



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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MALTA GIFTS VACCINES AND RAPID TESTS

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Malta strengthens relations with vaccines and rapid tests

Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment Sir Molwyn Joseph has accepted a shipment of AstraZeneca vaccines and rapid antigen tests from the Government of Malta on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

The donation of 20,000 doses of AstraZeneca and 25,000 rapid tests from the European nation is to aid Antigua and Barbuda in its fight against the COVID-19 virus.

The items arrived here after Malta informed Minister Joseph of their intention to offer them as gifts, following a meeting of representatives from the two islands on the sidelines of COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021.

The gesture is Malta's way of expanding its level of cooperation with other countries around the world.

"It is amazing to me that after one meeting in



Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment Sir Molwyn Joseph, centre, accepted a shipment of AstraZeneca Vaccines and Rapid Antigen Tests from the Government of Malta

Glasgow, within such short period of time, we have advanced bilateral relations with Malta, from which we are now benefitting, and so I want to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the government of Malta for their tremendous generosity to the people of Antigua and Barbuda."

Sir Molwyn said the vaccines have arrived just

in time, since the Ministry of health has depleted its AstraZeneca stock.

"The last supply of AstraZeneca ended yesterday [Monday] and so it is coming at the perfect time to resume the distribution of vaccines in Antigua and Barbuda," the health minister told a ceremony last evening at V.C Bird International Airport.

He credited the government for continuously ensuring COVID-19 vaccines are available to citizens and residents for them to inoculate against the virus.

Currently, five vaccines are available to the general public and persons are given the opportunity to select what best suits them.

Despite vaccines being readily available, the decision by the government to convince the citizenry of their benefits has proven challenging.

However, with fully vaccinated numbers at 60,492 and partial vaccination at 2,752 as of 30th January, 2022, Antigua and Barbuda remains the leader in

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Wed 02 | Day

82°



15%

E 9 mph

Partly cloudy skies. High 82F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.

Humidity
72%

UV Index
9 of 10

Sunrise
6:38 am

Sunset
6:03 pm

Wed 02 | Night

72°



23%

E 7 mph

Mostly clear. Low 72F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.

Humidity
81%

UV Index
0 of 10

Moonrise
7:55 am

Moonset
7:42 pm

Waxing Crescent

Millicent Joseph is 101 today

Ms. Millicent Violetta Joseph also known as Ashby was born on the 2nd February 1921 to Adela Francis and James Joseph in Parham Town. She moved to Seaview Farm and then to Freeman's Village until recently, when she relocated to Tindale Road and currently resides.

Ms. Joseph is mother to ten (10) children, Victor Gore, Cordella Ferris Parker, Gweneth FerrisPelle, Wilda Ferris Chatman, Rhona Ferris and Sylvester Ferris and four that are deceased.

She worked on the loco line for many years as a cane cutter. She was also a farmer and wood cutter. She is a faithful member of the Freeman's Village Methodist Church and ensured that all her children attended church on Sundays and participated in church activities.

Ms. Joseph currently has twenty eight (28) grand-children, forty five (45) great grand-children and five (5) great-great grand-children.

Her favorite song is "What a friend we have in Jesus". The beginning of a day for Ms. Joseph starts with prayers and thanking the creator for life.

Her favorite food is Fungi, Fish and Cassava.

Ms. Joseph was a caregiver to many people in the village and, in her younger years, the life of the party, usually the first on the dance floor.

Millicent Joseph was also a strict disciplinarian, not allowing her children to leave home without their elder sister Cordella and giving them a specific time to return.

A virtual celebration will be held today for her 101st birthday.



Millicent Violetta Joseph

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vaccine compliance among English-speaking nations of the Caribbean.

Sir Molwyn Joseph used last evening's brief ceremony to reiterate the importance of vaccination during the pandemic.

"As of this very moment, the best defence against COVID-19 is to be vaccinated.

These vaccines expire at the end of February, and so it's going to be very important that we succeed in getting as many people in Antigua and Barbuda to either take their first dose, or first and second doses as well as to get the booster.

"Vaccines are available and we cannot assume that this is the end of covid. We do not know what new



variant might erupt, so under those circumstances, I think it is advisable that the people of Antigua and Barbuda take advantage of this opportunity," the health minister advised.

He is remaining optimistic that the country can achieve a 70 percent vaccination rate and is appeal-

ing to advocates to assist in achieving that goal.

"We are hovering about 61, 62 percent, another eight percent we must achieve within a short period of time.

"We are depending on the media. We are depending on those who have been vaccinated to be ad-



vocates, and I'm sure we will achieve that by the target date that was given to us, that is, June of this year, established by PAHO and WHO, for us to get to that 70 percent, and that's a challenge for all the countries in the Caribbean and South and Central America," Sir Molwyn admitted.

Government commits to paying overtime to Fiennes workers

Minister of state within the Ministry of Finance Lennox Weston has given an undertaking to pay overtime due to healthcare employees of the Fiennes Institute.

The workers descended on the Treasury Department yesterday morning in protest, demanding payment for what they are owed.

Minister Weston said a plan will be worked out to settle the arrears and is calling for more patience on the part of the healthcare providers as the matter is addressed.

“The Fiennes workers, we’re going to be working out a payment schedule with them over the next several months, maybe the next two or three months. We will pay them in batches, we will review the total amount owed to them, and we’re going to make sure they are paid,” Minister Weston assured.

He noted that employees of the Fiennes Institute play an important role in caring for the elderly and dispossessed, and reassured that the government will honour its obligations.

The minister of state in the Ministry of Finance pointed out that the government is committed to reducing the amount of money owed to government workers in the form of overtime, but the effects of COVID-19 has had on the economy had negatively impacted their efforts.

“Revenues fell very



The workers descended on the Treasury Department yesterday morning in protest

dramatically during the COVID period. Now we’re rebounding, we are slowly prioritizing different workers,” Weston added.

With placards in hand and chanting “no money, no work”, the workers expressed frustration yesterday that despite previous attempts to secure their overtime payments, to date they remain unsuccessful.

“We have written about the outstanding overtime, and we haven’t received any favourable responses as regards to timeline and so on,” General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association (ABPSA), Janella Evanson said.

Evanson outlined that of the minister, master and permanent secretary that

were written to on the outstanding matter; it was only the latter health official that responded to their concerns.

“Basically, in her [PS] letter, she is saying that all the documentations are in the government treasury, so we are now here at the government treasury to let them know that we need all the money,” she demanded.

The general secretary noted that in conversation with the permanent secretary of the ministry of health on Monday, it was conveyed that no payment would be possible until after the budget. But the nurses are unwilling to exercise more patience.

“We all know that budget will not be passed until March or April thereof after debate and so on, and the

staff is saying they cannot wait until after budget to get their money. So we are sending a signal to the government treasury that the staff need their money. We need timelines as to when the monies will be starting to pay so we can move from there,” Janella Evanson asserted.

She declared that if their issue is not given urgent attention, the workers supported by the ABPSA will continue with protest action.

When the protest began yesterday morning, the Fiennes Institute employees were on the sidewalk just outside the Treasury, but police subsequently instructed them to move to the other side of the road, from where they continued making demands to be paid.

Ambassador Hurst views protests as political

The Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister has slammed yesterday's protest and Thursday's planned demonstration as events that were carefully orchestrated by opposition elements.

Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst believes the actions are to win political support.

"It's really intended to make the government of Antigua and Barbuda feel somewhat embarrassed," Hurst proffered.

The chief of staff acknowledges the employees of the Fiennes Institute are owed and must be paid their dues, however, he reminded that the COVID-19 pandemic had dealt a major blow to the government's revenue intake, and what was available in the treasury, large sums had to be diverted to help fund some aspects of the administration's COVID-19 management programme, which included purchasing some vaccines, transporting them to St. John's, and utilizing the



Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst resources of the state, nurses and doctors to administer the vaccines.

"That has cost a great deal in overtime payments, in payments made for honoraria, and other kinds of payments that just form part of getting this thing done and getting it done on time," Mr. Hurst noted.

Construction of the Infectious Disease Centre and other upgrades that were necessary at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre have all proven expensive.

"I believe the nurses, more than anyone else, understand very much that the investment in the infrastruc-

ture has taken significant resources away from paying some of the salaries and the additional on time.

"But we continue to rebuild the economy, so that it can continue to generate sufficient wealth and revenue that can meet all the obligations of the government of Antigua and Barbuda."

Addressing tomorrow's planned protest of former Jolly Beach employees organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union, Ambassador Hurst said discussions are ongoing, adding no decision has been made about the workers and what they are owed.

He maintains once the property is sold, the workers will receive their severance and other emoluments.

"It is not a settled matter, I see no purpose in the plan for a protest outside of the parliament, except of course to bring some attention to the Antigua Workers' Union and the United Progressive Party, since they're indistinguishable."

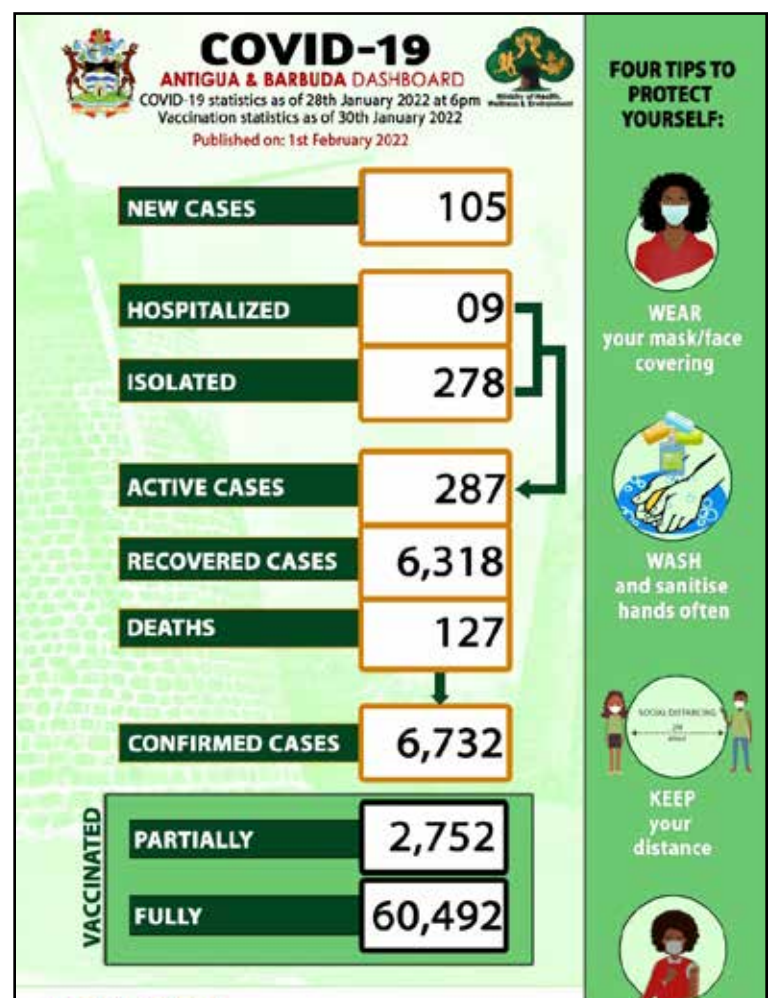
COVID-19 update

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed one hundred and five (105) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 28th January, 2022 at 6pm.

Two hundred and ninety-eight (298) samples were processed.

One hundred and ninety-four (194) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is six thousand seven hundred and thirty-two (6,632); which is inclusive of two hundred and eighty-seven (287) active cases. There are nine (9) hospitalized cases; two (2) severe, one (1) moderate and six (6) mild.



The Dislike of Success: the Antiguan Badmindedness

By Tracee Laurence

In Antigua and Barbuda, it seems to have become a virtue to delegitimize hard work and success, and even more so, when it is done by those who you know as your very own, especially if they are or have been politicians. It has become far too common nowadays to hear or read about why someone's success is not worthy of celebration but rather it has become a question of contempt. There is a growing tendency to measure the accomplishments of our very own against those of others who have had a far different historical journey and experiences which would have brought them to the point where they have achieved a level of social regard and esteem.

It would appear easier for us to support an outsider and promote their ideals and diversity before elevating our people. Somehow, it seems like a burden to support the "common man or woman" either because of some inexplicable fear or jealousy as they ascend the ladder of success.

Envy and covetousness are not virtues and they should never find refuge within our beings, let alone be promoted in our society. When someone else is successful we must embrace their successes as a representation of our own dreams. We must emulate their dedication to what they do and encourage others as well to aim beyond the limitations of their surroundings and their minds.

For quite some time now, the media in Antigua and Barbuda (notably those aligned to the UPP) have dedicated a considerable portion of their time to following and reporting on the personal financial achievements of Prime Minister Gaston Browne. We must always expect to hold both elected and non-elected officials in public office to the highest possible ethical standards, especially because they are called to be stewards of

the resources of the country. They must be held accountable for their actions in the performance of their Constitutional duties and there must be transparency in the discharge of the affairs of state. However, a question should be asked at this point, though. Should not the same standards be set and expected from those who pose such questions and for businesses and individuals who provide goods and services to the citizens and residents of this country, whether private or public? Are they impervious to corruption and improper private and social behaviours? Should we not ensure that our value system eradicates such unwanted behaviours in any and every corner of societies?

Had this puritanical attempt to hold those in public life to account been led by persons of more genuine and wholesome reputations the effort could be applauded. What has emerged is that in its desperation to regain political power in this country, the United Progressive Party (UPP) continues to build on a culture of encouraging reckless and irresponsible speech, usually devoid of coherent reasoning or facts, and has unleashed an unforgiving persecution of persons who ought to be celebrated for their accomplishments.

In the case of Prime Minister Browne, members of the UPP have unrelentingly attempted to redefine his personal achievements as unworthy of acknowledgement and have been patently bad minded in their attempt to condemn whatever he has achieved as tainted and underserving. What kind of culture are we building when we disincentivize a spirit of entrepreneurship and an indefatigable commitment to success?

Moreover, the UPP is attempting to exploit a psychological disposition that has been historically foisted upon our people, a disposition that is inevitably

born out of envy and badmindedness, qualities that have always characterized the party and its predecessor organizations.

It is a narrative that asserts that any successful Antiguan must have gotten his/her wealth through nefarious activities rather than through hard work. In very simple terms, the narrative goes like this: if any of our people is successful, they must have either stolen it *OR* 'worked obeah' to get it.

The narrative asserts that none of our people can earn honest wealth! As an addendum to this, I am sure that as an Antiguan you would have experienced or heard someone say that they would never support another Antiguan's business because "ah rich dem ah get from arwe."

Even family members refuse to support their own family's business when there is a perception that somehow the business is doing too well. Such is the narrative that is being placed on the Prime Minister. It is the sort of badminded disposition that has been internalized for centuries and that Antiguan repeat for ourselves. It is a way to celebrate mediocrity and to criminalize success.

There is a story that has been making the rounds in the media for the past few weeks concerning the Prime Minister and the rental of his home to someone who turns out to be an investor. Certain fundamental questions must be asked before judgment is rendered in this or any other matter where political interests lead the narrative. Understandably, some political circles have an interest and objective to create a sense of doubt in the integrity of the Prime Minister. It is a move of desperation, though, that they ring alarm bells about conflicts of interests and abuse of power. After sifting through the scaremongering tactics

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Guest Editorial

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and sirens of impropriety, one will discover that the UPP has only exposed its wilful ignorance and unavoidable exposition of a profound lack of knowledge of just about anything. If we look at the issue of "conflict of interest" which is not a crime, but rather, a situation where there are competing interests and one of the parties secures a benefit by the use of positional power, is there any transgression that the Prime Minister has committed to the disadvantage of the country or any individual? Did the Prime Minister use his position to prevent anyone from accessing the very same benefit of renting a home to the said investor? Was the Prime Minister able to use his office to

secure the house rental at the expense of some other person? Conversely, what of the prospective UPP candidate who is alleged to have rented from a proprietor only to rent back to the government some years ago? Is this too a question of conflict of interest that will be pursued by the media or political interests?

If there are no laws being violated and no case of bribery or similar offence has been declared, what is the motive behind the fixation with the Prime Minister and his family or any other public official for that matter? Should this not be an occasion to celebrate leadership by example of one of our own who has risen from the grips of poverty through a commitment to hard work

and to education and taking business risks in his private life? Again, if there are laws being violated then whatever actions are required to bring about redress should be commenced.

What is happening is alarming and very concerning because our people are now embracing a culture that elevates mediocrity and underachievement, while defaming and ridiculing genuine effort and dedication to work. When the efforts of those who envy and covet have fallen flat, they employ the use of external hired hands capable of fashioning the thoughts that they are unable to, with the hope that our values should be reordered by those who have found ways to legalize their own corrupt practices

while existing on the wealth that was exploited from the labour of our forebears.

Hopefully, the resilience and hope of the people of this country and the tradition of hard work coming before reward will prevail as the overarching values that define our society and that envy and covetousness do not drive a wedge of separation between us to the point that our dreams, aspirations and ideals become lost.

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Jolly Beach workers to picket parliament tomorrow

Former employees of the defunct Jolly Beach Resort are to stage a picket outside parliament tomorrow, ahead of Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Gaston Browne's budget presentation.

The workers are to line Queen Elizabeth Highway to raise awareness of the non-payment of severance to them.

The demonstration is being organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union, whose Deputy General Secretary Chester Hughes said it comes at the insistence of the aggrieved workers who are frustrated and have insisted on "intensifying efforts to secure their outstanding severance".

"The situation has become untenable for many of them and we will not go on without stating our disgust. We want the government to give a commit-



Chester Hughes

ment that it will honor the full severance amount to the workers," Hughes stated.

In a statement, the ABWU said the Jolly Beach workers are owed millions of dollars in severance, retroactive payments, vacation pay, unpaid wages and retirement fund contributions

which were deducted from salaries and withheld from the bank.

In 2021, and again in January of this year, government, the union said articulated its interest in reactivating the property by securing private investors.

The Union detailed in a correspondence to the Prime Minister earlier this year, the ABWU deputy general secretary urged the government to facilitate dialogue with the union pending the sale of the property. But according to Hughes, their calls to Prime Minister Gaston Browne for continued discussion on the matter has been ignored.

The ABWU deputy general secretary is accusing the government of failing to set a timeline by which the former employees will receive their severance if a sale is finalized.



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ABTB
Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Foreign minister congratulates Dorbrene O'Marde's ambassadorial appointment

Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene has congratulated Dorbrene O'Marde on his appointment as Ambassador Plenipotentiary with responsibility for Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Justice Programme.

O'Marde received his instruments of appointment from Governor General Sir Rodney Williams on Monday.

Minister Greene has expressed confidence that Ambassador O'Marde will continue to provide excellent leadership to the regional reparation movement.

"We extend congratulations to Dorbrene O'Marde, who today [Monday], officially received his instrument of Appointment as Ambassador with responsibility for Antigua and Barbuda Reparatory Justice Programme.

"Ambassador O'Marde's appointment seeks to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the CARICOM Reparatory Justice Programme and to signal in a very serious way Antigua and Barbuda's commitment as it is necessary to have diplomatic representation at the leadership level," Greene stated.

Ambassador O'Marde is currently the Chairman for the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission and he also serves as the Vice-Chair of the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC), led by Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice

Chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

Antigua and Barbuda is one of eight CARICOM territories that have established reparation commissions following a decision by the CARICOM Heads of Government at their 34th Conference of Heads in July 2013 in Trinidad and Tobago, for the establishment of the CARICOM Reparations Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Hilary Beckles.

Along with Antigua and Barbuda, national reparations committees have also been established in Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The CRC mandate includes: Establishing the moral, ethical and legal case for the payment of reparations by the governments of all



Dorbene O'Marde received his instruments of appointment from Governor General Sir Rodney Williams.

the former colonial powers and the relevant institutions of those countries, to the nations and people of the Caribbean Community for the Crimes against Humanity of Native Genocide, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and a racialised system of chattel Slavery; Advise and

make recommendations for coordinated CARICOM action by the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Reparations; Coordinate and support the work of National Reparations Commissions and develop and implement a regional strategy to pursue Reparations.

CPTSA Wings Sports Club Pre-Valentine Fund-raising Hike & Breakfast

The CPTSA Wings Sports Club will be hosting its Pre-Valentine Fund-raising Hike & Breakfast on Saturday, February 12, 2022. All are invited.

Participants will assemble at 5:00AM, at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre, Perry Bay, for a prompt start of the Hike to Galley Bay Heights, and ending at the Hawksbill beach. All participants should wear their masks & sanitize their hands at the start of the Hike. Wings Sports bags & jerseys will be on sale at the start of the Hike.

Delicious & Satisfying Breakfast will be sold at the Hawksbill beach for only \$15.00EC. Drinks & other snacks will also be on sale. Tickets are already on sale from members of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club.

Do come out and have an enjoyable time on the hike & on the beach while supporting the Wings Sports Club, to raise funds to further the Club's development.

Kamla tells PSC: Say who leaked Stanley John report or resign

Newsday - Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar is calling on the retired Justice Judith Jones-led Police Service Commission (PSC) to explain how the Stanley John report, commissioned by the independent body, was leaked to the media and the National Security Council (NSC) headed by the Prime Minister.

The report was commissioned by the PSC following allegations of corruption within the police service in relation to the granting of firearm users licences (FULs).

Damning allegations were made against former commissioner of police (CoP) Gary Griffith in the report, excerpts of which were published in the Trinidad Express.

Griffith is seeking legal redress on the basis that he was assured he was not the subject of the report, and that he was not given the opportunity to respond to the findings.

On a United National Congress (UNC) virtual platform on Monday night, Persad-Bissessar said the leak suggests that the new PSC has been compromised.

The former commission, headed by Bliss Seepersad, collapsed after the merit list for the appointment of CoP and deputy CoP were handed to President Paula-Mae Weekes and then withdrawn.

Persad-Bissessar said this act has eroded the trust and confidence of this new team's selection for the top official in the police service.

She called on the Jones-led commission to come clean or resign.

"I call on this commission to come clean. You all have already made a compromising mess of your appointment. I can't see that you can get any better.



Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

"The only place you have to go further is to go down. Get out before you are used as puppets on a string by this wicked and corrupt government to do their bidding. That's what they are planning to do with you now."

She said she was not concerned about the content of the report, although she was tickled that money was being spent on investigations on how legal FULs were issued, but not about the illegal guns as the murder toll climbed to 48 in 30 days.

"I am concerned about how, why, where a report commissioned by the supposedly independent PSC found itself in the media, found itself to the PM.

"How did that happen? Who did it? Aren't you all supposed to be an independent commission?"

"You must answer who gave instructions to send the report to the Government.

"Through this act, you have severely compromised your perceived independence and so now I ask you to provide this information as well as the legal advice relating to the scrap-

ping of the 2021 merit list."

She was critical of some members of the PSC whom, she said, should not even be there but have been appointed based on their "political connections."

"One is close to the Prime Minister's best friend in Tobago. Another of those persons was campaigning for the PNM in the general elections, making really abusive remarks about the UNC – openly campaigning. Go to Facebook, it is there.

"There is a third one, I am told he has some serious behavioural allegations – none of these people should be sitting there. They should have never been selected in the first place.

"Again, this is where Her Excellency, the President, scraped the bottom of the barrel to come up with these people.

"This nepotism and eat-ah-food behaviour is what has also made the independent bench into a PNM bench in Parliament.

"This is the absolute worst and shameless independent bench in the

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Local Gov't elections to be held according to GECOM's advice

Guyana Chronicle - Guyana's Local Government Elections (LGE) will be held when the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) is properly constituted and informs the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development that it is ready to hold the elections.

This is according to subject minister, Anand Persaud, who was, at the time, responding to comments made by Opposition Member of Parliament (MP), Amanza Walton-Desir, during her contribution to the budget debate on Monday.

"When the elections commission is properly constituted and they inform us, elections will be held," Persaud said as he began his presentation.

"The government has repeatedly indicated that it is ready to hold the elections but is awaiting the guidance of the GECOM. Notwith-



Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Anand Persaud.

standing this, the opposition continues to press the issue.

Though the ministry is responsible for announcing the date for the LGE, this can only be done after consultations with GECOM, which decides its readiness

and also has the responsibility for holding the elections.

The elections were due in 2021, and some \$1.1 billion had been allocated in the 2021 national budget for it.

However, there were

questions surrounding the credibility of several employees, who were implicated in the rigging of the 2020 elections.

Chief Elections Officer (CEO), Keith Lowenfield; Deputy Chief Elections Officer (DCEO), Roxanne Myers, and Region Four Returning Officer, Clairmont Mingo, were eventually charged with electoral fraud and fired in August 2021. Several other persons were also charged with similar offences.

The CEO is required by law to manage the conduct of elections in Guyana. After months without a CEO, former employee, Vishnu Persaud, was hired to fill the post in December 2021. However, by then it was too late for the elections to be held.

The Commission had also informed Local Government Minister, Nigel Dharamlall, about the situation in December 2021.

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history of TT. They have disgraced and debased the status of the independent bench."

She also cast aspersions on the appointment of the President herself, asking if she got the job because she is a friend of the spouse of a senior government official.

"She is a friend. They have a ladies club going on in this thing, you know. So, she is the friend of a wife of a senior official of this Govern-

ment. They are also liming buddies with one of the Independent Senators.

"Now the President appoints people on that service commission who are also friends of herself, and the spouse of this high government official."

Persad-Bissessar also raised suspicion about an order Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi took to the Parliament last Friday on the selection of a CoP, acting CoP, deputy and acting deputies.

She questioned why seniority was removed as a criteria for recruitment of these top positions, as this could totally demoralise senior officers if one of their juniors gets the job over them.

She said that raises questions about having a "dark horse" in the race.

"Which person you handpicked to end up there who doesn't have the seniority, so you removed that as one of the criteria?" she asked.

Barbados: Election court case goes to appeal court

Barbados Today - After an unsuccessful attempt to stall the January 19 general elections at the last minute, Philip Catlyn is headed to the Court of Appeal.

Catlyn, of the Barbados Sovereignty Party, through his attorney-at-law Lalu Hanuman, has appealed Justice Cicely Chase's January 18 decision to dismiss an application for an injunction to postpone the elections.

He brought the action against President Dame Sandra Mason and Attorney General Dale Marshall after he claimed that thousands of persons who were required to self-isolate were disenfranchised by not being able to vote.

After close to eight hours of submissions and deliberations, Justice Chase declared that the court had no jurisdiction to hear the matter and it would have to be heard by an Election Court.

She further contended that the action had been filed incorrectly in the High Court.

However, Hanuman has filed an appeal against Justice Chase's decision on three grounds. He claims that the decision is erroneous in point of law and also in point of fact and that it raises fundamental public interest issues.



Philip Catlyn

The attorney is asking the court to find that Justice Chase's decision was contrary to law, unreasonable in all the circumstances and/or void.

"Jurisprudentially it needed to be done in order to challenge the High Court decision, or otherwise it would have become a precedent fettering future litigation. Also, a failure to appeal would expose my client to potentially hefty court costs, as the defendants were represented by ten lawyers, including two senior counsel in the High Court," Hanuman said.

"Having said that, it is most unfortunate that we have had to go down this road as a Court of Appeal decision in Mr Catlyn's favour at this late stage will be more disruptive than had it been made before the election. If it is decided in my client's favour, then Barbados will go back to the pre-27th December

2021 status quo, constitutionally-speaking.

"But of course we cannot go back to the pre-27th December 2021 status quo as far as COVID-19 is concerned. That genie is now well out of the bag with doubling infection rates, as anticipated by Mr Catlyn in his judicial review application," Hanuman further argued.

In her ruling, Justice Chase had also knocked Hanuman for the timing of the action.

However, in the appeal Hanuman claims that critical information was revealed by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission on the day the action was filed.

He had also argued in court that holding the elections during the COVID-19 pandemic would have resulted in it being a "super spreader event". He said the subsequent substantial increase in cases had vindicated his client.

"The appellant only learnt shortly before the filing of his application for judicial review, that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission was saying that it was incapable of making any provision for the thousands of voters who were in quarantine and or in isolation as a result of the COVID-19 virus, due to the State of Emergency COVID-19 protocols in place.

"In fact, on the very day that the appellant filed his application for judicial review in the High Court, on the 17th day of January 2022, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission released information that they had taken legal advice which confirmed that they were incapable of making any provision for voters who were in quarantine and or in isolation as a result of the zoonotic COVID-19 virus.

"Hence, up to the very day of the filing of the application for judicial review there was uncertainty as to the thousands of voters who were in quarantine and or in isolation as a result of the zoonotic COVID-19 virus, would be disenfranchised. Thus, the appellant's application for judicial review was made in a timely manner," Hanuman contended in the appeal.

Ukraine tensions: US trying to draw Russia into war says Putin

BBC - Russia's President Vladimir Putin has accused the US of trying to draw his country into a war in Ukraine.

In his first significant comments on the crisis in several weeks, he said America's goal was to use a confrontation as a pretext to impose more sanctions on Russia.

He also said the US was ignoring Russia's concerns about Nato alliance forces in Europe.

Tension is high over a Russian troop build-up close to Ukraine's borders.

Russia denies Western accusations that it is planning an invasion, nearly eight years after it annexed Crimea and backed a bloody rebellion in Ukraine's eastern regions.

Moscow in turn accuses the Ukrainian government of failing to implement an international deal to restore peace to the eastern regions, where at least 14,000 people have been killed and Russian-backed rebels control swathes of territory.

Speaking after talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Moscow, Mr Putin said: "It seems to me that the United States is not so much concerned about the security of Ukraine... but its main task is to contain Russia's development. In this sense Ukraine itself is just a tool to reach this goal."

Rivalry between Russia and the US, which still possess the world's biggest nuclear arsenals, dates back to the Cold War (1947-89). Ukraine was then a crucial part of the communist Soviet Union, second only to Russia.

Mr Putin said the US had ignored Moscow's concerns in its response to Russian demands for legally binding security guarantees, including a block on Nato's further expansion to the east.



Vladimir Putin was speaking after talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Moscow.

He suggested that if Ukraine were granted its wish to join Nato, it could drag the other members into a war with Russia.

"Imagine that Ukraine is a Nato member and a military operation [to regain Crimea] begins," the Russian leader said. "What - are we going to fight with Nato? Has anyone thought about this? It seems like they haven't."

In Ukraine itself, visiting UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson accused Mr Putin of effectively "holding a gun... to the head of Ukraine" and he called on the Kremlin to step back from a "military disaster".

Speaking after talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the capital Kyiv, he told reporters the Ukrainian army would fight back in the event of an invasion.

"There are 200,000 men and women under arms in Ukraine," he said. "They will put up a very, very fierce and bloody resistance and I think that

parents, mothers, in Russia, should reflect on that fact. And I hope very much that President Putin steps back from the path of conflict and that we engage in dialogue."

Mr Johnson warned that the UK would respond to Russian aggression with a "package of sanctions and other measures to be enacted the moment the first Russian toecap crosses further into Ukrainian territory".

The UK has announced it is giving £88m to Ukraine to promote stable governance and energy independence from Russia.

Ukraine's president said it would "not be a war between Ukraine and Russia - this would be a war in Europe, a full-scale one".

He called for sanctions to be introduced before any escalation, saying he would support any move by the UK to deal with "dirty money" allegedly linked to the Kremlin being laundered through the City of London.

Whoopi Goldberg's second 'sorry' over Holocaust remarks

BBC - Whoopi Goldberg is facing a backlash after she said on a US talk show that the Holocaust "was not about race".

The actress and television personality said on ABC's *The View* that the Nazi genocide of the Jews involved "two groups of white people".

She apologised - but in a muddled attempt to clarify her comments, ended up having to say sorry again.

The Nazis, who believed themselves an Aryan "master race", murdered six million Jews in the Holocaust.

Monday's discussion was sparked by a Tennessee school board's ban of a graphic novel about Nazi death camps during World War Two.

Maus, which depicts Jews as mice and Nazis as cats, has won a number of literary awards.

The school board said it banned the book because its profanity, nudity and depiction of suicide was inappropriate for 13-year-olds.

Goldberg, a 66-year-old Oscar-winning actress who has been on *The View* since 2007, told her co-hosts: "I'm surprised that's what made you uncomfortable, the fact that there was some nudity."

"I mean, it's about the Holocaust, the killing of six million people, but that didn't bother you?"

"If you're going to do this, then let's be truthful about it. Because the Holocaust isn't about race. No, it's not about race."

Co-host Joy Behar pointed out that the Nazis said the Jews were a different race.

Goldberg said: "But it's not about race. It's not. It's about man's inhumanity to other man."



Whoopi Goldberg made the comments on the talk show The View.

"But it's about white supremacy," responded co-host Ana Navarro. "It's about going after Jews and Gypsies and Roma."

"But these are two white groups of people," countered Goldberg.

Co-host Sara Haines pointed out that the Nazis "didn't see them as white".

Goldberg continued: "But you're missing the point! The minute you turn it into race, it goes down this alley. Let's talk about it for what it is. It's how people treat each other. It's a problem."

She nodded to someone behind the camera as the show's theme music played to signal an ad break.

Critics blasted the show for platforming dangerous disinformation.

Jonathan Greenblatt, leader of the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish anti-hate watchdog, tweeted: "No @WhoopiGoldberg, the #Holocaust was about the Nazi's systematic annihilation of the Jewish people - who they deemed to be an inferior race."

"They dehumanised them and used this racist propaganda to justify

slaughtering six million Jews. Holocaust distortion is dangerous."

Meghan McCain, a former co-host of the *The View*, tweeted: "Antisemitism is a cancer and a poison that is increasingly excused in our culture and television - and permeates spaces that should shock us all."

Conservative commentator Ben Shapiro tweeted a quote from Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, who wrote in *Mein Kampf*: "Is not their very existence founded on one great lie, namely, that they are a religious community, whereas in reality they are a race?"

The US Holocaust Museum, in what was interpreted as a subtweet at Goldberg, wrote: "Racism was central to Nazi ideology. Jews were not defined by religion, but by race. Nazi racist beliefs fuelled genocide and mass murder."

Amid growing criticism, Goldberg later apologised.

"On today's show, I said the Holocaust 'is not about race, but about man's inhumanity to man'. I should

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Guinea-Bissau: Many dead after coup attempt, president says



Soldiers could be seen patrolling the government palace area.

BBC - A reported coup in the West African state of Guinea-Bissau has left many members of the security forces dead, its president says.

Umaro Cissoko Embaló said the situation was under control, calling it a “failed attack against democracy”.

Gunfire erupted near a government building on Tuesday in the capital Bissau where the president was reportedly attending a cabinet meeting.

Soldiers are said to have detained the president and his ministers.

Unidentified heavily armed gunmen attacked the government palace while President Embaló was meeting Prime Minister Nuno Gomes Nabiam inside, according to reports from the ground.

A security source who did not want to be identified told the BBC that gunmen in civilian clothes had opened fire and a police of-

ficer had been killed.

West African regional leaders described the incident as a coup attempt and urged troops to return to barracks.

But what happened remains unclear: it is not yet known who the gunman were and the president did not give an exact figure for those killed.

One of the poorest countries in the world, the former Portuguese colony has seen nine coups or at-

tempted coups since 1980.

Struggling with a massive foreign debt and an economy that relies heavily on foreign aid, the country has also become a transit point for Latin American drugs, leading it to be dubbed by some as Africa’s first narco-state.

On Tuesday evening Mr Embaló said the “well prepared and organised” attack could have been “related to people involved in drug trafficking,” but gave no further details.

While Mr Embaló won the December 2019 presidential election, he faced a last-minute stand-off with parliament before taking office the following February.

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have said it is about both,” Goldberg wrote in a Twitter post.

“The Jewish people around the world have always had my support and that will never waiver. I’m sorry for the hurt I have caused,” she added.

But on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert while attempting to clarify her comments she said the Nazis had lied and actually had issues with ethnicity not race, which caused further offence and prompted another apology on The View yesterday.

Barcelona president says Dembélé rejected two offers to leave

MADRID (AP) — Barcelona came agonizingly close to losing Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. They never really had a chance of getting rid of Ousmane Dembélé.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta said on Tuesday the deal to sign Aubameyang was sealed a minute before the transfer window deadline ended on Monday night, and that Dembélé inexplicably rejected two good offers to leave the club.

The club did not want Dembélé to stay after the French player's agents turned down several offers to extend his contract in negotiations that lasted nearly six months.

"We had made a good offer for him to renew his contract and stay, but it became a financial issue and he wanted more," Laporta said. "We showed him two good offers (at the transfer deadline) for him to play with another club during these last six months, the last one from an English club, and he didn't accept them and preferred to stay here. We were surprised."

Dembélé's contract ends in June and he will be able to leave for free. Barcelona broke their own record to sign the young forward from Borussia Dortmund in 2017 in a deal worth up to 147 million euros (then



Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele celebrates after scoring during a Spanish La Liga football match against Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan stadium in Seville, Spain, Saturday Feb. 27, 2021.

\$175 million), including add-ons.

"It's hard to understand," said Laporta, who last year called Dembélé better than Kylian Mbappé. "We think he may already have a deal with another club. That's what his agent hinted."

Laporta said Dembélé's permanence was "not good for him or the club." He didn't say if the player would be reinstated to the squad of coach Xavi Hernández, saying the decision would be made taking the club's best interest into account. Dembélé was marred by health problems this season and throughout his first years with the Catalan club.

Dembélé's departure would have cleared more salary cap space and made the addition of Aubameyang much easier, Laporta said.

He said the documents

needed to seal the deal with the Gabon striker arrived one minute before Monday's midnight deadline. The president raised his fist in celebration as he left the club's headquarters after closing the deal, and he was followed by Aubameyang and his representatives a few moments later.

The documents from Arsenal allowed the player to become a free agent, and gave Barcelona extra time to make the deal official, which should happen in the coming days, Laporta said.

Aubameyang arrived in the city on Monday to finalize negotiations after being stripped of the captaincy at Arsenal for disciplinary reasons. He went to the African Cup of Nations but didn't play after being diagnosed with heart lesions during his recovery from the coronavirus.

Arsenal released a statement Tuesday saying Aubameyang left the club by mutual agreement. They wished him luck and thanked him for his contribution to the club, where he scored 92 goals in 162 appearances in all competitions.

Barcelona's other signings in the winter window were veteran Brazil defender Dani Alves and forwards Ferran Torres and Adama Traoré.

The club has been slowly restructuring its finances after it couldn't keep Lionel Messi at the end of last season. It has already been eliminated in the Champions League, the Spanish Super Cup and the Copa del Rey.

Barcelona sit fifth in the Spanish league, 15 points behind leader Real Madrid with a game in hand.

Imran Khan is new T&T Red Force skipper

Loop - Imran Khan has been appointed T&T Red Force captain for the 2022 West Indies Championship, the regional first-class tournament.

The 37-year-old leg-spinner takes over from Darren Bravo who led the team during the truncated 2020 season, where the T&T Red Force finished in second place.

Khan made his debut for T&T in 2005 and has played 105 first-class matches, taking 423 wickets at an average of 23.12.

West Indies Test wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva has been named vice-captain.

The 23-year-old scored 507 runs for the season at 50.70, the most for Trinidad and Tobago in the 2020 season.

Da Silva made his West Indies debut in December 2020 against New Zealand.

Pacer Jayden Seales, who is yet to represent the T&T Red Force at

first-class level, is on the squad after impressive performances for the West Indies Test team.

Batsman Kirstan Kallicharan is also in the reckoning for his first-class debut for Trinidad and Tobago.

Fast bowler Shannon Gabriel, who has not played a first-class game for T&T since 2019, is also back on the team.

The T&T Red Force open their campaign from 9-12 February against the Jamaica Scorpions, before taking on the Windward Islands Volcanoes from 16-19 February at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

T&T RED FORCE SQUAD

Imran Khan (c), Khary Pierre, Joshua Da Silva (vc), Terrance Hinds, Jeremy Solozano, Anderson Phillip, Keagan Simmons, Jayden Seales, Jyd Goolie, Isaiah Rajah, Jason Mohammed, Kirstan Kallicharan, Yannic Cariah, Bryan Charles and Shannon Gabriel.



Trinidad and Tobago leg-spinner Imran Khan was appointed skipper for the 2022 West Indies Championships. (Photo credit - CWI Media)

Mason Greenwood further arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and threats to kill

Manchester United footballer Mason Greenwood has been further arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and threats to kill.

On Sunday, he was detained on suspicion of rape and assault after a woman alleging incidents of violence posted pictures and videos on social media.

The 20-year-old was suspended from playing or training with the club following the weekend allegations.

In a statement, Greater Manchester Police said:



Mason Greenwood.

“Detectives have been granted further additional time to speak to a man in his 20s who was arrested on suspicion of rape and assault of a woman. “The suspect was detained in custody on Sun-

day (January 30) afternoon after we became aware of online social media images and videos posted by a woman reporting incidents of physical violence.

“He continues to be questioned after magistrates authorised an extension until tomorrow (Wednesday 2 February).

“Following enquiries so far, he has since been further arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and threats to kill.

“Enquiries are ongoing and the victim continues to

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be offered specialist support.

"We remind people to avoid any commentary or sharing of images that could compromise the victim's right to lifelong anonymity, or risk prejudicing a live investigation with active proceedings."

The allegations were posted on Instagram on Sunday morning and included videos, photographs and a voice note which

claimed to be a conversation between Greenwood and the woman. They have since been deleted.

Complainants of sexual offences must not be identified and their anonymity is protected for life under the law.

Greenwood made his debut in 2019 and has since made 129 appearances for Manchester United. He made his senior England debut in 2020.

Yesterday, Manchester

United released a statement reiterating their "strong condemnation of violence of any kind".

The club added: "As previously communicated, Mason Greenwood will not train with, or play for, the club until further notice."

The striker, from Bradford, was earlier removed from versions of the FIFA 22 game following his initial arrest after Nike suspended their deal with the player.

A spokesperson from the game's manufacturer Electronic Arts said: "Mason Greenwood has been removed from active squads in FIFA 22 and has also been suspended from appearing in FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) packs and Ultimate Draft."

An earlier Nike statement read: "We are deeply concerned by the disturbing allegations and will continue to closely monitor the situation."

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UPDATED SCHEDULE

England break Afghanistan's hearts and book place in U-19 World Cup final

Cricinfo - The first semi-final between two sets of nervous teenagers had it all. Broken stumps, dropped catches, run-outs, six-hitting cameos, a five-ball over, and a catch off a no-ball. England, though, held their nerve, and despite all their errors, crossed the line to reach their first U-19 World Cup final in 24 years.

Afghanistan, chasing a spot in their very first ICC World Cup final, lost out in key moments. After getting England six down for only 136, Afghanistan could not end the innings well with the ball, conceding 95 in the last 12 overs. Then, two of their top four batters were out for ducks in a chase of 231.

But late in the contest, Afghanistan were offered a backdoor pass into the match when England seamer James Sales had a horrific start to the 44th over. At that stage, Afghanistan needed 43 in four overs, but Sales conceded 10 runs courtesy two no-balls - the first of which also cost him a wicket - before delivering a legal ball, and by the end of the over, the equation was down to 23 off 18.

However, left-arm seamer Joshua Boyden bowled a tight 45th, and legspinner Rehan Ahmed took three wickets in the 46th to book England's spot in Saturday's final against India or Australia.

It was a brave call from England captain Tom Prest to bat first in cloudy conditions, and the opener George Thomas rode on some good fortune to smack a 69-ball 50. He survived getting dropped by Noor Ahmad, but the Afghan left-arm wristspinner eventually got him out.

Thomas' wicket, though, was the fourth to go down, with England losing Jacob Bethell, Prest and James Rew for meagre contributions. Nav-



Rehan Ahmed claimed three wickets at the death to rescue England ICC/Getty Images

eed Zadran and Nangeyalia Kharote had made the early breakthroughs, before legspinner Izharulhaq Naveed dismissed William Luxton for 11. A lengthy rain break gave England a chance to regroup, but when Rehan fell after a 44-ball resistance, England were 136 for 6 and in trouble.

That's when George Bell and Alex Horton linked up to drag England to 231. Bell was more orthodox of the two, and hit six fours in his unbeaten 56. Horton smacked a breezy 36-ball 53 to give England the momentum at the break.

England's defense of 231 - target adjusted after DLS - began in a near-perfect manner when Boyden had Kharote out for a duck. Known for swinging the new ball, Boyden's cutter had the batter through his shot too early and his stumps were left flattened.

However, Mohammad Ishaq and Allah Noor (60) led Afghanistan's recovery with a 93-run stand hovering at around four runs per over. Even though they did hit five sixes and eight fours between them, the stand had its periods of slow cricket

with pressure from England's bowlers, especially spinner Bethell. Eventually the pressure of a rising required run rate finally broke the stand when Ishaq was run out on 43 while responding to a quick single.

Afghanistan needed another good stand to follow, but Thomas Aspinwall got in their way. He took two wickets in his first spell, including that of Allah, to expose Afghanistan's lower-middle order. Even though Bilal Ahmad hit 33 in 34 balls, Afghanistan's last roll of the dice was the partnership between Abdul Hadi and Noor Ahmad to take them over the line.

Noor quickly got down to clearing the boundary with his strong hits as England briefly lost their way. Then came the Sales over that razed 20 runs off the target, leaving Afghanistan needing 7.67 per over to win with three overs to go. Boyden, though, made his presence felt with a four-run over, and Rehan made the most of the rising pressure to run through the tail with three wickets in the 46th. With only one wicket in hand, 18 off Boyden's final over was too much for Afghanistan to achieve.

Dottin leads West Indies to super over win over South Africa

Loop - Deandra Dottin dominated a sensational one-over eliminator to hand West Indies victory against South Africa, after their run-chase in the second One-Day International (ODI) ended in a dramatic tie on Monday at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

West Indies now lead the four-match series 1-0 after the first match was a no-result due to rain.

In pursuit of 161 in a contest reduced to 41 overs per side due to rain, West Indies slumped to 83 for six in the 21st over. However, a 54-run, seventh-wicket stand between Chedean Nation (35) and Player-of-the-Match Chinelle Henry (26) hauled West Indies back into the contest and put them back on course.

The pendulum swung yet again when Henry and new batter Shamilia Connell (0) fell to successive deliveries at the start of the 32nd over but Nation put on 21 for the ninth wicket with Shakera Selman (11), to get West Indies within three runs of their target before Selman was last out.

She pinched a single at the end of the 37th to draw the scores level but then missed a full-length delivery from seamer Shabnim Ismail and was leg-before wicket.

Once in the super-over, Dottin stamped her authority, plundering 19 runs from the first five balls before her partner Hayley Matthews smashed the final ball over mid-wicket for six, to leave the visitors defending 25 runs. Facing a tall order, South Africa gathered 15 from the first four balls but



West Indies Women celebrate a wicket during the second One-Day International against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Monday.

off-spinner Matthews finished the over strongly, getting the wicket of Tazmin Brits stumped off the last ball.

"For us, we're quite pleased. Looking back at the game, it shouldn't have come down to this but it's exciting," said West Indies captain Stafanie Taylor.

"I guess West Indies love a bit of excitement. I'm glad the way we played in the super-over. Deandra and Hayley played well and then Hayley finished it with the ball."

West Indies had earlier produced an efficient performance with the ball after opting to bowl first, bundling the hosts out for 160 in the final over. Openers Brits (25) and Laura Wolvaardt (25) posted 53 for the first wicket, and captain Sune Luus arrived at number four to punch a breezy 46 from 52 balls, but South Africa lost their last seven wickets for 69 runs.

Matthews (2-21), fellow off-spinner Karishma Ramharack (2-37), along with quicks Shamilia Connell (2-22), Henry (2-32), and Shakera Selman (2-47), all finished with two wickets each.

Dottin then picked up from where she left off in last week's abandoned opener when she notched a sparkling hundred, lashing five fours and two sixes in a quick-fire 37 from 31 balls.

She lost Rashada Williams (one) in the second over to a catch at wide slip off seamer Masabata Klaas (2-42) and put on 24 for the second wicket with Kycia Knight (three) before the left-hander scooped fast bowler Ayabonga Khaka (5-26) to cover in the seventh.

The two teams will return to the same venue for the third match on Thursday for a day/night encounter. First ball is at 2:00 pm local time (7:00 am Jamaica time).