



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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PM: COVID WILL NOT STOP OUR RESOLVE



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COVID-19

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stages 'walk out'**

Antigua Commercial Bank shows support in the time of Covid

Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) has teamed up with the Rotary Club of Antigua to assist with a community-based outreach programme providing assistance to vulnerable members of the society.

Several institutions who provide support for vulnerable individuals and those at risk will benefit from ACB's generous donation to the Rotary Club of Antigua.

ACB team members will be assisting the members of the Rotary Club of Antigua with packaging and distributing the items which include personal hygiene products, food items and educational



materials.

General Manager of ACB, Joanna Charles, thanked the Rotary Club of Antigua for facilitating the donation, and stated: "Organizations such as the Rotary Club of Antigua,

made up of volunteers who consistently work to ensure that vulnerable members of our community will receive assistance, need support from Corporate Antigua & Barbuda. Now more than

ever those in need, and those who strive help them, require an additional helping hand. It is with pleasure that I offer you both fiscal and physical support from the Antigua Commercial Bank."

President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Dr. Vanetta Rodgers thanked Ms. Charles and her team at ACB for the contribution. "Your donation of time and money to the Rotary Club of Antigua is truly invaluable and will make a tangible difference in the lives of the recipients. I encourage other businesses who are in a position to assist, to please contact us at rotaryanu@gmail.com."

DAY 5/15

Max UV Index: 13 Extreme
 Wind: E at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 25%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 0%
 Precipitation: 0.0 mm
 Rain: 0.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

31° Hi



Mostly sunny

NIGHT 5/15

Wind: ESE at 17 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 41%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.6 mm
 Rain: 0.6 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

26° Lo



Partly cloudy and warm with a shower in places

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:35AM

Sunset AST
 6:37PM



Duration
 12:57hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 1:16 PM

Moonset AST
 1:00AM



Duration
 11:44hr

Pringle Stages 'walk out'

Opposition Leader in the House of Representatives, Jamale Pringle, staged a walk out in parliament on Thursday after he refused to apologise to the House Speaker, Sir Gerald Watt.

The incident had its genesis when Pringle attempted to address the House to explain why he turned down an offer from the prime minister to sit as a member of the Economic Recovery Committee that was set up to plan for the post-COVID-19 period.

Pringle rose to his feet and started to speak after the clerk of parliament called out the agenda item, Personal Explanation.

The Speaker immediately sought some clarification of him inquiring if he wanted to speak under that heading.

When it was explained that

Personal Explanation was really for specific issues such as when a parliamentarian changed sides, resigned or matters such as that, Pringle retorted that the Speaker appeared to be exercising bias.

"I noticed that when people want to say something negative about the government that you stop that.

"You are bias! The people elected me to do their business in the house and I have a right to speak on their behalf," Pringle declared.

The opposition member took his seat as the meeting continued with the motion to extend the state of emergency until July 31, 2020. After the prime minister, who moved the motion, concluded his presentation, Pringle rose to make his contribution.

However, prior to doing so,



Opposition Leader in the House of Representatives, Jamale Pringle.

he again voiced his 'displeasure' with the Speaker in a tone that aptly conveyed his feelings.

The Speaker cautioned him by telling the opposition member that he was 'walking on thin ice'.

But Pringle was not to be deterred. Declaring that he stood on solid grounds as he was 'doing the people's

business'. He refused several attempts by the Speaker to offer an apology. Instead, he slowly packed up his things and left the chamber.

Later, the Speaker said while he would not ordinarily have tolerated such behavior as displayed by the opposition member, he was tempered by the fact that as the lone member of the opposition party in the House.

He was 'very much aware' that Pringle shouldered much responsibility and suspending him for an extended period 'may not be in the best interest of anyone'.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne voiced support for the Speaker's decision noting that while the member had committed a serious breach... he supports not imposing any sanction 'at this time'.

LIAT suspends passenger services until May 31

LIAT says its passenger service will not return to the skies until the beginning of June. That's because most airports in the region will not reopen for passenger services until that date.

In a statement, the airline said it is extending the suspension of its passenger services to May 31st, 2020.

Chief Executive Officer, Julie Reifer-Jones explained that the airline continues to monitor the efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and that the further extension is necessary at this time.

"While there are ongoing discussions about the reopening of borders, no firm

date has been set to facilitate regional travel as yet" she advised. She noted that this essentially meant that passengers were unable to travel across the LIAT network.

The statement said passengers booked during the extended period of suspension will automatically have their bookings cancelled and will receive full credit for future travel. Passengers will be able to rebook as soon as the airline announces the resumption of passenger services.

Mrs Reifer-Jones reassured the public that the airline was putting plans in place to resume operations as soon as

there was a clear timeline by territories for the reopening of their borders. "We have been working with our stakeholders to develop a plan for resuming flights when this is possible." The CEO also advised that the airline has in place strict cleaning protocols for its aircraft to ensure the health and safety of its passengers and staff.

The airline acknowledged that this was an extremely difficult time for its employees and other stakeholders across the region. While LIAT is operating with a skeletal staff, the CEO stated that the airline continues to offer charter and cargo services.

COVID will not break our resolve!

Antigua and Barbuda will not adopt a defeatist attitude despite the serious challenges it faces brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking in parliament on Thursday, Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, said COVID-19 will not break the government's resolve to secure the social and economic wellbeing of all the citizens and residents of the country.

According to Browne the challenges facing the country are many and are quite severe, but this what may appear as insurmountable, his government is determined to meet the challenge head-on. He said the first goal was to quickly spring into action to find ways to limit the spread of the virus among the population.

"It is conceivable that COVID will be around for years to come, so as a government, we had to find ways to manage the risks associated with the virus.

"Based on our actions so far, I believe that we have been able to achieve that goal," he told legislators who themselves were practicing health protocols at the meeting.

Browne revealed that revenues for the government have dropped precipitously following the abrupt closure of the island's hotels and the cancellation



of all cruises by the major cruise lines.

"As an example, the consumption tax we collect each month from the West Indies Oil Company was reduced by half from \$6 million to approximately \$3 million. This was because of the curfew imposed on the country that resulted in less movement by residents," he stated.

The prime minister explained that despite the shortfall in revenues across the board his government had decided not to approach the International Monetary Fund for any loans as inevitably this would come with conditionalities that may include forcing the government to undertake public sector reform, a euphemism for retrenchment or layoffs.

"We have been able to reduce our local debts from over a billion dollars to just about 600-million. That has given us some goodwill among the local banks which we will tap into. But for now, we are 'paddling our own canoe'

for the time being," he declared. The prime minister emphasized that should the situation worsen; the government may have to have another look at this decision.

Browne also used an acronym to indicate the mindset that his government has adopted and which he wants all residents to adopt as well. Its RICES...R-Resilient, I- Innovative, C-Creative, E - Entrepreneurial and S-Strategic.

He said there may be tough times ahead and he is calling on public sector workers to increase their productivity. "It is going to take heavy-lifting; we want all hands-on deck!" he declared. The prime minister issued a note of warning stating that those workers who do not show up for work, or those who slouch on the job, may be the first to go should it become necessary to reduce public workers.

"It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that he/she contributes positively to the national productivity," he admonished.

Returning to the successes that have been achieved within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to managing the virus, the prime minister said these countries ought to be congratulated for the hard work they put in to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Laptops worth \$87,000 Donated to Health Ministry



Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Ena Dalso-Henry.

Ambassador Calvin Ayre, through his Calvin Ayre Foundation, has again stepped forward in joining the fight against COVID-19. This time, the technology tycoon is aiding in the technological capacity of the Ministry of Health. In a statement from the Foundation, the group has stated that 'in addition to over EC\$4 million worth of

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) being donated to the Ministry of Health, the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF), will also be making a further contribution of 20 high-quality laptops to the Ministry, valued at EC\$87,000."

Officials from the health ministry stated that the donation of the laptops is critical to managing data

collection and field reporting, especially by frontline health workers.

The Calvin Ayre Foundation, which was founded in 2005 is an independent charitable organization, based in Antigua. Its charity work expands outside of Antigua to over eight different countries working with focused based organizations

cont'd on pg 5

‘Social Distancing’ in parliament

The House of Representatives convened a meeting in the parliament chambers on Thursday with a packed agenda before the legislators.

But the meeting was significant for another reason; it was the first meeting of the House since the imposition of the state of emergency

where the legislators met in the parliament chambers. The previous meeting was the first virtual meeting with the session conducted by teleconference.

Members of parliament and those seated in the chamber all wore face masks during the session as well as practiced social dis-

tancing with the members occupying every other seat on the government side.

Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, informed the house that some members on the government were advised to stay home to ensure that the social distancing protocols could be properly maintained.

Speaker, Sir Gerald Watt,

time.

Benjamin said it was important for the members of parliament to lead by example with practicing the new protocols such as social distancing and the wearing of face masks.

“It was another historic moment for the parliament of Antigua and Barbuda!” he declared.



cont'd from pg 4

in the areas of child welfare, education, social development, and emergency response.

Chairman of the CAF, Amb. Calvin Ayre said that he hopes the laptop donation will assist greatly with the technological advancements within the ministry.

The donated equipment is slated to arrive on the island tomorrow, Saturday, May 16th through a chartered flight originating out of Hong Kong, China.

According to the permanent secretary within the ministry, Ena Dalso-Henry, “The much-anticipated ar-

rival of the significant contribution of PPE’s and laptop computers by the Calvin Ayre Foundation, could not be timelier. With the extended curfew hours and the expected return to commercial activity at the V.C. Bird International Airport, the donation will solve two major challenges faced by the Ministry of Health.

Speaking with PointeXpress, P.S Henry went on to explain how the donations will aid the ministry in mitigating some challenges in their fight against COVID-19. Henry stated that this donation will seek to “ensure the steady supply of PPE’s to our health care workers as well as fulfill the re-

quests made to the Ministry of Health by all government Ministries for masks to meet staffing needs, as staff have begun to return to work, and would be at work for a longer period during the workday.”

Henry said that these laptops will help to “satisfy the basic technological requirement by equipping our field workers (data collectors for COVID-19), Senior Managers, Technicians and Focal Points with laptops for reporting and also for their continued participation in daily virtual meetings with all our partnering agencies, both locally, regionally and internationally.

Factory Road junction to be closed this weekend

Road closures are on the cards for this weekend to facilitate work by the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) along the route of a major road rehabilitation project that is being undertaken with British Government funding.

Two main road arteries have been under reconstruction for many months, namely, Friar's Hill Road and the Sir George Walter Highway commonly referred to as Airport Road.

The intersection of Sir George Walter Highway and Sir Sidney Walling Highway – or Factory Road as it widely known – will be closed from 7:00 a.m. on Saturday 16th May 2020 until 6:00 p.m., after which it will be reopened for the night.

The closure will again be in effect the following day, Sunday 17th May 2020, across a similar span of hours from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

During a virtual press conference on Thursday morning, hosted by the Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU), Assistant Superintendent of Police Rodney Ellis explained how the road closure will be effected and managed.

He stressed that the closure was to ensure the safety of workers engaged in the project and road users in general.

During the period of closure, road users will not be able to access businesses affected by the closure via Sir Sidney Walling Highway because the area near Sprugoo's gas station will be im-

passable.

Instead, they will have to approach that section of Sir George Walter Highway from its intersection with Old Parham Road or by diversion via Hawkins Drive.

ASP Ellis reminded motorists that the speed limit remains as before, "40-mph on the outskirts and 20mph in built-up areas".

He said while the Sir Sidney Walling Highway cannot be accessed via Sir George Walter Highway "coming to that junction" during the hours of closure, "We have to take into consideration that there are some businesses along that road. There will be access given to persons who are going to those businesses."

He listed some of the busi-

nesses concerned as Gourmet Basket, Thrifty's Rental and Sprugoo's. There are some well-known others such as Mi Casa Imports and Terminator Car Wash.

"The road will be blocked, but there will be sufficient space for persons who are going to those business places to access those businesses. However, on the Sir Sidney Walling Highway, there will be a total closure there."

ASP Ellis said the police were keeping the recommended alternative routes simple in order to facilitate the widest possible comprehension, but were aware that there were other routes which persons could use at their discretion once they were sufficiently familiar with them.

Seamstress donates face masks to sickle cell affected children

Since sickle cell patients are at risk of potentially showing more severe symptoms of COVID-19 and are cat-

egorized as high risk or vulnerable patients, calls have been made to ensure that they should take extra precautions to protect themselves.

As the nation continues to gradually lift curfew measures to regain some level of normality, one seamstress has decided to help at-risk children protect themselves against COVID-19.

Nisa Nolasco, whose child was a medical care beneficiary of the Wish- ing Well Foundation (WWF) before the country's lockdown, donated 30 hand- made, child-friendly masks to children with sickle cell disease through local



pediatrician and sickle cell advocate, Dr. Edda Hadeed.

Nisa, a seamstress by profession said
cont'd on pg 7

Health Minister appeals for cooperation with Barbuda

Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, wants better rapport with the people of Barbuda on health matters which he believes transcend the other divisive issues between the two islands.

Speaking in parliament on Thursday, Joseph appealed to the member of parliament for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, to sit down and discuss the health issues on the sister island.

"I call on the representative to return to the protocols and the arrangements we had with Barbuda in dealing with the people's health.

"This cannot be done by chance," he explained.

The minister told parliament that after the destruction of Hurricane Irma, as-

sistance was sought to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist with the reconstruction of the Hanna Thomas hospital.

He said the Barbuda Council took control of health matters on the island and sought to advise the UNDP on the construction of the hospital.

Recognising that the expertise for such undertaking may not be readily available on the island, Joseph revealed that he asked the Chief Medical Officer to write to the Pan American Health Organisation for an expert in these matters to advise on the construction and equipping of the hospital in Codrington.

The minister presented a report from the expert to be included in the records of the parliament.

Joseph stated that there's one health system for Antigua and Barbuda with the Mount St. John's Medical Centre the main facility available to patients from both islands.

He said the issues of health are too important for there to be division between the council and the central government.

"This should not become part of the obvious issues of conflict (between the two islands).

"Let not health be drawn into the other issues of conflict. Let us sit down and establish those protocols that

are necessary to ensure the health and wellbeing of the people of Barbuda as for the people of Antigua, equally," he offered.

Minister Joseph noted that this week an individual with a heart issue was airlift to Antigua and even after the helicopter taking the patient to the hospital was on its way, the MSJMC Medical Superintendent was not aware that this was happening. He added that these occurrences should be a thing of the past.

Meanwhile, Joseph provided the nation with a comprehensive update on the COVID-19 situation in the country;

- The first case was confirmed on March 11, 2020.
- There have been three deaths
- 25 laboratory confirmed cases
- 147 persons have been tested...some have been tested twice
- 16 persons have had two consecutive negative DNA PCR tests (a requirement of the WHO to determine if a person is COVID free)
- 15 of these have two consecutive negative DNA PCR tests and are clinically well
- One person has two consecutive negative DNA PCR tests and is still in the ICU (that person has other underlying health issues).

cont'd from pg 6

that she loves doing anything that involves children. "I started out making a mask for my daughters and nephews. When this opportunity (making masks for kids) was suggested by Dr. Hadeed, I was so happy because I finally got a chance to pay it forward with my talent.

"I say pay it forward because two weeks before the lockdown my younger daughter and I were sponsored by WWF to travel for medical reasons and I kept wondering how can I pay it forward...and this was it." Nisa reported to PointeXpress.

According to the sickle cell association, "Living with sickle cell disease is a challenge under the best of circumstances. Living with sickle cell disease in our current situation, facing COVID-19 and all it en-



tails, is an entirely different story. Sickle cell patients are amongst the most vulnerable in our community. We need to remember that, and we need to try and help where we can."

A word to the wise!

There was a most unfortunate event that took place in the House of Representatives on Thursday. Opposition leader, Jamale Pringle staged a walkout of the chamber after refusing to offer an apology to the Speaker of the House, as was requested.

The entire episode was unfortunate as it was unnecessary. It is clear that the opposition member went to parliament desirous to 'set the record' straight regarding to his refusal to participate in the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC) that was appointed by the government to have broad-based support for a national recovery plan in the wake of the economic and social destruction caused by the pandemic, COVID-19.

What is also very clear is that Pringle is yet to learn some of the rudiments of the job; that to be a successful parliamentarian one has to be skilled not just in the actual debates in the House, but also how to use one's position to get special privileges and accommodation.

There's no doubt, for example, that Pringle did not consult with the speaker prior to arriving at the parliament chambers. For had he done so, this whole episode that unfolded on Thursday would have been avoided.

Sometimes the simplest things can be made to seem difficult when they are not. What a powerful weapon it would be for the Leader of the Opposition, to simply pick up the phone and call the Speaker, advising him that he wishes to make a statement at Thursday's sitting of the House.

The Speaker, we are quite sure, would have inquired of him the nature of the statement and between them, they would have arrived at the appropriate time and under which

agenda item that the statement would have been accepted.

One must bear in mind that the Speaker is responsible for the proceedings of the House; recognize that and work within the system.

If following prior discussions with the Speaker where an accommodation was made and then the Speaker reneges on that agreement, then the Leader of the Opposition would have been in his right to 'scream from the rooftop'.

However, by not completing such rudimentary tasks, it leaves Pringle 'hoisted on his own petard'.

Personal Explanation is reserved for special occasions and a member wishing to speak under this heading must first alert the Speaker, provide an explanation of the subject and finally, get the Speaker's permission. This was not done as the Speaker confirmed to this newspaper.

It is expected that some persons who listened to the exchange between the Speaker and the Opposition Leader via radio or watched on Facebook broadcast or on television may have opinions about what happened leaving some to raise concerns about fairness etc.

It is another thing to be sitting in the gallery and to observe the many attempts even by members on the government side to caution Pringle and to pull him back from the proverbial 'water's edge'.

It was a most unpleasant spectacle. It may be that Pringle was appealing to his base; party members who would support such actions regardless of how irrational it may be.

Others it is hoped, will perhaps use this occasion to counsel the first-time parliamentarian on some of the subtleties of politics and of being a

member of the House, especially, as he is the only member representing the country's main opposition party.

It is not in the opposition party's interest, nor Pringle's personally, to have him being advised to consult Erskine May (the bible of parliamentary procedures). It is also not in the Opposition Leader's interest to display the behavior one usually associates with being in a schoolyard.

Perhaps it was inexperience, or perhaps it could be that Pringle was so consumed by his need to 'set the record straight' regarding his non-ERC participation that he misunderstood what was being explained to him.

It was not that he was being denied a chance to speak (make his explanation), it was that he sought to do so under the wrong agenda item.

Even later, when he stood up to speak on the motion before the house, that was the appropriate time because his presentation was related to the subject of the motion, the state of emergency.

When the Speaker asked him to apologise for what he deemed as 'a personal attack', Pringle continued along the 'slippery slope' and walked out of the parliament chambers.

In what has been viewed as an exercise of patience and wisdom, the Speaker refrained from imposing any sanctions action on Pringle, solely on the grounds that he was the only opposition member of the house and perhaps because of his relative 'newness' to parliament.

One can only hope that the opposition leader will reflect on what transpired on Thursday and ask himself the question, 'What did I achieve by doing this?'.

A word to the wise is sufficient!

MESSAGE TO THE NATION

Fellow Citizens and Residents of Antigua and Barbuda

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on March 13, 2020, that Antigua and Barbuda had recorded its first COVID-19 patient, I thought it fit to convey a message to the nation, which was read on my behalf in the Parliamentary Session called on March 17, 2020 to determine the nation's response to this new and infectious disease. My message gave support to the protocols issued by Government and other health authorities including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

History will record that on March 25, 2020, the nature of this infectious disease and our nation's vulnerability led me to sign a proclamation declaring a State of Public Emergency. The proclamation sought to encourage our people to follow the guidelines given by the established authorities in order to control the spread of COVID-19.

We have repeatedly been hearing the phrase, 'We are living in extra-ordinary times', and indeed we are. Never, before, has the entire world come to such a grinding halt – stifling powerful economies and snuffing out even the simple social interactions between individuals and communities across the world. As a medical doctor I answered many

questions from persons who were gripped with fear, not knowing whether they had acquired the disease. Some persons developed high blood pressure, others suffered from depression and some who are diabetics saw their blood sugar spiral out of control. These responses were likely fueled by the stresses brought on by the pandemic and the isolation experienced by some with the requirement for physical distancing.

I express my appreciation to the entire nation for the spirit of cooperation, collaboration and cohesion that has served to minimize the ill effects of the corona virus on Antigua and Barbuda.

I also wish to thank the many persons who raised their voices to inform and educate the public regarding the dangers associated with this viral infection and the best ways to avoid contracting the disease. We are all particularly grateful to those who work on the front lines and in the essential services; putting their own lives at risk for the good of us all. I extend special thanks to the countries, organizations and individuals who have given and continue to give to ensure that the basic needs of our people are met. We each have and continue to have our part to play in dealing with the challenges brought on by this pandemic.

One of the many responsibilities of the Governor General is to recognize excellence among our citizens



By Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda
His Excellency Sir. Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KSt J, MBBS,
PhD(h.c)

and residents by publicly acknowledging outstanding service and conferring honours upon those persons who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in areas of human endeavour in times like these. We know that there are deserving persons who have been facelessly and namelessly contributing behind the scenes. We look forward to receiving submissions of nominations of persons who meet the criteria for the Governor General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Award and other honours as it relates to the fight against the COVID-19 disease.

Even as our Government extends the State of Public Emergency with a further relaxation of the restrictions, I encourage all to realize that we should not shirk our duty to adhere to the newly established protocols. As one German poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe opined,

knowing is not enough, we must apply that knowledge; willing is not enough we must do. Take action yes but we must proceed with caution. Take action yes but we should never use our present state of affairs as an excuse to engage in less than noble practices or criminal activities. Indeed, there is a delicate balance between saving lives and saving the economy and providing for our livelihood. We must therefore exercise patience and tolerance as our leaders strive to achieve the best combination of policies and programmes for our survival and success. Our nation's successful emergence from these challenging times requires that all of us think more creatively and develop solutions that will enable us to not only survive but thrive in the new normal after COVID-19!

God bless us all! God bless Antigua and Barbuda!

Attacking Golding does not change demand for credible Guyana elections result

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

In the wake of a report to the Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States (OAS) on the Guyana general elections of March 2, the Head of the Electoral Mission (EOM), former Jamaica Prime Minister, Bruce Golding, has been accused of being “exceptionally partisan” and “hostile to the nation and people of Guyana”.

Surprisingly, this accusation has been made by Mr Joseph Harmon, a senior official of the APNU-AFC alliance and a senior member of the caretaker government in Guyana. I say “surprisingly” because Mr Harmon should know that the Office of the President, of which he was – and is – an integral part, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officially advised the OAS Secretariat that there was “no objection” to Mr Golding leading the OAS EOM for the elections.

This “no objection” came after Mr Golding, in full disclosure and transparency, informed the OAS Secretariat, when approached to lead the team, that he had been, at one time, a guest in the home of Opposition leader and former President of Guyana, Mr Bharat Jagdeo. So, this matter was openly disclosed, and the Guyana government registered that it had no objection.

For general knowledge, it is worth recording that the OAS carries out an extensive search in its appointment of members of EOMs, particularly the persons to lead such missions. Mr Golding was approached to lead the mission to Guyana based on his authority as a former CARICOM Head of Government and his knowledge and experience of general elections in the Caribbean.

Members of the team were 17 seasoned experts and observers of general elections from 13 countries. Therefore, when Mr Golding presented an “Update on the Electoral Process in Guyana” to the OAS Permanent Council on May 13, he did so with the full backing of the team that had spent 16 days, observing the run up to the elections, polling day on March 2 and the subsequent debacle that started on



By Sir Ronald Sanders

March 5 when, unlike nine of the ten regions that had proceeded in accordance with electoral law, the final tabulation of Region 4 was questioned by all the Observer Missions – not only the OAS, but also the missions from the Carter Centre, the European Union, CARICOM and the Commonwealth.

The latter mission was led by another former Prime Minister and senior Caribbean statesman, Owen Arthur of Barbados. Mr Arthur was an eyewitness to the actual elections and its aftermath, and he and his team have meticulous records on which he will obviously

draw when he makes his own public statement. He is not expected to be any less critical of events surrounding the tabulation of Region 4 than was Mr Golding whose remarks at the OAS meeting that he “had never seen a more transparent effort to alter the result of an election”, and that “It takes an extraordinarily courageous mind to present fictitious numbers when such a sturdy paper trail exists”, are a serious condemnation of the officials of the Guyana Electoral Commission.

It is significant that all the Observer missions, including the OAS, highly commended the “conduct of a

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credible process” on election day. The problem was not the voting; it was the tabulation of votes in Region 4 where the Statement of Poll by the Returning Officer varied greatly from the Statement of Poll which all the political parties had in their possession, since their agents were present for the counting of each vote.

In this regard, the point made in a joint statement by the CARICOM Group, at the same OAS meeting at which Mr Golding presented his update, is significant. “If each of the political parties genuinely believe it has won, then they should have no fear of the current recount, and they should all support it”.

A credible and transparent recount of the votes over which representatives of

CARICOM are scrutineers, and the peaceful acceptance of the result by all parties, are crucial to Guyana’s future. If the recount is up ended under any pretext and the CARICOM scrutineers cannot pronounce it transparent and credible, the swearing-in of any government will be regarded as illegal with grave consequences particularly for persons involved. Guyana, itself, instead of proceeding on a path of progress will be mired in international odium, halting the economic growth and social improvement to which its people have been looking forward.

The international community is giving CARICOM an opportunity to help Guyana out of this morass. In its joint statement at the OAS meeting, CARICOM stated

it has “no interest in which political party wins the election; CARICOM’s interest is that, at the end of the recounting process, democracy must be the winner”. The global community has taken CARICOM at its word, as expressed at the OAS meeting that “If democracy fails in any CARICOM country, it fails in the larger Community. As an institution, CARICOM cannot allow this to happen in any member state”. Significantly, OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro declared that the OAS is content “at this stage” to support CARICOM’s efforts. CARICOM’s engagement, by the invitation of Guyana’s President and Opposition leader with the agreement of GECOM, is to scrutinize the recount of the votes “in an effort to see

a transparent and credible result, and a legitimate government elected at its end”.

It is in the interest of all the political parties and other actors in Guyana to help themselves by ensuring that CARICOM carries out its task successfully. For, if CARICOM is seen to fail, then others will take its place. As the US Ambassador in Guyana recently had to point out, not that the US wishes it, but there could be “serious consequences if the democratic process, the rule of law, and the principles of democracy are not followed in Guyana”. The US is not likely to be alone in actions that would have to be taken by regional and international governments.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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Egg Farmer Cracks, Killing 12,000 Chickens



A surplus of eggs on the market has destroyed the business prospects for Vincent Fenton.

A Clarendon egg farmer slaughtered and buried 12,000 layer chickens on Tuesday to cut his losses as a result of the dramatic slump in egg prices and sales, which he attributes to the agriculture ministry's intervention to ease a surplus by subsidising costs.

Vincent Fenton, who operates the 30,000-capacity Stay-nick Farms Limited in New Longville, Clarendon, blames his downfall on the artificially low prices offered at farmers' markets promoted by the Government where eggs have been sold as low as \$500 a flat, without the cost of GCT or market add-ons.

The upshot, according to Fen-

ton: the flooding of the market with low-price eggs in Portmore and other sections of St Catherine.

He provided videos to The Gleaner showing a front-end loader burying the birds and workers clubbing the chickens to death in a bid to bring about their quick execution. Fenton said his drastic actions were the result of mounting losses, which have seen him lay off workers and pay higher electricity bills as profits dwindled.

Fenton, who distributes to supermarkets in Kingston, St Ann, Manchester, St James, Westmoreland, Clarendon, and St Catherine, said his revenue evaporated after the Government's

decision to mitigate the glut on the hands of some farmers who were contracted to supply eggs to hotels and restaurants.

"The problem we are facing now with the Government's intervention is that they have given permission to these farmers to come into Portmore, May Pen, and all over the place, to sell their products at very low prices, which have been subsidised to the extent that it has thrown us out of the market," said Fenton.

"When we supply the supermarkets with eggs, we have to put on GCT, and in addition, the supermarkets have to put on their mark-ups. So what is happening is that the eggs in the supermarkets cannot move because people stock up on the cheap ones. So what it is doing is putting us out of business because the playing field is not level. We have to sell the eggs with the GCT, but when they go into the farmers' market, they don't add GCT, and it is killing us," he lamented.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

One supermarket manager in St Catherine told The Gleaner that at the start of the COVID-19 crisis, sales of eggs and other merchandise had picked up but had generally slowed. A flat, or tray of 30 eggs, sells for \$1,065, inclusive of GCT and mark-up.

Fenton said his capital outlay has increased significantly in trying to observe the heightened sanitary conditions under the COVID-19 standards. In

addition to spending on alcohol, bleach, and sanitary towels, he has also had to supply masks to employees. With the decimation of his flock, the farmer has had to lay off some of his 17 full-time and three part-time workers.

Meanwhile, permanent secretary in the agriculture ministry, Dermon Spence, has expressed shock and sadness at the news, explaining that this runs counter to the latest information provided by president of the Jamaica Egg Farmers, Roy Baker, on Wednesday morning.

Spencer and acting Chief Technical Director Michael Pryce had discussed whether they needed to go another round of the subsidies but had been assured by Baker that it was unnecessary since the association had no more excess eggs to supply the ministry.

"I spoke to Mr Baker this morning, and he said there is no need for the subsidy anymore because they are not interested, and, in fact, are looking to enter the market at prices between \$700 and \$750 a flat," Price told The Gleaner. He explained that the ministry had been taking eggs from the farmers at \$6,000 a case – with a subsidy of an additional \$1,000 – which computes to just under \$600 a flat.

Both men expressed sadness at the farmer having to kill birds and offered to help by either taking chickens off his hands or having him take the eggs directly to the ministry.



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Below shows the progress of construction on the home of a beneficiary.

26 NOVEMBER



26 FEBRUARY



29 FEBRUARY



27 MARCH



14 MAY



14 MAY



St. Kitts: Parliament Dissolved, Election within 90 Days



Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. the Honourable Timothy Harris.

By Loshaun Dixon

Get set for a general election. As of Tuesday, the National Assembly of St. Kitts and Nevis has been dissolved.

The National Assembly would have automatically prorogued Thursday (May 14)-the five-year anniversary of its first sitting in 2015.

The dissolution means within 90 days the people of St. Kitts and Nevis will head to the polls to give a five-year mandate to a new

government.

In an address Wednesday evening Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris said, “We are a Country governed by laws and our Constitution is our supreme law. Our Constitution is very clear. Every parliament shall continue for five years from the date of the first sitting of the National Assembly after an election and shall then end, unless sooner dissolved.”

He said he instructed the Governor General Sir S.W

Tapley Seaton on Tuesday to dissolve the National assembly. It is now almost five years since that first sitting and I have yesterday advised His Excellency the Governor General, Sir S.W. Tapley Seaton, to dissolve the National Assembly as from Tuesday, 12th May 2020 and he has graciously consented.

He said the next election will chart the way forward for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. “The next election will bring certainty to our

Federation, preserve our democracy and allow us to continue to deliver a brighter future, creating employment and prosperity, building bigger homes and keeping us safe. Let us stay together and see this through,” Dr. Harris concluded. The incumbent Team Unity Administration is expecting to do battle against the opposition Labour Party in St. Kitts and the Nevis Reformation Party in Nevis.

Guyana: Mingo presented “fictitious” numbers in “transparent attempt to alter” election results

“I have never seen a more transparent attempt to alter the results of an elections.”

That was the scathing comment, which head of the observer mission of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Bruce Golding, made about the tabulation process executed by Region Four Returning Officer, Clairmont Mingo during Guyana’s Elections.

Golding, a former Jamaica Prime Minister, made the remarks during a YouTube live earlier yesterday.

Mingo’s tabulation has been marred by accusations of electoral fraud and is the principle reason for the National Recount of votes.

Kaieteur News has verified that the tabulation was inflated in favour of APNU+AFC, in particular.

That was declared by Chief Justice Roxane George-Wiltshire as unlawful.

In his YouTube comments, Golding provided further content, stemming from the mission’s experience of the tabulation for the Hadfield Street declaration of March 5, 2020, as well as the Kingston declaration of March 13, 2020.

He noted the use of a spreadsheet at Hadfield Street, which contained numbers that no one could account for, as the law requires that the entitled officials are to observe the transcription of the numbers from the statements of poll. Then, of the Kingston matter, Golding said the following.

“In ballot box 4062, the statement of poll had indicated 182

votes for APNU and 43 for PPP/C the returning officer reported those results as 292 votes for APNU and 33 votes for PPP.”

When that box was recounted, the numbers were 182 for APNU and 43 for PPP, the exact figures that appeared on the Statements of Poll. “Let me give you another example. Box 4063,” he said.

“The statements of poll issued on elections night recorded 15 votes for APNU and 276 votes for PPP. The RO declared the results as 85 votes for APNU and 246 votes for the PPP. When that box was recently recounted, the numbers were 15 votes for APNU and 276 votes for PPP, exactly how it appeared on the statements of poll.” Then, Golding said “Box 4064. Statement of Poll issued elections night, 70 votes for APNU, 93 votes for PPP. The RO declared that result as 170 votes for APNU, 100 more, 73 votes for PPP, 20 less. When the box was recounted, the box showed 71 votes for APNU, 96 votes for PPP.”

The one additional vote for APNU+AFC and the three additional votes for the PPP, he explained, were due to the decision by GECOM to consider certain rejected votes as valid, once the intention of the voter is clear.

“And finally, box 4074. Statement of Poll show 86 votes for APNU and 84 votes for PPP. The RO declared the results as 104 votes for APNU, 64 votes for PPP. When the box was recounted, 86 votes for APNU, 84 votes for PPP, exactly as the original Statement of Poll has shown.” Kaieteur News is in possession of photos of these Statements of



[from left] OAS Observer Mission Chief and former Jamaica Prime Minister, Bruce Golding; and Region Four Returning Officer, Clairmont Mingo

Recount, and has verified the veracity of the results for the Region Four General Election.

Describing the matter further, Golding said, “You know it takes an extraordinarily courageous mind to present fictitious numbers when such a sturdy paper trail exists. And this is being illustrated now as the recount proceeds.” The paper trail he refers to, are the Statements of Poll in possession of the political parties, as well as the Statements of Recount, which are now being produced during the recount.

His statements are in line with statements made by eight political parties that, on the night of March 13 2020, Mingo presented clumsily doctored Statements of Poll, which clearly were so done to fraudulently favour APNU+AFC.

He continued that up to yesterday, 81 boxes were recounted for Region Four, and in just 20 of those boxes, APNU+AFC got a decrease in votes of 1,536, from the numbers presented by Clairmont Mingo; and the votes for the PPP increased by 177.

GECOM has noted reports of inflated figures, according to Public Relations Officer, Yolan-

da Ward, but has not taken up the task of making that comparison on its own. Commissioner Sase Gunraj said that he would advocate for a comparison. While Commissioner Vincent Alexander said such a comparison would be beneficial, he did not commit to advocating for it.

Late last night, APNU+AFC executive Joseph Harmon put out a statement calling the statement made by Golding, “wholly partisan and unbiased”.

Therefore, the party concluded that Golding’s words lack credibility. Harmon further stated that Golding is a close friend of Opposition Leader Bharrat Jagdeo.

Harmon did not respond to the contents of Golding’s statement, nor did he respond to the verifiable evidence which has surfaced over the past few days of Mingo’s tabulation being inflated in favour of the Coalition.

The APNU+AFC executive criticized, however, the fact that Golding did not mention the discrepancies the party claims it unearthed during the recount process. GECOM has stated that the claims are just claims, and that they will be treated as such in its observation reports.

COVID 19 Detected in world's largest refugee camp

Two Rohingya refugees have tested positive for coronavirus in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh, officials say.

These are the first confirmed cases among refugees in Cox's Bazar, where around one million Rohingya are encamped, a government doctor said.

Officials told the BBC that those infected were now being treated in isolation.

About 1,900 other refugees are now being isolated for tests.

The Rohingya in the crowded camps of Cox's Bazar have been living under lockdown since 14 March.

In Greece, which is also home to large numbers of refugees, officials are hoping to relocate around 1,600 vulnerable persons from its camps to other countries as the pandemic eases.

Two migrants who reached Greece's Lesbos island this week tested positive for Covid-19 and were isolated with no contact with refugee camps on the island.

How grave is the threat in Cox's Bazar?

Aid agencies have been warning for weeks about the potential impact of the virus on the Rohingya refugees who live in cramped, congested conditions and have limited access to clean water.

"Now that the virus has entered the world's largest



There are fears the virus could spread rapidly in the camp.

refugee settlement in Cox's Bazar we are looking at the very real prospect that thousands of people may die from Covid-19," Dr Shamim Jahan, Save the Children's health director in Bangladesh, said in a statement.

"This pandemic could set Bangladesh back by decades."

Manish Agrawal, Bangladesh country director at the International Rescue Committee, pointed out that ref-

ugees were living 40,000 to 70,000 people per square kilometre.

"That's at least 1.6 times the population density on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship, where the disease spread four times as fast than in Wuhan at the peak of the outbreak," he told Reuters news agency, in reference to a cruise ship in Japan where Covid-19 spread rapidly.

Who are the Rohingya?

The Rohingya, who numbered around one million in Myanmar at the start of 2017, are one of the many ethnic minorities in the country and have faced persecution for generations. The latest exodus of Rohingya escaping to Bangladesh began on in August 2017 after militants from a Rohingya insurgent group launched deadly attacks in Myanmar on more than 30 police posts.

US weighs returning Cuba to list of 'state sponsors of terrorism'



Havana, which has long denied any link to 'terrorism', dismissed the US Department of State announcement as 'spurious'.

The United States is considering returning Cuba to its list of state sponsors of terrorism, a senior official in the administration of US President Donald Trump told Reuters news agency on Thursday - a move that would mark another major blow to increasingly tense relations between Washington and Havana.

There is a "convincing case" that Cuba should be placed back on the US blacklist, in part because of its continued backing for socialist Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and the refuge it gives to leaders of Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN) rebel group, the official said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official did not rule out that a decision on Cuba's relisting could come by the end of the year.

In what was possibly a preliminary step, the Trump administration said on Wednesday that it had put the Communist-ruled island back on a separate list of

countries that do not cooperate fully with its efforts to counter "terrorism".

Havana, which has long denied any link to so-called terrorism, dismissed Wednesday's Department of State announcement as "spurious".

Returning Cuba to the blacklist would be a further rollback of the detente that former President Barack Obama orchestrated between the old Cold War foes. His decision to formally remove Cuba from the "terrorism" list in 2015 was an important step toward restoring diplomatic ties that year.

Trump's toughened stance on Cuba, as well as Venezuela, has gone down well in the large Cuban-American community in south Florida, an important voting bloc in a key political swing state as he seeks re-election in November.

The designation by Washington - which carries the potential for sanctions and trade restric-

tions - would put Cuba in the company of Iran, North Korea, Syria and Sudan.

Cuba's role in Venezuela

Any decision to put Cuba back on the list would take into account Havana's support for Maduro, whose 2018 re-election was considered a sham by most Western countries. The US government indicted him and much of his inner circle in March on charges of "narco-terrorism" conspiracy, corruption and drug trafficking. Maduro has denied the charges.

The US and dozens of other nations recognised opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim president last year. But Maduro, who calls Guaido a US puppet, remains in power, backed by Venezuela's military as well as Russia, China, Cuba and Iran.

Some US officials have said privately that this has been a growing source of frustration for Trump.

The senior official said the US government was also considering designating several of Venezuela's security services as "terrorist" organisations, in part for alleged links to drug trafficking. Those include the national intelligence service, the military counterintelligence agency and the elite police unit, in addition to paramilitary groups loyal to Maduro.

Legal questions

The deliberations on whether to relist Cuba are focused heavily on legal questions required to justify this designation for a country, the official said.

Also figuring into the discussions is Cuba's refusal of Colom-

bia's request to extradite ELN leaders after the group claimed responsibility for an attack at a Bogota police academy in January 2019 that killed 22, the official said. The leaders of ELN, the largest active armed fighting group in Colombia, travelled to Havana as part of peace negotiations that collapsed last year after the car bomb attack.

Cuba has received broad plaudits in the past for hosting the successful peace talks between the Colombian government and the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Another issue expected to weigh on Washington's decision is Cuba's harbouring of several US fugitives, some of whom have lived on the island for decades.

A relisting of Cuba would have heavy symbolic meaning for Havana, which had chafed for decades under the US designation.

It is unclear, however, how much practical impact there would be.

The designation carries a prohibition on US economic aid, a ban on US arms exports, controls on "dual-use" items with military and civilian applications, and a requirement that the US oppose loans to Cuba by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

But many of those restrictions are already in place - or have even been tightened by Trump - and a decades-old US economic embargo remains and can only be lifted by the US Congress.

US increases military pressure on China as tensions rise over pandemic

(CNN)The US is upping military pressure on China amid increased tensions over the South China Sea and accusing Beijing of seeking to leverage the coronavirus pandemic to extend its sphere of influence in the region.

Over the last few weeks US Navy ships and Air Force B-1 bombers have undertaken missions aimed at sending a very public message that the US military intends to maintain a presence in the region and reassure allies.

It's also a top priority for the Pentagon to get the virus-stricken aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt back out to sea in the region by as soon as the end of the month.

The moves come as the US is increasing the pressure diplomatically with President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo publicly attacking Beijing for failing to stem the virus's spread and not being transparent during the early stages of the outbreak which originated in the country.

The Pentagon accused China of exploiting the pandemic to gain military and economic advantages by expanding the areas in which it operates.

"The People's Republic of China is attempting to use the regional focus on Covid to assertively advance its own interests," US Navy Capt. Michael Kafka, a spokesperson for the US military's Indo-Pacific Command told CNN in a statement on Wednesday.



Pentagon says pandemic hasn't hurt its capabilities

And the Pentagon made clear the coronavirus outbreak has not hurt its ability to respond to Chinese actions.

"We have the capability and capacity to provide long range fires anywhere, anytime and can bring overwhelming firepower—even during the pandemic," said Gen. Timothy Ray, commander of the Air Force Global Strike command which oversees the bomber force in the area.

On Wednesday the Navy Pacific Fleet took the unusual step

of announcing that all of its submarines in the region were at sea conducting operations "in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region amidst the pandemic caused by the coronavirus."

While the US military recently ended its "continual bomber presence" on the Pacific island of Guam for the first time since 2004, the US Air Force has continued to dispatch bombers to the region.

In recent weeks the US flew B-1 bombers from bases in the US to the region on three separate occasions, including an op-

eration over the South China Sea and a deployment of four B-1 bombers and 200 personnel from Dyess Air Force Base in Texas to Guam.

Late last month the US Navy also challenged Chinese claims to the waters surrounding the Spratly and Paracel islands in the South China Sea, contested islands that the US has long said China is using to house weapons and military facilities.

Nobody is suggesting the US is headed towards conflict with China but Defense Secretary Mark Esper has continued to

make blunting Beijing a priority.

“We are concerned by increasing, opportunistic activity by the People’s Republic of China to coerce its neighbors and press its unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea, while the region and the world is focused on addressing the Covid-19 pandemic,” Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn, told CNN.

China has long criticized what it calls provocations by the US and its military efforts in the South China Sea that commenced several years ago when China made disputed territorial claims.

South China Sea crucial strategically

The South China Sea is considered a crucial strategic location, being home to some of the busiest shipping routes in the world as well as potential natural resource deposits such as oil and gas. Parts of the sea are contested by multiple claimants, including China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan. China has constructed outposts on man-made islands in the disputed area, installing military facilities and missiles there as part of a bid

to exert control over the strategic waterways according to US officials.

“We continue to execute a global Freedom of Navigation operations program in which US Navy ships safely and professionally challenge excessive maritime claims, including those in the South China Sea. We also conduct routine transits through the Taiwan Strait to further demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail, and operate anywhere that international law allows,” Kafka said.

On Wednesday a US Navy guided-missile destroyer, the USS McCampbell, transited the Taiwan Strait.

“The ship’s transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific,” Lt. Anthony Junco, a spokesperson for the US Navy’s Seventh Fleet told CNN.

The US routinely sails through the Taiwan Strait but the Chinese military views the strategic waterway separating China from Taiwan as a priority area and often shadows US vessels that sail through the area.

China routinely protests US

Navy activities in the region, and often dispatches ships or aircraft to shadow the US vessels. Following the US freedom of navigation operation that challenged Chinese claims to the Paracel Islands late last month, Chinese officials said the US was engaging in “provocative acts,” that “could easily trigger an unexpected incident.” The US also says China has attempted to intimidate other nations in the region.

In mid-April China deployed a survey vessel, the Haiyang Dizhi 8 alongside as many as 10 Coast Guard and maritime militia ships, as part of an apparent show of force in an area claimed by Malaysia and Beijing, according to two defense officials.

The move was an apparent attempt to intimidate a Malaysian state-owned oil company that had deployed a Panamanian flagged drilling vessel, the West Capella, to survey for oil in the area.

Utilizing a survey ship-led flotilla to harass South China Sea claimants “is a time tested” Chinese strategy, one official said, adding that China had used similar tactics against Vietnam.

The US responded earlier this month by twice sailing warships near the drill ship, a show of force intended to signal to Beijing that the US Navy can challenge any Chinese attempts to seize resources in the area.

“We are committed to a rules-based order in the South China Sea and we will continue to champion freedom of the seas and the rule of law,” Adm. John Aquilino, the commander of the US Pacific Fleet, said in a statement after one of the “presence operations” near the drilling vessel.

“The Chinese Communist Party must end its pattern of bullying Southeast Asians out of offshore oil, gas, and fisheries. Millions of people in the region depend on those resources for their livelihood,” he added.

China also appears to be using its military to send a message that it is capable of operating at longer distances for greater periods of to challenge its neighbors and the US. The US says China’s only operational aircraft carrier entered the South China Sea last week along with several other warships.

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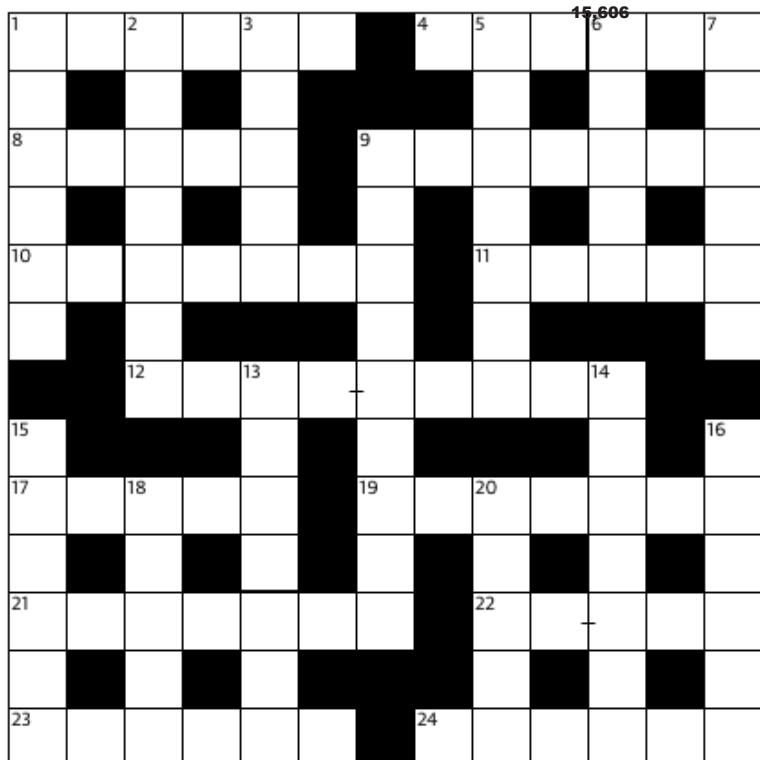
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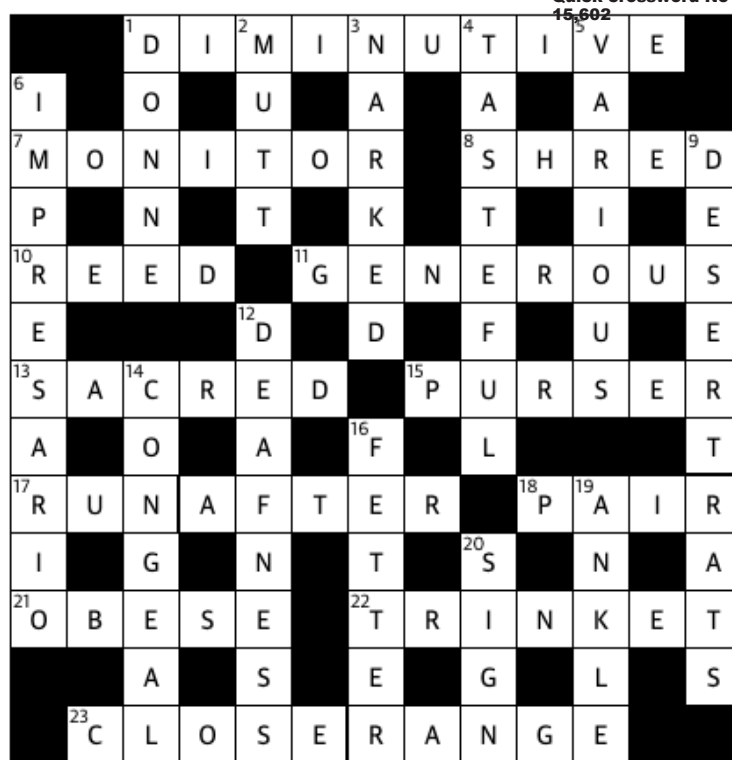
Quick crossword No

15,606



Quick crossword No

15,602



Across

- 1 Polite — fitting (6)
 4 Hired gun (3,3)
 8 Language of ancient Rome (5)
 9 Widow Twankey's son (7)
 10 Pay each for oneself (2,5)
 11 Small bay (5)
 12 Involving a long period of time stretching into the future (4-5)
 17 Strikes a golf ball (5)
 19 Geeky (7)
 21 Call together (7)
 22 Type of computer disc (2-3)
 23 Second childhood (6)
 24 One of the Three Musketeers (6)

Down

- 1 Torrential rain (6)
 2 Fortress — dialect (anag) (7)
 3 Musical composition — tonne (anag) (5)
 5 Language of modern Rome (7)
 6 Replica (5)
 7 XC (in ancient Rome) (6)
 9 Sticking together (9)
 13 Money kept in reserve (4,3)
 14 Concise and witty remark (7)
 15 Having gaps between (6)
 16 The Apostle who initially doubted the Resurrection (6)
 18 Doctrine held to be true (5)
 20 Repeat (5)

CARTOON CORNER

Dilbert





ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Take the time to talk it through. Discuss your ideals and dreams. You could be so busy doing your own thing and exploring your options in a happy-go-lucky way that you might overlook a great idea that could help you fulfill your dreams.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Someone may be playing for keeps. Remain alert for news that can impact your financial stability and long-term security. Steer clear of misunderstandings that could undermine your deep-seated determination to achieve goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your mind focused on nothing but the best. You might suspect you are a victim of gaslighting, but avoid voicing your doubts. Negative feedback could reinforce your own misgivings and foster misunderstandings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): To win you must magnify your strengths. A craving for something that could drain your savings might be set in motion by unfulfilled desires. Work closely with a partner to reach an ambitious joint goal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone might not accomplish their tasks or may cause some other letdown that puts your plans on hold. A few more days won't make a great deal of difference to your long-range results but could give you a chance to fix any minor mistakes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you think you have hit the wall, think again. You'll be able to find a way around, over or past an obstacle with some research and by applying intelligent solutions. Encourage loved ones to share true feelings, then listen carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Make your dreams come true by using your business sense rather than relying on your intuitions. Long-range planning might be a good way to get ahead financially so that your nest egg can accumulate gradually.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): People under pressure could become finicky. Someone who oversees your performance could seem more demanding and fussy. Don't let a minor detail that you have overlooked become a bone of contention with a partner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick like glue to your basic game plan, even if someone suggests using other tactics. The strategies being offered might be worth pursuing if they don't interfere with your usual job description.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It can take years of work to become an overnight success. Don't be worried if the cash flow seems to be at a temporary standstill. Keep your chin up and be grateful for friends and loved ones who encourage your efforts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-discipline and self-control could offset the feeling that you are making too many sacrifices. If you have an idealistic reason to give something up, you may be less likely to feel the burden of loss or added expenses.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Try to get the info you seek and be responsive to others, too. It's frustrating to speak to someone who evades a question or to send a message that isn't acknowledged. If you call someone but just get voicemail, leave a message.

Tottenham midfielder held at knifepoint during burglary

Tottenham and England midfielder Dele Alli was held at knifepoint during a burglary in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Two men broke into the 24-year-old's house in

north London where he is spending lockdown with his brother and their respective partners.

Alli was threatened and punched during the incident and suffered minor facial in-

juries in a scuffle.

The intruders stole items of jewellery, including watches.

Alli has handed CCTV

footage to the police.

The Spurs midfielder said it was a "horrible experience, but we're all okay now, appreciate the support".

Government opens door for June return

The British government says it is opening the door for the dream return of professional football in England in June.

Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden said at Thursday's meeting with the Football Association, Premier League and English Football League has progressed plans.

He added that plans for the sport to resume should include widening access for fans to view live coverage.

Meanwhile, England's deputy chief medical officer said any return would be slow and measured.

The government and our medical experts will continue to offer guidance and support.

The next meeting for Premier League clubs will take place on Monday when top flight may return to initial group training under social distancing protocols.

Footballers have so far been limited to individual training but Premier League bosses hope a first phase of team training, under strict guidelines and restricted to 75 minutes can begin next week.

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said it was decided "to ensure as far as possible that clubs complete the season with the same squad they had available prior to the suspension of the campaign."

But teams were warned that games will only take place if the phased return to training goes to plan, and the sense is that "Project Restart" still hangs in the balance.





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Wear gloves

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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Exciting new tournament launches in SVG

The official launch of the first ever T/10 and franchise tournament in St. Vincent and the Grenadines created much excitement, with thousands of online viewers.

Vincy Premier League (VPL), the well anticipated 10-day competition, was formally revealed to the media at the Conference Room of the Arnos Vale Sporting Complex on May 11, 2020.

President of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Cricket Association (SVGCA) Inc, Dr. Kishore Shallow, spoke of the enthusiasm of stakeholders locally and abroad about the prospects of the VPL.

"It is an exciting time for cricket in SVG. I can feel

the buzz of sports enthusiasts who are thirsty for some cricket and sports," said Dr. Shallow.

The competition will be played over a 10 day period with three games per day starting at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Shallow, vice president of Cricket West Indies (CWI), appearing Thursday as a guest on Pointe FM's Timeout sports program said his association has held talks with Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves and representatives from the Ministry of Health who has given the tournament their blessings.

He added that the necessary protocols are being put in place to protect players and fans.

"We don't expect a lot of

fans at the games because of the early start, since the event is being planned for the media and all games will be carried online," Dr. Shallow noted.

SVGCA Inc is being sponsored by Dream 11, a reputable and established technology company in India with a platform of over 80 million users.

The tournament will feature six teams with marquee players such as Kesrick Wil-



Dr. Kishore Shallow, president of SVGCA.

liams, Sunil Ambris, Obey McCoy, Keron Cotttoy, Landon James and Desron Maloney.

The VPL is set for 22-30 May 2020. All matches will be played at the Arnos Vale Sporting Complex.



Kesrick Williams



Sunil Ambris, left.

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This dark coloured brindle doesn't just wag her tail when you approach, she tries to talk too. She has been spayed and vaccinated and is waiting to be adopted.

If you would like to offer her a home, please call the
HUMANE SOCIETY AT 461-4957 FOR DETAILS.
 IF NECESSARY, WE CAN BRING HER TO YOU.

Bouncing Joseph still a force

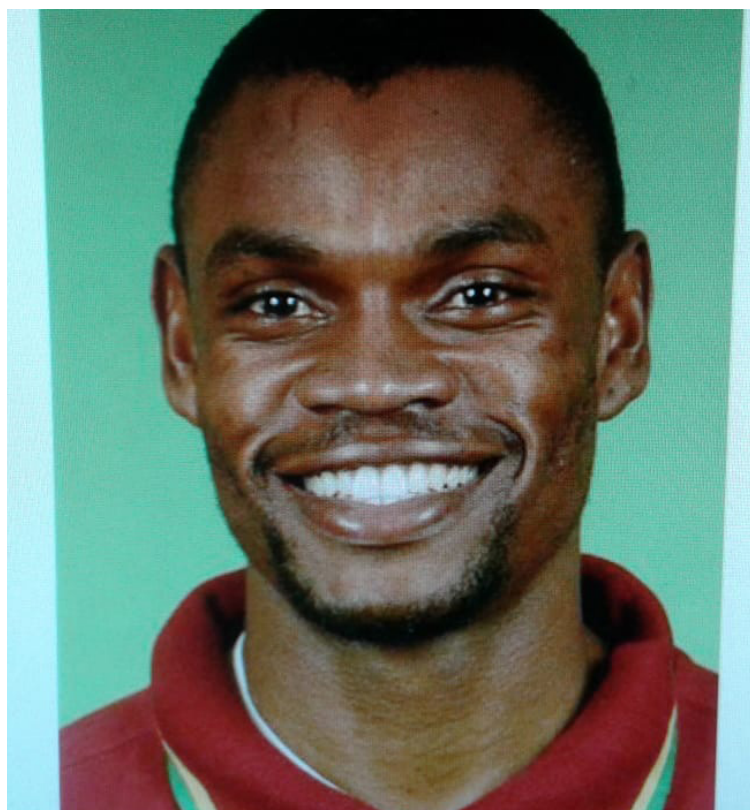
Sylvester “Bouncing” Joseph from New Winthropes Village is known to most Antiguan cricket fans as a natural leader, a warrior, and a talented player who was never given a good run of games by regional selectors to display his skills.

The former Combined Schools captain started his career playing one-tip on the streets in his village, but cricket was never his first love.

Football occupied his mind which led to him representing Antigua and Barbuda at the Under-15 and Under-19 levels.

But Bouncing was pushed by his uncles, Skepple and Taddy Arindale, to focus on cricket – which he eventually realized offered a better chance for professional progression.

“At the tender age of 13, I was facing fierce fast bowling at factory with sometimes 10 fast bowlers lined up raging to take off your



head; so I developed a love to playing pace sometimes neglecting spin – an attitude I had to adjust as my career took off,” Joseph explained.

Sylvester, who played five Tests and 13 One Day Internationals (ODIs) for the West Indies, feels regional selectors never gave him a

fair chance to shine, and he was only selected to play in games when situations arose that resulted in senior players being left out.

The right-handed batsman – who started his career at the Parham School – said he is not bitter, despite this, and is happy for

the joy cricket has brought to his life.

Bouncing, as he is called in sporting circles, has dedicated his life to coaching and identifying young talent across the island and regionally.

Joseph believes that if we can improve on the local facilities at our disposal, the game will improve, because there are a lot of young and thirsty cricketers willing and ready to improve their game.

But the former middle-order batsman says the quality of pitches available to our young players needs to improve for more rapid advancement.

Sylvester “Bouncing” Joseph is a certified umpire who has taken a break from that aspect in order to devote himself to coaching.

He is presently a selector for the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association and for the Leeward Islands Hurricanes.

No second string team for England

Cricket West Indies president Ricky Skerrett has ruled out sending a second-string team to England if the lead-

ing Test players are hesitant to tour because of COVID-19 fears.

But with discussions over

how and when the rescheduled series can be staged still “taking place on both sides of the Atlantic”, Skerrett said speculation over player availability was misplaced.

West Indies were scheduled to tour England for three Tests

next month but the outbreak of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic forced a postponement. The England and Wales Cricket Board is looking to press forward with the tour between July and September, and recent media reports have touted July as the date identified by administrators to host the series.

DEWS