



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TWENTY EIGHT PEOPLE HOSPITALIZED WITH COVID

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Photo Caption: American visitor Jeremy Kaufman presents a donation to St Paul MP EP Chet Greene to help fund anti-COVID-19 efforts in the constituency

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APARTHEID IN A TIME OF COVID

Poorer nations observing the recent maneuverings of the world's wealthier and more powerful nations with regard to access to COVID-19 vaccines are rightfully feeling a mixed sense dread, confusion, and anger. Over the last few weeks, it has become uncomfortably clear that richer countries are using the 'might is right' mentality to virtually bully vaccine manufacturers into supplying their vaccine requirements, to the exclusion of the poorer nations.

The European Union, for example, threatened one company with export restrictions of its vaccines so that it could supply the majority of its product to the bloc. Canada, on the other hand, has been guaranteed access to a number of doses that could vaccinate its population five times. There are suggestions that Moderna planned to sell its vaccine with a heavy bias to the world's wealthiest nations. Not only that, the prices for which the vaccines are being sold to these wealthier nations are much cheaper than the prices being quoted to the world's poorer countries.

Despite the repeated warnings and admonitions of the World Health Organization (WHO), it has become painfully apparent that richer nations are intent on engaging in what one writer has referred to as "vaccine Apartheid." What else can this patently unfair and un-

equal access to vaccines be termed when countries are afforded access based on wealth? Make no mistake, the regions that stand to suffer the most from this system are Africa and Latin America, of which the Caribbean is a part—primarily black and brown people.

It is not lost on anyone that these wealthier nations, in particular Europe, over centuries have pillaged those very regions, extracting resources to enrich itself. Having done so, the regions were discarded like a banana peel after the fruit had been eaten. For those familiar with history, it is a recognizable cycle as it happened with the sugar industry and forced slavery; it was repeated with the banana industry; then our fledgling gaming and financial services sectors were all but killed in infancy; now there is talk that the germinating medical marijuana and cryptocurrency industries might receive some expensive financial Gramoxone from up north. It appears to some that the wealthier nations, North America and Europe, are intent on keeping poorer nations in a perpetual cycle of poverty so that they can be manipulated and mistreated.

These very nations would then turn around and express "concern" about the People's Republic of China offering assistance to these regions. So here is the Catch-22 situation: they

will not give you anything and China must have ulterior motive in offering assistance. Damned if you do; damned if you don't!

What does all of this have to do with the present access to the COVID-19 vaccine issue? Simply put, these nations have set up a world order in which access to vaccines is dependent on wealth, the wealth that these very nations extracted from the poorer nations. It is a system that necessarily marginalizes the African continent and many regions whose people are descendants of African people. Plainly put, it is a system of Apartheid in which White is Might is Right.

The WHO has warned that this approach threatens the safety and security of the global population since international trade and travel will still be risky for people from wealthy nations, even though they might be vaccinated. How can it be justifiable that some nations have access to so many doses of vaccines while other nations have access to not even one dose?

Truly, the retrogression the world has witnessed over the last few years was not confined only to approach by Donald Trump. Examine it closely and you will realize that Europe and the North America (Canada including) are not much different from the parochial agenda advanced by Trump. Apartheid is alive and well... nay thriving!

Twenty-Eight people hospitalized with COVID

Antigua and Barbuda has experienced several consecutive days of double digits confirmed new COVID-19 cases, and the trend is now worrying the government.

Senior government officials continue to state their preference not to lockdown the country, but warn that should the trend continue unabated they will have little choice but to pursue this drastic course of action.

The latest figures released from the Ministry of Health indicate that there are now twenty-eight (28) people hospitalized with COVID-19. This is expected to have placed severe strains on the health system since it was stated earlier that there are twenty-three beds allocated for this disease – seventeen at the Infectious Disease Centre at Holberton and six at Mount St John's Medical Centre.

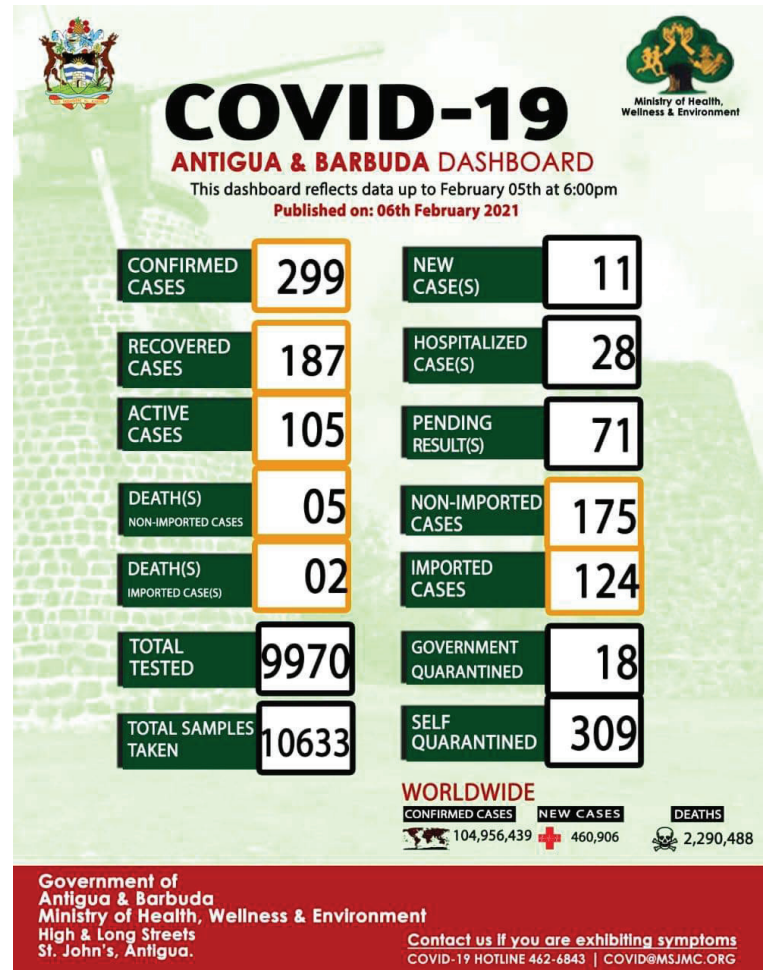
The most recent report

received by the Ministry of Health from MSJMC has revealed eleven (11) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 5th February 2021.

Of the sixty-four (64) samples processed by MSJMC, fifty-three (53) were negative and eleven (11) positive. The eleven (11) cases are non-imported. Investigations have begun and contact tracing and testing are ongoing.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is two hundred and ninety-nine (299); which is inclusive of one hundred and five (105) active cases.

Meanwhile, three (3) additional persons have been hospitalized and seventy-one (71) samples are pending. The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



BROWN AND BROWNE
PRIME MINISTER HON. GASTON BROWNE SATURDAYS 4PM SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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Tougher measures for returning nationals to combat COVID-19

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to rise, the government is putting in place stiffer measures to protect the general population from the spread of the virus. As a result, effective tomorrow Tuesday 8th February, all returning nationals must quarantine for the mandatory fourteen days at the government-controlled facility at Jolly Harbour.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, in making the announcement, said the contact tracing team has confirmed a widely held suspicion that returning nationals pose a significant threat to the nation regarding the spread of the virus.

"All returning nationals must stay at Jolly Beach hotel and pay the fee of eighty dollars per day and this is a policy from which we will not compromise," PM Browne stated emphatically during his Saturday afternoon radio programme.

According to the Prime Minister,

this policy was announced several months ago and there was a fair amount of public 'push back' and in an effort to appease the community the decision was shelved. However, this time the measure is going ahead "in order to protect the population."

"We have warned our citizens and residents not to expose themselves to returning nationals who take up residence with them and to ensure that they fully complete the mandatory quarantine period. Unfortunately, many did not heed the advice and today we are paying the price," he explained.

PM Browne revealed that over the Christmas holidays there were about twelve hundred returning nationals who were in the country and who were asked to quarantine. Many of these persons are said to have flouted the regulations and were seen at several social events that ended being the source of several

infections.

"There were a few funerals and some returning nationals gave the authorities at the airport false information regarding where they planned to stay in an effort to beat the system. However, through the work of the contact tracers, several outbreaks have been traced to funerals and at least one wedding. Family members did not complete the quarantine period thus leading to several family members becoming infected and who work at a number of institutions in the country," he reported. According to PM Browne, the sad fact is that family members have been spreading the virus amongst their own families, causing sickness and anxiety.

He encouraged those who have returning nationals in their households to ensure that proper protocols are followed and to report any deviation in the observance of the quarantine to the authorities.



PM: US and Canada should show more concern



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is highly critical of the action of the world's wealthier nations whom he has accused of hoarding the vaccines developed to fight the COVID-19 virus.

But at the same time, PM Browne has expressed disappointment that the Caribbean's neighbours to the north – the United States and Canada – have not shown a commitment to ensure that

these countries gain access to the vaccines.

"I think the US and Canada, in particular, ought to take greater interest in the Caribbean region. I don't see how they can leave us to languish like this. We share a common geographical space, we are linked by a common history and by millions of our people who call those countries home," he told the audience of his weekly

Browne and Browne show.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader said he hopes these two countries would be "more responsive" to the needs of the people of the region which the US in particular has always referred to as its 'third border.'

While this is happening, the Prime Minister noted that some countries that are not part of this hemisphere have been very

responsive to the needs of the Caribbean. He singled out the government of India which has already committed fifty thousand doses of the vaccine to Barbados and has also made a commitment of a set amount to Antigua and Barbuda, which is to be confirmed this week.

"One would have expected this type of assistance from the United States and Canada as they should be more willing to assist us. Whenever there is any candidature or global issues they lobby us. Now that we are facing this most significant challenge they disappear. This is totally unacceptable!" PM Browne declared.

He was equally critical of the wealthy nations for not readily making the vaccines available to the less developed and poorer countries. "Wealthy countries are getting vaccines many times the size of their populations and in the process literally leaving developing countries vulnerable," he lamented.

STARTING POINTE

ON AIR

with Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am

POINTE FM

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
99.1 FM

Chevening scholars return after completing studies



Kissy Gomes and Shanna Challenger

Two Antigua and Barbuda nationals who are recipients of the coveted United Kingdom's Chevening Scholarships have successfully completed their studies and have since returned home.

The two - Kissy Gomes and Shanna Challenger - undertook studies in the UK at a time when the entire world was battling with the coronavirus outbreak

and have managed to complete the programme despite the challenges.

"Resilience, perseverance, and dedication were the words that characterized the experience of Antigua and Barbuda's 2020 Chevening Scholars in what turned out to be an unprecedented year globally. Both Gomes and Challenger shared their excitement for the prestigious opportunity

to pursue Masters Studies at universities of their choice in the UK. Representing the twin-island nation they not only received new insights about life in the UK but also brought new perspectives to their globally-diverse classes and increased recognition of the major contributions that Antigua and Barbuda has been making in the environmental field," a statement from the

British High Commission in St John's said.

The statement said the coronavirus spreading in the UK and globally understandably altered their experiences. Nevertheless, with flexibility and strength of will, they successfully completed their Masters programmes and have been able to return home.

Resident British High Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, welcomed Gomes and Challenger back at a recent private ceremony.

Thompson said, "Our alumni continue to play an important role not just promoting the scholarship, but as experts supporting shared UK and Antigua and Barbuda objectives."

The scholars were encouraged to join the great work of the Chevening Alumni and to continue promoting this opportunity to other would-be Antiguan and Barbudan applicants. "The next round of applications will commence later this year. However, persons are encouraged to visit www.chevening.org and subscribe for notifications and help tips as they prepare," the statement urged.

St Paul's gets help in anti-COVID fight

The St Paul's constituency which has been identified as one of the areas of Antigua with a cluster of COVID-19 cases is getting help to fight the spread of the virus.

A visitor to the island who just completed a seven-week stay has made a 'generous' contribution to the area to be used in the ongoing campaign of education and providing supplies for schools and other institutions in the area.

American businessman, Jeremy Kaufman, who spent his holidays in the English Harbour, said he wanted to assist the area in bringing the COVID outbreak under control.

On Friday, Kaufman presented a cheque to area representative, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, E.P. Chet Greene, at a brief ceremony held at the National Garment Manufacturing Initiative (NGMI) at the Simon Bolivar Park. Among other things, the money will go towards the manufacturing of masks at the factory for school children in the St Paul's area.

"I have fallen in love with Antigua and I wanted to



Left to right, American businessman Jeremy Kaufman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade E.P. Chet Greene and Ambassador Daven Joseph



do something to help. It is to be able to make this my pleasure and honour donation to help in the

fight against COVID," the businessman said.

In response, Greene revealed that already he has been utilizing both traditional and social media to launch a campaign of education to get residents in the area to adhere to the health protocols as articulated by the Ministry of Health.

"We have embarked on a messaging campaign to get our people to stay the course and to return to those measures that allowed a certain amount of success in the early days of the pandemic. We have also been providing masks to people in the community as well as distribute hand sanitizers as part of the campaign," he stated.

Ambassador Daven Joseph, who made the initial introduction of Kaufman to the minister, said he is encouraging the American businessman to see Antigua and Barbuda as a country with much investment potential.

Kaufman responded by stating that he has interests in the Citizenship by Investment Programme and that it is something that he intends to pursue.



TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI TUESDAY - FRIDAY SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

10:30AM TO 1:30PM

Budget debate starts today

Debate on the 2021 National Budget will begin the House of Representatives today.

The government is proposing to spend \$1.4 billion this year under the budget themed "Maintaining a Healthy Nation and Restoring a Vibrant Economy." The Budget maps out government's response to the growing challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the need to manage this crisis, while guiding the economy towards a path of recovery.

As is customary, Leader of the Opposition, Jamaile Pringle, will lead off the debate when the house convenes its sitting today. He is expected to present the opposition's perspectives on the Budget and its views on the recovery efforts.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne last month announced a \$1.4 Billion dollar budget with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries receiving the highest budgetary allocation in the amount of \$143.1 million.

Prime Minister Browne highlighted his government's commitment to improving all levels and modalities of education in Antigua and Barbuda, which he said is a platform for high levels of economic growth.

This Budget provides for an overall resource requirement of \$1.4 billion. This represents a decrease of eighteen per cent, or approximately \$300 million, when compared to total estimates



for 2020. This reduction is not due to the government's reduction in service delivery, but an adoption of more efficient measures of service delivery. The budgetary and fiscal position points to an overall deficit of 3.4 per cent of GDP or \$133.7 million, and a primary deficit of 0.8 per cent of GDP or \$30.5 million.

The country's leader

announced that his government expects revenue to improve gradually over 2020. He said that Recurrent Revenue is estimated at \$872.5 million for 2021, which is a seventeen per cent increase over the \$745.8 million generated in 2020. The components of recurrent revenue are Indirect Tax Revenue - \$604.2 million; Direct Tax Revenue - \$98.5 million

and Non-Tax Revenue - \$169.0 million

PM Browne said that the Customs and Excise Division and the Inland Revenue Department are tasked with the all-important responsibility of delivering this revenue performance. The amount budgeted for capital receipts is seven million, while grant funding for Fiscal Year 2021 is budgeted at \$82.1 million.

The components of recurrent expenditure are:

- Wages and Salaries - \$402.8 million
- Transfers and Grants - \$154.4 million
- Pensions and Gratuities - \$70.9 million
- Goods and Services - \$157.9 million
- Interest Payments - \$103.2 million
- Statutory Contributions - \$39.0 million

Government's Capital Budget for 2021 is \$167.2 million, which is a sixty-two per cent increase over the \$103.3 million spent on capital projects in 2020.

Prime Minister Browne said that the increase in capital spending is part of government's strategy to promote economic activity while the country awaits a rebound in the tourism sector.

He said that spending on road works will amount to \$31.9 million in 2021 and forty-three million has been allocated for major repairs and maintenance to government buildings and to improve climate resilience of critical government infrastructure.

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority's Telecommunications Business Unit is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the following positions:

SALES CONTROLLER

The Sales Controller is responsible for leading the Corporate and Retail sales teams and functions. This includes setting sales quotas, creating sales plans, analyzing data, managing the relationships with key corporate customers, monitoring sales zones and building the sales teams through training, mentoring and implementing performance interventions to maximize their potential for success.

KEY TASKS INCLUDE:

- Meeting marketing and sales financial objectives by forecasting requirements, preparing budgets & scheduling expenditures, analyzing variances and initiating corrective actions;
- Developing sales plans by forecasting and developing sales quotas, projecting sales volumes and profit for existing and new products, analyzing trends, establishing pricing strategies while monitoring costs, competition, supply and demand;
- Completing sales audits, identifying trends, determining improvements and recommending changes;
- Achieving marketing and sales objectives by planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating advertising, merchandising, and trade promotion programs including developing field sales action plans;
- Developing and sustaining rapport with key accounts by creating and maintaining a portfolio of corporate customers; exploring their specific usage patterns to recommend service plans that best fit their needs while anticipating new opportunities for business;
- Managing the relationships with outside vendors and re-sellers of our products and services;
- Managing the remuneration schemes and performance of sales teams including setting & monitoring of targets, issuing assignments & sales calls, formally assessing performance of teams and individuals routinely;
- Preparing comprehensive monthly reports to include growth trends, customer churn & receivables by product line.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- People Management, Telecom and/or Marketing Industry experience;
- University Degree in Marketing, Business Management (or related field).

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Experience in planning and implementing sales strategies and customer relationship management;
- Proven leadership experience managing and directing a sales team with the ability to inspire and motivate them to achieve targets;
- Dedication to providing outstanding customer experiences.

CORPORATE SALES REPRESENTATIVES

The Corporate Sales Representatives utilize various sales strategies to attract new business clients to meet our customer acquisition & revenue growth objectives. This includes generating sales leads, qualifying prospective customers, working with our channel partners and ultimately selling APUA Telecommunications products and services.

KEY TASKS INCLUDE:

- "Getting the sale" using various customer sales methods (Referrals, cold calling, presentations etc.);
- Developing a trusted advisor relationship with key accounts, customer stakeholders and executive sponsors;
- Meeting personal and team sales targets; forecasting sales, sales strategies/models and evaluating effectiveness;
- Evaluating customer's needs and building long lasting relationships;
- Ensuring the timely and successful delivery of our solutions according to customer needs and objectives;
- Identifying opportunities within assigned territory and collaborating with sales teams to ensure growth attainment;
- Reporting and providing feedback to management using financial statistical data.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE SHOULD HAVE/BE:

- Proven sales experience and knowledge of APUA Telecoms products and services;
- Knowledge of sales techniques, pipeline management and sales software;
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills;
- Self-motivated & driven - ability to deliver results without supervision;
- A valid driver's license and vehicle to perform duties.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES ARE ASKED TO APPLY IN WRITING TO:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Crn. High Street & Independence Drive
PO BOX 416
St. John's, Antigua
OR email - hr@apua.ag

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 2021

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****

World is on course for a coronavirus vaccine 'apartheid,' experts warn



First shipment of Sputnik vaccine heads for Iran

The west bought billions of vaccines fast and cheap, leaving poorer nations paying through the nose for years to come

Senam Agbesi has been trying to make the best of lockdown in London. "I've done lots of Zooms, lots of walks," he said. The thirty-four-year-old NHS manager believes he could get the vaccine this month, as he is starting a new job that would mean visiting hospitals regularly.

Despite the good news about his own vaccine, he worries about his father, Yao, who lives in Accra, Ghana. Yao is sixty-five and has sickle cell trait, a condition that puts him at higher risk of suffering severe illness if he catches COVID-19.

A close family friend recently died of the virus

and Senam wishes his father would be more careful. "He thinks he's invincible. He drinks his little tea of lime juice and ginger in the mornings and thinks he has an invisible fortress around him," he told The Bureau of Investigative Journalism for this report.

Yao has not been given any information about being vaccinated nor seen any concrete information in the media about when any vaccines will arrive. Predictions suggest that the majority of the Ghanaian population will not be vaccinated until 2023, and some other sub-Saharan countries will be waiting until 2024.

Not only will poorer countries be forced to wait, but many are already being charged much higher prices for every dose. Ugan-

da, for example, has announced a deal for millions of vaccines from AstraZeneca, at a price of seven dollars a dose - more than three times what the EU paid for the same jab. Including transport fees, it will cost seventeen dollars to fully vaccinate one Ugandan. Campaigners and scientists warn that we are on course for a "vaccine apartheid" in which people living in the global south are inoculated years after those in the west.

The effects of this inequity would be stark. Modelling by Northeastern University indicates that if the first two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines were distributed proportionally by national population, worldwide deaths would fall by sixty-one per cent. But if the doses are monopolized by

forty-seven of the world's richest countries, only thirty-three per cent fewer people will die.

As the EU bickered with AstraZeneca last week over securing more vaccines, leaders in the bloc parroted the mantra "no one is safe until everyone is safe." But globally unequal distribution will harm all of us - leaving reservoirs for the virus across the world in which new, potentially more dangerous variants will emerge and spread.

Distracted by in-fighting and protectionism in the west, we are sleepwalking into a world that will suffer more cases, more economic chaos and more deaths.

Survival of the quickest

In the rush to secure vaccines for their citizens, and before it was known which ones would be most effective, countries quickly arranged deals for billions of doses. About 12.7 billion doses of various coronavirus vaccines have been bought so far, enough to vaccinate roughly 6.6 billion people. (All of the vaccines approved so far require two doses, but some nations have already ordered a single-dose vaccine that has yet to be approved.)

More than half of those doses - 4.2 billion secured, with the option of buying another 2.5 billion - have been bought by wealthy countries home to only 1.2 billion people.

Canada has bought enough doses to inoculate every Canadian five times, while the US, UK, EU, Australia, New Zealand and Chile

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have purchased enough to vaccinate their citizens at least twice, although some of the vaccines are yet to be approved.

These vast existing orders leave fewer doses for poorer regions and raises questions over whether COVAX, an organization created to ensure low-income countries can access vaccines, will be able to meet its target to vaccinate those most at risk across the world this year. (COVAX told The Bureau that it was confident it would meet the target and hoped to exceed it.)

Low- and middle-income countries have made deals directly with pharmaceutical companies, but have so far secured only thirty-two per cent of the world's supply to cover eighty-four per cent of the world's population.

In Israel, which has the fastest vaccination programme in the world, more than a third of people have had one dose, and over a fifth have had both. The Palestinian territories are still waiting for vaccines from COVAX to arrive, although Israel recently announced it would transfer five thousand doses to immunize Palestinian frontline health workers.

"We're in such a massive crisis," said Fatima Hassan, the founder of South Africa's Health Justice Initiative. "If even in South Africa we can't get even half of our population vaccinated soon, I can't even imagine how Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Namibia and the rest of Africa will cope. If this is going to continue for another three years, we're not



Indian health worker waits to be vaccinated

going to get any kind of continental or global immunity."

Demand exceeding supply

This frenzied grab for vaccines is happening because supply is finite. After developing their vaccine, pharmaceutical companies must modify their product so it can be manufactured on an industrial scale, before transferring the technology to licensed factories around the world.

AstraZeneca, the company behind the Adenovirus-based vaccine developed with Oxford University has licensed ten other companies in the UK, India, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, China, Australia, Spain, Mexico and Argentina to make its product, on top of its own factories in the UK and Europe.

While most of these companies have permission to make the vaccine only for a specific geographic area, it is at least an attempt to manufacture at scale globally. Campaigners have criticized other pharmaceutical giants for failing to license more manufacturing companies around the

world.

Instead, some of these companies appear to have focused on supplying the west. Public Citizen, a US think tank, has found that just two per cent of Pfizer-BioNTech's global supply has been granted to COVAX, while last year people familiar with Moderna's plans believed the US company intended to prioritize high income nations. In January, the South African government said Moderna has no intention of registering its vaccine in the country.

Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines are also much more expensive. Although many of the vaccine deals have been kept secret, information leaked by a Belgian official showed the EU paid between two and eighteen dollars per dose, with Pfizer and Moderna's mRNA vaccines the priciest at over fourteen dollars – much more than low-income countries can afford.

Pfizer told The Bureau: "We have allocated doses for supply to low- and lower-middle-income countries at a not-for-profit price."

AstraZeneca has prom-

ised to make its vaccine available at cost in the Global South in perpetuity (there is an as-yet unspecified time limit for that price in the West). But some poorer nations have already ended up paying more for the AstraZeneca vaccine too, under another name.

In India, where much of the world's pharmaceutical manufacturing takes place, the Serum Institute is producing the largest shipments of both AstraZeneca and Novavax's vaccines. However, because it has a non-commercial license for the AstraZeneca jab, the Serum Institute can export its own version – Covishield – to ninety-two of the world's poorest countries.

Unlike AstraZeneca, the Serum Institute has not promised to keep to cost price, and is charging India three dollars per dose, South Africa and Brazil five dollars, and Uganda seven dollars, where the EU only paid AstraZeneca two dollars. Neither AstraZeneca nor the Serum Institute responded to a request for comment.

Many nations, particularly in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, have turned to Russian and Chinese vaccines, which are yet to be approved by what the WHO defines as a stringent regulator. According to the manufacturer's website, more than fifty countries have also applied for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine.

(Reprinted from the Independent)

CARICOM Business

A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

CARICOM Business is a weekly newsletter produced by the Directorate of Trade & Economic Integration.

Barbados economy declines by 17.6% - Central Bank

Preliminary estimates are that Barbados contracted by 17.6 % during 2020. The sharp fall reflected the combined effects of the severely diminished activity in the tourism sector, weaker than anticipated investment and reduced consumption arising from lower employment incomes and increased uncertainty. Despite an uptick in arrivals during the fourth quarter, visitor arrivals by way of airlift declined by seventy-one per cent for 2020. Cruise arrivals declined by sixty-four per cent. Revenues declined by twelve per cent the result of lower collections of transaction-based taxes. VAT receipts fell by \$185 million and excise and import duties registered reductions of \$56 million and \$23 million, respectively. Nonetheless, government registered a primary surplus of \$243 million, given a stronger than forecast improvement in corporate tax collections. The overall fiscal deficit was \$36 million or 0.4% of GDP for the first nine months of the fiscal year. At year-end, Gross International Reserves stood at US\$2,661.9 million or 40.3 weeks of imports.

Jamaica's revenues decline fifteen per cent in nine months

Jamaica's Finance Minister Nigel Clarke has advised that revenues declined by \$72 billion or fifteen per cent for the first nine months of the 2020/21 fiscal year. Speaking in Parliament, Clarke noted that economic output is forecasted to decline precipitously this fiscal year, having declined by 18.4% in the first quarter and 10.7% in the second quarter. He noted that unemployment leapt from 7.3% in January of 2020 to more than twelve per cent in July 2020 before improving to 10.4% in October last year. Minister Clarke pointed out that the government's debt stock as at April 2020 was J\$2.087 trillion. As at December 2020 the debt stock was J\$2.702 trillion.

420 businesses close, 2,754 jobs lost to COVID in SVG

Real GDP is projected to contract by 16.2% in 2020, followed by a modest rebound of two per cent in 2021, and to converge back to its pre-pandemic level only by 2024. Unemployment for 2020 stands at 25.6% but average inflation declined by 0.2%. Those are some of the findings resulting from the Article IV consultations led by the IMF with the Bahamas. Public debt is expect-

ed to jump to almost ninety per cent of GDP by 2021 and to remain more than twenty-two percentage points above its pre-pandemic level over the medium-term. According to the Fund, the banking sector remains well capitalized, but some banks and credit unions are vulnerable to pandemic induced risks, including an erosion of asset quality once loan moratoria expire, with negative implications for profitability and capital adequacy. Risks around the baseline are high, reflecting the uncertain evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, and The Bahamas' vulnerability to natural disasters.

European Parliament votes to expand blacklist

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have voted overwhelmingly in favour of adding more nations and territories to the list of non-cooperative jurisdictions or blacklist. By a vote of five hundred and eighty-seven to fifty, the Parliament called for criterion to judge if a country's tax system is fair or not needs to be widened; that countries should not be removed from the blacklist if they only make symbolic tweaks; a zero per cent tax rate policy should automatically lead to being placed on the blacklist; and list has to be formalized through a legally binding instrument by end 2021. While also arguing for the inclusion of EU territories such as the Netherlands, Ireland and Malta, MEPs also placed emphasis on UK territories. In that regard, focus was placed on the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands among others. Despite the vote, any decision to expand the blacklist rests with the twenty-seven member states on the EU's Economic and Financial Affairs Council.

Canada's main airlines to suspend service to Caribbean

Canada's main airlines Air Canada, WestJet, Sunwing and Air Transat, have agreed to cancel service to the Caribbean and Mexico and the federal government is introducing new mandatory quarantine rules. The suspension of flights is expected to end on 30th April. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in making the announcement said as soon as possible the government will be introducing mandatory PCR testing at the airport for people returning to Canada, on top of the pre-boarding test already required. Travellers will then have to wait up to three days at an approved hotel for their test results, at their own expense, which Trudeau said is expected to be more than \$2,000.

SVG PM to take Sputnik COVID vaccine on Tuesday

(iWitness News SVG):

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves says that he will take the Russian developed Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday.

He made the announcement on WE FM on Sunday, three days after telling parliament he was giving it "prayerful consideration" and would have made a decision by the following day.

"I have decided that on Tuesday that I am going to take the Sputnik — the Russian vaccine. I decided that I am going to do it. I got up Friday morning saying yes," Gonsalves said on WE FM.

He noted that the country has received, through an intermediary, twenty doses of the Sputnik vaccine. He added that in-



Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

fectious disease specialist, Dr. Jerrol Thompson, a former minister of science and technology, as well as Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Duncan and a couple of other persons in St. Vincent and the Grenadines had already received the Sputnik jab. "But, there are so many persons who are a little wary of the vac-

cines that I finally decided that look, if I take it, persons would probably have greater confidence in vaccine-taking," the prime minister said.

"Because the anti-vaxxers have been making quite an advance on YouTube and on social media and I've seen some statistics coming out from Brit-

ain and a couple places," Gonsalves said.

"I've seen some responses from a limited survey done in Barbados and some commentaries by some people who are in public health in the region and I thought that maybe if I take it and people see well 'de comrade' take it. And not just vaccines in general but certainly this COVID vaccine and particularly the Sputnik," Gonsalves said. On Thursday, Gonsalves, seventy-four, told lawmakers that his instinct was not to take the vaccine because he did not want to appear to be jumping the queue, although because of his age, he would be among persons considered in the high priority group to receive the vaccine.

Barbados: IMF eyes public service pensions

(Barbados Today): Change is coming to government's pension arrangements for civil servants, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has declared after its latest review of the Barbados economy.

Following a virtual visit earlier last week by the Bert van Selm-led IMF team, the Washington-based international financial institution said an actuarial review of the civil service pension system was completed last November and would be the basis for "up-

coming public pension reform."

There was no immediate comment from the Ministry of Finance on the IMF's statement.

While no details were offered on what changes were likely to the existing pension scheme for thousands of public officers, the financial burden of public sector pensions has long been targeted by previous IMF missions.

In 2019, van Selm's team declared that public sector pension arrangements were a "risk" to the IMF pro-

gramme with Barbados.

"Additional challenges include reforming the civil service pension system and strengthening the effectiveness of customs. The tasks are arduous, but there is no alternative route to restoring fiscal and external sustainability to spur a sustained economic recovery," the IMF said then.

It said: "Strong steps have been made in implementing structural reforms. A new central bank law, aimed at strengthening the autonomy of the bank

while limiting the provision of credit to the government, was adopted by parliament in December 2020."

In the statement, van Selm also noted that a new procurement law to strengthen the "fairness, integrity and transparency" of the procurement process is expected to be debated in parliament later this month.

The IMF is expected to conduct its fifth review under its Extended Fund Facility with Barbados in May.

More vaccination means less worry to travel

(Jamaica Gleaner):

Like the rest of the Caribbean tourism industry, Jamaican hotelier Josef Forstmayr is closely watching the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines in the major markets in Europe and North America, hoping that enough people will be vaccinated to encourage a rapid return of large numbers of tourists to Caribbean shores.

"The more of us that have been vaccinated, the less worried persons will be about travel," Forstmayr, the managing director of Round Hill Hotel and Villas,

and a former president of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), told The Sunday Gleaner. "Vaccination will be essential for a return to any real business."

However, as front-line workers and the elderly in the United States, Britain, Canada and major European countries begin getting the injections, any expectations in the region are tempered by the slow pace of roll-out in these countries.

While the vaccination rate in the US has improved in recent weeks, the 1.4 million doses

administered per day means it will take an estimated eleven months to cover seventy-five per cent of the population with the required two doses. The British government has said it could take a year to vaccinate its population.

This is the reality that faces the Caribbean's tourism industry, along with reluctance by large numbers of people to travel, despite expressing a strong desire to do so.

According to one of the world's most prestigious management consulting firms, the Boston,

Massachusetts-headquartered Boston Consulting Group (BCG), since the start of the pandemic last year, consumers miss leisure travel more than anything else.

A survey conducted in December 2020 found that sixty-six per cent of consumers said they could not wait to begin travelling again, up seven points from July, Marguerite Fitzgerald, managing director and partner at BCG, told a discussion on what COVID-19 vaccines mean for Carib-

cont'd on pg 15

FEBRUARY IS



BLACK HISTORY Month



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

**DRIVE SAFE
DRIVE SMART**

TnT CoP: Make kidnapping, rape, attempted murder non-bailable offences

(LoopTT): Commissioner of Police Gary Griffith is pleading with those in authority to amend the laws to include kidnapping, terrorism, rape and attempted murder as non-bailable offences.

There have been calls for these offences to be made non-bailable following the kidnapping and death of twenty-three-year-old court clerk Andrea Bharatt.

In a Facebook post on Saturday, Griffith said at a time when the nation is grieving and frustrated due to the death of a young woman, some have made a desperate attempt to divert attention, as to the real cause in the collapse of the criminal justice system.

The commissioner said a few defence attorneys recently "presented a red herring, by stating that it is due to the failure of the police to be ready to commence the cases, as the cause for these monsters to be back out on the street."

He said: "This is false and misleading. These same attorneys have blamed the non-appearance in court of police officers for the dismissal of cases. Over the past two years, there



Trinidad and Tobago Commissioner of Police Gary Griffith

has been a ninety-three per cent improvement of police officers attending court."

"The job of the TTPS is to investigate, arrest, and charge such elements, in the expectation that the criminal justice system keeps them in prison. Certain defence attorneys have a totally opposite job, as their responsibility is to get these same characters back out onto the streets within hours, using the system of bail."

Griffith added that Bharatt's death has opened the Pandora's Box to expose that the scales of justice have been tilted towards benefitting the criminal element rather than the law-abiding citizen.

He said: "The failure to have a bail amendment

bill passed, to the point that someone can have nine assault rifles in his possession, which can kill over five hundred persons in seconds, but our courts and certain politicians see it justified that someone like this has a right to be back out on the streets via bail being given. This latest incident yet again exposes the flaws in the abuse of bail being given."

However, Griffith stressed that the police are not responsible for granting bail.

He said: "In contrast to the desperate attempt by a defence attorney, the police are not the final decision-makers as to whether bail ought to be granted or denied. The police object where it is necessary and in consideration of why, is set out in the Bail

Act which gives the power to Courts to deny bail or to make it extremely difficult for these criminals to access bail. That is strictly for the Magistrates to decide."

The commissioner continued: "Five different Magistrates at different times, each approved bail for this individual, to allow him back onto the streets even after seeing the number of charges, some of which were similar in nature, the seriousness of the offences, and the threat to the victims."

Furthermore, Griffith said the easy access to bail is also a matter of concern, as persons charged for serious offenses such as rape, attempted murder, kidnapping, continued gender-based violence, or possession of assault weapons, are given bail at times of a mere \$5,000, hence making it easy for them to acquire and then be released.

The commissioner added that this has also caused many victims not to report crimes or attend court to testify, as they are aware that if kidnapped or raped, the perpetrator would be released and can then target them as they are easily released on bail.

cont'd from pg 14

bean tourism, organized last week by the Barbados-headquartered Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). However, Fitzgerald said, the evidence suggests that it

could be 2024 – but no earlier than 2023 – before travel to the region returns to 2019 levels.

"Tourism is really driven by the great intangible of consumer

confidence, and so regardless really of where we are in the cycle of therapeutics, vaccines, waves ... we don't think we're gonna see full recovery until psycholog-

ically people are ready to travel again," the BCG executive told the panel. "There is going to be a confidence issue that we'll have to get past."

Biden: 'Erratic' Trump should not get intelligence briefings

(BBC): President Joe Biden has said his predecessor Donald Trump should not be given access to intelligence briefings because of his "erratic behaviour."

The US has a tradition of allowing former presidents to be briefed on the nation's security issues - as a courtesy extended by the incumbent.

But when asked by CBS News if Mr. Trump would receive the same courtesy, President Biden said, "I think not."

He cited Mr. Trump's "erratic behaviour" as his reason for refusing access.

"I don't think there's any need for him to have an intelligence briefing," Mr. Biden said in his first sit-down interview since

becoming president.

He declined to speculate on what his worst fears would be if Mr. Trump were allowed to see classified reports, but he suggested the former president could not be trusted to keep confidential information to himself.

"What value is giving him an intelligence briefing? What impact does he have at all, other than the fact he might slip and say something?" Mr. Biden said.

The move is the first time a former president has been excluded from the tradition of being granted continued access to the briefings, according to the New York Times.

For weeks after the 3rd November presidential

election, Mr. Trump himself broke with tradition by failing to include his successor in security and intelligence briefings. Mr. Trump eventually agreed to allow the formal transition process to take place, but his administration was still accused of blocking Mr. Biden's access to intelligence.

Mr. Trump feuded with the intelligence community throughout his four-year presidency and went through six national intelligence directors.

He questioned reports by US agencies that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election, and assailed intelligence chiefs for being "extremely passive and naive" over Iran.

In 2017, he disclosed

highly classified information to Russia's foreign minister about an Islamic State operation in what was seen as a breach of trust by many in the US intelligence community.

During his CBS interview, President Biden was asked about the impeachment trial Mr. Trump is facing in the US Senate for his role in the riot at the Capitol in Washington on 6th January. Mr. Biden said he "ran like hell to defeat" Mr. Trump in the election "because I thought he was unfit to be president," but he would leave the Senate to decide whether the Republican should be barred from ever holding public office again.

New Ebola case detected in Eastern DRC



Health workers dressed in protective suits are seen at the Doctors Without Borders Ebola treatment centre in Goma, DRC

(Aljazeera): A new case of Ebola has been identified near the city of Butembo in eastern

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the country's health ministry has announced.

A woman was found with symptoms of the deadly virus in the town of Biena on 1st Febru-

ary, who died in hospital in Butembo on 3rd February. She was married to a man who had contracted the virus in a previous outbreak.

"The provincial response team is already hard at work. It will be supported by the national response team which will visit Butembo shortly," the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

More than seventy people who came into contact with the dead woman have been tracked and the places she visited are be-

cont'd on pg 17

Britain is under lockdown. But one year into the COVID crisis, many are unable to keep to the rules

(CNN): Anna says she did not want to break the UK's COVID-19 lockdown rules.

The thirty-seven-year-old has worked through the pandemic. Anna says she cleans an office building in London which is open but nearly empty, as most staff are working from home. It is a job the Ecuadorian native has done for five years, after moving to the UK from Spain in 2013 while looking for work. CNN is not disclosing Anna's real name as she fears repercussions from her employer.

Anna's employer insisted that she continue to clean the building during the pandemic but cut her hours from five a day to four. She earns £10.75 (\$14.77) per hour. "I have been forced to go to work in a nonessential building," she told CNN. "There is no

one at work, I'm alone."

Last month Anna caught COVID-19. She is unsure where she picked it up from but said it was likely "on the bus or on the Underground." She lives in south London in a shared house and says that at first the virus left her exhausted. "I had a lot of coughs, fever, fatigue... and dizziness," she said. "And I [am taking a long time to recover] because this disease is very painful [and] horrible."

But after staying home for a few days as she recovered from the disease, Anna decided to go into work, as she was only receiving partial pay. UK government rules state that while recovering from COVID-19, patients should self-isolate for at least ten full days. "I only felt tired and [had] a headache," she said. "That is why

I went to work - I also couldn't afford to stay at home because I received very little salary. "I feel guilty that I went to work and infected more people, [but] I had no other option."

Breaches of self-isolation rules are rampant across the UK. Up to 20,000 people a day are failing to stay home when instructed to, according to Dido Harding, who is in charge of the country's coronavirus Test and Trace scheme.

"These numbers are moving a lot," Harding told a parliamentary committee this week, adding that "circa 20,000 people a day" were currently not isolating. Harding said she was also concerned about people who were experiencing symptoms but had avoided being tested.

For the British government, the lack of compli-

ance is a significant worry.

"My biggest concern is...the people who feel ill but don't come forward for testing at all," Harding said.

One popular stereotype paints lockdown breakers as young and irreverent people who insist on attending house parties and meeting friends.

But experts say the picture is more nuanced. The British public strongly supports lockdown, according to a YouGov poll released in January. Those who are not abiding by the rules often cannot afford to do so.

"There's so much emphasis on people not breaking the rules, but the majority are actually following the rules," says Muge Cevik, a clinical lecturer in infectious diseases and medical virology at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

cont'd from pg 16

ing disinfected, said the World Health Organization, which is helping with the response.

Samples have been sent to the capital, Kinshasa, to confirm the link to the previous outbreak.

"It is not unusual for sporadic cases to occur following a major outbreak," the WHO said in a statement.

The announcement potentially marks the start of the DRC's 12th Ebola outbreak since the virus was discovered near the Ebola River in 1976, more than

double any other country.

It comes nearly three months after the DRC announced the end to its 11th outbreak hundreds of kilometres away in the northwestern province of Equateur, which infected one hundred and thirty people and killed fifty-five. That outbreak overlapped with an earlier one in the east running from 1st August 2018 to 25th June 2020 that killed more than twenty-two hundred people, the second-most in the disease's history

and the deadliest in the DRC.

The last person declared recovered from Ebola in Equateur was on 16th October.

The widespread use of Ebola vaccinations, which were administered to more than 40,000 people, helped curb the disease.

The emergence of more cases could complicate efforts to eradicate COVID-19, which has infected 23,600 people and killed six hundred and eighty-one in the DRC. A vaccination campaign is

expected to start in the first half of this year.

Ebola is a virus-caused haemorrhagic fever that is spread through contact with body fluids. In extreme cases, it causes fatal bleeding from internal organs, the mouth, eyes or ears. The average fatality rate from Ebola is around fifty per cent but this can rise to ninety per cent for some epidemics, according to the World Health Organization.

The virus that causes Ebola is believed to reside in bats.

China issues new anti-monopoly rules targeting its tech giants

(Reuters): China's market regulator released new anti-monopoly guidelines on Sunday that target internet platforms, tightening existing restrictions faced by the country's tech giants.

The new rules formalize an earlier anti-monopoly draft law released in November and clarify a series of monopolistic practices that regulators plan to crack down on.

The guidelines are expected to put new pressure on the country's leading internet services, including e-commerce sites such as Alibaba Group's Taobao

and Tmall marketplaces or JD.com. They will also cover payment services like Ant Group's Alipay or Tencent Holding's WeChat Pay.

The rules, issued by the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) on its website, bar companies from a range of behaviours, including forcing merchants to choose between the country's top internet players, a long-time practice in the market.

SAMR said the latest guidelines would "stop monopolistic behaviours in the platform economy and protect fair competition in

the market."

The notice also said it will stop companies from price fixing, restricting technologies and using data and algorithms to manipulate the market.

In a Q&A accompanying the notice, SAMR said reports of internet-related anti-monopoly behaviour had been increasing, and that it was facing challenges regulating the industry.

"The behaviour is more concealed, the use of data, algorithms, platform rules and so on make it more difficult to discover and determine what are monopoly agreements," it

said.

China has in recent months started to tighten scrutiny of its tech giants, reversing a once laissez-faire approach.

In December, regulators launched an antitrust investigation into Alibaba Group following the dramatic suspension of the \$37 billion initial public offering plan of its payment affiliate, Ant Group.

At the time, regulators warned the company over practices including forcing merchants to sign exclusive cooperation pacts at the expense of other internet platforms.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Monday, 8th February 2021
Time: 8:45AM-11:00AM
Affected areas: Section of Boons Point north of Boons Haven

Date: Tuesday, 9th February 2021
Time: 8:45AM-12:00PM
Affected areas: Section of Swetes south of St. Ann Road

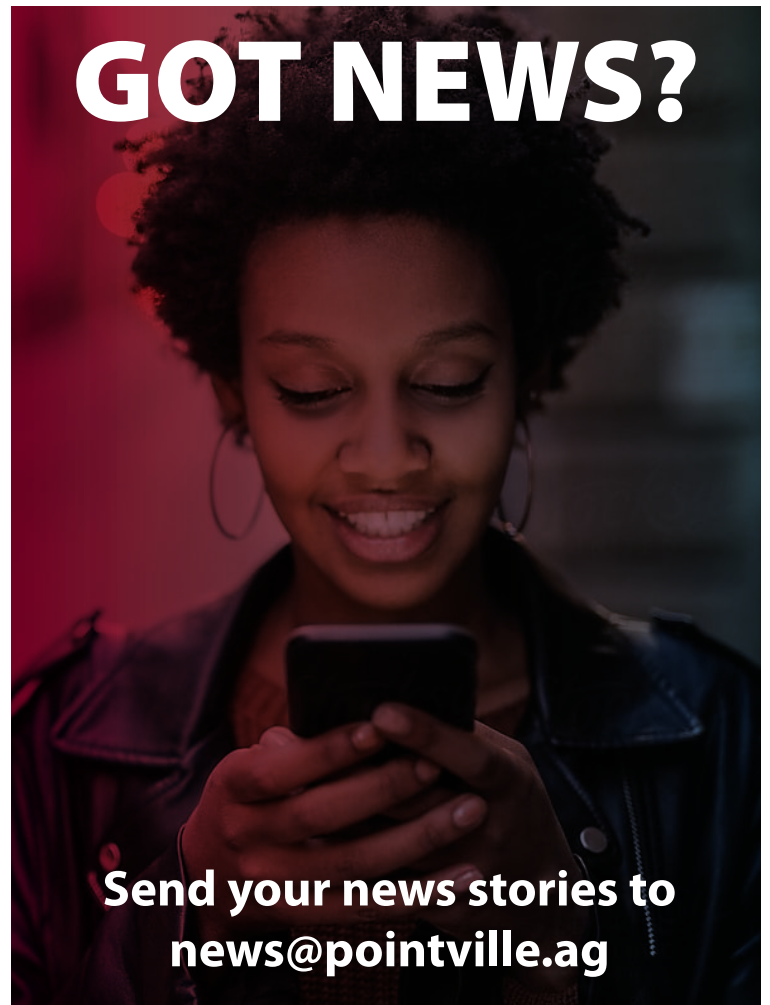
Date: Thursday, 11th February 2021
Time: 8:45AM-12:00PM
Affected areas: Section of Bolans

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

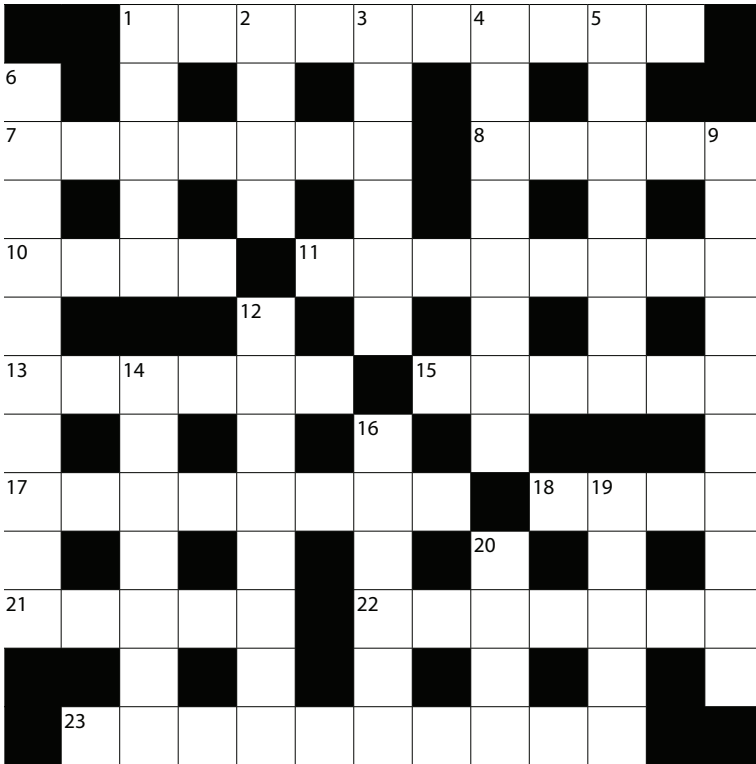


GOT NEWS?



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news@pointville.ag

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

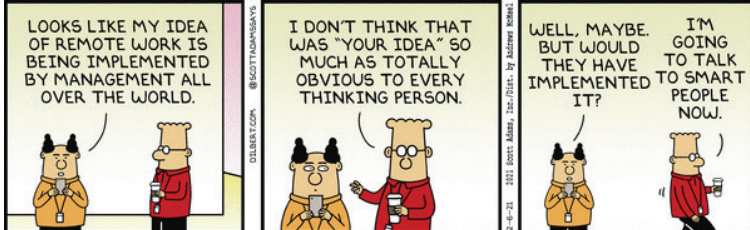
- 1 Dabbler in the arts? (10)
- 7 Out of a hundred (3,4)
- 8 Direction — thorn (anag) (5)
- 10 International currency (4)
- 11 Infernal South African buzzer (8)
- 13 Clear (6)
- 15 Chesty (anag) — cut (6)
- 17 California city, setting for Steinbeck's Cannery Row (8)
- 18 Declines (4)
- 21 Message (from a bird?) (5)
- 22 Interpretation from a different viewpoint (7)
- 23 Neutral area between opponents (6,4)

Down

- 1 More desperate (5)
- 2 Art song for voice and piano (4)
- 3 I disapprove! (3-3)
- 4 Declare (8)
- 5 Woe (7)
- 6 How fast one may go, legally (5,5)
- 9 Providential (6-4)
- 12 Drink consumed after a meal (8)
- 14 Old cloak — tame Una (anag) (7)
- 16 Semi-aquatic rodent — work hard (6)
- 19 Newly-wed (5)
- 20 Liveliness (4)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



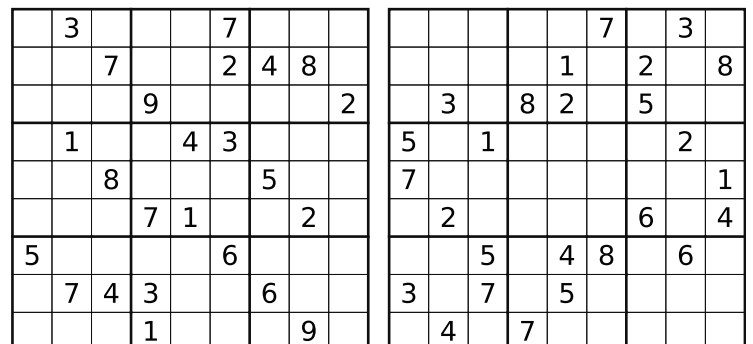
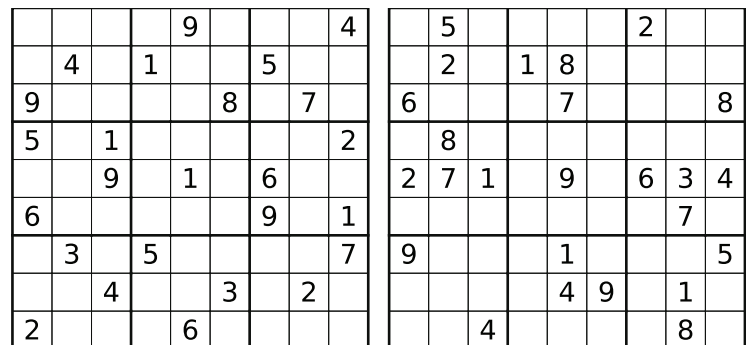
Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU



How to play

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

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

MON
02/08

83° Hi
76° Lo

DAY
Mostly sunny with a shower in spots

NIGHT
Partly cloudy with a shower in spots

Sunrise
6:37 AM

Sunset
6:06 PM

Moonrise
3:54 AM

Moonset
3:14 PM

TUE
02/09

82° Hi
75° Lo

DAY
Times of clouds and sun with a shower in the area

NIGHT
Partly cloudy

Sunrise
6:36 AM

Sunset
6:07 PM

Moonrise
4:52 AM

Moonset
4:14 PM

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE CATHEDRAL AND PARISH OF ST. JOHN

Considering the current restrictions there will be no in-person worship at any of our parish churches for the next two weeks. We do apologise for any inconvenience.

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.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

After witnessing a mammoth power play that went nowhere recently, you are starting to feel less and less driven about getting what you want in a certain negotiation. Compromise is looking like the smarter and safer way to go.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Your plans are not yet fully complete even though you might think they are. There are still a few t's left uncrossed and it's left undotted, so you need to stay alert today. Be prepared for last-minute changes or revisions.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

If you're working on building a new romance right now, the best course if action is no action at all! Now is not the time to move anything forward. That goes even if you're filled with a sense that you've got to act now if you want to make this thing work.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

You've been running around a lot lately, but this frenzied pace of yours must stop. Take a break today. It's the perfect time to brush off projects, because there are plenty of much more fun things to do!

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Words do a great job of conveying your feelings, but there is nothing quite like physical contact when it comes to making a connection. Simple things like a handshake, hug, or even just a pat on the back show people that you're genuine.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you're feeling indecisive today, don't get frustrated. Get busy! Do the research that's required to get to the bottom of the pros and cons of what you're dealing with. Then ask someone who's been through what you're going through.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Even if you're dying for some peace and quiet, today's activities could be so tantalizing to you that you'll be convinced you should go out and play. Sure, this might be complicating things, but what is the harm in flirting with them a bit more?

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Getting time with that elusive person will be critical for you today, so when you see your opportunity for some alone time with them, don't let it go by. They are ready to talk, so things should get very interesting very fast.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today has just the right blend of new, exciting things and old, comforting things. You'll stay on a smooth course and be interested in every minute of the day. This non-boring phase in your life is just getting started.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The easy life is fine for some, but not for you! You know that when a goal is too easy to attain, it isn't usually as fulfilling as a hard-won victory. Right now you should be ready to tackle one, two, or, heck, ten challenges!

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You are taking to your new responsibilities quite well, and you're making a strong, positive impression on some very powerful people. Now that you've got everything under control, you are ready take on the next challenge.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

There could be a negative thinker hovering around you today, and they're going to tick you off. Just when you think everything is going great, they'll spout off with a brand-new complaint about something trivial.

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2:00PM - 3:00PM

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THURSDAYS
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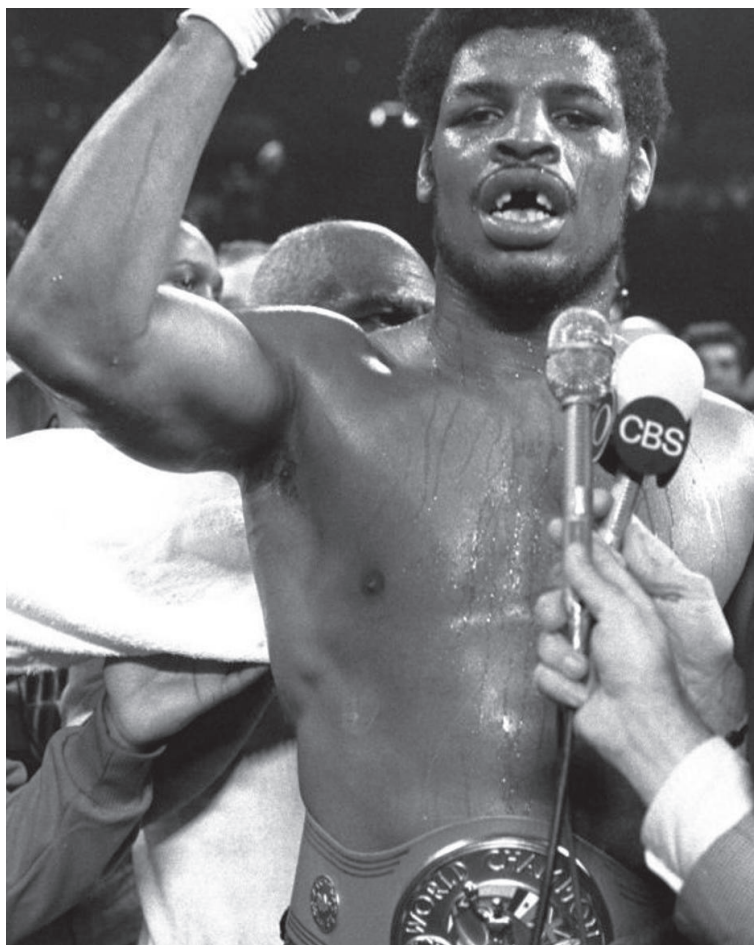


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Former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks dead



Former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Leon Spinks

Former world heavyweight champion Leon Spinks has died aged 67. The American achieved a famous upset win over Muhammad Ali in 1978, in just his eighth professional fight.

He had suffered with health issues in his later years and was diagnosed with advanced stage prostate cancer in 2019.

"His final fight was fought with the same skill, grace and grit that carried him through so many lifetime challenges," said a statement from his management company.

The former US marine died on Friday evening in Henderson, Nevada, with his wife Brenda Glur Spinks by his side.

Born in St. Louis, Spinks won gold at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal,

then rose to greater prominence a little more than 18 months later, given the nod via a split decision to stun Ali and claim the WBC, WBA and lineal heavyweight titles.

His reign as world champion lasted exactly seven months as a sharper and fitter Ali gained revenge in a rematch in September 1978, becoming the first three-time lineal champion after a comfortable point win.

Known for his gap-toothed grin, Spinks battles in the ring contributed to his ill health in later life. He was found to have shrinkage of the brain in 2012 before his cancer diagnosis was confirmed a few years later.

Ezra Moseley dies in road accident



Former West Indies fast bowler Ezra Moseley

Barbados Nation, reports indicate that Moseley, who celebrated his 63rd birthday last month, was riding a bicycle along the ABC Highway when he was in a collision with an SUV driven by a teenager at the Balls, Christ Church junction.

Moseley played two Tests in 1990 for the West Indies against England at the age of 32 and also had nine One-Day Internationals. He took 279 wickets in 135 first-class matches at an average of 23.31. He

also captured 102 wickets in 79 List A matches at an economy of 3.75 runs per match.

Moseley was the cricket coach at the St. Michael School where he played an integral role in the development of West Indies Test captain Jason Holder. He served as a national selector for the Barbados senior men's side, the successful Barbados women's team and was also an assistant coach for the West Indies women's team.

Former West Indies fast bowler Ezra Moseley died tragically in a road accident in Barbados Saturday morning. According to the Bar-

Kyle Mayers leads Windies to historic victory

Debutant Kyle Mayers scored a stunning 210 not out, as West Indies secured the fifth highest run chase in Test history, against Bangladesh in Chittagong.

The Windies chased down 395 to win by three wickets with 15 balls remaining in the final hour of the first test. Mayers also shared an outstanding fourth-wicket stand of 216 with fellow Test debutant Nkrumah Bonner. Bonner fell lbw for 86, but Mayers played with aggression and fluency to see the Caribbean side home.

The 28-year-old Barbadian left-hander, who had only played 32 first-class matches

with a modest average prior to the test, took a two-year break from the sport in 2018, before returning to first-class cricket last year.

Mayers said he is always positive and believes in his ability, and was positive the batting line-up would respond to the challenge. "We never gave up and kept fighting," Mayers added.

His innings was described as a "fairytale" by West Indian commentator Fazeer Mohammed, with the Caribbean side missing a number of their leading players who elected to miss the tour, largely because of Covid-19 concerns.

"Consider the

inexperience, consider that it's tough conditions on the final day of a test in Asia, this is one of the most significant achievements in the history of West Indies cricket," said former player turned commentator Ian Bishop.

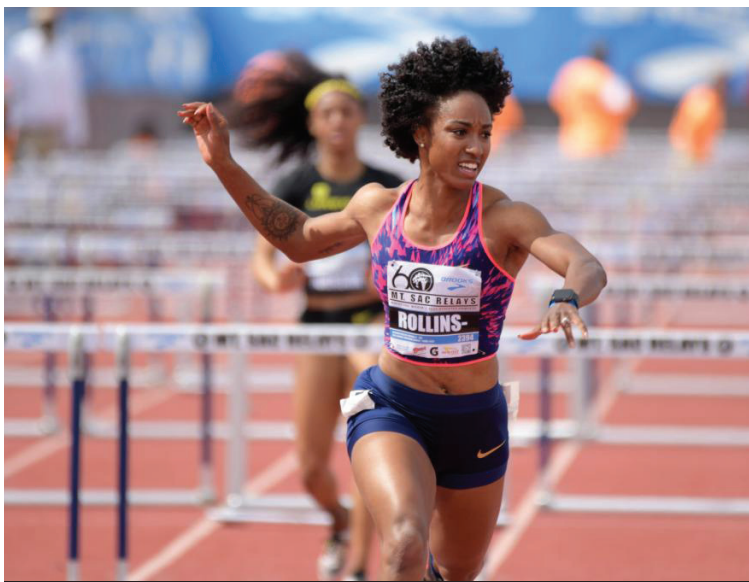
Mayers becomes only the sixth player in history to score a double century in the fourth innings of a Test, and the sixth to pass 200 on debut. He also recorded the highest second innings score by a debutant and the second highest individual score in a successful fourth-innings chase after Windies legend Sir Gordon Greenidge's unbeaten

214 against England at Lord's in 1984.

West Indies win was the highest successful fourth-innings chase since 2008, and the highest made in Asia. Scores in the match Bangladesh 430 all-out (Mehedi Hasan 103, Warrican 4-133 Cornwall 2-114,) & 223-8 declared (Mominul 115, Warrican 3-57, Cornwall 3-81) West Indies 259 all out (Braithwaite 76, Blackwood 68, Da Silva 42) & 395-7 (Mayers 210 not-out, Bonner 86). West Indies win by three wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the two Test series.

The final match begins in Mirpur on Thursday.

Brianna McNeal proclaims innocence



Olympic 100m hurdles champion Brianna McNeal

suspension from athletics for breaking anti-doping rules. McNeal, 29, won gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics and was world champion three years earlier.

The Athletics Integrity Unit has accused the American of 'tampering with the results management processes'.

"The system is pretty messed up, if you ask me, but that's another topic for another day," McNeal said.

In an Instagram post McNeal added it had been a "tough few weeks" after injuring an ankle and

also catching Covid-19. She added, "As far as my situation goes, I am still me; very clean, very honest and transparent. Once all this blows over, I will provide more details of what's actually going on."

McNeal missed the 2017 World Championships while serving a one-year ban for missing three drugs' tests.

Tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control carries a ban of up to four years if proved. As McNeal has served a ban in the past, if found guilty she could face up to eight years.

Olympic 100m hurdles champion Brianna McNeal says she is "clean" despite her provisional

Volcanoes stronger than the Hurricanes

The Leeward Hurricanes failed to defend their home court advantage when they were beaten by thirty-one runs by the Windward Volcanoes in the opening fixture of the CWI Super50 the at the Coolidge Grounds on Sunday.

Batting first the Volcanoes posted 284 all out in 49.3 overs, batting for three hours and twenty-four minutes. Man-of-the-Match Kevin Stoute led the way with 86 runs, receiving assistance coming from captain Sunil Ambris with 70.

Quinton Boatswain was the pick of the home team bowlers bagging 4-45, while Hayden Walsh Jr., and Sheeno Berridge each picked up three wickets.

Chasing, Hurricanes, playing without their star players Alzarri Josph and Rakeem Jimbo Cornwall who are both in Bangladesh representing the West Indies, could only manage 253.

Canadian Nitish Kumar was the pick of the Hurricanes batsmen, cracking 112 with Nevisian Kieran Powell adding 46. Keron Cottoy, Ray Jordan and Larry Edwards picked up two wickets each.



Leeward Islands Hurricanes

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