



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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CONVICTED



Jason McLeod



Alvin Spencer

Story on Page 3

Depend less on CIP, reduce tax concessions – IMF

Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa was the venue Thursday for a special Business Breakfast Forum hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The half-day event was in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), whose Mission Chief for Antigua and Barbuda, Leo Bonato, was the feature speaker.

Bonato – who is also the IMF's Mission Chief for the South American nation of Peru – made a fully interactive presentation titled 'The IMF's
cont'd on pg 4



Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2019

Date	Cruise Ship	Arrive-Depart	
14 February, 2020 Friday	 MSC Preziosa	08:00	18:00
16 February, 2020 Sunday	 Marella Celebration	08:00	18:00
17 February, 2020 Monday	 Viking Sea		
17 February, 2020 Monday	 Azura	07:00	17:00
17 February, 2020 Monday	 Vision Of The Seas	08:00	17:00
18 February, 2020 Tuesday	 Costa Magica	07:00	17:00
18 February, 2020 Tuesday	 AIDAperla	08:00	18:00
18 February, 2020 Tuesday	 Serenade Of The Seas	09:00	17:00
18 February, 2020 Tuesday	 AIDAluna	09:00	19:00

The Living Word

Water into Hope

Read: John 4:4–14

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. John 7:37

Tom and Mark’s ministry refreshes lives. This is clear in the video they share of a group of fully clad children laughing and dancing in the refreshing water of an open shower—their first ever. The men work with indigenous churches to install water filtration systems on wells in Haiti, easing and lengthening lives as diseases connected to contaminated water are prevented. Access to clean, fresh water gives the people hope for their future.

Jesus referred to “living water” in John 4 to capture a similar idea of a continual source of refreshment. Tired and thirsty, Jesus had asked a Samaritan woman for a drink (vv. 4–8). This request led to a conversation in which Jesus offered the woman “living water” (vv. 9–15)—water that would become a source of life and hope within them, like “a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (v. 14).

We discover what this living water is later in John, when Jesus said, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink,” declaring that whoever believed in Him would have “rivers of living water [flowing] from within them.” John explains, “By this he meant the Spirit” (7:37–39).

Through the Spirit, believers are united to Christ and have access to the boundless power, hope, and joy found in God. Like living water, the Spirit lives inside believers, refreshing and renewing us.

How has Jesus satisfied your thirst through His Spirit? How will you share what Jesus has done for you?

Dear God, thank You for leaving us Your Spirit. Work in us so that our lives point others to You.

DAY 2/14

Max UV Index: 7 High
Wind: E at 37 km/h
Wind Gusts: 56 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 46%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
Precipitation: 1.4 mm
Rain: 1.4 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 1
Hours of Rain: 1
Partial sunshine with a shower in places; breezy

28° Hi



NIGHT 2/14

Wind: E at 37 km/h
Wind Gusts: 52 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 56%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
Precipitation: 1.5 mm
Rain: 1.5 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 1
Hours of Rain: 1

22° Lo



Partly cloudy with a shower in places

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:34 AM

Sunset AST
6:09 PM



Duration
11:35 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
11:44 PM

Moonset AST
11:33 AM



Duration
11:46 hr

Two men convicted for illegal firearms

Two men - Alvin Spencer, 29 and Jason McLeod, 25 both of Swetes were convicted and sentenced to Her Majesty's Prison on charges of possession of firearm and ammunition in All Saints Magistrate's Court on Thursday.

Spencer pleaded guilty to possession of one .25 pistol and six matching rounds of ammunition and was convicted and sentenced to one year for possession of firearm and three months

for possession of ammunition.

Meanwhile, co-accused Jason McLeod pleaded guilty to possession of one .38 revolver and five matching rounds of ammunition and was convicted and sentenced to one year for possession of firearm and three months for possession of ammunition.

Both sentences are to run concurrently.

Both men were among five people jointly charged

by police, after they were found in possession of the illegal weapons during a search of their home in Swetes on Tuesday 4th February.

The complaints against the other accused were withdrawn before the Court. Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards presided over the matter.

Meanwhile, the case against the Jamaican man suspected of being a drug mule will continue at the

All Saints Magistrate's court, currently holding session at the new Transport Board Building at Herbert's.

The man appeared in court on Wednesday, but his case continues next week.

He is being currently held on remand at Her Majesty's Prison.

He is charged with importation of drugs and possession with intent to supply.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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- BOUNCE CASTLE
- GAMES AND MORE!

PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH UPKEEP

cont'd from pg 1

Perspective on the Trends of Antigua and Barbuda's Economic Performance in Relation to Regional and Global Economies.'

"We expect growth to slow down somewhat in the next few years, but we also think that there are some risks – some upside, some downside," he stated. "If the growth in advanced economies that we expect does not materialize, growth in Antigua is going to be smaller."

Noting that "there is a cost to having government," Bonato said economies of scale tended to be achievable in bigger countries, "But if you are in an archipelago like St. Vincent and

the Grenadines and you have to provide services to all these small communities in the islands, that's very expensive."

Despite these unavoidable downsides, Bonato said resignation or surrender to such circumstances was not an option.

"It's precisely because you are so vulnerable that you have to be prepared. One of the problems is high debt [while] revenues have declined."

He noted that these factors were mentioned in the recent budget address by Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Gaston Browne.

Bonato observed that there is a lot of reliance on Citizen

by Investment Programs, which have allowed many countries to do good things with the extra revenues derived. "But by definition, you cannot use those revenues to finance your current spending, which has to be financed by predictable revenues."

He said CIP funds could be used to finance things "that you would be able to do without in situations of difficulty ... for example, certain investment projects, doing climate resilience, these sorts of things I think the funds are good to be used for, but not to finance the current activities of the government."

Bonato said the public coffers of Antigua and Barbuda had to bear a multiplicity of what he termed "spending pressures", mainly because of the large numbers of people employed in the public sector and the corresponding wage bill.

"Public employment in Antigua is very high compared with the rest of the region.

"In terms of individual wages and salaries, I don't think they are very high," he said, "but employment has grown a lot and so that is a problem."

He added that the cash flow problems that government experiences "are clearly a sign of the weakness of the fiscal situation".

He said that was all the more reason why prudent fiscal policies – such as debt to GDP ratios – were essen-



tial for not just Antigua and Barbuda, but the entire currency union.

Bonato said Antigua needed to make choices that would help spur economic growth and thereby lower its debt to GDP ratio, and that would require certain corrections. He referred to delays in making payments (for goods and services) that have affected the economy.

He illustrated it this way: "If I don't receive my payments on time, the options I have are either I go to the bank for a loan, or I delay my payments to someone else. So it's like a disease that transmits quickly through the rest of the economy."

Prime Minister Browne has repeatedly stated that tax revenues have not reflected the high levels of economic growth and expansion that Antigua and Barbuda has experienced in the last five years. According to Bonato, "In general we have a lot of concessions. Antigua is one of the countries that give the most concessions and that undermine the tax base.

"Once concessions become so pervasive without any clear rules as to the basis on which they are given, then it creates uncertainty."



Government of Antigua and Barbuda

Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

Ministry of Headquarters
Cassada Gardens
St. John's, Antigua

Telephone # 1-268-468-8500/01/02/03
Facsimile # 1-268-468-8518/468-8519

Ref: PUCATE 7/298

10th February 2020

To whom it may concern:

Re: Air Traffic Controller Assistant

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is advertising vacant positions for Air Traffic Controller Assistant within the Air Traffic Services (ATS) at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Position Requirements:

- A sound basic educational background with no less than five (5) CSEC subjects with passes at grades 1 and 2 proficiency level.
- English, Mathematics and a Science subject are compulsory, Geography will be an asset.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are a must.
- Initial shortlisting does not guarantee a placement into the V.C. Bird Air Traffic Services.
- Applicants must be between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty Four (24) years and should successfully qualify for a Class 3 Medical Certificate and Psychiatric Evaluation.

Applications should reach the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy no later than **28th February 2020**.

Please note, only suitable applicants will be contacted.


Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transport and Energy

Cc: Sir Robin Yearwood- Minister of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

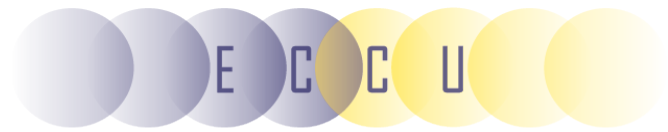
High power delegation attends meetings

A high-powered delegation is representing Antigua and Barbuda at two important sub-regional meetings taking place in St Kitts-Nevis today.

The delegation is headed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and it includes Opposition Leader, Jamal Pringle, the Financial Secretary Whitfield Harris, OECS Commissioner, Colin Murdoch, the head of the Information Technology Unit, Luzmore Edwards and CIP agent, Vanetta Rodgers.

The meetings are 95th Meeting of the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union the OECS Monetary Council and an emergency meeting of the OECS Authority, its 68th such gathering.

A series of meetings preceded the two that are taking place today. These include the growth forum, which traditionally precedes the Monetary Council and focuses on critical issues facing the economies of the region



Eastern Caribbean Currency Union

including payment system transformation, digital economy transformation and the leveraging of renewable energy.

The Authority's meeting takes place after the Monetary Council.

It will look at the finances of the Commission, the budget of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, issues related to ECCAA, the OECS Embassy in Brussels and issues related to the coordination of OECS and CARICOM systems to prevent overlap, du-

plication and conflict.

Prime Minister Browne is the current chairman of the OECS Authority.

The Monetary Council will hear a report from the Governor of the ECCU on the monetary and credit conditions in the monetary union.

Other matters on the agenda include a report on the banking sector up to the end of 2019 as well as an examination of the Medical Cannabis Evolution: Challenges in banking a budding industry in the ECCU.



Antigua cruise port - Capture the quay to your heart

Shoppers in the city of St John's, are being greeted by a photo wall featuring over 10,000 flowers as Antigua Cruise Port unveiled its 2020 Valentine's Day Gift Ideas concept together with the merchants of Heritage Quay.

In spirit of Valentine's Day, Ms. Dona Regis-Prosper – General Man-

ager of Antigua Cruise Port, shared: "My team and I wanted to proclaim to the world something that has been known locally for a long time - Antigua & Barbuda is For Lovers!"

"As part of our Valentine's Day concept, we would like to invite everyone to 'Capture the Quay to your Hearts' by joining us here in Heritage Quay and make a new memory!"

Having won several tourism and consumer awards, Antigua & Barbuda is the Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination.

With its sky-blue oceans and beautiful beaches, Antigua & Barbuda was most recently selected as the Caribbean Destination of the Year 2020 at the Caribbean Travel Awards.

Heritage Quay, is a part of Antigua Cruise Port - the island's premier duty

free shopping centre offering not only a selection of restaurants and bars to dine; but also a wide selection of international brands, souvenirs, local art, clothing, perfume, cosmetics, alcohol, electronics, jewellery, watches and much more.

Visitors will find the photo wall on top of a bed of ivory and blush petals that has a red heart outlined in red flowers. All lovers are welcomed to Heritage Quay to take a picture in front of the wall and share their love with the world.

Antigua Cruise Port has commenced its operations under Global Ports Holding concession in October 2019, joining a network of 21 ports in 13 countries. By working in partnership with all stakeholders, Antigua Cruise Port will act as a catalyst for meaningful economic growth in Antigua and Barbuda.



Shirlene receives her MBE

Tourism consultant and leading industry expert, Shirlene Nibbs, is currently in the United Kingdom to formally receive an MBE at Buckingham Palace today.

Nibbs has been singled out for the award following a nomination that was reviewed and confirmed by both the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, and Prime Minister, Gaston Browne.

Nibbs received the award during an investiture ceremony for her outstanding contributions to tourism and community development in Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean.

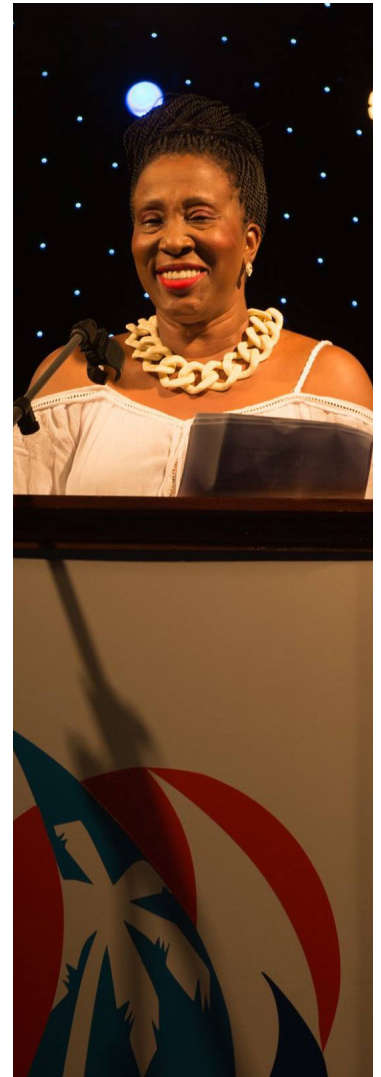
The Official Gazette in London, in making the announcement, reads: 'To be an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order: Shirlene Andrea NIBBS. For outstanding contribu-



tion to community and tourism development'.

Nibbs has long been a trainer, senior executive and consultant in tourism. She

served as director of tourism and she is the current chairman of the board of the Hospitality Training Institute.



Debt reduction an excellent use of CIP funds, says IMF

Antigua and Barbuda and other OECS countries that run Citizenship by Investment or CIP programs would do well to heed advice that the revenues derived should be employed to pay down their debts.

That advice had been given several years ago by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) now says it is certainly a very good choice for utilization, though not the only one, depending on the particular circumstance.

The Washington DC-based multilateral lending agency's point man for Antigua and Barbuda, Leo Bonato, was speaking on Wednesday during a Business Breakfast Forum hosted by the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa.

His presentation was titled 'The IMF's Perspective on the Trends of Antigua and Barbuda's Economic Performance in Relation to Regional and Global Economies.'

"Governments also have develop-

ment needs, which must be looked at to see the value of these projects compared with the value of getting into a safer financial position.

There is a lot of merit in reducing your debt and increasing your savings in all these countries," he stated.

But while lauding the recommendation as good advice, Bonato said other important things such as climate resilience were also worthy of consideration for funding with CIP revenues.

cont'd on pg 7

Government office building earmarked for Barbuda

The government is putting aside funds to construct a building in Barbuda that will be termed the Office of the Ministry of Barbuda Affairs.

The Cabinet said it is determined that it needs a new building that will bring all the services that it offers to the island under one roof.

Government spokesman Lionel Max Hurst said the new building, resilient and hurricane-proof, will be large enough to accommodate all Central Government operations on

Barbuda, and will serve to consolidate and to strengthen the Central Government's presence on the sister-isle.

"Policemen, firemen, teachers, nurses, doctors, orderlies, petty officers, government pensioners, Social Security recipients, APUA Electricity Water and Telephones personnel are paid directly from Antigua—not through the Barbuda Council," Hurst explained.

He stated that the object is for the

Central Government to have a sustaining presence in Barbuda and to ensure that recipients of government payouts are not left behind. The new Minister of Barbuda Affairs will be visiting Barbuda shortly.

There has been a longstanding dispute between the Barbuda Council and the central government over the use of publicly owned building on the island with the council refusing to allow officials from central government access to these facilities.

Greene: Innovation Park Invite

The newly established Science and Innovation Park located in the former US Naval Facility at Burma is now available for use not only by nationals or Antigua and Barbuda, but to anyone living in the Caribbean region who wishes to use its services.

The invitation to the Caribbean region was issued Thursday by Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, during an address at the opening

of a regional workshop for European Union/CARIFORUM Standby Facility for Capacity Building at the Rex Halcyon Cove hotel.

Greene said that as small developing states, there is a need for the region to become more economically resilient noting that the regional integration framework provides an opportunity to achieve this.

However, he is of the view that as a region, the Caribbean must engage in pro-

active measurers, and policies to expand and grow its economies.

According to the trade minister the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has embarked on a strategy to support existing SMEs and encourage the development of new entrepreneurs through greater infusion of innovation and information technology within the business structure.

"I call on stakeholders and especially our young people to take advantage of the newly created Science and Innovation Park. We need more people to use the park. It will cost you nothing," he urged.

Noting Antigua and Barbuda's primary role in the regional integration movement, Greene has extended an invitation for people from across the Caribbean to make use of the park

as well. "While the park is domiciled here, it was never the intention for it to be a coal construct. It was designed and created for regional use," the minister explained.

The minister drew attention to the data which suggests that the Caribbean as a region is lagging behind other areas in innovation. He recommended Antigua and Barbuda as a willing partner for any Caribbean national or company that wishes to make use of the park's services.

The Science and Innovation Park is a joint project of the government and the United Nations Office for Special Projects (UNOPS). It was founded on the premise that it will provide an 'incubation' environment for start-up businesses to grow and develop before launching out to the wider community.

cont'd from pg 6

He suggested that other projects could be weighed to determine if their economic growth and development value or potential did not render them fit for higher or more immediate prioritization.

He said whether or not Antigua and Barbuda had followed the advice of using CIP revenues to reduce its debt to GDP ratio from more than 100 percent to less than 70 percent in five years was easy to verify, while noting that once revenues become available it is very easy for them to be spent if governments allow themselves to become fiscally sidetracked upon coming into possession of such additional resources.

Hypocrisy unmasked at the OAS

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is the 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)

If candidates were to get a prize for making the best case for why they are best suited to be Secretary-General of the OAS, María Fernanda Espinosa would have easily walked away with it when the three contenders for the post appeared before the Permanent Council of the Organization on February 12.

Showing all the competence, knowledge and experience that come from holding high ministerial offices and the Presidency of the UN General Assembly, Ms. Espinosa handled, with remarkable grace and aptitude, difficult interrogations from the representatives of the U.S. and governments supporting the re-election of the incumbent, Luis Almagro.

The objective of the interrogations from this group of countries, which included Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia, was to try to paint Ms. Espinosa as an ideologue who would act against decisions and declarations of the OAS, engineered by a majority of 18 delegations, against the Maduro and Ortega governments of Venezuela and Nicaragua and the Presidency of Evo Morales of Bolivia which was ended by a coup d'état, however else it is portrayed.

This group of governments strongly support Mr. Almagro because, in the abuse of his office, he has been their most enthusiastic standard bearer against the Maduro and Ortega governments.

So preoccupied is this group of governments with trying to ensure that Mr. Almagro remains in position, that they have, so far, refused to recognize that Ms. Espinosa is not an ideologue and is,

in fact, a realist; a pragmatic leader who fully understands that the success of any organisation depends on its capacity to build consensus among all its stakeholders. Incidentally, the regime in Bolivia is still to hold credible elections to legitimize the government it seized.

Only the deaf, or those who deliberately blocked their ears, would not have heard her say with passion and commitment that she will “strengthen human rights bodies” and “promote an initiative for the universalization of inter-American human rights instruments”. If they were listening, they would also have heard her say that, as Secretary-General, she would be more “Secretary” than “General” (a failing of Mr. Almagro’s), and that she would carry out the mandate and instructions given to her by Ministers.

And, it would only be the malicious who would deliberately misrepresent Ms. Espinosa’s undertakings. Yet, the Brazilian Ambassador, in a later public session treating with the candidate for the post of Assistant Secretary General, and with Ms. Espinosa unable to respond, completely misrepresented her remarks, saying that she had stated she would not be guided by decisions of Ministers and the Permanent Council of the OAS. It took, another woman, Lou-Ann Gilchrist, the Ambassador of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with great diplomatic restraint, to point out the Brazilian Ambassador’s misrepresentation.

If, those who are so desperate to retain Mr. Almagro as their attack dog, would acknowledge that it is that posture that has led to the polarisation and ineffectiveness of the OAS, they might see in Ms. Espinosa an experienced and capable diplomat who, as she herself has publicly declared, “will not promote personal ideologies or the interest of any group”. It is precisely because Mr. Almagro has been so ready to be partisan that the OAS is now a fractured and weak organisation, recognised not for its achievements but for its contentious di-



visions.

It was accepted by most delegates at the February 12 presentations that Mr. Almagro was the worst performer. He should have been the best. The debate was taking place on his ground – inside the headquarters of the OAS – and on his agenda, the role of the Secretary-General which post he has held for nearly 5 years. Yet, he was clearly not in control of his brief; he answered questions badly; and in some cases, did not know answers that should have come to him easily. Perhaps, this is because he has been a one-item Secretary-General, focussed on events in Venezuela to the near exclusion of everything else.

No one could have derived any pleasure from Mr. Almagro’s poor performance. As I have written repeatedly, he is a very bright and able man. Somehow, he has lost his way, and was hoisted by his own petard. Not least, because he could not give to questioners a valid reason for seeking re-election when, in his first campaign to be elected and for most of his term, he had categorically stated that he would not run again.

The other contender for the OAS stewardship is Hugo de Zela of Peru. On the general view, he achieved second place, after Ms. Espinosa, in the effectiveness of his presentation and the content of the answers he gave to questions. His Achilles heel is his central and pivotal role in the creation and operation of the Lima Group, a gathering of a few countries dedicated to regime change in Ven-

cont'd on pg 9

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ezuela.

Mr. de Zela's smooth veneer was dented by the Ambassador of Grenada, Yolande Smith, who inquired how he planned to build consensus in the OAS when he was the planter of the seeds of division by creating the Lima Group (not an official or recognised group of the Organisation) that ignored the official regional groups and operated in an

exclusive process.

The OAS is at the crossroads. It can continue the business of the last five years, in which case countries will withdraw and the Organization will become an unrepresentative body with no hemispheric legitimacy, or it can choose sound management, transparency and greater effectiveness through the inclusion of all in genuine dialogue that takes account of every view. The latter would

not be seeking a lowest common denominator consensus; it would be based on guidance by established rules, principles and international law.

Of the candidates who spoke on February 12, María Fernanda Espinosa offered the best course for every member state to achieve the latter objective – and that was the general belief.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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Community making strides to boost Services Sector

In recognition of the key role that the Services Sector plays in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Community is taking steps to boost its performance in a more structured and harmonised approach.

At a Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Services held 31 January 2020, in Georgetown, Guyana, Ministers examined the Draft Regional Strategic Plan and an Implementation Plan for Services across the Region.

The developments come against the background of the important role that the Services Sector plays in the economic and social growth of the Community. At a minimum, the Sector accounts for 50 per cent of all regional economies, and is flagged as the economic area on which the Community can rely to develop and deliver on the objectives of the Article 6 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Among the provisions of that Article are improved standards of living and work, full employment of labour and other factors of production, accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development, and more efficient operation of common services and activities for the benefit of the people of the Community.



Barbados Prime Minister, the Hon. Mia Mottley currently Chairs the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Cox; Chair, Barbados' Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Hon. Sandra Husbands; and Dep. Prog. Manager, Services, Mr. Timothy Odle. of Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



The Meeting in session. Some delegates joined the Meeting via videoconference

Chair of the Meeting, the Hon. Sandra Husbands, Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Trade of Barbados, said that a majority of CARICOM Member States derive their GDP from Services.

"Therefore (the Sector) is

important and it is important for the future and so CARICOM was mandated to look at a draft strategic plan and they presented a number of documents to us. Under consideration was the analysis of the current performance of Services in

the Region. We also looked at a SWOT Analysis that helped to identify where our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats are and therefore this will help to inform how we drive forward our plan in relation to Services.

50 Guyanese to be honoured by New York Mayor

Caribbean Life- February 11, 2020- Mayor of the City of New York, Bill de Blasio, and First Lady, Chirlane McCray, will on Feb. 27, honor 50 Guyanese citizens who have made outstanding contributions to their homeland, and the diaspora, during an exciting presentation to celebrate Guyana's 50th Republic Jubilee.

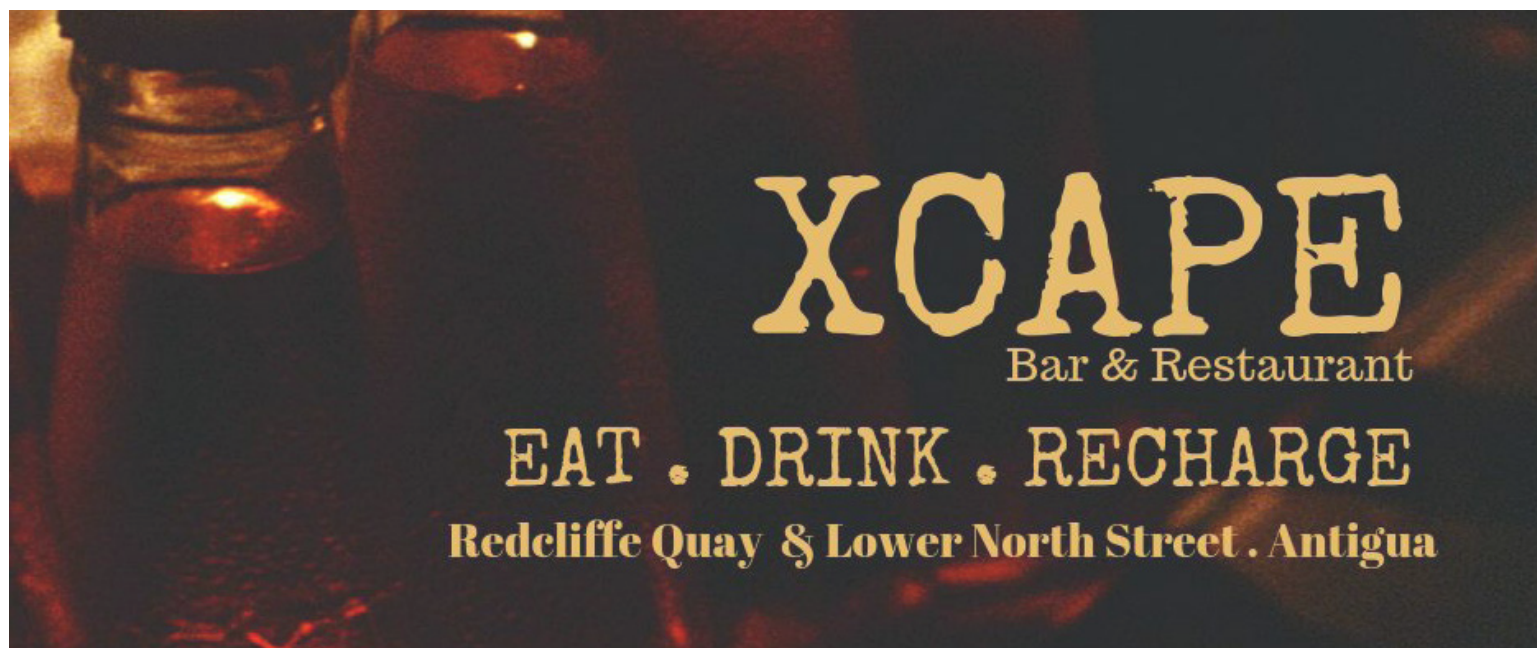
The Awards Gala and cultural presentation, (invitation only) being hosted in collaboration with the Guyana Republic Jubilee Committee, and Three Counties Foundation, CEO James Richmond, will be held at Gracie Mansion, in New York City, from 5:30 pm.

Honorees are: Judge Ingrid Joseph Claire Goring, Aminta Kilawan Narine, Mark Anthony Benshop, James C. Richmond, Dr. Linda Felix-Johnson, Jonnel Doris, Ingrid Griffith, Harold Miller, Dr. Juliet Emanuel, Dave Narine, Patricia Jordan-Langford Courtney Noel, Mahadeo Shivraj, Mohamed Hack, Arsalan Mohamed, Doris Rodney, Dr. Terrence Blackman, Dr. Dhanpaul Narine, Cheddi Jagan Jr., Vishnu Mahadeo, Roger Gary, Tony Singh, George Michael Harry, Monica Sanchez, Sherif Barker Fraser, Errol Lewis, Menes de griot, Verna Walcott-White,

Viburt Bernard, Pamela Bruce, Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, Pam McKenzie, Khyume Khan, Rhonda Bovell O'Reilly, Randolph Holder, Deodat Urpersaud, Peter Kong, Romanee Kallicharran, Shoan Sampson, Hugh Hamilton, Tangerine Clarke, Adrian Dutchin, Ryan (GucciBoss) Lynton, RKHTY, Trevon (Vibes) Shury, Zamal Sankar, Mark Arthur, Brian Roberts and Joan Bakiriddin.

Special recognition & honor will go to cultural icon, Jimmy Hamilton and late West Indian Cricketer, Basil Butcher. The South American country, that became a Republic on Feb. 23,

1970, and is celebrated with several annual Mashramani parades across Guyana, will be commemorated in a big way at the civic building where a wide cross-section of Guyanese will celebrate in unity. Prominent Guyanese expected to attend are, Senator Roxanne Persaud, Assemblywoman Alicia L. Hyndman, Ambassador of Guyana to the United States, Riyad Insanally, Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Guyana to the United Nations, Rudolph M. Ten-Pow, Consul General of Guyana to New York, Barbara Atherly, and others.



Economic stability linked to CARICOM



Barbados Prime Minister, the Hon. Mia Mottley currently Chairs the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Barbados does not have the capacity, given its population, to go it alone to achieve economic development, and thus should be more welcoming of its regional neighbours, said Prime Minister Mia Mottley, as Parliament moved to tweak the law governing the entry of skilled CARICOM nationals.

Introducing the CARICOM Freedom of Movement of Persons Amendment Bill to the House of Assembly this evening, she declared: “Barbados has a trade surplus with one region in the world, and that is the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, as well as with Guyana.

“So when xenophobic statements come, we forget to recognise our economic stability is linked to our neighbours, and Trinidad is where the second or third largest source of investment into Barbados comes from.

“And when we add that one in every five visitors to Barbados comes from the

CARICOM region, we begin to understand why the political party I lead has a constitutional objective to pursue regional integration.

“We cannot survive only on the 280,000 people who live here, because we do not have enough economic activity on our own.”

GOT NEWS

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Puerto Rico Online Scam Targeted More Than \$4M Amid Crisis

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — An online scam that targeted Puerto Rican agencies attempted to steal more than \$4 million, police said Thursday, deepening concerns about the management of local government finances during an economic crisis.

Authorities have frozen at least \$2.9 million, said an official who was not authorised to comment on the case and requested anonymity.

The government has not said how much money was seized by the hacker.

The scam began when someone hacked into the computer of a finance worker at the island's Employee Retirement System in December, said José Ayala, director of the fraud unit within the bank robbery division.

The hacker then posed as the female employee and sent emails to various government agencies alleging a change in bank accounts,



In this July 29, 2015 file photo, the Puerto Rican flag flies in front of Puerto Rico's Capitol as in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo, File)

he told The Associated Press.

Two agencies fell victim to the scam in recent months: Puerto Rico's Industrial Development Company sent \$63,000 in December and more than \$2.6 million in January,

while the island's Tourism Company sent \$1.5 million in January to fraudulent accounts on the US mainland, he said.

Puerto Rico government officials realised what had happened when the finance worker at the Employee

Retirement System called the agencies and said she had not received any payments and officials responded they had already sent them.

"That's when they call us and all hell breaks loose," Ayala said.



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PROMOTION RUNS FROM FEB 03-21, 2020

CARPHA Now Testing for Novel Coronavirus



The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) now has the ability to do testing for the Novel Coronavirus, which the World Health Organisation has named Covid-19. The CARPHA Laboratory is accredited to internationally recognised standards and provides testing services for national laboratories, not for individuals. It takes between 24 and 48 hours from the time CARPHA receives a sample to get the results, which are shared

electronically with Member States. CARICOM's Communications Officer, Jascene Dunkley-Malcolm recently spoke with Executive Director of CARPHA, Dr. Joy St. John, who gave an update about the work CARPHA has been doing in relation to the disease.

In the interview Dr. St. John explained what the virus was, how it can be transmitted and debunked a number of myths that have been circulating. She also gave some useful tips that can help to prevent the spread of the virus in the event of an outbreak, but hastened to point out that there were no reported cases in the CARICOM Region and that the current risk of an outbreak was low.

The virus was first reported from Wuhan, China, on 31 December 2019. Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

On Thursday, 30 January, the WHO declared the outbreak a global health emergency, or a public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC).



DR JOY ST. JOHN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARPHA

Mike Bloomberg campaign pays influencers for memes

Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg is paying social media influencers to back him in the hope of reaching younger voters.

His campaign has commissioned some of the internet's top-viral creators to generate content about him that has reached tens of millions of followers.

The former New York Mayor's campaign director said its meme strategy was new to presidential politics.

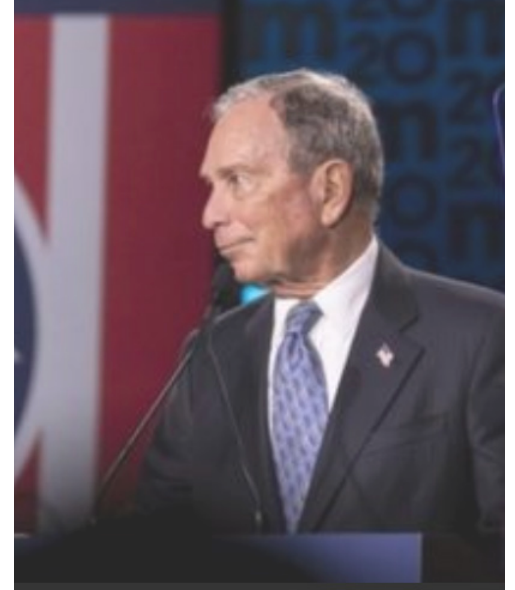
He has already spent more than \$300m in his bid to win the White House.

Mr Bloomberg, a former Republican, is one of eight remaining contenders vying to become the Democratic pres-

idential candidate who will challenge President Donald Trump in November's election.

Sabrina Singh, Mr Bloomberg's national spokeswoman, said: "Mike Bloomberg 2020 has teamed up with social creators to collaborate with the campaign, including the meme world.

"While a meme strategy may be new to presidential politics, we're betting it will be an effective component to reach people where they are and compete with President Trump's powerful digital operation."



Mr Bloomberg responds to a heckler at a rally on Wednesday in Nashville, Tennessee

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US-Taliban talks: Pompeo hails 'pretty important breakthrough'

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says there has been a "pretty important breakthrough" in peace talks with the Taliban in recent days.

Defence Secretary Mark Esper earlier said they had "negotiated a proposal" for a week-long reduction in violence.

The two sides have long been engaged in negotiations aimed at ending the 18-year war in Afghanistan.

But they have been fraught with challenges. President Donald Trump declared the talks "dead" in September.

On Thursday, Mr Pompeo said the US president had given the go-ahead for further talks. He hailed recent progress, but said the negotiations were complicated and that a peace deal had not yet been reached.

"We hope we can get to the place where we can get a significant reduction in violence, not only on a piece of paper," he said. "If we can get there and we can hold that posture for a while, we may well be able to begin the serious discussion which is all the Afghans sitting at a table finding a true reconciliation."

His comments came af-



Mr Pompeo said President Donald Trump had given the go-ahead for further talks

ter Mr Esper told reporters about the proposal for a "seven-day reduction in violence". "We've said all along that the best, if not only, solution in Afghanistan is a political agreement. Progress has been made on this front and we'll have more to report on that

soon," he said. "It will be a continual evaluative process as we go forward - if we go forward."

Details about when the partial truce was set to begin were not immediately clear, but a Taliban official told AFP news agency that the group would begin a

"reduction of violence" on Friday.

Mr Trump has made withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan a key foreign policy aim. Some 13,000 US troops remain in Afghanistan after the US intervention to oust the Taliban in 2001.

Eight Republicans join Democrats to pass Senate measure to limit President Trump's war powers against Iran

WASHINGTON – Eight Senate Republicans broke with President Donald Trump on Thursday – joining all the chamber's Democrats to support legislation that would restrict the president's ability to wage war with Iran.

The 55-45 vote marked a rare bipartisan effort to curb Trump's powers and underscored lawmakers' concerns that U.S. tensions with Iran could escalate into a full-fledged war.

Democrats said Congress had to act to rein in an unpredictable president, arguing Trump brought the United States to the brink of war with Iran when he green-lighted a deadly strike targeting Tehran's most powerful military



Deirdre Shesgreen USA TODAY

leader, Gen. Qasem Soleimani.

"I fear that the president's erratic decision-making, his lack of strategy, his inability to control his im-

pulses may bumble us into a war ... even if he doesn't intend it," Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said during Thursday's debate.

Schumer said Thursday's vote was "a clear shot across the bow" to Trump that Congress will not support another "endless war" in the Middle East.

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U.K. Treasury chief Sajid Javid quits as PM Boris Johnson shakes up Cabinet

LONDON -- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson tightened his grip on the government Thursday with a Cabinet shake-up that triggered the unexpected resignation of his Treasury chief, the second-most powerful figure in the administration.

Sajid Javid's resignation was the most dramatic moment in a shuffle that saw Johnson fire a handful of Cabinet members he viewed as under-performing or untrustworthy, and promote loyal lawmakers to senior jobs.

Javid smiled as he entered the prime minister's 10 Downing St. office on Thursday morning to meet Johnson along with other ministers who were being promoted or kept in place. But a spokesman confirmed soon after that Javid had quit.

Speaking later, Javid said Johnson had asked him to fire all his aides and replace them with staff approved by the prime minister's office.

"I don't believe any self-respecting minister would accept such conditions," Javid said.

"I felt that I was left with no option other than to resign."

Johnson quickly replaced him with Rishi Sunak, who had previously been a dep-



Jill Lawless The Associated Press

uty to Javid at the Treasury and is widely regarded as a dependable loyalist to the prime minister.

Johnson's office confirmed it was creating a new team of advisers covering both the prime minister's office and the Treasury.

Javid's resignation followed reports he had clashed with Johnson's powerful adviser, Dominic Cummings, a self-styled political disruptor who is mistrusted by many lawmakers and officials.

"Dominic Cummings has clearly won the battle to take absolute control of the Treasury and install his stooge," said John McDonnell, finance spokesman for the opposition Labour Party.

Javid, who became Chancellor of the Exchequer when Johnson succeeded Theresa May as prime minister in July, had been due to deliver his first budget

in less than a month -- a crucial staging post for the government in the wake of the country's departure from the European Union last month.

The prime minister's office could not confirm Thursday whether the budget would take place as scheduled on March 11.

In the wake of Brexit, Johnson has vowed to take a more interventionist economic approach than some of his Conservative predecessors in order to boost poorer regions outside the economic hub of London and southeast England. That involves ambitious infrastructure plans, including a 100 billion-pound (\$130 billion) high-speed railway connecting London to central and northern England.

Paul Dales, chief U.K. economist at Capital Economics, said Javid, a fiscal conservative, had appeared reluctant to increase public

borrowing to fund higher spending.

He said Javid's departure should "allow the government to push through even bigger increases in public investment and perhaps resuscitate tax cuts that previously looked dead in the water."

That appeared to be the main sentiment in financial markets, as traders calculated that the higher spending would inevitably lead to the Bank of England having to raise interest rates more quickly than anticipated. The pound got a boost, trading 0.8% higher at \$1.3058.

The resignation was a curve ball in a Cabinet shake-up that comes in the wake of the Conservatives' big election win in December. That victory allowed Johnson to take Britain out of the EU last month, delivering on his key election promise.

Your Stars Foretold



Aries

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Your creative star is in the ascendant, and there are those who are rather impressed with you or your performance. Redouble your efforts and magnify the impression.



Libra

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

If you agree to a course of action that fundamentally irritates you just to terminate a discussion, you could find yourself in a real bind. Stick to your guns and say, "No thanks."



Taurus

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Examine the ways a venture could be structured so that it takes your creative and economic needs into account. Right now you have a blank canvas upon which you can design whatever you want. So grab your crayons.



Scorpio

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Try to get as much work done as possible. Within a few days, the desire to industriously produce widgets will be replaced by the urge to loll under a tree, while holding a beverage with a parasol in it.



Gemini

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Your perfectionist tendencies notwithstanding, review some of the activities that you would enjoy but don't actually do because you aren't expert at them. Can you guess the rest? That's right-get out there and do them.



Sagittarius

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

While there is always a comfort to be derived from familiar routines and patterns, there's a heaping helping of inspiration to be drawn from the untried. Let the unknown take you for a spin today.



Cancer

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

If you're looking for inspiration, the instructions are simple. Anything that propels you out of your rut or your routine, even temporarily, is a growth opportunity of the first order.



Capricorn

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

It's possible you've made a choice that you're not entirely crazy about. You didn't actually engrave the agreement in stone, did you? Good, because then there's still time to change your plan.



Leo

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

Certain business or personal arrangements may no longer be ringing your bell the way they once did. You could gain altitude if you chose to jettison those that are weighing you down.



Aquarius

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

If you're doing what you enjoy doing, carry on. If you aren't-and only you know for sure-you ought to seriously consider what would have to happen for you to feel the love.



Virgo

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

There's really no reason to worry about future events. Your time is far better spent becoming excited about the fun you can have extracting enjoyment from your existing-the operative word is existing-resources.



Pisces

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Have confidence in your efforts. You have quite an assortment of options and a wealth of talents, all of which are far more worthy of your attention than the hole in the bucket, dear 'Liza or Henry.

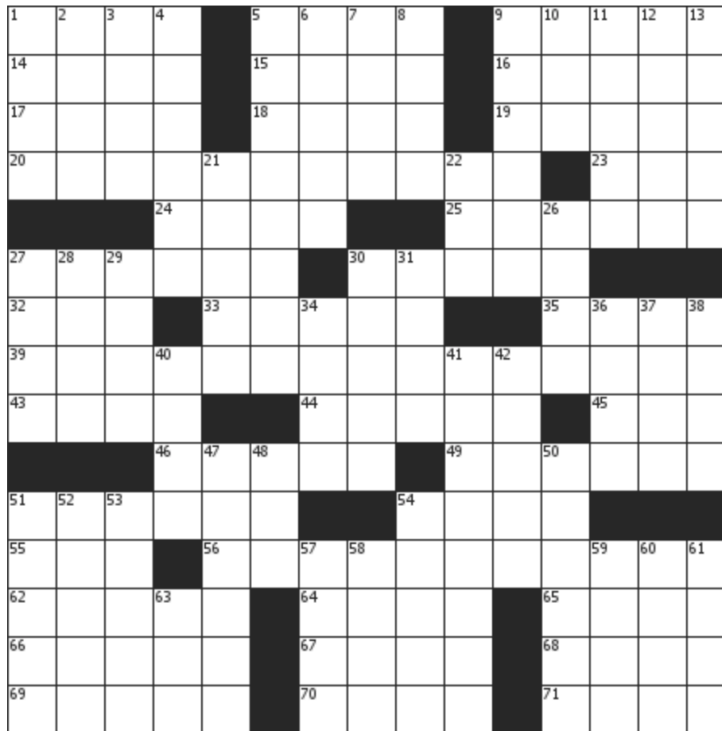
COMING SOON



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ross

- Bit of chowder
- Acorns, e.g.
- Put an ID on
- Fabled race loser
- Elvis' middle name
- Maker of Space Invaders
- PC alternative
- Shakespearean villain
- Buckboard, for one
- "Minnie the Moocher" singer
- Summer hours in Fla.
- Pound sounds
- Band offering, perhaps
- Graf's mate
- Norwegian inlet
- Corn holder
- Vintage platter
- Where most people live
- You've heard it all too often
- Different
- "Silas Marner" author
- Motorola rival
- Shell used as a dipper
- Breakfast staple
- Decennial count
- Opera highlight
- Oscar role for Jamie
- Ballroom employees
- Stares at
- Prepare for publication
- Granny or square
- Single-handedly
- Alaskan port
- "Hairspray" mom
- Religious teaching
- Pub offerings
- Ivan or Nicholas


Down

1. Stylish
2. Tibetan monk
3. Saudi, e.g.
4. Tourist attractions
5. Sharp-edge smoother
6. Europe/Asia divider
7. Ordering option
8. Winter forecast
9. Brief drafter
10. One-time connection
11. Hard roll
12. Wear down
13. Like dryer vents
21. Cause of some fires
22. Start of a Latin trio
26. When Operation Overlord began
27. Yearn (for)
28. Score for Beckham
29. Basics
30. Catch on the diamond
31. Obi-Wan, for one
34. Salon worker
36. Regal address
37. Machu Picchu native
38. "I've Got ___ in Kalamazoo"
40. Beer holders
47. Beginning
48. Olympics chant
50. Illegal enterprise
51. One from Zagreb
52. Links rarity
53. Hose material
54. Stop on ___
57. Warrior princess of TV
58. Screen favorite
59. Stops
60. Gossipy Barrett
61. Have the lead
63. Ethyl ending

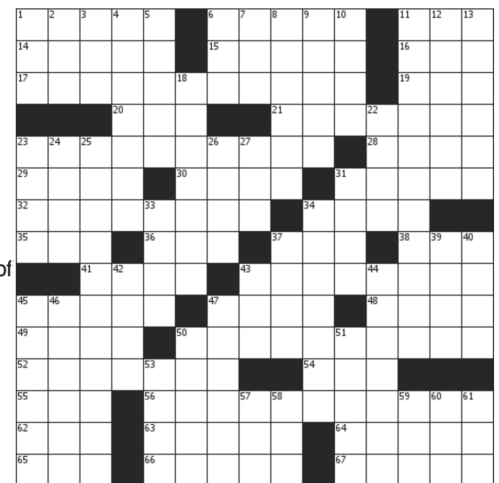
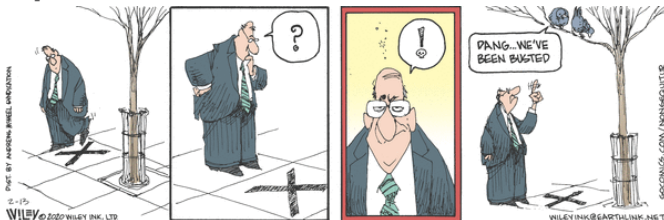
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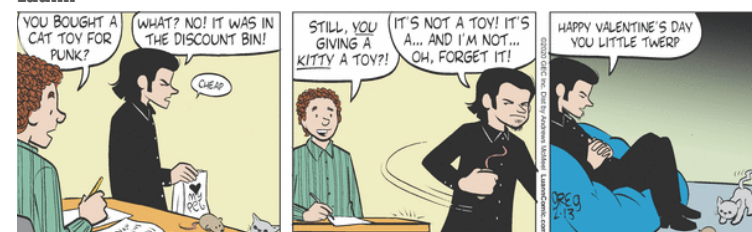
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Answer to last puzzle

Non Sequitur

Cathy

Garfield

Luann

Daily Comics presented by **azcentral.**

Alleged bookie Sanjeev Chawla extradited from United Kingdom



Alleged bookie Sanjeev Chawla at Patiala House Court

Sanjeev Chawla, an alleged bookie, was extradited from the UK on Thursday. He is one of the primary accused in the 2000 match-fixing scandal that involved former South African captain Hansie Cronje.

Chawla's extradition was sought by the Delhi police, who had filed a chargesheet in 2013, naming him along with five others including the late Cronje, for conspiracy to cheat, a criminal offence under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code.

In a media release issued on Thursday, Dr G. Ram Gopal Naik, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch), said Chawla will be in the police "remand/custody" for 12 days. Based on the progress of the investigations, the cops could ask for a further

remand, but following that Chawla would be shifted to the Tihar Jail before the judicial proceedings begin.

Apart from Chawla and Cronje, the other accused were: Rajesh Kalra, Krishan Kumar, Sunil Dara - all three based in India - and Manmohan Khattar, who is believed to be living overseas. In the chargesheet, the Delhi police said Chawla and the other five accused were charged with IPC 420 (cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy). The chargesheet cited 65 witnesses and ran over 2500 pages, but the operative portion was only 80 pages.

The Delhi police had sought Chawla's extradition because of his alleged involvement in the match-fixing controversy which eventually implicat-

ed Cronje, who confessed during the King Commission inquiry to accepting money from bookies to fix matches during South Africa's ODI series in India in 2000.

Chawla's extradition was approved by the UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid in February last year under the India-UK Extradition Treaty 1992. On June 14, 2016, Chawla was arrested in the UK after the Indian government sought his extradition in February that year but was let out on bail. In January 2019, the Westminster Magistrates' Court, which had blocked the extradition in 2017 on human interest grounds, eventually asked Javid's office to take the final decision.

Jamaican Williams to stand in T20 WORLD CUP



DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (CMC) — West Indies umpire Jacqueline Williams is among a record six female match officials named by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for this month's Women's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia.

The 43-year-old Jamaican, who has already stood in five One-Day Internationals and six T20 Internationals, joins fellow umpires Lauren Agenbag, Kim Cotton, Claire Polosak, and Sue Redfern, with

India's GS Lakshmi poised to become the first women's match referee at a global ICC event.

Williams will stand in the high-stakes tournament opener on February 21 in Sydney between reigning champions Australia and powerhouses India.

Adrian Griffith, the ICC's senior manager for umpires and referees, hailed the historic development, noting it was a massive step for the women's game.

"This is the largest complement of women match officials at a single event, and the progress we have made is heartening," said Griffith, the former Barbados batsman and West Indies Test opener.

"We have endeavoured to provide opportunities to women officials based on merit, and it is because of their skill set and hard work that they have graduated to the top level.

"We appoint the best match officials for an event and are pleased we have the right mix. I wish all match officials at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup the very best and am confident we will have smooth adjudication of the matches."

DOMINOES 2020 COOL & SMOOTH THREE HAND COMPETITION FEBRUARY 6TH RESULTS

MATCH 1	MATCH 2	MATCH 3	BYES
Bolans A 76	Royal Ramplers 70	Legacy 67	Bolans C, Willikies A,
Willikies B 81	Dominatrix A 73	Double six Ice 91	
College 87	Bolans B 69	Rising Star 67	
Parham Strickers 79	Double Six Dia. 70	Dominatrix B 69	

2020 Cool & Smooth FOUR Hand Competition February 7th Results

MATCHES	BYE	Results
Willikies vs Double Six Double Six / Bolans	Ramplers Double Six	Willikies 42/ Double Six 30 47/ Bolans 41



Expulsions in 1st Division

First division contenders Stowe Family/Company TRYUM and CEDAR GROVE played to a nil all draw in the only first division encounter that was played on Thursday.

The contest, which was played at the Cashew Hill playfield saw both sides walking away with a solitary point.

However, the game was marred by two expulsions as Cassiano Samuel of Cedar Grove was given his marching orders by referee Brian Willett for

abusive language and near the end, Samuel's teammate, Jawarn Locker was sent off for serious fowl-play.

Tryum inched on to 31 points as they remain third in the standings behind leaders SAP FC who head the table with 34 and Cool and Smooth Empire who are second on 32.

As for Cedar Grove, they are in 5th position with 29 points. Twenty-hours earlier, a Kimon Harrigan conversion propelled Fitzroy

Rewinding Pigotts Bullets to victory over Five Islands in the Harney Motors ABFA premier division action on Wednesday at the ARG.

Harrigan's effort in the 52nd minute was enough to earn the Pigotts men full points as they moved to 17 points and 6th place in the ten team standings.

Sandals Inet Grenades FC sit at the summit with 26, followed by Hoppers on 20 and Rangers who have 19.