

# COVID KILLS 96.6% UN-VACCINATED!

**SEE PAGE 15**


**SAVE OUR SHORES, DO NOT LITTER:** *Something we need to be reminded of constantly, and these members of the Rotaract Club of Antigua are doing just that; in the process leading from the front and by example with a cleanup of Shell Beach last Saturday. Way past time for a major step-up in taking care of our country's natural environment. Avoidance of littering is one area in which we can ALL make a difference with minimal effort. See how we've made so much progress in one weekend against COVID? Surely we can beat back the littering once and for all! (STORY ON PAGE 8)*

**INSIDE:** SDA Church outlines position on the jab  
 Police warn against threats of violence  
 Immigration & Passport Legislation clears Senate



# Why do we develop lifelong immunity to some diseases, but not others?

by Isobel Whitcomb

*Will our immunity to COVID-19 be lifelong or short-lived?*

Some diseases, like the measles, infect us once and usually grant us immunity for life. For others, like the flu, we have to get vaccinated year after year.

So why do we develop lifelong immunity to some diseases but not others? And where does

the novel coronavirus fit into all this?

Whether or not we develop immunity to a disease often depends on our antibodies, which are proteins we produce in response to infection. Antibodies are one of the body's most well-known defenses: They coat invading cells and, in the best case, prevent those invaders from hijacking our cells and replicating. After we

clear an infection, antibody levels often wane, but at least a few stick around, ready to ramp up production again if that same disease attacks again. That's why an antibody test can tell you if you were infected in the past. It's also what keeps us from getting sick a second time — usually.

"The body doesn't really forget," said Marc Jenkins, an immunol-

ogist at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Usually, when we get re-infected with a disease, it's not because our body has lost immunity. We get re-infected either because the pathogen mutated and our immune system no longer recognizes it, or because our bodies tend to mount a much lower immune response, he said.

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a virus that can change its genes easily, Jenkins said. Just as our immune systems kill off one version of the virus, another emerges that our immune systems don't recognize. Not all viruses mutate so readily. For example, the polio virus can't easily change its genome, Jenkins said. That's why we've been so successful at (almost) eradicating it.

The common cold, and other viruses that don't typically get past our upper respiratory tract, re-infect us not necessarily because they mutate rapidly, but because our body doesn't usually produce many antibodies against these pathogens in the first place, said Mark Slifka, an immunologist at the Oregon National Primate Research Center.

"Our bodies are not worried about the upper respiratory tract," he said. That's what we're seeing with mild cases of COVID-19. The virus sticks to the upper respiratory tract where the body does not treat it like a threat. In a 2020 preprint study (meaning it hasn't been peer reviewed yet) published in the database MedRxiv, 10 out of 175 patients who had mild symptoms recovered from COVID-19 without de-

veloping detectable antibodies.

For diseases that don't fall into either of these categories — meaning they don't mutate rapidly and they generally prompt a strong immune response — immunity tends to last much longer. A 2007 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that it would take more than 200 years for even half of your antibodies to disappear after a measles or a mumps infection. The same study found similar results for Epstein-Barr virus, which causes infectious mononucleosis, colloquially referred to as "mono," (a benign infection characterized by fever, swollen lymph nodes and fatigue that may continue for weeks or months; Mono is also called glandular fever and, colloquially, the "kissing disease" because it is spread through contact with an infected person's saliva.)

Still, antibody responses don't always last a lifetime. That same study found that it takes around 50 years to lose half of our chickenpox antibodies, and 11 years to lose half of our tetanus antibodies. That means that without a booster shot, you could theoretically become infected with one

of these diseases as an adult.

Scientists still aren't sure why we maintain our antibody responses longer for some diseases compared with others. It's possible that some of these more common diseases, such as chickenpox and mono, are actually re-infecting us more frequently than we realize, but the antibodies we do [possess], crush the infection before we notice, Jenkins said. And, in those cases, the immune system would be at full capacity again and again because of the reinfections.

"It keeps our immunity vigilant," he noted. In contrast, "with tetanus, we're probably very rarely getting exposed [because] we're not stepping on a [dirty] nail very often."

Other scientists point out that the human immune system is trained to target pathogens that "look" a certain way, Slifka said. Bacteria and viruses tend to be symmetrical with a repetitive pattern of proteins across their surfaces. (Think about COVID-19 — it's a ball with evenly spaced spikes all over it.) One theory suggests that we mount a larger and longer-lasting immune response to more repetitive-looking pathogens. For example, the antibodies we

produce against varicella, the highly repetitive-structured smallpox virus, last a lifetime. Tetanus, however, isn't repetitive at all. It's the toxin produced by tetanus bacteria, not the bacteria itself, that makes us sick. Based on this theory, it's possible that our bodies aren't as well-trained to target this single, asymmetrical protein, Slifka said.

So, will immunity to the new coronavirus — whether that comes from infection or a vaccine — be as long-lived as our immunity to smallpox. Or will we need a new vaccine every year? While it's true that some people aren't mounting large antibody responses, Jenkins is still hopeful for the former. All the evidence both from natural infections and from vaccine trials suggest that most people are making neutralizing antibodies, the variety which prevents viruses from entering our cells, Jenkins said. And, unlike the flu, SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, isn't mutating quickly, Jenkins noted.

"This virus has the features of viruses that we've been very successful in vaccinating against," Jenkins said. (Originally published on *Live Science*, August 2020)

# Police issue caution against threats of violence



The Police administration says it is “aware of the actions of some members of the public who are using social media platforms to openly issue threats of violence against the lives and property of other individuals. “The administration views this type of behavior to be unacceptable and is cautioning those involved

to desist from such unlawful practices,” according to a press release on Tuesday from the Police Strategic Communications Unit (STRATCOM).

It says, “While some may wish to express their views on matters of concern affecting them publicly, the administration within the police force will not con-

done any utterances of lawlessness or threats made against the peace and security of this nation.

“The public is also reminded that it is an offence under the Electronic Crimes Act of 2013, for anyone to openly threatened, libel, or slanders the character of a person on any electronic platform.”



## Seventh-day Adventist Church OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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### Seventh-day Adventist Church's Stance on the COVID-19 Vaccine

**St. John's, July 7, 2021:** Over recent times, it has come to our awareness that there have been pronouncements on the COVID-19 vaccine in the name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, that may have misrepresented the Church and communicated the wrong impression among members of the public. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a worldwide conservative protestant Christian church with over 21,000,000 members, with emphasis on gospel proclamation, humanitarian relief and development, education and health.

We are a people of health. We operate some 227 hospitals and sanitariums. Many of our health facilities are actively involved in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. So, how do we relate to the COVID-19 vaccine? The following statement from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' Biblical Research Institute, issued on December 18, 2020, was in direct response to the COVID-19 vaccine question:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church places strong emphasis on health and well-being. The Adventist health emphasis is based on biblical revelation..., and on peer-reviewed scientific literature. As such, we encourage responsible immunization/vaccination, and have no religious or faith-based reason not to encourage our adherents to responsibly participate in protective and preventive immunization programs. We value the health and safety of the population, which includes the maintenance of 'herd immunity.

We are not the conscience of the individual church member, and recognize individual choices. These are exercised by the individual. The choice not to be immunized is not and should not be seen as the dogma nor the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We trust that the above will serve to clarify the Church's position. In the meantime, we wish to inform the general public that, notwithstanding the many messages and opinion of individuals, the South Leeward Conference is the official body for the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the island and as such, is the only body that should be considered as authentic in respect to pronouncements about the Church's positions.

Carson L. Greene, DMin  
President  
South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Tel: 562-8109  
Email: [President@slcadventist.org](mailto:President@slcadventist.org)

# The Waffle Dame

**Dear Editor:** The United Progressive Party (UPP) continues to waffle more than a continental breakfast spread at a 3-star hotel.

Very recently, during a radio interview, the chairman of the UPP was asked about the stance of her Party on working with the government to fight the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In her usually painful-to-listen and condescending tone, she suggested that the UPP would have managed the pandemic differently from the start and would not be in the situation that the country finds itself in today. She even hinted that the country might

have achieved herd immunity by now, although several high-profile members of the UPP are either unvaccinated or just recently were scared into getting their first dose.

The UPP continues to use its public platform to grandstand and to provide fodder to the most loquacious anti-vaxxers.

When D. Giselle Isaac made the unfortunate claim of being unaware that the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle; the leader of the UPP, Harold Lovell; and former leader of the UPP, Baldwin Spencer were all invited to share their recommendations for the management of the pandemic with the Cabinet back in March of

2020, it appears obvious that she is either deliberate in misleading the public or simply uninformed about the actions of the leaders in the party that people are willing to talk to.

The UPP reported that the party submitted a paper to the government containing several recommendations concerning the management of the pandemic. The same has been referenced many times by Harold Lovell.

The UPP Chairman opined that the fight should be led by medical professionals, without acknowledging the fact that people elect a government to lead at all times. The suggestion that the role of the

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medical practitioners has been usurped is mischievous and misleading.

If the nation will recall, from the very inception of the fight against COVID-19, the government has sought to bring practitioners from the public and private sectors involved in the dissemination of information and being at the vanguard of the national effort.

There is a National Technical Working Group that examines the research on the treatment for the virus. Millions have been allocated and spent on supplies and equipment, and scores of persons have been trained in varying aspects of managing this crisis.

Is it not a natural expectation that the government will provide leadership in calling everyone to action? Are you suggesting that if you are not trained medical per-

sonnel that you cannot advocate and speak the language that the average man and woman can understand? Or is this just the usual elitist posture of the UPP?

In the event that D. Giselle Isaac forgot or quite likely just did not know, when this country faced its greatest financial crisis under the management of the UPP, the only faces and the only voices were those of the politicians in government at the time. There was no Financial Secretary or Accountant General or technicians that were out-front leading the charge. It was always the people who were elected and expected to hold up the mantle of accountability.

An objective and unbiased review on the way in which the pandemic has been managed by the government will unveil the monumental efforts of the Executive and

the healthcare professionals and other stakeholders to ensure the country's borders have remained open for business in relative safety. Not to recognize what is being achieved despite being a highly tourism-dependent country and the need for cross-border trade is disingenuous and hypocritical.

It is probably more than fair to say that the UPP would have done things differently, but unrealistic to say that they would have done it better. Their track record speaks for itself.

For the benefit of all who may read this, you ought to know that Allen Stanford is no more a Knight than D. Giselle Isaac is a Dame. As a matter of public record and knowledge, both had their titles revoked.

*Thereon*

## NOTICE

To: Your Worship  
St. Johns Magistrate Court  
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To: The Commissioner of Police  
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Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I, Hendrickson Jadaron of Point, with registered business situated at Bishopgate Street St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 7th October, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as **"Hook Me Snack & Bar"** situated at Bishopgate Street in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.


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# Flow's "Bag ah Money" winner gets a whopping \$10,000 in Cash!



*Eric Carty of Gray's Farm, winner of the Flow \$10,000 cash prize.*

Eric Carty, a grocery shop owner from the Gray's Farm community is the happy and lucky winner of \$10,000 from Flow. The small business entrepreneur was pleasantly surprised and overwhelmed when he was called by Flow's brand ambassadors, Lisa Abraham and Humroy Wright, with the amazing news that he had just won big and become \$10,000 richer. Mr. Carty's name was entered into the prize draw when he recently paid his Flow TV bill in full and on time. "I always pay my bill in full and on time," said Carty. "I love my Flow cable TV, and so I always make sure my TV bill is paid up."

Mr. Carty – who describes himself as a humble man – in replying to the question of how he's been managing in the pandemic, said it has been a difficult time for residents of the

community, and he has been helping those who cannot afford to purchase groceries, giving credit to others.

When asked about his plans for this sudden windfall of cash, he excitedly replied, "I have not yet decided what I am going to use the money for, so I will put it in the bank until I can decide."

Eric said a big thank you to Flow for "giving me this bag of money. I will use it wisely".

Eric is the second Grand Prize winner and follows Clement Edwards who, a few weeks earlier, also won \$10,000.

Marketing Manager Shand Merchant said: "At Flow we love to see the smile on the faces of happy customers. This could be as the result of proving excellent customer service or giving away a bag of money as was the case with Mr Carty. He has been helping others out during

the pandemic and so this prize could not have gone to a more deserving person.

"We are delighted that Flow continues to create such memorable and happy moments for our valued customers – moments that allow them to take care of their families and give back to the connected communities where they live. We are committed to regularly rewarding our customers and consistently providing value for money," said Merchant.

Flow's "Bag Ah Money" promotion ran for seven weeks with 10 winners of \$1,000 and two winners of \$10,000 each. Eligibility to win the promotion simply required customers to sign up for a new Flex Postpaid plan; activate a seven- or 30-day Always-On Prepaid plan; or pay a Mobile, TV or Broadband bill in full and on time.



# We should set up a separate tent city to treat unvaccinated people who catch COVID

**Dear Editor:** Here are some random things that make me so angry.

1. What are Unions complaining about? They are complaining that they were expecting and waiting for consultations. Really? Have the Unions been asleep for the past 18 months? One of the primary functions of 21st Century Unions is workers' education. What have the unions been doing? Have they been holding sessions with their members to educate them about the COVID pandemic and its effects on the economy and jobs? The answer is a big fat NO. They have just been collecting dues. Let me say this right now and I can talk for the banking and hotel sectors. The day Government changes the legislation that now makes it mandatory (that magic word again!) for employers to deduct union dues from the earnings of their employees, 98% of workers will not pay those dues voluntarily.

2. More than 50% of Antiguanians were born in the United States of America. President Biden has now made it mandatory from 1st November for all persons entering the US to be vaccinated. I don't hear Antiguanians on the talk shows cursing Biden. But that is how we are; Just pull down our own. They will tuck their tails between their legs and run for the vaccine because they would not be able to exist without being able to go 'Merica.

3. I strongly believe that a tent city should be established opposite the hospital to treat all the unvaccinated who get COVID, and they should be treated on a cash-only basis. I am confused about why they are going to the hospital. They do not believe the science. They do not believe and trust the doctors. They do not know what is in the vaccine. Do they know what is in the medication that they will receive at the hospital?

4. With COVID cases rising daily, I ask the million dollar question: How will this country fund the long term effects of COVID on the body. COVID sometimes damages organs of the body. There are people now recovered from COVID who have heart, lung and kidney problems. Some are getting massive headaches and pains in their joints, months after they have recovered. Medical Benefits and the Government are already struggling with kidney problems and dialysis; high blood pressure; diabetes and all its accompanying problems like blindness and kidney failure; cancers, etc. How the hell is this small country now going to pay for the idiots who refuse to get vaccinated and then get sick?

5. Congratulations to the Media, except Observer, for the fantastic job that is being done to educate the people of this country about COVID and vaccines. ABS TV/Radio and Nice

FM take a bow. Thanks to all the medical professionals who, even though tired and overworked, still take the time to go on the media daily and nightly.

6. Congratulations to Prime Minister Gaston Browne. You are a true leader. Do what you have to do to keep the population safe. History will vindicate you.

7. Finally, a word to the anti-vaxxing adults of this country: Your selfishness, ignorance and massive egos are robbing the children of this country of an education. This will be the second year that our children will be unable to properly attend school. And it is the children at the lower end of the economic scale who will be most adversely affected. The middle-class kids all have laptops, tablets and proper internet. The kids from the poorer families do not. Additionally, many of these children – with just a single and hardworking mother – get structure in school. For most of them the School Meals Programme gives them their only proper daily meal. This is Real Talk. This is not fair to our children. Years from now when they can only get the low-end jobs and have no hope, the blame will be squarely at the feet of today's adults.

**Denzil Warner,  
Old Road, St. Mary  
Antigua**

# Rotaract Club of Antigua observes International Coastal Clean-up

On Saturday 18th July, the Rotaract Club of Antigua observed International Coastal Clean-up Day with the initiative, "Save Our Shores" – a beach clean-up at Shell Beach.

This initiative was done in partnership with the Rotaract Club Mémorial des Gonaïves and District 9101 Rotaract Club of Free-

town-Sunset, who also hosted beach clean-ups at their coastal areas in Haiti and Sierra Leone, respectively.

International Coastal Clean-up Day is held annually on the third Saturday in September, to support the cause of trash removal from beaches and encourage persons to steer away from littering that results

in marine pollution. Director of International Service Mr. Yhan Robert expressed that with Antigua and Barbuda being a tourist destination, the cleanliness of our beaches is very important to visitors and residents alike. In addition to this, with the increase in marine pollution, it is within our best interest to ensure that we move

proactively to save our shores and, by extension, marine life.

Over 20 bags of trash were removed from Shell Beach. The members who participated were delighted to observe this international initiative and convey a simple message to the public: "Save Our Shores, Do Not Litter".





# Senate passes amendment to Immigration & Passport Bill



The Upper House of Parliament, the Senate, met on Tuesday and passed four bills and a resolution during the sitting.

Among the measures passed was the Immigration & Passport (Amendment) Bill 2021. The Explanatory Memorandum said the amendments were to correct errors that were in the legislation, to bring some clarity to some sections, and to create a pathway to citizenship for persons who have been granted permanent residence permits under the Immigration and Passport Act for an unbroken period of seven years and who may wish to become citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. It added that the amendment also seeks to introduce certain measures to assist with national security.

The Explanatory Memorandum noted that for those individuals who qualify under the Act to become citizens [but] who do not wish to become citizens, they have an option to apply for a permanent residence permit which will be valid for a 10-year period. The permit is renewable after 10 years while the individ-

ual will have the option to apply for citizenship at any time.

The amendment also addressed the issue of marriages of convenience. "A person who applies for a residency permit on the basis of being married to an Antiguan and Barbudan citizen will only be granted the permit where the Chief Immigration Officer is satisfied, among other considerations, that the marriage is not a marriage of convenience; similarly, the status can be revoked where it comes to light that the marriage is a marriage of convenience or where the marriage is dissolved, annulled or the parties have separated within three years of the grant of the residence permit issued by virtue of marriage to a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda," the EM detailed.

The amendment also gives immigration officers the powers to take into custody an individual who is detained under the Act or by an Order of the Court. These powers are already enjoyed by police and prison officers.

A second legislation passed by the Senate is the Medical Practi-

tioners (Amendment) Bill 2021. This bill seeks to amend section 13 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2009. Under that section, the Medical Council recognizes qualifications which have been obtained from medical schools accredited by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professionals (CAAM-HP). "This amendment aims to enable a person who was granted an award from an institution which is accredited, either provisionally by the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board or CAAM-HP to offer a programme of study in medicine to be eligible to apply to the Medical Council to be registered as a general practitioner.

The other two bills were the Hospitality Training Institute (Amendment) Bill and the Accreditation (Amendment) Bill.

The Senate also passed a resolution to acquire 1.5 acres of land at Fort James for public purpose. The land is needed for the erection of a seawater desalination plant in the area.

# What to do when an employee tests positive for COVID-19

So, you learned either through in-house testing, or through an employee calling in, that the employee has tested positive for the Covid-9 virus. What do you do? Now is not the time to panic. Now is the time for the Human Resource (HR) professional of the organization to show level-headedness, strategic planning, and most of all empathy!

This list is by no means exhaustive but is a guide for the HR professional to effective plan and communicate in the event an employee tests positive.

Request proof of infection. This is a step that can be postponed in the event an employee is not critically ill, but as a rule, request proof of a positive test signed by a registered Medical Practitioner. A copy of the positive result sent either by text, Whatsapp or email would suffice.

Communication to employee. Communicate clearly with the affected employee on what the company's

policy is. The HR Manager (HRM) must ensure he/she communicates with empathy, taking every opportunity to reassure the employee that all will be well, and that the company will support the employee throughout the period of illness. Communication should include but not be limited to:

i. Request for information to assist with in-house contact tracing procedures. As a guide, any employee who has been in contact with the affected employee from a distance less than three feet sustained for fifteen minutes or more should be contact traced. This guideline is being revised as the Delta Variant of Covid-19 is far more contagious.

ii. Review with the employee, isolation requirements which will be reinforced by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Ask the employee to ensure that he/she records and keeps safely the name of the Nurse who contacts them from the

MOH, and of the person who administers the swab test. In the event the employee's symptoms worsen, the Nurse who was the first point of contact would be an invaluable resource for providing medical advice and assistance. Follow up calls to request PCR results, medical release after isolation ends, and medical certificates of illness will also be processed through the Nurse who first contacted the employee.

iii. Discuss with the employee how they will be compensated during the period of isolation. The company's sick leave provisions and Social Security benefits will normally cover this leave. In the event the employee has already exhausted their annual paid sick leave entitlement, the Social Security Scheme will compensate for the sick leave period.

iv. Discuss how the employee will return to work. Normally an employee will be permitted to resume

work on receipt of the medical release letter signed by the Chief Medical Officer, and the Medical Certificate of Illness signed by a Staff Doctor attached to the MOH. These documents should be filed on the employee's personnel file.

v. While the employee is ill, the HRM plus the Department Head should check in frequently, showing concern for the employee's progress and providing reassurance that the employee's job is not in jeopardy. As a kind gesture, a 'Get Well' basket of vitamins, fruits and juices is always well-appreciated.

Internal Communication. For operational planning, the HRM must disclose to the Department Head their employee's positive status. The HRM should work with the department head to ensure effective staffing for the anticipated period of illness which may extend to one month. Rearranging vacation leaves and/or temporary recruit-



ment may be necessary. The HRM must also communicate with any employees identified through in-house contact tracing procedures that they have been in contact during the last seven days with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. Testing of these internal contacts should be undertaken without delay, for the protection of the entire employee body. Outside of the foregoing, every attempt must be made to preserve the privacy if employees who test positive for Covid-19.

If the employee tested positive at the workplace, the employee's workstation and its environs must be thoroughly sanitized. If this can be done

in privacy, this is the preferred action to be taken.

All efforts should be made to ensure that the lines of communication are kept open for the affected employees. It is also paramount to discourage any negative behavior of stigma or discrimination from being directed at an affected employee upon their return to the workplace.

*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 grow-*

*ing 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 @HR-Pro268.*



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# Cuba starts legalizing small, medium-sized enterprises

**The St. Kitts-Nevis Observer** - On Monday, Cuba put into effect a new legal framework that, for the first time, legalizes small and medium-sized enterprises.

Local entrepreneurs initiated the application process either online or by attending offices set up by the government across the country's over 160 municipalities.

"The Platform of Economic Actors that came into force with the implementation of the new legal framework had already received 75 applications to create micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as non-agriculture cooperatives," Cuban Deputy Minister of Economy Johana Odriozola tweeted.

The new measures would improve the performance of the Cuban economy and ameliorate the economic relations between state and non-state sectors.

"I will be permitted to receive donations from international companies and import

raw materials," said Nayvis Diaz who runs a bike rental and repair shop.

"This is a huge change. We are even thinking of using bamboo, steel, and other materials, to manufacture the bicycles we rent in Cuba," she added.

Under the new legal framework, small and medium-sized companies will be able to hire up to 35 and 100 employees respectively. The small and medium-sized enterprises will only be restricted to operate in a few fields, including education, public health, defense, garbage management, and mining.

Accounting for 13 percent of the nation's workforce, local entrepreneurs on the island are now encouraged to export through state-operated enterprises. Among them is Juan Sotolongo who works as the coordinator of RFR Colorin, a local development project that uses flexible polyvinyl chloride materials to manufacture rain boots. With the

new measures adopted by the government, he dreams of exporting boots made in Cuba to the neighboring Caribbean nations.

"For the moment, we want to improve

the quality of our products to reach foreign companies based at the Mariel Special Development Zone; but in the future, we want to extend the scope of our business," he said.





# High Covid-19 vaccinated rate among Muslims in Grenada



*Dr. Firdous Khan of the Grenada Islamic Foundation*

**Now Grenada** - A representative from the Islamic Foundation in Grenada has disclosed that a survey conducted among the Islamic Community revealed that over 90% of the respondents were inoculated with one of the vaccines that are currently available for Covid-19.

"We did a survey of the percentage of people who are vaccinated in our community and 96.5% of the respondents are vaccinated, so when I compared that with the overall vaccination rate in Grenada, it serves as an example of how we, as religious leaders or people in the community, can basically help the Ministry of Health and the Government in making sure that people are taking the vaccines," said Dr. Firdous Khan of the Grenada Islamic Foundation.

The survey was conducted among 183 Islamic Foundation members during the period when only the AstraZeneca was available for age 18 and older. Recently, Grenada began offering the Pfizer for

age 12 and above, and a new survey will soon be conducted to incorporate the individuals who are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine.

Admitting that the Foundation also had to develop a strategy to handle misinformation about the vaccine, Dr. Khan said the Foundation took the approach of educating its members using social media and not instructing from the pulpit.

"We been able to leverage the power of social media by using WhatsApp mostly to provide information to people. That is authentic. We also had to counter misinformation because I think ... we are dealing with two different types of pandemics — we are dealing with COVID-19, but at the same time we are dealing with misinformation," he said during a joint news conference in which members of the various religious groupings and Government announced the new protocol for handling corpses of COVID-19 related deaths.

Sharing information about the

level of vaccination within the Islamic Foundation he said, "We did not instruct from the pulpits to people that you should go and get vaccinated because I think what works best is, if we are informed, we can make the decision and this can help people to make the decisions for themselves.

"Vaccination is our biggest leverage. It's time for us as religious leaders to recognise that power that we have to basically inform the decisions of people ... And I think at this point there is no doubt that this is our only way forward as a country. "I think we have been very fortunate that we got so much time to prepare," he said.

The AstraZeneca vaccine became available in Grenada in February 2021 but there has been hesitancy within the population. No other religious grouping has disclosed the percentage of its population that is vaccinated.

"Unfortunately, a lot of us didn't take the road to get vaccinated. I wish we had. So now, after seeing the amount of deaths and the number of hospitalisations and the cases that are rising, I think that should serve as a strong reminder to everyone that they should look for those means that God Almighty has given us.

"Yes, we need to be very strong in our faith, but a part of that faith means that we should also use that means to get vaccinated," he said.

Dr. Khan is a Professor at St. George's University in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

# PM being nudged to name his wife agriculture minister

**Jamaica Observer** - PRESSURE is mounting on Prime Minister Andrew Holness to name a dedicated minister for the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries following the resignation of Floyd Green, with Jamaica Observer sources saying the Member of Parliament for St. Andrew East Rural, Juliet Holness, is the one being pushed for the job.

Juliet Holness is the wife of the prime minister and was named Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives after the Jamaica Labour Party's resounding victory in the 2020 general election.

Observer sources now say the PM is being urged to move his wife into the Cabinet to replace Green, based on "her proven competence and the fact that large swathes of her constituency are rural areas where she has already proven to have an understanding of the problems facing farmers and the changes needed to move them forward".

During her early days as a first-term MP in 2016, Mrs. Holness launched a programme to assist more than 230 small farmers in her constituency to cultivate crops such as celery, purple cabbage, snow peas, broccoli, scallion, and Irish potato, under a \$6-million project dubbed



*Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness with his wife and fellow MP Juliet Holness, the current Deputy Speaker.*

AgriHope. Since then, she has been assisting coffee farmers in the hills of her constituency, introduced several to the planting of strawberries, and used pop-up markets to help farmers sell their crops.

"Juliet is the right person to replace Floyd, but the PM might be reluctant because she is his wife. But this is only about what is good for the sector," a major player in the agricultural sector, with ties to the governing JLP, told the Observer last weekend.

On Monday, president of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) Len-

worth Fulton shied away from endorsing the call for Mrs. Holness, but made it clear that his organisation would not be opposed to her.

"My position is that any mature person who is hard-working can be put into the Ministry of Agriculture once they are not stretched to run two ministries. We in the sector will accept the prime minister's choice. That is not to say, however, that we don't accept Minister [Audley] Shaw, because we have worked with him already and he has done some good work," Fulton told

the Observer as he underscored that it is the prime minister's prerogative to appoint ministers.

"If she comes, we would wholeheartedly welcome her as well. We would not have any problem with her. Anybody comes, I would be out there in the public space welcoming them and taking them to the farmers to get everything going," added Fulton.

Following Green's resignation last week the prime minister assigned Shaw – the minister of industry, investment and commerce – to temporar-



ily take charge of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, a portfolio he [previously] held.

But the JAS has joined the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) in the call for a dedicated minister. “We stand with the PSOJ on this matter and we urge the prime minister to seriously reconsider the merging of the industry, commerce and agriculture portfolios. We fully accept the linkages between these portfolios, but are firmly of the belief that the agriculture sector (including fisheries) is a foundational sector with similar direct linkages to every

other aspect of the economy and of daily life.

“As such, it requires the specific and dedicated attention as a standalone ministry to build the portfolio — especially at this critical juncture with the [novel coronavirus] pandemic still at the forefront of our consideration,” said the JAS.

In its immediate response to the temporary appointment of Shaw, the PSOJ said while it acknowledged the relationship between agriculture and fisheries, and industry and commerce, it believes that the breadth and significance of the agriculture

portfolio require a dedicated ministry with a dedicated minister to provide the necessary attention.

“We therefore request Prime Minister Holness to reconsider the merging of the agriculture, fisheries, commerce and industry portfolios and implore him to seek to identify a dedicated minister of agriculture and fisheries to oversee the transformation of the sector,” said the PSOJ.

Green resigned from the Cabinet after a video surfaced showing him at a gathering at a hotel on a no-movement day, with COVID-19 safety protocols being ignored.

## Unvaccinated persons account for ‘96.6% of hospitalisations’ in Saint Lucia

**St. Lucia Times** - Assistant Principal Nursing Officer and National Immunization Manager Tecla JnBaptiste disclosed Tuesday that from February 2021 when COVID-19 vaccines were introduced, until current, statistics show that unvaccinated persons account for 96.6% of hospitalisations.

In a statement, Jn Baptiste also disclosed the following: partially vaccinated persons account for 2% of hospitalisations; fully vaccinated persons account for 1.4% of hospitalisations; unvaccinated persons account for 96.7% of deaths; partially vaccinated persons account for 2% of deaths; vaccinated persons account for 1.3% of deaths

“It doesn’t get any simpler – vaccines save lives. It reduces the risk of hospitalisation and death. Being unvaccinated is a risk, not only for you but also for those around you,” she asserted.

“Of note is the significant number of persons who are par-

tially vaccinated with only one dose of the vaccine. One thousand, eight hundred and forty-three (1,843) persons, 4.2% of total vaccinated in-country, are overdue for their second dose of the vaccine. Again, I reiterate the importance of being fully vaccinated – this is the best way to ensure protection,” the senior Saint Lucia medical official disclosed.

JnBaptiste said the highest uptake of vaccines remains among the 50-years-and-older age group, followed by those 24-49 years.

According to her, over the past weeks, the significant rise in reported cases and deaths is clearly a concern to all and the burden on the health system is evident.

“It is important that every one of us plays our part in addressing this situation. Each one of us has a personal responsibility in the fight against this pandemic,” Jn Baptiste observed.



**Assistant Principal Nursing Officer and National Immunization Manager; Tecla JnBaptiste.**

# In climate pledge, Xi says China will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad

(Reuters) – Chinese leader Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that China would not build new coal-fired power projects abroad, using his address at the United Nations General Assembly to add to pledges to deal with climate change.

Xi provided no details but, depending on how the policy is implemented, the move could significantly limit the financing of coal plants in the developing world.

China has been under heavy diplomatic pressure to put an end to its coal financing overseas, because it could make it easier for the world to stay on course to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement to reduce carbon emissions. Xi's announcement followed similar moves by South Korea and Japan earlier this year. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and US climate envoy John Kerry have urged China to follow the lead of its Asian counterparts.

"China will step up support for other developing countries in

developing green and low-carbon energy, and will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad," Xi said in his pre-recorded video address at the annual UN gathering, in which he stressed China's peaceful intentions in international relations.

Xi spoke after US President Joe Biden gave his first United Nations address. Biden mapped out a new era of vigorous competition without a new Cold War despite China's ascendance.

In a measured speech, Xi made no direct mention of China's often bitter rivalry with the United States where the Biden administration has made policies on climate change mitigation a top priority and sought to cooperate with Beijing.

Xi repeated pledges from last year that China would achieve a peak in carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060.

Some experts have criticized those targets as not ambitious



**Chinese President Xi Jinping**

enough, though it allowed Beijing to claim moral high ground on the issue after then US President Donald Trump – who called climate change a “hoax” – had withdrawn from the Paris climate agreement.

China, the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter, is still heavily reliant on coal for its domestic energy needs.

One of Biden's first moves after assuming office in January was to reassert US leadership on climate change and return the United States to the Paris agreement.

"China was the last man standing. If there's no public finance of coal from China, there's little to no global coal expan-

sion," Justin Guay, director of global climate strategy at the Sunrise Project – a group advocating for a global transition from coal and fossil fuels – said of Xi's promise. Guterres welcomed both Xi's move on coal and Biden's pledge to work with the US Congress to double funds by 2024 to \$11.4 billion per year to help developing nations deal with climate change.

"Accelerating the global phase out of coal is the single most important step to keep the 1.5-degree goal of the Paris Agreement within reach, he said in a statement.

There was no immediate response from the White House or Kerry's office.



## 'BREATHE FREE'

Hours earlier, without mentioning China by name, Biden said democracy would not be defeated by authoritarianism.

"The future will belong to those who give their people the ability to breathe free, not those who seek to suffocate their people with an iron hand," Biden said.

"We all must call out and condemn the targeting and oppression of racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, whether it occurs in Xinjiang or northern Ethiopia, or anywhere in the world," he said, referring to the western Chinese region where authorities have created a network of internment camps for Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. China denies allegations of abuses in Xinjiang.

Ties between the world's two biggest economies have been languishing at their lowest point in decades over issues ranging from human rights to transparency over the origins of COVID-19.

Xi said there was a need to "reject the

practice of forming small circles or zero-sum games," a possible reference to the US-led Quad forum of Australia, India, Japan and the United States – seen as a means of pushing back against China's rise – which is due to meet at leader level in Washington on Friday.

China last week warned of an intensified arms race in the region after the United States, Britain and Australia announced a new Indo-Pacific security alliance, dubbed AUKUS, which will provide Australia with the technology and capability to deploy nuclear-powered submarines.

Biden's image has taken a battering over the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan, but he has said the end to America's longest war will allow the United States to refocus resources and attention to the Indo-Pacific.

"Military intervention from the outside and so-called democratic transformation entail nothing but harm," Xi said in an apparent swipe at the United States.

# Michael Jackson memorabilia will pay for COVID shots in Equatorial Guinea



(CNN) - Nearly \$27 million seized from the Vice President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodorin Nguema Obiang Mangué, will be spent on COVID-19 vaccines for the country, the US Department of Justice said in a statement Monday.

Assets confiscated include luxury vehicles and a pair of \$275,000 jewel-encrusted gloves belonging to Michael Jackson. The decision comes after a 2014 forfeiture agreement between the US and Obiang Mangué, who is accused of acquiring assets in the country with ill-gotten gains.

Mangué has disputed the claims.

The United Nations will receive \$19.25 million to buy and distribute the vaccines in the Central African country, while \$6.35 million will be handed over to a US-based charity “for the purchase and distribution of medicines and medical supplies throughout Equatorial Guinea,” the Justice Department stated.

According to the settlement agreement between Obiang Mangué and the US government, the Equatorial Guinea leader “was required to sell a Malibu, California mansion that he purchased for \$30 million, a Ferrari automobile and various items of Michael Jackson memorabilia, and to contribute \$1 million representing the value of other property,” the DOJ’s statement said.

The agreement also empowered the US to keep \$10.3m of the forfeited proceeds, while the remaining funds would be spent on programs that benefit the people of Equatorial

Guinea. More than 76 percent of the Central African country’s 1.4 million people live in poverty, according to the World Bank.

“Wherever possible, Kleptocrats will not be allowed to retain the benefits of corruption,” Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite Jr said in the statement.

Obiang Mangué, 53, has been in the spotlight as a global crackdown on corruption and money-laundering focused on the source of his enormous wealth.

In July, a French appeal court upheld a guilty verdict against Obiang Mangué for embezzlement, a judgment that could potentially pave the way for the return of millions of dollars to Equatorial Guinea.

Obiang Mangué was earlier convicted in France and given a suspended three-year sentence, including a \$35 million fine for purchasing luxury

properties with illegal funds. His luxury assets were also confiscated.

The verdict by the French court came days after Britain announced it had imposed sanctions on Obiang Mangué for misappropriating millions of dollars, which authorities said was lavished on luxury mansions, private jets, and a \$275,000 glove worn by Michael Jackson.

Sanctions announced by London had included asset freezes and a travel ban.

A collection of luxury cars belonging to Obiang Mangué had also been confiscated by Swiss authorities in 2016 following a corruption probe.

Obiang Mangué’s father, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, has ruled the oil-rich – but impoverished – Equatorial Guinea since taking power in a coup in 1979, eleven years after independence from Spain.

## Record backlog of cargo ships at California ports

**BBC** - Some 65 cargo ships have been forced to queue outside two of America’s biggest ports in the latest sign of supply chain disruption hitting the US.

The ships are stuck outside the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, which handle 40% of all cargo containers entering the country.

Before COVID, it was unusual for more than one to wait for a berth.

The backlog is linked to surging demand for imports as the US economy has reopened.

Retailers and manufacturers have rushed to place orders and restock their inventories, but the global shipping system is struggling to keep up.

It’s contributed to shortages of children’s toys, timber, new clothes and pet food, while also pushing up consumer prices.

Gene Seroke, head of the Port of LA, last week warned that a “significant volume” of cargo was “headed our way throughout this year and into 2022”.

“We continue to monitor a host of variables; disruptions continue at every node in the supply chain,” he said.

Together, LA and Long Beach are the main seaborne gateway to the US, particularly for imports from China.





### ***The backlog means thousands of cargo containers are stuck at sea.***

On Saturday a record 73 ships were stuck outside - almost twice as many as at the same time in August.

Some cargo ships have been diverted because of the backlog, which is preventing thousands of containers from being unloaded.

But nearby ports like Oakland do not have the capacity to deal with the volume of trade.

At the Port of LA alone, the amount of cargo handled is up 30% this year so far, compared with the whole of 2020.

The US Toy Association,

which represents 950 toy firms with a US presence, has warned that the crisis in California could affect many of its members going into the all-important holiday season.

Its members sell three billion toys a year, 85% of which come from China.

"The larger retailers we work with have relationships with the shippers and they can weather this storm fairly well, relatively speaking," boss Ed Desmond said.

"It's really the small companies that are facing the brunt of this impact. They really

don't have the leverage or the size to have those annual contracts." Other ports such as Savannah in Georgia have also seen record shipping congestion, while the nation's second busiest entry point - New York - said it faced transit issues outside the port.

Last month port bosses across the US told the Wall Street Journal they saw the bottlenecks lasting as long as summer 2022.

By tonnage, about 70% of all US-international trade moves by water through America's ports.

# US officials to probe whip-like cords used against migrants

*Al Jazeera* - United States immigration officials said they have launched an investigation after images emerged of mounted US border guards appearing to use horse reins to threaten migrants camped along the Texas-Mexico border.

Photos and videos showed border guards on horses chase migrants near an encampment under a bridge connecting Del Rio, Texas with Ciudad Acuna, Mexico. That came as officials sought to expel the mostly Haitian migrants from the camp, which had housed as many as 12,000 people in recent days.

US Border Patrol chief Raul Ortiz said the incident was being investigated to make sure there was not an “unacceptable” response by law enforcement. He said officers were operating in a difficult environment, trying to ensure the safety of the migrants while searching for potential smugglers.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the long reins are used by mounted officials to “ensure control of the horse”.

“But we are going to investigate the facts,” he said during a news conference in Del Rio.

On Tuesday, Mayorkas said the images “horrified” him.

He told CNN that “any mistreatment or abuse of a migrant is unacceptable” and added, “The pictures that I’ve observed troubled me profoundly.” But he wouldn’t explicitly say whether



they reflected mistreatment or abuse, deferring instead to the investigation.

The White House, meanwhile, criticised the border guards’ actions on Monday.

“I don’t think anyone seeing that footage would think it was acceptable or appropriate,” White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters.

“I don’t have the full context. I can’t imagine what context would make that appropriate,” she added. US officials have sought to clear the camp and close the border between Del Rio, Texas and Mexico as crossings surged in recent days.

Many of the Haitians present had fled their homeland following the 2010 earthquake, initially heading for South America before heading north.

On Sunday, the first flight of Haitian migrants from the camp landed in Haiti. Repatriation flights were set to continue

throughout the week.

US authorities have used the controversial, pandemic-related Title 42 health rule, created under former President Donald Trump, to expel many of the migrants without offering them the chance to seek asylum.

Rights groups have blasted the Biden administration’s actions, saying the returns are inhumane, given the dire security and economic situation in Haiti.

In a statement, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said he was “shocked by images of the deplorable conditions” of the makeshift migrant camp in Texas.

“The summary, mass expulsions of individuals currently underway under the Title 42 authority, without screening for protection needs, is inconsistent with international norms and may constitute refoulement,” Grandi said, according to the statement.





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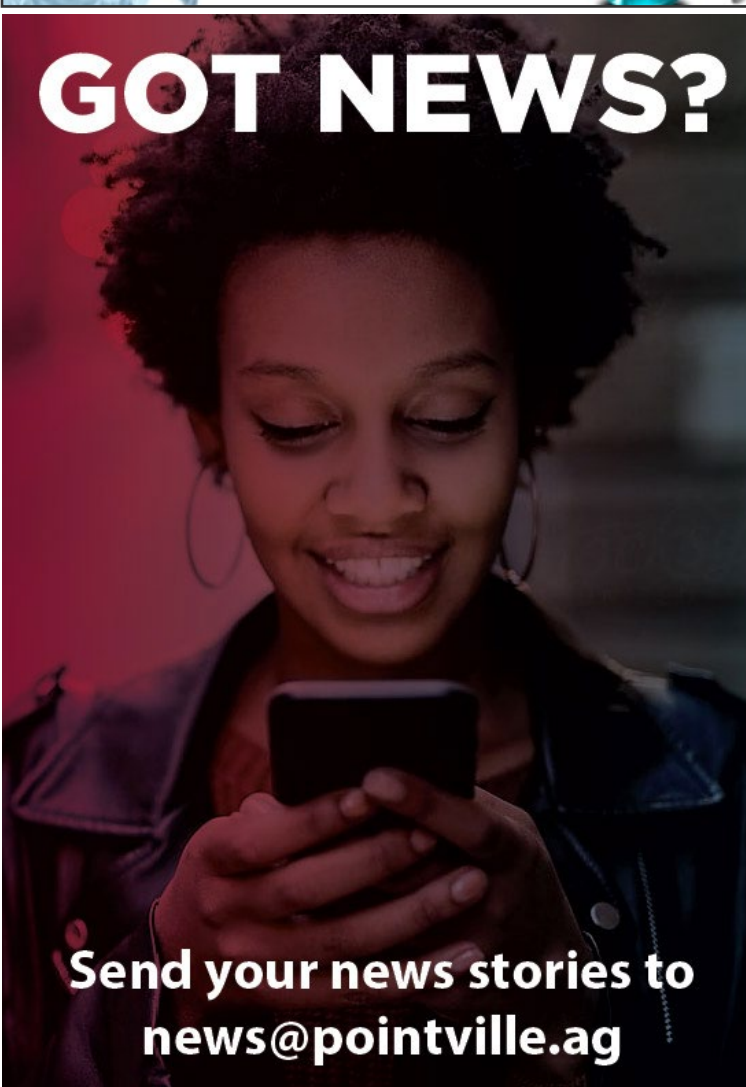
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## Insects

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Suretox	250ml	\$5.18
Baygon	285ml	\$7.83
Raid	11oz (325ml)	\$6.95
Baygon	400ml	\$11.96
Bop	400ml	\$11.21
Fish	400ml	\$7.80
Protox	400ml	\$8.74
Suretox	400ml	\$7.38
Vape	400ml	\$9.43
Raid (flying)	15oz (443.6ml)	\$15.24
Flamingo	450ml	\$7.28
Raid	17.5oz (517.5ml)	\$14.86
Baygon	600ml	\$16.12
Bop	600ml	\$16.82
Fish	600ml	\$12.22
Flamingo	600ml	\$12.17
Protox	600ml	\$11.50
Suretox	600ml	\$10.99
Vape	600ml	\$12.84



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# Hamid Shinwari sacked as Afghanistan Cricket Board chief executive



Shinwari had been the international administrative face of the ACB since the violent takeover of the country's government by the Taliban last month. He had made an impassioned plea to the world cricket community after Australia decided not to host Afghanistan in a Test because of the country's treatment of women in public life and in the sporting arena.

The ACB, meanwhile, continues to be headed by Azizullah Fazli, who took over as chairman of

the board immediately after the change of government. Afghanistan cricket has been witnessing changes on the field too. Rashid Khan, arguably the biggest star from the country, resigned protesting the selection of the national team for next month's Twenty20 World Cup. Mohammad Nabi was appointed captain later amid allegations that chairman Fazli had interfered in the selection of some veterans, who are believed to be past their prime.

Hamid Shinwari, on Monday (September 20), was sacked as the chief executive officer of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB).

On Monday, a group of people entered the ACB office and ordered that the CEO be replaced. A new CEO, Naseebullah Khan (Haqqani), has been appointed in Shinwari's place.

"Yesterday I was fired," Shinwari told Cricbuzz on Tuesday (September 21).

A group of people belonging to the Haqqani network, a partner in the Afghanistan government, is reportedly behind the move.

Earlier on Monday, Shinwari put out a statement in Pasto language over his termination on

Facebook. It broadly read: "Today Mr. Anas Haqqani came to the cricket board office and told me that 'your job as the CEO of ACB is over.' He introduced Naseebullah Haqqani as the new CEO. I asked for a written order on my termination but I did not receive one. I was appointed as the CEO (five months back) of the cricket board after a transparent process and now I don't know the reason for my termination."

Anas Haqqani is a leader of the Haqqani wing in the current Taliban-led government in Afghanistan.

Shinwari refused to comment on his post. His Facebook account has since been restricted.



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# 'Strong and fast' Evander Holyfield 'knocking out 22-year-olds' ahead of Triller return

Former heavy-weight boxing champion Evander Holyfield is making his return to the "sweet science" at some point in 2022, despite a poor showing against ex-UFC slugger Vitor Belfort under the Triller banner earlier this month in Hollywood, Florida.

Holyfield, who turns 59 in less than a month, was floored by Belfort in the opening frame of their "Legends II" headliner, but Triller boss Ryan Kavanaugh insists it was tangled feet — not thunderous punches — that put "The Real Deal" on his a\*\*.

"If you talk to Holyfield, what the world perceived happen, didn't happen," Kavanaugh told The MMA Hour. "If you talk to Holyfield, Vitor apparently stepped on his foot, which I haven't seen the footage yet, which made him trip and that's why it looked like he fell. He swung really hard, which we all know that he did, and that was the knock-

out swing. Had he connected with Vitor, Vitor would probably still be in the hospital today, and [he] missed and put him into the ropes cause he swung so hard."

After his Holyfield victory in "The Sunshine State," Belfort promptly called for a Jake Paul fight that was quickly dismissed by the "The Problem Child." As for Holyfield, he's too busy knocking out 22 year-olds to hear the calls for his permanent retirement.

"He's always been a quiet guy," Kavanaugh continued. "It's not like he's all of a sudden he's more quiet or talking slower. He's strong and fast. We have a lot of training footage of him where he's hitting very hard. He's hitting very fast and he's sparring 22-year-olds and when I say sparring, I'm saying knocking out 22 year-olds in 12-round matches, time and time again."

Holyfield is currently serving his 30-day medical suspension.





# Attacks happen in New Zealand, England too, but no one creates an uproar – says Daren Sammy



Former West Indies cricket captain Darren Sammy.

Former West Indies captain Daren Sammy says New Zealand Cricket's decision to cancel the Pakistan tour disappointed him.

Speaking on Geo News programme Naya Pakistan, Sammy said if field experts are saying that Pakistan is safe, then one should trust them.

"I have been coming to Pakistan for the last 6 years. It has always been a good experience," he shared.

He said that attacks have

been seen in New Zealand and England and incidents have also been reported in Australia. Incidents are happening everywhere in the world, but no one creates an uproar over that.

The former West Indies captain said that the situation in Pakistan has changed. Earlier, he said, people used to ask if it was safe to go to Pakistan, but now they ask where to go and what to eat in Pakistan.

Moments before the ODI series opener at the Rawalpindi

Cricket Stadium, the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Friday backed out of the much-awaited tour, citing a security alert from their government. The Pakistani authorities assured the team of complete security, but they insisted on calling off the series.

The PCB had said that New Zealand Cricket's decision to pull their players from the series was a "unilateral" decision taken by the Kiwis without consulting the PCB.

## ADE DERNBACH SET TO PLAY FOR ITALY



*Jade Dernbach played 24 ODIs and 34 T20Is for England*

*The former England quick, who qualifies through his mother, will feature in the T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier next month*

Jade Dernbach, the 35-year-old seamer who won 58 limited-overs caps for England between 2011 and 2014, has been named in Italy's squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier next month.

Dernbach's opportunities in county cricket have been limited in recent years and he

will leave Surrey at the end of this season, but he will resume his international career after being persuaded to declare for Italy - he qualifies through his mother - by Gareth Berg, the Northamptonshire all-rounder who will captain and coach the side.

Grant Stewart, the Australian-born all-rounder who played for Kent in their T20 Blast triumph on Saturday, is another fresh inclusion in the squad, while there is also a call-up for the Leinster Light-

ning batter Jamie Grassi.

Owais Shah, the former England international and a teammate of Berg's at Middlesex and Hampshire, will act as his assistant coach.

**Italy reached October's qualifier** - which forms part of the pathway for the 2022 T20 World Cup - by virtue of their T20I ranking, after the sub-qualifier events were cancelled by the ICC due to Covid-19. They will face Jersey, Germany and Denmark from October 15-21 in

Spain, with the top two teams progressing to the global qualifiers in early 2022.

Italy squad for ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier: Gareth Berg (captain/head coach), Jade Dernbach, Madupa Fernando, Jamie Grassi, Grant Stewart, Darren Low, Dinidu Marage, Gian-Piero Meade, Joy Perera, Amir Sharif, Baljith Singh, Jaspreet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Nikolai Smith.

**IDEWS**