



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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CURFEW EXTENDED

Story on Page 4



**Medical supplies donated
to Ministry of Health**

On Tuesday, over 5000 medical grade supplies and materials were donated to the Ministry of Health by the Eastern Helen Hospital Company Ltd. *See story on Page 3*

**ECCB Predicts Hard
Road Ahead - Page 7**

Local News

Security Forces Investigate Homeless Man's Death

The security forces in the country have launched separate investigations into the death of a homeless man from Falmouth, whose body was found in the water at Indian Creek on Monday.

STRATCOM, the Police's communications arm, said in a statement the circumstances surrounding the death of the man, Bruce Greenaway, are being viewed seriously and the police are assuring the public that a thorough investigation will take place into the matter.

According to STRATCOM allegations are Greenaway was murdered.

The statement outlined that

the investigation into Greenaway's death is now in its infancy stage.

The Police are appealing to anyone with information that may be useful to their investigation of the matter to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914.

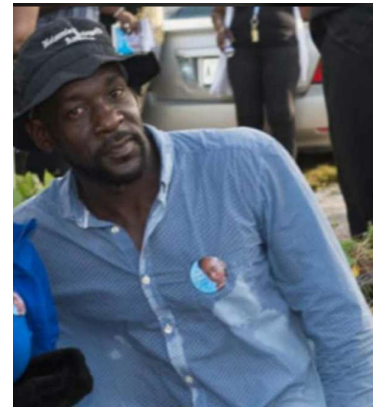
There are allegations that the homeless middle-aged man was held by members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force for allegedly violating the existing curfew. But attempts by his relatives to find him proved unsuccessful. An electronic flyer indicated that family members had been searching for him

since April 9. It said search took them to several police stations, the Defence Force, NODS and the hospital, but all proved unsuccessful.

The family in the post noted the discovery of a male body on Monday was causing panic.

Their fears were realized when the body was identified as Bruce Greenaway.

With fingers being pointed at the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin said he has seen the social media comments and the accusations that are being made. He told PointeXpress newspaper he considers the



allegations serious and the ABDF has launched its own internal investigation into the matter.

Colonel Benjamin stated the ABDF is taking seriously the accusations.

Meanwhile, National Security Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, said the matter has been reported to him and he is awaiting the outcome of the current investigations before making a public comment.

DAY 3/25

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: E at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 43%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.9 mm
 Rain: 0.9 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

29°_{Hi}



Partly sunny with a shower in the area

NIGHT 3/25

Wind: E at 13 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 61%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 2.5 mm
 Rain: 2.5 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1.5
 Hours of Rain: 1.5

24°_{Lo}



Partly cloudy with a couple of showers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:51AM

Sunset AST
 6:23PM



Duration
 12:32hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 1:07 PM

Moonset AST
 12:32AM



Duration
 11:25hr

Private hospital donates medical supplies to Ministry of Health

While the Eastern Helen Hospital has delayed operation due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the company has decided to donate some of their medical equipment to the Health Ministry to help with the fight against COVID-19.

On Tuesday, over 5000 medical grade supplies and materials were donated to the ministry by the Eastern Helen Hospital Company Ltd. The Chinese-Antiguan based company recently purchased the Adelin Clinic for the purpose of renovating and expanding the facility for a private hospital.



On accepting the donation on behalf of the Government, the Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph said: "I would like to express my deep appreciation to the company. We must see this in the context of the great difficulty in getting supplies to Antigua and Barbuda.



Many of the supply chains, for Personal Protection Equipment such as masks for our healthcare workers, have been broken and sometimes goods coming to the Caribbean from the United States are being confiscated. So, when we can get supplies here on the island, we deeply appreciate the generosity."

Some of the medical supplies donated were disposable masks, hats, gloves, alcohol disinfectants, surgical gloves, disposable scrubs, hand sanitizers and electric thermometers among others.

Seventy-Six Curfew Violators Charged

The police continue to enforce the 24-hour curfew restrictions as increasingly residents seem determined to flout the law. Since the inception of the lockdown to date, a total of 76 Persons were arrested by police for failing to comply with curfew restrictions. Among them are 55 males and 21 females.

In a statement the police say they continue to appeal to residents in Antigua and Barbuda to observe the curfew restrictions and remain at home in order to prevent any further spread of the coronavirus.

The concerns came as a result of the number of vehicular traffic and pedestrians that are seen on the streets during the day. Residents are reminded that during the 24-hour lockdown, only es-

sential workers and persons with valid curfew passes are allowed to be on the streets.

Essential services that are open within the five hours period from 7:00 am to 12 noon, are only for persons

who require essential items or have emergency needs. Anyone who fails to adhere to the curfew restrictions is committing an offence and he/she is likely to be arrested.

No COVID-19 at HM Prison

There's no confirmed case of the coronavirus, COVID-19, at Her Majesty's Prison.

That's the word from Public Safety minister, Steadroy Benjamin, who has portfolio responsibility for the prison.

He reported that several tests have been conducted among the prison population and that none of the inmates have been found to have contracted the virus.

According to Benjamin a public health nurse last visited the institution on March

28, but on that day, she had no contact with any prisoners. He reported that the only person who had contact with was the driver of the prison bus, who is not an inmate.

He revealed that there is one inmate who has been diagnosed with what is believed to be bronchitis. "The prison remains free of COVID-19 and there seems to be a lot of rumour-mongering taking place which is in nobody's interest," the attorney general declared.

Curfew extended one more week

The 24-hour curfew now in force under the state of emergency will be extended for another week...and more businesses will be allowed to reopen.

The confirmation comes from Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, who said the new extension will run from Thursday April 16 at 6:00 am when the current curfew is due to expire, to Thursday April 23 at 6:00 am.

The attorney general also announced that there will be some relaxing of the regulations under the new extension. "We are making provisions for construction workers to return to work as well as for hardware stores and outlets to re-open during the 7:00 am to 12 noon window that has been allowed for some essential businesses such as supermarkets," he disclosed.

Additionally, the new regulations will make allowances for residents to participate in exercises, but under strict guidelines. People taking part in these activities will be allowed to do so between the hours of 7:00 am and 11:00 am in open spaces while maintaining the social distancing rules. Gyms are to remain closed.

The details of the extension are expected to be discussed by today's virtual cabinet meeting followed by the printing of the Official Gazette later in the day.

The curfew introduced on April third forms part of the government's fight against the spread of the dreaded coronavirus, COVID-19 which has already taken the lives of three males in Antigua and Barbuda of a total of twenty-three

that have tested positive for the virus.

Nations across the globe have instituted strict measures to fight the spread of the virus. Nearly two million people have been diagnosed with the disease since it was first detected in Wuhan, China, late last year. So far, just over 126-thousand persons have died from the disease with over 467-thousand people said to have recovered.

The 24-hour curfew imposed by government is aimed at reducing social contact as that has been identified as one of the easiest ways to spread the virus. The regulations also mandate wearing a face mask in public that covers both the mouth and nostrils as well as maintaining a distance of six feet from other individuals when venturing out into the public sphere.

Facemasks, Vegetables Donated to Agriculture Ministry

As the country continues to grapple with the fallout of COVID-19 and the insufficient supply of facemasks on the island, a Chinese company has stepped forward to lend support to the Agriculture Ministry.

Chinese-based Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Company, an agro-processing entity that signed an MOU with the government two years ago to provide technical assistance to the agriculture sector, has joined the fight against COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda.

On Tuesday, Longping donated almost one thousand (1000) facemasks and approximately five hundred pounds (500lbs) of fresh vegetables to staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The event took place at the Ministry's headquarters where the minister, Samantha Marshall, received the do-



Agriculture Minister Samantha Marshall accepts a donation.

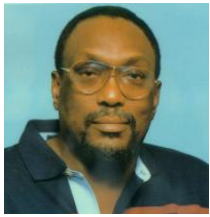
nations on behalf of the ministry.

Minister Marshall, in speaking with Pointe Express stated that this gesture is "an additional symbol of the long-standing relationship with the Republic of China and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda".

The Agriculture minister also expressed her appreciation for the items especially because of the scarcity of facemask on the island.



Extension Officer, Owolabi Elabanjo, also expressed appreciation for the donated protection gear as well as the fresh food items. Elabanjo stated, "this is a measure of commitment and friendship at this time of the pandemic in Antigua and Barbuda, especially as a small island state."



The Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee

Nelson Mandela Drive
POB W600, Upper Gambles
St. John's, ANTIGUA
Tel: (268) 770-6955 Email: lthmc@candw.ag

April 11, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings...

This is indeed a period of great uncertainty as the human family battles against the deadly Coronavirus and its disease, Covid-19. Nonetheless, it presents an opportunity for togetherness, appreciation, love and reciprocity.

For about forty (40) years to date, the Cuban government and people have shared their limited and scarce resources with us by contributing to our national and human resource development. This they do in spite of an illegal and oppressive economic trade embargo by the United States.

Suffice to say that over this period, hundreds of Antiguan and Barbudans have acquired tertiary education from Cuba as academic gifts to the market value of millions of dollars. Importantly, most of these graduates would not have had any other means to acquire such.

In addition, the Cuban Brigade - tens of professionals - are on island providing engineering and medical services. Remarkably to say the least, more Cuban nurses and doctors left the safety of their national health services to come to Antigua and Barbuda, and to assist our staff at MSJMC in the battle against Covid-19.

At this time as they risk their lives to save ours, we must reciprocate by ensuring that they are comfortable, respected and appreciated – and not abused because of their quiet revolutionary kindness.

As good citizens, we should pitch in to assist the government to ensure our Cuban comrades are happy - as humanly possible at this period of unimaginable stress.

Therefore, we are seeking your solidarity and assistance to acquire the following items for our Cuban friends:

Clorox Bleach	Toilet Paper	Plastic Garbage Bags	Rubbing Alcohol
Hand Sanitizers	Paper Towels	Drinking Water	Disinfectant

Please call any of the following persons to make your contributions:

Luther Lee – 727-0300

Conrad Luke – 727-6595

Lawrence A. Jardine – 770-6955

We deeply appreciate your assistance – and Stay Safe!

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Jardine
Chairman, LTHMC

Bishop wants curfew window for churches

A local religious leader is making a case that churches should be permitted to open and hold services despite the ongoing state of emergency and round the clock curfew that has been imposed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Bishop Charlesworth Browne however made clear that any such permis-

sion would be based on adherence to strict guidelines such as limiting the number of congregants at a gathering and observing social distancing in seating arrangements, among other protocols.

Bishop Browne is the Senior Pastor and Overseer of the Christian Ministries Center currently located on Corn Alley in St. John's. He

was a guest via telephone Tuesday morning on Pointe FM's Talking Point.

He felt that in providing the daily five-hour curfew window for people to shop for essential items and services, the government is demonstrating great care for the physical aspects of life such as food, pharmaceuticals and banking services to name a few.

But Bishop Browne argues that attention should also be paid to and allowance made for faith and spirituality.

He is suggesting that just as a curfew window is being granted for supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, banks and money transfer services to operate on every single day – so too, should churches be permitted to gather and hold services, albeit with strictly defined conditions.

"My care for my people goes further than the care the government could have. So I don't appreciate anybody underestimating the care that I have for people in terms of their safety, in terms of their wellbeing, etcetera," said Bishop Browne, who is also President of the Antigua and Barbuda Council of Church Leaders.

Bishop Browne said his church has adjusted every time to comply with the regulated limits on the number of persons congregating.

He said each time that number was revised down-



ward, his church rearranged its seating, in addition to making additional provisions for hygiene and sanitization as stipulated.

He stated that in addition to the sanitation protocols adopted, his church added several potted plants indoors in order to improve air quality.

"We took extra measures. We made sure we had hand sanitizers at the entrance of the sanctuary and the stewards and ushers were instructed to ensure that people sanitized their hands as soon as they came in.

"We made special provision of a bin and napkins right at the entrance. So, as people came in, they sanitized their hands, wiped them and disposed of the used napkins in the bin. Upon leaving the sanctuary, they were required to sanitize again."

Bishop Browne said that, apart from this, his church ensured that all surfaces in its sanctuary were properly disinfected.

"Anyone under the umbrella of the Christian Ministries Center and the Antigua Barbuda Council of Church Leaders, we know the measures that we have taken and the level at which we operate," he added.



TAKE ME HOME

This sturdy spayed female would love to become part of your family and provide you with companionship and security in these troubling times.

All dogs at the Humane Society are spayed or neutered, treated for external and internal parasites and vaccinated.

The adoption fee is just \$100.

Microchipping and licence:

\$20. The adoption fee for cats is \$80.00.

If you are interested in adopting a dog or cat from the

HUMANE SOCIETY
PLEASE CALL US AT 461-4957

ECCB Predicts Hard Road Ahead

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank is predicting the currency union will contract between 5-7% in 2020 coupled by a sharp rise in unemployment.

This is as a direct result of the spread of the Coronavirus and the major impact it is having on economies globally. Pre-COVID-19, growth of 3.3 % was projected for the ECCU.

In a statement, ECCB Governor Timothy Antoine highlighted the challenging times governments are facing, with decline in revenue due to the closure of tourism. But he also acknowledged the measures being put in place to cushion citizens and residents that will be impacted most.

While the bank has taken measures to protect its staff and continue serving the sub-region, the governor announced steps have been taken that will ensure the ECCB remains relevant in this COVID-19 crisis, including the assurance that the Eastern Caribbean Dollar will not be weakened.

Antoine said the Central Bank continues to provide currency to banks in every member country to ensure, for example ATMs/ABMs can be restocked, as needed. He added the ECCB plays a vital role in ensuring payments are made on time, including payroll and pension payments for governments and social security systems which use the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) platform.

“Our Central Bank has also

convened meetings with Ministries of Finance of Member Governments to support the development of national and regional responses to COVID-19. The ECCB is working very closely with the OECS Commission on procurement of critical supplies, assessments, resource mobilisation and coordination. The ECCB is also actively en-

gaged with the IMF and The World Bank on assistance for our member countries,” he reported.

He pointed out that the Regional Governments Securities Market remains open for all.

According to Governor Antoine, “the fight against the pandemic would be best served by relying on two

basic assumptions. First, COVID-19 is no respecter of person, race, gender, class, wealth, position or power. Second, anyone can get it so everyone has it.” He opined; “If we proceed with these two basic assumptions, we will follow the protocols articulated by the health authorities, thereby protecting ourselves and each other.”



Social Security Remittance Payment Notice

Due to COVID-19, the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board [ABSSB] advises that remittance payments for **March 2020** are due on or before 30th April 2020. As such, the usual **late payment charges will be waived**.

However, employers are asked to take due care when submitting the monthly Remittance Form [R5A] to remittance@socialsecurity.gov.ag as any incomplete or incorrect information will attract a penalty fee of **\$100 per page**.

N.B.: For 2020, contribution rates are:

Private Sector – 13 ½ %

- Employees – 5 ¾ %
- Employers – 7 ¾ %

Public Sector – 12 ½ %

- Employees – 4 ¾ %
- Employers – 7 ¾ %

Self-Employed persons remain at 10%.

Remittance payments can be made via:

- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** [For details please visit: www.socialsecurity.gov.ag]
- **Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) online**
- **Drop box at London House on Long Street**
- **Limited Cashier services at London House, Mondays – Fridays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am**

Management

Summit Must Support Browne, Go For Marshall Plan

WHEN CARIBBEAN Community (CARICOM) leaders hold their virtual summit today, an important outcome would be to add regional heft to Gaston Browne's call on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to make it easier for regional countries to access their financial resources.

But the heads of government must go further. They should insist on a longer-term multibillion-dollar strategy to fund the region's development – a sort of Marshall Plan for the Caribbean. Developed countries should be asked to make up for the unfulfilled promises of the past while recognising the painful efforts of CARICOM governments, including Jamaica's, over the past decade, to put their economic houses in order.

Tomorrow's meeting is an opportunity, as its convener, the Barbadian prime minister and CARICOM chairman, Mia Mottley, said that the community has a "virtual reality" beyond the physical boundaries of its sovereign states. If that were not true, CARICOM's functional co-operation efforts, and, more important, its plans to create a genuine single market and economy, would be entirely unfeasible.

In that respect, Ms. Mottley's suggestion for a common public-health protocol and common border policy



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

seems eminently sensible. It, among other things, opens an opportunity for sourcing and allocating scarce medical supplies for the fight against COVID-19, and, if required, the deployment of healthcare workers on a regional basis. In a sense, this

would be merely expanding on the approaches to regional problems already being taken by institutions such as the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

With respect to a common border policy, this does not require reinventing the wheel, but, rather, a refinement of a system that was in place for the Cricket World Cup of 2007, which, unfortunately, was caused to lapse. A common border

Cont'd on pg 9

policy for non-CARICOM nationals would, hopefully, also serve to highlight and reinforce the right of CARICOM citizens to hassle-free travel within the community.

MORE THAN A COLD

But as important as these issues are, even after the health threat from COVID-19 passes, most CARICOM states will still face a serious, if not existential, economic crisis. CARICOM's economies rest primarily on tourism; the export of commodities, such as bauxite/alumina, oil, and natural gas; and remittances. More than 70 per cent of the Caribbean's tourists come from the US; America is the region's main trading partner; and Caribbean citizens in the United States send back billions of dollars in remittances, which, in Jamaica's case, accounts for nearly two-thirds of more than US\$2.3 billion. In this regard, the saying that "if America catches a cold, the Caribbean gets pneumonia" is more than a cliché.

In the current circumstance, the United States, as is the rest of the global economy, is facing more than a cold. As countries shut down to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the IMF's managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, projects that rather than more than 160 countries having expanded gross domestic products (GDPs) this year, over 170 will record negative growth. She calls the situation "the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression".

The world economy, by

some estimates, could contract by as much as two per cent, or even more. Critically for this region, in a matter of weeks, as part of the COVID-19 shutdown, the US economy shed nearly 17 million jobs. A week ago, the rating agency Fitch estimated that the US economy would decline by 3.3 per cent in 2020. Ms. Georgieva expects that there will be "a partial recovery" in the international economy next year.

REASONABLE PROPOSALS There is no broadly coordinated global response to the crisis, but developed countries have the capacity to cushion the effect of the fall and to buoy themselves towards a post-COVID-19 recovery. For instance, the United States has a US\$2.2-trillion recovery programme; Germany has announced spending nearly a fifth of its GDP; and the European Union/eurozone countries have announced a half-trillion euro fund to

support the zone's recovery. These are apart from the quantitative easing and other initiatives launched by developed-world central banks.

Despite the confidence of a few governments that they can withstand the buffeting, CARICOM states lack the resources to mount a rescue effort of anything near this magnitude.

As Gaston Browne, the Antigua and Barbuda prime minister, told Ms. Georgieva and her World Bank counterpart, David Malpass, even as the region faces COVID-19, around the corner lurks a potentially dangerous hurricane season. And while countries like his wait for tourism's recovery in perhaps a year's time, their economies might go into free fall. This is a scenario to which many Jamaicans might relate. Some tourism industry officials say the country could lose over two-thirds of its tourism earnings in 2020, which, potentially,

could lead to a decline in the economy deeper than the four per cent now projected.

Most Caribbean countries, because of the 'middle income' status, can't get concessional funding from the multilaterals. Mr. Browne has called for that to be changed. He also wants Paris Club write-offs for countries with bilateral loans and for budgetary support via loans and grants. These are not unreasonable proposals. They are the same ones that were on the table for the highly indebted Caribbean at the time of the Great Recession, on which the international community reneged. Now, nearly a decade of hard reforms is in danger of erosion.

That is why CARICOM must support Mr. Browne's proposal as well as ask its Council of Finance and Planning and Committee of Central Banks to develop a broader support plan to be taken to the G7.

Reprinted from the Jamaica Gleaner

Remember, Jesus
heals the Sick
this Easter

Stand with
Nurses and
Health Care
Workers
HELP US
FIGHT
COVID-19

ATB
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

The evolution of road safety

STAY HOME
STOP COVID 19
STAY SAFE

ROAD
CLOSED

Greatest Test knock witnessed



By Colin James

The sporting world is on lockdown because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

It is a time for reflection of some of the more memorable events - on and off the field, the court, on the track or in the field and the ring.

Some cast back to historical or thrilling nail-biting triumphs. Others reminisce of what could have been.

In cricket, particularly, it's fitting to romance on the exploits of great West Indies' batsmen and bowlers.

There many-a-great feats that anyone can easily conjure from their bank as the memories flow.

I can easily recall Brian Lara's two world records: 375 in 1994 and 400 not out

10 years later. In between I fondly remember The Prince's majestic 153 not out in 1999 to win and even the Test series against Australia in Barbados.

I was actually booked on a flight to return to Antigua on the morning of the last day of the Test to attend a funeral of the Matriarch (Aunt Helene Lawrence) of the neighbourhood in Basa where I grew up. But instead called home to ask my mother to apologize for my no-show because of what was anticipated from the previous day's play.

The superlatives to describe Lara's stroke-play and domination of the Australian bowling as wickets fell at the other would cause Collins' or Oxford to extend their dictionaries.

I would also drool on that sumptuous innings by a young Richie Richardson (almost out-bating his more illustrious partner at the other end) as he lit up the Antigua Recreation grounds on a Sunday evening before an over-expectant home crowd

in 1984 against the Aussies.

But for me, the innings that topped those was Sir Vivian Richards' coronation when he majestically blasted the fastest-ever Test century off a mere 56 balls as his ARG subjects roared and bowed in reverence against England 34 years ago today (April 15, 1986).

It's not because of the history created why this innings is standout. It's not because of his brutalisation of a demoralized England attack.

For me, it was because of his sheer determination to get quick runs on the board before declaring to his bowlers enough time to dismiss David Gower's men a second time to complete another milestone of the "Blackwash" on home soil.

As captain, he could have made the easy decision to play the game normally and not try to force an outcome because the Windies were already 4-0 up in the series.

But he felt obliged to promote himself from no. 5 to no. 3 to send a clear message the clean sweep mattered.

Some things etched in people's memory because of their style, poise and perfection or application, dedication and resolve. However, this Sir Viv's 110 not out will go a long way in the annals of sports great feats.

As he peppered the boundaries - seven sixes and six fours - the spectators on either side of the corridor between square-leg and mid-wicket must have wondered for their safety. But those in the western bleachers danced and pranced as the balls either cleared them into the adjoining dilapidated Roman Catholic cathedral while the school children in the stand on the opposite would have thanked their parents for purchasing them a ticket to witness history unfold before their impressionable eyes. How as a nation we don't celebrate this feat let alone remember it like yesterday still remains a mystery to me. It is still not too late to illuminate this achievement by emblazoning it on a memorial at the site it took place.

GOT NEWS

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Fidel: Cuba will never go MAD



By Lawrence A. Jardine

Founder of the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Enlightenment Academy (ABYEA)

For centuries, solitary confinement has been used in penal systems to subject captives to anguish, to reflect on their past, and to mull on their fate. During the passage of Hurricane Luis in August 1995, we were confined indoors with similar reflections, but we remained socially connected. At that time, without Internet and Social Media, we provided each other with needed words of optimism, warmth and face to face intimate support. Notwithstanding our concerns about health, life and the economic aftermath, we knew that Hurricane Luis would pass in no more than a few days.

This silent and invisible - submicroscopic - Coronavirus is something else. It dictates that we all stay at home and practice social distancing - an imposition that is a social oxymoron. Yet, this behavior is absolutely necessary to be victorious in the battle against the deadly COVID-19. Troublingly, over time this domestic incarceration could become unbearable, causing

a number of hormone-driven and adventurous youngsters to break the 24-hour curfew, and thereby acquire imprisonment and life-long criminal records. As this preamble might suggest to an insightful reader, physical solitude has my mind roaming in a maze of never-ending scenarios. But my musing also includes Global Warming, and more so the finale of Nuclear Warfare. Moreover - as I witness US President Donald Trump's mentality during this pandemic and the American seizure of ventilators shipped to the Caribbean - I have been contrasting Cuba's visionary and humanitarian leader, the late Commander Fidel Castro, to whom posthumously I extend belated apologies for all the misguided things we - Antiguan and Barbudans - would have said about him and Cuba. I further express to Fidel sincere gratitude for the Cuban professionals, engineers, nurses and doctors, whose sense of revolutionary internationalism overrode COVID-19's survivalist mandate to Stay at Home - or as we say in the local vernacular, Tap ah Yuh Yard. Instead, they decided to leave home to assist others in pushing back our global enemy, COVID-19.

In my mind's ears, I can hear Fidel repeating: "One must never abandon the battlefield when one is still capable of making a contribution." Revolutionary Cubans must have internalized that dictum deep in their souls from their immortal leader, Fidel. This,

among other things, fuels these dutiful and brave Cuban warriors, who selflessly left their country, family and friends to battle - to save lives in other people's yards - near and far, Antigua and Barbuda, and Italy etc.

The Cuban education system appears to roll out an inexhaustive and indefatigable supply of courageous health engineers, nurses and doctors. One Garrett Andrews wrote this in 2015 as an online comment:

There has never ever been a time when the human being was capable of doing something and yet, eventually, that something did not happen. That means one of three things: 1) the human psyche is going to change fundamentally (good luck with that!); 2) the worldwide social contract changes so that the "angry men" can no longer be "empowered" (good luck with that too!); or 3) boom!

Shouldn't the thought of "boom" alert us to be actively concerned about nuclear warfare especially at this time?

One of the strategies of preparedness for a nuclear attack, developed in the 1960s, is called MAD. It includes military logistics implemented by a country, which has nuclear warheads, to guarantee any aggressor of the first launch, the instantaneous retribution of the second launch. With nine (9) nations possessing nuclear warheads, amounting to a grand total of over 13,800, one can imagine a deadly matrix of each pointing at least

one nuclear missile at every other. That is MAD - Mutual Assured Destruction.

MAD, a military lose-lose doctrine, would annihilate all life on planet Earth as we know it. But there is the belief that an insect type might survive, and start a new sequence of mutations and evolution. We would never know. Do we optimistically believe that MAD will act as an eternal deterrent to nuclear warfare? Do we also believe there will never be a mad leader as custodian of computerized nuclear launch codes?

In the United States of America, President Donald Trump is MAD's boss. Additionally, there have already been many nuclear 'close calls' due to misperceived imminent threats and technological glitches. It appears that nuclear powers are playing a game of one strike and we are all out. In the midst of this COVID-19 global pandemic and economic disorientation when the world's jobless working class is not focusing on adversarial politics, but rather on survival, love and humanity, the opportunistic Trump Administration - like the proverbial thief in the night - is using this period of human suffering in Latin America to place a \$15M bounty on the head of Venezuela's democratically elected President Nicolas Maduro. If that is not terrorism - then what is?

As you should have expected: In the finale, some super rich people and insid-

Opinion

ers – like insider traders, who have connections and do not trust their leaders - will live, having already incorporated Plan B. Businessinsider.com stated this in 2019: If a nuclear war were to break out or a climate-related disaster were to hit, a handful of wealthy survivalists would be ready to retreat into their personal doomsday shelters.

Are they - a handful, the rich with sophisticated and technologically advanced Noah's Arks - the chosen few? I am pretty certain US President Donald Trump is a member of the handful, and as such, he has first-class accommodations in a doomsday Noah's Ark. Perhaps this gives him such personal confidence in the midst of American global military aggressions, and in the face of suffering American COVID-19 victims – including infected sailors of the USS Theodore Roosevelt naval ship.

In the US, COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting Blacks. According to Democracy Now! news agency, in Chicago where Blacks are less than 30% of the population, they are 70% of the COVID-19 fatalities. COVID-19 is defrocking the raw brutality of American Racial Capitalism and neo-liberalism: deregulation, corporate greed, parasitic and profiteering pharmaceutical and medical industries – all ruthlessly sucking life blood from the backs of the working poor.

Even in this COVID-19 crisis, mercilessly, they are engaged in price gouging and profiteering, as American hospitals compete and haggle

for masks, PPE and ventilators.

But, it is Fidel and Cuba I really want to thank at this moment of confinement and reflection. In spite of Cuba's economic confinement as orchestrated by the US illegal trade embargo, including food and medicines, Fidel decided that Cuba would never go MAD. Here is humanitarian and visionary Fidel: Our country does not launch bombs against other people. Or send thousands of planes to bomb cities. Our country does not have nuclear weapons, chemical or biological. The tens of thousands of scientists and doctors which our country has, were educated to save lives. This is the pride of our doctors and our research centers. Tens of thousands of Cuban doctors have provided international services in the outermost and most inhospitable places. One day I said that we will never send, or never make preventative and surprising attacks against any dark corner of the world. But instead our country will be able to send the doctors that will be needed in the darkest corners of the world. Doctors, not bombs. Doctors, not smart weapons with accurate targeting. Because at the end of the day, a weapon that kills treacherously is absolutely not a smart weapon. Therefore, let us toot horns in solidarity, appreciation and respect for Fidel's vision, and the Cuban nurses and doctors who left their yard to come to our yard - in the midst of life threatening uncertainties - to help us fight the deadly COVID-19.

In Loving Memory of



Maudrey Veronica Quinland

30th January 1936 - 10th April 2019

My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength
of my heart and my portion forever.
Psalm 73:26 KJV



I Thought of You Today

I thought of you today,
but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday
and days before that too.
I think of you in silence
I have to speak your name.
All I have are memories
and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake
and from which I'll never part.
God has you in his arms,
I have you in my heart.

Author Unknown

Fondly remembered by her
four loving children
Gerald, George Jr., Benjamin and Charmain
grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
and other close family and friends.

Deportees Coming - Holness Gov't Bows To Trump As Expelled Expats To Arrive In Weeks



The president said the US must be able to repatriate foreign nationals who violate the country's laws.

Within "a week or two", the Jamaican Government will have to accept dozens of deportees from the United States (US).

Minister of National Security Dr Horace Chang made the disclosure on Monday, days after US President Donald Trump signed an order that imposes visa sanctions on countries that refuse to accept the deportation of their citizens, even amid the global new coronavirus pandemic. US coronavirus infections are close to 590,000 and deaths have topped 23,000. Jamaica closed its airspace to incoming passengers – initially at midnight on March 21 before being extended two days later – as part of measures imposed by the Holness administration to contain the spread of COVID-19 locally.

Chang said that a batch of deportees was scheduled to arrive in the island earlier this month. However, he said the deportation was

delayed after "discussions" with US authorities.

"We have been able to delay the entrance of a number of deportees, but we will have to accept them at some point. In fact, I expect that we will have to accept them within a week or two," Chang told *The Gleaner* yesterday.

He could not give the precise number of deportees expected, but disclosed that the US "usually sends us between 50 and 60 every two months or so".

"We would definitely want to keep it within that number so that we can manage them, and once they come in, we will have to quarantine them." Up to yesterday, Jamaica had 73 confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2, the official name of the virus, with four deaths. According to the Ministry of Health & Wellness, 31 cases were imported, 34 were contacts of confirmed cases, six were local transmissions, while

two are under investigation.

Trump's new order was issued last Friday in a memorandum to the secretary of state and the secretary of homeland security. It will remain in place until December 31. He argued that countries that deny or unreasonably delay accepting their citizens from the US during the pandemic create unacceptable public-health risks for Americans. The president said the US must be able to repatriate foreign nationals who violate the country's laws.

Under the directive, the secretary of homeland security is to notify the secretary of state if a country refuses to accept, or unreasonably delays, receiving its citizens and if that action impedes the operations of the Department of Homeland Security to respond to COVID-19.

The secretary of state then has up to seven days to initiate a plan to impose visa sanctions on the country.

"Tens of thousands of removable aliens have been released into communities across the country, solely because their home countries refuse to accept their repatriation. Many of these aliens are criminals who have served time in our federal, state, and local jails," Trump said in his Executive Order on Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States. "The presence of such individuals in the United States and the

practices of foreign nations that refuse the repatriation of their nationals are contrary to the national interest."

Chang revealed that Jamaica, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, was able to convince the US to hold off on the deportations by pointing to the impact it would have on the efforts here to contain transmission.

"We are having a serious challenge. We were one of the first countries in the region to close our borders. Therefore, to break it open for deportees would pose a challenge to our entire system," the national security minister said, summing up Jamaica's pitch to the US.

"Essentially, we asked them to look at the two sides of the story ... : Do we accept deportees and, if any of them come with any illness and begin to overwhelm our public health system, we would be in a very, very big situation."

At the same time, Chang acknowledged that if the US government decided to impose sanctions on Jamaica, "we would be in serious problems". "Either way, we get hurt. Our economy depends heavily on our primary trading partners and therefore we don't need a fight on that front.

"At the same time, we can't afford to push our public health system into a crisis," Chang said.

PM Chastanet eyes phased reopening of Saint Lucia's economy



Prime Minister Allen Chastanet

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has announced plans for a phased reopening of the island's economy as the fight against coronavirus (COVID-19) continues.

In an address on April 12, it was disclosed that after another round of testing, the number of the COVID-19 cases remains at 15.

According to Chastanet, if this trend continues, then at the end of the month, the Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with other ministries, will work with the public and private sectors for a phased reopening of the economy.

"We've agreed at Cabinet to appoint a committee to

work with the private sector and all the public health departments to start now, putting the protocols in place for the full operationalisation of our commercial activity." He said the decision to plan for the reopening of commercial activities was also informed by the success the Ministry of Health has had in their contact tracing efforts.

The prime minister called the contact tracing team the backbone of country's efforts against the virus and noted that in the most recent confirmed cases, many of the individuals were already identified and either in an isolation centre or in-home quarantine.

The prime minister made

it clear that a plan is being put in place but that government will not be implementing it as yet. "Cabinet has agreed to maintain the existing partial shutdown/scale-down operations for the period of April 14 until April 26, 2020."

After the partial shutdown expires on April 26, the prime minister says: "At that point, we're hoping to be able to announce the full opening of the commercial activities in St Lucia, but again, that's going to depend on the results over the next couple of days, as well as the recommendation of the command center in doing so." During the April 14 – 26 partial shutdown, "We've agreed to expand

the activities under the hardware service, as well as home suppliers, to include emergency renovation and maintenance activities at the household level to facilitate water storage, plumbing maintenance in preparation for the drought alert."

As such, home suppliers will be able to open for business during this time, once they engage with various ministries on the protocols they must follow.

"So in addition to grocery stores, and other essential services, hardware stores and home suppliers will also be open during the coming week in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season." The April 14 – April 26 curfew hours remain the

Allowing more Guyanese to come home could overwhelm healthcare system – Nagamootoo

Leader of Guyana's National COVID-19 Task Force Moses Nagamootoo said that the opening of Guyana's airspace could see as much as 5,000 Guyanese in the diaspora returning home, and that could overwhelm Guyana's healthcare system. Nagamootoo made this statement in the most recent edition of his Guyana Chronicle column, My Turn, following a Saturday press conference where he was questioned about government's consideration of Guyanese who may be stranded overseas.

"Should the restriction be lifted, as is being advocated by some, Guyana could quickly have an inflow of between 2,000 and 5,000 persons. Possibly more," Nagamootoo stated.

As a result of measures to curb the spread of the deadly virus, Guyana has closed its airspace, with the exception of certain special cases, until early May. While the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) has granted special permission in the past for Guyanese abroad to return, Government is not willing to grant any more such concessions.

Nagamootoo said that "any relaxation of the strict containment measures could see a dramatic, over-night rise in both the infection rate and the number of deaths."

This would be especially concerning, given that many



Leader of the National COVID-19 Task Force, Moses Nagamootoo

Guyanese in the diaspora are residing in the US, the nation which is emerging as the new epicenter of the virus.

"Our first case was imported from Queens in the Big Apple, where already close to 40 Guyanese nationals have died. Among them are two well-known tycoons in the airline industry – Billy Braithwaite and Jim Bacchus," Nagamootoo said.

He described the extent of the spread in the US in his column: "In all, over 20,000 persons have died in the United States, out of which figure some 8,000 were from New York where a mass grave has been dug in the middle of Hartland Park. There, in make-shift boxes, would be buried the

bodies of persons who have neither been identified nor claimed by their relatives. In the United States, the confirmed cases have climbed close to 600,000 of which some 160,000 are from New York."

He cautioned that his writings on the US are not to scare Guyanese at home, but to illustrate how rapidly the virus could spread, if there aren't strict enough measures in place. That said, Nagamootoo said that he empathises with Guyanese who want to return home, some of whom might be legitimately stranded whilst on vacation or on business.

However, the question of whether those stranded should be granted leniency to return home exposes a glaring

deficiency in Guyana's preparedness infrastructure to handle an influx of thousands, i.e., Guyana's lack of capacity to quarantine and/or isolate those persons. Nagamootoo said, "Upon their return all of them have to be screened, placed in quarantine and tested. Some of them might possibly be hospitalized. Such inflow at this time would be enough to overwhelm and literally kill our health care system."

An April 11 update on Guyana's response to the COVID-19 pandemic from the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) makes this evident. Presently, there are only four national quarantine and isolation facilities, with a collective capacity of 254. The task force is scrambling in its efforts to set up more of these facilities, with three currently in planning. The Cliff Anderson Sports Hall and the National Gymnasium are being prepared as well, with a combined capacity of 550 persons. The Ocean View International Hotel is also being prepared, but the capacity has not been determined.

The most recent study on the Guyana situation by the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) and the Ministry of Public Health had projected that Guyana could see over 20,000 cases of the novel Coronavirus by May 5.

Guyana To Escape Regional Recession – World Bank



The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had also said the Guyana Government will receive approximately 14.5 per cent of all oil revenue in 2020.

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC Guyana is expected to see an overall economic growth of 51.7 percent for this year, with further projections over the next two years.

The World Bank, in its recent semi-annual report of the Latin America and Caribbean region, titled “The Economy in the Time of COVID-19,” said the country will, in 2021 and 2022, see an 8.7 percent and 2.6 percent GDP growth respectively. The report stated that Guyana’s economy had

expanded by some 4.7 percent in 2019, with anticipated oil revenues spurring expansion in non-traded sectors.

It said oil production is projected to boost the country’s GDP growth to an unprecedented level this year.

The report said, however, that while this could transform Guyana, there are risks as illustrated by a “still incomplete election outcome and compounded by falling oil prices and the COVID-19 epidemic. Weak public service deliv-

ery and monitoring systems constrain the development of policies to reduce poverty and protect the vulnerable.” Guyana remains locked in an electoral disagreement more than a month after citizens went to the polls on March 2. Weeks of litigation have seen the process now returning to the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM). A request for a national recount of the ballots cast in the National and Regional Elections by President David Granger last month is coming to bear, albeit without the “supervisory role” of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Granger had sought the assistance of CARICOM through its Chair, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, to have a team be present for a recount of the votes, which he said, would end all speculations of fraud as purported by the political opposition.

That request was later challenged by private citizen Ulita Grace Moore and the Appeal Court subsequently ruled that the elections body should not

allow any outside element to undertake its constitutionally mandated responsibility.

The court, however, did not bar the recount. GECOM is currently in the preparatory stages of the national recount and will meet again today to continue the process.

Meanwhile, while Guyana continues its fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic, the government is reporting successful handling of the situation. Granger on Saturday said his administration is becoming better prepared to fight the virus. He noted that while the country has embarked on a path of improved public health, there are still many challenges ahead before the disease is defeated. He said his government is better equipped to provide proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the medical staff carrying out testing and treatment along with materials and equipment such as beds, respirators and ventilators for those who become critically afflicted.



99.1 FM RADIO

REAL TALK SHOW

WITH **DAVE “BEEF” JOSEPH**
& **RASTAMAN KENTAE**

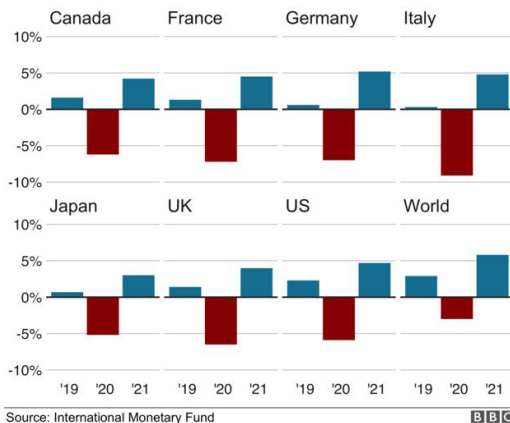
MONDAY | TUESDAY | THURSDAY FROM 8PM - 10PM



Coronavirus: 'World faces worst recession since Great Depression'

All major advanced economies will be in recession this year

National annual GDP



Source: International Monetary Fund

The global economy will contract by 3% this year as countries around the world shrink at the fastest pace in decades, the International Monetary Fund says. The IMF described the global decline as the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s. It said the pandemic had plunged the world into a "crisis like no other".

The Fund added that a prolonged outbreak would test the ability of governments and central banks to control the crisis.

Gita Gopinath, the IMF's chief economist, said the crisis could knock \$9 trillion (£7.2 trillion) off global GDP over the next two years.

'Great Lockdown'

While the Fund's latest World Economic Outlook praised the "swift and sizeable" response in countries like the UK, Germany, Japan and the US, it said no country would escape the downturn. It expects global growth to rebound to 5.8% next year if the pandemic fades in the second half of 2020. Ms Gopinath said

today's "Great Lockdown" presented a "grim reality" for policymakers, who faced "severe uncertainty about the duration and intensity of the shock". "A partial recovery is projected for 2021," said Ms Gopinath. "But the level of GDP will remain below the pre-virus trend, with considerable uncertainty about the strength of the rebound."

"Much worse growth outcomes are possible and may be even likely."

Sharpest UK downturn in a century

The IMF predicts the UK economy will shrink by 6.5% in 2020, compared with the IMF's January forecast for 1.4% GDP growth.

A decline of this magnitude would be bigger than the 4.2% drop in output seen in the wake of the financial crisis. It would also represent the biggest annual fall since 1921, according to reconstructed Bank of England data dating back to the 18th century.

However, this is half the annual rate expected by the OBR, which expects GDP

to drop by 35% in the three months to June. The UK's furlough scheme, which is designed to keep workers in a job amid the government lockdown, is expected to limit the rise in unemployment to 4.8% in 2020, from 3.8% last year. UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak has pledged billions of pounds in wage subsidies and loan guarantees to help workers and businesses through the shutdown. The Bank of England has also slashed interest rates to a new low and freed up billions of pounds for commercial banks to lend.

Global pain

Ms Gopinath said that for the first time since the Great Depression, both advanced and developing economies were expected to fall into recession. The IMF warned that growth in advanced economies would not get back to its pre-virus peak until at least 2022. The US economy is expected to contract by 5.9% this year, representing the biggest annual decline since 1946. Unemployment in the US is also expected to jump to 10.4% this year. A partial recovery is expected in 2021, with expected US growth of 4.7%. The Chinese economy is expected to expand by just 1.2% this year, which would be the slowest growth since 1976. Australia is expected to suffer its first recession since 1991. The IMF warned that there were "severe risks of a worse outcome". It said that if the pandemic took longer to control and there was a sec-

ond wave in 2021, this would knock an additional 8 percentage points off global GDP. The Fund said this scenario could trigger a downward spiral in heavily-indebted economies. It said investors might be unwilling to lend to some of these nations, which would push up borrowing costs.

The IMF added: "This increase in sovereign borrowing costs or simply fear of it materialising, could prevent many countries from providing the income support assumed here." Economic medicine While longer lockdowns will constrain economic activity, the IMF said quarantines and social distancing measures were vital. It said: "Upfront containment measures are essential to slow the spread of the virus and allow health care systems to cope and to help pave the way for an earlier and more robust resumption of economic activity. "Uncertainty and reduced demand for services could be even worse in a scenario of greater spread without social distancing" The IMF set out four priorities for dealing with the pandemic. It called for more money for health care systems, financial support for workers and businesses, continued central bank support and a clear exit plan for the recovery. It urged the world to work together to find and distribute treatments and a vaccine. The Fund added that many developing nations would need debt relief in the coming months and years.

Universities begin considering canceling in-person classes until 2021

A number of universities are beginning to consider the possibility that in-person classes may not resume until 2021.

Boston University has already canceled all “in-person summer activities” on its primary campus. But the school’s coronavirus recovery plan includes protocols should officials deem it not safe to return for the fall semester.

“The Recovery Plan recognizes that if, in the unlikely event that public health officials deem it unsafe to open in the fall of 2020, then the University’s contingency plan envisions the need to consider a later in-person return, perhaps in January 2021,” the university said in an online statement.

The school will “offer remote learning courses this summer” and it plans to “continue providing the minimal housing and dining services that are currently available.”

President Robert A. Brown sounded hopeful that Boston University would allow students to return on the fall -- a “best-case scenario” -- and until then would focus its efforts on finding “the best and safest way” to do that. Jean Morrison, the provost and chief academic officer, told NBC10 Boston that while suspending the fall semester is a possibility, it’s not the one they’re aiming for. “We’re focusing our planning on a fall return to campus,” she said.

The news underscores just how upending the coronavirus

has been to the reliable beats of higher education, where schools are facing once unimaginable changes to their ways of life.

With classes moved online, spring break canceled, summer jobs furloughed and commencement ceremonies postponed, students remained largely hopeful that the fall would bring an end to the uncertainty.

Nicole Somerstein, a junior at BU who is aiming to graduate in May 2021, told CNN she was saddened by the possibility, but doesn’t feel that it’s unreasonable, given the coronavirus’s widespread impact.

“I think BU is definitely doing the right thing, and throughout this entire process have shown that they care about our well-being more than anything else,” she said. “The possibility is sad, but I understand that they have to consider all scenarios.”

An increasing number of schools are doing exactly that

Harvard, which was one of the first universities to send students home earlier this spring in a bid to “de-densify” its campus, is considering “lots of different scenarios” for the fall semester, President Lawrence S. Bacow said in an interview last week.

One of the issues, he said, is that at some point decisions will have to be made and there will still be “a tremendous amount of uncertainty” with regard to the virus. Oregon State, like most colleges

in the US, moved most of its summer instruction online. As for the fall semester, OSU spokesman Steve Clark told The Oregonian, “Only the novel coronavirus will determine what happens. We can hope for a full return in fall 2020, but hope is not a strategy. So that is why we are going to prepare as best we can for every possible contingency.” And the University of Arizona said it remains hopeful the fall semester would include a return to campus.

“We are cautiously optimistic that the fall semester will be able to launch with the normal face-to-face campus experience, but of course we will prioritize the health and well-being of our community in making that decision,” the university said in a statement to the Arizona Daily Star.

It’s good to plan well ahead

Eric Feigl-Ding, an epidemiologist and visiting scientist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, told

CNN that the colleges are doing the right thing by planning for the unexpected. “I think colleges should all definitely make plans for delaying start dates and for intermittent closings and reopenings, because epidemiology modeling suggests we may have to go into open and close waves until potentially even 2022,” he said. Researchers from the Chan school said Tuesday that the US may have to endure social distancing measures, such as stay-at-home orders and school closures, until 2022. That is, unless, a vaccine becomes quickly available. “Intermittent distancing may be required into 2022 unless critical care capacity is increased substantially or a treatment or vaccine becomes available,” the researchers wrote. Another important factor: Whether people become immune to the new coronavirus after they have been infected. That’s simply not yet known.



The news underscores just how upending the coronavirus has been to the reliable beats of higher education, where schools are facing once unimaginable changes to their ways of life.

Trump halts World Health Organization funding over handling of coronavirus outbreak



United States President, Donald Trump.

(CNN) President Donald Trump announced Tuesday he is halting funding to the World Health Organization while a review is conducted.

Trump said the review would cover the WHO's "role in severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of coronavirus."

Trump's announcement comes in the middle of the worst global pandemic in decades and as he angrily defends his own handling of the

outbreak in the United States.

Amid swirling questions about whether he downplayed the crisis or ignored warnings from members of his administration about its potential severity, Trump has sought to assign blame elsewhere, including at the WHO and in the news media.

The US funds \$400 to 500 million to the WHO each year, said Trump, noting that China "contributes roughly \$40 million." "Had the WHO done its job to get medical experts into

China to objectively assess the situation on the ground and to call out China's lack of transparency, the outbreak could have been contained at its source with very little death," Trump said.

His decision to withdraw funding from the WHO follows a pattern of skepticism of world organizations that began well before the coronavirus pandemic. Trump has questioned US funding to the United Nations, withdrew from global climate agreements and lambasted the World Trade Organization -- claiming all were ripping off the United States.

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said earlier Tuesday that while the WHO and China "made mistakes," Trump is also looking to deflect blame from his own administration.

"Right now, there is a very coordinated effort amongst the White House, and their allies to try to find scapegoats for the fatal mistakes that the President

made during the early stages of this virus," he said.

Murphy added: "It is just wildly ironic that the President and his allies are now criticizing China or the WHO for being soft on China when it was in fact the President who was the chief apologist for China during the early stages of this crisis." Trump said Tuesday if the WHO had acted appropriately, he could have instituted a travel ban on people coming from China sooner.

Trump said Tuesday the WHO made a "dangerous and costly" decision to oppose travel restrictions from China.

But just days before Trump instituted his ban on travelers from China, he also was praising the country. On January 24, Trump tweeted: "China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. In particular, on behalf of the American People, I want to thank President Xi!"



99.1 FM RADIO

TRUTH AND PRAISE GOSPEL

WITH **SEAN O'NEIL**

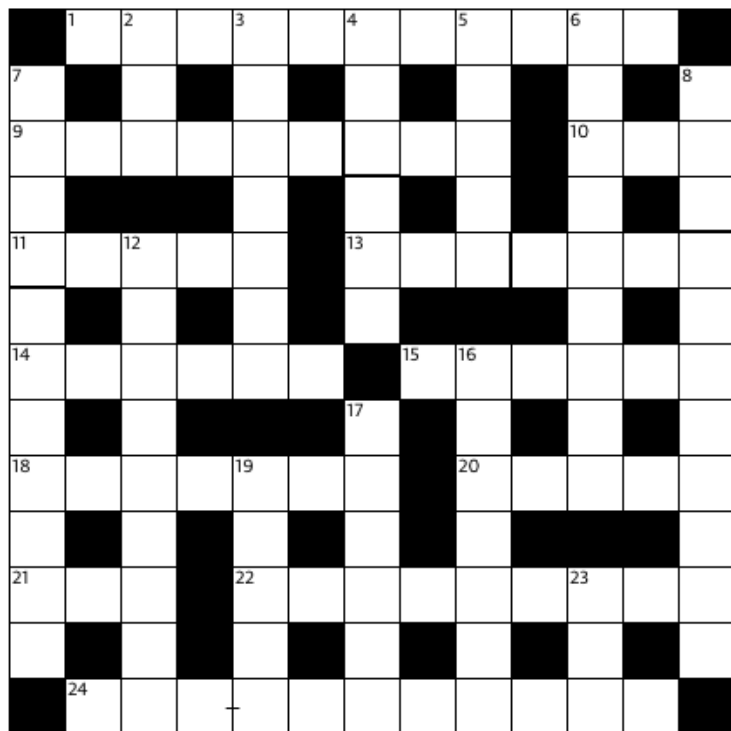
MONDAY - FRIDAY

FROM 5AM - 6AM

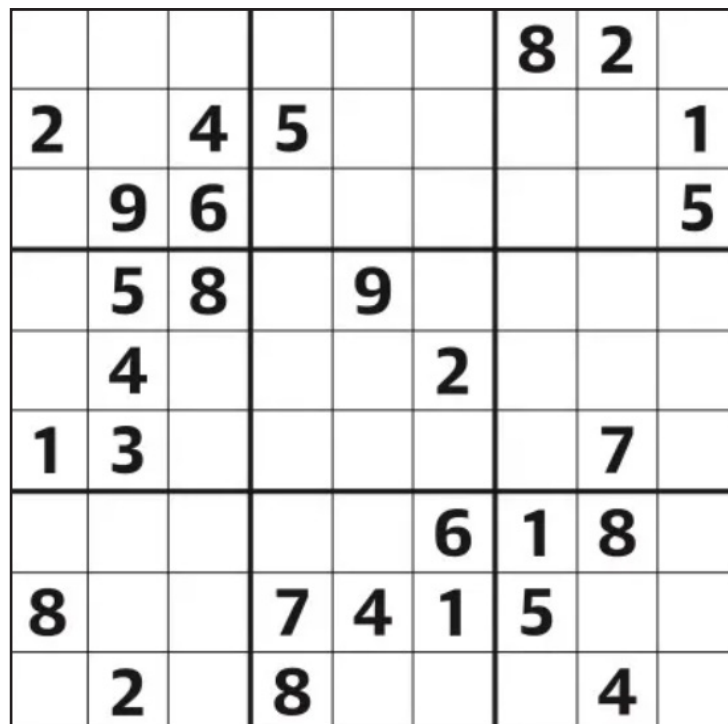


CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No



Sudoku Puzzles



DAILY CARTOON

Across

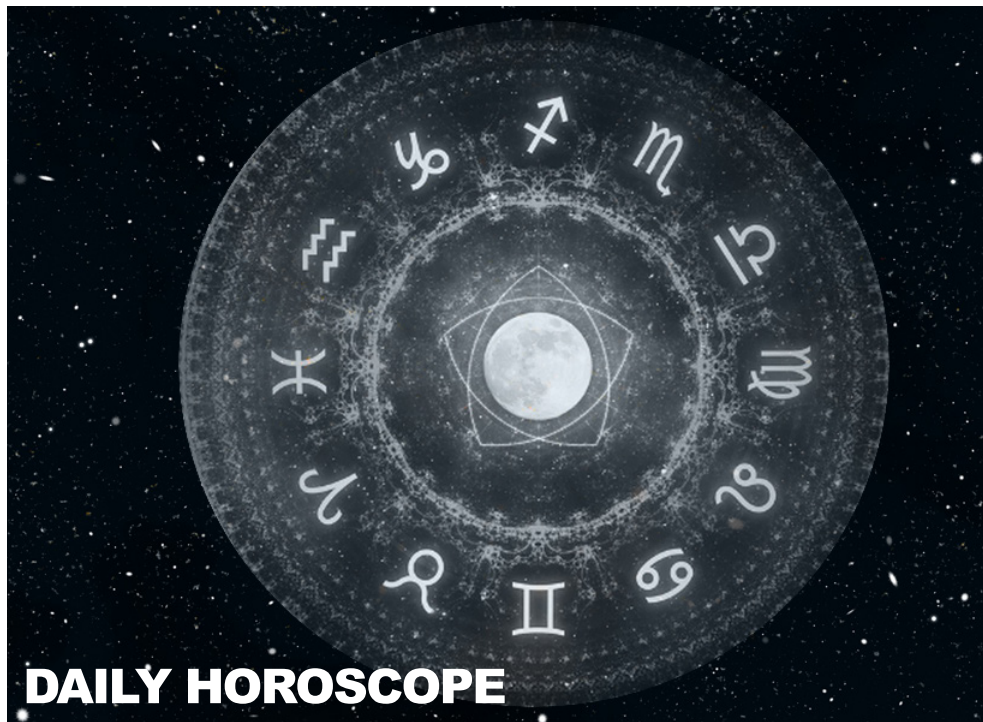
- 1 Essential bit of badminton equipment (11)
 9 Second in command (6,3)
 10 Whopper (3)
 11 Punch (5)
 13 What Oscar Wilde called 'the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable' (3,4)
 14 Vehicle drawn by a bullock (6)
 15 Something with an elongated rectangular shape (6)
 18 Move about ponderously (7)
 20 Former US World No 1 tennis player, b. 1954 (5)
 21 Time (3)
 22 Legion (9)
 24 Attractive (3-8)

Down

- 2 Sing with the mouth shut (3)
 3 One undertaking an arduous journey in difficult country
 4 Allow to escape punishment (3,3)
 5 Kind of pastry used for eclairs (5)
 6 Substance in plants — so cull eel (anag) (9)
 7 Skier's eye protection (4,7)
 8 Assemble (3,8)
 12 Providing necessary support (9)
 16 Imperfection (7)
 17 Swiss-style holiday house (6)
 19 Imitate in order to ridicule (5)
 23 Large pot for making tea (3)



"Everyone's baking and sewing again."



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ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You may be surprised. Discussions that go beyond polite banter may yield startling revelations, but don't believe everything you hear. No matter what you choose to do today, you'll probably fare better if you bring a friend.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Stay on point. Alluring distractions may try to divert your attention from the important tasks that should be done today. Don't be surprised if a new admirer makes his or her presence known.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Air out your grievances. You'll feel a whole lot better about it if you discuss what's bothering you rather than keeping it bottled up. You'll probably say the right thing if you speak from the heart.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at both sides of the situation. Your optimism over a project may cause you to see only the positives and ignore the negatives. You may need an objective third party on your side to find the right path.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Fantasy may be better than reality. Your illusions could be dashed to pieces when you finally meet someone you've admired from afar. Doing what's best for the common good can be difficult but is certainly achievable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When you talk, people will usually listen. You'll not be at a loss for words when it comes to getting your way, and others may be pleased to accommodate you. Your wisdom and charm earn respect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Have it your way. Be a star of the business world or the spark that kindles a blazing romance, as you probably can exert your will on anything today. Your performance may suffer if you do too many things at once.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): All's fair in love and war. You may be able to take advantage of a romantic situation by being in the right place at the right time. Make sure your financial picture isn't in need of tweaking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Strut your stuff. Don't blend into the background; you're far more appealing than you think. Exude confidence and charm, and you should be able to conquer any situation that comes your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There's more to it than meets the eye. Don't take a cold reception personally, as there is likely something else going on behind the scenes. Take what is offered but don't pry into private matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Honey works better than vinegar. You may get to the bottom of someone's problem if you show tact and compassion. Try to encourage someone to improve rather than being overly critical.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Read between the lines. You'll need to be perceptive to tell the difference between what someone says and what they actually mean. Your trust should be earned rather than given lightly.

Samuel names all-time Empire Gladiators

Empire legend, Micah Samuel, embarked on a project to select Empire top twenty one (21) greatest players. The former Empire midfielder and coach explained in a WhatsApp broadcast his selection policy and on what basis he thinks he had the authority to select the Gladiators as he named them.

"Before I go into the actual selection, I need to firstly explain why I have the latitude to make these selections," Samuels articulated in his broadcast. "My vast travels as a certified coach, discretionary contributions as a player, involvement as a sports administrator, many years observing football matches locally and abroad," he explained.

The former national coach



wrote the criteria used for selection of the twenty-one are, ball manipulation, technical capacity, speed, tactical awareness, and complete understanding of what it means to wear the badge of honour proudly.



Goalkeepers: Nedley Dyer and Robert Turtle Roberts. Defenders: Alfred Scout, Lester 'House' Lee, Jerome 'Dit' Lake, Steveroy 'Demon' Anthony, Mervin 'Wiser' Tittle, and Alford 'Ford' Kirby.

Midfielders: Veron Epilus

Edwards Jr., Captain, Veron Edwards Sr., Wayne Cummings, Lennie Quashie, Peter Henry, Andy Gantone Nisbitt, and Micah Samuel.

Leading the attack Keithley K.S Sheppard, Jerome JT Tittle, Paul 'Sepsus' Davis, Marsden 'Monkey Boots' Joseph, Alister 'Mojo' Thomas and Conrad 'Boast' Whyte.

Coach, Max Martin, physiotherapist and Kalesha Antoine.

Bravo working on mental aspect of game

West Indies batsman Darren Bravo wants his teammates to use the break, caused by the COVID-19 quarantine, to work on the mental aspect of their game. Bravo, who is using to bond with his family, says he remains in contact with teammates from time to time during what he termed 'this unfortunate period'. However, he feels that the break allows time to relax and spend time with his inner circle.

The left hander has made an addition to his home to facilitate training.

"I have built a cricket net at home and invested in a bowling machine," the 31 year old added. He revealed that sometimes his broth-

er, Dwayne Bravo, comes across and they train together. "A lot of physical is involved as we attempt to stay match-ready because I am sure we will be back on the playing field sooner rather than later," Bravo noted.

Bravo said his return to the West Indies lineup has been great for him and he is looking forward to better performances.

The veteran player says the camaraderie within the set up is great and he thinks Phil Simmons and captain Kieron Pollard are doing a fantastic job and once they continue to play as a team and believe in themselves, things will be fine.

Yorke Supports FIFA

Trinidad and Tobago most successful footballer, Dwight Yorke, supports FIFA's move to appoint a Normalization Committee to run the affairs of T&T's football, replacing John Wallace and his three vice presidents who were duly elected in November 2019.

On March 27, FIFA named businessman Robert Hadad as chairman, attorney Judy Daniel as vice-chairman and retired banker Nigel Romano, as a member, with two more individuals to be appointed later to replace the ousted T&T Football Association (TTFA) top executive. Yorke says when it comes to football, things must change. "We have tried all aspects before, we know how

successful we have been in 2006," the former Manchester United legend noted. He said football in his homeland has been on the decline for years and it's the right move at this time. He urged that all involved must get back focus and to think about the youths.

"The youths are the future of the football and I call on all the footballers out there who are aspiring to represent their country to continue to work hard because it is the only way forward. Aspiring footballers must have that belief and hopefully, our country will one day find its way back on the world stage," Yorke said.

Yorke, a former national captain ad-



mits that he too is feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Dubai, which has locked down all citizens and visitors alike to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus in that country.

The former striker, who also played for Aston Villa, and who is based in Dubai, said he would love to assist the young players in T&T with the knowledge and experience he has garnered over the many years playing in the EPL.

Benjamin: Education or Sports

Former Hoppers Football Club captain and parliamentary representative of the St. John's Rural West constituency, Londel Benjamin, is appealing to the young people in his community to focus on education or sports as a means of avoiding poverty.

Benjamin, one of the founding members of the Hoppers Football Club in 1968, noted that very little football was being played in the community.

"I got together with my friend Leroy Gilliard and we formed the Hoppers Football Club applying to the ABFA for membership which was granted," he recalled.

The deputy speaker of the house of representa-



tives said with players making over hundred thousand USD a year in cricket these days and the high wages being paid in football, the young people in the Rural West area should first focus on their education or sports since many individuals have used either to elevate themselves.

Benjamin said players need to work hard at learning their craft and to under-

stand that money is not everything, however, he is of the view that time must be spent learning first and the reward will follow.

The Rural West Representative noted that he will be approaching the Public Works Department of the community center built by the Chinese Government as a gift to the area.

He added that the young people needed the center for their development and the magistrate court need to be relocated to facilitate the use and the establishment of a computer lab.

When quizzed about the rivalry between Empire and neighbors Hoppers, Benjamin he said the latter defeated Empire on back to back occasions in 1973.

Benjamin weighed in on the present situation that Antigua and Barbuda finds itself with two rounds of matches left in the ABFA Premier division with Grenades on 31 points and Hoppers on 29. "I believe the F.A should wait like they are doing in Europe and find a way to play the remaining games," he advised.

CARIFTA Games cancelled

No CARIFTA Games in 2020! President of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Association (NACAC), Mike Sands, has announced that the CARIFTA Games, which were scheduled to be held in Bermuda, have been cancelled.

"The executive thought that the aforementioned decision would still mean that Bermuda will host the 49th addition of our CARIFTA Games, leaving Guyana to continue planning for the 50th Anniversary edition but in 2022," Sands reported.

He said discussions are already underway with the stakeholders in Guyana, seeking their understanding and support, given that Bermuda did nothing to lose the annual event and is therefore deserving of been given the opportunity to make good on its commitment, albeit, one year later.

Cool and Smooth Empire distribute food packages

The Cool and Smooth Empire Football Club this week distributed several food packages in the Grays's Green Community.

Over twenty individuals benefited from the gesture by the thirteen times football champions. Making the donations on behalf of the Club were second vice president, Arlene Josiah, who led the drive, and first vice

president, Harry Jules.

Josiah, speaking to PointeXpress Sports, appealed to other Clubs and fortunate people in the community to lend a helping hand to those in need at this sad time. "We must look out for each other and lend a helping hand where possible," Josiah noted.



Most powerful lady in sports

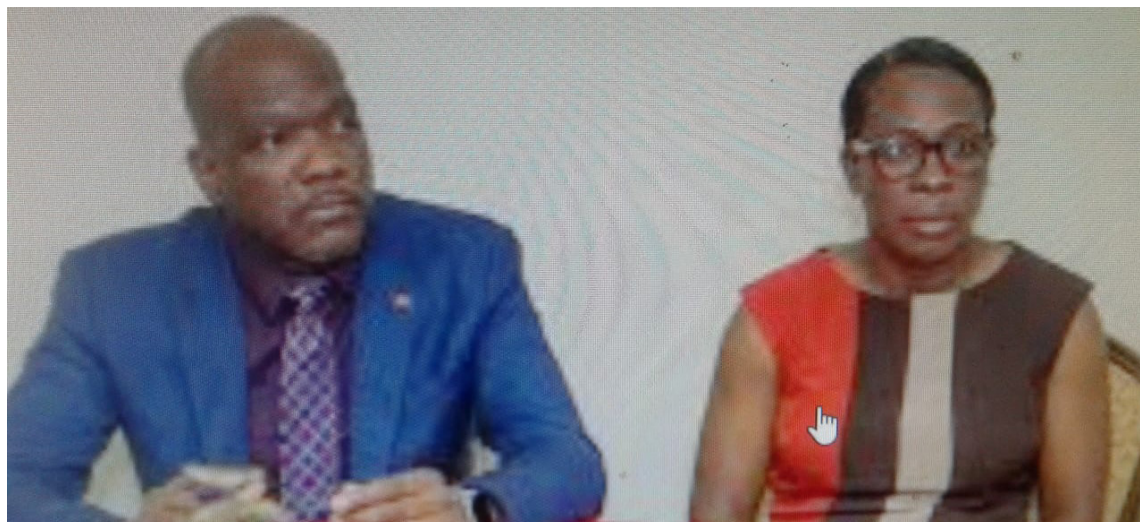
PointeXpress conducted an exclusive interview with the most powerful lady in sports in Antigua and Barbuda, Heather Samuel Daley.

Samuel Daley, who is the Director of Sports in the Ministry of Sports, started her adventure in athletics in the early 80's competing in her village of birth Bethesda. The community hosted sports day and she was encouraged to participate in the 100 and 200 meters which she won.

Eventually her mother moved from Bethesda to Swetes Village which led to her attending the All Saints Secondary School. There her growth and dominance continued winning many medals and honors along the way.

A life changing experience developed after high school with an offer of a scholarship by Antiguan coach, Fred Sowerby, to attend University in Kentucky where she majored in Organizational Communication and Public Relations.

At the US institution, Samuel-Daley said her first



year was extremely difficult. She explained that she struggled to adapt to a strange environment with her family far afield, but with the assistance of other Caribbean students she eventually acclimatized.

The sports administrator noted that despite a weak athletic program she managed to excel at the university going on to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Olympics which she described as a nervous experience.

"100 meters was my favorite event, I hated the 200 it was long and difficult and my running style which involved a lot of power and drive was not suited for the

turn," Heather added.

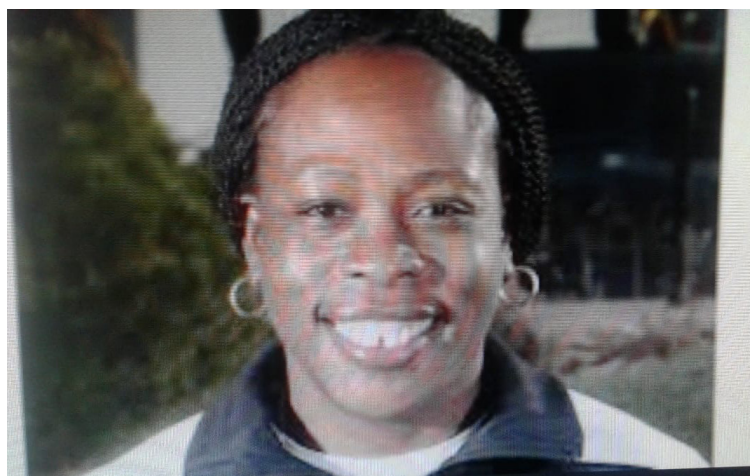
After university, Samuels Daley returned to her native land and started working with CTV selling cable boxes before landing a job with the Ministry of Sports under the guidance of the legendary, Pat Whyte.

Since then, the former national sprinter, regarded as the nation best female sprinter ever, has worked her way up to the top as one of the three main decision makers

in the Ministry of Sports.

"I want people to remember me as a person who loved track and field and sports in general," Samuels Daley said.

Heather says she is enjoying quiet moments with her family during the COVID-19 pandemic break and she is encouraging residents to follow all the protocols set out by the Ministry of Health and the government.



DEWS