

WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH 2021

| ISSUE 204

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REACHING OUT TO SENIORS IN COMMUNITIES

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VILLA LIBRARY GETS DONATION OF 5000 BOOKS

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Caption: PM Gaston Browne, secretary Aneka Lee and Ronald Mind

“The leader adjusts the sails”

For many people, a memorable scene from a movie is one from Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*, starring Jamie Foxx. In the mildly comic “Bag Scene,” a group of white men were preparing to raid Django and Dr. Shultz when they realised that there was an issue with some of the “bags” that were to be used as masks. An argument ensued, and some of the characters complained that they could not see with the “bag” on. Willard, whose wife Jenny made the bags, became irritated and said to the group in very colourful language that he watched his wife worked all day to make bags for them and now all he is hearing is “criticise, criticise, criticise!”

Sometimes, one gets a sense that modern leaders in all endeavours are faced with a similar kind of dilemma. Nowhere has this been revealed more than during the course of the present

COVID-19 pandemic in which the entire world has been ground to a virtual go-slow. To be a leader in this time requires responsiveness, innovation, strategic thinking, and nerves of steel. But even with that, leaders can sometimes feel like their efforts are subjected to an endless continuum of the sustained ire of a ferocious beast. There seems to be a sort of compulsion to “criticise, criticise, criticise!” The leadership theorist and pastor John C. Maxwell posits, “The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails.” One gets a sense that Maxwell is pointing to leadership as a paradigm and the facets that comprise this paradigm.

The first aspect of the paradigm is what Maxwell refers to as the “pessimist” or, in the words of Willard of *Django Unchained*, those who will eternally criticise, nay bash.

There are many virtues of social media, including the ability to reach a large number of people and to receive feedback almost instantly. But within that virtue lies the greatest drawback of social media: the ability of millions of people to post things that are either untruthful, scandalous, unhelpful, and sometimes even criminal. Leadership during this pandemic has been a constant battle of balancing the right to free speech against the responsibility of free speech. Many persons on social media tend to forget that there are no rights without responsibilities, and that one ought not simply utter something because it comes to the mind. Even within the realms of politics, we have witnessed a tendency for Members of Parliament attempting to engage in social media type behaviour in the House by wanting to “post” whatever comes to their minds at any given time, usu-

ally with the sole intent to bash the other side. Sometimes, the discourse degenerates into the downright ugly as some members of the House appear to be in a perpetual state of anger. For these members, life seems to be an infinite circle of doom and gloom.

The next aspect of Maxwell's paradigm identifies what he calls the “optimist.” While optimism is always a good thing in life, one cannot become so optimistic as to lose sight of reality. Anyone who is familiar with Voltaire's timeless satire *Candide* (1759) will know the danger of optimism without a healthy dose of practicality. Living by the mantra that this is “the best of all possible worlds,” (that is, that the world is inherently good) the titular character sinks into despair since he encounters evil everywhere he turns. *Candide* was so blinded by his uncritical optimism that he, like is mentor Pan-

gloss, expected that the sham, drudgery, and broken dreams around him would simply disappear; à la Maxwell's optimist, their optimism leads to the unsubstantiated expectation that the wind will change to accommodate their view of life. The warning here therefore is that optimism, while good, can become a hindrance in leadership if not balanced with practicality. The leader, according to Maxwell, does not curse the wind, nor does he expect it to change; he simply adjusts his sails accordingly. Not many people alive today have experienced anything like the COVID-19 pandemic. The last time the world was plunged into a pandemic was during the years 1918 to 1920. Coupled with that is the fact that each pandemic poses its own unique set of challenges. No pandemic comes with a manual, and therefore leadership during this crisis must be nimble in order to meet the various challenges. The situation is one of fluidity, and leaders have to be able to feel the subtle changes in the wind and adjust the sails accordingly. There will be mistakes, but it is the ability to adjust again that sets leaders apart from critics and eternally uncritical optimists. It is this ability to quickly adjust and readjust the sails when needed that has kept Antigua and Barbuda relatively safe during this time.

Campaign to reach seniors intensifies

A concerted effort is underway to reach all residents of Antigua and Barbuda who are sixty-five years and older to have them vaccinated as protection against the COVID-19 disease by Friday of this week.

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph said this is necessary in order to complete Phase One of the vaccination exercise slated for the end of the week. He explained that this age group was one of the key groups earmarked by the government because they account for most hospitalizations and deaths from the disease.

He further explained that all public vaccinations have ended; however, over the next few days efforts will be made to reach these seniors who may not have been reached previously. "We believe we have an



appreciable number of elderly to be vaccinated. What we have decided is to use our clinics and in each village the nurses will be making home visits to ensure that we identify all the elderly people and bring them to be vaccinated. This we hope to achieve by Friday," he stated. The minister stressed the importance of health workers reaching these individuals as it

is the government's intention to have as many inoculated as soon as possible. Additionally, health workers will also visit private nursing homes to ensure that the residents are also vaccinated. "The most important group in the first phase is those who are sixty-five years and older and those with comorbidities or underlying health conditions. I am confident that we will succeed in this exercise with this group," he noted. Sir Molwyn wants family members to ensure that their seniors are vaccinated, noting that they can call the hotline or reach out to health workers by other means in order to get it done. Under Phase One of the vaccination programme, some twenty-seven thousand people will be vaccinated. That leaves a total of thirteen thousand vac-

cines remaining from the forty thousand donated by India.

According to the minister, the government feels fairly confident of a shipment of fourteen thousand, eight hundred doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine arriving at the end of the month.

That amount and the remaining thirteen thousand doses will be kept by the government for the application of the second

dose to those individuals who were vaccinated in Phase One.

"In the second phase, we expect to have no less than one hundred thousand vaccines to be distributed; fifty per cent or fifty thousand will be administered as the first dose and the other fifty thousand will be held for the second dose which will be distributed in the third phase. "The third and final phase of distribution, will be exclu-

sively for the administering of the second dose for all individuals who would have been vaccinated previously. This phase is expected to begin in May and end in June," he added. Sir Molwyn reassured the public that there will not be any mixing of vaccines, meaning anyone who receives the AstraZeneca vaccine for the first dose will receive the same branded vaccine for the second dose.

"The COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective weapons in fighting this dreadful pandemic. It has been established that all of the vaccines prevent hospitalizations and deaths. I therefore implore you to avail yourselves at the earliest opportunity to be vaccinated. It is a decision that is in the best interest of yourself, your family and your community," he urged all residents.

Today is Nomination Day for Barbuda Council Elections



Nomination of candidates who will contest the Barbuda local government elections later this month will take place in Codrington today.

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) which will supervise the poll, has already dispatched two of its senior officers to the sister island who will oversee the nomination exercise. Each candidate must be nominated and seconded by an adult eighteen years and older, both of whom must be registered to vote on the sister island. ABEC has established a nomination station at the Holy Trinity School in Barbuda and the entire exercise will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Both the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) and

the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) have named five candidates each to contest the elections.

The candidates expected to be nominated by the BPM are McKenzie Frank, Wade Burton, Nadia Harris-George, Nico Antonio, and newcomer, Melanie Beazer.

The ABLP slate includes Tyrone Beazer, Wesley Beazer, Hesketh Daniel, Makiesha DeSouza and Kelcina George.

The two political parties have been campaigning over the past several weeks, but with COVID-19 restrictions much of the campaigning is being done via social media and other means.

The four seats on the Council not been contested this time are all controlled by the BPM.

It only needs to win one seat to have an outright majority on the Council as the representative for Barbuda is an ex officio member of the Council with voting rights. Should the Labour Party win all five seats then there will be a deadlock situation.

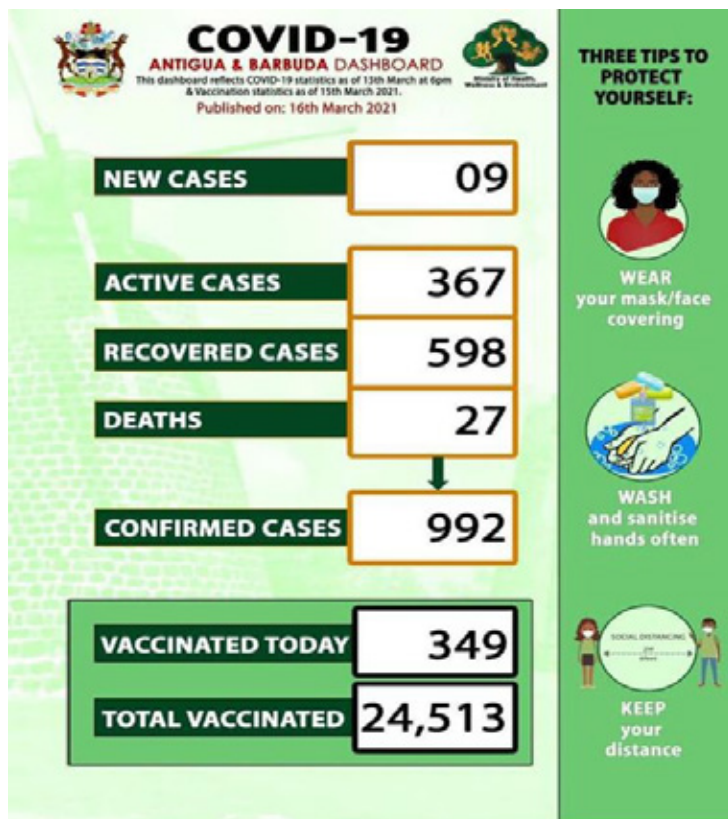
NINE NEW COVID-19 CASES

Nine new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 15th March 2021 at 6:00 p.m., the most recent report from the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) has revealed.

These new cases were as a result of ninety samples processed by the MSJMC.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is nine hundred and ninety-two, which is inclusive of three hundred and sixty-seven active cases.

Meanwhile, three hundred and forty-nine (349) COVID-19 vaccines were administered since the last publication, bringing the total number of individuals vaccinated to twenty-four thousand five hundred and thirteen.



DISTRIBUTION

Senior Citizens Utility Subsidy Programme

MARCH 15TH - APRIL 1ST, 2021

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Tues March 16th	B.
Wed March 17th	C.
Thurs March 18th	D.
Fri March 19th	E.
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.
Tues March 30th	S.
Wed March 31st	T, U and V.
Thurs April 1st	W, X, Y and Z.

TIME: 8:00AM - 3:00PM DAILY
PLACE: PDV CAB Office, Upper Long Street

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- Valid Government-Issued Photo ID

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Social Transformation Minister calls for concrete actions to achieve gender equality

Social transformation Minister Dean Jonas has called on his colleagues and counterparts in the United Nations to continue the fight towards achieving the ultimate goals of gender equality and women empowerment.

spite the pandemic, I am confident that this conference will be the start of a rejuvenated collective global drive,” Minister Jonas stated.

The theme for this year’s Commission on the Status of Women Conference is “Women’s full and

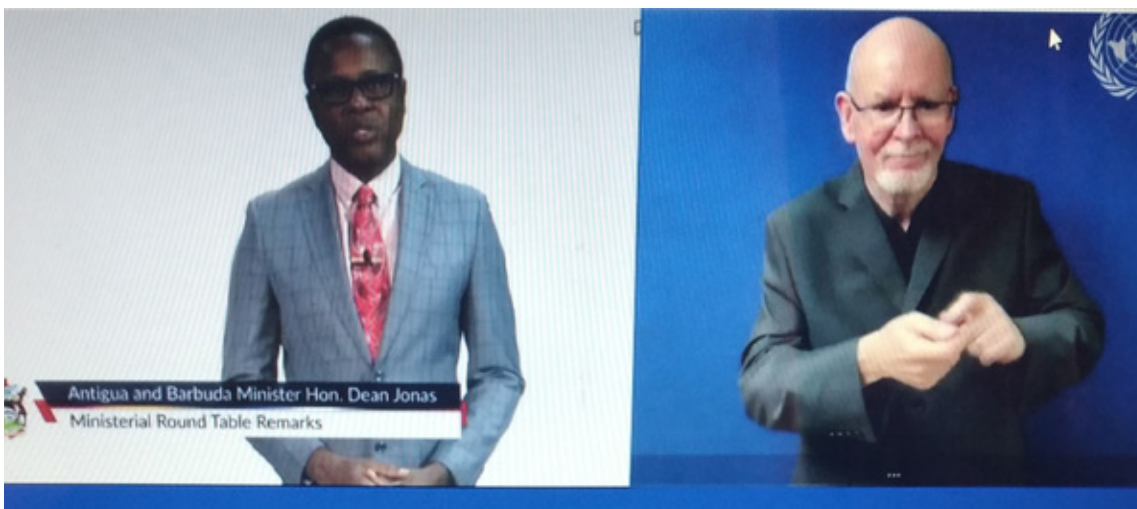
and harmful perceptions that need to be addressed. Additionally, worldwide, we have seen that the multiple forms of gender-based violence still persist and acts as an impediment to achieving gender equality,” Minister Jonas noted.

and the disproportionate affects that the pandemic has on women and girls and vulnerable groups, is another reason why this conference is of the utmost importance.”

Minister Jonas described the round table as a unique opportunity to critically assess and examine the progress member countries have made in achieving gender equality, and more specifically, what steps need to be taken in the future to ensure that countries are providing ample opportunities for women to play a greater role leadership and decision making.

Additionally, he said the issue of gender-based violence is one to which governments must continue to dedicate resources, time and effort. “Women and girls have a basic and fundamental right to live free from violence. Anything short of this would be a massive failure and we must prioritize their safety and develop policies and frameworks that will ensure they are adequately protected,” Minister Jonas noted.

“It is undeniably important for us as policymakers and civil society to



Minister Dean Jonas

The minister’s call came during his address at the Commission on the Status of Women sixty-fifth session (CSW65) Ministerial Roundtable, which was held virtually on Monday 15th March.

“We may have different cultures and national realities; however, we are united in our desire to see women and girls play a greater role in global development and to be decision makers contributing to a more just and inclusive society. Let us continue our work. De-

effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”

Minister Jonas said that the theme is quite fitting and appropriate. “Even as we have seen a positive evolution in regard to the outlook that many people have on women’s role in public life and leadership, there are still widespread and deeply rooted misconceptions

He added, “The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is pleased to be represented at CSW 65 as we mark a milestone by being able to again use this platform as a vehicle to mainstream gender considerations into global policy and legislative frameworks and to engage in sustained and high-level advocacy on pressing and prevalent issues affecting women and girls. We are in precarious times as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic,

Villa Library gets donation of five thousand books

be at the forefront of the gender equality fight. However, if we fail to engage with our people and to sensitize them to the lived realities of women and vulnerable groups, we will be fighting an uphill battle," the gender minister added.

Minster Jonas identified a number of issues that have arisen out of this pandemic that will require continued and sustained advocacy, as well as programming and policy to reduce the harmful effects it is having on many women's economic autonomy, physical and mental health, as well as the threat of gender-based violence.

"Antigua and Barbuda will continue to be guided by commitments made to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These overarching policy frameworks continue to hold us accountable in our efforts to strengthen our institutional capacity and provides a roadmap towards achieving gender equality and eliminating discrimination, gender-based violence and inequality," Minister Jonas concluded.



The Villa Library, which forms part of the Blackburn Park Complex, to include the Polyclinic and sports facilities, has received a major donation of five thousand books from a benefactor, Roland Mind. At a presentation ceremony on Tuesday, area representative and Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, expressed sincere gratitude to Mind for the gift of the books, noting that they will go a long way in the setting up of the library. "This is a very important contribution towards the establishment of the library here at Villa. What we are seeking to do is to encourage more reading as well as research at an early age. We are hoping that residents will encourage their children to utilise the books and to develop strong word power as this too is very important," he stated.

The prime minister emphasized that having good technical skills without a good command of the English language can retard a person's growth and advancement. "Reading is

essential for everyone and it contributes to building literacy," he noted. He also used the opportunity to outline the plans for the centre which will provide music lessons to young people from the area with the acquisition of seventy thousand dollars' worth of music equipment. The equipment also includes computers for accessing

the internet and to explore the creativity of the youth through music and artificial intelligence. In his remarks, Mind said he has been an avid reader and he wants to donate the books to encourage young people to read. "I am just happy to be able to make this contribution. I am humbled by the experience!" he declared.



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Renovations of beekeepers' headquarters begin



The Antigua Beekeepers Corporative Society Ltd. in conjunction with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) and the Ministry of Agriculture recently held a press launch to start renovations at the beekeepers' headquarters located in Belmont Estate.

IICA National Specialist Craig Thomas and President of the Beekeepers Corporative Brent Georges spearheaded this initiative which they first submitted back in 2019 and were unsuccessful. It was submitted again in 2020 and was successful. IICA secured funding from the Australian High Commission in the amount of approximately sixteen thousand US dollars to refurbish the building. Renovation works will include plumbing, electrical, and painting. Cleaning of the facility has already start-

ed in preparation for further renovation work to be done.

The goal of this initiative is to create a centralized facility for beekeepers and beekeeping operations in Antigua and Barbuda and increase the output of bee-related products such as honey, wax, candles, lip balms,

among other products.

The Ministry of Agriculture plays a critical role in the development of the beekeeping sector, through advocacy and policy expansion.

Remarks were given by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Samantha Marshall, who pledged support to the initiative

in seeing the development of the sector in Antigua and Barbuda. Remarks were also delivered by the IICA representative in the Eastern Caribbean States, Mr. Gregg Rawlins, and the Deputy High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Casey Beath.

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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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Friday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

South Mall Branch

Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

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Cheque drop boxes located at our Independence Drive, Village Walk and South Mall locations can also be used for PDV vouchers. We strongly encourage our seniors dropping off their vouchers to submit them at least two business days before the expiration date and to consider submitting them earlier in the month to avoid crowded or long lines.

Customers visiting our locations are kindly asked to continue adhering to the established safety protocols. **#StaySafe**



Farmer benefits from crowd-funding initiative



Local farmer Lescharles Joseph is the beneficiary of the crowd-funding project to supply water to farmers entitled, "Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 through the supply of fresh food to rural households," which is an Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) initiative. The initiative is a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). Joseph expressed thanks to IICA, CARDI, and the MoA for aiding him: "It will be so beneficial to me to improve on the crops growing, the amount of food I can produce in higher quantities and without water farming is nothing, and so I am so grateful to be

one of the beneficiaries of this project." South West District Officer Onecia Anthony-Martin expressed that being a beneficiary of the project is a great opportunity for Joseph because he is able to produce more food now that he will have access to water and a full irrigation system. Not only did Joseph receive assistance with setting up the irrigation system, but he also received help in planting seeds after the system was set up.

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD

The Importance of Accreditation



What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the process that higher education institutions go through to ensure that they meet strict standards of education. Accreditation is used to monitor and evaluate to quality of education that students receive.



Who grants accreditation?

Accreditation is earned! Accrediting bodies, which can be private, non-governmental or governmental, are created to review the quality of education provided by institutions. These bodies set standards of excellence that educational institutions need to follow to if they want to earn accreditation.



Why is accreditation important?

When an educational institution or a specific programme has gained accreditation, it means that the institution or programme meets or exceeds quality standards in education. Students attending these institutions or participating in these programmes have access to high quality learning. This applies to online learning too!



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AS COVID-19 ADDS TO ECONOMIC WOES AND CLIMATE SHOCKS WORSEN,

small island nations find themselves further in debt, and struggling to finance plans for greener energy

By Megan Rowling

BARCELONA, 15th March (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - With its tourism-reliant economy bowed by debt, and facing climate shocks and now the COVID-19 crisis, the tiny Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda will require more international funding to transition to green energy, its prime minister said. Gaston Browne, a former banker and businessman who came to power in 2014, said his island country of less than one hundred thousand people had decided to slow down an earlier drive to switch to renewable energy, to avoid tipping itself further into debt.

He told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that, with pandemic restrictions preventing international tourist travel, the nation's economy was likely to shrink by about thirty per cent in 2020-21, pushing up its debt-to-GDP ratio from just under seventy per cent to ninety-five per cent.

That is a serious problem shared by other already fiscally squeezed small island states, many of which now face a "perilous situation of debt" due to economic woes caused by the pandemic, Browne said.

"I am afraid we could find ourselves in a debt crisis and that all

of the (development) gains we have made over the last several decades... could be eroded," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview.

That would reduce the ability of governments to borrow money to

help them ditch dirty imported fuel oil, which most rely on as their main supply of energy, and instead install technology to move to cleaner sources such as solar and wind, he noted.

If COVID-19 results in an eco-



conomic “lost decade,” on top of other pressures on island nations, pushing back deadlines to achieve carbon neutrality may be prudent, he added.

Antigua and Barbuda has an official target to cut its planet-heating emissions to net zero by 2050, but Browne said he was aiming for his country to become carbon-neutral by 2040.

He said the shift could happen even earlier - but only with sufficient help. “If... we are able to get developed countries to provide more funding for transition into green energy, then we can say confidently that we will achieve a carbon-neutral position long before 2040,” he said.

The country’s smaller island of Barbuda - which was devastated in 2017 by Hurricane Irma, forcing the temporary evacuation of all its nearly two thousand people - could hit that

target within two years by installing solar power, he added.

In Antigua and Barbuda, fossil fuels still provide more than ninety per cent of energy, despite early investment in solar generation with battery storage - something Browne said had not proved good value for money as the cost of solar technology has since plunged.

The island nation has poured at least sixty million dollars into clean energy using borrowed funds, about half from the United Arab Emirates, but now wants to wait for cheaper prices and more efficient green technologies, including hydrogen, he added.

It is also lobbying donors for access to grants and longer-term funding at low interest rates for its energy transition. The barrier it faces is that, alongside some other Caribbean island nations, it has been

classed as a high-income country and thus is not eligible for grants or cheap credit.

Browne said that situation was “unconscionable” and urged financing decisions be made instead on the basis of a broader view of vulnerability that takes into account climate threats, including rising seas and more extreme weather.

CLIMATE TALKS

Besides fiercer storms, his country is grappling with beach erosion and drought, but is trying to boost its resilience with tighter building codes, desalination plants and planting 100,000 trees a year, which also store carbon, he said.

Antigua and Barbuda and other countries in the Alliance of Small Island States, which it now chairs, want the COP26 U.N. climate talks in November to drum up more funding to help them meet tar-

gets to adopt green energy and adapt to global warming.

Browne said they would also push for progress on a long-delayed means of compensating countries that sustain “loss and damage” from unavoidable impacts of climate change.

That is not something affecting only poorer countries or island states, he noted, with U.S. coastal cities like Miami and New York also feeling the pain of flooding and hurricanes.

If greater efforts are not made by wealthy emitting countries to curb climate heating and protect at-risk communities with more finance, the flow of “climate refugees” seeking shelter in rich nations would likely increase, he said.

“If there is no climate stability, there cannot be peace and security in the world,” he warned.

REAL TALK

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THE UNACCEPTABLE DEFAMING OF OUR UWI

Alumni of the University of the West Indies (UWI) – like myself – are still trying to make sense of the peculiar editorial that appeared in Barbados' Nation Newspaper of 11th March 2021 under the headline "Time for Change," and that constituted such a grossly exaggerated, unctuous and far-fetched attack on our University, that some of us feel duty bound to respond in writing.

Also adding to the "strange" nature of the editorial was that it actually featured a portrait type photograph of the personality that the editorial writer outdid himself in portraying as a "white knight in shining armour" who is supposedly coming to the rescue of our University: namely, Mr. Robert Bermudez, current chairman of Massy Holdings Ltd of Trinidad and Tobago and Chancellor or ceremonial head of the University of the West Indies (UWI) since the year 2017. Furthermore, we found it to be more than passing strange that, in an editorial devoted entirely to the UWI, there was not one single mention of the Vice Chancellor – the principal academic and administrative leader of the University – Sir Hilary Beckles. What – we asked ourselves – was the editorial writer really trying to

achieve? And on whose behalf?

Then there was the actual content of the editorial vis-à-vis UWI! The editorial feverishly tried to convince us that there is something terribly wrong with the current governance structure of the UWI – the governance structure that is really mostly the product of the contributions of such former outstanding Chancellors of UWI as Sir Shridath Ramphal and Sir George Alleyne.

According to the editorial, the "concerns" about this governance structure are highlighted in a report that has been commissioned by Chancellor Bermudez, and "should be raised and discussed as a matter of urgency" – indeed, as early as the very next day!

Truly, this "Alice in Wonderland" type editorial must have had UWI students and alumni wondering whether the editorialist was referring to some other UWI, located in some other part of the world!

And I say this because, as recently as 2019, the UWI that we know, has been ranked by the Times Higher Education – the world's most respected university ranking agency – as the number one university in the entire Caribbean, and among the top best one per cent

of Golden Age Universities (those between fifty to one hundred years of age) worldwide.

In addition, all of us who pay attention to the affairs of UWI are very well aware of the phenomenal development that our University has undergone over the past six years, under the inspirational and visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Beckles. Indeed, we have all looked on in amazement as UWI developed into a "global University," with an active institutional and academic presence on every continent of the world.

For the benefit of the Nation editorialist, here is a list of the ten international academic "Centres" that UWI has established over the past six years:-

1. UWI – SUNY (State University of New York) Centre for Leadership and Sustainable Development – in the USA
2. UWI – Brock Centre for Canada – Caribbean Studies – in Canada.
3. UWI – Suzhou Institute for Information Technology – in China.
4. UWI – Coventry Centre for Industry – Academic Partnership – in the UK.
5. UWI – University of the Lagos Centre for African and Diaspora Culture – in Nigeria.
6. UWI – University of



Johannesburg Centre for Global Africa – in South Africa.

7. UWI – University of Colombia Partnership – in South America.

8. UWI – European Union University Centre – in Europe.

9. UWI – University of Havana Centre for the Sustainable Development of Caribbean People – in Cuba.

10. UWI – University of Glasgow Centre for Development and Reparatory Justice – in Scotland and Jamaica.

There have also been other mind-blowing developments, such as the UWI Global Online programme that generates revenue by selling academic content to a global online student body; the birth and development of UWI TV; the establishment of the new Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda; the establishment of Faculties of Sport at all campuses; the pending (2021) establishment of the world's first Institute for Climate Smart Studies; and the innovative manner in

which UWI has gone about solving the vexed issue of governmental financial arrears, by permitting our governments to provide the University with physical assets in exchange for arrears, and thereby – in the case of Trinidad – providing UWI with the one hundred million US dollars Couva Hospital, to be used as an International “for profit” Medical School.

Indeed, it really needs to be recorded that when Sir Hilary Beckles became Vice Chancellor of UWI in 2015, he assumed administrative responsibility for a University saddled with unpaid Governmental financial arrears to the tune of a massive one hundred and twenty million United States dollars! Over the course of his tenure as Vice Chancellor he has managed to reduce those arrears to US forty million dollars.

Furthermore, UWI’s development has been so phenomenal over the past six years, that several colleges and universities of the hemisphere have applied to be associated with our University, and be designated Colleges of UWI. This development will result in UWI becoming part of a multi-lingual university system, with the Dutch and French languages being added to UWI’s academic culture.

In light of the foregoing, what – you may then ask – was the editorial really all about?

Well, it all becomes clear when the editorial writer ends his or her missive

with the following conclusion:-

“... if the UWI was a private sector business these issues could not slide and people would be held accountable ... The Chancellor is not from academia ... but is a successful businessman ... Commissioning the report was in itself significant; its findings cannot be filed away. Mr. Bermudez is accustomed to making tough decisions. The UWI should be no exception.”

So, it is really all about Mr. Bermudez leading a Private Sector make-over (or take-over) of the management and control of our University. And when you take the time to read and examine the Chancellor’s report you will discover that this is the fundamental thrust of the report, and the fundamental proposal that the Report is pushing.

In a nutshell, the report is effectively proposing that – henceforth – the fundamental power to control and manage our university be vested in a newly created executive committee of the university’s highest policy-making body – the University Council – to be chaired by none other than the Chancellor – Mr. Robert Bermudez - himself!

In other words, no longer would Mr. Bermudez be a ceremonial figure. Rather, he would now supplant Vice Chancellor Beckles as effectively the principal administrative and academic leader of our UWI. Indeed, under

the new proposed governance structure, Mr. Bermudez would really be both Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the institution, and would wield an enormous amount of power in and over our university. He would be god-like in his status -- virtually answerable to no one.

But that is not the only aspect of private sector take over that is being pushed. Indeed, it is also being recommended that the pinnacle level University Council, as well as the various lower level Campus Councils, be equipped with six “Advisory Committees” responsible for the all-important areas of Governance, Finance and Capital Allocation, Audit and Risk, Human Resources, Student Success and Digital Transformation, and that it be stipulated that these Committees be made up of a mix of internal (University) personnel and external (non-University) personnel, and be chaired by one of the external (read “Private Sector”) members of the Committee.

Furthermore, the Chancellor’s report is calling for the outright abolition of the University’s high level Finance and General Purposes Committee, each individual Campus’ Finance and General Purposes Committee, and the University Strategy and Planning Committee. And it needs to be noted that these are the Committees through which the democratic

ethos and culture of our University has traditionally been established – bringing together lecturers, administrators, student representatives, private sector business executives and other stakeholders to engage in discussions and thrash out university policies and decisions.

All of this – we are advised – should be replaced by a private sector controlled corporatist-type structure, presided over by an all-powerful Chancellor who has never even attended a university himself, and who therefore – in all likelihood -- would have a very limited appreciation of the culture and mission of such a high-level academic/human development institution.

Oh, and by the way, one of the directions in which all of this is heading, is a sizable increase in the tuition fees that students would be required to pay! This, needless to say, is another one of the recommendations contained in the Chancellor’s report.

Caribbean people – particularly those of working class background – would be well advised to use this Nation Newspaper editorial as a wake-up call, and start paying much greater attention to what is being proposed for our university - the critical institution that we depend upon for our social advancement and national development.

DAVID COMMISSIONG
Graduate of the UWI

AFTER FIRST MONTH OF AVAILABILITY, OVER EIGHT THOUSAND RECEIVED FIRST DOSE OF VACCINE



NOW Grenada - One month after commencing the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, the Ministry of Health said that over eight thousand people have been inoculated. Grenada's goal is to have sixty per cent of the one hundred and twelve thousand population be vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine by June/July 2021.

"To date, we have recorded eight thousand, six hundred and six people who received the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine," said Health Minister Nickolas Steele who was among the first policymakers to be inoculated with the vaccine. Steele is scheduled to receive his second dose by the end of the month.

At present, the vaccine is available at health centres and other sites set up at strategic locations that are deemed as easily accessible for citizens. "Some days are busier than others, but there is a constant flow of citizens at the vaccination sites," Steele

disclosed. Steele has, however, expressed disappointment with the number of healthcare workers who are either delaying or refusing to be vaccinated, while at the same time administering the vaccine to those who are choosing to obtain the added protection.

"I think that is unacceptable. They are the ones that have the information, know the benefits of vaccination, have access to all of the proper information if they so choose, so they can make an informed decision as opposed to an emotional decision," Steele said. "It is worrying that healthcare providers interacting with COVID-19 positive cases or elderly citizens would not want the added protection for them and those in their care...I cannot contemplate how someone, who is on the frontline would contemplate not being vaccinated."

Scientific research and review have concluded that the vaccine does not stop transmission, but

it reduces the possibility of developing severe COVID-19 infection, especially for those with underlying medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Grenada is scheduled to receive forty-five thousand, six hundred vaccines through the COVAX facility as well as receive thousands of free vaccines from the Government of India. The Indian Government has donated five hundred thousand vaccines for sharing among CARICOM members.

Grenada, as of 15th March 2021 recorded one hundred and fifty-four COVID-19 cases since the first confirmation were announced on 22nd March 2020. Only two according to the island's dashboard are currently classified as active. The two active cases, both in self-isolation, are incoming passengers who were each on commercial flights from the United States and Jamaica respectively.

DIGITAL PLATFORM TO MANAGE COVID VACCINATIONS TO BE LAUNCHED NEXT MONTH



Jamaica Observer - KINGSTON, Jamaica — Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Christopher Tufton, says a digital health platform to help manage the Government's COVID-19 vaccination drive should be launched in full by early April.

The minister made the disclosure this morning at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNICEF Jamaica and the Private Sector Vaccine Initiative (PSVI) for increased support of the rollout of vaccines across the island. "We're just adjusting a few areas to ensure there are no kinks when the

system is launched," he said.

"The system will be accessed through the websites of the ministry, the regional health authorities or through a call centre that will manage the process of setting appointments for persons to be vaccinated," he added.

Tufton noted that the MOU and handover of the tablets were the latest steps in the Government's commitment to working with the private sector and organisations such as UNICEF to get Jamaicans vaccinated.

UNICEF Country Representative, Mariko Kagoshima, said the digi-

tal health platform will support an efficient and equitable rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"The digital health platform will facilitate the preregistration for vaccination according to the prioritisation set by the government, notification of vaccination to the users, collection of critical vaccination data by individual and demographic grouping and reporting of real time analysis of aggregated data as well as record keeping of vaccine given to recipients," she said.

screen protectors for use at vaccination centres is-landwide. Chairman of the PSVI's oversight com-

mittee, Christopher Zacca, said that the equipment, which cost some eleven million dollars will enhance the efficiency of the rollout of the national vaccination plan.

Zacca also announced that the PSVI will be providing financial and technical assistance to the health ministry as well as facilitating the training of personnel in the use of the platform.

The government began the rollout of its COVID-19 vaccination programme last Wednesday, following the arrival of fifty thousand doses of AstraZeneca vaccine donated by the Government of India two days prior.

Another fourteen thousand, four hundred doses of the vaccine, procured under the COVAX Facility, were delivered yesterday.

As at Sunday, a total of twelve thousand and ninety-nine people were inoculated across the island, representing seventy-one per cent of the seventeen thousand and fifty target for week one.

DOMINICA FREEDOM PARTY CONCERNED ABOUT NATURE OF POLICING IN DOMINICA



Bernard Hurtault, Interim Political Leader, Dominica Freedom Party

Dominica News Online - The Dominica Freedom Party is deeply concerned with the nature of policing that has been witnessed in recent times, more particularly on Thursday 4th March 2021 in response to protests by citizens, who were expressing their concerns about the well-being of two young men who had been taken into custody. We witnessed a manner of po-

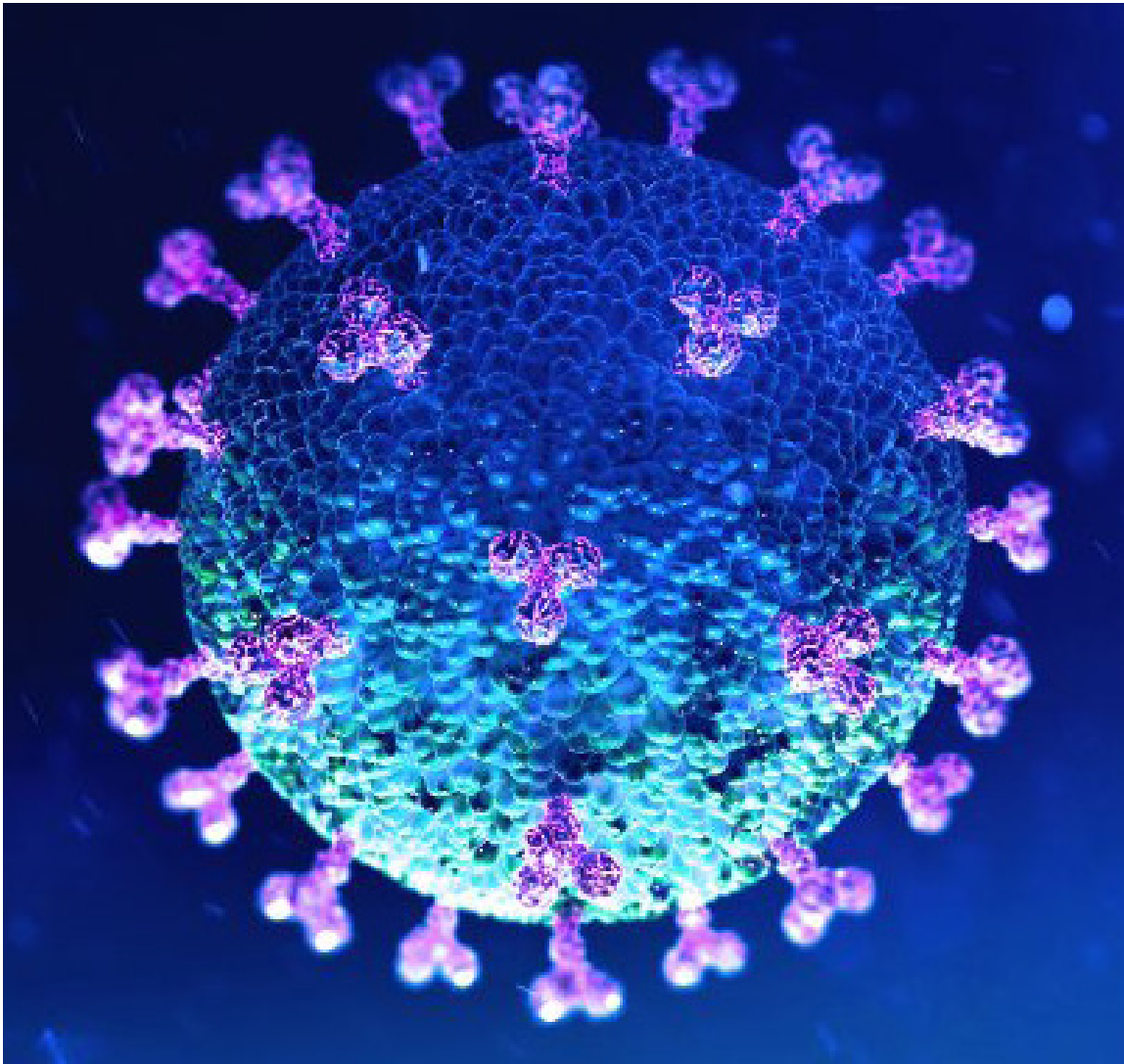
licing that escalated the confrontation, and believe that the police should seek to deescalate these situations and attempt to foster a dialogue of peace with citizens. The constitution of the Commonwealth of Dominica guarantees citizens the "right to freedom of conscience, of expressions, and of assembly and association." In dealing with protesters, the police should respect

and protect the constitutional and democratic rights of citizens to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with decisions and actions of the government. The Party encourages the Dominica Police Service to carry out its functions in the best interest of the nation by treating everyone equally, upholding the laws of the country, and carrying out investigations professionally, with

persons who have been arrested either being released or brought before the court "without undue delay" as provided in the Constitution. Citizens should not be subjected to brutality or any assault whatsoever from the police, while they are exercising their constitutional rights.

The Dominica Freedom Party calls on the Commissioner of Police and his management team to take control of this downward spiral and to return the police service to the professional and disciplined force that it once was. We recommend that programmes be put in place including the appropriate training so as to help officers to conduct themselves in accordance with the rules and regulations that govern the operation of the service while staying clear from party political rancour. It is our belief that these professional approaches will go a long way to restoring trust and respect between the public and the police, while ensuring the continued peaceful existence of all Dominicans regardless of political affiliation.

EIGHT GUESTS BREACH QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS IN NEVIS



St Kitts and Nevis News Online - The National COVID-19 Task Force reported two security breaches that have taken place over the past four days at a resort in Nevis that has been approved to offer guests a “vacation in place” quarantine option, allowing guests who test negative for COVID-19 on arrival to utilize the services and amenities of the resort without leaving the

property. Investigation into the matter revealed that the first of these two incidents took place on Thursday night and involved two guests who left the resort’s premises illegally for approximately two hours. The second security breach took place on Saturday morning after midnight and involved six guests who also managed to leave the resort’s complex

without authorization. The general public is reminded that all eight individuals have been removed from the resort and are now being housed at the government’s quarantine site, while awaiting a trial before the magistrate on charges of violating the country’s quarantine regulations. In light of these successive safety violations, which are serious vio-

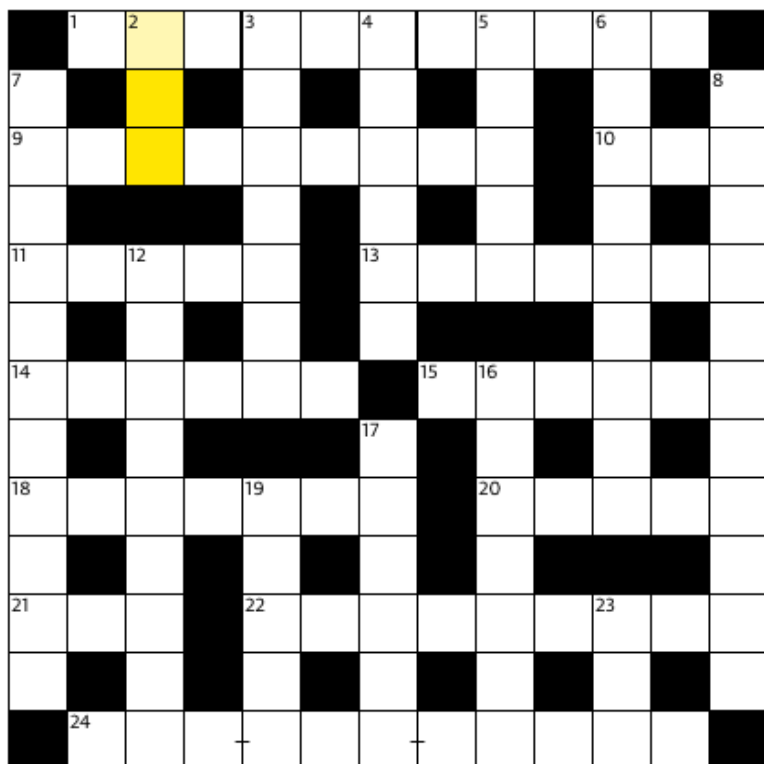
lations, the Task Team suspended the “vacation in place” instruction for the tour group at the resort until all matters have been fully investigated and satisfactory corrective measures to deal with safety breaches have been put in place.

As a result of these two security breaches, and the fact that the eight guests came into contact with a number of local individuals at a nightclub in Nevis, the Ministry of Health began an aggressive contact search.

This process will result in the quarantine and testing of individuals who may have been exposed to the eight guests of the resort, in an effort to control the spread of infection should any of the eight guests be positive for COVID-19.

The National COVID-19 Task Force remains vigilant to work with all government agencies to protect national borders, control the spread of infection, and enforce the COVID-19 (Prevention and Control) Act and its related statutory rules and orders.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Good times and bad times (3,3,5)
 9 Too early (9)
 10 Sticky stuff (3)
 11 Neat (informal) (5)
 13 Grid-type structure (7)
 14 Bricklayer's tool (6)
 15 Claim (6)
 18 Ludicrous (7)
 20 Room at the top (5)
 21 Contagious viral infection (3)
 22 No longer necessary (9)
 24 Not made to order (3-3-5)

Down

- 2 Pastry dish (3)
 3 Closely inspect (7)
 4 Twice (6)
 5 Blatant (5)
 6 Failing to take proper care (9)
 7 Prodigal (11)
 8 Tame (11)
 12 Something to eat (9)
 16 Unswerving (7)
 17 Irritate (6)
 19 Break apart (5)
 23 Everyone (3)

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

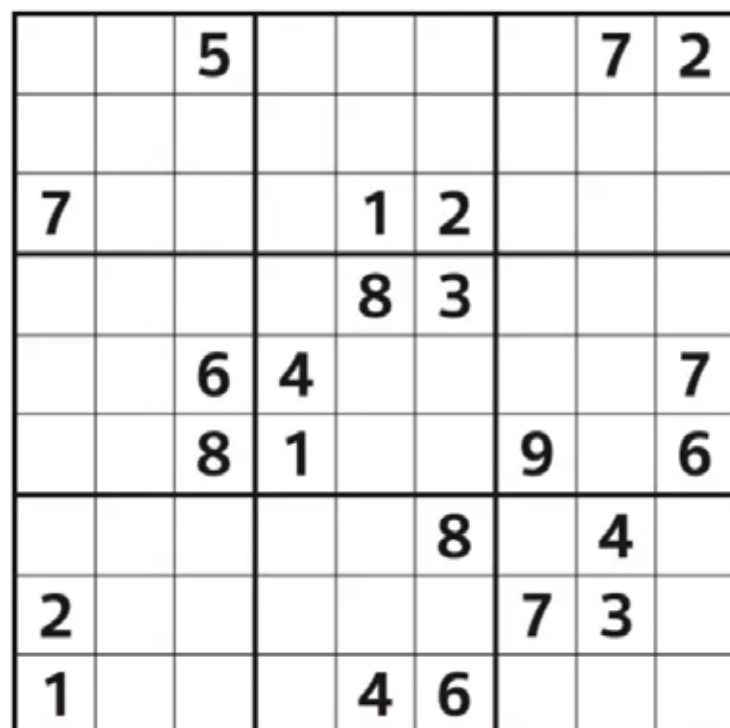
There's more to it than meets the eye. Don't take a cold reception personally, as there is likely something else going on behind the scenes. Take what is offered but don't pry into private matters.

♒ 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

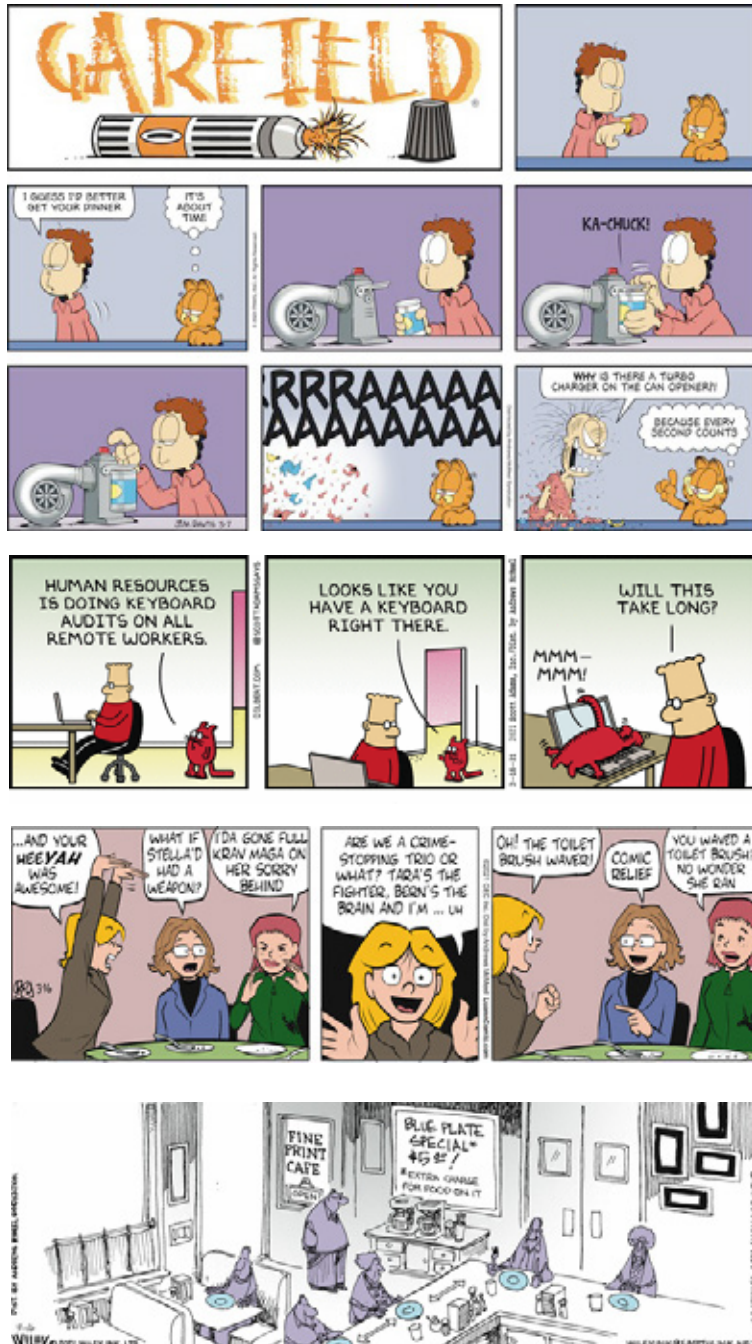
Read between the lines. You'll need to be perceptive to tell the difference between what someone says and what they actually mean. Your trust should be earned rather than given lightly.



LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

DAY		28° Hi	RealFeel® 31° RealFeel Shade™ 27°	3/17
Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a shower				
Max UV Index	10 Very High		Precipitation	1.4 mm
Wind	ENE 20 km/h		Rain	1.4 mm
Wind Gusts	28 km/h		Hours of Precipitation	1
Probability of Precipitation	56%		Hours of Rain	1
Probability of Thunderstorms	11%		Cloud Cover	57%

COMICS



GOT NEWS?

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Submit community notices to

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Alarm at German AstraZeneca pause as cases spike

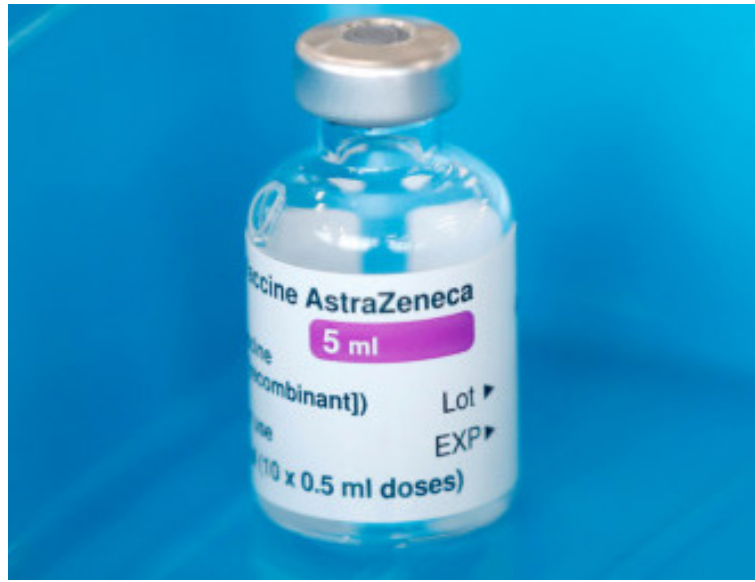
German leaders have postponed a summit on extending the vaccine rollout as they await fuller confirmation that the Oxford-AstraZeneca jab is safe to use.

Germany is among a number of countries that have halted its use over unproven reports that it causes blood clots, but Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he was hopeful it could be used again.

The EU regulator has again insisted the drug's benefits outweigh any risks.

The German decision has been criticised by some politicians and doctors.

Emer Cooke, executive director of the European Medicines Agency, said the EMA was still "firmly convinced" of the benefits of the AstraZeneca drug, and she pointed out that blood clots highlighted by some countries were relatively common in the general population. The main question was whether it was a real side-effect of the vaccine or a coincidence, she said.



The agency's safety committee will further review the latest evidence and report back on Thursday. Experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) were also meeting on Tuesday but spokesman Christian Lindmeier stressed there was "no evidence" that the incidents were linked to the vaccine.

The WHO has urged countries not to pause their vaccinations. In the UK, more than eleven million people have already received at least one dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine and there has been no sign of excess deaths or blood clots occurring.

What reaction has there been in Germany? Germany has so

far used 1.6 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, considered second only to the Pfizer-BioNTech drug in importance to the national rollout. The planned meeting of federal and state leaders will now take place after the EMA decision, and they are expected to back the involvement of a national network of family doctors' surgeries from April, which officials hope will then enable twenty million vaccinations per month. German infections are growing "exponentially", with cases up by twenty per cent in the past week, an expert from the RKI public health agency warned on Tuesday. There have

been seven cases of cerebral blood clots (cerebral sinus venous thrombosis, which is very rare) in recently vaccinated people in Germany, three of them fatal. The government's decision to suspend the vaccine on Monday was criticised by Karl Lauterbach, an epidemiologist and health spokesman for the centre-left Social Democrats, who said while it was justifiable, it was also political. "I would even now get vaccinated with the AstraZeneca. Based on the incidents we now know, the benefits of vaccination significantly outweigh the risks, particularly for the elderly," he told Deutschlandfunk radio. A Free Democrat spokeswoman said the decision had set back the entire vaccination rollout. Greens health expert Janosch Dahmen argued that authorities could have provided detailed information about "manageable risk" and continued using the drug.

Brazil's Bolsonaro names fourth health minister during pandemic



President Jair Bolsonaro

SAO PAULO (AP) — With COVID-19 still raging in Brazil, President Jair Bolsonaro picked his fourth health minister since the pandemic began, this time the head of the country's cardiology society who in the past has spoken favourably of the country's conservative leader.

Marcelo Queiroga will replace Eduardo Pazuello, an active-duty army general with expertise in logistics who landed the position last May despite having no prior health experience.

Queiroga told journalists in a press conference in capital Brasilia on Tuesday that the COVID-19 policy he

will implement "is of the Bolsonaro administration, not of the health minister," suggesting he would follow his predecessor.

"I came to work for Brazil and other ministers of the Bolsonaro administration. The president is very worried about the situation," said Queiroga, who insisted he is against any lockdown measures. Some Brazilian cities are implementing very restrictive shutdowns to halt the spread. Pazuello had presided over the health ministry for the longest period of the three pandemic ministers before Queiroga. The revolving door re-

flects the challenges for the government of Latin America's largest nation to implement effective measures to control the virus' spread – or even agree which measures are necessary.

Queiroga has already called Bolsonaro "a great Brazilian." His social media channels have not made any criticism of the president's handling of the pandemic and pushed for a quick vaccine rollout.

João Gabbardo, a former secretary-executive of the health ministry, said on Twitter that Queiroga will face the worst figures of the pandemic in Brazil when he takes over.

"The record number

of deaths today will be in a high scale. A suggestion; do not speak against a national lockdown," said Gabbardo, who now works for the Sao Paulo state government.

On Monday, Pazuello acknowledged in a press conference that Bolsonaro aimed to replace him. The first candidate for the job, cardiologist Ludhmila Hajjar, rejected it.

Pazuello's two predecessors left the position amid disagreements with Bolsonaro, who criticized broad social distancing and supported the use of an unproven anti-malarial drug to treat the disease. He continues to hold those positions, despite health experts' admonishments and studies showing the drug has no effect on COVID-19.

Pazuello proved more compliant. Immediately after taking the job, his ministry backed use and distribution of the malaria pill. On several occasions, he said that his boss tells him what to do, and he obeys.

Myanmar families hold funerals for crackdown victims as activists defy security crackdown



(Reuters) - The families of dozens of people killed in demonstrations against military rule in Myanmar attended their funerals on Tuesday as more protesters defied the security forces and at least one man was shot dead.

The political and economic crisis over the 1st February overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government could also force the poor into hunger as food and fuel prices rise, the United Nations food agency said.

Security forces shot dead at least twenty people on Monday after seventy-four were

killed a day earlier, including many in a suburb of Yangon where Chinese-financed factories were torched, according to advocacy group the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

On Tuesday, a crematorium in Yangon reported thirty-one funerals, a mourner at one of the ceremonies said.

Hundreds of young mourners spilled out on to the street at the funeral of medical student Khant Nyar Hein who was killed in Yangon on Sunday, the bloodiest day of the protests.

"Let them kill me

right now, let them kill me instead of my son because I can't take it anymore," the student's mother was seen saying in a video clip posted on Facebook.

Mourners, including many fellow medical students in white lab coats, chanted: "Our revolution must prevail."

Some families told media the security forces had seized the bodies of victims, but they would still hold a funeral. At least one hundred and eighty-four people have been killed by the security forces in the weeks of protests, the AAPP said, with the toll rising as one protester

was shot dead in the central town of Kawlin, a resident there said.

People held up pictures of Suu Kyi and called for an end to the repression during a small protest in the southern town of Dawei on Tuesday, the Dawei Watch media outlet reported. There was no report of violence.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was appalled by the escalating violence and called on the international community to help end the repression, his spokesman said, while the United States also denounced the bloodshed.

"The military is attempting to overturn the results of a democratic election and is brutally repressing peaceful protesters," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a news conference in Tokyo.

A junta spokesman did not answer telephone calls to seek comment and Reuters could not independently confirm all the casualties.

What is happening with migrant children at the southern US border?



The US is bracing for a twenty-year high in numbers of migrants arriving at the southern border, including thousands of children who are being kept in government-run detention facilities that critics say are inhumane.

A pandemic health order means that most adults and families are being summarily turned away, but the Biden administration has allowed unaccompanied children under the age of eighteen to enter the US while their claims are processed.

The record breaking influx of children being

held in these camps has led US officials to send in the Federal Emergency Management Agency - a government organisation that normally deals with major emergencies like natural disasters.

How many children are being detained?

As of 14th March, US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents were housing four thousand, two hundred children in detention centres.

The uptick is a thirty-one per cent jump from less than a week earlier, when three thousand, two hun-

dred migrant children - mostly from Central America - were reported to be held in US custody. The number of children kept over the three-day limit more than doubled in that time.

Almost three thousand children have been kept for over seventy-two hours, the legal limit after which they are meant to be transferred to the custody of health officials in the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has said these camps,

which are often compared to jails or warehouses, are "no place for a child."

Pandemic restrictions and abnormally cold weather in Texas caused a delay in processing, Mr. Mayorkas said earlier this month.

ORR facilities are generally better equipped to take children. The shelters feature play areas, classrooms and counselling services. The organisation is also tasked with finding families or homes where the children will remain until their immigration claim is heard by the courts.

According to CBS News, the BBC's partner in the US, five hundred and sixty-five unaccompanied children are now entering US custody every day.

In February, around nine thousand, five hundred children who were not accompanied by their legal guardian were detained by American officials.

Over one hundred thousand people in total were stopped from trying to cross into the US that month.

LeBron James becomes part owner of Red Sox



LeBron James has joined Fenway Sports Group (FSG) as a partner. Pending an approval from Major League Baseball, LeBron James will

become part owner of the Boston Red Sox. This week, the NBA superstar became a partner with Fenway Sports Group, per the Boston Globe. The move makes James and Maverick Carter the first Black partners in FSG's history and also increases James' ownership stake in Premier League football club Liverpool. It is a huge deal that an active professional athlete is getting

involved in the ownership class to the degree that LeBron James is.

The thirty-six-year-old Los Angeles Lakers forward purchased an undisclosed number of shares in FSG. FSG, which also owns English Premier League Champions Liverpool, did not respond to a request for comment.

James already owned two per cent shares in Liverpool since 2011.

Olympics organizers call on spectators at the torch relay to practise social distancing

Tokyo Olympics organizers on Tuesday called on Roadside spectators at the torch relay to wear masks and practise social distancing to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. They also said torch relay staff must test negative for the coronavirus before being sent from Tokyo. The 121-day torch relay is set to begin on 25th March at the J-village training center in Fukushima, launching the build-up towards the 23rd July start of the games postponed from 2020 because of COVID-19.

"People are fine to watch from the road, but when they do so we would like them to practise distancing and avoid crowds," Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto told a news conference.

"We want to ensure a safe torch relay not only for the runners, but for the people in the local communities who are kind enough to host," Muto said. The Olympics will be held from 23rd July to 8th August and the Paralympics from 24th August to 5th September.



Professional football coming to the Caribbean

The first man of colour to represent England in cricket is now making his contribution to his first love football. Roland Butcher, who moved to England in 1967 from Barbados to be with his family, is now associated with the Island Cup Open, a new and innovative football tournament scheduled to kick off later this year.

Butcher, who was a guest on the PointFM Touchline programme on Tuesday, informed the listening public that he will be the manager of the Barbados Challengers, which is one of the ten teams participating in the Island Cup Open. The pre-season will start on 1st July, followed by the official kick-off on 1st August.

Former England players Sol Campbell and Andy Cole will coach the Barbados Franchise. Samuel Eto and Yaya Toure, former Real Madrid and Barcelona players, will feature in the tournament.

The Island Cup Open, endorsed by Sir Vivian Richards, is a multi-national tournament that will fuse

high-level football with cultural experiences of the Caribbean, extending to the inclusion of world players star players.

The private franchises are owned by investors, branded under respective countries. Butcher articulated that he became involved in the project three years ago and he believes the tournament will be good for Caribbean players, creating much opportunities.

Butcher, who now resides in his country of birth, Barbados, said the tournament will feature teams from Jamaica, Barbados, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago. Some of the other participants are Brazil Samba Warriors, AS Espanola, French Connection FC, SC Colombia Tapis, FC Combined Islands and Americana North FC.

The tournament will be contested over a three-month period and is being organized by former Trinidad and Tobago national player Chris Anderson, who has invested over US\$8.5 million in developing the project.



YASCO RACE TRACK REOPENED



The 'soft opening' of the YASCO race track when Everton Cornelius of the Athletics Asso., Sports Minister Daryl Matthew, and head of the NOC E.P Chet Greene cut the ribbon signaling the opening of the sports facility on Tuesday.

DEWS



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