



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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**GUEST EDITORIAL**

# **ROBIN BASCUS, AN OUTSTANDING TRADE UNIONIST**

**Personal reflection by James Tanny Rose**

As the nation of Antigua and Barbuda continues to mourn the loss of renowned trade unionist and political activist Robin Bascus, fellow trade unionist and friend, James 'Tanny' Rose has singled him out for high praise.

"For a person who did not have much formal training in industrial relations and the whole practice of trade unionism in terms of worker representation, none can say they were better than him based on the time he spent in the Antigua Trades and Labour Union," Rose declared. "He always pursued the rights of the workers. He was a person who did it from the heart and really cared about the workers."

Rose highlights that the qualities which set Bascus apart from his peers were his honesty and fairness. "He was very fair," he shared, "he would not attempt to gouge the employer if the employer was right; and he would not let the workers believe they were right if they were wrong. He always sought a middle passage because he believed in compromise, both from the employer and the employee."

It is through this method that he proved to be most effective as a union



*Trade unionist and political activist Robin Bascus*

representative, winning the admiration of staff at many statutory corporations to include the Social Security Board, the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA), and the Antigua Port Authority among others. At APUA, for example, there was a time when only weekly paid workers were unionized. Through the efforts of Bascus, monthly paid

workers were organized under union contracts and their benefits package one of the best the country had seen up to that point. The results of his efforts are still seen today as workers within the aforementioned organizations enjoy some of the best benefits as government employees.

The epitome of Bascus' work as a trade union-

ist can be summarized in his attitude to negotiations, something that Rose thinks is lacking in the modern industrial relations climate in Antigua and Barbuda. "The focus at all times has to be on the workers; representation is an everyday matter. After negotiating a contract, there has to be follow-up: meet with the workers, call the employers to find out how things are going at the workplace. These are things I believe are lacking these days. No one follows up, no one is having meetings with workers, and Bascus was gung-ho with that," he shares.

Rose remembers Bascus as a man dedicated to his family, devoted to their development. "He was a family man. He always wanted his children to be well educated so that they would be able to take care of themselves, even after he would have departed this life. He was a good man!"

Bascus, who was also a former Senator and sportsman, passed away on Wednesday morning at his home.

PointeExpress extends our sympathies to the Bascus family and those who are mourning the passing of this great Antiguan and Barbudan.

# Antiguan judge to become U.S. District chief judge

An Antiguan-born Judge is set to become the first black Chief Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Following the departure of her predecessor, Judge Margo K. Brodie will soon be taking on the duty of a U.S. District Chief Judge.

Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. announced on Tuesday that the current Chief Judge, Roslynn Mauskopf, of the Eastern District of New York will leave Brooklyn to become director of the Ad-

ministrative Office of the U.S. Courts on 1st February.

Judge Margo K. Brodie will then be promoted to the position and become the eastern district's first black chief judge.

Judge Brodie was born 1966 in St. John's, Antigua.

She was nominated by Barack Obama 2011 to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She was confirmed as a United States District Judge in 2012.



Judge Margo K. Brodie



# Flights from the U.K. to V.C. Bird Int'l will continue

Regular commercial flights into Antigua and Barbuda by United Kingdom-based carriers are likely to continue, at least for the immediate future.

There have been concerns raised within the local hotel sector on the likely impact that a cancellation of these flights could have on the sector, which is trying to regain ground it lost because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.K. has closed its borders until mid-February 2021, and is restricting movement within the country except for essential services.

The Cabinet was informed that Virgin Atlantic will continue to have flights to V.C. Bird International airport, though it is not possible to determine for



British Airways and Virgin Atlantic will continue flights from the U.K. to Antigua despite lockdown

how long, and if they will be further reduced.

Similarly, British Airways will also continue operating flights, at least for now. The airline has however not yet published a schedule.

The decision by the U.K.

government to impose a lockdown is likely to result in a reduction of British visitors to the region which will adversely affect employment of hotel staff and other fall-off in commerce.

Currently, visitors out of

the U.K. represent fifty per cent of all visitors to Antigua and Barbuda. Any cessation or reduction in flight will likely have a negative impact on the fragile hotel sector.

# Royal Caribbean moving forward with Fort James project

The Royal Caribbean International (RCI) will move forward with its investment project at Fort James, and the architectural and other drawings to be submitted to the Development Control Authority (DCA) are being completed.

Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez provided the update when he discussed the matter at this week's meeting of the Cabinet.

RCI will build an enter-

tainment center costing more than US\$50 million dollars on the land east of the beach, to provide entertainment for its cruise passengers when their large Quantum Class vessels discharge thousands upon docking at the newly-built pier in St. John's.

Tourism officials here are hopeful that there will be a resumption of the cruise industry at the end of March. There have not been any published

schedules, but the cruise company are said to be booking cruises to start at that time.

"We anticipate that the cruises will resume from the end of March, unless there is some other development that prevents that from happening," Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst, reported.

Meanwhile, Hurst is also reporting that Global Ports Holdings (GPH)

will shortly be proceeding with the building of shops at the landside of the new pier and will pursue upgrades at the Heritage Quay Shopping Center. GPH has already paid off a \$21 million dollar debt to ACB which was owed by SJDC for two decades.

He added that GPH has continued to pay its staff during this period when no cruise ships have called at the St. John's ports.

# Antigua and Barbuda represented at Venezuelan inauguration

Senator Bakesha Francis-James was Antigua and Barbuda's representative at this week's swearing in ceremony of a new National Assembly and election of a new Speaker in Caracas, Venezuela.

"I am very elated and honoured to have represented Antigua and Barbuda at this event. I am thankful for the opportunity. The inauguration was informative, profound and filled with excitement. The new speaker of the National Assembly spoke from his heart about Venezuela and its people and their ongoing challenges, especially what he termed as Venezuela's economic warfare with the United States," she told PointeXpress newspaper.

At a meeting later in the evening, Senator Francis-James she said



*Senator Bakesha Francis-James inside the National Assembly Building in Caracas*

and the other foreign representatives attended a special meeting with President Nicolas Maduro who she reported spoke passionately about the situation in Venezuela and he urged the representatives to join his country as it struggles against a mighty foe. "Listening to the president speak so profoundly, with much wisdom, courage and with a great level of tenacity to fight, especially against the US, was admirable," she remarked.

This was Senator Francis-James' first overseas assignment of this kind and she describes it was a very useful trip as it has helped her to network with other dignitaries attending the ceremony. "I view this trip as being very helpful to me both personally and professionally," she concluded.

## Ministerial committee appointment to assist LIAT

The Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet held a discussion about the future of LIAT and has named a three-member ministerial committee to assist the airline through this difficult time.

The committee comprises Aviation Minister Sir Robin Yearwood, Health Minister

Sir Molwyn Joseph and Works Minister Lenox Weston.

"The three have been directed to follow LIAT's progress by meeting with decision-makers and reporting back to Cabinet," according to an official statement.

It noted that the resources to keep LIAT

flying are being provided solely by Antigua and Barbuda, utilizing resources borrowed more than one year ago for the purpose of re-capitalizing the airline.

The closure of the U.S. Embassy in Barbados impacts the movement of people to and from that country, and

the connectivity which visa applicants require. This is among the challenges facing the carrier after it returned to the skies at the end of November last year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced inter-island travel for the carrier. This has been the backbone of the airline's market.

# Police top brass attend leadership forum



*Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney Flanked by DCP Albert Wade and ACP Elvis Weaver*

One day before unveiling their crime-fighting and security plans for the year, Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney and several senior police officers spent most of Thursday at the Multipurpose Cultural Center engaged in a leadership forum.

“The main objective for the meeting was to further develop an all-inclusive and comprehensive workplan for at least the next three years for the Police Force. Heads of various departments used the opportunity to present their strategies and trajectory for the New Year going forward,” according to Commissioner Rodney.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Albert Wade, who heads



the operations department, highlighted his operational plans for the organization. Similarly, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Roland Cuffy presented on the administrative aspects of the force, to include development training for police officers. Cuffy spoke in the absence of Dep-

uty Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers, who is currently on leave.

Presentations were also made by the head of the fire department, Assistant Commissioner of Police Elvis Weaver, as well as the heads of the Criminal Investigations Department, Traffic Department,

Commandant of the Sir Wright F. George Police Training Academy, the Special Services Unit (SSU), head of St. Johns Police Station and officers with responsibilities for the District Police Stations. The meeting was well-received and ended on a positive note.

Retired Inspector of Police and Senior Pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene, William Holder, was also present and offered prayers on behalf of the senior officers.

Commissioner Rodney and his senior officers are holding a press conference today to update the nation on their plans for 2021 as well as to review the year just ended.

# Two more COVID-19 patients hospitalised

An additional two persons have been hospitalized with symptoms related to COVID-19.

The latest update provided by the Ministry of Health reported that no new cases have been reported as of Tuesday, 5th January at 6:00 pm.

The ministry said all seventy-five samples processed by the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) yielded negative results and are reflected in the total persons tested and total samples taken columns of the dashboard.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda remains at one hundred and sixty-three (163); which is inclusive of nine

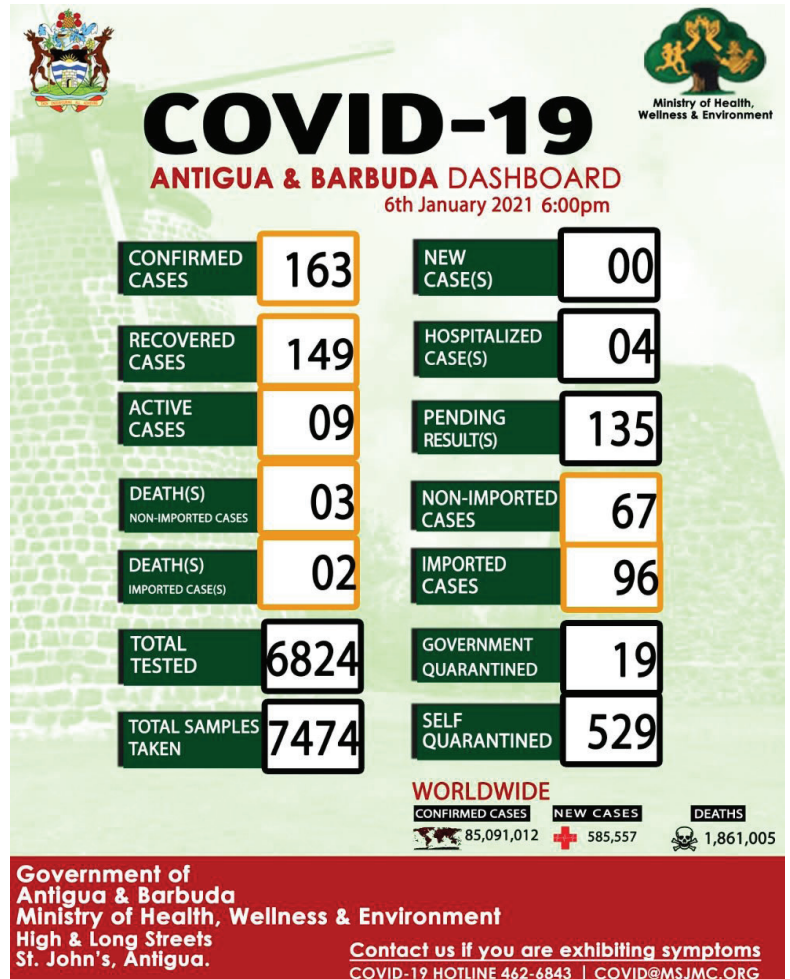
(9) active cases.

Meanwhile, one hundred and thirty-five samples are pending.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.

In related news, the Cabinet reviewed the readiness of the COVID-19 vaccine for Antigua and Barbuda; the estimate of availability in Antigua is several months away.

However, utilizing the PAHO/WHO COVAX arrangement, a significant supply is guaranteed. The systems governing the application of the vaccine are being developed by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry has been advised to be careful with impostors who are marketing fake COVID-19 vaccines.



# Local doctors will need special licence to administer COVID vaccines

Local doctors who wish to administer COVID-19 vaccines that they acquire through private means, will need special licences in order to administer these vaccines.

According to Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, this is because the government wants to ensure that approved standards are met. "We have learnt that there may be one or two medical practitioners

who may be trying to get ahead of the curve and to acquire the vaccines for distribution among the local population. Cabinet looked at this matter and to be on the safe side, those local practitioners would require a license from the Ministry of Health to be able to import and administer the vaccines," he announced.

The minister said the government action is motivated by its responsibility to ensure the safety of the nation at all times. "We would not want there to be more consideration for the commercial aspect of such undertakings as the safety of our people is paramount," he noted.

The minister said the government wants to ensure that the vaccines that will become available either through COVAX or private means all meet the requirements that have been laid down.

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# Kiwanis Club donates to maternity ward



*Kiwanis Club of Wadadli donates to MSJMC Maternity Unit*

The Kiwanis Club of Wadadli has donated a basket of new born baby items to the Maternity Unit of the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) as part of the Club's Baby Bean Initiative.

A release from the Club said the donation forms part of its service outreach programme.

The Nurse Manager of the Unit, Sister Ethlyn Weekes, was on hand to accept the basket. She noted that in this time of economic upheaval this donation was most wel-

comed. This basket of goodies will be presented to a mother who may be in need of some help for the first few months of her baby's life.

The Club expresses appreciation to MSJMC staff and the members of the club for ensuring that this project came to fruition.

The Kiwanis Club of Wadadli comprises young professionals and was formed in January 2014.

The primary mission of the club is to improve the lives of children, one community at a time.

# Six women make history as first graduands of The UWI Five Islands Campus

Prime Minister Browne to deliver feature address at this weekend's ceremony

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda will kick off graduation season for The UWI this weekend on Sunday, January 10.

Six women have made history as the first graduands from The UWI's newest campus which was established in 2019. They will join thousands across the regional university graduating this month in ceremonies rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The six who are all candidates from the Post-graduate Diploma in Education programme, will participate in an intimate,

socially distant celebration held on the campus grounds. Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Hon. Gaston A. Browne will be in attendance to deliver the feature address for the historic occasion. The Honourable Aziz Fares Hadeed, CBE, Chair of The UWI Five Islands Campus Council, will preside over the ceremony, substituting for Robert Bermudez, Chancellor of The UWI who will confer the degrees virtually. In addition, the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams will be in attendance.

Launée Richards has the distinction of being The UWI Five Islands' first valedictorian. She is also

already a UWI alumna, having earned her undergraduate degree at the Cave Hill Campus in 2015. The other notable women are Jerushah Baynes, Netisha Alie-Grant, Shanique Gumbs, Marsha Lay-Jarvis and Lekiesha Mack.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Densil A. Williams noted that this weekend is a proud moment for the Campus and the wider UWI as it continues to facilitate citizens of the region to realize their potential through excellent education and training for participation in the global world. He noted that the achievement of these women is a manifestation that the Access revolution—a key pillar of

The UWI Triple A strategy which underpins the operationalisation of the Campus—is being realized.

The UWI continues its tradition of broadcasting the series of ceremonies from start to end, via its public information platform, UWItv. Well-wishers across the OECS can tune in to watch The UWI Five Islands graduation ceremony on Sunday, January 10 from 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Caribbean/AST) online via [www.uwitv.org](http://www.uwitv.org), UWItv's channels on Flow EVO, Facebook or YouTube.

A total of 11 UWI graduation ceremonies are scheduled to be broadcast live via UWItv. The complete schedule and further details are available at [www.uwitv.org/grad2020](http://www.uwitv.org/grad2020)



# Recovering America's battered Democracy and Authority

*(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)*

Recent events in Washington, the revered capital of the United States of America, have shaken the moral authority of that country to lecture, threaten and coerce other countries in the name of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The disgraceful scenes of Americans storming their own sacred Capitol Building - the long-claimed sanctuary for democracy - was bad enough, but what preceded it was worse. A mob, mobilized to be lawless and violent, was deplorable. What was despicable were the actions of Republican Congresspersons, who do know better, to wilfully and shamelessly try to overturn the will of the people to change the government through a democratic process that was confirmed by state and federal courts and by the Supreme Court itself.

A sitting President of the United States, Donald Trump, openly encouraged a mob to be lawless and to do precisely what they did - attack the bastion of the country's law-making body in a determined attempt to carry out what was no less

than a Coup d'état.

The mob - nothing less than terrorists - were intent upon overturning the results of a legitimate Presidential election in which both the popular vote and the votes of the Electoral College confirmed that Joseph Biden Jr had been elected as President of the United States. In the course of it, within the hallowed halls of Capitol Hill, blood was shed. Not the proverbial blood resulting from heated debate and bruised egos, but real blood as Americans shot at Americans and a woman was killed.

When similar events occurred in other parts of the world, especially developing countries, except those countries where the U.S. government favours the regimes in power, the U.S. has been swift to act with threats, sanctions, condemnation and by promoting censure in bodies such as the Organization of American States (OAS). Other governments that hang-on to the coat tails of the U.S. have been quick to support their actions.

Yet, even as the horrors at Capitol Hill were unfolding live on television screens worldwide, the OAS Secretary-General was silent until pushed publicly to speak. Hangers-on governments issued tame statements - none of them belled the



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

cat by calling the name of the person solely responsible for bringing the U.S. to this sorry pass in the eyes of the international community.

It took the leader of the minority NDP in Canada, Jagmeet Singh, to publicly identify the culprit. In a tweet, Singh declared, "The horror unfolding in Washington is frightening and it was incited by Donald Trump. He can end it now but refuses to. Democracy must not be intimidated. The violence must end."

On the same day, the Miami Herald interviewed me for a story entitled, "Across Latin America and in Miami, storming of U.S. Capitol recalls chaos at home". The focus was on the parallels between the assault on democracy and the rule of law in the U.S. and the U.S. action in Guyana during five months in 2020

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when the U.S. government acted to end the stealing of the government against the will of the electorate in the March 2020 general and regional elections. I reproduce below a section of the Miami Herald story. "What's happening in the United States is a complete violation of every democratic norm and also of the rule of law (by Donald Trump and elements of the Republican Party) in a flagrant attempt to remain in power," Sanders said. "Had that occurred in any developing country, indeed in any country of the world, the United States would have been the first to roundly condemn those people, to apply sanctions against those countries and to take action in the name of human rights, democracy and civil rights". Last year, Sanders noted, the Trump administration issued visa sanctions against members of the Guyana government when the country's then-president David Granger refused to accept the outcome of the South American nation's presidential elections and used the court system to try and overturn the vote. "The circumstances are al-

most identical," he said. "The United States government applied sanctions, applied threats and claimed democracy was at risk and demanded adherence by parties in Guyana, all of which were right. "I think all of those things were necessary, but you cannot apply it to other countries and not apply it to yourself. If you apply a double standard, you lose the authority to tell anybody anything when they do wrong." That is the consequence of Donald Trump's rejection of the will of the majority of the American people that he should not return to the White House. It is also a consequence of the demeaning of the sanctity and authority of the U.S. Congress that he organised and promoted for his selfish ends. And it is a consequence of the ready acquiescence of Republicans in Congress and of hanger-on governments, including in the Caribbean, who remained silent, and complicit, as Trump's government forced its will in bodies such as the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Trade Organization and

elsewhere, eroding international law, norms and practices. Thankfully, the institutions of democracy and the rule of law remained strong and resilient in the U.S. itself. Were it not for the belief and commitment of Americans themselves - including, in the end, Vice President Mike Pence - America and the world would have been facing an unstable and disastrous future. The world was brought to the brink of disaster on January 6 - a date described by senate minority leader, Democrat, Chuck Schumer, as "as one of the darkest days in recent American history". It is to be hoped that Americans have learned a salutary lesson for democracy and the rule of law in their own country, and about the importance of retaining and nurturing respect, not fear, globally. Hopefully, hangers-on governments around the world, will also have learned that standing-up for principle is far more valuable than alliances with bullies with feet of clay.

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



**GOT NEWS?**

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# Political satire comes to PointeTV



**Kem Hodge**



**Carl Christopher**



**Vaughan Skerritt**

'**The Weekly Savage**' is a new half-hour political satire programme that airs on PointeTV on Friday nights at 9:00 p.m. The programme is produced by a team of talented nationals - Vaughan Skerritt and Kem Hodge - and hosted by Carl Christopher.

"We poke fun at events taking place in Antigua and Barbuda and around the world as we aim to educate while identifying that even in our newscasts there are many things that are of comedic value," said Skerritt, the principal writer of the programme.

The second episode in **The Weekly Savage** airs tonight on Pointe TV and the producers are inviting everyone not to miss the show. "We will examine the Barbuda Land Act and we will examine some of the issues surrounding this highly controversial matter which is one of the key issues that lie at heart of the ongoing friction between the central government and the Barbuda Council," he revealed.

Tonight's show will also feature a skit that many will find memorable. Skerritt did not want to say too much about this segment but he promises that it will not disappoint.

The show is divided into three segments, opening with a review of news that the producers find amusing. Segment two focuses on something entertaining with the emphasis

on poking fun, and the final segment is where the producers pick a topic and highlight several of the issues surrounding this topic.

"In our first issue we examined the Social Security Scheme and the problems it now faces in meeting its monthly pension payments. But we also found that this problem is not unique to our scheme but rather, it is faced by practically all schemes of its kind around the world," Skerritt explained.

From their research, the producers found that life expectancy has increased since the scheme came into being and it appears that this was not taken into account during the initial stages of the scheme. "One of the things that we found is that the money that one pays into SS they get back in the first two years of receiving pension payments. The remaining pension payments that a person receives until the time of his/her death are paid from deductions made from current contributors' salaries/wages," he noted.

Skerritt also offered some insights into the production of **The Weekly Savage**. "Carl and I do most of the writing and while we have some shared views, we differ on a number of matters and it helps make the final product that much better," he stated.

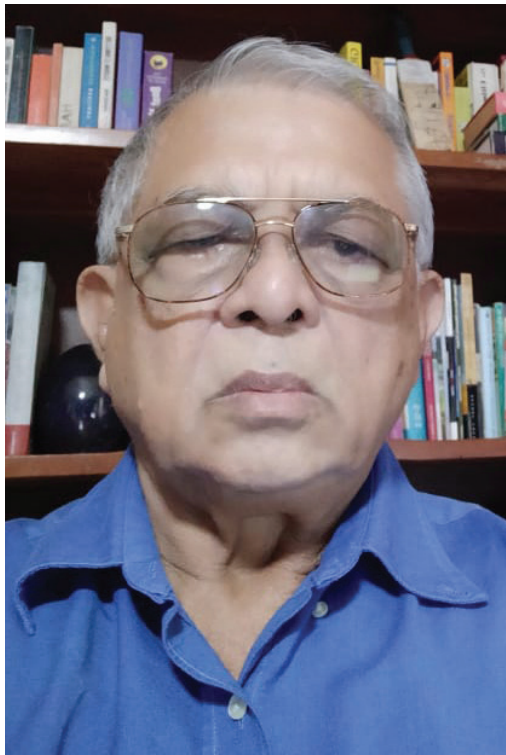
"For example, we write separately then we meet to pool our ideas.

After some arm-twisting and cajoling we settle on a final script. But changes are made constantly, even at the point where the programme is being recorded. There is no rehearsal of the show before recording, but the guys meet and do a read through prior to the recording."

What are the long-term plans? It is a question we put to Skerritt. "The plan is for us to do the programme in 13-episode seasons. We have targeted a particular demographic - 35 and older - who have strong political affiliations to either of the main political parties," he further explained.

Additionally, the producers of **The Weekly Savage** also want to serve as role models for other local producers who may want to get involved in producing television shows. "If we are successful in doing this programme we hope that others will see this as something that is possible and will use our success as inspiration to do similar or other types of programmes on their own," he remarked.

PointeTV is pleased to be collaborating with this team of talented nationals in making 'The Weekly Savage' part of our regular programming. PointeTV welcomes other nationals with programme ideas to come forward and discuss these ideas so that they can be developed into actual programmes.



# NOSTRADAMUS BACK IN TOWN

**By Tony Deyal**

Nostradamus, the famous French doctor and author of a book of prophecies published in 1555, supposedly predicted the rise to power of Adolf Hitler and the subsequent Second World War. Now, it is claimed that some of his predictions relate to this New Year, 2021. Some astrologists say that Nostradamus foresaw a “Zombie Apocalypse” caused by a biological weapon, created by a Russian scientist, which produces a virus that turns humans into zombies and will wipe out the human race once and for all. There is no mention of the present Russian leader but it is said that you get out of life what you Putin.

If the Zombies don’t kill us in 2021, an epidemic of biblical proportions will. Nostradamus predicted that the first signs of the end of the world will be famine, earthquakes and epidemics. In other words, he saw the Coronavirus coming. Astrologists explain that in 2020, Saturn in Capricorn united its forces with Pluto which is definitely not the lovable pet of Disney’s Mickey Mouse but the

planet of doom and destruction. This relationship, which will last for 248 years, will be the death of us. If the solar storms are not enough, Nostradamus warns that “In the Danube and of the Rhine will come to drink/ The great Camel”. This is interpreted as the Muslims taking over the world or whatever is left of it after a comet hits us, and is followed by a devastating earthquake which destroys California. The only good news he is said to have prophesied for the US is that American soldiers will have brain-chip implants. Even though the US Department of Defence initiated this project in 2018, the President was unfortunately left out, maybe because he evaded the military draft five times.

Fortunately for me, I stopped making New Year’s resolutions a long time ago. I found that they come in one year and out the next. It is not true, as one of my friends claim, that I don’t have any because my wife hasn’t told me as yet what my New Year’s resolutions are. I could have promised my children that I would not tell or make any bad jokes for the rest of the year but I missed that opportunity about a week ago. Every New Year’s Day, after being allowed to stay up after midnight, or waking up to the sound of guns fired by our neighbours to celebrate the birth of the New Year, when I headed into the kitchen my father would inevitably quip, “Where were you all this time? I haven’t seen you since last year.” In thinking about those days when the entire fami-

ly gathered in the veranda to take in the New Year’s “breeze”, wish one another a “Happy New Year” I yearn for their return. We used to call out loudly to the neighbours next door and across the street. “Neighb,” we said, using the short form of “neighbour”, “Happy New Year to you and the family.” In those days, I used to beg my parents to let me stay up late. Now, whether I like it or not, I have to.

There are a lot of jokes and stories about New Year resolutions. One comic said, “My New Year’s resolution was to lose 30 pounds by the end of summer.” Then he added, “I’ve only got 40 pounds left.” In such a predicament I would advise him to head for England and bet on the dog races. You’re sure to lose every pound you have. A New Yorker told Governor Andrew Cuomo on New Year’s Eve, “This year, with the Democrats in power and with Biden as President, I hope we will all be able to achieve the goals of our New Year’s resolutions.” He paused and then continued, “But I have a feeling we’re going to drop the ball.” One comedian added, “My New Year’s resolution for 2021 took me a while to focus and after a week has passed, I think I’ve got it. I must get glass this year.”

I am always optimistic about the future and, as the saying goes, if I get a bag of horse manure for Christmas I will delve deeply into it looking for a horse. If I don’t find it, I will make use of it by passing it to Indranie for her plants. Pessimists have a different problem.

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One resolved that in the New Year he will definitely try to be an optimist like me. He then added, "But I know for a fact that won't happen. Something will go wrong and I'll fail. I'm sure of that." Late-Night TV host, Jay Leno observed, "Women get a little more excited about New Year's Eve than men do. It's like an excuse: you drink too much, you make a lot of promises you're not going to keep; the next morning as soon as you wake up you start breaking them. For men, we just call that a date."

Generally, though, the most popular resolutions are to lose weight, get fit, eat right, stop smoking and manage money better, even saving some. I tried one of those and never attempted another. Twenty years

ago, my wife convinced me to follow her in eating a healthier diet. I tried but all the evidence proves that while you won't actually live longer, it would seem so. In fact, I have come to the time in my life when the resolution I should make is that I must try to remember why I've walked into a room. It's that bad, even worse than remembering names. Since Indranie always complains about my not buying or forgetting to get stuff from the supermarket despite the list she sends me on WhatsApp, I figure that he idea for an appropriate resolution for me to try this year is to make a Velcro wall but she doubts that I will stick to it.

Despite my poking fun at the New Year and choosing the worst possible predic-

tions, I am truly a romantic and visionary. I am convinced that we live in the best possible world and time. Even if we don't, we have the capacity and power to make it so. All we need to do is believe in ourselves, try our best and never give up. I am not alone in this. Poet and pacifist, Edith Lovejoy Pierce, wrote, "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." T.S. Eliot believed, "Every moment is a fresh beginning." I am convinced that what the new year brings to us will depend largely on what we bring to the new year. While Frank Sinatra made it clear that "The best is yet to come" we should always take everything

with more than a pinch of salty humour. Oscar Wilde set the tone when he noted, "Good resolutions are simply cheques that men draw on a bank where they have no account." In my case, I tell people that many years ago I made a New Year's resolution to never make new year's resolutions. Since then, it is the only resolution I've ever kept.

\*Tony Deyal was last seen saying Nostradamus had predicted the world would end on July 4, 1999. The next day The Guardian wrote, "If we are wrong, we shall print a prompt apology in Corrections and Clarifications. (Should the end of the world have occurred by this morning, please read that as "would have printed".)

**BROWN AND BROWNE**  
 SATURDAYS 4PM  
 PRIME MINISTER HON. GASTON BROWNE      SENATOR COLIN BROWNE  
 POINTE FM 99.1  
 BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY  
 COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
 GTV CHANNEL 9

## St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Public Service Union calls for shift system amidst local spread of COVID-19

(Iwmsvg): The Public Service Union (PSU) on Thursday called on the government to institute a shift system for public servants to mitigate against COVID-19 "crippling the delivery of critical public services".

The union, in a press statement on Thursday, noted that the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment had announced that 28 adult nationals without recent travel history have tested positive for COVID-19.

This is evidence that the local threat from the coronavirus is continuing to grow at a worrying rate in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the PSU said.

It said that many of the services provided at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital have been modified due to concerns about the spread of the disease.

"A public declaration has been made that several senior health officials were advised to quarantine as a precautionary measure because they were in close contact with an individual who tested positive for the virus," the PSU noted.

The union was referring to the announcement on Wednesday that Minister of Health Jimmy Prince, his permanent secretary, Cuthbert Knights, and Chief Medical Officer Simone Keizer-Beache, as well as two members of the administrative staff of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment have been advised, out of an abundance of caution, to quarantine for five days, ending Saturday, Jan. 9.

The ministry said this advice is "based on contact tracing initiated

during the evening of Tuesday Jan. 5, after the receipt of a positive COVID-19 PCR result by a relative of a staff member of the ministry.

The PSU said it was fearful that the operations of the Public Service could be negatively affected if public servants were to contract COVID-19.

"If one officer in a department or ministry were to test positive for the coronavirus, this can result in the shutdown of that unit or department, crippling the delivery of critical public services.

"The Public Service Union is fearful that this situation will soon be manifested and is appealing to the Minister of Public [Service] to address the issue of instituting a shift system in the Public Service to mitigate against such an eventuality."

## Barbados' curfew 'upsetting' sex workers



Local sex industry expert Charles Lewis

January 14, has caused some upset among sex workers, as much as it has other businesses that operate at night.

Lewis, the founding leader of the Adult Industry Association, told Barbados TODAY: "Right now nobody is happy about the curfew and the sex industry is also upset about this. But the people in the sex trade need to survive can be different from people from other sectors.

"Those individuals on the street level, particularly those on Bay Street and Bush Hill, it's a do-or-die situation.

"Whereas many people may have alternatives, many of these individuals don't. They probably do, but they

are not aware of the alternatives."

He claimed that rising joblessness brought on by the pandemic has pushed more people to the sex trade for economic survival.

The sex trade has become more competitive, prices have dropped for sexual services and the demand has shrunk as customers are afraid to contract the COVID-19 virus and take it home to their families, he said.

Lewis said that there is no fixed decrease in prices for sex services, which is determined by negotiation between the seller and buyer. Nevertheless, he said due to the impact of COVID-19, sex workers are prepared to go far

(Barbados Today): Local sex industry expert Charles Lewis on Tuesday appealed to health authorities to work with the sex trade to mitigate the impact of commercial sex on the spread of the coronavirus.

Declaring that sex will always sell regardless of whether there is a pandemic, recession, or any other global crisis, Lewis said that the 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew now in effect until

# CARICOM condemns attack on US democracy

(Loopslu): The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has condemned a mob attack on the US Capitol building in Washington DC, calling the event a 'gross affront to democracy and the rule of law'.

In a statement on Thursday, CARICOM Chairman and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Keith Rowley, said the Caribbean Community is saddened and concerned after Wednesday's events:

'The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is deeply saddened and concerned at the unprecedented scenes that unfolded at the Capitol Building in Washington DC, USA, during the certification of the votes of the presidential elections by the US Congress.'

'The storming of the US Congress was a gross affront to democracy and the rule of law in a country which has been viewed as a leading light of representative govern-



**CARICOM Chairman and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley**

nance the world over.'

Dr Rowley said CARICOM 'looks forward to the restoration of order and the continuation of the process of transfer of power in a peaceful manner'.

Earlier on Thursday the US Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago condemned the 'horrific events' which took place and expressed confidence that the United States would bounce

back.

'We saw individuals abuse their first amendment right to protest peacefully as afforded to them by our sacred U.S. Constitution, threatening to obstruct the certification of electoral votes, while putting elected officials, federal employees, Capitol building staff, and law enforcement in harm's way.'

The US Embassy said

despite these events, US Congress and Vice President Mike Pence have certified the electoral votes to confirm President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris as the next President and Vice-President of the United States.

'We know that our democracy has been tested in the past, and it will be tested in the future. Nevertheless, we should not be defined by these moments. Instead, we should be defined by how we bounce back. As so many of our friends, allies, and colleagues around the world have expressed in the wake of this incident, America is better than what we witnessed yesterday.'

The Capitol in Washington DC came under siege Wednesday evening as rioters, egged on by Trump, broke into the Capitol building and fought back against police.

Four people were killed in the incident.

## *cont'd from pg 14*

below the prices that they would normally charge, adding that it is currently a free-for-all where customers are benefitting from the low prices.

He said his association has written Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Minister of Health and Wellness Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bostic indicating the AIA's readiness to join the fight to mitigate the impact of the activities of sex work-

ers on the spread of the virus.

He said the correspondence was also copied to Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kenneth George and Chairman of Cabinet's COVID 19 sub-Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott.

He told Barbados TODAY: "The Adult Industry Association would be happy to offer the COVID-19 Monitoring

Unit the benefit of our thorough knowledge and understanding of the sex trade to assist them in their efforts to mitigate the impact of commercial sex on the spread of the virus.

"There is an extricable link between the sex trade and tourism obviously, and it has been for years, and there will continue to be a link. Tourists are still buying the services of sex workers and the

Government has got to be mindful of this.

"And this is why I suggested that the Adult Industry Association would be happy to consult with the Ministry of Health. Because without having expert knowledge and understanding of the sex trade, you are not properly equipped to mitigate the impact of the sex trade on the spread of the COVID-19 virus."

# US Coast Guard vessel set for exercises in Guyana's waters

(Stabroeknews): The Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) Thursday said that the US Coast Guard (USCG) vessel Stone will be in Guyana's waters on Saturday, January 9 on an exercise.

A MARAD notice in Stabroek News said that the naval exercise area is approximately six nautical miles from Guyana's coast and in the vicinity of the Demerara Main Ships' Channel. As such, MARAD advised mariners to steer clear of the area.

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) said in a separate statement that its Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard will, on Saturday, be engaged in the first of a series of joint exercises as part of the operationalization of the Shiprider Agreement ratified by the two countries in 2020.

This exercise will take place off the coast of Guyana and will focus mainly on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It will be conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter STONE vessel, which is



The Cutter Stone

currently in the region for a multi-country tour.

Last month, the USCG had said that the vessel had embarked from its base in Pascagoula, Mississippi on a multi-month deployment to the South Atlantic with countering illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, as part of its mission.

According to a USCG release, the brand new Legend-class national security cutter, one of the U.S. Coast Guard's flagships, will provide a presence and support national security objectives throughout the Atlantic

under the umbrella of Operation Southern Cross.

This is the service's first patrol to South America in recent memory, and will engage regional partners, including Guyana, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

In September, Guyana and the US signed a maritime pact for joint patrols which will see personnel from the two countries being placed on each other's vessels.

The Shiprider agreement is a reactivation and endorsement of an agreement already agreed to, many years ago but never entered into force.

In September, the Coast Guard released the Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing Strategic Outlook, which it says reaffirms the agency's commitment to global maritime security, regional stability, and economic prosperity.

According to Vice Admiral Steven Poulin, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, "The U.S. Coast Guard is committed to the protection of living marine resources. IUU fishing threatens the health of fish stocks and adversely impacts those who follow global norms and national laws. This is a global issue, and IUU is a problem too big for any one nation. Only by working together can we protect livelihoods, ensure ports remain economically productive, and support and sustainable fisheries industry. Stone's patrol demonstrates our commitment to the established rules-based order while addressing IUU fishing wherever a Coast Guard cutter is deployed." - Vice Adm. Steven Poulin, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area.



# Elon Musk becomes world's richest person as wealth tops \$185bn

(BBC): The Tesla and SpaceX entrepreneur was pushed into the top slot after Tesla's share price increased on Thursday.

He takes the top spot from Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who had held it since 2017.

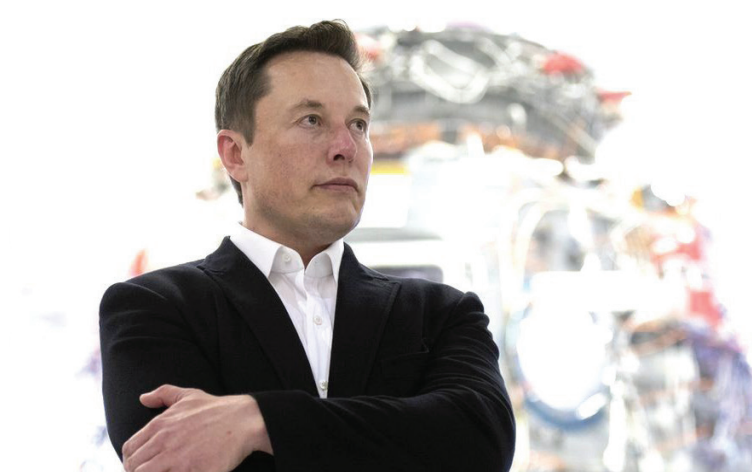
Mr Musk's electric car company Tesla has surged in value this year, and hit a market value of \$700bn (£516bn) for the first time on Wednesday.

That makes the car company worth more than Toyota, Volkswagen, Hyundai, GM and Ford combined.

Mr Musk reacted to the news in signature style, replying to a Twitter user sharing the news with the remark "how strange".

An older tweet pinned to the top of his feed offered further insight into his thoughts on personal wealth.

"About half my money is intended to help problems on Earth, and half to help establish a self-sustaining city on Mars to ensure continuation of life (of all species) in case Earth gets hit by a meteor like the dinosaurs or WW3 happens and we destroy ourselves,"



*Elon Musk has become the world's richest person, as his net worth crossed \$185bn (£136bn).*

it reads.

The tycoon's fortunes have been buoyed by politics in the US, where the Democrats will have control of the US Senate in the forthcoming session.

Daniel Ives, an analyst with Wedbush Securities wrote: "A Blue Senate is very bullish and a potential 'game changer' for Tesla and the overall electric vehicle sector, with a more green-driven agenda now certainly in the cards for the next few years."

Expected electric vehicle tax credits would benefit Tesla, "which continues to have an iron grip on the market today", he added.

Mr Bezos has also seen his fortunes rise over the past year. The coronavirus pandemic has meant Amazon benefited from stronger demand for both its online store and cloud computing services.

However, he gave a 4% stake in the business to his ex-wife Mackenzie Scott after they split, which helped Mr Musk overtake him.

In addition, the threat of regulation has meant Amazon's stock has not risen as high as it might otherwise have done.

The owner of a business which has only just made its first annual profit and is

still a minnow compared to the likes of Toyota - or Amazon - is now the world's richest person.

It is the fact that Tesla's share price has increased more than seven-fold in the past year that has sent Elon Musk's fortune rocketing past that of Jeff Bezos.

To believe the electric car-maker's worth could rise so rapidly in just 12 months is the ultimate example of irrational exuberance.

It means that Musk will have to show within the next five years that Tesla can make more profits than just about the whole of the rest of the motor industry combined to justify the valuation.

Mind you, his many fans will point out that the somewhat eccentric tycoon has constantly confounded the sceptics who bet that he would go bust.

And of course 20 years ago another tech visionary was staring disaster in the face when the dot com bubble burst and big profits seemed a distant dream - but Jeff Bezos went on to make those who bet on Amazon very rich indeed.



## STARTING POINTE

with

# Shelton Daniel

## MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am



COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

99.1 FM

**ON AIR**

 **POINTE FM**

# WHO calls for more intensified measures to fight UK coronavirus variant



WHO Europe director Hans Kluge

(CNN): The World Health Organization (WHO) has called on European countries to intensify coronavirus measures as the region deals with a new variant that was first detected in the UK.

WHO Europe director Hans Kluge said Thursday that further measures were needed to “flatten the steep vertical line” of rising cases in some countries.

While the variant appears to spread more easily than others,

there’s no evidence that it’s any more deadly or causes more severe disease.

Health officials have also downplayed the possibility that coronavirus vaccines won’t work against the variant.

But in the UK, health workers are struggling with a steep rise in cases and deaths. The country recorded a total of 1,041 further deaths on Wednesday, as well as 62,322 new cases.

The crisis is particularly acute

in London. On Thursday Mayor Sadiq Khan said the capital was at risk of running out of hospital beds in the next few days.

“This virus is out of control,” Khan told LBC radio. “The [National Health Service] is on the cusp of being overwhelmed. There has been no time during this pandemic where I’ve been more concerned than I am today.”

Kluge, speaking during a news briefing Thursday, said the UK variant has now been detected in 22 countries across the WHO European region.

“It is our assessment that this variant of concern may, over time, replace other circulating lineages as seen in the United Kingdom, and increasingly in Denmark,” Kluge said.

“With increased transmissibility and similar disease severity, the variant does, however, raise alarm: without increased control to slow its spread, there will be an increased impact on already stressed and pressurized health facilities.”

“This is an alarming situation, which means that for a short period of time we need to do more than we have done and to intensify the public health and social measures to be certain we can flatten the steep vertical line in some countries,” Kluge added.

Kluge then urged countries “to mitigate this burden by doing all they can to reduce transmission and increase vigilance to identify any new variants.”

A number of European nations are currently under lockdown or have imposed strict Covid-19 measures, including Britain, Italy, Germany Switzerland and Greece.

# Kim opens North Korean congress by admitting policy failures

SEOUL, South Korea (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un admitted that his economic development plans have failed as he opened the nation's first full ruling party congress in five years, state media reported Wednesday.

In an opening speech at the congress that began Tuesday, Kim said that "almost all sectors fell a long way short of the set objectives" under a previous five-year development plan established at the 2016 congress, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"We should further promote and expand the victories and successes we have gained at the cost of sweat and blood, and prevent the painful lessons from being repeated," he was quoted as saying.

The Workers' Party Congress, one of the North's biggest propaganda spectacles, is meant to help Kim show a worried nation that he's firmly in control and to boost unity behind his leadership in the face of COVID-19 and other growing economic challenges.

Kim, 36, is holding the congress, which is expected to last a few days, amid what may be the toughest challenge of his nine-year rule and what he has called "multiple crises."

Authoritarian North



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

Korea is one of the poorest countries in Asia, and the already besieged economy is being hampered by pandemic-related border closings with China, the North's major economic lifeline, the fallout from a series of natural disasters last summer and persistent U.S.-led sanctions over the nuclear program.

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, who takes office later in January, will likely maintain the sanctions and avoid any direct meeting with Kim until North Korea takes significant steps toward denuclearization.

The congress met in Pyongyang to determine "a fresh line of struggle and strategic and tactical policies," with thousands of delegates and observers in attendance, KCNA reported.

In his speech, Kim described the present difficulties facing his govern-

ment as "the worst-ever" and "unprecedented," according to KCNA.

Kim called for a new five-year plan and reviewed the present status of North Korea's metal, chemical, electric and other key industries and set unspecified tasks for future development, KCNA said.

It's not the first time for Kim has been candid about flawed systems and policies. Last August, he acknowledged economic "shortcomings" caused by "unexpected and inevitable challenges." Also last year he said that North Korea lacks modern medical facilities and that anti-disaster conditions in coastal areas is "poor."

Few experts doubt Kim's grip on power. But a prolonged coronavirus-related lockdown may be further destabilizing food and for-

eign exchange markets and aggravating livelihoods in North Korea. That could possibly lessen Kim's authority, some observers say.

Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said that "the fundamental problem" is that "Kim wants regime-sustaining economic growth while retaining nuclear weapons."

"Pyongyang is thus likely to demand sanctions relief for merely reducing tensions rather than making progress on denuclearization," he said.

U.S.-led sanctions toughened after Kim's unusually aggressive run of nuclear and missile tests in 2016 and 2017. They maintain a ban on major export items such as coal, textiles and seafood. Nevertheless, Kim has still repeatedly pushed for an expansion of his nuclear arsenal to cope with what he calls U.S. hostility.

Kim entered talks with President Donald Trump in 2018, but their diplomacy has been deadlocked for about two years because of wrangling over the sanctions.

The pandemic and typhoons and flooding last summer — which destroyed houses, farming land and other infrastructure across North Korea — have further hurt the North's economy.

# Mexico president slams social media 'censorship' after chaos in U.S. Capitol

(Reuters): Mexico's president on Thursday blasted social media companies for blocking the accounts of President Donald Trump for his part in chaotic scenes in Washington on Wednesday, again appearing to cleave to his U.S. counterpart in a contentious dispute.

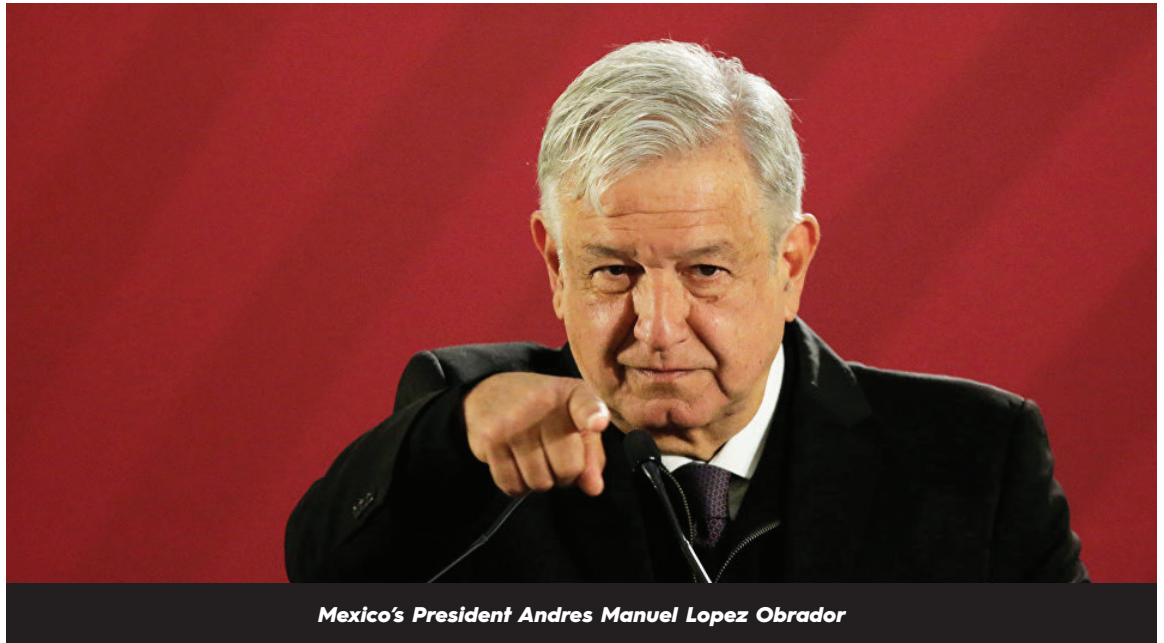
Four people died during the havoc that erupted after pro-Trump protesters stormed the U.S. Capitol in a bid to force Congress to block the appointment of President-elect Joe Biden, whose Nov. 3 election victory Trump has cast as fraudulent.

Many U.S. allies condemned the events at the Capitol, which Biden said bordered on "sedition."

However, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador was reluctant to comment on what occurred at the Capitol, reiterating a position that his government does not meddle in the affairs of other nations.

Twitter Inc, Facebook Inc and Snap Inc temporarily blocked Trump's accounts as they scrambled to contain his baseless claims about the presidential election amid the riots.

That decision, said Lopez



Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

Obrador, was not acceptable.

"I don't like censorship," he told a news conference. "I don't like anyone to be censored and for them to have their right taken away to send a message on Twitter or on Facebook."

Lopez Obrador, who waited weeks to congratulate Biden on his election victory, arguing that disputes over the process needed to be resolved first, did not mention Trump by name. But he brought up the social media intervention without prompting.

By then some critics of

the Mexican president were complaining on social media that he had not been forceful enough in rejecting the storming of the Capitol.

"We're not going to intervene in these matters, which are up to the Americans to resolve, to deal with. That's our policy, that's what I can say," Lopez Obrador said earlier in the news briefing when asked to comment on what happened in Congress.

His government was less hesitant to raise concerns about events abroad in 2019 when it called the ousting of Bolivia's leader Evo Morales a coup and gave him politi-

cal asylum.

Lopez Obrador this week offered asylum to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on the day a British court rejected a bid by the United States to secure his extradition for alleged offenses committed during the Obama administration, when Biden was vice-president. That offer upset some Biden supporters.

A combative leftist, Lopez Obrador in 2006 led massive protests in Mexico claiming he had been robbed of the presidency. He again cried foul when he was defeated in 2012, and finally won office by a landslide six years later.

# Capitol riot: What does a deadly day mean for Trump's legacy?



U.S. President Donald Trump

**Anthony Zurcher BBC senior North America reporter**

This is how the Trump presidency ends. Not with a whimper, but with a bang.

For weeks, Donald Trump had been pointing to 6 January as a day of reckoning. It was when he told his supporters to come to Washington DC, and challenge Congress - and Vice-President Mike Pence - to discard the results of November's election and keep the presidency in his hands.

On Wednesday morning, the president and his warm-up speakers set the whirlwind in motion.

Rudy Giuliani, the pres-

ident's personal lawyer, said the election disputes should be resolved through "trial by combat".

Donald Trump Jr, the president's oldest son, had a message to members of his party who would not "fight" for their president.

"This isn't their Republican Party anymore," he said. "This is Donald Trump's Republican Party."

Then the president himself encouraged the growing crowd, which had chanted "stop the steal" and "bullshit" at the president's prompting, to march the two miles from the White House to the Capitol.

"We will never give up. We will never concede,"

the president said. "Our country has had enough. We will not take it anymore."

As the president was concluding his remarks, a different kind of drama was playing out within the Capitol itself, as a joint session of Congress prepared to tabulate the state-by-state results of the election.

First, Pence - disregarding the president's urging to throw out the results from contested states - released a statement that he did not have such powers and his role was "largely ceremonial".

Then Republicans issued their first challenge, to Arizona votes, and the House

and Senate began their separate deliberations on whether to accept Joe Biden's victory there.

The House proceedings were raucous, with both sides cheering as their speakers made their remarks.

"The oath that I took this past Sunday to defend and support the Constitution makes it necessary for me to object to this travesty," said newly elected Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, who had recently made headlines for insisting that she would carry a handgun with her in Congress. "I will not allow the people to be ignored."

In the Senate, the de-

*cont'd on pg 22*

*cont'd from pg 21*

bate was taking on a different tone. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, dressed in the kind of dark suit and tie that befits a funeral, was coming to bury Donald Trump, not praise him.

"If this election were overturned by mere allegations from the losing side, our democracy would enter a death spiral," McConnell said. "We'd never see the whole nation accept an election again. Every four years would be a scramble for power at any cost."

The Kentucky senator, who will become the Senate minority leader as a result of his party's two recent defeats in Georgia, said that the chamber was designed to "stop short-term passions from boiling over and melting the foundations of our republic".

His words were practically still hanging in the air when the passions outside the Capitol boiled over, and the Trump supporters, perhaps inspired by the earlier speeches, stormed the building. They swamped the insufficient security in place and brought the proceedings to a grinding halt, as lawmakers, staff and media rushed to find shelter from the rioters.

The drama unfolded in fits and starts. Television cameras broadcast images of protesters dancing and waving flags on the steps of the Capitol. Photos and snippets popped up on social media of rioters inside the building, attempting to break into the legislative chambers

and posing in the offices of elected legislators; of security officers, guns drawn in the House of Representatives, behind barricaded doors.

In Wilmington, Delaware, President-elect Joe Biden scrapped a planned speech on the economy and condemned what he called an "insurrection" in Washington.

"At this hour our democracy is under unprecedented assault unlike anything we've seen in modern times," he said. "An assault on the citadel of liberty, the Capitol itself." He concluded his short remarks with a challenge to Trump: to go on national television to condemn the violence and "demand an end to this siege".

Minutes later, Trump would offer his message to the nation - but it was not the one Biden suggested.

Instead, sandwiched between his now familiar complaints about the election being "stolen", he told his supporters "to go home, we love you, you're very special".

It was the kind of kid gloves way the president has routinely responded to transgressions from his supporters - whether it was their violent treatment of protesters at his rallies, the "very fine people on both sides" statement after the clashes at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville or his "stand back and stand by" message to the far-right Proud Boys group during the first debate with Biden.

Trump's tweet, and two subsequent ones which also praised his support-

ers, were flagged and then removed by Twitter, which took the unprecedented step of locking the president's account for 12 hours. Facebook followed suit, banning Trump for a full day.

For the first time in his presidency, for the first time in his long, intimate relationship with social media, Donald Trump had been silenced.

If this is the "at long last, have you left no sense of decency" moment for Donald Trump, it arrives as they're cleaning up blood and broken glass in the US Capitol.

As the afternoon stretched into the evening, and police finally secured the US Capitol, a growing chorus of voices - from the left and right - condemned the violence. It was not surprising that Democrats, like soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, laid the riots at the feet of the president.

"January 6 will go down as one of the darkest days in American history," he said. "A final warning to our nation of the consequences of the demagogic president, the people who enable him, the captive media that parrot his lies and the people who follow him as he attempts to push America to the brink of ruin."

More noteworthy, however, were the Republicans who followed suit.

"We just had a violent mob assault the Capitol in an attempt to prevent those from carrying out our Constitutional duty," tweeted Congresswoman

Lynne Cheney, a frequent Republican critic of the president's. "There is no question that the president formed the mob, the president incited the mob, the president addressed the mob."

The condemnations were not limited to Trump's reliable intraparty critics, however. Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas, who frequently sides with the president, also spoke out.

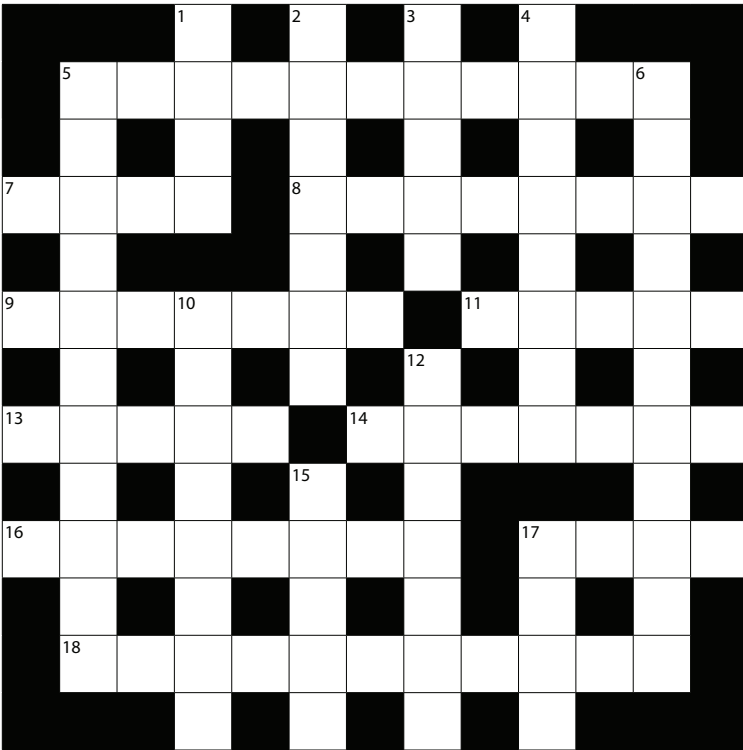
"It's past time for the president to accept the results of the election, quit misleading the American people, and repudiate mob violence," he said.

First Lady Melania Trump's Chief of Staff Stephanie Grisham and Deputy White House Press Secretary Sarah Matthews both resigned in protest, and there are reports that more administration officials will head for the exits in the next 24 hours.

CBS has reported that Trump administration Cabinet officials are discussing the 25th amendment to the US constitution, which outlines how the vice-president and a majority of the Cabinet can temporarily remove a president from office.

Whether Pence and the Cabinet act or not, Trump's presidency will be over in just two weeks. At that point, Republican Party leaders will have to grapple with a future where it has lost control of the Congress and the White House and has a former president whose reputation is badly tarnished but who still has strong sway over a sizeable segment of the party's base.

**QUICK CROSSWORD**



**Across**

- 5 Praiseworthy (11)
- 7 Increase suddenly and significantly (4)
- 8 Turncoat (8)
- 9 Absent (7)
- 11 Veracity (5)
- 13 Rigid part of a bicycle (5)
- 14 Author of The Jungle Book (7)
- 16 News report (8)
- 17 Animal with kids? (4)
- 18 Utter obscenities (informal) (3,3,5)

**Down**

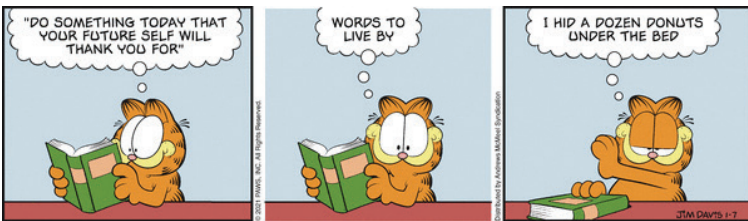
- 1 Light two-wheeled carriage (4)
- 2 Looking fixedly (7)
- 3 Inebriated (5)
- 4 Bad comic verse (8)
- 5 Montmartre nightspot (6,5)
- 6 Area of Czechoslovakia ceded to Germany by the Munich Agreement, 1938 (11)
- 10 Make less complex (8)
- 12 Mock title for a self-important man (3,4)
- 15 Unit of weight (5)
- 17 Walking or running speed (4)

**DAILY COMICS**

**Dilbert**



**Garfield**



**Cathy**



**SUDOKU**

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

6			3				
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**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**

**FRI**  
01/08




82° Hi  
DAY  
Partly sunny and pleasant

74° Lo  
NIGHT  
Partly cloudy with a shower in spots

Sunrise 6:39 AM    Sunset 5:49 PM    Moonrise 1:55 AM    Moonset 1:45 PM

**SAT**  
01/09



82° Hi  
DAY  
Some sun, then turning cloudy and pleasant

75° Lo  
NIGHT  
Partly cloudy with a passing shower

Sunrise 6:39 AM    Sunset 5:50 PM    Moonrise 2:56 AM    Moonset 2:33 PM

**YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE**

**♈ ARIES** | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Relying on your analytical skills for business and financial decisions is smart, but why use them when you're contemplating your next romantic move? Logic doesn't apply to human emotions.

**♉ TAURUS** | Apr. 20-May 20

Relying on your analytical skills for business and financial decisions is smart, but why use them when you're contemplating your next romantic move? Logic doesn't apply to human emotions.

**♊ GEMINI** | May 21-June 20

Things are turning around in your life. Change might take you in an unexpected direction. That person you thought didn't know you were alive suddenly is super chatty. That bill you were dreading arrives, and it's not nearly as bad as you thought.

**♋ CANCER** | June 21-July 22

You could be drawn to people and ideas that appeal to your analytical side today. Right now, you're much more interested in logic than emotion. Today is the beginning of a shift in your perception.

**♌ LEO** | July 23-Aug. 22

When you see a chance to get ahead in life today (and you can bet you will), you have to take it. No matter how inconvenient it is. No matter how stuffed your schedule already is. No matter how tired you are.

**♍ VIRGO** | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

There is a greater clarity in your life today. It's almost as if a light has suddenly been turned on and things finally make sense. The reason for this could be a new person in your life.

**♎ LIBRA** Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

There is probably going to be a lot of activity around you today, but you won't be directly involved in any of it. This might strike you as bad news because you've been itching to get into the game more.

**♏ SCORPIO** Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Be extremely careful about the people you share your secrets with today. Make sure they can handle the responsibility. Even one of your most trusted friends might not be able to resist passing on some juicy news.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS** | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Everything is falling nicely into place, and you couldn't be having a lovelier day. All the harmony you're experiencing in your life right now is due mostly to the fact that you and all your friends or co-workers are focusing on the creative side of things.

**♑ CAPRICORN** | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Right now, it's easier than ever for you to find a fresh way of seeing those you love (or care strongly about). It all starts with research. Listen to the people you care about and pay attention to what they say they need.

**♒ AQUARIUS** | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you've been trying to get to know someone better, you need to cover all the details about them today. Take special note of what they're wearing, what their body language says, and even the music they're listening to.

**♓ PISCES** | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Relying on your analytical skills for business and financial decisions is smart, but why use them when you're contemplating your next romantic move? Logic doesn't apply to human emotions. Emotions apply to human emotions.

**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](http://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](mailto: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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# Lakers to visit White House under president elect Joe Biden



The Los Angeles lakers are focused early in the 2020-21 NBA season on defending their title as NBA champions. However, with President elect Joe Biden set to take office in a matter of weeks, the team could resume a storied tradition in sports.

After defeating the Miami Heat to win the NBA Finals just months ago, the Lakers are reportedly eyeing a return trip to the White House for the first time in years. No NBA

team has visited the White House since the Trump administration took over in January 2017.

With Biden set to be sworn in on Inauguration Day on 20th January, the tradition of the champions visiting the iconic building could soon resume. According to Yahoo Sports' Chris Haynes, both Los Angeles Lakers players and management are hoping for the opportunity to visit the White House this year. However, the

team recognizes plenty of factors that could make resuming the tradition rather complicated.

Not only is the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, but the Lakers do not know when they will be in Washington D.C. again. They are set to face the Washington Wizards in the second half of the season, but the NBA will not release that portion of the schedule for at least another month.

The last time an NBA team visited the White

House came in 2016, when LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers visited President Barack Obama in November 2016.

Following the 2016 election of President Trump, both Cleveland and Golden State Warriors said they would not visit the White House. A few months later, after being sworn in President Trump announced the Warriors would not be invited to come to the White House.

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BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY  
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

# Former India cricket captain discharged from Hospital

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been discharged from hospital after having a heart attack on Saturday.

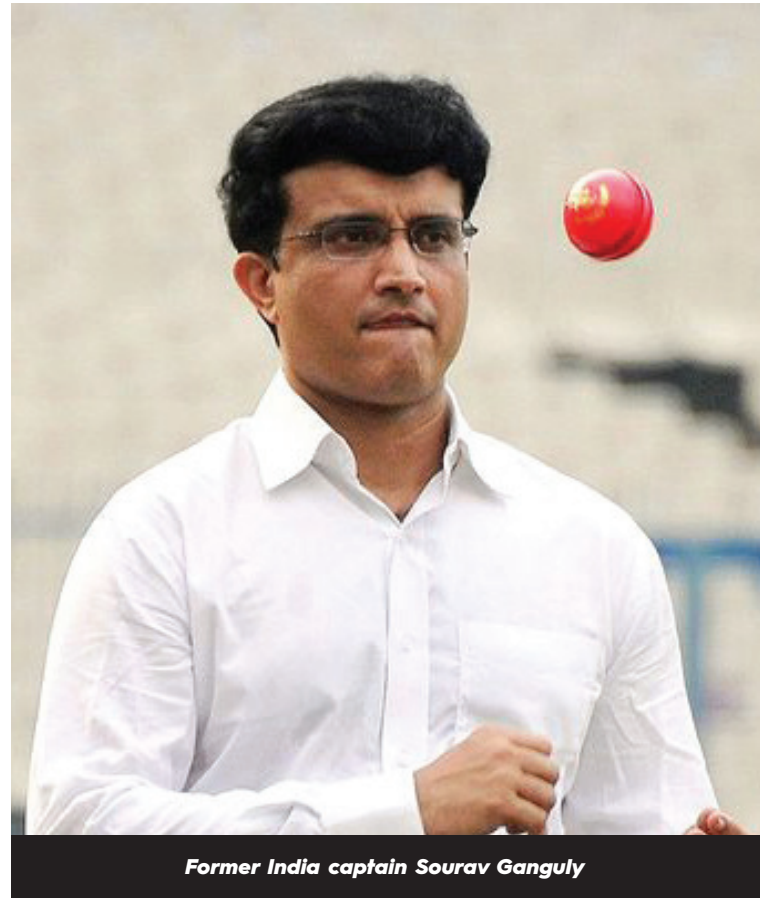
The 48-year-old president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) developed chest pains while exercising at his home gym and had surgery in Kolkata last weekend.

Ganguly had an angioplasty, a procedure to unblock a coronary artery. He told fans waiting outside the hospital he was grateful to

the doctors for the outstanding treatment he received.

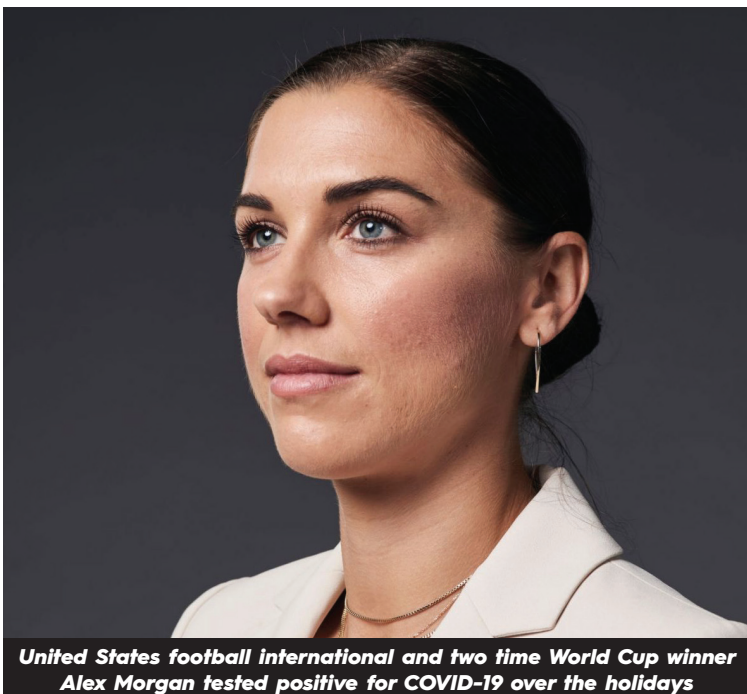
"I am absolutely fine. Hopefully I will be ready to fly soon," Ganguly noted.

The former left-handed batsman played 113 Tests and 311 one-day internationals, captaining India in the longest format of the game 49 times between 2000 and 2005. Ganguly scored 7,212 Test runs and secured 16 centuries, before taking over as president of the Indian cricket board in October 2019.



Former India captain Sourav Ganguly

## USA football star recovering from COVID-19



United States football international and two time World Cup winner Alex Morgan tested positive for COVID-19 over the holidays

United States football international and two-time World Cup winner, Alex Morgan, said on Tuesday she and her family tested positive for COVID-19 over the Christmas holiday and are all recovering well.

Morgan, who is married to former major League Soccer player Servando Carrasco and gave birth to her first child last May, returned to the United States last month after a five-game spell with Tottenham Hotspur in the Women's Super

League.

"After our self-isolation is completed, I will follow the US Soccer's return to play guidelines to ensure my body is fully recovered and I can join my teammates back on the field," Morgan said.

The 31-year-old Morgan joined Spurs from Orlando Pride in a bid to regain match fitness following the birth of her first child after the COVID-19 pandemic truncated the National Women's Soccer league.

## West Indies all-rounder tests positive for COVID-19



West Indies all-rounder Romario Shepherd



West Indies fast bowler Keon Harding

West Indies all-rounder Romario Shepherd has tested positive for COVID-19.

*Nation Sports* has been reliably informed that the Guyanese right arm medium pacer who tested positive for the coronavirus will be replaced for the One-Day International

squad traveling to Bangladesh later this month by Barbadian fast bowler Keon Harding.

The 24-year-old has been added to the 15-man squad, while 26-year-old Shepherd is now in self-

isolation, ruling him out of the tour.

While top officials at Cricket West Indies (CWI) remain tight-lipped, a number of sources have confirmed the latest development.

# DEWS



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