

# WORLD HERITAGE STATUS COMPLETES FIRST TERM



## **PRESERVING HERITAGE WITH THE SKILLS OF OUR TRADITIONAL TRADES:**

As the Antigua Naval Dockyard marks 5 years of designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the National Parks Authority is ensuring that all conditions for the prestigious Inscription are honoured. One of these speaks to Preserving Continuity of the Cultural Landscape. Picture shows reconstruction of the Joiner's Loft and Boat Shed within the Dockyard, a building made without any nails or other metal fasteners, and historically designed to be portable. Periodically replacing the woodworks draws on the traditional knowledge and artisanal skills of local carpenters and joiners to dismantle the old structures while carefully noting how they were erected and then rebuilding them to exact forms and specifications – thereby respecting, preserving and honouring the heritage.

**[FULL STORY ON PAGES 4-5]**

**New Rapid COVID Testing Facility for travellers at airport – FEES APPLY! (page 6)**

**Resurrection in All Saints – water reservoir brought back to life! (STORY ON PAGE 8)**

**COVID overrunning the BVI! (SCARY regional story on page 16)**

# Steadfastly combatting COVID while jealously guarding democracy

Since the COVID-19 pandemic intruded into the CARICOM region roughly 15 months ago, elections have been held in six of the English-speaking member territories: Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago, both in August 2020; St. Kitts and Nevis in June 2020; Jamaica in September 2020; Belize and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, both in November 2020.

In all of these CARICOM territories there were no indications or reports of campaign-period or post-election surges in COVID-19 cases that were directly attributed to, or blamed on, the mass crowd events of these election campaigns.

Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Jamaica did suffer massive increases in their infection rates and numbers – but these, in all three cases, manifested long (many months) after their election campaigns were done and gone, dead and buried.

Now that – by itself – does not mean it is impossible for these (belated) rises in COVID cases to have been related (in

divers ways) to the election campaigns; if we can believe that the motorcades, rallies and meetings spawned scores, hundreds, thousands of asymptomatic carriers of the virus who – like terrorist sleeper cells – continued normal life with their families, communities and contacts, all the while transmitting the virus, whose devastating effects would manifest and register many months later as has gripped Trinidad & Tobago and St. Kitts & Nevis.

We posit that this would be a major stretch of credulity, and it is therefore unsurprising that such an argument or claim – to our knowledge – has never been advanced; at least not seriously.

But election campaigns, as we have known them, are risky and deservedly trigger alarm bells among medical and other scientific experts. They are mass crowd events fueled by a festive, almost carnival-like commingling of people whose masks and social distancing are unlikely to endure the profuse sweating of high energy

physical exertion to dance, wave, cheer, heckle, shout, chat, and all that.

Masks, social distancing, hygiene and all other relevant protocols get set aside for the camaraderie of beers and other drinks, the ubiquitous and inexhaustible supplies of nylon-bagged parched peanuts, the need to put your (likely uncovered) mouth right up to your friend's ear in order to be heard over the din of the crowd and the super-amplified loudspeakers.

St. Lucia is the next English-speaking CARICOM country that is into a general election campaign in these days of COVID, against which it has not done very well; whether the metric be its total number of cases (5,399), its current number of active cases (125), its relatively high death toll (86) – all for a population of about 180,000. Only 12% of its target population has so far been vaccinated. Talk about a country ripe to be ravaged and picked off by another wave of COVID!

The St. Lucia Medical and

Dental Association has already made known its alarm over this situation and the scary possibilities that it portends; entreating all the political players in this election campaign season to be responsible, attentive and circumspect with regard to that OTHER season for which there is no knowable or predictable end – the horribly indefinite pandemic.

But life must go on, and that includes elections. They have taken place in the other Caribbean territories that we referenced, and that did not spell the end of their worlds. It did not turn their countries into clueless and helpless targets of

a COVID turkey shoot.

However, the relatively successful and safe execution of these election campaigns may have been their very drawback or downside, if they signaled encouragement for subsequent carelessness or complacency based on the smug conclusion that ‘this COVID thing is exaggerated’, or the overconfidence that subsequent outbreaks could be beaten without much sweat.

Our thoughts and prayers toward our fellow OECS and CARICOM member, St. Lucia, are that they too will get through this election campaign without any significant

worsening of their COVID-19 situation.

In the same breath, we urge the people of our sub-regional sibling to embrace an even higher level of vigilance and circumspection than obtained with the other regional partners who previously fired up their election trains during this pandemic. The viral ammo that Trinidad, St. Kitts and the others had to brave at the time of their election campaigns, probably did not include all these new variants.

Godspeed, Saint Lucia, for peaceful, safe and successful elections. Just remember, always, to be extra careful.

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# Counting the Achievements, Overcoming the Challenges - 5 Years of UNESCO World Heritage status



*Traditional re-shingling of the Clarence House roof at the Antigua Naval Dockyard to preserve its historical authenticity as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

*by the Heritage Department of the National Parks Authority*

On the 16th of July 2016, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage Site List. This year we are celebrating our 5th Anniversary of this momentous occasion.

Inscription on the World Heritage List requires that a site be of Outstanding Universal Value: In other words, it “is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.”

Furthermore, a site is only inscribed if the appropriate management structures are in place to preserve this value for present and future generations. To become a World Heritage Site is to validate the hard work of generations of artisans, masons, carpenters, guides, researchers, politicians, lawyers, managers and – most importantly – our communities, in developing sustainable management practices and protecting our heritage. The past five years have brought many new highs for the National Park and for Antigua and Barbuda. The UNESCO Cluster Office has recognized our World Heritage Site as a region-



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al standard – especially for our work on disaster planning and mitigation, evaluating impacts of climate change, and our long-standing commitment to authentic conservation and stabilization of our historical structures. Over the past two years, extensive stabilization work has been undertaken in the Dockyard itself, as well as in the ruins at the Blockhouse. We have also, through 2019, welcomed more visitors than ever to our site, reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda’s attractiveness as a major destination of choice for travelers from across the globe. For us, these are extremely positive signs that we are on the right path.

Despite these positive developments, we continue to

prepare for a number of challenges with which most small developing states have to contend. One of the most difficult is maintaining our inscription while balancing the need for development. Other sites in the Caribbean are being placed on the endangered list only a short while after inscription due to inconsistent development policies. We are actively working with community members, developers, and our stakeholders and friends, to implement policies which protect our Outstanding Universal Value while promoting sustainable livelihoods – as well as protecting life and property from disasters and the impacts of climate change.

We are also promoting new

research in archaeology, history, environment and ecosystems management, geology, and heritage, with Antigua and Barbuda as well as international partners. One of our long-term goals is to make our World Heritage Site a center for research excellence, creating new opportunities for sustainable employment and benefits to the communities of Antigua and Barbuda.

Despite the hardships, we are anticipating that the actions undertaken will sustain our World Heritage Site for generations to come. We are looking forward to the next five years as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, celebrating “From Dockyard to Shirley Heights: Celebrating Our Lives, Our People”.

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# Rapid Antigen Testing Facility opens at the V.C. Bird International Airport



*A healthcare professional in the new Rapid COVID-19 Testing Facility at the V.C. Bird International Airport.*

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) has introduced a major initiative geared toward enhancing the passenger experience at the V.C. Bird International Airport (VC-BIA). Travellers are now able to access a facility in the airport terminal where they can get a

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test for outbound travel.

The facility is manned by a team of medical professionals who, along with the airport's customer service teams and other stakeholders, are working to ensure that passengers have easy access to rapid testing for

travel purposes. Antiguan and Barbudans are being asked to pay only EC\$150 to get the test done, while US\$120 is the fee for visitors.

ABAA says the initiative is timely, as the airport is experiencing an appreciable increase in airline traffic, with more anticipated in the coming months.

"Enhancing the passenger experience at VC-BIA is extremely important to us and the testing facility will certainly help in meeting this objective," noted CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, Euletta Francis.

The testing facility opens every day from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and the results are returned in about 20 minutes.

Passengers can make advance bookings by calling +1(268)-736-2509, or by sending an email to [preflighttestinganu@gmail.com](mailto:preflighttestinganu@gmail.com)

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# Cruise official upbeat about restart of vital industry



Sixteen months after the abrupt closure of the cruise industry due to the coronavirus pandemic, Antigua and Barbuda is welcoming back cruise visitors from tomorrow, Thursday.

That's when the vessel *Star Breeze* of Windstar Cruises will dock at the Heritage Quay pier with a total of 250 fully vaccinated people on board.

"I am very excited about the restart of the industry. It is a good thing for the entire country following the long break caused by

the pandemic. I am pleased that we are starting with a smaller vessel so that we may be able to fully test our protocols and other arrangements to ensure that they will be able to stand up when the bigger vessels arrive with larger numbers," General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, Dona Regis told *Pointe Xpress*.

She explained that not all the passengers will come ashore, as only those with organized tours will leave the vessel.

"While all the pas-

sengers and crew are fully vaccinated, for health reasons, passengers will not be allowed to explore the city on their own," she explained.

Arrangements are being made to have 'escorted shopping tours' of areas such as Heritage Quay and the Vendor's Mall. It is from these tours that Regis expects the local vendors to generate some business.

The vessel will spend two days in Antigua and Barbuda – one in St. John's and the other in Falmouth Harbour.

The *Star Breeze* will return on Thursday of next week. Two days earlier, on Tuesday, the *Seaborne Odyssey* will dock in St. John's Harbour.

Regis said following these visits the industry partners will meet to carry out a 'post mortem' of their arrangements and to shore up weak areas ahead of the planned arrival of the larger vessels in August.

The first would be Celebrity Cruises' *Equinox*, for which the exact date of arrival is still being negotiated.

# All Saints water reservoir being brought back into service



*Disused potable water tank at All Saints being recommissioned.*

The Water Business Unit of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority says it is in the process of recommissioning one of two potable water storage tanks in the All Saints area. The newly refurbished tank along with the currently operating tank will reportedly allow for an increase of 700,000 gallons of water storage.

APUA, in a press release on

Tuesday, says it is scheduled to have two operating storage tanks to supply water to surrounding areas by the end of summer.

It says that, in an effort to protect the water sources and equipment, it is important that security to the property is increased by centralizing access to the compound via the main road. The company explains

that this will require the permanent closure of a passage connecting All Saints and Montzula, with access to the compound limited to authorized APUA personnel only.

APUA is also informing road users in the area that this adjustment will take effect next month, August 2021, and advises all concerned to be guided accordingly.



# Police denounce allegations that Government official was arrested

The Police Administration is denying that anyone was arrested, including any Government official for drugs-related offences at a business place in Liberta over the weekend. On Saturday 10th July, Police officers attached to the All Saints, Dockyard, and Liberta Police stations, along with the Joint Task Force, conducted a routine stop and search exercise in the district.

A search was conducted in the area, and a small quantity of cannabis was found and seized by the police.

However, in a separate incident, a Liberta man was taken into custody after he was found with a portion

of Cannabis in his possession. Further investigations are ongoing into the matter.

The Police Administration has again appealed to members of the public to desist

from circulating false and misleading information without first contacting the Police.

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DR. MASERATI

TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
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# UN welcomes Antigua and Barbuda's first Voluntary National Review



**Ms. Joy-Marie King, Antigua and Barbuda's Director of International Trade.**

Hailed by the twin-island state's development partners as one of the best reports emanating from the Caribbean in recent times, Antigua and Barbuda's first-ever Voluntary National Review (VNR) report was presented on Tuesday at the Ninth Session of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, under the theme "Build Forward Stronger".

During the 2021 HLPF session, which was held virtually, Antigua and Barbuda's presentation consisted of two parts: an introductory video and a statement.

During the video, Antigua and Barbuda's Director of International Trade, Ms. Joy-Marie King, enumerated the following key developmental objectives that leave no one behind:

- Optimal generation of wealth;
- Enhanced social cohesion;

- Improved health of the natural environment;
- Sustained historical and cultural assets; and
- Enhanced citizen security.

Ms. King further asserted that, "These developmental objectives have been framing the nation's efforts towards the implementation of the sustainable development goals."

Underscoring the resilience of our people, the opportunity was also taken to reaffirm the country's commitment towards the implementation of the goals.

In his address to the UN membership, the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that "...the pandemic has... created a paradigm shift in the methodologies for implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Despite these challenges, Antigua and Barbuda

remain resolute in achieving the SDGs. This is because our nation-building efforts put people at the center of development."

Minister Greene went on to update the HLPF about Antigua and Barbuda's achievements in SDG implementation. He further informed that "...we have accomplished significant milestones that can be celebrated. Among them are: the establishment of the 4th landed campus of the University of the West Indies-Five Island Campus, where efforts are ongoing to model the University as a center of resilience for the region, retooling the labour force, responding to climate change, and advancing the academic and strategic development of the Blue Economy... a further intensification of social protection initiatives geared towards poverty and hunger alleviation ... the construction of ... affordable housing solutions for our people. There has been a significant investment made in the health infrastructure. We have had to accelerate the construction of several community clinics and an Infectious Disease Center as an urgent response to the COVID-19 pandemic ..."

In preparation for the country's VNR under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Trade Unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducted in-

depth consultations with a diverse range of stakeholders, including Government ministries, civil society, private sector, and youth, to obtain inputs. Recognizing the need to break down silos, the consultations provided a starting point for multi-stakeholder action to accelerate SDG progress.

The VNR seeks to support Antigua and Barbuda's transition to a greener, more resilient and inclusive society, leaving no one behind. Advancing SDG implementation can serve to complement the country's post-Covid-19 recovery and help ensure a legacy for future generations.

Antigua and Barbuda's VNR team comprises Honourable E. P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Joy-Marie King, Director of International Trade; Ms. Zeina Hechme, Senior Foreign Service Officer; Mr. Javier Spencer, Foreign Service Officer; and consultants Mr. Sonalli Andrews of Redninko Graphics and Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel.

A citizen's version of the VNR report will be released shortly in addition to the launch of an online public advocacy initiative designed by Sonalli Andrews.

Established by the UN in 2015, the SDGs are 17 interconnected 'global goals' to be achieved by 2030. The SDGs cover social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

This year, 43 countries are expected to present a VNR.



# Chinese business sector benefits from Police crime prevention strategies

*Chinese participants in attendance at Multi-Purpose Centre meeting on Sunday.*

Members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) collaborated with the Chinese business sector in Antigua to share in much useful crime prevention and security strategies.

Head of the RPFAB'S Office of Strategic Communications (STRATCOM), Inspector Frankie Thomas, and Corporal Anderson Tuitt, met with a wide cross-section of Chinese business owners on Sunday at the Multipurpose Cultural Center.

A PowerPoint presentation highlighting several in-depth security measures that would normally not be for general public consumption was shared with those in attendance.

The meeting came about after discussions between Mr. Wang Er-

dong, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda, and the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Atlee Rodney, to address security measures for Chinese business owners.

Overall, the meeting is said to have been well-received and ended on a good note.

Commissioner Rodney assured those present that the security around business places in St. Johns and its environs is one of several improved security strategies that are currently being implemented.

He also committed to meeting with other business owners to have continued dialogue concerning additional security measures to protect their businesses and staff.

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# Man & woman

by Risa V

This topic never dies. Personally, I feel it is a discussion in which both men and women should agree to disagree. Naturally, we prioritize, analyze, comprehend and communicate things differently. Even when expressing the same thing there still seems to be little to no understanding. It's quite funny, but not surprising, since good communication is a major obstacle of societies around the world. How can we ever come to understand one another?

The greatest partnership and union of the world, the ultimate pair, man and woman, have managed to become each other's kryptonite, often to be blamed for the other's downfall.

Seems like we have not been able to shake the curse of Adam and Eve; seems like the serpent's greatest play was not that of the apple or having God turn his back on them, but to divide and conquer. Up to this day, men and women continue to do each other great injustice.

I don't ever expect anyone to fully understand the life of the opposite

sex, but I do feel we should be able to relate. Even if your household did not have both mother and father, at some point you would have witnessed the personal struggles of other individuals within your own families, bearing witness to some of their most sensitive, emotional and vulnerable moments.

So what exactly is the problem? There is no problem; that is it. We are the ones who decided to complicate things. There is no right or wrong approach to male and female relationships? Both perspectives are equally important. Meeting halfway is where all things begin to blossom. It's not about gaining control over the relationship, but about the surrender and acceptance of each other.

However, you can never build on a weak foundation, and many of us need to learn not to forego the building blocks for face value, or else it will be over before it has even started. First we need respect, which then develops into appreciation and grows to become trust. Then, afterwards, the vulnerability and compromise necessary for the

invitation of love will come easy.

Remember a few things: Love yourself first. That way, you not only know your value but also how to love others. Know what you want from a relationship. Set your standards. Avoid falling for everyone and anything. Take responsibility for your choices, so you can understand that you alone wield the power of your own faith. Learn to work on yourself instead of trying to change your partner. It is important that you answer the question of whether or not you can accept them as they are.

Working on yourself also means growing from unfortunate experiences and understanding the role you played in them. Not every union is a good combination. Some pairs work better than others, so never be discouraged by the experiences of others.

When you have found what you are looking for, remember your priority is not to yourself, but to that significant other; so listen carefully and acknowledge their needs, wants and desires.

**TALKING POINT**  
TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
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# Negotiating pay increases in a pandemic

You may look at the headline and think “who would require a pay raise at such a time like this?”. Your question though valid does not take away from the reality of the answer “everyone”. Though the world has been severely affected by the global health pandemic, there are some institutions that though affected remain buoyant. Such an institution is that of collective bargaining. Though the pandemic would have seen the cessation of many business activities in the earlier parts of the pandemic, the resumption of work in most sectors means that in some instances “normality” is returning. As such the HR professional and management should be prepared for the resumption or continuation of the collective bargaining process.

As with all things, the collective bargaining process has also transferred to the virtual realm. This may be a disadvantage to those who revel in their interpersonal skills and their ability to make small talk before getting down to business. Nonetheless, the virtual space still allows for friendly banter and the exchange of pleasantries which are highly recommended to set the tone of the conversations. If your negotiations have gone virtual, be sure that all parties involved in the process receive their credentials ahead of time to ensure the meeting can proceed on time and uninterrupted. If meetings are proceeding in person be sure to allow adequate space for social distancing and that the conditions are comfortable for all.

If talks were halted due to the pandemic and teams are now making it back to the table, be sure to share the last positions with all involved so that the resumption may be smooth. If a new agreement is being presented by the union, be sure to consult with your management team and or the board to get feedback on the positions the company plans to take. These initial positions may change as time and conversations progress.

From an insider’s point of view, the tone of the conversations around the table has remained stable. For agreements that were on the table before Covid-19, the unions and companies have in some cases been on the same page as it relates to no increases for the calendar years 2020 and 2021. The prevailing effects of the pandemic and the negative impact on profits have taken root in most companies and have thus placed them in a situation of non-profitability. Though the projections

for 2022 look promising, it is still too early to determine what economic activity will look like six months out. As such, companies have taken a conservative stance for salary increases for the years to come.

The unions though have been prudent as of late in their positioning of increases. Whatever the amount proposed, the unions are no longer taking the company’s word of mouth as to their financial situations. Unions are requesting audited financial information for companies to defend their financial positions. In situations where the numbers are dire, reviews can be proposed on a quarterly, semiannually, or annual basis. The deferral of increases may be supported by a company mandate to retain all staff members in what for some entities may be Armageddon-type financials.

Whatever the prevailing situation, honest open communication is needed to build trust and to gain goodwill from the other side of the table. Though the monthly publication of the consumer price index will provide information on the increase in the cost of living, research must be done to find out what similar companies in your industry have agreed to in these most interesting of times.

*The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB’s growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at [hrpro.ab@gmail.com](mailto:hrpro.ab@gmail.com) or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.*





# Jamaica: Another pastor charged with rape

*Jamaica Observer* - Another minister of religion, this time from Petersfield in Westmoreland, has been charged with rape and grievous sexual assault following a June 2019 incident in Retreat, St. Mary.

Arrested and charged by the Centre for the Investigations of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISO-CA) is 52-year-old Oral Britton, otherwise called 'Bishop'. Police reports are that the complainant was at church when she was allegedly summoned to a room by Britton. It is fur-

ther alleged that Britton handed the complainant a bottle of pills and upon opening the bottle, the woman immediately fell ill. Britton then reportedly had sexual intercourse with the woman against her will.

The matter was reported to the police and Britton was later arrested and charged. His court date is being finalised. Last month, a pastor was charged with rape after reportedly assaulting a 15-year-old girl at his St. James church.

# Barbados: Doctors suggest longer curfew hours



**President of the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP), Dr. Lynda Williams.**

**Barbados Today** - While it fully supports Government's decision to impose another curfew, given the significant increase in COVID-19 cases, the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP) would have preferred to see even more restrictions imposed.

In fact, president Dr. Lynda Williams said the Association had lobbied for an earlier curfew as well as additional restrictions on weekends.

Faced with 90 positive cases within the last week, Minister of Health & Wellness, Lieutenant-Colonel

Jeffrey Bostic, announced Sunday that a daily 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew would take effect from Tuesday and continue for two weeks, in the first instance. He said during that time, summer camps, fetes, parties and full contact sports would be prohibited, while a maximum of 100 persons would be allowed to attend church, weddings and funerals.

In an interview with Barbados TODAY, Dr. Williams said the restrictions were necessary to help contain the spread of the respiratory virus which has so far killed 48 people

here and more than four million worldwide.

She said BAMP was of the view that tougher restrictions might be necessary, given the circumstances. "We are part of the decision-making body that helps to look at everything and decide where we need to go. We are in agreement because of the steepness and the rise of the curve. The rise of cases is happening pretty quickly, so we just want to curb activity, curb movement, curb gatherings, before it gets worse," Dr. Williams said.

"Any restriction of move-

ment that you put on a population is going to affect the amount of gathering that is possible; it is going to affect the amount of activities that go on ... There are people who gather for nocturnal activities and any restriction that you put is going to limit the amount of interactions that humans are able to have.

"Truthfully, we would have liked to have seen more restrictions than were announced. We would have preferred to go harder quicker and then pull back from our position. The question arose as to whether or not just a nighttime curfew was enough, whether or not we needed an earlier curfew, whether or not we need to have intermittent weekend curfews, all of those kinds of things were under consideration," the BAMP president added.

Dr. Williams stressed that the most recent restrictions were not a knee-jerk reaction to the number of COVID-19 cases.

She said given the passing of Hurricane Elsa a week-and-a-half ago, there was an expectation that there would be an increase in cases.

Minister Bostic revealed on Sunday that the country's positivity rate had increased by a full percentage point to 1.6 percent and the rate of infection had doubled to 38 infections per 100,000 people.

# BVI- Businesses demand COVID test before employees come to work



*BVI chief medical officer, Dr. Ronald George*

**BVI News** - Employers demanding their employees get tested before coming to work have been recognized as being part of a larger pattern of potentially dangerous behavior amid the BVI's current COVID-19 surge.

According to acting Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Ronald Georges, the behavior is inappropriate and can contribute to further spread.

Another concerning behavioral pattern the CMO noted is the practice of persons not following the testing schedule but rather testing at inappropriate times.

This is coupled with persons not adhering to public health orders; persons being abusive to the health staff; persons not adhering to the government's general stay-at-home order; persons testing positive for COVID-19 but not disclosing it to

their loved ones at home and not taking precautions, are other patterns the CMO said health officials have identified.

Dr. Georges warned that the Social Distancing Task Force and the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force will be further engaged to ensure compliance with measures, and noted fines and tickets will be issued to offenders.

In a COVID-19 update briefing Sunday afternoon, the CMO said the BVI now has advanced community spread of the virus.

He said that between July 3 and 9 the BVI added 989 new positive cases, bringing the total to 1,147. He said a further 149 additional positive cases were recorded from testing done on July 9, with a further 111 samples being left to report.

Dr. Georges said he expected the

momentum and increase of new cases to continue for a few more days.

"Geographical distribution and contact tracing are irrelevant at this point because we are in a situation of very high transmission and community spread throughout the territory. This means that all persons must simply take urgent and immediate steps to limit the exposure to stop the spread of the virus," Dr. Georges said.

He added that testing is now less important than strict adherence to public health measures and getting vaccinated.

Given that the BVI is experiencing high community transmission, all symptomatic persons should immediately assume that they are COVID positive and act as instructed the CMO advised.



In the meantime, the concerning behaviour patterns which were outlined have led to a revamped strategy by health officials, the CMO said.

According to Dr. Georges, the current strategy for managing the outbreak has now shifted to limiting person-to-person contact; isolating all sick persons and household contacts; changing the testing strategy to dissuade mass testing; increasing vaccination coverage; managing ill persons and building resilience and capacity within the health system to manage the upsurge.

Further to this, all persons who are sick are advised to stay at home

and immediately self-isolate, and should not seek to get tested. Dr. Georges said this behaviour is counterproductive and said it may cause additional spread of disease. They should not go to a physician or healthcare facility until advised to do so, but should instead use Government's online system checker. Regarding business owners, Dr. Georges said all employers and workplaces should ensure that persons who are positive and have received quarantine orders should be allowed sick leave to stay at home for a period of between 10 to 14 days or as so ordered by the public health department.

Unvaccinated workers in house-

holds with positive cases should quarantine with their cases, and also should not attend work; while vaccinated persons who may have, or have not been exposed, can attend work unless they develop symptoms or test positive, Dr. Georges related.

Regarding vaccinations, Dr. Georges said there are currently no restrictions on first or second dose vaccinations and he encouraged all persons to get vaccinated.

"There are ample stocks of vaccine and more vaccine is on the way to augment the stocks that are expiring on the 31st of July. Please, just bite the bullet and get vaccinated," he advised.

# COVID-19 health emergency declared in Martinique

*Dominica News Online* - Martinique is under a health emergency declared by French president Emmanuel Macron and which went into effect on Tuesday in response to a surge in COVID-19 cases after health measures were relaxed in June. Local news reports say Martinique recorded 1,000 COVID-19 cases within the space of one week, with the result that the island's prefect, Stanislas Cazelles, has reintroduced a curfew from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. He was also due to address a news conference Tuesday afternoon to announce additional measures. The latest curfew will be in force for one month, but may be extended if the situation of rising COVID-19 cases is not brought

under control. According to figures from the Regional Health Agency, as of Tuesday 6 July 2021, 57,171 people or 17.63% of over 12s had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, Martinique.France.Antilles reported.

The president also indicated that similar measures will be put in place in France, including mandatory vaccination for all medical personnel and other persons working at health facilities.

He also said the government is moving to make a vaccine passport a requirement for all citizens to enter public spaces, including airplanes.

Macron said implementation of the latter measures will begin by September.



*French President Emmanuel Macron.*

# Greece, France join Italy in making COVID-19

## shots mandatory for health workers; unvaccinated told they won't get paid



**French President Emmanuel Macron (center) talks to employees as he visits the Delpharm vaccine packaging plant in Saint-Remy-sur-Avre, west of Paris, on April 9, 2021.**

(CNN) - As Europe struggles with a rising number of coronavirus cases caused by the Delta variant, several countries are making vaccinations compulsory for health-care workers, and some leaders are even considering making shots mandatory for all.

France and Greece both announced new vaccine requirements on Monday, following in the footsteps of Italy which made vaccinations compulsory for health employees in April.

The UK government,

which is pushing ahead with its unlocking plan despite strong warnings from experts, has previously said it will mandate shots for care home staff from October.

Not all healthcare workers are happy with the move. In Italy, several court challenges launched by those who do not want to get vaccinated are being heard this week. In the UK, a petition against the plan to make vaccines compulsory has attracted more than 72,000 signatures.

French president

Emmanuel Macron announced on Monday that health care workers, care home employees and those who work with vulnerable and frail patients in France will have to be vaccinated by September 15.

Speaking on LCI television following Macron's announcement, health minister Olivier Véran added that unvaccinated health care workers will be banned from going to work and will not be paid after the September deadline.

Macron also hinted at the possibility of making the shot mandatory for everyone if the epidemic worsens. "Depending on the situation, no doubt we will have to ask ourselves the question of mandatory vaccination for all the French," he said. "I have made the choice of trust and I am appealing to all our non-vaccinated countrymen to go and get vaccinated as soon as possible," he added.

Meanwhile, Greek prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced on Monday that vaccinations will be mandatory for nursing home staff, effective immediately.

Those who refuse will be suspended from work starting August 16, he said; adding that, from September, vaccinations will be compulsory for all healthcare workers in both public and private sectors.

Mitsotakis said that, starting on Friday and until the end of August, only those who have had the vaccine will be able to visit indoor commercial areas like entertainment centers, bars, theaters and cinemas.

"The country will not shut down again because of the attitude of some," he said, adding that "it is not Greece that is in danger, but the unvaccinated Greeks."

Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel said Tuesday that her government had decided not to make vaccines compulsory, adding that she believed many more people still want to get vaccinated. She said it was up to the authorities to make both information and vaccines more accessible.

She stressed that the country's COVID restrictions would not be lifted until more people have got their shots.

# Haitians apprehensive of foreign troops, as gov't seeks US help



**(Reuters)** – A troubled past of foreign military intervention has made many Haitians anxious or hostile to calls requesting US or other foreign troops be sent to the Caribbean nation in the aftermath of last week's assassination of the president, Jovenel Moise.

Acting prime minister Claude Joseph has asked for troops from both the United States and the United Nations, which were reviewing the requests as the Caribbean nation spiraled deeper into turmoil following Moise's killing.

Joseph pitched the idea as a way to safeguard key infrastructure such as the capital's airport and main sea port. However the idea has met resistance from opposition

groups, as well as retired soldiers in the country, and ordinary citizens.

"We don't want other countries to impose a government on us," said Jose Maslin, 55, who repairs televisions and radios for a living, standing beneath a highway overpass in the capital's western Delmas neighborhood.

On Tuesday, the Haitian Military Association, which represents retired officers, called on Haitian society to spare Haiti the "humiliation" of foreign intervention.

The Association sharply criticized what it described as the lack of "patriotic" planning by the acting government, which it accused of opting "to rush into the ease of a request for interven-

tion on national territory," according to a statement.

Another group, representing civil society, called for a "Haitian-led" solution to the country's crisis.

Such views can be traced to a long history of foreign military footprints in Haiti, including a 1915 US occupation that lasted 20 years, and more recent UN and US troop deployments following political turmoil and natural disasters.

The White House on Monday said it had not ruled out the possibility of troops, although US officials have said the Pentagon sees no need to deploy. Washington sent a small group of fewer than a dozen personnel to shore up security at the US embassy in Port-au-Prince after the attack.

The international community's involvement threatens to worsen Haiti's fragile situation, said Jake Johnston of the US-based Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR).

"For far too long, foreign actors have sought to impose solutions from abroad," Johnston said. "Those interventions bear significant responsibility for the current situation in Haiti and for the long-term undermining

of Haiti's democracy."

Alex Dupuy, a Haitian sociologist at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, said: "Foreign intervention is not the solution. The solution is a more accountable system of government, but also greater economic opportunities and the creation of a better economy."

The streets of the capital remained calm on Tuesday despite calls for protests from a gang leader. Gangs remain in control of parts of the city, including key fuel supply routes.

Tires were set ablaze at makeshift blockades, including in front of the Justice Ministry where prosecutors interviewed witnesses to the assassination, or others who may have information about the plot, including senior opposition figures.

Hoping to sell colorful clothes spread out on a plastic tarp on a busy street corner, 39-year-old Judithe Volcy said foreign troops would be unable to solve Haiti's deeper problems.

"Look, Haiti's economy is in horrible shape. Everything is so expensive. So many people just leave for the countryside, or those with money leave for other countries," she said.

# COVID cases in Netherlands soar by 500% in a week; PM apologises for easing restrictions

*Associated Press* - Coronavirus infections in the Netherlands skyrocketed by more than 500% over the last week, the country's public health institute reported Tuesday.

The surge follows the scrapping of almost all remaining lockdown restrictions and the re-opening of nightclubs in late June.

The weekly update showing that nearly 52,000 people in the Netherlands tested positive for COVID-19 over the past week came a day after caretaker Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte apologised for the June 26 lockdown relaxation and called it "an error of judgment".

Rutte backtracked Friday and reintroduced some restrictions in an attempt to rein in the soaring infection rate.

Bars again have to close at midnight, while discotheques and clubs were shuttered again until at least August 13.

The Netherlands, along with other European nations, is facing a rise in infections fuelled by the more contagious delta variant, just as governments hoped to greatly ease or eliminate remaining pandemic restrictions during the summer holiday season.

With infections rising



*Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte arrives for an EU summit at the European Council building in Brussels, Thursday, June 24, 2021.*

around France, President Emmanuel Macron on Monday cranked up pressure on people to get vaccinated and said special COVID passes would be required to go into restaurants and shopping malls starting next month.

The Dutch public health institute said that of the infections that could be traced to their

source, 37% happened in a hospitality venue such as a bar or club.

Infections among people ages 18-24 surged by 262%, followed by a 191% rise in 25-29 year-olds.

Despite the alarming rise in confirmed cases, hospital admissions increased by a modest 11%, or 60 COVID-19 patients, over the week, the institute said.

Twelve of the admissions were to intensive care units.

More than 46% of the Netherlands' adult population is fully vaccinated, and more than 77% of the country's adults have had at least one shot

Health authorities said more than 1.3 million people would receive their first or second doses this week.

# South Africa Zuma riots: Death toll mounts amid looting

**BBC** - The death toll in South Africa has risen to 72 after violence engulfed parts of the country following the jailing of former president Jacob Zuma.

This includes 10 people killed in a stampede during looting on Monday night at a shopping centre in Soweto.

The BBC filmed a baby being thrown from a building in Durban that was on fire after ground-floor shops were looted.

The military has now been deployed to help the police, overstretched since the unrest began last week.

South African police said in a statement that they had identified 12 people suspected of provoking the riots, and that a total of 1,234 people had been arrested.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called it some of the worst violence witnessed in South Africa since the 1990s before the end of apartheid, with fires set, highways blocked and businesses and warehouses looted in major cities and small towns in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces.

Ministers have warned that if looting continues,

there is a risk that areas could soon run out of basic food supplies, but have ruled out declaring a state of emergency.

The child was caught by a crowd of people who rushed to help those trapped in the apartment block in the central business district of Durban, a coastal city in KwaZulu-Natal, on Tuesday afternoon.

Those stealing from shops on the ground floor of Smith Street had started the fire which spread, affecting those living upstairs.

The BBC's Nomsa Maseko says that after catching the baby, the passers-by and neighbours rushed to get ladders to help other residents, including children, escape.

The mother was reunited with her baby, but was too emotional to talk. The rescue services arrived after about 20 minutes to help douse the fires.

More than 200 shopping malls had been looted by Monday afternoon, Bloomberg news agency quoted the chief executive officer of Business Leadership South Africa, Busisiwe Mavuso,

as saying.

Several shopping centres in Soweto - South Africa's largest township which was once home to Nelson Mandela - have been completely ransacked, with ATMs broken into, restaurants, stores selling alcohol, and clothing shops, all left in tatters.

Soldiers working with the police managed to catch a few rioters. In total, almost 800 have been arrested but law enforce-

ment remains heavily outnumbered.

In KwaZulu-Natal, where livestock has also been stolen, the unrest continues with ambulances coming under attack by rioters in some areas, South Africa's TimesLive news site reports.

Video footage shows that a blood bank was looted in Durban as Mr. Ramaphosa addressed the nation on Monday night.





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Items	Size	Price
Grace Tuna Garlic & Hot Pepper/Spicy Thai Chili	85g	\$3.35
Grace Shredded Light Tuna (Water)	142g	\$2.87
Grace Shredded Light Tuna (Oil)	142g	\$2.98
Bumble Bee chunk Light Tuna (Water/Oil)	142g	\$4.84
Valrico Shredded Tuna (Water)	142g	\$2.58
Valrico Shredded Tuna (Oil)	142g	\$2.72
Valrico Chunk Light Tuna (Water)	142g	\$4.13
Valrico Chunk Light Tuna (Oil)	142g	\$4.11
Brunswick Flaked Tuna (Water/Oil)	142g	\$3.53
Brunswick Chunk Tuna (Water/Oil)	142g	\$4.79
Peacock Chunk Tuna (Water/Oil)	142g	\$3.75
Clasico Chunk Light Tuna (Water)	170g	\$3.80
Clasico Chunk Light Tuna (Oil)	170g	\$3.90
Clasico Flake Light Tuna (Water)	170g	\$2.30
Clasico Flake Light Tuna (Oil)	170g	\$2.40

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# West Indies v. Australia



Chris Gayle

### 3rd CG Insurance T20

#### GROS ISLET, St. Lucia

– Chris Gayle finally came to the party on Monday night, as he led the way for West Indies with an aggressive 67, surpassing 14,000 T20 International runs in the process. Gayle, along with interim captain Nicholas Pooran, guided West Indies to a six-wicket victory. Pooran ended the innings on 32 not out.

Gayle joined Lendl Simmons after Andre Fletcher was dismissed in the first over. He started his innings in a typical cautious manner before launch-

ing an assault on Adam Zampa, taking 22 from one over – including three consecutive sixes. This over tilted things firmly in the West Indies favor.

Australia batted first and were restricted from amassing a big total. They managed to get 145 for 6 from their 20 overs. Moises Henriques, 33, and Aaron Finch, 30, were the main contributors to Australia's modest total.

Hayden Walsh's 2 for 18 led the West Indies bowling. He was well supported by the other bowlers, as well as some very good

fielding. These two aspects of the West Indies' approach are the difference between this series and the previous one.

This victory was the West Indies' third on the trot, but Gayle stole the headlines with an innings which showed that, despite his age (41), he remains – once on song – one of the most feared batsmen in T20 cricket.

Speaking afterwards, Gayle said: "I want to dedicate this half-century and milestone to West Indies, my team-mates, especially Kieron Pollard. We had

a team meeting before the game and ... he let me know where I stand within this team and he wanted me to go and express myself. So I'm very grateful for that pep talk because sometimes it doesn't matter how great you are, you need a bit of a talk sometimes."

The West Indies secured the five-match T20 International series against Australia, after attaining an unassailable 3-0 series lead with 31 balls to spare.

The fourth T20 International will be played tonight.



*Giannis Antetokounmpo joins Shaquille O'Neal as the only player to post 40+ points and 10+ rebounds in consecutive Finals games.*

# NBA Finals: Bucks rally to beat Suns

## *Milwaukee Bucks overwhelm Phoenix Suns*

Sunday night's Game 3 of the NBA Finals saw the Bucks playing at home. It was a happy homecoming as the Bucks defeated the Suns 120-100, to the loud applause of their adoring fans who have waited 47 years for this chance.

Admittedly, though, many of the Bucks' most vocal fans were not yet born when the team last appeared in the NBA Finals.

Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks seemed to have finally figured out the Phoenix Suns. So much so, that they had their fans believing and chanting in unison "Bucks in six" on Sunday night. Amazingly, it has taken the Bucks three games to understand that Phoenix is at a severe size disad-

vantage, especially after losing backup center Dario Saric with a knee injury.

Their star player was unstoppable on his way to 41 points, 13 rebounds and six assists, becoming the only other player in NBA Finals history to score more than 40 points and grab more than 10 rebounds in consecutive NBA Finals games. Shaquille O'Neal was the other player.

"He's doing whatever it takes," said Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer. "He does a lot and we need a lot from him." An estimated 25,000 fans stood in the 'Deer District' and watched for hours on big screens just outside Fiserv Forum, and over 16,000 on the inside emptied their lungs — except when Giannis went to the free throw line.

The Phoenix Suns tried to keep it close, but every run they made was countered by the Bucks, who were spurred on by their adoring fans both inside and outside the Fiserv Forum. They were out-rebounded by the Bucks by 11 — no surprise. The Bucks led by as many as 25 points.

Chris Paul led the Suns with 19 points and nine assists. Deandre Ayton and Jae Crowder each had 18 points to lead the Suns' effort. It was a night when the Suns looked more to their bench as the starters were not effective against a purposeful Bucks defense.

The Phoenix Suns lead the series 2-1. Milwaukee are now 7-1 at home during the 2021 playoffs. Game 4 is tonight in Milwaukee.



# English FA fined €30,000 by UEFA for laser pen incident



*Harry Kane scores during England's semi final*

The English Football Association (FA) has been fined 30,000 after a laser pointer was directed at Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel during England's Euro 2020 semi-final win last week.

The punishment, confirmed on Saturday by European governing body UEFA, also takes into account disturbances during the national

anthems at Wembley and the setting off of fireworks inside the stadium.

The FA was charged with the three offences after the game, and the sanctions were imposed following consideration by UEFA's control ethics and disciplinary body.

The laser incident occurred as Schmeichel prepared to face a pen-

alty during extra time of England's 2-1 win.

Television pictures showed a green light being shone on the Leicester player's face as Kane lined up his spot-kick. Schmeichel saved Kane's initial shot but was beaten on the rebound for what proved the decisive goal.

UEFA also investigated the booing of the Danish national anthem prior

to the game, which was attended by more than 60,000 people, and the setting off of fireworks by some fans.

A statement from UEFA read: "The CEDB has decided to fine the English Football Association 30,000 euros for the use of laser pointer, disturbances during the national anthems, and setting of fireworks."

*Hayley Matthews celebrates after reaching her 2nd ODI century*



## Matthews leads Windies Women to ODI series win

Opener Hayley Matthews sparkled with her second One Day International (ODI) hundred as West Indies Women cricketers secured a series win with a commanding eight-wicket victory over Pakistan Women at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Chasing an uncomplicated victory target in the third ODI of the five-match series, the hosts cantered home with 59 balls to spare, reaching 183 for two in 41.1 overs, with the right-handed

Matthews finishing unbeaten on 100 off 122 deliveries. She struck 11 fours and dominated a 56-run opening stand with Kyshona Knight (18) before putting on a further 106 for the second wicket with Britney Cooper who fell short of a well-deserved half-century with 45 off 68 balls.

Sent in earlier, Pakistan were lifted by Omaima Sohail's top score of 62 before they were dismissed for 182 with an over remaining in the innings.

Matthews also played a vital role with the ball as she bowled two maidens and took two wickets from her 10 overs.

Speaking to CWI Media after the match, Matthews said "I've been working really hard over the past couple of months to improve on my batting and on my consistency and it's really good to see it finally paying off. I didn't feel nervous, necessarily, but probably when I got into the nineties and realized I was about 10 runs to win

the game and five runs for me to get my hundred, and then the rain started setting up, I felt a bit anxious about actually getting the runs but I never doubted I was going to get my hundred ..."

With a 3-0 lead, the team is looking ahead for a clean sweep of the CG Insurance ODI Series as they did in the CG Insurance T20 Series, winning 3-0.

**DEWS**