



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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FOUR NEW COVID CASES

Story on Page 3

Cuban medical personnel arrive



Twenty-nine Cuban medical doctors and nurses arrived in Antigua and Barbuda yesterday to join the local fight to rid the country of the dreaded coronavirus, COVID-19. *See story on page 4.*

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.



Farewell Manning

Hellsgate Steelband bid a musical farewell to Eustace "Manning" Henry who was laid to rest yesterday.

DAY 3/27

Max UV Index: 11 Extreme
 Wind: E at 11 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 17 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.5 mm
 Rain: 0.5 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

28°_{Hi}



Partly sunny with a stray shower

NIGHT 3/27

Wind: ENE at 11 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 43%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.0 mm
 Rain: 1.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

23°_{Lo}



Patchy clouds with a shower in spots

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:05AM

Sunset AST
6:20PM



Duration
12:15hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
8:12 PM

Moonset AST
9:05AM



Duration
12:53hr

Four more COVID cases



Prime Minister
Gaston Browne

close to impossible.

That is why, he stated, throughout the world, all non-essential operations are closed, and personnel are working from home, where their jobs make that possible.

He explained that the government tried, for as long as it could, to keep the borders opened, because it is acutely aware that many jobs and family livelihoods depend directly, and indirectly on tourism.

According to the nation's leader the country instituted measures at the ports of entry to screen passengers for COVID-19 and it imposed measures to quarantine those persons with COVID type symptoms and isolated those who were detected as infected.

"Given this reality, of the elevation in the spread of COVID, including one known community transmission; we have decided to close our borders, effective from midnight Thursday, to all international flights from North America and Europe, where the virus is spiraling out of control," he reiterated.

Browne said the only exceptions to this closure are LIAT and other sub-regional flights, which now are only moving between limited places within the region; and to private aircraft and cargo planes

under a strict regime of health investigation and quarantine.

"Due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, and the pattern elsewhere in the world, I expect that we will experience further community spread and contagion.

"That too is inescapable," he indicated.

Since the outbreak of the virus and the international nature of its spread, Browne has been warning the country that it was impossible for Antigua and Barbuda to escape having infected persons within its shores.

He said Antigua and Barbuda was not immune to what was happening in the rest of the world.

"Inevitably, because of our global interconnectivity, driven by human mobility, trade and the facilitating of air and sea transportation, the importation of COVID to our shores was inescapable," he further explained.

Browne added that the country's dependence on trade, tourism and the need to facilitate returning nationals, including students from abroad, made it virtually impossible to completely seal off the borders from the rest of the world.

In fact, the importation of food would have prevented us from closing our borders.

The number of people confirmed with the coronavirus in Antigua and Barbuda has more than doubled following the latest disclosure from the prime minister himself.

In a national broadcast on Thursday, Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, noted that less than a week since the number of confirmed cases has increased to three, four additional cases have been confirmed bringing the total number of confirmed cases to sev-

en (7).

"To date, the evidence is, all but one of the cases were imported, to include a returning national who contracted it from abroad.

All seven (7) individuals are now in isolation and the necessary contact tracing is being done," he told the nation.

The prime minister emphasized that as the country's COVID numbers increase, tracking every person with whom each of them was in contact, is



Twenty-nine Cuban medical personnel arrive

Twenty-nine Cuban medical doctors and nurses have arrived in Antigua and Barbuda to join the local fight to rid the country of the dreaded coronavirus, COVID-19.

The team arrived in Antigua via a special charter arranged by the government of Venezuela.

It was met at the VC Bird International airport by a delegation jointly led by Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and which included the Cuban Ambassador, Maria Fefe and representatives from the Venezu-



Cuban medical personnel having their temperature taken at the airport yesterday.



elan embassy in St John's.

Ambassador Fefe revealed that the Cuban government has dispatched its medical brigades to thirty-seven countries to help with the fight against COVID-19. Seven of these countries are in the Caribbean.

They are Barbados, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica Haiti and Antigua and Barbuda.

Just this week, Cuba dispatched a

team of 53 doctors and nurses to Italy to help with one of the world's worst outbreaks of the virus.

The ambassador also used the opportunity to call for an end of the economic and financial blockage of her country.

"This is a moment for solidarity and helping each other. There is no place for embargoes and sanctions.

"We have opened ourselves to the

cont'd on pg 5



Social Security, MBS and Treasury facing cash crunch

The Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS), which is funded largely by statutory deductions from the salaries of wage owners in both the public and private sectors, has been identified one of the State's key social protection agencies on which the COVID-19 crisis will have a major impact.

Minister for Health and Wellness Molwyn Joseph this week reported to Cabinet that MBS is projecting a \$22 million drop in its revenue "because of the decline in employment triggered by the COVID-19 global corona virus crisis".

The Cabinet statement containing this information notes that "income

of hotel workers, in particular, and of other workers in industries connected to the hotel and tourism sector, has declined precipitously" and, therefore, "payments to the Medical Benefits Scheme reflect the decline.

"One hotel manager," it says, "reported that workers who are laid-off will receive EC\$150 weekly until the crisis passes.

"All hotels have agreed to allow their senior workers to access 50% of the Thrift Fund, which include the amounts contributed by the employer."

Another major social protection agency of the State, the Antigua and

Barbuda Social Security Scheme, has also reported a decline in its revenue due to cessations or significant reductions in contributions from workers who have been laid off.

The Cabinet notes state that "Government's revenue has also declined significantly", commensurate with the drop in receipts from several sources such the hotel and tourism sector.

It however gives the assurance that salaries, wages and pensions due for this month will be paid by March 31st 2020.

But it warns that "the challenge to meet salaries and wages in full will come on April 30, 2020."

cont'd from pg 4

world in solidarity, embargoes and sanctions at this moment of a pandemic is a crime against humanity," she declared.

The ambassador said she is confident that the world will overcome the COVID-19 virus just as it overcame the Ebola outbreak in Africa and the Cholera outbreak in Haiti.

Health Minister Joseph recalled that former Cuban president, Raul Castro had convened a meeting of Caribbean and Latin American leaders in Havana in 2015 to demonstrate to the world that the region was united in the fight against Ebola.

He said Cuba led the international fight against that virus and he is confident that its leadership against

the current pandemic will also be successful.

"It's the year 2020, and again Cuba has stepped forward more than any other country in the world in order to exercise the greatest gift of humanity; securing

the health and wellbeing of a people," he stated.

He told the medical brigade that their task is to help local health personnel and the Cuban medical team already on the island in the ongoing fight to

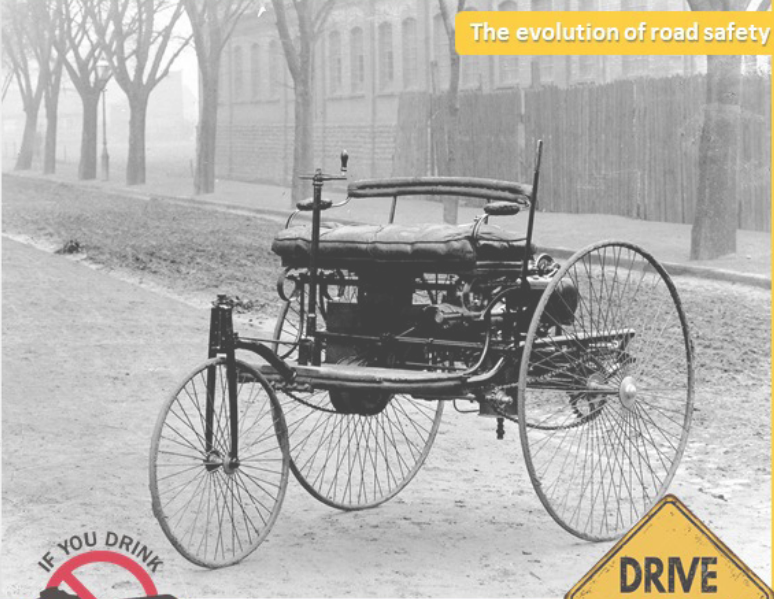
contain and eliminate the COVID-19.


For his part, Foreign Affairs Minister Greene displayed his versatility with languages by welcoming the team in both Spanish and English.


The evolution of road safety


Karl Friedrich Benz or Carl Friedrich Benz (25 November 1844 – 4 April 1929) was a German engine designer, automobile engineer.

His Benz Patent Motorcar from 1885 is considered the first practical automobile. He received a patent for the motorcar in 1886.









Local News

Government may introduce curfew

The government is giving serious consideration to introducing several stricter measures to limit non-essential movement within the country.

This comes as the number of people confirmed with the coronavirus, COVID-19, in the country has increased to seven. Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, said limiting personal movement has been

proven as one sure way to reduce the spread of the virus in other countries.

“This is why to protect all of us and each of us, the Government may be forced to impose certain additional restrictions on personal freedoms, to include a possible closure of nonessential businesses and even a curfew at short notice. This will be determined after further consultations with

health officials,” the prime minister revealed.

The prime minister is reminding everyone that personal responsibility by all citizens and residents is required to contain community spread of COVID 19.

“There is no substitute for personal responsibility,” he declared

Browne noted that despite exultations from the health authorities about the need to avoid large gatherings, over the past week, there have been several large gatherings, including at funeral services and elsewhere where public gatherings in excess of 25 persons are banned.

“I appeal to everyone to be disciplined in the conduct of their lives and to adhere strictly to the public health protocols as established.

“You are required by law to limit attendance at all functions including, funerals and church services to no more than twenty-five, and even then, please ensure that you distance yourselves from one another,” Browne urged the nation.

The prime minister also announced several measures designed to help relieve the economic hard-

ship that the outbreak will have on the residents. These include the re-introduction of the dollar barrel initiative for ninety days. Additionally, the government has asked APUA to hold off all disconnections for ninety days as well as to reduce electricity bills by 20 percent.

He disclosed that all these measures will impact the government’s finances as the pandemic began taking a toll on the economy long before the first case of the virus was confirmed here.

“Government’s revenues have reduced considerably over the last few weeks from cancelled cruise ships, cancelled airplane landings, and cancelled hotel bookings.

The Treasury will be further depleted in the coming period, presenting the government with significant challenges to deliver the customary goods and services in all sectors of our community,” he warned.

The head of government called on residents to expect belt-tightening as hard choices are made to tide the entire nation over this difficult period that it did not create but, from which it could not escape.

EMPLOYMENT

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Requirements:

- Candidates must be legally entitled to work in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Candidates have to be registered with the Statutory bodies (Social Security, Medical Benefits, Board of Education & Inland Revenue)
- Subcontractors must be registered and compliant with Authorities.

Send applications by mail to P.O. Box W1211, Woods Mall or by email to squareone@candw.ag. Please include information of previous experiences and projects you have worked on.

Once we receive your documents appointments for interviews will be scheduled.

The Manager
Square One Ltd
Antigua & Barbuda W.I

Three-month breather on bill payments

The government of Antigua and Barbuda continues seeking ways to mitigate the adverse economic impact on residents by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Cabinet of Ministers has just announced another package of measure designed to lessen the financial burden the job losses and layoffs may have on many due to the closures and contractions of several businesses and entire sec-

tors due to measures to control the spread of the deadly corona virus.

At its regular weekly meeting on Wednesday, according to the official briefing notes, "The Cabinet took a decision to enlist APUA's assistance to cushion the pain of unemployment which many workers face as the hotels close, the airlines lay-off staff, other businesses contract and shorten work weeks, reduc-

ing or eliminating salaries and wages."

The Antigua & Barbuda Public Utilities (APUA) has reportedly agreed to a significant package of concessionary measures that include suspending all disconnections of household electricity and potable water for three months.

APUA will also reconnect customers who have been recently disconnected, except for theft of services.

Such theft occurs from illegal or unauthorized connections to dwellings from the water and electricity mains, and also by people tampering with, impairing or defeating the metering devices by which utility consumption is measured

APUA has further agreed to reduce the cost of electricity to households by 20 percent or one-fifth for a three-month period from April to June 2020.

According to the statement, customers who remain employed are encouraged to continue paying their bills, as the deferral of payments will cause their utility arrears to accumulate.

These arrears will still have to be paid, as the deferrals are just that – a postponement of the payment due dates – and not outright waivers of the payment obligations.

Cabinet says it has taken this decision to provide households (whose breadwinners have lost their income because of the COVID-19 upheavals) "with a period to lessen the pain which has been inflicted on families."

It notes that "the dreaded disease has changed many circumstances, crippled economies and affected the entire globe."

AG, Commissioner to discuss videos

Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, has declined to comment on several videos purporting to depict what happens to police recruits at the Sir Wright George Police Training Academy at Langfords.

Benjamin said reports that the videos have gone 'viral' have reached his desk, but he has indicated that he first wants to speak with the commissioner, Atlee Rodney, before commenting one way or another.

"It has been brought to my attention that a video depicting an incident has been making the rounds on social media. I am very concerned about that. However, I do not wish to comment any further until I have had a discussion with the commissioner," Benjamin declared.

The attorney general said he is confident that the commissioner will have some explanation about the videos and it is only after he speaks with Atlee that he will be



Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin.

in a position to comment.

The circulation of the videos via social media has sparked comments from members of the public, many of whom took umbrage to what they see depicted in the video and who questioned the tactics employed by officers at the training academy.

Last international commercial flights take off

The V.C. Bird International airport is now closed to international commercial flights effective midnight Thursday.

Several international flights landed at the airport Thursday afternoon and their passengers were immediately screened and later quarantined. Later the airlines took off for what were their final flights from the country until the airport reopens at a date to be announced by the government.

LIAT, cargo craft, private jets and small private aircraft will be allowed to fly into and out of V.C. Bird International, including flights to and from Anguilla, Barbuda, and Montserrat by the customary small carriers.

Commercial air carriers that choose to fly empty aircraft to Antigua after Thursday will be allowed to enter in order to collect citizens of their respective countries for return to their orig-



inating cities. The citizens of those several countries who would have arrived on British Airways, American Airlines and Air Canada, among others, may wish to take advantage of the facility.

More calls to end 'fake news'

There are more calls for an end to the circulation of what has been termed 'fake news' especially in light of the current coronavirus crisis.

The latest call comes from Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, who said the prevalence of 'fake news' has become a matter of grave concern for members of the government.

"I am personally chagrined with the circulation of fake news at a time

when we confront so many challenges individually and as a nation," Greene declared.

He said he has no issue with the videos or other matters that are of a humorous kind that are being circulated.

"That's okay, when they claim that supermarkets will close for weeks or that a minister's daughter tested positive for the virus, these falsehoods have no place especially in these times," he stated.

According to Greene these are serious times, requiring a serious response from us as a people and there's no time for fake news that is causing anxiety and fear among residents.

There have been calls in the past about the circulation of fake news and its role in heightening the fears about the virus and the availability for food and other supplies at a time when there is genuine concerns for food security in the country.



NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING RATES

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CENTER SPREAD	2,200.00	3,500.00
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MINI PAGE	800.00	1,200.00
HALF PAGE - VERTICAL	600.00	850.00
QUARTER PAGE	350.00	500.00
EIGHT OF A PAGE	250.00	350.00
16TH OF A PAGE	120.00	300.00
CLASSIFIED - PERSONAL	30.00	
CLASSIFIED - PROFESSIONAL	60.00	125.00



POINTE FM RADIO ADVERTISING RATES

RADIO RATES	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
3 SPOTS DAILY	165.00	990.00	3,366.00
4 SPOTS DAILY	200.00	1,200.00	4,080.00
6 SPOTS DAILY	270.00	1,620.00	5,508.00
30 TO 45 SECS ADS			

MENTIONS	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
3 MENTIONS DAILY	120.00	600.00	2,040.00
4 MENTIONS DAILY	160.00	800.00	2,720.00
6 MENTIONS DAILY	240.00	1,200.00	4,080.00

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

PRIME TIME	30 MINS 500.00
NON-PRIME TIME	30 MINS 250.00

POINTE XPRESS & POINTE FM RADIO COMBO ADVERTISING RATES

	B & W	COLOR
MINI PAGE 4 MENTIONS	750.00	1,199.00
HALF PAGE 4 MENTIONS	600.00	850.00
CLASSIFIED ADS & 4 MENTIONS	150.00	-
QUARTER PAGE & 3 MENTIONS	350.00	500.00
CENTER SPREAD & 3 RADIO ADS OR 6 MENTIONS	1,900.00	3,200.00



NEWS RELEASE

Commercial Banks to Adjust Opening Hours

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, March 26, 2020: As we continue our efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19, the Antigua Barbuda Bankers Association (ABBA) will implement additional measures to keep employees and customers safe. The Association therefore wishes to advise the public that all commercial banks will make adjustments to their operating hours, to further adopt social distancing recommendations made by the authorities. As of March 30, 2020 the following changes in banking hours will be in effect until further notice.

Banking Hours

ACB, CUB, ECAB, CIBC FirstCaribbean

Mondays - Thursdays

- Senior Citizens: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (*Except CUB*)
- The General Public: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fridays

- Senior Citizens: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- The General Public: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

RBC, Scotiabank

Mondays - Thursdays

- Senior Citizens: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- The General Public: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fridays

- Senior Citizens: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- The General Public: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Social Distancing

Even if a person is not showing symptoms, he or she can transmit the virus to others. Through social distancing, we can avoid coming in contact with infected persons who may or may not be exhibiting symptoms. Here are some of the ways you can practice social distancing and still meet your banking needs.

- Utilise your bank's alternate banking options which include:
 - ATMs
 - Online and Mobile Applications
 - Drive-thru Banking Facilities (where applicable)
 - Night Deposit Facilities.
- Maintain a person-to-person distance of at least 3ft.
- Adhere to your bank's maximum number of customers allowed in branch at any one time.
- Contact your bank's Customer Service hotline or email should you have questions or concerns regarding your banking.
- Reduce cash transactions by using your debit or credit card.
- If you feel sick, avoid all contact with other persons. Seek medical assistance by calling the COVID-19 hotline: 462-6843.

Fraud Alert

The ABBA also wishes to remind the public to be especially aware of fraud at this time. Be on the lookout for suspicious emails or links claiming to be related to updated or important information about COVID-19. Remember, the Bank will never ask for your personal or account information via email.

Each member bank remains committed to the well-being and safety of customers and employees alike. We therefore ask for your co-operation as we seek to stop the spread of COVID-19 while we continue to serve you.

-END-

Beefed Up Security at Liberta Clinic

Security at the Liberta Clinic has been beefed up following a break-in at the health facility this week.

Area representative, E.P Chet Greene said, it is unfortunate that individuals would prey on a facility such as a clinic that serves the health needs of residents of the entire constituency.

He made the remark on Thursday during a brief ceremony where he presented several cleaning and other items to the clinic.

These include disinfectant, water, Lysol spray and toiletries.

He noted that he has been

able to successfully appeal to several members of the business community who responded by donated items to replace things that were stolen.

The businesses that made donations include Special Security Services which donated a security system to the clinic, Cool and Smooth, Covent Gardens Supermarket in English Harbor and Townhouse Megastore.

Greene said since the closure of the clinic in Cobbs Cross a few years ago, the Clinic at Liberta now serves the entire constituency of St Paul.



E.P Chet Greene

He said the government is actively pursuing appropriate rental accommoda-

tions to house a clinic in the Cobbs Cross/English Harbour area.

“That area of the constituency is a hive of commercial and other activities involving taxi drivers, hotels and other accommodations, and yachting.

“It’s too important an area not to have its own health clinic and as a government we want to move quickly to re-establish one there,” Greene stated.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary representative took time out to offer birthday wishes to a constituent, Archibald Browne, who celebrated his 96th birthday on Thursday.



Whither the divided Organisation of American States?

The writer is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organisation 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)

On 20 March 2020, a reckless and irresponsible General Assembly (GA) was held by the Organization of American States (OAS), putting the health of many at risk and giving an entirely wrong example to the entire world. The meeting of at least 50 persons was held amid intense concerns about the quickly spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), and despite the strongest possible recommendations by US and international health authorities not to hold gatherings larger than 10 persons.

This dangerous act was done to hold the election for a Secretary-General of the Organization and to gain an advantage for the incumbent, Luis Almagro, who was the declared candidate of the US, Brazil and Colombia. Almagro's current term does not end until May 28. Therefore, the meeting could easily have been postponed for at least a month, allowing time for greater control of COVID-19. Despite logic and good sense, many member states of the Organization were coerced into holding what was, at best, a wrongful meeting. At worst, the meeting was illegal.

The meeting proceeded, based on the advice of the Legal Secretary of the OAS. He is an employee of the Secretariat and is answerable to the Secretary-General. He may be the most

independent-minded and fair person in the world, but because all his opinions have synchronised with the positions of the Secretary-General and powerful states within the Organisation, healthy scepticism of his advice is understandable.

Remarkably, the Permanent Council of the OAS – the supposedly highest, day to day decision-making organ of the institution – has no legal counsel of its own, and no machinery for seeking external and independent legal guidance. Therefore, the opinion of the Legal Secretary prevails. In the week running-up to the GA, the US was in a state of heightened concern over the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The official advice from the Mayor of the District of Colombia, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the President of the US himself was to hold no gatherings larger than ten persons. Three days before the meeting, 13 CARICOM countries sent a joint letter to all member states of the OAS and to the Secretary-General, pointing out the dangers of the meeting, and the powerful advice from all pertinent health authorities, to postpone it. Haiti was the only CARICOM country that did not sign the official letter. While the CDC was asked to examine the OAS building at which the meeting was held, there were no other pertinent checks. No one, entering the room, was checked for their travel history, or for the travel history of persons with whom they had been in contact. Anyone could have been COVID-19 positive, but simply displaying no



By Sir Ronald Sanders

symptoms. The virus is known to take up to 14 days to incubate. The dangerous consequences of that meeting may yet unfold.

Up to the day prior to the event, meetings of representatives of the regional groups of the Organisation were held electronically to consider the letter from the 13 Caribbean countries, which had the private backing of many other states although some of them were silent publicly for whatever reason.

On March 19, the Legal Secretary gave the opinion that the GA could only be postponed by the Permanent Council since the decision to hold the General Assembly on March 20 was taken by the Permanent Council and only the Permanent Council could change its own rules. When asked whether the Permanent Council could hold an electronic meeting to consider postponement, the Legal Secretary gave the further opinion, ex cathedra, that the rules of the Council did not permit electronic meetings.

It seemed not to occur to him that the rules were written, prior to the technological age in which circumstances, such as COVID-19, did not exist. He also casually dismissed the notion that where rules are silent on a course of

action, simple common sense should prevail. In all the opinions he gave, the Legal Secretary was backed up by the representatives of the countries determined to hold the GA on March 20.

What is important to note here is that a precedent has now been set. No meetings of the Permanent Council can be held electronically since the rules do not provide for it. The Organization may yet be hoisted by this petard in the weeks ahead. Of further note is that the GA was held under new rules of procedure that were not approved by the GA itself, although only the GA could change its own rules.

None of the states that insisted on holding it, nor the Legal Secretary, has explained on what authority the rules were changed. All of this is a sad indication of what the OAS has become. It is an organisation run by a few for a few. In any event, Luis Almagro was

elected for a second term with 23 votes. Ten countries voted for Maria Fernanda Espinosa, the remaining contender, since the Peruvian candidate Luis de Zela had withdrawn, and Dominica was the sensible absentee.

Over the last few years, the OAS has experienced a bitter period of division among its member states that has left the Organization weakened and lacking in a coherent vision of its way forward in the collective interest of the people of the Americas that it was created to serve.

If these divisions are not bridged and these wounds are not healed, the Organization will continue to exist only as a cauldron for disagreement and discord. This would be catastrophic for the OAS as an institution. It would also be calamitous for Almagro's record.

Majority is not consensus. To operate only based on satisfying a majority,

however achieved, neglects the interests of many others. The OAS will not survive in constant contention, vexation and division. Almagro's second term provides him a great opportunity to leave a legacy of which he could be proud and which all member states could honour.

It will require him to be attentive to the needs and aspirations of each group within the OAS, and to forge a common and vibrant agenda on which there is genuine consensus. The member states themselves also must be committed to that goal and act on it, or the Organization will wither into a few states, using it as a bullhorn for their own positions, disdained by others tired of being subjugated.

Responses and previous commentaries:

www.sirronaldsanders.com

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CLAIM NO: ANUHCv2017/0441

In the Matter of a Mortgage Claim under Section 72
of the Registered Land Act (Cap. 374)

BETWEEN:

RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
-and-
LARRY JACKSON
COLEEN JACKSON

Claimant

1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

ORDER

BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUSTICE ROSALYN E. WILKINSON (A JUDGE IN OPEN COURT)
DATED THE 16th DAY OF JANUARY, 2018
ENTERED THE 24th DAY OF JANUARY, 2018

APPEARANCES
Ms. Andrea Smith of Messrs. Marshall & Co., Counsel for the Claimant

PRESENT
Mrs. Gayle Samuel Browne, Claimant Representative
Defendant absent

UPON the Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim pursuant to CPR Rules 66.3 and 66.4 filed on the 25th day of July, 2017 with Affidavits filed in Support;

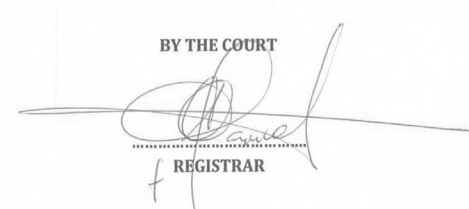
AND UPON hearing Counsel for the Claimant;

AND UPON the Court being satisfied that the Defendant was served with notice of the proceedings and pleadings by substituted service via two (2) consecutive publications in a daily newspaper circulating in Antigua and Barbuda;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Judgment is entered against the Defendants in the sum of \$326,805.73 being the principal sum of \$211,033.63, late charges of \$2,600.00 and accrued interest of \$113,172.10 (up to the 16th day of January, 2018).
2. The Defendant shall deliver possession of the charged property being that more particularly described in the Land Registry as **Registration Section: Falmouth & Bethesda; Block# 34 2482A; Parcel #: 426** to the Claimant.
3. The Claimant shall be at liberty to sell the said charged property by public auction. Licensed Auctioneer, Mr. Trevor Santos, to conduct the auction at the reserve price which shall be no less than the forced sale value ascribed in the Valuation Report of the charged property dated the 16th day of November, 2017.
4. The Defendants shall notify forthwith their licensees, agents and/or tenants (if any) of the impending auction and shall finalise any arrangements to deliver possession of the charged property.
5. The Claimant is awarded prescribed costs.
6. The Claimant shall be at liberty to apply for further consequential orders.

BY THE COURT


REGISTRAR

Filed by MESSRS. MARSHALL & CO., Attorneys-at-Law, Ann-Rebecca House, Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua Telephone Nos. 1 (268) 462-3562/72/73/74 Fax No. 1 (268) 462-3563 email: mco@hcmllaw.com Attorneys for the Claimant whose address for service is the same.

In Face Of COVID-19 Pandemic, CXC Offers Revised Exams Process



CSEC Officials at the press conference

The Caribbean Examinations Council® (CXC®) stands in solidarity with the region and the international community as we grapple with the impact of COVID-19 on our way of life. During the past two weeks, we have been monitoring developments across the CARICOM region and working closely with representatives from the Ministries of Education and tertiary institutions to arrive at a regional consensus for the administration of May/June 2020 examinations.

The Council recognises the impact of COVID-19 on the education system in general and, more specifically, on the schedule of CXC's regional examinations. Accordingly, the Council has proposed a

revised examinations strategy to yield valid grades and minimize the disruption to the education system during these unprecedented times. Consequently, the Council has made the policy decision to offer a modified examination process as follows:

1. Administration of at least one common paper (Multiple Choice Assessments);
2. School Based Assessments (SBAs) and Paper 032s (Alternative to SBA) for private candidates; and,
3. Award final grades based on the moderated SBAs and Multiple Choice Papers.

The following are exceptions to the aforementioned process where candidates will be required to complete additional components:

- Modern Languages (Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- Human and Social Biology
- Visual Arts

This strategy will employ the e-Testing modality (online and offline) in order to reduce the examinations administration processing time resulting in the shortest turnaround time for marking and the release of examination results. In addition, it will provide an opportunity for the timely presentation of grades to facilitate matriculation to higher education or to access employment. This also minimizes disruption to the 2020/2021 academic year.

While the proposed revised administration sched-

ule for the May/June 2020 examinations is July 2020, we continue to be guided by national protocols across the region.

Students and teachers are encouraged to utilize the CXC Learning Hub – our e-Learning platform that provides learners and instructors with a single access point to multiple resources geared towards exam preparation is available at: learnin-github.cxc.org.

Rest assured that as the management and staff of the Council continue to monitor the emerging situation, our first priority is the health and well-being of all our stakeholders.

For further information, please contact CXC at (246) 227 1700

CDB economics boss hints at severe downturn

The Caribbean Development Bank's top economist appeared to signal an impending depression is likely for the region as the global health crisis drags on. From an increase in poverty and unemployment, to high national debt levels and low productivity are some of the far-reaching impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic facing Barbados and its neighbours, said the CDB's director of economics Justin Ram.

In his assessment of the pandemic, Ram said it would have sweeping economic implications for individuals, businesses and countries as various industries grind to a halt or slow down and people lose jobs and governments spend more.

Calling on international financial institutions – including his own – to act to defend regional economies, the CDB official said the multilateral financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank and Caribbean Development Bank must play “a coordinated and significant role”.

“Bilateral partnerships will also be necessary,” he said.

He explained that with social distancing taking place globally, Caribbean goods and services supply chains will be affected significantly. Ram said: “We have already begun to see the effects of this on the wider tourism industry, including the airline industry, cruise ship industry, hospitality industry and commodity sectors, the main industries and sectors of Carib-

bean economies. “There will also be spillover effects on the retail and wholesale industries and eventually all other sectors of the economy. “The impacts on the financial sector will need to be monitored closely as the percentage of loans that are non-performing could increase and capital requirements could also be strained.

“Government fiscal accounts will also be stressed as fiscal deficits expand due to a reduction in tax revenues and the necessary expansion of expenditure to fight the health pandemic and provide fiscal support for the economy.

“Therefore, debt levels as a percent of GDP will increase. These macro stresses will lead to higher levels of unemployment and higher levels of poverty and other social deprivations.” Government has already announced a stimulus package to assist those most affected by the pandemic, anchored against the shoring up of critical foreign exchange to well over 15 weeks of import cover.

At the same time, financial institutions have stepped up to provide some level of comfort to affected individuals and businesses as they give an ease on their loan and mortgage payments for specified periods.

Besides the disruption to supply chains, Ram is expecting productivity in countries practicing social distancing to be “severely undercut as large swath of the labour force are at home and not fully engaged in productive activity”.

He added: “Even in cases where working from home is an option, the closing of schools means that parents who work from home would have to split their normal working time with parenting duties.

“Therefore, both aggregate demand and eventually aggregate supply in the economy will shift inward leading to overall output reduction and a change in the overall price level. “This means that there would be a natural trade-off between economic activity and the preservation of life and the minimization of infection rates. There could be a sharp contraction of the economy because of social distancing and virus containment. “The depth and length of the economic contraction would depend on how long containment must last and how long it would take to keep the virus at bay “It will also depend on the economic policies that are implemented during the social distancing phase of containment, and the economic stimulus provided after containment.” He warned that the monitoring of foreign reserves was critical, adding that sufficient foreign exchange reserves should be the anchor against which any economic support that government might attempt to implement during and after the crisis. Ram explained: “Policymakers will have to respond in two phases. The first phase is during the containment period of social distancing, to keep their economies ‘above water’, and the second phase is after the health



CDB's director of economics Dr. Justin Ram

pandemic has subsided, to help kick start growth, with a particular focus on managing the demand and supply of foreign exchange reserves.”

He added that support during phase one should go to the health system, social system, labour market and the private sector, while ensuring fiscal and financial prudence. With the expectation that many businesses would close during the pandemic, some lives loss, individuals left unemployed and economies left scared, Ram said in the resuscitation phase, Caribbean governments should focus on “building back better”. He said countries had a responsibility and an opportunity to “implement structural adjustments that would boost economic resilience particularly to exogenous shocks, such as a global economic shock, a natural event shock, global pandemics like COVID-19, and domestic epidemics”.

The CDB economics chief said: “As we consider phase two, we must think about it as a ‘Marshall Plan’ for the Caribbean. This plan would require significant technical assistance support for the necessary policy interventions, and significant financial resources.

“However, the mantra for our countries must be resilience,” said Ram.

JAMACIA: Gov't Rescues Jamaicans Stranded At Atlanta Airport



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith, says the government has stepped in to help Jamaican hospitality workers who were stranded at an airport in Atlanta, Georgia in the United States due to cancelled flights.

The cancellations came as Jamaica restricted incoming passenger travel in a bid to limit more imported COVID-19 cases.

More than 100 Jamaicans workers turned up at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport between March 24 and 25 to catch flights home but were left stranded.

In a statement today, Johnson Smith noted that these individuals were working in the hospitality industry through private agency arrangements and that some had recently made individual efforts to return home.

She points out that all Jamaican hotel workers on the government work programme had returned to the island over the last week, according to information from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

The foreign affairs minister says through cooperation among the Consul General in New York, in Miami and the Honorary Consul in Atlanta, arrangements were made to assist the stranded Jamaicans.

Johnson Smith says for those who did not have friends or family in Atlanta with whom they could stay, the Ministry team secured the agreement of the relevant airlines to reroute the Jamaicans to appropriate cities at no charge.

She notes that the team had to secure for some, the agreement of their employers to either take them back on the job or to se-

cure accommodations for them.

She says the Jamaicans departed the airport about 6:00 p.m Wednesday evening, and are currently being housed in Wisconsin, Chicago, Miami, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Utah and Panama City.

Johnson Smith also added that the ministry team received another report today that four more persons flew into Atlanta and were stranded.

She said the Honorary Consuls assisted them and they are safe and accommodated.

"It is a very trying time for all of us and our nationals remain our top priority," said Johnson Smith.

"They are now safe and some of them have sent voice notes and Whatsapp messages expressing gratitude," she added.

New York records 100 new coronavirus deaths in one day

NY has become the US epicentre for the pandemic as Governor Cuomo forecasts dire scenarios for the healthcare system

New York state coronavirus deaths spiked to 385, with 100 new deaths recorded in a single day as Governor Andrew Cuomo warned residents on Thursday that the state's situation was increasingly dire. The death toll surged to more than 1,000 nationwide in the United States.

New York had 37,200 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of Thursday morning. This was an increase of nearly 6,500 cases from the night before.

"Almost any scenario that is realistic will overwhelm the current capacity of the healthcare system," Cuomo said during the briefing.

The peak of the virus is expected to hit the US in about two or three weeks. Cuomo previously projected New York would need roughly 110,000 hospital beds, but now says the state would as many as 140,000.

The governor also called for increased efforts to produce ventilators, necessary medical tools to deal with severe cases of COVID-19.

Makeshift morgues

While most patients with severe cases of COVID-19 need ventilators for three or four days, some have needed them for up to 30 days, according to reports.

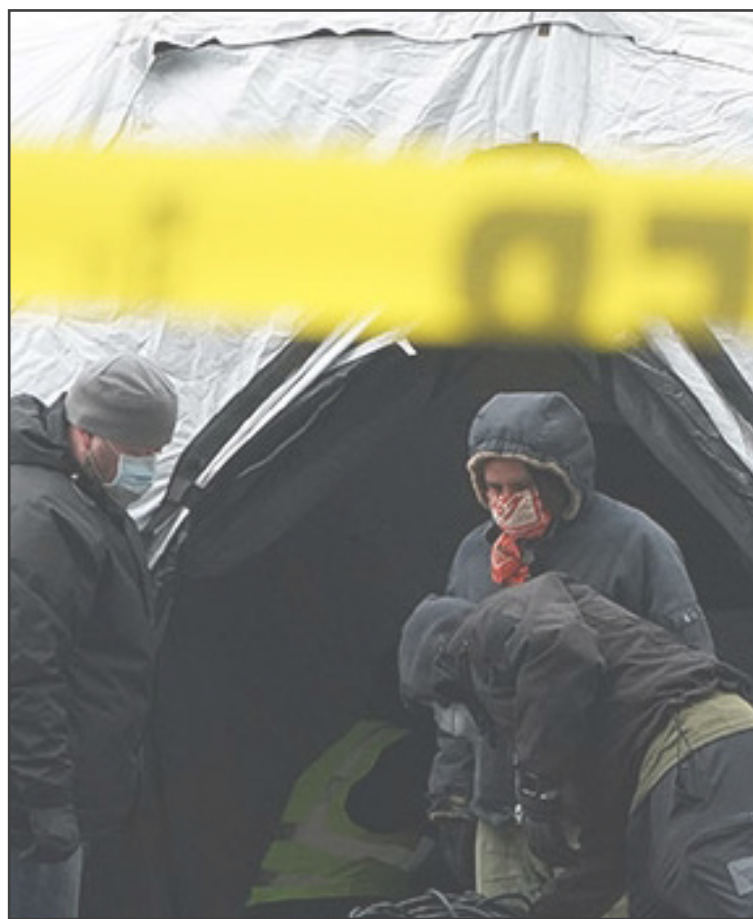
"We do have people who have been on for quite a period of time," Cuomo said. "The longer stays without recovery lead to a higher death rate." Cuomo said he was considering more drastic measures to contain the spread of the virus, including the closure of main thoroughfares in New York City, as well as certain parks and playgrounds. He has repeatedly called for increase support from the federal government.

Of the total confirmed cases, 5,327 people, or about 14 percent, have been hospitalised and 1,290, or 3.4 percent, are in intensive care units, according to local media outlet Syracuse.com. "We always said this is not going to be over quickly," Cuomo said. "I understand people are tired, but I also understand that people in this situation are stepping up to the plate and doing phenomenal work."

Public health officials in the city hunted down beds and medical equipment and called for more doctors and nurses. A makeshift morgue was set up outside Bellevue Hospital, and the city's police, their ranks dwindling as more fall ill, were told to patrol nearly empty streets to enforce social distancing. 'Reckless' relief package In a recognition of the scale of the threat, the US Senate late Wednesday passed an

unparalleled \$2.2 trillion economic rescue package steering aid to businesses, workers and healthcare systems. But Cuomo warned the economic toll of the coronavirus outbreak will be dramatic in New York, and castigated federal officials for what he called a failure to address lost revenue in their \$2.2 trillion relief package. "The Congressional action, in my opinion, simply failed to address the governmental need," he said. "I find it irresponsible. I find it

reckless." Cuomo said the outbreak creates a "double whammy" of increased state costs and lost revenue of up to \$15bn as businesses shutter and workers are laid off. The governor said the state will have to adjust its budget plan for the fiscal year beginning April 1 because revenue figures are so uncertain. While the relief plan before Congress would send \$5bn for COVID-19-related expenses, Cuomo said the larger issue is lost revenue



Workers construct what is believed to be a makeshift morgue behind a hospital during the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York [Carlo Allegri/Reuters]

Coronavirus: Mexicans demand crackdown on Americans crossing the border



Mexican protesters have shut a US southern border crossing amid fears that untested American travellers will spread coronavirus.

Residents in Sonora, south of the US state of Arizona, have promised to block traffic into Mexico for a second day after closing a checkpoint for hours on Wednesday. They wore face masks and held signs telling Americans to “stay at home”.

Mexico has fewer than 500 confirmed Covid-19

cases and the US over 65,000. The border is supposed to be closed to all except “essential” business, but protesters said there has been little enforcement and no testing by authorities.

The blockade was led by members of the group Sonorans for Health and Life, who called for medical testing to be done on anyone who crosses from the US into Mexico. Jose Luis Hernandez, a group member, told the Arizona

Republic: “There are no health screenings by the federal government to deal with this pandemic. That’s why we’re here in Nogales. We’ve taken this action to call on the Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to act now.” The Mexican president has been criticised for his response to the pandemic, as has US President Donald Trump. Mr Hernandez said the Wednesday demonstrations were a “first warning” to Mr Lopez Obrador, popularly known by his initials, Amlo. The group has called for enforcement of the crossing ban on all US or Mexican citizens for tourism or medical reasons, including those who cross the border every day to attend school or work in the US. Authorities must also conduct medical testing on Mexicans deported from the US, they said.

The group have vowed to block the DeConcini checkpoint again after shutting it down on Wednesday afternoon. President Trump has made cutting the number of

people crossing the border from Mexico into the US a centrepiece of his administration. He blames border-crossers from the south for bringing economic and social problems into the US.

He announced last week that the frontier was to close due to coronavirus.

Across the border, Arizona has recorded over 400 infections and has reported one Covid-19 death in every county bordering Mexico, according to the Republic. The US has the third highest number of recorded infections from the coronavirus in the world. Sonora has only recorded four cases state-wide. The first case was confirmed on 16 March as an elderly man who had recently returned from the US. Amlo has been criticised at home and abroad for his slow response to the pandemic and his willingness to continue attending rallies, shaking hands and kissing babies, while much of the world has begun to shelter in their homes



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U.S. indicts Venezuela's Maduro on narcoterrorism charges, offers \$15 million reward for his capture

The Trump administration unsealed sweeping indictments against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and members of his inner circle on narcoterrorism charges Thursday, a dramatic escalation in the U.S. campaign to force the authoritarian socialist from power.

The administration also announced a \$15 million reward for information leading to Maduro's capture or conviction, an extraordinary bounty on a man still recognized by the Russians, Chinese and others as Venezuela's rightful leader. The move effectively turns the 57-year-old former union leader into an internationally wanted man, giving Venezuelans new motivation to act against him and adding a new level of risk to any travel he might attempt beyond the confines of his power center in Caracas.

Attorney General William P. Barr announced the indictments of Maduro and other current and former Venezuelan officials on charges including money laundering, drug trafficking and narcoterrorism. Barr and other U.S. officials alleged a detailed conspiracy headed by Maduro that worked with Colombian guerrillas to transform Venezuela into a transshipment point for moving massive amounts of cocaine to the United States.

The action, rumored for years, comes as the U.S.-backed opposition movement to oust Maduro has struggled to maintain momentum. The coronavirus has effectively halted the opposition rallies that have been a signature of the movement.

On Thursday, Barr accused Maduro of "deploying cocaine as a weapon" to undermine the United States.

"Maduro and the other defendants expressly intended to flood the United

States with cocaine in order to undermine the health and well-being of our nation," Barr said during a news conference in Washington.

The charges against Maduro, brought in indictments in New York and Florida, carry a mandatory minimum sentence of 50 years in prison and a maximum of life. The U.S. Attorney in Manhattan, Geoff Berman, seemed to concede that U.S. authorities could not arrest Maduro in Venezuela, but noted that the leader might travel outside his country.

The charges, described as "a decade" in the making, recalled the U.S. indictment of Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega in 1988. In that case, President George H.W. Bush eventually ordered U.S. forces to invade and capture Noriega. But Venezuela's far better-equipped military and Russian support for Maduro would complicate any attempt by the U.S. to take him into custody the same way.

The Trump administration broke diplomatic relations with Maduro last year and recognized National Assembly leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate president. Barr said officials expect to arrest Maduro, but declined to say whether the administration would entertain a military option, as it did in Panama.

"We're going to explore all options for getting custody," Barr said. "Hopefully, the Venezuelan people will see what's going on and will eventually regain control of their country."

Also charged were the head of Venezuela's National Constituent Assembly, a former director of military intelligence, a former high-ranking general, the defense minister and the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

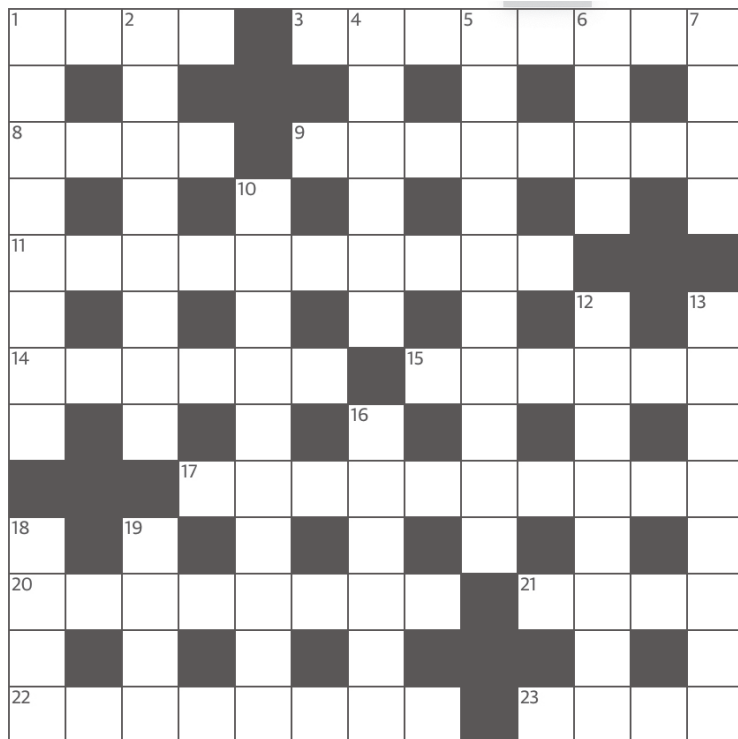


Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro speaks during a news conference this month at the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas. (Manaur Quintero/Reuters)

Some of the indicted officials — notably Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López and Chief Justice Maikel Moreno — were involved in plotting a military uprising against Maduro last spring, but failed to live up to secret pledges to move against the president. The charges suggest the Justice Department was pursuing their alleged links to narcotrafficking even as U.S. officials endorsed and encouraged the efforts of the Venezuelan opposition to solicit their participation in that plot.

The indictments are a sharp escalation in tactics that officials have gradually ramped up against Maduro since President Trump entered the White House. A campaign that started with targeted sanctions on individual Venezuelan officials broadened to measures that have locked the government out of the U.S. financial system. A U.S. oil embargo imposed last year has denied Caracas its single largest source of hard currency.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



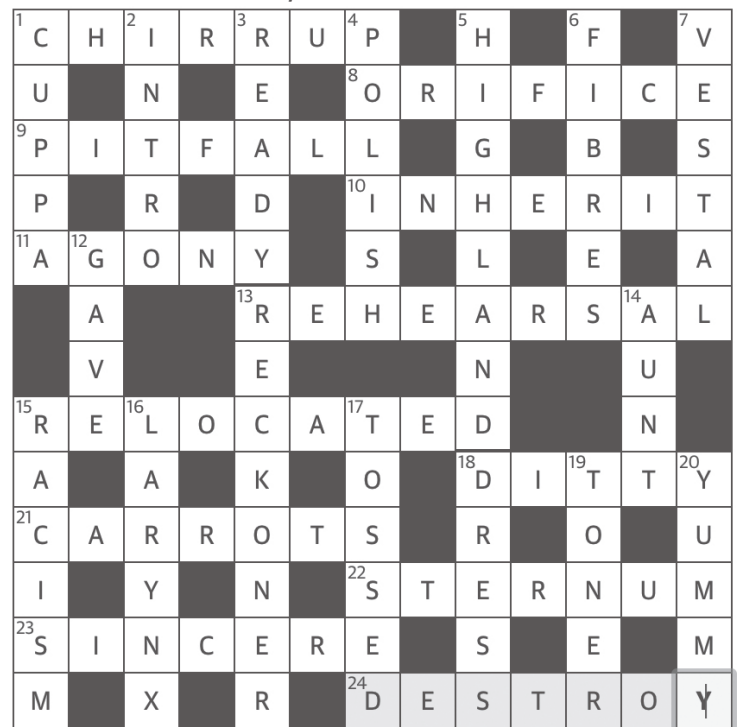
Across

- 1 Den (4)
 3 Versatile employee (8)
 8 Cop shop (4)
 9 Repeated without understanding (8)
 11 Lawless adventurer (10)
 14 They can never win (6)
 15 Military engagement (6)
 17 Propitious (10)
 20 Spring-flowering bulb (8)
 21 In the same place (Latin; abbr) (4)
 22 Casual footwear (8)
 23 Prolonged mutual hostility (4)

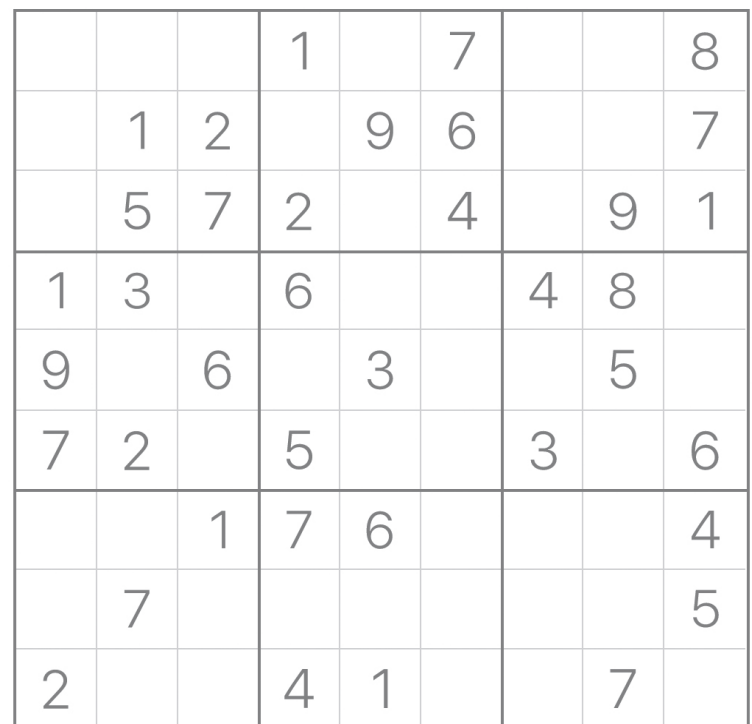
Down

- 1 Drink of tea (informal) (5)
 1 Low area where waste is buried (8)
 2 Augment (8)
 4 South American river (6)
 5 Sixty (10)
 6 One of four art galleries in England (4)
 7 Constructed (4)
 10 Anomaly — a Breton air (anag) (10)
 12 South-east African country (8)
 13 Not properly cared for (8)
 16 Nurse — nursery rhyme doctor (6)
 18 Knackered (4)
 19 US agency responsible for space flight (4)

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Your Stars Foretold


Aries

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You may be asked to swallow your pride and give in to someone else's will today, Aries. This will be difficult for you to do. Try to concentrate on your good reasons for obedience, and work out your frustration by taking a brisk walk. Expect to receive some welcome news from another source, which will also help calm you down. Relax with a group of supportive friends tonight.


Libra

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

You may feel at odds with the rest of the world now, Libra, as you yearn for some quiet time alone. See if you can find a balance between spending time with your family and time alone. If you set the alarm to wake you early, you can enjoy the peace and quiet of dawn. If you aren't an early riser, you can always sequester yourself in the library for a few hours of solitude.


Taurus

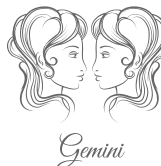
Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

The planetary energy makes this a good day for contemplation rather than action, Taurus. If you feel the urge to buy, don't. Sleep on decisions. If you feel the same tomorrow, go for it. If you're in the middle of a conflict at work, try not to take sides. Tell anyone who asks your opinion that you need time to think about it. Consider scheduling an hour of meditation. The word for today is Zen!


Scorpio

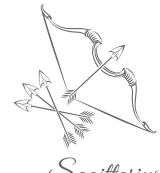
Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

You have a warm and sensitive nature, Scorpio, and today you could be feeling especially tuned in to the feelings of others. Romance is very much on your mind, as are all things sensual. If you're shopping for clothes, you'll likely be drawn to rich and luxurious fabrics. Don't hesitate to indulge this passionate side of yourself. Your mate will likely be quite appreciative!


Gemini

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Passion and romance are in the air, Gemini, so make the most of the great atmosphere! Everyone seems to be in a festive mood. You feel close to others and feel profound gratitude for the loved ones in your life. Consider leaving work early to go home to snuggle up close with your special someone. Be sure to be extra open about sharing your feelings today.


Sagittarius

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

This may be a tricky day, Sagittarius, as you feel the pull of conflicting demands and desires. On the one hand, you feel obligated to your career and fulfilling the demands of your employer. On the other, your loved ones miss you and would like to have you around more. There's no easy answer, although you might want to consider ways to delegate more work so you can spend more time with your loved ones.


Cancer

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

You may receive some upsetting news from a family member today, Cancer. It could have you reeling for a moment, but when you take the time to think about it some more you'll realize that things aren't as troubling as they first seemed. Be sure to get all the facts before taking any action. You want to be sure to do what's right in this situation.


Capricorn

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

This may be a tricky day, Sagittarius, as you feel the pull of conflicting demands and desires. On the one hand, you feel obligated to your career and fulfilling the demands of your employer. On the other, your loved ones miss you and would like to have you around more. There's no easy answer, although you might want to consider ways to delegate more work so you can spend more time with your loved ones.


Leo

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

Today you might want to put your innate business sense into making a success of a pet project of your own. This is a good idea, Leo, because all signs indicate that whatever you begin today, whether it's for your employer or yourself, could well lead to success. You could, however, find yourself spending a little more money than you would normally care to. Don't hold yourself back, but be careful!


Aquarius

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

You've been extremely busy these past few months, working extra hours at the office, then going out with friends late at night. This sort of behavior is known as "burning the candle at both ends," and it rarely has a happy ending, Aquarius. You need to take some quiet time, ideally with someone special. It's likely that your romantic partner misses you and would jump at the opportunity to spend an intimate evening with you.


Virgo

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

You must weigh your physical limitations with your desire to get everything done, Leo. You run the risk of wearing yourself out and getting sick just as you finish your tasks. Enlist the help of others, if you can, for all those chores and errands that absolutely need to be done. You should definitely leave anything that can wait. Your health needs to come first!


Pisces

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Expect today's planetary energies to raise your social consciousness, Pisces. You may be distracted with thoughts of the homeless person you saw today, or the television special you saw on babies with AIDS. You may be reflecting on your connection to and responsibilities toward humanity. Why don't you put aside a little time or money for the charity of your choice? If you're feeling these urges, don't hesitate to act on them!

Barbados Pride declared winners of West Indies championship

Ten days ago Cricket West Indies suspended their tournaments and camps for 30 days and now they have extended that suspension until the end of May, as well as, cancelling some tournaments and tours in their entirety.

Colonial Medical Insurance Women's Super 50 Cup postponed to later this year, Regional Under-19s Women's T20 Championship postponed to later this year.

Regional Under-15 Boys Championship cancelled for 2020, West Indies Under-15 Tour of England in the summer cancelled for 2020.

West Indies High-Performance and international preparation training camps cancelled until at least May 31, 2020.

CWI Chief Operation Officer says

they will continue to monitor and assess the situation and make further decisions and announcements in due course.

Meanwhile, Cricket West Indies have confirmed that the Barbados Pride has been declared winners of the 2020 West Indies Championship (Four-Day), following a Board of Directors teleconference. Acting on the advice of the Medical Advisory Committee, a decision was made to cancel the last two rounds of matches in the First Class season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With Barbados Pride top of the points table after the eight round, the Board unanimously agreed to award the Headly/Weekes Trophy to Barbados.



The Bajans finish with 134.8 points, followed by Trinidad and Tobago Red Force 94.6, Guyana Jaguars 91.8 and the Jamaican Scorpions 91.8.

Holding up the bottom are the Windwards Volcanoes 78.0 and dead last the Leewards Hurricanes 52.8.

Arsenal coach recovering well from COVID-19 infection



Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta

Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta believes people should be emotionally more open after the coronavirus pandemic following his recovery.

Arteta, 38 tested positive for the virus on 12 March but has since recovered after self isolation.

The former Arsenal and Everton player said, "we live in a world where everything is social media; everything is a whatsapp, text.

"But how important is touching each other, feeling each other and hugging each other? I miss that with a lot of people I love" he added.

The Spaniard noted that we have to be emotionally more open. We have to tell each other what we are feeling.

Thursday (yesterday) Arteta said he was feeling completely recovered and urged people to follow the government's advice on staying at home.

Antigua and Barbuda Horse Society open to new members

The Antigua and Barbuda Horse Society is opened to new members who has an interest in animals and are willing to put in the work.

President of the society Janie Easton says to be successful in the sport is ten percent talent with rest dependent on love, passion and a willing to work hard.

The Horse Society survives financially through teaching and taking tourist out on the trails.

Recently, Antigua sent five members to Martinique which included Jasmine Beardall, Kaydee Hallam, Lily Eastmond, Isabelle Sanford and Coach Susie Adderson.

Jasmine who won the main event last year placed third this year.

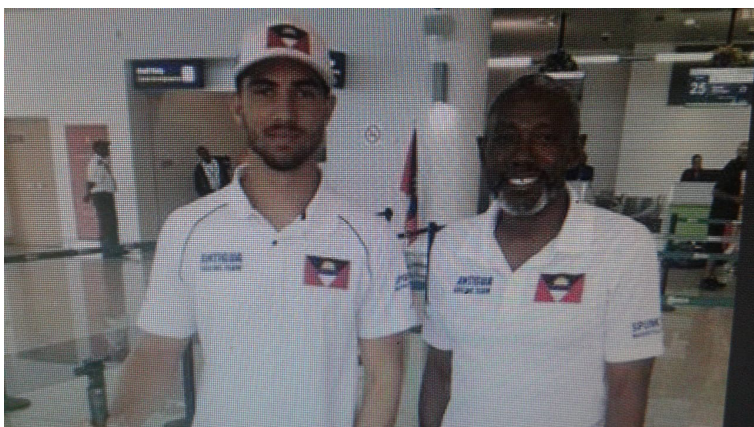
The president noted that horses are good for the disable and persons with mental problems so they should

be treated with love and respect and not just as transportation.

A number of the students who have graduated from the society have moved on setting up stables all over the world.

If anyone has an interest in the sport call 460-1333.





Athlete profile: Karl James

One of the most successful athletes Antigua and Barbuda has produced is Karl James of English Harbour.

The 41 year old Olympian says the sport is responsible for twenty five percent of the GDP and have produced a lot of successful people

who despite not been successful in competitions have gone on to make a living as boat captains, working on yachts and boats around the world.

James noted that the recent COVID-19 don't affect his sport as much as others because a lot of the sailing

is done by one individual on a boat meeting the social distancing criteria.

Karl who participated in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics is very popular on the sailing circuit and has been playing a major role in the development of young sailors on the island.

The sailor recently made the Governor General Honours Lists, Faithful and Meritorious Service Cross for Meritorious Performance in Yachting and Sailing.

The veteran also made the Queens New Years Honours List, Most Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Sailing and National Development.

James is the manager of Dinghy Sailing and played a major role in Antigua and Barbuda hosting Optimist Championship last year.

The Olympian encouraged young Antiguan to get involved in the sport while taking to the waters and having fun.



DEWS