said to APUA that instead of going with Huawei which would have been cheaper and faster and for which we would have gotten funding for it from China ... we have literally had to forego that type of concessional loan [2%] in order to upgrade our telecoms. So now we have to borrow close to US\$40 million at about 8%, and we are only doing so in order to avoid getting into any sort of contention with the United States."

Two percent of \$40 million is \$800,000, while 8% of that principal sum is \$3.2 million. This means that in foregoing the Huawei deal in favor of a more expensive option in order to appease possible US hostility, APUA has taken on an additional US\$2.4 million or almost EC\$6.5 million worth of debt than would have been necessary without consideration of backlash from the China-US trade war.

Wellness getaway experience brings US travellers to Antigua for #FabBodyRetreat



In an exciting opportunity to showcase Antigua and Barbuda's wellness attributes, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has partnered with US based gym 'Fab Body Factory' by Deanna Robinson Fitness', to welcome fifty women from across the United States to Antigua and Barbuda for the third installment of the annual FabBody Retreat taking place from January 29 – February 2, 2020.

The FabBody Retreat is a wellness retreat for women that offers the ultimate combination of fitness, wellness, and fun. It is an action-packed and empowering vacation, with #fabBody workouts coordinated by Fab Body Factory gym fitness trainers, to include, Brittane Brooks, Sihnuu Hetep, Rachel Miller, M'Balia Rucker, Amber Mays, Khanesha Mabin, and Hope Dews-Taylor.

The hosting of the trip comes as the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority continues to focus on the wellness tourism market and capitalizing on Antigua and Barbuda's natural attributes to entice travelers seeking to incorporate wellness into their travels.

Health and Wellness Expert and Founder of the Fab Body Factory Gym and FabBody Retreat, Deanna Robinson said, "This is our first year coming to Antigua. We are super

excited; we have fifty ladies and we are going to be doing all things wellness for the next four days. We have boat trips planned, workouts on the beach, yoga, empowerment seminars, everything wellness. And, we are just super excited to be here in Antigua."

Robinson promises participants an action-packed and empowering vacation, with #fabBody workouts coordinated by Fab Body Factory gym fitness trainers, to include, Brittane Brooks, Sihnuu Hetep, Rachel Miller, M'Balia Rucker, Amber Mays, Khanesha Mabin, and Hope Dews-Taylor.

Activities will include a hike to Fort Barrington, exercise workouts, yoga and meditation sessions on the beach and a day tour to Cade's Reef for snorkeling and sun-bathing. A

visit to the Five Islands Primary Schools for engagement with the students is also planned.

The FabBody Retreat group is being hosted at Royalton Antigua Resort & Spa.

St. John's Rural North Community Meetings Notice : February 2020

The Hon. H. Charles Fernandez, Parliamentary Representative will be hosting his monthly community meetings on the following days:

Hon. H. Charles Fernandez, Parliamentary Representative will be hosting his monthly community meetings on the following days:

- **Constituency Day** - Thursday 7th February 2020. 3pm - Cedar Grove
- **Yorks Community Meeting** - Tuesday 11th February, 2020. 7:30 pm – Yorks community Center.
- **Cedar Grove Community Meeting** - Thursday 13th February, 2020 7:30 pm – Cedar Grove Primary school.

All residents are invited to attend and hear the MP outline his plans for the constituency as well as to give updates on the government's plan for the country.

Looking forward to seeing you there...



EDITORIAL by Sir Ronald Sanders

Lies in the OAS contest: sifting the wheat from the chaff

If ever there was a time in global politics when governments did not indulge in deliberately and maliciously running smear campaigns against candidates they oppose for international positions, it has now passed.

Indeed, powerful countries, that should be able to use their vast diplomatic machinery to argue the merits of candidates they support, are the ones that now employ tactics of character assassination and the use of agents in the media and elsewhere to discredit contenders who they oppose.

These agents are either uniformed and gullible; are compensated for their collaboration; or they have benefited from favours in the past and are hoping to be rewarded in the future.

In the case of the current campaigning for the post of Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States (OAS), the larger and more powerful states of the organisation that are anxious to re-elect their ally, Luis Almagro, for the advancement of a very narrow, ideological political agenda, have pulled out all the stops to revile Maria Fernanda Espinosa, the lone woman in the three-cornered race.

To be clear, the Government of Canada, one of the countries that makes the largest contributions to the OAS, is not one of the governments that has stooped to this low level. Two other, large financial contributors – Mexico and Argentina – have joined many Caribbean countries in unequivocally backing Ms. Espinosa.

The fear of losing Mr. Almagro, as what the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper recently described in an Editorial, as their “opinionated ideologue”, has driven his backers to new heights of calumny.

Previously, the claim was made that, in nominating Ms. Espinosa for the OAS post, the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and St Vincent and the Grenadines are operating as surrogates for Cuba and Venezuela. It is worth my repeating that, in nominating Ms. Espinosa,



(The writer, Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)

only other CARICOM governments were consulted. Our governments have an obligation under the CARICOM Treaty to coordinate our foreign policy positions with other CARICOM governments and we do so steadfastly. We would have as much objection to the governments of Cuba and Venezuela trying to dictate to us as we have to any other government attempting to do so. Perhaps the concept of small countries valuing their sovereignty is too difficult for big countries to appreciate.

The smearing of Ms. Espinosa has since escalated. The most recent slur is that the Government of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) is paying her to seek the OAS job. Hence, Antigua and Barbuda and St Vincent and the Grenadines must be party to this Chinese scheme. The fact that St Vincent and the Grenadines has diplomatic relations with Taiwan and not the PRC, is an inconvenient reality that is brushed aside by those promoting this false narrative.

The other more pertinent fact that is suppressed is that the government of the PRC is a permanent observer to

the OAS, and it contributes financially to the Organisation with no strings attached. None of the OAS member states object to accepting the PRC's money.

Nonetheless, the smearers of Ms. Espinosa's character claim that she received an award from China that had a financial component. The truth is that she received the award from Rehabilitation International, a non-governmental organisation headquartered in New York, that works to empower people with disabilities. She was nominated for the award by several UN Ambassadors for her active work on disabilities while serving as President of the UN General Assembly.

This was one of several awards bestowed upon Ms Espinosa for her work at the UN. As recently as January 30, she was recognized at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, along with Baroness Emma Nicholson, as a woman who has made an international impact. She received an award from the Zions Bank, which has Mormon origins in Salt Lake City. It is left to be seen whether she will now be accused of being an instrument of the Mormon Church of the Latter-day Saints.

Another claim directed at Ms. Espinosa is that her husband, Eduardo Mangas, is “a close advisor” to Daniel Ortega's “anti-democratic” regime in Nicaragua. The facts reveal a different story. Mr. Mangas was a UN official for several years before taking up a one-year appointment in Nicaragua, the country of his birth, in 2009. But, as in all campaigns designed to defame, twisting information to create a false impression is par for the course. In any event, even if Mr. Mangas was an adviser to the Ortega government at one point, what turns on that? Many others have been key advisers to other governments, and those relationships have since ended. Are they and their spouses to be measured eternally by the governments for which they once worked?

To be clear, the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and St Vincent
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All Saints Police Station relocates temporarily

The administration of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is hereby informing the general public that with immediate effect, operations at the All Saints Police Station is temporarily relocated to a building directly opposite the Midway Service Station at Clark's Hill.

On Thursday 30th January 2020, a brief ceremony was held on the site to mark the official opening. Acting Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney, in his remarks, thanked the Government of Antigua and Barbuda through the Ministry of Works for making it possible for the officers at All Saints Police Station to have a more conducive environment in which to work. He further stressed the importance for the police to be in a comfortable position to effectively serve the residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

Commissioner Rodney thanked the residents of All Saints, Freeman's Village, Seaview Farm, Clark's Hill and other surrounding areas served



by the All Saints Police Station for their patience and cooperation for the short period the original station was closed.

In June of 2019, the Police Administration made a decision to close operations at All Saints Police

Station and temporarily relocated the officers to Liberta Police Station because of unfit working conditions. Residents within the area can now look forward to conducting business in a more suitable environment.

PM supports Special Olympics



On Thursday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne welcomed young St. Ives Browne, Antigua and Barbuda's Special Olympics Gold and Silver medalist at his office on Queen Elizabeth Highway.

Joining the special athlete were Tony Wyllie- President and Managing Director, Special Olympics North America, Lisa Makhoul, Marketing Manager, Arton Capital, Corporate Partner Special Olympics

International, Mr. Jamille Nelson, local Special Olympics Coach, and executives.

The courtesy call meeting examined ways the government of Antigua and Barbuda could partner with the international athletic organization in strengthening their inclusive development work in the Caribbean, highlighting the key leadership of the Antigua and

Barbuda.

During the meeting, PM Browne committed his full support to the program, with an additional commitment to the creation of a fundraising event in Antigua and Barbuda to support Special Olympics Antigua and Barbuda and Special Olympics Caribbean.

Prime Minister Browne, also pledged the support of the Ministry of Sports to the integration of a unified partner's platform for Special Olympics.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented by a host of athletes at the last Special Olympics World Games, with Mr. St. Ives Browne capturing the 200m Gold medal in Division 2 and 100m Silver medal in Division 3.

PM Browne expressed his immense pride at the achievements of the young athlete and gave congratulatory best wishes to St. Ives and his father who was also present at the meeting.

Regional

Grenada, poised for significant future growth, reports stellar tourism performance in 2019



The three-island nation's industry shows continued growth with increased stayover arrival numbers, the addition of new flights and the expansion of the destination's hotel portfolio

2018 was a record-breaking year for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique as the three-island destination welcomed more than half a million total visitors to its shores. Building on this solid foundation, supported by continued aggressive public relations and marketing efforts to attract target audiences, Grenada maintained its growth momentum in 2019 which resulted in a preliminary total visitor number of 525,453 as released by the Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) today.

Stayover visitor arrivals, which are considered the most valuable visitor in terms of on-island spend, accounted for 162,902, a 1% increase over 2018's bumper growth (10%) of 160,970 arrivals. With the addition of American Airlines' new direct service from Charlotte's Douglas International Airport and considering that one of the largest hotels on island, the Rex Grenadian, has been closed for refurbishment since May 2019, this is

a good indication of the destination's growth and high demand with intrepid travelers.

As the market share increases, so will Grenada's accommodations portfolio with the addition of The Royalton Grenada hotel, scheduled to open on March 1, 2020 as the largest hotel on island with 269 rooms. Sandals Grenada with 257 rooms and Radisson Grenada Beach Hotel with 227 rooms will be the second and third largest hotels on island respectively. The destination will also be home to the Kimpton Kawana Bay hotel which will have 220 rooms with construction well underway on the world famous Grand Anse Beach and 100 rooms will be available by December 2020.

Cruise visitor arrivals accounted for 337,940 maintaining solid numbers after 2018's record growth (15%) of 342,826. Plans are in place for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line (RCCL) to increase visits from 19 cruise calls in 2019 to 29 cruise calls in 2020 with Celebrity Cruises and Royal Caribbean International. Carnival Corporation's Carnival Fascination cruise ship is planning 12 new calls to Grenada throughout the year 2021.

Grenada continues its stellar growth in yachting with preliminary

visitor arrivals currently at 24,611. With the expansion of Camper and Nicholson's marina of 160 berths, with an additional 90 completed, the world class facility at Port Louis is gearing up for major growth in the sector.

GTA's Chief Executive Officer, Patricia Maher, stated that tourism prospects are excellent for the destination, not just for 2020 but beyond, with the announcement of a Six Senses Hotel to open in 2022. This upscale 100-room hotel project is part of a two hotel development plan at La Sagesse in the beautiful parish of St. David's. It will be the first Six Senses brand hotel in the Caribbean. Recently, the destination was named "Top 12 to watch in 2020" in the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) Travel Trends Report 2020, the only Caribbean destination to be included in the UK global benchmark report since 2018.

Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, noted the destination's tourism partners and the industry's allied members are looking forward to significant future growth plans throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique taking into account all the new developments in the stayover, cruise and yachting sectors.

Guyana producing “approx. 75,000 barrels” of oil per day – To reach full capacity in the coming months

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hess Corporation, John Hess, says Guyana’s Liza Phase One [oil] production continues to ramp up with current gross production pegged at approximately 75,000 barrels of oil per day.

During the company’s fourth quarter earnings call for 2019, he said that production is expected to reach the Liza Destiny FPSO capacity of 120,000 barrels of oil per day in the coming months. For the full year 2020, he said that Hess forecasts its net production to average approximately 25,000 barrels of oil per day.

Further to this, Hess reminded that it was on December 20, 2019 that the Liza Phase One development achieved first production, while noting that his company recognizes this pivotal moment in Guyana’s history.

On this note, he said, “...And (we) are committed to working collaboratively with the government, our partners and the people of

Guyana to build a safe and sustainable industry that fulfills the promise of shared prosperity.”

Turning his attention to the Liza Phase Two project, Hess said that the development is progressing to plan.

He said that on January 13, the hull for the Liza Unity FPSO, which will have a capacity of 220,000 barrels of oil per day arrived at the Keppel yard in Singapore.

The CEO said that construction of all 13 deck modules is currently underway.

Meanwhile, in Guyana, Hess said that installation of subsea flow lines and equipment is underway while adding that development drilling is expected to begin next month. “We continue to forecast first oil by mid-2022,” the CEO added.

Pending government approvals and project sanctioning, the Chief Executive Officer said that a third development at Payara is planned to utilize a FPSO with a gross production capacity of 220,000 barrels



Hess Corporation CEO, John Hess

of oil per day with first oil as early as 2023. Together with Hammerhead, discoveries on the southeast portion of the block including Turbot, Yellowtail, Longtail, Pluma, Tilapia and Tripletail will underpin future FPSOs. (Kaieteur News)

Jail time for man who threatened to behead Bermuda Premier

BERMUDA – A man who threatened to behead David Burt, the Premier, was sentenced to a year behind bars yesterday and probation.

The Supreme Court heard that Jared Gordon, 30, had already spent about 18 months in prison since his arrest for threats to the premier.

But Puisne Judge Charles-Etta Simmons said he was not to be released from custody until at least February 7, because he had nowhere to go.

Gordon said he planned to move in with his parents, but the court heard he had been charged in Magistrates’ Court with threatening his father.

Mrs Justice Simmons said she hoped the additional time would allow Gordon to arrange somewhere to stay so he could begin his two-year probation period. The probation conditions included an order that Gordon get psychiatric help.

Gordon wrote a series of e-mails in 2017 and 2018 where he threatened to “put a hole” in the Premier’s head and that he would behead him with a hacksaw. Gordon lived in England at the time of the offences.

Gordon pleaded guilty to two counts of sending threatening messages last April. The case was adjourned so a neuropsychological report could be carried out.

Karen Deane, for the prosecution, said the test results showed no sign of abnormality and asked for a sentence of between two and four years.

She argued part of the Crown’s responsibility was to separate “genuine madness and badness”. She said: “The Crown’s position is that the defendant knew what he was doing at the time of the offence.

“He may not have appreciated how his actions would be received, but he cannot go around telling people



Bermuda’s Premier, David Burt

that he would chop people’s heads off with a hacksaw.”

But Simone Smith-Bean, for Gordon, said, even if Gordon were sentenced to two years in prison, he would already have served 18 months — more than two-thirds of that sentence — and would be eligible for immediate release.

Gordon was arrested in May 2018 and was remanded in custody until he raised bail on August 23 last year.

He was remanded again on November 21 and his bail was cancelled because of the charge involving his father. *Cont’d on page 13*

Medium-term development strategy to be launched in Saint Lucia

The Government of Saint Lucia is banking on a soon to be launched 2019 – 2022 document known as the Medium-Term Development Strategy to improve the socio-economic landscape of the country.

That document came out of a series of consultations with private and public sector stakeholders and includes what Claudius Emmanuel, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs says are six key result areas which are deemed critical in taking the country forward over the 2019 – 2022 period.

“These would have emerged out of consultations we had back in 2018 and the six areas are agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, education, health and citizen security,” Emmanuel said.

That document is not yet complete, as noted by Emmanuel. In his words ‘it’s nearing completion with a plan to have it launched in February 2020 with a donor symposium.’

Key providers of finance will be invited to the launch as finance will be needed to push the six areas outlined.

Associated with the Medium-Term Development Strategy is an initiative with the World Economic Fund which will involve the development of a country financing road map.

“It is an initiative developed by the Prime Minister in terms of being able to mobilize what we call climate financing,” Emmanuel said, adding that there is a lot of money associated with climate change, however the problem is to tap into or access those monies.

“Saint Lucia is to serve as a pilot, an initiative seen to benefit other small islands. We are getting support from the UN World Economic Fund as well as our permanent representative to the United Nations,” Emmanuel said.

He said the country’s financial roadmap has already been established with a secretariat and a task force. The plan is to have baseline assessments. The task force will be composed of key officials from the leading multi-national financial institutions.

That meeting of international financiers is scheduled for Washington, USA in April of this year with a proposed session sometime in September in Saint Lucia. (The Voice News)

From page 12

Mrs Smith-Bean said that the court-ordered report suggested her client may have autism spectrum disorder but further assessment would be needed.

Mrs Justice Simmons said that the court did not ignore mental health problems, but that it was restricted by limited options.

She added: “That is the reason why this court would give a sentence of imprisonment that is shorter than it might otherwise be and probation, because within the structure of probation they can get the help that is available on the island.

“They cannot possibly get help that isn’t available. I cannot wave a wand and

make that type of help appear.

“But I also cannot let the defendant just walk away because we are deficient in providing treatment services for the defendant.” (The Royal Gazette)

COMMUNITY NOTICE

The National Solid Waste Management Authority would like to remind the general public of the ongoing marking and further removal of derelict vehicles across the country. Please bear in mind that there are legislations in place for such situations and individuals are asked to follow the rules and regulations that precede this initiative. We are thereby reminding individuals of the section of the Litter Control and Prevention Act which speaks to derelict vehicles and ask them to adhere to section 13 of the Litter Control and Prevention Act listed below. We are also asking individuals to use the hash tag #Nolitterknowlitter in all related posts.

Litter Control and Prevention Act, 2019. No. 3 of 2019, Section 13

13. Removal of Derelict Vehicles from a public place

(1) Where any derelict vehicle is left in any public place in such circumstances as to cause, contribute to or tend to the defacement of the environment by reason of the presence of such derelict vehicle, the local authority may give notice to the owner or last known owner of the derelict vehicle requiring him to remove the derelict vehicle from the public place within twenty-four hours of such notice.

(2) Where the last known owner cannot be determined or cannot be found, a notice shall be placed on the said derelict vehicle advising the owner that if the said vehicle is not removed within forty eight hours, it will be removed by the authorities.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) and (2) the authorities may at any time without giving notice remove any derelict vehicle found in any public place or premises.

Let us continue to work together for a cleaner Antigua and Barbuda.

International

Brexit: What will change after today, 31 January 2020

LONDON (BBC) – The UK formally leaves the European Union (EU) at 23:00 on Friday, 31 January. But it will immediately enter an 11-month transition period.

During the transition the UK will continue to obey EU rules and pay money to the EU. Most things will stay the same but there will be some changes.

1. UK MEPs lose their seats

Familiar faces such as Nigel Farage and Ann Widdecombe are among the UK's 73 MEPs who will automatically lose their seats in the European Parliament.

That's because, at the moment of Brexit, the UK will leave all of the EU's political institutions and agencies.

However, in addition to the UK following EU rules during the transition period, the European Court of Justice will continue to have the final say over legal disputes.

2. No more EU summits

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will have to be specially invited if he wants to join other leaders at EU Council summits in the future.

British ministers will also no longer attend regular EU meetings that decide things such as fishing limits.

3. Increased talks about trade

The UK will be able to start talking to countries around the world about setting new rules for buying and selling goods and services.

It has not been allowed to hold formal trade negotiations with countries like the US and Australia while it remained an EU member. Brexit supporters argue that having the freedom to set its own trade policy will boost the UK's economy.

There's also a lot to be discussed with the EU. Agreeing a UK-EU trade deal is a top priority, so extra charges on goods and other trade barriers aren't needed when the transition ends.

If any trade deals are reached, they won't be able to start until the transition period ends.



4. The UK's passports will change colour

Blue passports will be making a return, more than 30 years after they were replaced by the current burgundy design.

Announcing the change in 2017, then Immigration Minister, Brandon Lewis, praised the return to the "iconic" blue-and-gold design, first used in 1921.

The new colour will be phased in over a number of months, with all new passports issued in blue by the middle of the year.

Existing burgundy passports will continue to be valid.

5. Brexit coins

About three million commemorative 50p Brexit coins bearing the date "31 January" and the inscription: "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations", will enter circulation on Friday.

The coin has received a mixed reaction, with some Remain supporters saying they will refuse to accept it.

The government had planned to introduce a similar coin on 31 October, the date Brexit was previously meant to happen.

However, those coins had to be melted down and recycled after the deadline was extended.

6. The UK's Brexit department shuts down

The team that handled the UK-EU negotiations and no-deal preparations will disband on Brexit day.

The Department for Exiting the European Union was set up by former Prime Minister Theresa May in 2016.

For the upcoming talks, the UK's negotiating team will be based in Downing Street.

7. Germany won't extradite its citizens to the UK

It won't be possible for some suspected criminals to be brought back to the UK if they flee to Germany.

Germany's constitution does not allow its citizens to be extradited, unless it's to another EU country.

"This exception cannot apply anymore after the UK has left EU," a spokesman from the German Federal Ministry of Justice told BBC News.

It's unclear if the same restrictions will apply to other countries. Slovenia, for example, says the situation is complicated, while the European Commission was unable to provide comment.

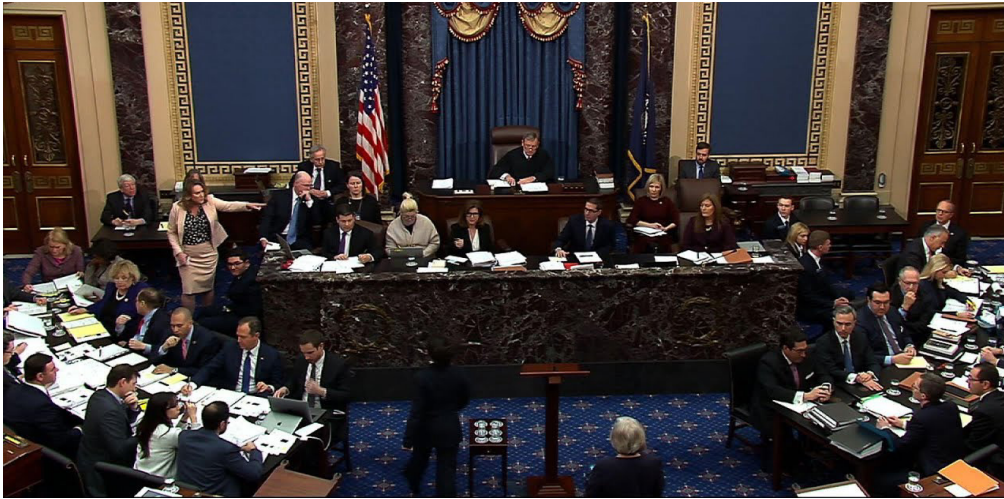
The UK Home Office says the European Arrest Warrant will continue to apply during the transition period. (That means Germany will be able to extradite non-German citizens.)

However, it adds that if a country's laws prevent extradition to the UK it "will be expected to take over the trial or sentence of the person concerned".

Seven things that will stay the

Cont'd on page 17

Trump impeachment: defense distorted, says Trump lawyer Dershowitz



An intense scene from Thursday's sitting of Trump's impeachment hearing in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz now says his headline-dominating argument against impeaching the president has been distorted.

Meanwhile, Trump's Senate trial headed into a final day of questions and answers before a vote on whether or not to call witnesses — a decision that could send the proceedings to weeks of further action or a relatively abrupt acquittal.

In a day-after tweet, Dershowitz complained Thursday about the portrayal of his testimony Wednesday night that a president, if he believes his re-election is in the "national interest," is essentially immune from impeachment for actions in support of that idea.

That argument left even some of Trump's top allies backing away from the criminal attorney's claim, though Dershowitz was testifying on Trump's behalf at the Senate trial.

"They characterized my argument as if I had said that if a president believes that his re-election was in the national interest, he can do anything," the retired professor said Thursday. "I said nothing like that, as anyone who actually heard what I said can attest."

Dershowitz testified to the Senate jurors late Wednesday that the quid pro quo charge at the heart of Trump's impeachment — a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors — even if proven could not be grounds for his impeachment.

"Every public official that I know believes that his election is in the public interest," he said Wednesday night. "And if a president does something, which he believes will help him get elected in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment."

That argument was an abrupt turnaround from Trump's own claim of "perfect" dealings with Ukraine.

One key Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, said only: "Yesterday was very interesting. That's all I'm going to say."

Meanwhile, Democrats are pressing hard to force the Senate to call more witnesses to testify, but Republicans appear intently focused on bringing the impeachment trial to a vote of acquittal, possibly in a matter of days. New revelations from former national security adviser John Bolton are being countered by the president's lawyers, who used Wednesday's unusual question-and-answer session to warn off prolonging the proceeding.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned Trump on Thursday that a sham trial is not acquittal of the impeachment charges against him.

"You can't be acquitted if you don't have a trial," said Pelosi, arguing anew that Trump will be "impeached forever."

Said Pelosi, "I just pray that the senators will have the courage and the ability to handle the truth -- rather than blocking the truth."

Democrats argued Bolton's

forthcoming book cannot be ignored. It contends he personally heard Trump say he wanted military aid withheld from Ukraine until it agreed to investigate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden — the abuse of power charge that is the first article of impeachment. Trump denies saying such a thing.

The vote on calling witnesses is expected by Friday.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer acknowledged it's "an uphill battle" to bring four GOP senators to vote for witnesses but said, "we're still hopeful."

At one point Wednesday night, as Chief Justice John Roberts fielded queries, Texas Republican Ted Cruz asked if it mattered whether there was a quid pro quo?

Simply, no, declared Dershowitz, who said noted that politicians often equate their reelection with the public good. "That's why it's so dangerous to try to psychoanalyze a president," he said.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the House prosecutors, appeared stunned.

"All quid pro quos are not the same," he retorted. Some might be acceptable, some not. "And you don't need to be a mind reader to figure out which is which. For one thing, you can ask John Bolton."

With voting on witnesses later this week, Democrats, amid the backdrop of protesters swarming the Capitol, are making a last-ditch push to sway Republicans to call Bolton and others to appear for testimony and ensure a "fair trial."

Trump faces charges from the House that he abused his power like no other president, jeopardizing Ukraine and U.S.-Ukraine relations by using the military aid as leverage while the vulnerable ally battled Russia. The second article of impeachment says Trump then obstructed the House probe in a way that threatened the nation's three-branch system of checks and balances.

Coronavirus: Europe evacuates citizens from China, Russia shuts border, Italian cruise ship containing 6,000 tourists in lockdown



The Costa Smeralda cruise ship is docked in the Civitavecchia port near Rome, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020. Italian health authorities are screening passengers aboard after a passenger from Macao came down with flu-like symptoms amid the global scare about a new virus. Passengers are being kept on board pending check to determine the type of virus. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — European countries stepped up efforts Thursday to contain the virus sweeping through central China, sending a chartered plane there to evacuate hundreds of citizens, scrapping more commercial flights to Chinese destinations and closing Russia's long border with the Asian giant.

Italian authorities kept some 7,000 people on board a cruise ship for nearly a day while they checked one passenger for a possible infection.

An A380 evacuation flight took off Thursday morning from a former Portuguese military airport at Beja, southeast of Lisbon, carrying just its pilots and crew.

Captain Antonios Efthymiou said the flight was going first to Paris, to pick up a team of doctors and extra crew, before heading to Hanoi and then China. He told Portuguese media it would bring back about 350 Europeans. He said the crew would take special medical precautions but did not elaborate.

China has reported 170 deaths and at least 7,800 infections have been confirmed worldwide from the virus that emerged last month in the central city of Wuhan. Sports, transport and

cultural events have been cancelled across the country and over 50 million people are under a government lockdown in central China.

In Europe, there have been just 10 confirmed cases of the virus so far: five in France, four in Germany and one in Finland.

In Moscow, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin issued a decree ordering the temporary closure of the country's border with China, which extends for 4,200 kilometers (2,600 miles). In addition, all train traffic between the two countries, except for one train connecting Moscow and Beijing, was stopped Thursday.

Britain said its delayed repatriation flight for 200 U.K. citizens in Wuhan would leave there on Friday, with the returning Britons quarantined for 14 days upon arrival. The U.K.-government chartered plane had been due to return earlier but it was delayed because permissions from the Chinese government had not come through.

Italian health authorities did not allow 6,000 passengers and 1,000 crew aboard a cruise ship docked north of Rome to get off after a passenger from Macao came down with flu-like

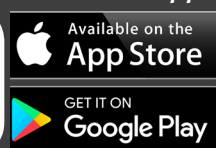
symptoms. The Costa Crociere cruise line said the 54-year-old woman and her partner, who had no symptoms, were immediately put into isolation Wednesday and the case reported to Italian maritime authorities.

"All the planned mechanisms were activated. Health authorities are on board, doing checks," Italian Coast Guard Cmdr. Vincenzo Leone said at the port of Civitavecchia. "The situation is under control. There's a security cordon on the dock."

The ship was sailing from Mallorca, Spain, to Civitavecchia on a weeklong Mediterranean cruise. Later Thursday, just over 1,000 passengers were allowed off the ship for a walk through sunny Rome.

The Czech Republic announced it was stopping issuing visas to Chinese citizens due to the outbreak. More than 600,000 Chinese tourists are estimated to have visited the Czech Republic last year, especially its old-world capital city of Prague.

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Coronavirus declared global health emergency by WHO

The new coronavirus has been declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization, as the outbreak continues to spread outside China.

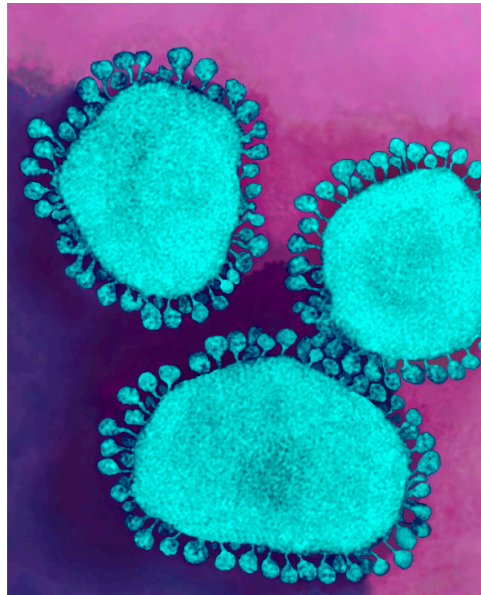
"The main reason for this declaration is not what is happening in China but what is happening in other countries," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The concern is that it could spread to countries with weaker health systems.

At least 213 people have died from the virus in China.

The WHO said there had been 98 cases in 18 other countries, but no deaths. Most cases have emerged in people who have travelled from the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the outbreak began.

Cement mixers become celebrities in China lockdown



Coronavirus misinformation spreads online

Diary of a life in locked-down Wuhan

However, there have been eight

cases of human-to-human infection - in Germany, Japan, Vietnam and the United States.

Speaking at a news conference in Geneva, Dr Tedros described the virus as an "unprecedented outbreak" that has been met with an "unprecedented response". He praised the "extraordinary measures" Chinese authorities had taken to prevent it from spreading and said there was no reason to limit trade or travel to China, adding: "Let me be clear, this declaration is not a vote of no confidence in China".

But various countries have taken steps to close borders or cancel flights in recent days, and companies like Google, Ikea, Starbucks and Tesla have closed their shops or stopped operations.

From page 9. Lies in the OAS contest: sifting the wheat from the chaff

and the Grenadines, along with heads of government of several other CARICOM countries, were very impressed by Ms. Espinosa's impartial Presidency of the UN General Assembly. They saw in her performance what they desired in the leadership of the OAS. That is, a statesperson working in the interest of all member states, excluding none and constantly building consensus. Maria

Fernanda did not advance any ideological position, nor was she once accused of seeking to give an advantage to the agenda of one country or region.

In the causes she promoted at the UN, peace and security played a large part, but she did not neglect vulnerable groups, climate change, economic development and human improvement. These latter issues - of great importance to the majority

of states - have been shamefully neglected in the OAS.

Powerful groups have the resources to smear reputations in their own interest; the weak and the vulnerable should sift the wheat from the chaff.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

from page 14 same...

Because the transition period begins immediately after Brexit, the vast majority of other things remain the same - at least until 31 December 2020 including:

1. Travel

Flights, boats and trains will operate as usual.

When it comes to passport control, during the transition period, UK nationals will still be allowed to queue in the areas reserved for EU arrivals only.

2. Driving licences and pet passports

As long as they are valid, these will continue to be accepted.

3. European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

These are the cards that provide UK nationals with state-provided medical treatment in case of illness or accident.

They can be used in any EU country (as well as Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and will continue to be valid during the transition period.

4. Living and working in the EU

Freedom of movement will continue to apply during the transition, so UK nationals will still be able to live and work in the EU as they currently do.

The same applies for EU nationals

wanting to live and work in the UK.

5. Pensions

UK nationals living in the EU will continue to receive their state pension and will also receive the annual increase.

6. Budget contributions

The UK will continue to pay into the EU budget during the transition. This means existing schemes, paid for by EU grants, will continue to be funded.

7. Trade

UK-EU trade will continue without any extra charges or checks being introduced.

Timeout! DAILY SPORTS PROGRAM on Pointe FM 99.1. Hosted by Veron "Epilus" Edwards with guests and panellists 7-9am Mondays to Fridays.

Super Bowl LIV: Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers go for the ultimate prize



Miami (CNN) — Sunday's Super Bowl promises to be a classic case of a seemingly unstoppable offense against an impenetrable defense.

Which means this: Something's got to give on Sunday.

The Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers will meet in Super Bowl LIV, with kickoff scheduled for 6:30 p.m. ET at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. The game will be televised live in more than 180 countries and territories and will be broadcast live in almost 25 languages.

Kansas City, the AFC champion with its high-speed offensive attack, is a slight favorite. The Chiefs are in their first Super Bowl in 50 years, with their

lone title coming in Super Bowl IV.

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, last year's league MVP, is looking to join Ben Roethlisberger and Tom Brady as the only quarterbacks to hoist a Lombardi Trophy before their 25th birthday. At 24 years and 138 days old on Sunday, Mahomes is the fifth-youngest quarterback to start in the Super Bowl.

Should Kansas City win, Mahomes will become the youngest player to win both an NFL MVP award and a Super Bowl title, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith (24 years, 233 days old on the last day of his MVP 1993 season).

Mahomes has 75 touchdown passes

and 9,238 passing yards in his first 30 career games, both the most by any player through his first 30 career games in NFL history. The Chiefs have scored at least 30 points in each of Mahomes' first four career postseason starts.

"Obviously, we want to win it really bad for each other," Mahomes said. "But we also want to win it for the city and the pride that they show through the ups and downs, the passion that they show every single time we're in Arrowhead (Stadium in Kansas City). It really is amazing, and we want to make sure we can bring a trophy home to them."

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Irving vows to 'continue to carry the torch' in emotional tribute to Kobe Bryant

Brooklyn Nets point guard Kyrie Irving vowed to "continue to carry the torch" following the death of his close friend and mentor Kobe Bryant.

Irving sat out the Nets' 110-97 defeat to New York Knicks at the weekend to grieve the loss of NBA great Bryant, who was one of nine people killed in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California on Sunday.

The 27-year-old returned to the court on Wednesday and posted 20 points, five rebounds and five assists as the Nets prevailed 125-115 against the Detroit Pistons at Barclays Center.

After inspiring his side to victory, Irving paid a tearful tribute to Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and the other people that tragically died.

"It's just hard to even conjure up the words," he told ESPN. "You try to find a clear-cut message that you would send to Gigi and Kobe and everybody that lost their lives in such a tragedy like that. It's hard, you know. It's hard."

"I've been trying to do this the last few days, just trying to getting ready for a moment like this. But I just gotta let it be, let it flow. I know he's there watching, as well as Gigi, as well as the young ballplayers that were on the plane."

"I was just with them at the Mamba Academy working out with them in the summertime, as well. Those young girls losing their lives. So it's heartbreaking



for all of us. But I'm not the only one dealing with something."

"I think the most beautiful thing is that it's connecting all of us. And his seeds that he's planted in all of us will continue to grow. his legacy is gonna live on forever, obviously."

"That man was a philosopher. He was a teacher. He left so many great things here for us to follow, and I'm just gonna continue to carry the torch."

The Nets paid a pre-game tribute that included a two-minute video, while two courtside seats were left vacant for Kobe and Gianna Bryant.

Irving was visibly emotional before the match and pointed to the sky as he left the court late in the fourth.

"Out there on the court, I am not the only one that is hurting," he told reporters post-game.

"I don't want to make this about me and just our relationship because we all shared something really, really strong with him."

"When the student is ready, the teacher will appear. I had that mentorship relationship with him, where I was able to ask him almost anything."

"You know no matter how nervous I was or how fearful I was, he was just easy to approach with those type of questions."

"The ones about what goes on in the day-in and day-out basis of chasing something that's bigger than yourself and when you're trying to leave a legacy or something of a mark on a game."

Reggae Girlz kick off Olympic qualifiers with 1-0 loss to Mexico in Texas

The Jamaica Reggae Girlz kicked off their bid to qualify for the Olympics in disappointing fashion with a 1-0 loss to Mexico in the Women's Qualifying Championship at HEB Park in Texas on Wednesday.

With only two teams allowed to qualify from the region, the loss was an early blow for the team looking to follow-up on their maiden appearance at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

The Jamaicans began the match the brighter of the two teams, but it was the Mexicans who seemed determined to make up for missing out on qualification for the last World Cup.

Despite dominant spells of



possession, it was a set-piece that saw the Mexicans eventually take the lead. In the 36th minute, after Kiana Palacios laid off for Renae Cuéllar in the area, she smartly steered home to finish beyond Sydney Schneider. The Jamaicans had previously only narrowly missed

out on taking the lead after talismanic striker Khadijah Shaw hit the crossbar in the 32nd minute from a tight angle.

The Jamaicans continued to hunt for the equalizer in the second half but were denied by quality saves from Mexican goalkeeper Emily Alvarado. Group B continues play on Saturday, February 1 with Mexico playing Saint Kitts and Nevis in the early match at HEB Park.

Saint Kitts and Nevis lost to Canada 11-0 earlier on Wednesday. Jamaica plays Canada in the later game in what's now a must-win match for the Reggae Girlz. (sportsmax.tv)

Sudoku

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Answer to last Sudoku

9	1	3	7	5	8	6	4	2
8	4	2	3	1	6	9	7	5
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6	8	9	5	3	4	7	2	1
1	3	7	8	9	2	4	5	6
4	2	5	1	6	7	8	9	3
3	6	1	9	7	5	2	8	4
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Your Stars Foretold



Aries

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Your imagination and creativity require maintenance, and today you'll have the time you need to do it. If you're in a relationship, think about where you want to go next. The future for you two will be greatly influenced by what you want it to be, so start imagining things in as much detail as possible.



Taurus

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

There is no reason to worry about where you stand in your social circle, especially right now when your insight and ideas are what everyone is craving most. You need to have a little bit more faith that you are still loved by your friends!



Gemini

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Just because the advice that your friends and family gave you wasn't what you were hoping to hear doesn't mean that you shouldn't still follow it. In fact, it means you should follow it all the more! These people know you and love you.



Cancer

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

You're a very generous person, to a fault, sometimes. There are some new people in your life right now who could be angling to take advantage of the fact that you tend to think of the needs of others before you consider your own needs. Today, you should protect yourself.



Leo

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

There could be a fun little drama popping into your life today, and it could toss a monkey wrench into your carefully made plans. But so what? Plans are made to be rearranged sometimes. And you could use a little lesson in flexibility.



Virgo

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

You may not find all the answers you're looking for today, but you'll definitely learn something new if you keep your mind open. If someone says something that makes you want to gasp, hold back your indignation.



Libra

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

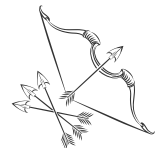
The barriers between you and other people are falling away, and suddenly you're in intimate quarters with a powerful person. People will want to be as close to you as you let them, so try to take advantage of it. Don't make any promises you don't intend to keep.



Scorpio

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Your ideas are definitely the best ones being offered up today, so how come no one is listening to you? This is no time to throw a hissy fit out of frustration, because that will do little to help people take you seriously.



Sagittarius

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

A friend is trying to take their relationship with you to a deeper level, and you should take them seriously. Don't just go along with their plans unless you also want them to be a bigger part of your life.



Capricorn

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

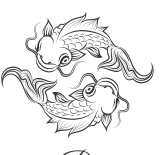
These are two very different things. People assess things based on their own prejudices and preconceptions, so if they don't respond to your presentation or speech the way you'd hoped, you can't take it personally! You did your best. You gave them the message and they misinterpreted it.



Aquarius

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

When making choices about your social life, you shouldn't be factoring in your boss or co-workers, at least not right now. Keep the line between your private life and your professional life boldly drawn. Crossing over right now would be very unwise.



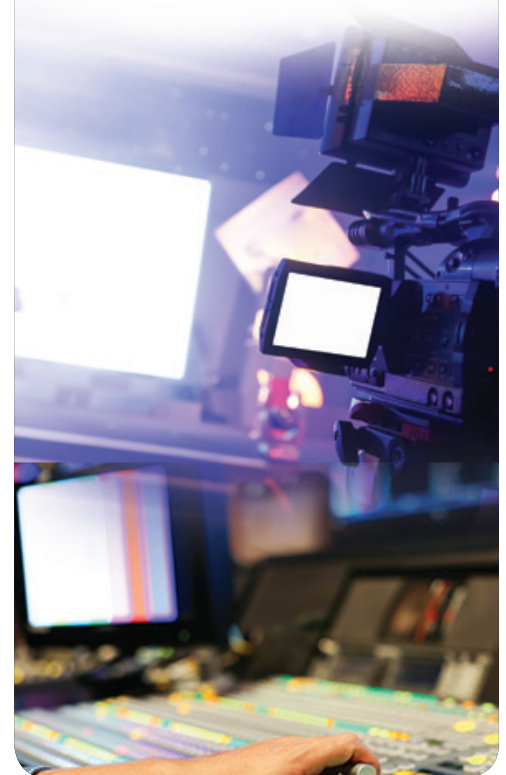
Pisces

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Do you feel like no one is leveling with you right now? Turn to your closest friends for all the reality checks you need. They can always be counted on to tell you the truth and help you get rid of unrealistic fantasies.

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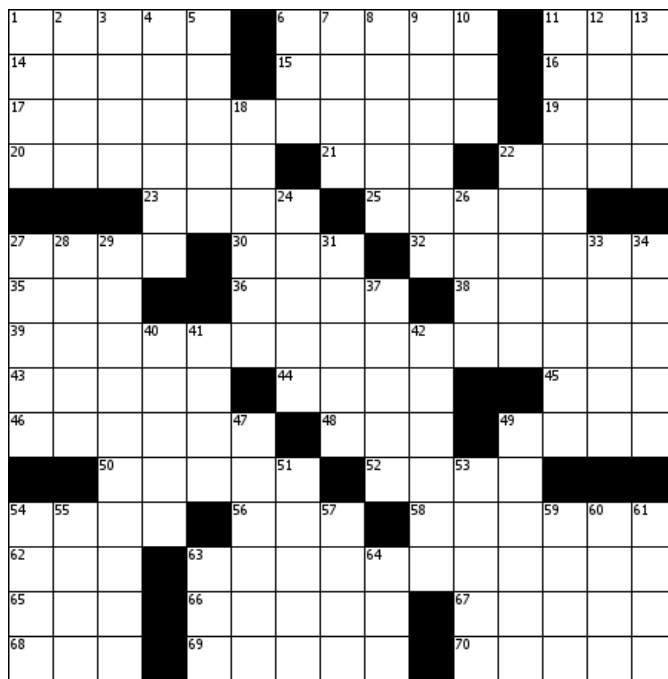
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Concubine center
6. Some mixers
11. Record speed?
14. Battle to remember
15. Derisive
16. Mesozoic, e.g.
17. Part 1 of a method for regaining strength
19. Objective
20. Boom box
21. Underwater cave dweller
22. Upper hand
23. Brightness
25. Spread apart
27. Kind of bonding
30. Scottish topper
32. Mounts
35. King preceder
36. Hollywood giants?
38. Motionless
39. Part 2 of the method
43. "Tomorrow" singer
44. WWII gun
45. Popular card game
46. Heavenly fare
48. Klutz
49. Over with
50. Long-necked wader
52. Word with birth or interest
54. Jazzy tunes
56. Nanas' daughters
58. Champagne drink
62. Actress Gardner
63. End of the method
65. Like Leroy Brown
66. Bring upon oneself
67. Devour
68. Two-time U.S. Open champ
69. Unanimously
70. Those on high horses



Down

1. Millinery stock
2. Hordes
3. In thing
4. Materialize
5. American-style imaret
6. 1860s insignia
7. Start of a tale
8. Preferences
9. Paramount Pictures mogul Zukor
10. D.C. bill collector?
11. Buildup to a race
12. One on a high horse
13. Angela Lansbury role
18. Shoe forerunner
22. Warrants
24. Payday haul
26. One of the Flagstons, in the funnies
27. Yucatan settler
28. Like Crusoe before Friday
29. Spots for big sendoffs
31. Saying
33. "Desert Fox" Rommel
34. 14-pounder
37. Drag through the mud
40. Solemn ceremonies
41. Chicken's distinction
42. Disgrace
47. Paul's longest letter
49. Put down
51. Drug buster
53. Table type
54. Blue ox of note
55. Blimp-like
57. Whirled
59. Informed about
60. Ticket leftover
61. African cobras
63. Clandestine org.
64. "Where the Boys"

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Answer to last puzzle

O	P	T	S		O	H	A	R	E		A	D	D	S
R	O	O	K		P	A	L	M	S		V	I	I	I
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			B	L	A	T		G	L	A	S	S	E	S
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daily Comics presented by azcentral.

Garfield



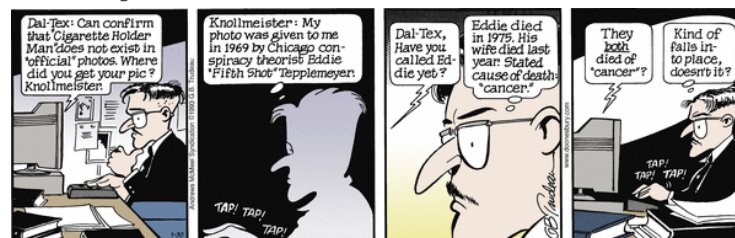
Dilbert



Luann



Doonesbury



Man Utd's Rojo rejoins Estudiantes on loan

Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo has returned to Argentine club Estudiantes on a short-term loan deal.

Rojo, who was close to joining Everton on the final day of the close-season transfer window, has found opportunities difficult to come by at United this term.

The 29-year-old, signed for £16million from Sporting CP in 2014, has now left Old Trafford, returning to Estudiantes – where he started his career – on loan until the end of the campaign.

Able to play at centre-back or left-back, Rojo has struggled with injuries during his time at United and made 76 Premier League appearances in total.

Estudiantes, who sit 12th in Superliga Argentina, were the first to announce a deal had been struck, posting a video to their official Twitter page along with the caption: "You



ManUtd defender Marcos Rojo

always return to the places where you were happy. Because of the sense of belonging, it's stronger.

"Your dream and that of the Pincha family has come true. We meet again. Welcome and thanks for coming back, Marcos. We welcome you with our hearts."

United, whose manager Ole

Gunnar Solskjaer had said on Tuesday he did not expect to see Rojo leave prior to Friday's transfer deadline, subsequently confirmed the defender's temporary departure.

Estudiantes welcomed Rojo's former Argentina team-mate Javier Mascherano to the club at the start of the month. (sportsmax.tv)

Novak Djokovic strolls past Roger Federer to reach Australian Open final

Defending champion Novak Djokovic strolled past Roger Federer with ruthless efficiency to reach his eighth Australian Open final on Thursday.

Once the Serbian eased through a first-set tie-break, he took total control of their 50th career meeting to win 7-6 (7-1) 6-4 6-3.

Djokovic will now face the winner of the match between Dominic Thiem and Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final.

"It could have definitely gone a different way. He started really well and I was pretty nervous," said Djokovic during his on court interview.

"I want to say respect to Roger for coming out tonight, he wasn't at his best or even close to his best in terms of movement."

He will now head into his 26th Grand Slam final overall, where he will play for the 17th major title of his career.

Federer went into the match as a big underdog after his struggles in reaching the last four and with concerns over the groin problem he picked up in his sensational victory over Tennys

Sandgren on Tuesday, but he appeared to have recovered well physically.

The first set was a seesaw battle of wits. There were three breaks of serve in the opening four games and after Djokovic made a shaky start, Federer looked to be on the cusp of clinching the set at 5-2 up. But the second seed pulled his socks up and rallied to win the next three games in a row to level up.

It was inevitably settled by a tie-break situation and defending champion Djokovic produced some sublime touches around the net to run away with it.

Federer took heart from beating the Serbian at the ATP Finals in November but he had not got the better of him in a best-of-five-sets match since Wimbledon 2012, and not on hard courts for more than a decade.

He headed straight off court for another medical timeout, this one apparently for treatment to his lower back, while Djokovic also consulted the doctor and took a pill.

When the 38-year-old Swiss returned he staved off two break points before holding to stem to flow, but it

was his serve under pressure.

Djokovic, who has never lost a semi-final at Melbourne Park, turned the screw in the 10th game to earn a set point opportunity which he nailed with a stunning forehand cross-court flick, celebrating exuberantly as he moved to within one set of a record eighth Grand Slam final.

It was the 207th time in which Djokovic had led a Grand Slam match 2-0 and although no player had won from two sets down more than Federer (10 times) the six-time champion in Melbourne knew that he required another Houdini act to reach the final.

Federer had said after beating Sandgren that he believed in miracles, but his Melbourne luck had run out.

It seemed a case of when not if Djokovic would clinch victory, and he broke the Federer serve again to lead 4-2 before serving out for a convincing victory after two hours and 19 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

Federer felt he went as far as he could in the tournament but branded the experience of playing the semi-final "horrible".



CWI President and member of the MCC World Cricket Committee, Ricky Skerritt

CWI President Skerritt appointed to MCC World Cricket Committee

Cricket West Indies (CWI) President Ricky Skerritt has been appointed to the Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) World Cricket Committee.

The MCC meets twice annually to discuss the most important issues in the game and acts as an independent voice in world cricket.

Skerritt joins England's all-time leading run-scorer Alistair Cook as new members after former West Indies fast bowler and current commentator Ian Bishop, and Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al-Hasan stood down

from the committee.

"We have been keen for some time to appoint a new representative from the West Indies and I am delighted that Ricky will be joining us. His knowledge of the game from a West Indian perspective will be invaluable, and his work outside of the sport will also be advantageous to the committee," said Mike Gatting, current MCC President and former England captain.

The CWI president said he plans to represent the West Indies well.

"Serving world cricket on such an

important MCC committee, among such legendary former cricketers, is both a privilege and an honour. I will do all I can to ensure that my West Indies based perspective will always add value to the work of the MCC," he said.

Skerritt also serves world cricket as a member of the Board of the International Cricket Council (ICC), where recently he was appointed to the Special Working Group on Governance, set out to consider the future governance structure of the ICC. (sportsmax.tv)



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