

ANSWERING DUTY'S CALL!



Retired nurses, Janet Weston and Bernadette Joyce, answered the national call for help when they joined the Villa Polyclinic vaccination team to vaccinate thousands of Antiguan and Barbudan citizens and residents from 1st to 12th March.

Nurse Bernadette Joyce is a Public Health Nurse who spent thirty-eight years in the health profession with a strong focus on vaccination. Up until retirement, she worked within the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI)

Nurse Janet Weston spent forty years in the service. Before retirement, she was the former AIDS/HIV health coordinator and also served as a Public Health Nurse and worked within the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI)

Our women deserve much more

Reprinted from the Jamaica Observer

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released the results of empirical research showing that violence against women is widespread, indeed, all too prevalent, starting at alarmingly young ages and continuing throughout their lifetime.

An estimated one in three women are subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. These experiences of violence negatively affect physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health of women. Believe it or not, there are still instances of the barbaric practice of genital mutilation.

Last week, International Women's Day commemoration turned the global spotlight on the age-old problems almost unique to women. Among the most appalling is the lack of fair compensation for work.

In addition to the paid work they do, women

account for the vast majority of unpaid household work and child rearing, devoting around 2.5 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men. It is estimated that if women's unpaid work were assigned a monetary value, it would constitute between 10 to 39 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), the WHO research found.

The amount of time devoted to unpaid care work often prevents them from participating in paid work outside the household. Labour force participation rate for women over the age of 15 years is 48.5 per cent compared to 75 per cent for men. In these circumstances, women are forced to seek informal or part-time employment which is compatible with household work. Many who establish small or micro-enterprises face a discriminatory business environment and are less likely than men to have access to finan-

cial institutions.

While 65 per cent of men have a bank account at a formal financial institution, only 58 per cent of women do worldwide. In some countries women are required to have the signature of a male relative to attain certain documents or access certain facilities.

The pattern of gender imbalance is evident in ownership of the means of production. Women farmers have significantly less access to, control over, and ownership of land and other productive assets compared to their male counterparts. Land is perhaps the most important economic asset but in most countries women account for only 12.8 per cent of agricultural landholders in the world.

In formal paid jobs, women are less paid at all levels of employment in both developed and developing countries — where it's worse because labour laws are less well

enforced. The gender wage gap is estimated to be 23 per cent, meaning that women earn only 77 per cent of what men earn. This is so even in professions where women dominate such as nursing and teaching.

Women tend to be concentrated in the professions that are lower paying, mainly in the public sector and in the lower levels of the bureaucracy. Only five per cent of Fortune 500 chief executive officers are women.

Women are dramatically under-represented in politics, particularly at the highest level of leadership, but ironically do most of the street-level political campaigning. They are very far from attaining gender balance in elected representation in parliaments.

It's good to see more women in our Jamaican Parliament. But even here, much more has to be done to balance the scales. That is enlightened self-interest.

Further relaxations may come this week



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

With the new curfew hours going into effect from tonight, thereby adding two more hours for residents to conduct business, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said further relaxation of COVID-related restrictions may come as early as this week. Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on PointeFM on Saturday, PM Browne said he is generally pleased with

the progress that has been made with the stabilization of new positive cases. "There has been a stabilization and reduction in new cases and while they are not at the level that we would like (we are not there yet) but we are moving into the right direction," he explained to the nation. He said this positive trend gives the govern-

ment confidence that it can further relax some of the restrictions now in place. "If the trend continues, by Wednesday (at Cabinet) we may be discussing how we may be able to relax existing measures," he added.

Under consideration will be allowing in-place dining at restaurants but with a caveat. "Operators must ensure that social distancing and other health protocols are practised and this could lead to further relaxations in the coming weeks," he stated.

The prime minister however pointed to a worrying trend that has emerged over the past several weeks – the number of cases in both the public and private sectors where the virus is being spread among staff. He reported that over the past week, two government departments joined the growing list of departments and companies that have had to deal with outbreaks.

"We have noticed the staff to staff transmission where staff mem-

bers are not practising proper protocols when they gather for lunch or socialize at the office or may be sharing equipment, without first having these sanitized. We have asked staff in all departments or businesses to refrain from these practices as they are a cause of the spread of the virus," PM Browne revealed.

The prime minister also reported that more than thirty inmates of Her Majesty's Prison have tested positive for the virus and they have since been moved to Camp Blizzard to isolate. Additionally, of the COVID-related deaths, there may be as many as five who were residents at the Fiennes Institute.

The prime minister is also cautioning the operators of nursing homes to exercise some vigilance by limiting visitors to these special care facilities and to monitor their staff carefully. "These individuals are vulnerable and an outbreak at one of these homes could cost lives," he warned.

Local UK Office concerned about 'misreporting' regarding new COVID variant

The British High Commission in St John's is concerned about inaccurate media reporting following the announcement by Public Health England (PHE) that two people in South East England who had recently returned from Antigua and Barbuda had tested positive for a new variant of COVID-19. In a statement issued Saturday afternoon, the British High Commission said it would

like to confirm there is no scientific evidence to determine where this variant first emerged. Giving variants a country's name is inaccurate, unhelpful, and can generate prejudices and misunderstanding. It noted that all viruses mutate over time and, since the start of the pandemic, many thousands of variants have been identified in the UK and across the world. The majority of variants emerge and

subsequently become extinct as they stop being passed on. "This is assisted by testing, contact tracing and isolation. We regret any misunderstanding that may have arisen over this matter. The UK government will continue to work closely with Antigua and Barbuda health officials in our common goal to overcome the ongoing threat to lives and livelihoods posed by this virus. PHE would

additionally be happy to support the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and offer to sequence any samples transferred to the UK to support control of COVID transmission in the country," it concluded.

PHE's statement can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmed-cases-of-covid-19-variants-identified-in-uk>



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Phase One of COVID-19 vaccination programme completed



Phase One of the government's vaccination programme has come to an end as the country awaits the arrival of a second batch of vaccines from suppliers. A statement from the Ministry of Health reported that up to last Friday more than twenty-three thousand people had received the first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. "Under this phase, healthcare workers, persons sixty-five years and older, persons in institutions such as the Clarendon Psychiatric Hospital, the Fines Institute, the Care Project and Her Majesty's Prisons, differently abled persons, teachers, shut-ins and front-line workers inclusive of school bus drivers, police and Defence Force officers, and airport workers were vaccinated as a priority," the stated revealed. The total was put at approximately twenty-three thousand,

four hundred and twenty-eight people.

The statement said vaccination at the four sites - Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Villa Polyclinic, Glanville Polyclinic and the Multipurpose Cultural Centre will cease operations temporarily until more vaccines arrive.

Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, describes the completion of Phase One of the COVID-19 vaccination programme as one of the most successful national public health exercises initiated to date. He commended the ministry's officials, management teams, nurses, doctors, the IT team and other volunteers for successfully executing Phase One of the programme.

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is currently sourcing additional doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as

well as other vaccines that are approved by internationally recognized regulatory bodies to include the World Health Organization. Under the COVAX Agreement, the

government is expecting fourteen thousand, four hundred doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to be shipped within the next three weeks. Additional efforts are ongoing to procure one hundred thousand AstraZeneca doses from three sources," the statement added. Phase Two of the COVID-19 vaccination programme will commence when additional doses are obtained; the vaccination of the remaining front-line workers, targeted groups and the general population will be carried out immediately.



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More vaccinations over the weekend



The goal of vaccinating workers in the hotel sector and teachers continued apace over the weekend with more than seven hundred people from these categories vaccinated during that period.

Reports from the vaccination team said over the period Saturday and Sunday approximately seven hundred and thirty-six hotel workers and teachers received their first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

The workers in the hotel sector have been named among the priority

group because of the nature of their jobs, which

in many cases involve direct interaction with visitors.

Thousands of workers in the critical sector were laid-off at the start of the pandemic; however, many have since been recalled. There is a concern that these workers should be protected as the country moves to achieve what has been generally described as 'herd immunity,' that is, a position when approximately eighty per cent of the population has been inoculated against the COVID-19 virus.

The teachers who were vaccinated this weekend were those who missed the vaccination exercise that was geared specifically for them on the previous weekend and the first three days of last week.

The Ministry of Education has set 12th April as the date when schools in the country will reopen but this depends on the ability to inoculate the teachers and the support staff in education. This amounts to roughly three thousand people.

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COVID-19: Driver Safety Tips

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

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Hundreds in Antiguan and Barbudan airline community vaccinated



Some four hundred and seventy-three airline industry workers received their first doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine by the end of Friday, the final day of the vaccination programme that has been taking place at the terminal of the VC Bird International Airport.

Scores of employees of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) and members of the airline community awaited their opportunity over the four days of the exercise to receive the initial shot against the viral illness. The pandemic forced the shut-down of the country's borders early last year. Administrative, operations and security staff, rolled up sleeves for the vaccine during the course of the exercise

which started last Tuesday.

Along with workers of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), other members of the airport community were included in the list of persons to be vaccinated. So, airline staff, concessionaires, ground handlers, taxi drivers, red caps, and tour companies were all given the opportunity.

While the exercise continued, the VC Bird International Airport was able to carry out its professional and routine functions of receiving flights in much the same way it has been doing for months in support of the country's tourism driven economy.

The medical team at Port Health supported by ABAA and volunteers from the Airport com-



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Senior Citizens Utility Subsidy Programme

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Sat March 20th	F.
Mon March 22nd	G.
Tues March 23rd	H and I.
Wed March 24th	J.
Thurs March 25th	K and L.
Fri March 26th	M and N.
Sat March 27th	O, P and Q.
Mon March 29th	R.
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munity collaborated for a smooth flowing operation. President of the Antigua and Barbuda Airline

Association David Isaac said he was moved by the level of involvement by the airline commu-

nity. "We are happy that the entire airline community was canvassed in the process and pleased with the level of organization. With the airport serving as Antigua and Barbuda's only gateway, it was extremely crucial that airline employees as members of the frontline team of workers in the travel industry be inoculated," Isaac noted. CEO of the ABAA Euletta Francis reflected on the past year.

"In March 2020, the pandemic forced the closure of our borders. Today, I am mindful that we are at this point having come through an extremely challenging year. I am indeed grateful that employees who have sacrificed so much and overcome their worst fears during a difficult time had this important layer of protection in the fight against COVID-19," Francis noted.

ABDF and Police join strategic leadership course for security personnel



Defence Attache Lt Col Simon Westlake

The United Kingdom government continues its assistance to the Regional Security Service by offering training for key security personnel from the region.

The latest instalment was a leadership training programme where members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda

were among the participants.

"Members of the ABDF and Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force joined over thirty police, military and civil service personnel from the Eastern Caribbean this week in a virtual strategic leadership course funded by the UK Ministry of Defence," a release from the British High Com-



TALKING POINT

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DR. MASERATI
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Lindsay Thompson

mission Office in St John's stated.

The training provided an opportunity for participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, CDEMA and the RSS HQ itself, to enhance their strategic leadership performance and understand the challenges of leadership at the strategic level.

"Leadership models and ethics; the strategic context; critical de-

cision making; strategy development and the challenge of change and communication and influence within Defence and the wider Security Sector were among the topics examined throughout the course" the release explained. Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, in opening remarks impressed how the training was designed to stimulate debate on the variety of issues linked to the manage-

ment of security and defence.

UK Defence Attaché to the Caribbean Lt. Col. Simon Westlake said: "In delivering this virtual programme, the UK continues to work with our Caribbean partners to collectively share experiences, to develop ways of thinking and of working together to better tackle contemporary security challenges that threaten lives and livelihoods." Captain (N) Errington Shurland, Executive Director of

the RSS, said: "In the RSS sub-region, we are working to enhance the leadership capabilities of senior personnel in our security forces and related partner organizations. Given the challenging COVID19 environment, the RSS is very appreciative to the UK government and by extension the UK Defence Academy for offering this very important and timely training opportunity."

This week, 16th to 17th March, the same Eastern Caribbean partner countries will participate in a Building Integrity in Senior Leaders programme, again delivered by the UK's Defence Academy, which is also focused on sharing experiences and lessons in managing complex situations in the modern environment.

"The virtual programmes reflect the UK's continuing desire to collaborate with Caribbean partners, despite the challenges presented by COVID, and are being delivered just ahead of the UK-Caribbean Forum, which will convene virtually at Ministerial level on 18th March," the release added.

Local hotel serves as backdrop for UK TV series



One of Antigua and Barbuda's hotels, the Catamaran Hotel, is now appearing on a major new prime-time series "The Big Body Hotel" which started airing Friday

on Discovery Plus in the United Kingdom.

"'Big Body Hotel' is an eight-part series that chronicles plus sized tourists on their Caribbean holiday in the beautiful twin-island paradise of Antigua and Barbuda. As the Discovery Plus describes, "The tourists check into the hotel designed with larger guests in mind and learn to embrace their bodies in a place where

size is no obstacle to enjoying a care-free holiday," according to a media release from the Tourism Authority.

It said throughout the non-judgmental and uplifting show, the tourists participate in experiences at the 'Resort' hotel, which is Antigua's Catamaran hotel. The Catamaran Hotel, with plus-size facilities such as reinforced, enlarged furniture, is one of the only

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Monday, 15th March 2021

Time: 8:30AM-12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Parham near Mary Ground

Date: Monday, 15th March 2021

Time: 8:45AM-12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Freeman Village near Uncle Sammy Drive

Date: Monday, 15th March 2021

Time: 1:45PM - 3:30PM

Affected areas: Section of Desouza Road and Baxter Street

Date: Tuesday, 16th March 2021

Time: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Falmouth Main Road near the Anglican church

Date: Tuesday, 16th March 2021

Time: 1:45PM - 2:00PM

Affected areas: Big Creek, Yorks, Jennings, Jolly Harbor and Hermitage

Date: Thursday, 18th March 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Hawkins Drive

Date: Friday, 19th March 2021

Time: 8:30AM- 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Tyrells Main Road near the boat house

Date: Friday, 19th March 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Bolans

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

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



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Cont'd on pg 11

hotels in the world that can cater to the plus-size holidaymaker.

“The tourists also explore Antigua with activities chosen to help them overcome their body confidence issues. There is an

emotional unpacking of issues and the steps to help remedy them, are at the heart of the series,” the media release noted.

In media coverage of the show, contestant Chris Conway tells the

Blackpool Gazette, “My experience on the show was fantastic and positive. We did water-sports and kayaking, which I would never have usually done. I would panic that the kayak would

sink with me in it and I’d be embarrassed. We did a mountain hike and kickboxing, and it was stuff I enjoyed but never would have considered doing on holiday.”

COVID-19 Vaccine Card Collection Notice

The general public is reminded that with the completion of Phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccination program, all four public vaccination sites (Villa Polyclinic, Glanvilles Polyclinic, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, and the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Center) will temporarily cease operation pending the arrival of additional vaccines.

During this interim, the general public is advised that persons who received vaccination at the Villa Polyclinic, Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA), and the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Center can collect their outstanding vaccination cards at the Villa Polyclinic from Tuesday 16th March 2021 to Friday 19th March 2021 between the hours of 9 am to 3 pm. For vaccine card collection, an ID must be presented.

Preregistration for the COVID-19 Vaccine continues. For online registration, please visit www.vaccineantiguabarbuda.com and select the “Vaccine Registration” tab. Upon clicking the tab, you will be required to fill out your general information and when completed, click “submit”.

Your registration is then completed. Registration hotline numbers are 788-8299, 736-8295, 736-8298, 736-8299, 780-8618, 780-8652, 780-8678 and 780-8461. Pre-registration is vital for efficiency in the upcoming vaccination process.

Church leaders examine their responsibilities to God and society in the era of COVID-19



Elect Lady Queen Mother Hilary Nedd

Church leaders from across the Caribbean gathered for a special 'cup of tea' virtual conversation on Saturday evening to examine several pertinent issues around the theme "Our responsibility to God and Society" against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hosted by the Sacred Choice of Heaven, Mt. Lebanon's Spiritual Baptist Church of Trinidad and Tobago, as part of its activities to mark its 78th Anniversary Celebration in August. The panel included member of the Board of Directors of the Moravian Church Foundation MCF, Shirlene Nibbs of Antigua and Barbuda, Chairman of the Tobago Festivals Commission,

Dr. Denise Tsoiafatt-Angus, representing Tobago, Statistician/Mathematics Teacher, Akini James, who represented the youth, and Senior Pastor of Mt Zion House of Prayer Evangelical Mission, Elect Lady/Queen Mother Hilary Nedd of Trinidad and Tobago. The two-hour long conversation was moderated by Suzette Baptiste, a multi-faceted professional, Business and Marketing Strategist.

Among the questions put to the panel by the moderator were: how do we balance our responsibilities toward the communities in which we live with our responsibility to nurture those within the community of faith?

How do we help those in our neighbourhood while also following our mandate to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth?

In her contribution, Elect Lady Nedd said there was a need for church leaders to reach out into their communities to understand the people's needs and to devise programmes to meet those needs. "The Church can set up outreach programmes such as continuous education, feeding programmes or programmes designed to empower people in communities with life-changing skills," she explained. The church leader noted that within churches are people who possess much skills and who may be involved in a transfer of skills undertaking. "The Church has a responsibility to reach out; to stretch its hands beyond the walls of the Sunday or Saturday services to touch people in the society. Service must not be on Sunday/Saturday only!" she declared. In her contribution, Nibbs agreed with the

need to reach 'beyond the walls' of the Church to members of society, but she also spoke to the need for introspection and for members of the Church to live lives that demonstrate God's love. "We must look inward and follow God's word about love for one another. For with love, we can reach people of different denominations as it is important to demonstrate by your action that you are a child of God," she stated. In referencing the impact of the pandemic on society with many losing their jobs and with the curtailment of in-person services in many churches, Nibbs is calling on the church to find 'creative ways' to reach out to people in the society. "We can do this by demonstrating God's love and sharing God's message with those around us," she suggested.

The Tobago representative on the panel, Dr. Tsoiafatt-Angus observed that as churches across the Caribbean have grown over generations and in terms of what she described as

the ‘niceness’ of their physical structures, she is of the view that as the churches improved the beauty of the buildings (houses of worship), the Church as a whole has moved away from its communities. She noted that many churches today have pre-schools or other education institutions attached to them; however, on closer examination, results show a dis-connect between the Church and society. “Therefore, our responsibility to God is a responsibility to serve his people. How do we serve God’s people? It is serving his people in

the highways and the by-ways where they reside,” she opined. She calls for the development of programmes to fit the needs of particular communities. “It’s not a one-size fit all’ situation. We must determine the specific needs of communities and tailor programme to meet those needs,” she added.

The view of the youth representative noted over time the Church has lost its vision of what its true role is. Going back to the New Testament book of the Acts of the Apostles, James said the role of

the Church is to serve people as this was part of the “Great Commission.” He said he sees no difference between his responsibilities to God and his responsibilities to society. “I always believe that the gospel is preached best when we become the gospel. So I often try not just to speak the gospel but to display the gospel in my daily life. As believers we must display a lifestyle that will serve as an example for the rest of society,” he intimated.

He pointed out that young people are very aware of what is hap-

pening in society and they too are watching church leaders and the lives that they lead. “We can preach as much as we like but if we are not living lives of example then it is all for naught. The Church must lead the life it preaches. The young people are asking: how can you preach to me and your lifestyle is not what we see you living,” he observed.

The presentations were followed by discussions around the topic following which there was a commitment from all to continue the conversation in the coming weeks and months.



Dr. Tsoiafatt Angus



Shirlene Nibbs



Akini James

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Update from the Caribbean Public Health Agency on COVID-19 Vaccines and Variants

The Caribbean Public Health Agency is aware that some countries in the European Union have suspended their AstraZeneca vaccination campaign, as a result of reports of rare blood coagulation disorders in people who had received the vaccine. This was done as a precautionary measure while a full investigation is conducted into the reports. At present, it cannot be determined whether there is a link between the vaccine and the disorders.

Adverse reactions that happen following immunisation with any vaccine need to be fully investigated to rule out various factors, for example concomitant illnesses, progression of a disease, and batch assessment, before a final decision is made by the health authorities.

It must be noted that the vaccine being used in the Caribbean is not the same version or batch as the one in Europe.

The World Health Organization's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) systematically reviews any vaccine safety signals and concerns related to COVID-19 vaccine safety. This committee is carefully assessing the current reports on the Astra Zeneca vaccine. As soon as WHO has gained a full understanding of these events, the findings and any changes to current recommendations will be immediately communicated to regional and international public health partners which includes CARPHA.

The WHO states that "Vaccination against COVID-19 will not reduce deaths from other causes. Deaths from other causes will continue to occur, including after vaccination, but causally unrelated. As of 9 March, over 268 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered since the start of the pandemic, based on data reported to WHO by national governments. No cases of death have been found to have been caused by COVID-19 vaccines to date.¹

We want to reassure our Member States that CARPHA's Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS) applies its reliance procedure to verify vaccines with emergency use authorization granted by stringent regulatory authorities of reference.

CARPHA encourages persons who have been vaccinated with any of the COVID-19 vaccines available in their

country, to report adverse events that occur after vaccination to the local health authorities.

Statement on Variants

The appearance of variants is part of the normal cycle of viral infection and replication and should not be considered an unusual process. Because the variants appear more frequently the more subjects become infected, it is essential to maintain all the measures that prevent the occurrence of new infections (use of masks, washing hands, social distancing, avoiding crowds, etc.).

The appearance of new variants does not justify in any way the interruption of the vaccination campaigns against SARS-CoV-2. Cutting the transmission chains through preventive measures and the application of vaccines should be the primary objective at this stage of pandemic. Both the measures mentioned above, and the mass vaccination of the population will help in the fight against the disease and the eventual end of the pandemic.

CARPHA remains committed to providing technical support and advice and continues to conduct tests for suspected COVID-19 cases for all CARPHA Member States (CMS) routinely as requested. In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, CARPHA started conducting whole genome sequencing for CARICOM countries in December 2020. So far CARPHA has detected cases of the UK variant in several member states. No cases of the Brazil or South Africa variant have been detected.

Earlier today, CARPHA met with the Region's Chief Medical Officers to discuss several public health issues, including those related to the fight against COVID-19 disease.

CARPHA continues to work with its regional and international partners and CMS, towards a harmonised regional response. The overarching goal is for all countries to control the pandemic by slowing down the transmission of disease and reducing mortality associated with COVID-19. In this regard, we urge countries to continue ramping up their surveillance capacity to rapidly screen, identify, test, isolate and trace contacts of new cases supported by public health prevention and control measures of social distancing, wearing of masks, and hand hygiene.

We also recognise the important role that the vaccination programmes will play and are quite pleased with the efforts of the countries so far in vaccinating the vulnerable older persons in their population and front-line workers.



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Grammy for Toots & The Maytals

Jamaica Observer - Got to Be Tough by Toots and The Maytals won the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album.

The announcement was made Sunday afternoon during the Grammy pre-telecast on www.grammy.com.

Got to Be Tough was released on 28th August. This is the seventh nomination for front-man Toots Hibbert and sixth overall nomination for The Maytals.

Hibbert, seventy-seven, died on 11th September from COVID-19 complications.

The Trojan Jamaica/BMG set is the veteran act's first release in more than a decade. It peaked at number nine on the Billboard Reggae Albums chart and has to date sold more than five thousand, one hundred and eighty-six copies in the United States. Toots and The Maytals won

the Grammy in 2005 for True Love. Their previous nominations were Toots in Memphis (1989), An Hour Live (1991), Ska Father (1999), Light Your Light (2008), and Reggae Got Soul: Unplugged on Strawberry Hill (2013).

In a pre-Grammy announcement interview, Brian Greenspoon, owner and president of Spoonfed Entertainment, revealed that he marketed and promoted albums by three of the nominees — Maxi Priest, Toots and The Maytals and Skip Marley.

He described the Best Reggae Album field in an interview with the Jamaica Observer.

"This year's Best Reggae Album category is deservedly dominated by some of the iconic names of the genre, so we are proud to also see an entry of the next generation of young li-

ons being recognized among the greats. Next year, we would love to see more female representation," he shared.

Having been part of entertainment for nearly twenty years, Greenspoon is no stranger to the music industry, and is the former marketing executive at VP Records and Elektra Records. He shared that each artiste has to be viewed individually and added that working with Maxi Priest, Toots and The Maytals and Marley "required a different approach."

For obvious reasons Greenspoon steered clear from naming a winner. He, however, pointed to the strengths of each of his clients which sets them apart in the Best Reggae Album category and could push them over the edge to take home the coveted award.



GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE BOOSTED!

Modern security framework needed for Guyana's development, President says upon receipt of Bell helicopter

As Guyana forges ahead on its development path, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and President of Guyana Dr. Irfaan Ali has posited that a modern, forward-looking security architecture is necessary to safeguard national security and protect against new threats that may arise with the country's development.

On Saturday afternoon, the President was present at the formal arrival of the Bell 412 EPI helicopter at the Base Camp Ayan-ganna Sports Ground, Thomas Lands, Georgetown. He was joined by Prime Minister Brigadier (ret'd) Mark Phillips; Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh; National Security adviser to the President, Gerry Gouveia and United States Ambassador to Guyana, Sarah-Ann Lynch.

Last December, four hundred and twelve million dollars was approved by the National Assembly to facilitate advance payments on the acquisition of the helicopter. This he-

licopter was procured as part of efforts to enhance the Guyana Defence Force's (GDF) aerial capacity.

"We've been investing continuously in the training, upgrading and development of our human assets and with this

ity. In addition to acquisition of the helicopter, the president noted that on Monday a team will leave to inspect the performance of the 'metal shark' vessels in Guyana's waters. Following that inspection, the country's marine assets will be an-

have more sophisticated types of criminal activities to deal with and all of this requires a modern, forward-looking security architecture and that is what we are building." Beyond the acquisition of new assets for the security forces, the presi-



acquisition, comes a new era of training and an upgraded era of development," President Ali said, while delivering brief remarks at the Base Camp. Furthermore, he emphasized that the government has placed a concerted focus on upgrading our human resources to take care of these assets and to ensure that Guyana moves towards a modern pool of capital acquisitions, geared at improving the country's efficiency and enhancing national secu-

alyzed as a prerequisite for the acquisition of new marine assets to support the work of the Coast Guard. The Commander-in-Chief posited: "This is the beginning of a new trend, before we get to the end of this year, you will see new assets acquired for our Coast Guard.

"We have to analyze the new requirements of our security sector based on our development path. Indeed, we have a lot more economic assets to protect; we will have a larger economy, we will

dent reasoned that the defence architecture has to be supported by enhanced diplomatic efforts accompanied by stronger, trusted partnerships. He also acknowledged that the force faced many criticisms when a boat was discovered in Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). He was referencing the boat containing bodies, which was discovered floating offshore Guyana, but which the local authorities later lost sight of.

ST LUCIA RECORDS FORTY - EIGHTH COVID - RELATED DEATH



Saint Lucia has recorded another death related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health and Wellness has announced.

This brings to forty-eight the number of deaths linked to the virus on the island. "Death #48 is a fifty-eight-year-old male from the Castries district," said a release from the department. The Ministry of Health expresses sympathy to the

family and loved ones of this gentleman." Also today, the ministry received confirmation from the Ezra Long Laboratory of twenty-three new cases of COVID-19.

These results are from a batch of one hundred and ninety-seven samples taken during the period 8th March to 11th March. These samples were processed on 11th March. Twenty of the cases are inmates from

the Bordelais Correctional Facility.

The other three individuals are from the community and were seen at various respiratory clinics where they were assessed and tested for COVID-19. Confirmation was also received of the recovery of five persons, bringing the total number of active cases in-country to date to one hundred and eighty-three. At present, three of the in-

dividuals diagnosed with COVID-19 are requiring critical care at the Respiratory Hospital.

The new cases bring the total number of cases diagnosed in-country to date to three thousand, nine hundred and eighty-nine. The Ministry of Health also announced that as of 11th March, Saint Lucia vaccinated a total of fourteen thousand, seven hundred and eight people.

AMBASSADOR THOMPSON TO STEP INTO NEW ROLE



Ambassador Elizabeth Thompson

The Barbados Advocate - Ambassador Elizabeth Thompson will now be based in Bridgetown, with special responsibility for matters of climate change, SIDS issues and the Law of the Sea. She previously served as Barbados' Ambassador to the United Nations.

The announcement came from Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott, during a virtual press conference Saturday.

Walcott noted that Barbados is unequivocally committed to a diplomacy of peace and prosperity through international dialogue, and

recognizes the unique role that the United Nations plays in guaranteeing the sovereign equality and independence of small states in the international community.

He added, "Barbados' belief in the United Nations is why we have taken the step of establishing a third Permanent Mission to the UN in Nairobi. This Permanent Mission will join Barbados' Permanent Missions to the UN Headquarters in New York and the UN Office in Geneva, which serve as important portals for our work in the international community." He further pointed out that the priority issues and strategic

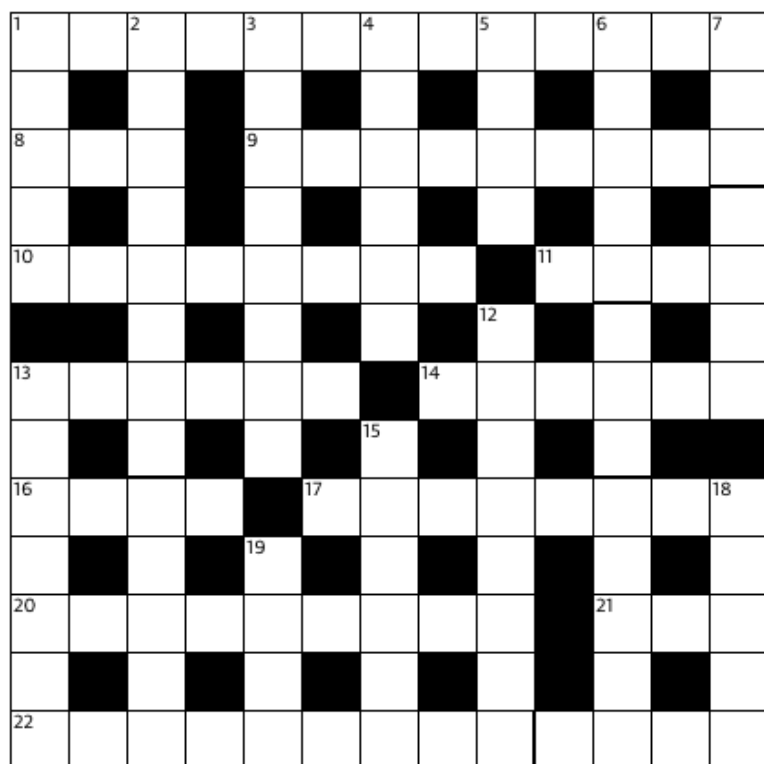
interests that Barbados will continue to pursue with like-minded allies in these three UN locales include the implementation of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the establishment of a multidimensional vulnerability index for SIDS and Middle Income Countries (MICs), given that vulnerability is a significant factor affecting trade and development assistance and adequate means are needed to tackle high debt levels and the continued decline of correspondent banking.

And finally, the creation of an inclusive, intergovernmental body on tax matters under the UN, to counter the imbalance that exists between OECD countries and developing countries within the context of setting international tax norms.

He also emphasized the nexus between development and international peace and security; the need to take action to address the security challenges facing the region through the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; and the need to recognize the multi-dimensional nature of security, which also includes food security.

Speaking to the matter of strengthening the international frameworks dealing with the climate crisis; financing for development; SIDS issues; and NCDs, he noted that it is for this reason that Ambassador Thompson, who has most recently served as Head of the COVID-19 Communications Unit, will tackle some of these key issues.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Impartial (13)
 8 Greek letter X, equivalent to Ch in English (3)
 9 Form a mental picture (9)
 10 Renounce (8)
 11 Bloodsucking insect (4)
 13 Reason (6)
 14 Complain in an annoying way (6)
 16 Latest information (4)
 17 Caution (8)
 20 Deficit in bank account (9)
 21 Split (3)
 22 Shaw's Major Barbara wore its uniform (9,4)

Down

- 1 Russian holiday home (5)
 2 Old machine for making yarn (8,5)
 3 Steer (8)
 4 Imitation (6)
 5 Flair (4)
 6 Experimental way to find what works (5,3,5)
 7 When to expect a new arrival (3,4)
 12 Name (8)
 13 Serpentine (7)
 15 Seasoned sausage for slicing (6)
 18 Sentimental (5)
 19 Thought (4)

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You may be surprised. Discussions that go beyond polite banter may yield startling revelations, but don't believe everything you hear. No matter what you choose to do today, you'll probably fare better if you bring a friend.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Stay on point. Alluring distractions may try to divert your attention from the important tasks that should be done today. Don't be surprised if a new admirer makes his or her presence known.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Air out your grievances. You'll feel a whole lot better about it if you discuss what's bothering you rather than keeping it bottled up. You'll probably say the right thing if you speak from the heart.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

Look at both sides of the situation. Your optimism over a project may cause you to see only the positives and ignore the negatives. You may need an objective third party on your side to find the right path.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Fantasy may be better than reality. Your illusions could be dashed to pieces when you finally meet someone you've admired from afar. Doing what's best for the common good can be difficult but is certainly achievable.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

When you talk, people will usually listen. You'll not be at a loss for words when it comes to getting your way, and others may be pleased to accommodate you. Your wisdom and charm earn respect.

♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Have it your way. Be a star of the business world or the spark that kindles a blazing romance, as you probably can exert your will on anything today. Your performance may suffer if you do too many things at once.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

All's fair in love and war. You may be able to take advantage of a romantic situation by being in the right place at the right time. Make sure your financial picture isn't in need of tweaking.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Strut your stuff. Don't blend into the background; you're far more appealing than you think. Exude confidence and charm, and you should be able to conquer any situation that comes your way.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

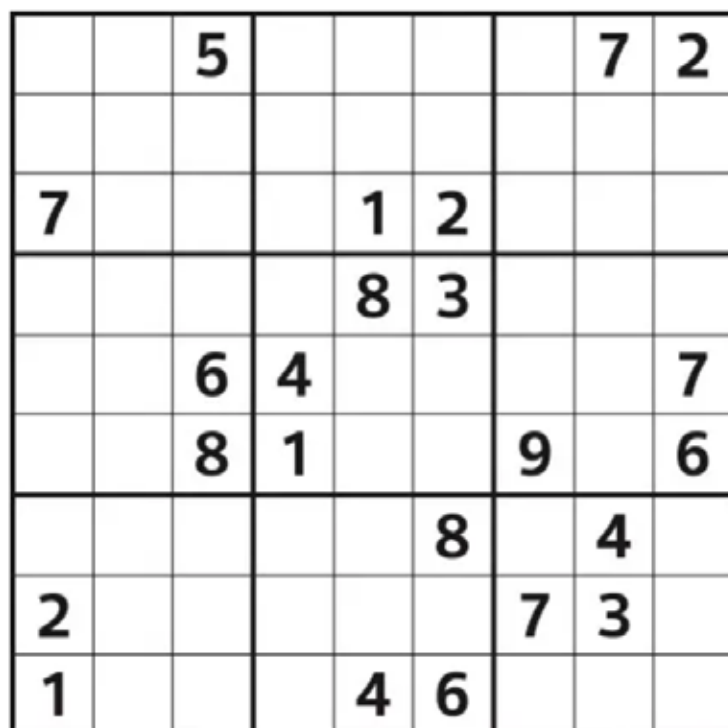
There's more to it than meets the eye. Don't take a cold reception personally, as there is likely something else going on behind the scenes. Take what is offered but don't pry into private matters.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Honey works better than vinegar. You may get to the bottom of someone's problem if you show tact and compassion. Try to encourage someone to improve rather than being overly critical.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Read between the lines. You'll need to be perceptive to tell the difference between what someone says and what they actually mean. Your trust should be earned rather than given lightly.



LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Mon 15 Day</p> <p>28°</p> <p>Partly cloudy. High 28°C. Winds NNE and variable.</p> <p>Humidity 63% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 06:15 Sunset 18:17</p>	<p>Mon 15 Night</p> <p>23°</p> <p>Partly cloudy. Low 23°C. Winds NNE and variable.</p> <p>Humidity 74% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 07:44 Moonset 20:15</p> <p>● Waxing Crescent</p>
<p>Tue 16 Day</p> <p>27°/23°</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>Humidity 70% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 06:14 Sunset 18:17</p>	<p>Tue 16 Night</p> <p>23°</p> <p>Partly cloudy. Low 23°C. Winds NE at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 75% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 08:19 Moonset 21:03</p> <p>● Waxing Crescent</p>

CBH FUN FACTS 411

TRUE AND FALSE

Problem: People are misinformed about the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and the diseases it transmit

Your mission: Know the facts so you can help erase fictitious stories and myths in Antigua

Below are some statements about the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Read each statement and circle True if the statement is true or False if the statement is false

- All *Aedes aegypti* mosquito carry diseases. **True or False**
- Only the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito suck your blood. **True or False**
- The female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito can transmit disease. **True or False**
- The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito lay its eggs in water. **True or False**
- The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito only bites during the day. **True or False**
- You can get Zika by sitting next to an infected person. **True or False**
- Putting bleach in water can prevent the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito from breeding. **True or False**
- The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito needs blood to lay its eggs. **True or False**
- Aedes aegypti* mosquito eggs can only hatch in water. **True or False**
- Generally, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito lives for less than five weeks. **True or False**
- Eliminating breeding sites can control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population in and around your home. **True or False**
- The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito lives its whole life within a 500-metre radius. **True or False**

Central Board of Health

Upper Church Street

Tel: 563-9300 (Complaints Line)

COMICS

Garfield

March 14, 2021



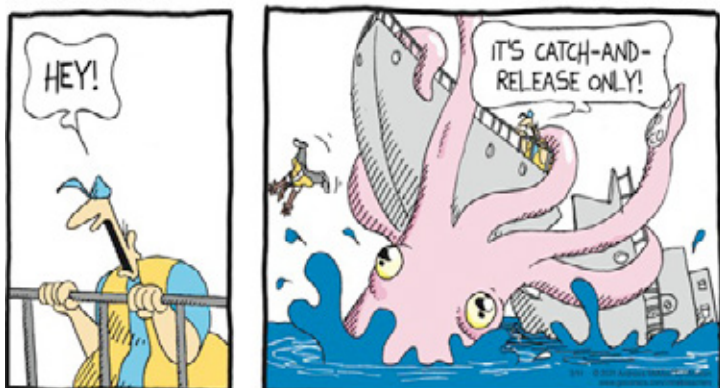
Luann

March 14, 2021



IN THE BLEACHERS

BY BEN ZAEHRINGER



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London police face backlash after dragging mourners from vigil for murdered woman

LONDON (Reuters) - London police faced a backlash from the public on Sunday and an official inquiry into their actions after using heavy-handed tactics to break up an outdoor vigil for a woman whose suspected killer is a police officer.

The disappearance of Sarah Everard, thirty-three, as she walked home on the evening of 3rd March, has provoked a huge outpouring of grief and dismay in Britain at the failure of police and wider society to tackle violence against women.

Police had denied permission for a vigil on Saturday evening at London's Clapham Common, near where Everard was last seen alive, citing regulations aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

But hundreds of people, mostly women, gathered peacefully at the park in defiance of the ban to pay their respects to Everard throughout Saturday, including Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge.

Later on Saturday dozens of police officers marched into the crowd to shouts of "shame on you." Scuffles broke out and officers dragged women away from the scene.

"Last night people were very, very upset, there was a great deal of emotion, completely understandably, and the police, being as they are operationally independent, will be having to explain that to the Home Secretary," safeguarding minister Victoria Atkins told Sky News.

London police chief Cressida Dick backed her officers and said that they needed to make a very difficult judgement.

"We're still in a pandemic, unlawful gatherings are unlawful gatherings, officers have to take action if people are putting themselves massively at risk," Dick told reporters.

Asked if she was considering resigning, she said: "No, I'm not."

Home Secretary Priti Patel, the minister



in charge of policing, described footage of the incident as "upsetting." Her office said she had ordered an independent inquiry after an initial police report left some questions unanswered.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan also said he was not satisfied with police chief's explanation of the events and said officers' conduct must be examined.

"WOMEN DON'T FEEL SAFE"

An image of officers handcuffing a woman on Saturday night as she lay on the floor was widely shared and condemned on social media.

The woman, Patsy Stevenson, told

LBC radio: "The main point that everyone was trying to get across when everything happened is that women don't feel safe, they don't feel safe walking down a street and that's the bare minimum we should feel the freedom to do."

She said she was fined two hundred pounds (\$278) for breaching COVID regulations.

Everard's murder has resonated with women across the country, prompting thousands to share on social media their experiences of violence and sexual assaults perpetrated by men, and vividly describe the daily fear they feel.

NORTH KOREA 'NOT RESPONDING' TO US CONTACT EFFORTS

BBC World News - US President Joe Biden's administration says it has been trying to contact the North Korean government since February but has yet to receive a response.

Washington had tried to reach Pyongyang in several different ways to prevent tensions escalating, officials said. The US and North Korea remain at loggerheads over North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

Three meetings between President Biden's predecessor and North Korea's Kim Jong-un achieved little. The talks failed to persuade North Korea to give up nuclear weapons - a key demand of the US and other Western powers. North Korean state media has yet to acknowledge that Joe Biden is now the American president.

US attempts to communicate with Pyongyang have included the "New York Channel" - through the North Korean mission at the United Nations. A US official told Reuters news

agency there had been "multiple attempts" to engage with North Korea, but no meaningful contact for more than twelve months, which includes much of Donald Trump's final year as president.

Biden has already announced a policy review on North Korea, which is expected to be unveiled in April. He has called Kim a thug and stressed the need for North Korean nuclear disarmament before heavy US and UN economic sanctions can be eased. The North Korean leader has continued to emphasize his country's military capability, claiming the development of more accurate long-range missiles, super large warheads, spy satellites and a nuclear-powered submarine. At the same time, he has called on the US to ditch its "hostile policies."

North Korea's nuclear ambitions are expected to feature prominently during this week's visit to Japan and South Korea by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken

and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Relations between the US and North Korea plummeted in 2017 when North Korea tested long-range missiles capable of hitting American cities. Tensions eased as Trump bet on developing a personal rapport with Kim. But the much-trumpeted meetings, including summits in Singapore and Vietnam, failed to overcome differences over nuclear disarmament and sanctions. The US rebuffed North Korean demands for the lifting of sanctions in return for only a partial reduction in nuclear capabilities.

North Korea is currently more cut off from the outside world than ever before. Its borders have been closed for over a year to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Trade with its main ally China has dwindled by more than ninety per cent in the last few months.



Survivors struggle as scientists race to solve *COVID mystery*

(AP) - There was no reason to celebrate on Rachel van Lear's anniversary. The same day a global pandemic was declared, she developed symptoms of COVID-19. A year later, she is still waiting for them to disappear. And for experts to come up with some answers.

The Texas woman is one of thousands of self-described long-haulers, patients with symptoms that linger or develop out of the blue months after they first became infected with coronavirus. Hers first arrived 11th March 2020.

The condition affects an uncertain number of survivors in a baffling variety of ways.

"We're faced with a mystery," said Dr. Francis Collins, chief of the National Institutes of Health.

Is it a condition unique to COVID-19, or just a variation of the syndrome that can occur after other infections? How many people are affected, and how long does it last? Is it a new form of chronic

fatigue syndrome — a condition with similar symptoms?

Or could some symptoms be unrelated to their COVID-19 but a physical reaction to the upheaval of this past pandemic year — the lockdowns, quarantines, isolation, job losses, racial unrest, political turmoil, not to mention overwhelming illness and deaths?

These are the questions facing scientists as they search for disease markers, treatments and cures. With one billion dollars from Congress, Collins' agency is designing and soliciting studies that aim to follow at least twenty thousand people who have had COVID-19.

"We've never really been faced with a post-infectious condition of this magnitude so this is unprecedented," Collins said Monday. "We don't have time to waste."

With nearly thirty million U.S. cases of COVID-19 and one hundred and nineteen million worldwide, the impact could be stag-



gering, even if only a small fraction of patients develops long-term problems.

Fatigue, shortness of breath, insomnia, trouble thinking clearly and depression are among the many reported symptoms. Organ damage, including lung scarring and heart inflammation, have also been seen. Pinpointing whether these symptoms are directly linked to the virus or perhaps to some preexisting condition is among scientists' tasks.

"Is it just a very delayed recovery or is it something even more alarming and some-

thing that becomes the new normal?" Collins said.

There are a few working theories for what might be causing persistent symptoms. One is that the virus remains in the body at undetectable levels yet still causes tissue or organ damage. Or it overstimulates the immune system, keeping it from returning to a normal state. A third theory: Symptoms linger or arise anew when the virus attacks blood vessels, causing minute, undetectable blood clots that can wreak havoc throughout the body.

US disaster agency FEMA brought in to help with child migrant surge



BBC World News - A US agency that normally deals with major emergencies and natural disasters has been brought in to help care for the rising numbers of migrant children arriving at the US southern border.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would “help receive, shelter and transport the children” for the next ninety days, it was announced.

President Joe Biden has been reversing some of his predecessor’s policies.

But the recent surge of arrivals is putting

pressure on processing systems.

There were a record number of children – three thousand, two hundred - being held in US immigration facilities on the US-Mexican border as of 8th March.

Hundreds continue to arrive each day, and many are being held beyond the legal three-day limit for being processed and transferred.

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said last week that the situation on the border was “overwhelming” but not yet a crisis.

Announcing FEMA’s

involvement, Mayorkas said the agency would work with the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to “look at every available option to quickly expand physical capacity for appropriate lodging.”

“Our goal is to ensure that unaccompanied children are transferred to HHS as quickly as possible, consistent with legal requirements and in the best interest of the children,” he added. On the campaign trail, Joe Biden promised to reverse many of Donald Trump’s restrictive migrant policies.

Since taking office in January, he has ordered the reunification of migrant children with their families, ended construction of the border wall and called for reviews of legal immigration programmes terminated by his predecessor.

But in the same month Biden became president, five thousand, eight hundred and seventy-one unaccompanied children crossed the border - up from four thousand, nine hundred and ninety-five in December - according to data from the US Customs and Border Protection (CPB).

As of 8th March, the number of children held in US immigration facilities had tripled in just two weeks - to three thousand, two hundred and fifty. Of that number, nearly half had been in detention longer than the three-day limit and were in CBP-managed facilities that were designed for adults.



Darren Bravo ton, Kieron Pollard composure seal 3-0 sweep

By Madushka Balasuriya
ESPNcricinfo - Darren Bravo's first century in nearly five years, along with fifties from Shai Hope and Kieron Pollard, meant Wanindu Hasaranga's rearguard 80 not out would ultimately be in vain, as West Indies hunted down their target with five wickets to spare, to sweep the three-match ODI series.

The result not only extended Sri Lanka's losing streak against West Indies in ODIs to six games, but also means they remain rooted at the bottom of the World Cup Super League, yet to register any points.

And it was once more the familiar failings that cropped up to haunt Sri Lanka, as a middle-order collapse with the bat - despite a now-customary Hasaranga revival - meant their total was not quite imposing enough

to trouble the West Indian big-hitters. With the ball, Sri Lanka never quite seemed to trouble West Indies consistently, relying more on batsman error than anything else for their breakthroughs.

This despite Sri Lanka's chief tormentors from the previous games, such as Evin Lewis and Nicholas Pooran, being removed relatively cheaply. It was only Hope that remained a constant, going on to register his sixth consecutive ODI score of fifty or more - the tenth man to do so, with only Javed Mian-dad (9) having scored more - and putting on a crucial 109-run third-wicket stand with Bravo.

Bravo's 132-ball 102 was his fourth ODI century and his first since June 2016; it was also his first fifty-plus score in a little over two years. Along with Hope, he took the sting

out of a Sri Lanka attack buoyed by two early scalps - the first time this series they had secure such early breakthroughs. The pair occupied the crease between the 10th and 32nd over, when Hope miscued one to deep mid-wicket. Until that point they had gradually ground down the Lankan bowlers; yes, the number of dot balls was a concern, but both Hope and Bravo's ability to find the boundary whenever the required rate threatened to get out of hand was uncanny.

Once Hope fell, and Pooran shortly after that, Sri Lanka once more might have scented a sniff of an opening, but that was again snuffed out by the home side's adeptness at going big when needed.

Captain Pollard joined Bravo at the crease, and they put on 80 for the fifth wicket

off 71 deliveries. By the time Bravo was dismissed courtesy of a spectacular diving take by Dimuth Karunaratne at extra cover, the equation was down to 26 off 23 and never likely to go Sri Lanka's way.

But it could have been much worse for them if not for a magnificent counter-attack from Hasaranga and Ashen Bandara earlier in the day. The pair put on unbeaten 123-run seventh-wicket stand to rocket-charge the Sri Lanka innings, after the outstanding Akeal Hosein had again exposed the fault lines running through their batting.

Even more impressive was the fact that Hasaranga's 60-ball 80 - the highest ODI score by a Sri Lanka No. 8 - was made on virtually one-leg, as injury saw the young allrounder limp through most of his knock.

FORMER UNDISPUTED MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION DIES AGED SIXTY-SIX

The death of Marvelous Marvin Hagler, who was the undisputed middleweight champion of the world from 1980 to 1987, has been announced by his wife. Hagler had ruled the division from 1980, but was dethroned following a controversial defeat by Sugar Ray Leonard in April 1987. Kay Hagler wrote on the official Fan Club Facebook page: "I am sorry to make a very sad announcement. Unfortunately, my beloved husband Marvelous Marvin passed away unexpectedly at his home in New Hampshire on Saturday." New Jersey southpaw Hagler was only knocked down once during his professional career and defended his middleweight crown twelve times.

Hagler famously battled Thomas "Hitman" Hearns in Las Vegas in 1985 winning in three brutal rounds of a fight which became known as "The War." But Hagler would suffer a split decision defeat to Leonard two

years later and his American rival headed back into retirement, denying him a rematch. Hagler subsequently retired from boxing in June 1988, with a record of sixty-two wins, two draws and three defeats. Lennox Lewis, the former unified world heavyweight champion, revealed how Hagler had influenced his ring career. Eleven-time world champion Oscar De La Hoya said he was "saddened" by Hagler's death, adding: "One of the greatest to ever step in the ring."

In 2019, Hagler had called for boxing to bring back one world champion per division. "I hope before I pass that they restore this game and bring it back to only one champion in the world," said Hagler. "If a fighter loses a fight or loses a belt, they can always go to another organization and try for that belt. It would be exciting if they bring back one champion per division," the legend noted.



Bowling legend not in support of Holder's removal



Sir Curtley Ambrose

The decision by Cricket West Indies (CWI) and its selectors to appoint Kraigg Braithwaite as captain of the Test team, replacing fellow countryman

Jason Holder, has not found favour with legendary fast bowler Sir Curtley Ambrose. Holder was replaced last Thursday by Braithwaite, who had previously led the team in seven Tests while deputizing for Holder, including the recent series win away to Bangladesh. Braithwaite becomes the 37th captain of the Caribbean Team.

The former West Indies spearhead is not supportive of the decision, noting that had Holder gone to Bangladesh he would still be captaining today. Sir Curtley added that Hold-

er did a good job leading the team over the past five years and should not have been replaced. Sir Curtley, who was part of the television commentary team during the CG Insurance One-Day-International (ODI) series between West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, said it is unfair to Holder and he should have been given the opportunity to show improvement in the upcoming Test series against the Asians.

Holder, twenty-nine, became the youngest captain for the West Indies when he was

appointed in January 2015, and led the side in thirty-seven Tests since taking over from Dinesh Ramdin. His record shows eleven wins, five draws and twenty-one defeats.

CWI vice-president, Dr Kishore Shallow, said both Braithwaite and Holder were appraised before the decision was made. Shallow explained the entire panel met with Jason Holder and he has given the commitment that he is on board with full support to Braithwaite.



INDIA CRUISE TO VICTORY OVER SLOPPY ENGLAND IN SECOND T20

England suffered a chastening seven-wicket defeat by a resurgent India in the second Twenty20 in Ahmedabad.

After overpowering the hosts in the series opener, England put in a timid performance on a slow pitch.

Asked to bat first, they were gradually stifled after Jason Roy was dismissed for 46, their 164-6 nothing better than par. It was put into context by a swashbuckling 32-ball 56 on debut by Ishan Kishan, who survived giving a simple chance

to Ben Stokes at long-on on 40 - a mistake that typified England's sloppy display.

Kishan added 94 with India captain Virat Kohli, whose unbeaten 73 off 49 balls also included an escape when he gave a tough chance down the

leg side to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler on 10.

The composed Kohli pulled a six to take India to their target with 13 balls to spare, levelling the series before Tuesday's third match at the same venue.

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