



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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24 CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19



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COVID-19
UPDATES

**A&BUT's Ashworth
Azille resigns - Page 3**

24 Cases of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda

As the country continues to conduct more COVID-19 tests in the local population, another COVID-19 positive result has been confirmed.

On Tuesday, Health Ministry officials indicated that the most recent results received by the ministry from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) revealed one new laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19.

The new COVID-19 case is said to be a female with no travel history.

This new additional case now brings the total number of persons confirmed with disease in Antigua and Barbuda to 24.

The health ministry also advised

that five other tests were sent to CARPHA which came back negative.

However, three out of the five negative cases were repeated samples of persons who had previously tested positive.

This will now increase the number of persons the island can report as 'recovered patients'.

According to the ministry, "these patients are symptom-free and bring the total number of persons with no symptoms and negative results to ten."

Among the retested patients was patient zero who has now tested negative on her third repeated test.

According to ministry officials,

Antigua and Barbuda can expect COVID-19 testing conducted locally in short order, while work on the Margetson Ward, the expected home for all COVID-19 isolation and treatment-related matters, is nearing completion.

In a statement to the media, the health ministry expressed thanks to the public for cooperating with the measures associated with the state of emergency.

"These measures along with social distancing, proper cough and sneeze etiquette, hand washing and sanitizing are critical in our nation's fight against COVID-19," the statement read.

DAY 4/22

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: ESE at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 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

30°_{Hi}



Partly sunny with a shower in places

NIGHT 4/22

Wind: E at 13 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 22 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 42%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.8 mm
 Rain: 0.8 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

23°_{Lo}



Partly cloudy with a shower in spots

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:46AM

Sunset AST
 6:25PM



Duration
 12:12hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 5:37 PM

Moonset AST
 6:13AM



Duration
 12:36hr

Azille Resigns Suddenly

“Shock and bewilderment” is how some teachers are describing the sudden departure of Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT)’s President Ashworth Azille.

In a communiqué to its membership dated April 21, 2020, A&BUT General Secretary, Annetta Alexander-Hunt, informed teachers that Azille tendered his resignation from the post of president with effect from Monday 20th April, 2020.

No reason was given for his sudden departure.

The Clare Hall Secondary School principal also holds the position of President of the Caribbean Union of Teachers. He was elected to that position in 2019 and it is unclear at this time if he will also have to demit that office.

The former A&BUT president has remained incommunicado since the announcement was made public Tuesday afternoon. Efforts to reach him for a comment proved futile, nor has he



Former Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT)’s President Ashworth Azille.

answered the several messages sent to his phone.

Josephine Tasheba Fredrick will serve as interim president of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers following Azille’s abrupt resignation as A&BUT head.

Just last week, Azille chaired a virtual meeting with teachers, but there are unconfirmed reports that many have

openly expressed their displeasure at his approach to negotiations on behalf of teachers. The reports say teachers were agitating for the former president to adopt a more aggressive posture in the negotiations.

An informed source said union meetings are usually ‘boisterous’ but that there was nothing ‘out of the ordinary’ at Friday’s meeting conducted via ZOOM, a virtual platform.

One source said that some educators were allegedly being disrespectful to the former president.

Ashworth Azille was elected last year to serve a third 3-year term as head of the A&BUT. There are no limits to how long a person may serve as president.

He was leading negotiations with the government and earlier this year he publicly rejected any move by the government to offer a one or two percent salary increase to teachers.

Josephine Fredrick will serve as president until a by election can be held.

Minor injuries in SUV crash

Two occupants of an SUV escaped with their lives on Tuesday morning, when the vehicle crashed into a lamppost on Sir Sydney Walling Highway and burst into flames.

The 2012 Hyundai Tucson, registration plate A 39689, was being driven by an 18 year-old, who reportedly lost control of the vehicle in the vicinity of Charlie’s Service station.

The SUV struck a lamppost, bringing it down, before going up in flames.

The driver and his 20



year-old passenger escaped with minor injuries and was transported to Mount St.

John’s Medical Centre.

Investigations are ongoing.



Benjamin: I am alarmed!

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin said that he is 'alarmed' at the action of the Barbuda Council when it announced this week that it was enforcing restrictions of what it termed 'non-essential' travel to the island.

Equally, Benjamin said he surprised at the views expressed by some of the radio giving support to what in his view is 'an incorrect' position and interpretation of the of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda.

"Be that as it may, the government will be taking appropriate measures in the near future to ensure that every element of the unitary state of Antigua and Barbuda is enforced," Benjamin stated.

The attorney general said he wants to wait until the coronavirus crisis is over to launch an educational pro-

gramme to explain the true relationship between Antigua and Barbuda; politically and constitutionally.

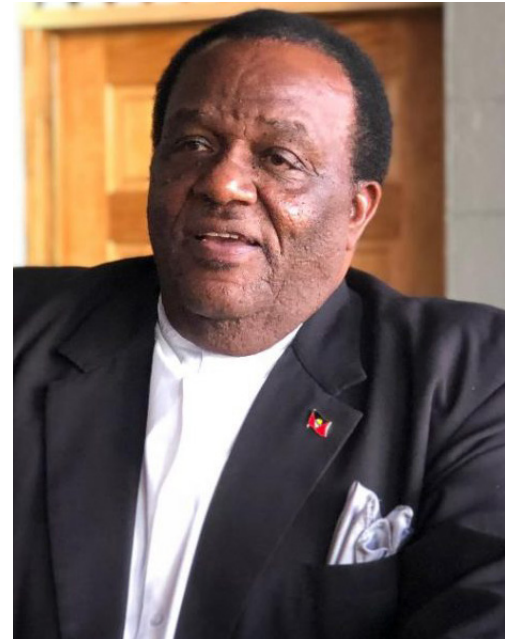
"This is to clarify any misunderstanding and to explain the position in law," he noted.

On Monday, the Barbuda Council issued a statement in which it declared that it was enforcing its Barbuda Travel Restriction Policy banning all 'non-essential' travel to the island.

It said the move was designed to protect the 'people of Antigua and Barbuda' from the global pandemic COVID-19.

The council said it was acting under the Section 123 of the Constitution when it decided to impose the travel ban.

The statement, however, said the



Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin ban will last until tomorrow Thursday April 23, but that it will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

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April 20th – April 24th

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ABTB M.V.I.C – Paynters

- Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals ONLY – 8:00am – 11:00am

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- Via email at support@transportboardanu.com
- Live Facebook PM at Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board
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Thank you for your continued support and we apologize for any inconvenience caused.



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LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

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PART 1

The first 10% is automatically discounted from the fuel variation and tariff rate for electricity beginning on April 1st, 2020.



PREVIOUS RATES



10% RATE MODIFICATION



NEW DISCOUNTED BILL

PART 2

The second 10% is taken off when customers pay their bill in the month that the bill is due.

Therefore,



10% OFF THE RATE
OF ELECTRICITY



10% OFF THE OVERALL
BILL WHEN PAID IN
THE MONTH DUE



20%
DISCOUNT



Rivals unite to debunk 5G-Covid link

There is no 5G technology in Antigua and Barbuda. This is the emphatic message that the country's three competing providers of telephony and internet services have banded together to declare in a perhaps unprecedented joint statement.

Setting aside their usual and expected commercial rivalry, Flow, Digicel and APUA have decided that the issue at stake is one which behooves them to speak with one voice in encouraging the public "to be aware of misinformation linking 5G to coronavirus."

In the statement issued on Tuesday, 21 April 2020, the three telecommunications providers said they "are aware of malicious messages and video content that are being circulated throughout Antigua and Barbuda and on the internet, referencing a link to 5G technology and the spread of Coronavirus".

Flow and Digicel are private compa-

nies originating from the UK and Ireland respectively, while APUA is the state-owned public utilities provider whose mobile telephone and internet services are provided under its Inet brand and business unit.

"There is no scientific or technological proof connecting 5G technology with the spread of the Coronavirus," the release adds, while noting that "the International Telecommunications Union [ITU], based in Switzerland, has also issued a (similar) statement."

The triune press release then goes on to directly quote part of the ITU's report which states thus: "As claims linking 5G technology and the spread of COVID-19 are mounting, ITU stands on the side of science and makes it clear that such claims have no scientific basis whatsoever. Bringing trusted news and facts about COVID-19 is paramount ..."

The missive from the three market rivals says that, "Additionally, neither Flow, Digicel nor APUA-Inet have to date installed any 5G infrastructure on our mobile towers. While a limited 5G trial was conducted by Flow in September 2017, the technology was never deployed and all 5G equipment were removed from the country after the trial was concluded. Reports to the contrary are absolutely false."

The statement concludes by urging the public to continue observing "the recommended guidelines and health protocols as issued by the Ministry of Health to prevent the further spread of the Coronavirus in Antigua and Barbuda.

"At a time of heightened fear around the world, we encourage everyone to only rely on information from credible sources so that, together, we can all stay safe," it stated.

International Community Offers Help

Several friendly countries have answered Antigua and Barbuda's appeal for help in the fight against the coronavirus, COVID-19 outbreak.

So far, the largest slice of assistance comes from the government of India which has made available US\$1 million immediately to the government.

Antigua and Barbuda's

permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Aubrey Webson, said the money will go towards assistance in three areas; health equipment, social programmes and agriculture.

"The money has already been used to purchase supplies to assist health care workers in the country. We have several ventilators, personal protection equipment, masks and gloves that will arrive in Antigua before the end of the month," Ambassador Webson explained.

He revealed that another portion of the money is going to help the Ministry of Social Transformation purchase food and necessities for the disadvantaged in the society. That including sourcing locally grown food

items.

The farming community will benefit from funding to assist with improving local food production.

Antigua and Barbuda is also getting money from the Canadian government, but according to Webson this money has been channeled through one of the UN agencies.

The ambassador said negotiations are currently taking place with representatives of both the European Union and the government of Norway for a package of assistance for the country. However, he said those talks have not yet been finalized.

He reported that other countries have indicated a willingness to help but talks with their representatives are



Antigua and Barbuda's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Aubrey Webson

still ongoing.

The Antigua and Barbuda economy has been decimated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as it forced the closure of the airport with the attendant closure of most of the hotels. The cruise sector has also grounded to a halt. Tourism represents about 70 percent of the nation's economic output.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne with High Commissioner of India to Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency, Dr. K.J. Srinivasa

Spencer pays tribute to Sir Hilbourne Frank

Former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer has described the former Barbudan parliamentarian, Sir Thomas Hilbourne Frank, as a 'colossal figure' fighting for the rights of the people of Barbuda.

Spencer was reflecting on the working relationship he had with the late Barbudan politician Sir Hilbourne, who will be laid to rest following a funeral service in Codrington today.

Frank passed away on



Former Barbudan Parliamentarian, Sir Thomas Hilbourne Frank.

29th March at the age of 88 years.

The former prime minister was among several individuals who paid tribute to Sir Hilbourne as the nation prepared to lay to rest one of its iconic politicians.

Spencer said that Sir Hilbourne held the view that what was good for Antigua was not necessarily good for Barbuda, noting that he went 'to pains' to point those things out.

These, according to Spencer had to do with issues surrounding land tenure, independence and the role of the people. "He was very clear on those issues," Spencer noted. He said Sir Hilbourne was a 'tremendous figure' and a 'colossal personality' in the life and times of Barbuda; a determined fighter for self-determination for the sister island.

The Barbuda Council says the funeral procession will leave River Dock and



Former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer

proceed along River Road into Codrington Village and following a route that will enable people to go out and pay their respects to this outstanding hero and "Son of Barbuda".

A short funeral service will be held outside of the Millennium Building, after which the cortege will travel through the village again.

Sir Hilbourne Frank's body will then be taken back along River Road to the cemetery for interment.

He served as political leader of the Barbuda People's Movement, Chairman of the Barbuda Council and was part of the Barbudan delegation to independence talks at Lancaster House in London. He also served a single term as the representative for Barbuda in the House of Representatives.

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Ayre Foundation donates millions to help fight COVID-19

Donations from private sector enterprises and philanthropists continue to support Antigua and Barbuda's organized, but costly battle against the COVID-19 virus that has infected 24 persons and claimed three lives in the twin-island state.

The latest to extend such a welcomed helping hand is the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF), which announced Tuesday that over EC\$4 million worth of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is en route to Antigua and Barbuda from the People's Republic of China (PRC), to assist the government in its fight against COVID-19.

A press release from CAF quotes the Chairman of the Ayre Group, Ambassador Calvin Ayre, saying: "As Antigua and Barbuda and many other small island developing states struggle to protect their citizenry from this highly contagious and deadly coronavirus, it is becoming painfully obvious that we cannot look to the traditional donors and trading partners for assistance in providing urgently needed PPEs."

The statements notes that roughly two weeks ago the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



ruled that it would be allocating "certain scarce or threatened materials for domestic use, so that these materials may not be exported from the United States without explicit approval by FEMA."

That rule, the CAF press release recalls, covers five types of protective equipment, including N95 masks, surgical masks and gloves. It goes on to point out that this decision by the US leaves vulnerable countries like Anti-

gua and Barbuda with no choice but to seek the required supplies from other sources.

According to the statement, Ambassador Ayre has expressed satisfaction at being "able to procure the desperately needed protective equipment from China for our front-line workers in Antigua and Barbuda."

The shipment will include disposable gloves, N95 masks, full-length shields, surgical gowns and forehead temperature thermometers, the press release stated. It added that the official handing over to the Ministry of Health will take place later this week.

Ambassador Ayre is further quoted saying that his Foundation is "truly happy to be in a position to assist the government and citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, and especially the brave people on the front line".

He has described frontline health-care workers as "people who risk their lives to protect others," saying CAF considered it a "duty to ensure that they are adequately protected."



Centenarians Celebrated Despite Social Distancing

On Tuesday, the Governor-General, Sir Rodney Williams as well as parliamentary representative for the area, Hon. E.P Chet Greene, joined the Liberta community and the Social Transformation Ministry in celebrating the 101st birth-

day of Sarah Ann Evangeline Joseph.

The centenarian who enjoyed a spirit-filled 100 birthday celebrations in 2019 was the recipient of a special letter from the Governor-General on Tuesday. The letter comes as a

replacement for the usual birthday celebrations hosted by the Governor-General in light of the COVID-19 social distancing policy by the government.

Nonetheless, congratulatory messages were sent to help the community icon celebrate her long life. In the letter, Sir Rodney stated, "We regret that we cannot visit with you this year in light of the restrictions on celebrations occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic".

Similarly, Representative, Greene, visited the centenarian and presented her with a bouquet of flowers, but following the social distancing protocols he did not



Centenarian Ms. Margaret Myrtle Peters

take a picture with her.

Last week, the country also celebrated the birthday of Ms. Margaret Myrtle Peters of Whenner Road who celebrated her 102nd birthday on April 16th.

According to the Ministry of Social Transformation, even in this time of uncertainty, we can still find a reason to celebrate life."



Governor General His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams with Sarah Ann Evangeline Joseph and family at her 100th birthday celebration in 2019.

Cabinet To Discuss New Extension

The parameters of the next extension of the 24-hour lockdown under the state of emergency will feature prominently at today's virtual Cabinet meeting.

However, attorney general, Steadroy Benjamin does not anticipate any changes to the current regulations now in effect.

"I have not seen any data to support changing the regulations," he told

PointeXpress newspaper.

There have been calls for loosening the regulations to help reduce the long lines that have developed at popular supermarkets, banks and even at APUA. Some people have even suggested that the window of 7:00 am to 12 noon for residents to conduct business should be lengthened to 3:00 pm daily.

But the comments from the attorney general seem to indicate that this is un-

likely to happen.

Last week, several additional businesses were allowed to reopen. These included hardware stores and tire-repair shops. Additionally, residents were allowed to engage in exercise or to ride bikes.

However, these came with a caveat; participants must practice social distancing and the wearing of masks protocols issued by the Ministry of Health.

Firemen battle bush fires

Although it's several months away from what is generally viewed as the season for bush fires, firemen have had to respond to two major bush fires in less than 24 hours.

All Saints Fire Department responded to the call shortly before noon on Tuesday as a house used as a store room at Parham Lodge was destroyed by a bush fire.

According to Fire Chief Elvis Weaver, firefighters were confronted by a bush fire and used water and beaters to control and subsequently extinguish the blaze. The 10ft by 12 ft house was however destroyed in the process.

The owner of the storeroom, whose name was not revealed, resides in a house on the same land, but his residence was not threatened.

Meantime, Monday

evening's bush fire at Monk's Hill is under investigation. The fire chief said at this stage, its origin is unknown.

Firefighters from the All Saints fire station received a call at 8:50 pm and were transported to the scene by Dockyard police officers, where they met a large bush in flames. Through the efforts of the firefighters, the fire was brought under control with the use of beaters.

There was no damage to the cell tower at Monk's Hill, or to neighbouring properties.

Weaver said the bush fire season does not start until the summer months but he noted that these fire calls have been on the rise in recent weeks. He is urging residents to exercise due care and attention and to take precautions to prevent fires.

NOTICE

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WEDNESDAY 22nd and
THURSDAY 23rd APRIL, 2020
FROM 8 AM TO 11 AM
 to certify NIS pension forms & passports.

**CLIENTS MUST WEAR A
 PROTECTIVE MASK AND OBSERVE
 SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

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In an effort to protect the welfare of customers and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, effective April 22, 2020, our branches will open from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The first hour of each day of operation will be reserved for attending to Senior Citizens and Thursday's dedicated to serving essential service workers.

Our Dockyard branch will open from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon with the first 30 minutes reserved for Senior Citizens.

Safety Comes First

To minimise the risk of the spread of COVID-19 and to provide added security, we are asking customers to adhere to the below protocols when visiting our branches.

1. All persons must wear a face mask when entering the branch. Masks should cover your nose and mouth securely.
2. Customers will be asked to present a government issued photo ID as proof of identification to perform transactions.
3. Social Distancing will be observed in all our branches. A limited number of customers will be allowed entrance at any time and should maintain a person to person distance of 6-feet.
4. Essential workers will be required to be in uniform or present their work ID.

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- ATM, Debit and Credit Card Collection/Applications
- MoreBanking Registration
- Night Deposit Service Applications

We encourage customers to continue the use of our ATMs for deposits/withdrawals and our night deposit facilities for business customers.

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If persons wish to submit their forms in branch, please enclose your documentation in a sealed envelope addressed to:

ECAB Loan Relief Plan
 C/o Mr. Adrian McLean or Mrs. V. Alicia Gardner

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Though our doors may be closed temporarily, our ECAB Team is still available to answer any questions or queries you may have. Please feel free to contact Electronic Banking Services at info@ecabank.com or send a direct message on our Facebook page.

We know this crisis may be causing some anxiety, but we remain committed to providing the best service possible during this difficult period.

Stay Safe and COVID-19 Free.

MANAGEMENT

www.ecabank.com

Edimelo: the vision behind the band



By Colin James

Ok! Cyrus! Nice and Easy! Two slogans that epitomise (or eulogise) him.

A Vision Band reunion. Cutting a reggae album.

Perhaps just two of the projects on his agenda before death's untimely hand intervened. They may still materialise but not with his melodic voice.

Anyone 40 years and older would tell the only place to be on Sunday in Antigua & Barbuda was the historic Shirley's Heights.

Not just for the serene ambiance and breathtaking view or the sumptuous food but for great entertainment served up by the Vision Band. And more so the melodic and ear-piercing vocals of Edimelo, christened Tyrone Thomas, who suddenly died last Friday, aged 60.

From calypso to soca to reggae to soul to pop; all came in one harmonious package with 'Melo' crooning from center stage with little or no dance movement — as residents and visitors danced, jammed or rocked the night away.

Bob Marley & The Wail-

ers, Bunny Rugs & Third World, Joseph Hill & Culture, Steel Pulse, Dennis Browne, Lionel Richie, Frank Sinatra — you name them — all their hits were bellowed as if he was the original singer. A voice from Grays Farm so smooth, so sweet, so melodious, so unmistakable.

There's a widely held and accepted view that his singing is similar to Bunny Rugs, and that Third World offered him the lead singing role after Rugs left the band.

But he didn't stop there.

He had a passion for the calypso and soca art forms. He was a fierce defender of Antiguan music against foreign penetration, although he spread out the welcome mat regional artists — and welcomed collaboration with them. Always elegantly dressed on and off the stage, Edimelo would rail against perceived injustice or bias in the judging of the calypso competition, a view which prompted him to organise a Best of the Rest competition, dubbed Kaiso Kick-Off, for those who fell outside the semifinals and finals cut. As lead singer he broke the Burning Flames monopoly as road march winners in 1994 with the hit: Jam Dem (or Dress Back as everyone chorused on the hook line): 'Jam Dem, Jam Dem Vision!, Jam dem till dem sweat, Jam dem till dem wet'...

From lead singer he took on the calypso monarch

stage and conquered twice in 2006 (That Was Yesterday & Rose) to end Queen Ivena's three-peat dominance and in 2013 (Ghetto Boys & Light of Hope) to stop De Bear from winning a fourth straight title. Ironically, on both occasions he preserved the only four-peat accomplishment of King Onyan, the Burning Flames lead vocalist. Replacing the all-Rastafarian group, Wadadli Experience, the then staple at the 'Heights' — Edimelo & Vision Band quickly became the main course for entertainment.

The band's original drummer, Dalma 'Boogie' George, who like all members shared a bond with the lead vocalist, remembers 'Melo's insatiable desire to make music. George recalls him recording 12 tunes in one studio recording session during a tour of Jamaica in the late 1990s. "He was just saying "me hot...me hot... put on another tune," Boogie said as the engineer expressed astonishment that it took some singers in Jamaica days to do one tune. The former Laviscount Brass members were invited to the Land of Reggae by Antiguan Charlie Roberts, who was residing in Jamaica, to perform at the renowned Reggae Sunsplash. "I'm going to get you on Sunsplash," George said Roberts told him after hearing Vision perform up the hill. "When we finished playing, people started screaming...we went

back for an encore."

That stint came before they broke Flames' dominance as kings of the road in 1994 with the suggestive jumpy line: 'Antigua Woman loved to (jes) dress back on...(use your imagination).' Edimelo led the Vision Band across the world, notably New York and Miami for memorable performances with St Croix-based Express Band, 'Imagination Brass' of St Thomas as well as England. "Because of the variety and the genre of music we played..we were well appreciated and accepted," Boogie said. "Edimelo's voice carried us all over the world..We wanted to create our own music and style.

"Antigua has lost a great icon...a wicked singer... anything he put his heart to he worked hard to achieve.

"Give a man his flowers before he dead! Give us our flowers before we die. A few weeks ago he came to my yard and said 'we were going to have a reunion. Tears came to my eyes (when he heard of passing) because his dream didn't come.

"I hope that the powers-that-be would start treating us like the heroes we deserve to be...

Eric Peters, founder and keyboardist, said Vision was formed in 1986 with Edimelo, Boogie, Keithley "Russian" Meade (guitar), all former Laviscount members, along with Errol "Pluto" Ephraim on bass. When Peters left, Gavin Christopher,

Cont'd on pg 11

Opinion

Lesley White and Wayne “Squasher” Nathaniel joined. It’s existence came two years after BF had revolutionized the scene with its staccato brand of jam band music. “Burning Flames motivated the whole sudden! We wanted a band like them... Pops and Teddy (the leaders of Laviscount) decided they won’t change,” Peters recalls. They started performing the Shirley Heights gigs in 1989 after recording four songs two year before. After Peters migrated to the US in 1997, Edimelo kept the band together until about 2001.

“Winning the road march was our most memorable moment,” he said. The relationship with his departed friend started “since (they) were likkle boys” as Edimelo “lived in the same yard

with my cousins in Grays Farm. “We attended Princess Margaret School up to 1979 before he came to Martin’s Village to reside. Me, he and Boogie lived in the same area.” One of Edimelo’s first forays into music came with the Tropical Brass, a band formed by him as a backup to calypsonians and then with “Big Boy” Mason in the hotels. Then with the iconic Laviscount brass for four years followed by Vision Band for about 15 years. So why the name Vision band. “It came from me. I had a kind of vision for the music we wanted to play. Just before he died, Edimelo had a vision to do a reggae album.” Just like another cultural legend, Valter Walter, the voice who thrilled many passed at his

workplace. The unfortunate timing of his passing has naturally sparked concerns of COVID-19 related but the probable cause is heart failure. His death comes after he launched a calypso competition last year to provide hope for those not in the mainstream. A protest, maybe, to the establishment who he accused of not doing enough to protect and preserve the artform. “Don’t turn your back on our culture,” he protested in a poignant song a few years ago. The steelband fraternity will also fondly remember for his pan-enticed tunes none other than ‘In De Pan Yard’. While he will be immortalised for his social commentary and his championing of the reggae genre, Edimelo’s attempt to perform in the

Soca/Party monarch competition ended hilariously. His portrayal of ‘Garrat Bounce’, an uptempo tune, left him winded, a breath that would never return. But he commanded the stage in his colorful suits or elegant attire as his voice resonated to all from atop Shirley’s Heights to the valley of Carnival City (the Antigua Recreation Grounds). “So We Look To The Future, Antigua-Barbuda...” “And We Doing It One Day At A Time...

“Shoulder To Shoulder, Stronger and Bolder...

Just a few lines from another of his hits. To his wife, children, family and friends: Gone too soon! Never to be forgotten!

EEEEEdddddddiiiiim-
mmmmeeeellllloooo!

RIP!



Antigua Commercial Bank

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**WEDNESDAYS
& FRIDAYS**

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(ON A PRIORITY BASIS)

9AM - 12PM
GENERAL PUBLIC

THURSDAYS

8AM - 12PM

PRIORITY ACCESS FOR
ESSENTIAL WORKERS
(UNIFORMED OR WITH EMPLOYER-ISSUED ID)

No sanctions yet on Guyana: EU ambassador

The European Union has not started considering sanctions for Guyana as yet, as there are still hopes that the ongoing political situation can be resolved democratically.

This was stressed yesterday by Ambassador of the European Union to Guyana, Fernando Ponz- Cantó.

The official was a guest on the popular Elections/ COVID-19 Watch on Kaieteur Radio 99.1/99.5fm yesterday being hosted by Senior Journalist Leonard Gildarie and Dr. Yog Mahadeo.

Asked pointedly whether the EU is considering sanctions on Guyana, after the tabulation process for general elections held on March 2nd ran into hurdles when the Opposition claimed that the process was fraudulent, the Ambassador said it is too early.

There have been several court matters, and a recount process is scheduled to commence as early as this week.

At the moment, it has been eight Mondays since the elections, with no recognized declarations that will pave the way for a president to be sworn in. There have, however, been two controversial declarations of Region Four which have both been challenged successful-



EU Ambassador to Guyana, Fernando Ponz-Cantó

ly in court by the Opposition.

Ponz Cantó explained that the relation between the EU and Guyana is based on what is called the Cotonou Agreement, which is also the framework between the EU and 79 countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

It was pointed out that the agreement is based on fundamental principles.

The agreement allows for suspension provisions to be invoked if the principles are not fulfilled.

According to the Ambassador, who was speaking via

Zoom, one such principle is democracy.

One sanction could be a suspension of cooperation with Guyana.

Ambassador Ponz Cantó said that the EU has slapped sanctions on a number of countries in Africa, with himself involved directly in a number of cases.

The EU also slapped sanctions on Haiti, a Caribbean territory.

"If there is a breach of democracy, we will have to do it, because we are bound by those provisions."

He stressed that cooperation is one area that can be

affected. The EU has been funding a number of projects, including in the power sector, with the Guyana Power and Light Inc.

"We have a huge amount of cooperation with Guyana. I would hate it personally to see that interrupted."

Asked if the EU has any submissions at all on sanctions, Ambassador Ponz-Cantó insisted that he comes with a message of hope.

"The story is not yet finished...it is not the time yet to put forward this proposal, because this situation can still be remedied democratically."

He explained that if not resolved democratically, then the EU has always the duty and determination to act according to principles that are "shared".

In fact, he said that like the US, Britain and Canada, the EU has sanctions which include the freezing of assets and visa suspensions.

"Again, this is something that we don't like to use; that I don't like to use."

Ponz Cantó was one of the ambassadors who walked out last month from the Ashmin's building where the tabulation process for Region Four was suspended after questions about the process.

COVID Claims UWI Professor

Retired Professor Tara Dasgupta, a distinguished researcher in physical chemistry at The University of the West Indies, Mona, for decades, has died of COVID-19 related complications, increasing the number of deaths locally to six.

His passing comes as the country records an additional 27 persons with the disease, pushing the total to 223. This sustained spike over the last few days has forced the Holness administration to tighten measures, including a national curfew, to control the blistering pace of the spread.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Jacqueline Bisar-McKenzie yesterday confirmed the passing of Dasgupta, saying: "It is with a deep sense of my own sympathies, both to the family that I know personally, and for the professor who taught me while I was in university.

"It is really with great sorrow that we note his passing and my condolences to the family, to the entire university, who I know have suffered a great loss," she said.

The retired professor, who joined The UWI in 1974, was well respected in his field. Dasgupta's reputation for considerable research was of high quality, and only six years after joining The UWI, he was appointed the first professor of inorganic chemistry.

He received a plethora of

prestigious awards, including the Order of Distinction in the rank Commander, from the Government of Jamaica.

Speaking yesterday from Jamaica House, Prime Minister Andrew Holness announced new curfew hours across the country for the next two weeks in a bid to clamp down on the spread of the deadly virus.

Beginning Wednesday, Jamaicans are mandated to stay at home between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. the following day. This will continue for 14 days.

The entire workforce, excluding those exempted under the new order, has been mandated to work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited and registered public passenger vehicles will be allowed to carry out their duties from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"They must not have any passengers in their cars between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., and 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. That is their transportation time to their home."

Work from home is being extended for another two weeks.

After extensive public debate on the wearing of masks, the Government has now mandated all Jamaicans to wear the safety gear in public places, including in public passenger vehicles. "I am encouraging all Jamaicans to comply," said



Retired UWI Professor Tara Dasgupta

Holness, cautioning that the country was now on the threshold of community spread of the virus.

Prohibitions on the gathering of no more than 10 persons in any one space have been extended for 14 days, while physical-distancing protocols have been adjusted from three feet to six feet.

LONGER MARKET HOURS

Markets will now be allowed to open all week, with the exception of Sundays, from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Turning to St Catherine, the prime minister said the curfew for the southern parish remains, but a few adjustments have been made.

"On Wednesday, this will be a shopping day and residents in St Catherine will be

able to move about during the hours of the national curfew. They will be able to move about from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m."

Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays are also designated shopping days in the parish.

However, he said that the establishments that are permitted to open will now be allowed to operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The alphabetic classification for movement has been scrapped.

"Pharmacies are allowed to remain open throughout the period of the measures," said Holness, adding that on no-movement days, they are only permitted to dispense pharmaceuticals.

Forty - Six Deportees Arrive From The US

Forty-six Jamaican deportees this afternoon arrived at Kingston's Norman Manley International Airport from the United States. The group landed shortly after 1 o'clock on board a special charter flight. They were met at the airport by a contingent of police personnel and health workers and left in a convoy of vehicles with police outriders. The deportees were transported to a Government quarantine facility in New Kingston where it is expected that they will remain for 14 days before their release. Last Tuesday, The Gleaner first reported that within "a week or two", the Jamaican Government would have to accept dozens of deportees from the US.

The disclosure by Minister of National Security Dr Horace Chang came days after US President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order that imposes visa sanctions on countries that refuse to accept the deportation of their citizens, even amid the global new coronavirus pandemic.



The deportees were transported to a Government quarantine facility in New Kingston where it is expected that they will remain for 14 days before their release.



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World Bank to Strengthen Dominica's COVID-19 Response with US\$6.6 Million

The World Bank activated on April 15 US\$6.6 million to provide immediate funding for Dominica's emergency response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, focusing on enhancing health system capacity and strengthening food security.

"The World Bank has mobilized rapid support for Dominica's emergency response activities to limit the impacts of COVID-19, protect the people of Dominica, and lay the groundwork for recovery," said Tahseen Sayed, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean.

From the total amount activated, US\$5.1 million will be used to bolster the capacity of Dominica's public health system to manage COVID-19. Funds will be available to purchase drugs, medical supplies and equipment, and laboratory supplies to boost testing capacity and for minor retrofitting of isolation units.

Another US\$1.5 million will be used to support agriculture and strengthen national food security during the pandemic. The intervention is targeted to reach an estimated 3,200 farmers to ensure that the local food supply chains are better able to meet the needs of the island.



The funds were mobilized under two projects using the Contingency Emergency Response Components (CERCs). CERCs allow funds to be reallocated from existing projects and used for emergency response activities. This allows countries to access resources rapidly to meet current priorities. US\$3 million was reallocated from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Regional Health Project and US\$3.6 million from the Emergen-

cy Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project.

World Bank Group COVID-19 Response:

The World Bank Group is rolling out a US\$14 billion fast-track package to strengthen the COVID-19 response in developing countries and shorten the time to recovery. The immediate response includes financing, policy advice and technical assistance to help countries cope with the health and economic

impacts of the pandemic. The IFC is providing US\$8 billion in financing to help private companies affected by the pandemic and preserve jobs. IBRD and IDA are making an initial US\$6 billion available for the health-response. As countries need broader support, the World Bank Group will deploy up to US\$160 billion over 15 months to protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery.

Coronavirus: World risks 'biblical' famines due to pandemic - UN

The world is at risk of widespread famines "of biblical proportions" caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the UN has warned.

David Beasley, head of the World Food Programme (WFP), said urgent action was needed to avoid a catastrophe.

A report estimates that the number suffering from hunger could go from 135 million to more than 250 million.

Those most at risk are in 10 countries affected by conflict, economic crisis and climate change, the WFP says.

The fourth annual Global Report on Food Crises highlights Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Haiti.

In South Sudan, 61% of the population was affected by food crisis last year, the report says.

Even before the pandemic hit, parts of East Africa and South Asia were already facing severe food shortages caused by drought and the worst locust infestations for decades.

Addressing the UN Security Council during a video conference, Mr Beasley said the world had to "act wisely and act fast".

"We could be facing multiple famines of biblical proportions within a short few months," he said. "The truth is we do not have time on our side."

In a call to action, he added:

"I do believe that with our expertise and our partnerships, we can bring together the teams and the programmes necessary to make certain the Covid-19 pandemic does not become a human and food crisis catastrophe."

The WFP chief - who has just recovered from Covid-19 - began his Security Council briefing by saying "excuse me for speaking bluntly." There is no blunting what could happen in a world facing - even before this global health crisis - what David Beasley called the worst humanitarian catastrophe since the Second World War.

In an interview, he also expressed fear that 30 million people, and possibly more, could die in a matter of months if the UN does not secure more funding and food. But this is also a world where donors are reeling from the steep financial cost of their own Covid-19 crises.

Mr Beasley says no-one told him they would turn their back on the most vulnerable. But he admitted they would need to take stock at home first. He warned that chaos elsewhere could circle back around the world.

His blunt warning: "One way or another, the world will pay for this." Better to work together, he says, on the basis of facts, not fear.

Presentational grey line

The WFP's senior economist, Arif Husain, said the eco-



Millions across the world already rely heavily on food aid to survive

nomic impact of the pandemic was potentially catastrophic for millions "who are already hanging by a thread".

"It is a hammer blow for millions more who can only eat if they earn a wage," he said in a statement.

"Lockdowns and global economic recession have already decimated their nest eggs. It only takes one more shock - like Covid-19 - to push them over the edge. We must collectively act now to mitigate the impact of this global catastrophe."

Earlier this month, this WFP

said it was set to halve aid to parts of war-torn Yemen controlled by Houthi rebels due to a funding crisis. It said some donors had stopped their aid over concerns that deliveries were being obstructed by Houthi forces. The WFP feeds more than 12 million Yemenis a month, 80% of whom are in areas controlled by Houthi forces.

Yemen confirmed its first case of Covid-19 earlier this month, with aid agencies warning that the disease could quickly overwhelm the country's weakened health systems.

US green cards to be halted for 60 days, Trump says

President Donald Trump has said his plan to ban immigration into the US will last for 60 days and apply only to those seeking permanent residence.

Mr Trump, who had announced the move in an ambiguous tweet, said the measure would protect Americans who had lost jobs because of the coronavirus.

The decision does not apply to workers entering on a temporary basis.

Critics say he is trying to distract attention away from his handling of the spread.

Immigration has traditionally been a strong campaigning theme for Mr Trump, but has taken a back seat during the pandemic and in the lead-up to the November election.

Mr Trump said that his executive order was being written and is expected to be completed by White House lawyers on Wednesday for him to sign. The ban could be extended "much longer" depending on how the economy is doing, he said.

"As we all know, millions of Americans sacrificed their jobs in order to battle the virus and save the lives of our fellow citizens," he said at a news conference.

The president said the government has a "solemn duty" to ensure Americans regain their jobs.

"It would be wrong and unjust for Americans laid off by the virus to be replaced with new immigrant labour flown in from abroad," he said.



President Trump said that the US "must first take care of the American worker"

"We want to protect our US workers and I think as we move forward we will become more and more protective of them".

The US has recorded more cases of coronavirus than anywhere else in the world at more than 820,000 cases, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

How much will this change?

The ban is watered-down in comparison to the president's vow to suspend "all immigration to US" in a tweet late on Monday.

But while such a move would usually affect mil-

lions, travel bans to prevent the spread of Covid-19 has already led to a huge drop in people planning to enter the country. Last month, the US suspended almost all visa processing, including for immigrants, because of the pandemic.

The US has already agreed with both Canada and Mexico to extend border restrictions on non-essential travel until at least mid-May.

Travel has also been sharply restricted from hard-hit European countries and China.

What are green cards?

In a typical year, nearly

one million green cards are issued in the US, granting immigrants legal permanent residence and the opportunity to apply for American citizenship. The majority of green cards - roughly 70% - go to those with relatives living in the US, according to a 2018 report from the US Senate.

For employment-based green cards, a common form of the residency status, roughly 80% are issued to those already in the country, shifting from a temporary visa to permanent residence.

Missouri Sues China, Communist Party Over The Coronavirus Pandemic

The state of Missouri is suing China for that country's handling of the coronavirus outbreak. It's the first such lawsuit brought by a state, and relies on an unusual interpretation of federal law.

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Republican, blames China for letting the coronavirus spread. So he's suing China, three government ministries, two local governments, two laboratories and the Communist Party in U.S. District Court. They all "engaged in misrepresentations, concealment, and retaliation to conceal the gravity and seriousness of the COVID-19 outbreak from the rest of the world," according to Schmitt.

"There's been untold suffering across the globe, including

here in Missouri, and we want to hold them accountable for that," Schmitt says.

China, however, is protected by sovereign immunity, and Missouri's got no standing to sue it, even in American courts.

Schmitt says there's an exception for commercial activity, and he alleges that labs and hospitals are commercial ventures. He's also counting the Communist Party as a non-state actor, which he says fortifies his legal argument.

Other Republicans are also moving to hold China — not U.S. officials — accountable for American coronavirus deaths and economic damage. Last week, Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley introduced legislation to strip China of its sovereign immunity.



Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt (center) filed a lawsuit against the Chinese government, the Communist Party of China and others, alleging that the hiding of information and other actions at the outset of the coronavirus outbreak led to loss of life and significant economic damage in Missouri.

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Commercial Banks to Open on Thursdays for Essential Workers

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, April 20, 2020: The member banks of Antigua Barbuda Bankers Association applaud the efforts of all essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These heroes have been tirelessly providing services in spite of their own challenges, and we say thank you. To show our gratitude, all commercial banks have agreed to open their doors on **Thursdays to serve core essential workers** as listed in the Antigua and Barbuda Extraordinary Gazette dated April 15, 2020. As such, all commercial banks will now be opened on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** only, until further notice. The hours of operations remain **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** on these days, with the first hour being reserved for senior citizens.

All branches of all banks will be open with the exception of Scotiabank's Woods branch, Antigua Commercial Bank's Village Walk branch and Caribbean Union Bank's Jolly Harbour and Factory Road branches until further notice. However, all ATMs will remain available.

The safety of our customers and employees remain priority as we work to stop the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, commercial banks will only be offering limited in-branch services at this time. These include:

- Cash/cheque based transactions (withdrawals and deposits)
- Collection of cheque books and debit/credit cards
- Registration for online and mobile banking services

In order to receive in-branch service, customers will be required to:

- Wear a face mask covering their mouth and nose only at all times.
- Remove hats and sunglasses before entering the branch.
- Sanitize hands upon entering their bank.
- Observe social distancing protocols: allowing a limited number of persons in the branch at a time and maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet.
- Present a valid government-issued ID to complete transactions.
- Essential workers will be required to be in uniform or show work ID.

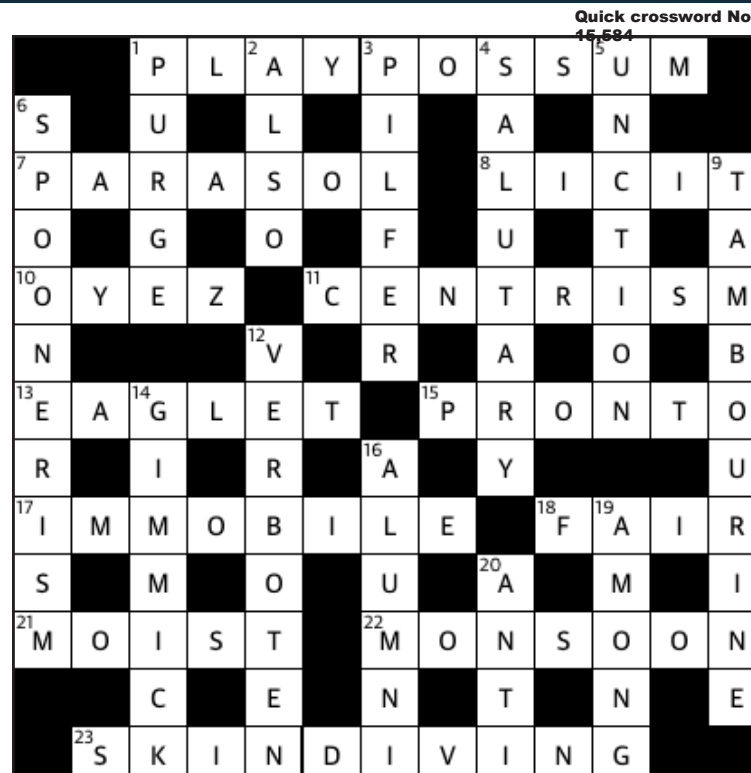
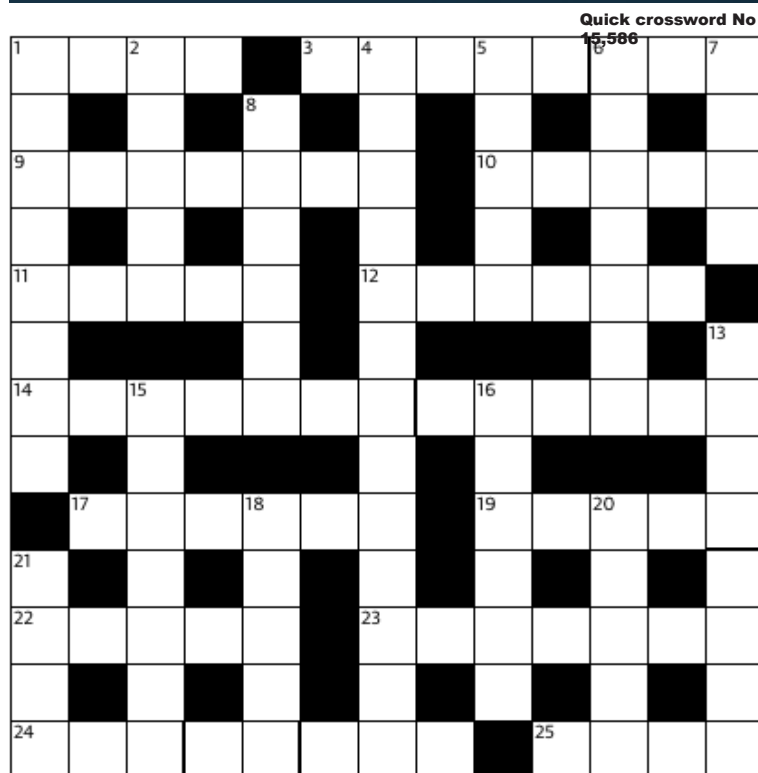
Persons are encouraged to avoid social contact whenever possible and therefore should continue to use their bank's alternate banking services whenever possible. These include:

- ATM Withdrawals
- ATM Deposits*
- Night Deposit Facilities*
- Online and Mobile Banking
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- International Wires (via online or mobile applications only)

The ABBA wishes to remind you that the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 is extremely dangerous. We should therefore all follow the Government's guidelines to stop the spread of this deadly virus. In addition, customers are reminded to maintain 6 feet apart and not form clusters at the entrance of the Banks for their own safety.

*Will be processed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Protest — excitement (4)
 3 Aerosol (5,3)
 9 Defeat (7)
 10 Express one's opinion openly (5)
 11 Deposit — gatehouse (5)
 12 What? (6)
 14 Small biscuit containing a prediction (7,6)
 17 Plum-coloured (6)
 19 Overly self-confident (5)
 22 Sheepish? (5)
 23 Time off work? (7)
 24 Rope-pulling team sport (3,2,3)
 25 Ringer (4)

Down

- 1 Plastic surgery to reduce wrinkles (8)
 2 Ecclesiastical assembly (5)
 4 Items of gear (13)
 5 (Illicit) sexual relationship (5)
 6 Native American — helicopter (7)
 7 Votes against (4)
 8 Office (6)
 13 Expression of (reluctant?) agreement (4,4)
 15 One of the three Rs (7)
 16 Unusually shaped, beautifully coloured flower (6)
 18 Bundle (5)
 20 Car with just two doors and two front seats (5)

CARTOON CORNER





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Any minor conflicts at home could put you on your guard, but by listening to someone's inspiring words you might sort things out. Take the time to explain the details and a loved one could follow your lead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Try to invite others to join your circle. Your efforts to be friendly and inclusive should pay off once people realize you aren't unapproachable. You shouldn't be surprised by how much your cheerfulness affects others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Castles in the air may be a mere fantasy until you share your imaginative ideas with someone. Bringing them out can make them more real. Gut-check your intuition to be sure you say the right thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be an outsider when you deserve to be in the middle of the conversation. You might receive more than your fair share of admiring glances if you make an appearance in public or make a presentation to a group.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You could be delighted when you find that a companion or old friend shares the same ideas that you've been toying with in your spare time. Don't just discuss areas of agreement; allow friends to challenge you to rethink things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be a great conversationalist. Someone new might recognize your brilliance or sincerity and want to know you better. A partner might come to you for your opinions and hang around for a romantic interlude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): A discussion could spark a magnetic attraction to someone new. Your clear admiration, however, might disrupt an existing relationship with someone who is loyal and true. Have fun without rocking the boat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Once someone smiles you know there may be a connection. This is a good time to hook up with altruistic and considerate people who bring some harmless fun into your life. A loved one might enjoy experimentation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your savings might only be designated for travel, education or to improve your surroundings. Put a little extra aside to take care of your hobbies and retirement while you're at it. Make plans for a brighter future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your gestures of good will probably be reciprocated. An act of simple thoughtfulness on your part could be something of crucial significance to someone else. Your home could become a social hub.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The support of family members probably means the world to you, so take a moment to offer appreciation. You may get a temporary reprieve from responsibilities and have an opportunity to spend more time among sociable people.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Your soul may dance to the tune of romance. A lover might say the words you long to hear. Keep a pencil handy so you can jot down your imaginative ideas, as one of them could be worthy of your time and effort.

ABFA league postponed indefinitely

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) who had initially postponed its programmes for thirty days due to the COVID-19 pandemic has now further postponed 2019/20 leagues indefinitely.

In a correspondence forwarded to its members via email ABFA said it will be constantly monitoring future developments and will revisit the decision between the period of July 2020 to November 2020 in order to arrive at a final decision based on 'fairness, transparency and integrity'.

The ABFA stated that its executive, on the advice of the Director of Competitions and the Competitions Committee, unanimously decided to amend the 2019/2020 competition Rules and Regulations Preamble section No.



3 by deleting the period "July 2020" and replacing it period October 2020.

The correspondence noted that all member clubs will be kept informed on a timely basis in relation to any impact this will have on all future matters including; membership subscriptions, club registration, transfer windows, congresses, national programmes and the possible start of the 2020/2021 league competition.

In addition, any decision made to resume and complete the 2019/2020 league competition/season will be communicated to all with clear guidelines of at least one month before the resumption.

The correspondence noted similarly, any decision made not to resume and complete will be communicated to all at least one month before the start of the 2020/2021 league competition/season.

The Antigua and Barbu-

da Football Association will continue to work closely with CFU, CONCACAF, and FIFA to ensure that any return to the actual field of play will be in accordance with all the health and safety requirements stipulated by the health professionals of Antigua and Barbuda.

The ABFA will also explore and make available any assistance, be it financial or otherwise, to all its members and constituents in accordance with our CONCACAF and FIFA dictates.

"With the help of God we hope we can resume and complete the 2019/2020 league competitions/season in a manner which preserves the excitement, intrigue, passion, economic activity, fair play and integrity with which it started," the statement concluded.

CPL to absorb losses

The Caribbean Premier league (CPL) is willing to absorb a loss to bring joy to the people of the Caribbean this year.

The commitment comes from Chief Operating Officer of CPL, Pete Russell.

With the CPL slated to start in three and half months, nothing is yet concretized due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has rocked the world.

Russell said the CPL is looking at all types of contingency plans to stage CPL this year. He added they will be guided by Cricket West Indies and the team owners who are keeping up to date with all their ideas.

The CEO said this year is going to be difficult financially but the company is willing to take a hit in order to bring



joy to the people of the Caribbean.

"Among the contingency plans is staging the tournament in two or three countries and T&T is involved," Russell said.

The CPL is also looking at when the Indian Premier league (IPL) is being

played and to shift accordingly. "We can't see the IPL without West Indies players and of course, CPL wants them also," said Russell.

Russell said CPL is ready and willing to play the tournament this year with all local players.

Sir Curtly stays at home

Sir Curtley Ambrose, one of the greatest fast bowlers ever in the game of cricket, has been relaxing at home during the coronavirus pandemic, a situation he describes as ideal since he is not usually on the road unless he has something productive to do.

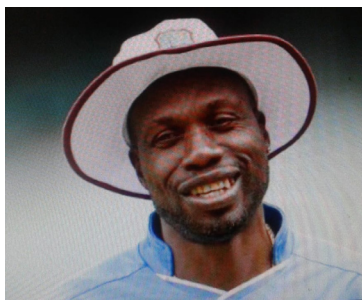
"I have been spending the time quietly with my family as usual and practicing all the protocols," Sir Curtly said.

He grew up in the small village of Swetes where his passion was for basketball and football, not cricket.

"I only played cricket because my friends were playing and the Lewis brothers encouraged me to play since from the early age of seven I had good bowling form and could bowl properly," the one-feared bowler noted.

He attended the Swetes primary school before moving on to All Saints secondary where he started taking sports more seriously. He however noted that even then he never had the passion for cricket because he wanted to play basketball with an eye on joining his father and brother in the United States.

"I had a mother who loved cricket with all her heart and soul and wanted a cricketer in the family and constantly pushed me to play competitive cricket. Eventually I became tired of hearing her plea and decided to give it a try hoping to fail and then I could say, well I tried, still



wanting to play basketball," the ICC cricket hall of famer said.

According to Sir Curtly, he started experiencing success in cricket success and at the age of twenty he was called for national team trials and performed very well in training. That led to fans saying he was a 'sure shot', but he was not selected. However, later on the call came and he eventually broke the Leeward Island record taking 35 scalps and the rest is history; the West Indies came knocking not long after.

Ambrose reflected on his first regional game in Trinidad and Tobago against a team featuring a young Brian Lara and Ian Bishop, Larry Gomes, Tony Gray, all of whom had represented the West Indies and were returning from injury.

"I was called for illegal bowling action by the umpire, Cumberbatch, which I later found out was a plot to stop me from making West Indies team ahead of Tony Gray and Bishop because I had T&T under immense pressure after removing Larry Gomes with a bouncer," Curtly continued, "I was never called again in my career."

Ambrose as he is affectionately called in cricketing circles, talked about the special friendship he has with Courtney Walsh saying from Day One, they respected each other and encouraged each other. "I told Walsh I was going to retire when I had 388 test wickets and he said no, 'Big Man' you have to get to 400 wickets because at that time only four bowlers had taken 400 test scalps," he recalled.

He eventually took Walsh's advice and reached the land-

mark.

The tall lanky fast bowler ended his career with 405 test wickets at an average of 21.0 each in 98 tests, and 225 scalps in 176 One Day Internationals at an average of 24.1.

Sir Curtley Ambrose says his focus now is on getting the Four Knights Academy, in collaboration with Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Andy Roberts and Sir Richie Richardson, off the ground in Antigua and Barbuda; a first for the region.

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Sports broadcasting was my calling: Jack Matthew

From the small village of Barnes Hill, Jack Matthew has emerged to become a living legend in the fraternity of sports broadcasting in Antigua and Barbuda and the region.

"Barnes Hill is a small community where there was much sharing and no one went hungry growing up in that quiet village, where people are always humble. I always loved and followed sports. We played everything; cricket, football, marbles and a little basketball. However, my love and passion were always cricket," Matthew said.

He recalled that as youngsters they would congregate on the hill in the village and play all day, while he would give ball by ball description of the game pretending to be a commentator.

"While practicing my craft as a youngster, I recognized that I had good timing and command of the English language because I was an avid reader," Jack added.



Jack said after graduating from high school he embarked on a journey to work in the field of journalism with the vision of getting an opportunity to work as a sports broadcaster.

"I was directed by the late Mickey Payne to ZDK which I visited and met Ivor Bird who immediately hired me and the journey started," he revealed.

A few months later an opportunity opened up to be a part of a commentating team with notables such as King Frank I, Charlie Joseph and Franklyn Christian who guided him along the way because he started off

as a nervous wreck.

Matthew stated that he listened and read about cricket as it was his desire to attain the heights of Tony Cozier and Reds Pereira who were the voice of regional cricket at the time and who inspired him to take his craft to another level.

"In 1979, during a series between West Indies and Australia, I heard a distinctive voice commentating with excellent delivery and command of language. It was Joe Barry of Antigua and I immediately said to myself that this was someone whom I can look up to and learn a lot from," the senior journalist at the state own media articulated.

Matthew said his three most memorable moments

in cricket were witnessing Sir Vivian Richards' fastest century in 56 balls 1986, Brian Lara's 365 innings that broke Sir Garfield Sobers' record with him doing ball-by-ball commentating at the time, and being honored by the government of Antigua and Barbuda with Commander of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage C.H. for his work and contribution to Broadcasting.

But Matthew was quick to note that the greatest moment in his life was to develop a personal relationship with God when he made the move six years ago to become a born again Christian; a decision he described as the best decision he has ever made in his life. "The last six years has been the greatest years of my life," he noted.

The highly respected broadcaster appealed to the nation to follow all the protocols and stay safe as we battle COVID-19 pandemic. Jack also appealed to aspiring broadcasters to read as much as possible, learn the language, and write as much as possible in order to be successful in the field of broadcasting.

DEWS