



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 1ST MARCH 2021

| ISSUE 197

| WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

FIRE, FIRE, FIRE

SEE PAGE 3



Editorial: The need for refresher course on road usage

PAGE 2

The need for refresher course on road usage

Over the past year, there has been a single subject that has consumed us all in Antigua and Barbuda: the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our lives.

Such is the intensity of our collective concentration on this single subject that all else seemed to have faded into insignificance as the nation focused on coming to grips with the pandemic, especially over the last two months with the sharp rise in the number of positive cases and death.

One such issue that seems to have been forgotten is the completion of the road rehabilitation programme for both the Sir George Walter Highway and Friar's Hill Road. These two road upgrades were delayed for over a year due to weather and a host of other issues. One of the things that came with their completion was the erection of additional roundabouts.

The literature tells that a roundabout is a type of

circular intersection or junction in which road traffic is permitted to flow in one direction around a central island, and priority is typically given to traffic already in the junction. Here in Antigua and Barbuda, priority is also given to oncoming traffic from the right. Further, according to the literature, compared to stop signs, traffic light, and earlier forms of roundabouts, modern roundabouts reduce the likelihood and severity of collisions greatly by reducing traffic speeds and minimizing T-bone or broadside and head-on collisions.

Traffic exiting the roundabout comes from one direction, instead of three, simplifying the pedestrian's visual environment. Traffic moves slowly enough to allow visual engagement with pedestrians, encouraging deference towards them.

Any casual observer here in Antigua and Barbuda would notice that there seems to be a

case where the erection of the new roundabouts is causing much confusion among some drivers. With the recent introduction of the 6:00 p.m. curfew there has been a noticeable higher degree of impatience among some drivers, particularly in the afternoons as the curfew hours approach.

This impatience is most manifested when these drivers approach the roundabouts. While there have not been any reported cases of accidents at any roundabout, there certainly have been many 'close calls' and a degree of 'road rage' as drivers are often seen gesticulating angrily in their vehicles, blaming the other driver for the near misses.

This matter has been drawn to the attention of the Traffic Department and one of its key officers is on record speaking to the need for a programme of re-education on using roundabouts for drivers.

Currently, the police have their hands full pa-

trolling the nation to ensure compliance with the curfew regulations so launching an education programme at this time may not be a priority for them. However, media houses could take on some responsibility for this by publishing information on the subject and broadcasting public service announcements in support of the programme.

While on the subject of road usage, it would also be helpful to remind drivers that when approaching the traffic lights and the light turns red, it is not a signal to speed up, but to stop. It has become customary for one to wait a few seconds at the traffic light after it turns green before moving off for fear that some other driver is breaking the 'red light' rule from the other direction.

A further glance at the literature shows that roundabouts allow U-turns within the normal flow of traffic, which

often are not possible at other forms of junction. Moreover, since vehicles that run on gasoline on average spend less time idling at roundabouts than at signalled intersections, using a roundabout potentially leads to less

pollution. When entering vehicles only need to give way, they do not always perform a full stop; as a result, by keeping a part of their momentum, the engine will produce less work to regain the initial speed, resulting

in lower emissions. Research has also shown that slow-moving traffic in roundabouts makes less noise than traffic that must stop and start, speed up and brake. Modern roundabouts were first standardized in the Unit-

ed Kingdom in 1966 and were found to be a significant improvement over previous traffic circles and rotaries. Since then they have spread and modern roundabouts are commonplace throughout the world.

Fire, Fire, Fire



A fire of unknown origin ripped through several buildings on lower St John's Street mid-afternoon on Sunday, completely destroying one structure and leaving three others partially damaged. The fire-call was re-

ceived at the St. John's Fire Station at 3:10 p.m. and immediately two fire engines were dispatched to the scene. When they arrived, firefighters sprang into action to bring the inferno under control.

A two-storey structure, where the fire is believed to have originated, was fully engulfed in the flames which also spread to two adjacent buildings, one on the east and one on the west. A third building at the back of the two-storey building was also damaged. The firemen battled the blaze for several hours but they were unable to save the two-storey building as the intense heat and huge tongues of flames soon saw the collapse of the top floor of the building. Reports are that this building housed an upholstery shop on the first floor, op-

erated by its owner, Leroy Skerritt, who lived on the upper floor. The lower floor was of concrete construction with the upper floor made of wood. A motor vehicle which was packed in front of the upholstery shop was also destroyed in the fire.

The fire of such magnitude and intensity at that time of the day brought out scores of people from the area who watched in amazement as the fire spread to other buildings, and at one time threatened the building that housed Brownie's Bakery.

There are no reports of injuries and the estimated cost of the damage is yet to be determined.

Sources at the fire station say fire investigators will comb the debris over the next few days to determine the cause of the blaze.

Another COVID -19 related death recorded



RE-OPENING NOTICE

GREAT NEWS!

The inet Store located on Old Parham Road has re-opened! The all clear has been given for the resumption of its operations.

inet would like to say "Thank you!" for the patience and understanding of its customers.

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri: 8:00AM - 3:00PM

Sat: 9:00AM - 1:00PM



GOING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS



Antigua and Barbuda has recorded another CPVID-19-related death, that of a sixty-nine-year-old male who passed away on Thursday 25th February at the Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC). "We can confirm that sadly, a male patient, age sixty-nine, who had underlying medical conditions, has passed away at Mount St John's Medical Centre on Thursday February 25, 2021. He had tested positive for COVID-19," Dr. Albert Duncan, MSJMC Medical Director said.

It is the fifteenth death to have been recorded in the country since the first reported case in March of last year. "Our thoughts

and condolences remain with the patient's family and loved ones at this difficult time. What comes next for us is for every one of us to determine, through our decisions and actions.

Let's bring COVID-19 down, together. I'm also encouraging everyone to take the vaccine when one becomes available to you," the Medical Director stated.

MSJMC continues to stress the important safety measures that have been scientifically-proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19, includes wearing a mask, practising social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings

Official party to attend vaccine arrival ...Massive roll out is planned



H.E. Dr. K.J. Srinivasa



Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph

An official party, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Indian High Commissioner, will be on hand this morning to witness the arrival of forty thousand doses of vaccines donated by the government of India.

The vaccines' arrival was delayed from last night to this morning at the V.C. Bird International Airport. "Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph will be on hand with Indian government officials to witness the arrival and hold a press conference immediately after," an official release from the government's communications director noted.

Following the arrival, the vaccines will be immediately distributed as the government under

takes a massive roll-out of the vaccines in order to achieve its goal of completing the vaccination of all adults who present themselves within a sixty-day period.

The government has set up four strategic sites where vaccinations will be carried out on a massive scale. These are the polyclinic in the Villa, the Multipurpose Cultural Centre, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy and the Glanville polyclinic.

Government sources say the centres will open at 11:00 a.m. today because the vaccines are due in Antigua at 8:30 this morning rather than last night as was earlier scheduled.

The centres will open daily with a cut-off time of 3:30 p.m. when the last person will be allowed to

join the line. Sir Molwyn led a team of senior technicians within the ministry on a series of vaccination site visits over the weekend to ensure readiness for Monday's vaccination roll-out. The team included the Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas, Principal Nursing Officer Margaret Smith, and Acting Superintendent of Public Health Nursing Almarie Coates. The visits were held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Meanwhile, Community clinics will attend to people who are shut-in owing to disability, and being physically unable to visit the vaccination centers.

Special arrangements have been made for the staff of all government departments and statutory organizations to receive their COVID-19 vaccination on the job site. This includes, but is not limited to, organizations such as the Antigua Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), Antigua Barbuda Port Authority, and the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA). On-site government ministries' vaccination will commence from Tuesday,

2nd March onwards.

Special provisions have also been made for the vaccination of teachers through the Ministry of Education. Additionally, vaccination of frontline workers continues. They include healthcare workers, members of the Antigua Barbuda Defence Force, The Royal Police Force of Antigua Barbuda, Immigration officers, and nursing homes.

For online registration visit www.vaccinantiguabarbuda.com and select the "Vaccine Registration" tab. Upon clicking the tab, you will be required to fill out your general information and when completed, click "submit." Your registration is then complete. Registration hotline numbers are 788-8299, 736-8295, 736-8298, 736-8299. Pre-registration is vital for efficiency in the vaccination process. Pre-registered persons and the elderly will be given at vaccination sites to ensure there is a smooth vaccination process. The forty thousand AstraZeneca vaccines will arrive on the island today Monday 1st March.

Glimmer of hope in rate of new COVID cases

By Shelton Daniel

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says there appears to be a reduction in the rate of new COVID-19 cases since the recent introduction of tighter measures that include increased nightly curfew hours, halving the number of persons permitted to congregate in public, and the complete closure of bars where alcohol is sold.

Speaking Saturday during his weekly PointeFM radio programme, the Browne and Browne Show, the Prime Minister said this apparent improvement, coupled with the expected rollout of mass public vaccinations this week, provides the basis for what he considers to be some “hope on the horizon.”

Stressing that he did not want to engage in premature prediction, PM Browne said, “It would appear as though there is some stabilization of the COVID numbers. ... We are not seeing an increase in the rate of infections, which is good. If anything, we may be seeing

a slight reduction.”

The Prime Minister disclosed that of the forty-three people currently hospitalized for COVID-19, five were being treated at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and battling for their lives. “It should be noted that one of the struggling ICU patients is a thirty-three-year-old male, evidencing that COVID is debilitating and deadly, and it does not respect anyone ... doesn’t matter your age, COVID is a serious disease and we ought to take it seriously [because it] is still a significant threat.”

But he added that even if the number of cases or prevalence is considered high at the moment, “We are hoping that we would have peaked by now and ... we should see some reduction in the [number of] active cases in the coming weeks as the existing measures – and even the vaccinations that will take place in the coming weeks to achieve herd immunity – will begin to take effect.”

He said authorities know the tightened measures are working, based

on a reported “fifty per cent reduction in the number of persons who are infected and seeking medical attention.”

According to PM Browne, the vaccination process will be expanded this week, “In which we will commence mass public vaccinations, and that is when we expect to vaccinate perhaps between two thousand to twenty-five hundred individuals daily. That is the target which has been set by the Health Minister and his officials. It’s an ambitious target, but they feel very confident that they can achieve it.”

The head of government stated that, “So far we have seen an uptick in the vaccination participation, and we are hoping that we could have about eighty thousand individuals vaccinated within the next thirty to sixty days.”

Prime Minister Browne lauded what he described as “some conscientious citizens who – of their own volition, voluntarily – contributed funds to assist with the acquisition of vaccines, even though the government did not solicit any such contri-



PM Gaston Browne

bution ... I would like to thank them for their contributions. To date we have had contributions from citizens and residents in excess of a million dollars.” He promised that those generous persons would be identified “at some point, but at this time I just want to let the public know that there [are] citizens who have been going above and beyond the call of duty to donate to this national cause.”

The Prime Minister repeated that his government is not “actively soliciting support to purchase vaccines ... If there are other business people or other individuals who want to contribute to the initiative, certainly we will accept. Clearly it will take some financial pressure off the government.”

Belgian Ambassador to present credentials virtually



Ambassador Hugo Verbist

The entire event is being done with the ambassador at his Jamaica base and the Governor General at Government House in Antigua. Antigua and Barbuda and Belgium established diplomatic relations in October 1985.

Ambassador Verbist, who succeeds Ambassador Guy Sevrin, entered the Belgian Diplomatic service on 1st November 2001. Prior to arrival in Jamaica he was the Belgian Ambassador to Uganda and South Sudan, based in Kampala.

He also has been posted to Singapore and Rome.

He holds a law degree and did his masters in European Law, is fluent in Dutch, French and English and has basic knowledge of Italian and German. Ambassador Verbist is married and a father of four. He enjoys travelling, books and sports.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said several similar events are planned over the coming weeks. Ambassadors from Finland and Canada will present their credentials utilizing the technology.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is facilitating the presentation of credentials by the Ambassador designate for Belgium with responsibility for Antigua and Barbuda, Hugo Verbist, via virtual means today.

During a special Zoom session hosted by the ministry, the ambassador designate will present his credentials to the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams. Ambassador Verbist also has responsibility for Jamaica, where he is based, and ten other CARICOM Countries and is the permanent representative of Belgium to the International Sea-

bed Authority (ISA) and CARICOM.

For the **safety** of employee drivers, their families and the communities in which they **live** and **work**.

Sanitize frequently touched surfaces within your vehicle on a regular basis to avoid potential contamination, especially if the vehicle is shared/used by others.

COVID-19: Driver Safety Tips

ATB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

SANITIZE
DESINFECTAR

DRIVE SAFELY



HADEED MOTORS LTD.

ANTIGUA'S #1 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERSHIP

www.hadeedmotors.com



Way of Life!

Unlock your
**FUN
SIDE**



UNLOCK YOUR FUNSIDE WITH A NEW 2020 SUZUKI D-ZIRE.
CHOOSE YOUR COLOUR, YOUR STYLE, YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

DZIRE
starting at
\$49,500

>>> UPGRADED FEATURES

- Power Windows
- Reverse Camera
- Touch Screen
- Bluetooth
- Parking Sensors
- Automatic AC

INCLUDES

- Free Licensing and Insurance
- Registration and Plates
- Gas And Service

*On The Spot Financing Available



located on
Old Parham Road

contact us
Tel: (268) 481-2500

follow us on
f Facebook & @ Instagram

ABLP branch executive to confirm candidates for Barbuda Council elections



The executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) Barbuda branch will determine its candidates for the upcoming Barbuda Council elections later this month.

That is because the primary planned for Saturday was called off when two of the seven candidates withdrew their names. With five seats up for grabs at the elections, party officials will

confer amongst themselves about the remaining five in a bid to endorse them as the candidates for the elections.

Party sources have declined to name the five remaining candidates un-

til they have been fully endorsed by the branch.

One party spokesman said the ABLP Barbuda branch fancies its chances in the upcoming elections on the grounds that the party offers development as its main goal.

However, he acknowledged that the acrimonious relationship that has been fostered by the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) controlled council against the central government in St John's plays into the narrative of 'them against us' among segments of the Barbuda population.

The party will promote the idea that development for Barbuda benefits everyone, including members of the Council.



TALKING POINT

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

10:30AM TO 1:30PM

DR. MASERATI
SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

Positive cases continue 'roller-coaster ride'

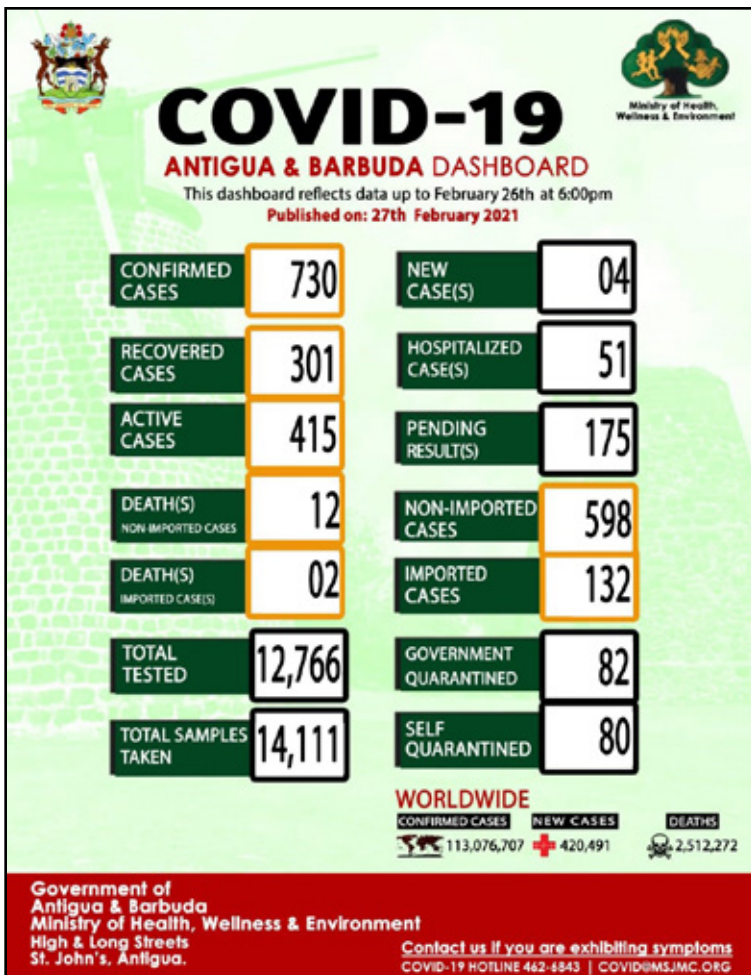


One day after recording the highest number of positive cases in a single day – fifty-five – the Ministry of Health is reporting only four new cases in the latest update of the dashboard. The four cases relate to tests results pub-

lished up to 6:00 p.m. on Friday 26th February. “Of the one hundred and forty-four (144) samples processed by MSJMC, one hundred and thirty-nine (139) were negative and five (5) positive. One (1) of the positive samples

was a repeat test. Ten (10) recoveries have been recorded, bringing that total to three hundred and one (301),” the ministry update revealed. Consequently, it lists the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed

COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as seven hundred and thirty (730), which is inclusive of four hundred and fifteen (415) active cases. Meanwhile, one hundred and seventy-five (175) samples are pending.



APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Monday, 1st March 2021

Time: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

Affected area: Section of Cassada Gardens #9 near Sunset Lane

Date: Tuesday, 2nd March 2021

Time: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

Affected area: Cedar Grove

Date: Tuesday, 2nd March 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 11:00AM

Affected area: Section of Fitches Creek near Cinnamon Drive

Date: Wednesday, 3rd March 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM

Affected area: Section of Freetown near Browne's Bay

Date: Thursday, 4th March 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM

Affected area: Section of Bolans

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

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



Bar owners encouraged to hold strain; co-workers warned 'don't get too close'

By Shelton Daniel

Co-workers who share the same office spaces or are otherwise within close proximity of each other are being urged to remain cognizant of the risk and act accordingly to prevent COVID-19 transmission in the workplace.

The concern was articulated and the advice offered by the nation's Prime Minister, Hon. Gaston Browne during his Saturday evening radio program, the Browne and Browne Show, on PointeFM 99.1.

"We see an area of vulnerability, staff-to-staff socializations in offices and business places, in which staff members have been exposing themselves to each other, sometimes wearing their masks as chin guards, or in some instances just not wearing their masks among their colleagues. That is an extremely dangerous practice, which, if it is not eliminated, we could well see an uptick in the amount of active COVID cases."

The Prime Minister went on "to appeal to everyone who is working in

these offices – in the public and private sectors, in the business places – to be a little more conscientious and not to take on that level of risk to expose yourself to individuals who could well be infected with COVID."

The elected Member of Parliament (MP) for the densely populated constituency of St John's City West acknowledged that the State of Emergency COVID prevention measures currently in force have been challenging for some businesses.

These include, for example, fast food outlets that depend heavily on nighttime patrons but must now shut down daily in time for the 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew. Hardest hit, though, would be alcohol-serving bars that have been ordered to shutter completely and without exception.

Browne said his government understands the crisis that this would probably cause to operators who are wholly dependent on earnings from such businesses, but it was a toss-up between safeguarding livelihoods versus preserving lives.

"We know that some of the measures, including the curfew which we had to expand, are creating difficulties for people. I know that in some instances livelihoods have been affected."

He however held out hope that, "Based on the trends we are seeing now, it's possible that those measures will come to an end soon; and this is assuming that individuals remain responsible and we are able to reduce the spread of COVID, and possibly get the spread down to single digits, maybe less than three [per day] ... that's really the goal. As soon as we are able to get it under control through the existing measures plus the vaccination that we are promoting, then evidently we will move toward reopening – and perhaps eliminating the curfew – and reopening the country fully."

The Prime Minister said his administration knows "people are hurting, but those individuals who have been displaced temporarily – the bar owners and even restaurant operators – they must under-

stand that the government is prioritizing protecting lives ... so we are asking for some patience from our people. We do understand the difficulties, but at the same time they have to understand that these measures are absolutely necessary. ... So, we are calling on all citizens and all resident to hold strain and ... continue to soldier on"

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
A.D. 2021

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

The property is located at Mount Pleasant, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a vacant parcel of land of an area of approximately 11,835.22 sq. ft. / 0.27 Acre. The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

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

REGISTRATION SECTION:

Hodges Bay & Thibous

BLOCK: 43 1896A

PARCEL: 643

Parcel No. **643** of Block **No. 43**

1896A is bounded by the following:

On the North by: Parcel 560

On the South by: Public Road

On the East by: Parcel 644

On the West by: Parcel 642

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos

Licensed Auctioneer

Office: (268) 562-7653

Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653

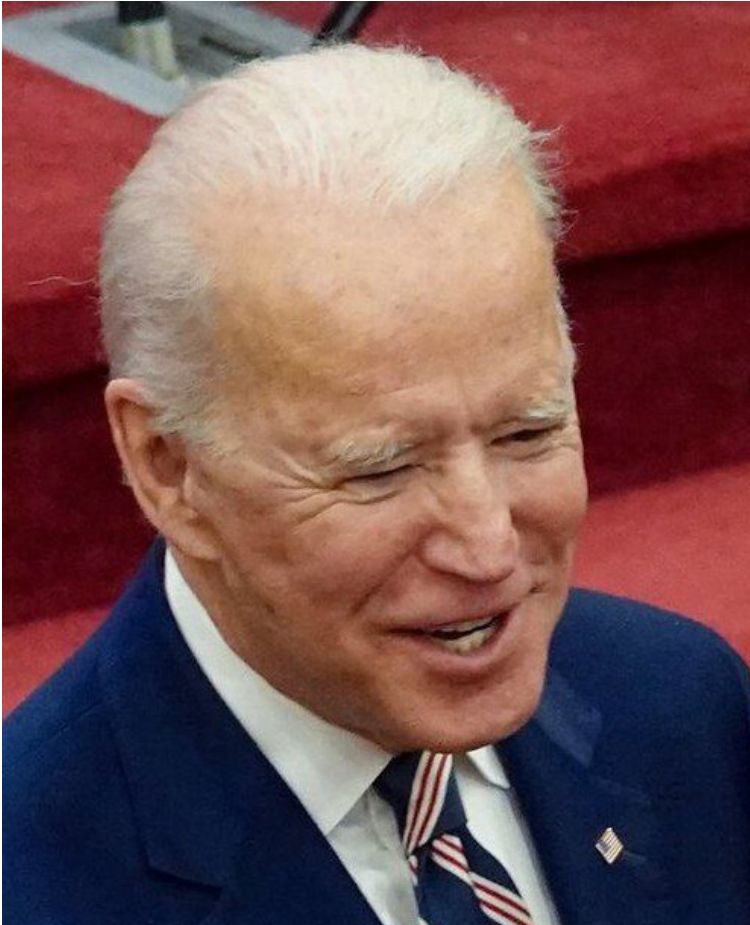
Email: info@go-going-gone.com

Instagram: tts_auction_antigua

Facebook: Auction Antigua

PART 1

Joe Biden's US Foreign Policy: Return to the Old Normal?



President Joe Biden

BY ROGER HARRIS

US President Biden bellicosely proclaimed, “American is back,” in his major foreign policy priorities speech at the Munich Security Conference on February 19. Repeated twice for effect, Biden signaled the end of the Trump interregnum.

No more assuring words could have been uttered for George W. Bush’s former Defense Secretary Colin Powell and the 70-

odd Republican national security officials, who wrote an open letter endorsing Biden out of fear that Trump would upset the bipartisan foreign policy consensus of regime change, forever wars, and the NATO alliance. Republican neo-cons now shelter in the Democrat’s big tent, today’s party of war.

The major difference from his predecessor is that the new US president promises a greater

reliance on multilateral diplomacy and international cooperative agreements to achieve US imperial goals. Biden pledged to remain in the World Health Organization and to return to the Paris Climate Agreement, although compliance with the latter is voluntary and Biden defends fracking. After Trump withdrew the US from the UN Human Rights Council three years ago, the US will re-engage as an observer. And Trump’s “Muslim ban” was reversed in Biden’s first day in office.

Regardless of the changing of the guard in Washington, the imperial goal of the “full spectrum dominance” endures from one administration to the next. The global network of 800-1000 foreign military bases will not be shuttered.

The fact that the US can with impunity punish a third of humanity (39 nations) with illegal sanctions – what the UN calls unilateral coercive measures – is a measure

of its hegemonic standing. These sanctions are a form of “hybrid warfare,” which can be just as deadly as outright war. Although Biden is reviewing the sanctions policy, considering the COVID-19 pandemic, he is expected to “keep using [the] US sanctions weapon but with sharper aim,” as reported by Reuters.

The new Secretary of State Antony Blinken asserted that his policies would follow his predecessor, but will “more effectively target” official enemies such as Venezuela and will double down on Russia. Following Trump, Biden is appealing to the UK High Court to extradite Julian Assange.

“We’re at an inflection point”

Biden warned, in his foreign policy priorities speech, about “competition among countries that threaten to divide the world” caused by “shifting global dynamics.” The threat to “divide the world” that concerns the

US president is precisely any deviation from US domination. Biden was referring to the emergence of potential rival powers. His warning affirms and extends Trump's 2017 National Security Strategy doctrine of "great-power competition" and swings away from Obama's earlier and subsequently abandoned conception of "international interdependence."

Biden's "shifting global dynamics" are what Obama's Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel referred to as "challenging the world order that American leadership helped build after World War II." In other words, the world's sole superpower is averse to an emerging multipolar world.

Biden's speech concluded, "We're at an inflection point" caused by "new crises." While not identified by Biden, this is implicit recognition of the impending crisis of legitimacy of the neoliberal world order. The US is the main beneficiary, proponent, and enforcer of a global political economy that increasingly is seen as failing to meet people's needs. Class dispar-

ities during an economic recession are ever more evident in the US and internationally. Here in the US, billionaires added \$4 trillion to their net worth since the onset of the pandemic.

Return to Atlanticism and NATO expansion

While still president, Trump spoke against the US as the world's gendarme: "The plan is to get out of endless wars to bring our soldiers back home, not be policing agents all over the world." For a variety of reasons, Trump's iconoclastic words never found their way into policy. And, certainly, Biden's speech writers will never give him similar words to read.

Rather, Biden said in his foreign policy speech that the US is "fully committed to our NATO Alliance" and "welcome[s] Europe's growing investment in the military capabilities." The US mission in Iraq will be expanded and more US troops will be sent to Germany.

Biden justifies the NATO military encirclement of Russia, with intimations that Ukraine and Georgia may eventually join, by "the threat

from Russia." However, Russian reactions to staging hostile war games and nuclear capable facilities on its border are plausibly defensive. Meanwhile the US-led military alliance has long since broken loose from its Atlantic-centric borders with NATO Partners Across the Globe extending to Afghanistan, Australia, Colombia, Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, and Pakistan.

Africa and the Middle East

The new administration will expand US military presence in Africa through its Africa Command (AFRICOM), which in 2019 deployed Special Forces in 22 countries and was in active combat in at least thirteen of them. The largest ever US military exercise in Africa, African Lions 21, is scheduled for this June with "partner nations."

Biden's State Department approved a \$200 million arms sale to Egypt, a country headed by the man Trump called his "favorite dictator." The US is and continues to be the world's largest purveyor of military equipment, eclips-

ing the combined sales of the next four highest war profiteers.

Oil and gas are strategic resources, and their international flows are key factors for imperial control. Absent oil and gas sales, 60% of its GDP, Russia would be a minor economy.

Now that the US is a net oil exporter, the oil-rich Gulf monarchies are both allies and potential competitors.

Trump extended the US's "special relationship" in the Middle East with Israel and Saudi Arabia; Biden continues this trajectory. Trump's provocative move of the US embassy to Jerusalem will not be reversed by Biden, nor will Palestinian rights be recognized.

Ignoring nuclear-armed Israel, the Biden team continues the US's obsession with Iran's nuclear program. Biden has committed to renegotiate "a better deal" regarding Iran after Trump withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, his deal includes Trump's demand to include Iran's whole regional policy.

to be continued

Dominican Republic announces plans for Haiti border fence



Dominican Republic/President Luis Abinader

The president of the Dominican Republic has announced plans to build a fence along its border with Haiti, which extends for about 380km (236 miles). Luis Abinader said the barrier would help curb illegal immigration, drugs and the flow of stolen vehicles between the two countries, which share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Abinader

said work on the barrier would start later this year.

Haiti is one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere. Relations between the two neighbours have been historically difficult. "In a period of two years, we want to put an end to the serious problems of illegal immigration, drug trafficking and the movement of stolen ve-

hicles," Abinader said in an address to congress. The cost of the project has not been disclosed.

Abinader said the barrier in some "conflictive" sections would include a double-fence along with motion sensors, infrared systems and facial recognition cameras.

The Dominican Republic, which has a population of about eleven

million, has already constructed some stretches of fencing along the border. It is estimated that about five hundred thousand Haitian migrants are living in the country – many of them there illegally. In January, the government agreed to help Haiti provide identity papers to its citizens living in Dominican territory.

REAL TALK

With
**BEEF | RASTAMAN
KENTAE & BERNARD**

MONDAY & THURSDAY
7pm-Until

TUESDAY
9pm-Until



POINTE FM



99.1 FM

Jamaica's ambassador to the US to launch monthly online Diaspora chat series

(Jamaica Observer):

Jamaica's ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, is to launch a monthly town hall-style discussion with members of the Jamaican diaspora, aimed at updating Jamaicans on various matters of interest to them as well as getting feedback in relation to matters of concern.

According to an embassy report, the monthly online programme, entitled 'Let's Connect with Ambassador Marks' will be launched on 4th March.

The ambassador will be joined from time to time by various guests including key USA and Jamaican government agency leaders, and diaspora leaders. The conversations will bring the audience up to date with current developments as well as offer the opportunity for their concerns to be heard and

addressed, Marks noted.

Marks noted that in light of the continuing health crisis gripping the nation as well as uncertainty surrounding immigration and other matters of interest, Jamaicans overseas are seeking credible information from the Jamaican embassy.

She said that between April through July of last year when there was a high level of uncertainty for people impacted by the closure of the Jamaican borders, this type of outreach had proven very effective for providing information to persons who were most in need. Similarly, this initiative was created to respond to current concerns in an effective and impactful manner.

"This is an opportunity for Jamaicans to connect and speak candidly about issues that are of concern or interest to



Ambassador Audrey Marks

them, so I am looking forward to our conversations. I am encouraging full participation from anyone who can join," Marks was quoted as saying.

Along with the monthly 'Let's Connect with Ambassador Marks' chat

series, the Jamaica Connect website <http://www.jamaicaconnect.org> will also be launched, which will provide real-time important information including items of news beneficial to the diaspora, the embassy said.

Schools in Guyana to remain closed in March

(CMC): Guyana Education Minister Priya Manickchand says schools across the country will remain closed for face-to-face interaction during March, for every grade except Grades 10, 11 and 12.

During an update on the ministry's social media page on Sunday, Manickchand said the Education Ministry continues to be advised by the Ministry of Health on safely reopening schools. "For now, we remain closed to face-to-face learning for the month of March 2021 to all grades except grades 10, 11 and 12. We encourage teachers to continue to engage students online, through the internet and by the various means including WhatsApp, Zoom, Facebook and Messenger and whatever else that you have been using."

Manickchand said the government has been listening to international studies about the long-term impact of the closure of schools and is concerned about the impact it will have on



Minister Priya Manickchand

the nation's children. As such, she expressed hope that with the Ministry of Health's comprehensive rollout of the COVID-19 Vaccine during March, there is a possibility of schools being reopened after the Easter holidays in April.

"Once that goes smoothly and as planned, we anticipate that we are going to be able to reopen schools sometime after the Easter holidays.... Please

remember I am saying that while that is an intention and it would be our desire, that would depend on further advice from the Ministry of Health," she said.

Since assuming office last August, several measures were taken to ensure students remain engaged. In addition to virtual engagements, these included restructuring the Guyana Learning Channel to deliver educational con-

tent in a scheduled manner and printing worksheets for every Grade. The education minister noted that while these have been effective, the government is cognizant that it cannot replace the value of face-to-face interaction. She also noted that the safety of students, teachers and other staff of learning institutions across the country continues to remain a top priority for the Ministry of Education.

World Bank-UNESCO report finds C'bean cutting education budgets due to COVID-19



(CMC): A new joint report by the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has found that Caribbean and other countries are cutting their education budgets due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Washington-based financial institution and the Paris-based UNES-

CO Education Finance Watch (EFW) said that education budgets are not adjusting proportionately to the challenges brought about by COVID-19, especially in poorer countries.

Despite additional funding needs, the new reports says that two-thirds of low- and lower-middle-income countries, such as those in the

Caribbean, have, in fact, cut their public education budgets since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In comparison, only one-third of upper-middle and high-income countries have reduced their budgets, the report says.

“These budget cuts have been relatively small thus far, but there

is a danger that future cuts will be larger, as the pandemic continues to take its economic toll, and fiscal positions worsen,” the report says. “These differing trends imply a significant widening of the already large spending disparities seen between low- and high-income countries.”

According to the new report, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2018-19, high-income countries were spending annually the equivalent of US\$8,501 for every child or youth’s education compared to US\$48 in low-income countries.

The report says COVID-19 is only widening this huge per-capita education spending gap between rich and poor countries.



STARTING POINTE

ON AIR

with

Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am

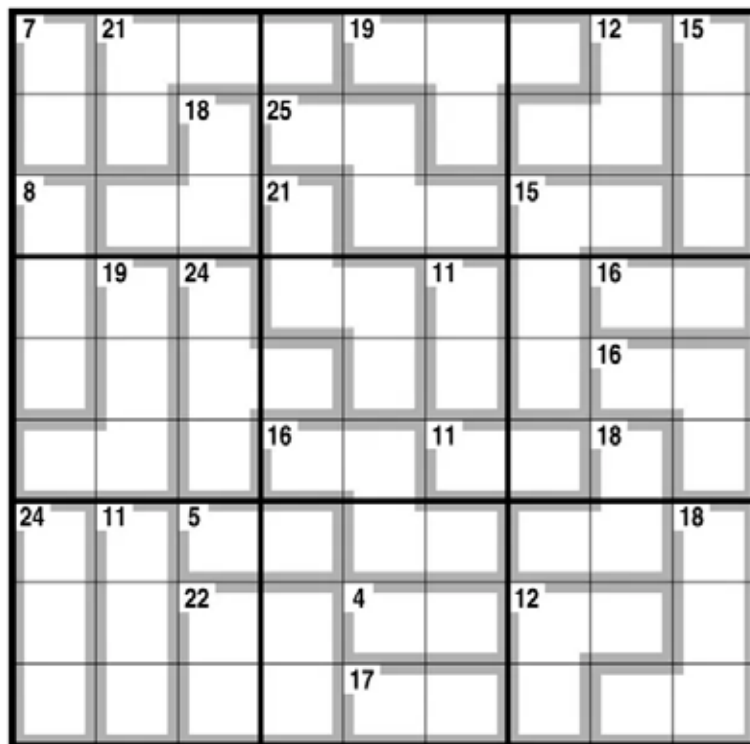
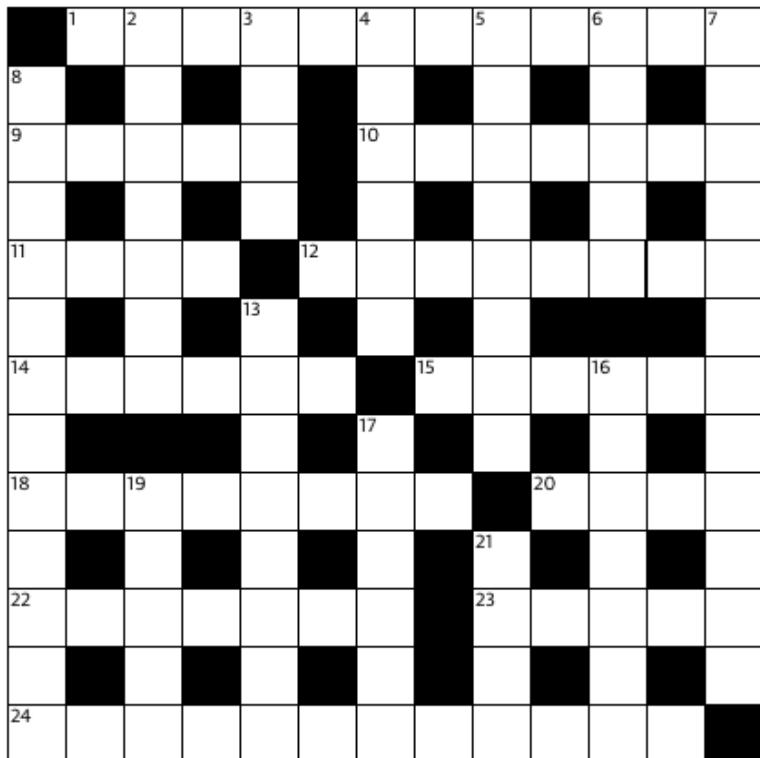


POINTE FM



99.1 FM

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Musically arranged (12)
- 9 Part of a step (5)
- 10 Decisive (7)
- 11 River (which is originally blue and white) (4)
- 12 Muddled (6,2)
- 14 Shallow trench made by a plough (6)
- 15 Expressed (6)
- 18 Suspenseful (8)
- 20 Worry unnecessarily (4)
- 22 Liberate (7)
- 23 Winged insect — amigo (anag) (5)
- 24 Agent that destroys bacteria (12)

Down

- 2 Cattle thief (7)
- 3 Rent (4)
- 4 Private soldier in the Royal Engineers (6)
- 5 Studying just before an exam (8)
- 6 Carried (something heavy) (5)
- 7 Ruin (12)
- 8 Metamorphosed (12)
- 13 Grizzle (8)
- 16 Indisputable (7)
- (6) Audible and uncontrolled expulsion of air through nose and mouth
- 19 Wastes time (5)
- 21 Fissure in something (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Garfield



LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST



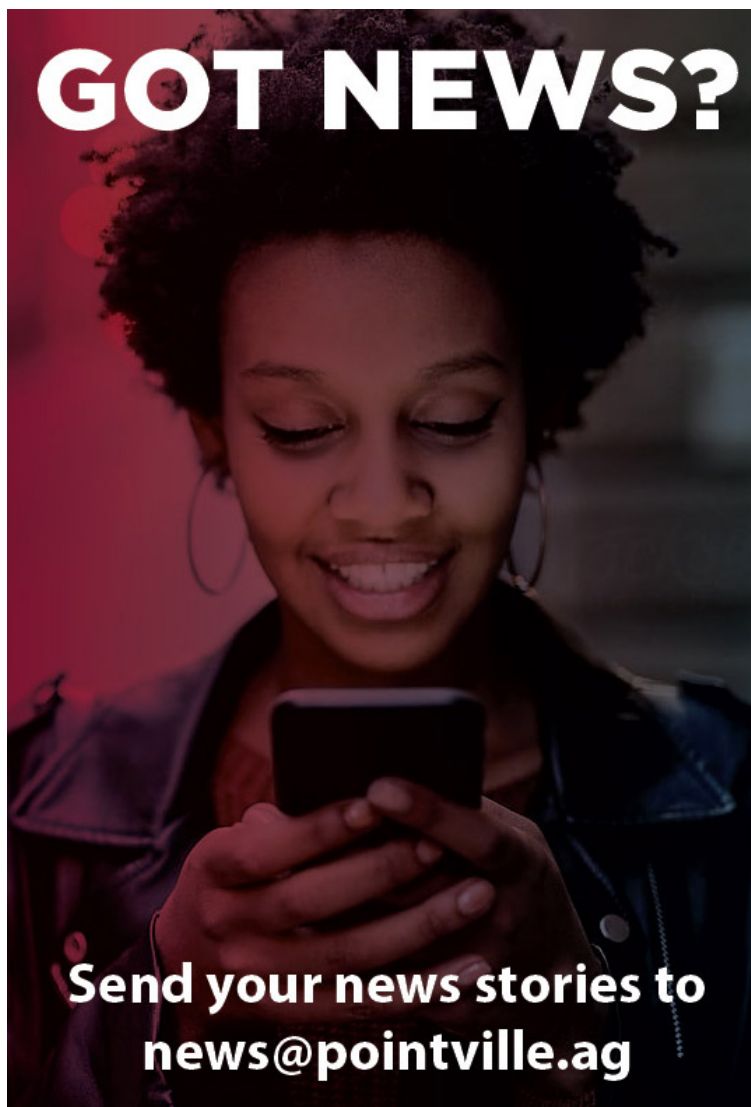
COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHSS DARE TO D.E.A.R. BOOK DRIVE 2020

Clare Hall Secondary School is inviting past Clarehalites, entertainers, radio personalities and the general public to participate in its DARE to D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Book Drive 2020. Send us a video recording about your favourite book and donate a copy or multiple copies of that book to our school library. Give us a call at 462-3487 or mail us at admin@chss.edu.ag. The book drive culminates in December 2020. We DARE you to D.E.A.R. with us and help us promote literacy amongst our students.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

<p>♈ ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>What you hear may not be what you get. Pledges you counted on might not be honored and could put you in a quandary. Dig beneath surface appearances, as it could be a case of mixed-up communications and not a broken promise.</p>	<p>♎ LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>Enjoy the encouragement of others but know that achieving serenity is an inside job. Though you may feel resistant to change and want to stick with the tried and true, change might be what you need to realize your full potential.</p>
<p>♉ TAURUS Apr. 20-May 20</p> <p>Adopting a self-reliant and independent attitude might seem the perfect answer to any problems, but that might be challenging for others to handle. An abrupt shift of perspective or plans could be perceived as an act of disloyalty.</p>	<p>♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>Some key issues are clear now, so it might be time for a heart-to-heart discussion. Use your common sense when there are excessive demands on your wallet. Apply initiative when adaptation to change is needed.</p>
<p>♊ GEMINI May 21-June 20</p> <p>Once you are out of the woods, everything looks brighter and the path ahead is clearer. Your doubts are likely behind you, and it's easier to forge ahead with your plans. A romantic partner might be on your mind.</p>	<p>♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>You might hesitate to exceed your budget, but there are no limits on how much you can love. You can discuss major purchases and reach a conclusion if you and a partner spend quality time planning together.</p>
<p>♊ CANCER June 21-July 22</p> <p>Your friends support your high ideals. However, you may get more than you bargained for if you participate in a group activity. An individual may surprise you with ill-considered advice or by dominating the proceedings.</p>	<p>♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Stick to business. Focus on your work and on pleasing your loved ones. Avoid spreading potentially hurtful gossip. Remember that whatever you put out there will return to you in kind.</p>
<p>♌ LEO July 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>At times, a loved one may be difficult to understand, but this person will likely go to bat for you when necessary. Just because someone close develops a passion for a new subject does not mean they love you any less.</p>	<p>♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>They say that rolling stones gather no moss, but if they roll down a hill, they can cause an avalanche. You certainly enjoy having your freedom, but you could inadvertently initiate something that creates consequences.</p>
<p>♍ VIRGO Aug. 23-Sept. 22</p> <p>Words can't always convey all the feelings you want to express. Prove that your heart is in the right place by showing that you're willing to forgive and forget.</p>	<p>♓ PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>Open your mind; seek information from new and different sources. The key to a better future might lie in chance meetings and a wider array of friendships that spark thoughts and empower you to develop new goals.</p>



Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag

TELL US WHAT'S
HAPPENING
IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Submit community notices to

news@pointville.ag

Deadliest day in Myanmar since latest coup

(BBC): Police have fired on protesters in Myanmar killing at least eighteen, the UN human rights office says, on the deadliest day of anti-coup rallies. Deaths were reported in several cities including Yangon, Dawei and Mandalay as police used live rounds and tear gas.

Security forces began the violent crackdown on Saturday, after weeks of largely peaceful protests against the 1st February military takeover. Government leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, were overthrown and detained.

Social media footage from Sunday showed protesters running away as police charged at them, makeshift road-blocks being erected, and several people being led away covered in blood.

The police crackdown was expanded on Sunday as coup leaders sought to quash a civil disobedience campaign that has shown no sign of ending. A few minutes later, more protesters occupied the road, blocking the area with shields and carts and readying themselves to



take on the police. Many more arrived, sitting down on the road and chanting.

Two people were shot dead here and one was badly injured. But the people did not retreat.

The United Nations Human Rights Office condemned the violence against protesters, saying it had "credible information" that at least eighteen people had been killed on Sunday. More than thirty others have been injured.

"The people of Myanmar have the right to assemble peacefully and demand the restoration of democracy," spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said. "Use of lethal force against non-violent demonstrators is never justifiable under international human rights norms."



Activists and medical workers said at least four people had been killed in the largest city, Yangon, as police fired bullets, stun grenades and tear gas. The protesters remained defiant.

"If they push us, we'll rise. If they attack us, we'll defend. We'll never kneel down to the military boots," Nyan Win Shein told Reuters. Another protester, Amy Kyaw, told AFP:

"Police started shooting just as we arrived. They didn't say a word of warning. Some got injured and some teachers are still hiding in neighbours' houses."

Some demonstrators were herded away in police vans.

In the south-eastern city of Dawei, security forces moved to break up a rally. There are reports of live rounds being used. Four people were killed in the city, activists told the BBC.

Ethiopia's Tigray crisis: Blinken says US concerned about atrocities

The US has condemned reported atrocities in Ethiopia's conflict-hit northern region of Tigray, urging the African Union to help resolve the "deteriorating situation." "We are deeply concerned by the worsening humanitarian crisis," Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said. An Amnesty report said crimes against humanity may have been committed. Hundreds have been killed and tens of thousands displaced in four months.

The conflict erupted on 4th November 2020 when Ethiopia's government launched an offensive to oust the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) after its fighters captured federal military bases in Tigray.

In a report released last week rights group Amnesty International accused troops from neighbouring Eritrea of killing hundreds of people in the ancient city of Aksum on 28th and 29th November, saying the mass killings may amount to a crime against humanity.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a No-

bel Peace Prize winner, told parliament on 30th November that "not a single civilian was killed" during the operation. But witnesses have recounted how on that day they began burying some of the bodies of unarmed civilians killed by Eritrean soldiers - many of them boys and men shot on the streets or during house-to-house raids.

Amnesty's report has high-resolution satellite imagery from 13th December showing disturbed earth consistent with recent graves at two churches in Aksum, an ancient city considered sacred by Ethiopia's Orthodox Christians.

An eyewitness told the BBC how bodies remained unburied on the streets for days, with many being eaten by hyenas. A communications blackout and restricted access to Tigray has meant reports of what has gone on in the conflict have been slow to emerge.

However, Eritrea's Information Minister Yemane G. Meskel has dismissed the accusations from Amnesty, calling



them "preposterous" and "fabricated."

In a tweet, he suggested that the eyewitnesses quoted were militiamen allied to Tigray's former ruling party, the TPLF.

But the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has said Amnesty's report should be "taken seriously" and that it was investigating the allegations.

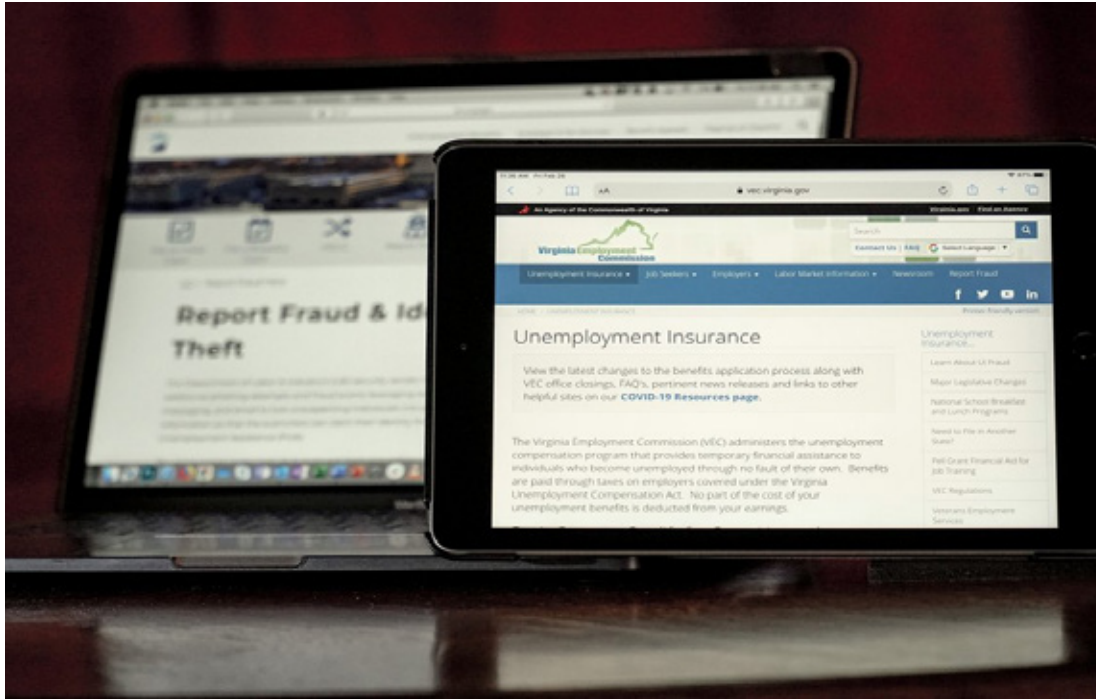
What else did Blinken say? He welcomed the Ethiopian government promise for unhindered humanitarian access to Tigray and its invitation for international support for investigations into human rights violations. He also called for the "immediate withdrawal" of Eritrean forces and other militia fighters from the region, urging

the African Union and neighbouring countries to help resolve the crisis.

But Ethiopia and Eritrea have both denied the presence of Eritrean troops in Tigray. Despite Abiy declaring victory after pro-government troops took the regional capital Mekelle in late November, clashes have persisted in the region.

The security and humanitarian situation has deteriorated, with reported sexual assaults against women on the rise. Last week the UN World Food Programme (WFP) made an urgent appeal for more than a one hundred million dollars to ease severe shortages in Tigray. It said three million people - about half of Tigray's population - need food aid.

Fraud overwhelms pandemic-related unemployment programmes in US



(AP): With the floodgates set to open on another round of unemployment aid, states are being hammered with a new wave of fraud as they scramble to update security systems and block scammers who already have siphoned billions of dollars from pandemic-related jobless programmes.

The fraud is fleecing taxpayers, delaying legitimate payments and turning thousands of Americans into unwitting identity theft victims. Many states have failed to adequately safeguard their systems, and a review by The Associated Press finds that some will not even pub-

licly acknowledge the extent of the problem.

The massive sham springs from prior identity theft from banks, credit rating agencies, health care systems and retailers. Fraud perpetrators, sometimes in China, Nigeria or Russia, buy stolen personal identifying information on the dark web and use it to flood state unemployment systems with bogus claims. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating unemployment fraud by “transnational criminal organizations, sophisticated domestic actors, and individuals across the United States,” said Joshua Stueve, a spokes-

man for the department’s criminal division. The Labour Department inspector general’s office estimates that more than sixty-three billion dollars has been paid out improperly through fraud or errors — roughly ten per cent of the total amount paid under coronavirus pandemic-related unemployment programmes since March. “We’re all learning that there is an epidemic of fraud,” said U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the ranking Republican on the House’s powerful Ways and Means Committee. Brady said the sixty-three-billion-dollar estimate “is larger than the entire budget

of the Department of Homeland Security.”

“These are frightening levels of fraud,” he said

California has been the biggest target, with an estimated eleven billion dollars in fraudulent payments and an additional nineteen billion dollars in suspect accounts. Colorado has paid out nearly as much to scammers — an estimated 6.5 billion dollars — as it has to people who filed legitimate unemployment claims.

Other estimates, according to AP reporting across the states, range from several hundred thousand dollars in smaller states such as Alaska and Wyoming to hundreds of millions in more populous states such as Massachusetts and Ohio. The nationwide fraud has fed on twin vulnerabilities: a flood of jobless benefit applications since the pandemic began that has overwhelmed state unemployment agencies and antiquated benefit systems that are easy prey for crafty and persistent criminals.

New York Governor Cuomo faces fresh claims of sexual harassment

A second former aide has come forward with accusations of sexual harassment against New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. Charlotte Bennett, a health policy adviser to Cuomo until November, told The New York Times that he had harassed her last year. Cuomo has denied any inappropriate behaviour and ordered an independent inquiry into the allegations.

Another former aide, Lindsey Boylan, has previously accused the governor of sexually harassing her. Cuomo, sixty-three, who has been governor for more than a decade, has found himself under pressure on several fronts in recent weeks.

He is under scrutiny from the Democratic Party - of which he is a member - for allegedly hiding the true number of COVID-related deaths in New York care homes. Cuomo has also faced allegations of bullying, including from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

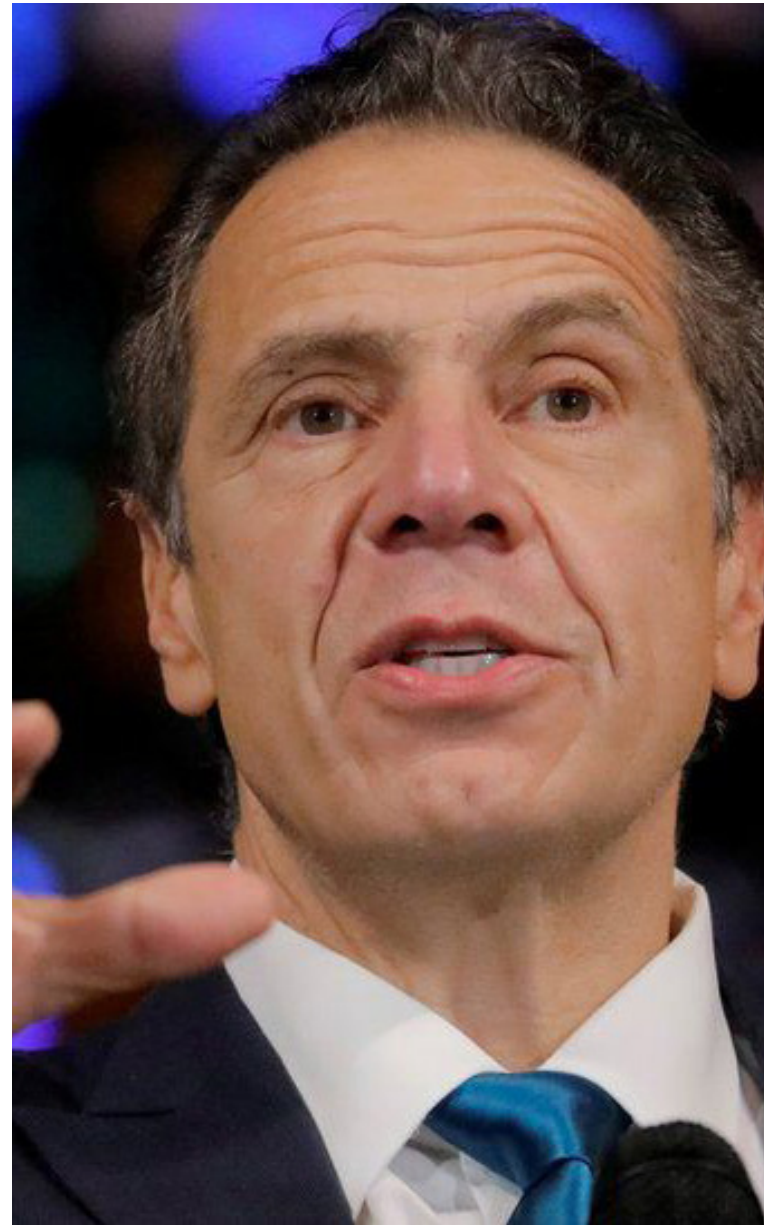
Bennett, twenty-five,

told the New York Times that the governor had asked her numerous questions about her personal life, including whether she believed that age made a difference in romantic relationships.

She said he had also suggested that he was open to relationships with women in their twenties. Bennett said she believed the comments were clear overtures to a sexual relationship.

In the interview, she said that in June last year Cuomo had talked about feeling lonely during the pandemic and had asked her whom she had last hugged. She said she dodged the question by saying she missed hugging her parents, but she believed the conversation had been another overture.

"I understood that the governor wanted to sleep with me, and felt horribly uncomfortable and scared and was wondering how I was going to get out of it and assumed it was the end of my job," she said.



Bennett said she informed Cuomo's chief of staff, Jill DesRosiers, after the interaction and less than a week later was transferred to another job. She said she had decided not to seek a formal investigation because she "wanted to move on." No action was taken against Cuomo.

In a statement released on Saturday, Cuomo

said he believed he had been acting as a mentor to Bennett. He said he had "never made advances toward Bennett, nor did I ever intend to act in any way that was inappropriate."

"The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported," Cuomo said.

Fitness is the key to selection



Cricket West Indies (CWI) Director of Cricket, Jimmy Adams, says form cannot override fitness as he cleared the air on Shimron Hetmyer's surprise omission from the Sri Lanka series owing to poor fitness. CWI released its One-Day and T20 International squads for the upcoming series against Sri Lanka. Hetmyer's omission created a buzz on social media and sporting platforms around the region, with most people flabbergasted at his omission based on his recent good form in the just concluded CG Super50 tournament.

However, this is not the

first time Hetmyer was not considered for West Indies selection owing to poor fitness.

CWI's statement said, "fast bowlers Oshane Thomas, Sheldon Cottrell and all-rounder Roston Chase all failed to reach the minimum fitness standard in time for selection consideration." Adams said Hetmyer did not make CWI's required minimum standard of fitness and in form or not, was unavailable to be selected after being grilled by the media about the Guyanese non-selection at a CWI press conference. The CWI director of cricket explained there

are exemptions that are given to players. Factors such as a player's age, physiological limitations and their injury and training history contribute to granting exemptions. The former West Indies captain noted that this approach is standard across many high-performance environments and CWI is no different. The Jamaican added there is a difference between selections for the regional team compared to franchise teams. Players who do not meet the fitness requirements at franchise level are fined while those for international duty remain unavailable for selection.

Antiguan cyclist in Italy for training



One of the island's top young cyclist, Emanuel Gayral, left the island on Saturday for Italy on a scholarship to improve his chances of becoming a professional rider.

Gayral will be on a three-month training programme in Italy with the Zappi Racing Team

and, if successful, will be part of a team to take part in a UCI Giro Under-23 race.

From that race there is a ninety per cent chance that he can get a pro contract. The scholarship involves boarding, meals, nutrition, and transportation. Also in-

cluded are training, use of equipment, uniform/apparel and event/racing.

The twenty-one-year-old, who began racing since the age of thirteen, said he is excited about the venture. "I am an enthusiastic, hardworking athlete who is look-

ing forward to make the best of this opportunity," noted Gayral while he stood outside the V.C Bird International airport awaiting his flight.

Gayral said cycling is his life and he has made it an obligation to be successful.

R. Ashwin hits back at pitch critics: 'Who defines what a good surface is?'



R. Ashwin has expressed strong reservations about narratives built around how India are winning because of pitches being tailored to suit their strengths. He refuses to “buy what’s being sold” and wants fans to use better judgment to decide for themselves if that is really the case.

Ashwin caused a social-media storm on Friday evening when he put out a series of tweets, seemingly upset at how “things were being shoved down our throats.” He quickly clarified later that he meant “only cricket” and explained his thoughts on why India needed to be given more credit for winning the Ahmedabad

Test instead of being told ‘they won because

the pitch aided them.’

“Thoughts being put across and planted to people is really hilarious and I find it heinous to a point, where you have a thought process and you want everyone to follow that and think that and condition it,” Ashwin said during a virtual media interaction. “With thoughts what happens is, you condition people into believing in a certain way, so you watch a match, you watch India win the game and at most, everyone’s saying ‘I’m happy India won.’

“You don’t want people to go back home and say, ‘India is not winning the game, it’s the pitch that’s winning game.’ That’s not what I want people to do. Anyway, I know that’s going to come up,

this kind of conditioning has been happening, it has happened for a long time. It’s important people sell things, but we must know what we must buy.”

While many experts labelled the Motera surface as poor, Virat Kohli called it “very good,” and instead blamed the batsmen on both teams for coming up with an “under par” performance against good spin bowling. Rohit Sharma, too, echoed his captain’s views after the two-day finish. It was then put to Ashwin if blaming surfaces for defeats was the easy way out and if former players should be less scathing in their assessment of pitches.

“I have said this in the past also that everybody is entitled to their opinion and I am not here to say your opinion was wrong or right,” Ashwin said. “But the fact remains that the talk around the surface...it’s just getting out of hands yaar. Why would you talk about the surface to us time and time again? Has there been any instance where the surface has been spoken about at any other place, any other country we have played games in?”

“I somehow find it very, very funny that when they speak about the surface, it

immediately gets quoted all over in our press. And that is the issue here. Because there have been instances. We went to New Zealand and both Tests were over within five days. A total of five days for two Test matches and nobody quoted it.”

“There is a video that’s doing the rounds where Virat in South Africa is saying that ‘I’m not here to talk about the pitch and I am not comforting my team [about the loss].’ That is how we have been taught to play cricket and I don’t know why we indulge in such thoughts, promote such thoughts. That’s why I say, let them sell it, buying is always our choice.”

As much as he tried to move on from “narratives,” Ashwin kept receiving a barrage of questions about the Motera pitch. At one point, he was asked by a member of the England media if the Ahmedabad pitch was a “good Test wicket” and if there was a “contest between bat and ball.”

“I have a question back. What is a good cricket surface?” Ashwin asked.

“I am the one asking the question...good contest between bat and ball?” the journalist prodded again.

T&T RED FORCE ROLL OVER THE GUYANA JAGUARS



Trinidad and Tobago Red Force maintained their one hundred per cent record in the CG Insurance Super50 tournament over the weekend, rolling over the Guyana Jaguars to secure the Sir Clive Lloyd trophy. They accomplished the stated mission and showcased their dominance – winning all seven matches. Lendl Simmons made a massive 146 as the Red Force made a whopping 362 for 5 off their fifty overs.

He smashed fifteen fours and seven sixes off 145 balls to register the highest score of this tournament, as well as the highest score by a Trinidadian in the forty-six years of the event. With a mammoth target to chase, Guyana fell well short being dismissed for 210 off 43.5

overs. Left-hander Raymon Reifer played magnificently to end unbeaten on 97 to follow up his 90 in the semi-final against the Windwards. Captain Pollard said he was delighted with his team performance in the tournament, winning all seven matches to secure the title.

DEWS

TOUCH LINE

with
VERON 'EPLIUS' EDWARDS JR.
VERNON A. SPRINGER



MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:00am - 8:30am



99.1 FM