

40,000 VACCINES TO ARRIVE ON SUNDAY

SEE PAGE 3



Photo caption: The registration of members of the public to be vaccinated is on the way!

EDITORIAL

VICTIMS OF OUR OWN SUCCESS

Presently, a major concern for many governments in the Caribbean regarding the COVID-19 pandemic is the issue of ‘vaccine hesitancy,’ that is, the expressed unwillingness of some persons to take the vaccine. It is a grave concern since a large number of persons refusing to become vaccinated threatens the desired outcome of herd immunity—enough people being resistant to COVID-19 thereby stopping its spread.

While persons may have some legitimate concerns regarding vaccines in general, one suspects that part of the reason so many persons have expressed an unwillingness to take the vaccine is that we have become victims of our own success. This, of course, warrants some explanation.

Antigua and Barbuda, like many Caribbean countries, has been engaged in a massive vaccination programme that started in earnest in the 1970s and has continued up to this day. Beginning at a few weeks after birth, babies receive several vaccines to protect them from diseases. As the child grows, she or he is taken back to the clinic for additional vaccines and various ‘boosters’ to strengthen previously received vaccines. This process usually continues until teenage years when more vaccines are administered. Many of the diseases that once wreaked havoc on vulnerable populations were brought under control, and some were even completely eradicated. These include measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, poliomyelitis, yellow fever, hepatitis, malaria, among many others. So successful was this programme that many Antiguan and Barbudans have not seen the harm that these diseases can cause.

Therein lies part of the reason for what appears to be complacency among some people when it comes to taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

A few examples are therefore necessary. Do you know that yellow fever can cause liver and kidney damage? Malaria is known to cause seizures, coma, and even death. Do you also know that polio can damage the central nervous system, and can lead to paralysis of the head, neck and diaphragm? Many people are not aware of these things because the strong vaccination programme in Antigua and Barbuda means that we simply do not see the effects of these diseases at all.

Most individuals do not understand what it means to see hundreds of people afflicted by one or more of these diseases. It has therefore created an experiential void wherein because many have not witnessed the tyranny of these diseases, they somehow take the value of vaccines for granted. The older generation, on the other hand, those who were born during the period 1900 to 1969, saw first-hand the ravages of these diseases. That is why they did not hesitate to participate in the vaccination programme and also ensured that their progeny did the same. They lived through the sometimes-hellish experiences that some of these diseases cause: they would have lost siblings, children, and other loved ones to some of these diseases.

It is often said that there is nothing new to be learned from being kicked by a donkey a second time since one kick is sufficient to teach everything one needs to know. Clearly, having been kicked by these diseases, our elders knew better than to risk being kicked again. For our

present generation, it appears that some are eager to experience the donkey kick themselves.

Severe COVID-19 is known to cause pneumonia, respiratory failure, and death. Based on the testimony and warnings of many who have experienced severe COVID-19, the disease is nothing like influenza. There have been cases here in Antigua and Barbuda where it took months for some patients to recover, and even after recovering they still experience the effects of the disease. Some have described the experience of contracting COVID-19 as being depressingly lonely because one is isolated for the most part—no family, coworkers, or friends visiting. Moreover, people that we know have died as a result of the disease—a very lonely death; alone, tethered to a breathing apparatus. No one gets to say good-bye as these people die while being isolated. The funeral is usually swift, so family and friends do not even get the privilege to mourn the loved one the way it is normally done.

Gentle reader, is this the donkey kick you are willing to risk experiencing? What do you hope to learn from that?

Taking the vaccine ensures that the worst of COVID-19 will not come to you or your family. Gentle reader, our parents did it for us and we are now reaping the benefits by not experiencing the effects of the diseases against which we have been vaccinated. It is now our opportunity to do it for ourselves and our loved ones. Let us not permit ourselves to become victims of our own success and thereby unravel the very success we have had with vaccines. The nation depends on you to do the right thing.

Forty thousand vaccines to arrive on Sunday

A special flight is due to arrive at the V.C. Bird International airport Saturday night with the forty thousand doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines that are a gift from the government and people of India.

Informed sources say the flight is tentatively

scheduled for 28th February, estimated to arrive at 7:20 p.m. The flight will be on the ground for forty-eight hours to ensure the crew gets to rest.

The sources say the Indian government undertook to fly the vaccines, destined not only for Antigua and Barbuda but

also those it committed to other Caribbean territories, on one of its aircraft.

However, it was unclear up to last night whether the final flight into the V.C. Bird International will be that of an Indian aircraft.

The sources say the aircraft is expected to be met by senior government

officials when it lands at the airport. Arrangements have also been made for the vaccines to be stored at the government facility.

This means that there will be enough vaccines available to give almost half the population their first dose of the anti-COVID vaccine.

Latest dashboard shows fifty-five new confirmed cases of COVID-19

The latest COVID-19 update released by the Ministry of Health from the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has revealed fifty-five (55) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard for Wednesday 24th February 2021 with the cut off time of 6 p.m., an additional forty-eight (48) samples were processed at MSJMC, increasing the pending results from three hundred (300) to three hundred and forty-eight (348) in total.

Of the one hundred and fifty-four (154) samples processed by MSJMC, one hundred and twenty-six (126) were negative and twenty-eight (28) positive. Twelve (12) of these positive

cases were repeat tests.

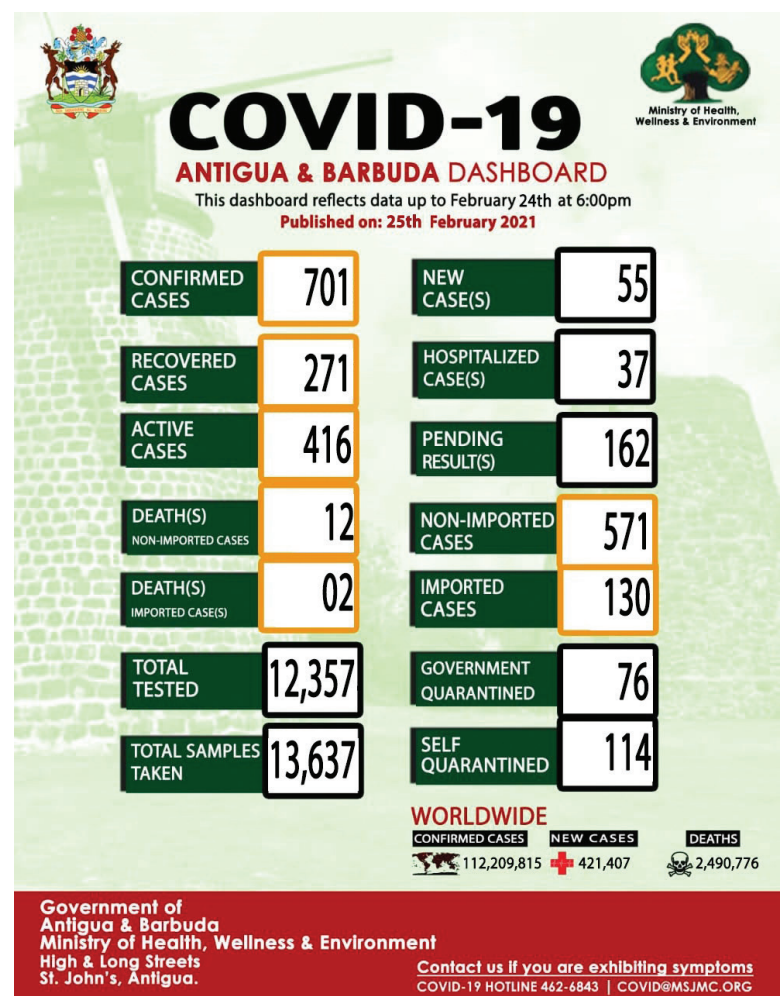
Of the one hundred and ninety-four (194) samples sent to CARPHA, one hundred and fifty-one (151) were negative and forty-three (43) positive. Four (4) of these positive cases were repeat tests.

All fifty-five (55) positive cases are non-imported.

Thirty-eight (38) recoveries have been recorded, bringing the total to two hundred and seventy-one (271).

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is seven hundred and one (701), which is inclusive of four hundred and sixteen (416) active cases.

Meanwhile, one hundred and sixty-two (162) samples are pending. The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



ABLP Barbuda branch to hold primary on Saturday

Seven people are down to participate in a primary on Saturday as the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's Barbuda branch stages a primary to select five candidates for the upcoming council elections next month.

Sources out of Codrington state that there are seven individuals who are expected to

participate in the primary. The top five candidates will automatically become the party's candidates for the 29th March poll. The names of the prospective candidates were not immediately available.

Under the Barbuda Local Government Act, five seats on the Council become vacant based on the system of rota-

tion enshrined in the law.

Already, the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) has named its five candidates: Wade Burton, McKenzie Frank, Nico Antonio, Melanie Beazer and Nadia George.

Nomination of candidates takes place on 17th March in Codrington.

Donation made to Nurses Association



The work being done by frontline workers, especially nurses, in the fight against the dreaded COVID-19 virus has not gone unnoticed. Several local companies have combined efforts to make a donation to the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses As-

sociation (ABNA).

Spearheading the effort was known philanthropist Nigel Pigott, along with his mother, Bernice Pigott, who was a nurse employed for decades by the government. He contacted associates at technology company QG Tech Ltd. to

contribute to the purchase through Michael Joseph of Medicapharma Supplies.

Director of QG Tech Ltd., Herbert Joseph, stated that the group instantly acknowledged the contributions of nurses and other frontline workers as the country copes with the

fallout from the pandemic. Joseph also expressed his appreciation and not only supplied the goods from his wholesale department but also contributed towards cost.

ABNA president, Nurse Soria Dupie-Winston gave heartfelt thanks to all parties involved for their timely donations of supplies and said, "At this time of the COVID pandemic nurses appreciate all the supplies they can get of this nature, which help frontline healthcare workers protect themselves, their families and mostly their patients."

Pigott reflected that, "In a recent local editorial, 'A call to arms,' the title alone said how we should think about this COVID pandemic. This is akin to war, our society is at threat and threats are better not faced alone, so we should all be grouping our efforts to expunge it."

Lady Williams highlights the need to learn foreign languages



H.E. Lady Williams (right) with Ms. Tao Guoxia, Chinese Director (CIAB) at Government House last December.

There is a new avenue for Antigua and Barbuda residents to learn foreign languages as part of their cultural understanding.

That is the view of Lady Sandra Williams, who is also president of the Antigua and Barbuda China Friendship Association (ACFA).

Speaking at an event to mark the Chinese New Year this month, Lady Williams also commended the Confucius Institute of Antigua and Barbuda (CIAB) on their cultural programme which was executed to mark the

Chinese Spring Festival and New Year.

In emphasizing the importance of learning foreign languages, Lady Williams stated, "This is a new era. In order to foster world peace and maximize economic activity, it is necessary for us to be constantly upgrading our skills. Language and technology are two of the areas upon which we consistently need to improve. The Confucius Institute of Antigua and Barbuda, at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, is right on our

doorstep. There is no reason why our citizens cannot equip themselves with this very relevant and crucial language competency. The classes are affordable for all."

As the featured speaker at the celebration, Lady Williams noted that "the purpose of the online gathering [was] to enhance cultural understanding, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two nations." She said, "It doesn't matter what country we are from. What colour of skin we are born with. Or what

language we speak. The message is clear. 2021 is a year which we should dedicate to the rebuilding of our nations, the rebirth of our aspirations, and the reconciliation of any broken relationships."

The Chinese New Year, the most significant event on the Chinese calendar, commenced on 12th February and expands over a fifteen-day period. 2021 is categorized as the Year of the Ox, and is also known as a "metal" or "xin" year. The last such occurrence was sixty years ago, in 1961.

Security forces start vaccination exercise

Close to three hundred members of the security forces have been vaccinated over the past several days as efforts to inoculate frontline units are ramped up under the national vaccination exercise.

Led by members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) who started their vaccination process on Tuesday when seventy-five members were vaccinated, other security agencies have since joined on Wednesday and Thurs-

day. Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin, reported that officers from the police department, the ONDCP and Immigration have since joined those ABDF officers being vaccinated. Only the Customs Division has not yet indicated when its officers will start their vaccination. More than seventy security officers were vaccinated on Wednesday, with an additional one hundred and thirty on Thursday,

bringing the overall total to over two hundred and seventy-five.

"The former US Air Station has been designated as a vaccination site and there is where the security personnel are being vaccinated," he revealed.

It is not compulsory for members of the ABDF to vaccinate, but based on the nature of their duties, Col. Benjamin said it is imperative that they vaccinate. "We strongly encourage our members to

vaccinate as they currently man the Quarantine Centre at the Air Station, conduct PCR tests for the security forces as well as assist with the contact-tracing programme," he stated.

Col. Benjamin said he is pleased with the response of the men and women in uniform under his command and he anticipates by early next week most of three hundred and twenty officers and civilian staff would be vaccinated.



COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Hotline lauded a success on its first day

The newly established COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Hotline was launched Thursday with instant success, receiving approximately three hundred and fifty calls and registering three hundred and twenty-six people during its first day of operation. With a few operational glitches, the hotline experienced a high call volume.

The hotline operates from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The team assisted people who may not have the capacity to register online, and aided those who opted to use the registration portal in navigating the site. The dedicated registration team also addressed general questions on the vaccination process.

Vaccination of frontline workers is well underway as healthcare workers,

members of the Antigua Barbuda Defence Force, Immigration Officers, and frontline staff continue to receive their inoculations.

Forty thousand additional vaccines are expected to arrive on the island in the coming days. To ensure the general public is educated on the vaccine programme, the COVID-19 Vaccine Education committee has embarked on a vigorous education campaign which included a series of targeted zoom sessions with Dr. Courtney Lewis, Dr. Shivon Jarvis, and Dr. George Mansoor.

According to Chair of the Education Committee, Dr. Janelle Charles Williams, "Just over one thousand persons from key interest groups, education, tourism, statutory bodies

example APUA, MBS, Social Security, Port Authority, Customs, Immigration, State Insurance, and religious leaders participated in the sessions."

The education programme also includes a dedicated information website, Public Service Announcements, social media campaigns, and media interviews with medical professionals.

To register for your COVID-19 Vaccine, members of the public can call the COVID-19 Registration Hotline at 788-8299, 736-8298, 736-8295, and 736-8299, or register online at www.vaccineantiguabarbuda.com.

The COVID-19 Registration Hotline is being managed by the Education Subcommittee of the National Coordinating Committee for the COVID-19 Vaccination programme.

New methods to tackle overcrowding in the era of COVID under active consideration

The government is taking a serious look at several options to deal with overcrowding at Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) amidst the outbreak of the COVID-19 in the country.

Speaking in the Senate on Thursday during her presentation to the debate on the National Budget 2021, Senator Maureen Hyman-Payne said the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Public Safety, where she is a junior minister, is considering options such as early release to minimize the risk of an outbreak of the virus among the prison population.

"People can't be in prison forever and we are looking at creative ways to ease the overcrowding at HMP as we don't want an outbreak there," she stated. One measure will look at prisoners who are nearing their release dates and whose crimes have been deemed to be of a type that would allow for early release.

"Depending on the type of offence, these inmates may be placed on a type of parole system where they are released into the care of two officers who would monitor their behaviour as well as assist them to assimilate back into the society. They must report regularly to the officers, and if their behaviour justifies it, they will remain free. However, in the event that they are found to have committed a crime or any such actions then they will return to prison to serve the remainder of their sentence," she explained.

Meanwhile, Prison Superintendent Lieutenant Colonel Eugene Phillip has reported that so far there are no cases of COVID-19 within the prisons. "This is because we took action quite early to eliminate the threat of persons from the outside bringing the virus to the prison. No one was allowed within the prison under any circumstances and only

those prisoners assigned to the prison farm were allowed to leave the prison," he remarked.

Families were not allowed to bring food for prisoners, only snacks. However, Col. Phillip stated that there was one exception; that is, for those prisoners with special diets that were not provided by the prison. "We have six inmates with this special need and the rules were relaxed in those cases," he added.

Strict rules also applied to prison officers who had to adhere to strict health protocols while inside the prison and who were urged to practise the same at home. So far, no prison officer has contracted the virus.

The superintendent announced that prison officers will join security forces and be vaccinated, beginning today.

There are just over two hundred and fifty inmates at HMP.

Cabinet continues its laser focus on COVID-19

Several senior health officials were invited to the Cabinet on Thursday as the nation's highest executive authority continues its focus on bringing an end to the COVID-19 pandemic in Antigua and Barbuda.

Among the invitees were the Chief Medical Officer, the Principal Nursing Officer, the Chief Health Inspector, the Ministry's Technology Of-

ficer, and three members of the Technical Committee responsible for communicating new information to the public.

"The CMO shared the plan for vaccinating approximately eighty thousand adults in thirty-five days. Five teams, each consisting of five staff and nurses, will be dispatched to four centers each day of the week (inclusive of Saturday and Sunday) during March and the first week of April 2021, to inoculate as many as two hundred and fifty to five hundred and fifty people each, daily for a period of thirty-five days (5 X 500=2,500 X 35=87,500)," sources close to the de-

liberation stated. "The Cabinet will dedicate two days to Barbuda in order to vaccinate approximately one thousand adults living there. "This approach will allow the ministry to achieve herd immunity in the state; that accomplishment will in turn make Antigua and Barbuda very safe, though the COVID-19 protocols will continue to apply," the source revealed.

The 40,000 doses of the vaccine will

arrive in Antigua this weekend. Another one hundred thousand vials will be required within two months in order to provide the second inoculation which will bring one hundred per cent efficacy to the population of recipients of the vaccine. The Serum Institute of India will likely provide one hundred thousand doses as requested.

According to sources, other officials provided the Cabinet with their plans for pre-registering those members of the population who qualify and who volunteer:

a) by way of a call center which has been established; the operators will take biographical information, other details and addresses from those who wish to pre-register (Telephone Numbers to pre-register include: 736 8295, 736 8298, 736 8299, 788 8299).

b) by those persons who utilize the website and email address (www.vaccineantiguabarbuda.com) established to pre-register, on account of the availability of a computer at home

or at work;

c) by those who show up at the Vaccination Centers without having been pre-registered; they will be required to share the same biographical and other information and addresses with the registration officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Health Inspector noted that in the post-vaccination period, the COVID-19 protocols will continue to apply: hand washing, social distancing, and the wearing of masks. The Chief Health Inspector also confirmed that all curfew times remain the same and that, except for certain essential workers, 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. remain in effect until 15th March 2021. In addition, Bars and places of entertainment remain closed. Restaurants are take-out and delivery only. Moreover, the ability of firms to decontaminate buildings is to be certified by the Central Board of Health working with the Director of Analytics/Dunbars Laboratory. The use of acceptable chemical compounds is to be determined by the Laboratory.

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: tfs_auction_antigua
Facebook: Auction Antigua

U.S. – Cuba normalization could increase production of COVID-19 vaccines

(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)

If U.S. President, Joe Biden, eases the trade embargo against Cuba, one benefit to developing countries, including the Caribbean, could be greater access to coronavirus vaccines at an affordable price.

Cuban scientists have been working on four vaccine candidates to counter the virus. They believe that their most successful candidate, Sovereign 2, will enter a final phase of testing next month.

Vincent Verez, one of the leading scientists on the Cuban team, says that clinical tests, in two trial phases so far, have revealed that Sovereign 2 is “very safe with very few adverse effects”.

The scientific team claims that producing the coronavirus vaccine was made more difficult by the sanctions on Cuba. They were not able to buy all the equipment and raw materials they needed, including spectrometers used for quality control. Nonetheless, their work is continuing. They have used a 20-year-old spectrometer that is still powerful enough to analyse the vaccine.

Cuba’s biotech sector is well developed, making eight vaccines (for other diseases) ad-

ministered to children in the country and exported to more than 30 countries. A successful coronavirus vaccine from Cuba would help to break the global control of the market by the big pharmaceutical companies in the US and Europe.

Cuba’s geographical location in the Caribbean and its willingness to share a successful vaccine with the developing world, would ease the pressure on CARICOM countries which face a twin problem in relation to inoculating their people. The first is to access vaccines being produced by the large pharmaceutical companies particularly, Pfizer and Moderna, and the second is getting better prices.

CARICOM countries have not been able to vaccinate more than one per cent of their people despite herculean efforts by governments to secure vaccines. The COVAX facility, established by the World Health Organization, to negotiate both supply and price with the major vaccine suppliers, has encountered major obstacles and is yet to deliver any of the vaccines for which Caribbean countries have already paid. A rollout is scheduled to start soon, but it will be less than 10 per cent of the quantities that were ordered.

The generosity of the Indian government in donating 570,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccines to CARICOM countries has helped them to get the inoculation programme started. But to get to the point of vaccinating 80 per cent of their



By Sir Ronald Sanders

populations so as to achieve herd immunity, requires access to more vaccines at prices less than the suppliers are offering.

Given that the world’s richest countries have pre-ordered and pre-paid for supplies, the big pharmaceutical companies are under no pressure to reduce prices, or ramp up production, even as global demand is increasing rapidly. Pfizer expects about \$15 billion in revenue this year from its COVID-19 vaccine developed with BioNTech.

Further, the governments of countries, in which the large producers of vaccines are located, have implemented measures, restricting exports of COVID-19 vaccines, citing intellectual property rights. Pfizer and Moderna claim the rights to vast amounts of intellectual property that will be useful, if not necessary, for others to develop vaccines in the future.

Sadly, the governments of the countries in which Pfizer and Moderna are located have

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also spurned urgings to facilitate such exports. Human rights, including the right to life and health, have been disregarded.

For these reasons, it would be beneficial to the Caribbean if the most promising of the four vaccines that Cuba is developing could secure World Health Organization (WHO) authorization after successful testing.

While he was campaigning for the U.S. Presidency, Joe Biden pledged to reverse sanctions placed on Cuba by former President Donald Trump in

his efforts to win Florida where a large number of Cuban exiles reside.

One of the most unfounded measures against Cuba is its listing, in the last days of Trump's administration, as a sponsor of terrorism. The critics of this listing have rightly pointed out that it is unjustified and serves no purpose other than to further cripple the Cuban economy. More particularly, it will hamper deals between Cuba and other countries. Governments of Cuba's closest neighbours, including CARICOM, have called for

its reversal.

About 20 churches and religious organizations in the U.S. also sent a letter on 17 February, to President Biden asking that the decision to include Cuba on the list of States sponsoring terrorism to be revoked.

At the same time, others, including the new Chair of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bob Menendez, continue to demand harder and tougher measures against Cuba. The latter represent opposition, most of whom want nothing less than the immediate collapse

of the Cuban government.

President Biden's instincts on normalization of U.S. relations with Cuba are grounded in the successful efforts of the Barack Obama administration of which he was Vice President. Nothing good will come from pursuing a decades-old failed policy that no one wants, except disgruntled Cuban-American exiles - a few of whom are in the U.S. Congress.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE REGISTRATION HOTLINE



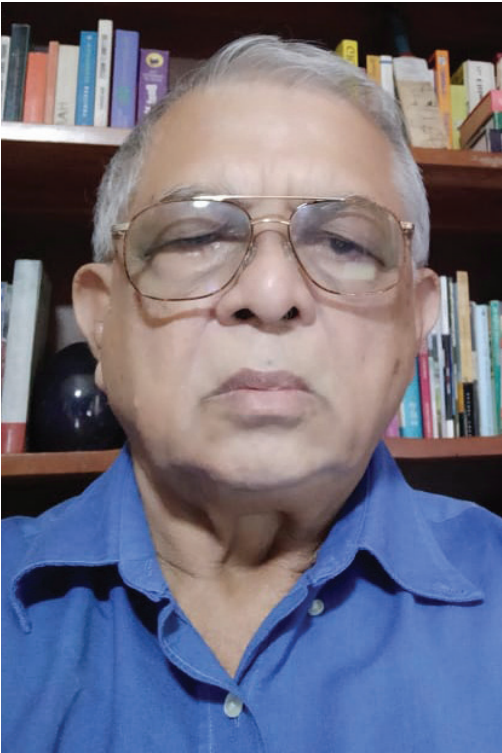
CALL THE COVID-19
VACCINE REGISTRATION HOTLINE
TO REGISTER

788-8299 | **736-8295**
736-8298 | **736-8299**

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9AM - 4PM

REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.VACCINEANTIGUABARBUDA.COM

EACH VACCINATED, ALL PROTECTED. #GETTHEFACTS #GETTHEVAX



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

By Tony Deyal

Two wrongs don't make a right but three left-turns do, even if you don't signal your intentions with your outstretched right hand, the prescribed and only legal way in Trinidad and Tobago as well as Barbados. Officially, "indicators" or exterior signal lights which are on every vehicle are not accepted by the Government as substitutes. From my experience, the only country in the Caribbean where people generally obey driving laws is Barbados and, even there, things have started heading in the wrong direction. Increasingly, the roads are getting more like Bushy Park, the country's racetrack, than the sedate and careful highways and by-ways that I so enjoyed in my time there, especially when I drove a Mini-Moke.

Barbadians never considered the little vehicle without doors, windows or anything except an engine and rudimentary steering, a "car". They will not take a ride in one even if rain is falling "bucket a drop", a rare enough phenomenon in that country, unless there is cricket at Kensington Oval. When I arrived in Barbados for an indefinite period as a

PAHO Consultant, I needed transport and for a thousand dollars bought myself a "used" Moke. The insurance cost fifteen-hundred dollars so I joked to Trinidadian Gerry Hadeed, whose company Beacon owns the insurance company, "You want me to sell the car to pay for the insurance?" My greatest fear in driving a car way ahead of its time was also its greatest attribute. It had a doorless entry instead of a mere keyless one. The dogs on the street where I lived, huge, aggressive creatures that were literally a "cross" breed, had the same ambition that Sparrow's Congo Man had towards "white meat". They wanted to "eat me raw". My predicament was not just getting badly bitten but explaining the circumstances to the hospital, police and insurance company. "A dog jump in my car and bite me." Finally, when you tell them your car is a Moke, the response would automatically be, "I thought you said a car? A Moke is not a car."

One thing I knew for certain is that in Trinidad or Jamaica me and my Moke would not have lasted even two days on the roads, or remain unmolested with the spare and battery intact while parked outside the house or at the airport for long periods. Nobody ever tried to bounce me down or run me off the road for sport as the drivers in these two countries do to people on motor bikes or with small vehicles. At no time did anyone rip off my watch, snatch my chain, grab my cell phone or jump into my car, kick me out and drive away with it. In Jamaica, my friend stopped momentarily at a traffic light, the window glass on the driver's side

half-up and had her watch torn off in a split second. In Guyana it happened to my wife's mother and a gold chain she wore. It is why, in addition to the climate-change heat that demands air-conditioning, most Caribbean people consider it foolhardy to leave windows down.

Yet, if you have to take a driving test in Trinidad and Tobago or Barbados in 2021 the law is the same as it was when my Grandfather bought a Ford car in 1947. You have to use hand-signals when you're turning otherwise you would fail- unless you have the wherewithal to pay for the pleasure or privilege of driving. It is not unusual in the entire Caribbean to see recently arrived immigrants, especially people of Chinese descent, driving legally. Most of them cannot speak or read English even though the process for acquiring the licence includes a written test in the English language. But that, as serious as it is, takes second or even third place to two other issues. The first is that looking at the very sparing use of indicators in the Caribbean, even though every car comes with a set, you would believe that if you want to actually use them you have to pay extra. I almost didn't write this because finance ministers in the region are now desperate and they will clutch at a clutch, far less an indicator, in a flash. Secondly, it does not make sense to enforce the law and demand people use hand-signals, but it makes even less sense to keep the law on the books and not change it. The use of indicators should be mandatory. The problem is deeper than making and not enforcing laws or keeping the co-

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lonial rules in place. You cannot change anything in a country like Trinidad if, when you go to the licensing office, there is a "medical practice" across the street with no doctor present and for a hundred dollars someone gives you a certificate verifying that you are in good health. In addition, your driving instructor can arrange for you to get a licence if you pay a licensing officer through him and your nose.

There are many things I don't understand about Caribbean people and their vehicles. One that irks me is when I'm driving behind someone with a huge SUV or pickup truck and the vehicle, despite huge twenty-inch wheels, comes to less than a snail's pace to go over a very low hump or a tiny crack in the road. Another hum-

bug is people with new cars who drive in the centre of the road because they don't want their tires or undercarriage to get dirty. In Trinidad, there are people who drive very slowly towards the traffic light and, as it turns yellow, accelerate like jet planes and don't always make it before the red but continue regardless. Then comes the event for which, I believe, Trinidad holds all the global records. They are slowest off a traffic light. I can understand that it is necessary at times to avoid the people who are breaking the red also destroying you and your car. But this really is not what keeps people from moving off. Despite the law against the use of cell-phones, it is the major cause of the delay. It is like the story of the man who was

driving his car when the police stopped him, knocked on his window and the man responded, "One minute. I'm on the phone." In the Caribbean generally the police don't have time for that - they're too busy not attending court.

What are jokes in other countries might not be jokes here in the Caribbean. My friend Selwyn snores so loudly that it scares everyone in the car he's driving. There are few of us who have not travelled in a car with the driver drunk, falling- or fast-asleep. "I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car." Ditto. My wife had her driver's test the other day. She got eight out of ten. The other two guys jumped. The same thing could be said by

a spouse about any Caribbean husband. Two that are different now from the good old days are, "Who earns a living driving their customers away? A taxi driver!" In Trinidad, where people with "private" cars are allowed equivalent rights as licenced taxis, this is now a frequent occurrence where the passengers, especially female, are lucky to return or remain alive. Too many are driven away and are never seen again. In fact, when the driver starts to go the unmasked extra mile - jump out of the car and run as fast as you can, screaming for help.

**Tony Deyal was last seen whispering the joke about the man who boasted, "This Christmas I got a brand-new Benz for my wife. It was the best trade I ever had!"*

BROWNE AND BROWNE
 SATURDAYS 4PM

PRIME MINISTER
 HON. GASTON BROWNE

SENATOR
 COLIN BROWNE

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

Local music producer presents “softer side of soca” with new riddim



Antigua music producer Andrew Dorsette



If you listen to any of the five songs released so far in what is called ‘Project Romance,’ you are guaranteed to feel some sort of emotion.

And that is not just because of the soothing voices of the soca artistes on the tracks but also because of the riddim which is meant to depict a “softer side of soca.”

Antigua music producer Andrew Dorsette is the man behind the music.

The forty-eight-year-old said the riddim took him only about fifteen minutes to create.

“While creating some beats, I came across this one, and about fifteen minutes in, Bang!!! I realized I was in the zone. This riddim was instantly a unique one,” he revealed.

Then in no time, the talented musician sent the masterpiece to a few artists who instantly fell in love.

Thus, Project Romance was birthed as a compilation of love songs on one unique riddim, featuring top artistes from all over the world.

Project Romance now consists of a song called ‘Ahead of This’ by Timeka Marshall and Drew Thoven, ‘Amazing’ by Arlen Seaton and Jenny Medina, ‘Kiss’ by Antigua artiste Young Lyrics, ‘In my Feelings’ by Antigua Janine with Wildfire and Antigua’s 2019 Junior

Soca King Island Prince singing ‘Come Close.’

Dorsette, the brainchild of this project, got his roots in music when he started playing in church and then took piano lessons at the age of nine.

After finishing high school in Antigua, he went off to Berklee College of Music, an endeavour that he said was always “a big dream.”

He graduated with a degree in jazz composition in 1995 and since then, Dorsette has travelled the world playing keyboards for international artists.

The musician then returned home in 2013 and began working with top local artistes.

Project Romance is just taking off and a few more songs are still on the docket.

St. Kitts-Nevis rolls out vaccination programme



Minister of Health Akilah Byron-Nisbett

The vaccination programme for COVID-19 is set to begin today at the Newtown Health Centre where the first doses will be given to people here in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Minister of Health, Akilah Byron-Nisbett, in an address on Sunday noted that the vaccine rolls out with a launch this afternoon.

"To initiate our vaccination rollout and awareness of the campaign, the general public should kindly note that at 1:00 p.m., on Monday 22nd February, the Ministry of Health will launch the national roll-out of its AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine at the Newtown Health Centre, Ponds Pasture St. Kitts."

Last week Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris said his Cabinet colleagues would lead on the matter and will be the first to take the vaccine.

Byron-Nisbett said the Federation continues to be proactive in its efforts to manage COVID-19 as the pandemic wreaks devastating returns on communities globally.

She said the vaccines are ready to be rolled out.

"The fact that they are safe and efficacious vaccines is indeed indicative of one of the greatest public health achievements in human history. The vaccine plan will be rolled out under the auspices of the National Immunization Committee of the Ministry of Health who relied on the well-established vaccine programme with its best practice measures with relevant input from regional and international partners such as PAHO and WHO and the strategic advisory group of experts on immunization."

The health minister said

the plan will be executed utilizing a three-phased approach with the main goals being to mitigate against death and serious disease, promote maximum functioning of society and reduce the burden of COVID-19 on vulnerable persons

"The overall aim of our country's plan is to ultimately access adequate amounts of COVID-19 vaccines to consequently vaccinate seventy per cent of our population to achieve appropriate herd immunity threshold."

Addressing the vaccine plan, Byron-Nisbett said it would be administered to people eighteen to eighty years of age while people over eighty will be required to be evaluated by their physicians before receiving the vaccine

"Administration will be based on an appointment system and those interested in being vac-

inated may call the health hotline 311 or visit the nearest health centre to make an appointment. Once the first dose of the vaccine is given persons will be issued with a COVID-19 vaccination card and an appointment to return in ten weeks for the second dose."

She said phase one will be rolled out in Basseterre, Sandy Point and Tabernacle health centres in St. Kitts. In Nevis Charlestown, Gingerland and Combermere health centres.

Byron-Nisbett said during the subsequent phases all eleven health centres in St. Kitts and six in Nevis will be utilized.

She said during the launch persons representing a cross-section of stage one, including members of Parliament, will be inoculated with the vaccine.

T&T to get COVAX rollout info within days

By Anna-Lisa Paul

(Trinidad Guardian):

Trinidad and Tobago will know within the next two days just when and how much COVID-19 vaccines it will receive via the COVAX facility.

According to Chief Medical Officer, Dr Roshan Parasram - the number of two-dose AstraZeneca vaccines will vary between one hundred and eight thousand and one hundred and seventeen thousand.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is set to publish its global rollout plan soon, which will give Trinidad and Tobago a better indication of when the vaccines will be available.

"Final information on the first round allocations, covering the majority of Facility participants, is expected to be communicated in the

coming days," the WHO assured in a news release issued Wednesday.

Speaking during the Ministry of Health's briefing yesterday, Parasram said the number they are expecting represented a "portion of the first twenty per cent" which is scheduled to be delivered during 2021.

Trinidad and Tobago has put in an order through the COVAX facility, for nine hundred and twenty-three thousand, three hundred and forty doses, which is to be delivered in tranches.

Last month, the government said it was expecting the first set of doses in March, estimated to be around one hundred thousand.

The COVAX delivery dates, however, will only be known when the rollout plan is announced and is dependent on country

readiness.

The WHO statement said: "In order for doses to be delivered to Facility participants via this first allocation round, several critical pieces must be in place, including confirmation of national regulatory authorization criteria related to the vaccines delivered, indemnification agreements, national vaccination plans from AMC participants, as well as other logistical factors such as export and import licences."

It added: "As participants fulfil the above criteria and finalize readiness preparations, COVAX will issue purchase orders to the manufacturer and ship and deliver doses via an iterative process. This means deliveries for this first round of allocation will take place on a rolling basis and in tranches."

Parasram has said that a

similar-type agreement with the African Medical Council will see Trinidad and Tobago receiving a further two hundred and twenty-six thousand COVID-19 vaccines as they become available.

Difficulty getting vaccines from India

Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Dr Amery Browne, elaborated on Trinidad and Tobago's efforts to acquire COVID-19 vaccines over the past six months and the difficulties faced in getting vaccines from India.

He pointed out that COVID-19 vaccines are not being manufactured by countries or states or governments but instead by private sector companies.

He told the media that discussions had been taking place directly with some of these suppliers.



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High-rises for Portmore



The old Forum Hotel in Portmore to serve as model for future buildings

The densely populated municipality of Portmore should transition to high-rise living as one of the fastest-growing regions in Jamaica.

That is one of the proposals that is being mulled by a joint select committee examining the prospects of Portmore being designated the island's 15th parish.

Peter Knight, chief executive officer of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), said during his presentation on Wednesday that two- and three-storey buildings may have to become a standard model.

"To accommodate this rate of growth, given the limited land

that is available, there will be need for development to be more intensive and smart, so we can't just build a one house on the flat," said Knight.

Frances Blair, senior manager in NEPA's Planning Subdivision, said that it was proposed that existing unplanned settlements in areas such as Gregory Park, Newlands, Naggo Head, and Old Braeton be redeveloped at higher densities for housing and commerce.

Similar recommendations were made in a provisional development order for the municipality, which was produced in 2018. It was produced after consultations with

several government regulatory agencies and residents.

The order has not yet been confirmed by Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

"The Portmore Provisional Order recommends that residential density and height be increased to between one hundred and twenty-five and two hundred and fifty habitable rooms per hectare and height of between four and six floors," said Blair.

The municipality has a population of one hundred and eighty-five thousand.

Portmore has only seventeen thousand, eight hundred and sixty-six hectares of land, with more than

seventy-six per cent government owned while approximately twenty-three per cent is private property. The Urban Development Corporation is the largest landowner overall.

Portmore is situated within a flight path, which means that the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority will need to be consulted to determine just how high buildings can go.

Recommendations were also made for an additional twelve primary schools, eight secondary schools, and a tertiary institution to be built. There was also a proposal for the establishment of a Type A hospital, an additional seven Type Three health facilities, one more fire station, an infirmary, and a courthouse, among other social services.

Knight said Portmore provides several opportunities, but there are also several weaknesses, including the failure to execute plans. The parish is also vulnerable to natural disasters, has very little farmland, and has inadequate physical and social infrastructure.

An estimated seventy per cent of the total land area is environmentally sensitive, comprising protected, conservation, wetlands, woodland, and forested areas.

ECCB to implement action for recovery, resilience and transformation of ECCU

(Dominica News Online): Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), Timothy Antoine, says the institution has received approval to implement a programme of action for recovery, resilience and transformation of the ECCU.

He said the move is a regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic and contains several themes that are all aligned with a strategic plan that the ECCB plans to launch in June 2021.

Antoine, who was recently reappointed to his position by the ECCB Monetary Council, said during a virtual thanksgiving ceremony earlier this month which marked the start of his second five-year term, that he fully re-dedicates and re-commits himself to the task

at hand and to the cause of building the region.

“We are going to be elaborating a strategic plan 2021-2026,” he said. “At the moment, the strategic themes we have identified are, digital transformation, environmental, social, and corporate governance, financial stability, organizational effectiveness and development, and payment systems improvement and financial inclusion.”

Antoine highlighted some areas which he says are the immediate areas of focus for the ECCB in 2021 and moving forward.

These include digital transformation, which he said will be the key area of focus, and boosting food and nutrition security.

Antoine, who is a Grenadian national, was first appointed in January 2016

to succeed Sir K Dwight Venner who retired on 30th November, 2015.

He is the holder of a BSc degree in Economics with Management from the University of the West Indies and a MSc in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics.

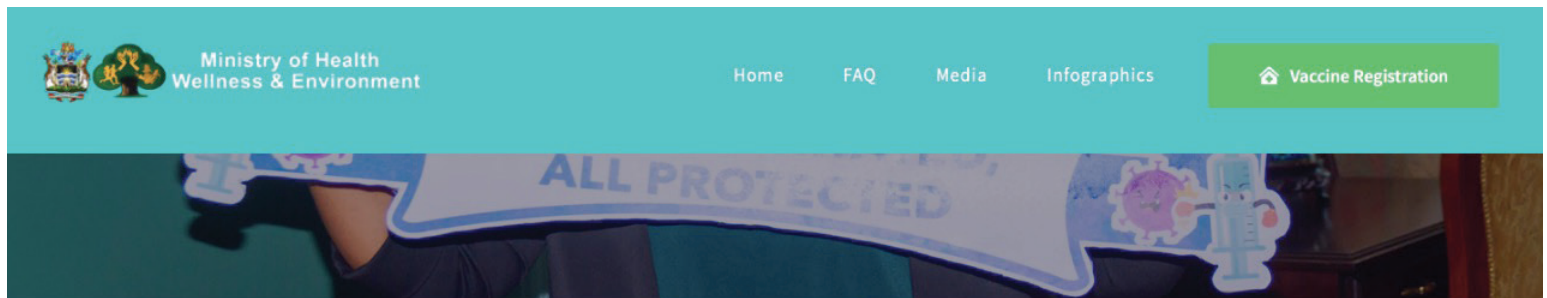
Antoine’s appointment followed a process that included identification of suitable candidates by a Search Committee led by Sir Errol Allen, interviewing of these candidates and the submission of recommendations of the Search Committee, to the Monetary Council.

The Monetary Council, the highest decision making body of the ECCB, interviewed the two top ranked candidates before making its decision.

Antoine brings to his new

position, senior managerial experience, having served as Grenada’s Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance for fourteen (14) years. He also has significant regulatory experience as a member of the ECCB Board for twelve years and as Chairman of the Grenada Authority for the Regulation of Financial Institutions for seven years. Antoine is also the Chairman of the Technical Core Committee on Insurance for the ECCU.

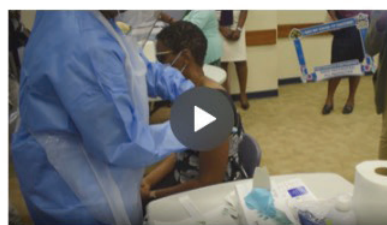
He served as director on several regional boards, including the Caribbean Development Bank and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility. He also served as Advisor to the Executive Director for Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean at the World Bank Group from 2005-2007.



[Click here to Register](#)

#GetTheFacts #GetTheVax

The COVAX Facility has informed the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment that the country can expect to receive doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, in the near future and is seen as suitable for rollout around the world. The WHO says the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine should be used in countries even where variants of the virus are present - as well as in all adults over 18. The Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine protects against severe illness, hospitalizations and death. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is not compulsory, but you are encouraged to do so when it is your turn. Experts say that making the vaccine mandatory wouldn't help create public confidence.



Vaccines Save Lives:

Biden call with Saudi king expected 'very soon' White House says

WASHINGTON (Reuters): U.S. President Joe Biden should talk "very soon" with Saudi King Salman, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Thursday, ahead of the expected release of a U.S. intelligence report on the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

A person familiar with the issue told Reuters that the report's release was awaiting the call. The release also was delayed as Salman's son and the de facto ruler of the Kingdom, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, underwent surgery earlier this week, the person said.

"The contact with the Saudis is very important," said the person, who spoke on condition of an-

onymity.

It was yet not clear if the call would take place later on Thursday, possibly leading to the report's release on Friday.

The report is a declassified version of a top-secret U.S. intelligence assessment that sources say singles out the crown prince, known in the West as MbS, for approving the 2nd October 2018, murder of Khashoggi in the Kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

Khashoggi, who wrote Washington Post columns critical of the crown prince's policies, had been a U.S. resident.

The release of the declassified report on his death - mandated by a 2019 defence bill - is part of Biden's recalibration of

U.S.-Saudi relations in part over Khashoggi's murder.

But Biden has made clear that he wants to maintain strong ties with one of Washington's closest Arab allies.

"Our administration is focused on recalibrating the relationship," Psaki told a White House briefing. "And certainly there are areas where we will express concerns and leave open the option of accountability."

"There are also areas where we will continue to work with Saudi Arabia given the threats they face in the region," she added in an apparent reference to Saudi Arabia's main rival, Iran.

"There are a range of actions that are on the table" regarding Saudi

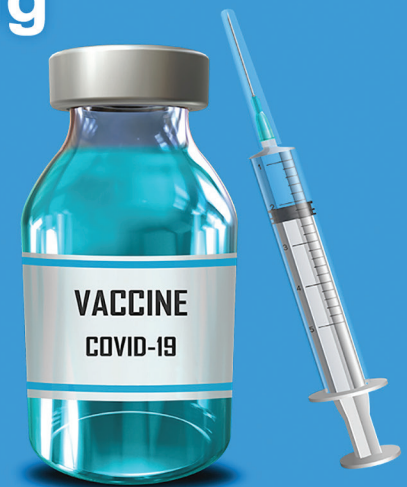
Arabia," Psaki said, adding that the next step was for Biden to speak to Salman "very soon."

Khashoggi was lured to the Saudi mission. There, he was killed by an MbS-linked team of Saudi operatives, who dismembered his body. It has never been found.

Saudi Arabia called Khashoggi's death a "rogue" extradition operation gone awry, but denied the crown prince was involved.

Five people were convicted of the murder and given the death penalty in a 2019 trial, but their sentences were commuted to twenty years in jail after Khashoggi's family forgave them. Three others received sentences totaling twenty-four years.

Coronavirus can affect anyone. For elderly persons suffering from a non-communicable disease, e.g. diabetes, COVID-19 can be very serious or even fatal.



#GetTheFacts #GetTheVax

EACH VACCINATED, ALL PROTECTED.

Coronavirus: EU urged to adopt joint 'vaccine certificates'



Greece giving vaccinated citizens digital certificates

(BBC): Greece and Austria are urging other EU states to adopt a common COVID vaccination certificate, which could help revive Europe's stricken tourist industry this summer.

In a virtual meeting EU leaders are also discussing how to speed up vaccinations. The EU's slow vaccine rollout has been widely criticized. Greece and Israel already have digital vaccination certificates.

But France and Germany are wary, as the data on infectiousness is incomplete.

There are also concerns that enabling a vaccinated minority

to enjoy foreign travel while others continue to face restrictions would be seen by many as discriminatory.

A further complication is the rapid spread of more contagious COVID variants - the English, South African and Brazilian forms. So it is more likely that people will need booster jabs to remain protected.

Greek Deputy Prime Minister Akis Skertsos told the BBC that a common digital certificate "is not discriminatory at all." He argued that non-vaccinated tourists could also visit Greece this summer, but the procedure for them

would be slower - they would have to be tested and might have to self-isolate on arrival.

Greece and Cyprus have agreed to admit COVID-negative Israeli tourists this summer - those who can prove their status with the Israeli "green" digital certificate.

Greek Tourism Minister Harry Theocharis said a similar deal could be reached with the UK. However, the UK government has not yet approved any vaccination certificate, nor has it given the go-ahead for foreign holidays. Greek tourism slumped disastrously last year because of the pan-

demic. Its revenues fell to €4bn (£3.5bn; \$5bn), from €18bn in 2019, Reuters news agency reports. Tourism makes up about a fifth of the Greek economy, employing one in five workers. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz tweeted that "we're advocating a digital Green Pass, like Israel's."

"That should allow you to prove, on your mobile phone, that you've been tested, inoculated or have recovered [from COVID]. Our goal: to avoid a lengthy lockdown and finally enable freedom to travel again in the EU, and freedom to enjoy events and cuisine."

Myanmar coup: Violence flares as rival protesters clash in Yangon



Some men seen hurling objects during confrontation between rival protesters in Yangon

Supporters of Myanmar's military have tussled with anti-coup protesters, as turmoil over the ousting of the country's elected government spills onto the streets. Myanmar has been jolted by unrest since the military seized power in a coup on 1st February.

Since then, mass protests have been seen across the country, with many calling for a return to democracy. More anti-coup protests took place in the main city of Yangon on Thursday. But before coup opponents had a chance to gather in large numbers, about one thousand supporters of the military turned up for a rally in the city centre.

By Thursday afternoon,

the rally had descended into violence, as scuffles between military supporters and opponents in parts of the city escalated. Some of the military supporters involved in the violence were armed with knives, clubs, pipes and catapults used to hurl rocks, witnesses said. In one incident, several men, one wielding a large knife, attacked a man outside a city-centre hotel, according to Reuters news agency. It said the man's condition was not known.

At least three protesters and one policeman have been killed in violence at rallies against the coup. The coup saw military leaders overthrow the elected government of civilian leader Aung San

Suu Kyi.

She has been placed under house arrest and charged with possessing illegal walkie-talkies and violating the country's Natural Disaster Law. The military justified its seizure of power by alleging widespread fraud in November elections, which Ms. Suu Kyi's party had won convincingly. Protesters are demanding an end to the military's rule and want Ms. Suu Kyi released, along with senior members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

The coup has been widely condemned outside Myanmar, prompting sanctions against the military and other punitive moves. In the latest

rebuttal, social media giant Facebook banned Myanmar's military and its affiliates from its platforms on Thursday, citing deadly violence against protesters. The company said it acted after deciding "the risks of allowing the Tatmadaw [Myanmar military] on Facebook and Instagram are too great."

Since the military seized power, it has arrested protesters, ordered internet blackouts and also banned social media platforms - including Facebook. Protests against the coup have continued despite a thinly veiled threat earlier this week by a military-linked broadcaster, which suggested it would use lethal force against demonstrators.

Medical oxygen scarce in Africa, Latin America amid virus



In El Salvador a man carries his empty tank to be filled

DAKAR, Senegal (AP):

A crisis over the supply of medical oxygen for coronavirus patients has struck nations in Africa and Latin America, where warnings went unheeded at the start of the pandemic and doctors say the shortage has led to unnecessary deaths.

It takes about twelve weeks to install a hospital oxygen plant and even less time to convert industrial oxygen manufacturing systems into a medical-grade network. But in Brazil and Nigeria, as well as in less-populous nations, decisions to fully address inadequate supplies only started being made last month, after hospitals were overwhelmed and patients

started to die.

The gap in medical oxygen availability "is one of the defining health equity issues, I think, of our age," said Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, who said he survived a severe coronavirus infection thanks to the oxygen he received.

Doctors in Nigeria anxiously monitor traffic as oxygen deliveries move through the gridlocked streets of Lagos. Desperate families of patients around the world sometimes turn to the black market. Governments take action only after hospitals are overwhelmed and the infected die by the dozens.

In Brazil's Amazonas

state, a pair of swindlers were caught reselling fire extinguishers painted to look like medical oxygen tanks. In Peru, people camped out in lines to get cylinders for sick relatives.

Only after the lack of oxygen was blamed for the deaths of four people at an Egyptian hospital in January and six people at one in Pakistan in December did governments address the problems.

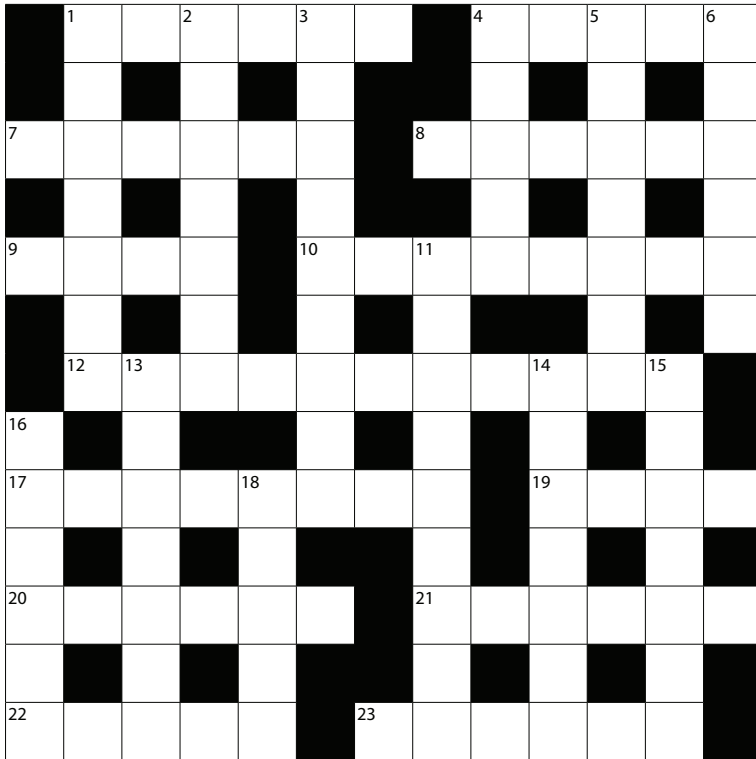
John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said medical oxygen is a "huge critical need" across the continent of 1.3 billion people and is a main reason that COVID-19 patients are more likely to die there

during surges.

Even before the pandemic, sub-Saharan Africa's two thousand, six hundred oxygen concentrators and sixty-nine functioning oxygen plants met less than half the need, leading to preventable deaths, especially from pneumonia, said Dr. John Adabie Appiah of the World Health Organization.

The number of concentrators has grown to about six thousand, mostly from international donations, but the oxygen produced isn't pure enough for the critically ill. The number of plants that can generate higher concentrations is now at one hundred and nineteen.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Part of a shoe (6)
- 4 Confidence trickster — doctor (5)
- 7 Social setting (6)
- 8 Maximum (6)
- 9 Skin infection (4)
- 10 Civil partnership (8)
- 12 Device mixing air and fuel (11)
- 17 Tennis stroke (4,4)
- 19 Evaluate some person or thing (4)
- 20 Culmination (6)
- 21 Palm leaf fibres used to make baskets, mats etc (6)
- 22 Handsome (5)
- 23 Ukrainian port city on the Black Sea (6)

Down

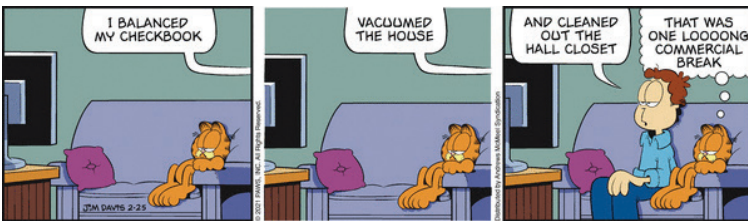
- 1 Incredibly stupid (7)
- 2 Slide (7)
- 3 Braggart (9)
- 4 Scheduled host for the 2022 men's Football World Cup (8)
- 5 Fruit with green flesh and leathery skin (7)
- 6 Baby mog (6)
- 11 Went in again (2-7)
- 13 Displaying love (7)
- 14 Price lists (7)
- 15 Greek resin-flavoured wine (7)
- 16 Proof of who one is (2,4)
- 18 Squalid (5)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



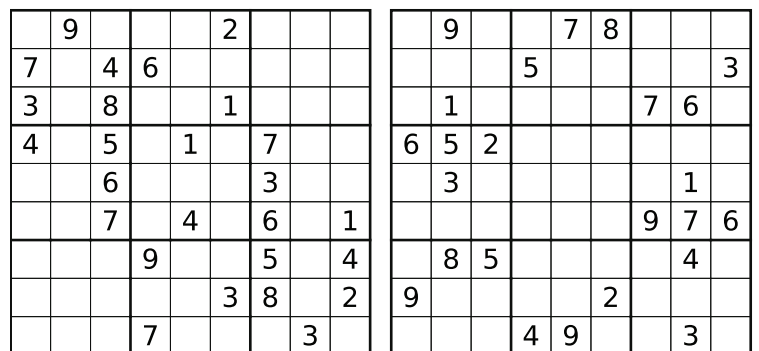
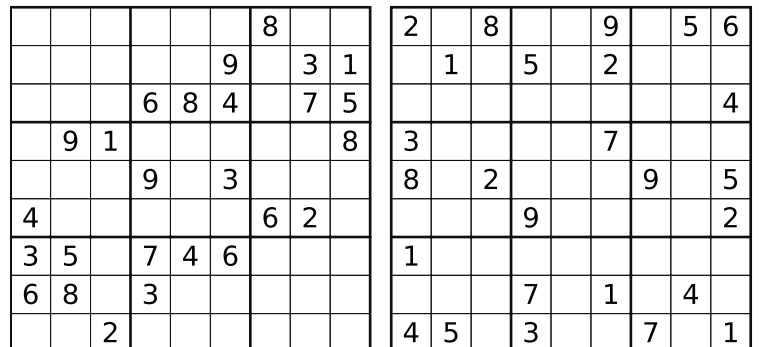
Garfield



Rose is Rose




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 02/26  **81° Hi** DAY Sun and some clouds with a shower in spots
74° Lo NIGHT Patchy clouds with a passing shower or two

Sunrise 6:28 AM Sunset 6:13 PM Moonrise 5:47 PM Moonset 6:47 AM

SAT 02/27  **82° Hi** DAY Partly sunny with spotty showers
74° Lo NIGHT Patchy clouds with a shower in spots late

Sunrise 6:27 AM Sunset 6:13 PM Moonrise 6:46 PM Moonset 7:31 AM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

This is an excellent day to express your natural creativity, Aries. The arts will likely be very important to you. You may find that nothing brings you more pleasure on days like this.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

If you're feeling tired, Taurus, you may need to lie back, close your eyes, and listen to some soothing music. You work hard most of the time, so it can do your body and mind good to just relax and listen to your favorite music.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Today may bring up strong feelings, Gemini. This may not be new, as you have a tendency to feel things deeply. But it may be a bit tough to find a way to express this. Why not visit a bookstore?

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

Consider that artistic expression can happen in many ways. It isn't always about drawing a picture, singing a song, playing music, or acting. The way that you arrange your home or workspace is an artistic expression.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

You may find that today brings great physical strength and energy to you. Given this, you may really want to do some tough, challenging physical work. This is certainly the day for it, so why not go for it?

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

It's prime time to get busy. Activities that require focus or creativity will be supported. Physical strength and energy will encourage you to do something active. Consider artistic projects that take strength.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 1-23-Oct. 22

Your active side may show through today, Libra. While you can be extremely focused on brainwork, you also love to keep active and do physical work. This is a good day to get a lot accomplished.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 1-23-Nov. 21

If you've been feeling tired or sick lately, this will probably turn around for you, Scorpio. You may often experience moodiness, and this can be a real drain. Your emotional state can affect how your body feels.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You will probably be very busy today, Sagittarius, which may suit you just fine. This can work in your favor if you have some work to catch up on. Being active and getting things done will be natural for you.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today, Capricorn, your ability to stand up for your decisions and not let others sway you may be enhanced. This will be especially true if you've arrived at a resolution that solves a problem. Others may often try to change your decisions.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You may feel a real need to get moving today, Aquarius. Almost everyone prefers quiet activities, books, art, and even just sitting around to physical activity at times. But your health can suffer if you aren't active.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Today, Pisces, you will probably have a ton of energy at your disposal for getting into all kinds of activities. Finish any work that still needs to be completed. Do some cleaning and organizing or see about getting out.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HEADQUARTERS AND REGISTRATION UNITS

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) wishes to advise the general public that a relative of a member of staff at ABEC's Headquarters has tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member and other family members, have all tested negative and have not been in contact with the afflicted relative. However, out of an abundance of caution, the office's Headquarters on Queen Elizabeth Highway and all Registration Units will be closed for one-week, effective Monday, 22nd February to Friday, 26th February 2021. We encourage the general public to continue to adhere to all established COVID-19 protocols in minimizing the spread of the disease.

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.

PET CORNER



Molly and Sasha are canine senior citizens. They both have been spayed and are just over 10 years old. They have been well loved and well cared for but their owner passed away recently and we are trying to find a new forever home for them. If you can open up your heart to these two, please contact us at 461-4957.

The Antigua & Barbuda Humane
 Tel: (268) 461-4957
 Email: antiguanimals@gmail.com
 Website: www.antiguanimals.com
 Facebook: Antigua & Barbuda Humane Society

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CWI sign a multi-year deal with SuperSport

Cricket West Indies on Wednesday confirmed its third new multi-year broadcast right agreement, with SuperSport securing the rights to West Indies cricket in sub-Saharan Africa until the end of 2024.

The four-year agreement will see SuperSport feature exclusive coverage of all West Indies international home matches and regional tournaments played in the Caribbean on its television and digital platforms.

As part of the agreement, West Indies cricket will now be seen in over fifty-four African countries and islands, including Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya. Su-



perSport's coverage starts with the recently confirmed West Indies versus Sri Lanka series, which commences on Wednesday, 3rd

March with three CG Insurance T20 International matches.

The agreement also includes the rescheduled

visit by South Africa to the Caribbean in June 2021, a tour that had to be rescheduled from July 2020 due to COVID-19.

England crumble to ten-wicket defeat inside two days

England succumbed to a ten-wicket defeat inside two days in the third day-night Test against India, as seventeen wickets fell for 176 runs on an extraordinary second day's play in the third Test.

England were bowled out for 81 in their second innings on a treacherous turning track, and that was after some earlier heroics from Joe Root—claiming a maiden Test five-wicket—which saw India collapse to 145 all out in the morning. It left the home side

a slender target of 49 to chase, never enough runs for England to play with. Defeat now knocks them out of contention in the ICC World Test Championship, while they trail 2-1 in the series heading into the final match back at the Narendra Modi Stadium next Thursday.

Scores in the match: England 112 (Crawley 53, Axar 6-38) and 81 (Axar 5-32, Ashwin 4-48).

India 145 (Rohit 66, Root 5-8, Leach 4-54 and 49-0.



Woods recovering in hospital



Golf legend Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods underwent emergency orthopedic surgery Tuesday after a single-car, rollover accident in southern California.

As of Tuesday night, he was awake, responsive and recovering in a hospital room, his team posted in a statement on the star golfer's Twitter account. Woods, a fifteen-time major tournament champion, has seen an outpouring of support from the golf world and beyond since news of the crash broke.

"It's sickening," PGA tour pro Adam Scott

said. "He's our hero out here. You think guys like Tiger Woods and Kobe Bryant are untouchable, but they are not."

The reasons behind the crash remain unknown, and Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva said a traffic investigation could take days or weeks.

Wednesday in a Facebook Live briefing, Villanueva said the department is not considering charges against Woods. "He was not drunk; we can throw that one out," Villanueva said during a live streamed social media event.



OUR NATIONAL LEGEND

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Sir Sydney Walling

Sir Sydney Walling (12 July 1907 – 8 October 2009) was an Antiguan cricketer who played for Antigua from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Considered "grandfather of Antigua and Barbuda cricket." He is remembered, above all, as "a cricketer who used his outstanding ability in a time of discrimination to further the rights of ordinary black cricketers."

In one of his debut matches for Antigua, Sir Sydney knocked a masterful 156 in a trial against Guyana and yet was never selected to join the West Indies senior team because he hailed from Antigua. Despite the setback, he would go on to pioneer a number of firsts, including being the first black captain of Antigua's national team in 1933.

He also captained the Leeward Islands team, and was a part of the original Combined Islands team in the early 50s. Away from the cricket field, Sir Sydney set the standard for business professionals as he worked his way from being a lowly messenger for the post office in 1922 to becoming the nation's first black post master in 1947.

He also made his mark as a talented musician, playing the baritone horn in a local band and directing his church's junior choir for 37 years. He was also the country's postmaster and an active Scout leader.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 2021



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



NOC names Technical Development Officer

The Antigua and Barbuda Olympic Association (ABNOC) announces the appointment of Charles Bellot as its Technical Development Officer (TDO).

This new initiative strengthens the NOC's thrust to provide increased support for the coordinated development of sport in Antigua and Barbuda and enhance athletes' preparation for medalling participation in regional, continental, and international competitions.

As TDO, Bellot will:

- i. Design and direct the NOC's Education Programme Learning for Success (LFS).
- ii. Supervise the NOC's Elite Athlete Coaches Support Programme (EACSP).
- iii. Supervise the NOC's Youth Athlete Preparation Programme (YAPP).

More detailed information concerning each of these programmes will be presented to national federations, athletes, and all stakeholders via Zoom at times and dates soon to be published.



Charles Bellot

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drawdown of the FIFA COVID-19 relief funds because we have no indication when football will resume locally, but we are working closely with the health officials," explained Gonsalves.

"Next month makes one year football was brought to halt on the island." The national team is presently in training for World Cup qualifying; however, the president noted that nothing is

certain because of the coronavirus pandemic, but the team is remaining ready to play late next month.

"There has been a vicious lie circulating that we do not have a home field to play our World Cup qualifying games, but that is not true," Batow expressed. "Cricket is being played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, but we have three venues: in

particular, the Technical Center at Paynter's where we contested an international game against Aruba previously. Paynter's remains ready to play our home games but our first set of games are away fixtures."

The ABFA is yet to employ a head coach or technical director, but has hired two consultants to direct the team through its World Cup qualifiers.

Mikelle Leigertwood, former national player, and former national Technical director Tom Curtis will lead the team. Leigertwood has played for a number of teams in the English Premier League, including Reading when they were in the EPL. "Exactly when and if the World Cup qualifiers are on remains uncertain because of the pandemic," Gonsalves noted.

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Misperceptions by detractors



Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves (right)

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves said there have been some misperception making

the rounds in the football fraternity by detractors. Gonsalves stated that the detractors have been spreading rumors that the ABFA has eight million dollars in cash

and not sharing with clubs. Batow, as he is affectionately called, said members at the last congress approved a financial statement showing cash in hand

\$2,894 and non-current assets of \$8,116,675 ending December 2019.

The president noted that the financial records for 2020 will be presented in the coming months. "We have not received the second

DEWS

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