

UNUSED VACCINE STOCK

COULD EXPIRE,
MAY HAVE TO BE
GIVEN AWAY

SEE PAGE 3



THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA LABOUR PARTY: WORTH REMEMBERING!

There are many adults in modern Antigua and Barbuda who embrace the view that history matters little. One successful contractor, upon visiting the National Archives, remarked that there is no benefit to housing “all those old papers”. When asked what occurred in 1834, he was at a complete loss. That piece of knowledge of the date of our people’s release from chattel slavery did not enable him to make a living, he believed.

History was unimportant, to him and to many others.

History, however, is important. Some facts and dates are worth remembering. They serve as sign posts that enable peoples, everywhere on the planet, to measure their progress, to determine the direction in which to go, and to conclude that they are yet to arrive.

The unelected legislature or parliament was a feature of life in Antigua and Barbuda from the time of its modern founding in 1632, when Africans and Europeans arrived; to its evolution away from barbarity and wretched exploitation, in 1936, when the first Constitution was adopted. The rule of the minority was coming to an end, after 300 years, and two indigenous organizations were constructed to manage the new history which was evolving.

On January 16, 1939, the Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) was created by the workers of Antigua and Barbuda who wanted to have a trade union bargain with the powerful employers who unilaterally determined the wages which their thousands of employees would receive. Three pieces

of legislation had been passed into law by unelected parliaments that denied workers the right to bargain for wages and to strike in furtherance of seeking higher wages.

The 1865 Labour and Contracts Act and The 1922 Masters and Servants Act outlawed unions and bargaining for wages. The 1931 Trades Union Act explicitly caused liability for losses experienced by any employer, as a result of a strike, to attach to any union that caused workers of that enterprise to go on strike.

The formation of the AT&LU and its political arm, the AT&LU Political Committee (which transformed itself into the ABLP) would end these barbarous denials that were as bad as slavery. The ABLP sought to win control of the legislature (or parliament)

where resided the real power to make change.

On May 18, 1946, the ABLP put forward five candidates, as permitted under the 1936 Constitution, for election to Parliament. Vere Bird, Leonard Benjamin, Hugh Pratt, Edmund Lake, and Ernest Williams were in the vanguard. They won their five seats overwhelmingly since they moved the voters list from about 1,500 to more than 4,500 for the upcoming elections.

The ABLP began this movement, selecting the most competent and committed members to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda. The people have not lost faith in this heritage Party. In the 14 elections since then, only three times have the electorate chose others. Long live the ABLP!



UNUSED VACCINE STOCK

COULD EXPIRE, MAY HAVE TO BE GIVEN AWAY

By Shelton Daniel

Vaccine hesitancy appears to be stronger among indigenous Antiguan and Barbudans than among the expats dwelling among us, the nation's leader says he has observed. Prime Minister Gaston Browne shared those comments on Saturday during his weekly radio program, The Browne and Browne Show, on Pointe FM 99.1. "I notice, too, that it is primarily the indigenous Antiguan and Barbudans who are fighting the vac-

Cont'd on pg 4

cination process,” he told the program’s host, Senator Colin O’Neal Browne, adding: “What I’ve found is that a lot of the Caucasians who are living here, early and bright they got out there, they got vaccinated. A lot of our Caribbean brothers and sisters, they went out and got vaccinated.”

Prime Minister Browne said despite their own unwarranted hesitancy bordering on stubbornness, a lot of native Antiguan and Barbudans were likely to later blame local authorities for consequences that arise as a result of failing to avail them-

selves of the vaccines while they are available.

“Mark my words ... at some point, if we run out of vaccines, and some ... indigent Antiguan don’t get vaccinated, they are going to blame the government and say we prioritize foreigners, when they had the opportunity – equal opportunity – to get vaccinated, and they totally allowed the boat to ... literally sail past them, deliberately,” said the head of government. PM Browne then went on to pose a vexing question that he disclosed has been assailing his mind for some time:

What would happen if the vaccine supplies that Antigua and Barbuda currently has in stock (but which are only very slowly being taken up by the eligible public) should reach their expiry date, unused?

“Where would we get the moral authority to continue to fight the international community for vaccine accessibility and equity? All that will go out the window. And certainly Antigua and Barbuda will not be a priority for vaccines in the future if we are going to dump vaccines in June [next month!] if they expire.”

The Prime Minister said that in such an unfortunate scenario, “What we may even have to do if by about, maybe, the middle of June we recognize that we still have a large quantity of vaccines that may not be utilized, we may have to donate them to another country. And then what if, having donated them, we end up with an outbreak – let’s say – early July?”

PM Browne posited such discomforting probabilities as further proof that, “Our people need to look at all of these issues and to be a little more mature in their thinking.”



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.

Monday, 17th May 2021	Tuesday, 18th May 2021	Wednesday, 19th May 2021	Thursday, 20th May 2021	Friday, 21st May 2021
SECTION OF ALL SAINT WEST OF GAS STATION & CLARK'S HILL 8:30AM - 11:30AM	SECTION OF RADIO RANGE NEAR ST. LUTHERAN CHURCH 8:30AM - 11:30AM	JOLLY HARBOUR, HERMITAGE HOTEL AND GABRIEL DEVELOPMENT 8:30AM-1:00PM	SECTION OF FACTORY ROAD NEAR POTTERS AND JOHNSTON 8:30AM - 11:30AM	SECTION OF BUCKLEY LINE 8:30AM - 11:30AM
		SECTION OF PARES NEAR THE BAPTISTE RETREAT CENTRE 8:45AM - 11:30AM	SECTION OF BELLE VIEW HEIGHTS 8:30AM - 11:30AM	

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.

REVISION OF COVID FATALITIES COULD INCREASE NUMBER TO 40



By Shelton Daniel

The tally of persons who have died from COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda, since the pandemic arrived here 14 months ago, is definitely going to be increased from the current 34, due to revisions in how such fatalities are classified.

This is according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne when he spoke on the subject during his Saturday radio program, The Browne and Browne Show, on Pointe FM 99.1.

“Several more deaths are to be added to the dashboard. I would

have signaled that, I believe, about two Saturdays ago. My understanding is that the audit has been completed and, as a consequence, this would take our COVID deaths closer to 40,” he announced.

The Prime Minister said information given to him indicated that some of the cases now reclassified as COVID fatalities “are somewhat inconclusive in terms of the cause of death”.

Providing what he described as “a typical example”, PM Browne recounted that “one particular individual was actually killed in a motor vehicular ac-

cident, but was tested positive for COVID. Now COVID did not kill the person, but the fact that the person was part of the active COVID cases – in order to ensure that the numbers balance and no one accuses us of fudging the figures – they may well have to include that death among the COVID [fatalities], even though that person did not die of COVID.”

He added that there was “another person who died of a heart attack [and was subsequently] tested positive for COVID, but there is no conclusive evidence that ... COVID killed

that person. But again, out of an abundance of caution, health officials may have to include those in the deaths.”

According to the Prime Minister, this revision of COVID fatalities “means we will be closer to 40 deaths”, a number that he lamented as excessive for such a small population as Antigua and Barbuda’s.

“Out of 100,000 it’s a lot and, if I’m not mistaken, only Saint Lucia has more deaths per 100,000 than Antigua and Barbuda. I believe the total deaths in Saint Lucia is about 76,” the nation’s leader referenced.

ONE DEATH AND ONE NEW COVID-19 CASE IN LATEST UPDATE

The Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) through the Ministry of Health has revealed one (1) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm, which is the most recent data available at press time.

This is out of sixty-two (62) samples processed by MSJMC.

One (1) Covid-19 related death was recorded increasing the total to thirty-three (33). No further details have been provided about this latest victim to have succumbed to the disease.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one thousand two hundred and forty-one (1241); which is inclusive of twenty-nine (29) active cases. Of these active cases four (4) are hospitalized with all

being considered mild. Meanwhile, thirty one thousand six hundred and forty-seven (31,647) first doses have been administered while one thousand five hundred and ninety-eight (1,598) second doses were administered.

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GENDER AFFAIRS FOCUSES ON MEN'S CRITICAL ISSUES IN SHORT SERIES

The Directorate of Gender Affairs, the national gender machinery and focal agency for gender development in Antigua and Barbuda has launched a series of short live discussions on critical issues affecting men. Broadcasted live on social media, the Directorate is hosting a one-hour chat with men in Antigua and Barbuda about the issues they face and how we, as a nation, can address them. Dubbed a "safe space" several influential men, from a wide cross-section of the society have appeared every Thursday online for the live, riveting conversations that are relevant to men and boys in the country.

The topics being discussed range from fatherhood, Men's health, education, and professional development, and drug abuse to name a few.

Mr. Colin John-Jenkins, Architect, lecturer, and social media protagonist along with Mr. Naik Phillip, banker and actor started off the series



with the first edition focusing on fatherhood. That episode is said to have attracted hundreds of views and allowed the audience to post comments and questions.

Last Thursday's episode highlighted critical issues faced by men in education and professional development. The one-hour episode witnessed a frank discussion with Mr. Zachary Phillips, a young Attorney at law and two-time valedictorian at the University of the West Indies, and Mr. Regis Burton, a Queen's Young Leader and Founder of the Nolan Hue organization.

Issues such as accessing higher education, attitude towards education, your appearance, preparing for opportunities, training, and development among others were dived into on the one-hour program.

Acting Director of Gender Affairs, Jamie Saunders highlighted the reason why it was so important to produce the forum. According to media reports, Mr. Saunders said, "We wanted to provide a space for men

and young boys to first identify the issues that are affecting them and give the Directorate an opportunity to address them once we have a better understanding of what is plaguing them." The series continues this Thursday from 8 pm on the Directorate of Gender Affairs Antigua Barbuda Facebook page. The general public is encouraged to tune in.



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ABLP celebrates 75th Anniversary

Antigua and Barbuda's oldest political Party, the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) is celebrating its 75th anniversary tomorrow, May 18, 2021.

Several activities have been planned to mark the occasion. However, according to Party chairman, E.P. Chet Greene, a decision was made not to hold any event that would involve large gathering due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Instead, much of the activities will focus on a media day when Party officials will appear on several radio programmes throughout the day.

ABLP Political Leader and Prime Minister, Gaston Browne is expected to speak about the Party and its unmatched contributions to nation building as well as to single

out some of those who gave unselfishly to the Party and by extension, the nation.

One of the main events of the day will be the renaming of the Mount St. John's Medical Centre on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, on the quad at the entrance to the MSJMC.

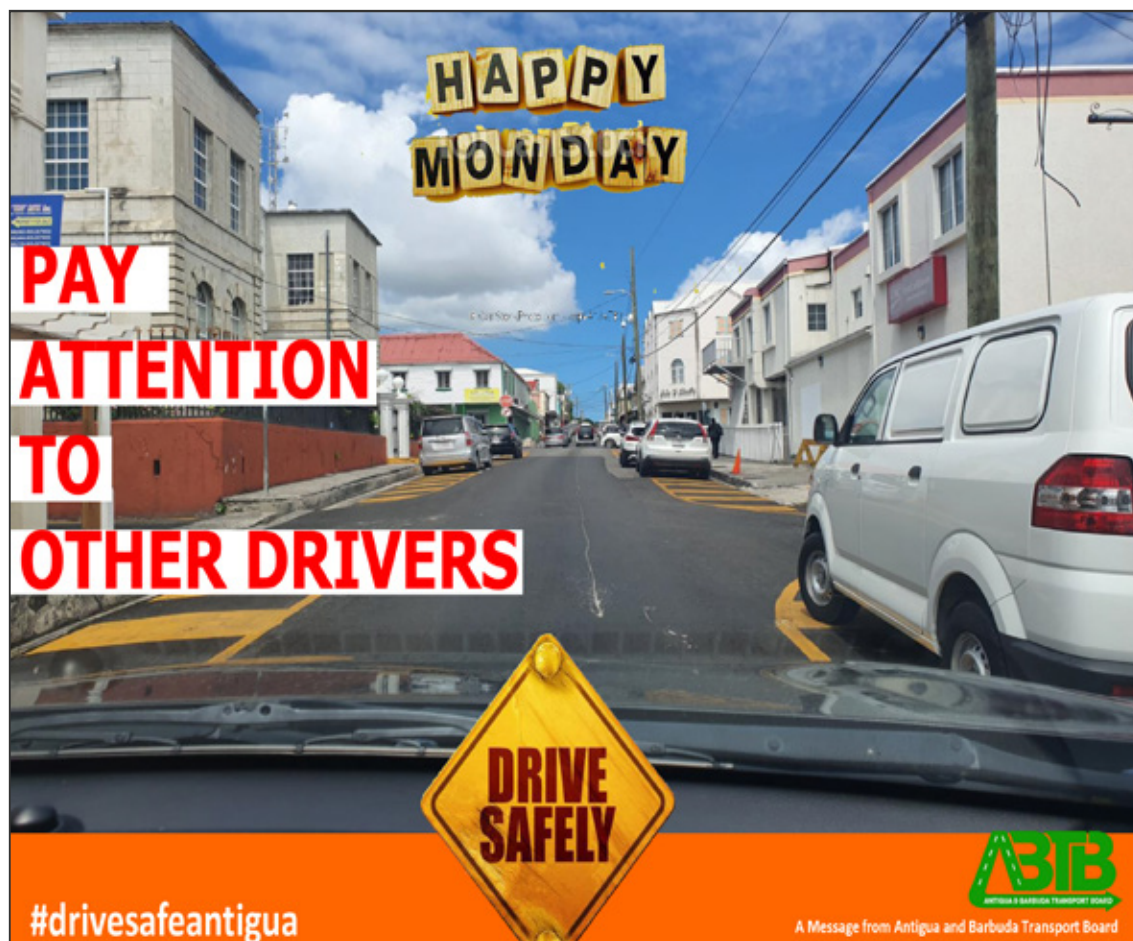
It will thenceforth be known as the Sir Les-

ter Bird MSJMC in honour of the former Prime Minister and National Hero of Antigua and Barbuda. It was agreed that he was the most deserving, based on the persistence and determination to conclude the project despite major opposition to it.

The ABLP is also producing a commemo-

rative magazine that will highlight its major achievements under the stewardship of its three political leaders. Father of the Nation, Sir Vere Bird, Sir Lester Bird and Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

The ABLP has only lost three general elections in all its history; 1971, 2004 and 2009.



International pannists competition gets much applause



Khan Cordice



The international Panorama Competition that brings together some of the top pan soloists from across the Caribbean and the world...gets a big thumbs up from musical arranger and head of the Department of Culture, Khan Cordice. Eight young talented pannists from Antigua and Bar-

buda participated in the competition.

Five made it to the preliminary rounds but only one made it into the semi-finals. That competitor – Kevhani Greenaway - did not make it into the finals. Commenting on the competition, Cordice noted that this year's Panorama is already at an extremely high

standard as participants from all over the globe have brought their best in both playing and production to the competition.


“For the first time in this competition, Antigua and Barbuda represented in its numbers showcasing five (5) young talents (eight persons auditioned) in the prelim-

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inary round with each showcasing a high degree of skill, artistry and overall talent. Unfortunately, with strong competitors at the preliminary stage, Antigua and Barbuda only saw one representative move on to the semifinal round," he reported.

Cordice feels that Greenaway's performance during which he presented a rose to a young woman, displayed much creativity and talent as he recognized that the competition featured some of the most exciting solo performances seen throughout the entire COVID period. "Though Greenaway

did not make the finals, Antigua and Barbuda can rest assured that he and the other representatives from the twin-island state have represented well. They will continue to grow as they learn from this experience, competing with some of the best pannists from around the world. Let us continue to encourage and show support to them and others who may opt to vie for the coveted title of Champion of the "World Cup of Steelpan," he declared.

Greenaway, 20, from Upper Fort Road, said he was disappointed not to have made

it into the finals, but he feels that the competition was 'a great experience' for him. He is also thankful for the exposure which the competition gave him as he believes that it will be of some benefit to him in the future.

Asked what advice he has for future participants in the competition, Greenaway's words of advice were; practice, practice, practice! Of the 20 semifinalists, Greenaway placed 17th with an overall score of 78 out of a possible 100 points.

The Panorama competition concludes on May 29. It is being held virtually.

Nurses get help to cope with the stresses of the job



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association, Soria Duprie-Winston

Members of the nursing fraternity in Antigua and Barbuda who just concluded a weeklong programme of activities that focused on their profession, were exposed to strategies to help them cope with some of the stresses that come as part of being on the job.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association, Soria Duprie-Winston, said part of the focus of the week's activities was the mental health of nurses. "It is important that we focus on the mental health of nurses as it is not easy for them to see people dying almost on a daily basis especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also very stressful when we saw one

of our colleagues succumb to this disease," she stated.

During the week, the nurses took part in several virtual sessions to examine coping strategies in the face of an ongoing pandemic. Also nurses' week placed focus on the duties of nurses in critical times such as the present coronavirus pandemic. "We looked at our role as part of a team of health professionals providing essential care to patients," she noted.

Other topics included infectious disease competencies which emphasized the importance of wearing personal protective equipment (PPE's) properly.

Nurses Week 2021 ran from May 10 to 16.

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Are we ready for the 5th Industrial Revolution?

By Christal Clashing

“The Eastern Caribbean is on schedule to be one of the most economically disadvantaged regions by 2030,” warns Gabriel Abed, founder of Bitt, a fintech (finance technology) company based in Barbados. The man behind the ECCB’s digital currency pilot programme, DCash, explains that one of this region’s greatest impediments is using systems that weren’t designed for us. We can see that all around us. We, in the Caribbean are

a free people living with the lingering traditions of colonial Britain, bowing to the powerful influence of the United States of America, all the while being disconnected from our ancestral history of motherlands such as Africa and India through slavery and indentured service, respectively. The indigenous people among us, often forgotten, cling to the vestiges of their populations and their cultures. We are a creolised melting

pot of people, with each island nation independent and unique, but each on its own, cannot survive. As independent nations, we are young and are fighting to carve our place on the global stage of politics and economic sustainability. Will our size mean we are ignored and manipulated? Or will we use our smallness as an advantage to be quick responding, innovative and creative? There are the questions we as a country and as individ-

uals must ask ourselves as we stand within the 4th Industrial Revolution with the 5th revolution on the horizon. Characterised by intelligent technologies, block chain, robotics and the Internet of things (IoT), the 4th industrial revolution is here, yet many of us do not know or understand these technologies that characterise the new nature of work.

However, it is not an uncommon phenomenon to not understand nor even welcome the new technologies that will define the future. The first industrial revolution brought in steam engines and the first mechanical loom for textile production. The second revolution brought the production of steel, electricity and combustion engines. The third ushered in the age of computers, digitization and the Internet.

With each revolution, some will outrightly resist as any disruptive technology and business model has its critics. Airbnb had the hotels against it, newspapers bristled against the Internet, and when electricity first made its emergence, persons cautioned against electric wires powering street lights. We

often fear the change that comes with technologies we don't quite understand but like everything else, we eventually adapt. Yet, the faster we are to embrace the technologies that mark an industrial revolution, the quicker we are to take advantage of the financial opportunities new technologies afford. Most likely, you are already using technologies of the 4th industrial revolution or know someone who is, even if you don't realize it.

Artificial intelligence (AI) powers applications like Google Maps to give real-time traffic insight. Blockchain is what powers cryptocurrencies and digital currencies like the ECCB DCash. Through the Internet of Things, we are communicating with physical devices through WiFi connections such as wearable fitness trackers like Fitbits. However, although many of these technologies are created for an eventual global audience, there is more that we can do as a region and individual nations, to further shape such technologies to the Caribbean context. Where we face challenges like catastrophic natural disasters, threats to eco-

systems and the generation of clean energy, we should no longer pretend we don't have the intelligence among our people to deal with such issues using emerging technologies. Institutions such as the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the ECCB are starting to show that we can shape these technologies for our own contexts.

The UWI Five Islands campus in Antigua is opening a School of Science, Artificial Intelligence and Computing, to prepare students to creatively apply emerging technologies to our region. Similarly, the ECCB has taken advantage of their small size to act quickly and test the waters of blockchain technology, even before regional bodies like the European Union.

Institutional bodies now have to be careful to not stifle innovation and entrepreneurship that emerge from individuals and coalitions seeking to solve the region's most challenging problems. If they are not careful, too much regulation could sound the death knell for our region's much-needed ability to craft solutions for us by us.



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BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

Barbados and IMF reach staff level agreement

The IMF and Barbados have reached a staff-level agreement on the completion of the fifth review under the EFF arrangement, which was conducted virtually between May 3- 7, 2021. According to the IMF, the economy remains severely depressed by the ongoing global pandemic with tourism operating at a fraction of normal levels. Economic growth for 2021 is premised on a modest recovery of tourism in the second half of 2021. The Fund however hailed the new central bank law adopted in December 2020, which it deems a critical safeguard for continued prudent macroeconomic policy. International reserves now stand at US\$1.3 billion and all quantitative targets for end-March under the EFF were met, except for the performance criterion on central government transfers and grants to public institutions. The Government of Barbados is targeting a primary balance of 0% of GDP for FY2021/22 (compared to a deficit of 1% of GDP in FY2020/21). The long-term debt target of 60% of GDP will be extended by two years (from FY2033/34 to FY 2035/36) to reflect the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

GHL relisting bolsters market capitalisation to \$1.9 trillion

Guardian Holding Limited, GHL, has now relisted on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) after a 8-year hiatus. However the stock did not trade on May 5, its first day on the market, because the price surpassed the circuit breaker, which prevents rapid spikes in prices. Nonetheless, the stock is already trending 33% higher than the price on the Trinidad & Tobago exchange with the opening price in Jamaica largely reflecting the price in T&T at TT\$26. At the listing ceremony for the 232 million units of GHL stock, JSE Managing Director Marlene Street Forrest said the cross-listing would add \$135 Billion in market capitalisation, pushing the value of the combined market to around \$1.9 trillion.

Electronic payments soar by 55.7 % in The Bahamas

The Central Bank of The Bahamas 2020 payments survey shows that there were 3,317 cases of cheque, debit and credit card fraud cases processed by commercial banks valued at some \$5 million. 68.6% of the fraud involving debit card transactions totalled about \$900,000. This rise in payment fraud comes as the volume of electronic payments through the Bahamas Interbank Settlement System Real Time Gross Settlement System increased by 55.7%, with 213,025 transactions last year valued at \$45.5B. Debit card transactions declined by 17.1% to 12.4 million transactions, with values also declining by 7.7% to \$1.8B

Cayman records public sector surplus of \$202.6 million

Public sector finances in the first quarter of this 2021 in the Cayman Islands have exceeded budgetary expectation with a surplus of \$196.2 million. According to Finance Minister Chris Saunders, revenues benefited from financial services fees that are predominantly due at the beginning of the year. Statutory authorities and government companies added a net surplus of \$6.4 million, providing an overall public sector surplus in the first quarter of \$202.6 million. In the meantime, the size of total government debt of \$243.8 million at the end of March represents about 5.1% of GDP. Government's cash balance and reserves reached \$611.2 million at the end of March. Of these funds, \$172.1 million are restricted, as part of government's general reserve and the Environmental Protection Fund. Restricted reserves can only be spent with the approval of Parliament.

Investment currency outflows nearly 50% due to COVID-19

The restrictions placed on foreign exchange outflows by the Central Bank of The Bahamas (CBOB) in May 2020 resulted in resident investments through the Investment Currency Market (ICM) declining by 42.6%. The bank had suspended residents' access to

foreign exchange for portfolio purchases in the ICM and the Bahamas Depository Receipts Programme. Approvals for commercial banks' remittance of dividend payments abroad were suspended. According to the CBOB these measures saved up to an estimated \$400 M in claims on the reserves. "While the moratorium on dividend remittances was lifted in March 2021, the suspension on portfolio outflows was not scheduled for reassessment until the second half of 2021. As to portfolio investment outflows, during 2020 there was no activity by broker dealers, while resident investments via the ICM totalled \$28.4 M compared to \$49.5 M in 2019," the annual report states.

Barbados' revenues for FY 2020/21 decline 8%

For the fiscal period ending March 31, 2021, the Barbados Revenue Authority collected just over \$2.24 billion down \$208 million relative to fiscal year 2019/20. According to Revenue Commissioner, Louisa Lewis-Ward "this decline of 8% is primarily attributed to a decline of \$192 million in VAT; a decline of \$117 million in income tax; and an excise tax decline of \$81 million." Secondary impacts were felt with declines in property tax, withholding tax, fuel tax and room rate levy of \$24 million, \$17 million, \$15 million, & \$14 million, respectively. Alternatively, corporate taxes performed well, buffering some of the negative impact, without which "the decline would have averaged 20%."

TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
10:30AM TO 1:30PM

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

Come now, lady and gentlemen, get off the fence and lead.



Gaston Browne Prime Minister
Political Leader
Antigua-Barbuda Labour Party



Trevor Walker MP
Political Leader
Barbuda Peoples' Movement



Harold Lovell
Political Leader
United Progressive Party



Joanne Messiah
Political Leader
Democratic National Alliance

By: Arvel Grant, Political and Current Affairs Analyst

Politicians' fence-sitting on mandatory COVID19 vaccine for those not contra-indicated could be responsible for COVID19 illness, death, and economic disaster in their country. Given the (COVID 19-driven) existential crisis confronting the social and economic future of tourism dependent economies, I would much rather see these four (4) Antiguan and Barbudan political leaders, in a room hammering out a political consensus, on how to achieve herd immunity, in our country. The COVID19 crisis is the worst national disaster to face Antigua-Barbuda in its history. Without herd immunity, tourism dependent economies will collapse! If not in the same room virtually or face-to-face, I can (only) put Antigua-Barbuda's political leaders on the same page, to try and fuel the conversation, across the region. Given their ages, I would be shocked and dismayed

if these four (4) political leaders have not (all) benefitted from being vaccinated at least 11 times, as children and (now) against the COVID19 virus. I would not be surprised if they are parents and grandparents of children, who received the following vaccinations as infants and young children:

- 1) At 0-6 weeks: BCG – against tuberculosis.
- 2) At 6 weeks: 1st dose of OPV/IPV against Polio.
- 3) At 6 weeks: 1st dose of DPT/hepatitis B against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and hepatitis B.
- 4) At 3 months: 2nd dose of OPV/IPV and second dose of DPT/Hepatitis B.
- 5) At 5-6 months: 3rd dose OPV/IPV against polio.
- 6) At 5-6 months, 3rd dose of DPT/hepatitis B.
- 7) At 12 months: 1st dose of MMR against mumps, measles and rubella.

At 18 months – 1st booster for DPT and 1st Booster for OPV/IPV.

9) At 4-6 years: 2nd booster for DPT and second booster for OPV/IPV+ 1st booster for MMR.

Many people refusing the vaccine today, are alive because they were vaccinated as children.

I firmly agree that it is unwise and inhumane, to physically force any competent adult to be vaccinated against her or his will. However, it is certainly not unconstitutional to require everyone (without medically confirmed contra-indication) to be vaccinated against a viral pandemic, which leaves: sickness, disability, death, and economic disaster in its tracks. It is certainly not unwise, inhumane, or unconstitutional to deny unvaccinated individuals who are not contra-indicated, access to some privileges and rights, while offering such privileges and rights to the vaccinated.

Most importantly, precedent exist to deny children access to school unless they are vaccinated. Why then allow children of parents

who are not vaccinated against COVID19 on to the school plant? Such unvaccinated parents may serve as vectors, shedding vaccine particles on their children, who in turn, take the virus to school, spreading COVID 19 among children of parents who are vaccinated? Surely, is that not unjust and unreasonable?

(https://www.who.int/.../Case_study_report-school...)

The political establishment in Antigua-Barbuda and across the Caribbean, simply has no choice, but to stand in united support of vaccinations against the marauding and deadly COVID19 virus and its misguided group of anti-vaxxers. Because our societies are so heavily influenced by Party loyalties, national political leaders must form a united front to help our civilization achieve the coveted herd immunity against the COVID19 virus. Given the stakes, no political leader can afford to find her or himself on the side of "death and disease history". No political leader can afford to be blamed for aiding the cause of an anti-vaccine campaign, when not to be vaccinated means: sickness, disability, death, loss of employment, and depleting savings to many. If the nation's political leadership is united against the

virus, it becomes easier to unite: Religion, Trade unions and other parts of civil society, against the common enemy.

Ultimately, unless Antigua-Barbuda (and other tourism dependent economies) achieve herd immunity (that is, around 70% of the population is vaccinated against COVID 19) visitors from source markets, will stop coming and these countries, will see their societies' economic fortunes wither and shrink to unrecognizable levels. Hotels, guest houses, transportation providers, restaurant operators, food vendors, tour operators, souvenir vendors and providers of water sport services will be mostly, idled. With the dry-up of cash-flow from the tourism and hospitality sectors, there will be a lot less money to spend on: tithes and offerings; transportation, grocery shops, supermarkets, hardware stores, pharmacies, on doctors, lawyers, and other services.

Many small businesses will have to close while larger businesses will be forced to cut more workers from their payroll. Imports and Custom duties will decline, revenue into the consolidated funds and the accounts of statutory organizations will shrink. Central Government and statuto-

ry bodies will be forced to reduce staff. Pensions and social welfare payments will begin to disappear. Farmers and fisher folks will find that less consumers will be able to purchase their food, meats, and fish. Construction activities will decline and many will default on loans.

It is (therefore) in the interest of all political leaders and their organizations, to get out front in encouraging vaccination by all who can tolerate the vaccine; and to shun any appearance of giving cover to anti-vaxxers and others discouraging uptake of the COVID 19 vaccine.

In those days, the candidates and political Party seen as responsible for the country's failure to achieve herd immunity, will have difficulty regaining the confidence of the electorate.

Unless Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Caribbean, are quickly counted among those countries which have achieved herd immunity against the COVID 19 virus; our tourism source markets will dry-up and life will become quite grim for a lot of people in paradise.

Walk good until next time.

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Dr Fuad Khan

Consumers adjust spending, feel economic pinch

Trinidad Guardian - Consumers continue to feel the pinch as the country faces a second lockdown a mere one year after the first one. It is not only lower-income people but citizens from across the different socio-economic brackets that are forced to cut back on spending and reprioritize in their personal lives as the economy contracts, businesses close, and people lose jobs.

People from different walks of life and supermarket owners spoke to the Sunday Guardian as they are forced to modify their spending and shopping habits as the business [sector] continues to slow down and the economic downturn deepens.

Former health minister Dr. Fuad Khan, a well-known urologist, is alarmed at how much the economy has been crippled and how it has affected his business and

personal life. He referred to the current crisis as an “economic mess.”

“At least I am lucky that I can spend, although my private practice has dropped by 70 per cent. These are people coming in for surgical practice. People who could have paid for an operation are no longer able to do it and so I have to do a payment plan and make sure that the nursing home and doctors get paid. I tell patients that they can pay over 10 years if they want to. People come but they can’t afford the surgical part of it. The forced recession is shrinking my practice,” he said.

“That is what the recession has done. People have no money and I feel sorry for them.”

Describing the steep decline in his medical practice, he admitted that even someone with his means has been forced to make

cutbacks in spending.

“Right now I have been reduced to buying the bare essentials. I do buy a lot of medical books to keep myself up-to-date. Amazon, Springer and those places seem to do quite well because they are online. Yet there are other people in T&T who are shutting down. When you shut down local businesses, you increase Amazon’s profit. That is unfair to our population, as what you are doing is increasing credit card payment, and so you have a shortage of US dollars. The good thing is my credit card payment is low as I just buy books and food and nothing else.”

He said his children have finished school and, as he is older, he does not have many expenses but feels sorry for other people who have bills to pay and do not have the resources to do so.

Give police more training



Andrew Cave, father of Shaquon Cave who met his death in police custody just over a year ago

Barbados Advocate - A call is being made for enhanced training for members of the Royal Barbados Police Force so as to guide how they engage with and apprehend persons of interest.

The call came recently from Andrew Cave, the father of Shaquon John Jose Cave who met his death while in police custody back in April 2020. The family of this young man are pressing ahead with their continued call for justice to be served. "The last time I heard something from the police was the day of Shaquon's death when I went to the station and the station sergeant of the Black Rock Police

Station told me he wanted to have a word with me outside. He did give me his condolences and he said to me Shaquon died in their custody and they are going to do an investigation and they are going to get back to me as soon as possible. Now this is a year and only when we decided to go to the press, we have a statement from the Deputy Police Commissioner saying that the investigation is at an advanced stage, but at no point in time [were we] contacted to say we've reached a specific point and to give us an update on the investigation," Cave explained. "As a family, we need answers.

It is imperative that we put this situation to bed. This was very, very tough on the entire family and we really need to have closure. It is very, very difficult, especially the circumstances of how Shaquon died," he stated. "Now let me clear the air: My son Shaquon John Jose Cave was not mentally challenged, but he was having a mental breakdown at the given point in time, and four untrained civilians were able to apprehend Shaquon without any damage to him, but after he was handed over to the police, our son died in police custody," Cave stressed. Pointing out that Shaquon's mother,

Trudy Chow, had called the same police station four days prior when their son went missing to inform them of the circumstances, Andrew stressed, "Now it is a question of being trained. I believe that our police officers need to be trained better in handling situations just like the one with Shaquon." "The police officers are there to protect, serve and reassure. My son needed a hand, instead my son was given a foot, two different things. I want to say again, we need answers as a family" he said in reference to eyewitness accounts that an officer allegedly stood on his son's neck.

MAN DEAD, SON HOSPITALISED; FOOD POISONING SUSPECTED



Jamaica police are carrying an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death a father.

ST. ANN, Jamaica (Jamaica Observer) — A man is dead and his son hospitalised in a suspected case of food poisoning.

The deceased, 58-year-old farmer Joseph George Stephenson, and his son Irwin Stephenson of Yankee District, Bahamia in St. Ann, became ill on May 9 after a meal of fish with rice and peas.

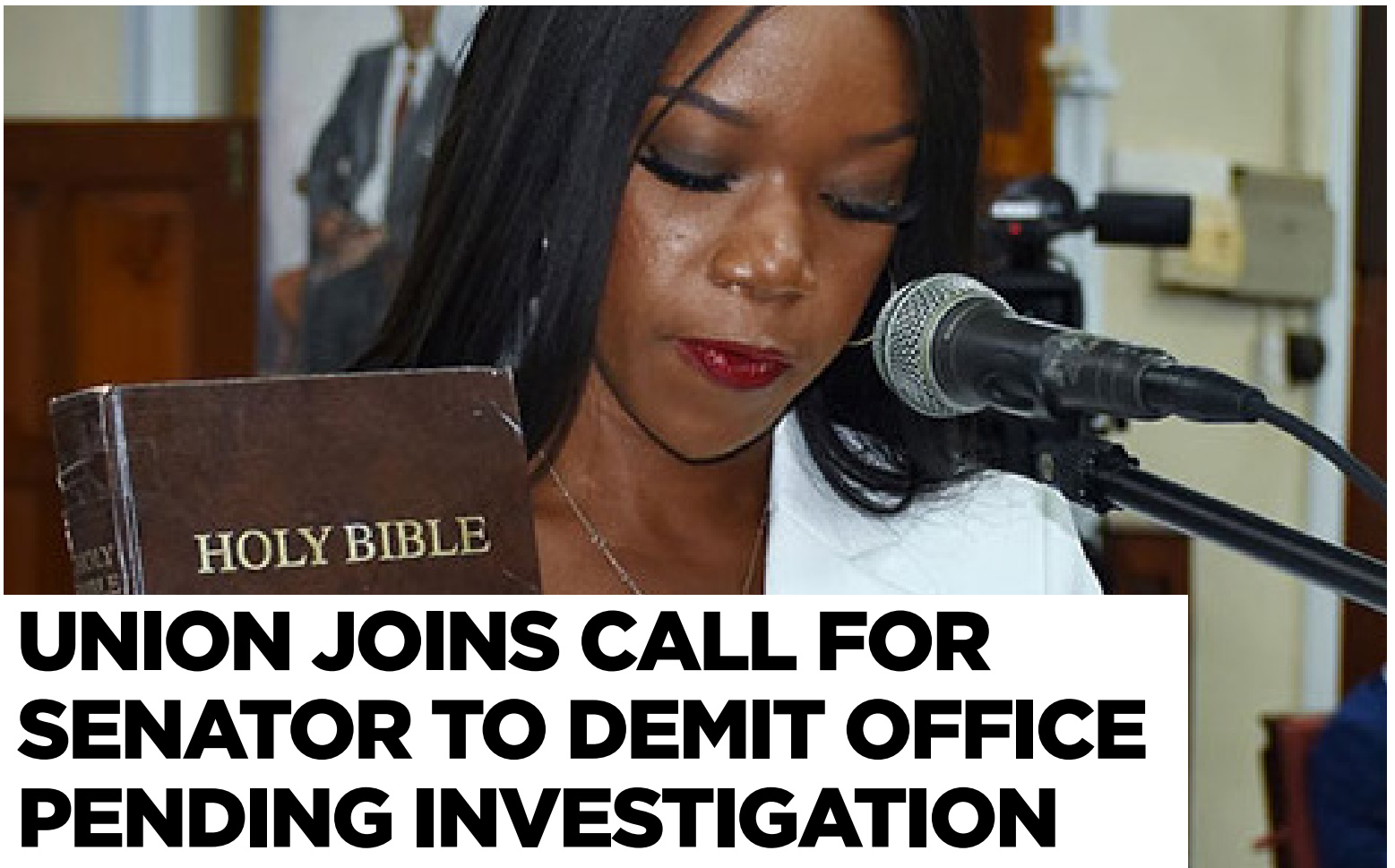
According to police reports, both men began showing symptoms of diarrhoea which escalated until Friday, May 14.

Joseph Stephenson's stepson, Albert Rose, was at the home in the process of having both men seek medical care when the farmer's body was found slumped over his dining table. Irwin Stephenson was rushed to Percy Junor Hospital

in Manchester where he was treated and released. Samples of his urine were collected to be tested for traces of foreign substance, but the police suspect that the Grunt fish he and his father consumed was contaminated with embalming liquid. Samples of the meal have been collected. If it is confirmed that the elder Stephenson died from food poi-

soning, he would be the second person in St. Ann who has suffered this fate since the start of the year.

In January, 10-year-old Richard Immanuel of Top Bay, Corner Street in Discovery Bay, who was among several people who purchased and consumed a drink from a vendor, also died. That case is still being investigated.



UNION JOINS CALL FOR SENATOR TO DEMIT OFFICE PENDING INVESTIGATION

Deputy House Speaker Senator Ashelle Morgan during her swearing in last year

iWitness News SVG - President of the Public Service Union (PSU) Elroy Boucher was among protesters outside Parliament on Tuesday. The union issued a statement calling for Senator Ashelle Morgan – like Assistant Director of Public Prosecution Karim Nelson – to demit office until the criminal investigation in which they are persons of interest is concluded.

“It is important that all people, organisations, the ordinary man, stand in defence of democracy,” Boucher told iWitness News at the protest in Kingstown.

Boucher held a placard that read, “WE NEED EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW”.

He told iWitness News: “What has happened with those allegations against Ashelle Morgan and Karim Nelson, they are very serious and speak to the rule of law — whether the law is applied equally to all persons or some persons are above the law.”

He questioned why no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the April 13 shooting of Cornelius John, 60, at his home in Diamond. John told iWitness News

that he was shot by the taller of two men who entered his property uninvited, and that they were in the company of a woman who he recognised.

He said the woman threatened to shoot him in the mouth if he calls her name again, adding that he recognised the woman, notwithstanding her COVID-19 mask, as she grew up in the community.

“Why hasn’t anybody been picked up for questioning or even arrested or charged. If it was the ordinary man, they would have been arrested or charged long time,”

Boucher said.

“Desron, the Lavaman, he was arrested for a non-violent act that has not impact on anybody else’s life,” he said of the man who was detained after he climbed La Soufriere volcano days after it erupted explosively.

“But here we have, based on the allegation, a person who was shot, left to bleed, beaten up, but yet no one has been charged, no one has been arrested. That’s very serious in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and we all should really stand against that,” Boucher told iWitness News.

Dr Anthony Fauci speaks to a US Senate sub-committee hearing on May 11, 2021

Fauci says pandemic exposed 'undeniable effects of racism'

ATLANTA (AP)—The immunologist who leads the COVID-19 response in the United States said Sunday that “the undeniable effects of racism” have led to unacceptable health disparities that especially hurt African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans during the pandemic.

“COVID-19 has shown a bright light on our own society’s failings,” Dr. Anthony Fauci said during a graduation ceremony for Emory University.

Speaking by webcast from Washington, Fauci told the graduates in Atlanta that many members of minority groups work in essential jobs where they

might be exposed to the coronavirus. He also said they are more likely to become infected if exposed because of medical conditions such as hypertension, chronic lung disease, diabetes or obesity.

“Now, very few of these comorbidities have racial determinants,” Fauci said. “Almost all relate to the social determinants of health dating back to disadvantageous conditions that some people of color find themselves in from birth regarding the availability of an adequate diet, access to health care and the undeniable effects of racism in our society.” Fauci said correcting societal wrongs

will take a commitment of decades, and he urged the graduates to be part of the solution. Fauci said that once society returns to “some form of normality,” people should not forget that infectious disease has disproportionately hospitalized and killed people of color.

Fauci on Sunday was awarded the Emory University president’s medal. Previous recipients include former President Jimmy Carter, the Dalai Lama and the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon. In accepting the award, Fauci denounced the destruction of division.

“Societal divisiveness

is counterproductive in a pandemic,” Fauci said. “We must not be at odds with each other since the virus is the enemy, not each other.”

He praised the graduates for handling the profound disruption of the pandemic.

“Not since the influenza pandemic of 1918 has humanity faced a public health crisis of this magnitude,” he said. “Each of you deserves enormous respect for your extraordinary adaptability, resilience and dedication to learning, completing your studies, and graduating despite immense difficulties and uncertainties.”



Hundreds of bodies found buried along Indian riverbanks

Family members and relatives bow their heads in prayer after burying a person who died of reasons other than COVID-19

PRAYAGRAJ, India (AP) — Police are reaching out to villagers in northern India to investigate the recovery of bodies buried in shallow sand graves or washed up on the Ganges River banks, prompting speculation on social media that they're the remains of COVID-19 victims. In jeeps and boats, police used portable loudspeakers with microphones asking people not to dispose of bodies in rivers. "We are here to help you perform the last rites," police said. On Friday, rains exposed the cloth coverings of bodies buried in shallow sand graves on a wide, flat riverbank in Prayagraj, a city in Uttar Pradesh state. While officials say the riverside

burials have taken place for decades, the sheer numbers in the shadow of the pandemic are focusing more attention on the practice. Navneet Sehgal, a state government spokesman, on Sunday denied local media reports that more than 1,000 corpses of COVID-19 victims had been recovered from rivers in the past two weeks. "I bet these bodies have nothing to do with COVID-19," he said. He said some villagers did not cremate their dead as is customary, due to a Hindu tradition during some periods of religious significance, and instead disposed of them in rivers or by digging graves on riverbanks. Ramesh Kumar

Singh, a member of Bondhu Mahal Samiti, a philanthropic organization that helps cremate bodies, said the number of deaths is very high in rural areas, and poor people have been disposing of bodies in the river because of the exorbitant cost of performing the last rites and a shortage of wood. The cost of cremation has tripled up to 15,000 rupees (\$210). On Saturday, an Associated Press photojournalist estimated there were at least 300 shallow riverside graves on a sand bar near Prayagraj. Each grave was covered by an orange, yellow or reddish cloth and appeared laid out in the same direction. Several policemen were at the

scene, but allowed a family who arrived in a small truck to bury a 75-year-old woman at the site. K.P. Singh, a senior police officer, said authorities had earmarked a cremation ground on the Prayagraj riverbank for those who died of COVID-19, and police were no longer allowing any burials on the riverfront. Authorities in Sehgal state have found "a small number" of bodies on the riverbanks, he said, but didn't give a figure. However, on Sunday, a 30-year-old Buddhist came to the same riverbank in Prayagraj with other family members and buried his mother, who he said had died of a heart attack.



Israel kills 42 in Gaza as Netanyahu warns war will go on

On Sunday mourners carry the bodies of Palestinians who were killed in overnight Israeli airstrikes.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City flattened three buildings and killed at least 42 people Sunday, Palestinian medics said, in the deadliest single attack in the latest round of violence.

Despite the toll and international efforts to broker a cease-fire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signaled the fourth war with Gaza's Hamas rulers would rage on.

In a televised address, Netanyahu said the attacks were continuing at "full-force" and will "take time". Israel "wants to levy a heavy price" on the Hamas militant group, he said, flanked by his defense minister and political rival, Benny Gantz, in a show of unity.

Hamas also pressed

on, launching rockets from civilian areas in Gaza toward civilian areas in Israel. One slammed into a synagogue in the southern city of Ashkelon hours before evening services for the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, Israeli emergency services said. No injuries were reported.

In the Israeli air assault early Sunday, families were buried under piles of cement rubble and twisted rebar. A yellow canary lay crushed on the ground. Shards of glass and debris covered streets blocks away from the major downtown thoroughfare where the three buildings were hit over the course of five minutes around 1 a.m. The hostilities have repeatedly escalated over the

past week, marking the worst fighting in the territory that is home to 2 million Palestinians since Israel and Hamas' devastating 2014 war.

"I have not seen this level of destruction through my 14 years of work," said Samir al-Khatib, an emergency rescue official in Gaza. "Not even in the 2014 war."

Rescuers furiously dug through the rubble using excavators and bulldozers amid clouds of heavy dust. One shouted "Can you hear me?" into a hole. "Are you OK?" he asked. Minutes later, first responders pulled a survivor out. The Gaza Health Ministry said 16 women and 10 children were among those killed, with more than 50 people wound-

ed. Haya Abdelal, 21, lives in a building next to one that was destroyed and said she was sleeping when the airstrikes sent her fleeing into the street. She accused Israel of not giving its usual warning to residents to flee before launching such an attack.

"We are tired," she said, "We need a truce. We can't bear it anymore."

The Israeli army spokesperson's office said the strike targeted Hamas "underground military infrastructure." As a result of the strike, "the underground facility collapsed, causing the foundation of the civilian houses above them to collapse as well, leading to unintended casualties."



Schools and other learning institutions are being disinfected across Taiwan

Taiwan orders toughest curbs amid infections spike

BBC World News - Taiwan's government has imposed its toughest restrictions so far, as the island tries to battle a spike in Covid-19 cases.

The authorities are shutting down cinemas and entertainment venues until 28 May, while limiting gatherings to five indoors and 10 outdoors. President Tsai Ing-wen urged the public not to panic-buy basic necessities. Taiwan - which has so far survived the pandemic almost unscathed - on Sunday reported 207 new infections.

The island of 23 million people has record-

ed 1,682 infections and 12 Covid-related deaths since the start of the pandemic. Taiwan's impressive success battling the coronavirus has been largely attributed to early and strict border controls, a ban on foreign visitors, and mandatory quarantine for all Taiwanese returning home.

In a separate development on Sunday, Singapore said all schools as well as junior colleges and universities would shift to home-based learning from 19 May amid a spike in infections. Singapore on Sunday reported 49 new cases, including 38 locally

transmitted infections. This is the highest daily tally since last September. Singapore has so far confirmed more than 61,000 cases with 31 deaths. The government said masks must be now worn outdoors, urging people to work and study from home.

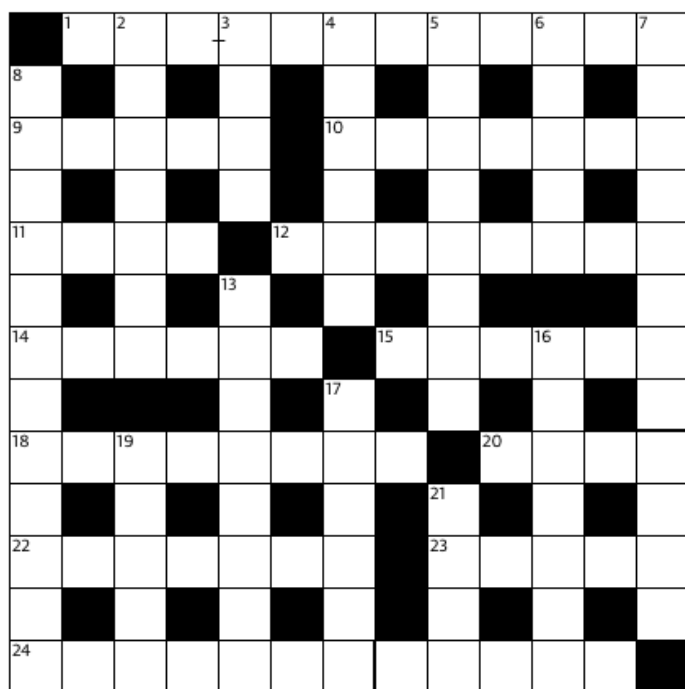
The capital Taipei remains the main infections hotspot, forcing city authorities to raise the coronavirus alert there to Level 3. Taiwan has four Covid-19 response levels, and the Level 3 alert stops just short of lockdown, local media say. This is unprecedented, as Taiwan has until

now not had to resort to such restrictions since the outbreak began. In addition, shoppers across the island are being restricted to buying just two items of some goods after supermarket shelves were emptied in recent days. President Tsai on Saturday warned that panic-buying would only increase the risk of Covid clusters.

Instant noodles and food in general, as well as toilet paper, was available in sufficient quantities and could easily be stored again by retailers, the president was quoted as saying by the Taiwan News.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Speedy crossword No 1,336



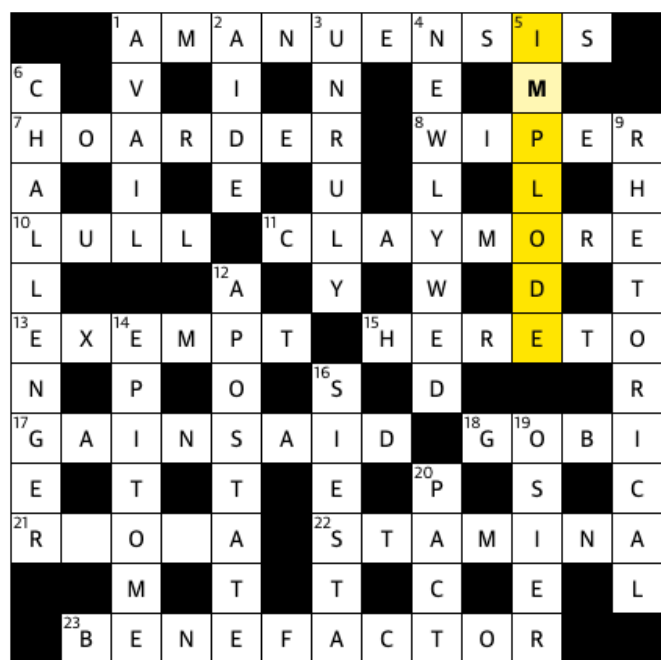
Across

- 1 Poorly thought out (3-9)
 9 Wear down (5)
 10 Rod used in making thread (7)
 11 Fake (4)
 12 Distinguished (8)
 14 Buy back (6)
 15 Breed (6)
 18 Dodge (8)
 20 Even-handed (4)
 22 Exploitation to the point of diminishing returns (7)
 23 Problems – difficulties (informal) (5)

Down

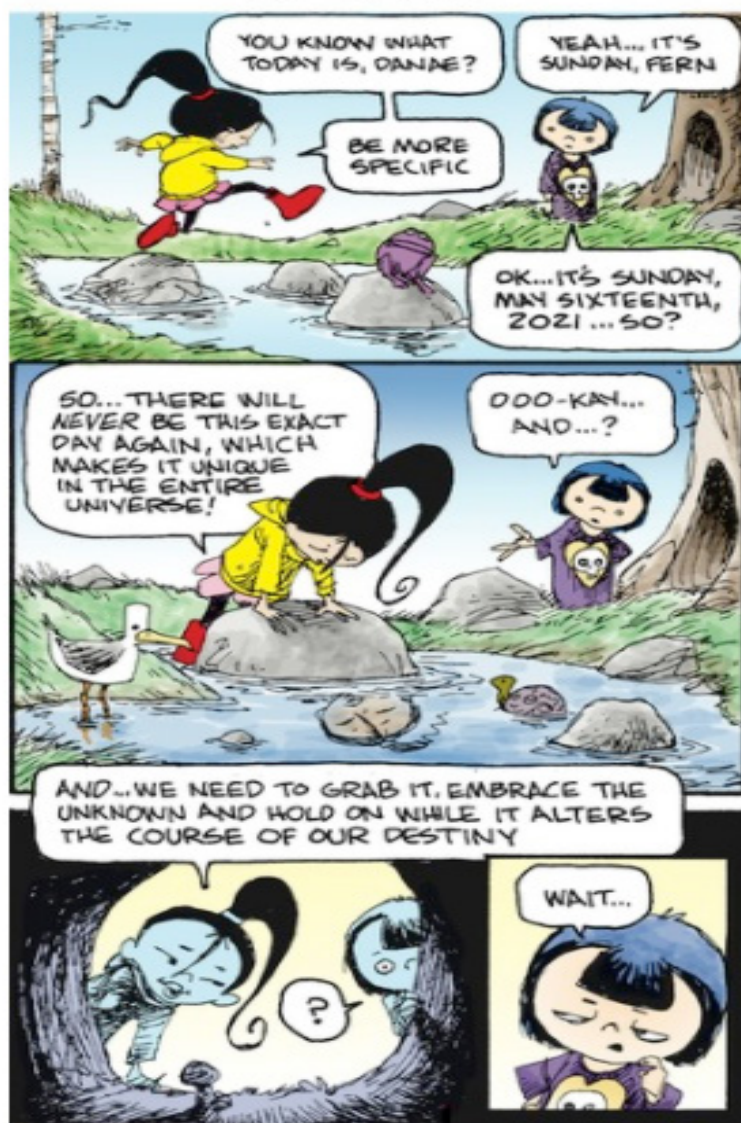
- 2 Do alter (anag) – a sporty one-piece (7)
 3 Hints (4)
 4 Cosy up (6)
 5 Move abroad (8)
 6 Technology for recording moving images (5)
 7 Where an actor prepares (8,4)
 8 Sponsored set (anag) – it's used to eat pudding (12)
 13 Hearten (8)
 16 Mixture (7)
 17 Cure (6)

Speedy crossword No 1,336



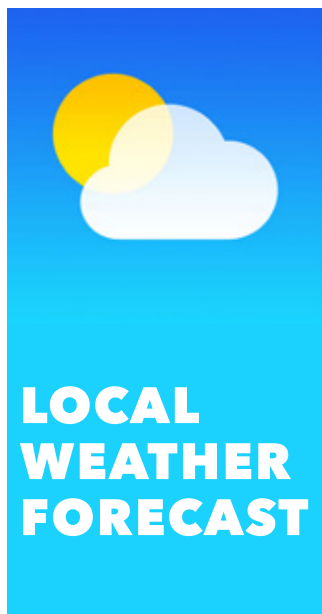
COMICS

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE





Mon 17 | Day
85° ☀️
Mostly sunny skies. High near 85F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Humidity **69%** UV Index **Extreme**
Sunrise **5:35 am** Sunset **6:32 pm**

Mon 17 | Night
77° ☁️
A few clouds from time to time. Low 77F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

Humidity **80%** UV Index **0 of 10**
Moonrise **10:09 am** Moonset **11:37 pm**
☾ Waxing Crescent

Tue 18 | Day
85° ☀️
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High around 85F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.

Humidity **70%** UV Index **Extreme**
Sunrise **5:35 am** Sunset **6:32 pm**

Tue 18 | Night
77° ☁️
A few clouds from time to time. Low 77F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

Humidity **79%** UV Index **0 of 10**
Moonrise **11:05 am** Moonset ******
☾ Waxing Crescent

COMICS

DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



Garfield

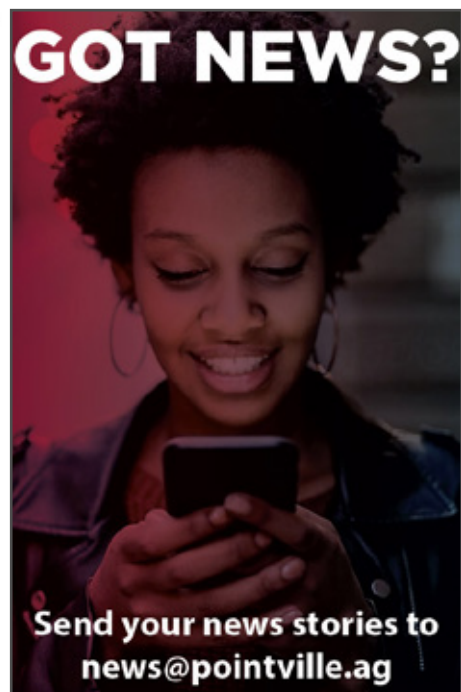
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BENTA CRACKS TON ON ENGLISH SOIL



Demari Benta displays a hook shot during a domestic cricket match in Antigua. Benta scored an unbeaten 143 for Bingham CC on his bow in the English Minor Leagues on May 9. (Photo by Nevil Nicholls/More Sports)

Sports World - Playing in alien conditions, talented wicketkeeper/batsman Demari Benta is reveling on his maiden hundred, scored in English conditions for Bingham Cricket Club (CC) in the minor leagues. Elroy Francis Jr who, like Benta is in England on a reciprocal arrangement between the Antigua & Barbuda High Commission in London, the Ministry of Sports and the teams, hammered a big half-century for his team, Grantham CC, in a 59-run win over Queenborough CC. Benta, batting at number four, cracked 143 not out as he piloted Bingham CC to 249 for nine off their 40 overs, to set up a comprehensive 72-run victory against Oxtun CC, who were dismissed for 177 in

38.2 overs. "I'm pleased with that century that I made even though the conditions of the pitch made it very hard to play freely," Benta told SportsWorld. "It felt great."

In a Facebook interview, he said the pitch was unlike what he is accustomed to in Antigua. "The pitch was not bouncing...like I know back home. I had to get used to it pretty fast. The boundaries on the western side were short, so I took advantage of it."

Benta is using a new Paul Alderidge bat. He was told the willow was 214 (ounces) "but it didn't feel like. It felt like 208, 207. I was like - how he does it. The sweet spot was big. I hit more boundaries than I am accustomed to."

ABUT HOLDS GOLF TOURNAMENT



The winners of the ABUT National Youth Golf tournament assemble for a group photo

Andreina de La Cruz, Tyler Hughes, Kimberlyn Weatherill and Isaiah Ford were all in the winner's circle over the weekend as they swung their way to the top of the podium in the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT), National Junior Golf Championship on Sunday. Playing at Cedar Valley, de La Cruz was too hot for her competitors as she defeated both the boys and girls in her division, to snatch the top prize in the eighteen hole

contest. Her tally of 89 earned her the biggest trophy, ahead of runner up Jaya Isaac and Iman Henry.

As for Hughes, he won the main trophy in the nine-hole event where he outlasted Siyolo Joseph and Shreya Gaekwad. Weatherill prevailed in the younger category where she edged her twin sister Nicole, who finished as the runner up in the six-hole championship. The third place prize went to Jennah Andrew.

In the three-hole exercise, it was Ford who went the distance, coming home ahead of Karishma Rajpal and Aareah Smith. In the long drive contests, the victors were Jaya Isaac, Nicole Weatherill, Isaiah Ford and Lauren Khoury, while the closest to the pin winners were Tiana Payne, Matika Singh, Kimberlyn Weatherill and Keilah Whynn. Apart from the A&B Union of Teachers, sponsorship for the tournament also came from Eighteen Plus One Restaurant.

JOFRA ARCHER RULED OUT OF NEW ZEALAND TESTS DUE TO ELBOW CONCERNS

Jofra Archer bowled 29.2 overs for Sussex's 2nd XI last week



Jofra Archer has been ruled out of England's two-Test series against New Zealand, starting at Lord's on June 2, and may face surgery on his troublesome right elbow after failing to come through this week's return to first-class action. Archer, who was withdrawn from this year's IPL prior to its postponement earlier this month, had undergone a series of cortisone injections to enable him to get through the T20I leg of England's white-ball tour of India in March. He also underwent an operation on the middle finger of his right hand while receiving further treatment on his elbow, to remove a splinter of glass following a bizarre incident involving a fish-tank. He showed no ill effects following that treatment and has been playing without protection on the affected digit. After a low-key return to action for Sussex's second XI against Surrey two weeks ago, Archer appeared to be returning to his best when he picked up two wickets, including his

England Test team-mate Zak Crawley, in a hostile new-ball burst on his return to the County Championship against Kent at Hove this week. However, he bowled just five overs in Kent's second innings, and none on the final two days of the match, a situation that appeared to have caused confusion for his Sussex captain Ben Brown on a rain-shortened third day when he gestured for Archer to open the bowling but had to turn instead to his team-mate George Garton. "It was a communication thing with Jofra on Saturday evening," Brown said at the conclusion of the match. "There is no issue. I asked him beforehand if he was going to have a bowl and he said yes in a warm-up capacity. But he was feeling too sore to bowl. "The issue here is a sad one for Jofra. He's a champion cricketer, so talented and so gifted, but at the moment he cannot do what he wants to do. He cannot do his skill. "I really feel for him. He's in a difficult situation with that skill of

bowling really fast being taken away from him ... This week has been very challenging for him. He was hopeful about how it would go, but he's felt pretty sore in this game." An ECB statement subsequently confirmed that Archer "was suffering from pain in his right elbow when bowling and was unable to bowl in the final two days of the match.

Jofra Archer has rapidly become one of the most exciting young all-rounders in English cricket. Born in Barbados to an English father and Bajan mother, the possibility of his inclusion in England's 2019 World Cup squad became the subject of much speculation in the run-up to the tournament. Changes to the ECB's qualification rules led to him becoming eligible after three years of residency - rather than the expected seven - and he was quickly given his chance at international level.

WEST INDIES MEN'S CAMP

STARTS IN ST. LUCIA AHEAD OF SA TEST SERIES



ST. JOHN'S, Antigua —The Cricket West Indies (CWI) selection panel has named a 30-man squad for a three week high-performance red-ball training camp in St Lucia, starting Sunday May 16, in preparation for the upcoming Test series against South Africa.

The camp provides an opportunity for established Test and developing players alike to sharpen and enhance their red-ball skills in a high-performance environment after a month-long break after the Sri Lanka series.

The camp will include two 'best v best' inter-squad matches, as the West Indies look ahead to their final series in the ICC World Test Championship with two Test matches against the Proteas in June.

Most players attending have been involved in recent West Indies Test squads and high-performance camps. A few players, however, will be receiving their first international training experience since the beginning of the pandemic, including Guyanese fast bowler Nial Smith, Jamaican top-order batsman Paul Palmer, Vincentian leg-spinning all-rounder Keron Cottoy, and St. Kitts & Nevis' left-hand batter Kieran Powell.

Test captain Kraigg Brathwaite and fast bowlers Kemar Roach and Alzarri Joseph will not be attending as they are currently competing in the English County Championship and will return to the West Indies for the Test Series if selected. Current world #1 ranked Test all-rounder Jason

Holder is being rested due to his workload across all formats of the game and will arrive in St Lucia at the end of the month.

The squad will arrive in St. Lucia and complete the quarantine protocols established by the Ministry of Health for the bio-secure environment before they start training, led by head coach Phil Simmons and his team management unit.

Coach Simmons said: "This camp is very important for our preparation for the upcoming Test Series against South Africa and for the rest of our busy and exciting summer. We will continue the work which we begun last year in England to further develop our Test team into a force to be reckoned with in world cricket."



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