



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

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## PM: NO EXCEPTIONS

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**Page 7 - Five more ventilators on island**

**Government moves to meet PWA demands - Page 6**

# Two murder-accused denied bail in Bruce Greenaway case

A High Court Judge has denied bail to two of the four people accused of the murder of Bruce Greenaway.

Lawyers representing Aliyah Martin and Armal Warner petitioned Justin Ian Morley on Thursday for bail on behalf of their clients. But they were unsuccessful, with the judge declining their request.

Soldiers Warner, Martin along with Shakiel Thomas and Police Officer Jason Modeste are charged with the murder of Bruce Greenaway, whose battered body was discovered at Indian Creek in May.

In denying their request for bail, Justice Morley cited there is a fear

the accused may interfere with witnesses, they may abscond and can commit further offences if they are bailed.

The judge told attorney Lawrence Daniel and Michael Archibald they can apply again for bail following committal proceedings in September.

On June 8th, the four law enforcement officers were remanded to prison in their first appearance in the All Saints Magistrate's Court.

Their lawyers had signaled their intention to make application outside of the court to have their clients be remanded to the army base at Camp

Blizzard instead of Her Majesty's Prison, but so far there is no word on whether the process has begun and from reports, it is only the Governor General who can grant such an order.

Allegations are Greenaway also known as 'Jungle' was held by for allegedly violating the curfew order in April and went missing shortly after.

Searches carried out by family members proved futile and on April 13th a body was discovered at Indian Creek and was later identified as Bruce Greenaway.

A post mortem examination determined he died from strangulation.

## DAY 6/26

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme  
 Wind: E at 30 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 35 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 55%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 1.0 mm  
 Rain: 1.0 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1  
 Hours of Rain: 1

# 31° Hi



Sun and some clouds with a passing shower

## NIGHT 6/26

Wind: E at 22 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 30 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 24%  
 Precipitation: 0.5 mm  
 Rain: 0.5 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1  
 Hours of Rain: 1

# 26° Lo



Patchy clouds and warm with a stray shower

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
 5:36 AM

Sunset AST  
 6:45 PM



Duration  
 13:09 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
 10:36 PM

Moonset AST  
 11:27 AM



Duration  
 12:51 hr



## Possible charges for woman who disobeyed quarantine order

With 39 new cases of COVID-19 recorded, the country has been put on full alert as the health ministry carries out more testing on persons entering the island.

As news broke about the 39 imported cases, a suggestion that one of the arriving passengers disobeyed quarantine orders and mingled with the public came to surface.

The rumor was supported by a text from a business operator claiming that a woman of Hispanic descent was picked up at their tattoo parlor on Wednesday, 24th June 2020 came in on a flight from Santo Domingo and was not quarantined.

However, in a statement by the health ministry on Thursday, "Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas maintains that individuals who arrive in Antigua are subject to be quarantined.

More specifically, individuals who arrived on the DR flight on Friday, 19th June 2020 were ALL placed in the government's quarantine facility at the Hawksbill Hotel.

The media statement indicated that "health officials confirmed that the woman in question came in on American Airlines flight 2405 from Miami on Friday 19th June 2020 and after undergoing screen-

ing was given permission to self-quarantine at her home.'

The statement continued by stating that the officials upon learning she violated the self-quarantine instructions, initiated action immediately to have her picked up by the Emergency Medical Services with assistance from the police and taken to the Government's Quarantine Facility at Hawksbill.

The health ministry also used the opportunity to also deny that there are individuals who escaped the government-run quarantine facility.

"We categorically refute these allegations," the ministry stated.

While the public calls

for penalties to be brought against the woman in question, Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney indicated "the matter is being investigated with the likelihood of charges being brought against her for breaching the Quarantine Act once her quarantine period comes to an end."


This, he further noted was in order to minimize contact with members of the general public.

Health Minister, the Honorable Molwyn Joseph noted that stringent measures are in place at the quarantine facility to prevent such breaches.

He also stated that his Ministry will be more rigid in enforcing quarantine regulations going forward.




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when your  
driver's license  
expires?

It's always on  
your  
*Birthday*,  
but what year?





A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

# PM Browne: No exceptions!!!

The government is toughening its stance against anyone who arrives in the country from any part of the world....with no exception all will have to undergo quarantine.

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, made the announcement on Wednesday following the release of the latest coronavirus results where 39 people who recently travelled to the country tested positive.

In a national address, PM Browne said the health and wellbeing of the nation were his top priority and stricter measures are going in place to protect the population from the dreaded respiratory illness.

"The detection and quarantining of these 39 new cases, demonstrate the effectiveness of the procedures that have been established and are being scrupulously implemented at our ports of

entry.

No one is exempt from them now, nor will they be at any time in the future.

"That includes me, every Government Minister, the Governor-General - simply put, everyone who enters the country from abroad will be tested and quarantined or isolated as appropriate while this pandemic continues," he declared.

The prime minister said the recent development was 'a learning experience' and that many countries are learning from the Antigua and Barbuda experience, as the country is learning from theirs.

"We are already bolstering our arrangements at the airport and other ports of entry, including the acquisition of 12,500 rapid test kits, 20,000 swabs and 2000 reagents which have been shipped and will arrive on the island shortly," he indi-



*Prime Minister, Gaston Browne*  
cated.

Browne added that despite the enormous pressure on government revenues that have been badly hit by the effects of COVID-19 on our economy, we have carved out funds to buy these COVID-19 testing supplies.

He said the purpose is to isolate any who tests posi-

tive and to keep them away from our healthy domestic population.

Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, also echoed the statements from the prime minister regarding the compulsory policy that everyone who travels to the country must undergo quarantine.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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## PWA airs grievances

The Police Welfare Association is accusing National Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin of broken promises and wants Prime Minister Gaston Browne to address their concerns as a matter of urgency.

Roosevelt Browne, Chairman of the Police Welfare Association has read out a long list of list of items that were to benefit law enforcement officers, but is yet to materialize. From run down police stations, medical insurance and access to lands and housing.

The matters are longstanding Roosevelt Browne claims and they are hoping the prime minister will intervene and help to resolve the issues.

But a series of letters back and forth is yet to bring about a compromise.

The Police Welfare Association has

rejected government's offers to meet at Cabinet next week and before a meeting on Friday.

But the chief executive of the association Roosevelt Browne wants the government officials to meet at their location to address the issues.

He said the issues on the table proceeded the term of office of the current executive and they kept being pushed back without being effectively resolved.

Browne says the Police Welfare Association also wants risk allowance to be discussed. Also the age of retirement moving to 65 he claims is affecting them.

The association does not agree that the extension of the age of retirement that will cap at age 65 should affect the police

The Police Welfare Association represents the interest of 730 police officers.



*National Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin*

## Hopeful signs for the economy

There are signs that the economy may have turned the corner with hopeful signs that it is regaining the losses it racked up in the months of April and May.

Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, is reporting that total revenues – January to May 31 this year – are down by over \$23 million. “Collections up to May 31, 2020, totaled \$138.79 million compared with \$161.80 million for the same period 2019. This represents a decline of 14.22 percent or \$23.1 million less than the year before,” he revealed.

The customs boss said the country was on track to enjoy a very good year for revenue collections as

at the end of March collections were \$2.12 million ahead of where they were at the same point last year. In April, collections fell by \$9.36 million but the figures for May were even worse with a shortfall of \$13.65 million.

Boddu is pointing to the figures up to June 25 to express some optimism about future collections. “June so far is not looking too bad. For 2019 June, we collected \$28.9 million and so far, this month collections total \$23 million,” he disclosed. From June 1 – 25, collections are running \$3.5 million behind last year’s figure and with three more working days in the month, he is anticipating that the department

could collect about \$2 million more.

From his vantage point, Boddu sees signs of what he termed ‘a slight recovery’ in economic activities and he credits the decision of the government to reopen the country on June first as playing a key role in the increased economic activity. “We are inching to a normal situation with respect to our collections,” he noted.

According to the customs official most of the things entering the country are food items and fuel. He said the importation of used cars has declined since the lockdown as well.

Antigua and Barbuda closed its borders and shutdown most business

activities for close to two months as the authorities sought to curb the spread of the coronavirus in the community.

Meanwhile, the customs comptroller is reporting that the dollar-barrel initiative launched since the COVID-19 pandemic has seen 1,640 barrels imported into the country. However, he said he has not received any information so far about whether the initiative, which was introduced on April 1, will be extended. He said he awaits word from senior government officials.

During normal dollar-barrel times, processing of barrels top 3 thousand for the one month that it goes into effect.

# Government moves to meet PWA demands

Cabinet has agreed to a series of measures to help placate members of the Police Welfare Association (PWA) which has been engaged in 'industrial action' over the past few days.

On Thursday, Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, dispatched a letter to the chairman of the PWA, Roosevelt Browne, informing the police officers that their issues were discussed at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting.

Since Tuesday, members of the PWA have been engaged in a series of meetings at the Police Recreation Grounds. It's a popular form of protest for police officers who by law are deemed to be on duty whilst attending meetings of the association.

The PWA also wrote a letter to the prime minister expressing dissatisfaction with what they deem to be lack of attention from National Security Minister, Steadroy Benjamin and invited him to meet with them at PRG.

But that letter was delivered late and in response PM Browne called it disrespectful to invite him to a meeting and he only received the letter of invitation after the start time of the meeting.

But in his latest missive to Chairman Browne, the prime minister acknowledged that the issues have been outstanding for a long time affecting the welfare of police officers which should be addressed as soon as practicable. "You would, however, appreciate that COVID-19 has had a deleterious effect on revenues which are down 60 percent.

"As a consequence, we have been struggling to pay salaries and wages to public servants, including police officers, so that they could provide for themselves and their families," the

prime minister wrote.

He added that while he accepts the justification of the demands, they have come at a most inopportune time, when government is not generating enough revenue to meet its existing obligations.

"Notwithstanding the financial difficulties, and based on our commitment to maintain the goodwill with the police force, the Cabinet has agreed to the following;

- To expedite the completion of the headquarters building on American Road
- Rental of a private building to relocate the Bolans Police Station
- Commence immediate repairs to the Parham, Police Station
- Increase the quota of homes allocated to the police officers in the various housing projects developed by

CHAPA and national Housing," PM Browne disclosed.

He also stated that in order to expedite the refurbishing of other stations, the Cabinet has also agreed to provide paint and other building materials to the PWA, whose members with their plethora of skills could assist in sprucing up some of the stations.

Additionally, Cabinet is to put in place mechanisms to commence discussions on the issue of risk pay and medical insurance.

The prime minister however drew attention to the fight in which the nation is engaged against an invisible enemy and that it needs all hands on deck at this time to arrive at a measure of control.

He also invited a delegation from the association to meet with the Cabinet when it meets again on Wednesday.



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## Five more ventilators on island to help fight COVID-19

On Thursday, the Ministry of Health, through a strategic partnership with the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the country's representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Aubrey Webson, secured five state-of-the-art ventilators to equip the country in the fight against COVID-19.

The donation was made at The Infectious Disease Control Center (IDC) where the ventilators would be put to use.

The lifesaving equipment was donated by the Government and people of India, through the United Nations Development Programme.

According to health minister, Molwyn Joseph, the funding which made the donation possible was initially earmarked for the Department of Environment; however, based



on COVID-19 pandemic needs, the government was able to request the

funds to be shifted to health.

During the brief handing over ceremony, the health minister thanked the Government of India for its timely donation.

Though the five machines were donated to the IDCC, two out of the five will be handed over to be used in the sister island of Barbuda.

Also, on hand to accept the donated machines were Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P Chet Greene, Permanent Secretary (Acting) Janice Michael, Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill, and UNDP Programme Associate, Mellissa Johnson.

This week, the health ministry also received some 13,000 masks from the Pan American Health Organization.

The items were handed over by PAHO's Administrative Secretary in Antigua, Rhea Ireland to Permanent Secretary (Acting) Janice Michael and Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill.







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## Firemen, residents avert major fire damage

A major disaster was averted on Wednesday by firefighters who battled a brush fire for hours in Falmouth.

All Saints Fire Department responded to the call shortly before 11am.

According to Fire Chief Elvis Weaver, the massive blaze took brigade five hours to extinguish in the vicinity of the Falmouth Cricket Field.

"They responded and put out the fire using water and beaters.

"A small house, 8 by 8 was burnt out damaging its contents that included a weed whacker and a lawn mower.

Other houses were threatened but they were able to put out the fire before it reached the other houses," he stated.

The brush fire had the potential to cause widespread damage to properties, fuelled by extremely dry conditions.

Unconfirmed reports are the bush fire began after someone allegedly lit garbage and it quickly got out of control, coming dangerously close to residences.

Several homeowners armed with buckets and hoses, doused the perimeter of their properties with water.

One woman said the fire came all the way to her fence, but their efforts prevented it from spreading further.

## LIAT extends grounding of fleet

LIAT has announced that its commercial fleet will remain grounded until July 15, 2020.

In announcing the further suspension of its commercial passenger services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in a statement, Chief Executive Officer, Julie Reifer-Jones noted that while territories have begun to announce reopening dates, there are extended quarantine restrictions and protocols which are impacting the demand for travel.

The CEO noted that the airline's Management and Board of Directors will continue to monitor the situation and will review the decision in July as more information becomes available.

Passengers booked during the extended period of suspension will automatically have their bookings cancelled and will receive



full airline credit for future travel.

Passengers will be able to rebook as soon as the airline announces the resumption of passenger services. Reifer-Jones also advised that the airline was open

to working with regional governments to repatriate citizens who were stranded across the region while its commercial services are suspended.

The airline acknowledged that while the extension

was extremely difficult, it was necessary as the airline works towards a feasible restart.

The CEO reassured that LIAT is still committed to keeping the region connected.



## UWI FIC details recruitment policies

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) wishes to bring clarity to conversations in the local media surrounding ongoing recruitment for new faculty at the Five Islands Campus. In its commitment to designing a world-class university that serves the needs of Antigua and Barbuda and the wider OECS sub-region, it is increasing its cadre of academic faculty to support the Campus' overall development plan.

The Five Campus launched operations in September 2019, with a structure that included three Schools, namely: The School of Humanities and Education; the School of Health and Behavioural Sciences; and the School of Management, Sciences and Technology.

This academic structure, accommodated for by The UWI Charter, proved the most cost effective and efficient approach for the new campus as The UWI reimagines its education offering in the 21st Century.

As part of the development and expansion of The UWI, Five Islands, the human capital development of its staff and faculty is a critical input. Therefore, the Campus embarked on a plan to recruit faculty members to fill critical vacancies in its teaching and learning, and research portfolio.

This process follows closely, the tra-

ditions employed by all world-class academic institutions in filling faculty vacancies. As the number one ranked University in the Caribbean, in the top 2% in Latin America and top 4% of global universities, the Campus is duty-bound to ensure that the recruitment process follows the most rigorous standards for academic recruitment, is transparent and ethical.

These principles guided the recent call for applications to fill the critical vacancies at the Campus. The UWI, as an equal opportunity employer, is committed to ensuring that all persons who meet the minimum requirements are given a fair chance to compete for the limited posts at this time. This includes external and internal members of the campus community.

As such, all positions were advertised internally at Five Islands and across all the campuses of The UWI. Further, they were advertised in local, regional and international media in order to attract the largest pool of talent from which to make a final selection. This approach will ensure that the Five Islands Campus benefits from the best human capital resource in the areas of need.

Some opinion-editorials and media commentary suggest that these advertisements have raised some anxieties among existing faculty members at the

Campus regarding their future with the institution. The Campus would like to state, for the record, that regular meetings have been held with current faculty in relation to these recruitments.

Indeed, some members of the current faculty also contributed to drafting of aspects of the advertisements for the vacancies. All current members of faculty on the Campus have an equal opportunity to submit applications for the positions. The UWI will give careful consideration to these applications, like all others.

The UWI, through its Five Islands Campus remains committed to serving the population of Antigua and Barbuda and the wider OECS region through increasing access to high quality tertiary education.

To this end, the University continues to exhibit transparent, ethical and accountable practices in its operations to ensure it acquires the highest quality human resources to assist it in achieving its mission and vision as laid out in its strategic plan.

The University will provide opportunities for local talent to grow while infusing global talent to nurture its developmental path. It is this global vision that will ensure a strong and vibrant academic community at the Five Island Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.



# The Entrepreneurial Development Fund

*Focus on long term survival and support for local businesses.*

The Administrators of the Entrepreneurial Development Fund remain focused on the long-term viability of the program as it continues to support local businesses in Antigua and Barbuda. Since the start of the program, over 1.4 million dollars have been disbursed to locally owned businesses across a wide cross section of industries including, agriculture, tourism, retail, transportation, and manufacturing. While it is the goal to assist every small business in Antigua and Barbuda, we must do so responsibly since taxpayers' dollars must be properly invested. In addition, we have also seen the effects of poor lending practices in the past, in both the public and private sectors. We cannot continue with the mistakes of the past and so that is why a fair equitable and transparent process is utilized.

One of the great benefits of the program is the extremely low cost of capital, compared to other financial institutions, in that the interest rate ranges from a low of 1% to a maximum of 3%. Because there is little interest income from loans provided, the long-term viability of the program is heavily dependent on borrowers' ability and commitment to repay the sums borrowed. It is for this reason that the ad-

ministrators of the fund use a loan assessment scorecard to determine which loan applications can be funded.

The loan assessment scorecard focuses on five critical areas, traditionally referred to as the 5C's. These are (i) Capacity of the business or borrower to repay, (ii) Capital required or amount to be borrowed, including amount of equity by the borrower, if any, (iii) Collateral or security to cover the risk, given that every business, no matter the excellence of the business model contains some element of risks (iv) Conditions of the loan, including amount being borrowed and intended purpose and (v) Character of the borrower, also referred to as credit history or track record of borrowing and repayment profile. Underpinning these five areas of course is the business model or the potential viability of the project. The business model, simply put, is the business's overarching strategy for attracting and retaining paying customers profitably. If the business model is weak, funding cannot be provided.

Loan applications, as is the practice with all financial institutions, are screened to ensure that they are properly completed and supporting documentations are required to save time to both the borrower and the lender. Since



**By Garfield Joseph**

the goal is to assist every borrower, either with financial assistance or business know-how, if the initial screening process reveals any potential gaps or weaknesses with the business model, then the borrower is provided with immediate feedback and recommendations on how to strengthen the application against the 5C's. Applications are then forwarded to the Board of Directors for determination and then to the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda for ratification and final approval. The number of loans already approved in such a short space of time, is indicative of the success of the program. Another key area of success of the EDP program is the high number of free training that has been provided. Over 400 persons in the private and public sector have already benefited

from two training seminars at the Multipurpose Cultural Center in November 2019 and March 2020. The high quality of the training programs and number of attendees are unprecedented in Antigua and Barbuda.

In conclusion, the EDP leadership team remains forward looking and have embedded as a part of its operating culture, strong customer care and business support, continuous improvement, with high standards and accountability even in the midst of a changing environment. These values and processes will lead to transformational change of small businesses in Antigua and Barbuda as was and remains the Government's ambition when the program was conceived and operationalized in 2019.



## The Honourable Gaston A. Browne Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda Statement

*24th June 2020 - Update on COVID-19 Cases*



**By Gaston A. Browne**

My dear fellow citizens and residents

I am making this statement to address fears that may have arisen from the information, provided by the Ministry of Health, that 39 new cases of imported COVID-19 have been detected and managed.

I emphasize to you, that none of these cases is a threat to the community at this time, and that, through our identification, tracing and quarantining process, the Ministry of Health is containing and treating affected persons.

The 39 new cases are persons, in which in excess of half are returning nationals – who entered Antigua by air over the last few days.

These nationals are now quarantined and isolated at the Government facility at Hawksbill hotel and will not be released into the community until they test negative.

It is important that you know that none of these persons have been hospitalized.

Presently, there is no one

hospitalized in Antigua & Barbuda with COVID, and none of the new cases require hospitalization.

The remaining individuals, are in hotel properties which are equipped with facilities to isolate, monitor and treat these individuals who tested positive for COVID.

The staff at these hotels are also fully trained to deal with such guests, who will not be allowed to venture outside of the hotels' compound, and who will also be under constant medical surveillance.

The well-being and good health of our population remains the principal consideration of our government and health authorities who will address you later.

The detection and quarantining of these 39 new cases, demonstrate the effectiveness of the procedures that have been established and are being scrupulously implemented at our ports of entry.

No one is exempt from them now, nor will they be at any time in the future.

That includes me, every Government Minister, the Governor-General - simply put, everyone who enters the country from abroad will be tested and quarantined or isolated as appropriate while this pandemic continues.

We are learning from experience.

So, is every other country in the world.

We are not unique.



# Message to the Nation

Many countries are learning from our experience, as we are learning from theirs.

We are already bolstering our arrangements at the airport and other ports of entry, including the acquisition of 12,500 rapid test kits, 20,000 swabs and 2000 reagents which have been shipped and will arrive on the island shortly.

Despite the enormous pressure on government revenues that have been badly hit by the effects of COVID-19 on our economy, we have carved out funds to buy these COVID-19 testing supplies.

Our purpose is to isolate any who tests positive and to keep them away from our healthy domestic population. I know that there will be those who will seize this opportunity to attack the Government, claiming that we should have kept our borders closed to all, including nationals who were trapped abroad.

Those, who make these claims, do so for selfish political reasons.

They would prefer the economy to wither and die; they would prefer unemployment to rise and poverty to increase, just so that they can take advantage of people's suffering for their own selfish political ends.

That is not what I stand for. Nor, is it what the Government I lead stands for.

From the first moment of my election to the Office of Prime Minister, my only purpose has been the wel-

fare of my people – the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

In the first hour of my stewardship of this country's affairs, even before I appointed a Cabinet, I had to deal with the reality that the then foreign-owned WIOC, was about to cut-off all oil supplies to our country, leaving us without electricity, or any other form of energy completely.

I also had to deal with the foreign-owned water company, that was threatening to cut off all water supply.

I dealt with those matters immediately and successfully, driven by only one thing and one thing only – and that is the well-being of the people of this country.

There have been many other issues in my government's six-years in office that threatened this country and its people.

My government has met each one of them, looked them in the eye and surmounted them.

We did so with your help, your resolve, your determination, that we shall not sink; that we shall struggle, but we shall conquer.

We are faced now with a double threat of extraordinary magnitude.

We created neither.

The first is the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected 9.3M people and killed 478K globally. In Antigua and Barbuda, by comparison we have had 65 cases and only three deaths.

Our low numbers were due to swift action, planning

and implementation, with the allocation of scarce resources for the protection of all our people.

The second is the abrupt and devastating effect on our economy that has shattered our tourism industry, put thousands of our people out of work and affected every business, every family, and every productive activity of our country.

My Government and the country as a whole, was faced with a choice of continuing to keep our borders shut and watch our country and its people decline into abject poverty and disaster, or open the borders, while putting protections firmly in place, that would give tourism a chance to revive and our people a better opportunity to live and prosper.

After the widest consultation with various sectors of the society, including local businesses, the hotel sector and trade unions, we decided to reopen the border.

We always knew that there would be a risk that COVID-19 infected persons would arrive at our ports, which I have said on numerous occasions.

That is why we put in place the elaborate structures for identifying them and quarantining or isolating them as appropriate.

The detection of the recent 39 COVID cases shows that our system works.

Nonetheless, we are strengthening the system even more.

Let me reemphasize – ev-

eryone who enters Antigua and Barbuda, including returning nationals, to live within communities with relatives and friends, with no exception, will be tested and will be quarantined mandatorily.

We must continue to keep our country safe.

In this, everyone must continue to play their part.

Wearing masks, physical distancing and good hygiene standards continue to be absolute imperatives in everyone's interests.

I implore you to observe them.

Each Antiguan & Barbudan should exercise a heightened level of vigilance and personal responsibility to avoid local transmission from these imported cases that will occur, from time to time.

These battles we face can be won.

To do so, we all have to be on the front lines.

And, as we have done in the past, we shall succeed.

The path to success is never easy; the path to failure is much easier.

Failure, for us, is not an option.

I end by assuring you, that we will continue to be vigilant over all persons admitted to our homeland, and we will keep our homeland safe.

God bless you, and God bless our beloved Antigua and Barbuda

Stay Safe - Stay Strong – Stay United

# CCJ offers parties in Guyana pathway to rule of law

*(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).*

There have been unhelpful and destructive attacks by leading members and zealous supporters of the APNU-AFC caretaker government in Guyana against all with whose position they disagree. The targets are international organisations, CARICOM Heads of Government, other governments that have been major partners with Guyana and their diplomatic representatives.

All these institutions, governments and their representatives have urged that the political parties in Guyana accept an undertaking they solemnly gave. That undertaking was to accept a national recount of the votes cast at the March 2 general elections as the basis for the election result.

Apart from its paid lobbyist in Washington, DC, Bart Fisher, who succeeded in printing an Opinion in the obscure publication, Washington Examiner, research has not revealed any credible supporters of the belligerent stand that APNU-AFC

has adopted of rejecting the national recount which President David Granger helped to initiate and to which he said he would be bound.

The APNU-AFC stand is unfortunate. The party, or at least its two main components, the Peoples National Congress and the Working Peoples Alliance, have legitimate places in the political life of Guyana. These are places that should be preserved, because every country needs political parties that offer ideas for good governance and hold themselves ready to form a government at the will of the people as expressed at the ballot box. These parties also need the recognition of the Caribbean and international community that they are democratic entities, prepared to advance their ideas vigorously and ready to accept the judgement of the electorates.

They squander the respect and the encouragement of the regional and international community when they resort to slurs and calumny against Heads of Government and institutions as the only defence for refusing to accept a transparent and fully supervised recount that does not suit them.

The recent assaults on Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, as Chair of the Caribbean Community



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

(CARICOM) is loathsome. Ms Mottley carried out her duty to member states of CARICOM, including the nation of Guyana and to the Charter of Civil Society of which Guyana is a signatory. She expressed "sadness" over events in Guyana that have caused the result of an election, held on March 2, not to be declared more than three months later, and she repeated that the report of the CARICOM scrutineers "reflects the result of the recount process as certified by the very staff of the Guyana Elections Commission and witnessed by representatives of political parties".

Nothing Prime Minister Mottley said was untrue. Therefore, it is distress-

ing that President Granger was encouraged to say that her statement "appears to be designed to exert undue pressure on the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)". To impute to Prime Minister Mottley such a disreputable motive is unacceptable and unjust.

The CCJ has been brought into this matter as Guyana's final appellate Court. The opposition, Peoples Progressive Party (PPC/C) and others are appealing a decision of the Guyana Court of Appeal, which ordered an interpretation of the words 'more valid votes are cast' and a stay of its decision for three days. The applicants claim that the decision was wrong for many reasons,

*Cont'd on pg 15*



including that the Court of Appeal did not have the jurisdiction to hear and determine the Notice of Motion. The APNU-AFC has been adamant that the CCJ has no jurisdiction to hear the case, claiming that the Guyana Court of Appeal's decision is final. Not content with making legal arguments to the CCJ to establish their case, zealots of the APNU-AFC turned to broadening their attacks to include the President of the CCJ, Adrian Saunders. In a webpage constructed for political propaganda with an undisclosed writer, they claim that St Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister, Ralph Gonsalves, the longest serving Head of Government in the region who led his country to election to a non-perma-

nent seat of the UN Security Council, is biased against them and that Justice Saunders will be influenced by his friendship with Gonsalves to rule against the APNU-AFC surrogate in the case. The attack on Justice Saunders is reprehensible as it is baseless. In the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Saunders twice found against cases in which Gonsalves was the lead attorney. Further, Saunders' judicial independence is recognised internationally, including by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on whose advisory board he serves. Justice Saunders will also be accompanied in the hearing by at least five other distinguished judges whose reputations are equally untainted.

Fortunately, those who

were convinced that the judges of the Guyana Court of Appeal were compromised by familial and other links, did not similarly indulge in casting aspersions on their judicial integrity.

Luis Almagro, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States, summed up this sorry tale when he declared: "It is undeniable that this election has gone on long enough. The process in Guyana must be brought to an end, based on the results of the national recount, and with respect for the will of the majority of the electorate".

The justices of the CCJ offer that conclusive opportunity. They held a lengthy case management session on June 25, with all the parties concerned except the Chief

Elections Officer, Keith Lowenfield, who discarded the CARICOM report of the recount and invalidated more than 115, 000 votes. He chose not to make a submission or be represented by counsel, and therefore not to be questioned by the court when the case is heard. They will begin hearings, after written submissions, on July 1.

The CCJ hearing and, eventual decision, will give the parties in Guyana a chance to adhere to the rule of law, behave lawfully and salvage their own and the country's standing. They should take it.

Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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# COVID-19 outbreaks to continue over next two years, says PAHO

NASSAU, BAHAMAS — Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director Dr Carissa Etienne said while the region has adverted “greater tragedy” due to the early adoption of public health measures, countries should expect recurring COVID-19 outbreaks over the next two years.

She said countries must be realistic about the future and learn to adjust to a new way of life.

“The question is no longer, how do we go back to the way things were before, but rather, how do we move forward and build a sustainable and effective outbreak response,” said Etienne, during a PAHO virtual press conference with regional stakeholders.

She continued: “In the absence of effective treatments or a widely available vaccine, we expect that over the next two years, the region of the Americas will experience recurring COVID-19 outbreaks, which may be interspersed with periods of limited transmission.”

After rapid increases in infections, particularly in April and May, The Bahamas has flattened the curve in recent weeks.

As of Wednesday, there were 104 confirmed cases in The Bahamas, of which nine were active.

There have been four new infections in over three weeks.

The downward trend and concerns about the protracted economic slowdown has prompted easing of restrictions and a gradual reopening of The Bahamas’ borders. However, cases of the

virus continue to surge in other jurisdictions in close proximity to The Bahamas, namely the United States, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Yesterday, Etienne said these recent increases in infections were concerning, and governments have felt pressure to ease restrictions for “economic and political reasons even while transmission is increasing”.

She acknowledged countries must balance the “triple threat” the pandemic poses to the health, social welfare and national economies, and remain flexible in its response.

**Bipartisanship**

Etienne also called upon leaders to cross political divides, stressing cooperation could “make or break or response”.

“Now is the time for leaders to reach across political divisions and geographical borders to rally the support for a response that is commensurate to the unprecedented crisis,” the director said.

“Each country will need to adjust and coordinate their COVID-19 response based on increasingly detailed data. Governments will have to make decisions considering simultaneously health, economic and social indicators.

“This will allow health officials to understand where transmission is accelerating and which groups are at greater risks, so as to better target their efforts.

“Flexibility will be key and public health measures as well as social protections efforts will need to be reviewed regularly to minimize the impact of the virus



*Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director Dr Carissa Etienne*

in our societies.”

PAHO plans to release new recommendations on the ongoing health crisis, according to Etienne, who said these guidelines with help to navigate a course over the next two years.

Etienne said the crisis will not be overcome without countries addressing the needs of their most vulnerable citizens — those most likely to become sick and the least likely to receive care, including “urban poor” and migrant populations.

“If we neglect them, we run the risk of next two years looking like the past few months and this should not happen,” she said.

She also stressed the importance of accurate data collection, ongoing testing, contact tracing and quarantine measures.

PAHO plans to release new recommendations on the ongoing health crisis, according to Etienne, who said these guidelines with help to navigate a course over the next two years.

**Financial response**

PAHO has recommended

at least six percent of GDP be expended to strengthen public health and 30 percent from all public health expenditure be allocated to the first level of care.

The Minnis administration has budgeted an estimated \$2.57 billion in recurrent expenditure in the upcoming fiscal period 2020/2021 — a \$113 million reduction in recurrent spending.

Of that figure, \$298 million will be allocated to the Ministry of Health and \$45 million to the Department of Public Health — a combined 13 percent of the budget.

Another \$278 million or 10.8 percent of the budget has been allocated for social benefits, and a further \$33.4 million or 1.3 percent on employer social contributions.

In his wrap up to the budget debate on Monday, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis said it was the government’s obligation and responsibility to “respond boldly, creatively and with compassion, especially to aid the poor and vulnerable”.

## Jamaica: COPS NABBED IN US DRUG BUST



*Commissioner Antony Anderson has placed the rooting out of corruption among police ranks as an important target.*

Three western Jamaica cops were charged on Tuesday in a sweeping narcotics operation involving high-profile United States law-enforcement agents in two American cities.

All of the police personnel operate within the St James Police Division.

The arrested cops were reportedly intercepted by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Atlanta and Charlotte.

They have been identified as Woman Constable Shermain Latoya Gooden, Constable Dremar Graham, and Constable Trevonne David-

son.

The fourth cop, a woman constable, was flown back home and is now in the custody of the St James police. She has not been identified.

Dennis Brooks, a communication specialist for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), confirmed that the four had interactions with security agents in the US.

In a press statement issued late Wednesday evening, the JCF credited ongoing investigations and intelligence sharing between the JCF and US counterparts for the arrest of the three Jamaican constables.

Gleaner sources have revealed that three of the

implicated constables are assigned to the Granville Police Station while the fourth works out of the Freeport Police Station. At the time they were held in the US, two of the four police personnel were scheduled to be on duty and had apparently left the island without the knowledge or consent of their supervisors.

The woman constable, who was flown back to Jamaica on Tuesday, was undergoing intensive interrogation on Wednesday night.

"I know she is being questioned, but I am not able to say whether or not she is cooperating," a police source told The Gleaner. "This is

a most embarrassing situation for the organisation, but we intend to get to the bottom of it." Two of the cops were nabbed in an operation in the city of Charlotte in North Carolina while the other two were held in Atlanta, Georgia.

All four constables were flagged by security agents for questioning.

The actions of three of the constables caused suspicion, and a subsequent search turned up contraband believed to be cocaine.

The incident has again turned the spotlight on the St James police, which has had a storied history of police corruption in relation to drug crimes, lottery scamming, and involvement with criminal gangs.

"While it is embarrassing, it is not a secret that we do have officers whose names come up from time to time in shady activities, but it is sometimes quite challenging to catch them red-handed," a senior officer told The Gleaner. "Some of these guys (policemen) are mixed up with scammers and gangsters, but it is difficult to nail them in the act."

The operation evokes memories of the 2009 interdiction of 18 police personnel assigned to the Mt Salem Police Station for alleged involvement in the illicit lottery, which has been the main source of funding for criminal gangs.



# Guyana: AG maintains CCJ has no jurisdiction to hear PPP/C's appeal

THE Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Basil Williams, remains resolute in his position that the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has no jurisdiction to hear an appeal to the Court of Appeal's decision on the interpretation of Article 177 (2) (b) of the Constitution, and on that basis is objecting to any decision that grants special leave to the People's Progressive Party/Civic.

The PPP/C, through its General Secretary, Bharrat Jagdeo and Presidential Candidate, Irfaan Ali, earlier this week, moved to the CCJ to challenge the Court of Appeal's decision that the words "more votes are cast" in Article 177 (2) (b) are interpreted to mean "more valid votes are cast."

But Ocelisa Marks, a Legal Officer attached to the Office of the State Solicitor, in an Affidavit filed on behalf of the Attorney General, said the CCJ must first determine whether it has jurisdiction.

"...it is the first duty of this Court to satisfy itself on its jurisdiction and, if the Court is of the opinion that it does not possess jurisdiction, it is the duty of the court, whether the question of jurisdiction is the subject of a formal appeal or not, of its own motion to pronounce accordingly," the Legal Officer submitted.

Marks submitted that it is the contention of the Attorney General that the CCJ lacks jurisdiction. In support of this position, the Legal Officer pointed out that Article 177 (4) of the



*Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Basil Williams*

Constitution indicates that any decision made by the Court of Appeal thereunder shall be final. "This article empowers the Court of Appeal to adjudicate matters of the type described in Article 177 to the exclusion of all other courts including the Caribbean Court of Jus-

tice, which is the final appellate court of Guyana," Marks submitted in her Affidavit.

Further to that, it was submitted that while the Caribbean Court of Appeal Act Cap 3:07 was enacted pursuant to Article 123 of the Constitution, it is limited in some regards.

"Despite the jurisdiction conferred on the Caribbean Court of Justice under Part II of the Caribbean Court of Justice Act, Section 4 (3) of the Caribbean Court of Act, Cap 3:07 expressly limits the appellate jurisdiction of this Court. Section 4 (3) states that 'Nothing in this Act shall confer jurisdiction on the Court to hear matters in relation to any decision of the Court of Appeal which, at the time of entry into force of this Act, was declared to be final by any law.'"

The explanatory memorandum of the Caribbean Court of Justice Bill No 15 of 2004, Marks said, was pellucid in its explanation that the CCJ would have no jurisdiction in relation to any decision of the Court of Appeal, which at the time of commencement of the Act, was declared to be final by any law.

"It is clear from the explanatory memorandum of Bill No. 15 of 2004, that clause 4 provides the CCJ with both an original and appellate jurisdiction. However, it is the clear intention of section 4 (3) to restrict the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Section 4 (3) preserves the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal and has an overriding effect over any other provision in the Act," the Legal Officer submitted.

She added: "The Parliament of Guyana would have considered Article 177 (4) of the Constitution which gives an exclusive jurisdiction to the Court of

Appeal. Both the Act and the Bill state that the Caribbean Court of Justice Act shall have no appellate jurisdiction in relation to decisions which at the time of the Act was declared to be final by law. One such law is Article 177 of the Constitution which was already in existence at the time of the Caribbean Court of Justice Act was enacted by the Parliament of Guyana in 2004. In fact, this Article has been in the 1980 Constitution from its inception and continues to be a part of the laws of Guyana.”

Marks submitted that the application of Section 4 (3) of the Caribbean Court of Justice Act would result in the Caribbean Court of Justice having no jurisdiction to hear the case brought by PPP/C Officials.

On Tuesday, the CCJ blocked the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) from declaring the results of Guyana’s 2020 General and Regional Elections pending its decision in the case brought by Jagdeo and Ali.

The CCJ ordered that: “The Guyana Elections Commission and its officers and agents take no step to prejudice the fair hearing of this Application, including, but not limited to, issuing a declaration of the results of the elections held on 2nd March 2020, until this Court issues final orders following the hearing and determination of the questions raised before this Honourable Court in the said Application”

In issuing that and other orders, the CCJ relied on Section 8 of the Caribbean Court of Justice Act, Cap 3:07 of the Laws of Guyana but Marks, in

her submission to the CCJ on behalf of the Attorney General, said Sections 6 and 8 are subject to Section 4 (3) which is the substantive provision under the rubric “Jurisdiction of the Court.”

“...section 26 of the Caribbean Court of Justice Act cannot be relied on to confer jurisdiction of the Caribbean Court of Justice in these circumstances. This section requires all laws, including the Constitution, in force in Guyana or otherwise having effect as part of the laws of Guyana immediately before the commencement of this Act, to be interpreted in a manner consistent with the provisions of this Act. These provisions include section 4 which defines the parameters of the Court’s jurisdiction,” Marks explained.

It was further submitted that the lack of jurisdiction is also supported by Article XXV of the Agreement which established the Caribbean Court of Justice. The Legal Officer pointed out that paragraph 5 of the Article limits the jurisdiction of the CCJ in a manner similar to section 4 (3) of the Caribbean Court of Justice Act. That paragraph states: “Nothing in this Article shall apply to matters in relation to which the decision of the Court of Appeal of a Contracting Party is, at the time of the entry into force of the Agreement pursuant to the Constitution or any other law of that Party, declared to be final.”

Today, when the CCJ sits to conduct a Case Management Conference, it is likely that the issue of jurisdiction will be raised.

## St Lucia again reaches 100% COVID-19 recovery rate



*Chief Medical Officer Dr Sharon Belmar-George*

The Ministry of Health has revealed in its latest update that Saint Lucia has once again moved to full recovery regarding its COVID-19 cases.

“Saint Lucia currently has on record 19 cases of COVID-19. The last case was diagnosed on June 4, 2020. This individual has now recovered fully and has been discharged from hospital, giving the country a 100 per cent recovery rate. As such, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 currently in care.

Testing results received on June 24, 2020, indicated 27 negative test results.

A total of 1619 tests have been carried out to date. There are now 306 people in quarantine, most of whom are nationals repatriated from cruise ships. All persons in quarantine are doing well to date with no symptoms of COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health notes the continuous increase of global cases of COVID-19. So though at a national level we have been able to manage this epidemic, we remind everyone of the need to remain cautious and maintain behaviours which will reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Be reminded that in addition to maintaining hand hygiene and cough etiquette, alongside the use of masks and maintaining physical distancing, self-care is also a necessary component of our prevention efforts.

Through the combination of increased daily consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, regular physical activity, avoiding harmful products like tobacco and the excessive consumption of alcohol, a stronger immune system is built. By building immune levels there is an increased ability to fight off COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

For people living with chronic conditions, these actions are of particular importance and will add great value in preventing further complications with their condition.

You may visit your closest Community Wellness Centre or speak with your private health care provider for further guidance on actions to aid in prevention of ill-health. They remain available to guide and support you in making decisions that promote health and well-being.”



## Trudeau rejects calls to release top Huawei executive

Canada's prime minister is rejecting calls to step in to end the extradition trial of a Chinese Huawei executive.

Justin Trudeau said doing so would "imperil" Canadians abroad by opening them to potential random detention.

Two Canadians were detained shortly after Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, was arrested in Vancouver on request from the US.

Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat, and Michael Spavor, a businessman, have been held in China since December 2018. Their arrests came just days after Ms Meng's detention in what has been seen by critics as an act of "hostage diplomacy". Canada calls their arrests "arbitrary", and on Thursday, Mr Trudeau said there was a "direct link", but China has denied they were retaliation for Ms Meng's detention.

Her arrest has soured Canada-China relations.

American authorities accuse her of breaking Iranian sanctions and she is currently fighting extradition to the US.

Last week, China charged the Mr Kovrig and Mr Spavor with spying, more than 18 months after they were detained. "We deplore what China did" in detaining the two men, Mr Trudeau said on Thursday.

But he told journalists in Ottawa that if a foreign power thinks it can exert political pressure on Canada by detaining its citizens "all Canadians



*Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is facing pressure to secure the release of the two detained Canadians*

that are travelling internationally become vulnerable".

Mr Trudeau was responding to pressure from a group of prominent former Canadian parliamentarians and diplomats, and from some family members of the detained men, to end Ms Meng's extradition proceedings. In a letter to Mr Trudeau, made public by Canada's public broadcaster CBC, the group said: "The two Michaels were taken in direct retaliation for the arrest in Canada of Meng Wanzhou."

"We believe that the two Michaels will remain in their Chinese prison cells until Meng is free to return to China."

While they said it "does not sit well with anyone to yield to bullying or blackmail...resisting China's pressure is no guarantee that it will never be applied again in the future".

Mr Trudeau has also faced calls to take more punitive measures, including sanctions on Chinese officials.

China has called Ms Meng's

case "a serious political incident" and have called for her immediate release.

Beijing has not explicitly linked her arrest to the two Canadians detained, though their cases are often raised jointly by China foreign ministry spokespeople. On Wednesday, spokesman Zhao Lijian said Chinese authorities had seen reports that Mr Kovrig's family had obtained a legal opinion indicating Canada's justice minister had the authority to stop Ms Meng extradition process at any point.

"Such options are within the rule of law and could open up space for resolution to the situation of the two Canadians," he said. Meng Wanzhou - the chief financial officer of Chinese tech giant Huawei, and daughter of the company's founder - was arrested on 1 December 2018 in Vancouver.

Her arrest was requested by the US justice department, which accused her of breaking Iranian sanctions. She is still

fighting extradition to the US.

The US has labelled Huawei a security risk and banned the sale of its products. US politicians are also pushing allies, including Canada, to block Huawei from their markets.

Huawei has said it has trust in Canada's judicial system, "which will prove Ms Meng's innocence". Last month, a Canadian court ruled that her case could go forward. On 10 December 2018, the two Canadians were detained in China. They were formally arrested in May 2019.

Canada is using both public and private pressure to secure their release, Mr Trudeau has said, and has pressed many of its allies to speak in support of Mr Spavor and Mr Kovrig, including Australia, France, Germany, Spain, and the UK.

On Monday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the charges against the two men "politically motivated and completely groundless".

## Texas governor halts reopening as coronavirus crisis grows; California's declares budget emergency

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott paused any further phases to reopen the state on Thursday and issued an order to ensure hospital beds be available for Covid-19 patients.

Abbott's moves came as his state, California and Florida -- the three-most populous -- set records for new coronavirus cases daily amid fears of "apocalyptic" surges in major Texas cities if the trend continues. California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a budget emergency to free up \$16 billion to fight the pandemic, according to a release from his office. And the head of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the US has only counted about 10% of coronavirus infections. That might mean as many as 20 million Americans have been infected. Officially, coronavirus has killed at least 122,238 people and infected almost 2.4 million nationwide, according to Johns Hopkins. Florida and Texas announced Wednesday that they had recorded more than 5,000 new Covid-19 cases the prior day, a new daily record. California reported more than 7,000 cases, obliterating a record hit a day earlier.

Florida passed 5,000 again on Thursday, according to new state data.

Florida, Texas and California account for 27.4% of the 328 million people living in the US, according to the latest US Census Bureau estimates.

'A temporary pause,' Texas

governor says Abbott previously had said he wanted to move to the next phase and be fully opened by July 4. "The last thing we want to do as a state is go backwards and close down businesses. This temporary pause will help our state corral the spread until we can safely enter the next phase of opening our state for business," Abbott said in a release. Earlier this month, he announced the state was moving into its Phase III, meaning most business could operate at up to 50% capacity.

He suspended all elective surgeries in hospitals in four counties that are home to the cities of San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Austin. The counties have had "significant increases" in Covid-19 hospitalizations, Abbott said.

Any procedure not immediately necessary to correct a serious medical condition or preserve a life will be postponed.

"As we work to contain this virus, I urge all Texans to do their part to help contain the spread by washing their hands regularly, wearing a mask, and practicing social distancing," Abbott said in a statement.

In California, the budget has gone from a \$21 billion surplus to a \$54.3 billion deficit in a matter of months, decimated by the economic demands of the pandemic.

Newsom's proclamation clears the way for the legislature to use \$16 billion rainy fund to respond to the pandemic. Expenditures include



personal protective equipment, medical equipment, and services to protect vulnerable populations. 20 million might have been infected The CDC has been looking at antibody tests done across the country to see how many people had past infections that were not diagnosed at the time, said director Dr. Robert Redfield. It is seeing many more cases than have been reported officially.

"A good rough estimate now is 10 to 1," Redfield told a media briefing. This is partly because testing had been limited to people who were seriously ill and showing up in hospitals or nursing homes. But now, as more people are being tested, it is becoming clear that a large percentage of people did not have any symptoms, or mild symptoms, Redfield said.

More cases attributed to multiple factors

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo reported the lowest number of hospitalizations, with 996 across the state, "the lowest number since we started." Cuomo criticized others who "played politics," opened their economies too early, and "now are causing this nation

great havoc."

Several factors contribute to the rise in cases. In California, the virus is spreading at private gatherings in homes, more young people are testing positive, and cases among the incarcerated are alarming.

Officials in various states are encouraging social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands.

"Going out in public without a mask is like driving drunk," said Dr. Jonathan Reiner, a cardiologist and professor of medicine at George Washington University. "If you don't get hurt. You might kill somebody else."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has attributed the rise to more testing but others say community transmission is playing a key role as the state reopens.

And it's not accurate to simply say that the increased infections is due to increased testing, said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy at the University of Minnesota.

No clear connection to recent protests either has been established, experts say.



## Coronavirus: 'Very significant' resurgences in Europe alarm WHO

Europe has seen an increase in weekly cases of Covid-19 for the first time in months as restrictions are eased, the World Health Organization (WHO) says.

In 11 places, which include Armenia, Sweden, Moldova and North Macedonia, accelerated transmission has led to "very significant resurgence", said Regional Director Dr Hans Henri Kluge.

His warnings about the risk of resurgence had become reality, he said.

If left unchecked, he warned health systems would be "pushed to the brink".

More than 2.6 million cases of Covid-19 and 195,000 deaths have been reported in the WHO's European region, which is expansive, covering 54 countries and seven territories across Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Almost 20,000 new cases and more than 700 new deaths are being recorded daily.

"For weeks, I have spoken about the risk of resurgence as countries adjust measures," Dr Kluge told a virtual news conference on Thursday.

"In several countries across Europe, this risk has now become a reality - 30 countries have seen increases in new cumulative cases over the past two weeks.

"In 11 of these countries, accelerated transmission has led to very significant resurgence that if left unchecked will push health systems to

the brink once again."

The 11 countries and territories were later identified by the WHO as Armenia, Sweden, Moldova, North Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Kosovo. Dr Kluge said countries such as Poland, Germany, Spain and Israel had responded quickly to dangerous outbreaks associated with schools, coal mines, and food production settings, and brought them under control through rapid interventions. Despite warning about resurgences, he said the WHO anticipated that the situation would calm down further in the majority of countries over the summer.

"But we have indeed to prepare for the fall, when Covid-19 may meet seasonal influenza, pneumonia, other diseases as well, because ultimately the virus is still actively circulating in our communities and there is no effective treatment, no effective vaccine, yet."

In a separate development on Thursday, Germany and France pledged their support to the WHO after holding talks with its director general, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in Geneva.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn said his country planned to give more than €500m (\$560; £451m) in money and equipment to the agency this year.



*Close to 20,000 new cases are being recorded daily in the WHO's European region*

He stressed that global pandemics needed a global co-ordinated response, adding: "Isolated national answers to international problems are doomed to fail."

France's health minister, Olivier Veran, promised €50m in direct funding for the WHO and another €90m for its research centre in Lyon.

"I truly believe the world needs, more than ever, a multilateral organisation. I believe the world cannot get rid of partners," he said.

European leaders have been keen to show public support to the WHO after the US called the agency a "puppet of China" and said it would cut funding and leave.

# US Treasury sent \$1.4bn of pandemic aid to dead people

The US Treasury mistakenly sent more than \$1.4bn (£1.1bn) of its pandemic rescue funds to dead people, government inspectors have found.

The finding was one of several “challenges” uncovered in the official review of federal coronavirus aid.

Since March, Congress has pumped some \$2.6tn into the American economy in an effort to shield it from virus slowdown.

But the rush to deliver the money has contributed to errors, inspectors said.

For example, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that the Treasury Department, which was in charge of mailing stimulus cheques to American families, did not check death records, even though some of the tax officials working on the programme said they raised concerns about the risk of erroneous mailings. The report also warned that the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses - a low-cost loan fund that accounts for 26% of US pandemic spending - was at “significant risk” of fraud, faulting the Small Business Administration for not cooperating with requests for information about the loans and its plans for oversight.

“Because of the number of loans approved, the speed with which they were processed, and the limited safeguards, there is a significant risk that some fraudulent or inflated ap-



*The US Treasury department did not check death records before mailing out stimulus cheques*

plications were approved,” the inspectors said. It said changes to respond to those risks were “essential”.

The report comes as lawmakers in Washington debate whether or not additional aid is necessary. While Democrats and many economists - including the head of America’s central bank - have recommended further relief, pointing to high unemployment, many Republicans have been hesitant to approve more money.

“We should be very, very careful in evaluating what’s necessary before we go forward,” Republican Senator Pat Toomey said at a recent hearing. White House officials have said additional stimulus is likely, but that it makes sense to see how the efforts so far are working. Critics say federal programmes have resisted oversight efforts, however.

In April, President Donald

Trump removed the official in charge of overseeing coronavirus spending.

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, a Democrat from New York, said the audit had revealed “mishandling and negligence” and “mismanagement of taxpayer funds”.

“If today’s report makes one thing clear, it is the need for transparency and accountability,” she said. “Administration officials must answer that call.”

How much has the US spent on coronavirus? Congress has approved about \$2.6tn in pandemic spending since March - a package estimated at about 14% of the country’s output.

About 11%, or more than \$280bn, was intended to be spent on direct payments of up to \$1,200 for individuals earning less than \$75,000 and \$500 for children.

The US has sent 160.4 million pandemic payments worth

a total of \$269bn so far, according to the report.

The single largest chunk of the rescue funding - about 26% - was for small business loans through the Paycheck Protection Program.

The US has distributed more than \$500bn in loans to 4.6 million businesses so far.

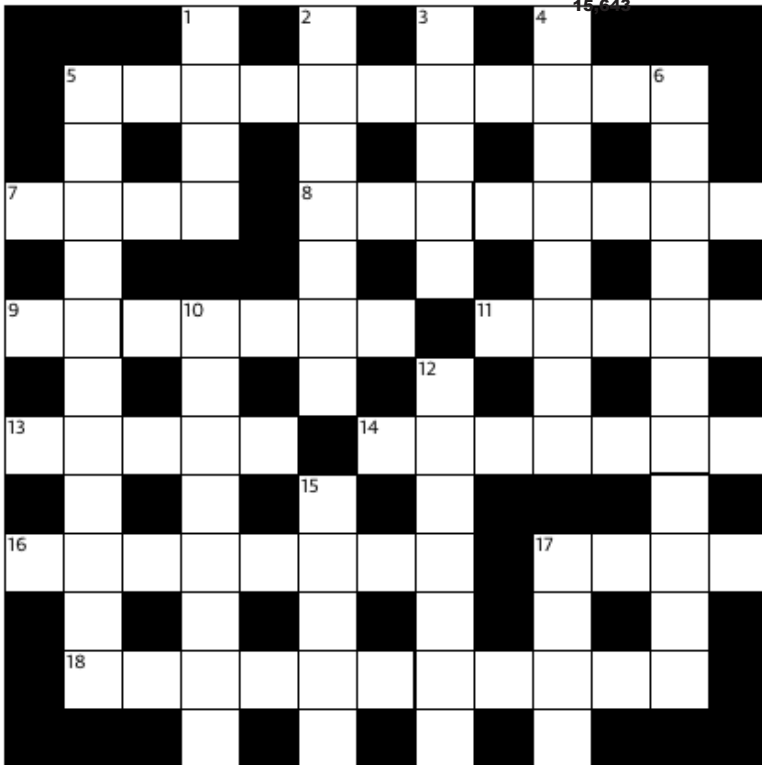
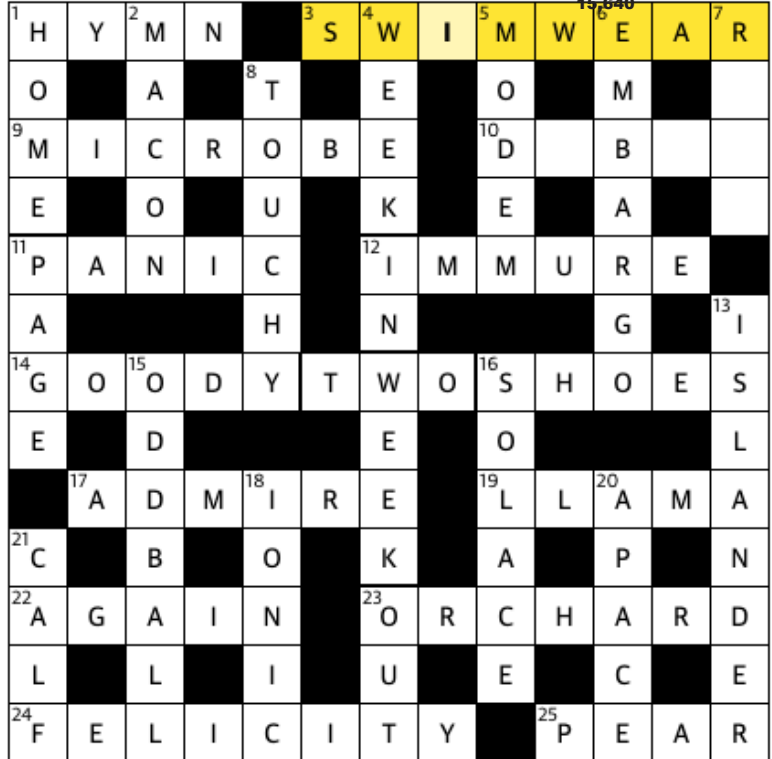
Critics have said the distribution of those funds has been bungled by unclear rules and lack of oversight, claims supported by the GAO report.

“Consistent with the urgency of responding to serious and widespread health issues and economic disruptions, agencies have given priority to moving swiftly where possible to distribute funds and implement new programs,” it said.

“As trade-offs were made, however, agencies have made only limited progress so far in achieving transparency and accountability goals.”



# QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No  
 15,642

 Quick crossword No  
 15,640


## Across

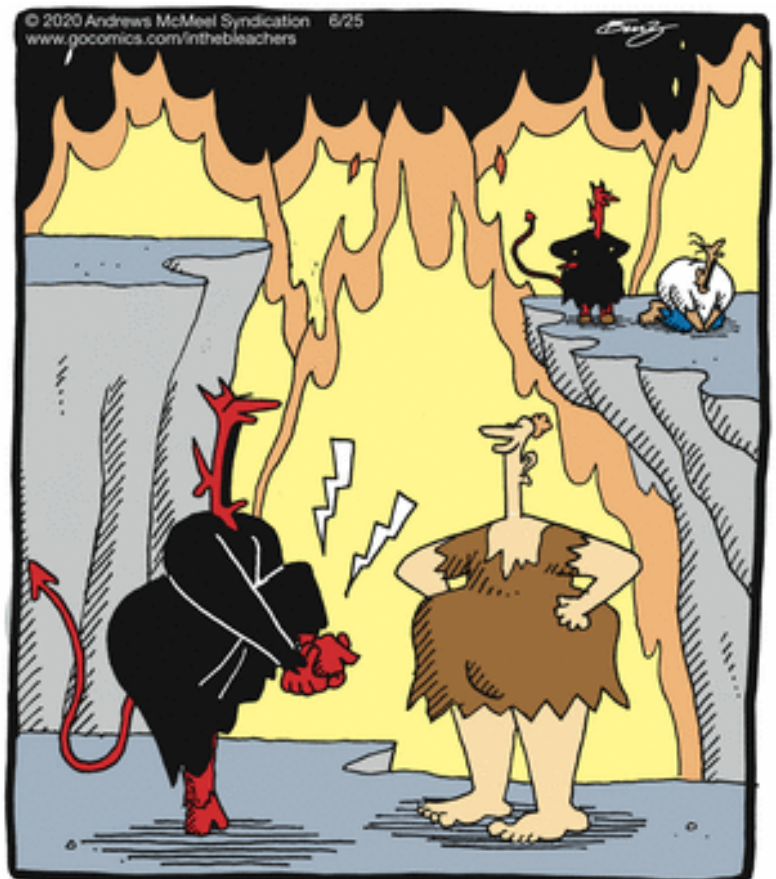
- 5 Information science — recency bits (anag) (11)  
 7 Natural talent (4)  
 8 Victim's tale? (3,5)  
 9 Commonwealth country in the Windward Islands (2,5)  
 11 Shade of yellow — gem (5)  
 13 Widely accepted saying (5)  
 14 Recuperate (7)  
 16 Coldly detached (8)  
 17 Avian (4)  
 18 Aria from Puccini's opera Turandot (6,5)

## Down

- 1 Assist criminally (4)  
 2 Uninspired (7)  
 3 Cathedral city on the River Derwent (5)  
 4 Dazzlingly skilled musician (8)  
 5 Deflated (11)  
 6 Extent of something's outer part (7,4)  
 10 Supporter of the cohesion of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (8)  
 12 Celtic folk music event (7)  
 15 Area of dense vegetation (5)  
 17 Part of a tree (4)

## CARTOON CORNER

### In the Bleachers



"OW! Who let you in here with a cup?!"

## GOT NEWS

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## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** It can be tempting to say “yes” when you would rather say “no.” Being authentic and straight with others avoids mix-ups. Be honest to dodge misunderstandings and avoid creating doubts in a loved one.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** You are willing to look reality right in the eye without blinking. You can be competitive without being cold and hard-hearted. Some people may use aggressive business tactics, but you are too kind-hearted for that.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Mull over many options when it’s just a case of mind over matter. You might earn high marks for your practical solutions and profitable decisions. Financial ambitions are admirable, but you should get clarity before taking action.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Dive into the think tank. Group activities or meetings can be productive even though there may be separate factions at work. Your assessment of a situation may be right on the mark, but others may resist making an agreement.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Gemstones form when ordinary elements are placed under extraordinary pressure. You too can be at your shining best when challenged to perform under pressure. Your expert opinion will likely be valued and your services in demand.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Find support and useful information from people in your immediate circle. Refuse to take an unnecessary gamble with your money or possessions at this time. You and a partner should be on the same wavelength when discussing tactics.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.):** You can put a spin on a presentation, but a close relationship requires commitment, or it could spin out of control. Show restraint, as there may be temptations or a flirtation that could put a key partnership in jeopardy.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** The most important person in your world might be the one who can be trusted to keep your secrets and loyally defend your interests. Someone on the job or in your workplace might not be as dependable as you would like.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The wise person carries an insurance policy but does not cancel it just because he never had a fire or an accident. Things might be going very well, but it is wise to take sensible precautions against loss.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You may have a few moments to contemplate the expanding universe and realize that you are growing your sphere of influence as well. You can find the stamina to complete whatever you start.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Find the joys in each day and approach everything with a positive attitude. A friendly spirit of camaraderie will make every task much more pleasant. The boss or a partner could be intense about achieving results.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** There might be a tendency to experience feast or famine. Your pantry may be full while your bank account is dwindling, or vice versa. You know things can shift quickly, so stock up to prepare for any eventuality.



## Quinland shoots to victory

Victory again for Dwayne Quinland as the Barnes Hill resident shot his way to two titles on Sunday, soaring above his rivals in the two-day Father's Day Weekend shoot-out at the Sir Wright F George Police Academy.

Quinland (seen here in the yellow jersey)-first secured the trophy in the 22-mm division, amassing 172.1 points to win ahead of Joel Bradshaw who tallied 169.1 points while the bronze medal went to Dwight Watkins who ended on 148.2 points.

Later in the day the trigger happy Quinland was once again unstoppable as he hit the targets enough times to claim 172 points and win the 9-mm contest with Amari Thomas finishing runner-up thanks to his 151 points and Watkins again claiming the third-place prize.



The championship saw the competitors firing twenty shots each from a distance of twenty yards with the possibility of securing a full 200 points.

Twenty-four hours earlier, it was Jeffery D'Or-

nellas who claimed the top hardware.

D'Ornellas defeated Pascal Bigler and Stephen Mendes Jr. in the battle of

the rookies.

D'Ornellas had 249.2 points, Bigler tallied 193 and Mendes came home with 182.2





## John Archibald: I appreciated the time playing for Antigua

John Archibald one of the most respected names in the history of cricket on the twin island state was born in the village of Bethesda.

John started playing at the age of eleven having three brothers who were involved in the game.

"Athill Lawrence used to take me to the games and my interest for the games developed," the former off-spinner noted.

John had a brother who was a spinner so despite being tall he develop a passion for spin bowling.

Archibald never played much Parish league, instead, he moved straight to first class cricket after traveling around with the Bethesda team coupling game as one would say back in the day.

"At 13 years old I knew some of the older guys would be out on the town



John Archibald

partying and maybe not be able to make the game the following day so I would make sure I am there coupling a game and eventually the opportunity arose," he revealed..

Archibald quickly made his way into the national set-up at the age of 18 but had to compete with great play-

ers to make the Leeward Islands team.

"There were a lot of outstanding spinners back then so my opportunities were far a few for the Leewards," he explained

He has enjoyed success coaching the Leeward Islands and St. Martin where he developed many young talents and made the Dutch St. Martin competitive in the Leeward tournament.

Archibald believes the game of cricket has taken a step backward and coaching methods needed a mixture of the old and the new.

The young players are not soup like we were before and we the older players need to find a way to encourage them.

Archibald will always be remembered for leading a dominant Pares cricket team that destroyed teams for over a ten year period.

## Jason Holder injury not a concern - Phil Simmons

West Indies coach Phil Simmons has no injury concerns over Jason Holder, despite the captain taking a little part in their warm-up game.

Holder did not bowl in the three-day match at Old Trafford which ended as a draw on Thursday. Jason has had a slight niggle on his ankle and that has held him back from bowling said Simmons.

"He will back to bowling in the four-day game and should be bowling his full quota"

West Indies will play one more intra-squad match, starting on 29 June, before the three-Test series against England gets under way at Southampton on 8 July.



Holder is ranked as the number one all-rounder in Test cricket by the international Cricket Council.

Simmons said pace bowler Shannon

Gabriel, who is officially listed as a reserve to the West Indies squad, is ready to play in the first Test after recovering from an ankle injury.



# Sports

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
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## Nobody could stop me

Nobody could stop me; I was fast, skillful, talented and formed a potent partnership with Trouble and Leo Chiddick, the reflections of Garfield 'Sancho' Christopher.

He was born in the village of Greenbay and he was there from the start when Hoppers F.C started in 1969 and entered the ABFA Premier league in 1970. This happened when a team was put together by Leroy Gilliard who had travelled to Trinidad on a course and on returning consulted with Londel Benjamin and a few others and they decided to form a team.

Christopher said they started in the second division where they gained promotion and won the Knock-out cup beating all the teams in the first division and premier league.

"We were joined in the second round of the knock-out cup success by Veron Edwards Sr. and Keithley K.S Sheppard after Empire was knock out early," he noted, "The rivalry started between Hoppers and Empire when we defeated Empire one-nil in a champions of

champions final."

According to Christopher, Hoppers used to call Empire its big brother but exchange of words before a final and K.S calling everyone west of the big gutter hogs after our victory Hopper fans took it personal and the rivalry remain to this day.

Christopher, as he is called, was part of the Greenbay School Team that won the first School league Competition on the island.

He represented his country with distinction scoring in his first two games against Guadeloupe and St. Kitts at the age of 18.

The man from the mud, who since retiring from football has dedicated his life to community development, remembers a battle with Sir Vivian Richards who was a national defender.

Every time I tried to use my speed Viv would punch me in the belly to slow me down so I tagged with Leo who put his foot on his foot so he could not move and I was on my way.

Christopher was fast, skillful and talented and was part of a generation that is responsible for the success



two times champions Hoppers. Along with Trouble, Londel, Gilliard and others they paved the way for the most successful club in Antigua football over the past five years.

"The young players respect me," he declared, "because I always tell them goals win games and the need to train hard and be aggressive."

Christopher is encouraging young people in the Rural West community to keep away from drugs, focus on their education and be positive.

The man from the west, who was part of the foundation of the Grays Green community league, is still involved in community development working closely with the representative former founding member of Hoppers, Londel Benjamin.

 **DEWS**

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