

MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 243 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

JOHNATHAN JOSEPH'S SEVERE BEATING OF JPS STUDENTS RESURFACES

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the incumbent in the St. John's City West constituency held his annual Christmas party on Lower North Street on Sunday. Hundreds of constituents, young and old alike, turned out to spend an afternoon of merriment with their representative, who presented gifts to the little ones with the help of good ole Santa Clause. More photos on page 8. Photo Credit: Kavi Roberts.

Local News



Suffer the Little Children: The Sandra Peters Story

How a severe beating from Johnathan Joseph changed a 10-year-old's life forever



Sandra Peters



Johnathan Joseph

As Sandra Peters walked into our offices for an interview last week, it was clear to see that he was in pain. An obvious limp betrayed the great length to which he was going to conceal the pain he still endures, 23-years after he was savagely brutalised and injured by a teacher employed at the Jennings Primary School (JPS).

As time went on and Sandra became more relaxed, his guard fell, and the lingering extent of his injury became glaringly evident. After sitting for just half an hour, he struggled to rise from the chair as a wince of pain flashed across his face.

Later, as Sandra courageously walked us through the scene of the traumatic beating at JPS where Johnathan Joseph, a former grade school-teacher and the United Progressive Party's candidate for St. Mary's North once cast a shadow of fear over defenceless children, the full extent to which he was maimed became clear.

Journalists, whether through formal training or experience, learn to detach from the stories on which we report and desensitise ourselves as the harrowing cases we cover would become emotionally burdensome, and left unchecked over time, be harmful to our mental health.

Sandra's distressing tale began on the morning of May 11, 1999, a day which began quite unremarkably and gave no indication of the departure from routine that would follow.

The small child left home that morning for school where, as usual, he participated in prayers during assembly with his schoolmates, but this is where anything routine about that day ended, as a sequence of life-changing events were set into motion.

Following assembly, the fourth grader returned to his classroom to begin his studies for the day. Upon entering the classroom, however, Sandra claims he was violently accosted by

Joseph, at the time a fifth-grade teacher, who accused him of tracking animal faeces into the building.

"It wasn't me because I just came into the class," Sandra told us last Friday as he recounted the incident. "I kept saying it wasn't me. Then he had a piece of wood that he keeps on the blackboard ledge, and he told me to turn around and face the blackboard, he's going to give me three of the best."

"He hit me three times. The first one was on my butt, the second [and third] was more my upper back to my lower back."

More than two decades later, Sandra's account is strikingly consistent as in an interview with a local newspaper in May 1999, he said, "Somebody went and tell him (Joseph) dat I track goat mess in de classroom wid my shoes. He leave his class an' come over and grab my head an' he slam it against de desk and his fingernail cut me on my fore-

cont'd on pg 3

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head.

"He beat me 'till de board bruk."

Sandrea said while he pushed through the pain of the beating, it became increasingly difficult to conceal his injuries.

His mother realised something was wrong when a day after the beating she scolded him about his posture at the breakfast table. Sandra then admitted to his mother that he was only trying to find a position in which he could make himself comfortable following the beating he had endured.

Sandra's mother, Maureen, a Jamaican immigrant, told local media tears came to her eyes when she examined her son whose buttocks and back were gruesomely bruised.

"When I saw his behind, I just started to cry," Maureen said, describing the discolouration to her son's buttocks and back as "red, black and swollen".

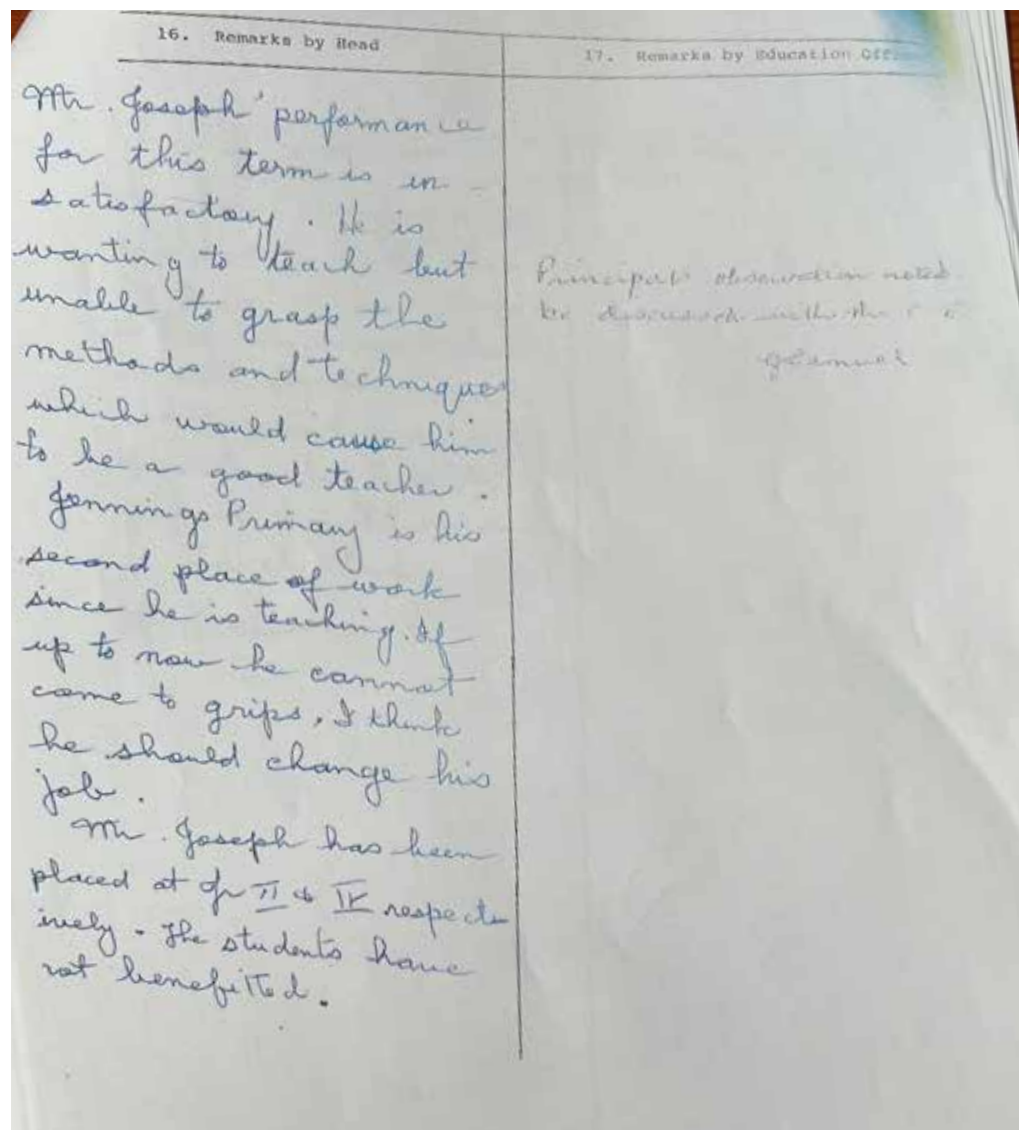
Maureen took her son to the community clinic for treatment, but the shocked nurses advised her that the severity of his injuries required the skill of a doctor. She then hurried young Sandra to see a doctor who was equally horrified by the child's injuries.

The doctor was so disturbed by what he witnessed that he initiated contact with the police.

According to media reports at the time, Sandra's medical report stated he had suffered "soft tissue injury exerted by someone with excessive force".

"I don't remember the doctor's name," Sandra admitted when we spoke with him, "[but] when we went to the doctor he said, 'This isn't right, something isn't looking good.'"

"So immediately, he told my mom to take me to do an X-ray...and we went back to the doctor, and he was like, 'This isn't good. You're gonna have to go to Board of Education because this matter is damaging to you.'"



The trauma to Sandra and his family were subjected to only intensified as he claims that the complaint lodged with education authorities was met with hostility and xenophobia.

Sandra recalled that as they waited in the lounge of a government office for their first meeting with education officials following the incident, a receptionist told his mother, in his presence, "Ahyou bang water come ya, so ah you can go 'bout ahyou business."

Having hit unyielding brick walls on her quest for justice for her child, Maureen leveraged the power of the media and took her story to radio stations and the newspaper.

This decision paid off as public outrage was swift to descend on Joseph for the way he had abused his authority.

It also came to light that the incident involving Sandra was not the first time that Joseph had been accused of using excessive force against a JPS student.

In 1998, the Ministry of Education issued a written warning to Joseph for severely beating another small child at JPS.

Joseph's professional capability also came under scrutiny as a report penned by his former principal at JPS described his performance as "unsatisfactory".

"He is wanting to teach but unable to grasp the methods and techniques which would cause him to be a good teacher," the principal's assessment said. "Jennings Primary is his second place of work since he is teaching. If

cont'd on pg 4

Parliament dissolved, elections expected in early 2023

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, has issued a proclamation dissolving the Parliament paving the way for general elections.

This move confirms the widely held belief that elections will be called sometime in January, 2023.

Sir Rodney issued the proclamation dissolving Parliament acting on the advice of Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Under the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, following the dissolution of Parliament, a date for the nomination of candidates must be announced followed



by a date for general elections which must fall fourteen to twenty-eight days after nomination day.

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party will launch its election campaign tonight

night at 7pm at the party's headquarters, The People's Place, on Nugent Avenue. The party will formally present its seventeen candidates for the upcoming elections to the public and release its

2023 election manifesto.

While many political watchers speculate that Prime Minister Browne may announce the election date this evening, the country's incumbent leader was noncommittal when asked whether he would.

The dissolution of Parliament means that the members of both houses in the country's bicameral legislature have been disbanded.

Electors must now consider and vote for seventeen new people to form the House of Representatives on the date to be announced by Prime Minister Browne.

cont'd from pg 3

up to now he cannot come to grips, I think he should change his job."

The principal expressed Joseph's ineptitude as an educator bluntly when she concluded in her assessment that the grade two and five students to whom he was assigned "have not benefited" from his instruction.

Today, Sandra continues to suffer the effects of that fateful day in May, 1999.

A radiology report obtained by Pointe Xpress indicates that he suffers "discal desiccation with annular bulge and right para central herniation compressing the right S1 nerve root."

"My life has changed drastically ever since," he said sadly. "My posture changed, the way how I walk changed. To this day, I still feel pain if I go down and come up too many times, extremely hurt. If I'm walking, my feet feel extremely heavy and I always feel a constant nerve 'pinging' me.

"Why I say it's directly linked is because over the years, constantly, it's been on and off...in certain things I

do, and it always takes me back to the same injury where I got hit.

"I used to play football a lot and one of the reasons why I stopped playing was I realise when I run a lot, I start feeling a burning from the exact spot [he] hit me.

"After a while, it just burns and it burns, and when it gets to that point, I'm basically unable to do anything for a while, sometimes days, sometimes weeks," Sandra explained.

While evidence was gathered from the school in the course of the police investigation, including the broken plank used in the alleged attack, it could not be found and was not submitted as evidence to the court.

With his medical bills mounting, Sandra said as an adult, he has been forced to reach out to Joseph for assistance, but he said Joseph claimed to have no memory of the incident. While he was careful not to politicise his unfortunate experience, Sandra did have a definite opinion on Joseph's suitability to serve in public office at the highest level.

"I don't think Johnathan Joseph has much of any empathy or care considering what he did to me 20 years ago and I went to him and asked, politely, if you remember anything and he said no. That doesn't seem like a characteristic of anyone who has a care in the world to me. Not for the country, not for anyone."

Sandra's job is physically demanding, and his doctors have warned him that he must find other work as the strain placed on his injured back significantly increases his risk of more severe consequences of his injury, including permanent paralysis.

For now, however, Sandra, who is in his thirties, has no choice but to cope with the pain and risk as he tries to earn an honest living. He strongly holds to the belief that a man who does not work shall not eat.

Pointe Xpress made several attempts to contact Johnathan Joseph over the weekend for comment and to give him the opportunity to share his recollection of the incident, however, attempts to reach him failed.

US\$80 million approved to expand UWI FIC

The government of Saudi Arabia has approved a US\$80 million loan that will finance the expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC).

The announcement came from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who reported that the loan's approval was communicated to him on Friday.

"We now have the formal approval of the loan for US\$80 million, or EC\$216 million, to build out the UWI FIC," the prime minister revealed on Saturday's Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM.

Several of the architectural drawings were revealed during the programme, which according to PM Browne, have been sent off to the Saudi gov-



ernment for their review and approval.

"These are the framework designs we sent off to the Saudi government and they have bought into the initiative and we indicated to them that we are not only educating our own people, but we will be also providing one of the

best tertiary level educational institution in the Caribbean region to improve the academic skills of our people," he said.

The Antigua and Barbuda government has been in talks for several months with the Saudi Fund seeking financing for the expansion of the university's

campus.

As part of the negotiations, a team from Saudi Arabia visited the island earlier in the year to meet with Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, and UWI FIC officials.

The expansion of UWI FIC will include additional administrative units and classrooms, an amphitheater, housing for students and faculty, sports facilities including an international standard cricket ground and other ancillary units necessary for the proper function of the university.

At a town hall meeting two weeks ago, Minister Matthew announced that the expansion envisioned will complete the transformation of the landscape of the Five Islands community.



Local News



Further reduction in fuel takes effect today

Vehicle owners and operators will be paying less for fuel at the pump commencing today.

In a communiqué addressed to CEO of the West Indies Oil Company Limited, Gregory Georges, Financial Secretary, Whitfield Harris, revealed government had taken a decision to pass on the reduction in diesel and gasoline to consumers.

The price for gasoline will now retail at \$13.99 per gallon down from \$15.54, while diesel is reduced from



\$16.79 to \$14.25 per gallon.

“Based on these prices, the consumption tax is approximately \$3.28 per gallon for gasoline, while the consumption tax for diesel

is approximately \$1.48 per gallon,” the correspondence dated 16th December, 2022 outlined.

On 7th September, 2022, gasoline was reduced

by one dollar on the gallon to \$15.57, while diesel remained unchanged at \$16.79, which was absorbed by the government.

Two months earlier in July, gasoline decreased by 93 cents per gallon and diesel fell by 46 cents.

The war between Russia and Ukraine has negatively impacted oil production, which has resulted in high prices at the pumps for motorists of close to \$18 at service stations. However, the prices are continuing to decrease.

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ITLOS agrees to hearings for Opinion on Climate justice for small states

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, has announced that the effort by a group of small island states to seek justice for damage caused by the impact of Climate Change, has won another success.

Prime Minister Browne disclosed that on 16th December, the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) decided to hear "oral proceedings" on the issuing of an Advisory Opinion on the obligations of states to reduce, prevent or control the deleterious effects that result from Climate Change.

The request for an Advisory Opinion was submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (CO-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne
SIS) of which Prime Minister Browne is a founder and Co-Chair.

ITLOS has issued an invitation to all states that are party to the International Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as COSIS, to make written submissions by 16 May, 2023.

Prime Minister Browne declared, "The decision by ITLOS to hear the case brought by COSIS and to set a

firm date for receipt of submissions indicate that the international body regards the request for an Advisory Opinion as deserving of investigation."

He added that the governments that are members of COSIS are "greatly encouraged by the decision of ITLOS which sends a clear signal to all polluting countries that the impact of their action may have a legal consequence".

Calling on all small island states in the Caribbean to join the COSIS effort, Mr. Browne said, "All our governments have a duty of care to our people to safeguard the interests of our homelands for this and future generations."

AUCTION NOTICE

Registration Section: Hodges Bay and Thibous
 Block #: 43 219 7B
 Parcel #: 47, 191, 195, 292, 293, 294, 302, 392, 471, 473, 475, 477, 478, and 483

Instructed by Christopher & Associates (Attorneys for the Chargee), Mr. Michael Freeland (Licensed Auctioneer) shall sell by Public Auction the aforementioned parcels of land with buildings and appurtenances thereupon located in Hodge's Bay in the Parish of St. John's on the island of Antigua and Barbuda which parcels of land substantially comprise the hotel property owned by JSN Development Group Limited and known as the Hodges Bay Resort and Spa; a luxury ocean front hotel and spa that comprises of hotel rooms and common areas to include a swimming pool facility, restaurants, a conference room and spa situated, amongst other amenities and facilities, upon prime lands including a private beach. The parcels of land are located on the north coast within proximity to the VC Bird International Airport and is within 10 minutes of St. John's City.

Auction Date: Wednesday, December 28th, 2022
 Time of Auction: 3:00 pm
 Location of Auction: On site at the hotel in Hodges Bay, St. John's Antigua
 Aggregate Area: Approximately 7.54 acres

For further information, please contact Mr. Michael Freeland at 268-464-6978.

Local News

Prime Minister Gaston Browne hosts St. John's City West Christmas Party



PUBLIC NOTICE

Registered Insurance Companies and Intermediaries

The carrying on of insurance business within Antigua and Barbuda is a restricted activity governed by the Insurance Act 2007 which is administered by the Commission through the Superintendent of Insurance pursuant to Section 4 of the Insurance Act and Section 2 of the Financial Services Regulatory Commission Act.

Section 9 and Section 87 of the Insurance Act requires that all persons seeking to carry on insurance business within Antigua and Barbuda as an insurance company and an intermediary (insurance agent, insurance broker and sales representative) must be registered in accordance with the provisions of the Act and creates an offence for persons carrying on insurance business without a registration. The need for such registration to carry on such insurance business is also expressed in the First Schedule to the Money Laundering (Prevention) Act 1996 as amended by Section 2 of the Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2016.

In this regard, the public should ensure that it conducts insurance business **only** with approved companies or persons (see list below) who must prominently display, at its place of business, a valid Certificate of Registration as evidence of registration to do insurance business, in accordance with Section 15 of the Act. For sales representatives, evidence of registration can also be had by a valid Certificate of Registration.

Where members of the public are approached or directed to do business with a company or person not on the list provided, or who cannot provide a valid Certificate of Registration, the matter should be reported to the Commission.



PUBLIC NOTICE

List of Insurance Companies, Association of Underwriters, Insurance Agents and Insurance Brokers

Insurance Companies
ABI Insurance Company Limited
American Home Assurance Company Limited
Antigua Insurance Company Limited
Caribbean Alliance Insurance Company Limited
C.G.I. Consumers Guarantee Insurance Company Limited
CG United Insurance Limited
Cuna Caribbean Insurance OECS Limited
General Insurance Company Limited
GK Insurance (Eastern Caribbean) Limited
GK Life Insurance Eastern Caribbean Limited
Guardian General Insurance Limited
Guardian Life OECS Limited
Island Heritage Insurance Co. Limited
National General Insurance Corporation (Nagico) N.V.
Netherlands Insurance Company Limited
Pan-American Life Insurance Eastern Caribbean Limited
Peoples Insurance Company Limited
Sagicor General Insurance Inc.
Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc.
State Insurance Company Limited

Association of Underwriters
Lloyds Underwriters
Insurance Agents
Anjo Insurances
Brysons Insurance Agency
CIBC First Caribbean Insurance Agent
Kenneth A Gomez Insurance Agency Limited
Star Insurance Agency
Selkridge Insurance Agency
Insurance Brokers
AM Insurance Brokers Limited
CGM Gallagher Insurance Brokers (Bdos) Limited
The Risk Management Broking Consultancy
Tomlins Insurance Brokers (Antigua) Limited

ABWU wants amicable solution on compensation for former LIAT workers

Despite the tense relationship that exists between them, the general secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union is hopeful that the organization and government can come together on the matter of compensation for former LIAT workers in an effort to resolve the longstanding issue.

The government and ABWU have been at loggerheads on who is solely responsible for compensating the past workers of the airline that is headquartered in Saint John's. While the union is pressing the Gaston Browne administration to step up and honour its commitments, Prime Minister Browne maintains his government does not have any severance liability, but offered a 'compassionate payment' of fifty percent of what is owed to the workers in the form of cash, bonds and land, which the union has rejected.

Citing the successful conclusion of the payment of severance and other emoluments to former Jolly Beach Resort workers, David Massiah renewed his call for dialogue with the government on the thorny subject.



David Massiah

"There should be some dialogue where we can reach an understanding on how exactly we are going to dispense and deal with the workers of LIAT. Just as how the government could have stepped up boldly to deal with the situation for the Jolly Beach workers, let us deal with this in a really meaningful, amicable way in resolving the matter for LIAT going forward," the general secretary stated.

David Massiah rejected claims that the union has politicized their representation of the former airline employees, noting that it is far from the truth. He added that the union is in the business of representing workers and ensuring they are not treated unfairly.

"We just wish to call on the authorities, the prime minister, to let us sit down and meaningfully address the issue of the former LIAT workers and to ensure that we can reach some amicable way, and we will bring all the discussion to bear on the table when the time comes," he pointed out.

Massiah said the outstanding issue is priority for the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union in 2023, as it continues to provide representation for its members.

The prime minister told parliament earlier this month that the ABWU rejected his offer and continues to demand one hundred percent compensation for the former workers, which he believes is untenable.

"How can you reasonably ask the entity that only owned 32 percent to pay a hundred percent? So what happened to the liability of Barbados?" he questioned. "Barbados made more fees out of LIAT than Antigua and Barbuda for the last two decades. So, you're going to exculpate all the other countries, even

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Local News



Police still searching for Kevorn Bailey

The police have renewed their call for information that will lead to the location of Kevorn Bailey.

Bailey, 26, was last seen on 27th August. He is of dark complexion, medium build and is 5 feet 3 inches tall.

He also answers to the

cont'd from pg 9

non-shareholding countries and hold the government of Antigua and Barbuda totally responsible for a compassionate payment of a hundred percent?"

Prime Minister Browne has called on the ABWU to take a more reasonable position on the issue.

nickname Sar'dis. A \$10,000 reward is also being offered for information leading to his location.

Anyone with information concerning his whereabouts is urged to contact any police station, the Criminal Investigation Department at 462-3913/14 or Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS.



KEVORN BAILEY

ALIAS: Sar'dis
HEIGHT: 5 ft. 3 in.
AGE: 26

He was last seen on
August 27th, 2022.

\$10,000 REWARD

Mon 19 | Day

82°

Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 82F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Humidity
74%

UV Index
8 of 10

Sunrise
6:31 am

Sunset
5:38 pm

Mon 19 | Night

75°

Mostly clear. Low near 75F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Humidity
78%

UV Index
0 of 10

Moonrise
2:29 am

Moonset
2:20 pm

Waning Crescent

BREATHTAKING VIEWS
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



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CIBC FirstCaribbean's Christmas Caravan spreads the spirit of giving

For the third consecutive year, the CIBC FirstCaribbean's Christmas Caravan has gone out into the community to share gifts and spread good cheer.

"We believe that it is our duty to give back to our communities and while we do so in many tangible ways through our sponsorships and donations throughout the year, we try to do more at Christmas. This year the Christmas Caravan will donate \$20,000," said the bank's Country Head, Ladesa James-Williams

Prior to the Christmas Caravan leaving the bank's Old Parham Road branch, donations of \$1,500 each were made to the Black Boys Foundation and the Nolan Hue Foundation, two organisations whose voluntary work centres on boys and young men.

Both Tyreke Thomas-Horsford of the Black Boys Foundation and Regis Burton of the Nolan Hue Foundation expressed their



Presentation to Minister of Health and Wellness, Sir Molwyn Joseph, at the Fiennes Institute

thanks and appreciation for recognising the work that they do in the community.

The Caravan, bearing members of staff, with music, gifts and cash then made its first stop at the Clarendon Psychiatric Hospital to present, among other things, a cheque for \$5,000.

The next stop was the Fiennes Institute, a home for senior citizens, where the bank made a donation of \$5,000 and surprise gifts.

The presentation was accepted by Health and Wellness minister, Sir Molwyn

Joseph, who was attending the home's staff party.

The final stop was the Soup Kitchen where the bank presented a cheque and serving utensils, cookies and snacks in support of this essential service to the needy.

"We started this initiative of the Christmas Caravan in 2020 to ease the pressures brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and it was such a rewarding experience for all of us, that we just had to keep doing it," said James-Williams.

NOTICE

TO: HER WORSHIP
The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate's Court
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Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS KASEK CAFÉ

I, Touni M. Karam, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 5th January, 2023 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Kasek Café" situated Market and Redcliffe Street in the Parish of St. John's Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 14th day of December, 2022


Touni M. Karam
268-722-7792



Staff on the Christmas Caravan

Opinion



Mind over matter

By **Tony Deyal**

(Dedicated to George and Sara Deyal for their support)

I have been a computer freak since the early 1970s when I included a piece of animation in my thesis. So, when a few days ago I got a new computer, a Dell 16, the first thing I did was check out my Facebook page. To my astonishment the bold creature asked me, "What's on your mind?" My mind told me not to pay the fresh computer any mind, after all a lot had been paid for it already. I replied in no uncertain terms or language, "Ms. Adell, what I do with my mind is none of your business. I think you need to mind your own and not mind mine. A newbie like you has no right to ask a 77-year-old man what

he's thinking about, especially when he's looking straight at your buttons and running his fingers all over you. This is the kind of behaviour that one can only expect from a Dell-inquent."

This reminds me of the story of the rats that were under heavy manners from a new cat in town. A little mouse stood up and said, "If we tie a bell on the neck of the rat, we would know its presence and save ourselves by running away." All the rats became very happy. They began to dance in pleasure. Suddenly, an old and wise rat said, "The idea is very good. But who will bell the cat?" Hearing it, all the rats became silent again.

I too remained quiet for a while. It took a lot of think-



Tony Deyal

ing to find an answer and my first thought came from Mark Twain who said, "I must have a prodigious amount of mind; it takes me as much as a week sometimes, to make it up." I was so happy to get my hands on Adell that it was clear that between me and Mark, never the twain shall meet. After all, in this business of puns, funs and buns I also want to make my own mark. Up to this time I have a George and a Zubin but have not left a true Mark. The good thing is that the new computer was the right one for me. While my desk was very shaky and would fall apart under the slightest pressure, this one was a laptop and I looked forward to having it hanging in there, where it belonged, and tapping away on the keys, knobs and shifts. I could even see the "Enter" on that keyboard and was ready to tumble.

I have always known that the best way to deal with issues of mind over matter was

to look at the situation philosophically. In other words, if you don't mind, it doesn't matter. However, in this case it did matter considerably. My other laptop computer lost a key from all the banging- the "E"-key of all things. This is the most used key on computers, and it could not take the pressure of all the other "e" words. Maybe it was overengineered or suffered from an attack of inadequateness. I had to press down so hard on the key that I got a pounding headache of a type I had never experienced before. Basically, I was catching my ASUS to compose or compile anything.

I suppose the dependence on a machine, especially something like a computer which costs a pound and a crown, is not healthy and I should consider going back to the thrill of the quill. Imagine me with a quill or bird feather getting my hands wet

cont'd on pg 13

Weekend Puzzle Solution

A QUESTIONABLE PUZZLE

By Timothy E. Parker



cont'd from pg 12

in ink. It reminds me so much of my early schooldays with inkwells on every desk and my dipping the long, black hair of the girl in front of me into the Parker Quink Ink. This got her blue vex. Despite knowing that it was my way of expressing my love for her, she complained about me to the teacher who sent me to the headmaster who made it very difficult for me to take my seat in class for a while. I learnt that while talking sit is bad, doing sit is worse. Today is different because I am dealing with a machine and the ink is wrapped up inside her. What can I do except maybe tell her what's on my mind?

But it is difficult, after so many years, to change your mindset. As John Milton wrote in his *Paradise Lost*, "The mind is its own place and in itself can make a hell of heaven, a heaven of hell." Worse, it was Satan who said this. And I wondered if I should proceed and say, like the wife who screamed at her husband, "You're gonna be really sorry. I'm gonna leave you," and he replied, "Make up your mind. Which is it going to be?" Again, Mark Twain came to my rescue with his advice, "In statesmanship get the formalities right, never mind about the moralities." When I read this, I am sure the computer told me, "Don't mind he!" I then went looking for a sympathetic mind and found the untouchable Mahatma Gandhi who made it clear, "I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet." It

might be that Adell had sixteen inches and no feet, but the computer cut off abruptly and it took a while to restart.

I used the break to put my mind to the problem. When I was young, my family used to "mind" or take care of goats, "fowl" chickens, and something that the great Lord Kitchener observed in his 1966 calypso, "Talking The River Bad." It went, "Sit down on river stone and talking the river bad/ Is a thing we must stop here in Trinidad/ So you must run 'youh' mouth and just as you wink/ The river go comedown and you go get 'nuff water to drink." This

for me was always a major Caribbean complaint – basically "people running 'dey' mouth". However, with the coming of computers and Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and all the others, the mining has got out of hand and further into mouth. Another calypsonian had also stressed the mind part with, "And the reason why, we can't get no way/ We does talk and don't care what we say, / We have good, we have bad/ Right here in Trinidad, but some will insist/ To be walking around mining' people business." Again, this "mine" over matters is

very Caribbean.

At that point, the computer came back on, and I boasted, "Miss Adell. I have an answer for your question about what's on my mind." The computer started to rumble and stumble and then I heard a distant voice saying, as it went completely blank, "Never mind."

**Tony Deyal was last seen playing a mind game on his male readers. He says that you're losing your mind if you forget to zip your fly after using the bathroom, but if you forget to unzip it before using the bathroom, you've already lost it.*



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Caribbean divided as Netherlands mulls slavery apology

By Gerold Rozenblad and Dánica Coto

Dutch colonisers kidnapped men, women and children and enslaved them on plantations growing sugar, coffee and other goods that built wealth at the price of misery.

On Monday, the Netherlands is expected to become one of the few nations to apologize for its role in slavery. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte plans to speak in the Netherlands as members of his Cabinet give speeches in seven former Caribbean colonies, including Suriname.

Symbolism around crimes against humanity is controversial everywhere, and debates over Monday's ceremonies are roiling Suriname and other Caribbean countries.

In Suriname, activists and officials say they have not been asked for input about the apology, and that's a reflection of a Dutch colonial attitude. What's really needed, they say, is compensation.

In 2013, the Caribbean trade bloc known as Caricom made a list of requests including that European governments formally apologise and create a repatriation program for those who wish to return to their homeland, which has not happened.

"We are still feeling the effects of that period, so some financial support would be welcome," said Orlando Daniel, a 46-year-old security guard and a descendant of slaves.

Suriname is an ethnically diverse country where roughly 60% of its 630,000 inhabitants live below the poverty line and 22% identify as Maroon — ancestors of slaves who escaped and established their own communities.

The Dutch first became involved



Wreath laying at the National Slavery Monument after Amsterdam Mayor Femke Hal-sema apologized for the involvement of the city's rulers in the slave trade during a nationally televised annual ceremony in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Thursday, July 1, 2021. The Netherlands is expected to issue a national apology for its brutal slavery past when Dutch officials visit their former Caribbean colonies in late Dec. 2022. (AP Photo/Peter Dejong, File)

in the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the late 1500s but did not become a major trader until the mid-1600s, when they seized Portuguese fortresses along Africa's west coast and plantations in northeastern Brazil. Eventually, the Dutch West India Company became the largest trans-Atlantic slave trader, said Karwan Fatah-Black, an expert in Dutch colonial history and an assistant professor at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Hundreds of thousands of people were branded and forced to work in plantations in Suriname and other colonies.

Portugal became the first European country to buy slaves in West Africa with help from the Catholic Church in the 1400s, followed by Spain. Some experts argue that large-scale sugar production in what is now

Brazil then gave rise to the Atlantic slave trade that saw an estimated 12 million Africans transported to the Caribbean and the Americas over some 400 years, with at least 1 million dying en route.

Britain was among the first countries to ban the slave trade, in 1807. Dutch slavery continued until 1863.

If, as expected, the government issues a formal apology on Monday, it will put the Netherlands, which has a long history of progressive thinking and liberal laws, in the vanguard of nations and global institutions seeking to atone for their roles in historical horrors.

In 2018, Denmark apologised to Ghana, which it colonised from the mid-17th century to the mid-19th century. In June, King Philippe of Bel-

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gium expressed “deepest regrets” for abuses in Congo. In 1992, Pope John Paul II apologized for the church’s role in slavery. Americans have had emotionally charged fights over taking down statues of slaveholders in the South.

A Dutch government-appointed board issued a report last year saying that “today’s institutional racism cannot be seen separately from centuries of slavery and colonialism.”

Politicians and civil-society organizations in Suriname say that July 1, 2023 would be a more appropriate date for the apology ceremony because it marks 160 years since the abolition of slavery in the country.

“Why the rush?” asked Barry Biekman, chair of the Netherlands-based National Platform for Slavery Past.

Johan Roozer, chairman of Suriname’s National Slavery Past Com-

mittee, said that Legal Protections Minister Franc Weerwind, who has slave ancestors and is visiting Suriname Monday, should also be given reparations.

Romeo Bronne, a 58-year-old businessman in Suriname, said an apology is needed, but he wants to hear it from the king of the Netherlands or its prime minister.

“Slavery was a terrible period, and degrading acts were committed,” he said as he called for financial reparations to be spent on education, health and other public benefits. “We remained poor.”

Irma Hoefer, a 73-year-old retired civil servant who lives in the capital, Paramaribo, said that the Dutch “do not understand what they have done to us.”

“They still enjoy what their ancestors did to this day. We still suffer. Reparations are needed,” she said.

Activists in the Dutch Caribbean

territory of St. Maarten have rejected the anticipated apology and demanded reparations, too.

“We’ve been waiting for a few hundred years for true reparatory justice. We believe that we can wait a little further,” Rhoda Arrindell, a former government minister and member of a local nonprofit, said at a recent government meeting.

Like many nations, the Netherlands has been grappling with its colonial past, with the history of Dutch slavery added for the first time to local school curriculums in 2006.

“There is a sector in society that really clings to colonial pride and finds it difficult to acknowledge that their beloved historical figures have played a part in this history,” Fatah-Black said, referring to seafarers and traders long revered as heroes of the 17th century Dutch Golden Age, when the country was a major world power.



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Steven Spielberg regrets decimation of shark population after Jaws

By Charley Adams

Director Steven Spielberg has said he "truly regrets" the decimation of the shark population following the success of the Oscar-winning film *Jaws*.

He told BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* he fears sharks are "mad" at him for "the feeding frenzy of crazy sword fishermen that happened after 1975".

The film has been blamed for misrepresenting great whites and leading to trophy hunting in the US.

Spielberg also discussed his childhood and new film in the programme.

The 75-year-old American is known for many Hollywood blockbusters including *E.T.*, *Schindler's List* and *Jurassic Park*.

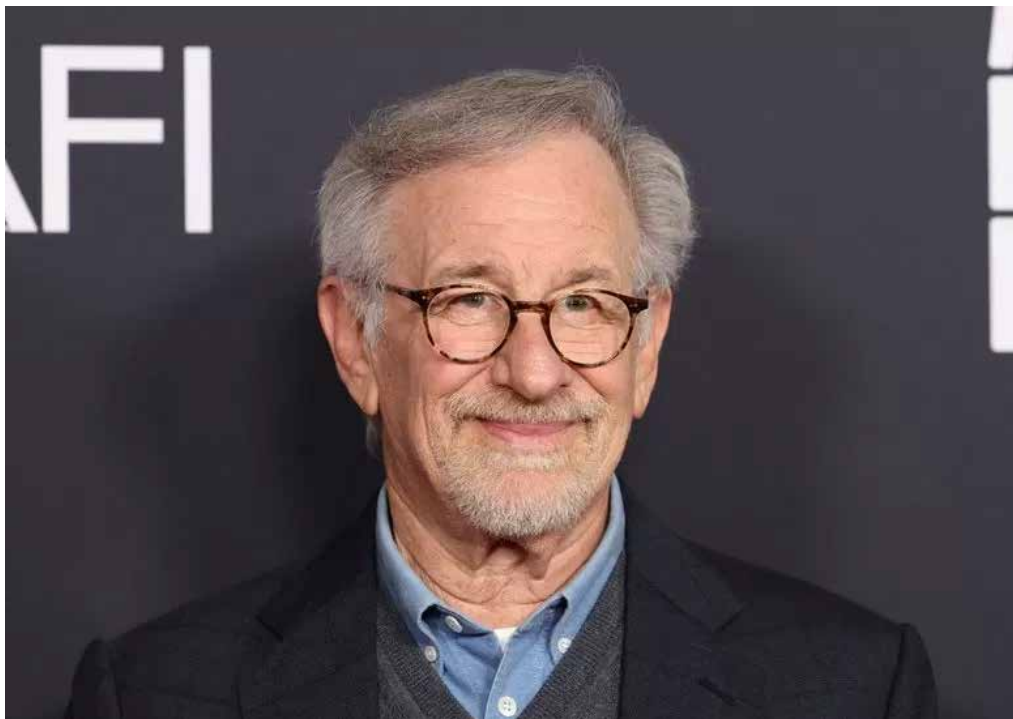
Asked how he felt about the sea around his desert island being inhabited by sharks, Spielberg told the programme: "That's one of the things I still fear."

Clarifying it was not a fear of being eaten, the director said the impact to the shark population is something "I truly and to this day regret".

The 1975 film *Jaws* tells the story of a great white shark that attacks a US seaside town, which influenced a rise in sports fishing across America. Research has suggested the number of large sharks fell along the eastern seaboard of North America in the years following its release.

The songs *Somewhere from West Side Story*, Frank Sinatra's *Come Fly With Me* and his daughter's song *Cool Hand* were among the eight records he selected.

Spielberg also discussed his new semi-autobiographical film, *The Fabelmans* - which follows the story of his childhood and introduction to filmmaking.



Steven Spielberg

He told presenter Lauren Laverne that a film based on his own story sent his fear levels "through the roof".

"I'm a private person that's going public about and I can't hide behind somebody else's authorship or a book or a genre or American history."

The director said he first thought the project would be the "most self-indulgent thing I've ever asked people to accompany me through" - describing it as "\$40m of therapy".

He said he was "answering a need" in making the film, but admitted the biggest struggle was probably "not to get emotional" while making it.

The Fabelmans, which has already picked up nominations at the 2023 Golden Globes and Critics Choice Awards, stars Paul Dano and Michelle Williams.

Asked by Laverne about how he started making films, Spielberg said his first attempt was a Western shot on one camera with no editing software at the age of 10.

After showing it to his scout

group, he said: "I got bitten by this bug and that was it."

Discussing his time at school, Spielberg said his "only ticket" to popularity was making small movies and recollected getting the captain of the football team to dedicate a whole Saturday to star in a film.

"In a way it was being able to say action to somebody who wouldn't talk to me at school but would obey the word action - [and that] was kind of empowering."

Speaking generally about being a filmmaker, Spielberg said it was not his role to "manipulate" the audience, but admitted doing it in *Jaws* and in his 1982 supernatural horror film *Poltergeist*.

Spielberg also touched on *Schindler's List*, saying when he was initially approached to do the film in 1982 he was not ready "emotionally" or as a filmmaker.

He also chose to take the book, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and his favourite camera to the deserted island.

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Police in St. Vincent intercept largest single haul of guns and ammunition at Customs Department

CMC - One person was arrested after the police in St Vincent launched an investigation following the discovery of guns and ammunition including six pistols, two high-power rifles, and 200 rounds of ammunition at the Customs Department in Kingstown, on Thursday.

Speaking during a press conference on Friday, Police Commissioner Colin John said the weapons and ammunition were imported into the country and represent the largest single haul of guns and ammunition intercepted by local authorities.

John, who said the firearms “seem brand new” could not say how soon the investigation would be completed.

“I cannot say at the moment because we do not know the scope of the investigation. We want to follow our leads and from there we will determine how long the investigation would take,” he said.

“We know one of these bullets could have killed more than one person, based on the velocity of these bullets and these guns. So I am really happy that we were able to intercept these firearms.”

He said the seizure was a collaborative effort between the Royal St. Vin-

cent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF) and the Customs Department.

According to John regional and international bodies will be contacted to assist in the probe as the weapons were imported into the country.

John, a former deputy director of public prosecutions, also thanked the members of the Customs Department for their vig-

ilance, cooperation and assistance in law enforcement in helping to reduce crime in the country.

“We have seen in the last couple of months and the last few days, I would say, the apparent use of firearms to commit some very serious offences.

“We have to, as best as possible, try to reduce the number of firearms in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and arrest perpe-

trators. So this, indeed, is a good effort on behalf of the RSVGPF.”

The police chief was speaking during a week in which two persons were shot and killed and another two shot and injured, taking the homicide count to 39, one shy of the record.

The police commissioner also urged the public to continue to assist the police in their crime-fighting efforts.



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Jamaica and IMF reach staff-level agreement

CMC - Jamaica and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a Staff Level Agreement that will enable the Government to access approximately US\$1.7 billion under the IMF's Precautionary and Liquidity Line (PLL) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

This provision is being made at the Government's request and forms part of the policy response to prevailing global shocks.

The request is expected to be considered by the IMF's executive board in early 2023.

The agreement was reached during in-person and virtual meetings between IMF executives and government officials, December 5 to 15, to conduct the latest Article IV Consultation.

It will see the government accessing approximately US\$967 million under the PLL and about US\$763 million through the RSF.

The PLL will provide valuable insurance to Jamaica against downside risks, including those arising from extreme weather events, while the RSF will help support the country's ambitious agenda to increase resilience to the effects of climate change, transition to a zero-carbon economy, and catalyse official and private climate-related financing.

Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Nigel Clarke, in a statement said Jamaica is in a different era of its economic development where the government anticipates disruptive events and provides for them.

Consequently, he said, the administration has instituted a natural disaster strategy, capitalised a national disaster fund, and launched the first



Minister of Finance and the Public Service Dr. Nigel Clarke

global catastrophe bond independently sponsored by a small country.

The minister noted that "these financing arrangements are designed to protect us from natural disaster shocks".

He pointed out, however, that "thinking ahead", the Staff Level Agreement was reached for the RSF and PLL, "to ensure that our development can proceed and continue, even in the event of possible external shock".

"This is an engagement of choice. These are not arrangements that we have to make, but rather financing we are choosing to take advantage of to keep us strong, to build our economic and climate resilience, to create buffers, to expand our fiscal space, to broaden our options, and to help us prepare in advance for any adverse

external development that may arise," the minister outlined.

He assured that these arrangements "will not interfere with already planned programs and activities," adding that "it is and will be business as usual, with the ability to access financing if the global outlook worsens".

The IMF, in a statement, said the government's response to the recent shocks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has been "well designed" and "nimble" and aimed to contain inflationary pressures, support those worst hit by the increase in the cost of living, and steadily reduce the public debt.

The organisation noted that the country's efforts have facilitated a steady recovery in growth and job creation, despite the difficult global environment.

Sam Bankman-Fried to reverse decision on contesting extradition

Reuters - Former FTX Chief Executive Sam Bankman-Fried is expected to appear in court in the Bahamas today to reverse his decision to contest extradition to the United States, where he faces fraud charges, a person familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The 30-year-old cryptocurrency mogul was indicted in federal court in Manhattan on Tuesday and accused of engaging in a scheme to defraud FTX customers by using billions of dollars in stolen deposits to pay for expenses and debts and to make investments for his crypto hedge fund, Alameda Research LLC.

His decision to consent to extradition would pave the way for him to appear in U.S. court to face wire fraud, money laundering and campaign finance charges.

Upon arrival in the United States, Bankman-Fried would likely be held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, though some federal defendants are being held at jails just outside New York City due to overcrowding at the facility, said defence lawyer Zachary Margulis-Ohnuma.

At his initial court hearing in Manhattan, Bankman-Fried would be asked to enter a plea and a judge would make a determination on bail, Margulis-Ohnuma said. The attorney added that such a hearing must take place within 48 hours of Bankman-Fried's arrival in the United States, though it would likely be sooner.

Prosecutors will likely argue that Bankman-Fried is a flight risk and should remain in custody because of the large sums of money involved in the case and the unclear location of those funds.

"The missing money gives prosecutors strong arguments that he is a



Sam Bankman-Fried, who founded and led FTX until a liquidity crunch forced the cryptocurrency exchange to declare bankruptcy, is escorted out of the Magistrate Court building after his arrest in Nassau, Bahamas December 13, 2022. REUTERS/Dante Carrer

flight risk," said former federal prosecutor and white-collar defence attorney Michael Weinstein. "I expect that if a judge grants pretrial release, they would impose very restrictive and onerous conditions."

Any trial is likely more than a year away, legal experts told Reuters.

A spokesman for Bankman-Fried declined to comment. Bankman-Fried has acknowledged risk management failings at FTX but has said he does not believe he has criminal liability.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan declined to comment.

It was not immediately clear what prompted Bankman-Fried to change his mind and decide not to contest extradition.

He was remanded on Tuesday to the Bahamas' Fox Hill prison after Chief Magistrate JoyAnn Ferguson-Pratt rejected his request to re-

main at home while awaiting a hearing on his extradition.

The U.S. State Department in a 2021 report said conditions at Fox Hill were "harsh," citing overcrowding, rodent infestation and prisoners relying on buckets as toilets. Authorities there say conditions have since improved.

Bankman-Fried amassed a fortune valued at over \$20 billion as he rode a cryptocurrency boom to build FTX into one of the world's largest exchanges. His arrest last Monday in the Bahamas, where he lives and where FTX is based, came just a month after the exchange collapsed amid a flurry of customer withdrawals.

Damian Williams, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, described the collapse of FTX as one of the "biggest financial frauds in American history." He has described the office's investigation as ongoing, and urged people

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Tunisian president urged to resign after election debacle

AP - Tunisian opposition figures called Sunday for the president's resignation after disastrous parliamentary elections in which less than 9% of voters cast ballots.

The mass voter disavowal was a dramatic development for the country that was the birthplace of the Arab Spring uprisings against autocratic leaders a decade ago — and the only one to emerge from that upheaval with a democratic political system.

The elections Saturday were meant to replace and reshape a legislature that President Kais Saied dissolved last year. It was one of several moves he has made to consolidate his power and tackle Tunisia's protracted economic and social crisis.

The election results are expected in the coming days.

Many opposition parties boycotted the vote, and many voters stayed away too.

According to provisional figures announced by the president of the electoral



Members of the Independent Higher Authority for Elections count the votes one day after the parliamentary elections in Tunis, Tunisia, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. (AP Photo/Hassene Dridi)

commission Farouk Bouaskar, around 800,000 voters took part in the elections out of approximately 9 million registered.

Opposition politician Ahmed Nejib Chebbi called the unprecedented low turnout “a real earthquake that will have serious consequences.”

Chebbi heads the Salvation Front coalition formed by five opposition parties, including the Islamist movement Ennahdha, which held the largest number of lawmakers in the dissolved parliament. In a statement to reporters Sunday, he called on

Saied to resign and called for the organisation of an early presidential election supervised by an independent magistrate.

In the legislative, presidential and local elections that have taken place in Tunisia since 2011 after the revolution that brought down longtime leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, electoral officials say the average turnout rate was 40%. The lowest until Saturday was the 27% turnout in a referendum in July on Saied's new constitution.

“Thank you to the great people of Tunisia,” opposi-

tion party Ennahdha posted in response on Facebook to the turnout results. “The people have boycotted.”

The president of the opposition Free Destourian Party also called for Saied's resignation, as did the opposition Republican Party.

Bouaskar of the electoral commission had predicted a turnout of about 30%. He said participation was lower because parties could no longer use money to bribe voters according to new electoral rules.

There appeared to be multiple reasons for low turnout, including voters' disillusionment with the political class, their focus on financial worries, as well as opposition to Saied's political reforms.

His critics said he designed the elections without involving political parties or civil society.

cont'd from pg 21

with knowledge of wrongdoing at FTX or Alameda to cooperate.

One top executive at FTX, Ryan Salame, told securities regulators in the Bahamas on Nov. 9 that assets belonging to the exchange's customers were transferred to Alameda to cover the hedge fund's losses,

according to a document made public as part of FTX's bankruptcy proceedings in Delaware.

FTX filed for bankruptcy on Nov. 11, the same day Bankman-Fried stepped down as CEO.

A lawyer for Salame did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Vote counting finishes in Fiji election with no clear winner

AP - Vote counting finished in Fiji's general election Sunday but there was no clear winner, and various political parties are now negotiating to form a coalition government.

The election had pitted two former coup leaders against each other.

Sitiveni Rabuka, who led a coup back in 1987 and later served as an elected prime minister in the 1990s, emerged as the main challenger to Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who has held power for the past 16 years.

Rabuka's People's Alliance Party and allies the National Federation Party won about 45% of the vote combined. Bainimarama's Fiji's First party, meanwhile, won about 43%.

That has left both sides seeking to form a coalition with the Social Democrat Liberal Party.

The liberal party's general secretary Lenaitasi Duru told media they were having meetings with both sides.

"The first round of negotiations was done yesterday," Duru said. "We are expecting more negotiations later this afternoon."

He said the party's priorities included Indigenous affairs and education.

"Right now we're sitting in the middle," Duru said. "We're watching and waiting for what is on offer, then we'll make the decision based on what's best for the nation."

Earlier, on Friday, Rabuka's party and four others had said they were launching a nationwide petition because they had no faith in the integrity of election officials.

But an international group that monitored the election said Friday it did not observe any voting irregularities and the process was transparent



People's Alliance Party leader Sitiveni Rabuka gestures during a press conference while counting resumes after the Fijian election in Suva, Fiji, Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. Vote counting finished in Fiji's general election Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022 with Rabuka, who led a coup back in 1987 and later served as an elected prime minister in the 1990s, emerged as the main challenger to Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who has held power for the past 16 years. (Mick Tsikas/AAP Image via AP)

and credible.

The dispute had threatened to destabilise the Pacific nation's fragile democracy, which has been marred by four military coups in the past 35 years.

Rebekha Sharkie, an Australian lawmaker and co-chair of the 90-strong Multinational Observer Group, told reporters in Fiji they had unrestricted access to the election process and didn't observe any irregularities. She said the group had assessed that Fijians were able to vote freely.

Rabuka's concerns came after his party had been leading in preliminary results posted online after polls closed, but then the results app stopped working.

Election officials said they'd found an anomaly in the system and needed to reload the results. When the next

batch of results was posted, Bainimarama's party was in front.

Election officials later stopped their provisional count and switched to a final count.

Bainimarama first seized the top job by force in 2006 and later refashioned himself as a democratic leader by introducing a new constitution and winning elections in 2014 and again in 2018.

Fiji is known abroad as a tourist paradise that is dotted with pristine beaches and filled with friendly, relaxed people.

However, the past few years have proved tough for many people in the nation of just under 1 million, after tourism evaporated when COVID-19 hit and the economy tanked. The World Bank estimates the nation's poverty rate is about 24%.

ANC conference: Mkhize rivals Ramaphosa in tight ANC party race

BBC - South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa is in a tight party leadership race against his former health minister - who he forced to resign amid corruption allegations.

Zweli Mkhize is enjoying a last minute surge at the African National Congress conference in Johannesburg, reports say.

The candidates are fighting for the support of some 4,426 delegates.

The winner will lead the party to the next general elections in 2024.

If Mr Mkhize does win he would become ANC leader, but Mr Ramaphosa would remain president.

Mr Ramaphosa had faced calls to resign ahead of the conference over an alleged cover up of theft of a large sum of foreign currency that was hidden in a sofa at his private farm.

An independent report commissioned by the speaker of parliament said Mr Ramaphosa may have



Ramaphosa (L) was seen as favourite ahead of Mkhize (R)

broken the law but he has denied any wrongdoing.

On Tuesday, ANC MPs were instructed to back Mr Ramaphosa and vote down an attempt to start an impeachment process. Only a handful defied the whip, clearing a huge hurdle that would have locked him out of the party leadership race.

On Friday, some delegates heckled Mr Rama-

phosa, with some displaying the name of his Phala Phala farm where the theft took place.

Mr Mkhize's supporters also chanted "change" and "He [Ramaphosa] is not coming back!"

The former health minister was forced to leave office last year after allegations emerged that a communications company

linked to his family benefited from a contract at the height of the Covid pandemic. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Supporters of candidates running for the party's presidency and other six top seats have been involved in intense lobbying ahead of the vote which is expected to be completed on Sunday.



APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
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Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

NFL: Minnesota Vikings complete biggest comeback in NFL history to beat Indianapolis Colts

BBC - The Minnesota Vikings completed the biggest comeback in NFL history to beat the Indianapolis Colts and secure their place in this season's play-offs.

After trailing 33-0 at half-time, Kirk Cousins threw for four touchdowns, with a 64-yard catch and run from running back Dalvin Cook making it 36-34.

A two-point conversion followed to tie it up with 2:15 left and Greg Joseph's field goal won it late in overtime.

The Buffalo Bills are also in the play-offs after beating the Miami Dolphins.

The Super Bowl favourites won 32-29 as time expired to clinch the AFC East title and guarantee a spot in the post-season while the Vikings became NFC North champions for the first time since 2017.

The extraordinary 39-36 victory, which took the Vikings' record to 11 wins and three defeats for the season, was their first against the Colts in 25 years.

The Bills set the previous record for the biggest NFL comeback, coming back from 35-3 down against the now-defunct Houston Oilers in 1993.

Cousins revealed the team believed they could



Vikings running back Dalvin Cook had 95 rushing yards, 95 receiving yards and a touchdown in his team's spectacular comeback

still win the game even at 33-0 down at half-time, when cornerback Patrick Peterson told the locker room: "All we need is five touchdowns."

"I thought he was being sarcastic," said 34-year-old quarterback Cousins, who completed 34 of 54 passes for 460 yards.

In snowy conditions at Buffalo, Bills kicker Tyler Bass made a game-winning field goal in the final seconds for the second time in four weeks.

His team-mates used their hands to clear a spot for Bass to make the kick from 25 yards and secure a fifth straight win for the Bills, who are now 11-3.

Quarterback Josh Allen

completed 25 of 40 passes for 304 yards and four touchdowns while also rushing for 77 yards.

The Dolphins (8-6) trailed 21-13 at half-time but moved ahead as Tua Tagovailoa made his two touchdown passes in the third quarter. Allen made a five-yard touchdown pass to Dawson Knox and the Bills added a two-point conversion to make it 29-29 with 9:02 left.

Buffalo then regained possession on their own seven-yard line with 5:56 to play and, despite deteriorating field conditions, Allen navigated a 15-play drive that set up Bass' game-winning kick at the death.

In Saturday's other NFL game, Nick Chubb ran for 99 yards in the snow as the Cleveland Browns' defence held firm to earn a 13-3 win over the Baltimore Ravens.

Deshaun Watson threw for 161 yards and the game's only touchdown, to Donovan Peoples-Jones late in the third quarter, to claim victory in his first home game with the Browns (6-8) after returning from suspension.

Tyler Huntley continued to stand in for injured Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson but rookie outside linebacker David Ojabo, who was raised in Aberdeen, finally made his NFL debut after recovering from an Achilles injury.

Brook's 111 nudges England ahead in third test vs Pakistan

AP - Harry Brook smashed his third successive test century before England's tailenders frustrated Pakistan and grafted a 50-run first innings lead in the third and final test on Sunday.

Brook followed his centuries in England's victories at Rawalpindi and Multan with 111 off 150 balls in the dead rubber as the visitors were bowled out for 354 in the final session on the second day.

Wicketkeeper-batter Ben Foakes, playing his first test on tour, made a resilient 64 while Mark Wood (35) and Ollie Robinson (29) played cameos to edge England ahead of Pakistan's total of 304.

Pakistan opening pair of Abdullah Shafique (14 not out) and Shan Masood (3 not out) played out nine overs of spin to reach 21-0 at stumps.

"I said to one of my mates I'd like to get two (centuries) before I got here, so it feels very nice to go one better," Brook said.

Left arm spinner Nauman Ali (4-120), one of the four changes Pakistan made for the final test, and spinner Abrar Ahmed (4-150) picked up the bulk of the wickets but Brook and Foakes blunted both spinners with a splendid 117-run stand.

Abrar had grabbed an 11-wicket haul in his debut



England's Harry Brook celebrates after scoring a century during the second day of the third test cricket match between England and Pakistan, in Karachi, Pakistan, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. (AP Photo/Fareed Khan)

test at Multan before England recorded a stunning 26-run win inside four days. England won the first test at Rawalpindi by 74 runs in dimming light on the last day.

"If we set them a target of in between 200-250, we have a very good chance," Nauman said.

"The ball has already started keeping low and there's some slow turn for the spinners, so it will be difficult for them in the fourth innings."

Pakistan had made inroads and reduced England to 145-5 soon after lunch when Ben Stokes (26) was run-out while going for a needless third run. But Brook

and Foakes showed plenty of grit on a slow turning wicket with a century-stand before Wood and Robinson added meaningful runs.

Stokes and Brook both ended up at the striker's end when Stokes called for a third run after Brook drove through midwicket, but hesitated while going for the third run after taking a few steps.

"Probably my fault, the run out," Brook said. "There was probably three (runs), slightly lazy with my running. I was a bit tired, but it was my fault, I'll take all the blame."

The 23-year-old Brook raised his runs tally in England's first test tour to Pa-

kistan in 17 years to 468 and bettered his countryman David Gower's record of 449 runs in Pakistan during the 1983-84 tour.

Brook, a 23-year-old Yorkshireman, raised his century off 133 balls before tea with a backfoot driven boundary through covers against spinner Abrar before debutant Mohammad Wasim had him pinned leg before wicket after tea for his first test wicket.

Foakes was unable to play in the first test due to a viral infection but combined well with Brook. He successfully overturned on-field umpire Joel Wilson's decision when he was ruled out

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Emma Raducanu says she is injury free and feels 'good' after exhibition match

BBC - Emma Raducanu says she is now injury free and feeling "good" following her exhibition match with Wimbledon runner-up Ons Jabeur in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

The 20-year-old was beaten by Tunisian Jabeur but has been working on her fitness before the 2023 season.

Raducanu announced on Friday she had appointed German Sebastian Sachs, 30, as her new coach.

"Physically, body, injury-wise I'm good now, I'm clear. Touch wood it stays like that," said Raducanu.

Last year's US Open champion will attend the World Cup final between Argentina and France in Doha on Sunday before flying to Singapore to resume her pre-season training.

Raducanu's 2023 tennis campaign starts at the ASB Classic in Auckland on 2 January, before she heads to Melbourne for the Australian Open two weeks later.

She added: "I really worked on my fitness the last two months, less on the tennis court. So I'm just trying to get my feeling on the court."

Raducanu said the match against Jabeur was "a pretty positive step in seeing where I'm at and what I can do better".

"I really obviously want to work



Emma Raducanu lost 5-7 6-3 (10-8) in an exhibition match with Ons Jabeur on her injury return

hard, try to get back on court as much as possible but I could overdo it if I didn't really think it through because I want to be back on court so much," the Briton added.

"I just need to maybe cut down a little bit on the hours sometimes."

One of her "biggest goals" for the season, Raducanu said, was to play freely and "not think" about her fitness.

"I want to be able to go out there and just focus on the tennis," she said. "I think this year I'm in a better position but it's still going to take some

time to develop fully.

"I think my goal in 2023 is probably to win a title."

Raducanu also spoke about Sachs, who is her fifth coach in 18 months after Russian Dmitry Tursunov ended their coaching partnership in October.

"We are trialling until the end of the year and just seeing how it goes really," said 76th-ranked Raducanu.

"It's been going well. I've done a week with him so far and I think he's a really calm influence. He's on it, switched on, and yeah, I'm excited to see how it goes."

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caught close to the wicket on 9 and went on to complete his fifty off 100 balls.

Nauman finally ended Foakes' solid knock when he swiped at the left arm spinner and was caught at mid-on.

Earlier, England's top order slipped against spinners on a wicket that had plenty of variable bounce in the first session and reached

140-4 at lunch after resuming from an overnight 7-1.

Nauman grabbed the wickets of Ben Duckett and Joe Root off successive deliveries and Abrar had Ollie Pope (51) clean bowled soon after he completed his half-century.

Brook survived an lbw television referral against Abrar early in his fluent knock, but dominated the leg spinner by smashing

three sixes against him before raising his half century off 73 balls.

Pope and Duckett made a steady start against seamer Mohammad Wasim after England resumed on 7-1. Debutant Wasim, 21, was taken out of the attack after conceding 19 runs off his first two overs allowing Pakistan spinners to seize control.

Duckett hit Abrar for a

straight six and took the total to 58 before Nauman had the lefthander trapped lbw for 26. Joe Root then fell first ball with Agha Salman grabbing a clean low catch at slip.

Pope completed his half-century off 63 balls with a boundary over cover point against Nauman but was undone by Abrar's sharp delivery that spun enough to hit the top of off stump.

Sports News



Wadadli Elite1 make winning start to ABBA's Second Division league

Wadadli Elite1 made an impressive winning start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, 17th December.

The Wadadli Elite1 trounced Raeburn Generators United by 106 points in the second game of a Zone 1 double header.

Tequan Brodie shot a game high 44 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Wadadli Elite to their 149-43 victory.

Team-mates Te-Ran Zachariah scored 29 points and snatched 12 rebounds,

Jevon Andrew sank 23 points, Rhonde Davis netted 17 points, Harry Rashaun converted 15 points and pulled down 11 rebounds and Dominic Anthony had 11 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for Wadadli Elite1.

Keithroy Graham sank 13 points and snatched seven rebounds while Neville Chambers scored 12 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for Raeburn Generators United.

Old Road Daggers secured their first win in two games by pulling off a 71-46 victory against Cuties Ovals Superiors in the opening game of Saturday's double header.

ble header.

Ariel Quallis scored 36 points and snapped up eight rebounds, Ezekiel Francois converted 15 points and grabbed 18 rebounds and Daviae Aaron produced 11 rebounds, 10 points, nine steals and six assists for Old Road Daggers.

Shamori Bascus netted 18 points and Daniel Thomas sank 14 points for Cuties Ovals Superiors in their first loss in two outings.

Cuties Ovals Superiors had made a winning start to their campaign on Thursday, 15th December.

Superiors romped to a convincing 69-40 victory

over the Honourable Gaston Browne Pointvill Ballers in the first game of a Zone 2 double header.

De-Longe Jules scored 21 points and snatched eight rebounds, Baldwin Anthony sank 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Amare Browne converted 10 points while Judah Ferris pulled down 14 rebounds and scored eight points for Superiors.

Khalid Shabazz snapped up 11 rebounds and scored 10 points for Pointvill Ballers who slumped to their second loss in three appearances.

Flyers2 secured their second win in as many outings by soaring to an emphatic 103-22 drubbing of Young Warriors Ballers in last night's second game.

T-Shawn Lewis scored 18 points, Adrian Carnegie produced 16 points, Craig Massiah sank 15 points, Javonte Daley had 12 points and Shalom Bloodman grabbed 13 rebounds and scored 10 points for Flyers2.

Orion Prince pulled down 15 rebounds and sank 10 points for Warriors Ballers who suffered their second loss in as many games.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Ottos Coolers recorded their second win in the first game of a Zone 1 double header by ending Rebels' perfect start to the league. Ottos Coolers prevailed 62-57 to inflict the first de-

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UPDATED SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE UPDATE
TYPHOON EXPRESS

MONDAY
(FROM ST. JOHN'S)
AB 3:45 PM

OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA

TUESDAY
BA 6:00AM

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)
AB 10:00AM
BA 3:00PM

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Garden Stars extend winning form in First Division football

Garden Stars extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on Thursday, 15th December.

Garden Stars continued their perfect start to the league by recording their third win in as many matches by snatching a 2-1 victory over Fort Road at the Fort Road playing field.

Striker Allan Martin converted Garden Stars' winner in the 70th minute after Natto Silcott had scored an equalizer for Fort Road just after halftime with a 46th minute conversion.

Wilden Cornwall Jr had scored in the 25th minute when he beat the Fort Road custodian at his near post with a powerful right-footed drive to give Garden Stars a 1-0 halftime lead.

But a few minutes after scoring, Cornwall squandered a good chance to double his and Garden Stars' first half goal tally.

Garden Stars were awarded a penalty after Cornwall was fouled by a



The Garden Stars football squad just before they face Fort Road in their ABFA's First Division encounter at the Fort Road playing field on Thursday, 15th December. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Fort Road defender on the edge of the 18-yard box.

However, Cornwall only managed to send the spot kick wide of the post to right of the Fort Road goalkeeper.

Police claimed their first win with a 3-1 victory over Bendals at the Bendals playing field.

Bryan Daniel scored in the 18th minute to give Police a 1-0 halftime advantage. Adrian Constant equalized for Bendals with a 58th minute conversion.

But Police scored two late goals to secure their first win in the league.

Prince Floyd gave Police a 2-1 lead with an 82nd minute conversion and Kelly Reid scored in the 87th minute to seal the lawmen's victory.

Host Young Lions recorded their second win in three matches by grabbing a 1-0 victory over Green City FC at the Old Road playing field.

Jolan Willock scored the winner and the only goal of the match in the 29th minute.

But Potters Tigers are still searching for their first win of the season. They were held to their second

draw in three matches as they could only salvage a 1-1 draw with John Hughes at the Potters playing field.

Joshua Daniel scored an 87th minute equalizer for Potters Tigers after Deno Bryan had scored in the 66th minute to give John Hughes a one-nil lead.

The first division will continue at the ABFA's Technical Center today, Monday, 19th December.

Potters Tigers will meet Garden Stars at 5 pm and JSC Progressors will clash with Police at the same time and venue tomorrow, Tuesday, 20th December.

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feat on Rebels who had won their first three games.

Captain Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Vladimir Castro sank 14 points for Ottos Coolers. Zuri Nesbitt and Jules Williams each scored 20 points for Rebels.

But the game between Jan Serve Fearless Crew2 and Raeburn Generators United was disrupted by rain.

Fearless Crew2 were leading 8-7 with eight minutes and 52 seconds left to play in the second quarter when the rain intervened and brought a premature end to the game. However, the game will be rescheduled to be played

on a later date.

The Second Division will continue with a Zone 2 double header at the JSC Sports Complex today, Monday, 19th December.

Cuties Ovals Superiors will face Ottos Coolers at 6:45 pm and Wadadli Elite1 will take on Old Road Daggers at 8:30 pm.



FOLLOW THE LEADER
THE PRIME MINISTER'S FUN WALK
A WEEKLY EVENT, EVERY SATURDAY
WE MOVE OFF AT 5:45 AM
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**TASTY LOCAL BREAKFAST, SALTFISH, SOUSE,
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THE END, AND FOR THE BIGGEST GROUP.***

Grenades return to winning form in premier league

Jennings Grenades returned to their winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division over the weekend.

Quinton Griffith scored a late winner as Grenades snatched a 1-0 victory against Villa Lions in the second game of a double header at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday, 17th December.

The evenly contested game seemed to heading to a goalless draw before Griffith, who had missed his team's two previous encounters, made a welcome return to slam home the winner in the 82nd minute to give Grenades all three points.

It was Grenades' third win in four matches. After winning their first two encounters, Grenades con-



Jennings Grenades returned to their winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday, 17th December. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

ceded a late goal to suffer a 1-0 loss to Old Road in their previous outing.

Saturday's defeat, their first of the season, ended Villa Lions' perfect start to the premier league in which they had won their first three matches.

Willikies and Swetes

fought to a 1-1 draw in Saturday's opening premier league encounter.

Azinho Solomon scored in the 43rd minute to give Swetes a 1-0 halftime lead.

However, Willikies snatched their equalizer via a Kwame Byers' 63rd minute conversion.

After the euphoria created by their surprising win over Jennings Grenades in their previous outing, Old Road was brought back down to the earth by a 2-0 loss to Tryum in their premier league encounter on Friday, 16th December.

Following a goalless first half, Tryum scored two late goals in the second half to record their third win in four appearances.

Curlon Joseph scored in the 71st minute to give Tryum the important lead and Fabian Barrant wrapped up his team's victory with a 78th minute conversion.

The premier league will continue at the ABFA's Technical Center today, Monday, 19th December. Five Islands and Cedar Grove Blue Jays will clash at 7 pm.

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tween two major soccer nations and the world's two best players represented a perfect way to cap a tournament laced in controversy ever since the scandal-shrouded vote in 2010 to give the event to a tiny Arab emirate.

The years-long scrutiny since has focused on the switch of dates from the traditional June-July period to November-December, strong criticism of how migrant workers have been treated, and then unease about taking soccer's biggest event to a nation where homosexual acts are illegal.

On Sunday, there was one narra-

tive at play for most people: Could Messi do it?

He could, despite the 23-year-old Mbappé — Messi's teammate at Paris Saint-Germain — doing all he could to emulate Pelé by winning his first two World Cups.

Messi became the first player to score in the group stage and each of the knockout rounds at a single World Cup.

Ever since Argentina's unthinkable 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia in their opening group game, Messi has been a man on a mission — embracing the responsibility of leading his national team at his final World Cup and play-

ing in the spirit of Maradona by coupling his dazzling skills with rarely seen aggression.

Maradona never scored in a final, though. Messi has, allowing him to erase memories of his only other World Cup final — in 2014 when Argentina lost to Germany 1-0 and Messi squandered a great chance in the second half.

On that night at the Maracanã Stadium, Messi stared down at the golden World Cup trophy that escaped him.

Eight years later, he will raise it aloft in the biggest moment of a career like no other.

World Cup: Argentina beat France on penalties in remarkable final

AP - Lionel Messi's once-in-a-generation career is complete. The Argentina superstar is finally a World Cup champion.

Messi scored two goals and then another in a shootout as Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties after a 3-3 draw Sunday to claim a third World Cup title despite Kylian Mbappé scoring the first hat trick in a final in 56 years.

Now there's no debate. Messi is definitively in the pantheon of soccer's greatest ever players, alongside Pelé — a record three-time World Cup champion from Brazil — and Diego Maradona, the late Argentina great with whom Messi was so often compared.

Messi achieved what Maradona did in 1986 and dominated a World Cup for Argentina. The torch will one day pass to Mbappé, whose late goals lit up one of the most dramatic finals in the tournament's 92-year history and emulated Geoff Hurst's hat trick for England in 1966, but not just yet.

"Let's go, Argentina!" Messi roared into a microphone on the field in the post-match celebrations after playing in a record 26th



Argentinian players celebrate after winning the penalty shootout during the World Cup final soccer match between Argentina and France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

World Cup match.

Messi was in scintillating form from the start, putting Argentina ahead from the penalty spot and playing a part in Angel Di Maria's goal that made it 2-0 after 36 minutes.

Mbappé, on the other hand, was anonymous until scoring two goals in a 97-second span — one a penalty, the other a volley from just inside the area — to take the game to extra time.

Messi tapped in his second goal in the 108th minute, leaving Argentina on the brink of the title once again, but there was still time for another penalty

from Mbappé to take the thrilling game to a shootout.

Gonzalo Montiel scored the clinching penalty kick after Kingsley Coman had an attempt saved by Argentina goalkeeper Emi Martinez and Aurelien Tchouameni missed for France.

"This is my dream," Martinez said.

Europe's run of four straight World Cup winners came to an end. The last South American champion was Brazil, and that was also in Asia — when Japan and South Korea hosted the tournament in 2002.

Argentina won its previous World Cup titles in 1978 and 1986. In Qatar,

the country backed up its victory from last year's Copa America, its first major trophy since 1993.

It's quite the climax to Messi's international career, which might not yet be over at the age of 35 because he is playing as well as ever. After all, he finished the World Cup with seven goals, one behind Mbappé's tournament leading eight.

It was quite the finale, too, for a unique World Cup — the first to be played in the Middle East and the Arab world.

For FIFA and the Qatari organisers, a final be-

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