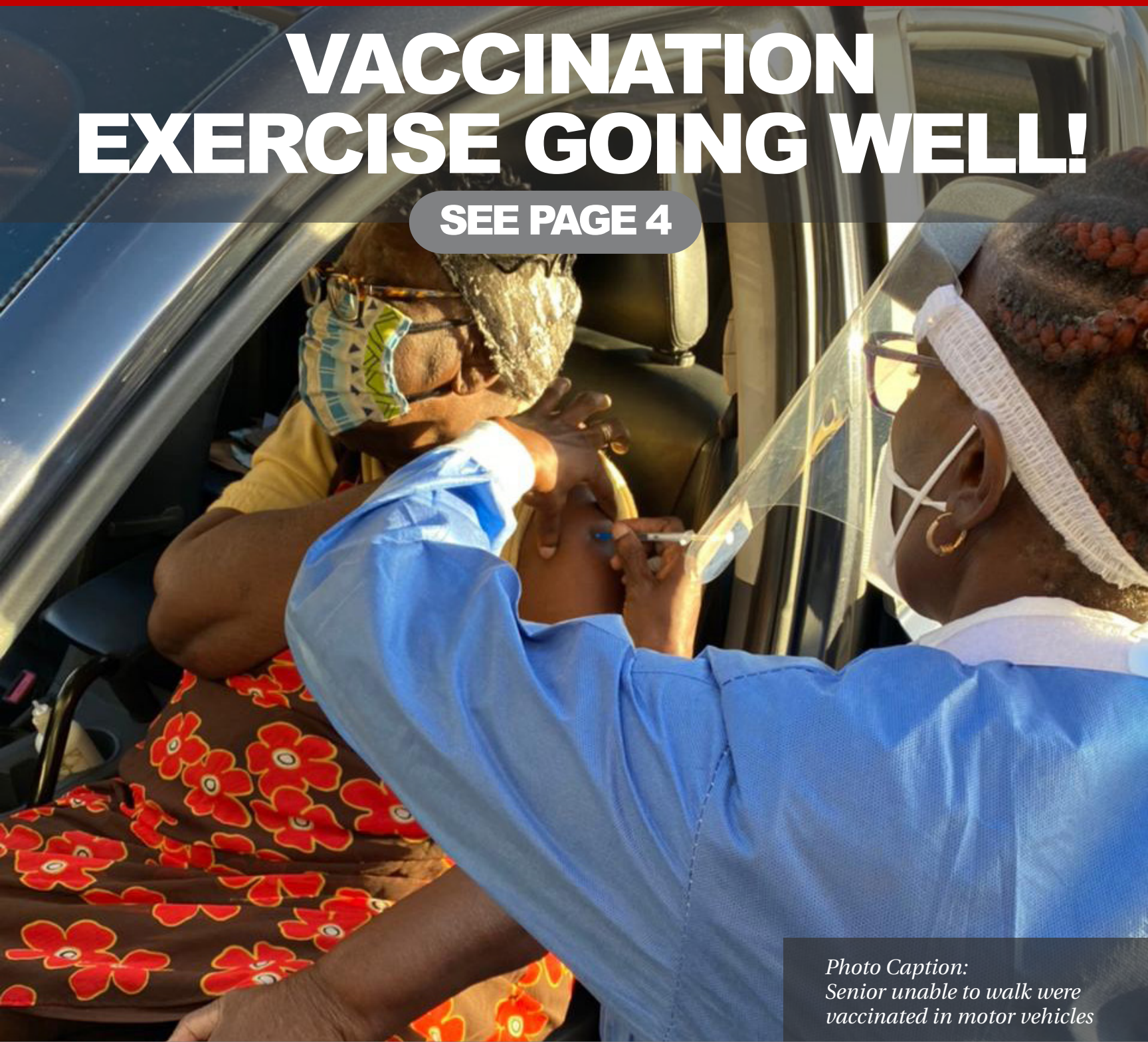


## VACCINATION EXERCISE GOING WELL!

SEE PAGE 4



*Photo Caption:  
Senior unable to walk were  
vaccinated in motor vehicles*

# EDITORIAL

# Carpe Diem!

The rollout of the nation's COVID-19 vaccination programme is now truly on the way and by all indications, the response by the people of Antigua and Barbuda has been impressive.

Members of the country's Executive led by example and were followed by members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. What is heartening is that the usual partisan political bickering was put aside for the national good. It is a clear indication that this is a fight that has no political, racial, ethnic, age, or gender bias. COVID-19 affects all and it therefore requires a unified response for this dreaded disease to be defeated.

From the very onset, we at PointeXpress have been relentless in encouraging the general public to look beyond the brouhaha and the tantrums being displayed on so-

cial and conventional media. There were vociferous protestations regarding vaccines in general and COVID-19 vaccines in particular, and some were given popular platforms to spread misinformation, lies, and innuendos. It was a sad day when one of the principals of a media house attempted to justify its facilitation of the spread of misinformation in the name of free speech. The idea that everyone who has an idea should be heard has to have some limits, lest it leads to our downfall. For example, good reader, would you permit someone on a radio station that you operate who is instructing others how to construct bombs?

What is being demonstrated by the impressive response of the general public to the call to take the vaccine is something we at PointeXpress have always suspected: there is a minority section

within our country, a very small section, who have very big mouths and they use any and every means necessary to get their voices heard. However, the overwhelming response to the vaccine proves that Antiguan and Barbudans have no appetite to buy into this kind of base rhetoric to our own detriment. The people of Antigua and Barbuda should collectively pat themselves on the back. It is stinging repudiation of anti-intellectualism.

To illustrate this point, one only has to look at the photos and videos of the different centres where the COVID-19 vaccine is being administered. In addition, numbers do not lie. On Tuesday alone, the number of persons who were administered the Oxford-Astrazeneca jab was nearly two thousand. Impressive! This is excellent news as it says that the country is well on the

way to achieving herd immunity and this will allow for the reopening of the country's economy, particularly the heartbeat tourism industry.

We accept that there are certain challenges since the roll-out of the vaccine started, and this was to be expected. As time goes by, the kinks will be ironed out and we can guarantee that the programme will run smoothly and efficiently. We have every confidence in the professionals within the Ministry of Health who ought to be commended for their hard work, sacrifice and dedication to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

What is necessary now is that the early momentum that the vaccination programme has witness must be seized. As the Latin expression goes, "Carpe diem!" Seize the day! We cannot allow complacency to set in and



lose that momentum since the important task has only just started. As a nation, we have to be relentless with the messaging, and ABS Television and Radio must be commended for the number and frequency

of infomercials regarding COVID-19. Again, we say in the vein of the noted Roman poet Horace, "Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero." Seize today, do not trust tomorrow. The idea is that today is the best

day to do anything as tomorrow is never promised. Therefore, use today to register if you have not done so as yet. Register all in your household who are eighteen years and older. Call your neighbour and tell them

to get registered. Call your friend in the other village and tell them that the time is right to get registered. Do not wait a minute more. It is with a sense of duty and pride that we at PointeXpress say to the nation: Carpe diem!

## Two more COVID-19 deaths

Antigua and Barbuda is coping with the news that two males are the latest victims to have succumbed to complications related to COVID-19.

A statement from the Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) said the men died a day apart; one death (that of an eighty-five-year-old) happened on Monday at 11:34 a.m., while the other (a sixty-seven-year-old) died at 12:02 a.m. on Tuesday.

"I want to again express my deepest sympathies to the families who have been plunged into grief in these particularly difficult circumstances," said Dr. Albert Duncan, MSJMC Medical Director. According to the statement, both men were admitted to the hospital (on the 23rd February and 5th February 2021 respectively) in severe respiratory distress. Despite

the best efforts of MSJMC's care team both patients succumbed to the infection. "If you don't do everything possible to minimize spread (of the virus), then you are contributing to the spread and prolonging the amount of time in which our hospital will have more patients - more than we can safely handle," continued the Medical Director, "The consequences of this will affect anyone and everyone who needs hospital-level care. It's not just those with COVID. I urge everyone to be responsible." This latest announcement from MSJMC comes as the hospital revealed on Monday that an essential worker diagnosed with COVID-19 has died from illnesses related to the disease.

"The patient, a fifty-three-year-old female, was admitted to the hospital on 24th January

2021 in respiratory distress and clinical signs of COVID-19. Following hospital admission guidelines, the patient was tested for COVID-19 prior to admission. This test returned a positive result, and the patient has been undergoing treatment since then which included prolonged ventilator support. Despite our best efforts, the patient died this morning 1st March 2021 at 8:20 a.m.," the earlier MSJMC statement said.

"Our hospital mourns the passing of this essential worker," said Dr. Albert Duncan MSJMC Medical Director. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and her colleagues at this time."

"A grateful nation has watched and rightly praised healthcare workers for their heroic work. But essential work extends beyond health care. Although

some people have been able to shift their jobs to their homes, thousands of workers have jobs that cannot be done at home—and these workers leave their homes every day to help maintain a semblance of normalcy for others, at great risk to themselves and their families."

Added the Medical Director, "As a member of the hospital's leadership who leads a team of essential workers, I think I speak for many of us when I say –although grateful, we would take less than thank you for more mask wearing. We would be ok with less lauding, if it means that people are adhering to safety protocols. If the current trajectory continues and we don't gain control of this urgently, it will become harder to bring under control. This pandemic requires us to work together to bring it under control urgently."

# Nearly two thousand vaccinated on day two



Nearly two thousand people were vaccinated on Tuesday, the second day of the mass roll-out of vaccination in Antigua and Barbuda.

Hundreds of people turned up at the four vaccination centres on Tuesday to get their first dose of the vaccine as part of the government's plan to inoc

ulate about eighty per cent of the population within sixty days.

The government has set aside two days – Tuesday and Wednesday - when the focus will be on vaccinating seniors sixty-five years and older. But many younger people were also vaccinated as well. The day two report indicates the following: Villa Polyclinic – 330;

Sir Novelle Richards Academy – 622; Multipurpose Cultural Centre – 422; and Glanville Polyclinic – 270. Vaccination was also done for workers at the Antigua Port Authority where over two hundred employees received their doses.

Organizers say they are quite pleased with the turn-out by residents as it is an indication that they are paying heed to the advice of the Ministry of Health and other senior government officials regarding the necessity for as many people as possible to be vaccinated to halt the spread of the deadly virus.

“The Ministry of Health is quite pleased with the uptick in the number of people presenting themselves to be vaccinated as we see the numbers going up at all four centres. We are aiming to rise a total of at least five hundred persons per centre daily. I must tell you that in discussion with Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, he too is quite pleased with this de-

velopment and he said he feels very confident that this target can be achieved,” Marketing and Communications Officer for the Medical Benefits Scheme, Dr. Janelle Charles-Williams reported.

She also expressed deep appreciation for the work being done by nurses as part of the exercise. “The nurses have been going the extra mile to ensure that everyone who presents himself/herself to be vaccinated receives a dose. We have said that the last person will be allowed to join the line at 3:30 p.m. but I was at Multipurpose Centre on Tuesday afternoon up to after 5:00 o'clock and the nurses were still at their stations administering the vaccine,” she remarked.

Dr. Charles-Williams added that whilst vaccination for the general public resumes on Thursday after two days where the focus shifted on seniors, people sixty-five and older who have not been vaccinated may still go to the sites as they will be given pri-

ority as they are part of the vulnerable group of people. Additionally, she reported that people who are not able to walk have been vaccinated while seated in motor vehicles.

The Ministry of Health reminded that already COVID-19 has claimed nineteen lives and that vaccination is the only proven way to prevent serious illness or death should someone be-

come infected with the virus. COVID-19 has also caused serious long-term issues for survivors, who often complain of difficulty in breathing.

Registration for vaccination continues for members of the public. Vaccination of government's departments and ministries will also continue.

Already, many prominent individuals in the

society have participated in the programme by getting vaccinated. Included are members of the Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, as well as members of the opposition United Progressive Party, led by Political Leader Harold Lovell.

The mass roll-out of the vaccine started on Monday with the arrival of forty thousand

doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, donated to the people of Antigua and Barbuda by the government and people of India. The Indian High Commissioner, Dr. Dr. K.J. Srinivasa, visited Antigua and Barbuda to be on hand for the arrival of the vaccines on Monday morning.

## Businessman named as India's Honorary Consul to St. John's



Vijay Shivkumar Tewani,

Antigua and Barbuda and the government of India are further strengthening their ties with the appointment of businessman, Vijay Shivkumar Tewani, as

India's Honorary Consul in Antigua and Barbuda. In a brief ceremony on Monday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tewani, who was born in India but who is now an Antigua

and Barbuda citizen, presented his letter of appointment to Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene. In attendance at the ceremony was the visiting Indian High Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, who is based in Guyana, Dr. K.J. Srinivasa.

The Honorary Consul's primary duties are to attend to their affairs of Indian nationals living in Antigua and Barbuda as well as to facilitate the investment of Indian individuals or entities in the country. Additionally, he is expected to be a link between the government and the India High

Commission office in Guyana. Tewani is the Chief Executive Officer of the AMA Group of Companies which mainly deals in luxury brands of jewellery, watches, leather goods, among others. AMA Caribbean Gems was established in 1986 in Antigua and Barbuda. It is a household name in the country for the sale of high quality branded jewellery and watches. It prides itself in providing excellent customer service to tourists and local customers as well. Amabella and Amatech are two companies that are also part of the group.



# UK provides training to key government agencies on seabed survey equipment



Lindsay Thompson

Representatives from several government departments are undergoing a ten-day virtual training programme being facilitated by experts from the United Kingdom.

The British High Commission in St John's said the workshop is targeting members of Antigua and Barbuda Department of Maritime Services (ADOMS), the Coast Guard and Fisheries Department. "This training builds upon previous support provided by the UK Hydrographic Office in 2019 on survey equipment the UK has donated to Antigua and Barbuda. This will allow Antigua and Barbuda to begin mapping its own waters. The data will support future sustainable growth whilst protecting

the environment – vital to developing the country's Blue Economy," a High Commission media release stated.

It said over the next several days, participants will receive technical guidance that will sharpen their survey and data

processing skills that will help produce high quality data and accurate charts for mariners. "This is especially important as predicting changes over time in the sea floor is important for supporting safe and efficient nautical navigation, marine economic development, security and defence, scientific research, and environmental protection," according to the release. During the opening ceremony, the Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, said "This two-week workshop is another example of the UK's commitment

to Antigua and Barbuda as it navigates this rapidly-developing maritime sphere." The UK Hydrographic Office is a world-leading centre for hydrography, specializing in marine geospatial data that helps others to unlock a deeper understanding of the world's oceans. This comprehensive package of UK support will support Antigua and Barbuda's ambitions to develop its blue economy whilst supporting initiatives to mitigate the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, whilst also ensuring safety of navigation for the mariner.

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**Wash hands** frequently (i.e. between deliveries/jobs) using liquid soap and water (hot or cold is just as effective) for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching surfaces while drying hands.

**COVID-19: Driver Safety Tips**

**WASH LAVAR**

**DRIVE SAFELY**

**ABT**  
Antigua & Barbuda Transport Board

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

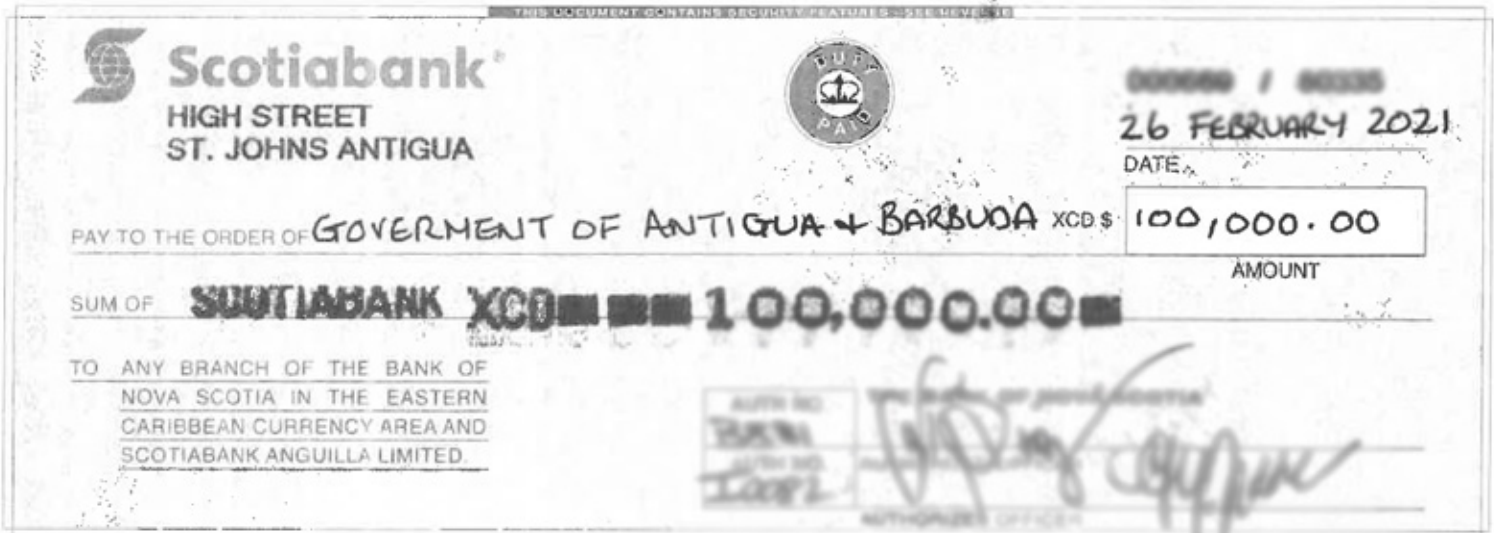
# PM Browne says Cabinet members have been assisting constituents faced with hardship

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is defending members of his Cabinet who he said have going the 'extra mile' to assist constituents faced with hardship brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, PM Browne said calls for government ministers to give up por-

tions of their salaries to help people in their communities ignore the facts on the ground. "I hear this calls all the time. However, I can speak for my colleagues all of whom are running social programmes for their people; they have feeding programmes, they have computer labs as well as other initiatives. During 'back to school,'

we provided bags, uniforms, school supplies et cetera. They are spending far more than ten per cent of their salaries on the people. In the Labour Party we are benevolent people; we are here to serve," he declared. For his part, Prime Minister Browne continues his philanthropic work with a recent donation of one hundred thousand dol-

lars of his personal money to the Government to assist with the COVID-19 efforts. Over the years, the nation's leader made donations of similar amounts to the UWI Five Islands Fund as well as to the Hurricane Recovery Fund. According to the Prime Minister, the money comes from his salary payments since he took office back in 2014.





# The transitioning of Ralph Francis



*The 'poor people's lawyer', the late Ralph Francis*

Prominent attorney and politician, Ralph Francis, who was hospitalized for the past several weeks with COVID-19 related illnesses, has succumbed to the disease on Tuesday afternoon. In a statement last evening, MSJMC confirmed his passing, "The patient, a male, age seventy-two (72), with comorbidities, was admitted to the hospital on February 8, 2021 in severe respiratory distress, requiring ventilator support. Despite the best efforts of our care team the patient succumbed to the illness today, March 2, 2021 at 4:37pm." Francis, often referred to as 'the poor man's lawyer,' will be 'truly missed,' a tearful Yvonne Piper, his companion for the past twenty-six years told PointeXpress newspaper. The late attorney

not only made himself available for many who could not afford legal fees when they had broaches with the law, but he also championed many of the electoral cases undertaken by the Free and Fair Elections League, led by the late George Rick James. Francis also appeared as attorney for the Barbuda Council in several of their cases with the central government on a range of issues. Francis was also active in politics as he unsuccessfully contested several general elections in the country; he appeared as a candidate for the opposition UNDP which later morphed into the United Progressive Party (UPP). He was among a group of UPP politicians who left the party in 2003 to form

the Organization for National Development, along current Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Melford Nicholas and Glentis Goodwin. Nicholas would later join the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party. He appeared as a candidate for the party in the only general elections it contested in 2009. He was not victorious. Minister Nicholas said after hearing of Francis' passing said both he and other founding members of the now-defunct ONP consoled each other Tuesday afternoon as they reflected on the passing of a close friend and colleague. "There were three things that Ralph loved in life; golf, horse racing and a good argument," he recalled.

Ralph Francis was the son of the late Claude Earl Francis, himself a prominent lawyer and politician from Barbuda, who was murdered along with his wife in the 1970s.

Piper described Francis as a man who was passionate about golf and one who was deeply appreciative of local culture, in particular calypso music. He was also a regular at the Friday night sessions at one of the local casinos where he displayed his excellent dancing skills. Ralph Francis was the father of two children and would have turned seventy-three in May.

Meanwhile the Antigua

Turf Club issued a statement overnight marking his passing. It reads: Statement on the passing of Ralph Francis from the Antigua Turf Club

The president, executive and members of the Antigua Turf Club express our heartfelt condolences on the passing of former vice president, owner, trainer and jockey, Ralph Francis Esq., affectionately known to us as "Ben Jones." He was a senior member of the horse racing fraternity, and the chief legal advisor to the Antigua Turf Club. A founding member of the Cassada Gardens Turf Club back in 1963/4, Ralph's love for the sport of horse racing grew when he and friends such as Spinner Gordon, Noel James, Norris Walter and Desmond Thomas would journey to the syndicate stables and seek permission to ride the horses which were stabled at the Gambles Buff, after the Syndicate Estates had terminated their running of horse racing at Cassada Gardens. He was humorous, good natured and outspoken whenever he felt that the interest of horse racing was not being best served. He never heard to be on the opposite side of the status quo. His presence at the track, around the stables and, more so as the voice calling the races on race days, will be surely missed





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# JAMES CLARVIS HEZKETH JOSEPH

A man committed to Regional Integration in the Caribbean

Tribute by: Holly J. Peters  
1977 President Antigua Jaycees

Former Executive Director – Antigua & Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd

## *A Psalm of Life*

By Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow  
*What The Heart Of The  
Young Man Said To The  
Psalmist.*

*Tell me not, in mournful  
numbers,*

*Life is but an empty  
dream!*

*For the soul is dead that  
slumbers,*

*And things are not what  
they seem.*

*Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its*

*goal;*

*Dust thou art, to dust re-  
turnest,*

*Was not spoken of the  
soul.*

*Not enjoyment, and not  
sorrow,*

*Is our destined end or  
way;*

*But to act, that each  
to-morrow*

*Find us farther than to-  
day.*

*Trust no Future, howe'er  
pleasant!*

*Let the dead Past bury its  
dead!*

*Act,— act in the living  
Present!*

*Heart within, and God  
o'erhead!*

*Lives of great men all re-  
mind us*

*We can make our lives  
sublime,*

*And, departing, leave be-  
hind us*

*Footprints on the sands  
of time;*

*Footprints, that perhaps  
another,*

*Sailing o'er life's solemn  
main,*

*A forlorn and ship-  
wrecked brother,*

*Seeing, shall take heart  
again.*

*Let us, then, be up and  
doing,*

*With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pur-  
suing,*

*Learn to labor and to  
wait.*

*Art is long, and Time is  
fleeting,*

*And our hearts, though  
stout and brave,*

*Still, like muffled drums,  
are beating*

*Funeral marches to the  
grave.*

*In the world's broad field  
of battle,*

*In the bivouac of Life,  
Be not like dumb, driven  
cattle!*

*Be a hero in the strife!*

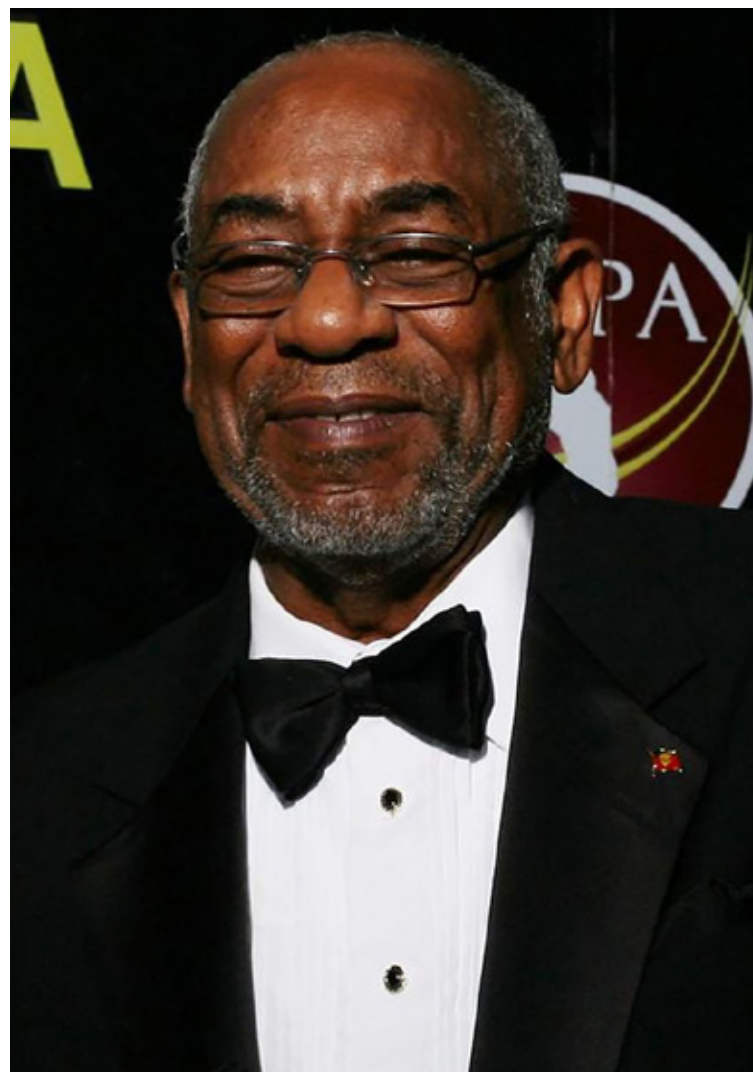
*In Antigua, the seat of the  
Government of the Lee-  
ward Islands, where King*

*Sugar and Queen Cotton  
reigned and substance*

*abuse was smoking  
Lucky Strike Cigarettes*

*and drinking Speakeasy,  
one beautiful day 29th*

*November 1942, a son  
was born to Hercules and*



Iris Joseph. They named him 'James Clarvis Hezketh' and called him Clarvis. He was involved in the regular activities of the Antigua Grammar school under the watchful eyes of Jack Foote, Father Brown, Leonard Shorey, Alfred W. Blackett, Selvyn Walter, and Lloydston Jacobs. The little force-ripe boy grew to a handsome young man of medium stature with a boastful parrot-toed walk.

Ever since his early days, Clarvis displayed leadership qualities among his friends. He had a desire to become an educator, inasmuch as he believed that knowledge was the key to success in any endeavor. His teaching career took him to the Pilgrim High School; the Greenbay Government School and the Antigua Girls' High School where he taught History. A former student had this to say: "He was my favour-



ite History Teacher.” He taught Management of Business in the First Year University Programme delivered at the Antigua State College.

His family, including eight siblings (one brother and seven sisters), migrated to the U.S.A. But the precocious Clarvis decided to remain in the Caribbean and contribute to its growth and development. He was a graduate of the University of the West Indies Mona Campus. After graduation, he lived in Guyana with his wife whom he met at University.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The true Measure of a man is not how he behaves in moments of comfort and convenience but how he stands at times of controversy and challenges”.

Friends from Antigua met up again in 1972 when we attended the West Indies Jaycees National Convention; Clarvis a delegate of Guyana, the land of wood and water, and we from Antigua where land and sea make beauty. He had become a vociferous young man, which was evident when he made his clearly studied contributions to the debates. It was a pleasure to be in his company and his free time was spent with us the delegates from his home town.

There is something very unique about belonging to Junior Chamber International, the world’s greatest organisation for young people between

the ages of 18 – 40. The Jaycees organisation provides opportunities for young men and women to develop personal and leadership skills through service to others. Through active participation, one can achieve their highest potential in setting their goals. Clarvis is a fine example of this training. He was made a JCI Senator, which gave him the highest award of lifetime membership.

During his active membership in the Antigua Jaycees, in the mid 1970’s, there was a glut in agriculture. Clarvis introduced an idea to assist the farmers to get rid of their excess fruits and vegetables. He met with the farmers and created an avenue for sale of their produce left over from Saturday and general exports to other countries. Thus the Jaycees Sunday Market project was created where we the Jaycees would become the vendors on behalf of the farmers. This earned him the respect of the farmers.

He knew that he wanted to do his part in making Antigua become a developed nation of first class citizens. There was nothing shy about Clarvis. He assimilated himself. The Clarvis I knew had a heart of gold that was always in the right place. He knew how to win friends and influence people. He was a friend to the friendless. He provided shelter for the homeless. He understood leadership and most times led

from the front and many times when he would be moving along and upon glancing back, those encouraging the march would not be there. Yet he would press on. He led from behind too when he would be the encourager for you to push forward to become the best. Nelson Mandela once said, “A leader... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.” In leading, he had to contend with sometimes making tough and unpopular decisions. But, in his wisdom, those decisions were for the good of the majority. He was fearless and took responsibility for his actions as any leader should.

In wanting Antigua to develop to its true potential, Clarvis led the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry during the years 1995 – 2007. As President, he met and consulted with many local, regional and international governments and non-governmental representatives and organisations. The opinions of the Chamber of Commerce are valued by most. The president, officers and members of the Board are committed to service for which they receive no Board fees. Perhaps because it had at its head an undaunted leader like Clarvis, more and more demands were being made of the orga-

nization by its members, civil society and the public at large. It therefore became necessary to relocate the secretariat from Redcliffe Street to more spacious facilities on North & Popeshead Streets. This move called for leasehold improvements. With the assistance of a supportive board of directors, past presidents and members of the Chamber, in Phase I of the upgrade, open space was transformed into two conference rooms fully equipped with air-conditioning, tables and chairs to seat a combined total of 45 persons and with state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, including multi-media projector. As the respected trade support institution, the Chamber had to prepare its members and citizens to respond to the economic challenges of globalization and trade liberalization. One way to accomplish this was to expand the training courses on offer at that time. The Chamber launched its own twice-yearly Executive Leadership and Strategic Management Development Workshops in order to provide management with the necessary insights, skills and practical tools required to effectively prepare and cope. Space in the Chamber was allocated for committee meetings, as well as general meetings to organize strategy sessions, where members could meet and exchange ideas on how to

cope with changes in the business environment. Other initiatives included the Chamber partnering with the UWI Cave Hill School of Business for the use of its facilities to conduct Cave Hill's face-to-face Executive Masters in Business Management and its Executive Diploma in Management programmes. During his tenure, one of the regular activities of the Chamber of Commerce was its monthly luncheons. Clarvis would use the Chamber's platform to educate the members and guests on the burning issues and topics of the day. Where necessary, guest speakers would be brought to Antigua to give the region's point of view. Such topical issues and speakers included: Implications of the CSME by The Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur; Globalization and Trade Liberalization by H.E. Sir Ronald Sanders; The Pros and Cons of the Caribbean Court of Justice by Sen. Hon. Arnold J. Nicholson, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Jamaica and Dame Bernice Lake

Q.C.; Liberalization of the Telecommunication Industry – representative from ECTEL; and presentations from Prime Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda – Hon. Lester Bryant Bird and Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer.

Clarvis was a well-known clear-thinking and respected community activist who worked in the interest of the people. As president of the Chamber of Commerce, he advocated and defended the interest of the private sector. As vice-president of the West Indies Cricket Board, he worked to advance, protect and build the players and region as a whole. These positions of leadership, especially when one is knowledgeable and assertive such as Clarvis, would sometimes put him in conflict with people in authority at home and in the region. He often got himself in good trouble. Leadership calls for boldness. Many times I would watch the audacious Clarvis in action and speaking his truth while working for the good of the region, country and

citizenry as a whole. Don't ask me how he did it, but Clarvis undoubtedly knew how to listen to the Holy Spirit and act on its leading. How else was he able to look after the needs of the workers through sometimes difficult union negotiations and at the same time mediate and satisfy the business owners as well as the coffers of the Treasury? He also displayed love of duty and ease of interaction, inasmuch as he was familiar with many of the region's policy and decision makers. His position as President of the Chamber involved making appearances before Cabinet. In addition, he would on occasion be part of a delegation representing the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce to Regional bodies such as OECS and Caricom to give the opinions on the effect of policy on the region's private sector. Clarvis, a supporter and participant of cultural activities, knew the Mas builders and steelband players and they knew him. He knew Calypso kings Obstinate, Short

Shirt and Swallow, and they knew him. From his youth, Clarvis was known to Ernest Williams, Edmund Hawkins Lake and Novelle Richards. In his positions of leadership, he was known to V.C. Bird, Father of the Nation. He knew George H. Walter and Walter knew him. He knew Lester Bryant Bird and Lester knew him. He knew Baldwin Spencer and Spencer knew him. He knew Donald Halstead and Halstead knew him. Clarvis knew Michael Manley, P.J. Patterson, Maurice Bishop, Ralph Gonsalves, Forbes Burnham, Walter Rodney, Patrick Manning, John Compton, Vaughan Lewis, Allan Louisy, Eugenia Charles, Rosie Douglas, K. Dwight Venner, Errol Barrow, Owen Arthur, Shridath Ramphal, Ronald Sanders, Dennis Byron, Edwin Carrington, Alister McIntyre, William Demas, Richard Bernal and they knew him. He knew Steve Camacho, Patrick (Pat) Rousseau, and Ricky Skerritt and they knew him. They are many other skilled men and women

**TALKING POINT**  
**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**  
**10:30AM TO 1:30PM**

DR. MASERATI

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE



who, like Clarvis, played meaningful roles in the development and transformation of the island states in becoming competitive as a region in this world of globalization. Clarvis lived through many transitions in the region: British Colonies obtaining Associated Statehood to full Independence; The West Indies Federation to Caricom, and the smaller OECS grouping; and too, the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Clarvis was a well-rounded decent, humble and caring individual; a man of his word who could be depended on; a hard-working man who did

not shirk his responsibilities; a lover of humanity; a man who held dear to his heart his family, immediate and extended, especially the children; a visionary who encouraged men and women from all walks of life to be the best at whatever they did, recognizing each job is necessary to form part of the whole; a man who always would encourage and say, "Don't give me an excuse, give me a reason." Clarvis lived his life in accordance with his beliefs as demonstrated in the JCI Creed: Expressing faith in the sanctity of freedom; Proclaiming belief in the basic nobility of human life; Protect-

ing the right of the individual to live in dignity; Providing for each individual the opportunity to develop his or her maximum potential within his/her own society. A sagacious man who believed in his country and the region. A man who believed, promoted and participated in the Arts and Culture, Education and Training, Leadership Development, Economic Development, Trade in Goods and Services. A life well lived, whose presence would light up a room or cause a party to begin depending on the event. It is said that Clarvis was 'larger than life'. On 26th June 2014, James

Clarvis Hezketh Joseph was awarded Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation – KCN. A life well-lived whose journey has ended, leaving behind an indelible mark for others to emulate. On behalf of my family and on my own behalf, I extend sincerest condolences to his dear wife Dr. Pat Marlene Joseph; his sons: Kevin, wife Jacqui and grandson Darius; Damon, wife Bridget, and grandchildren Kimana and Jahleel; his sisters, nieces, nephews and cousins. May the soul of James Clarvis Hezketh Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.



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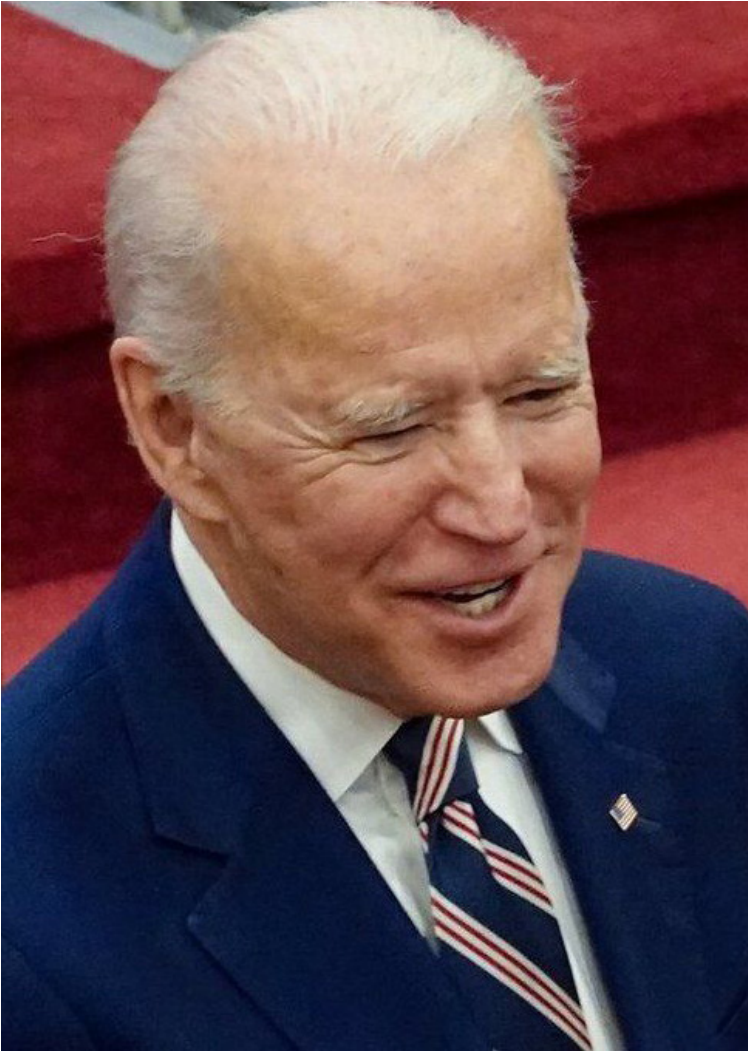
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# Joe Biden's US Foreign Policy: Return to the Old Normal?

## PART 2



President Joe Biden

BY ROGER HARRIS

The new US administration will be augmenting troops in Syria and expanding and building new military bases there. Damascus is in a weakened state with the pandemic, economic blockade, and continued military hostilities by the US and its “partners.”

Biden announced that the US will no longer support “offensive operations” in the Saudi-led war on Yemen, a human rights catastrophe. It remains to be seen what continuing “defensive” lethal aid to the Saudis entails. The Saudis have the world’s fifth largest military, costing an astronomical 8% of their

GDP. Some US military sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been temporarily suspended. In response, the CEO of military merchant Raytheon commented: “Peace is not going to break out in the Middle East anytime soon.” He should know, as Biden’s defense secretary formerly sat on his board of directors.

“America’s backyard” – 21st century Monroe Doctrine

Treatment of Latin America and the Caribbean as the US’s proprietary backyard, under the 1823 Monroe Doctrine, is being challenged by a rising “pink tide”: recent leftist electoral wins in Mexico, Argentina, and Bolivia and a possibility in Ecuador in April; popular uprisings in Argentina, Haiti, and elsewhere; and continued resistance by Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

Biden, the day he entered office, had the power of executive order to restore Obama’s

openings to Cuba that had been reversed by Trump. Now, over a month in office, Biden has not ended limits on remittances, restrictions on travel, or other illegal sanctions on Cuba. Biden continues the illegal policy of regime change for Cuba of the previous 12 US presidents: covert and overt destabilization, blockade, and occupation of Guantánamo. Obama’s openings to Cuba, by his own description, were not a deviation from previous policy but an attempt to achieve regime change by different means.

Venezuela featured prominently in the presidential campaign speeches of Trump and Biden, with both promoting regime change. US-anointed counterfeit president of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó has lost his credentials with the European Union. But the farce – initiated in 2019 by Trump – is being continued by Biden, who backed



down on his campaign pledge to possibly negotiate directly with the democratically elected president, Nicolás Maduro.

Biden, once in office, has deported thousands of emigres back to Haiti and other countries. This is “a disappointing step backward from the Biden administration’s earlier commitments to fully break from the harmful deportation policies of both the Trump and Obama presidencies,” according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Pivot to Asia

US foreign policy reflects the personal qualities of the person occupying the Oval Office, party affiliation, and the constellation of state and corporate powers behind the administration. Eclipsing these factors are larger geopolitical developments, especially now with the emergence of China as the world’s workshop.

China is an upcoming rival but falls short as a peer of the US in terms of economic power. China’s remarkable

economic growth has been predicated by its integration in and indeed dependence on the international capitalist market, which is dominated by the US. Although China is the world’s leading exporter, only a miniscule 4% of the international exchange of currencies are denominated in the Chinese yuan compared to 88% in US\$. Tellingly, close to half the trade between China and Russia, two countries sanctioned by the US, is denominated in US\$.

Following Obama’s “pivot to Asia” in 2012, Biden’s policy portends a continuation of Trump’s hostility toward China only with further intensification. The US military buildup to confine China includes land, air, sea, and even space forces with the South China Sea as a hotspot of contention.

Trump negotiated a peace agreement between the Taliban and the US-backed government in Afghanistan, now in its twentieth year of war. The Biden administration has

indicated that it will not honor the agreement, which requires a US troop drawdown instead of Biden’s announced buildup.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is entering its 71st year of official war with the US with no end in sight. When Trump met with DRPK President Kim Jong-un in 2019, the Democrats screamed “treason.” To be sure, Biden will not make the patriotic mistake of trying to reduce tension between the two nuclear powers.

Nuclear policy – 100 seconds before midnight

The US is ringing Russia and China with “missile defense systems,” which had been illegal until George W. Bush abrogated the US-Russia ABM Treaty in 2002. A “missile defense system” is designed to shield against a retaliatory response after a first-strike nuclear attack. Congress recently authorized a new generation of US intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

China’s official policy is “not to be the first to use

nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances.” Russian policy is to use nuclear weapons only “when the very existence of the state is threatened.” On contrast, the US reserves the right to “first use” nuclear weapons.

A trillion-dollar plus nuclear weapon modernization, started by Obama and continued by Trump, lurches on under Biden with the entire US nuclear arsenal scheduled to be upgraded. The consequences are far greater risks of launching an accidental nuclear war and an accelerated arms race with Russia and China. Head of the US Strategic Air Command, Admiral Charles A. Richard, warned just this month that in a conflict with Russia or China “nuclear employment is a very real possibility.”

Given such an international climate, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the 2021 doomsday clock to 100 seconds before midnight. Although the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons be-

came international law on January 21, the US has not ratified it. On the brighter side, Biden extended the New START nuclear arms treaty for four years.

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#### Pivot to Asia

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# BUNNY WAILER: REGGAE LEGEND

WHO PLAYED WITH BOB MARLEY DIES, AGED 73

One of reggae's most important voices, Bunny Wailer, has died at the age of 73.

The musician, from Kingston, Jamaica, was a founding member of The Wailers alongside his childhood friend, Bob Marley.

Together, they achieved international fame with reggae classics like *Simmer Down* and *Stir It Up*, before Wailer left to go solo in 1974. He went on to win three Grammys and was given Jamaica's Order of Merit in 2017.

His death was confirmed by manager Maxine Stowe, and Jamaica's Culture Minister, Olivia Grange.

The cause of death is unknown, but he had been in hospital since having a stroke in July 2020.

The star, whose real name was Neville O'Riley Livingston, had been the last surviving member of The Wailers, following Bob Marley's death from cancer in 1981, and Peter Tosh's murder during a robbery in 1987. [BBC]



# Duke threatens to shut down Piarco Airport



**BY SHARLENE  
RAMPERSAD**

Public Service Association president Watson Duke is threatening to shut down the Immigration Division's operations at the Piarco International Airport, as he says the Government has failed the officers by not providing proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Duke's statements

come following news that 13 immigration officers have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and 84 more are in quarantine. During a press conference at the PSA headquarters in Port-of-Spain yesterday, Duke gave statistics on the number of face masks, hand sanitizers and hazmat suits the officers were given over a 51-day period. He said during this period,

5,000 people had travelled in and out of the country.

"You know how many surgical masks they gave them to deal with 5,000 passengers between January 4 and February 24? Fifty-one days, you know how much masks they gave them? 250 surgical face masks," Duke said.

He said there are 90 immigration officers assigned to work at the airport but the entire group was given 180 bottles of hand sanitizer, each measuring 250 ml, and 25 hazmat suits. He said they were also given gloves but all the gloves were the same size, making them difficult for the female officers to use. Duke accused National Security Minister Stuart Young of being a 'wordsmith' and using 'big words' to deflect from not providing the proper PPE for the officers.

"We are demanding all the PPE is provided for all employees, we will not be accepting that stock ran out." He said the Government had breached

Section 6 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act by not providing a safe work environment for the officers. "They have failed in fulfilling their legal duty to these employees. The PSA will have a zero-tolerance on that for immigration, for customs at the airport, and at any moment we will shut it down, flat on its back, no warning, no further warning," Duke said. When asked to address a post on social media that alleged immigration officers were infected with the virus while attending two parties, Duke said those allegations were untrue.

"We expect them to do that, this is PNM style - blame the workers. There is no evidence of that, it is all made up to make the workers look irresponsible. Ask yourself where is the head of the Immigration Division? Where is she? Out of the country. Ask yourself if anyone really cares about those workers." [Trinidad Guardian]



# Funerals and burials suspended in Jamaica amid surge in COVID cases and deaths

*Jamaica Observer* - KINGSTON, Jamaica — Jamaica's COVID-19 death toll increased to 432 after seven virus-related deaths were recorded yesterday. According to the Ministry of Health and Wellness, four of the deaths — two men, 84 and 75, and two women 78 and 16 — were residents of Kingston and Saint Andrew. The other deaths were an 83-year-old man from Manchester, a 72-year-old woman from Westmoreland and a 61-year-old man from Trelawny. The ministry said two of the deaths were previously classified as under investigation. The country also recorded 239 new cases of the virus, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 23,838. Of the newly reported cases, there were 104 males and 135 females with ages ranging from five months to 101 years. The cases were recorded in Saint Ann (67), Kingston and Saint Andrew (61), Portland, Clarendon (20 each) Saint Catherine (19), Saint James (18), Manchester (13), Saint Elizabeth (7), Hanover (6), Saint Mary (5) and Trelawny (3).

As COVID-19 cases con-



tinue to rise island-wide, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced a raft of new containment measures for the next three weeks.

These include:

1. The island-wide curfew remains at 8:00 pm to 5:00 am daily until March 22.
2. Zoos, parks, gyms, attractions and bars will close at 6:00 pm.
3. Only students who will sit exit examinations and those with special needs are to receive face-to-face instruction. This includes private schools. Nurseries and day care centres are considered critical services and are to be kept open.
4. Starting March 4, there must be a work-from-home arrangement in the public sector. Only employees who work in critical service delivery should be in the physical office locations.
5. The private sector is en-

couraged to arrange their affairs in such a way as to facilitate their staff working from home.

6. Where a member of staff has comorbidities, or has to take care of someone who is ill or otherwise challenged, that person should be allowed to work from home. This applies to both the public and private sector.
7. The public gathering limit will remain at 10 people.
8. In the public sector, no social events or ceremonies, unless virtual, are allowed to take place.
9. As obtains for visitors, Jamaicans coming home from abroad will be required to present a negative COVID test, conducted within 72 hours prior to their travel date, at the check-in to their flights. Accepted test types are PCR test, Nucleic Acid Amplification test (NAA), RNA or molecular test

and Antigen test. Antibody tests will not be accepted and home-based test kits will not be accepted. Lab specifications can be found on [visitjamaica.com](http://visitjamaica.com).

Business travelers, who were previously facilitated by the Government, will now be required to pay for their own PCR tests.

10. Flights coming directly from the United Kingdom continue to be restricted.

11. Effective March 8, funerals and burials will be prohibited. No burial orders will be issued. Funerals that were already scheduled up to March 7 may go ahead under the current protocols.

12. Churches are directed to engage in online services only. Ten members are permitted within the church space to manage the online programme.

13. Weddings are allowed, except that the cap has now been halved to 25 people, including the bride, groom, pastor and the two witnesses.

14. Public beaches are to be closed.

15. The age has been adjusted from 65 to 60 years for individuals required to stay at home.

# Government concerned about Caribbean Agro price increases



The Grenada Government says it is very concerned about the decision by Caribbean Agro Industries to effect price increases during the Covid-19 pandemic, even after it was advised against doing so by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Consumer Affairs. The Keith Mitchell administration in St. Georges says it is also

concerned that increasing the price of basic commodity items will exacerbate the social and economic challenges confronting families, as many are already dealing with reduced income and loss of jobs because of the pandemic. It adds that this concern was expressed to Caribbean Agro when the company first

communicated the planned price increase for flour and animal feed, and a request was made to maintain prices at the current levels. Government of the Spice Isle says it is therefore appalled by the decision to proceed with implementation of the price hike, a move it says will cause additional hardship for Grenadians at

this time, and negatively affect the growth and development of the poultry sector. Industry officials had previously expressed concern about the impact of the monopoly on the development of the poultry sector. They fear the increased cost of feed will make it more difficult to generate the jobs and the production capacity to foster growth of the industry. Government is assuring the Grenadian public that it will do whatever it can to remedy the situation.

A Cabinet sub-committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Consumer Affairs will convene a meeting this week with Caribbean Agro Industries to deal with the issue. [NOW Grenada]

## REAL TALK

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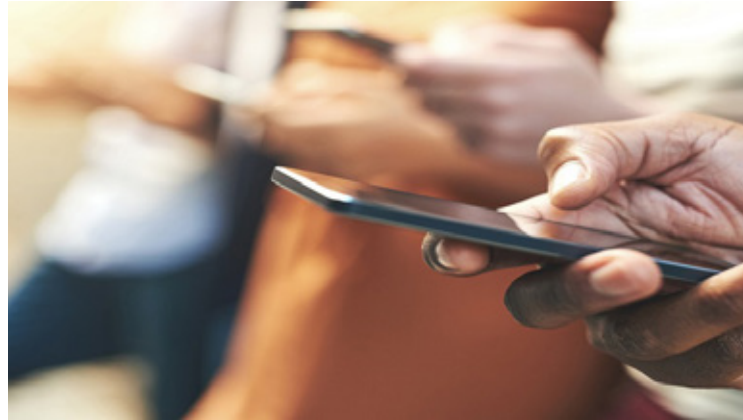


# SLU govt, opposition encourage use of contact tracing app

The Government of Saint Lucia says it applauds the Ministry of Health's continued use of technology in the fight against COVID-19 as it announces the launch of the "758 Care Alert" app to boost contact tracing efforts by the Department of Health and Wellness.

In a statement, the Government in Castries says it has been utilizing monitoring devices such as the Amber Solution Watch and the BioIntelliSense Button to help health authorities manage and monitor the national COVID-19 response and welcomes the "758 Care Alert" app for citizens to actively join the fight.

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has continuously praised the contact tracing team who have engaged in extensive and comprehensive contact tracing to help contain the spread of the virus throughout the island. The "758 Care Alert" app will assist contact tracers by using data alongside the individual's memory to determine their locations in



the last 14 days prior to their diagnosis. The Government of Saint Lucia is encouraging citizens to download the App which is available on the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. The Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP), meanwhile, says it is pleased that the Government has "finally taken its advice" to develop and launch a contact tracing app to help in the fight against COVID-19.

In an address to the nation on January 28, 2021, Opposition Leader Philip J Pierre reiterated his call for the use of technology in allowing for a more efficient reporting of test results, contact tracing, and monitoring of individuals.

The rollout of the new '758 Care Alert' app was announced earlier this week by the

Ministry of Health and Wellness. The app was originally announced by the ministry in December of last year.

"We encourage Saint Lucians to download the "758 Care Alert" mobile app from Google and Apple Stores in order to assist health officials in carrying out their duties," Communications Officer for the SLP, Maundy Lewis said Monday.

"We trust that data privacy and data issues are properly addressed as indicated by the Ministry. "The Government would do well by implementing more of the recommendations in the Hon Philip J Pierre's 7-Point Rescue Plan, which, if instituted, would allow for the protection of Saint Lucian lives and livelihoods," Lewis added. According to the Government, "Having the

App on one's phone has several benefits:

- Creates a private location diary for users by documenting places visited, 14 days at a time.

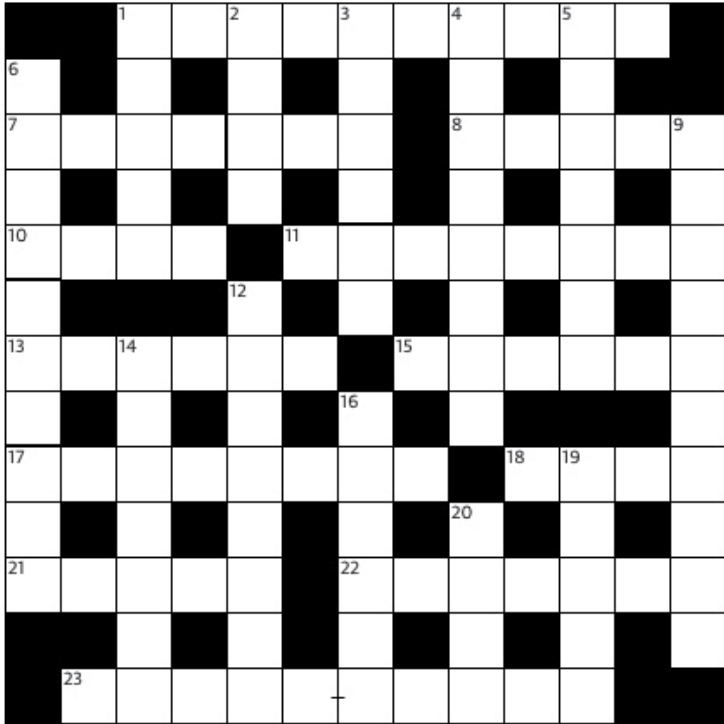
- If diagnosed, one can choose to share their location with the Ministry of Health's contact tracing team so they can inform others who may have crossed paths with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

- Allows exposed individuals to receive notifications on whether they may have crossed paths with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

- The information is private and sharing the location history is the decision of the phone user. To access all the benefits of the app, one must read and accept the licensing agreement.

The Government of Saint Lucia is committed to ensuring safety and encourages all Saint Lucians to download the app to join the fight against the spread of COVID-19. [LOOP St Lucia]

# QUICK CROSSWORD



## Sudoku Puzzles

8	5					4	
	1				5	6	3
			6	7			
	6		4	9			
	7			2		9	8
9			5	8			
1	8		7		2		
3			8			5	2
	9					7	
							1

### Across

- 1 Inability to discharge one's debts as they come due (10)
- 7 Toiletry used on the head (4,3)
- 8 Mountainous state of western Austria (5)
- 10 Shed tears (4)
- 11 Secure position from which progress can be made (8)
- 13 Break in continuity (6)
- 15 Embellish with adornments (6)
- 17 Chafing — disharmony (8)
- 18 Fool — bird (4)
- 21 Pupil (5)
- 22 Most direct route (7)
- 23 Wear clothing typical of the opposite sex (5-5)

### Down

- 1 Airship — barrage balloon (5)
- 2 Recess (4)
- 3 Trust (4,2)
- 4 Murphies (8)
- 5 Cause to rust (7)
- 6 Shoot the breeze? (4,3,3)
- 9 Philanderer (10)
- 12 Structure providing support (8)
- 14 Flyer (7)
- 16 Prohibit (6)
- 19 Single undivided wholes (5)
- 20 Selection of small dishes served in Greek or Turkish cuisine

# CARTOON CORNER

## Garfield





# LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Wed 03   Day</p> <p><b>28°</b> ☀️</p> <p>7% ESE 24 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. High 28°C. Winds ESE at 15 to 30 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 66% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 06:23 Sunset 18:14</p>	<p>Wed 03   Night</p> <p><b>23°</b> 🌙</p> <p>15% ESE 15 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. Low 23°C. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 76% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 22:43 Moonset 09:40</p> <p>☾ Waning Gibbous</p>
<p>Thu 04   Day</p> <p><b>28°</b> ☀️</p> <p>8% SE 19 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. High 28°C. Winds SE at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 68% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 06:23 Sunset 18:14</p>	<p>Thu 04   Night</p> <p><b>23°</b> 🌙</p> <p>4% SE 14 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. Low 23°C. Winds SE at 10 to 15 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 77% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 23:45 Moonset 10:27</p> <p>☾ Waning Gibbous</p>

# 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

### ♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Being straightforward and blunt might get the job done, but it won't endear you to those who prefer good manners. New information may force you to make last-minute changes and could put a promise at risk.

### ♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Some flirtations are just for fun and shouldn't be taken seriously. Just because a special person is paying attention to someone else doesn't mean you aren't cherished. Don't go on a spending spree.

### ♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Your enthusiasm is in top form and keeping up with you could be a challenge. Since you seem to be in a hurry, it might be difficult for someone to relax in your presence. Physical exercise is a good way to let off steam.

### ♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

To make money, sometimes you must spend money. However, during the upcoming week you might notice that expenditures outweigh the benefits. You may suffer from an illusion that you are in total control.

### ♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Your people skills pack a punch. That is a good thing, because it's hard to get ahead without dealing with others. People may compete for your affections or money, or you may vie for someone's attention or business.

### ♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You might be tempted to mingle with others, but an outing or virtual meeting could cost more than you expected. Mutual misunderstandings could cause unpredictable results, so shelve a major discussion for a few days.

### ♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

An unforeseen shift of opinion could cause a change in your plans or daily routines. Your work team could become social friends, or you may become interested in homemade arts and crafts and related groups.

### ♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Drive with your fog lights on. You can't see as far ahead as you would like right now, and some signals may be cryptic or too good to be true. If you wait until a period of confusion clears up, you might find the facts.

### ♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Loved ones could be so busy that all you do is go along for the ride. An apology might go a long way toward healing a breach, even if it might remind someone of a past situation that was already forgotten.

### ♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

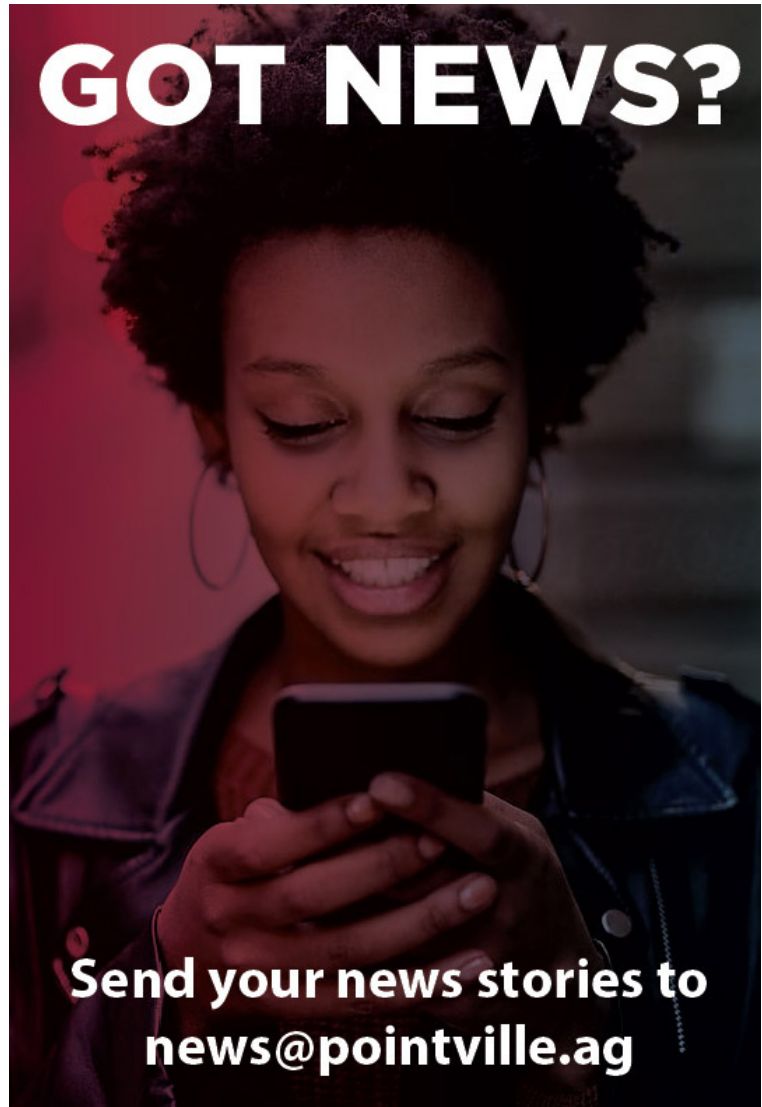
Any impulsive words or sudden changes may throw a wrench into your plans, but you might find that there's a silver lining. Use your imagination and you can take advantage of a disruptive ongoing situation.

### ♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Wait until there's time for a more thorough investigation before you take gossip as gospel. Don't be tempted to splurge on something new unless you're sure there is room in the budget for it.

### ♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You might set a pace that others find stimulating but challenging to maintain. There may be occasions when your warmth and eagerness to be friendly are mistaken for a romantic overture or aggressive behavior.



# GOT NEWS?

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# US domestic terror probes up over 40% since 2020, says FBI



*FBI Director Christopher Wray*

FBI probes of domestic terrorism plots have risen to 2,000 cases, up from 1,400 at the end of 2020 - according to the bureau's director Christopher Wray.

Arrests of "racially motivated violent extremists", including white supremacists, have nearly tripled since 2017, Mr. Wray told a Senate committee.

For the first time, Mr. Wray called the Capitol attack "domestic terrorism".

Over 260 people have been arrested in connection with the 6 January storming of the US Capitol to date.

Accepting such behaviour "would make a mockery of our nation's rule of law", Mr Wray warned during Tuesday's hearing.

Mr. Wray added that he believed the siege had been "an inspiration to a number of terrorist extremists".

His testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on

Tuesday marks Mr. Wray's first public appearance since before November's presidential election.

Mr. Wray had not previously spoken publicly about the attack at the US Capitol, although he has worked with local law enforcement and briefed lawmakers in private.

Senators initially focused on questions regarding how the Bureau handled a local field office report released the day

before the siege that warned of violence in Washington.

The US Capitol Police has said they did not know about the report and received no intelligence from the FBI about the day of the attack.

Mr. Wray countered that the report was sent out by the FBI's joint terrorism task force, discussed at a command post and posted to an online portal that other law enforcement agencies can access. (BBC)



# US imposes sanctions on Russians over Alexei Navalny

The US has announced sanctions on Russians over the poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

The measures target a number of Russian government officials and entities and are being co-ordinated with similar moves by the EU, US officials said.

They said US intelligence had concluded that the Russian government was behind the near-fatal nerve agent attack on Navalny in Siberia last year.

He is the most high-profile critic of President Vladimir Putin.

Moscow denies involvement in his poisoning and disputes the conclusion by Western weapons experts that the nerve agent Novichok was used.

Speaking to reporters during a conference call, they said seven senior Russian officials and 14 entities involved in chemical and biolog-

ical production were being targeted by sanctions. They gave no further details.

“Russia’s attempt to kill Mr. Navalny follows an alarming pattern of chemical weapons use by Russia,” one of the administration officials said.

They are the first sanctions imposed on Russia by the administration of President Joe Biden.

He has taken a tougher stance than his predecessor Donald Trump towards President Putin.

After phoning his Russian counterpart last month, Mr. Biden said he had made it clear the days of the US “rolling over in the face of Russia’s aggressive actions, interfering with our elections, cyber-attacks, poisoning citizens are over”.

In a co-ordinated move, the EU announced on Tuesday that it had targeted four Russian government officials.

They are Alexandr



Kalashnikov, the head of the Russian prison system, Alexandr Bastrykin, chairman of the Investigative Committee, Chief Prosecutor Igor Krasnov, and Viktor Zolotov, who heads of the National Guard.

The sanctions include travel bans and asset freezes.

The BBC’s Kevin Connolly in Brussels says they are a compromise between the Baltic states, which

see Russia as a dangerous neighbour, and countries - notably Germany - which rely on Russian gas imports.

The move follows an earlier series of EU sanctions. In October the bloc targeted six Russian officials and a chemical weapons research centre accused of direct involvement in the poisoning. Russia responded with tit-for-tat sanctions. [BBC]

# Chinese vaccines sweep much of the world, despite concerns



TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The plane laden with vaccines had just rolled to a stop at Santiago's airport in late January, and Chile's president, Sebastián Piñera, was beaming. "Today," he said, "is a day of joy, emotion and hope."

The source of that hope: China — a country that Chile and dozens of other nations are depending on to help rescue them from the COVID-19 pandemic.

China's vaccine diplomacy campaign has been a surprising success: It has pledged roughly half a billion doses of its vaccines to more than 45 countries, according to a country-by-country tally by The Associated Press. With just four of China's many vaccine makers claiming they are able to produce at least 2.6

billion doses this year, a large part of the world's population will end up inoculated not with the fancy Western vaccines boasting headline-grabbing efficacy rates, but with China's humble, traditionally made shots.

Amid a dearth of public data on China's vaccines, hesitations over their efficacy and safety are still pervasive in the countries depending on them, along with concerns about what China might want in return for deliveries. Nonetheless, inoculations with Chinese vaccines already have begun in more than 25 countries, and the Chinese shots have been delivered to another 11, according to the AP tally, based on independent reporting in those countries along with government and company announcements.

It's a potential face-saving coup for China, which has been determined to transform itself from an object of mistrust over its initial mishandling of the COVID-19 outbreak to a savior. Like India and Russia, China is trying to build goodwill, and has pledged roughly 10 times more vaccines abroad than it has distributed at home.

"We're seeing certainly real-time vaccine diplomacy start to play out, with China in the lead in terms of being able to manufacture vaccines within China and make them available to others," said Krishna Udayakumar, founding director of the Duke Global Health Innovation Center at Duke University. "Some of them donated, some of them sold, and some of them sold with debt financing associated with it."

China has said it is supplying "vaccine aid" to 53 countries and exports to 27, but it rejected a request by the AP for the list. Beijing has also denied vaccine diplomacy, and a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said China considered

the vaccine a "global public good." Chinese experts reject any connection between the export of its vaccines and the revamping of its image.

"I don't see any linkage there," said Wang Huiyao, president of the Centre for China and Globalization, a Beijing think tank. "China should do more to help other countries, because it's doing well."

China has targeted the low- and middle-income countries largely left behind as rich nations scooped up most of the pricey vaccines produced by the likes of Pfizer and Moderna. And despite a few delays of its own in Brazil and Turkey, China has largely capitalized on slower-than-hoped-for deliveries by U.S. and European vaccine makers.

Like many other countries, Chile received far fewer doses of the Pfizer vaccine than first promised. In the month after its vaccination program began in late December, only around 150,000 of the 10 million Pfizer doses the South American country ordered arrived.



# 'Crying and moving': Nigerian schoolgirls recount forced march kidnap ordeal

GUSAU, Nigeria (Reuters) - Gunmen have freed all 279 girls kidnapped last week from a boarding school in northwest Nigeria, officials said on Tuesday, and victims told of how their abductors had beaten and threatened to shoot them during a forced march into captivity.

Dozens of girls in Muslim veils sat in a hall in a state government building before being taken for medical checks. A few parents arrived, and one father wept with joy after seeing his daughter.

Farida Lawali, 15, told how she and the other girls had been taken to a forest by the kidnappers.

"They carried the sick ones that cannot move. We were walking in the stones and thorns," she said, covered in a light blue veil. "They started hitting us with guns so that we could move," she added. "While they were beating them with



guns, some of them were crying and moving at the same time."

"They said they will shoot anybody who did not continue to walk," another of the girls, Umma Abubakar, told Reuters, saying many had injuries that had made walking difficult.

Relief at their return was tempered by concern over the circumstances of their release. A series of similar school abductions in recent months has led many Nigerians to worry that regional author-

ities are making the situation worse by letting kidnappers go unpunished or paying them off.

Zailani Bappa, a media adviser to the state governor, denied that a ransom had been paid, but said the captors had been offered amnesty, as well as assistance to resettle at a site with newly built schools, a hospital and other facilities.

"The process means amnesty for those who repent and will be assisted to resettle. Hence, no mon-

etary inducement or ransom was involved in the rescue. It was a willing surrender of the girls," he said. "Those who surrender their arms will be assisted to start a new life. Since they are herders, they will be supported with a few cows each."

President Muhammadu Buhari called for the captors to be brought to justice and said that if any ransoms were being paid, this would only make future attacks more likely.

# Shaq Reacts to Curry being named most influential player



Is Steph Curry the most influential NBA player of the past thirty years? Both Dan Patrick and Shaquille O' Neal seem to think so. Patrick said there is not much of an argument that Curry has completely changed the way basketball is played and that it has become a more explosive and exciting sport. Patrick added that Steph Curry is the most influential basketball player of the last thirty

years because he has given everyone hope that they could play in the NBA.

Shaq, who does not always give current players as much respect as he does older players, agrees with Patrick regarding Curry. "I'm watching these little kids now and I'm like, 'Bro!' I've never seen a little kid do a dribble like that, shoot like that, yes, I would agree," Shaq told Patrick. Shaq said the only other player to have an

argument in the NBA's most influential debate is obviously Michael Jordan. "Jordan's brand is the biggest in sports and won't ever be topped. And there's no doubt he inspired millions of aspiring players."

But Shaq noted that Curry's overall impact to both players and the way basketball is played may stretch a bit further. The NBA has evolved entirely because of Curry's skillset, Shaq opined.

## CWI signs new broadcast rights deal with Sky New Zealand

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has penned another important long-term broadcast rights deal, with Sky New Zealand for the exclusive live coverage to all West Indies home matches played in the Caribbean.

The agreement, which covers both television and digital rights, will mean that Sky New Zealand, including its Sky Go mobile apps and Sky Sport Now streaming

app, will offer live coverage and highlights of televised West Indies regional tournaments including the just concluded CG Insurance Super50 Cup.

The agreement will feature the series with Sri Lanka which starts today with the first of three T20s games at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds, three ODIs, and two Tests. Later in the year, West Indies is scheduled to host

South Africa, Australia and Pakistan.

President Ricky Skerritt in making the announcement said CWI was happy to be doing business with another leading sports broadcaster, Sky New Zealand. "It's part of our effort to expand worldwide coverage of the exciting West Indies brand of international and regional cricket."

Sophie Moloney, CEO Sky New Zealand, said

fans love to see the West Indies play. This is CWI's fourth new broadcast rights agreement announced in recent weeks, following announcements with ESPN for the United States, BT Sport for the United Kingdom and Ireland, and SuperSport for Sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya.



# WEST HAM

## STRIKER TO REPRESENT THE

# REGGAE BOYZ

West Ham United striker Michail Antonio has declared his strong desire to play for the Reggae Boyz, says President of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF), Michael Ricketts.

The English Premier League player and his agent met with the JFF and expressed his desire to wear the colours of the Caribbean side, said the JFF chief. The thirty-year-old West Ham United forward, who was born in London, England, to Jamaican parents, has previously turned down invitations from the JFF in favour of international football with England.

Antonio has been invited to England squads in the past, but is yet to make an appearance for them. Ricketts informed the media that Antonio is currently working on obtaining a Jamaican passport.

West Ham United's boss, David Moyes, said he had not spoken to Antonio about the prospect of representing Jamaica. The Reggae Boyz have a critical schedule ahead of them, with the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup tournament to begin in July, and their Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign to kick off this September.





Nelecia Yeates

## CCG hosts its first official international game



General Manager of the Coolidge Cricket Ground, Nelecia Yeates, says she will have to hold back tears when the facility hosts its first international match this evening.

The former Cricket West Indies (CWI) Commercial Manager and Commercial Director for the highly successful ICC Women's World Twenty20 in 2018 in the West Indies was high in praise for the employees at the venue

for their hard work, dedication and attention to detail in preparing the pitches and its surroundings to host its first international T20 game since being approved as an international venue two weeks ago. Yeates said a bubble has been created and managed effectively at the facility where there was no outbreak during the just concluded CG Super50, won by Trinidad and Tobago Red Force.

The General Manager noted that there are strict COVID-19 protocols in place and the groundsmen who get to enjoy the training and matches have been outstanding in adhering. West Indies will defend their home field against Sri Lanka in the first of three T20s games today, looking to build on the team momentum from their recent success in Bangladesh. This evening's encounter will be followed by the second game on Friday

and the final match on Sunday. The team will be led by Kieron Pollard and will see the return of the experienced Chris Gayle and Fidel Edwards who earned recalls, while Akeal Hosein and Kevin Sinclair get first call-ups. Also in the line-up are Nicolas Pooran, Fabian Allen, Andre Fletcher, Jason Holder, Evin Lewis, and Rovman Powell. Completing the line-up are Lendel Simmons and Obed McCoy.

**DEWS**



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