



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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|

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|

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GOODBYE 2020... WELCOME, 2021!

The year 2020 will certainly be recorded in the annals of human history as the 'year of the great plague'.

Even less than a week into the New Year, there are aspects of the year that just ended that seemed to have disappeared from our collective consciousness. "You quite often heard questions such as 'did that happen this year?' and 'are you sure it didn't happen earlier?'"

2020 had cast such a dark cloud of gloom over our lives that there seems to have been a decision, unconsciously, to forget many of the things that happened during the year.

But however much we tried, it has been difficult, even impossible, to fully erase the deluge of negatives that will always be associated with the year in review.

It was a year that ushered in a promise of better economic performances both locally and in the important source markets for tourism. Several new projects that promised jobs and other benefits were announced.

In their personal development planning, many expressed a desire to take advantage of the opening of the new University of the West Indies

campus at Five Islands to better arm themselves with higher certificates or diplomas for the expected job openings.

The world was ours to conquer, or so we thought!

Then came news towards the end of 2019 of a strange disease that was killing scores of people in Wuhan, China. Many were hearing of Wuhan for the first time so it was understandable that for them, the problem was literally and figuratively, a world away.

But we did not take one important factor into account; international travel. The inter-connectivity of the world today means that you can be in St John's today and be in Wuhan within twenty-four hours with the right connections.

A second key factor; viruses, which caused the illness discovered in Wuhan, know no boundaries. They can infect a human and he/she would not show any symptoms until much later. Meanwhile, that individual may have had close contacts with personnel at airports, the aircraft, taxis, hotels, etc. infecting others without knowing it.

In this case, the culprit, COVID-19, can infect a person who does not show any symptoms

whatsoever, yet, that individual is able to spread the virus.

So the virus spread from country to country and by March, the World Health Organization declared it a pandemic. That same month, the Antigua and Barbuda government closed the nation's borders. The airport and cruise ports grounded to a halt.

A state of emergency was enforced as we moved from a hard lockdown to one that takes effect from 11:00 pm to 5:00 am. This is likely to be in effect until the end of March this year.

There was the mass cancellation of events or the scaling down of others; Carnival, Sailing Week, sports, church services, beaches, and independence festivities to name a few.

Yet, despite this, the people of Antigua and Barbuda have largely adhered to the health protocols instituted by the government to combat the spread of the disease. So far, the country has been able to hold the of COVID active cases within single digits even though the numbers of confirmed cases have been ticking upwards in recent weeks.

The government says this can be expected

given the fact that we continue to welcome nationals and visitors from many of the hotspots.

What of the year before us? Everyone has expressed fatigue with the need to wear masks, social distancing, and other protocols. Everyone wants to be able to return to what for them is 'normal'. The question is, when will that be?

The vaccine will not be widely available in Antigua and Barbuda until the second quarter of the year at the earliest, or so we have been told. It will be months before most people are vaccinated. It therefore won't be until the second half of the year that some semblance of normality returns.

Nevertheless, the New Year opens with promises and expectations that can still be realized. We have shown much resilience and creativity during the year 2020 and these ought to be the foundation upon which we build for the future; with resolve and steadfastness. 'There's nothing to fear, but fear itself!' Franklyn D. Roosevelt told that to the American people at the height of the Great Depression of the 1930s. It was a rallying cry for America, it can be ours today!

New Year's First major fire

It took two visits from firemen to fully extinguish a fire that completely destroyed the interior of a nightclub and restaurant that operated just yards away from the St John's Police Station over the holiday weekend.

Fire Chief Elvis Weaver said the St John's Fire Station received a call just after 11 p.m. on Friday (New Year's night) to put out a fire in a building on Church Street that housed Best Buy variety store on the first floor and Eastern Nightclub and Restaurant on the second floor.

"The call came in at 11:03 pm on Friday night about a building on fire...they responded and met the upstairs of the building on fire and the officers used water to extinguish the fire. The concrete building is 55 x 61 feet in diameter. Sometime later, at 4:21 am Saturday morning came a second call about the building being on fire again. This time they sought assistance from Coolidge and All Saints fire stations to put out the fire," Weaver reported.

This time the interior of the nightclub and restaurant was fully gutted by the fire,

Weaver also reported that two elderly women who live in the adjacent property - Thelma Camacho, 99 and her daughter Rosalie, said to be in her 60's - had to be evacuated by the firemen and moved to a neighbour's house because of the smoke inhalation. Both women were returned to their home on



Saturday morning and are said to be doing well.

Meanwhile, a distraught Wayne Core, the proprietor of the nightclub and restaurant is asking whether the fire was fully extin-

guished when the firemen left the scene Saturday morning after the first call. "I received a call from a friend saying that the building was on fire so I immediately rushed back

in time to help the firemen with access to the building both from the front and the back," Core stated.

The businessman said he had made significant investments into the business with multiple A/C units, big screen televisions and other equipment as well as stocks which he said is quite substantial. "I will have to sit down and put the figures together carefully, but my initial guess is that the losses will amount to about \$150,000.00. Neither the building nor the contents were insured so this is a personal loss to me," he revealed.

He also complained that the firemen did not allow him to secure any of the stock or equipment after the first visit.

Weaver is however defending the fire department calling the suggestion that his men did not do a good job the first time around as 'unfortunate'. "My men assured me that they put out all the fire that they could see during the visit," he declared.

Asked what could cause the fire to reignite after the firemen left, Weaver said there are several possibilities. "It could be that embers were burning in the roof which the firemen could not see when they first visited the scene. That could have continued to burning causing the second flare up," he added.

The Best Buy store only suffered water damage.

The fire department will undertake a full investigation into the cause of the fire.

Record number of barrels cleared in 2020

More than eleven thousand (11,000) barrels were processed by the Customs Division between April and December as families took advantage of a government relief programme because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This comes from Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, who reported to **PointeXpress** on the success

of a programme designed to help families in Antigua and Barbuda cope with the fallout from the pandemic.

Under the programme, families could import barrels of food and toiletries as well as anti-COVID items such as hand sanitizers and disinfectant spray and only pay a \$10.00 processing fee to Customs at

the port.

Boddu said the programme officially ended at the end of December although barrels that landed prior to that date will still be processed. "It will be up to the Cabinet to determine whether to extend the programme any further," he indicated in response to queries about the possible extension of the initiative.

Dates for Throne Speech and Budget estimates set

The dates for formal opening of the fourth session in the life of the current parliament as well as the 2021 Budget presentation have been set for later this month.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the prime Minister, Lionel Hurst said the Throne Speech where the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, will present the government's legislative and social agenda for the year will take place on January 14.

The Throne Speech presentation is an occasion accompanied by much pomp and circumstance with the Governor General dressed in full

ceremonial wear. He will also review a Guard of Honours assembled for the occasion on the parliament grounds.

Following this exercise, he will then proceed to the parliament chamber where he will address a joint sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Two weeks later, on January 28, Prime Minister Gaston Browne will present the 2021 Budget estimates.

Hurst said both occasions which normally draw large numbers of attendees will see changes as COVID-19 health protocols will be in

place. "The number of people who will be invited will be limited and everyone will be required to wear masks. The social distancing rule will be practiced as some of the seats will be blocked off 'similar to what happens in churches'," he revealed.

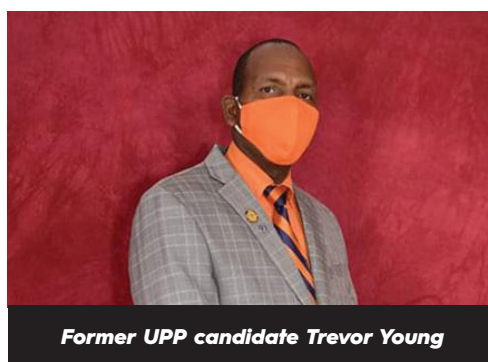
Meanwhile, Hurst is commending the people of Antigua and Barbuda for their adherence to the health protocols especially over the just concluded holiday period. He credits the almost universal adherence to the protocols for the country's relative success in containing the spread of the coronavirus.

Trevor Young is leaving UPP

There seems to be no end to the exodus from the country's main opposition political party, the United Progressive Party (UPP), with the announcement expected today that Trevor Young is about to tender his resignation.

Young, a former senior police officer, joined the party in 2016 and contested the 2018 general elections; he was the party's candidate in the St John's Rural East constituency. He lost to a newcomer, Maria Browne, wife of the prime minister.

Young confirmed that he intends to present an eight-page letter to the party's general Secretary, Shawn



Former UPP candidate Trevor Young

Nicholas, outlining his 'several' grievances.

He contends that there are efforts afoot in the party to ostracize those members who have sided with the Minority leader in the Senate, Richard

Lewis, for the party leadership.

In the letter, to be made public later today, Young opined that if the current trend continues in the UPP the party will 'never rise again' in this country.

Young said he was recently lambasted by a radio host following the release of his 2021 calendar. He said he believed that he was singled out because he chose pink as the most dominant color on the calendar.

The former police officer turned politician remained tightlipped about his political future but he suggested that some may wish to take some hints from the calendar.

No travel restrictions against Barbados

The Antigua and Barbuda government will not impose any restrictions on travel to or from Barbados despite a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases on that island.

The assurance is contained in a letter from Prime Minister Gaston Browne penned to his Barbadian counterpart Mia Mottley dated January 3, 2021.

Browne also expressed solidarity with the Barbadian government as it navigates this difficult period and he also offered to assist the sister CARICOM state in whatever way it can during this time.

The full letter is published below; January 3, 2021

Honourable Mia Mottley M.P.
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Bridgetown BARBADOS

Dear Mia,

I was deeply troubled to learn of recent events in Barbados that have caused a sudden surge in the number of COVID-19 cases, despite all the diligence and careful protocols that your government implemented to ensure that the virus did not spread in the community.

I know that your health authorities and law enforcement agencies have acted swiftly to address the problem and I am confident that, with the support of the Barbadian people, the situation will be brought

under control and new measures introduced to stop a recurrence.

Apart from expressing my solidarity with you, the purpose of this letter is to advise that, while our border authorities will continue rigid adherence to our protocols for entry into Antigua and Barbuda, we will not be prohibiting travel from and to Barbados.

Further, I want to assure you of my Government's readiness to be of any help that we are capable of giving to the Government and people of Barbados at this difficult time. Barbados is not alone. With kind regards.

Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

#drivesafeantigua



New Head of ECCAA expected shortly

Prime Ministers and heads of government of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are to decide on a new head of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) shortly.

Informed sources said that after an extensive search, a shortlist of candidates has been presented to the heads to make a final determination on who will succeed the former head, Donald McPhail.

The St Vincent and the Grenadines national headed ECCAA for more than ten years and was originally due to demit office at the end of

September, but he was held over until December 31, 2020.

The spotlight shines brightly on ECCAA during 2021 when it was announced that its coveted Category 1 designation was downgraded to Category 2 by the Federal Aviation Authority of the US. The sources said the downgrading came because of issues relating to ECCAA notably due to regulatory and oversight matters that are the purview of the organization.

Since then, there have been intense efforts to have the Category 1 designation reinstated. According to the

sources, there are currently ongoing discussions taking place in Washington involving Ambassador to the US, Sir Ronald Sanders who has been working assiduously on the matter.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has been named the lead prime minister on ECCAA affairs by the current OECS chairman, Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerritt.

The issues surrounding the return to Category 1 are likely to be among the first major tasks placed on the desk of the new Director-General whenever he/she takes office.

Form RLC6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT CAP 374

Section 135
Of the
Act

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
WEST CENTRAL	11 2092B	33

To: Irene Browne Warde and Samuel Warde
Address: Pigotts, St. George's Antigua

NOTICE TO REGISTERED PROPRIETOR OF APPLICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE TITLE

TAKE NOTICE that an Application was filed on the 5th day of June, 2020 by Peyton J. V. Knight, Attorney-At-Law of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates of Upper Newgate Street, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of Calvin Ward the Applicant herein for a Prescriptive Title for the above-mentioned parcel of land by virtue of his open, peaceable and uninterrupted possession of the said parcel of land more particularly described in the Schedule hereto for a period of at least twenty (20) years.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you object to the granting of the application you must within three (3) months of the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper lodge an objection in the form prescribed setting out the grounds of your objection.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to make any objection to the said application the Registrar of Lands may proceed to grant the application for Prescriptive Title without further notice.

The said Application may be inspected by you or your Solicitor at the Land Registry from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.30a.m - 12.00 pm.

THE SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situate at Pigotts in the Parish of St. George in Antigua and butted and bounded as follows:-

On the North by: 11 2092B 32 - Central Housing & Planning Authority
On the South by: 11 2092B 40 - Neville George & 11 2092B 41 - Rosalind Jeremy
On the East: 11 2092B 34 - Central Housing & Planning Authority
On the West: 11 2092B 30 - Emelda James & 11 2092B 31 - Changa Netfa

Dated the 5th day of June, 2020

REGISTRAR OF LANDS

Form RLC 7

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT CAP 374

Section 135
Of the
Act

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
WEST CENTRAL	11 2092B	33

NOTICE TO ADJACENT OCCUPIERS OF APPLICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE TITLE

TAKE NOTICE that an Application was filed on the 5th day of June, 2020 by Peyton J. V. Knight, Attorney-At-Law of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates of Upper Newgate Street, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of Calvin Ward the Applicant herein for a Prescriptive Title for the above-mentioned parcel of land by virtue of the Applicant's open, peaceable and uninterrupted possession of the said parcel of land more particularly described in the Schedule hereto for a period of at least twenty (20) years.

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On the West: 11 2092B 30 - Emelda James & 11 2092B 31 - Changa Netfa

Dated the 5th day of June, 2020

REGISTRAR OF LANDS

Hugh Marshall: satisfaction comes from helping people

Former politician, Hugh Marshall Snr, who was named to the Queen's New Year's Awards List, said he is 'very grateful' for the selection of the award of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) given by the Queen.

Marshall said he is happy to accept the award and he expressed his gratitude

to the Governor-General, Sir Rodney Williams, who made the recommendation, and to Prime Minister Gaston Browne who endorsed the decision.

In accepting the award, the former St Mary's South representative gave credit to those who helped him to overcome being born into poverty to rise to the senior levels of government.

"I don't look for honours; but the reward comes from my being able to assist people and to see the satisfaction on their faces. We were born in poverty; we faced neglect with no proper schools, however, in spite of this, our teachers gave the best of what they had and helped to mold many of us into successful men and women," he stated.

Marshall, who established himself as one of the country's most successful trade ministers, gave meaning to the African proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child' when he noted that he, like many of his generation, was raised by a community.

"We did not make it on our own account

as there were people around us who gave us support and guidance and with God's grace, we made it. That's why I entered politics so that I could help lift people out of poverty," he remarked.

The official statement from Government House announcing the award noted that Marshall served Antigua and Barbuda as a Parliamentary Secretary for the period 1976 - 1980 when he was elected to the lower house as a Member of Parliament and appointed as a Minister of Government until 1994.

He was actively involved in national development for many years and made a number of significant contributions such as the inclusion of a clause in the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda to enable the transfer of citizenship to grandchildren; the development of a number of major tourism properties which are still thriving; the introduction of the still successful State Insurance Corporation and the OECS Stock Market.

As Minister of Trade, he led the

charge in establishing Antigua and Barbuda's first Industrial Park and was instrumental in producing Antigua and Barbuda's largest quantum of non-sugar exports to date.

Hugh Charlesworth Marshall Sr. CBE is now an official member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Services to Antigua and Barbuda.

NOTICE

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

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

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice - Application for Tavern License

I, Amella Bird, of Cassada Gardens, with registered business situated at Redcliffe Street in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda **DO HERE BY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St John's Antigua on Thursday, January 7th, 2021, ensuring for a Liquor Licensing pursuant of section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992, in respect of premises known as "Clean Food 'N Jooce", located at Redcliffe Street in the parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 21st day of December, 2020

NOTICE

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

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

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice - Application for Tavern License

I, Amella Bird, of Cassada Gardens, with registered business situated at English Harbour in St. Paul Antigua and Barbuda **DO HERE BY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St John's Antigua on Thursday, January 7th, 2021, ensuring for a Liquor Licensing pursuant of section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992, in respect of premises known as "Clean Food 'N Jooce", located in English Harbour in the parish of St. Paul, Antigua and Barbuda. Tel# 736 9010

Dated the 21st day of December, 2020

SJPC hosts Annual National Prayer Service

The clergy and members of the St John's Pentecostal Church on Sunday hosted the annual National Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer that brought together parliamentarians and other government officials.

Both, Governor General, Sir Rodney

Williams and Prime Minister Gaston Browne brought greetings on behalf of the nation with PM Browne also reading one of the lessons. Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle was also down to participate but he sent word to indicate that he would be

unavoidably absent.

Apostle Stephen Andrew, the senior pastor at SJPC, brought the message which many in attendance described as 'moving' and 'quite timely'.

PointeXpress presents a pictorial of the Service.





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ON AIR with **Shelton Daniel**
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:30am-10:30am
POINTE FM
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
99.1 FM

ANTIGUA and BARBUDA
DISTRICT "A" (... St. John's ...)
IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT (Civil Side)
SUIT NO. 0676 of 2019

Between:

HUGH CHRISTIAN
JOYCELIN SAMUEL CHRISTIAN

Plaintiffs

AND

OMAR CROSS

Defendant

NOTICE OF HEARING

To the Defendant herein:

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court, sitting at the St. John's Magistrate Court, on Wednesday the 13th day of January, 2021 at the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon/afternoon to answer the Plaintiff's claim particulars of which are hereto annexed.

AND TAKE NOTICE that if you fail to appear as aforesaid, the Court may proceed in your absence to Judgment and Execution.

Dated this day of 2020



[Signature]
District Magistrate
DISTRICT "A" (... St. John's ...)

Filed by STAPLETON CHAMBERS, Attorney-at-Law, Stapleton Lane, St. John's, Antigua. Telephone No. 1(268)562-7185 Fax 1 268 562-7967 email: stapletonchambers3@gmail.com. Attorney for the above named Plaintiff whose address for service is the same.

FORM 37.

Summons to Appear



ANTIGUA and BARBUDA
DISTRICT "A" (... St. John's ...)

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT (Civil Side)
SUIT NO. of 2019

Between:

HUGH CHRISTIAN
JOYCELIN SAMUEL CHRISTIAN

Plaintiffs

AND

OMAR CROSS

Defendant

To the Defendant herein:

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court, sitting at St. John's on Wednesday the 23rd day of January 2020 at the hour of 1 o'clock in the forenoon/afternoon to answer the Plaintiff's claim particulars of which are hereto annexed.

AND TAKE NOTICE that if you fail to appear as aforesaid, the Court may proceed in your absence to Judgment and Execution.

Dated this 21 day of November 2019

[Signature]
District Magistrate
DISTRICT "A" (... St. John's ...)

PARTICULARS OF CLAIM

1. By Agreement in writing dated the 31st day of December, 2015, the Plaintiffs let to the Defendant, property known as Apartment Number 2 Belle Air Apartments/Properties situate at Pigott's Village in the Parish of St. George, within the State of Antigua and Barbuda, at the rent of EC\$800.00 per month payable in advance on the 1st day of each month (hereinafter the 'Agreement').
2. The Parties agreed that the Defendants shall pay an additional \$30 in respect of rent paid after the 5th day of each month; and the parties further agreed that the Defendant shall be responsible for all legal fees relative to the enforcement of the terms and conditions of the Agreement. A copy of the Agreement is annexed hereto and marked "HJC.1" for identification.
3. By 'Agreement to Pay' dated the 12th day of December, 2017 the Defendant acknowledged being in arrears of rent in the sum of \$1,900.00 as at the date of the said Agreement to Pay, a copy of which is annexed hereto and marked "HJC.2" for identification.
4. The Defendant vacated the premises on or about the 28th day of February 2018, but owes rent to the Plaintiffs in the sum of \$3,500.00, and late fees in the sum of \$150.00.

AND THE PLAINTIFFS CLAIMS -

1. The said sum of \$3,500.00
2. Late fees totalling \$150.00
3. Attorney's Fees pursuant to the Agreement (to be assessed)
4. Filing Fees
5. Costs

Dated the 19th day of November, 2019

[Signature]
CRAIG L. JACAS
STAPLETON CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
FOR THE PLAINTIFFS

Filed by STAPLETON CHAMBERS, Attorney-at-Law, Stapleton Lane, St. John's, Antigua. Telephone No. 1(268)562-7185 Fax 1 268 562-7967 email: stapletonchambers3@gmail.com. Attorney for the above named Plaintiff whose address for service is the same.

Belle Air Apartments/Properties

Pigotts Village, St. Georges, Antigua W.I 268-462-3261

AN AGREEMENT MADE THE 31st DAY OF December 2015
BETWEEN HUGH CHRISTIAN of Pigotts in the Parish of Saint George's in Antigua and Barbuda (hereinafter called "the Landlord") and OMAR CROSS of Pigotts Village (hereinafter called "the Tenant")

WHEREBY IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:-

1. The Landlord agrees to let the Tenant who agrees to take the House/ ONE bedroom apartment know as Apartment No. 2 (hereinafter called the "Apartment" being one of the apartments owned by the Landlord and situated in Pigotts Village aforesaid from the 1st day of JANUARY 2016 to the day of 20..... or until the tenancy shall be determined by one month's notice by either of the parties hereto, at the monthly rent of \$800.00 payable in advance on the 1st day of every month. Failure to give ONE MONTH'S notice in advance of vacating the apartment will result in FORFEITURE of the deposit. Tenancy of this apartment/house is for 2 occupants as agreed.
2. All rent is payable on or before the 1st day of each month. A late fee of thirty dollars (EC\$30.00) shall be added to the usual monthly rent when payment is made on any day after the 5th. There will be an additional charge of one hundred dollars (EC\$100.00) for any return cheque. You are required to notify the landlord or his agent if you anticipate that the rent will be late and state the date on which payment can be expected. Failure to pay rent on a timely manner as set forth in this agreement is a breach of contract and will serve as just cause for termination of this tenancy agreement one month from the date on which payment was due.
3. There is included in the letting the use of appliances and effects in the apartment and also the use in common with other tenants of the parking area next to the apartment and any other common areas or facilities which may be provided by the Landlord for the use of the Tenants.
4.
 - (a) The tenant will pay for all electricity and water supplied to the apartment. Failure to pay in a timely manner will risk disconnection of service
 - (b) In apartment without water meter, the tenant is required to make payment of \$..... for water to the Landlord on the of each month.

5. The tenant shall pay to the Landlord a sum equivalent to one month's rent (in addition to the first month's rent) immediately upon signing of this agreement which sum will be used by the Landlord as a security deposit to repair any damages caused to the apartment or its contents by the Tenant or his servants or licensees (fair wear and tear expected), also to apply towards any unpaid utility bills.
6. The Landlord agrees to refund the security deposit to the Tenant, or any balance remaining after any deductions which may be made by the Landlord in accordance with the provisions of clause 5 hereof provided that the Tenant is not in any breach of any of the provisions of this agreement.
- 7.
- (a) The tenant shall not at anytime permit the apartment to be used or occupied in anyway or for any purpose which would be illegal or which would cause a nuisance or annoyance to other Tenants of the Landlord or jeopardize their health and safety.
- (b) Parking of vehicles is not permitted in the driveway immediately around the building to permit free access/egress to emergency vehicles at all times. All entrances and exits to building must be kept clear at all times.
- (c) No pets are allowed on property and permission for such is not granted in this tenancy agreement
- (d) Tenants are not permitted to air or dry laundry on verandahs. Airing and drying of laundry should be done in assigned area only.
8. The tenant shall not assign the benefit of his agreement nor assign the apartment or any part thereof to any other occupant or use the same or any part thereof other than for the purpose of a private residence. Tenancy agreement is with the assigned party/parties only.
9. Upon the termination of the tenancy, the Tenant shall forthwith give up possession of the apartment and its effects to the Landlord in a clean, tidy and tenable condition.
10. **CHANGES AND ALTERATIONS**
- A. Tenant shall make no changes, alterations or improvements of any kind in or to the apartment without the Landlord's prior written consent.

- B. Tenant shall make not alterations, additions or improvements to the balconies or terraces, including but not limited to the painting thereof, the installation of screens or other enclosures or otherwise, without the Landlord's prior written consent.
- C. Tenant shall not deface any part of the apartment, nor shall the Tenant deface the inside or outside of the building.
- D. Tenant shall not install any dishwashing machine, clothes washing machine, or place in the apartment any water-filled furniture without written permission of the Landlord.
- E. Prior to the expiration or cancellation of this Agreement, Tenant will at his own cost and expense remove any wall covering, book cases, book shelves, cabinets, mirrors, painted murals or any attachments Tenant may have installed. This agreement shall continue in effect and survive after the end, renewal or extension of this Agreement.

11. REPAIRS

Tenant shall take good care of the apartment and shall neither permit nor do any damage to the apartment, ordinary wear and tear expected. Any repairs to the apartment or building resulting from misuse or negligence of the Tenant, employees, visitors, guests, or members of Tenant's family, may be made by Landlord at the expense of the Tenant. Tenant shall pay the cost of such repairs to Landlord in addition to the rent within thirty (30) days after Tenant's receipt of Landlord's bill or statement concerning cost. Except as agreed in this Agreement there shall be no allowance to Tenant and no liability on the part of the Landlord to Tenant because of any inconvenience or annoyance arising from Landlord making repairs, changes, or additions to the apartment or to the building.

- 12.
- (a) Tenants are advised to obtain personal/property insurance. Landlord or Landlord's Agent shall not be responsible to Tenant for any loss or damage to personal property or injury to Tenant or any other person resulting from theft and/or any other crime in the apartment or elsewhere in the building, nor for the loss of, or damage for any reason, unless caused by or due to the negligence or fault of the Landlord, his Agent or employees. Landlord shall not be responsible to Tenant for any damage caused by any other Tenant or persons in the buildings.
- (b) If Landlord shall give Tenant use of any storeroom, laundry or any facility located in the building and outside the apartment and such room or facility be furnished without charge to the Tenant, permission to use such room or facility may be cancelled and ended by Landlord at any time without changing Tenant responsibility for rent under this Agreement.

13. ATTORNEY'S FEES:

Landlord may collect attorney's fees associated with an action or proceeding arising out of the tenancy when a court of competent jurisdiction awards such fees to the Landlord. Landlord may also accept payment of court filing, attorney's fees and police fees from tenants who wish to avoid or settle an eviction suit provided this is permitted under local and state law and these fees are responsible and do not exceed actual cost incurred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES HERETO HAVE TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT

Date 30th December 2015 OMAR CROSS
Tenant (print)

By Hugh Christian O. Cross
Landlord Tenant (signature)

Witness [Signature]

71-2656
Contact Number Tenant

20-2154
Emergency Contact Person's name

Yvonne White
Emergency Contact Person's Number

Belle Air Apartments/Properties

Pigotts Village, St. Georges, Antigua W.I

268-462-3261

AGREEMENT TO PAY

I Omar Cross of Pigotts Village hereby acknowledge that I owe Hugh Christian (Landlord) the sum of EC\$1900.00 for lease of apartment #2 /house at Pigotts Village.

Hugh Christian
Landlord

Omar Cross
Tenant (print)

O. Cross
Tenant (signature)

11-2656
Telephone #

12/31/2014
Date

Focus on the Antiguan and Barbudan Business Community...

By Martin Cave

The year began with the business community being buoyed by the outstanding performance of the main sector, tourism from November 2019. This optimism was further encouraged by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's 2020 Budget Statement delivered in January 2020, which projected economic growth of 6.5%, sustaining the growth of 6.2% or better over the current three-year period (2018-2020).

Unfortunately, the world, (and Antigua and Barbuda in March being no exception) was hit with the SARS-Co-V-2, popularly known as the COVID-19 virus. The impact was far-reaching: beginning first, and to the greatest extent with, the travel and hospitality sector, and consequently affecting all the supporting industries. After conferring with various social partners, the government agreed to: have APUA to offer discounts, eliminate penalties; Inland Revenue Department to defer deadlines and certain penalties on taxes; encourage banks to institute moratoria; encouraged landlords to apply leniency; and defer minimum wage discussions, to name some responses.

While the government sought to contain the spread of the virus with the introduction of lockdowns, the reduced hours of business, and consequently reduced business activity, resulted in reduced hours of work for front-line staff, imposed layoffs of staff or retrenchment, resulting in down-sizing of some businesses, or in extreme cases, business closures (the number



Martin Cave

of closures is unknown).

As is to be expected, this would have a domino effect on the country, since reduced business activity translates into fewer customs, duties, and taxes for the central government; fewer remittances being paid to the socialized support systems of the Social Security Board, Medical Benefits Scheme, and Board of Education.

Further, the reduced circulation of money would affect retail shops; stores; supermarkets; and a myriad of businesses of all sizes. And while larger and better-capitalized businesses could sustain a few months of reduced activity, those with marginal profitability would fall victim to sustained business closures. It was therefore with relief that the business community greeted the reopening of the country's airport in June, and subsequent relaxation of curfew hours to 23:00 to 05:00.

We however welcomed the initiatives which have come out as responses, as companies in the

financial services sector sought to be more client convenient. Some banks have extended hours for a non-cash business. E-commerce has been able to fill some customer interface points, such as on-line delivery services for food and other goods. More business outsourcing service providers have sprung up since some skilled persons have found themselves out of a salary. And the concept of working from home has become a necessary human resource option.

How then, given what has passed do we negotiate 2021? We have an opportunity for a successful build-back. The government must see itself as providing the necessary framework in which the private sector should be able to flourish:

Taxes and Regulations:

- A low tax environment which will encourage the increase in new businesses, as well as the growth of existing businesses. A revision of Unincorporated Business Tax.
- Reduced regulations, making it easier for businesses to start-up, and continue. The work commenced by the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual and Property Commerce Office (ABIPCO) to lead this rationalization must be funded.
- One online portal for the payment of all statutory obligations, including all taxes.

Macro Policy:

- The private sector must not just be called the engine of growth but must be seen

cont'd on pg 12

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- as such; the state should not be taxing and competing at the same time.
- There must be regular and meaningful dialogue between at a minimum the public and private sectors.
- Sector/Industry realignment:
- Agriculture must be seen

- a key development sector, from which the economy can be spring boarded: through food security, and well as agro-processing. Import substitution will greatly reduce our external dependencies.
- ICT development must be seen as a delivery channel

coupled with logistics

- A serious effort at manufacturing which will however need to be supported by low cost energy, and low cost as well as reliable potable water.

Crises bring not just disasters, but opportunities. It is up to us which one we wish to dwell in.

What will Cuba's new single currency mean for the island?

Cuba is devaluing its peso for the first time since the 1959 revolution with profound consequences for its people.

By Kaelyn Forde

The Cuban government formally ended its dual currency system on Friday, devaluing its peso for the first time since the 1959 revolution that swept the late Fidel Castro to power.

The government has set the exchange rate at 24 Cuban pesos to \$1, and the convertible Cuban peso, known as the CUC, will be phased out completely by June, leaving the island with one currency for the first time in more than 20 years.

So what does that mean for Cubans and visitors to the island? Here's what you need to know.

Rewind. Why does Cuba have two currencies?

The Cuban peso, known as the CUP, was created as the island's currency by the first president of the country's post-revolution Central Bank, Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

But thanks to an embargo by the United States and some of the island's state-run economic policies, the value of Cuba's currency evolved to become a tricky issue.

When a country's domestic currency is unstable, subject to high rates of inflation or generally not trusted to hold its value, people may start to use a second currency they think



will fare better — especially when it comes to buying imported goods.

If people use another currency unofficially, it can create a thriving black market and exert extreme pressure on the national economy. Sometimes, countries officially turn to the US dollar in what's known as "dollarisation", or the euro.

OK, so does that mean they use only a foreign currency instead of their own?

Countries can opt to fully adopt the US dollar or another foreign currency as their own, but though it

may provide stability, it gives governments far less control over their monetary policy.

Countries can also choose to use both a domestic currency and a foreign one at the same time. That is what Cuba elected to do after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when Havana legalised the use of the US dollar alongside the Cuban peso in 1993.

So is Cuba also using the US dollar now?

Sometimes. Earlier this year, Cuba

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realloved “dollar stores”, which let people buy goods like food, toiletries and electronics with bank cards loaded with US dollars or other foreign currency. That, in turn, let the government snap up those dollars to help deal with its liquidity crisis, Reuters news agency reported.

The use of US dollars had previously been banned in 2004 when the government created the CUC. The CUC has historically been used for state business and buying goods from abroad, but it can't be taken out of the country. It is pegged 1:1 to the dollar but exchanged with the public at a rate of 24 to buy and 25 to sell.

The CUP is still used for everyday domestic transactions, and many Cubans are paid their wages in CUPs.

Confusing. Are they worth the same thing?

No. For the average Cuban, one CUC is worth 25 times more than one CUP, and not everyone can get their hands on them. CUCs are used in businesses that involve foreign money — such as tourism or buying goods imported from abroad.

But most Cubans who don't work in the tourism sector are still paid in CUPs, and this dual system has created a lot of disparities — which is one reason why CUCs are being scrapped.

So what happens to all those con-

vertible pesos floating around?

Cubans will have through June 2021 to trade in CUCs for Cuban pesos, according to a decree published in the Cuban government's official gazette on December 10.

But the devaluation of the currency at 24 Cuban pesos to 1 CUC means they'll lose a significant amount of money in doing so, something that is likely to hit private-sector workers who have been paid in CUCs for years particularly hard.

It's already been a tough year for those workers, many of whom are employed in the country's tourism sector, which has been decimated by coronavirus-related travel restrictions and the Trump administration's harsh policies toward the island.

What is the Cuban government doing?

Cuba announced it would increase government workers' salaries and pensions to adjust for inflation. But private-sector workers won't have those protections and will be able to afford less when paying with their new Cuban pesos than with their convertible ones.

In announcing the currency unification plan, the Cuban government said it would publish the exchange rate for the Cuban peso daily on the Central Bank's website, meaning that it could potentially fluctuate rather than stay at its fixed rate. That's also new for the island.

In a speech earlier this month,

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said the reforms were necessary “to go ahead with the transformations that we need to update our economic and social model”, Bloomberg News reported.

What will that mean for Cubans?

A painful transition. Cubans may see the price of everyday goods go up at a time when they are already dealing with shortages. One of the country's main supporters in the region, Venezuela, has similarly seen its economy further pummeled this year by skyrocketing inflation and US sanctions.

Cuba's government announced it will also require all incoming travelers to present a negative COVID-19 test before entering the country beginning on Friday.

That means the tourists who typically flock to the island nation's beaches and city streets to hear Cuban music, enjoy a meal and experience its unique culture likely won't return until widespread vaccination makes international travel more feasible.

Until then, Cubans are left to do what they have successfully done for decades — adapt to tough economic conditions and innovate where they can.

Belize to launch NBB Pay e-wallet in early 2021

CARICOM BUSINESS REPORT-

The National Bank of Belize (NBB) has solicited the expertise of Barbados-based financial technology firm Bitt to create and launch a digital wallet that will complement the bank's mobile banking services.

“NBB is licensing a digital currency infrastructure from Bitt to support retail and business users' access to

simple secure and efficient payment solutions as they recover from the global economic crisis,” a release from the Government-owned bank stated.

The NBB reportedly plans to have a soft launch of the NBB Pay eWallet in early 2021, followed by a roll-out to all customers and businesses around mid-2021. With the e-wallet, users can conduct customer-to-customer, busi-

ness-to-business, customer-to business transfers, or vice versa, as well as pay bills.

This partnership with Bitt comes at a time when the entity is working with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and Central Bank of Barbados to launch their own government-backed digital currencies — DCash and mMoney respectively.



PRESS RELEASE

WIOC ROLLS OUT ULTRA-LOW SULPHUR DIESEL ACROSS ITS ENTIRE NETWORK IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

St John's, Antigua...December 29, 2020 – The West Indies Oil Company Limited (WIOC) continues to extend the frontiers in delivering the best value to our customers. The exclusive supplier of all petroleum products in Antigua and Barbuda is delighted to announce that Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel (ULSD), a fuel-efficient and high-performance diesel can now be purchased at all locations across its network of 17 service stations in Antigua and Barbuda. ULSD is a cleaner-burn fuel and is less harmful to the environment than regular diesel. WIOC is confident that having phased out the regular diesel product, customers will be highly impressed with the greater efficiency and performance of their vehicles from using ULSD. We take this opportunity to also reaffirm our relentless commitment to providing high quality petroleum products in an environmentally-sustainable manner.

This product is being retailed for EC\$12.20 per Imperial Gallon, the same price as the regular diesel which has now been discontinued. We are excited that customers can now enjoy the greater value of an improved product at a lower cost.

ULSD is already being used globally and the full roll-out of this product in this market is another milestone on the impressive growth and expansion trajectory upon which WIOC has embarked, buttressed by our core values of Safety, Integrity, Reliability, Innovation and Excellence.

For more information, please visit our website www.westindiesoil.com and our Facebook page for updates.

We wish for you and your families the very best for 2021.

-END-

Fu Manchu – No Simple Voice

By Dr James E. Knight

It was first rumored that Vere Christian, known to all as Fu Manchu (the name of a cinema character of the last century) had passed away in the afternoon of February 27th, with his voice still resonating in the ears of radio listeners, from earlier that day. There was disbelief – and rightly so. He had not died.

I don't usually listen to radio talk shows, but I'm sometimes a guest on any of the three most popular stations, and on many of those occasions, Fu Manchu has called in. His is the only voice that I ever recognized, and that's because I've known it for the last half-century.

When I began attending regular Thursday night meetings of what was then the Afro-Caribbean Movement, ACM, in the year 1971, there were members of a group based in the Point, by the name of Youth Forces for Liberation, YFL, attending those meetings also. Fu Manchu was among them, as was the late Rupert 'Little Man' Pelle, who had followed him so closely into the world of the ancestors, only a few days ago.

Though he dodged the literacy classes offered by the YFL, Fu Manchu didn't miss the regular meetings of either organization; and when the two merged to form the Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement, he attended all the discussions, listened keenly, asked questions, and participated in all the projects of the organization.

Today, when most young people have had secondary education, very few of them bother to read anything of substance, anyway. Nor do most show significant interest in understanding important issues at the national, regional, or international level. It is extremely difficult to get these educated young people to attend a meet-



Vere 'Fu Manchu' Christian

ing, a lecture, or any discussion. Fu Manchu has had that over them.

Talented Sportsman

In the nineteen sixties, there was a principal at the St Joseph's Academy, by the name of Brother Wakeham. He broke from the school's tradition by admitting a significant number of boys from the urban working class villages, who did not have to belong to the Catholic Church.

Most of these were boys who did not make the limited number admitted to the Princess Margaret School annually. Some might have made 13 years of age before they could get into that public secondary school and therefore may have dropped out of the public school system at that point, or perhaps later, before completing the three post-primary years.

Basketball, which until then had only been played in Antigua at

the St Joseph's Academy and the US bases, bounced out of the SJA compound and found hoops on lamp posts, etc, around urban villages. The boys from Point and Villa turned the quadrangle in the Villa Primary School into the first major basketball court in any village, and that's where Fu Manchu made himself a star.

Fellows came from all the villages in St John's to basketball games at Villa School at night, and they all looked forward to seeing Fu Manchu play. He was never really slim, but he was nimble. He was strikingly skillful and most entertaining to watch. His talent was not questionable, and he took it also to the football field.

Knowing Fu Manchu only in more recent years, it would be difficult for one to imagine how very athletic he was back then. But certainly, he was, and with that talent and his ability to comprehend, were it not for the alphabetic limitations, he would have been eligible for an athletic scholarship.

Opinions differ, but they are only valid as opinions when there is some logical reasoning behind them. Without that, they are simply expressions of prejudice.

There might be flaws in the reasoning, but then, those can be pointed out. Opinion cannot be what anyone just feels like saying.

Fu Manchu has voiced many valid opinions on the air. Unlike many with significant formal schooling, he has been prepared to lend some thought and his voice to the national discourse, by the means convenient to him. That's a significant part of what being a citizen is about.

For their athletic prowess and intelligent participation in the discourse of the marketplace, members of ancient Greek society became celebrated citizens.

Fu Manchu clearly had that potential. He was no simple voice.

CTO: Caribbean's safe and healthy travel position must be defended

(Loopslu): Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Acting Secretary General Neil Walters said the region's position as a safe and healthy travel destination must be defended.

He made the comment in his New Year's message.

"Certainly, 2020 was a year which highlighted many of our vulnerabilities, but more importantly, it taught us many lessons about our abilities to adapt in the face of crisis, abilities which I am sure many of us did not even know existed."

He said the COVID-19 pandemic crippled the economies of several countries, with the most serious effects being felt in small economies and specifically those reliant on travel and the movement of people.

"Indeed, these two characteristics essentially describe all the countries of the Caribbean, and consequently, from an economic standpoint, the Caribbean has been one of the hardest-hit regions in the world.

"Fortunately, for the most part, as a region, we have been able to control the spread of the virus within our local populations. This has been achieved by the implementation of very stringent control mechanisms which have varied from state to state, and included in most instances, temporary closure of international borders."

Walters said by the last quarter of 2020 most of the countries in the Caribbean had reopened their

borders and the vast majority of reopened countries had also started accepting commercial travel and visitors to their shores.

"In all cases, this process has been done within the parameters of protocols designed to complement the health infrastructure of the country.

"The stories which depict this process of infection control and reopening of borders in the face of second and third waves of viral spread in our main source markets, speak volumes about the adaptability of our people and specifically about the travel and tourism sector in the Caribbean which has been given no choice, other than to quickly identify, learn and adapt to the changing environment we have experienced over the past 12 months."

He said the region, therefore, moves into 2021 armed with a new set of lessons learnt and with the proof that the Caribbean tourism sector along with its counterpart in public health has the collaborative power to restart, re-energise and rebuild tourism in the Caribbean stronger and more resilient, and ready to face the next challenge.

Walters said while the pandemic has threatened the Caribbean tourism sector, it has also created the opportunity to assess the sector and implement actions which have been difficult during the last 20 to 30 years of mass tourism.

"The pandemic has identified one critical common factor — the need for change, the need to think outside of the box and identify different ways of doing things."

He said since the falloff in tourism activity in March 2020, all tourism policy-makers, destination management organisations and other tourism stakeholders have spent time critically analysing and rethinking the way they manage tourism in their individual destinations.

"This has led to a spirit of greater cooperation and collaboration which was needed in the sector but which has now been clearly shown to be critical to the sector's future and its success.

All of this has also been mirrored at the regional level, where regional stakeholders in tourism, health and general government have collaborated to create standards for the reopening of the sector and continued to collaborate in the face of an ever-changing regional and extra-regional environment."

He reported during 2021, the programmes of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) will continue the work started in 2020 on research, product development — including heritage and community-based tourism — and human resources development — including a regional tourism sector human resources audit and training.

"In addition, our collaborative efforts will continue to ensure that the tourism sector works with other sectors such as health to enhance the prospects of the region as we transition to a new paradigm of normalcy.

"Our collective efforts to date have positioned the Caribbean, from a global standpoint, in this pandemic, as a region which is healthy and safe for travel. It is a position which we must defend, while we make every effort to improve on the other facets of the visitor experience."

He recalled in the New Year message for 2020, CTO lauded the region for recovering in 2019 after the 2017 hurricanes, and for exceeding the world average for tourism growth.

"While those traditional metrics may paint a different picture this year, we in the Caribbean can still be pleased with our efforts. This time we have proven ourselves leaders via the collaboration of tourism and public health to create protocols for the reopening of the sector.

"We still cannot rest on our laurels, but continue to use the momentum created by our efforts in 2020 and the resilience of our people to rebuild the tourism sector like all other sectors to full functionality again, and buttress it against all future challenges which, although we pray otherwise, are sure to come."

Cuban doctors nominated for Nobel Prize

(CMC):A proposal to award the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to a contingent of Cuban doctors who specialise in disaster situations and serious epidemics was endorsed by four members of the British Parliament.

According to the official site of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign in the United Kingdom, the four members of the House of Commons – Paula Barker, Ian Byrne, Dan Carden and Kim Johnson, highlighted the humanitarian aid provided by Cuba and the Henry Reeve Inter-



national Contingent of Doctors.

With the four formal nominations of the legislators, 16 requests submitted by British parliamentarians are accumulated, to which

another eight were sent by academics from the United Kingdom.

Nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize have a deadline of January 31 of each year and can only be made by parlia-

mentarians, academics, awardees, judges of international courts, and active or retired members of the Committee.

The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that since its creation in 2005, the Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors Specialised in Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics has saved hundreds of thousands of lives in areas of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia, which have been hit by earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and epidemics.

St Vincent puts Barbados on COVID 'high risk' travel list

(Source Searchlight Newspaper): Effective Monday, January 4, 2021, travelers from Barbados will be categorized as arriving from a high-risk country, and must quarantine in an approved hotel for 10 days.

This change in the protocol for entry of travelers to St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) was announced by the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) Saturday night.

A change has also been made to the protocol for entry of travelers to SVG from medium risk countries, who will now have to spend five days in an approved hotel.

The change in categorization of Barbados from medium risk to high risk came just hours after the Barbados government announced that over the past two days, almost 200 peo-

ple tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and that public health officials are investigating at least three clusters, one of which is a super spreader event accounting for the majority of new cases.

Head of the Barbados Cabinet COVID-19 sub-committee, Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott, said 161 people at Her Majesty's Prison Dodds, comprising inmates, wardens and civilian staff returned positive tests. And on Friday and Saturday, 33 cases outside of the prison – via contact tracing and visitors at the Grantley Adams International Airport – were also recorded.

Of that 161, there are 113 inmates and 48 staff who tested positive.

The main super spreader event is a Boxing Day bus crawl that made several stops at West Coast bars,

some of which are now closed. Officials are also looking at two smaller clusters comprising seven and four cases, respectively, centering around a visitor and a hotel worker. There is a possibility of two more clusters, but these have not returned any positive cases at this time.

Walcott said more than 1 000 samples were taken and the contact tracing has been fairly successful.

Minister of Health and Wellness Jeffrey Bostic said "we are on top of this situation as far as the prison is concerned".

High risk countries are: United States of America, including the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), China, United Kingdom, Germany, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Guyana, Suriname, Belize, St. Lucia, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Repub-

lic, Mexico, Brazil, India, Panama, Argentina, Peru, Haiti, Colombia, South Africa, Nigeria, Indonesia, Philippines, Italy, Bahamas, Canada, Turks and Caicos Islands, France (including overseas regions), Spain and Russia.

The protocol lists medium risk countries as Taiwan, Cuba and Antigua & Barbuda.

Low risk countries are Anguilla, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis. Travelers from these countries must arrive with a negative result of a COVID-19 (RT-PCR) test done no more than 72 hours before arrival; may be tested on arrival in SVG at the discretion of the Port Health Officer.

The country of residence is defined as the last country that the traveler was present in for at least 21 days.

Coronavirus: India approves vaccines from Bharat Biotech and Oxford/AstraZeneca

(BBC): India has formally approved the emergency use of two coronavirus vaccines as it prepares for one of the world's biggest inoculation drives.

The drugs regulatory authority gave the green light to the jabs developed by AstraZeneca with Oxford University and by local firm Bharat Biotech.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it "a decisive turning point".

India plans to inoculate some 300 million people on a priority list this year.

It has recorded the second-highest number of infections in the world, with more than 10.3 million confirmed cases to date.

Nearly 150,000 people have died.

On Saturday India held nationwide drills to prepare more than 90,000 health care workers to administer vaccines across the country, which has a population of 1.3 billion people.

The Drugs Controller General of India said both manufacturers had submitted data showing their vaccines were safe to use.

However, opposition politicians and some doctors have criticised a lack of transparency in the approval process.

Dr. Swapnil Parikh, an infectious diseases researcher based in Mum-

bai, told the BBC doctors were in a difficult position.

"I understand there is a need to go through the process quickly, remove regulatory hurdles," he said. "However... [governments and regulators] have a duty to be transparent about the data they have reviewed and the process involved in making the decision to authorise a vaccine, because if they don't do this, it can affect the public's faith in the process."

The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is being manufactured locally by the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer. It says it is producing more than 50 million doses a month.

Adar Poonawalla, the company's CEO, told the BBC in November that he aimed to ramp up production to 100 million doses a month after receiving regulatory approval.

The jab, which is known as Covishield in India, is administered in two doses given between four and 12 weeks apart. It can be safely stored at temperatures of 2C to 8C, about the same as a domestic fridge, and can be delivered in existing health care settings such as doctors' surgeries.

This makes it easier to distribute than some of the other vaccines. The jab developed by Pfizer/BioNTech - which is currently being administered in several countries - must be stored at -70C and can only be moved

a limited number of times - a particular challenge in India, where summer temperatures can reach 50C.

The local vaccine, however, was approved despite the absence of data on how efficient it can be. It has yet to go through large-scale trials.

The Drugs Controller General, V.G. Somani, said Bharat Biotech's Covaxin was "safe and provides a robust immune response".

Mr. Somani said it had been approved "in public interest as an abundance of precaution, in clinical trial mode, to have more options for vaccinations, especially in case of infection by mutant strains".

India, which makes about 60% of vaccines globally, plans to immunise about 300 million people by July 2021. It will prioritise health care workers, the emergency services, and those who are clinically vulnerable because of age or pre-existing conditions.

India's existing vaccination programme already reaches about 55 million people a year, administering 390 million free jabs against a dozen diseases. It stocks and tracks the vaccines through a well-oiled electronic system.

Pfizer, whose vaccine has already been approved for use in jurisdictions including the UK, the US and the EU, is also seeking emergency authorisation in India.

In all, some 30 vaccine candidates are being developed in India.

SAFER APART, STRONGER TOGETHER

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Pope criticizes people going on holiday to avoid Covid-19 lockdowns

(CNN): Pope Francis has condemned people who traveled abroad for a vacation and avoid Covid-19 lockdowns, adding that holidaymakers were not considering the effect of their actions on others.

The pontiff said Sunday he was "saddened" by news reports claiming that people were flying abroad to have fun amid the pandemic.

"They are good people, but they didn't think about those who were staying at home, of the economic problems of many people who have been hit hard by the lockdown, or the sick people," Pope Francis said Sunday.

"[They thought] only about going on holiday



Pope Francis

and having fun. This pained me a lot," the Pope said at the end of his Sunday Angelus prayer.

Pope Francis held his Sunday prayers from the Apostolic Palace library,

rather than from the usual window overlooking St. Peter's Square where crowds would usually gather, in order to limit the spread of the virus.

Many countries around

the world are facing renewed lockdowns and travel restrictions, with 84 million people now infected by the virus. At least 1.83 million people have died, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University.

Renewing his best wishes for the New Year, Pope Francis said: "What each of us -- and all of us together -- can do is commit ourselves a little more to take care of each other and of what was created, our common home."

In the past, the Pope has also criticized people who refused to wear masks or who protested against coronavirus restrictions, commenting that they move in "their own little world of interests".

Trump, on tape, presses Ga. official to 'find' Trump votes

(AP) — President Donald Trump badgered and pleaded with Georgia's election chief to overturn Joe Biden's win in the state, suggesting in a telephone call that the official "find" enough votes to hand Trump the victory.

The conversation Saturday was the latest step in an unprecedented effort by a sitting president to pressure a state official to reverse the outcome of a free and fair election that he lost. The renewed intervention and the persistent and unfounded claims of fraud by the first president to lose reelection in almost 30 years come nearly two weeks before Trump leaves office and two days before twin runoffs in Georgia that will determine control of the Senate.

Georgia that will determine control of the Senate.

Trump confirmed in a tweet Sunday that he had spoken with Georgia's secretary of state, Republican Brad Raffensperger, a day earlier.

Audio snippets of the conversation were posted online by The Washington Post. A recording of the call was later obtained by The Associated Press from a person who was on the call.

The president, who has refused to accept his loss to the Democratic president-elect, is heard telling Raffensperger at one point: "All I want to do is this. I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have. Because we won the state."

Georgia's certified election results show Biden won the state's Nov. 3 election by 11,779 votes.

The White House referred questions to Trump's reelection campaign, which did not respond Sunday to an emailed request for comment. Raffensperger's office did not respond to a text message seeking comment.

Biden senior adviser Bob Bauer said the recording was "irrefutable proof" of Trump pressuring and threatening an official in his own party to "rescind a state's lawful, certified vote count and fabricate another in its place."

"It captures the whole, disgraceful story about Donald Trump's assault on American

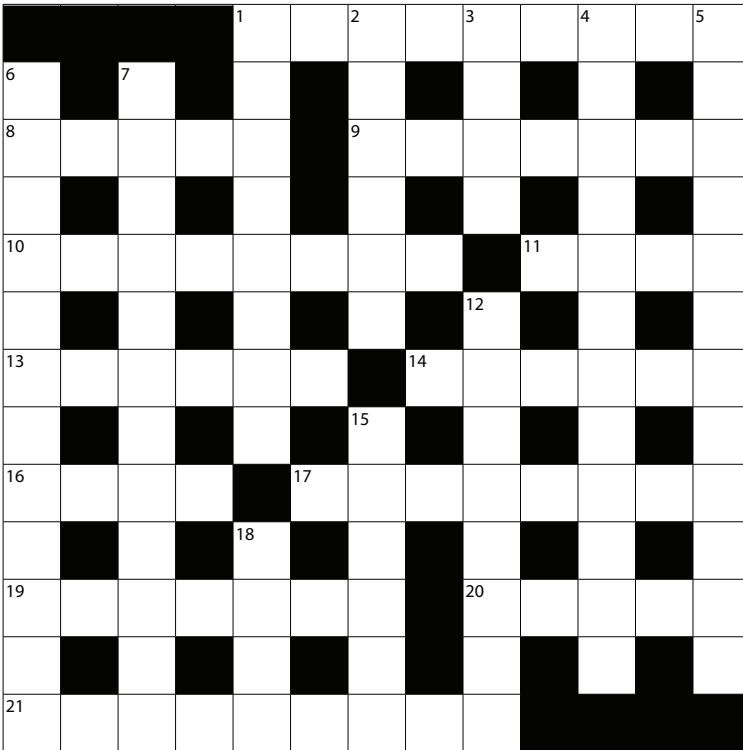
democracy," Bauer said.

At another point in the conversation, Trump appeared to threaten Raffensperger and Ryan Germany, the secretary of state's legal counsel, by suggesting both could be criminally liable if they failed to find that thousands of ballots in Fulton County had been illegally destroyed. There is no evidence to support Trump's claim.

"That's a criminal offense," Trump says. "And you can't let that happen."

Trump has repeatedly attacked how Raffensperger ran Georgia's elections, claiming without evidence that the state's 16 electoral votes were wrongly given to Biden.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

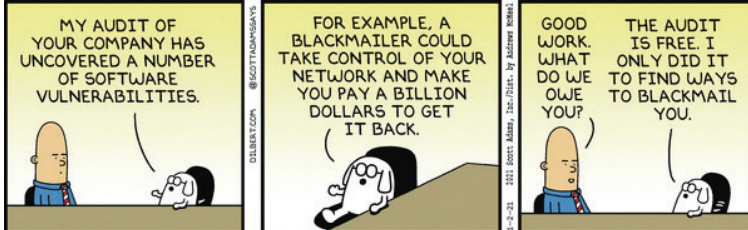
- 1 World War II flying bomb (V-1) (9)
- 8 School principals (5)
- 9 North African country (7)
- 10 Raised (8)
- 11 Supreme god of ancient Greece (4)
- 13 David Bowie's Space ____ (6)
- 14 Turf accountant (6)
- 16 Rescue (4)
- 17 Flee (4,4)
- 19 Parent's sisters (informal) (7)
- 20 Displayed (5)
- 21 Proscribed (9)

Down

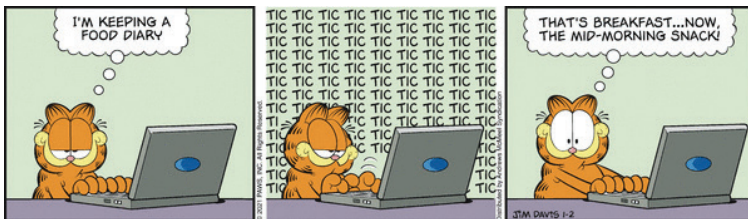
- 1 Antipathy (8)
- 2 Stableman at a coaching inn (6)
- 3 Protracted (4)
- 4 Silent film comedy star, d. 1966 (6,6)
- 5 Unacknowledged barrier to career advancement (5,7)
- 6 Senior officer's principal aide and confidant (5,2,5)
- 7 Dowser, traditionally using a forked stick (5,7)
- 12 Funny business (6-2)
- 15 Cared for (6)
- 18 Audio equipment (2-2)

DAILY COMICS

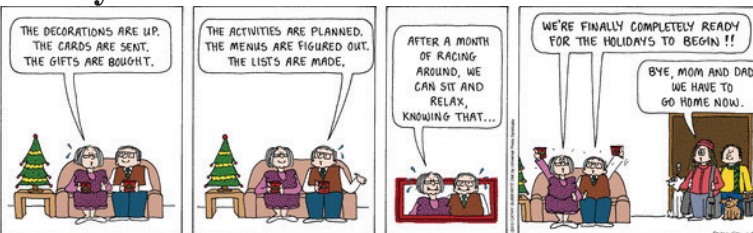
Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU

	3			1				
	9		4	7				
		7		5			2	
	8	2					9	
5		9		2		6		3
3					5	2		
4				1	3			
				9	3		1	
			2			5		

	9			8	6		7	
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8			6					
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		2		5				7
		4		8				9
1			7		9			5
	9			4		7		
2				9		4		
	6	8			7			
		1		6				3

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.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

MON
01/04

80° Hi
DAY
Intervals of clouds and sunshine

73° Lo
NIGHT
Mostly clear

Sunrise 6:38 AM Sunset 5:47 PM Moonrise 11:04 PM Moonset N/A

THU
01/05

82° Hi
DAY
Sunny

73° Lo
NIGHT
Mostly clear with some scattered showers

Sunrise 6:38 AM Sunset 5:47 PM Moonrise 12:00 AM Moonset 12:17 PM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You can't do it all today, which is a fact that will become all too apparent as soon as you get started this morning. But instead of feeling frustrated, start paring off a few tasks and adjust your expectations.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Right now, it's a good idea for you to stick close to home and focus on one or two people who matter the most to you. Things around your home, like warmth and safety, are very appealing and satisfying for you.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

When it comes to improving the health of your finances right now, everything else has to take a back seat. If you're afraid that you'll be called a cheapskate by your friends, you need to get over it fast.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

You are feeling and looking extremely good today, and your positive energy will only grow with every encounter you have. Talk it up and get your flirt on. Shine your bright light on everyone you meet, and you will make their day!

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Look out for people who are emotionally on edge today. That kind of irregular energy is contagious, and it's the last thing you need to catch! Understand that irrational people are not a good influence on your life.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Moving among many different groups will give you a big boost right now. You'll be energized by others, especially those who have done things you've always wanted to do or been to places you've always wanted to visit.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Been bored lately? Well, that's all about to change when your routine gets disrupted and your daily life gets turned on its ear! An exciting surprise could throw you for a loop, but it will also energize you in a way you haven't felt in ages.

SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

You might have to put some upcoming plans on hold. Something is still up in the air, and you won't be able to make any firm plans until it can be pinned down. Don't make any financial commitments, no matter how pressing your deadline may be.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There are reserves of unbeatable charm inside of you, so go in deep enough to utilize them today. Once you do, you're sure to come out on top in any kind of competition. Whatever you're fighting, you'll have an edge that will get you noticed.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Put your household issues on the top of your priority list. From fixing a dripping faucet to painting a room or even just moving some furniture around, you need to get hands-on experience in your home!

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You should try to start moving yourself away from your emotions. It's not that they aren't important, it's just that they aren't helping you make the decisions you need to make. They're distracting you from putting the right priorities together.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Your urge to travel and go on adventures could be waning right now, and you're going to start being much more tuned in to the idea of sticking close to home. You don't need to wander all around the world to find fun.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom is inviting nominations from Antigua and Barbuda for Commonwealth Master's Scholarships tenable from 2021.

Closing date for nominations is 1st March, 2021.

Deadline for submission of applications to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is 19th February, 2021.

Full details of the scholarships are included in the 2021 terms and conditions, available at: cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships

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.

EARLY CLOSURE

The general public is advised that the headquarters of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Government Office Complex, will close at 11am on Wednesday, 23rd December, 2020. This is to facilitate a staff function. Normal office hours will resume on Thursday 24th December, 2020. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

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RADIO SHOW 99.1 FM
WITH RAS JUBA & JUSTICE

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LIVE TUESDAYS THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS

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THE YEAR IN SPORTS

Sports suffered in 2020

By Vernon 'Epilus' Edwards

March 13, 2020, will be remembered and felt by all involved in sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

Many footballers who participated in the Antigua and Football Association's First Division (ABFA) were already on buses, in cars, or traveling on foot to their respective games as the division was five weeks away from its climax before a call came for the ABFA office indicating the government had brought a halt to competitive sports because of the coronavirus pandemic.

No one expected the long tough break that athletes would have to endure as all sports had to end their programs or in other cases halt the start of their domestic seasons.

Athletes were preparing for university and professional trials in Europe while technicians, who were on the island to lay the Mundo track at YASCO, had to be rushed out of the island for fear of being trapped away from their families in Panama

and Italy.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association eventually decided to cancel the remainder of the 2019/20 season declaring no winners while promoting six teams from the second and first divisions and demoting no teams from the premier division.

Cricket West Indies had to cancel the regional tournaments while local cricket came to a standstill. The COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the development of athletes all across the island and frustrated many who were preparing to represent their country on the international scene.

Over the past four months, the government has permitted sports to resume training following the necessary protocols while cricket received the green light to resume competitive matches which led to the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association host their 10 Splash T10

tournament in December featuring 10 teams at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The tournament was won by the powerhouse, PIC Liberta, who secured their 35 championships in domestic cricket over the past 8 years.

The Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding and weightlifting federation brought joy to the nation in December when Melissa Seaforth swept the 45 Central America and Caribbean Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship in the Dominican Republic winning her class, overall, and first Elite PRO show and card, all in one night.

President of local federation Dave George was elated noting his athletes continue to shine and lead the way for others to follow.

2021 can only be better for local athletes in Antigua and Barbuda with several associations hopeful of restarting competitive sports following the lead of local cricket.



Bangladesh ideal for Rakeem Cornwall



Rakeem 'Jimbo' Cornwall

West Indies dynamic all-rounder Rakeem Jimbo Cornwall is looking forward to the upcoming tour of Bangladesh to take advantage of their spin friendly environment.

With 10 players opting out of the tour because of concerns over the spike in coronavirus cases in the South Asian country, Cornwall who accepted the invitation to tour is expected to play a critical role for the Caribbean side with ball and bat.

The Antiguan, who was part of the West Indies squad that toured England and New Zealand last year, is hoping to have a major impact on the slower, more spin-friendly

pitches in Bangladesh.

'Jimbo' as he is affectionately called, said he is in a good space presently and he is aware Bangladesh is more conducive to spin, so he just has to set his mind for a next bubble and go out and perform.

Cornwall said there was nothing in the pitches for spinners in New Zealand and England but finally the upcoming tour has something that suits his game the 27-year-old added.

The Antiguan will harbor great memories performing in Asia after claiming his career best 7 for 75 against Bangladesh last year.

CWI excited about packed schedule for 2021

Cricket West Indies (CWI) is excited about the four major home tours this year which should provide an injection of money after struggling through 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Antiguan based body (CWI) will be hosting its first home series since Ireland toured for a mixture of One-Day Internationals last January. This year, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia and Pa-

kistan are all expected in the Caribbean.

The Coronavirus hampered CWI 2020 itinerary with several planned home tours being scrapped. West Indies are scheduled to play nearly all their cricket at home this year. CWI chief executive officer Johnny Grave said the upcoming tour of Bangladesh will be the Caribbean side's last away obligation for 11 months.

Grave added that after

the upcoming obligation in South Asia CWI will host their Super-50 Cup, a tour by Sri Lanka, followed by South Africa, Australia and Pakistan before the Caribbean Premier League.

Under the current International Cricket Council arrangement only host boards benefit financially from bilateral series with CWI excited about their 2021 projected financial gains after being forced into salary cuts for play-

ers and staff caused by the disruption due to Covid-19.

Presently there are no direct financial gains for the West Indies to tour Bangladesh or go on any away tour because of the way international cricket is structured. West Indies will fly out in seven days for three ODIs, and two tests against Bangladesh, with the matches being played between January 20 to February 15.

New PSG coach Pochettino wants 'combative' identity for team

Mauricio Pochettino pledged to instill a "combative and attacking" identity for Paris Saint-Germain as he takes over as coach.

The French champions announced the hiring of Pochettino – their former captain – on Saturday to replace the recently fired Thomas Tuchel.

"This team has fantastic potential and my staff and I will do everything we can to get the best for Paris Saint-Germain in all competitions," Pochettino said. "We will also do our utmost to give our team the combative and attacking playing identity that Parisian fans have always loved."

Pochettino, who brought Tottenham to the Champions League final in 2019, signed a contract to coach PSG through June 2022 with an option for an extra year, the club said.

The 48-year-old Pochettino inherits a squad that is talented but underperforming – by PSG standards. It starts the new year in third place behind Lyon and Lille.

His first training session is Sunday ahead of Wednesday's visit to Saint-Etienne. PSG faces Barcelona in the Champions League round of 16 in February and March.

Pochettino played 95 games for PSG as a rugged central defender



Mauricio Pochettino

from 2001-03 and was a fan favorite.

"I have wonderful memories, especially of the unique atmosphere of the Parc des Princes," he said. "I return to the club today with a lot of ambition and humility, and am eager to work with some of the world's most talented players."

Among those stars are Kylian Mbappé, Angel Di Maria and Brazilians Neymar and Marquinhos.

During the recent break, Neymar was under scrutiny from media reports claiming he flouted pandemic warnings with a large New Year's bash at or near his mansion in Rio de Janeiro state. Representatives for Neymar denied the star's links to the party.

Tottenham fired Pochettino in November 2019, only months after the Champions League final appearance, where Spurs lost 2-0 to Liverpool.

Similarly, Tuchel was fired four months after

he led PSG to the 2020 Champions League final – losing 1-0 to Bayern Munich.

"The return of Mauricio fits perfectly with our ambitions and it will be another exciting chapter for the club and one I am positive the fans will enjoy," PSG chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi said.

PSG finished 2020 just one point back in third place in the French league after beating Strasbourg 4-0 on Dec. 23, but Tuchel was questioned after the game about comments he made to German broadcaster SPORT1.

The German coach reportedly claimed that managing PSG was more akin to being a politician or a sports minister, such was the level of difficulty, and that he did not receive enough recognition for leading the club to its first Champions League final.

PSG has struggled at times this season with four league defeats. It

fell short against its main rivals, losing 1-0 at home to Lyon and Marseille, and drawing 0-0 at Lille. It also lost two of the first three games in the Champions League but ended up advancing to the knockout stage by topping its group.

The season start was delayed after several players – including Neymar and captain Marquinhos – tested positive for the coronavirus after returning from a club-sanctioned trip to the Spanish party resort of Ibiza.

Tuchel also clashed with PSG sporting director Leonardo, who publicly rebuked him over comments made shortly before the end of the transfer window in October.

Tuchel said he needed new recruits and that the club let players go too easily, such as 200-goal scorer Edinson Cavani and stalwart defender Thiago Silva. Their contracts were not renewed and both are doing well in the English Premier League. Goal-scoring winger Di Maria is also nearing the end of his contract.

Pochettino was Tottenham's manager for five years after helping Southampton avoid relegation in the Premier League. He began his coaching career at Espanyol in 2009.

CWI chief selector Roger Harper responds to LICB

(Guyana Chronicle): CRICKET West Indies (CWI) chief selector Roger Harper, in his response to the letter from Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB), admitted that while statistical performance is very highly weighted among the criteria used for team selection, there are other components that are also seriously considered, and which impact upon the final selection decision of the panel.

The LICB, through its acting CEO, Peter Abraham Jr, has written to Harper, questioning the selection policy of CWI, highlighting specifically the metrics, criteria and standards used to select West Indies Test and ODI squads.

In the letter, the board

is also questioning the omission of players – Kieran Powell, Sheno Berridge and Devon Thomas – to the squads for the tour of Bangladesh this month.

To this end, Harper, the former Guyana and West Indies off-spinner claimed in his letter that while the selection panel is aware that the trio performed very well in CWI's last Super50 tournament, Powell and Thomas have not yet met the CWI minimum fitness standard.

"As CEO of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board, I expect that you are aware of CWI's fitness policy and its requirements. You may recall that earlier this year we strengthened its implementation, and for the first time players were actually omitted from



Cricket West Indies chief selector Roger Harper

the West Indies team for failure to meet the fitness standard," Harper stated in his response.

He further added, "Since then, players who have not met that minimum standard, unless given a medical exemption, have not been selected. We have tried to make

it clear to all concerned that it is the responsibility of each player to attain and maintain at least the minimum standard. According to my information, two of the players mentioned in your letter have not yet met the CWI minimum fitness standard."

Britain's Andy Murray delays 2021 season

Britain's former world number one Andy Murray has pulled out of next week's ATP event in Delray Beach- but not because of injury concerns.

Murray had accepted a wildcard to start his 2021 season at the Florida event.

The Scot said given the increase in COVID-19 rates and the transatlantic flights involved, he wants to minimized the risks ahead of the Australian Open.

Players have to pass a series of COVID tests during a 14-day quarantine in Melbourne before the Grand Slam. The tournament starts on 8 February after being pushed back three weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Murray appearance at Melbourne Park will come two years after he played there in what he feared would be his final match as a professional.

At 122 in the world, Murray is ranked too low to gain direct entry into the tournament so the 33-year-old, a five-time runner-up in Melbourne, has been given a wild card.

The three-time Grand Slam singles champion was able to play only seven official matches in 2020 because of a lingering pelvic injury, and the five months suspension of the tours.

New Year's Golf Championship



Glentist Martin



Paullus Martin



Patricia Matthew

It was a battle of epic proportions but in the end it was Paullus Martin who soared above the rest in the Patricia Matthew and Cool and Smooth New Year's Family Golf Championship at Cedar Valley on Sunday.

Martin clinched the title after dismantling his younger brother, Glentist Martin in a three-hole playoff after both

players ended the 18-hole competition with identical scores of 90.

For his successful efforts, the champion took home the top hardware as well as a bottle of yellow Barefoot wine while Glentist walked away with the runners up trophy and a bottle of pink wine.

Their eldest brother, Aubrey Matthew was third and he was awarded the third place trophy and a bottle of red

Viva wine.

Apart from the trio, the other contenders were former West Indies middle order batsman, Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph, Gary Pigott, Josh Crooke, Kori Robertson, Winston Moore Jr and head chef at Big Banana restaurant, Walcott Haywood.

The next event on the family's calendar will be the third edition of the 'Rumble in the Jungle'.

DEWS