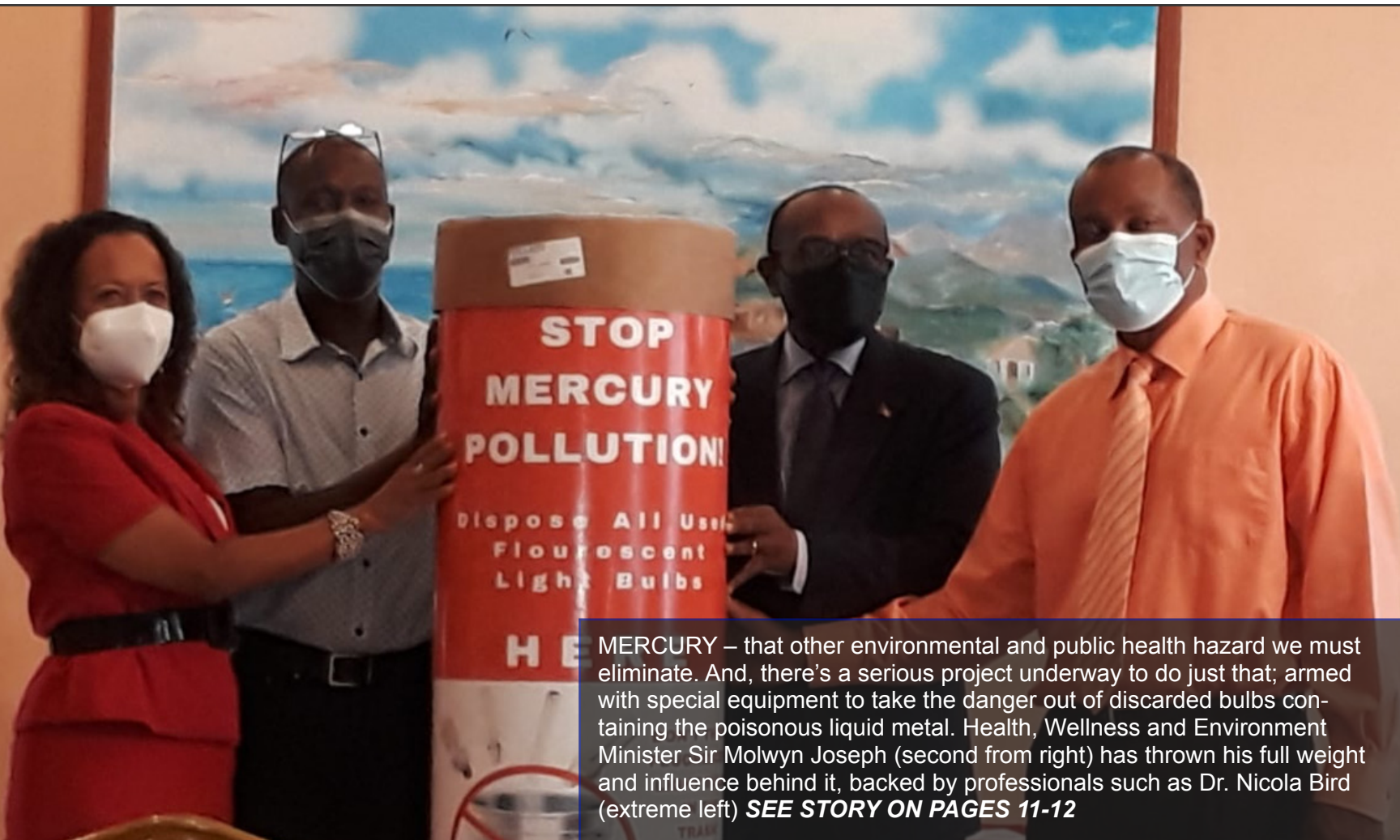


REDUCTION IN FULLTIME VAX CENTERS



MERCURY – that other environmental and public health hazard we must eliminate. And, there's a serious project underway to do just that; armed with special equipment to take the danger out of discarded bulbs containing the poisonous liquid metal. Health, Wellness and Environment Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph (second from right) has thrown his full weight and influence behind it, backed by professionals such as Dr. Nicola Bird (extreme left) **SEE STORY ON PAGES 11-12**

Peace of COVID zeroes slightly disturbed – two active cases (**Page 7**)

Haitian police make rapid progress against presidential assassins! (**Page 18**)

Defusing DeSantis with our vaccination vest

We sometimes wonder if those promoting and encouraging vaccination might be trying a little too hard and, in the process, cause the skeptical and hesitant to dig their heels in even deeper, believing that those trying to persuade them stand to gain something that is simultaneously to the loss and detriment of those being coaxed.

What to explain the excruciating slowness of first round inoculations in moving beyond the 36-thousand-plus (granted they are now close to 37,000 but seem to be taking forever to get there from the 36K zone where they have remained stuck for so many days now, if not weeks)?

The second round jabs to complete the two-stage vaccination process at one point seemed to racing at breathtaking speed – suggesting sustained commitment on the part of those who had taken their first shots, to see their immunization through to completion.

But just look at the numbers: First doses are still more than 150 short of 37,000 and

second doses are still about 8,000 short of catching up with the first doses. The numbers suggest a likelihood that several persons who took the first dose of the two-shot Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine decided to skip the second round that is so vital to completing their immunological protection against this deadly, scary and menacing global pandemic.

Not only are the variants increasing and worsening, they are not merely getting closer to home – some of them are already inside our home borders! A significant state within the most economically and otherwise powerful federated nation on earth has decided that – to hell with what everyone else thinks – they will impose unvaccinated travelers on nations such as ours with a law permitting possible COVID carriers to leave their shores and board cruise ships bound for our economically desperate ports without being asked, without having to tell, their vaccination status. We can't fight with them, probably can't even argue with them because, in the scheme

of things, we need them more than they need us.

Besides not even the powerful Florida-Caribbean cruise ship lobby, that has brought so many Caribbean islands to their knees over a measly head tax, have been able to do anything against Dangerous DeSantis. The powerful cruise ship industry, once the floating epicenter of this rampaging pandemic, cannot prevent a political driven and utterly illogical governor from imposing what amounts to an order compelling it to return to the same danger and ruin from which it spent so many months extricating itself, recovering, and then re-fitting for a hopefully safe resumption with the benefit of hindsight and knowledge.

After several weeks of “all zeroes”, a couple of active COVID cases have sneaked in again this week – a reminder, if any were needed, that we are far from being out of the woods; that we are still in the crosshairs of possible resurgence, of another wave, another explosion of cases, hospitalizations and deaths. We

cannot control what the outrageous DeSantises of this world do, and we cannot remain hermetically sealed against those whose spending as visitors we depend on so much for the livelihoods of so many – for the economic sustenance of our country more than any other sector. What we can do is take a hold of ourselves in a sensible and practical way.

We cannot be willing to get vaccinated once that is a condition for gaining entry into coveted and worshipped countries such as the mighty USA, Britain, etc., but we are not willing to do it for survival within the borders of our own nativity and domicile.

Governor DeSantis may be sending loaded guns and ticking time bombs of potential COVID carriers and spreaders our way. He cannot prevent us from shielding and protecting ourselves to withstand and defuse them by each who are eligible getting vaccinated, so that all can be collectively protected under the umbrella and behind the shield that is herd immunity.

Two vaccination centers closing; health centers to provide COVID shots

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment announces the closure of two of the Public COVID-19 Vaccination Centers.

The Glanvilles Polyclinic and the Precision Center will close as of today Friday 9th July 2021 at 5:00 p.m., thus making it the final day for public vaccination at these

two centers. Members of the public can continue to access COVID-19 vaccines at the Multi-purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre at Perry Bay and the Blackburn Park Polyclinic in Villa, Mondays to Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As of Monday 12th July 2021, COVID-19 vaccines will also be offered

by appointment at the following two health centers: The All Saints Health Centre, (268) 460-1003; The Browne's Avenue Health Center, (268) 562-3076. The listed numbers must be called in advance to schedule appointments.

Identification cards must be presented at vaccination centers, as well

as vaccination cards for persons seeking their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The general public is also advised to be mindful of the safety and security of their vaccine card. An individual's vaccine card is essential for the second vaccine dose and air travel purposes.



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Electric bicycles on order for police

The acquisition of 20 electric bicycles to be used by police officers in St. John's City is among wide-ranging crime-fighting measures that the Government is putting in place to tackle the recent spike in criminal activities.

The measures were announced in the House of Representatives on Thursday by National Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin. He told parliamentarians that Antigua and Barbuda has had the lowest crime rates in the Caribbean, and that is why Government is not taking the recent uptick in crime lightly.

"We have noticed that criminal elements are becoming bolder by carrying out armed robberies during the day and that this is a development of concern," he stated.

In response, recognizing that police presence serves as a deterrent to crime, Benjamin said the Government will increase police presence in the city centre, its environs, as well as in the outlying districts.

"We will re-introduce the police patrols by bicycle for police officers. The bicycle patrols formed part of policing in the past and we as a government are going to reinstate this

effective measure. We have placed on order 20 bicycles that can be operated two ways – manually, as well as motorized when officers become tired of cycling. These bikes are already in use in the major cities of the world and we feel that their introduction here will have an immediate impact," he said.

In anticipation of the return of cruise passengers shortly, the public safety minister said the plans are to deploy some of the bicycle officers in the Heritage Quay area to serve as an anti-crime measure. Other measures include upgrading the police



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sub-station in the Heritage Quay area, which will now be properly manned, especially at critical times during the day.

"We will ensure that all the CCTV cameras that are mounted in and around the city are fully functional in order to capture criminals in the act of committing crimes. We have also identified several places referred to as 'hot-spots'. These will be patrolled vigorously," he reported.

The government will also import two special vehicles that will serve as command centres in the field during periods of crisis.

Benjamin also had good news for business and home owners: The importation of security cameras and related items will be zero-rated for taxes on entry into the country.

The government is looking at the COVID-19 regulations, particularly as they relate to the wearing of masks in public. Under consideration is a proposal that customers entering a business place would first have to remove their masks for a few seconds to allow the security camera to capture a picture of their faces.

Benjamin is warning criminals not to engage in any shooting encounters with the police as the police will have no choice but to return fire.

"The police will not stand idly while bullets are ringing all around them. They have to defend themselves. The police will use the appropriate reciprocal force to repel any danger to themselves," he declared.

The national security minister is appealing to all residents to report

any suspicious activities they may have observed in their neighbourhoods. He wants everyone to take an active role in fighting crime.

The measures will also extend to increased police presence at the nation's beaches. These officers will wear regular street clothes and thus be working under cover.



*Minister for National Security,
Hon. Steadroy Benjamin.*

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Review of Defense Force functions underway

The government is undertaking a review of the function and operation of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) in order to determine its future role in the society.

The announcement came from National Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin who was speaking in Parliament during debate on the Defense Amendment Bill.

These amendments to the original act, he said, seek to 'remedy certain administrative inconsistencies in the principal law as they relate to what happens when charges are brought against officers or warrant officers of the force'.

In responding to a recommendation from the Barbuda representative, Trevor Walker, about the need to overhaul the ABDF, Benjamin said the government is

already moving in that direction.

"I am pleased to report that the prime minister has been briefed with respect to the new approaches of the defense force. We are pleased to say that they have recognized the necessity to change the outlook of the army. They have recognized this. They are wondering if it should remain a land force or if it should concentrate on offering marine services. All of this was started by Brigadier Sir Trevor Thomas, but which are being led by a very efficient Chief of defense staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin," Minister Benjamin reported.

According to the public safety minister, the new head of the ABDF came with plans for the army and its proposed new roles in the society.

"We are looking at the re-structuring, the re-direction and the re-design of the organization," he emphasized.

Regarding the Barbuda Airways, which will be operated by the ABDF, Benjamin said arrangements have been made to train many of the officers who will man the airline. These include training in air traffic control, among a host of necessary skills.

Under the amendment that was passed by the House, an officer who is charged by a commanding officer will have an option to be tried before a court martial. No notation may be made on the officer's record by the commanding officer until the court martial presents its findings.

COVID Dashboard Update for July 8, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John Medical Centre has revealed one new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Ninety-nine (99) samples were processed at Sir Lester Bird MSJMC.

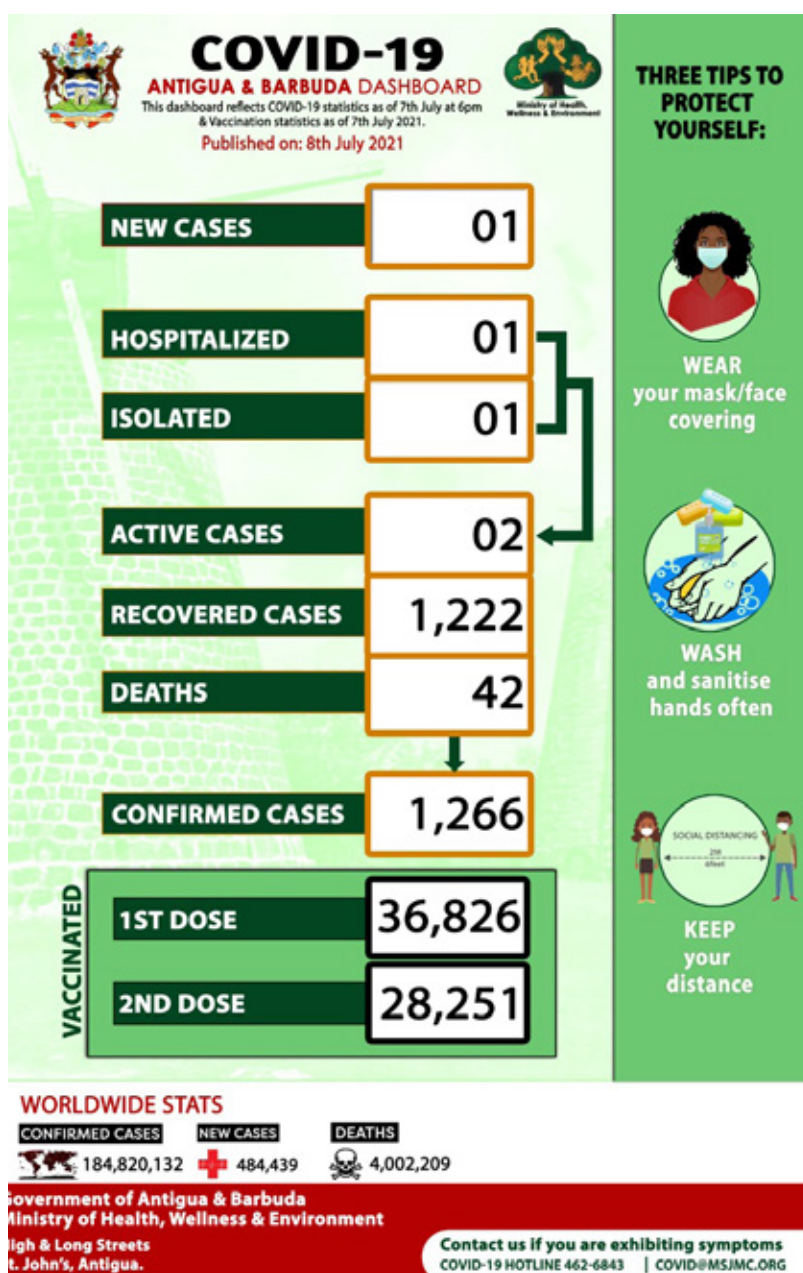
Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory con-

firmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 1,266; which is inclusive of two active cases.

There is one hospitalized case where the symptoms are considered to be moderate.

Meanwhile, 36,826 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, of which 28,251 have received the second dose.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador Aubrey Webson awarded prestigious Louis Braille Medal



Ambassador Webson (right) receiving his award from the first vice president of the World Blind Union (WBU) in Madrid, Spain.

Ambassador Aubrey Webson, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), has been awarded the Louis Braille medal for outstanding service at the World Blind Union (WBU) General Assembly.

Ambassador Webson is the second person from a developing country to ever receive this award, which recognizes individuals who have made a substantial and outstanding contribution to blind or partially sighted persons through their service.

The award's namesake, Louis Braille (1809–1852), was a French educator who developed the system of printing and writing, called Braille, used extensively by the sight-impaired.

Received last week in Madrid, Spain, the award was bestowed by Fernando Riaño, First Vice President of the World Blind Union, for Ambassador Webson's life work.

The Ambassador's accomplishments include UN recognition of In-

ternational World Braille Day and International Sign Language Day, and founding of the UN Friends of Vision, which has tabled a Resolution on Eye Health.

Ambassador Webson has also led the UN Steering Committee on Disabilities since it was founded in 2019, and all of this culminates his long history of working on the ground in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, establishing schools and programmes that serve children with sight and hearing disabilities.

Ambassador Webson recognizes the importance of his family's support growing up in English Harbour, a village on the south side of the Caribbean island of Antigua. "My family gave me opportunities just like any other child, to be fully included in every activity, and that made a difference. That is the difference that you can make in the life of a child living with disabilities."

Ambassador Webson, in his acceptance speech, said: "Because the work

I do is part of the journey I undertake in my life, it's not work, it's what I do."

His exemplary international career is a testament to changing perceptions of what it means to be blind, not only for himself, but for all visually impaired people.

Globally, 1.1 billion people experience vision loss, primarily because they do not have access to adequate eye care services. Most sight impaired people live in low- and middle-income countries, where support and services are less accessible.

There is still much work to be done. Sustainable Development Goal #3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages. Toward this goal, the World Blind Union represents over 250 million people from 190 countries that are blind or have only partial sight.

The Louis Braille medal awarded to Ambassador Webson is the highest award bestowed by the international community exclusively to individuals that serve persons with disabilities.

House of Representatives pays tribute to Sir Eric Burton



The late Sir Eric Burton, former MP for Barbuda and Leader of the Opposition.

be reassured that he lived a full life,” PM Browne observed. The Barbuda representative, Trevor Walker, Sir Eric’s son-in-law, noted that the late representative was considered by many on the sister isle as ‘a real Barbudan’. He recalled that Sir Eric was a founding member of the Barbuda People’s Movement (BPM), which he described as a separatist movement. He further recalled that during the lead up to political independence, the Barbuda representative was invited to London by the British government to be part of the delegation.

According to Walker, the people of Barbuda were determined to have separate status from Antigua but the British were not in favour of this, and that is how the two islands became a unitary state. It was the Barbuda delegation which demanded that the official name of the country be Antigua and Barbuda rather than Antigua-Barbuda as had been suggested at the conference.

“Sir Eric was a man of conviction and a man of principle who served the people of Barbuda well. He strongly supported tourism and was responsible for a number of tourism projects on the island, including the now defunct K-Club,” he declared.

Paying tribute as well was Health Minister Sir Molwyn

Joseph, who said Sir Eric was a man ‘who never forgot his roots’ and one who was a ‘unifier’. He recalled that during his time as Leader of the Opposition, Sir Eric stated clearly that while he was an opposition member, if the government is doing something good he would not be afraid to say so.

“I don’t hear such sentiments in the parliament since those days,” Sir Molwyn noted. He said part of Sir Eric’s legacy was his desire to see the differences between the two islands resolved. Sir Robin Yearwood remembered Sir Eric as a gracious host who treated him and others well, with warmth and kindness, whenever they visited the sister island.

St. Peter representative Asot Michael paid tribute to Sir Eric as a man fully committed to the maintenance of the unitary state of Antigua and Barbuda.

“He has made a tremendous contribution to the development of Barbuda; in tourism and the other sectors. He was a distinguished representative for the island constituency while a member of this Honourable House,” Michael stated.

Sir Eric’s funeral will take place in Antigua next Thursday and he will be buried the following day in Barbuda.

The House of Representatives on Thursday paid tribute to the late Barbuda Representative, Sir Eric Burton, who passed away in June and who will receive an official funeral next week.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who led the tributes, described the late parliamentarian as one who has made a ‘significant contribution not only to the socio-economic development of Barbuda but to the entire country as a whole’.

Sir Eric was also a successful businessman as well as a much-revered politician.

“At one time he served as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament as he was the

only non-ABLP member in the House of Representatives. He represented his people well, but he began a programme of cooperating with the government. It is something which I believe would be very useful if that spirit of cooperation was continued by the present representative,” PM Browne remarked. The prime minister said he has had many conversations with Sir Eric over the years and has had the benefit of his ‘wise counsel’. “He was a man with many talents and he utilized them in the interest of the people of Barbuda and the country as a whole. He will be missed, but we can

ENTRY AND INSTALLATION OF THE HOLY TALBOT



Inside the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Bendals.

St. Mary of Zion Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church of Antigua, located in Bendals, on June 27th 2021, was blessed with the entry and installation of the Holy Talbot, a replica of the Ark of the Covenant Ten Commandments from Ethiopia.

This ancient centerpiece of the Orthodox Church is handed down from the days of Moses receiving the Commandments in the wilderness and has ever been an integral part of the life and spirit of the Orthodox Church and its the people.

There are many stories of how the Ark of the Covenant and its powerful impact on its people travelled

from Jerusalem to Ethiopia where it is until this day guarded and protected in a holy place. Every Ethiopian Orthodox Church has its replica of the Ark of the Covenant, connecting it in spirit with all Orthodox Churches, and blessing the congregants as it did in ancient times, a constant reminder of God's presence with his people. St. Mary of Zion in Bendals has now blessed the island with the presence of the Holy Talbot in the Church, thereby completing the establishment of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahe-

do Church in Antigua. The service of the Installation was celebrated by many Rastafari families with children and other faithful Orthodox Christians, with Abba Gebre Yesus Weldesamuel Negatu blessing the building and the Christian assembly.

The installation service was assisted by the deacons, aspiring priests, who look forward to the fulfillment of their commitment to God, the Church and its growing congregation.

Sunday 27 June was the annual Feast of Holy Blessed Ever Virgin Mother of God, St. Mary.

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Solid Waste Management Authority launches major environmental initiative



Mercury bulb “eating” machine and specialized disposal receptacle.

The ongoing campaign to phase out mercury and eliminate its threat to human life and the environment in Antigua and Barbuda received a major boost on Tuesday, July 6th 2021. The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), supported by stakeholders and several partners, held its official handing over ceremony of specialised bins designed for the safe disposal of used and intact fluorescent light bulbs.

Mercury is a component of fluorescent light bulbs that are safe when in use. However, if they break accidentally or through improper waste disposal, mercury vapours escape into the atmosphere, potentially harming human life and the environment.

General Manager of NSWMA, Daryl Spencer, noted: “The Waste

Management Authority always seeks to find ways to keep our population safe and recognises the importance of managing this type of waste which is considered to be hazardous. One challenge is to collect, transport, and dispose of this type of waste that is usually comingled in our general and residential waste streams.”

Spencer further stated: “This project will now enable source separation, allowing residents to take their used, intact fluorescent bulbs to depots where they can be safely stored until collected by the Authority.” At least 40 of the specialised storage bins will be available at several locations across Antigua and Barbuda, including most major supermarkets and hardware stores. The bins are all specially marked for easy identifi-

cation, and signage will point persons to where they are located at the depots.

The official ceremony, held at the Multi-Purpose Centre, was attended by stakeholders and guests. Other speakers were Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment; Dr. Nicola Bird, PhD, executive director of Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) and project manager of the Mercury Phase-Out Project; Dr. Linroy Christian, Minimata focal point and head of the Department of Analytical Services; Ms. Natalya Lawrence, national coordinator, GEF Small Grants; and NSWMA landfill manager, Mr. Emmanuel Dubois. The speakers stressed the importance of reducing and eventually eliminating the mercury footprint in Antigua and Barbuda

to safeguard lives and the environment.

One speaker, Dr. Bird, also spoke of her personal experience when she suffered mercury poisoning.

Attendees at the ceremony were also given a demonstration of used fluorescent bulbs being placed into a 'bulb-eater'. This specialised machine pulls the

mercury content from the bulbs, safely containing it for eventual shipment out of the country.

All residents are being asked to discontinue the unsafe and improper practice of placing discarded mercury-added fluorescent light bulbs in their residential garbage bins or otherwise tossing them away in open spaces. Please

make use of the specialised storage bins at the various designated locations. A full list of locations where the specialised bins will be placed will shortly be announced to the public.

Persons can also call the NSWMA hotline number at 562-1347 or 562-1349 for information.



Antigua and Barbuda ships larger consignment of Sargassum Seaweed to Finland as part of an initiative being explored.

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Analytical Services shipped a full 20ft container of sargassum seaweed to Finland totalling over 20,000kg. On the receiving end will be Origin by Ocean a Finnish company being incubated within the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) S3I Innovation Centre in Sweden.

This is the second shipment of sargassum being sent to Finland

as part of the first phase of a project being developed by Origin by Ocean to design a new biorefinery process (Nauvu®) for the extraction of biomolecules for use in food, cosmetics, and domestic detergent, all from marine biomass. This second shipment is one of several that will be shipped to Finland later this year to be used by the company to do initial reference trials of the Nauvu® process against the benchmark feedstock of Bladderwrack seaweed.

The collaboration between Origin by Ocean and the Department of Analytical Services is

being facilitated by the Antigua and Barbuda Science Innovation Park (ABSIP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The long-term goal of the initiative currently being explored is to establish a biorefinery in Antigua and Barbuda where sargassum seaweed can be processed into a range of products.

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Analytical Services wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Island Sanitation for collection and handling of the Seaweed and Brysons Shipping for Shipping and logistical arrangements.

A Singular Life

by Heseekiah Lewis

The story of Rufus Lewis' life is one which exemplifies not just an individual triumph over adversity, but it is a living demonstration of one Antiguan man's faith and determined intelligence to not allow difficulties, including the English system of oppression and exploitation, to prevent him from becoming the person who the Almighty Creator intended him to be. Our father's life began on 9th July 1927 with none of what would be considered advantages. But he had a mother who was intelligent and creative, and she saw obstacles as mere barriers to be overcome.

It is this indomitable Lewis and Antiguan spirit that is on display today among all those who carry the Lewis Model.

Rufus Lewis' life has been nurtured and directed by two principles: an unwavering faith in God and His goodness, and an unshakeable belief in himself and the ingenuity of our people.

In 1942, as a 15-year-old boy in Old Road, his mother signed him up as a member

of the Antigua Trades & Labour Union (AT&LU); and from that time until now, his life's purpose and work have been to improve the lives of the working class people of this country.

Yet, even though he was not given the chance to attend secondary school, our father sought various opportunities to educate himself. To that end, he attended every seminar and workshop he could access. Because of his keen interest in the welfare of the working class, he was often chosen by the AT&LU to attend a variety of courses – both locally and internationally – to learn about industrial relations and other relevant subjects that would make him a more effective negotiator and defender of the rights of our people.

He may not have been traditionally educated, but he has been the hardest working husband and father and the most honourable man in the effort to create a better Antigua and Barbuda. Indeed, the lack of a secondary school education motivated our father to ensure that his children – 10 boys and two girls, some of whom are among the best

cricketers in the region – had access to education from the primary school level to some of the better regarded universities in the world.

Our father has been an advocate for the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) from its very inception. But not even his support for a Labour Party administration could diminish his passion for justice or his desire to protect the interests of the working class. Rufus Lewis would meet with government ministers, lead picketing protests or take industrial action if he thought the situation warranted it.

Somehow, the circumstances of his birth, the lack of formal education, or any other obstacle, did not detract from the diligence with which he approached his work or the pursuit of the purpose of his life. In truth, it has to be said that his faith in God and his belief in himself and in our people have always been the source of strength, confidence and guidance throughout the years of his long life.

Today, as a person who has held almost every position in the AT&LU, from being an affiliate up to the position of vice-president, our father



AT&LU stalwart Rufus Lewis at 94 is featured in this tribute by his son.

is now the man who has been a member of the AT&LU for longer than anyone else alive – almost 80 years! Yes, you read that right: Our father, Rufus Lewis, has been a part of the Antigua Trades & Labour Union for almost as long as the AT&LU has existed! And, after all these years, his interest is still as keen as when he was an active officer or representative of the workers. He still talks about the issues that affect the lives of our people. In fact, even though he has been retired for decades,

his interest and concerns for the welfare of the working class are still communicated to those in high places – regularly.

In 2009, a government which was not led by the Antigua Labour Party recognised our father's work on behalf of his fellow citizens and awarded him the National Order of Merit in recognition of his contributions. This fact is significant, because it clearly showed that not only the party that he has supported for all of these years acknowledged

his efforts, but even those whom he had not supported, politically, have certified the value of his work. In documenting his official biography, Sir Rodney Williams, the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, asked one man to give the framework for that documentary – and that man is Rufus Lewis. This is a singular honour for any person, but especially for a man like our father whose only rank is that he was born in a little coastal village in the south. But our father's strong sense of integrity and his dedication to what is good and right are unsurpassed. For, in effect, the Head of State and one of the most distinguished Caribbean personalities, asked Rufus Lewis to recommend him to his nation and the world.

All of this shows that our father belongs to that select class of magnificent Antiguan whose lives are defined by a purpose much bigger than their individu-

al accomplishments. Without doubt, our father's life continues to defy the expectations of those who would limit the vision of the possible and who would wish to deny the opportunities to experience the fullness of God's grace.

Today, as we celebrate his 94th birthday, our father still believes, every single day of his life, that he can change our world for the benefit of the people of this nation and the inhabitants of the earth. Throughout the years, and even at this time, his life has never been bounded by the circumstances he encountered.

In truth, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are witnesses to an example of excellence lived before them through all the storms of life. All of these younger lives are able to learn the truth that just one simple life can change a community, a country and a world.

CARICOM: the only organisation commanding wide trust in Haiti's crisis



by Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)

Haiti was in a constitutional and political crisis before the assassination of its president, Jovenel Moïse, in the early hours of the morning of July 7. That crisis has worsened. It is now explosive, unless representatives of the main political parties collectively agree on

an interim, broad-based government to prepare the country for presidential, legislative, and municipal elections due to be held in September. Fuel was poured on the fire of the crisis by Claude Joseph who has declared himself prime minister. There is no legal or other basis for Joseph's action. He was appointed 'interim prime minister' by Moïse for 30 days in May. The appointment was renewed for another 30 days until July 5 when Moïse published a decree appointing Ariel Henry as the new prime minister with power to form a government, including representatives of opposition parties and civil society.

Joseph acknowledged the appointment of Henry by publicly congratulating him and departing the official office and residence. Now, there is a sudden about turn.

Meantime, in an interview with *Le Nouvelliste*, a daily newspaper printed in Haiti, Mr. Henry insisted that he, and not Mr. Joseph, is the prime minister. At best, in this turbulent situation, it is Ariel Henry who should be responsible for governmental affairs while he works swiftly on establishing a broad-based interim and national government.

The international community should not delude itself that anything

but an interim government, comprised of political parties and civil society, will be acceptable to the Haitian people. If a few powerful governments attempt to support a power grab and not a broad-based interim government, they will condemn Haiti to worse unrest than has been the case in recent years.

It should be recalled that Moïse had been running Haiti by decree since January 2020. There is no national assembly and the normal institutions of government are not functioning as required by the Constitution. CARICOM Heads of Government were right when, at the

conclusion of their regular meeting from 4 to 6 July, they expressed their “grave concern over the untenable situation in Haiti which is in the throes of a protracted, political, constitutional and humanitarian crisis”. The leaders were almost prescient in stating that they were “particularly alarmed by the precipitous deterioration of security, calling into question the State’s ability to protect the people of the country”. Little did they know that the State had become unable even to protect the president of the country. What happens in Haiti in the coming weeks will determine if the country is to be plunged into further chaos, or stability will be established.

Earlier this year, when there were cries for an interim government in Haiti, including by top members of the US Congress, the US government, which has long exerted huge influence in Haiti’s politics, had indicated that it did not support the idea. It called, instead, for Moïse to abandon his ambition to hold a controversial referendum to change the country’s Constitution as he saw fit, and to concentrate on holding the September elections.

However, when the presidency of Michel Martelly had come to an end in 2016 with no successor because of the failure to hold elections, an interim government was installed by agreement of all political parties in the National Assembly. Having led the delegation of the Organization of American States (OAS) that helped to broker that agreement, I can testify to

its wide support. That agreement, which included Martelly, allowed for the formation of an interim government which oversaw a period of relative peace and stability, including elections that brought Moïse to office in 2017.

At that election, marred by Hurricane Matthew that devastated the country less than a month before, only 21 percent of the electorate voted. Moïse secured 55.67 percent of that small number of 21 percent, accounting for his unpopularity from the start of his presidency when almost 80 percent of the electorate did not vote.

For peace to prevail, the Haitian people must have confidence in the governance of the country over the next few months, including the impartiality and independence of the elections’ machinery which, at the moment, is populated by persons handpicked by Moïse and his party. If there is no change in this situation, it is most unlikely to be accepted by opposition parties and by civil society.

The stakeholders in Haiti have to come together to agree on an interim government and re-establish, as best they can, some of the key institutions of government, especially the judiciary and electoral council. One of the critical decisions surrounds whether free and fair elections can possibly be held in September. On any objective analysis, the answer would be that such elections are not possible. The country would accept an interim, national government delaying the election date until

independent and transparent machinery is established. It is hardly likely that they will accept elections – two months from now in the hands of persons they did not elect and who were not approved in accordance with the country’s constitution. The problem is that no country or organisation can proffer itself to help Haiti through this crisis. The Haitian government has to issue an invitation. In the absence of an interim government, no invitation will be issued to an organisation that commands wide trust from the Haitian stakeholders.

There are few organisations that command such trust amongst Haitians – CARICOM is probably the one that enjoys the widest confidence.

On July 6 – even before Moïse’s assassination – CARICOM leaders expressed their “support for dialogue between the contending parties” and repeated “the Community’s willingness to extend its good offices in attaining a Haitian-led peaceful resolution to the current impasse”. This would entail both facilitation and mediation.

The UN and other international organisations should provide CARICOM with the resources it would need to undertake this vital role. Haiti is a CARICOM country. What happens in it has consequences for the region.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

Developing inclusion for unity by communication

by Lyndon P. Mottley

Without communication, our needs cannot be met, let alone be satisfied. Accuracy of communication, then, is imperative to sufficiently and quickly have our needs met.

God's first instrument for dividing a nation was to confuse their language (Genesis 11:7-8). I fear a silent divider in our nation is poor or no communication; be it political, inter-denominational, or inter-racial. We seem to talk more but communicate less. Results? Unmet and unsatisfied needs, misunderstandings, disenfranchisement, and strawman arguments. A problem is our theory of communication—our assumptions which guide our communication behaviours, or the explanation for what we think we are doing when we communicate.

These assumptions or explanations enable or constrain what and how we say things. We seldom, however, think about assumptions in our communication; we just speak. Hence, understanding of the receiver is not necessarily those of the communicator (incompatible theories of communication). This frustrates and divides,

rather than weld us. In this pandemic and motley society, we need consensus on all levels in order to secure political stability, cooperation, and promote economic growth. This requires, among other things, sound communication. Strongly, therefore, I recommend we hurriedly move away from a communication model of transmission (get our message out) to a social construction (SC). This model intentionally seeks to create an inclusive social world, develops common understanding and meaning, and empowers people of varying backgrounds to navigate their future together.

SC model of communication occurs on two levels: Content and Relational. Content is the actual substance of communication—what we say; and Relational speaks to the meaning and interpretation—how we say it.

There are unseen factors which constrain or enable communication. Put differently, in communicating, we do not merely speak to (a) person(s), but to their position(s), their personal commitment, the norms of his or her group(s)—their social world. We all may

share the same spatial world, but we live in different social worlds. Consequently, there will be a pluralism of meaning regarding “what we say”. As such, we have a conscious responsibility to understand and interpret; and these factors are either constrained or enabled by our knowledge of the social worlds of those with whom we communicate. Content or our message then, must show clear appreciation and sensitivity for the heterogeneous elements in our society. Content, therefore, on any given issue, is situational. “What we say” is never adequate until we consciously consider the social worlds of those to whom we say “what we say”. Content, in this framework, underlines all effective communication – that is, what may be appropriate in one setting may not be in another.

Content can be seen in three forms of groups: professional, civil and hybrid.

Remember, problems emerge not because we speak (transmission of message) per se, but the social perspective from which we speak.

To be continued.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

STATEMENT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

For further information, please contact the University Marketing and Communications Office via email at universitymktgcomms@sta.uwi.edu

For Immediate Release

The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse of Haiti

The UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica. Wednesday, July 7, 2021—The assassination of President Moïse of Haiti is the latest dramatic reflection of the culture of murderous political violence that has typified the colonisation of the Caribbean, and whose legacy continues to speak to the devalued worth of black life especially in our hemisphere.

For the people of Haiti and the wider Caribbean region who have politically united for mutual survival with dignity under the banner of CARICOM, this blunt and brutal execution of the democratically elected Head of State foregrounds the historic savagery long fought against in our region's struggle to forge a humane and sophisticated post-colonial Caribbean civilisation.

Political murder and social mayhem have long been the management tools used to maintain the misery and marginalisation of the Caribbean as it marches inexorably to the rendezvous of democracy as a freedom victory.

No country in the modern world has paid as great a human and material price as Haiti in seeking to convert its rubble of bloody imperial domination into a viable democratic nation state. In this regard, the murder of Moïse is the latest in a legacy that includes political leaders such as Walter Rodney and Maurice Bishop.

His political execution reflects but an element in the internal political gridlock many Caribbean societies face in their effort to detach from the colonial scaffold with its endemic thirst for violence, and advance to a peaceful domestic democratic idealism. The University of the West Indies is dedicated to this process and transition and mourns the lost life of President Moïse.

I recall the intellectual elegance and charismatic charm of his chairmanship of the Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in Port-au-Prince in February 2018 when he made this statement:

"I am not a graduate of The University of the West Indies, but I am an academic product of it. As a student here in Haiti, I was raised on the scholarly output of the great University of the West Indies and I have an affinity for it."

May his soul return in peace and its passage serve as a light to lead us out of this darkness.

Our prayers are with Mrs. Moïse as she continues her fight to live.

Guyana: Youth caught raping elderly woman outside La Penitence Market

Kaieteur News—A young man, who appeared to be in his late teens or early 20s, was on Wednesday evening caught raping a homeless woman on Safon Street, Charlestown, just outside of the La Penitence Market.

The youth was caught in the act, sometime after 19:00hrs, by a group of persons passing in a car.

“He was raping the woman right on the road,” said a female passenger who helped to rescue the elderly woman.

She said that at first they were convinced that “it was two young people”, but on closer inspection they realised that it was a young man raping an old

woman. As such, the driver decided to turn the car around in order to rescue her.

“When we turn around the car, he run away through a corner and destand up peeping,” the passenger related. However, two men, who were also in the car, reportedly blocked him off and efforts were made to summon the police.

When Kaieteur News arrived at the scene, ranks were preparing to arrest the young man. He was clad only in a “stripe pattern” t-shirt and boxers. The suspect tried to resist being arrested but the ranks picked him up and threw him into the back of

their patrol vehicle.

Again, the young man tried to fight back but was overpowered by the ranks.

Angry residents, who turned up at the scene, lambasted the young man’s action but he kept insisting, “bai me aint do nobody nothing.”

After calling an ambulance to take the elderly woman to the hospital, the police ranks, with the young man in custody, drove off, heading to the Ruimveldt Police Station. By this time, the ambulance had arrived and, as the woman was being helped into it, Kaieteur News’ reporters observed that she was limping and blood could be seen on her

hands, legs and clothing.

According to the residents who were at the scene, the woman is believed to be about 80 years old and has been a vagrant in the area for some time. They revealed that she is sometimes seen in the Market or on the pavement in front of an unoccupied building.

Meanwhile, at the station, the suspect bowed his head, presumably in shame, as ranks handcuffed him to a bench and started to interrogate him. He however refused to cooperate with the investigators and kept his head bowed between his knees.

Bahamas Officials reveal crashed airplane was stolen; two Americans in custody

EwNews - The aircraft that crashed in Treasure Cay, Abaco, on Monday, claiming the lives of two young pilots, was reported

stolen on Tuesday, according to police. Officials said two American men are in custody on Abaco. Police said officers from

the Marsh Harbour Police Station received a report of a 1984 white and brown trim, Israel eight-seater plane, model 1124A

and registration number N790JR, stolen from Treasure Cay Airport.



The plane was reported arriving in Treasure Cay on July 2 and was scheduled to depart on July 5 — Monday.

But that day, police reported that a plane on the island crashed shortly after take-off and was engulfed in fire upon crashing.

Officials confirmed the deaths of Lavan Paul and Jason Allen, advising that remains of both pilots were removed from the aircraft and flown to New Providence for autopsy.

Police said the aircraft, estimated at \$300,000 and which was substantially damaged during the accident, was later identified as the reported stolen plane.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the aircraft had challenges gaining altitude before taking off.

According to initial reports from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA), those challenges contributed to the accident.



A photo showing the aftermath of a plane crash on Abaco on Monday, July 5, 2021



Increased reports of businesses threatening unvaccinated workers

BVI Today - As the territory experiences a major surge in COVID-19 cases, reports have surfaced about some businesses threatening to sack employees who opt not to get vaccinated.

Employees of a local hardware store on Tortola as well as those from a prominent restaurant and bar in Road Town are among latest workers to have reported receiving such threats.

The government is being urged to intervene and this call has now come from former legislator Myron Walwyn.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, Walwyn said although he strongly encourages persons to get vaccinated, he also recognises and respects their right not to take the vaccine.

“Compulsory vaccination ... can amount to an unjustifiable interference with the right to respect for one’s private life which is protected in the Human Right’s Chapter of the Virgin Islands Constitutional Order 2007,” the former legislator wrote.

“This whole issue is a complicated area of law at this time and I would strongly advise the government to ask employers to cease and desist from the practice of threatening job security if employees opt not to take the vaccine. Let us continue to encourage and use other civilised methods of persuasion that do not take away the power of choice from individuals,” Walwyn added.

He continued: “I also advise the government to seek a legal opinion on the matter of compulsory vaccination and not simply relegate it to a labour issue. Its implications go far beyond labour. Human rights include the right to refuse and to dissent as well.”

Back in late May, Premier Andrew Fahie described the issue of businesses laying off anti-vaxxer employees as a “heavy legal matter”. Fahie further said Labour Minister Vincent Wheatly is exploring the issue in tandem with Attorney General Dawn Smith.

At the time, Premier Fahie declined to comment further, but said

the ruling is still out on what to tell businesses. He then said a statement on the legal findings related to this matter should be expected in a few weeks.

Since then, there are no known public statements from the Fahie administration addressing the issue.

A former Oil Nut Bay (ONB) worker, Gerand Vanterpool, alleged in a recent ZBVI interview that he was temporarily laid off at the resort because he failed to take the Astra-Zeneca vaccine.

The former housekeeper said this was after receiving a letter in March 2021 from the management of ONB imploring him to take the vaccine by March 30 or face being dismissed.

Failing to comply, Vanterpool said he was laid off for 90 days without pay and received no assistance from the Labour Ministry. The former ONB worker said he was told the layoff was his choice because he didn’t take the vaccine.

Two Haitian Americans detained in slaying of Haiti president

(AP) — Two men believed to be Haitian Americans – one of them purportedly a former bodyguard at the Canadian Embassy in Port au Prince – have been arrested in connection with the assassination of Haiti's president, a senior Haitian official said Thursday.

Mathias Pierre, Haiti's minister of elections, told The Associated Press that James Solages was among six people arrested in the 36 hours since the brazen killing of President Jovenel Moïse by gunmen at his home in the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday.

Four other suspected assailants were killed and two are still missing, Pierre said. Pierre would not provide additional details about Solages' background, nor would he provide the name of the second Haitian-American he said was arrested. Solages describes himself as a "certified diplomatic agent", an advocate for children and budding politician on a website for a charity he established in 2019 in south Florida to assist residents.

On his bio page for the charity, Solages said he previously worked as a bodyguard at the Canadian Em-

bassy in Haiti. Calls to the foundation and Solages' associates at the charity either did not go through or were not answered.

"The pursuit of the mercenaries continues," said Léon Charles, director of Haiti's National Police, in announcing the arrest of suspects.

"Their fate is fixed: They will fall in the fighting or will be arrested."

Witnesses said two suspects were discovered hiding in bushes in Port-au-Prince on Thursday by a crowd, some of whom grabbed the men by their shirts and pants, pushing them and occasionally slapping them.

Police arrived shortly afterward to arrest the men, who were sweating heavily and wearing clothes that seemed to be smeared with mud, an Associated Press journalist at the scene said.

Officers placed them in the back of a pickup truck and drove away as the crowd ran after them to the nearby police station.

Once there, some in the crowd chanted: "They killed the president! Give them to us. We're going to burn them!"

One man was overheard saying

that it was unacceptable for foreigners to come to Haiti to kill the country's leader, referring to reports from officials that the perpetrators spoke Spanish or English.

The crowd later set fire to several abandoned cars riddled with bullet holes that they believed belonged to the suspects, who were white men.

The cars didn't have license plates, and inside one of them was an empty box of bullets and some water.

At a news conference Thursday, Charles, the police chief, asked people to stay calm, go home and let the police do their work as he warned that authorities needed evidence they were destroying, including the burned cars.

Officials did not provide any details about the suspects, including their nationalities, nor did they address a motive or say what led police to them.

They said only that the attack condemned by Haiti's main opposition parties and the international community was carried out by "a highly trained and heavily armed group."



A police truck takes two detainees to the police station of Petion Ville in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, July 8, 2021.



*The state of emergency
will last until 22 August*

Tokyo Olympics: Fans largely barred as COVID emergency declared

BBC - The Olympic Games in Japan will be held without spectators at venues in and around the capital after a spike in coronavirus infections.

Olympics Minister Tamayo Marukawa made the announcement after talks with officials and organisers on Thursday.

A state of emergency in Tokyo will run throughout the Games, to combat coronavirus.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters it would run from 12 July and remain in place until 22 August.

Bars and restaurants will not be allowed to serve alcohol and must close by 20:00 (11:00

GMT). Venues in Tokyo and other areas near the capital city will not be allowed to hold events with fans during the Games.

But stadiums in the regions of Fukushima, Miyagi and Shizuoka will be permitted to have spectators up to 50% of capacity and up to 10,000 people.

Coronavirus infections are rising in Tokyo as the 23 July opening ceremony edges closer.

There has been widespread opposition to the Games in Japan, with calls for them to be postponed or cancelled.

After meeting government officials, Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto said: "It is re-

grettable that we are delivering the Games in a very limited format, facing the spread of coronavirus infections.

"I am sorry to those who purchased tickets and everyone in local areas."

Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike said that holding Olympic events without spectators was "heart-breaking" for those who wanted to attend. It was not immediately clear if refunds will be made available to some or all ticketholders.

Mr. Suga announced the state of emergency in Tokyo earlier in the day.

"Taking into consideration the effect of coro-

navirus variants and not to let the infections spread again to the rest of the nation, we need to strengthen our counter-measures," the prime minister said.

The state of emergency was announced after a meeting between the organising committee, the government and the International Olympic Committee president, Thomas Bach, who has just arrived in Japan.

The Olympic Games are scheduled to take place in the Japanese capital between 23 July and 8 August. The Paralympic Games are between 24 August and 5 September.

US speeds Afghanistan withdrawal as Biden sets August deadline



US president Joe Biden.

Aljazeera - United States President Joe Biden said on Thursday that the US military would complete its withdrawal from Afghanistan by August 31, ahead of schedule, and dismissed mounting concerns about a civil war developing in the country occupied by the US since 2001. "The mission is accomplished in that we got Osama bin Laden and that terrorism is not emanating from that part of the world," Biden insisted, defending his decision to keep up the rapid US withdrawal in the face of widening Taliban attacks on Afghan forces.

The US invaded Afghanistan after the al-Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington in

2001. The US has withdrawn approximately 3,500 remaining troops in a process the US military now says is 90 per cent complete.

"Our military commanders advised me that once I made the decision to end the war, we needed to move swiftly," Biden said.

"In this context, speed is safety," said the president, who is commander-in-chief of the military in the US system of government and holds ultimate authority over the deployment of troops.

The US will continue to have a few hundred troops in Afghanistan to maintain security for the US embassy and diplomatic community in Kabul as well as the city's

airport. US officials have said the military will maintain an "over-the-horizon" capability to respond to events.

The US withdrawal follows a US agreement reached under former President Donald Trump in talks headed by US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad with the Taliban in Qatar. The US agreed that US and foreign forces would leave by May 1. In exchange, the Taliban promised to negotiate a peace agreement with the Western-backed government in Kabul.

When Biden came to office in January, he was confronted with a stark choice of following through on the agreement with the Taliban or seeing US forces drawn back into a widening

war.

Biden said on Thursday that he and his top advisers had concluded the only path to peace and stability in Afghanistan is through a negotiated agreement between the Western-backed Afghan government in Kabul, regional leaders, and the Taliban.

"We did not go into Afghanistan to nation-build," the president said.

In the first significant peace talks between the Kabul government and the Taliban in months, a government delegation met Taliban representatives in Tehran on July 8. The two warring sides issued a joint statement that said "war is not the solution to the Afghanistan problem."

European Union urged to punish Hungary over law criticized as homophobic



Activists, protesting against what they say is an anti-LGBT law, gather in front of a rainbow balloon at Hungary's parliament in Budapest on Thursday.

CNN - On Thursday, the European Parliament condemned in the “strongest possible terms” a new law in Hungary which many critics say is homophobic, and urged the European Commission to impose punitive measures such as budget cuts.

European lawmakers “call on the Commission to launch an accelerated infringement procedure and to use all tools in the Court of Justice, such as interim measures and penalties for non-compliance if necessary,” the European Parliament said in a statement. “They also call on the member states to bring the matter to the CJEU (Court of Justice of the European

Union) should the Commission not act, and to launch an inter-state application to the European Court of Human Rights,” the statement continued. Members of the European Parliament said the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation should be “immediately triggered to protect the EU budget”, meaning that if there’s a breach of the EU’s laws, Hungary’s budget should be affected.

The resolution passed 459-147 with 58 abstentions. It is not binding on the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm.

The resolution comes after the Hungarian Parliament voted on June 15 in favor of a law banning

LGBTIQ content from being taught in schools, “under the guise of combating pedophilia”, the European Parliament said. The law came into effect Thursday.

It bans all educational materials and programs for children which are considered to promote homosexuality, gender re-assignment and the concept of sexuality deviating from the one assigned to a person at birth. The law has been condemned by many EU leaders as being homophobic. The European Parliament says the law resembles Russia’s 2013 LGBT Propaganda Law, and urged the European Commission “to investigate the financing of anti-LGBTIQ campaigns

in Europe in depth”. “Parliament stresses this is not an isolated incident, but rather constitutes another intentional and premeditated example of the gradual dismantling of fundamental rights in Hungary, where state-sponsored LGBTIQ-phobia and disinformation campaigns have become tools for political censorship,” the EP said in a statement.

“These human rights violations are part of a broader political agenda to break down democracy and the rule of law, including media freedom, and should be considered a systemic violation of EU values,” the statement said.

Avenatti sentenced to prison for Nike extortion scheme

(Reuters) – Michael Avenatti, the brash lawyer who shot to fame representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in lawsuits against Donald Trump, before a swirl of criminal charges ended his legal career, was sentenced on Thursday to two-and-a-half years in prison for trying to extort Nike Inc.

US District Judge Paul Gardephe, in Manhattan, said Avenatti, 50, “had become drunk on the power of his platform” in betraying his client, a youth basketball coach, for his own gain.

“Mr. Avenatti’s conduct was outrageous,” Gardephe said. “He hijacked his client’s claims, and he used those claims to further his own agenda, which was to extort millions of dollars from Nike for himself.”

The sentencing caps a precipitous downfall for a once-obscure lawyer who, in 2018, became a cable news and social media fixture, disparaging then-President Trump and even flirting with his own White House run.

Avenatti still faces three other criminal fraud trials, including for defrauding Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford.

In the Nike case, Avenatti was convicted for threatening to expose the sportswear company’s alleged corrupt payments to families of college basketball prospects, unless it paid up to \$25 million for him and another lawyer to conduct a probe.

Nike has denied wrongdoing. “The verdict and sentence speak for themselves,” it said in a statement.

Recordings showed Avenatti telling Nike lawyers he would “blow the lid” on the company and wipe \$10 billion off its stock market value unless it bowed to his de-

mands. Prosecutors said Avenatti was counting on a big payday to cover his debts.

Avenatti was also convicted of defrauding the coach, Gary Franklin, by not telling him he wouldn’t settle unless there were a probe.

Gardephe read extensively from Avenatti’s taped words, including multiple profanities, before imposing the sentence, which includes an additional three years of supervised release following prison.

Avenatti’s lawyers have said he will appeal the February 2020 conviction.

Before learning his fate, Avenatti choked up as he admitted to losing his way following years of “fighting for the little guy against the Goliaths”. The divorced father of three apologized to Franklin and others.

“TV and Twitter, your honor, mean nothing,” Avenatti told the judge. “Everyone wants to ride in a limo with you, but very few are willing to sit next to you on the bus. Even fewer, your honor, are willing to take your calls from prison.

“I and I alone have destroyed my career, my relationships, my life,” he added.

Franklin had been upset Nike stopped sponsoring his program, and said he wanted simply to restore their relationship. He said Avenatti had “destroyed my reputation” within his community.

Avenatti had sought no more than six months in prison.

Prosecutors had sought a “very substantial” term, and probation officers recommended eight years.

But the judge said he took into account Avenatti’s “sincere remorse” and his having spent three months early last year in “horrific conditions” at a Manhattan jail, as well as the role of the other lawyer who was not charged.

Avenatti still faces a July 20 trial in California on charges he stole nearly \$10 million from five clients, and a second trial there on bankruptcy, bank and tax fraud charges.

He also faces a January trial in Manhattan for allegedly cheating Daniels out of proceeds from a book contract.

Daniels had sued Trump in connection with a 2016 agreement not to discuss their alleged sexual encounters from a decade earlier, which Trump denies having had.

Avenatti has pleaded not guilty to all charges.



Attorney Michael Avenatti exits the courthouse following his sentencing for an extortion scheme against Nike Inc.



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Football: Euro 2020



Andrea Belotti (Italy)

WEMBLEY — Italy are through to the final of Euro 2020 after defeating archrivals, Spain 4-2 on penalty kicks. The teams ended the contest tied at 1-1 after regulation and extra time.

Italy, chasing their first European title since 1968, secured a place in Sunday's final. They were not always on top in this game, though, with Spain the better team for long spells of an epic contest before Federico Chiesa, the Juventus forward,

gave Italy the lead with a fabulous finish an hour into a match watched by a crowd of almost 58,000.

The much-maligned Alvaro Morata, who was dropped from the starting line-up, came off the bench to equalize with 10 minutes of normal time left.

No further scoring in extra time meant penalties again for Spain, who had beaten Switzerland in a shoot-out in the quarterfinals.

The Italians celebrat-

ed at the end with a large contingent of their UK-based supporters, and a team that has been rejuvenated under Roberto Mancini continues to dream of winning a first European Championship since 1968.

Now unbeaten in 33 games, they go through to Sunday's final to face England who beat Denmark 2-1 after extra time on Wednesday. This will be England's first appearance in final at a major

tournament since 1966.

Denmark had gone ahead through a superb free kick from Mikkel Damsgaard before England levelled following a Simon Kjaer own goal. Then as the game went into extra time, Harry Kane sent the Three Lions to the final after following up on a rebound from his missed penalty.

The final of Euro 2020 will be played on Sunday 11th July 2021.

Phoenix Suns draw first blood against Milwaukee Bucks



Devin Booker (right) and Chris Paul

Phoenix Suns takes first game against Milwaukee Bucks

Chris Paul waited 16 years to get to the NBA Finals, bringing with him a team starving for its first championship.

Paul had 32 points and nine assists in an NBA Finals debut that was well worth the wait. Devin Booker scored 27 points as the Suns beat the returning Giannis Antetokounmpo and his Milwaukee Bucks 118-105 on Tuesday night in Game 1.

However, the night belonged to Chris Paul who scored 16 points during a sensational third quarter that had Phoenix fans, who waited 28 years to see the NBA Finals again, screaming in delight.

Deandre Ayton added 22 points and 19 rebounds to continue his breakout stretch of play in his first post-season. Antetokounmpo had 20 points and 17 rebounds after missing two games with a hyperextended left knee. Khris Middleton scored 29 points, but the Bucks will again have to play from behind after dropping Game 1 for the third straight series. "We know it's not going to be easy. We know it's going to be tough," Middleton said. "There's times where we're going to be down in this series. But this series isn't over. We're down. We've still got to keep competing and just playing."

The series opener was the first NBA Finals game in Phoenix since the Michael Jordan-led Chicago

Bulls won their third straight championship in Game 6 in 1993. The Suns, who came into the NBA with the Bucks in 1968, made their only other finals appearance in 1976.

Milwaukee also is making its third finals appearance, having won the title in 1971, but not getting another chance since losing in 1974. The Bucks got a boost for this appearance when Antetokounmpo worked his way back quickly from an injury that looked serious when it happened.

However, it was not the first time both teams were meeting in the playoffs, as the Bucks defeated the Suns in the first round of the 1978 playoffs when they were in the Western Conference.



Cejhae Greene to lead Antigua and Barbuda's Olympic team

The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) has announced this country's team for the Tokyo Olympic Games which will be held July 23 to August 8, 2021.

Joel Rayne will be the delegation's Chef de Mission. Rayne, who is also the ABNOC's Assistant General Secretary, gained experience when he was named to the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympics as the ABNOC journalist. He attended the Chef de Mission seminar in Tokyo, Japan in 2019 in the lead-up to the postponed Games.

New COVID-19 measures have been put in place for the staging of the 2021 Games. These new rules require all NOCs to appoint a COVID Liaison Officer (CLO). Mrs. Jo-Ann Small, executive member, has been appointed as CLO. Small will also act as the team's chaperone for the females. A physiotherapist will also accompany the team.

Four sporting disciplines will be representing the twin-island nation at the Olympiad in the sports of athletics, boxing, sailing and swimming.

Athletics: Mr. Cejhae Greene – men's 100m; Ms. Joella Lloyd – women's 100m;

Mr. Everton Cornelius, team manager; Mr. Jamille Nelson, team official.

Boxing: Mr. Alston Ryan – men's lightweight 57-63kg; Mr. Rolston Ryan – team manager.

Sailing: Ms. Jalese Gordon – woman laser radial; Mr. Karl James – team manager.

Swimming: Mr. Stefano Mitchell – men's 100m free-style; Ms. Samantha Roberts – female 50m freestyle; Mr. **Wayne Mitchell** – team manager

Antigua and Barbuda's two flag bearers will be Cejhae Greene (athletics), 2018 CAC

Games 100m record holder and bronze medalist, and 2019 PanAm Games bronze medalist; And

Samantha Browne (swimming), CAC Games and FIFA World Championships participant. This will be Samantha's second Olympic representation, making her the most experienced female athlete in the delegation.

The president, Hon. E. P. Chet Greene and secretary general Cliff Williams will attend the functions, congress and celebrations of the Games as NOC officials.

The ABNOC takes this opportunity to showcase the Games lapel pin. Pin exchange is a high demand and pinnacle part of the friendship of the Games.

Wimbledon



Roger Federer

LONDON – The semifinals of the 2021 Wimbledon men's draw take place today. In the first semi-final, world number one Novak Djokovic will come up against Denis Shapovalov, the 10th seed at the tournament.

In the second semifinal, Matteo Berrettini (7th seed) will come up against Hubert Hurkacz (14th seed) who had a shock-

ing straight sets win over Roger Federer on Wednesday. Roger Federer, who was going after his 21st Grand Slam title, lost in the quarterfinals to an inspired Hubert Hurkacz 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-0.

"I don't know if we will ever see the great man again here," former champion Boris Becker said, voicing the fears of many millions.

A despondent Federer could not rule it out either. "I don't know. I really don't know," admitted the 39-year-old Swiss who had been bidding to become the oldest man in the Open Era to reach the last four at Wimbledon. "I'm not used to that kind of situation ..., especially not here."

Taylor guides West Indies Women to victory



Stafanie Taylor made a magnificent century which guided West Indies Women to a superb victory in the first CG Insurance ODI on Wednesday.

The captain ended on 105 not out off 116 balls with 11 fours and two towering sixes as the home side won easily by five wickets. West Indies made 209 for 5 off 47.5 overs in reply to Pakistan's 205 for 9

off their 50 overs.

It was Taylor's sixth ODI century and she celebrated by signaling towards her teammates in the dressing room and raising her hands towards the heavens.

Taylor added a significant sixth-wicket partnership with Britney Cooper to see the team home. After coming together at 167 for 5 in the 43rd over,

they put on an unbroken 42. Cooper played some breathtaking strokes over the off-side as she ended on 17 not out off 21 balls with three fours.

Earlier, Taylor was also excellent with the ball as she took 3 for 29 from her 10 overs to help restrict the Pakistan batters. She was named the CG Insurance Player-of-the-Match.

DEWS