



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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NOW COMES THE HARD PART!

It's the news that the world has been waiting for since March when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The US-based Center for Disease Control (CDC) is about to greenlight the use of the Pfizer vaccine.

From the start of the pandemic until now, almost 70 million people have tested positive for the virus while 44 million have recovered. There have been more than 1.5 million deaths.

The impact of the pandemic has been felt in two key areas - the rate of infection rate and the toll it has taken on the global economy as nations closed their borders to travel and trade in a bid to bring the virus under control.

For Antigua and Barbuda, which is ranked as the world's third most tourism dependent country, the impact has been devastating. There was a total lockdown of hotels and the cruise tourism season ended abruptly more than a month ahead of schedule. As a result thousands of taxi drivers, souvenir dealers, hotel staff and other service workers saw their jobs disappear overnight.

The attendant impact on the government's finances was severe. It is

estimated that the loss of revenue for the entire year will be in the region of half a billion dollars.

In total, economic declarations will be in the order of twenty percent. That is twenty percent of the value of the nation's economy vanished in just one year.

The government reopened the economy in June and slowly the hotels have been reopening, but the loss in wages and salaries and economic activity will not return overnight. It is unlikely that tourists will return to Antigua and Barbuda in the numbers similar to early March unless the spread of the virus is brought under control in the source markets of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and the Caribbean.

This will not happen until there are effective vaccines that are made widely available and are accepted by the majority of the world's population.

So the news on Thursday that Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine passed a critical milestone when a panel of experts formally recommended that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorise it is welcome news. The FDA will likely act within days,

giving health care workers and nursing home residents first priority to receive the first shots early next week.

News reports say the F.D.A.'s vaccine advisory panel, composed of independent scientific experts, infectious disease doctors and statisticians, voted in favor of emergency authorization for people 16 and older. Although the FDA does not have to follow the advice of its advisory panel, it usually does.

The reports noted that vote caps a whirlwind year for Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech, which began working on the vaccine 11 months ago, shattering all speed records for vaccine development, which typically takes years. It is also a triumph for the F.D.A., which has upheld its reputation as the world's gold standard for drug reviews despite months of political pressure from President Trump, who has sought to tie his political fortunes to the success of a vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine has already been given to people in Bahrain and Britain, where it was authorized on Dec. 2. Canada approved it on Wednesday.

The government has already indicated its participation in a group coordinated by the

WHO to ensure that poorer countries have equal access to the vaccines that are being approved.

Having the vaccine available in Antigua and Barbuda is only half of the story as there is a need for a public education campaign to encourage nationals and residents to be inoculated.

Many people still reject the idea of being among the first to take the vaccine. They say it was developed too quickly. Others point to videos and articles on social media that advance conspiracy theories and offer other justifications for why people should reject the vaccine.

While PointeXpress stands in support of the vaccine and endorses its timeliness, we also recognize that a sustained public information campaign ahead of the start of the inoculation exercise must occur.

All media should be engaged. So too, must opinion leaders across the political divide, industry, sports, religion, education and the media.

This is where the rubber hits the pavement. This is the hard part. Let's roll up our collective sleeves and begin the work!

Overseas ambassadors to prioritise foreign investment

As Antigua and Barbuda plans its way through the COVID-19 pandemic, a call has been made for its ambassadors and diplomats to prioritise attracting foreign direct investment.

On Thursday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened its annual meeting of ambassadors, heads of mission, consuls general and honorary consuls to discuss the way forward in the wake of the devastation caused by the pandemic.

Delivering the feature address, Prime Minister Gaston Browne reinforced the importance of foreign direct investment as this is one avenue through which economic growth can be stimulated post-COVID-19.

"Make the job of securing more foreign investment into the economy the top of your list of priorities for 2021," Browne urged.

He provided an overview of the impact of the pandemic on the national economy as he urged the diplomats to support the government's efforts

to broaden the country's investment portfolio and carve out space for local investment.

Thanking the diplomats for their contributions, Browne also admonished them to be mindful of the need to protect the integrity of the nation as they seek investment opportunities.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene noted that the theme of the meeting - Apart, Together - was quite appropriate considering the present realities of operating during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I am therefore thankful and happy for this opportunity for us to meet and engage about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the social, economic and political affairs of our beloved Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the world," he remarked.

Greene commended the ambassadors for their sterling work in securing financial and material support for Antigua and Barbuda. Through their

efforts, overseas envoys have negotiated personal protection equipment (PPE's), food supplies as well as the funds to contribute toward attracting more food items.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Anthony 'Mamba' Liverpool, said there was a general discussion on the critical issues and consensus was reached on four broad areas:

1. The need for the ministry to continue efforts to build the human resource capacity to respond more quickly to the needs of Antigua and Barbuda
2. Prepare and circulate the report of the Economic Recovery Committee
3. A critical call for a national development policy to promote local investment and
4. The foreign affairs ministry and other relevant government departments to collaborate with holding a diaspora investment forum in 2021.

PLH manager meets with Cabinet

Following news reports of an impending visit to the country by the legal representatives of an environmental group, the Cabinet invited the manager of the Peace, Love and Harmony project, Justin Wilshaw, to meet with them.

According to the Cabinet Notes on Thursday's meeting, the Wilshaw was invited to address Cabinet concerning the completion of the new runway on Barbuda. During the meeting, Wilshaw also made it clear that John Paul DeJoria is not constructing a home on Barbuda except that which is located within the PLH Project at Palmetto

Point.

"John Paul DeJoria has not been induced to build a 15,000 square foot home on the edge of the Barbuda Lagoon, as the Barbuda Council is reporting. In the Observer Newspaper article and the report, DeJoria's name is repeated 44 times in a bid to ensure that the untruthful claims will stick, especially in Google searches. They clearly intend to damage his brand as they did Mr. Packer's," the Cabinet notes asserted.

Government, however, has indicated its willingness to communicate, by way of the Chief Environmental Officer, with the lawyers the Barbuda

Council has engaged to pursue its multi-faceted claim of environmental degradation.

The Cabinet agreed that the Barbuda Council itself is responsible for damage to Barbuda's ecological system by dredging sand for export, even after being advised that its dredging operations endangered the island during hurricanes.

With regard to the airport, a new arrangement is being negotiated with the firm holding the current contract to build the Barbuda runway and another in which PLH has greater faith.

The negotiations have not yet been finalised.

Meanwhile, the PLH project - which received eighty-two "yes" votes, and only two "no" votes when approval for the project was sought from the Council more than two years ago - has employed nearly 200 Barbudans and Antiguans in the first phase of construction which will last more than one year.

Eighty-three Barbudans are presently employed with more expected to be hired shortly.

More than 100 Antiguans travel to Barbuda each Monday and return home on Friday as part of the construction team and those preparing the 18-hole golf course.

Rehabilitation of major roadways nearing completion

Rehabilitation work on two of Antigua's main highways is in 'the wrapping up phase' according to authorities.

The Friars Hill Road and Sir George Walter Highway connect the island's main port of entry, the V. C. Bird International Airport, to the capital, St. John's and both have been widened and upgraded significantly.

"They are now completely resurfaced and have new features including roundabouts and state of the art road markings to facilitate multi-lane traffic," a press release from the Ministry of Works stated.

The ministry noted that Antigua and Barbuda has received grant funding in the amount of £13.9 million from the Government of Britain's United Kingdom Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UK-CIF). The funds are being channeled through the Caribbean Development Bank with oversight being from the Foreign Commonwealth Office.



**Ministry of Works Community Liason Officer
Anne Harewood-George**

It added that the local government invested an additional US\$12 million into the national infrastructure project.

"This historic initiative would not have been a success story without what the project team describes as a far-reaching, socially inclusive consultative process that took constructive feedback from stakeholders

across the nation," the release revealed.

The ministry identified Community Liaison Officer, Anne Harewood-George, as the link between the project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU) and the stakeholders who include property owners, residents and roadside vendors.

Harewood-George described the stakeholder en-

gagement process as holistic and emphasised that the public has provided the team with constructive feedback through a series of interactive community consultations.

"Working closely with both internal and external stakeholders throughout project implementation has been a challenging yet rewarding experience. Community relations are about building partnerships and fostering empowerment so we have always strived to employ an approach that pays close attention to gender equality and social inclusion. Consequently, we have conducted Focus Groups with members of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities and consulted with other vulnerable groups in an effort to ensure that all voices are being heard and responded to," Harewood-George said.

The Community Liaison Officer has said that no effort has been spared in ensuring that the project is socially inclusive.

Throughout the project's implementation, special consultations were held with stakeholders including the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority and truckers regarding the construction of roundabouts in an effort to be certain that trucks with and without loads can have safe access.

A recent simulation that tested the roundabout design using a 40-foot trailer truck was executed successfully.



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DPP withdraws drugs charges against customs officer

The court case against customs officer, Al Malon Antonio of Old Runaway, who was facing several drug charges, was dismissed on Wednesday in St. John's Magistrates' Court.

Antonio was due for committal before the High Court, but Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Anthony Armstrong informed the court that there was insufficient evidence to try the case before a judge and jury.

Armstrong proffered three reasons for his decision including the fact that Antonio was never caught with the illegal substance.

In July when information about the case went pub-

lic, it was disclosed that a customs broker was caught trying to clear a barrel that contained food items and the drugs.

Reportedly, the customs broker linked Antonio to the drugs. While Antonio was arrested and charged, the customs broker never was.

Armstrong also made a distinction between evidence and suspicion, since the police only suspected that the customs officer was involved. There was never evidence to link him to the drugs apart from the word of the customs broker.

Since the case against Antonio has been dismissed, his lawyer, Wendel

Robinson, has hinted that he will commence legal action against those individuals who were involved in tarnishing his client's reputation.

Sources close to the case allege that the police did not investigate the matter thoroughly. The police are also accused of failing to contact the person whose name appeared on the bill of lading through a phone number which was provided.

Antonio, 26, was hauled before the court in July on charges of possession of 40 pounds of cannabis, possession with intent to transfer, being concerned in the supplying of drugs, importation of drugs and

drug trafficking. He had to acquire bail in the amount of \$400,000 from the High Court. A cash deposit of \$40,000 was required.

A joint Anti-Narcotics Operation involving the police Narcotics Department and Customs Department, took place on Thursday July 9 at the Customs Cargo Shed at Deep Water Harbour. It was at this time that the drugs, which had an estimated street value of \$400,000, were discovered.

Antonio was not present when the drugs were discovered nor was he named in the documents accompanying the barrel.

Government to look into hotels' use of employment agencies

The Cabinet has asked the Solicitor General, Martin Camacho, to look into new employment arrangements that some hotels have utilised that may be putting workers' livelihoods at risk.

The Cabinet has asked Camacho to produce an opinion on the lawfulness of hotels creating employment agencies to act as middlemen.

Apparently some hotels, in an attempt to avoid the build-up of equity which an employee enjoys in his/her own right and which is mea-

sured in the severance payment, for example, which staff would normally receive as a consequence of years of service, such staff would no longer be entitled to this severance.

"The Cabinet also discerned that there is complicity by bargaining agents who would allow dues-paying staff to be treated in this way, without those agents raising any cries of unfairness. Any corruption of the drive to attain more benefits for workers, by collective bargaining, is condemned

by Cabinet," the report stated.

The Cabinet report said the Ministers of Cabinet, who were elected to Parliament are expected to safeguard the interests of the people, will not dis-

appoint hotel workers. "If there is a need to go to the Parliament to express a clear policy of the V. C. Bird Party, then the Cabinet has agreed that it will move Parliament to proceed to amend the Labour laws in order to ensure greater security for hotel workers and the

elimination of any third party employing hotel workers in the 70-year industry," the Cabinet notes clarified.

The Cabinet made it clear that if such a policy is pursued by even one hotel group, they will move to the Parliament and act decisively to protect hotel workers.

The Cabinet condemned "the conspiracy among the parties that evidently led to this third-party agency", which the Cabinet called "sanitized exploitation".

LIAT says end of impasse with SVG in sight

LIAT has expressed optimism that its impasse with authorities at the Argyle International Airport in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is nearing an end.

Court appointed Administrator Cleveland Seaforth, who said talks with SVG have been progressing well, added that he expects a successful outcome perhaps as early as today.

"There is still one hurdle that is outstanding with the airport authorities in SVG but I am optimistic that the end is in sight. If things are resolved today, then we should be able to resume flight into SVG by Monday of next week," Seaforth told PointeXpress.

He reported, however, that there has been no change relating to the airline's issues with Barbados. That country wants the LIAT to re-reg-

ister despite the fact that it has a valid Air Services Agreement.

In a press statement last Saturday, LIAT said it was 'forced to suspend' flights into Barbados and SVG.

Seaforth also responded to comments made by the chairman of the LIAT, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

In the statement, Dr. Gonsalves asserted that there is a clear distinction between the LIAT (1974) Ltd. of the past and that which is now under administration.

According to Gonsalves, these are two completely different entities and, as such the LIAT (1974) Ltd under administration must re-negotiate certain agreements with the airport authorities.

Seaforth contends, however, that Prime Minister Gonsalves' assessment is incorrect. According to

Seaforth, the only difference is that LIAT (1974) Ltd. under administration is being administered by a court appointed administrator who is required to provide regular updates to the court.

Seaforth also rejected claims by Dr. Gonsalves that his office acted 'unprofessionally' in dealings with Vincentian airport authorities.

"We did not act unprofessionally. Our manager in St. Vincent had been in touch with the airport authorities and there is a record of the many emails between both entities. I also got involved in the process at one time to ensure that we did all that was required. It is important to note that none of these issues have arisen in either St. Lucia or Dominica [two other countries included in LIAT's limited schedule]," he declared.

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Notice - Application for Liquor License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Natoya Cater-Prince of Golden Grove New Extension, with registered business situated at Golden Grove New Extension in St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "RNP Enterprise" situated at Golden Grove New Extension in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 7th day of December, 2020

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Notice - Application for Bottle License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Sofia Espinosa Beltre of No. 2 Armstrong Road, with registered business situated at No. 2 Armstrong Road St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "#2 ARMSTRONG ROAD RETAIL SHOP" situated at No. 2 Armstrong Road in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 3rd day of December, 2020

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Notice - Application for Tavern License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Njideka Romanda Mbagho of Herberts, with registered business situated at Kentish Road St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "NJ African Beauty and SKin Care" situated at Kentish Road in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 7th day of December, 2020

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Notice - Application for Liquor License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Ekaterini G Kampouroglou of Old Road, with registered business situated at Friars Hill Road St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Brooklyn Pizza" situated at Friars Hill Road in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 8th day of December, 2020

Managing post-COVID recovery: The challenge in 2021

The main challenge that will be faced in 2021 is likely to be the effective management of the post COVID-19 period.

This was the assessment of Prime Minister Gaston Browne as he addressed those gathered for the opening of the new Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party headquarters on Nugent Avenue.

The prime minister continued that the country's economy, which has been decimated by the coronavirus pandemic, will face the challenge of having to be rebuilt to its pre-COVID state within 18-months.

According to the political leader of the ABLP, since taking the reins of power in 2014, his administration presided over the growth of the economy from EC\$1.8 billion to EC\$5 billion.

Addressing the challenges ahead, Browne said a strong party structure will result in a strong government capable of overcoming the difficult times ahead.

"Strong political institutions make strong, performing governments, so it

was not a coincidence that the government has performed extremely well for the last 6 years, even during this COVID pandemic," Browne noted.

He added that the ABLP has at its core key values - competence, integrity, performance and resilience - that have enabled it to weather the challenges of the past and emerge victorious.

Browne showered praise on people and organisations that contributed to the successful completion of the ABLP's headquarters. He underscored the importance of the party having its own home as, over several elections, the party has to operate its campaign machinery from several temporary locations.

According to Browne, the party will occupy approximately 20 percent of their new headquarters' available space. The other 80 percent will be rented.

The ABLP's political leader also showed praise on those involved in the design and construction of 'this beautiful headquarters building'.

Those singled out included architect, Orville Samuel, electrical engineer, Luther Lee, contractor, Raymond 'Rackaman' Ledeatte who started the building and Patrice 'Baba' Luke, who completed the project using some of his own resources.

Party chairman, E.P. Chef Greene said the building's name - People Place - was deliberately chosen as ordinary members of the party should feel a sense of ownership in the party's new home.

While the number of people attending the opening ceremony was limited due to COVID-19 health protocols, Greene gave the assurance that tours of the building will be organised for each constituency branch.

As part of Wednesday's ceremony, a ribbon cutting exercise took place involving Political Leader Browne, Chairman Greene and General Secretary, Mary-Clare Hurst.

The political leader also unveiled a plaque located at the front of the building.

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Notice - Application for Tavern License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Natalie Marlene John of Potters Village, with registered business situated at Potters Village in St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Natalie J's Bar" situated at Sutherlands in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 29th day of October, 2020

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Notice - Application for Liquor License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Ekaterini G Kampouroglou of Old Road, with registered business situated at Friars Hill Road St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Cucina Inc." situated at Friars Hill Road in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 8th day of December, 2020

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Notice - Application for Liquor License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Ekaterini G Kampouroglou of Old Road, with registered business situated at English Harbour St. Paul's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Rawsome Company Limited" situated at English Harbour in the Parish of St. Paul's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 8th day of December, 2020

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrates Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

Re: Application for Liquor License

Dear Sir/Madame:

I, Ekaterini G Kampouroglou of Old Road, with registered business situated at Friars Hill Road St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Thesia Restaurant" situated at Friars Hill Road in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 8th day of December, 2020

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Upholding human rights against arbitrary arrest

(The writer is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the U.S. and the Organization of American States. He is also a senior fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto)

The Government of Canada has taken an initiative to promote a Declaration by like-minded countries against the use of arbitrary detention in state-to-state relations.

The objective of the Declaration is to achieve an end to the practice by some states of arbitrarily arresting, detaining, and sentencing foreign nationals and then bargaining with their release to influence policies or positions of their governments.

Arbitrary arrests and detentions of foreign nationals by a government is a form of institutionalised kidnapping. Using the release of such persons to influence governments amounts to demanding a ransom. It is a troubling development in international relations, one which is contrary to international law and which seeks to replace legal and diplomatic norms with a form of inter-state blackmail.

Apart from severely injuring the process of peaceful international relations, this kind of behaviour direct-

ly affects innocent persons who could be arrested, detained and sentenced simply to be used as pawns by governments that cannot get their way through international law and norms. In such conditions, persons are exposed to extreme forms of suffering while their rights are completely ignored, including their right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal in instances where a state-controlled judiciary sentences them.

Fear of being arbitrarily arrested would have a deleterious effect on tourism, business travel and eventually on trade and commerce. Instead of advancing to a world of freedom, underpinned by respect for human rights and international law, the global community would recede to an age of lawlessness and conflict.

The peoples of small states would be the most vulnerable and the most 'at risk' if the practice of arbitrary arrest, detention and sentencing prevails. The governments of small countries do not have the military might or economic clout to confront the authorities of powerful countries that employ these practices. Further, small countries do not have the plethora of Embas-



By Sir Ronald Sanders

sies and Consulates around the world that could try to protect their nationals. The only tool available to governments of small states is respect for international law by all states.

That is why this Declaration proposed by Canada has already won the endorsement of the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and St Lucia. As the foreign minister of Antigua and Barbuda, E. Paul Chet Greene, put it in a message to his colleague foreign ministers of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries: "the Declaration is as much a further layer in the structure of protection for small countries, as it is for the strengthening of international cooperation by all States to end arbitrary arrest, detention or sentencing as means to ex-

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ercise leverage over other governments".

International human rights law and instruments, particularly article 9 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), assert that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention". They also set out obligations of states to safeguard these rights. However, the rights for which provision is made in the ICCPR apply to individuals who are within the territory of the country and subject to its jurisdiction.

The problem with all these laws and instruments is that the persons who framed them did not envisage circumstances where govern-

ments would abrogate them. Therefore, they provide for no sanctions or international measures against offending governments which use state-controlled machinery to achieve political ends, in this fashion.

The laws certainly did not contemplate circumstances in which any state would arbitrarily arrest, detain and sentence foreign nationals so as to compel actions by other states.

Canada and the countries that endorse the proposed Declaration, including the United States of America, the 28-nation European Union and nations in Africa and the Caribbean, plan to launch the Declaration on

wholesome practices. They would emasculate the Declaration, stifling it in their own interest.

It is noteworthy that, in 1991, the UN Commission on Human Rights set up a Working Group on Arbitrary Detention that has been automatically renewed every three years, with a mandate to grapple with the issue. But after all this time, the essential question of dealing with states that deliberately use arbitrary arrest, detention and sentencing as a means of coercing other states, has failed to be addressed adequately.

For those governments that resolutely stand for the human, civil and political rights of peoples, including their own, the Declaration is a strong display of their collective denunciation of those states that violate them.

The majority of Caribbean countries exist and thrive as open economies that encourage and promote tourism, travel, trade and commerce, guaranteeing the rights of foreign nationals in their countries by adherence to international law. These Caribbean countries are entitled to expect the same regard and protections for the rights of their people in foreign countries. That's why the Declaration Against the Use of Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations is in the interest of the Caribbean's people.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



Christmas Sunday Lunch The Great House Antigua

Celebrate Christmas in style at The Great House. With a delicious menu, stunning views, and a free glass of prosecco; we can promise you a fabulous day. Reservations required for the 27th of December 2020.

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COUNTRY FEST 4

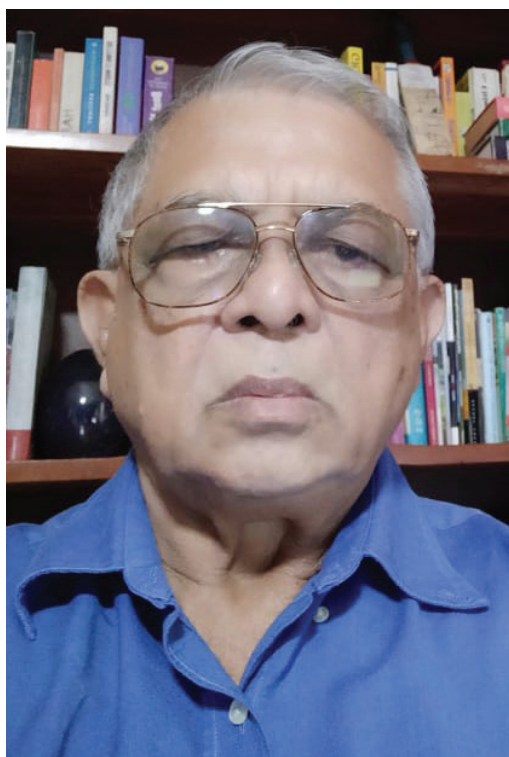
BACK TO OUR ROOTS

26TH DEC, 2020

VIRTUAL SHOW MENACE XL

K-LEE|DESTINY|DEDIE|INFERNO|KRÈME
SHELLINGZ KIDD|PAPA CHARLIE|MR.SMILEY|ARII
DELENE|LYRICAL REDS|SOCA GAIN|ISLAND PRINCE
LSA ENT.|NEW GENERATION BAND
JAY ABNORMAL|MELODY KIDD|COLOUR COLOUR
MANDY|BAZZLE KID|DUCY|NIQKO

HOSTED BY JESSIE FYAH



By Tony Deyal

There is a character in German literature and folklore called the "Sandman" who puts people to sleep and encourages and inspires beautiful dreams by sprinkling magical sand onto their eyes. The sand in Siparia, Trinidad, the southern town to which we moved when I was eleven, was everywhere as were the chiggers (pronounced "jiggers") which I did not know anything about until I got too big for my boots. The creatures had lodged under my skin and while my feet were swollen, I was feeling very far from swell. I learnt, however, that sprinkling sand in the eye of anyone was a good self-defence strategy provided that they did not wear sunshades or glasses and you were able to run really fast. In other words, as Usain Bolt might say when running the 200 metres, the future is in your lap.

I had left Picadilly E.C. School in Port-of-Spain which was shunned because it was "behind the bridge" to live in an area of Siparia, the oilfield town in the deep south of Trinidad, that was "behind the Savannah" or what, because Siparia has

SAND IN MY SHOES

called the "Sand-vannah". My parents hoped I would settle in and settle down to my studies so I could get a scholarship to go to secondary school. I actually exceeded their hopes because I settled into the culture of Siparia far too quickly. Apart from playing cricket or football in the evenings after school or work, we had nothing to do but hang out or "lime" under the streetlight where we gambled, told tall tales and delved into other people's business. We constantly teased the girls passing by with endearments like, "Darling, of all my sugars you are my granulated!" or threatened their boy-friends if they were not from our neighbourhood. Because we were on the outer boundary of an area named "Cassava Alley" (later "Peyton Place"), which had no streets, no lights, was linked by tracks in the sands and harboured fugitives from the law who were "cooling out", we always had a lot to talk about, and even more to hide from the police.

Some of my friends who left school early to "learn trade" (become apprentices in garages or with carpenters, masons or electricians) were not successful either in the accumulation of wealth or its management. There was Nolan, the cattle thief, who when caught with Miss Popely's cow that she had tied in the "San-vannah", told the police that he saw this piece of rope on the ground and picked it up intending to use it to tie his goat. He did not realise there was a cow at the end of it. The problem is that Nolan did not own even

time, much less a goat. Then there was the day the police raided a card game in a cornfield in the back of the alley. In a desperate effort to save themselves from being beaten with police "bull pistles", Nolan and his father, Papa Shewey, ran to the same outdoor, rickety latrine, with boards sticking out on the side, and while hurrying to take their pants off, started to fight for the right to the seat. At that point, the fastest of our runners, Jimmy, took off so quickly that all you could see was the parting of the corn as he whizzed through. I doubt he saw the tightly nailed board which jutted out on the side of the facility. Jimmy hit it with his right shoulder and the pain spurred him on to even greater speed. Unfortunately, he did not look back to see that he had caused the latrine to lose its moorings, taking Nolan and his father along with it in a scramble of legs, arms, rusty galvanize and bits of "Gazette" paper. It was a wipeout.

One story I have not forgotten because of its moral, or lack of it, is the one about my recently deceased, quiet but deadly friend Ross whose last name was, significantly, "Arson." He, the accurate "pelter" of beer-bottles named "Bread Boy" because his parents owned a bakery, and Boyie, who later ended in charge of a gambling club in La Brea, had an early stint in the Youth Training Centre (YTC) and came out worse criminals than when they went in for assault with intent. They robbed a man and threw him into an oil tank. I met them when they re-

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

turned and maybe they identified me as a kindred spirit, or perhaps they felt sorry for me, but all three, especially Ross, adopted me. He had stolen a whole roll of tickets for the Siparia Plaza Cinema and anytime that colour (yellow) was used, we went to the show for free. What I will never forget is one All-Saints night when I took time out from studying for my "A" Levels (the CAPE equivalent) to hang out with my girlfriend in the crowded cemetery. While everybody was busy lighting candles, three boys of

about my age started to harass my friend. As I ran towards them, intending to fight, I was rudely pushed aside, Ross growled quietly, "You have exam to write!" and he beat up the three boys and left them lying in the sand. No cussing, no shouting, and he disappeared without another word.

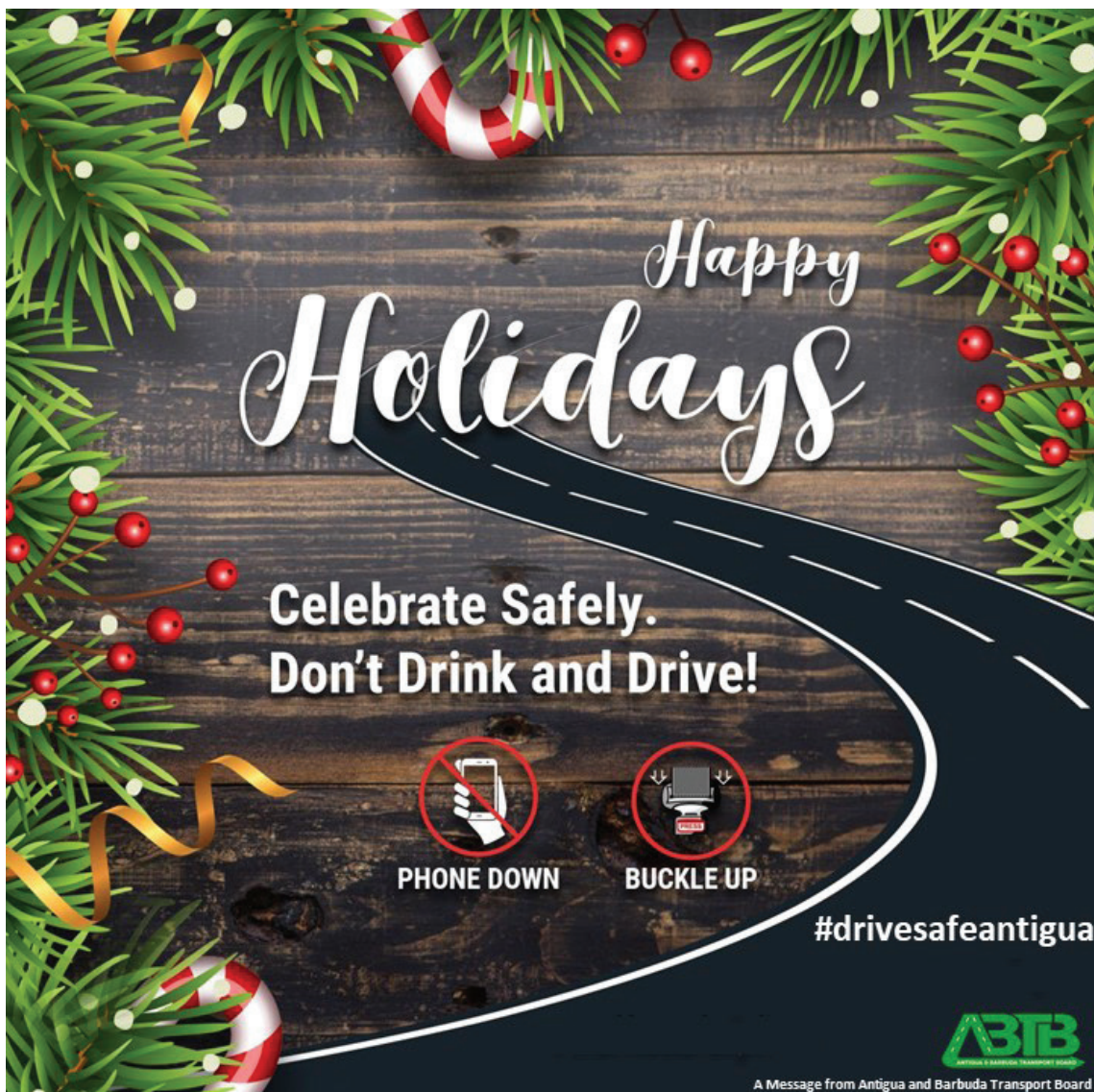
Ross never worked in his life. He was always maintained by at least one woman. When the one he was living with was transferred to Port-of-Spain he had to go with her so he asked a couple of the guys

what he should do in Port-of-Spain to make sure he wasn't terrorised by the "bad johns" there. I'm not sure if it is Bread Boy who advised him to go into "town" (as we called it), find the biggest bad-john around and "buss" his head. Later, as I read history and strategy, I realised that as a tactic it was well-known and used over the years, and even had a better than even chance for a King and his army to gain "nuff" respect.

So, Ross went up to town, entered a busy club with the toughest

men around drinking and behaving really and dangerously bad, ordered a beer and sat sipping it while looking around for the man who was most feared in the joint. When he identified the appropriate "example", Ross quietly walked up to the man and hit him on his head with the beer bottle. The man got angry and then, realising that Ross had not moved or said anything, muttered, "This is a mad feller here. Better leave him alone before he kill somebody." Even the worst criminals in the city never went too close to Ross after that. In later life Ross followed his lady to Montreal where he was supposedly a hired gun. However, even now, I look back to those days in Siparia and still remember the lesson Ross taught me from early in my life. It was that in Siparia, because of its geology, it is easy to have sand in your shoes, but in the bigger, more dangerous world we live in, (as Mark Twain wrote in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn") it is much better to have the sand in your craw.

*Tony Deyal was last seen recalling a Western movie line Ross constantly quoted, "There never was a horse that couldn't be rode; there never was a rider that couldn't be thrown."



Arts and Entertainment

DECEMBER 11, 2020

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Randy 'Colour Colour' Simon on the set of the music video for his single 'Color Color'

PMS OUTSTANDING GRADUATES



VALEDICTORIAN DESHAWN FORBES

Deshawn Forbes epitome of student discipline. Academically, a science enthusiast- career goal: a scientist. He was a permanent member of the school's Principal's List and an annual contender for student of the year.

Head Boy, , spelling bee champi-

on, platoon leader, hip-hop dancer in 2019 Youth Rally, flash mob performer at Sports Day Launch, public speaker, model student. 11 CSEC passes, 6 grade 1s.

Princess Margaret School proudly salutes a gentleman of distinction.

PRINCIPAL AWARDEES

The Principal Award is presented to students who best demonstrates the rounded vision of the Princess Margaret School. Recipients must have produced outstanding academic work while at the same time model the qualities of diligence, honesty and a willingness to serve. Involvement in extracurricular activities is an asset. In essence each recipient must reflect the school's motto "The World is in Need of Good Men and Women".

Deron Samuel is a musical enthusiast and prodigy in his own right. He copped the coveted title of student of the year for a record three consecutive years. His contribution to Princess Margaret School in addition to his academic prowess is his captaincy of the PMS Serenaders.

DERON SAMUEL

Throughout his student career at PMS, Deron remained talented and gifted with a plethora of possibilities for success. A model student in deportment, academic achievement, school spirit and service.



ANGELA REID

Angela Reid commenced her PMS journey as a quiet, unassuming, sometimes shy student. Over time, her love for the performing arts unfolded and blossomed through the school's inter-house talent competition.

Her confidence and leadership bloomed as she volunteered regularly to lead in general assembly and as a vocalist in the band.

NAILAH MATTHEW

Nailah Matthew modelled a distinguished brand of intelligence, leadership, student responsibility, discipline, school spirit, service and allegiance. She won the coveted title of fourth form student of the year. She served as Head Girl in her final

year. She was an annual reader at the school's anniversary church service, chairperson, and actress in the school's independence program.

Throughout her school life she accomplished all and gave her all - always with a sense of dignity.



Colour Colour hits with 'Color Color'



Randy 'Colour Colour' Simon on the set of the music video for his single 'Color Color'

from entertainers during the annual Carnival Festivities. That challenge resulted in an endless season of music and other forms of entertainment as creators responded enthusiastically.

The local music industry has enjoyed regular releases spanning various genres and appealing to musical preferences beyond the usual sphere.

Into this entertaining potpourri comes MnM Music Group under the leadership of reigning Soca Monarch Dennis 'Menace XL' Roberts alongside Brukway Productions and Colour Colour whose 'Color Color' was an instant local hit.

By now we are all familiar with the MnM Music Group's penchant for finding diamonds and creating stars. Their flagship annual event, Country Fest, has churned out finalists for Carnival events at the Senior and Junior levels.

The most recent find by Menace and his team expands the brand beyond Carnival. The team partnered with Antiguan celebrity, Randy 'Colour Colour' Simon to layered his al-

mediate, broad based interest and attracted the attention of popular influencers outside the music world.

The song 'Color Color' written by Dennis Roberts and a music video were released earlier this month to rave reviews. Colour Colour's signature cough and hook line feature prominently in the hit song.

Within five days of its release, the Color Color YouTube video received almost 10,000 views and scores of comments.

While most of his fans describe him as a dancehall artist, Colour Colour describes his style as versatile as it moves across several genres. He added that the blend of his flamboyant style and signature song penned by Menace provides the ideal platform for moving his brand to major international entertainment networks. He continued that his "trendsetting, yet humble-hype" has positioned to advance to the next level and 'Colour Color time'.

The reviews of his new song have largely been positive. His fans span all age groups and genders.

review, "Let me tell you, the only thing more colourful than Colour Colour is a full bag of Skittles. When pardna jumped off the horse, gussy up in his regalia and said, 'Son, one day all this will be yours, everything colour touches is yours,' I died!"

Another music producer and influencer, Vaughn Skerrit, said, "The song is way better than I thought and I don't like it that halfway through I'm doing the stupid cough as it comes up in the chorus. It's embarrassing when you catch yourself singing along. Bex that I loved it and found it incredibly catchy!"

The video, which is saturated with distinctive elements of Antigua and Barbuda, has a definite international appeal and seems poised for a larger audience.

It is available on all music platforms for purchase. The video can be found <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzDj2xSDZTI>

Colour Colour's first performance will come at the 4th edition of Country Fest 'Back to Our Roots' on 26th December 2020.

SEAFOOD FRIDAY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE AFTER 10 YEARS STRONG

The Copper and Lumber Historic Inn set off on a unique adventure ten years ago to delight the discriminating palates of Antiguans and Barbudans everywhere.

Seafood Friday assembled some of the country's best chefs and cooks to create scrumptious dishes in an atmosphere famous for its impeccable scenery and stunning landscape.

Ten years ago, it was unimaginable the reach and lasting impact the event would eventually have on so many Antiguans and Barbudans, at home and abroad.

Friday night in Antigua is incomplete without a visit to Dockyard to enjoy the company of family and friends under the stars over a sumptuous spread of delicious seafood.

All this came to a halt with the pandemic as Seafood Friday did not escape its far reaching impact.

The effects were felt everywhere, even in the yachting community that remained resilient despite the considerable odds, and as the English Harbour community slowly springs back to life, Seafood Friday is returning to



Seafood Fridays at the Copper and Lumber Historic Inn



the island's calendar of activities.

The steps to its return are cautious for now as the kitchen staff return to familiar surroundings, ready to prepare tasty creations once again.

Despite the demand and the tempting prospect of utilising available space, the management of the Copper and Lumber Historic Inn took the decision to continue its takeout only operation in play for the time being between 4pm and 8pm.

"That's only for now. We know from experience how it can get

at Seafood Friday. We also know that many persons have been asking for its return. We do not want for a moment to be disrespectful to the well thought out protocols that are proving to help prevent transmission of Covid 19, especially in a community that is so critical to the yachting industry," stated Andy Liburd, who has been providing marketing support to the event for several years.

Seafood Friday takes place under the mango tree along the Nelson's Dockyard driveway.

The menu is filled with the traditional favourites commingled with new additions that will satisfy guests' longing for the tasty dishes that made Seafood Friday so popular.

The management of Copper and Lumber Historic Inn expressed delight over the fact that they have been able to mobilise and revive the event despite the pandemic.

The organisers have also assured their guests that no efforts have been spared in implementing measures to ensure their safety.

Other measures have also been implemented to ensure that the Dockyard is well protected against the transmission of COVID-19.

Restrictions aside, Seafood Friday is going nowhere. It has been around for ten years, which is impressive given the short life of other similar events.

Seafood Friday at the Copper and Lumber Historic Inn is an incredible testimony, not only to the diligence and hard work of the National Park staff, but also to the love and support that it has received from its many adoring fans.

TV Host Ellen DeGeneres tests positive for COVID-19



American talk show host Ellen DeGeneres

US chat show host Ellen DeGeneres has announced that she tested positive for COVID-19. "Fortunately, I'm feeling fine right now," she posted online.

Her daytime programme - the Ellen DeGeneres Show - will pause production until January, according to a

statement from her producers.

The show returned in September amid allegations of misconduct by senior staff. Three top producers were fired.

DeGeneres, 62, herself apologised on air, pledging "necessary changes".

On Thursday, DeGeneres wrote that

she was following the government's Covid guidelines, and had notified those with whom she had been in close contact.

"I'll see you all again after the holidays," she wrote. "Please stay healthy and safe."

Her last guest, who appeared in-person with her on Wednesday, was Hamilton musical actor Leslie Odom Jr.

In October, the programme became one of the first in the US to resume filming in-studio, according to USA Today. Forty audience members - rather than the normal capacity of 300 seats - have been allowed to attend tapings each day.

Other December guests to her studio included singers Justin Bieber and Lil Nas X, and actors Bryan Cranston and Diane Keaton.

Over the summer, DeGeneres faced criticism on social media amid reports that she had created a toxic work environment for her staff.





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- IICA Agricultural Innovation Project
- Pointe TV Reflections with Dame Lorna Simon
- The Latest with Madame Ignite
- The Conservation Series
- HellsGate Steel Orchestra in Concert
- The Opening of the People Place (ABLP Headquarters)
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SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

PAHO calls for boosting hospital capacity to cope with COVID-19 surge

(PAHO News) - The Americas has been experiencing "the highest levels of COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic" and health authorities should issue clear guidance to protect communities and act to boost hospital capacity in affected areas, the Director of the Pan American Health Organization Dr Carissa Etienne warned today.

With more than 753,000 deaths and over 28.5 million cases reported in the Americas, "figures and trends make it clear that our region must redouble preventive measures, especially in preparation for the year-end holidays. Now is not the time to relax," she told a press briefing.

In some countries,

"We're once again in need of coordinated efforts to boost hospital capacity in the most affected areas because when hospitals can't accommodate everyone who is sick, many will die waiting for care," Etienne said.

North America's continued rise in infections as winter arrives is worrisome, because "people may be tempted to gather indoors in poorly ventilated areas - the perfect conditions for the virus to spread," Etienne continued. In Central America, Honduras and Guatemala are seeing increases in the areas that were impacted by recent hurricanes, while Panama continues to report a high incidence of cases, she said.

South America's situa-

tion is also of concern, Etienne said.

"With cases and deaths mounting, Brazil's health system is under strain and hospitals are at capacity in some areas. We're also seeing rises in cases and deaths in areas of Colombia bordering Venezuela and Ecuador," while Paraguay is facing a surge in infections.

"We're hopeful that the COVID-19 vaccines, which will soon come to market, will help contain the pandemic, but this will take time and advance planning," the PAHO Director said in an update on vaccine preparations.

PAHO is holding a meeting of its Directing Council this week to discuss preparations for vaccine introductions

and purchases of vaccines through the PAHO Revolving Fund and the COVAX facility, Etienne noted. Countries in the Americas have secured more than \$1 billion in down payments and financial guarantees to participate in COVAX, she said.

When vaccines arrive, she said, "Each country must identify priority groups and adapt communications campaigns and materials to meet their needs, including by working alongside community leaders to empower communities to seek vaccination. Health care workers will likely be among the first to benefit from a vaccine and will also play a key role in raising awareness about the importance of immunization."

GOT NEWS?

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Another Biden pick with Jamaican roots tapped as White House adviser



Susan Rice

Susan Rice, former national security adviser to former United States President Barack Obama, has been tapped by President-elect Joe Biden to become the Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Rice, whose grandparents are Ja-

maican, will not need Senate confirmation.

She joins another high-profile Biden administration personality with Jamaican roots. Vice

President-elect Kamala Harris' father is Jamaican.

Rice's name was at one time floated as a possible vice-presidential running mate for Biden.

She had also been considered for various positions, including secretary of state, but it was deemed an unnecessary fight to have with the Republicans in the Senate to confirm her to that post.

As director of the council, she would have broad sway over the administration's approach to immigration, healthcare, and racial inequality as well as elevating the prominence of the position in the West Wing of the White House.

Rice has wide foreign affairs credentials.

In addition to serving as national security adviser to Obama, she also served as US ambassador to the United Nations and served as under-secretary of state for African affairs in the Clinton administration.

Fowl play - producers flap at fraudulent import of chicken parts

(Jamaica Gleaner) - Major Jamaican chicken producers are pressing the Government for 100 percent inspection of all poultry imports in the wake of a damning report by the Integrity Commission citing fraud, duty evasion, and a permit process that lacks integrity and facilitates corruption.

Some importers have been accused of blending in leg quarters among shipments of chicken back and neck to escape combined tariffs for premium parts that reportedly amount to as much as 240 per cent. Chicken neck and back are lower-grade parts that are consumed in huge volumes among Jamaica's poorest house-

holds.

The duty differential is believed to be the driving force behind a well-orchestrated conspiracy of cheating the Treasury of millions of dollars in taxes.

The Integrity Commission has recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries immediately stop the issuance of chicken back and neck import permits under current arrangements.

Dave Fairman, vice-president of Jamaica Broilers, one of the two major poultry producers in the island, suggested that rogue interests have tapped systemic corruption in an unlevel playing field.

"When you hear that only five per cent of the containers are

being inspected, it begs a question because in the importation of competing products, we are supposed to be making it harder for people, just as other countries do," said Fairman, hinting at a culture of protectionism as a buffer to a flood of imports.

"Instead, we are facilitating clearing of the containers. You don't inspect them, and you know there is this history."

Jamaica imported more than 1.36 million kilograms of chicken neck and back for the month of October, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, compared to just over 403,600 kilos of leg quarters for the same month.

UN – “COVAX funding needed to reduce vaccine distribution inequity”

(Caribbean News Now) - UN News - With so-called vaccine nationalism spreading “with full speed”, the Secretary-General that the continent must be “effectively supported” to fight the pandemic everywhere through COVAX

The COVAX international vaccine

initiative requires \$4.2 billion over the next two months to ensure that “sooner rather than later”, World Health Organization (WHO)-approved inoculation can get underway in Africa, UN chief António Guterres said.

While expressing his “hope that

we will be able to do it before the second quarter”, he acknowledged that several countries have made “an enormous effort” to ensure vaccinations for their own populations while at the same time, the COVAX financing requirements have yet to be fully met.

CARICOM braces for the worst as economic fallout looms

(Caribbean News Now) - In spite of the influx of financial aids coming from the world's biggest monetary organisations and the restart of the world's economy following the lockdown to curb

the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) expects a negative growth in the region as 2020 comes to a close.

Data from the latest World

Economic Outlook figures showed that negative growth ranges from as high as -19% in St Kitts & Nevis to -4% for Haiti.

This does not come as a surprise to a highly-tourism dependent region such as the Caribbean, which has been greatly affected when air travels and cruises were shut down worldwide, but the 15-strong member bloc CARICOM is bracing for the worst effects of the pandemic.

“With some of these numbers we will see that even an uptick next year is not going to take us from what will be a continuing metaphorical bloodbath,” St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves told his fellow leaders at the Caribbean Economic Forum organised by the Central Bank of Barbados Tuesday night.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected growth for 2021, but the numbers in the individual countries will not be enough to bring countries back to pre-COVID levels.


“People are being laid off, people are having lower incomes. Government revenues declining, the debt is increasing,

the deficit is widening significantly because even in the case of St. Vincent and the Grenadines where we see ...our revenues are about five per cent, expenditure is up 20 per cent because we have to take care of people and we have to take care of firms, families and we have to try and get some investments going,” Dr. Gonsalves, the current CARICOM chairman, shared.

The only Caribbean country with a “significant growth economic growth” according to Gonsalves is Guyana, which has oil and gold as strong pillars for continuous revenues.

To alleviate the impact of the pandemic to the region's economy as countries recover, the CARICOM formed a Commission on the Economy, which leaders will have to report and discuss feasible plans for the future.

Dr. Gonsalves also revealed that the Caribbean is going to ask more from the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the IMF, in “the level of support that we have not seen hitherto and we are going to have to have new instruments and new initiatives.”



My name is Coco. I am just over a year old, have been spayed to prevent unwanted puppies, vaccinated and treated for internal and external parasites. I am very sweet natured and lively and would make a good family pet.

To adopt me or one of my friends contact
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Email: antiguaanimals@gmail.com
Website: www.antiguaanimals.com
Facebook: Antigua & Barbuda Humane Society

Brexit: EU sets out plans in case trade talks with UK fail



Talks between Boris Johnson and Ursula von der Leyen failed to break the deadlock

(BBC) - The EU has published contingency plans in case of the possible collapse of Brexit trade talks with the UK.

The plans aim to ensure smooth UK-EU air and

road travel, as well as allowing the possibility of fishing access to each other's waters.

They come after talks between UK PM Boris Johnson and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen aimed at ending

a deadlock over the deal ended without agreement.

The UK is due to stop following EU trading rules on December 31.

The UK left the EU at the end of January this year, but a transition period of

11 months followed to allow the two sides to try to negotiate a deal.

The commission said the application of the proposed measures would, in some cases, depend on the UK reciprocating and accepting certain terms.

The prime minister's spokesman said such a statement from the EU had been expected and it was similar to what had been proposed in September 2019, adding that the government had already set out its own plans in the event a trade deal could not be reached.

The main obstacles for an agreement continue to be access to fishing waters, rules about subsidising businesses and how any new deal would be policed.

Morocco latest country to normalise ties with Israel in US-brokered deal



King Mohammed VI of Morocco (L) and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu

(BBC) - Morocco has become the latest Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help.

As part of the deal, the US has agreed to recognise Morocco's claim over the disputed Western Sahara region.

It is the subject of a dispute between Morocco and the Algeria-backed Polisario Front, which has been seeking to establish an independent state.

Morocco is the fourth state to make such a deal with Israel since August.

Agreements have also been struck recently with the United Arab Emir-

ates, Bahrain and Sudan.

Morocco is the sixth Arab League member to officially recognise the country.

US President Donald Trump announced the agreement on Twitter on Thursday.

The White House said US President Donald Trump and Morocco's King Mohammed VI had agreed that Morocco would "resume diplomatic relations between Morocco and Israel and expand economic and cultural co-operation to advance regional stability".

The deal includes the reopening of liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Rabat, and the eventual opening of embassies. US officials said Morocco would grant overflights and direct flights to and from Israel for all Israelis.

Migrant caravan sets off for US from Honduras amid new crackdown



Mostly younger migrants with backpacks and some women carrying children for the Guatemalan border after social media calls to organise a caravan to the US [Jose Cabezas/Reuters]

(Aljazeera) - A few hundred Hondurans formed a caravan bound for the United States on Wednesday after hurricanes battered the country, posing a fresh challenge to efforts

to stem immigration from Central America on the cusp of a new US administration.

Mostly younger migrants with backpacks and some women carrying children

left the northern city of San Pedro Sula on foot for the Guatemalan border after calls went out on social media to organise a caravan to the US.

Striking just two weeks apart in November, hurricanes Eta and Iota hammered infrastructure, homes and crops, killing about 100 people in Honduras. The neighbouring countries of Guatemala and Nicaragua also suffered widespread damage.

"We lost everything, we have no choice but to go to the United States," an unidentified middle-aged man in the caravan with his wife and cousin told Honduran television.

The man said he was from La Lima, a municipality on the southeastern edge of San Pedro Sula that was hard hit by flooding caused by Eta and Iota.

Guatemala's migration authorities warned the approaching migrants that to enter the country, they would need negative coronavirus tests and passports.

Central Americans had already begun leaving their homes following the devastating hurricanes.

If the exodus grows, it could become the first significant caravan to hit the road since Joe Biden defeated US President Donald Trump in the presidential election last month.

South Korea building container hospital beds as COVID cases rebound



A temporary ward for coronavirus patients under construction outside the Seoul Medical Center in Seoul on Tuesday [Jeon Heon-Kyun/EPA]

South Korea authorities were scrambling on Thursday to build temporary hospitals in ship-

ping containers to alleviate medical facilities stretched by the latest coronavirus wave, as the

government warned that the resurgence was "accelerating" nationwide.

Authorities have also increased the number of residential treatment centres and clinics fully dedicated to treating COVID-19 patients to brace for a possible shortage of hospital beds.

On Thursday, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) reported 682 new virus cases - most of them in the greater area of the capital Seoul.

Eight additional coronavirus deaths were re-

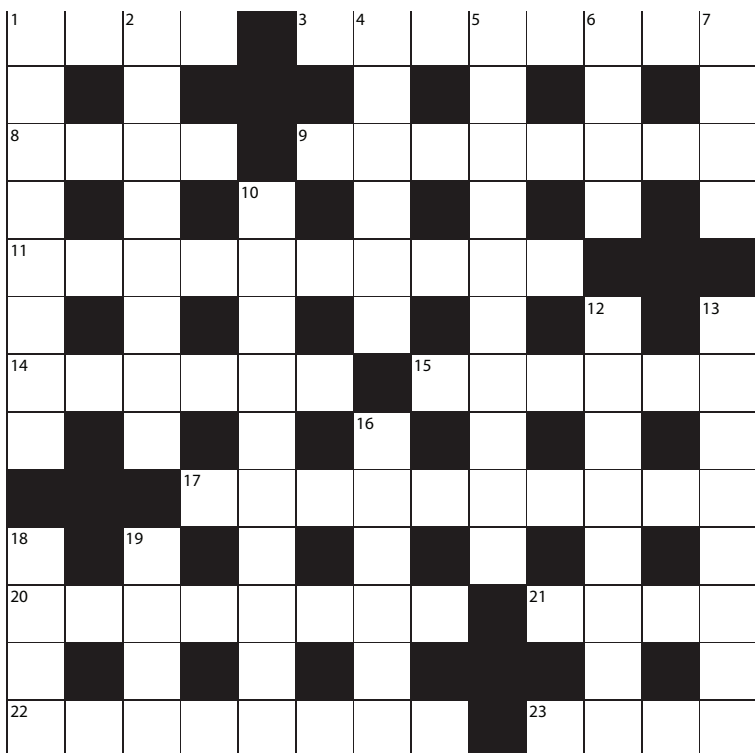
ported, raising the death toll to 564, according to the Yonhap news agency.

While new cases showed a slight decrease from 686 on Wednesday, health authorities noted that the number was still the third-highest since January, when the country's first case was reported.

More than 3,000 new infections have been identified across the country during the past week.

Of that number, patients with serious symptoms increased to 172, compared with 149 on Wednesday.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 It constitutes one quarter of a deck (4)
- 3 French form of bowls (8)
- 8 Hook used to land fish (4)
- 9 Accords (8)
- 11 Paying too much attention to trivial details (10)
- 14 Butt of a comedian's jokes (6)
- 15 Close-fitting bodice — European language (6)
- 17 In prison (6,4)
- 20 Despondent (8)
- 21 Put away for storage (4)
- 22 Unpleasantly loud and harsh (8)
- 23 Member of the former Women's Royal Naval Service (4)

Down

- 1 Direction indicator (8)
- 2 Of lower quality (8)
- 4 Archimedes' cry of triumph as he ran naked through the streets of Syracuse? (6)
- 5 In the arts, radically new and daring (5-5)
- 6 Witticism (4)
- 7 Effortless (4)
- 10 With guaranteed funding for a particular purpose only (4-6)
- 12 Unauthorised occupant (8)
- 13 Rhapsody in Blue composer (8)
- 16 Admit defeat (4,2)
- 18 Likelihood (4)
- 19 Partly open (4)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



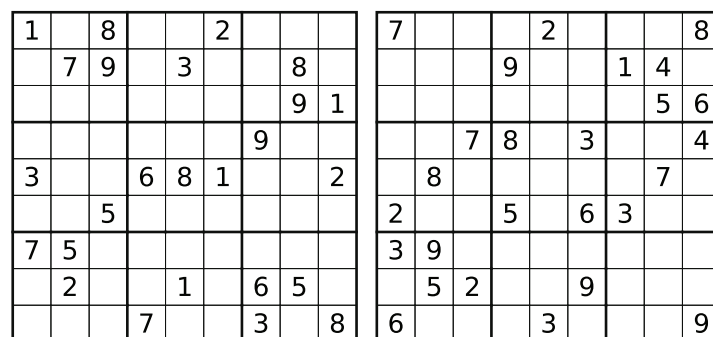
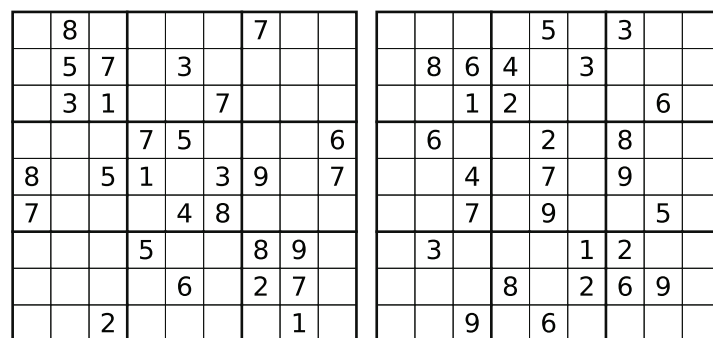
Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU



How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

FRI
12/11

82° Hi
 75° Lo

DAY
Partly sunny with a passing shower

NIGHT
Partly cloudy with a shower

Sunrise 6:27 AM
 Sunset 5:35 PM
 Moonrise 3:06 AM
 Moonset 3:05 PM

SAT
12/12

82° Hi
 75° Lo

DAY
Partly sunny with a couple of showers

NIGHT
Partly cloudy with a late shower

Sunrise 6:28 AM
 Sunset 5:35 PM
 Moonrise 4:07 AM
 Moonset 3:53 PM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Perk up your energy today with good, old-fashioned physical exercise! And before you start worrying about how to fit in a marathon before lunch, relax. Your feet don't have to be huge. Just take a walk someplace you ordinarily would drive to.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

No matter who it is, there is no reason for you to tolerate a pompous person whose arrogance verges on rudeness! If you feel you're being talked down to by the higher-ups, you owe it to yourself to push back, diplomatically, of course.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Arguments bring out the worst in people, so if someone takes a cheap shot at you today, you have to let it roll off your back. Don't ignore it, but don't use it as an excuse to start hitting below the belt yourself. Rise above this.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

Something shocking and a bit outrageous could happen today, and you need to be prepared for it. When it happens, don't react. Stop everything just for a moment and review the situation thoroughly.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Try not to edit what you say too much today. You shouldn't say everything that comes to mind, but you should be more open. You'll get what you want much more quickly if you speak honestly and from the heart.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You've just climbed one heck of a mountain, and you deserve a big pat on the back for rising to the challenge. Just make sure that pat is delivered by someone else's hand, though. Don't be too quick to boast.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Try not to overthink things today. You'll only get paralyzed by the details, and the details won't really matter in the long run anyway. Nothing is set in stone right now, so spending any energy getting all hyped up is a total waste of time.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21

There is always a balance of power in any relationship. Someone is always calling the shots while the other person goes along with the plan. Who does what should be shifting back and forth regularly.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you're in a romantic relationship right now, expect things to change dramatically soon. The growth spurt that you were hoping for is coming. You two are about to shoot ahead a little bit faster than you imagined, so be ready for a shock.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today, you need to be aware that people are putting on a bit of a show for you, either because they want to impress you or because they want to trick you. The distinction is fairly irrelevant, though.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The biggest problem with power struggles isn't that you have a chance of losing your grip. It's that they often distract you from what really matters. It's not important who's behind the wheel right now.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you want to make today a productive day, you're going to have to get opinions from other people while at the same time avoiding inflicting your opinions on them! It sounds like tricky business, but you can pull it off.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SUBMISSION OF WORK PERMIT APPLICATION

The General Public is advised that the Work Permit Unit of the Labour Department will not be accepting any applications for Work Permits after December 15, 2020. The acceptance of applications will resume on January 4, 2021. Also note that the final date for receipt of payments for work permit applications, work permit fees, CARICOM Skills Certificate applications and verification will be December 29, 2020. All other services offered by the Unit will be performed during regular working hours on work days. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience these changes may cause.

SDA CREDIT UNION AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Antigua & Barbuda Seventh-Day Adventist Co-operative Credit Union Limited will take place on the Zoom Platform on Tuesday, December 15 at 6 pm. All members are asked to contact the office at 562-3446 to receive the Zoom link and an electronic copy of AGM booklet.

CHSS DARE TO D.E.A.R. BOOK DRIVE 2020

Clare Hall Secondary School is inviting past Clarehalites, entertainers, radio personalities and the general public to participate in its DARE to D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Book Drive 2020. Send us a video recording about your favourite book and donate a copy or multiple copies of that book to our school library. Give us a call at 462-3487 or mail us at admin@chss.edu.ag. The book drive culminates in December 2020. We DARE you to D.E.A.R. with us and help us promote literacy amongst our students.

QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

The Quality Assurance Unit, Ministry of Tourism will be suspending operations from December 15, 2020 to January 15, 2021. All property owners are asked to take note as no inspections and covid-19 certifications will be executed during this period. For more information contact the department t 468-4061/4003.

CHSS TAKE-AWAY BREAKFAST

The staff and students of the Clare Hall Secondary School will host a grand Take-Away Breakfast on Friday 11, December from 7am to 9am, at the school. Tickets – \$15.00. All Covid-19 protocols will be observed. Past students are invited to call the school at 462-3487 or lanthe Carr-Jenkins at 774-2881 to make donations of prepared or unprepared breakfast items.

BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION AGM

All members of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association are asked to note that the 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 December, 2020 at 7:15pm, virtually via ZOOM. Relevant documents and ZOOM link will be sent subsequently. Each team/club should have two representatives at this meeting.

EXHIBITION & FAIR

The CAPE Entrepreneurship class of the YEPP learning Centre will be hosting a "Show arf yuh skill set" Exhibition & Fair on Friday, December 18 from 12 pm - 5 pm at the Rising Sun Cricket Grounds. Come see future entrepreneurs display their work - food and drinks, arts & craft, games and much more will be on sale and on display. Bring yuh puss, wear yuh mask and distance yuh self while you traverse. Come and support our future entrepreneurs.

Tell us what's happening in your community.

Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag



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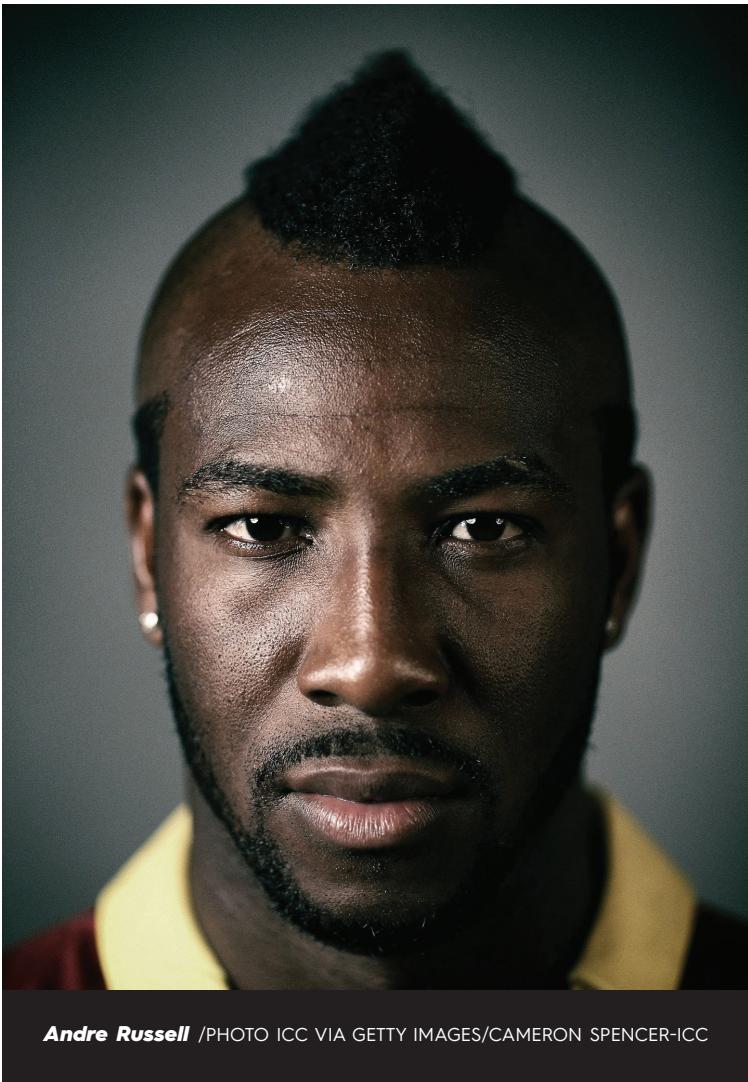


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Andre Russell: "The Bubble is difficult"



Andre Russell /PHOTO ICC VIA GETTY IMAGES/CAMERON SPENCER-ICC

West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell has opened up about his frustration, anxiety and emotional distress in the bio-secure bubble.

The Jamaican also discussed the circumstances which led to him playing in the Sri

Lanka Premier League (LPL) instead of representing the West Indies in the recently concluded three-match Twenty20 International (T20) series against New Zealand.

The Caribbean side lost the series 2-0 with-

out Russell.

The T20 superstar was subjected to increased criticism after informing West Indies (CWI) selectors during the Indian Premier League (IPL) that he needed a break from the bio-secure bubble which he had been required to endure for some time.

Russell would later show up in Sri Lanka to represent the Colombo Kings in its domestic T20 tournament after being encouraged by Sri Lankan Angelo Matthews.

Talking to Sportsmax Zone on Tuesday night, Russell explained his difficulties coping with cricket's new bio-secure environment.

"Playing in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) then heading straight to Abu Dhabi (IPL) and spending days on days only being able to attend practice then go back to the hotel was extremely difficult," Russell said.

Russell also recalled a conversation with Kieron Pollard concerning the trip to New

Zealand. He said Pollard asked if he would be joining the team,

"I replied yes I would like to come, but right now my head space is messed up," the Jamaican added.

Russell said he struggled in the 2020 IPL, changing his technique and trigger movement just to get runs. After the IPL was over, Russell said he felt like he was "coming from prison".

Russell continued that in a later conversation with Shimron Heymyer and Keemo Paul, who told him that conditions in New Zealand would be relaxed after completing the 14 day quarantine, he decided that he would join the West Indies, however the team selection had been decided.

Next year, Russell is set to head off to the professional American Football team, Dallas Cowboys, for two months to work on his fitness. The opportunity is being provided by Kolkata Knight Riders Managing Director, Venky Mysore.

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Italy World Cup hero, Paolo Rossi, dies age 64



Paolo Rossi



in Spain, finishing as top scorer and being named best player.

At club level he first came to prominence as a prolific scorer for Vicenza, earning a move to Juventus and later playing for AC Milan.

His death was announced on Thursday following what Italian media reported had been a "long illness".

Rossi's wife, Federica Cappelletti, posted a picture of them together on social media with the words "Per sempre" (forever). She did not

disclose the cause of his death.

Rossi scored 20 goals in 48 appearances for the Italian national side and more than a 100 Serie-A goals during spells with Vicenza, Perugia, Juventus, Milan and Verona. Following his performance at the 1982 World Cup, he was awarded the Ballon d'Or which at the time was given to the European footballer of the year.

After retiring from football in the later 1980s, Rossi worked as a pundit for Sky, Mediaset and Rai.

Italy's 1982 World Cup hero Paolo Rossi has died at age 64, his family says.

Rossi became a household name after leading the Azzurri to victory at the tournament



ABCA 10 SPLASH TOURNAMENT 2020 POINTS TABLE

ZONE 1	Teams	Plyd	Win	Loss	NR	Points	NRR	FOR	AGAINST
	Rising Sun Spartans	2	2	0	0	8	1.271	143/17.3	138/20.0
	Liberta Blackhawks	3	2	1	0	8	1.566	260/30.0	200/28.1
	Jennings	2	1	1	0	4	-0.160	126/18.5	137/20.0
	Combined Schools	2	0	1	1	2	-0.734	47/10.0	48/8.5
	All Saints Pythons	3	0	2	1	2	-3.000	150/20.0	203/192

ZONE 2	Teams	Plyd	Win	Loss	NR	Points	NRR	FOR	AGAINST
	Pigotts Crushers	2	2	0	0	8	0.200	169/20.0	165/20.0
	New Winthorpes Lions	1	1	0	0	4	1.720	81/8.2	80/10.0
	Bethesda Golden Eagles	2	1	1	0	4	0.755	137/17.4	140/20.0
	Empire Nation	2	0	2	0	0	-0.823	169/20.0	170/18.2
	Bolans Blasters	1	0	1	0	0	-1.956	60/10.0	61/7.4

Plyd: The number of matches played
N/R: The number of matches abandoned
NRR: Net Run Rate

The ABFA remains vigilant and proactive



Everton "Batow" Gonsalves President of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA), Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves, says the organisation has been very active behind the scenes despite the long break due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Football was brought to a halt on March 13, 2020.

To assist teams since then, the ABFA ensured that teams received COVID-19 relief funds to the tune of \$8000. The second distribution of funds is expected by the end of January 2021.

The former Bartlesville College striker explained the technical committee will meet next week. They will discuss the selection of a technical director and head coach following

CONCACAF's announcement that World Cup qualifiers will start early next year.

Antigua and Barbuda's group is scheduled to kick-off in March.

Over 50 coaches have applied for both positions with applications coming from several countries including Cyprus and Spain.

A number of coaches locally have also applied. PointeXpress learned from a source who wished not to be named, that former national player Conrad 'Boast' Whyte and former national defender, Lenny Hewlett, have expressed an interest.

Also indicating an interest is former national Tech-

nical Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Benna Boyz and Trinidad and Tobago Soca warriors, Zoran Vranesh.

In a lengthy discussion with PointeXpress, Vranesh expressed the love and respect he developed for Antigua and Barbuda and its people during his time here. Vranesh is believed to be a favorite for the job because of his experience, knowledge of Caribbean culture and past association with Antigua and Barbuda football fraternity.

With the short period available to prepare for next year's qualifiers, someone with knowledge of the culture and players will likely top the ABFA's

priority list when choosing a coach.

Meanwhile, a number of former national players have thrown their support behind Vranesh who was responsible for developing young talent in the Future Stars FC during his stint in Antigua.

While the competition committee will also meet next week to decide the way forward for the sport in 2021, PointeXpress has been reliably informed that competitive sports is unlikely to resume until September 2021. This is supported by the fact that the regional Super 50 and other cricket tournaments are expected to take place earlier in the year.

Gonsalves said the safety of players, supporters, referees and executive members remains his primary focus in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Ministry of Health has given the ABFA clearance for a maximum of 25 players to resume training with the requirement that they follow COVID-19 protocols.

The ABFA congress is scheduled to take place on December 21.

Kevin Durant: "Harden is not on my mind"

Brooklyn Nets star Kevin Durant says he is not thinking about James Harden at all amid trade rumors around the Houston Rockets guard.

Harden, 31, has reportedly requested a trade from the Rockets with Nets

and Philadelphia 76ers potential destinations for the 2018 NBA MVP.

A move to Brooklyn would see Harden reunite with Durant, the pair having played together for three seasons with the Oklahoma City Thunder

between 2009 and 2012, but Durant, who is returning from a ruptured Achilles, said he had spent no time considering Harden's possible arrival.

"I don't think about James Harden at all. He doesn't play on our team"

he told reporters on Wednesday.

After signing with the Nets last year, Durant missed the entire 2019-20 season as he recovered from the Achilles injury suffered during the 2019 NBA Finals.

ABCA 10 Splash



Kori James of PIC Black Hawks Libertas being presented with Man of the Match Award. /PHOTO Nevill Nicholls More Sports and Events Antigua

ABCA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CRICKET ASSOCIATION INC.

10 SPLASH
Cricket Tournament 2020

10 Teams! 1 Winner!

Venue: SVRCG
DEC. 5TH - 20TH, 2020
In accordance with Covid 19 Protocols

The ABCA 10 Splash Cricket Tournament 2020 runs from December 5th to December 30th, 2020 at SVRCG

Rising Sun Spartans defeated All Saints Pythons by 8 wickets in the first of Wednesday's double header in the Antigua Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) 10 Splash.

Pythons won the toss and decided to bat, scoring 85 for 4 in their 10 overs.

Malik Marcellin top scored with 33 from 18 balls before falling bowled by Tassilio Allen.

Rising Sun Spartans in reply made 86 for 2 wickets in 92 overs. Tassilio Allen top scored with 35 not out from 22 balls.

Man of the Match was Tassilio Allen.

In the second match of the double header PIC Libertas Black Hawks defeated Jennings. The Black Hawks won the toss and elected to bat.

Man of the Match Kofi James top

scored for PIC Libertas Hawks 25 runs of their 90 runs for 5 wickets from the allocated 10 overs. Avier Christian was not out on 24 runs at the end of the innings.

Jennings in reply fell short reaching 78 for 5 from their allotted overs. Orlando 'Baby' Peter hit a quick fire 42 from 27 balls but had little support from his batting lineup.

Kofi James also took 2 wickets during Jennings' reply.

IDEWS