



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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Photo caption: Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph accepts 5000 doses of the Oxford-AstroZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, a gift from the Commonwealth of Dominica.

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# EDITORIAL

## A standing ovation for India!

The previous two editorials published on Monday and Wednesday in PointeXpress expressed strong condemnation of and disappointment in the actions of Europe and North America in their attempts to hoard the world's vaccines supply for themselves. The editorials were, we believe, critically appropriate and appropriately critical of the philosophy that White is Might is Right.

While the West is behaving in what is now to be considered par for the course, the government and people of India have demonstrated what can only be considered to be tremendous leadership, generosity, and the kind of humanitarian spirit that the world desperately needs. High praise and commendation ought to be given to the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and High Commissioner of India to the Caribbean, Dr. K.J. Srinivasa.

According to recent media reports, the Government of India will be making an initial donation of 500,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to Guyana and several other Caribbean countries, with Antigua and Barbuda slated to receive 40,000 doses. The word 'initial' indicates that it is the intention of the Government of India to make further donations in the future. More than that, the Prime Minister Modi administration has indicated that all costs associated with shipping the vaccines to the Caribbean will be

borne by his government.

What is striking about this timely intervention is that the it represents the polar opposite of what is being advanced by Europe and North America. Make no mistake, this gesture by the government and people of India is a seminal moment in geopolitics and international relations. India is rightfully asserting itself as an emerging leader, and this is what leaders do: they seek out those in need and help to save them from perishing.

If one were paying attention to history, this move by the government and people of India is not surprising. In many ways, India shares a common history with the English-speaking Caribbean, as they too were colonized by Britain. The government and people of that country understand the harm that colonialism has wreaked on its people and the peoples of other regions where the British dominated. It was the example of India to demand full independence from Britain that served as the model for the English-speaking Caribbean to follow. In that sense, India has always been a moral leader and an inspiration for the Caribbean.

Undoubtedly, India is a nation that views other nations as equals, no matter our size. Nowhere is that more clearly demonstrated than in the case of Antigua and Barbuda. Even though there exists an ongoing issue regarding one of its citizens implicated in certain

improprieties, India has never sought to threaten or otherwise coerce this country to comply with its wish to have that person extradited. At all material times, the government of India has shown respect for our justice system and has acted accordingly. One can contrast this with the bullying tactics against the Caribbean and Latin America that is the modus operandi of Europe and North America.

Like in cricket, the government and people of India are proving to be a leader and an inspiration. It is little surprise that they have produced the likes of Bishan Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Virenda Sehwag, and Virat Kohli, just to name a few. Just like the Indian Premier League (IPL) has provided jobs and hope for a better future for many international cricketers, the initiative by the government and people of India to provide vaccines free of cost to the Caribbean will provide the region with hope—hope for a better future, hope that the world will conquer COVID-19, hope that the vaccine Apartheid as practised by Europe and North America will not be permitted to prevail. Truly, by its actions, India is proving that, despite the rapacity of some, there are still those who are prepared to be their brothers' keeper.

The government and people of India deserve a standing ovation!! Well done!!!



# Police officer dies in the line of duty



*Corporal of Police Clifton Common*



*Police outriders escort body of fallen officer to the funeral home.*

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has been plunged into mourning after No. 500 Corporal of Police Clifton Common died in the line of duty on Thursday afternoon.

The law enforcement officer sustained injuries, allegedly at the hands of twenty-year-old Vurel Simon, who is said to be of unsound mind.

Reports are some-time around 1:00 p.m. Simon, who was being held in a cell at the St. John's Police Station, asked to use the bathroom and was about to be escorted to the facility when he allegedly attacked Corporal Common by slamming the cell door on his head, causing him to fall. The mentally deranged man then repeatedly slammed the metal door of the cell against the officer's head.

Corporal Common, who celebrated his 51st birthday on 11th December 2021 was rushed to hospital by his colleagues and died around 2:25 p.m. while receiving treatment at Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC).

The twenty-year-old was later removed from St. John's Police Station, but it is unclear where he is being held. Behind the closed red gates

of St. John's Police Station's compound, there were several loud explosions and people believed to be police officers, who arrived to transport the youngster, were heard shouting. All this happened before two vehicles exited the yard and sped away.

Mobile phone video later emerged showing Simon shackled at the ankles being led by police into the MSJMC.

A relative of Simon explained the young man suffered his first mental breakdown around this time last year. He was taken to the psychiatric hospital, but was never institutionalized. On Thursday morning the relative said he handed over Simon to the police, after he was behaving in an erratic manner on St. John's Street.

He was reportedly calm in the police vehicle, but after driving off the police pickup collided with another vehicle at Cross and St. John's Streets. At least two officers were injured and were treated and discharged from hospital.

Family and friends say Simon is not violent and are shocked at the news that he is now responsible for the death of a police officer.



# COVID-19 vaccines arrive

Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph was air-side at V.C. Bird International Airport on Thursday to accept 5,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, a gift from the Commonwealth of Dominica.

The vaccines arrived in Antigua on a Regional Security System aircraft, less than twenty-four hours after the announcement was made during a post-Cabinet press briefing on Wednesday.

With this first batch of Oxford-AstraZeneca, healthcare workers will be given priority.

"For the past several months we have been fighting the transmission of the disease and now we have to take the additional step of inoculating our population. This is an important step because it gives us now the capacity to take care of our front-line workers. I want to say publicly, throughout my experience over the

past several months, the frontline workers have done an outstanding job and they deserve to be the priority at this time," Sir Molwyn declared.

The vaccine doses will be stored at a secure facility operated by the Medical Benefits Scheme, until the distribution programme begins. According to the minister, when the 40,000 doses arrive from India next week, these will be stored at a new facility being erected at the former Air Force base. This will be the permanent facility for vaccines storage, according to Sir Molwyn.

The health minister noted that a plan has been carefully crafted that will guide the inoculation programme nationwide.

The government is predicting it will have in its possession at least 85,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine within the next two weeks.





# US Visa renewals now made easier

Antigua and Barbuda nationals wishing to renew their United States entry visas received good news on Thursday when the US Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean announced changes to the process.

United States Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Linda Tagliatela, revealed that applicants for renewals will be able to apply online and mail their passports to the US Embassy in Barbados.

By this process, Antigua and Barbuda nationals will no longer have to travel to Barbados to renew their visas. However, at the moment, this will only apply to those whose visas

expired within the past twenty-four months.

Ambassador Tagliatela said the change comes in recognition that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the ability of people to travel and this was a move designed to make it easier for these individuals.

The decision also takes into account that as previous holders of US visas the applicants' biographical information is already in the embassy's system in Barbados. According to the ambassador, this new arrangement is likely to become permanent.

The announcement comes during an interview with state media in St. John's.



US Ambassador Linda Tagliatela

## Government employees to work from home and within office bubbles

Permanent Secretaries have been charged with implementing measures that will minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection among workers in the various government offices and departments.

As such, the administrative heads of government ministries have been tasked by Cabinet to work out practical modalities for human resource deployment between those who can and should be made to work from home.

But even among staff who continue to function from the workplace, there will also be a strong focus on keeping personnel from different

units, as separate and isolated as possible from other sections.

This was announced on Wednesday evening by Information Minister Melford Nicholas during the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing. He said the Permanent Secretaries would be briefed by the Cabinet Secretary and the Establishment Division.

"We are going to ask Permanent Secretaries to revert to a position where we can reduce some of the numbers within government offices to the point where we may be able to put persons on rotation. This obviously will be done in consultation

with their Minister. But in all instances we want to ensure that even within ministries, and even where people return to work, or are allowed to come to work ... to work in clusters, to work in your own bubbles. So if you're in the marketing [department] stay in marketing and do not commingle; such that if there is an infected person - or if it is brought to attention that a person in the marketing department is infected - we would not be worried about the accounts or production departments."

After confirming that the Jolly Beach Resort has been commissioned as a State

quarantine facility, Nicholas said all returning nationals would be fitted with the recently acquired electronic tracking bracelets, regardless of whether they are quarantining at home or at a public quarantine center such as Jolly Beach or other designated facility.

He took the opportunity to clarify that the national isolation facility would be housed at the former US Air Force compound. "I also want to indicate that there are thirty-two rooms that have been repaired and restored in that facility [which] the Ministry of Health has indicated [will be used] as an

*cont'd on pg 5*



# Government launches national road safety survey

The Ministry of Works (MOW) is undertaking a national road safety survey designed determine just how road users comply with the existing traffic laws as well as the degree to which people use mobile devices while driving.

"The survey aims to collect data on community knowledge, attitudes and self-reported behaviours on our roads. The data collected from the survey will examine current issues affecting drivers, passengers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and at-risk groups develop initiatives to make roads in Antigua and Barbuda safer," a statement from MOW

outlined.

The statement said the survey is being conducted by a consulting agency based in Italy, FRED. Details of the survey will be published on the Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) website, <https://ab.gov.ag>, for two weeks from Monday 15th February 2021, to Monday 1st March 2021.

Ministry of Works Permanent Secretary, Clarence Pilgrim, views road safety not only as a social and traffic issue, but also an economic one and calls for the full participation of road users.

Pilgrim said that a tre-

mendous national burden results from road crashes and thus there is direct social economic cost, adding that a multi-sectorial approach is required to effectively tackle the problem and reduce the number of deaths due to road accidents.

The Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU), the agency responsible for the rolling out of all the road rehabilitation capital projects, is encouraging road users to participate in this important survey.

It must be noted that survey information is confidential and survey responses will go directly

to the consultant agency where it will be collected, grouped and analyzed. No individual participants will be identified.

The GOAB is asking drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and cyclists aged eighteen years and over residing in Antigua and Barbuda to complete the survey in order to get a full and accurate picture across all communities.

A survey report will be submitted to the government and key findings will be posted online and provided to the media during the 6th Global Road Safety Week, 17th - 23rd May 2021.

## Testing for COVID-19 to be carried out at District A Court

Mass testing of employees will be carried out at the St. John's Magistrate Court on Friday, after a Police Prosecutor was confirmed with COVID-19, possibly exposing staff and his colleague prosecutors in the District A Court.

As a result of the development, the Court, located at 'Knuckle Block' in Grays Farm, closed early on Thursday and the building

was sanitized.

The Sergeant of Police is reportedly attached to the Traffic Court, presided over by Magistrate Dexter Wason.

Reports are the prosecutor worked in the Traffic Court on Wednesday 10th February 10 and his test results were confirmed after but some Court employees are worried, after saying the officer was coughing peri-

odically.

It is alleged he may have contracted the virus from his wife, an employee of A.S. Bryden & Sons, who reportedly tested positive twice for the virus. The distribution company has closed until 26th February to facilitate COVID-19 testing of employees.

Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh closed the Court on Thursday out of an abun-

dance of caution.

Going forward, it is reported that a rotation system would be put in place to deal with new cases emanating out of District A. Staff will work on a limited basis for the next two weeks from 8:30 a.m. to noon for payment of fines and distribution of child maintenance cheques.

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isolation facility."

People are placed in quarantine for fourteen days when their infection status is unknown and test results are being awaited, as this

is the time window within which symptoms of infection manifest or can be detected. Once infection is confirmed by testing, and the persons affected do not require hos-

pitalization or critical care, they are then transferred to isolation until recovery or other case termination.

"We are [also] seeking to utilize the Halcyon Cove Re-

sort, given that they are not going to put that back on the market just now, to use that as an isolation facility as well," Nicholas said.



# US-based Willikies group donates to school

Several Willikies villagers who now reside in the United States are joining efforts in the fight to keep villagers in Antigua safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization—Sons and daughters of Willikies (both the local chapter in Antigua and Barbuda and its North American chapter in the New York and the Tri-State area)—made timely donations to a number of local and surrounding institutions.

A spokesman for the group said the donated items include the following: temperature guns, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, facemasks both N-95 and reusable/washable masks, face shields, and digital temperature checks for small children.

The donations were presented to the Nelvie N.

Gore Primary School, Willikies Child Development Center, Gilbert's Memorial Methodist Church and St. Stephen's Anglican Church. The group also made individual donation of disposable underwear and food packages to persons in the villages of Willikies and Glanvilles.

Principal A. Spencer of the Nelvie N. Gore Primary School thanked the president and her team for the gift of the much-needed items and she conveyed thanks on behalf of all the students and staff of the institution. "Although the school has closed from physical sessions and has gone online, once the students return to in-person learning we will be using the supplies to continue the safety and protection of students and staff," she noted.



# COVID-19 outbreaks wreak havoc in public and private sectors

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda continues to wreak havoc among the public and private sectors in the country.

Several government departments as well as private sector companies have been forced to close to the public for varying periods as they deal with possible COVID-19 cases among their respective staff members.

The latest to join the growing list of entities forced to close because of COVID-19 is the Customs and Excise Division, which took a deci-

sion to immediately close its headquarters Thursday.

"Acting on information of a suspected case of COVID-19, the building was closed to members of the public and cleared of all officers and employees to facilitate an intensive programme of cleaning and sanitization," a release from the division explained.

It added that the decision was taken out of an abundance of caution as part of the standard operating procedures that were activated since the onset of the pandemic.

"The officers of the Customs and Excise Division

have steadfastly committed to their duties during this period of crisis, functioning at great risk to ensure the country's economic survival at this trying time.

"The adherence to protocols is to ensure that the safety of our dedicated officers and members of the public are assured," it continued.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance has been advised the Customs headquarters will curtail operations from today.

Over the past week, several financial institutions, a

fast-food outlet, as well as several government departments, including the APUA branch in the Village Walk mall and the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority, have had to curtail operations because of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has announced plans to limit the flow of traffic to its office. The IRD is advising the public that there are drop box services available at Woods and English Harbour for some services and that tax payments may now be done online.



# Education to be major component of vaccine rollout

**By Shelton Daniel**

At least 85,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine are expected to be available for use in Antigua and Barbuda within the next few weeks, according to Information Minister Melford Nicholas.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines have been obtained via donations of 5,000 and 40,000 doses from the governments of Dominica and India respectively, while the other 40,000 has been procured via the WHO/PAHO COVAX arrangement.

Nicholas said ahead of the arrival of the vaccine shipments and the commencement of their being administered in a specified priority order, there is to be an intense programme of education and other required preparations for the rollout.

"The Ministry of Health has already begun to put measures in place to deploy those vaccines, and

they have indicated that they will be looking to utilize the polyclinics in Wilkies and Villa, the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, and the Multi-Purpose Center."

Nicholas said Cabinet had "implored" the health ministry to also "consider ... going into the communities and utilizing the facilities of the primary schools ... so we could [embark] on a national inoculation programme."

He disclosed that government is negotiating to purchase a further 100,000 doses of the vaccine. "So over the next six weeks, we are expecting to have an accelerated programme where we are going to be able to inoculate upwards of eighty per cent of the population. This is going to require ... the willingness of persons to come forward and be inoculated. We're not going to make this mandatory."

Turning to the subject of

public education, Nicholas said Cabinet has "agreed to support the creation of a vaccine education and public relations team that will be managed under the Ministry of Health, but will be cross-functional in the sense that persons will come from the media and other areas within the country to support the efforts of the Ministry of Health in getting the information out."

Nicholas added that the vaccine education and public relations team "would be supported by ... medical practitioners" and the country could therefore "expect to see some accelerated public relations and different programmes that are being put in place to educate the public on the use of vaccines and the validity of the vaccines program."

Asked what would happen if sufficient numbers of people did not voluntarily present themselves

for vaccination in order to attain the population percentage required for herd immunity, Nicholas said the education programme would be seeking to prevent that from happening.

"More than likely, we would have to increase the education and the public awareness ... In all circumstances, we think that our people are bright, intelligent and sophisticated people, and they will always do what is in their best interests. And so, we think once the information is made available to them ... they will overcome some of those fears, uncertainties and doubts ... Much of this anti-vax nonsense that's taking place in the media is not going to serve the general interests of the population, and I think eventually there are persons who are going to come to the determination that it is in [their] best interests to take the vaccine."

## Sandals Foundation donates books to National Library

The Sandals Foundation has donated several books to the National Public Library on Thursday through its continued support of literacy in Antigua and Barbuda.

Library Director Ryllis Mannix accepted the items and noted that they will be put to good use in the relevant

sections in the facility.

Additionally, the foundation donated school bags packed with school supplies to the eleven-year-old triplets, Natalya, Nadira and Naima Alie, whose home was recently destroyed by fire. The triplets also received educational games.





# STATEMENT ISSUED BY MOUNT ST JOHN'S MEDICAL CENTRE

## Pay Incentive for Frontline Staff at Mount St. John's Medical Centre

In April 2020, a decision was made by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to offer an honorarium to nurses on the frontline caring for COVID-19 patients. Since then, our hospital has been working on putting a system in place to enact this policy.

However, like all other hospitals, we are not immune to the ever-escalating healthcare costs and all of the other pressures associated with operating a healthcare facility, especially during this time. This was one of the main reasons for our delay in starting the process of payment.

The payment criteria put in

place by the hospital required a nurse to work a minimum of thirty-two hours in order to receive the allotment of \$1000 monthly. We have since realized the inequities in the process and are taking the necessary steps to address. Moving forward, all nurses working with COVID-19 patients will receive a \$1000 pay incentive. Nurses who have received less than the \$1000 will be paid the shortfall retroactively.

"We have always been and continue to be committed to ensuring that our team - nurses and all others - are supported. We are making every effort to be as inclu-

sive as we possibly can," said Dr. Albert Duncan, MSJMC Medical Director. "This means that other members of our team such as our orderlies and technicians will also be eligible for this pay incentive. They are all shouldering an incredible burden as well as increased risks to their emotional and physical health."

"All of our nurses are valued employees and we recognize their service and commitment to patient care," said Jacqueline Jno-Baptiste, MSJMC Director of Nursing. "Throughout this entire crisis they've been on the frontlines at high risk and high exposure

and we're all grateful. We are committed to resolving matters that are of concern to them."

The pay incentive is for a period of one year, commencing 1st March 2020. All eligible MSJMC employees will be paid \$1000 retroactively for this period.

Added Dr. Duncan, "Delays send the wrong message, and we want to apologize to not just our nurses but our entire team for this. We recognize the urgent need for these funds as well as the length of time it has taken to distribute. We are confident that the employees will begin to receive payment in short time."



## OUR NATIONAL LEGEND ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

### The Mighty Swallow

Sir Rupert Philo Known as King Swallow, was born on February 14, 1942, in the village of Willikies. He is considered to be one of Antigua and Barbuda's greatest Calypsonian. He enter into the competitive world of calypso in 1962 Since then, he has won the Calypso Monarch title four consecutive , & won five Road March titles

King Swallow is known to have created a frenzy wherever he performed with the spicy lyrics, and vibrant, fiery and pulsating rhythms of his soca hits Over five decades such as: 'Don't Stop the Party', 'Fire In The Back Seat', 'Party in Space, ect.

Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo was awarded the Oder of Merit (Gold), and the Grand Cross of Princely Heritage. He passed away in the company of his family at his home, on Friday 11th September, 2020, after a prolonged battle with kidney disease. He was 78 at the time of his death.

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

FEBRUARY 2021



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

# Haiti – on the edge of disaster again

*(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)*

Haiti – a country to which all other countries that suffered slavery are deeply indebted – is once again in turmoil.

Therefore, no Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country should stand aside, silently, while Haiti is sliding into further catastrophe, retarding its already impoverished economy and depriving the Haitian people of hope for an improved future.

Of course, no country should interfere in the internal affairs of any other state. CARICOM has never done that. In the times, when the organization has played a role in resolving political, electoral, and constitutional issues in a CARICOM member-state, it has done so at the invitation of the Government and other political parties. This occurred most recently in Guyana, where CARICOM played a pivotal role in upholding democracy and ensuring the credible result of elections.

Non-interference in the internal affairs of a state should not be construed as approval. And, when conditions reach the point of loss of lives, the least that friendly states should do is to offer to help to bring

about peace and to assist in resolving the issues that are causing violence and destruction. While the Haitian government might not agree, the present circumstances of the country are crying out for remedial action.

Hence, CARICOM was right, on February 11, to issue a public statement “encouraging all parties to engage in meaningful dialogue in the interest of peace and stability” and “strongly urging that action be taken to foster a safe environment, a return to normal life and the building of sustainable democratic institutions”.

Since October 2019, when President Jovenel Moïse postponed parliamentary and local elections, there has been no legislature in Haiti. The President has ruled the country by decree, contrary to its Constitution. Even at the municipal level, when the terms of elected Mayors end, Moïse has appointed persons of his own choosing.

Further, in the absence of a legislature which, under the Constitution, is required to approve appointments to independent institutions and law enforcement agencies, including the Police, President Moïse has unilaterally installed favoured persons. For over a year, these circumstances have infuriated opposition parties as would be expected, but they also caused alarm among human rights groups within the country and internationally.



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

More recent events in Haiti, however, have attracted strong criticism of Moïse. The most compelling condemnation has come from seven members of the House of Representatives of the United States of America (U.S.). In early February, they wrote to the Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, demanding the departure of Moïse “in accordance with the Haitian Constitution”.

For several months, the contention has been made by political and civil rights groups in Haiti, that in conformity with the Constitution, the President’s term ended on February 7 – five years after the last elections in November 2016. He has contended that, notwithstanding the position stated in the Constitution about the life of the President’s term, he is entitled to remain in office for another year, since he did not assume office until February 2017.

In a situation in which a Presi-

*cont’d on pg 11*



## cont'd from pg 10

dent's stewardship has brought peace, economic development and social progress, the Haitian society may have gone along with Moïse's view. Unfortunately, the situation on the ground in Haiti has been very different. Moïse was not a popularly elected President. The 2016 elections had a low turnout of voters. His actions, since then, especially his ruling by decree, weakened his approval still further.

In this atmosphere, the country slipped into lawlessness – some of it allegedly engendered by Moïse's ruling par-

ty. Kidnappings and killings haunted rich and poor alike, and marauding gangs ruled districts driving fear into communities. Massacres occurred in neighbourhoods where opposition to Moïse is strong.

All this led to street protests which the government met with an iron fist. In recent weeks, Police have fired live ammunition into crowds, killing and wounded people including two journalists, one of whom is in a critical condition.

During this, on February 7, Moïse alleged that there was a plot to overthrow

him. Police arrested and detained 23 persons, including a former presidential candidate, a high-ranking police inspector and a judge on the country's highest court. Additionally, Mosie, arbitrarily sent three judges of the Court of Justice on retirement. One of these judges was named jointly by the Opposition parties as the "Interim President" of Haiti – much as happened with Venezuela's Juan Guaidó. The U.S. Embassy in Haiti issued a statement questioning the merits of the action to unseat the judges.

Several non-CARICOM countries, looking for a solution to the current problem, are doing what they usually do – focussing on Presidential elections to end the conflict.

The problem is that there is no credible election machinery in Haiti, including no up-to-date and verifiable electoral list. What is more, Moïse appointed a Committee of his associates to make recommendations on institutional and political reform, including of the provisional electoral council (CEP) which administers elections.

The much greater problem is that he

plans to hold a referendum on April 25 on a draft constitution that his Committee has drafted. Amongst other things, the draft constitution, will set the stage for Presidential and other elections. The process has no credibility and no support from opposition political parties and civil rights groups and, therefore, will continue to rouse protests and crowd demonstrations.

Haiti, including President Moïse, and all the other actors – political and civil – need the help of honest brokers and mediators to help create agreed conditions to remedy the institutional issues, including the election machinery. Without it, the situation in Haiti will worsen.

No country or organisation can impose itself to assist Haiti. The Haitian players must invite such help. Until they do so, all organisations, including CARICOM and the Organisation of American States should express their concerns and stand ready to be helpful to the people of Haiti who deserve the chance for a better life.

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



PDV CAB announces that regrettably, due to restrictions put in place by the Health Department, we are not able to distribute our utility subsidy voucher booklets as customary. Therefore, **there will be no booklet distribution this month** at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre or at our offices at Long Street until further notice.

Instead, our partner, APUA, will credit beneficiaries \$100 monthly on their registered electricity accounts for the months of March, April and May 2021.

Beneficiaries who have received their new booklets for the period March to August 2021, are asked to utilize the vouchers with APUA as per usual.

Regular updates will be provided in the media and for further information you may contact the PDV CAB office at 562-6185 or 562-6189.

Do continue to stay safe and observe all established health and safety protocols.

# Antiguan Artist 'K-Lee' plans to take the world by storm



Antiguan artist Kieffer 'K-Lee' Lee

Inspired by soca stars like Kes the Band and award winning Pop R&B singer Chris Brown, Antiguan artist Kieffer 'K-Lee' Lee, plans to take the world by storm, one stage at a time.

K-Lee, who made his way to the

Antigua and Barbuda soca monarch finals in 2019 with his jumpy song 'Push,' grew up in the village of Bolans where from a very tender age he fell in love with music.

"My mom would sing and play guitar and my dad played in bands

and he's well rounded in bass guitar and piano," he said, explaining that musical talents run in his blood. And over the years as he progressed into an adult, he perfected his dancing and singing abilities.

"Some of my best memories was touring with my siblings in our earlier years performing in St. Thomas as a family," he disclosed.

But it was not all easy, he explained. "My musical career and journey have been exciting, draining; full of twists and turns like disappointments...but rewarding and I am forever grateful to continue learn and develop as an artist and moreso as a person."

The twenty-nine-year-old has since been able to tour and perform for crowds in Rotterdam last year. "People that don't speak my language," he said jokingly.

K-Lee also moved crowds in Montserrat in 2017, New York in 2019, London in 2019 and 2020 and the Netherlands also in 2020.

"And the response was amazing. It was exciting to see people dancing and getting on bad, singing out to my music and thrilled with my performance," the singer added.

And he intends to perform for more audiences in every part of the world and "to make Antigua well recognized for having the most beautiful and talented people on earth."

K-Lee, is a member of Limerz Inc, a multi-media entertainment company who can be credited for pushing him into international markets.

"Ever since we teamed up, we've been blessed to collab and work on projects with some very talented international producers, DJ's and song writers," he shared.

Fans of the multi-talented singer can expect a new song and music video sometime in March.





Caribbean Union Bank

## **WE ARE MAKING CHANGES FOR YOU**

The health and safety of staff and customers remain a top priority for us at the Caribbean Union Bank. Therefore, we have made some adjustments to our operations to enhance our COVID-19 safety protocols, while guaranteeing our customers the same great service to which they have been accustomed. These changes will become effective on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

### **Starling Business Centre Branch – Factory Road**

**The following services will be available:**

- **All** In-Branch Teller Services
- Debit Card Collection and Pinning
- New Account Applications and Appointments
- Account Withdrawals and Deposits
- Wire Transfers, Drafts, Currency Exchange
- Credit Card Collection, Payments and Enquiries
- Cheque Cashing and Cheque Deposits
- Merchant Applications, Settlements and Enquiries

### **Friar's Hill Branch**

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# Guyana receives COVID-19 vaccines from Barbados



Guyana's President Irfaan Ali

**(Barbados Today):** Guyana's President Irfaan Ali announced on Wednesday that Barbados is sharing some of its COVID vaccines with Guyana.

He said in a statement: "I

am pleased to announce the arrival of the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines, of which one hundred doses will go to the CARICOM Secretariat and the remaining fourteen hundred

doses will go exclusively to our frontline workers."

On Tuesday, Barbados received 100,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from the government and people of India.

Dominica also received 70,000 doses of the vaccine that was transported to Roseau by the Regional Security System.

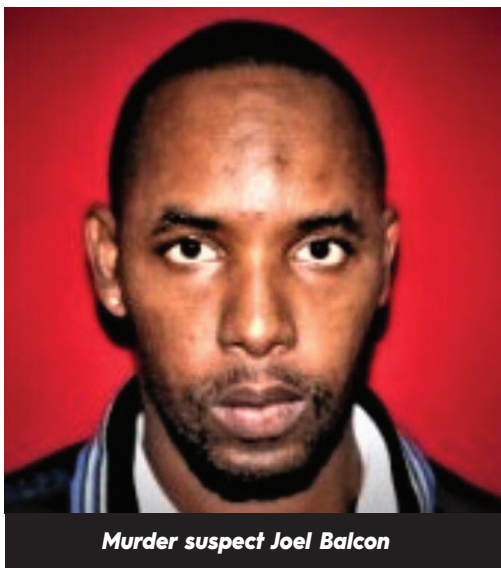
Prime Minister Mia Motley said Tuesday she had worked along with Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit to secure the vaccines and they intended to share with other CARICOM member states.

She said: "Prime Minister Skerrit and myself have worked very closely

on this, and I really want to thank him...We've also agreed that members of the OECS, and indeed in Barbados' case Trinidad and Guyana, who have helped us over the course of last year...that some of the vaccines we have received will go to our brothers and sisters in those territories."

"I hope that Barbados, Dominica and the rest of the Caribbean can be an example to the rest of the world about how you co-operate. And even when you have a little, you share and you work together because we know that's the only thing missing in the world today," she said.

## T&T murder suspect beaten to death



Murder suspect Joel Balcon

**(Trinidad & Tobago Guardian):** An autopsy on the main suspect in the death of Andrea Bharatt, Joel Balcon, shows he was beaten to death. It was done this week at the Forensic Sciences Centre, St James by pathologist Dr Eastlyn Mc-

Donald Burris.

The autopsy, which revealed that Balcon died from multiple blunt trauma to the body, was completed shortly before 1:00 p.m. This meant that he had been beaten about his body.

Balcon was taken to hospital in an unconscious state after he being detained by police for several hours on 31st January. He died at the Eric Williams Medical Science Complex on Monday 8th February.

Police sources said he never regained consciousness and was also paralyzed.

Balcon was the main suspect in the kidnapping and murder of Bharatt. She was snatched in Arima on 29th January.

The body was identified by Balcon's father Trevor Neal and uncle Marvin Bramble.

The cause of death is similar to that of the first suspect, Andrew Morris, who was also allegedly beaten to death in the presence of police officers.

Guardian Media had reported that Morris died from blunt force trauma.

His injuries included brain fractures, several broken ribs, bleeding from internal organs, burn marks to the back (possibly from a taser) confusion to the right eye, bleeding to the brain, damage to the legs and shoulders.

Morris's relatives claimed he had been beaten in their presence by officers of the Special Operations Response Team (SORT) at his home on Tumpuna Road, Arima, when he was detained early in the morning on 31st January.



# Dominica PM says receipt of COVID-19 vaccine signals start of fightback



*Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit received first batch of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from the government of India*

**(CMC):** The donation of several batches of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine by the government of India to Barbados and Dominica has been hailed as the start of the region's fightback against the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic.

Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit emphasized that Tuesday night as he joined his Barbadian counterpart Mia Mottley via Zoom at a press conference that saw them expressing gratitude to the government and people of India for the first ever donation of the vaccine to the re-

gion. Both countries received shipments of the vaccines earlier that day.

Addressing nationals of both countries, Skerrit said: "Guided by the results of the latest studies, this vaccine will reduce the likelihood of transmission to others; this means that Dominica as a country will soon be empowered to achieve a crucial objective, which is to further minimize and eventually stamp out the impact of the various strains of COVID-19. The vaccine will not be mandatory, but I would encourage all citizens to consider

the danger of passing up such an opportunity as this to safeguard the health of yourself and your loved ones."

Skerrit said that being the leader of a small Caribbean island, with a population of just 72,000, he did not expect such a swift positive response to his request for the vaccines from India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Skerrit also recognized the part played by scientists and those responsible for the "tireless research and trials that went into manufacturing this formula for resistance."

Also heaping praise on Prime Minister Mottley for ensuring Barbadians receive the vaccines, the Dominican leader noted the batches of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine would be securely stored and, like Barbados, his country would soon be advancing its public awareness campaign and rolling out its vaccination exercise this month.

Stating that this would start on 22nd February, he outlined the first to receive vaccines would be frontline workers, senior citizens who are at risk, and members of cabinet and parliament.

# Mexico president warns against believing US now has 'open doors'

(Aljazeera): Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Thursday that migrants who believe the "doors are open" to the United States, now that Joe Biden is president, are wrong.

Lopez Obrador urged migrants not to believe traffickers who tell them they could get legal status immediately.

"Now, for exam-

ple, that there is a US immigration policy to regularize the situation of migrants, Mexicans and our Central American brothers, people think that now the doors are open, that President Biden is going to immediately regularize all migrants," Lopez Obrador said.

"It is not true that everyone can go now to the United

States and they will be regularized, that has not been defined yet," he said. "Our brother migrants should have this information so that they won't be deceived by human traffickers, who paint a rosy picture."

In Washington, White House press secretary Jen Psaki reiterated that Biden is committed to moving away from the Trump administration's immigration policies, but added that it is a process that is going to take time.

"[T]his is not the time to come," she said.

"The president is committed to putting in place, in partnership with our Department of Homeland Security, a moral and humane process for processing people at the border, but that capacity is limited," Psaki said. "Right now, and it means we're just not equipped to process people at the pace that we would like to do."

Psaki said the administration is concerned about migrants who continue to arrive at the border. "We don't want

people to put themselves at danger at a time where it is not the right time to come," she said.

Alluding to Trump's border policy to separate families after they cross, Psaki said that migrants who are travelling with children are a "different circumstance" that will be handled "carefully."

During his news conference, Lopez Obrador also cited the recent massacre of nineteen people, including at least fourteen Guatemalan migrants, as justification for his policy of stopping Central American migrants at Mexico's southern border with Guatemala.

He said the massacre showed that it was too dangerous to allow migrants to travel through drug cartel turf in northern Mexico.

"This was always our argument, that we need to protect migrants, watch out for them," he said. "If they enter [Mexico] and spread out, we cannot keep an eye on them or protect them, and they wind up in the hands of organized crime, they are in danger."

## AUCTION SALE NOTICE

### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA A.D. 2021

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 02 March 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property owned by Ms. Laura Nicholas of Cedar Grove, St. John's, Antigua.

The property is located at Mount Pleasant, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a vacant parcel of land of an area of approximately 11,835.22 sq. ft. / 0.27 Acre.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

**REGISTRATION SECTION: Hodges Bay & Thibous**  
**BLOCK: 43 1896A**  
**PARCEL: 643**

Parcel No. **643** of Block No. **43 1896A** is bounded by the following:

On the North by: Parcel 560 ;  
On the South by: Public Road;  
On the East by: Parcel 644 ;  
On the West by: Parcel 642

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer  
Office: (268) 562-7653  
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653  
Email: info@go-going-gone.com  
Instagram: tts.auction\_antigua  
Facebook: Auction Antigua

## AUCTION SALE NOTICE

### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA A.D. 2021

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 12:00 p.m. on site, the under mentioned property owned by the late Mr. John Richards of Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.

The property is located at Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 6,534 sq. ft. with a single storey two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom residential dwelling of wooden and masonry walls thereon of an area offering approximately 862 sq. ft. of living space.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

**REGISTRATION SECTION: Five Islands**  
**BLOCK: 54 1292E**  
**PARCEL: 8**

Parcel No. **8** of Block No. **54 1292E** is bounded by the following:

On the North by: Parcel 167 ;  
On the South by: Parcel 9 ;  
On the East by: Public Road;  
On the West by: Parcel 7 ;

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer  
Office: (268) 562-7653  
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653  
Email: info@go-going-gone.com  
Instagram: tts.auction\_antigua  
Facebook: Auction Antigua



# China bans BBC World News from broadcasting

**(BBC):** China has banned BBC World News from broadcasting in the country, its television and radio regulator announced on Thursday.

China has criticized the BBC for its reporting on coronavirus and the persecution of ethnic minority Uighurs.

The BBC said it was "disappointed" by the decision.

It follows British media regulator Ofcom revoking state broadcaster China Global Television Network's (CGTN) licence to broadcast in the UK.

Ofcom's decision earlier this month came after it found that CGTN's licence was wrongfully held by Star China Media Ltd.

CGTN was also found in breach of British broadcasting regulations last year, for airing the allegedly forced confession of UK citizen Peter Humphrey.

In its decision, China's State Film, TV and Radio Administration said BBC World News reports about China were found to "seriously violate" broadcast guidelines, including "the requirement that news should be truthful and fair" and not "harm



China's national interests."

It said that the BBC's application to air for another year would not be accepted.

The BBC said in a statement: "We are disappointed that the Chinese authorities have decided to take this course of action. The BBC is the world's most trusted international news broadcaster and reports on stories from around the world fairly, impartially and without fear or favour."

The commercially-funded BBC World News TV channel broadcasts globally in English. In China it is largely restricted and appears only in international hotels and some diplomatic compounds, meaning most Chinese people cannot view it.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called the

move an "unacceptable curtailment of media freedom."

The US State Department condemned the decision, calling it part of a wider campaign to suppress free media in China.

Relations between China and the UK have seen a serious deterioration in recent months over Hong Kong, where Beijing introduced a controversial new security law after a large pro-democracy movement swept the ex-colony.

In January the UK introduced a new visa that gives 5.4 million Hong Kong residents the right to live in the UK and eventually become citizens because it believes China is undermining the territory's rights and freedoms.

And in the past two years

China has been systematically blocking or banning foreign media, including in effect expelling journalists from three US newspapers in 2020. The BBC website and its app are already banned in the country.

In February, the BBC published a report featuring interviews with Uighur women who said they had been systematically raped, sexually abused and tortured in China's "re-education" camps in Xinjiang. China's foreign ministry accused the BBC of making a "false report."

Last month the US said China has committed genocide in its repression of the Uighurs and other mainly Muslim groups.

According to estimates, more than a million Uighurs and other minorities have been detained in camps in China.

China denies that Uighurs are persecuted. Last year, China's UK ambassador Liu Xiaoming told the BBC's Andrew Marr that reports of concentration camps were "fake" and the Uighurs received the same treatment under the law as other ethnic groups in his country.

*cont'd from pg 18*

echoes of last year's impeachment and acquittal over the Ukraine matter, as prosecutors warn senators that Trump has shown no bounds and will do it again, posing a danger to the civic order unless he is convicted and banned from future office. Even out of the White House, the former president holds influence over large swaths of voters.

The prosecutors on Thurs-

day drew a direct line from his repeated comments condoning and even celebrating violence—praising "both sides" after the 2017 outbreak at the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia — and urging his rally crowd last month to go to the Capitol and fight for his presidency. He spread false claims about election fraud, even there has been no evidence

of it, and urged his supporters to "stop the steal" of the presidency.

Prosecutors used the rioters' own videos from that day to pin responsibility on Trump. "We were invited here," said one. "Trump sent us," said another. "He'll be happy. We're fighting for Trump."

"They truly believed that the whole intrusion was at the president's orders," said

Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado. "The president told them to be there."

At the White House, President Joe Biden said he believed "some minds may be changed" after senators saw chilling security video Wednesday of the deadly insurrection at the Capitol, including of rioters searching menacingly for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence.

# Once down in the weeds, cash-strapped pot producers raise billions in market rally

**(Reuters):** A political shift in the United States has unlocked an estimated \$1.38 billion jackpot for struggling pot producers who have cashed in on a surge in their shares since President Joe Biden's election in November.

Cannabis producers have issued stock worth this amount in the first five weeks of 2021, investment firm Viridian Capital Advisors estimates, as prices have risen on a promise of federal decriminalization of marijuana and a host of other reforms by the incoming Biden administration.

Canadian pot companies have been the largest beneficiaries of the rally

in shares, owing to the fact that they have been allowed to list on U.S. exchanges, while U.S. companies that harvest or sell marijuana within the country are forbidden from doing so.

Retail investors have also piled into the pot sector this week, with Tilray, Aphria and Sundial Growers emerging as the new favorites of Reddit's popular WallStreetBets forum that was behind recent rallies in some shorted stocks.

In a vote of confidence in the sector, a single unnamed institutional investor this week bought \$100 million worth of stock in U.S.-based pot producer Green Thumbs Industries Inc's ini-

tial public offering, according to a company filing.

Calgary, Alberta-based Sundial, a medical cannabis producer, has issued over a billion new shares since September.

Considered by many analysts to be a bankruptcy risk earlier, the company has improved its cash position from \$22 million to over \$600 million in just four months and fully repaid its current debt obligations.

Market experts, however, have said the cannabis rally is already overdone and valuations are once again becoming unrealistic, especially for the Canadian companies that may not even get much

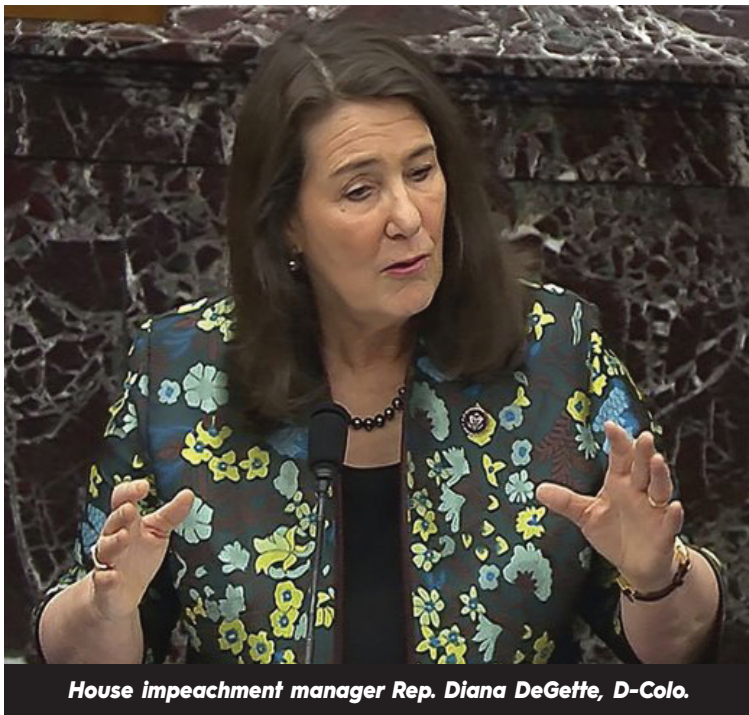
upside from U.S. decriminalization.

Viridian said the turnaround in Sundial's fortunes is good for them, but the advisory firm is "a bit skeptical about any fundamental changes at the company justifying this Cinderella story."

AMC Entertainment and American Airlines were among a handful of companies to have raised funds from the market when their shares soared last month.

GameStop could not seize on the Reddit-fueled rally to sell shares because of regulatory restrictions, according to three people familiar with the matter.

## Rioters acted on Trump's 'order,' Democrats insist in trial



House impeachment manager Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo.

**(AP):** House prosecutors concluded two days of emotional arguments in Donald Trump's impeachment trial late Thursday, in-

sisting the Capitol invaders believed they were acting on "the president's orders" to stop Joe Biden's election, the deadly culmination of

Trump's pattern of spreading false and violent rhetoric that will continue to vex American politics if left unchecked.

The Democratic prosecutors described in stark, personal terms the horror faced that January day, including in the very Senate chamber where Trump's trial is underway. They displayed the many public and explicit instructions Trump gave his supporters—long before the White House rally that unleashed the Capitol attack as Congress was certifying Biden's victory. Five people died in the chaos and its aftermath, a domestic attack unparalleled in U.S. history.

In videos, some posted to social media by rioters themselves, invaders talked about how they were doing

it all for Trump.

"If we pretend this didn't happen, or worse, if we let it go unanswered, who's to say it won't happen again?" argued prosecutor Rep. Joe Neguse, D-Colo.

Trump's defence will take the floor on Friday, and the proceedings could finish with a vote this weekend.

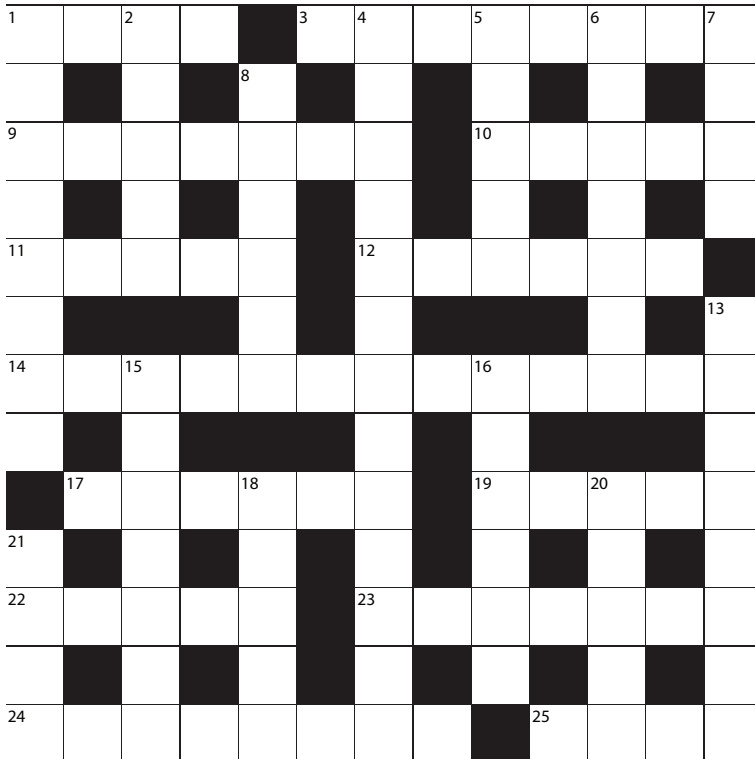
The Democrats, with little hope of conviction by two-thirds of the evenly divided Senate, are making their most graphic case to the American public, while Trump's lawyers and the Republicans are focused on legal rather than emotional or historic questions, hoping to get it all behind as quickly as possible.

This second impeachment trial, on the charge of incitement of insurrection, has

*cont'd on pg 17*



## QUICK CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Cut into small cubes (4)
- 3 Spread scandalous information (8)
- 9 Flower of the buttercup family — name one (anag) (7)
- 10 Flowering plant of the legume family (5)
- 11 India's National Capital Territory (5)
- 12 A handsome young man (loved by both Aphrodite and Persephone) (6)
- 14 Get to the nub of the matter (3,2,3,5)
- 17 Consumption (6)
- 19 Primate native to Madagascar (5)
- 22 Following (5)
- 23 Daughter of the king of Spain (7)
- 24 Typical example (8)

### Down

- 1 Person with zero chance of success (4,4)
- 2 Angler's wicker basket (5)
- 4 Performing better than expected (13)
- 5 Fusillade (5)
- 6 Powdered spice made from sweet peppers (7)
- 7 Sand hill (4)
- 8 Tile with dots on it, used in a game for two (6)
- 13 Winter month in the Northern hemisphere (8)
- 15 Publican — spatter (anag) (7)
- 16 Civil and religious leaders of a Muslim country (6)
- 18 Pungent (5)
- 20 Norwegian painter, d. 1944 (5)
- 21 Bivouac (4)

## DAILY COMICS

### Dilbert



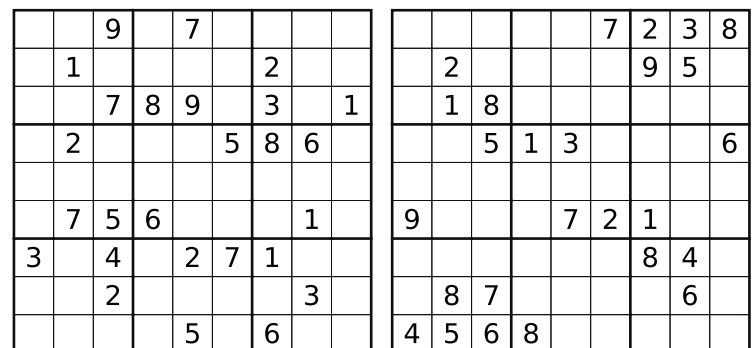
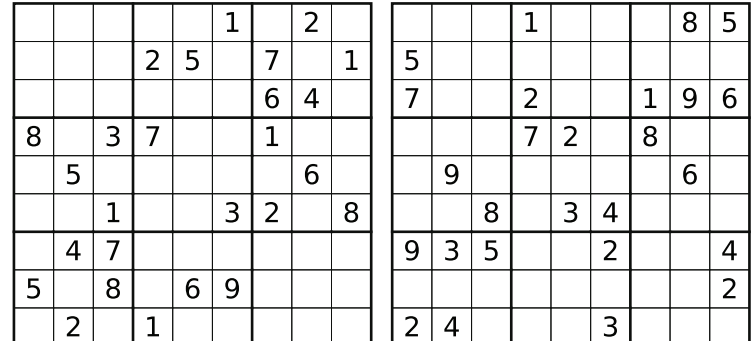
### Garfield



### 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

**FRI 02/12**  **82° Hi** DAY Partly sunny with a shower in the area  
**74° Lo** NIGHT Mainly clear

|         |         |          |         |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Sunrise | Sunset  | Moonrise | Moonset |
| 6:35 AM | 6:08 PM | 7:20 AM  | 7:06 PM |

**SAT 02/13**  **83° Hi** DAY Partly sunny with a passing shower  
**74° Lo** NIGHT Mainly clear

|         |         |          |         |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Sunrise | Sunset  | Moonrise | Moonset |
| 6:35 AM | 6:08 PM | 8:00 AM  | 7:57 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

As an Aries, you don't always recognize when you're in need of a break. The cosmos are gently reminding you to pull back and nurture yourself today, as the moon slips into dreamy Pisces.

### ♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Everything has been riding on the changes taking place in your career, Taurus. So much so that you may feel a bit disconnected from the community of friends that matter to you.

### ♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

You've been so in your head, Gemini. It's time to come back to Earth and make your visions a reality! It's an ideal day to put yourself in front of the right people, as you tend to stand out from the pack during this time of the month.

### ♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

One more day of the same old routine is bound to drive you crazy, Cancer. Find a way to shake things up under Friday's skies, lest you go stir-crazy. The moon moves into ethereal Pisces, helping you reconnect with yourself.

### ♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

As a Leo, it can be difficult for you to sit with your messier emotions. You tend to joke about them or avoid them altogether if they try to swallow your shine. Friday's skies ask you to approach any unsettled feelings from a patient place.

### ♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

So much of your energy has been invested into your workflow lately, Virgo. The universe works to balance your life back out today. Relationships and their concerns dominate the day ahead, as you find yourself devoting energy to your love life.

### ♎ LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Friday's skies kick you into high-gear, Libra. The moon cruises into feel-it-all Pisces this morning, directing the bulk of your attention towards your current to-do list and any imbalances taking place around your health.

### ♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Things have been a bit too heavy for you lately, Scorpio. The cosmos work to give you the break you deserve today, as the moon wades into richly creative Pisces. Luna's stay here helps to restore a sense of balance.

### ♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You rarely let yourself get the rest you need, Sagittarius. The universe is encouraging you to slow your pace today. You'll be happiest if you keep a low social profile and stick to small tasks around the house, rather than continue to tax yourself mentally.

### ♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

A busy day lies ahead, Capricorn. After a few days of ruminating on your potential, you're ready to begin doing your part to share your story. The moon slides into poetic Pisces this morning, gearing you up for any activities that require self-expression.


### ♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Friday's skies are all about taking stock of what you've already got, Aquarius. The moon drifts into emotionally rich Pisces this morning, turning your attention to your current set of skills and the state of your financial resources.

### ♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You've been hard to reach, Pisces. The universe has encouraged you to make this inwardly focused move, as you've needed to face the worn-out parts of your personality that are in need of release.

# PET CORNER



This sweet young dog named Hazel (the colour of her eyes) is at the Humane Society's Animal Shelter in Bethesda waiting for a forever home. She has been wormed, dipped for fleas and ticks and vaccinated. She will be spayed next week and will be available from February 20. If you would like to adopt Hazel, please call us at 461-4957 or visit the shelter from Monday to Saturday between 10 am and 4 pm.

The Antigua & Barbuda Humane Society  
Tel: (268) 461-4957  
Email: [antiguaanimals@gmail.com](mailto:antiguaanimals@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.antiguaanimals.com](http://www.antiguaanimals.com)  
Facebook: Antigua & Barbuda Humane Society

**Tell us what's happening in your community.**

Submit community notices to [news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)





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# T&T Red Force get off to a winning start in the CWI Super50



Elvin Lewis left, Darren Bravo, right

Trinidad and Tobago Red Force, led by better than a run-a-ball 107 by Evin Lewis, eased past Jamaica Scorpions with fifty-five balls to spare. The left-hander faced just ninety-two deliveries, cracking eight fours and seven sixes as the Red Force chased 258 for 6 made by the Scorpions. The two sides met on Thursday at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium.

Lewis, looking to force his way back into the West Indies ODI team for the upcoming series against Sri Lanka, featured in a 112-run partnership with Jason Mohammed that laid the foundation for the Red Force's chase, after Lendl Simmons fell for a duck to Sheldon Cotterell.

Darren Bravo was unbeaten on a run a ball 59 that included two fours

and five sixes, while the exciting Nicolas Pooran added 43. Brandon King made 97 in the Jamaica Scorpions innings; however, Jamaica could only manage 103 runs from the last 17 overs on an excellent batting track.

On Wednesday at the Coolidge Ground Kacey Carty's maiden List A century led the Leeward Hurricanes to victory over the Barbados Pride. Man-

of-the-match Carty struck a superb unbeaten 123 that included nine fours and three sixes.

But it was Hayden Walsh Jr's destructive innings that sealed the deal in the dying moments of the game. With an asking rate of close to fourteen runs per over, the man from Liberta hammered three massive sixes off Chemar Holder over to score twenty-eight off just nine balls, which kept the Hurricanes in the game.

Twenty-six runs were taken from the over and that positioned the Leewards on the path to victory chasing 302. After losing their first encounter to the Windward Volcanoes, the Hurricanes brought joy to their supporters and positioned themselves for a top four spot in the semifinals later this month.

## Chris Gayle launches Triple century records



The 'Universe Boss' Chris Gayle

Chris Gayle is promising to deliver hits of different kinds of music in the near future with the formation of his record label Triple Century records.

As his love grows for

music, the man who has smashed more than a thousand sixes in T20 cricket has plans to spit out musical hit after hit. Gayle, who indicated the label was formed in 2020,

said he has many songs in the pipeline and he is already receiving calls from artist in India and from all over the world.

The man called the 'Universe Boss' said what started as a joke with Jamaican entertainer Stylo G has been transformed into a serious business opportunity.

Gayle explained Stylo G had done a song and he joked with the artist about doing a remix for a song called 'Too Hot Celebrity.'

"I indicated to Stylo G 'let's do a remix' and eventually the artist appeared at my home saying he was

ready," Gayle expressed. "I said it was a joke, but the remix was done and it turned out to be a hit," the left-handed power hitter noted. Gayle said many of artistes have reached out to him, including prominent artistes from India where he has almost god-like status.

"There have also been people from South Africa and Australia who have reached out, saying they listen to the song I did with Stylo G and they love it. I am the Universe Boss, it's my world; you can look out for some big things," the Jamaican said.



# English football chiefs pen letter to Twitter and Facebook

Several footballers have been targeted by racist abuse on social media in the last few weeks and governing bodies in England have called for greater action.

The chiefs of football governing bodies across England have joined forces to pen a letter to Twitter and Facebook, demanding stronger action amid footballers and officials being targeted with vile abuse.

The letter reads: "Recent

weeks have seen the levels of vicious, offensive abuse from users of your services aimed at footballers and match officials rise. Even further, we write to ask that for reasons of basic human decency you use the power of your global systems to bring this to an end."

"The language used is debasing, often threatening and illegal and causes distress to recipients and the vast majority of people who

abhor racism, sexism and discrimination of any kind. We have had many meetings with your executives over the years but the reality is your platforms remain havens for abuse. Many footballers in English football receive illegal abuse from accounts all over the world and your companies have the power to bring this to an end," the letter urged.

A Facebook spokesperson said: "We

don't want hate and racism on our platforms and remove it when we find it. The new measures announced Wednesday, which include tougher action when we become aware of people breaking the rules in DM's further build on the work we do to tackle the situation. We will continue to work with Kick-it-Out, all industry bodies, the police and the government to help tackle racism both on and offline."

## Mavs owner insists he did not cancel anthem



Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban

After discontinuing the national anthem at home games, only to have the NBA reinstate its long-standing policy requiring teams to stand for the Star-Spangled banner, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is now insisting he did not cancel the song and never actually changed any team policy.

"We didn't make any decision to never play the national anthem then—that wasn't the case at all," Cuban told ESPN's The Jump on Wednesday amid a growing controversy over the initial decision to stop playing the anthem before games. "We didn't cancel the national anthem," he continued, "We still had

our flag flying proud up on the wall at the American Airlines Center and everybody had the opportunity to address it and pray to it or salute to it or whatever their feelings are."

Cuban said there was never any final decision that was made that they would not play the an-

them. Cuban's decision went unnoticed for the first ten regular season home games because fans had not been allowed to attend due to coronavirus restrictions. But after a limited number of spectators attended Monday's game against the visiting Minnesota Timberwolves, The Athletic reported on Tuesday that Cuban had previously decided to discontinue the song.

The sixty-two-year-old billionaire later revealed that he and his players felt the song is not representative of all communities.

The NBA responded Wednesday by releasing a statement, saying that all teams were expected to stand: "With NBA teams now in the process of welcoming fans back into their arenas, all teams will play the national anthem in keeping with longstanding league policy."

## Sir Vivian Richards Stadium ready for an active 2021

Manager of the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Keithroy Black, said management and staff are ready for an active year of cricket at the facility.

Presently the CWI Super50 is being hosted at the facility, with six matches that started Thursday scheduled to be played.

Black, speaking to **PointeXpress**, said in his conversation and meetings with lead grounds-man, former Leeward Islands player Anthony Merrick, he has been given the assurance that the pitch is in great condition and ready to facilitate cricket for the entire year.

Recently in Parliament, Minister of Sports Daryl Matthew informed his colleagues and the nation

that Antigua and Barbuda will be hosting cricket every month of the year with an economic injection anticipated in certain sectors.

Black said his staff have been working diligently to make sure that everything is in place to host the Super50, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Australia during 2021 cricket calendar. Plans were in place to celebrate the sixty-ninth birthday of Sir Vivian Richards but the stadium manager noted that if fans are not allowed into the stadium during this year's cricket cycle, they will have to cancel the events.

No fans are allowed in the games being played at the Coolidge Ground and Sir Vivian Richards Stadium but Cricket West Indies is hoping to convince the



Sir Vivian Richards Stadium manager Keithroy Black

government and health officials to facilitate a certain number of spectators for the semifinals and final. Six matches will be played in this year's Super50 at the venue.

The marketing team at the stadium have embarked on a programme to have several of the gated areas

reinforced and prepared to sell marketing spots to businesses as a way of securing much needed revenue.

"We are trying our best to create as much revenue centers as possible to alleviate the pressure on the government to subsidize the facility," stated Black.

**DEWS**



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